

HERE SINCE 1871

January 2016 // Issue 7 // £3.00

JANUARY PREVIEWS



CHAIRMANS WELCOME

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

ALAN KILSHAW



next generation

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

STUART BISCOMB

The 24-year-old forward joins from Oxford after impressing at both prop forward and second row at the back end of last season. He made the step up to League 1 mid-way through the year after catching the eye with his performances for NCL Division 1 side Normanton Knights.

A welcome addition to the pack and Kilshaw was delighted to beat a number of competitors for his signature.

DAVID COOKSON

You may remember David Cookson from the 2013 play-off final, unfortunately for him though he was on the losing side. The 27-year-old returns to the sport after a year out, and the Rochdale born centre is raring to go once again. He can also double up at second row and was another sought after man.

He will add size to the Rochdale edge and is a prime example of Kilshaw's philosophy of bringing local players to Spotland.

HARRY FILES

A youngster with plenty of talent, Harry Files joins from Salford Red Devils youth set-up and plays predominantly at hooker. The 20-year-old was named u19's player of the year while at the Red Devils back in 2014 and will be hoping to get a run out against his former side when they visit Spotland in pre-season.

He will also be out to prove a point and adapt from the youth set-up to League 1 rugby league.

JACK FRANCIS

Jack is another local lad who has represented Hopwood Hall College in the past and was due to wear the Hornets shirt last year, before leaving to focus on his studies.

The 23-year-old prop forward is back now though after a short spell with Coventry Bears towards the end of 2015. His no-nonsense approach will provide a good go-forward for Kilshaw's men, something he showcased in the Bears' defeat at Spotland.

LEWIS GALBRAITH

This may be a name that some fans remember, as Lewis Galbraith appeared for the Hornets on dual-reg during their 2014 Championship campaign. He came through the ranks at St Helens and also represented England as a junior. The Oldham born centre spent 2015 at Sarina Crocodile in Australia alongside coach Kilshaw.

'Trigger' is back home now though and will be looking to bring his Australian experiences to Rochdale Hornets in 2016.

COREY LEE

A popular player amongst the reserves at Leigh Centurions, Corey Lee could be a threat to Dale Bloomfield's title of top try scorer if he can break into the starting 13. The 22-year-old wide man was a regular scorer last season and is known for his blistering pace. Equally at home as a fullback, the youngster will be out to prove a point and could use the friendlies as a chance to give Kilshaw a selection headache out wide.

BEN MOORES

Another player who knows 'Killer' well, Ben Moores returns to England after a two year spell with Sarina Crocodiles and follows the coach to Rochdale. He is a natural hooker and has progressed through the Warrington Wolves academy, also representing England as a youngster like his new team mate Galbraith. It will be his second stint in League 1 after he spent 2013 with South Wales before his move down under.

The 22-year-old will be looking to strengthen the team at hooker, a position that half-back Paul Crook was forced to take up during 2015.

JONO SMITH

This is a player who needs no introduction, as Jono Smith has been a thorn in the side of the Hornets throughout his three year career with North Wales Crusaders. Back in 2013 he was named League 1 player of the year and operates at loose forward and second row. The 27-year-old knows his way over the try line and Rochdale fans will be delighted to see him scoring for them, rather than against them in 2016.

With the massive loss of Tony Suffolk and Danny Bridge, Kilshaw has sent out a big statement with the signing of Smith as he looks to fill the void left by their departure.

KIERAN WALPOLE

A former Leeds Rhinos academy player, Kieran Walpole is another young and talented winger who joins Rochdale with a point to prove. He joined Bradford from Leeds and has played in their youth ranks over the last two years.

The 18-year-old has come through the ranks in a Super League outfit, and will be looking to make the step-up to senior rugby with Rochdale Hornets.

SAMIR TAHRAOUI

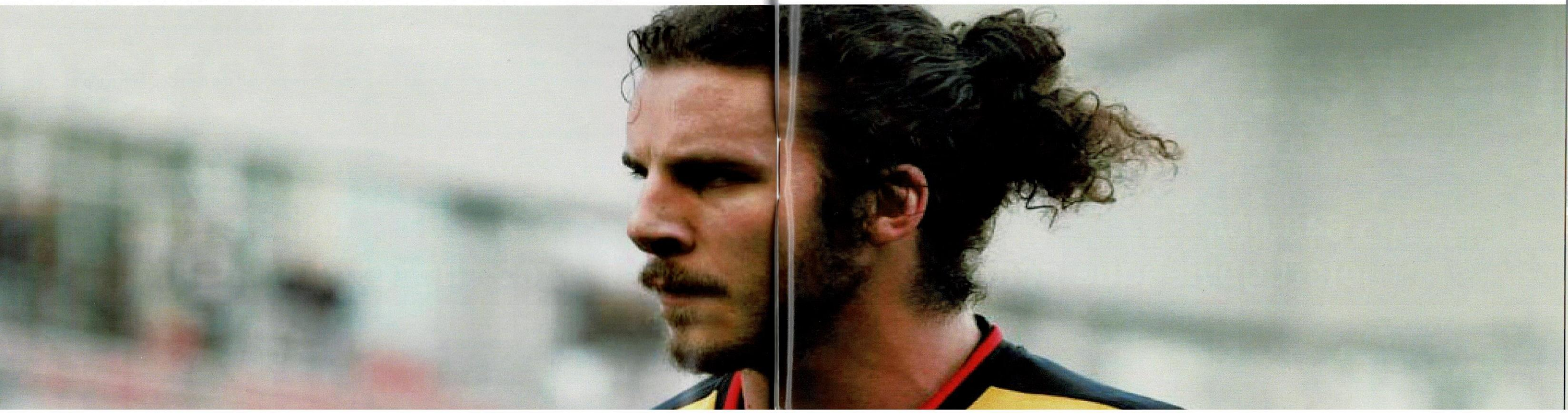
You won't miss Samir Tahraoui on match days, with the prop forward standing at six feet and seven inches tall and weighing 20 stone. The former Warrington Wolves junior joined Bradford Bulls in 2015 but spent the year on loan at Keighley Cougars, as Hornets fans will remember him impressing home and away against Rochdale. The 25-year-old will add size to the pack and will be hard to stop for opposition defences.

