



# HEAD-TO-HEAD

## TODAY'S SQUADS



Coach Scott Naylor sponsored by Muse Developments Ltd

Head Coach James Lowes

### ORLFC Player Name:

### Sponsored by:

- |                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1: Richard Lepori  | Rita Walton                        |
| 2: Adam Clay       | fireplacesuperstore.com            |
| 3: Jon Ford        | June Hibbert                       |
| 4: Jack Holmes     | The Society Rooms, Stalybridge     |
| 5: Jamel Chisholm  | Nathan Gibbison                    |
| 6: Lewis Palfrey   | fireplacesuperstore.com            |
| 7: Steve Roper     | Les and Eileen Davison             |
| 8: Phil Joy        | Oldham Past Players' Assn          |
| 9: Sam Gee         | John and Lynda McAndrew            |
| 10: Jack Spencer   | fireplacesuperstore.com            |
| 11: Josh Crowley   | John and Lynda McAndrew            |
| 12: Danny Langtree | Charlotte Gothard and Daniel Haigh |
| 13: Liam Thompson  | ORSA                               |
| 19: Adam Files     | Frankie and Bennys 0161 624 7745   |
| 20: Gareth Owen    | Bev, Kelly and Paul Hulbert        |
| 21: Kenny Hughes   | Rita Walton                        |
| 22: Danny Grimshaw | Pam Taylor/TTX                     |
| 23: Craig Briscoe  | BuySportsKit.com                   |
| 24: Will Hope      | Mick Harrop                        |
| 25: Tom Ashton     | Hanlon and Wright 0161 330 7631    |
| 26: Michael Ward   | Sylvia and David Patterson         |
| Gary Middlehurst   | Patsy Batterton                    |

Referee: R Hicks; TJs, T Crashley, M Griffiths  
Res ref: J Butterfield Match com: D Hayes  
Timekeeper: F Hawley

Assistant Coach Lee Spencer sponsored by Muse Developments

### Bradford Bulls' Player Name:

- 1: Oscar Thomas
- 2: Omari Caro
- 3: Adrian Purtell
- 4: Kris Welham
- 5: Danny Williams
- 6: Lee Gaskell
- 8: Paul Clough
- 9: Adam O'Brien
- 10: Adam Sidlow
- 11: Tom Olbison
- 12: Dale Ferguson
- 13: Danny Addy
- 14: Jay Pitts
- 15: Matty Blythe
- 16: Dan Fleming
- 17: Jean-Philippe Baile
- 19: Steve Crossley
- 20: Mitch Clark
- 21: Epalahame Lauaki
- 22: James Clare
- 23: Alex Mellor
- 24: Lucas Walshaw
- 25: Ben Kavanagh
- 26: Vila Halafihi
- 27: Jonathan Walker
- 28: Kurt Haggerty
- 29: Ethan Ryan
- 30: Joe Lumb
- 31: James Mendeika
- 32: Johnny Campbell
- 33: Etu Uaisele
- 34: Richie Mathers

# OLDHAM VS BRADFORD BULLS

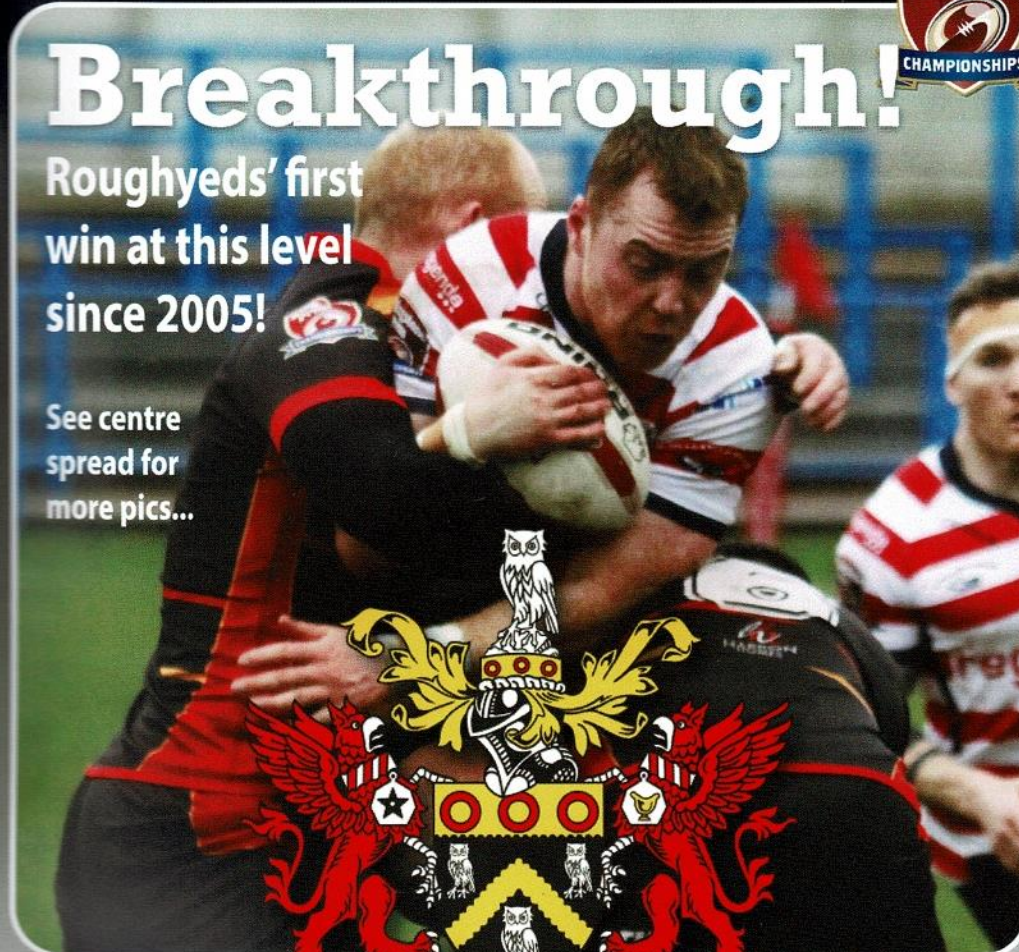
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## Breakthrough!

