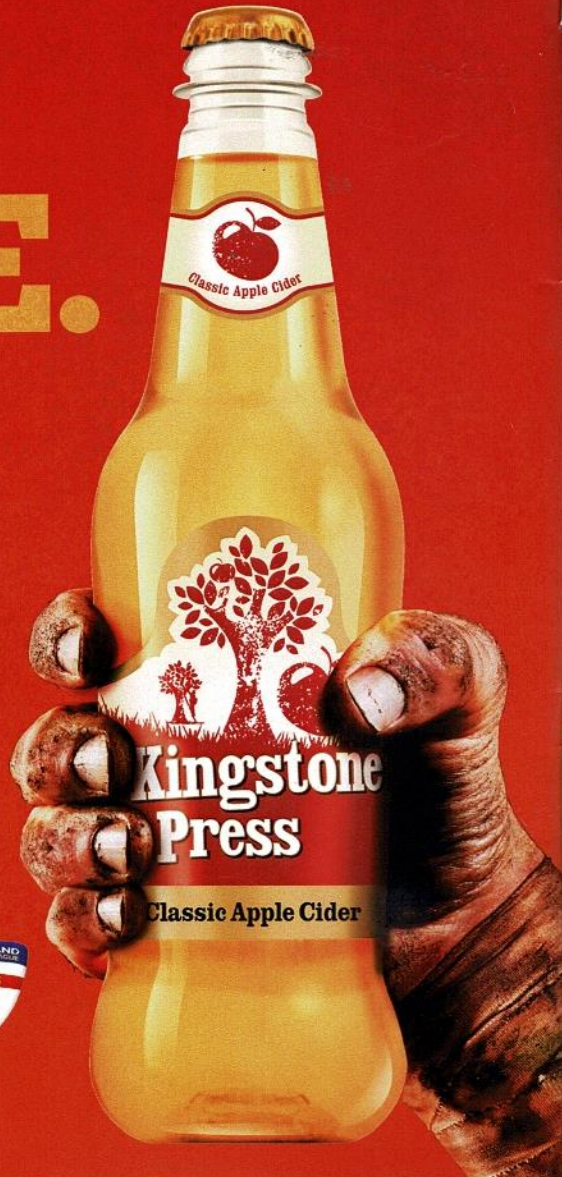


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# RUGBY TO THE CORE.



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# NEWCASTLE THUNDER



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JULY EDITION



# FIXTURES



DATE	TEAM	VS	TEAM	LOCATION	TIME
03 / 04 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Barrow Raiders	Kingston Park	34 - 22
12 / 04 / 2015	North Wales Crusaders	v	Newcastle Thunder	Racecourse Ground	18 - 24
19 / 04 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Keighley Cougars	Kingston Park	16 - 36
26 / 04 / 2015	Rochdale Hornets	v	Newcastle Thunder	Spotland Stadium	15 - 16
03 / 05 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Oxford RLFC	Kingston Park	36 - 20
10 / 05 / 2015	Hemel Stags	v	Newcastle Thunder	Pennine Way	12 - 58
17 / 05 / 2015	Oldham Roughyeds	v	Newcastle Thunder	Whitebank Stadium	45 - 20
29 / 05 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	York City Knights	Kingston Park	32 - 14
07 / 06 / 2015	Swinton Lions	v	Newcastle Thunder	Sedgley Park	44 - 32
13 / 06 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Gloucestershire All Golds	Kingston Park	38 - 6
21 / 06 / 2015	London Skolars	v	Newcastle Thunder	White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre	12 - 19
27 / 06 / 2015	Barrow Raiders	v	Newcastle Thunder	Craven Park	16 - 4
05 / 07 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Rochdale Hornets	Kingston Park	28 - 32
12 / 07 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Hemel Stags	Kingston Park	40 - 26
19 / 07 / 2015	York City Knights	v	Newcastle Thunder	TBC	40 - 8
26 / 07 / 2015	Keighley Cougars	v	Newcastle Thunder	Cougar Park	28 - 10
02 / 08 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Swinton Lions	Kingston Park	3pm
08 / 08 / 2015	Gloucestershire All Golds	v	Newcastle Thunder	Prince of Wales Stadium	5pm
16 / 08 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Oldham Roughyeds	Kingston Park	3pm
23 / 08 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	Coventry Bears	Kingston Park	3pm
06 / 09 / 2015	South Wales Scorpions	v	Newcastle Thunder	Parc Dyffryn Pennar	3pm
13 / 09 / 2015	Newcastle Thunder	v	North Wales Crusaders	Kingston Park	3pm

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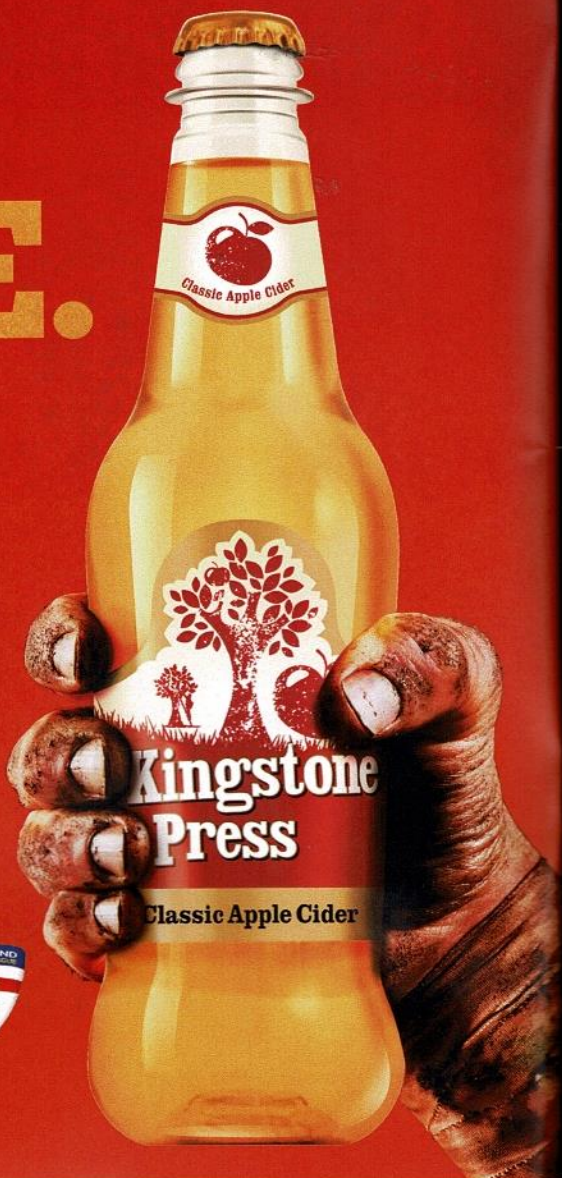
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# RUGBY TO THE CORE.



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## BILL MIDGLEY OBE

There can be little doubt that recent results have been a great disappointment and a reality check to our ambitions to be in the promotion shake up at the end of the season.

Not that it remains out of the question but from a position of looking as though the Play-Offs, at the worst, were a sure thing we now will have to fight hard to secure a top five place. This is not impossible but perhaps improbable unless there is a markedly better performance on the field. We have gained many new fans this Season and are in danger of letting them down!

Injuries to key players have not helped but all teams suffer from this through a long and demanding campaign and a poor excuse. We have a large squad and should have been able to cover this eventuality. Apart from winning most of our remaining matches we will have to rely on the games between those above us to help us close the gap.

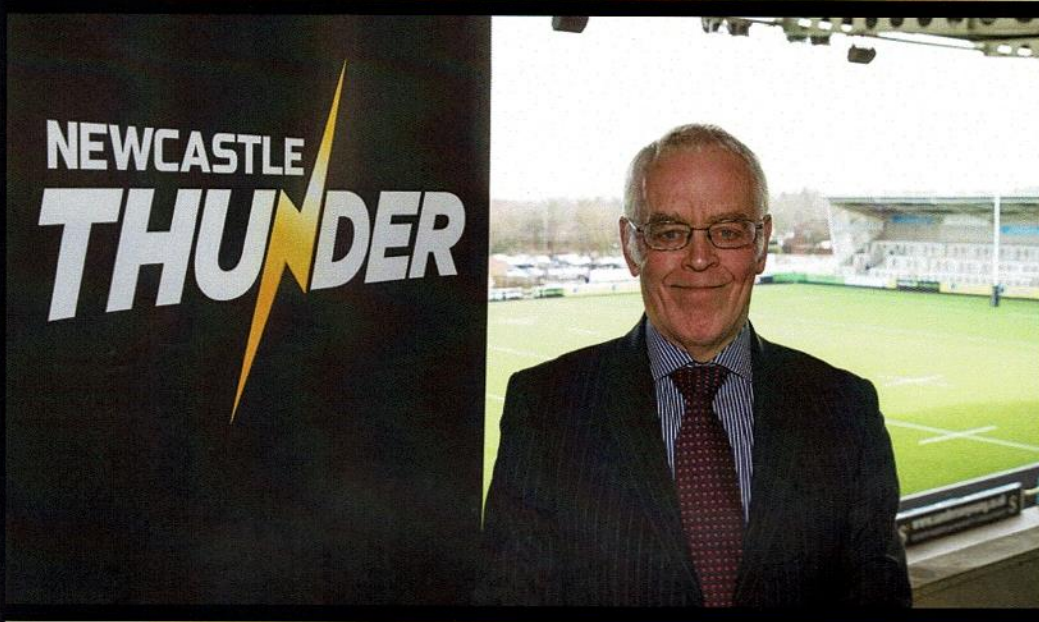
Lose more than one game between now and the end of the Season and our dreams may well disappear. So to our fan base, an apology, we promised much but have yet to deliver.