With Samir released from the last year of his Bulls contract he will be looking to prove a point as a part of Kilshaw's next generation.

JOVILI TAIRA

The latest in a long line of Fijians to represent Rochdale Hornets, Jovili Taira etches his name into the diverse history of the club after making the step up from the amateur game. The 26-year-old centre has played for both Rochdale Cobras and Rochdale Mayfield, and it was at Mayfield where he picked up the NCL Player of the Year award in 2014.

After visa issues prevented him from signing in 2013, Jo is raring to go and will be looking to bring his bone-rattling hits with him to League 1.



POWER ON

01706 35 44 55

www.power-on.co.uk

FAULTY?

LAPTOPS

TABLETS

PC'S

MOBILES

REPAIRED PROFESSIONALLY WITH DUE CARE AND ATTENTION



LOW COST

NO DIAGNOSTIC FEES



SALES

ANDROID TABLETS FROM £39.00
REFURBISHED LAPTOPS £99.00
SMART PHONES FROM £85.00
PC'S FROM £55.00



WWW.POWER-ON.CO.UK

READ OUR CUSTOMER REVIEWS ON GOOGLE REVIEWS.

WE ARE LOCAL :
86 DRAKE ST ROCHDALE
OL16 1PH

REPAIRS@POWER-ON.CO.UK

01706 35 44 55

got something to say?

advertise here!

call: 01706 648 004

info@hornetsrugbyleague.com

Salford Red Devils



Rochdale Hornets vs Salford Red Devils
Rochdale Hornets begin their preparations for the 2016 season when they welcome Super League outfit Salford Red Devils to Spotland Stadium on Sunday 10th January.

It will be Alan Kilshaw's first game in charge since taking over from Ian Talbot following the 2015 campaign, and it will also present an opportunity for a number of his new signings to make their debut.

Salford have made some astute recruitment of their own, so ahead of the clash of the two Greater Manchester clubs take a closer look at the Red Devils.

THE NEW BOYS

Once again Salford have chopped and changed their squad ahead of a new season with some big name signings, however the club's owner Marwan Koukash is confident that his new recruits will be at the AJ Bell Stadium for years to come.

A familiar face to Rochdale fans will be Matthew Haggarty, who has joined the Devils on loan from St Helens after a dual-reg stint with Tol's side at the back end of last season. Another loan signing of theirs is the dangerous winger Justin Carney, who is one of the best wide men in the top flight and is a tough man to stop. Of their permanent signings Mark Flanagan stands out as an experienced forward who was part of the St Helens side which lifted the Super League trophy in 2014. The 28-year-old also enjoyed a spell with NRL club West Tigers where he appeared 27 times.

Gareth O'Brien is another clever signing as the former Warrington Wolves half-back looks to fill the void left by the loss of Rangi Chase and Theo Fages. Add to that the addition of NRL players such as Ben Murdoch-Masila, Robert Lui and Daniel Vidot and Salford have a dangerous squad if they can gel.

KEY MEN

Nial Evalds – In a disappointing year for the club academy graduate Evalds was a massive positive for the Red Devils. The lightning quick full-back impressed on a number of occasions and is considered one of the top young players in the game.

Robert Lui – An experienced NRL half-back who makes the move from North Queensland Cowboys, where he played alongside Jonathan Thurston before the emergence of Michael Morgan. His running game is strong and his pace could be tricky to deal with.

Mark Flanagan – As mentioned his experience will be vital to Salford in 2016, as the Grand Final winning forward could be a leader in a young squad. He is solid in defence and will work hard for the men either side of him. Play-off woes

With the huge investments into their playing squad since their takeover many pundits predicted Salford to take Super League by storm. Their third attempts to do so last season saw the club miss out on the play-offs again though, as they were consigned to the Middle 8's were they met the Championship's top four. With their Super League status at threat they managed to turn around an injury hit season to win five of their seven Qualifier fixtures to secure third spot and avoid relegation.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

Marwan Koukash has been no stranger to controversy during his three year ownership of the club, however in 2016 he will be taking a step back into the boardroom to take the Red Devils forward off the field.

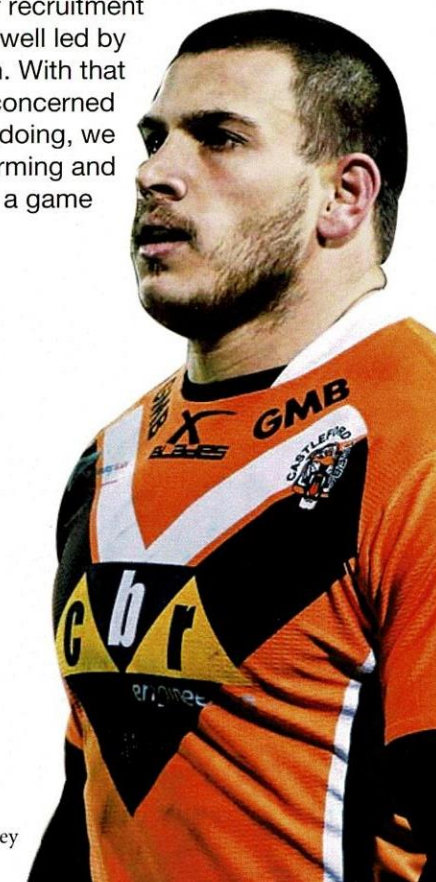
In doing so he has appointed himself as CEO to take a more hands on approach, leaving all rugby related decisions to a man he calls 'the boss'. That man is of course Tim Sheens, the former Australia national side coach, who has taken up a permanent Director of Rugby role. His experience in the game of rugby league is invaluable and could benefit the club in the long term.