Roughyeds' first win at this level since 2005!

See centre spread for more pics...



Oldham Rugby League Football Club Limited



Chronicle



## CONGRATULATIONS TO SIMON HICKS THE LUCKY WINNER OF THE ULTIMATE SEASON TICKET.

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# How Scott sees it...



Muse Developments Ltd are  
sponsors of head coach  
Scott Naylor AND of his  
assistant of the past  
three seasons  
at Oldham RLFC,  
Lee Spencer

## View from the Roughyeds' dug-out

HELLO everyone and welcome to today's game  
against the Bradford Bulls at Bower Fold.

As a former player for the Bulls, many years ago, I am  
proud to say that our opponents today still hold a  
special place in my sporting life.

It is a fantastic club to be a part of as a player and it has  
had huge success in Super League, winning countless  
trophies and also paving the way in marketing and  
other aspects of the game which I'm sure many other  
clubs have copied since the late 90s.

I find it sad that the Bulls  
are not in Super League  
but, as we all saw last  
year, they came very  
close to promotion in the  
'Million Pound' game  
against Wakefield at the  
end of last season.



It's only a matter of time before they get the club back in  
the top flight and with Jimmy Lowes at the helm and  
with players of real quality on the field, maybe this year  
they can go one better. Personally I really hope so.

Our game last week at Featherstone was frustrating, to  
say the least.

We gave them too much respect and let them get off to a  
big start, scoring two tries in the first ten minutes, which  
made the task even harder from then on.

I know the players are growing in confidence and belief  
with every game they play in this division. But we have to  
start big every week and maintain the high level that we  
produced after we went behind at the Big Fellas Stadium.

Featherstone scored in the last minute of the game,  
which means they crossed our line for only one try in 70  
minutes at home --- a feat for which their players and  
coaching staff gave us huge credit afterwards. Huge  
credit doesn't win you games though.

We have a great bunch of players at Oldham.  
They are giving 100 per cent every week  
and improving every week so the future  
for this season looks good.

A bit more belief and confidence  
and the club will go from strength  
to strength.

Many thanks  
Scott

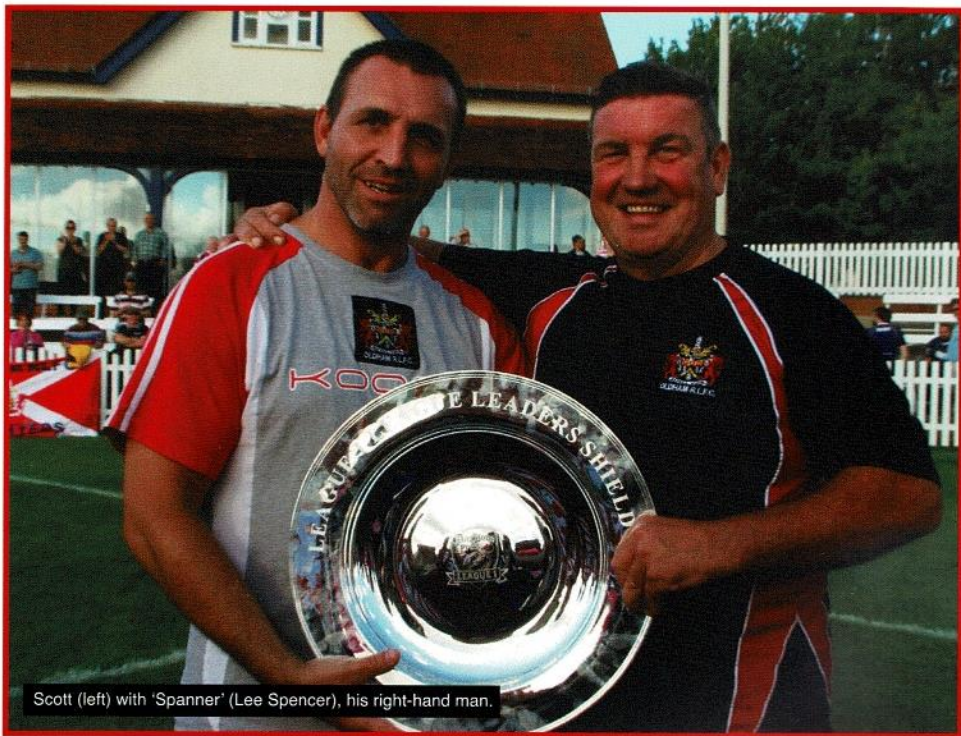
# Profile : Scott Naylor

## by men who know him well

**SCOTT Naylor won't thank us for this... (he shuns the limelight and especially references to his playing days) but there will never be a more appropriate occasion on which to turn the spotlight on our head coach than a visit to Bower Fold by Bradford Bulls.**

Between 1999 and 2003, Scott made 128 Super League appearances for the Bulls, scoring 51 tries, playing in three Challenge Cup finals at Murrayfield, Twickenham and the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff and in a couple of Super League Grand Finals at Old Trafford against Wigan and St Helens.

As a tough, no-nonsense centre he played in one of the best post-war teams ever to grace our great game before retiring as a player and starting out on a coaching career that was highlighted last year when he led Roughyeds to promotion and won the KP League One coach-of-the-year award.



Scott (left) with 'Spanner' (Lee Spencer), his right-hand man.

So what of the man behind the coach and the former England player?

A fascinating insight is provided by the legendary and recently retired former Bradford, Leeds and Great Britain star Jamie Peacock.