If there is a silver lining to another Season in Championship One it is that a trip to Toulouse looks likely. Personally I would rather be visiting Featherstone or Halifax, I can go to France at any time.

This programme covers three home games so it has to be general welcome to our visitors, two of whom will certainly expect to be in the top five and we hope you enjoy the experience of Kingston Park. Our opportunity to show that we can compete and play to our ability and I hope that my pessimism, or so called reality check, can be called into question by some good victories.

To our supporters, thank you for your growing support. Rugby League remains a fast and exciting game to watch yet remains in too low a profile. Success will help with the latter issue. We at Thunder now have to deliver to justify your belief in us, let us hope that these three games will do exactly that.

**Bill Midgley OBE**  
Chairman





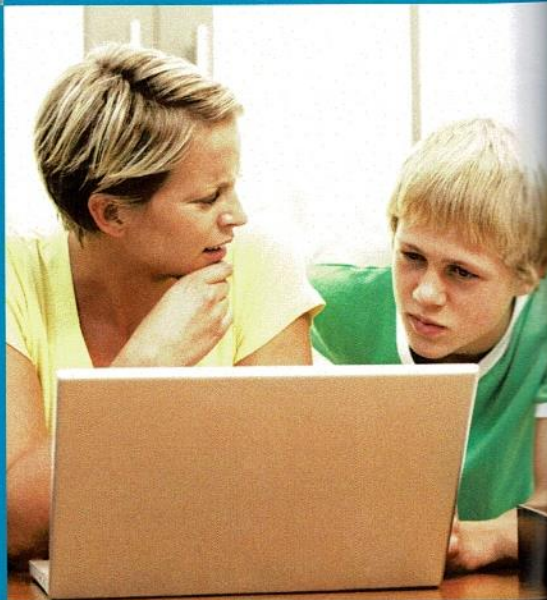
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## KEITH CHRISTIE MD



**I'd like to start by praising the team for the positive spirit they displayed in the recent game against Keighley Cougars.**

After the previous match away to York heads had understandably dropped but the players worked hard throughout the week in between to overcome that attitude and bounced back the following weekend.

We still found ourselves on the wrong end of the scoreline at Cougar Park but it's important to remember that Keighley are a strong side, one that no one would have expected us to get close to when the season began.

As I'm sure those of you who went along to Keighley will agree, the boys gave a good account of themselves, and the performance of our forwards in particular would have been a match for anyone in the league.

To not come away with the win was disappointing, but it gives us more drive than ever as we head into the last part of the season.

There is no denying it has been a tough few weeks for us results-wise but it's important to stay positive. We started the season well and it's now a case of finding that form again over the final two months of the league as we continue to push for those play-off places.

Stan, the coaches and the players are working hard behind the scenes to get back to those winning ways

and I'd encourage you all to be more passionate and vocal than ever before this afternoon and throughout the remainder of the season.

Throughout this season your support has been – as always – fantastic, and the way our fans have adopted Kingston Park Stadium as their own is a testament to your dedication to the club. However, as we head into the all-important tail end of the season I can't stress enough how much difference your voices can make to the players on the pitch.

Four of our final six league fixtures will be played at home giving us a number of advantages, not least a playing surface that other teams have limited experience of, and the best 14th man in the league.

Stan and the players will be looking to make the most of those advantages and hopefully gather the results we need to put Thunder back in prime position for a play-off promotion spot.

Finally it's great to be able to welcome Stewart Sanderson back to the club. Stew initially joined us back in 2007 and as many of you will remember spent three years with us before moving to Dewsbury.

He's an experienced player who we know will be a good addition on the field, but off the field too is a nice guy and a professional that we're pleased to be able to welcome to Kingston Park Stadium.

**Boom Boom!  
Keith**



# MATCH ACTION



Matty Marsh finishes off a superb team score in the 28-30 loss to Rochdale Hornets. In a tense, even match, the dual registered half back made sure the hard work of team mates Matty Beharrel, Tom Capper and Jason Payne reaped the reward it deserved, if not the overall result.



# #STAY STRONG STU

Newcastle Thunder joined with the rest of the North East rugby community in offering its condolences to the family of Stu Ridley as the Tynedale RFC player passed away following a brave fight against an inoperable brain tumour.

Ridley's poise and dignity served as an inspiration to many over the course of his illness, including the Thunder squad, coaches and staff.





## SANDERSON RUMBLES BACK FOR SEASON RUN IN

Newcastle Thunder bolstered their squad for the season run in ahead of July's away match against Keighley Cougars with the signing of Stewart Sanderson from Doncaster, in a move that sees the vastly experienced winger return to his first professional club.

Sanderson began his career at Thunder signing in 2007, and spent three years on Tyneside before making a switch to Dewsbury Rams for the 2010 season and has since plied his trade at Doncaster, where he made 102 appearances.

Boasting such a large amount of experience at Championship level, Sanderson is keen to make a contribution to Thunder's push for the play offs.

Speaking to ThunderRugby.com Sanderson said: "I absolutely loved the three years I was here for and it's nice to come back. I want to play but we'll take it step by step, hopefully I'll see out the rest of this season and then we'll see how we go and take it from there."

"It's been five, six years since I was here last, so hopefully I've gained quite a lot of experience and hopefully I've developed as a player."

Thunder Head Coach Stanley Gene said: "Stewart brings a massive amount of experience from the Championship and knows what is needed to win this division so I am looking forward to seeing how he beds in and goes with us."

Turn to page 23 for Sanderson's first full interview since rejoining the club.



## ENGLAND BUILDING "WALL OF WHITE" AHEAD OF AUTUMN INTERNATIONALS



England captain Sean O'Loughlin, Kallum Watkins, James Roby and Chris Hill were in attendance at Wigan St Patricks last month to officially launch the jersey that will be worn in the forthcoming games against France and New Zealand this autumn.

Drawing inspiration from the St George's Cross motif, synonymous with previous England Rugby League kits, the jersey has been designed and produced by BLK and features a dynamic contrast red panel tapering from the shoulder seam down to add a dash of colour.

The official launch photocall also featured players from England Academy, England Youth, England Women and England Wheelchair, plus five competition winners who got the opportunity to be part of the photo and join the 'Wall of White'.

A former Wigan St Patricks junior, O'Loughlin said: "This is where it all began for me and where, like all my team-mates back then, the dream of playing for my country first grew.

"To be back here now as England captain launching the new 2015 kit is fantastic. The lads in the squad never forget where they have come from and it's an honour to be able to do this and share it with the fans.

"It feels great putting the kit on again and I'm looking forward to seeing all the fans create the Wall of White when we take on France and New Zealand this autumn."

For more information on the England Rugby League kit and to purchase tickets to the forthcoming games against France and New Zealand please visit [www.englishrugby.co.uk](http://www.englishrugby.co.uk)

## SKY TRY MAKING IMPRESSIVE IMPACT



Newcastle Thunder and the Falcons Community Foundation have concluded a successful first term of delivering the RFL and BSkyB's Sky Try programme with the coaches hailing the number of people that have been part of the first segment.

Running across four distinct pillars, Sky Try aims to 'make a difference by increasing the amount of viewers, spectators and participants to Rugby League', and does this by supporting and developing participation in the sport at a grassroots level.

The programme has been delivered on behalf of Thunder by players Rhys Clarke and Joe Brown alongside the Falcons Community Foundation with both satisfied with the first segment of delivery.

Clarke said: "The first set of delivery has gone really well, we have been into a wide range of schools from Whitley Bay to the bottom end of County Durham, with all of the kids really getting into it."

"It's given a lot of kids who have never seen the sport before their first taste of it not just at the schools but by coming to our games as well.

The new schools have definitely taken it on board and I know a lot of those new schools are going to continue doing rugby once we have finished getting the teachers involved."

Brown added: "We've engaged with 3009 kids, have worked with 32 schools in years 3 and 4 and we had three festivals with 31 schools participating.

"We've also been working with Durham Tigers, Durham Demons, Peterlee Pumas, Wallsend Eagles, Whitley Bay, and Winlaton as a key aim of the programme is to support those community clubs."



## JUNIOR GRAND FINALS GRACE KINGSTON PARK



Thunder's Kingston Park Stadium played host to one of the high points of the North East Rugby League junior season on July 18th as it hosted Junior Grand Finals for U13s, U14s, U15s & U16 teams.

With the regular league season having been played since early in the year, the Grand Finals saw the top two sides in each respective league battle it out for the title of league champion.

In front of a vocal crowd of over 500 people Durham Tigers lifted the day's first trophy as they put in a strong performance to beat Cramlington Rockets 34-22.

The Northumberland based club enjoyed a happier outcome in the U14 and U15 matches, defeating Catterick Crusaders in a close run 24-20 win in the former and Jarrow Vikings 48-36 in the latter.

In the final action of the day, Gateshead Storm's U16s prevailed in another exciting game, beating Durham Demons 36-20.



## FOUNDERS WALK REACHES DESTINATION



An historic 120-mile Founders Walk organised by The RFL in partnership with Rugby League Cares celebrated the birth of the sport from July 19 to 24th, with a host of guests and players raising funds for the sports charity alongside their own good causes and clubs.

Taking in the homes, or the sites of the homes, of the original 22 members of the Northern Union, each day the walk featured defined stages giving guests and community club players of all ages and abilities the opportunity to take part.

RFL Chief Executive, Nigel Wood led the Founders Walk and was joined along the way by over 1,500 walkers on community stages including former Hunslet player Jimmy Brogden, the oldest surviving player from the Parkside era at 93-years-old.

Wood said: "This walk was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Rugby League and its rich history which we are all very proud of.

"It was probably one of the toughest things I have ever done but being joined by the Rugby League family at different stages along the way really helped everybody through. We had former players, colleagues, community members and friends joining us from Hull to St Helens.

"Many of the original grounds that were on our route no longer exist but the Founders Walk was a fascinating journey into the past, as well as a celebration of our great sport, for everyone who took part.