KILLER INPUT

"Coming up against Super League and full-time opposition will be a difficult task. I'm sure both sides will be rusty and there will be more errors than a usual game. "Salford have changed their recruitment philosophy and will be very well led by Tim Sheens and Ian Watson. With that being said we're not really concerned about them or what they're doing, we are totally focused on performing and converting our practice into a game environment."

HEAD TO HEAD

Rochdale Hornets wins: 0
Points scored: 132
Salford Red Devils wins: 13
Points scored: 474
Last five meetings
14/03/2008
Salford 68-0 Hornets
03/02/2008
Hornets 12-54 Salford
03/04/2005
Salford 30-24 Hornets
24/08/2003
Salford 58-18 Hornets
15/06/2003
Hornets 16-32 Salford



Justin Carney

THE VAPORNAN

Electronic Cigarette's & E-Liquids

738, Manchester Road, Castleton OL11 3AQ Tel: 01706 662406




HORNETS BOWLED OVER WITH NEW SUPPLIER

Rochdale Hornets are pleased to announce that Surridge Sport have won the tender to supply all performance apparel to the club for the next 3 seasons.

From humble beginnings in 1867, Surridge Sport have grown to premium brand status that leads the way in the multi sports arena after making their name in cricket.

Surridge cater for all sports with an extensive range of clothing, training & leisure wear, equipment and accessories coupled with extensive stocked ranges to fulfil your requirements. They are a pioneer in UK based production dye sublimation, giving them detailed control over production and offering industry leading delivery times.

'The tender process was really competitive, with over 50 people expressing an initial interest' commented Hornets CEO Ryan Bradley.

'We wanted a supplier that could produce good quality gear in short lead times, a company that could really support us with our retail offer.

Surridge are based 30 minutes from Spotland and hold massive stocks of retail items as well as producing all of the playing and replica shirts in the same factory. Some of the technology they showed the panel was second to none and it especially blew the players away with the quality they offered.

They are investing in becoming a major player in the rugby market and we are happy to give them the introduction to the Rugby League professional ranks' finished Bradley.

Charles Lord, Surridge Sport MD, commented 'We are thrilled to be working with a team as respected as Rochdale Hornets, and look forward to seeing the new kit in action.'

The Rochdale Rugby Shack, the clubs retail arm, will offer a full range of leisurewear mirroring the first team training and match day wear, stocked in the shop at Spotland and online from 1st December.

Border Rose by Rob Ratcliffe

Tattoo Studio Award Winning Artist
www.borderrosetattoo.co.uk



- Professional Tattooing & Body Piercing
- Cover-up Specialist
- Established 22 Years
- Health Registered
- 3 Artists Available
- Laser Tattoo Removal

07880 935828
109 Church Street, Littleborough OL15 8AA

Follow me on Instagram @BORDERROSETATTOO

R.T AUTOCENTRE LTD



FULLY QUALIFIED MECHANICS & SPRAYERS

- Class 4 & 7
- Spraying from £99
- Clutch Gearbox from £99
- MOT & Service from £99
- Timing Belts from £99
- A/C from £30
- Emission & Brake Testing
- Taxi MOT Checks

11-31 School Lane, Rochdale OL16 1QP
Tel: 01706 661396



ROCHDALE13

Dear Member,

Rochdale13 is a new multimedia platform which produces video interviews, match highlights, reports, player of the month competitions and a monthly magazine.

It focuses solely on Rochdale Hornets as a bridge between the playing squad and fans. We feel as a members owned club it is important for you, the owners, to see what is going on behind the scenes rather than just for 80 minutes on a Sunday afternoon.

For the 2015 season Rochdale13 put out some sample material as a pilot scheme. We aimed to bring away-match highlights, post match interviews and a monthly magazine; "Here Since 1871".

The videos on our YouTube channel average 135 views each with some having as many as 580 and some as low as 11!

It is our job now to find out what you, the viewers, want to see.

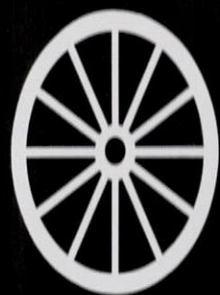
Do you have trouble travelling to away games? Do you enjoy reading up on the club each month? Do you wish you could hear from the first team or the coach more often? Would you like to see more match highlights? Do you feel as though you want to get to know the players and staff better?

If theres any of the above or something else which you have in mind please let us know by emailing:
commercial@hornetsrugbyleague.com

Kind regards,
Rochdale13



WAGGON INN



Traditional Dishes &
Canary Island Tapas

Tel: (01706) 648 313

facebook.com/waggoninmilnrow

info@waggoninmilnrow.co.uk

www.waggoninmilnrow.co.uk

Opening Times

Monday - Thursday 11am-11pm

Friday & Saturday 11am-12pm

Sunday 11am-11pm

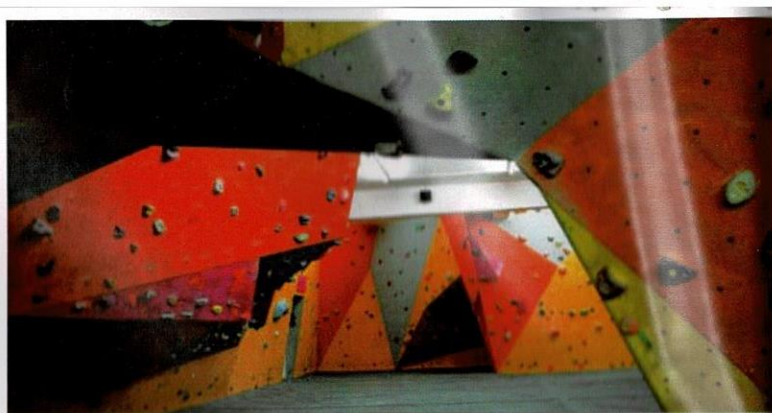
(Food served daily from 12 till 9pm)

35 Butterworth Hall - Milnrow

OL16 3PE



We accept all major payment methods



www.climbrochdale.uk

tel: 01706 524450 find us: OL16 1QP

NEWLY REFURBISHED TRAINING AREA

Chairman's Welcome



Hello and welcome to the first edition of Here
Since 1871 of 2016.