Scott was a senior member of the brilliant Bradford side when a young Peacock was starting out on a career that was to provide him with every honour in rugby league.

Describing the Roughyeds boss as one of his five early mentors --- alongside Brian McDermott, James Lowes, Mike Forshaw and Bernard Dwyer ----- Peacock said: "Scott was incredibly under-rated."

"He was a nightmare for opponents, but he looked after me, even socially, and we had some good times together.

"In my early days I had a gang of five who invested a great deal of time on and off the field to guide me in the right direction, whether they knew it or not.

**"They provided me with the perfect apprenticeship."**

Writing in his book, 'Jamie Peacock, No White Flag', the former superstar and current TV pundit, describes how Naylor wrapped up Wigan's Australian Test centre Steve Renouf in a Super League Grand Final in 2001 when the Warriors were humbled 37-6.

"Scott was an expert at that. He unsettled some of the game's greats.

"He was horrible to them, getting in their ear as well as giving them a physical working over which, more often than not, put them off their natural game. They were suddenly too busy being wary of him.

"A genuine, salt-of-the-earth unassuming type, he knew what his abilities were and he always played to the best of them.

"He loved to moan, but that was his way of getting through training. By the time he got to Bradford his body was knackered, but he did the best he could.

"You need players like that in any successful team; guys who are prepared to be great defenders.

"You won't necessarily see them scoring spectacular 60-metre tries, but you find that those wearing the other team's colours who should be influential are completely bottled up.

"Scott was a great club man and a good, honest bloke who was true to people and very loyal to them.

"He could drink, but he knew the right time to have a beer. He wasn't the hardest trainer, but he always did his job once he crossed the whitewash --- and he played through the pain barrier on a vast number of occasions."

A Leigh lad, Scott also played for Salford before heading off into Yorkshire after starting out as a youngster with Wigan.

And Neil Barker, former rugby league reporter on the Manchester Evening News, had this to say of our head coach in a Leigh Centurions programme:

"Stubble Scott can be surly and strong-willed, but he gets his kicks from ripping-up fairytale scripts.

"As a proud Leigh lad, he loved putting the boot in on Wigan and he certainly did that in 1996 when Salford gained one of their greatest-ever victories, beating Wigan in the Challenge Cup and smashing a 43-game unbeaten run for the Warriors, who had made Wembley their second home.

"Naylor's direct style made him a firm favourite with Salford fans. He was a hard-hitting, no-frills centre, who was happy to let his performances do the talking..

"More recently, as coach of newly-promoted Oldham, he has used his dogged determination to show that he is still a strong survivor and a fighter.

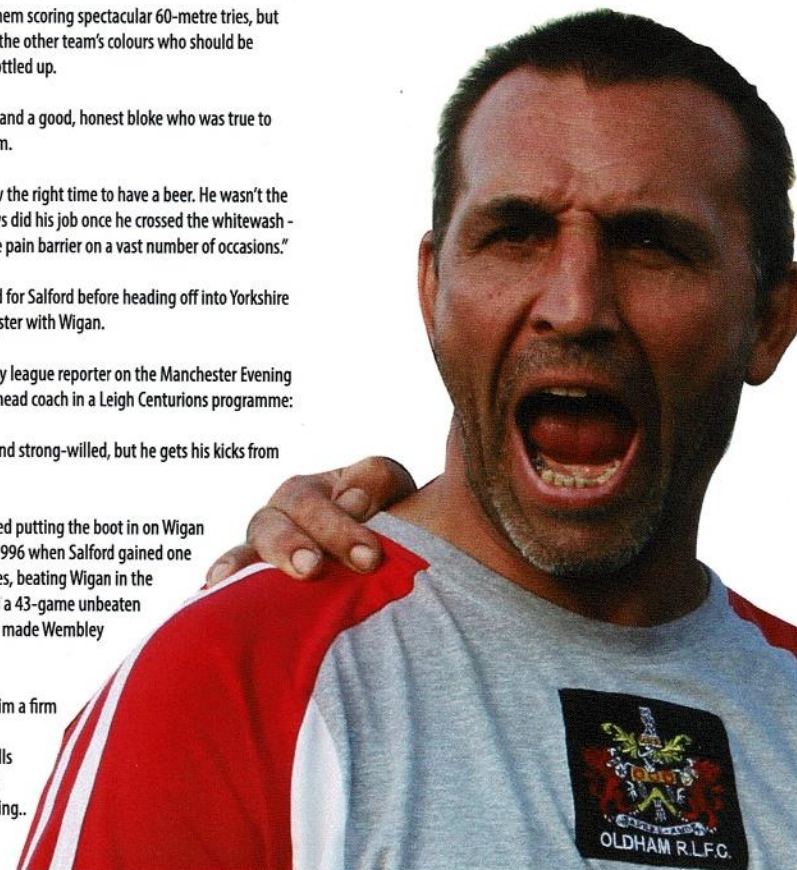
"Maybe it is more than coincidence that the nucleus of his side (and backroom staff, editor) is made up of men who were first shown the rugby ropes by Scott (and by 'Spanner' and Peter Carey, editor) at Salford.

"So many warmed to his honest approach. He was a father figure to many and a strong source of inspiration and hope.

"Never afraid to roll up his sleeves and graft, Scott has a good reputation in the game as a fair and innovative coach.

"He continues to sidestep and snub the limelight, but as Wigan know too well, a rare smile breaks out when he upsets the applecart.

**"He knows the power of self belief. Since taking charge of Oldham that has become a necessity."**



# How unlucky can you get?

**Spare a thought for Craig, out for the season**

EVERYONE at the club, not least the fans, will be feeling desperately sorry for Craig Briscoe, who suffered a serious knee injury in a pre-season game at Barrow and has since been told that he won't play again this season.

It was the knee injury all sportsmen dread (just ask Steven Nield about that) — a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament as well as severe bruising of the bone.