"I'd like to thank everybody that took part over these past six days, others for their words of encouragement and all those that raised money to support worthy Rugby League causes."



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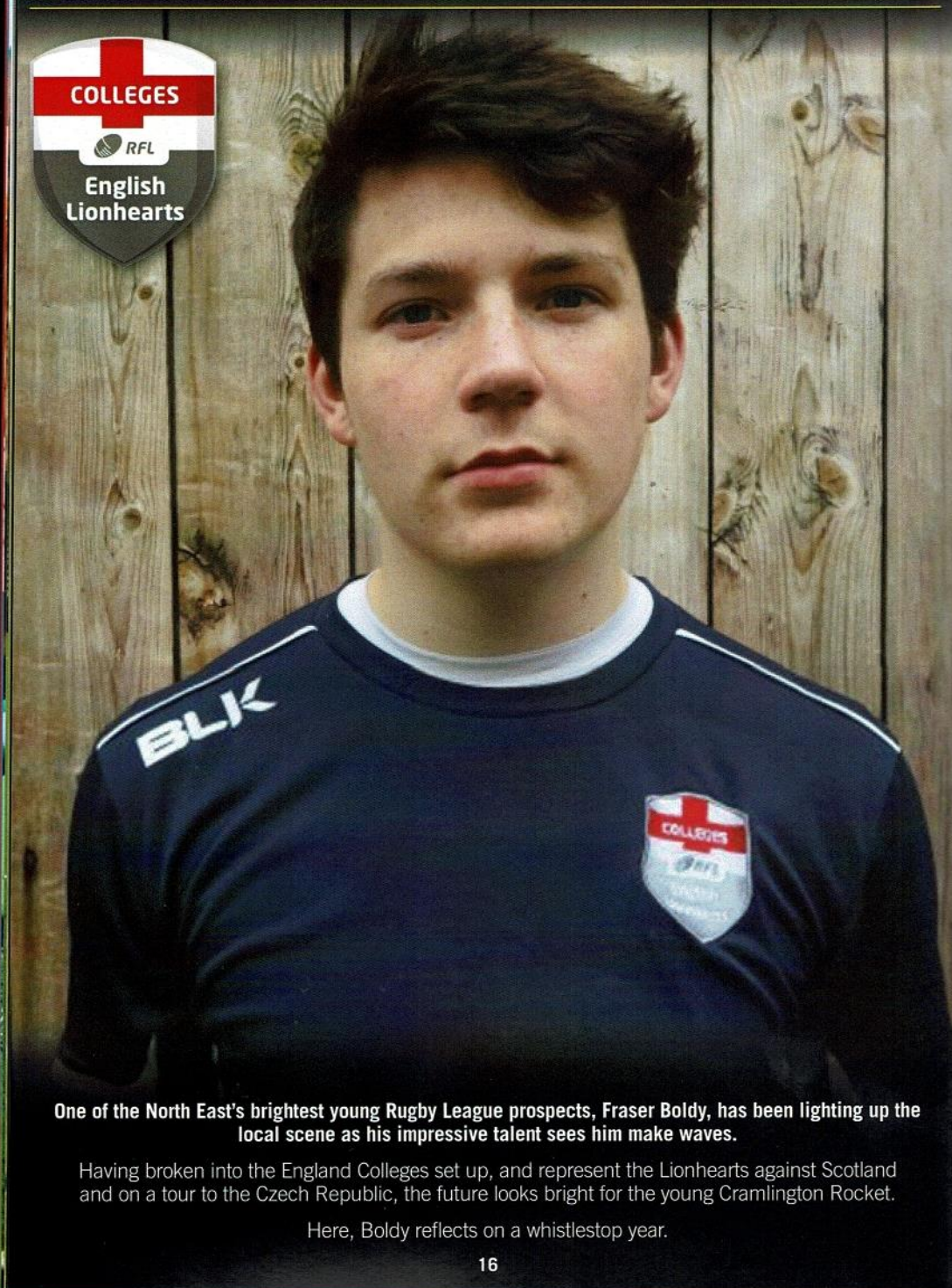
[jonathan.rees@tynemet.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.rees@tynemet.ac.uk) or

[jordan.robinson@newcastle-falcons.co.uk](mailto:jordan.robinson@newcastle-falcons.co.uk)





# FRASER BOLDY



One of the North East's brightest young Rugby League prospects, Fraser Boldy, has been lighting up the local scene as his impressive talent sees him make waves.

Having broken into the England Colleges set up, and represent the Lionhearts against Scotland and on a tour to the Czech Republic, the future looks bright for the young Cramlington Rocket.

Here, Boldy reflects on a whistlestop year.

I am 17 and grown up living in Harbottle, Northumberland.

I started playing rugby union at Alnwick RFC when I was 8, and through the years have been lucky to be selected as part of the county training programmes from Under 14 and currently about to start on the Under 18 programme, under the guidance of Carlo Nardini. I am currently a member of Morpeth RFC Colts team, having moved this season in order to keep in touch with my old Morpeth school friends. Friends encouraged me to take up rugby league with Cramlington Rockets when I was 13, and as a back, the speed and non-stop nature of the game appealed.

I thoroughly enjoyed the new challenges that the game brought and it provided an excellent way to keep me fit and active through the summer months. From Under 14 to Under 16 I participated in the Rugby League Talent Pathway from area and development squads to two years within the regional team of North East Thunder based at Gateshead College. The discipline and commitment required to complete this twice weekly over two years meant it was tough lessons learned early on, but my highlights have to be scoring against Leeds Rhinos and beating Salford Red Devils to become the first north east team to beat a super league academy side.

Last summer I made the tough decision to concentrate on my rugby union by taking up the offer to participate in the Newcastle Falcons AASE scheme based at Gosforth Academy whilst studying for A levels. After a successful season in reaching the National AASE plate final at Allianz Park and thanks to the coaching of PJ Butler my fitness and rugby skill-set were sufficient to enable me to trial for a place on the North East Colleges rugby league squad, hoping I wouldn't make too many mistakes by confusing the codes.



Following the National Championships in Sheffield I was amazed to hear that I had been selected as part of the 25 man England Colleges train-on squad for a weekend in Manchester. As expected this was physically challenging but a great two days that gave everyone a lengthy opportunity to settle in, learn and play. Waiting for the phone call was nerve wracking, but such a thrill to be selected as part of the 20 man team.

I couldn't have reached this stage in my rugby development without the support of so many fantastic coaches and coaching schemes from both rugby union and league. I am definitely a product of both rugby codes and very lucky to have been trained by top coaches at North East Thunder and Cramlington Rockets through the years, including Andy Kelly, Lee Crooks, Michael Heap and Jordan Robinson.

Following selection onto the 20-man English Colleges U19 Lionhearts squad on 27th July we gathered for a 4 hour training session at Nottingham University on 21st July. Three days later I was absolutely delighted to hear that I was in the starting line up for the match against Scotland Bravehearts at my home ground of Kingston Park on Sunday 5th July.

Being able to walk out onto a home pitch, sing the national anthem and represent my county was a proud and surreal experience. The game itself was a very physical battle with both teams trying to get the upper hand in the early stages of the game. We were very dangerous in attack and managed to create a lot of scoring opportunities, which we did well to capitalise on, coming out winners 42-14 by the time of the final whistle.

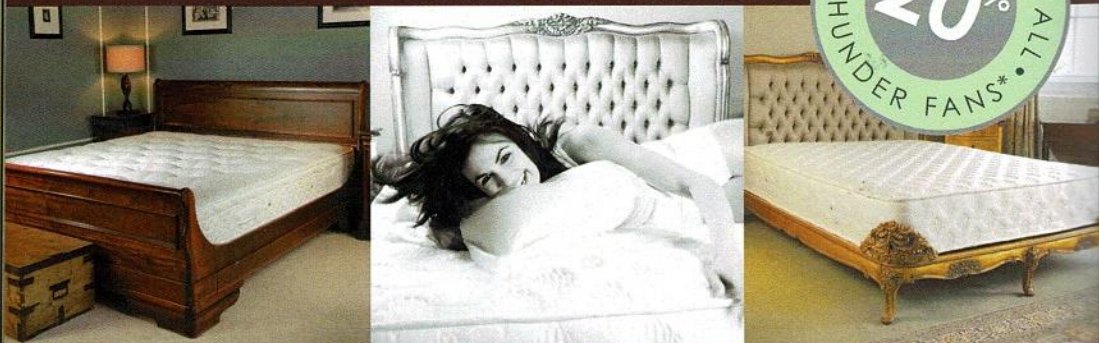
To cap the experience, it was a very special moment to score a try in front of friends and family who had come along to support me (particularly after all the publicity!). To get a win with the boys was very important ahead of our tour to the Czech Republic. Hopefully we can fly out and do our country proud.



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STANLEY GENE

THUNDER



**Good Afternoon and welcome to Kingston Park for another afternoon of Kingstone Press League 1 rugby.**

We are now into the business end of the season with four of our remaining games played here and the Thunder Army has a huge role to play if we are going to make sure of a place in the end of season play offs.

We have had a difficult few weeks going up against some of the best teams in this league. Sometimes our performances haven't been up to standard, sometimes we have just been outplayed by a better team.

The result from all of this has seen us slip to eighth place in the league and has put us into the position of needing to go on a bit of a winning streak to make sure we are involved in the promotion push come September.

While the results and in some cases the way we have played has been frustrating, these players are the same boys who did so well for us at the start of the season and won six from eight games, so I have no doubt that we can turn it back around.

We need to get back to the stage where we were two months ago, the last month has been pretty disappointing but we are going to dig deep and instil some belief back into the team.

With this programme covering three home games, it is a warm hello to everyone from Swinton, Oldham and Coventry, I hope you enjoy the trip here to Kingston Park.