The off-season has seen some big changes here at Hornets, not least a new head coach in the shape of Alan Kilshaw.

'Killer' has already stamped his mark on the squad, re-signing the core of last years team whilst adding some quality to create real competition for places.

I think it is fair to say there is a real buzz about the club at the moment. The launch of the new 2016 home jersey went down a storm and the Christmas Party was the best we have ever had.

The Heroes of Hornets, All Time Hornets XIII really got people talking about the club again, Rochdale 13, our dedicated multimedia platform is coming along nicely, and the Buzzline Lottery is giving the club its best ever returns.

The Rochdale Hornets Sporting Foundation is making real progress and is delivering groundbreaking programmes across a range of themes.

The Foundation also arranged for legendary International coach, Tim Sheens to give a master class to local coaches

We have James Canning, a new apprentice in the office from January, and we will be announcing a new sponsor soon, who like the Rochdale Hornets formed in 1871.

We cannot deny though last year we under performed especially on the field.

Although we made some progress off it, last year was a very difficult one and it stretched us as a club. We have corrected some of the issues, but the board needs more support. There are places available on the board to help drive the club forward. Have you got what it takes? If you feel you could offer something positive, please get in touch and we can sit down and have a chat.

One thing that everyone is agreed on is that our programme of "friendlies" is the most exciting in years.

Starting with a clash against Dr Marwan Koukash's Salford Red Devils, this will prove a real test for our boys as Tim Sheens has indicated he is bring a top quality outfit to Spotland.

The next game is the one every single Hornets fans is looking forward to as after a 3 year break the Law Cup returns against our nearest, and fiercest rivals The Oldham Roughyeds.

The game also marks 25 seasons since the record-breaking clash against Oldham when Hornets took the spoils in in that epic Boxing Day encounter. It will also be great to see players from that era to help celebrate that games 25th anniversary.

Our only away friendly will be the short hop to Swinton when we take on the newly promoted Lions at Sedgley Park.

The Lions, again like Salford and Oldham, will provide a stern test for Killers boys, but it is only by testing yourself do you make progress.

The final game is John Cooksons testimonial when we take on the Coventry Bears back at Spotland. Cookie, was the first player of the newly formed Hornets to play over 100 games and he is rewarded for his loyalty with a much deserved testimonial fixture which I am sure you will agree he thoroughly deserves.

All this before we start the iPro Cup with a trip to Barrow.

So welcome to 2016, welcome to the new season and welcome to the #NextGeneration.

As ever, lets #StingEmHornets

Mark

Mark Wynn
Chairman
Rochdale Hornets

got something to say?

advertise here!

call: 01706 648 004

info@hornetsrugbyleague.com

Oldham Roughyeds



After taking on Super League opposition Rochdale Hornets welcome League 1 champions Oldham to Spotland, as the Law Cup returns after a three year absence. This provides Alan Kilshaw's men with the perfect opportunity to test themselves against last year's benchmark in the third tier, and also exact revenge for their double defeat at the hands of their rivals. Here is a look at how the Roughyeds are shaping up for their Championship campaign in 2016.

CONTINUITY

With only four signings and the loss of just two players from the 2015 squad, Scott Naylor has kept the majority of his team together for their step-up to the second tier.

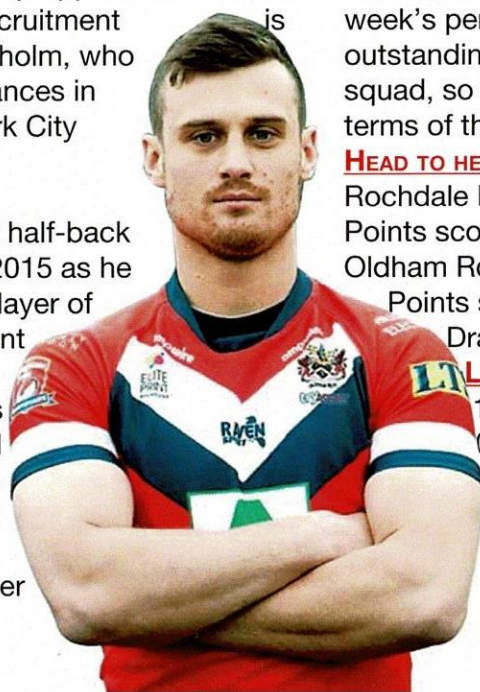
The loss of Adam Neal and George Tyson, who have both gone full-time with Championship rivals Sheffield Eagles, will be a big blow to Oldham as they were heavily involved in their promotion campaign.

To offset that loss they have brought in Craig Briscoe who is a solid back rower and was a stand out for Barrow Raiders last season. He scored twice on his last visit to Spotland in a 48-12 drubbing of the Cumbrian outfit. Also joining him in the forward back is Halifax prop forward Jack Spencer who will add experience from his two years at the Shay. Half-back Danny Grimshaw has penned a deal with Oldham after moving on from relegated Hunslet Hawks, with 50 Championship appearances under his belt. Completing their recruitment is untested winger Jamel Chisholm, who managed just three appearances in 2015 while on loan from York City Knights at London Skolars.