Craig is now waiting for an operation, to be followed by a week or two on crutches and then months of rehab.

One of our four close-season signings, this former Leigh and Barrow back-rower trained hard all through the rigorous pre-season programme and made his Roughyeds debut in our first warm-up game at Keighley.

He wasn't long into his second game, against his former Barrow team mates up at Craven Park, when he was tackled just short of the line and felt his knee 'go'.

"We are upset as a club, but nowhere near as upset as Craig, who was so looking forward to making an impression at Oldham," said chairman Chris Hamilton.

"Hopefully, he will get his operation out of the way as quickly as he can and then he can start on rehab and the long haul back.

"The first thing he told me after the prognosis was that he wanted to remain involved with us. That's a measure of the man. We will do all we can to help him and to speed his return to playing rugby."

That was endorsed by head coach Scott Naylor, who said he felt "desperately sorry" for Briscoe, who hadn't missed a single training session since the annual pre-season slog began last autumn.

He went on: "He's a great lad and we were looking forward to seeing how he would play for us in the Championship.

"Injuries are part of the game, but he has been very unlucky with this one. I know he will do all he can to get back playing for Oldham as soon as he can. He deserves to be playing because he's a great lad who will only ever give of his best."



A joiner, 23-year-old Briscoe has accepted that he won't play again this season even though he's walking normally and had only two days off work after his ill-fated return to Craven Park, this time in the 'away' dressing room.

He said: "I was stunned when they gave me the scan results because my knee seemed to be improving day by day.

"There's obviously something wrong with it inside, but it certainly wasn't the news I was expecting.

"I was going for the line when it happened. I was held up just short in a two or three-man tackle. My right foot didn't move, but when one of the Barrow boys came in, my knee twisted and that was it; the damage was done."

"I've some tough times ahead — like when I'm on crutches after the op — but I'll be working hard on my rehab and staying involved with the club and the boys in the hope that I can get back into it as quickly as possible.

"That will probably be next season. Anything else would be a bonus."

The best wishes of everyone at the club are extended to Craig for a successful operation and a stress-free period of rehab. Get back as soon as is physically possible.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE TEAMS IN THE 2016

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# Top-table topics...

## Chris Hamilton... from the boardroom

WELCOME back to Bower Fold for today's encounter against what is still one of the biggest names in rugby league --- Bradford Bulls.

It is, of course, the first time that we have played the Bulls in a league game since the club was re-formed in 1997. That's a clear indication of how the fortunes of both clubs have fared since then.

Well, today we meet them as opponents in the same division, but not on an entirely level playing field!

The Bulls just missed out on promotion back to Super League last year and they are sure to be there or thereabouts again this season.

They will be the third of four full-time teams we will have played in our opening five games and anyone who has seen us in those matches will know that for long periods we have been competitive.

I might be biased, but I genuinely feel the scores in our defeats by London, Leigh and Featherstone were harsh on us and didn't truly reflect our input.

Those games underlined the differences between League One and the Championship and showed how much more quality there is in this division. I'm really enthused by what we have done so far and we are all looking forward to proving a few people wrong about our chances this season.

Kells at home are our Ladbrokes Challenge Cup opponents. With five League One teams knocked out by amateur opposition in the previous round and all of them classed as from new or development areas, the question has to be asked: What does that say about RFL expansion plans?

The scores were not particularly close which suggests the amateurs won well. It remains to be seen how those League One clubs will fare this season. We have been to all of them in the recent past, racking up hundreds of miles.

To be honest, because the trip back from Featherstone last week took only an hour -- and we are not used to that ---we asked the driver to keep going and we didn't get back to Whitebank until 10.30 pm!

Keep up your support for the lads and enjoy the game.

Chris



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Good luck lads!



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# Blackpool ... here we come

## Sam Gee is ready ... are YOU ?

WE hope to have an army of Oldham fans roaring us on at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool when we play Swinton Lions on Sunday, May 29 (3pm) --- the second day of the RFL's Summer Bash weekend at the famous holiday resort.

a long way to determining our final places in the league table.

If there was ever a special occasion for our borough, our town and Oldham RL fans



**Sam Gee - Ready to Bash ...**

**PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS FROM WHITEBANK BECAUSE THAT WAY YOU ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ROUGHYEDS AND IF YOU BUY RESERVED SEATING YOU WILL BE IN THE OLDHAM BLOCK, SURROUNDED BY YOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW OLDHAMERS.**

**Please get your tickets from the club  
Call: 07904 898 177**

All 12 Kingstone Press Championship clubs will play over the Saturday and the Sunday in a festival of rugby league that is the Championship's equivalent to Super League's Magic Weekend.

Our big game against Swinton will be one of three Roughyeds v Lions clashes in the Championship this season and, for both clubs, those three games will go

past and present to turn out in great numbers and to back the boys in Blackpool, then this is it.

Moreover, the Summer Bash weekend will be packed with entertainment on and off the field, including live performances, constant fan engagement and great prizes.

You can also use your Summer Bash ticket to get exclusive deals at Walkabout Blackpool (including 25 per cent discount on food); a 20 per cent discount at the Adrenalin Zone on South Pier; discounts on Blackpool's transport services; and more.

Whether you want to watch one match or SEVEN (The Saturday programme kicks off with the iProSport Cup Final as an 'extra') ticket prices represent fantastic value and they are available now from the Oldham RLFC office inside the ground at Whitebank Stadium each weekday, Monday to Friday between 9am and 1.30pm. The office telephone number is 07904898177.

Club season-ticket holders get Summer Bash tickets for HALF PRICE which means, for example, if you have an Oldham season ticket and you qualify as a concession you could, if you wished, watch all seven games over two days for £7.50 (unreserved seat). How good is that ?

**PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS FROM WHITEBANK BECAUSE THAT WAY YOU ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ROUGHYEDS AND IF YOU BUY RESERVED SEATING YOU WILL BE IN THE OLDHAM BLOCK, SURROUNDED BY YOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW OLDHAMERS.**

It perhaps isn't widely known that all Championship clubs have to contribute towards the costs of staging Summer Bash but, like the other 11, the more tickets we sell from Whitebank the more of our initial outlay we will recoup.

Please note that all rules and regulations, including ticket prices and concessionary qualification, are governed and laid down by the RFL.

Tickets are available in two categories ---- CAT. 1, reserved seats in West Stand (same side as the tunnel); CAT. 2, unreserved seats in North Stand and in South Stand (behind the posts at each end).

Concessionary tickets are available to 65s and over; students with valid ID, to be shown on the day; 16s and under; serving Military with valid ID, shown on the day.

## TICKET PRICES

One-day tickets (available ONLY for the day your team plays, Sunday in our case): reserved seats (Cat 1), £30 adults, £15 concessions; season-ticket holders, £15 adults, £7.50 concessions; unreserved seats (Cat 2), £20 adults, £10 concessions; season-ticket holders, £10 adults, £5 concessions.

Two-day (weekend) tickets: reserved seats (Cat 1), £50 adults, £25 concessions; season-ticket holders, £25 adults, £12.50 concessions; unreserved seats (Cat 2), £30 adults, £15 concessions; season-ticket holders, £15 adults, £7.50 concessions.

## POINTS TO NOTE

- 1: Alternating between North and South Stands (both unreserved) is NOT permitted.
- 2: Weekend (two day) fans get only ONE ticket, which must be retained for the Sunday.
- 3: Children under 2 go FREE, but MUST have a ticket
- 4: Wheelchair users MUST make pre-arrangements with the RFL.
- 5: Ambulant disabled can get tickets from the Oldham club.
- 6: One-day tickets only available in our case for the Sunday.
- 7: Pass-outs available both days (hand stamped and original ticket needed to get back in).
- 8: Club transport to Blackpool is available on the Sunday (the day we play Swinton) . We leave Whitebank at 10am and return at 7pm, which allows people to watch all three games that day. Cost is £10 per person.

## HEAD TO HEAD

Saturday, May 28: noon, iProSport Cup final; 2.30, Sheffield Eagles v London Broncos; 4.45, Workington Town v Whitehaven; 7.00, Bradford Bulls v Leigh Centurions.

Sunday, May 29: 12.45, Dewsbury Rams v Batley Bulldogs; 3.00, OLDHAM v Swinton Lions; 5.15, Halifax v Featherstone Rovers.



# Breakthrough

Oldham 38 Dewsbury Rams 16 (February 21st, 2016)



Photography: David Murgatroyd

# A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Submitted By Oldham RL Heritage Trust



HAVING been an Oldham supporter for 60 years I've stacked up a veritable encyclopaedia of memories of matches and incidents played out between Oldham and Northern (as I still slip into calling the Bradford club) and, of course, Bradford's internationally famous stadium - Odsal.

In this FLASHBACK article, I've recalled a selection of those memories, some of which are still vivid, some fading. But, as is the case with most of us of a certain age, I find it simpler to bring forward those recollections that have been stored the longest.

Due to the way rugby league fixtures were structured, Oldham and Bradford didn't play each other as often in the league as they would have preferred and they didn't clash at all between the years 1953 and 1968.

My earliest recollections of the Yorkshire club, its famous Odsal Stadium and rugby league itself go

back to 1954 when I was eight years old and didn't know much, if anything, about rugby. I certainly didn't know that Halifax and Warrington, the league's two top teams of the era, had just slogged out a boring 4-4 draw in that year's Challenge Cup Final at Wembley.

The replay was booked for Bradford Northern's Odsal Bowl where, despite a shortage of thrills and spills in the Wembley showdown, more than 100,000 spectators turned out for the Wednesday evening decider. The official attendance was 102,659, but lots of fans gained entry illegally while others, stuck in long traffic jams, didn't get anywhere near the stadium.

So, as you would be forgiven for asking, what has this to do with an eight year old who didn't have a clue about rugby league?

Well, brought up in Watersheddings I was used to rugby traffic on Saturday afternoons, but not in midweek, so I was understandably confused that particular Wednesday afternoon by the sheer volume of cars and coaches - mostly coaches hired from dozens of northern towns and cities - which snaked up Ripponden Road and Huddersfield Road, ferrying Warrington fans to Odsal. Traffic came to a standstill at the



Lancashire boundary, many realising then that they would never make the match on time.

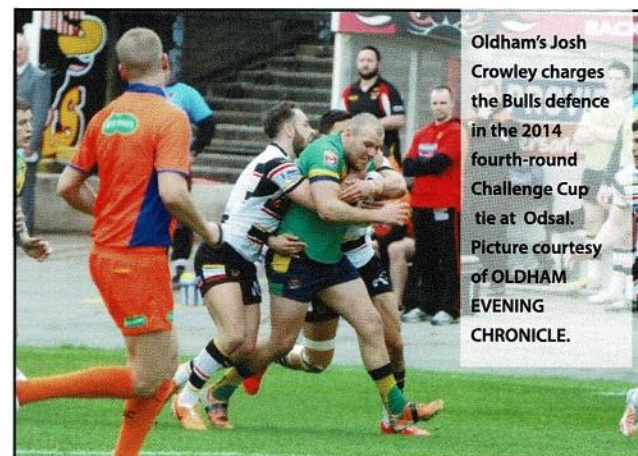
For the record, Warrington won 8-4 in a far more entertaining game than in the final with Jim Challinor and Gerry Helme, both of whom would later manage Oldham, scoring the two Warrington tries.

## ... what has this to do with an eight year old who didn't have a clue about rugby league?

The following Saturday it was the turn of Halifax fans to pass by Hill Stores when they threaded through the town in the opposite direction on their way to Manchester City's Maine Rd stadium to take on the Wire in the Championship Final. Warrington completed the double, winning by the narrowest of margins.