With Swinton and Oldham, we are facing teams above us in the table and wins against these two would give our playoff hopes a huge shot in the arm.

We have played Swinton twice this year, narrowly missing out on both occasions down in the Lions Den so need to make our home advantage count.

As the programme goes to print, Oldham are top of the table and looking to keep ahead of Keighley Cougars and will be expected by outsiders looking in to take the points.

We however know we can play very well against the Roughyeds, in my opinion our home game last August, where we won 40-14 is the best game Thunder have played in my time as coach and if the team can summon the kind of spirit and belief shown then, we can all look forward to a very exciting match.

Last but by no means least, Coventry Bears make their first trip to take on Thunder in their first season in this league. They have made a very positive impression so far and at time of writing, have already taken four ones, including eye catching wins over Oxford and Hemel and will pose a new challenge for us as a team.

All three of these teams will be afforded our respect and will have us prepare thoroughly for them as we look to get where we want to be.

Strap in everyone, it's going to be quite a ride between now and September.

Stan

Official bed supplier to Newcastle Thunder





# NEWCASTLE THUNDER SQUAD



**01**

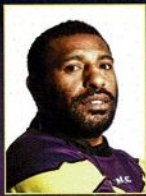
**LOUIS SHERIFF**  
Full Back



**02**

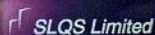
**JACOB BLADES**  
Winger

Sponsor Available



**03**

**JASON TALI**  
Centre



**19**

**CRAIG BOOT**  
Back Row

Richard Robinson



**22**

**SAM BOWRING**  
Outside Back

Sponsor Available



**23**

**BENN HARDCASTLE**  
Stand Off



**04**

**JOE BROWN**  
Centre



**05**

**TOM CAPPER**  
Winger



**06**

**MATTY BEHARRELL**  
Scrum Half

The Wheatsheaf



**25**

**EVAN SIMONS**  
Hooker



**27**

**JOSH GUZDEK**  
Full Back

Sponsor Available



**28**

**STEPHEN HOLKER**  
Back Row

Sponsor Available



**07**

**MATTY MARSH**  
Half Back

Sponsor Available



**08**

**MATT BARRON**  
Prop

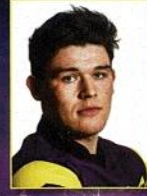
Neil & Christine  
Hutchinson



**09**

**DAYNE CRAIG**  
Hooker

Rob Gardner



**29**

**ZACH CLARK**



**30**

**SAM LUCKLEY**  
Prop



**31**

**ALI BLAIR**  
Centre



**10**

**MARK MEXICO**  
Prop



**11**

**JASON PAYNE**  
Back Row



**12**

**RHYS CLARKE**  
Back Row



**33**

**PADDY HARGREAVES**  
Hooker



**34**

**DANIEL BLEEK**  
Centre

MMG Sports Ltd



**35**

**LEWIS DAVEY**  
Winger



**13**

**CHARLIE WABO**  
Lock

M A Utilities Ltd



**14**

**PAUL STAMP**  
Hooker



**15**

**LEE FEWLASS**  
Prop

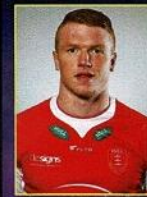
Sponsor Available



**36**

**SONNY ESSELMONT**  
Second Row

Sponsor Available



**38**

**MACAULEY HALLETT**  
Winger



**39**

**SEBASTIAN MARTINS**  
Prop



**16**

**FRAN WELSH**  
Prop

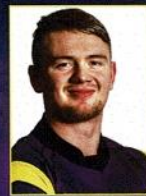
Penny's Big Sites



**17**

**STUART KAIN**  
Full Back

Sponsor Available



**18**

**JOSH STOKER**  
Prop

Bill Midgley

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**THUNDER**



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# STEWART SANDERSON

Arriving back on Tyneside in time to get involved in Thunder's push for a place on the end of season playoffs, Stewart Sanderson is making a return to the place where it all began.

The then Gateshead Thunder was Sanderson's first pro club, with the Cumbrian a part of the side that swept all before them en route to the National League 2 title.

"Thunder was the first professional club that I signed for. I was down at University at Teesside at the time, playing for Great Britain students in Australia and Dave Woods was New South Wales

coach when he was over there and he seen me over there and when I came back and he was the Thunder coach, he signed me."

"I had good years and bad years, the first year was tough when I was here and then the second year was amazing. We won the league we got promoted and that was brilliant."

"I was here for three years and the second year especially was amazing. But then the third year, when we were in the division above we stayed up, we did a decent job. I absolutely loved the three years I was here for and it's nice to come back."





# STEWART SANDERSON

While the club has undergone many changes since Sanderson last plied his trade as part of its squad, the 32 year old says it is still essentially the same club that gave him his first break in the sport.

"There's a new branding, there's a new set up in Newcastle now not Gateshead. I know some of the lads who are still here, and that was an attraction. The club holds a special place in my heart, because it was the first club that I signed for."

Joining a squad eager to re-energise their season, Sanderson is confident of making a contribution but knows he first needs to take time to settle in and get the lay of the land in order to force his way into the starting team.

"I've got to take it step by step. I'm here now, it has been a few weeks in coming, but that's been the first step."

"Now I need to get to know the lads, get into the training, impress Stan and then get into a game, that's the reason why I am here. I've left Doncaster because I've not been getting a game."



"First and foremost I want to play and I want to play but we'll take it step by step, hopefully I'll see out the rest of this season and then we'll see how we go and take it from there."

"If Stan puts me in, I'll do what I can to get the win."

Having played in the Kingstone Press Championship since leaving Thunder back at the start of the decade, Sanderson is bringing in a wealth of knowledge to his new club, accrued from 113 appearances for Dewsbury and Doncaster.

It is something he hopes he can call on and use that to help his team mates to take their 2015 destiny back into their own hands.

"I think the main thing I've got now is experience. It's been five, six years since I was here last, so I hope to have gained quite a lot of experience, hopefully I've developed as a player, I'm 32 now so I have gained experience along the way."

"I've played at a high level so hopefully I can bring what I've learned to some of the lads who maybe haven't been up there."

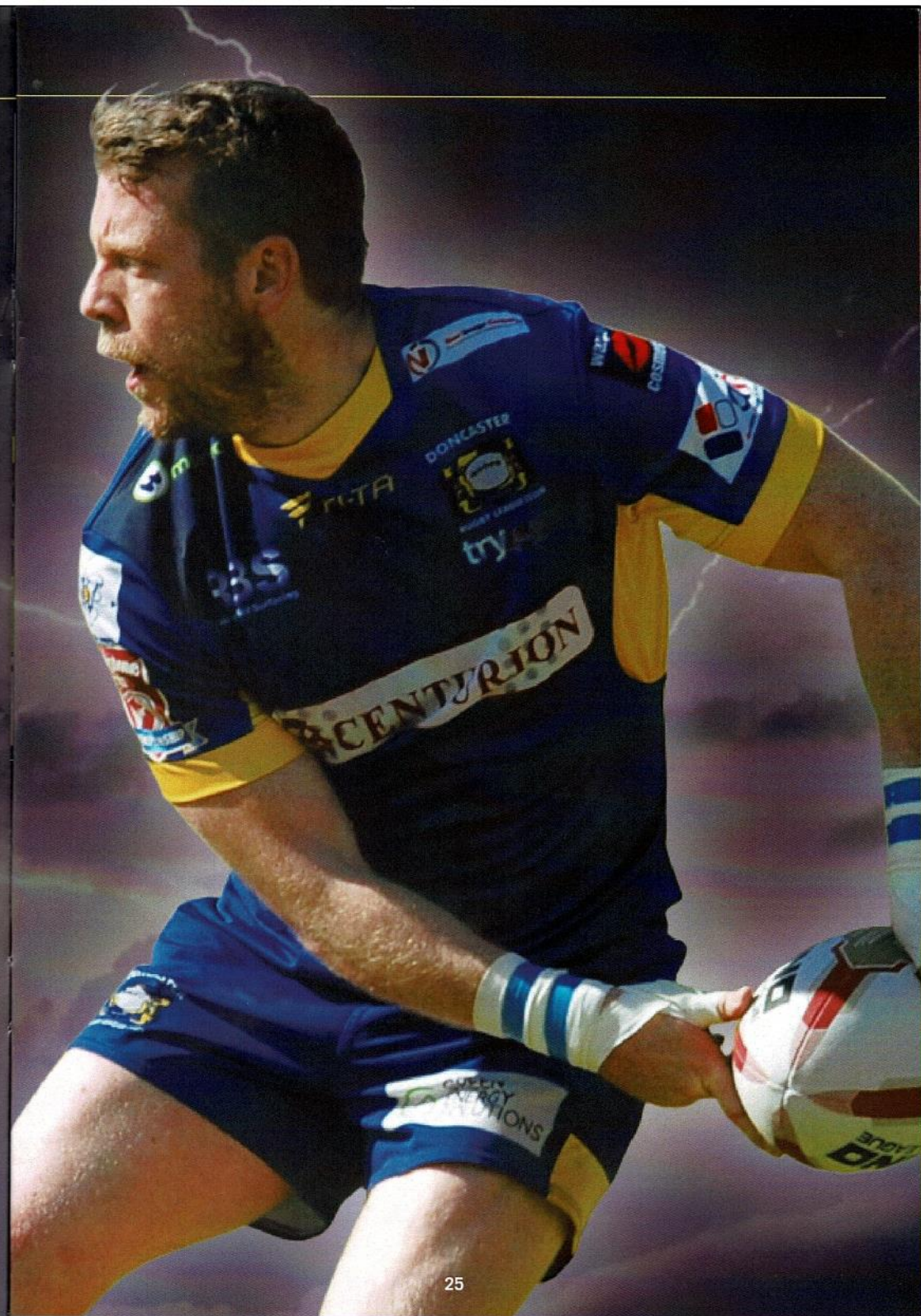
In a game like rugby league though, it is never too late to learn from new experiences and Sanderson is hoping that he will be able to take plenty from his team mates.