KEY MEN

Lewis Palfrey – The Oldham half-back had a year to remember in 2015 as he scooped up the League 1 Player of the Year award. His intelligent kicking game is vital to Oldham's success and he is also dangerous with the ball in his hands, as he crossed the whitewash 11 times last season.

Sammy Gee – A solid number



Lewis Palfrey

nine who will look to get behind the markers and attack any lazy defending. He has a good rugby league brain and can also front up in defence. Josh Rowley – A second row forward with an eye for the try line, Rowley picked up 13 tries last term and is a danger man going forward. He carries the ball well and could cause some problems to the defence if they don't halt him early on.

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Oldham are on a high after securing top spot in League 1 before beating Keighley Cougars in the League 1 Grand Final 31-20, to end their horrific run of six play-off final defeats.

They also had the player and coach of the year in Palfrey and Naylor respectively and will be hoping to do enough to stay in the Championship beyond 2016.

CHANGE OF SCENERY

Championship rugby won't be coming to Oldham though, as they have agreed to play their home games from Stalybridge's Bower Fold Park with Whitebank's facilities not being suitable for the second tier.

They have already hosted a game there in the past, as they welcomed Super League outfit St Helens in front of over 4,000 fans.

KILLER INPUT

"This will have more bite than your normal friendly with a cup and local bragging rights at stake. "We will be focussed on building on the previous week's performance. Oldham obviously had an outstanding 2015 and have kept the majority of their squad, so they will be a little further on than us in terms of their understanding and combinations."

HEAD TO HEAD

Rochdale Hornets wins: 28
Points scored: 1296
Oldham Roughyeds wins: 33
Points scored: 1426
Draws: 3

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

12/07/2015 – Oldham 38-18 Hornets
03/04/2015 – Hornets 16-23 Oldham
29/09/2013 – Hornets 32-18 Oldham
15/09/2013 – Oldham 22-23 Hornets
15/08/2013 – Hornets 25-30 Oldham

DEVELOP

WWW.DSALES.EU

Colour for Everyone

The UK's fastest-growing brand of digital imaging systems.



Top class performance for your business.

Available from your local DEVELOP dealer:

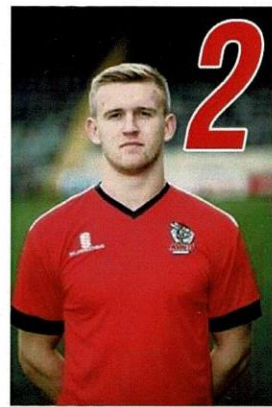


The Colour Copier Company

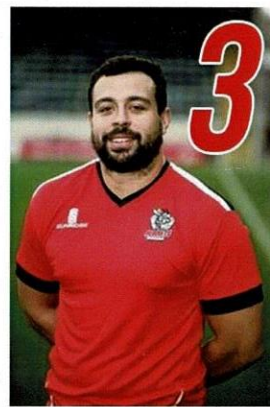
Prinny Mill Business Centre, Blackburn Road, Haslingden, Lancashire BB4 5HL
Tel: 01706 233 577 www.thecolourcopiercompany.co.uk



1
WAYNE ENGLISH
THE WHEATSHEAF CENTRE



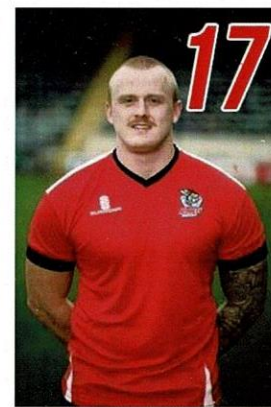
2
BRAD HARGREAVES
AAA PEST CONTROL



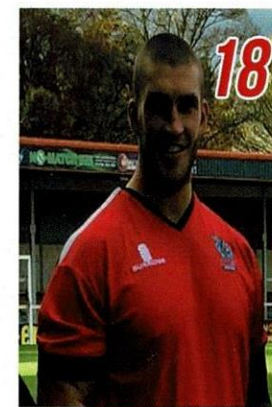
3
MIKE RATU
MICHAEL AUGHEY



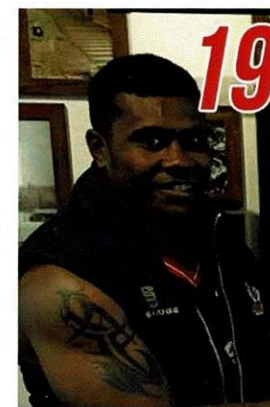
4
LEWIS GALBRAITH
COOK, EAT, TALK!



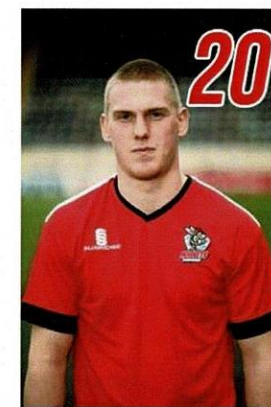
17
JACK FRANCIS
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



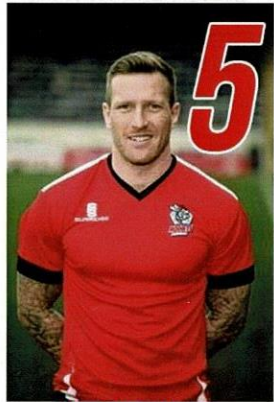
18
DAVE COOKSON
ROCHDALE RUGBY SHACK



19
JO TAIRIA
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



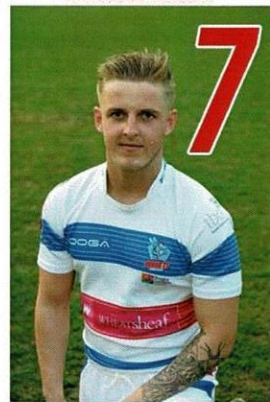
20
HARRY FILES
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