Fast forward three years and Oldham were crowned rugby league champions in front of what appeared to be a packed 62,000 Odsal crowd. The question of how at least another 40,000 had been allowed in for the Warrington-Halifax replay can only be answered by the fact that it bordered on the insane.

In October 1960, Alan Davies, Oldham's prince of centres, played in the World Cup decider against Australia on the Bradford pitch. Played on a mud-heap in pouring rain, with a French referee in a pitch-battle that was more reminiscent of the Somme, the British stoutly held their lines to beat the old enemy 10-3. We supporters were soaked to the skin; so much so that during the journey back to Oldham the coach driver couldn't stop the windows from steaming up and when driving on those winding Pennine roads, that's a worry!



Oldham's Josh Crowley charges the Bulls' defence in the 2014 fourth-round Challenge Cup tie at Odsal. Picture courtesy of OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

Winger Brian Lord and loose-forward John Rae, a Cumbrian, were signed by Northern in low-cost transfer deals from Oldham, Rae proving a shrewd buy at £1,250 when he progressed to play for Great Britain. Lord, too, gave good service and I'm pleased to report that to this day he is an active member of Oldham's Players' Association,

As I wrote earlier, Oldham and Northern didn't play each other on a regular basis for many years, but that changed in season 1967-68 when we faced one another home and away in

the league and also in the second round of the Challenge Cup.

Northern, after their financial hiccup, were on the up again and Roughyeds boasted a fairly strong team as well. The tie was played at Odsal, where Bradford were urged on by a 17,500 crowd. After a thrilling 80 minutes, with the score locked at 7-7, Oldham had forced the Yorkshire side back to Watersheddings for a mid-week replay. The old ground appeared to be bulging at the seams when 18,260 spectators paid to watch.

Oldham won the rematch 12-2 with a brace of tries from Bob Irving and three goals from the boot of Brain Curry. All to no avail, though, as Roughyeds drew Leeds in the next round and exited the competition.

**The Oldham side for that replay was B. Curry, M. Elliott, J. McCormack, J. Donovan, M. Murphy, W. Briggs, T. Canning, K. Wilson, K. Taylor, G. Fletcher, R. Irving, C. McCourt, A. Hughes. Subs: T. Davies, C. Smith.**

One of the most successful transfer deals Oldham negotiated during the years I've supported them was in the early 70s when Bradford's half-back David Treasure arrived at Watersheddings. He was a Northern sub in the 1973 Challenge Cup final and was both lightening fast and elusive, this resulting in him playing for Wales in the 1975 World Cup out in Australia. Oldham certainly got a good return for their money when he scored 38 tries in 112 matches before he left for Leeds in a £5,000 deal.

Season 1996 and with it came the birth of Super League. Most clubs adopted nick-names. Northern became Bulls and Oldham the Bears. The Bulls charged down the Bears with relative ease in each of the four Super League games played between the two sides, also ousting the Bears in similar style from the 1997 Challenge Cup.

Like Bradford all those years earlier, Oldham also hit a financial brick wall at the end of the second Super League season, this forcing them into liquidation. The club was re-formed as Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd and following the recruitment of a posse of new faces, including former Bulls players, Sean Cooper, Graeme Shaw, Nathan Varley and Jason Clegg, the new club took a place in the 1998 Second Division Championship.

Since then the two clubs have played each other just the once when Oldham were overcome in the 2014 Challenge Cup.

Visit [www.orl-heritagetrust.org.uk](http://www.orl-heritagetrust.org.uk)

# Lee Leads...

## as Bulls aim for the top!



**BRADFORD Bulls and Leigh Centurions are widely tipped to finish 1 and 2 in the KP Championship this year, though which way round depends on your point of view.**

It is said that Bulls boss James Lowes has done well to keep hold of his star playmaker Lee Gaskell, whose incredible passing and line-busting talents were a special feature of everything Bradford achieved last year.

The former Salford and Saints man (25) is expected to star again in 2016, though it has to be said that Bulls have potential match-winners right across the park.

At Bower Fold today, Lowes will pick from these:

**1: OSCAR THOMAS** (22, full-back) -- signed last August from London Broncos, having made 22 appearances in total in Super League and Championship.

**2: OMARI CARO** (24, winger) -- said to be a real flier. Born in London, he first played for Bulls in last year's Super 8s. Has also won rep honours with Jamaica.

**3: ADRIAN PURTELL** (31, centre) -- captain this year, his fifth at the club. An Aussie born in Albury, New South Wales, he played for NRL sides Canberra Raiders and Penrith Panthers before coming to England.

**4: KRIS WELHAM** (28, centre) -- spent ten seasons at Hull KR before joining Bulls for 2016 and 2017.

**5: DANNY WILLIAMS** (29, winger) -- a product of the Leeds Rhinos nursery, he has also played for Hull FC, Castleford Tigers and Salford Red Devils. Last season scored 25 tries in 26 games.

**6: LEE GASKELL** (25, half-back) -- won four club awards in his Bulls debut season of 2014. Last year 20 tries in 21 games. Previously played for Salford and Saints.

**8: PAUL CLOUGH** (28, prop) -- part of St Helens' 2006 treble-winning squad, he was loaned to Widnes in 2014 before signing for Bulls at the start of 2015. 32 appearances last year.

**9: ADAM O'BRIEN** (22, hooker) -- A Bulls' academy product, he spent 2013 on loan to Dewsbury Rams. Broke into the Bulls first team in 2014.

**10: ADAM SIDLOW** (28, prop) -- arrived at the Provident Stadium in 2013 from Salford Red Devils. Also played in the second tier with Workington Town and Widnes Vikings.