"On the flip side, I'm looking to see what lads can do for me while I am here. I've still got that desire to win and I want to bring the winning ways back from when I was here before."

"From when I was here it was one of the big things, it wasn't a group of lads that were shoved together, it was a group of mates and hopefully that is what I am going to come back into."

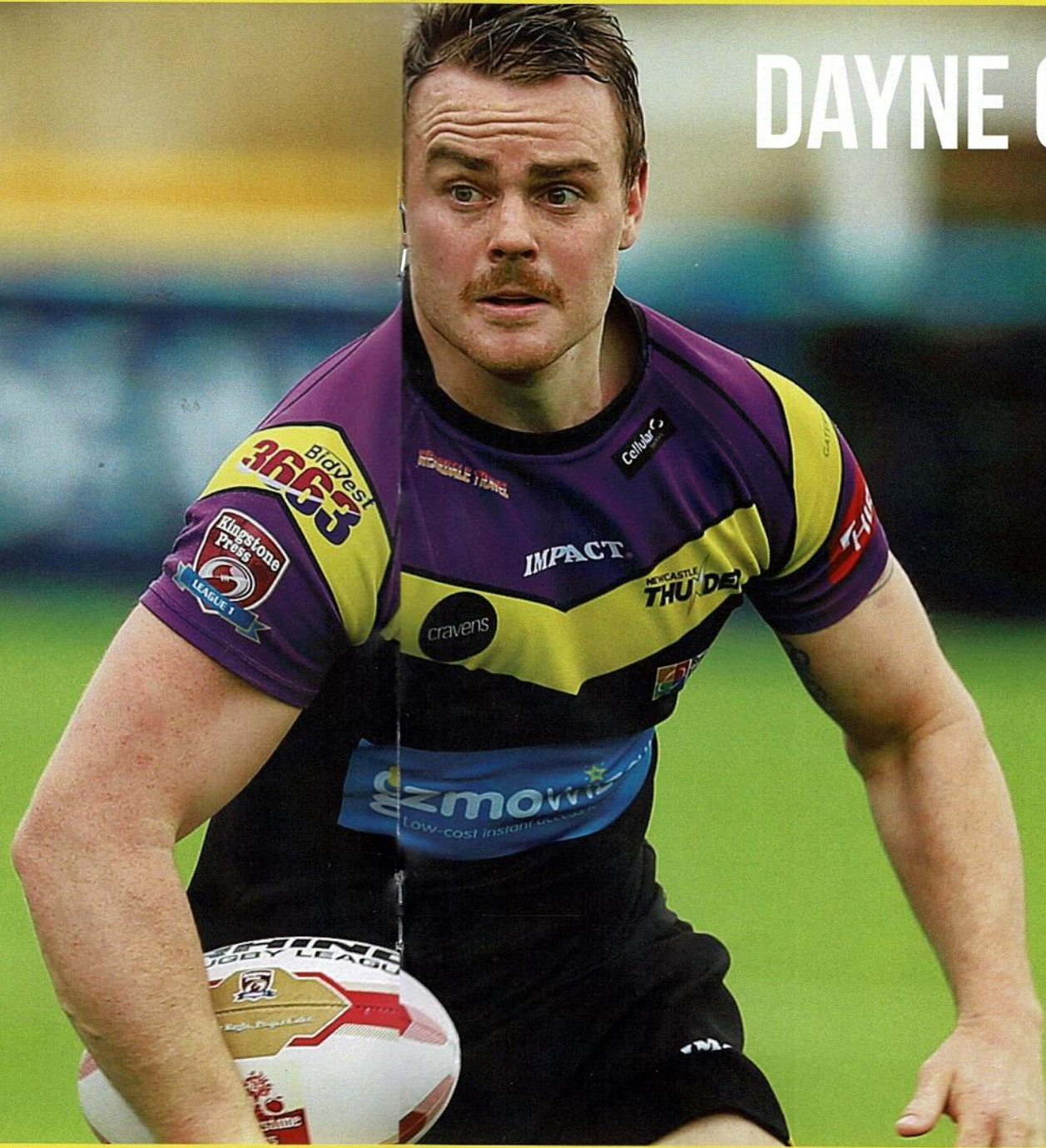
Having done his due diligence before joining Thunder again, Sanderson is confident he is joining a team that has all it needs to recreate the successes enjoyed in 2008 and 2009.

"I've seen stuff through the Facebook page and I've seen some highlights of them playing and they look sharp. They've got decent lads, some quick lads some big lads and if you put all them together, you've got a decent team."





DAYNE CRAIG



NEWCASTLE  
**THUNDER**



# THE HOME OF RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE NORTH



**It's no secret that since Thunder's re-location earlier this year the club's fans have made themselves well and truly at home at Kingston Park Stadium; fans are known to take over the East Stand Tap & Tackle bar from early on a match day and stick around at the club long after the final whistle to enjoy the match day atmosphere.**

However, the impact of Thunder's arrival at the ground continues to grow, and Thunder are working hard to make Kingston Park Stadium the home of rugby league in the North East.

Over recent weeks, the stadium has played host to a number of community rugby league matches through its Friday night fixtures in an initiative that is cementing the stadium's place as a beacon that the whole rugby league community can call upon.

A key figure in these efforts is Thunder Club Manager Jordan Robinson, who is deservedly proud of how these efforts are delivering.

Robinson said: "We started the Friday night fixtures as a way to give community clubs the experience of playing on the main pitch at Kingston Park Stadium, while also encouraging more local rugby league fans to come along and experience a game at the ground."

"The evenings went down a storm, for the local clubs too it was a great chance to not only enjoy the benefits of having such a large ground as their home stadium but also to hopefully grow their own crowds as a result of the number of people who came down to watch the games."

Earlier this month Kingston Park Stadium played host to one of the biggest events in the North East Rugby League junior season when all four Junior Grand Final matches were held at the stadium.

Between 400 and 500 fans headed along throughout the day to see Cramlington Rockets record a double victory as they lifted both the Under

14s and Under 15s trophies, beating Catterick Crusaders and Jarrow Vikings respectively.

The Rockets were unable to make it three from three, with their Under 13s losing out to Durham Tigers, but Gateshead Storm took the final trophy of the day as they overcame Durham Demons to lift the Under 16s trophy.

Speaking of the event to North East Rugby League, Rockets Chairman Jeff Ball said: "It was a brilliant day for North East Rugby League; the atmosphere was brilliant and to have so many competitive matches says a lot about the quality in the region."

"Over 150 junior players have been given an experience they will remember forever by being able to run out of that tunnel and play on the pitch. For us, we were lucky enough to have plenty of 'home' fans, and the noise they made was staggering!"





# THE HOME OF RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE NORTH

As today's programme was going to print, Kingston Park Stadium was about to host another big event in the local rugby league calendar as Wallsend Eagles and Whitley Bay Barbarians prepared to face one another in the North East Rugby League Men's Cup.

Robinson commented: "With Thunder playing all of their home matches at Kingston Park Stadium, the ground has already become the home of professional rugby league in the region, but our aim is to extend this out further to the community rugby league community too.



The agreement for the University team to run all training sessions and home matches from Kingston Park is just one of the conditions of the University's recent sale of the stadium back to Newcastle Rugby Limited and allows the student team to take advantage of all of the top-class facilities available at the ground.

But Thunder aren't planning to stop there, already this season the club has arranged for one international game to be played in Newcastle, and they're keen to host more similar events going forward.

Robinson explains: "The England vs Scotland Under 18s match which was played in the stadium prior to our game against Rochdale last month was a big success, with over 400 fans arriving early to watch the double-header throughout the afternoon.

"We have the facilities to be able to hold large-scale events so are always looking at the possibility of getting more matches played here to help Kingston Park Stadium cement its place as the home of rugby league in the North East."

For rugby league fans who aren't always able to attend the live games at Kingston Park Stadium, all is not lost. The Tap & Tackle remains committed to showing professional games including Super League and overseas fixtures live in the bar throughout the remainder of this season.

For more information and to find out when the next games will be shown, please like the Tap & Tackle's Facebook page.

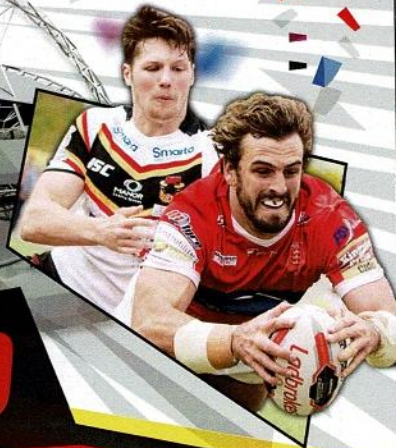
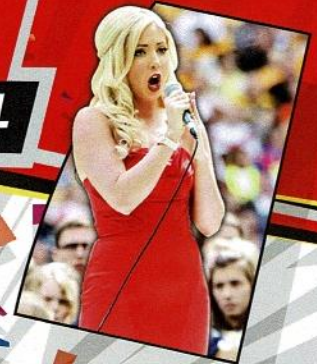


"Wherever possible we're keen to welcome North East Rugby League events to the stadium, and so far those we have hosted have been a great success."

The tail end of the season will see another big community event held at the stadium when the North East Rugby League Division Junior Cup finals will be played at the stadium, while September will see the arrival of Northumbria University Rugby League and the newly formed Thunder U19's Academy who will call Kingston Park Stadium home from this academic year.