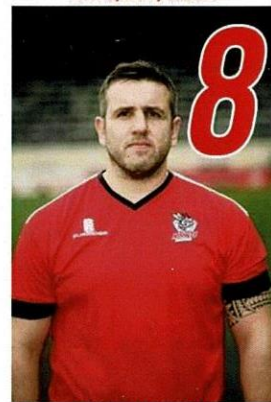
5
DALE BLOOMFIELD
STRINGER & JONES



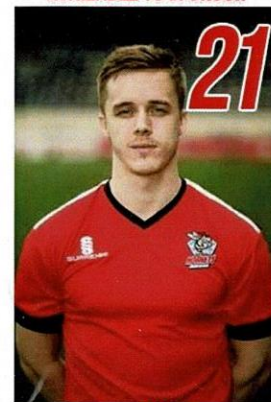
6
PAUL CROOK
JULIE CLARKE



7
DANNY YATES
JIM STRINGER



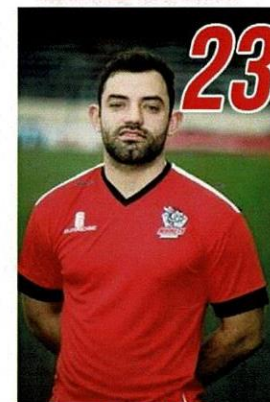
8
JOHN COOKSON
PETE & KATH YARNALL



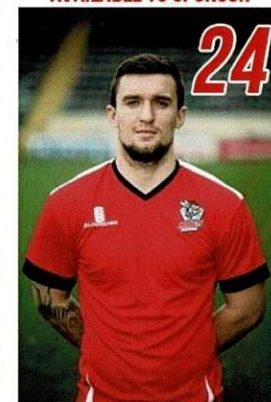
21
COREY LEE
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



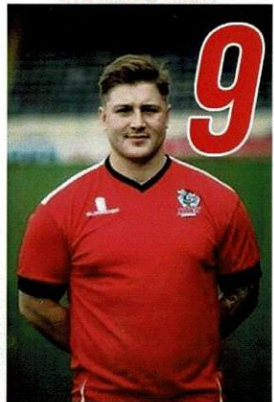
22
ALEX TRUMPER
THE BAUM



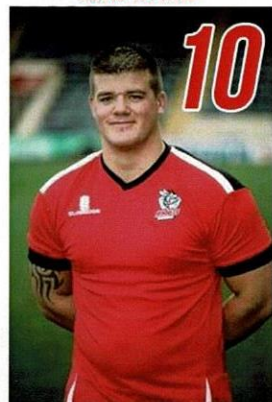
23
JAMES DANDY
SHAW MITCHELL & CO.



24
KIERAN WALPOLE
LINK4LIFE



9
BEN MOORES
TEFS



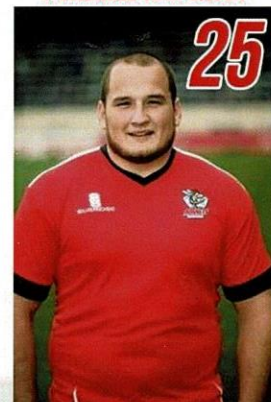
10
WARREN THOMPSON
BILLS GIRLS



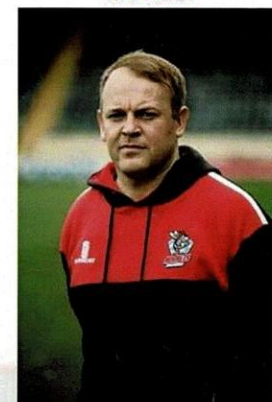
11
JORDAN CASE
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



12
JONO SMITH
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



25
STUART BISCOMB
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



ALAN KILSHAW - HEAD COACH
INSIGHT SPORTS



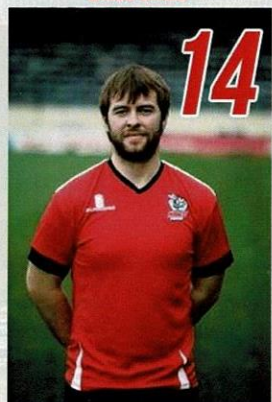
PAUL BERRY - ASSISTANT COACH
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



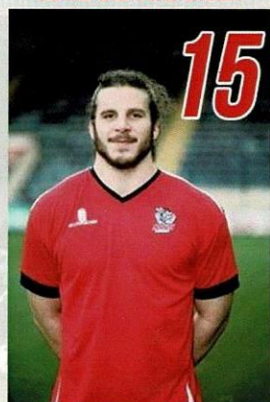
DAVE RAMSBOTTOM - ASSISTANT COACH
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



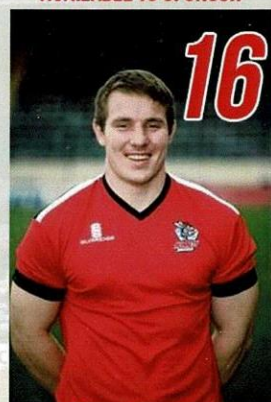
13
JAMES TILLEY
WALK RIGHT PODIATRY



14
ALEX McCLURG
THE 4 B'S



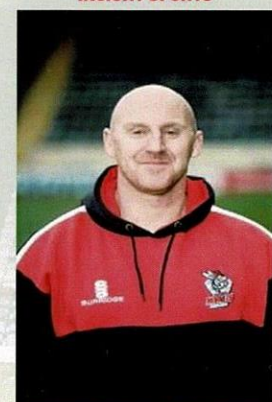
15
SAMIR TAHRAOUI
STEPHEN HOLT OPTICIANS



16
MATTY HADDEN
THE FLYING HORSE



JASON VILLER - ASSISTANT COACH
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



RYAN GIBNEY - S & C COACH
THE ATHLETE FACTORY



STEVE WORDSWORTH - ANALYST
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR



BRIAN CARROLL - PHYSIO
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

ROCHDALE HORNETS 2016



Alan Kilshaw

Hello and let me first of all wish you all a very happy new year from myself, all the coaching, support staff and players.