**11: TOM ALBISON** (24, back-row) -- Another product of the club's academy. Made his debut as an 18-year-old.

**12: DALE FERGUSON** (27, second-row) -- arrived from Huddersfield Giants in 2013. Also played for Wakefield Trinity Wildcats and had a loan spell at Hull KR. Nine appearances for Scotland.

**13: DANNY ADDY** (25, back-row) -- one of the longest-serving players at the club. Made senior debut in 2010, aged 19.

**14: JAY PITTS** (26, back-row) -- arrived from Hull FC in 2014. Also played for Leeds Rhinos and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. A real utility man.

**15: MATTY BLYTHE** (27, centre) -- Born in Irlam, he played for Warrington Wolves and Leigh Centurions before joining Bulls in 2014.

**16: DAN FLEMING** (23, prop) -- Born in Halifax, he has also played in Super League with Castleford Tigers and in the Championship with Batley Bulldogs and Rochdale Hornets.

**17: JEAN-PHILIPPE BAILE** (28, centre) -- 22 caps for France, seven seasons with Catalan Dragons, played for France in two World Cup competitions.

**19: STEVE CROSSLEY** (25, prop) -- First burst on to the Bradford scene in 2010 and then had stints at Dewsbury Rams and Featherstone Rovers before returning to the Provident Stadium.

**20: MITCH CLARK** (22, prop) -- New Zealander in his first season with the Bulls. Played initially in Australia with Penrith Panthers before coming to England to play for Doncaster.

**21: EPALAHAME LAUAKI** (32, prop) -- signed this season from Manly Sea Eagles. Also played for Hull FC and Wigan Warriors. Born in New Zealand, he is one of six front-rowers in the squad.

**22: JAMES CLARE** (24, wing) -- signed from Castleford Tigers on a two-year deal late last summer.

**23: ALEX MELLOR** (21, second-row) -- Halifax-born, graduated from the academy and last season renewed his contract for a further two years.

**24: LUCAS WALSHAW** (23, back-row) -- standing at 6ft 5in, formerly of Wakefield Trinity Wildcats, for whom he made his senior debut aged 18.

**25: BEN KAVANAGH** (28, prop) -- Made more than 150 appearances in total for Widnes Vikings and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. Signed for Bulls for two years.

**26: VILA HALAFIHI** (22, hooker) -- Leeds-born and a product of the Rhinos academy. Moved Down Under to play for Penrith Panthers and arrived back in the UK to become a Bull before the start of last season.

**27: JOHNNY WALKER** (25, prop) -- signed last November from Leigh. Super League experience with Hull KR and Castleford Tigers and a loan spell at Wigan Warriors plus time at Gateshead Thunder, Doncaster, Whitehaven and London Broncos.

**28: KURT HAGGERTY** (27, second-row) -- signed last November from Leigh Centurions. Also played for Widnes Vikings, Leigh (twice), Barrow Raiders and Blackpool Panthers.

**29: ETHAN RYAN** (19, centre) -- worked his way up from the academy and one of the youngest members of the squad.

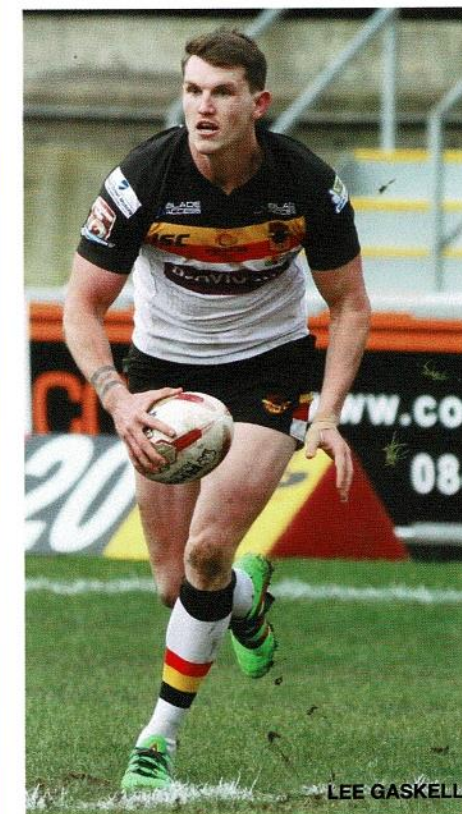
**30: JOE LUMB** (19, hooker) -- Another youngster on the way up, he played in both pre-season friendlies this year against Leeds and Castleford.

**31: JAMES MENDEIKA** (24, utility back) -- Irish international formerly with Featherstone Rovers after spells with Leigh and Swinton. Worked under James Lowes as a Warrington Wolves academy starlet.

**32: JONNY CAMPBELL** (28, winger) -- signed for two years from Batley Bulldogs, for whom he made 125 appearances.

**33: ETU UAISELE** (31, wing) -- born in Tonga, previously played for Paramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, Featherstone Rovers, Sheffield Eagles and Dewsbury Rams.

**34: RICHIE MATHERS** (32, full-back) -- joined Bulls in January this year. A former England international, he signed for Bradford while remaining player welfare manager at Warrington Wolves. Also played in the NRL.



## Gary's all Go!

set for his big new challenge!



**GARY Middlehurst, the latest addition to our forward pack, has built himself a reputation over the last few years as a highly-respected back-row forward and one of the most experienced in the Kingstone Press divisions.**

He had a couple of seasons at Rochdale before becoming a mainstay of the North Wales Crusaders side that narrowly pipped us to the automatic promotion spot from League One in 2013; finished higher than Rochdale, Swinton and Barrow in the 2014 Championship campaign; and then won the 2015 iPro Sport Cup with the 14-8 defeat of Swinton Lions in the final at Blackpool on Summer Bash weekend.

To get there they won a semi-final thriller against Roughyeds at Whitebank 18-16, although Gary didn't play in that game because of injury.