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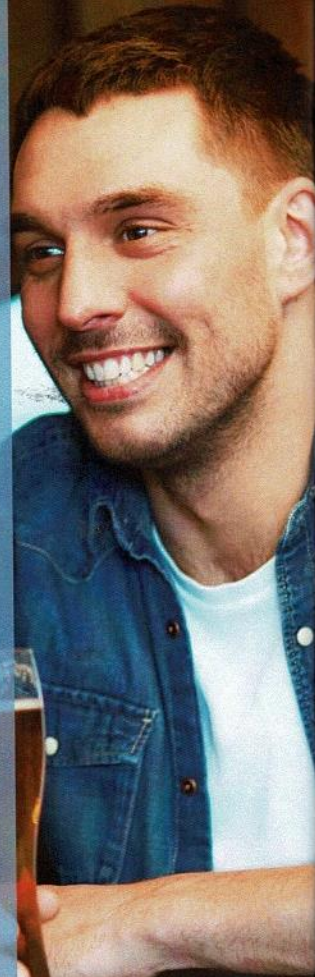
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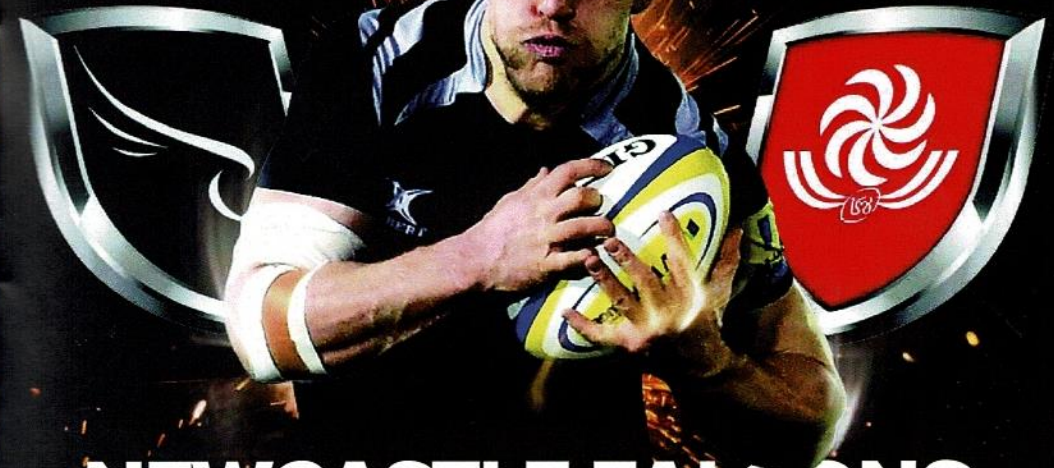
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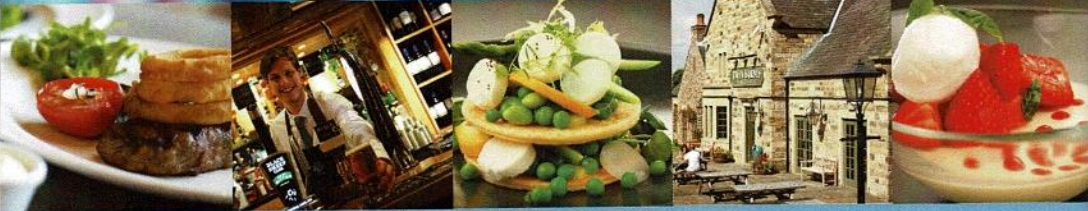
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# YORK CITY KNIGHTS 40 - 8 NEWCASTLE THUNDER



Attendance: 450

Referee: D. Merrick

## NEWCASTLE THUNDER SQUAD

Barron, Beharrell, Blades, Blair, Brown, Capper, R Clarke, Craig, Esslemont, Fewlass, Hallett, Hardcastle, Martins, Mexico, Simons, Sheriff, Stoker, Welsh, Wabo

Try Scorers: Craig (27) Hallett (75)

## YORK CITY KNIGHTS SQUAD

Aldous, Applegarth, Blagbrough, Brining, Carter, Channing, B. Dent, Haynes, Howden, Learmonth, Mallinder, Minikin, Morrison, Nicholson, Presley, Roche, E. Smith, P. Smith, Tonks

Try Scorers: Smith (14, 78) Presley (21) Brining (31, 50, 52), Nicholson (63)

Goal Scorers: Haynes (14, 21, 31, 52, 63, 67)

Newcastle Thunder's recent run of disappointing form continued on Sunday as York City Knights exacted revenge for the Magic Friday defeat at Kingston Park with a 40 – 8 win over the North Eastern club.

On a difficult afternoon in the Vale, Thunder were put to the sword by a clinical and effective second half showing from the hosts to slip to eighth in the Kingstone Press League 1 table.

The game had begun in a promising fashion and at an electric pace with both sides keen to test each other out and find an early breakthrough with York the first to get onto the scoreboard in the 12th minute.

Coming onto a pass at pace, back row Ed Smith burst through the Thunder defence before James Haynes added the extras as the home side assumed a 6-0 lead.

Despite the best efforts of the visitors to gain territory and launch a response, which saw Sebastian Martins and Matty Barron feature prominently, York extended their advantage on 21 minutes through Jonny Presley.

The veteran half back made good use of excellent approach work from Greg Minikin and Ed Smith with Haynes once again adding the conversion.

Still making a fight of the game, Thunder broke

their deadlock on the half hour through good teamwork from Louis Sheriff and Dayne Craig.

Sheriff, who had been a livewire throughout provided a top draw pass to the supporting Craig after breaking at pace, sending the ever reliable Aussie over for another try to add to his tally.

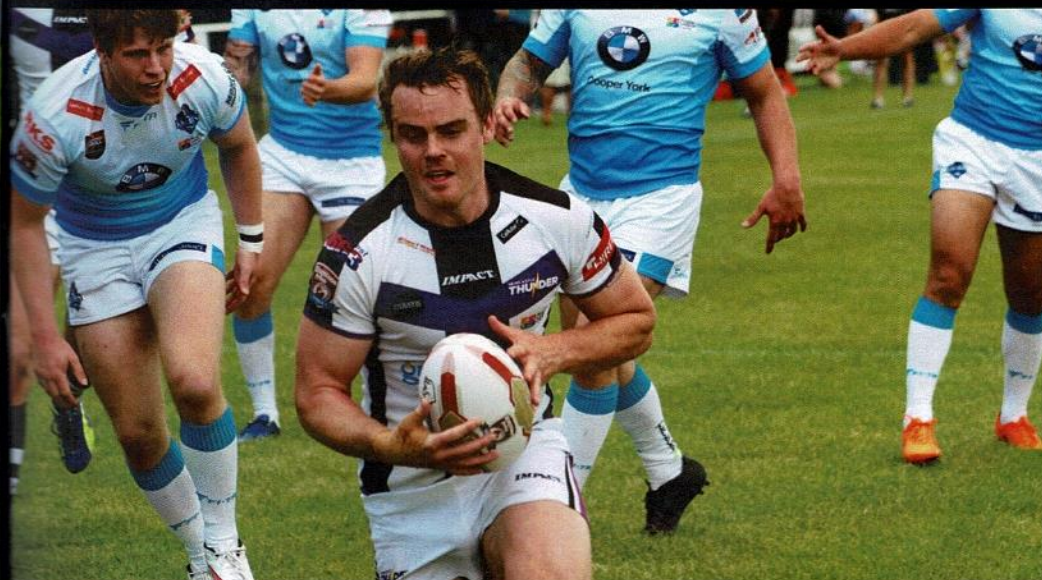
Disappointingly for Stan's side, they were unable to use this score to swing the momentum in their favour as the Knights increased their advantage to 14 points, four minutes later through Kris Brining.

Still within striking distance, Thunder opened the second half with purpose but a two try blitz in as many minutes with 10 of the second 40 played, effectively put the game out of their reach.

The hammerblow came courtesy of Brining, whose quick fire double earned him a hat trick and the Knights a cushion to defend.

A late try from Macauley Hallet provided scant consolation for Thunder, before the Knights had the final word through a second try of the day for Smith.

It was a disappointing performance from Thunder, against a team that they had recorded two wins over already this season and one they must bounce back from in a week's time when the travel to Keighley and attempt to get their season back on track.





# KEIGHLEY COUGARS 28 - 10 NEWCASTLE THUNDER



Attendance: 753

Referee: S. Ansell

## NEWCASTLE THUNDER SQUAD

Sheriff, Hallett, Blair, Brown, Sanderson, Beharrell, Hardcastle, Martins, Simons, Mexico, Craig, Esslemont, Wabo, Barron, Clarke, Fewlass, Welsh

Try Scorers: Hallett (18) Simons (58)

Goal Scorers: Beharrell (59)

## KEIGHLEY COUGARS SQUAD

Darville, Gabriel, Lawton, R. Sheriffe, Guzdek, Brook, P. March, Law, Feather, Cherryholme, Pursglove, D. March, Rawlins, Bailey, Lynam, Tahraoul, Dickinson

Try Scorers: Gabriel (14) Darville (34) Brook (49) Cherryholme (65) Guzdek (77)

Goal Scorers: Lawton (14, 35, 50, 77)

Newcastle Thunder endured a difficult afternoon in West Yorkshire on Sunday as Keighley Cougars took a comfortable Kingstone Press League 1 win at Cougar Park.

Tries from Andy Gabriel, Liam Darvell, Adam Brook, Neil Cherryholm and Josh Guzdek were enough to see the Cougars home to a 28-10 win over the North East side.

It was a much closer affair than the first meeting between the two teams at Kingston Park in April, but after being right in the game until the final 20 minutes, that will offer little consolation to the players and coaches.

Looking to bounce back from a heavy loss at York a week previously, Thunder were even stevens with the Cougars for the first 20 minutes of the game though neither side able to make a telling break, with a combination of handling errors and over cooked kicks conspiring against both sides.