January sees us playing three friendlies against opposition in the higher leagues we welcome Salford and Oldham to Spotland and visit Swinton.

Although the Oldham game is technically a friendly I'm sure both sides will be taking it serious as the Law Cup is at stake.

The second phase of pre-season started this week after a short break over Christmas and the effort the players and staff have put in has been outstanding we are all looking forward to getting on the field and putting into practice some of the new systems and combinations.

Friendlies are generally scrappy games with lots of errors as the teams look to shake off the rust from not playing since September/October although this can be frustrating for coaches and supporters we need to have a level of patience as the lads get their match sharpness and fitness back during this period.

Since I have started the role as Head Coach and community partnerships manager for the foundation I have been bowled over by the level of passion from everyone involved at the club and the supporters throughout the town and beyond.

You are the teams 18th man and we need you to support the team through the good and bad times, I can guarantee you a side that will give 100 % every week, we want to be an attractive side to watch although sometimes the weather may affect the style we want to play we want to get you off your seats and enjoying watching the Hornets!

We need you behind the lads and they feed off your support, be loud and proud and also help the referee make the correct decision!

Thank you for your support!

Alan Kilshaw
Head Coach



Swinton Lions



In the Hornets' only away fixture of the pre-season schedule they make the short trip to Sedgley Park to face local rivals Swinton Lions.

Like their previous opponents Oldham, Swinton also made the step-up to Championship with a dramatic 29-28 win over Keighley Cougars in the League 1 Play-off Final, thanks to Chris Atkin's drop goal.

We analyse the Lions and how they are shaping up ahead of 2016 in the Championship and the visit of Rochdale.

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

In contrast to their rivals Oldham, Swinton have made some big changes to their 2016 squad with the acquisition of 13 new players. That would have been 15 had former Warrington Wolves forward Paul Wood decided against retirement, and if former Rochdale loose forward Tony Suffolk had not opted to move to Australia.

Some of the most notable names in that list are Batley hooker Anthony Nicholson, who is vastly experienced in the second tier, League 1 young player of the year Matty Beharrell and former Saints and Rochdale forward Jordan Hand.

They have also added Stevie Nash from Dewsbury to offset the loss of Wood, with the big front rower bringing Super League experience with him. Some familiar names also will be Sam Peet, who was on loan at Crusaders in 2015, All Golds half-back Matt Bradley and Newcastle loanee Macauley Hallet.

KEY MEN

Anthony Nicholson – Possibly the shrewdest signing John Duffy has made, as Batley Bulldogs' pivotal number nine has agreed to join Swinton for 2016. He also enjoyed a three year spell with Leigh Centurions as their starting hooker and will be a great addition.

Shaun Robinson – Last year's top scorer at the club, crossing the whitewash 19 times in their successful promotion campaign last term. It will be an interesting battle between him and Dale Bloomfield, with both wide men finishing the year with the same amount of tries.

Matty Beharrell – The League 1 Player of the year was one of few positives to come out of Newcastle Thunder's 2015 campaign, as they fell well short of the play-offs. He is a clever attacking half-back who has a great future in the game and is a big coup for Duffy.

Drop-goal delight

After finishing just three points outside the top two, Swinton had to gain promotion the hard way through the play-offs. First up was the visit of York City Knights, and it looked to be all over when Jordan Howden's drop-goal late on made it 16-17 to the Knights. Chris Atkin levelled the scores before the hooter though and grabbed another field-goal in golden point to break the visitors' hearts.

That set up a play-off grand final date with Keighley Cougars, who had been beaten in the promotion grand final by Oldham a few weeks earlier. Atkin was the hero again as his third one-pointer in two games clinched a 29-28 victory and promotion.

FILLING THE VOID

With a number of key players leaving and the decision of Paul Wood to retire the big question for Swinton is can they replace the men they have lost? Jordan James and Tommy

Gallagher were both crucial to their success last season, so their retirement will be another blow to the Lions.

Andy Ackers has left for London Broncos while Richie and Darren Hawkyard have joined Keighley Cougars, so Duffy will be hoping his new recruits can help the club in their return to the Championship.

KILLER INPUT

"We will be using this game to look at different combinations and players from the first two games to see how different players go in different positions."

HEAD TO HEAD

Swinton Lions wins: 19

Points scored: 917

Rochdale Hornets wins: 20

Points scored: 973

Draws: 2

Last Five Meetings

26/07/2015 – Swinton Lions 20-16 Hornets

09/05/2015 – Hornets 28-16 Swinton Lions

22/03/2015 – Swinton Lions 30-12 Hornets

13/06/2014 – Swinton Lions 39-18 Hornets

04/05/2014 – Hornets 31-16 Swinton Lions



flowerbomb

*bespoke flower designs
for all occasions
by Melanie*

01706 378844

28 Hare Hill Road, Littleborough

flowerbombmel@outlook.com

www.flowerbomb.co.uk

ROCHDALE HORNETS 2016

FIXTURES

February

21st - iPro Sport Cup Rd.1

28th - Challenge Cup Rd.3

March

6th - Hunslet (H)

13th - Coventry (A)

20th - Challenge Cup Rd.4

25th - North Wales (A)

April

3rd - iPro Sport QF

10th - Gloucestershire (H)

17th - Barrow (A)

24th - Toulouse (H)

May

1st - iPro Sport SF

8th - London Sk. (H)

15th - Oxford (A)

22nd - South Wales (H)

29th - iPro Sport Final*

June

5th - York (A)

19th - Newcastle (A)

26th - Hemel (A)

July

3rd - Keighley (H)

10th - Doncaster (H)

24th - Super 8's Rd.1

31st - Super 8's Rd.2

August

7th - Super 8's Rd.3

14th - Super 8's Rd.4

21st - Super 8's Rd. 5

September

4th - Super 8's Rd. 6

11th - Super 8's Rd. 7

18th - Super 8's Play Off

25th - Super 8's SF

October

2nd - Super 8's Final



HOPWOOD HALL STUDENTS EXCEL WITH KIT PROMO!