The deadlock was broken in favour of the home side on 14 minutes when Cougars Fullback Darville and scrum half Paul March combined to create a chance for Gabriel to cross for a try, converted by centre Danny Lawton.

Showing the desire and fight so evident in the earlier part of the season, the Thunder response came a mere three minutes later when, after earning a scrum and an attacking set of six, Macauley Hallett pounced on a loose ball to get Thunder onto the score sheet.

The conversion was missed but it set up another flowing period where both teams were doing all they could to find a way through, but were unable to make the telling move.

When the next score did arrive, five minutes from time, it allowed the hosts to extend their lead to eight points, as Darville collect a pass following a Rikki Sheriff break and Lawton converted.

After slow start to the second 40, the game looked to be in danger of running away from the North East side on 50 minutes as Brook capitalised on a knock on from the kick off.

Using the territory gifted to Cougars, and a third successful conversion, the hosts were looking comfortable at 18-4 however Thunder had other ideas.

Some big hits were continuing to disrupt the Cougars by forcing knock ons and a superb 40/20 from Hardcastle give Newcastle the platform from which to take their second try of the day thanks to Evan Simons.

The 22 year old hooker, who has been on fine form for the club throughout the year, sold a superb dummy from the play the ball in the shadow of the posts, to create the space to dive over underneath the sticks.

A simple conversion for Matty Beharrell looked to have set up a grandstand finish with only eight points the difference, but despite their best efforts, Thunder's defence gave way for two further tries from Cherryholm and Guzdek, allowing the Cougars to put gloss on their result.







Welcome to the Thunder Storm page of the club magazine, and welcome to Thunder Storm.

We are the not-for-profit supporters' society for Newcastle Thunder but we also try to promote all Rugby League throughout the North East.

**FUNDRAISING**

We aim to raise funds, via membership fees (£10 per year); selling books written by our members, such as John Proud's history of the 1936-8 Newcastle RLFC, "Cherry & White", Richard Kirby's two volumes of "Only the Thunder" about the modern club's early years, and Mark Wightman's occasional Yearbooks and fanzines; we run pub quizzes, raffles, auctions for hospitality packages at Kingston Park, and generally beg and borrow to raise money.

**HOW DO WE USE THE FUNDS?**

We use all of that money to help the club and to provide services to our members and to North East Rugby League. We have sponsored players for many years, including under-18 players, and last year we sponsored our Head Coach, Stanley Gene.

**WHAT DO WE DO FOR MEMBERS?**

We negotiate a £5 reduction for members at Thunder functions such as the Season Launch and Presentation Night and £5 off the very popular Brewery Trip. If you take advantage of these offers you have already gained more than your membership fee!

But we also offer a significantly reduced fare on the bus which goes from the Wheatsheaf in Felling to Kingston Park and back on match day.

We have already organised a bus to Swinton this season, and hope to organise more away trips over the course of the year.

We have members-only functions, like the invitation to a training session and information sharing meet the coach gatherings, as well as social events. We have a very good relationship with Newcastle Thunder, and any member can have any issue brought to the club by our fans liaison officer.

**WHO'S ON THE COMMITTEE?**

At present the committee consists of: Jim Storey (Chair), Alan Young (Membership), Peter Bowen (Treasurer), Kevin Barlow, and Elaine Gair (Secretary). Any new member of the Committee would be very welcome.

**HOW DO I JOIN?**

Alan Young will be patrolling the concourse every match day, in a fetching hi-vis jacket and can sign you up there and then. Watch out for his banner.

A really good way to join is to set up a standing order with your bank, which will take your £10 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January each year, with no further effort on your part. Alan should have some of these forms, too. Or you can email petergbowen@yahoo.co.uk

**SQUADBUILDER**

Squadbuilder is a separate organisation from Thunder Storm but administered by members.

The club has been very grateful over the years for Squadbuilder money, which can be requested by the Head Coach alone, and is granted by the Squadbuilder committee as long as it satisfies the requirements of being for Recruitment and Retention.

Last year we were able to contribute £1,000 to secure an excellent deal on supplements, and this year we have given £1,500 to help bring the Papua

New Guinean lads to the UK, and to house them.

**HOW IS SQUADBUILDER FUNDED?**

Anyone can acquire a "brick" in the Squadbuilder wall by setting up a Standing Order with their bank for £5 a month. You can have as many "bricks" as you want, but even with just one you are doing the club a great service.

Alan will have forms, or you can email petergbowen@yahoo.co.uk.

**WHAT PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR?**

This year is a very important one for Rugby League in the North East with the Magic Weekend being celebrated at St James Park in Newcastle. We intend to take advantage of this great event by having some sort of collection at the York game at Kingston Park on the Friday night. Any ideas or help will be very welcome.

We hope to organise more away trips, and continue with our popular Brewery Trip and support Thunder and all Rugby League here in the North East.

**THE PLEA**

So, if you are not a member see Alan and join, or email Pete. If you can afford it, get a "brick" in the Squadbuilder wall. You'll be doing something great for the club and RL.

If you are a member, well done, and we hope to see you in the next issue. Please get in touch if you have any good ideas, if you want us to ask anything of the management of the club, if you want to stand for the committee, or if you want to volunteer to help.



**MEMBERSHIP - STANDING ORDER FORM**

Join the Thunderstorm supporters society by completing the membership form below. Thunderstorm support not only Newcastle Thunder but also Rugby League in the North East at large. With an active social scene, get to know your fellow thunder fans and become part of the Thunder Army.

Name of your bank / building society: .....

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Sort Code: ..... Account No: .....

Name of Payee: **Thunder Storm Supporters Co-operative Limited**

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FALCONS

# MATCH PACK





# SWINTON LIONS FOCUS



Swinton Lions arrive at Kingston Park looking to make it a hat trick of wins over Newcastle Thunder in 2015 and to lay a claim for third in the Kingstone Press League 1 table.

The Lions are one of five clubs looking to make an immediate return to the Kingstone Press Championship following their 2014 relegation and have been enjoying an impressive campaign in 2015.

With 15 league games played, the Lions have only tasted defeat on four occasions, away to Barrow, Rochdale and York and at home to Oldham, while they have been in prolific scoring form, averaging over 35 points per game.

Formed in October 1866, the Lions earned their moniker after using the White Lion public house, near the Stoneacre ground they played at in 1873, as changing rooms.

A club with a proud history, the Lions have won the Challenge Cup three times (1899/1900, 1925/1926 and (1927/1928) and rugby league's Premiership on six occasions (1926/1927, 1927/1928, 1930/1931, 1934/1935, 1962/1963 and 1963/1964) and are looking to reawaken

those days, starting with promotion back to the game's second tier.

The two games between the sides this season have both been enthralling and exhilarating encounters that have both seen the Lions prevail by an eight point margin.

The first took place at the semi-final stage of the iPro Sport cup, when on a cool Tuesday evening, the two sides entered into a ding dong tussle that was in the balance up until the final two minutes, when the Lions pounced on a loose ball as Newcastle probed for a winner.

Two months later and it was a sense of de ja vue on a summer Sunday afternoon as Thunder were unable to press home an advantage, after levelling the scores on two separate occasions.

With games against London Skolars, North Wales Crusaders, Gloucestershire All Golds, Oldham Roughyeds, and South Wales Scorpions to follow, a win at Kingston Park would provide Swinton with a perfect launch pad for the run in and is a result that coach John Duffy and his charges will be determined to record.

# PLAYERS TO WATCH



## BEN WHITE

Hounslow born half-back, Ben White, recently joined the Lions from Leeds Rhinos' Academy where he scored 8 tries in 10 games.

He had previously played his junior rugby for Saddleworth Rangers whilst studying at Oldham 6th Form College.

White made his Super League debut for the Rhinos in August 2014, in a 40-36 loss to London Broncos.

During the 2014 season Ben spent some time on loan at University of Gloucestershire All Golds under former Lions' coach Steve McCormack.

His 2015 record for Swinton has seen him make 18 starts, scoring 11 tries and 13 goals.



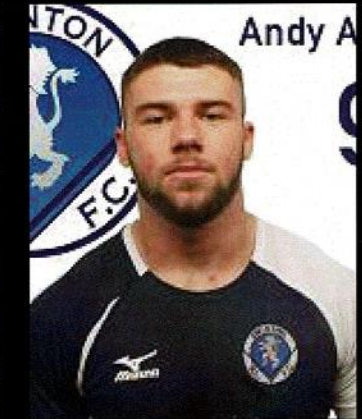
## SHAUN ROBINSON

Shaun is a winger who burst onto the scene a few seasons ago for Oldham Roughyeds.

He scored freely in his first season for Oldham before moving on to local rivals Rochdale Hornets, then in the 2014 season he was on the books at Dewsbury Rams.

25 year old Robinson has speed to burn and is highly rated by coach John Duffy.

Since joining the Lions from Rochdale Hornets, he has made 19 appearances and has scored 16 tries, proving himself to be a valuable asset.



## ANDY ACKERS

Andy returns for a second season with the Lions after joining the club from Warrington Wolves for the 2014 season.

One of the Lions stand out players in 2014, he has continued to grow into his role at hooker, making a total of 43 appearances for the club to date.

Spending pre-season on loan with Warrington, he has already matched his try scoring total of 2014 (nine) with six games remaining of the 2015 campaign.







Oldham Roughyeds arrive at Kingston Park locked in a tussle with Keighley Cougars at the top of Kingstone Press League 1 and will be looking to secure a further two league points to maintain their challenge to be league leaders at the regular season's end.

Beaten finalists in the 2014 promotion play off final, Oldham were always expected to be one of the leading teams in the division in 2015, after recruiting and retaining well during the off season.

This has proven to be the case with the Whitebank based side taking 13 wins from 16 played and scoring 99 tries in the process as this programme goes to print.

The Roughyeds have been in irresistible attacking form all season, with high scores the norm from their results this season.

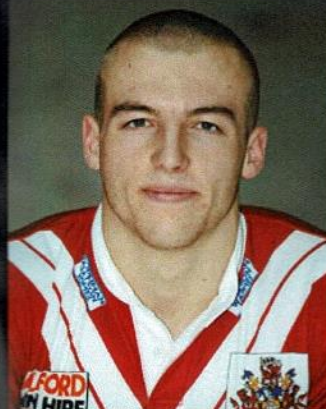
Thunder were on the receiving end of one such performance in May as Oldham ran out comfortable 45 – 20 winners at their home ground.

One of the original founding 22 clubs of the Northern Rugby Football Union, the Roughyeds boast a proud heritage with four championship titles and three challenge cup wins on the honours board and will be determined not to let promotion slip from their grasp this year.

Opening their season by reaching the Semi Finals of the iPro Sport cup, losing out to eventual winners North Wales Crusaders in the last four, their league campaign began with five wins on the bounce against Rochdale, Coventry, South Wales, Skolars and All Golds.

A difficult four weeks in May saw Barrow, Keighley and North Wales Crusaders inflict defeats on the Roughyeds, however it has been the only blip in their season, with the team now unbeaten since the start of June.

They are once again coached by former England international and Bradford Bulls stalwart Scott Naylor and are captained by Lewis Palfrey.



## ADAM CLAY

Starting out with Leigh Miners, Clay turned pro with Salford when Roughyeds coach Naylor signed him to the Reds.

Having impressed while playing for Barrow in the Kingstone Press Championship in 2013, where he featured in 27 out of 29 games and scored 12 tries, he originally signed with North Wales Crusaders for 2014, before securing a release mid-season and making the move to Oldham

Signing a new one year deal at Whitebank for 2015, he has made 16 appearances and scored 16 tries in the season to date.



## GEORGE TYSON

A Back-row man who can also play well at centre. Tyson is another young player who has arrived via the ranks of the Salford Red Devils.

After spending the 2014 season on loan at Whitebank, Tyson has become a fully contracted member of the Roughyeds squad.

Tough and aggressive, Tyson is a hard tackler who remarkably only began playing the sport aged 16, but has made an impact during his short career to date.



## JACK HOLMES

A utility back, Holmes spent three years at Salford, followed by short spells with Halifax and his home-town club Leigh Centurions.

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

In what is his first season at Whitebank, Holmes has shown well in a squad filled with quality players, making 16 appearances and scoring 11 tries.





# COVENTRY BEARS FOCUS



Brand new to Kingstone Press League 1, Coventry Bears arrive in the competition out to continue their pioneering work to promote the sport in the Midlands.

Playing out of the Butts Park Arena, which they share with the city's Rugby Union side, the Bears were founded in 1998 by a group of students lead by current chairman Alan Robinson.

They were admitted into the Rugby League Conference for the 2000 season and rose as high as the top of National League Three in 2005, before difficulties forced the club into a period of rebuilding and consolidation back in the amateur ranks.

Having taken their place back in the third tier of the game a year later than planned, Tom Tsang continues at the helm of the club he has coached for a number of years.

Well known and well respected in the student game, Tsang led the club into the National Conference League where the Bears took on the top clubs of the amateur game before earning the right to step up into the semi-professional ranks for this seas.

With the club making the step up out of the amateur game, Tsang has substantially overhauled his squad, keeping only six of the squad from the NCL.

Welsh international James Geurtjens signed from Australian outfit North Queensland Devils with Simon Phillips coming in for the Norths Devils to put down roots in his wife's hometown.

Eddie Medforth and Nick Taylor have arrived from the Sheffield Eagles with former Eagles academy teammate Ben Tyers joined from Australian side Warwick Cowboys.

Paul Ivan comes from Limoux Grizzlies with Villeneuve Leopards Matt Cooper also joining the Bears from the French elite league.

Tsang has also recruited from academies in the higher levels with flying wingers Ben Parry (St Helens) and Jamahl Hunte (Halifax RL) joining along with Salford Red Devils Chris Barratt.

Oxford Andy Winfield arrives along with a two players from the student game, Loughborough Students Alex Calvert and Midlands Hurricanes Dylan Bale.

Coventry have also signed players from back down in the amateur game. Reece Needham re-joins from the Nottingham Outlaws with Halton Simms Cross's Richard Hughes, Crosfields duo Billy Sheen and Troy Brophy, Queen's Liam Thompson and Leigh Miners Rangers half back Cameron Boulter.

# PLAYERS TO WATCH



## BILLY SHEEN

A new arrival from South Wales Scorpions during the off season, Sheen made history as the first player to travel from North to South Wales after joining the Scorpions from Crusaders.

Well known for his try scoring exploits, Sheen has continued in that vein for the Bears, with seven tries to his name this season to date, only one behind top scorer Jamahl Hunte.

His career started in the academy ranks at St Helens after spending a successful year at Warrington Wizards in the 2009 Conference National season.

With plenty of experience at League 1 level, the half back can also cover at fullback or hooker, making him a versatile asset for the coaches.



## ALEX BROWN

One of only six players to remain with the Bears for their first season in Kingstone Press League 1, Brown is the only player remaining from the squad that achieved the club's last major honour, the 2004 National League Three title.

A Coventry local, Brown's career has grown with the club and has the honour of being the first home town player to sign professional terms with the club.

After taking up the sport whilst at University in Coventry, Brown represented England Students at Hooker and is due to break the club's all-time appearance record this season.

A tough competitor he has been leading by example throughout the season.



## EDDIE MEDFORTH

Highly rated centre Medforth, joined the Bears from Sheffield Eagles over the winter after being part of the club's Under 19 set up.

Originally from Wakefield, Medforth impressed Bear's Coach Tom Tsang in trials for the club and earned himself a contract off the back of those performances.

A powerful centre with great footwork and agility, he has bagged four tries already this season and has been demonstrating excellent work ethic and commitment to the Bear's cause.





# STATS CENTRAL

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2015, 15:00, KINGSTON PARK, NEWCASTLE

LEAGUE 1 - ROUND 19 (STATS OVER LAST 8 ENCOUNTERS)

NEWCASTLE THUNDER	VS	OLDHAM RLFC
144	TOTAL POINTS	337
1	TOTAL WINS	7
7	TOTAL LOSSES	1
0	TOTAL DRAWS	0
29	TOTAL TRIES	61
16	TOTAL GOALS	46
0	TOTAL DROP GOALS	1

HEAD TO HEAD - LAST 8 MEETINGS

17th May 2015: Oldham RLFC win **45-20** at Whitebank Stadium

31st August 2014: Newcastle Thunder win **40-14** at Gateshead International Stadium

22nd June 2014: Oldham RLFC win **32-14** at Gateshead International Stadium

13th April 2014: Oldham RLFC win **52-16** at Whitebank Stadium

30th June 2013: Oldham RLFC win **44-12** at Filtrona Park, South Shields

26th May 2013: Oldham RLFC win **54-16** at Whitebank Stadium

2nd September 2012: Oldham RLFC win **56-12** at Gateshead International Stadium

18th March 2012: Oldham RLFC win **40-14** at Whitebank Stadium



TOP TRY SCORERS

D. CRAIG	9
E. SIMONS	7
M. HALLETT	7
J. TALI	6
M. MARSH	6
L. SHERIFF	5
A. BLAIR	5
J. MEADS	4
M. BEHARRELL	4
B. HARDCASTLE	4

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2015, 15:00, KINGSTON PARK, NEWCASTLE

LEAGUE 1 - ROUND 17 (STATS OVER LAST 8 ENCOUNTERS)

NEWCASTLE THUNDER	VS	SWINTON LIONS
144	TOTAL POINTS	348
1	TOTAL WINS	6
7	TOTAL LOSSES	2
0	TOTAL DRAWS	0
29	TOTAL TRIES	52
16	TOTAL GOALS	37
0	TOTAL DROP GOALS	0

HEAD TO HEAD - LAST 8 MEETINGS

7th June 2015: Swinton Lions win **44-32** at Sedgely Park

5th June 2011: Swinton Lions win **62-16** at Gateshead International Stadium

22nd August 2010: Swinton Lions win **94-0** at Sedgely Park

13th April 2014: Oldham RLFC win **52-16** at Whitebank Stadium

6th June 2010: Swinton Lions win **34-12** at Gateshead International Stadium

22nd June 2008: Newcastle Thunder win **28-12** at Gateshead International Stadium

5th May 2008: Newcastle Thunder win **36-20** at Sedgely Park

21st July 2007: Swinton Lions win **34-8** at Gateshead International Stadium

LEAGUE 1 2015

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



# UPCOMING AWAY FIXTURES

## Gloucestershire All Golds Saturday 8th August, 5.00pm

Thunder take to the road for the penultimate time in the regular season on August 8th as the team travel to the Prince of Wales Stadium for the return fixture against the All Golds.

The pair met at Kingston Park in mid-June when Thunder ran out 38-6 victors, however the last time the pair met in Cheltenham, the affair was much closer, Thunder eventually prevailing 22-28.

It will be a key game for Thunder to win if they harbour play-off hopes.

University of Gloucestershire All Golds,  
Oxstalls Campus, Longlevens,  
Gloucester, GL2 9HW

Buy Tickets - On the gate



## South Wales Scorpions Sunday 6th September

Thunder's final away game of the regular season is also their longest, as they travel to South Wales Scorpions on September 6th.

The Scorpions have moved to a new home, in the form of Parc Dyffryn Pennar, but Thunder will be hoping to repeat last years victory in the valleys in order to keep their push for the play off positions on track.

Parc Dyffryn Pennar, Mountain Ash, CF45 4DA

Buy Tickets - On the Gate