Media students from Hopwood Hall College jumped at the chance to film an advert for the Rochdale Hornets Kit launch.

The opportunity came about when the Rochdale Hornets Rugby League team tweeted asking if there was anyone interested in doing some filming for them. Media tutor James Shenton picked up on the tweet and promptly declared their interest.

Chief Executive Ryan Bradley and Director Luke Harrison from the Hornets went to the College to meet students and give their brief. They explained what they were looking for, which included videos comprised of post-match interviews and the kit launch.

The first video the students have made is the Hornets kit launch promo, which was filmed in the College's own TV studio. It features one of the players from the team sporting the new kit.

Ryan Bradley, Hornets Chief Executive, was thrilled: "The set up at Hopwood Hall is absolutely first class. We wanted to produce something of professional quality and the students really did that. They have worked extremely hard and can be proud of their efforts."

"We are already partners of the Hopwood Hall Rugby Academy and we have seen first-hand the excellent work they do; to expand the partnership across different departments will only benefit both parties."

Luke Harrison, Hornets Director, added: "As a supporter owned club we rely heavily on our community to support us across all of our functions.

"We will definitely be working together in the future, providing a live project for students to work on which benefits our supporters."

And what did the 'stars' of the shoot think?

Dale Bloomfield, Hornets top try scorer of 2015, said: "The shoot had a really professional feel to it. I didn't know what to expect really, but from start to finish the students knew what they wanted to get out of it and really put me to work."

"I've not seen the results yet, but I'm sure it will be the best kit launch video in the league"

Student Jordan Whittle, 17, from Failsworth, was operating the camera and fellow student Karl Harris, 18, from Middleton, was the camera operator assistant. They were buzzing after the "fantastic" experience, Karl said: "I found this experience very educational because I got a little taster of what it's like working in a filming environment. The clients told us what sort of shots they wanted of Dale to help promote the rugby kit."

After the filming, the advert was edited by 18-year-old Michael Hall, from Middleton.

Luke Harrison received the final video this week and said: "I've just seen the launch video and it's so impressive. The students are a credit to your department and whole college. The professionalism and maturity was clear to see from start to end and thank you again for such a quick turnaround."

All of the students involved are studying for a BTEC Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production (TV, film and radio).

It is hoped that in the future, there will be regular work experience for the students, including producing content for the Hornets YouTube channel and their website.

The Rochdale Hornets home shirt is now on sale.



have a heart

Sponsor a player's compulsory heart screening for just £25.
Receive a customised certificate as token of thanks.

You could help save a life.
info@hornetsrugbyleague.com

Following the tragic death last season of Keighley Cougars' half-back Danny Jones, who had a cardiac arrest during a game at London Skolars, the RFL have made cardiac screening compulsory in all three of the sport's professional and semi-pro competitions. Cardiac screening has been compulsory for Super League players since 2012, but, following an emotional plea from Danny's wife Lizzie Jones at a recent Championship Forum, it's now mandatory for Championship and League 1 clubs. The RFL is working in tandem with CRY (Cardiac Risks in the Young), a charity which offers help, support and counseling to children and young people at risk of, or affected by, Sudden Cardiac Death. In November Rochdale Hornets, Oldham, Swinton, North Wales and Leigh attended the first North West screening session held at Spotland Stadium. Walter Tann, Vice Chair and Player Welfare Manger said "Cardiac Screening of our players is a welcomed addition to our pre-season medical, health and fitness preparations. The loss Danny Jones earlier in the year was a massive shock to everyone in the game. Player welfare has always been a priority at Hornets so this new development is another step in the right direction to ensuring the safety of our squad." To ensure player welfare is maintained at the highest possible standard Hornets have launched their 'Have a Heart Campaign' which offers members and supporters the opportunity to sponsor heart screening.

For £25 a session your name will be added to a display at Spotland as well as being listed in the match day programme and on our website as a supporter of the scheme. More importantly, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have played your part in the welfare of your team. For donations and further information please contact Walter Tann wallyjt62@btinternet.com or info@hornetsrugbyleague.com

Thank you to those who have already contributed:

- The Rochdale Rugby Shack
- Shaw Mitchell & Co Accountants
- St James Milnrow
- Lynda Falstaff
- David Bulcock
- Dave Stott
- Walter Tann
- Arron Tann
- Julie Clarke
- Jim Stringer
- Alan Tyson
- Brian Belfield

THE NEW & IMPROVED;

BUZZLINE

L O T T E R Y

BIGGER BETTER PRIZES ON OFFER!
OVER 40 CHANCES OF WINNING WITH A NEW PRIZE STRUCTURE!

WIN UP TO

£10,000 **OVER 30 CASH PRIZES & CONSOLATION PRIZES**

ASK YOUR AGENT FOR MORE DETAILS!

TRY OUR NEW TRYLINE SCHEME!

THE NO HASSLE WAY OF RAISING FUNDS FOR YOUR CLUB!

LOTTERY@HORNETSRUGBYLEAGUE.COM

The Rochdale
Rugby Shack
@Spotland Stadium

thebestofrochdale

ebay FOR ALL YOUR RUGBY NEEDS

**Open before and after every
Rochdale Hornets match.**

**BRAND NEW GEAR
NOW IN STOCK!**
Twitter @ShackRugby

SUPER SAVEZ

23 Drake Street,
Rochdale,
OL16 1RX

Wines & Spirits
Beer & Cider
Soft Drinks
Confectionary
News & Magazines
Sandwiches
Ice Creams
Bread
Dairy Products
& Much More...