He played in most of the other Oldham-Crusaders games though since 2013, four won by Crusaders, two by Roughyeds.

In 2013, Scott's first season in charge at Whitebank, the Welsh side beat us 48-12 at Wrexham in what was then the Northern Rail Cup. It was our young side's very first game under Scott's tutelage and Crusaders capitalised on their far greater experience to score eight tries, one of them by Middlehurst. By the time we returned to Wrexham in the league we had grown in stature and confidence, narrowly losing this one 22-20 and conceding two tries to Middlehurst, who went on to become the Crusaders' 2013 players' player of the year.

We avenged those two defeats at Wrexham with a 28-10 victory on home soil as both teams went neck-and-neck for top spot in League won, Crusaders getting there finally with only two points to spare.

We didn't meet in 2014, when Crusaders were in the Championship, but in 2015 we again had three great games against them, the Welshmen prevailing in the iPro Sport Cup semi-final and in the league game at Whitebank, but our boys pulling off a magnificent 23-6 victory at Wrexham as one of 14 wins in a row.

In his three seasons at Wrexham, Middlehurst scored 24 tries in 62 appearances. In 2013 he was the club's only ever-present and his haul of 16 tries placed him second in his club's try-scoring list to winger Rob Massam on 25.

It says much about his work ethic and his regard for his team mates that he was voted players' player of the year in both 2013 and 2014.

**"He's a top player. We are confident he will make a big contribution this season,"**

As Scott has said: "Whenever we've played Crusaders in the past three years, Gary has been one of their top men. He works hard, plays the game tough -- how I like it -- and he never takes a backward step, which is very important in the Championship.

"We've done well to get him in competition with other clubs. He will be a great addition to the squad. I'm looking forward to seeing him in the Oldham jersey."

Aged 32, but claiming: "People reckon I look no more than 25", Gary is contracted to the club to November 30. He has recently returned from long-distance travelling with his wife Kelly, so it will take him some little time to get in shape for his first game as a Roughyed.

He added: "I'm naturally fit, so it won't take me long. In fact, I lost a bit of weight while we were on our travels.

"I'm looking forward to a new challenge, a new club and a new set of lads. I used to watch Scott when he was a player and now he's going to be coaching me. I'm looking forward to that as well.

"Ar 32, some people might say I am getting on a bit, but I feel as good as ever and I reckon I've a good two years left in me yet."

Final word goes to our club chairman Chris Hamilton, who said several clubs were interested in the player, some from the Championship, some from League One.

"He's a top player. We are confident he will make a big contribution this season," said Chris.

## Jake here on loan to gain experience

Ian Watson, who captained Roughyeds in the early days of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd, was more than happy to encourage Salford Red Devils youngster Jake Bibby to move to us on loan in order to gain more experience of playing against men in senior rugby.

The Red Devils boss, who runs things alongside director of coaching Tim Sheens, told Bibby that Oldham was a good club, where he would be well coached and looked after in the right environment.

The move strengthens our squad, gives Scott (Naylor) more options in our outside backs and at the same time helps Salford, who are keen for 19-year-old Bibby to cut his teeth in the KP



**Jake Bibby**

"Hopefully, both clubs - and Jake - will benefit from this arrangement."

Championship as part of his all-round rugby education and preparation for promotion to the spot's elite competition.

He is here initially for one month. He made his debut in our great win against Dewsbury Rams here at Bower Fold and he kept his place at centre when we went to Featherstone Rovers seven days later.

Said Jake: "I'm on the edge of the first team at Salford. I'm waiting for my chance, but I need game time and that's why I've come to Oldham on loan.

"My long-term plan is to make it at Salford, but most of my rugby so far has been with the under-19s or the under-20s so I need game time at a higher level."

As a full-time employee of the Red Devils, he is in their senior squad, having signed in his mid-teens from Orrell St James. He is under contract to Salford to the end of the 2017 season.

Said Scott (Naylor): "Hopefully, both clubs -- and Jake --- will benefit from this arrangement."

Added chairman Chris: "Other clubs were also interested in Jake, so we have done well to get him here."





# FIXTURES & RESULTS



Comp,	Date	Opponents	Venue	Kick Off	Result	Att
<b>FEBRUARY</b>						
KP Champ	Sunday 7th	London Broncos	H	3.00pm	L 0:22	767
KP Champ	Sunday 14th	Leigh Centurions	A	3.00pm	L 48:18	3,371
KP Champ	Sunday 21st	Dewsbury Rams	H	3.00pm	W 38:16	816
KP Champ	Sunday 28th	Featherstone R.	A	3.00pm	L 20:6	1,739
<b>MARCH</b>						
KP Champ	Sunday 6th	Bradford Bulls	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 13th	Workington T	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (4)	Sunday 20th	TBC				
KP Champ	Good Fri 25th	Halifax	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Mon 28th	Swinton Lions	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
<b>APRIL</b>						
KP Champ	Sunday 3rd	Batley Bulldogs	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 10th	Sheffield Eagles	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (5)	Sunday 17th					
KP Champ	Saturday 23rd	Whitehaven	A	6.30pm	TBC	TBC
<b>MAY</b>						
KP Champ	Sunday 1st	Featherstone R	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (6)	Sunday 8th					
KP Champ	Sunday 15th	Leigh Centurions	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 22nd	Halifax	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
Summer Bash	Sunday 29th	Swinton Lions	BR*	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
<b>JUNE</b>						
KP Champ	Sunday 5th	Batley Bulldogs	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 12th	Dewsbury Rams	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 19th	London Broncos	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 26th	Whitehaven	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
<b>JULY</b>						
KP Champ	Friday 1st	Sheffield Eagles	A	8.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 10th	Swinton Lions	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 17th	Bradford Bulls	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 24th	Workington T	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (S/F)	Sunday 31st					

NOTE: The above 23 Kingstone Press Championship fixtures \*(11 home and 11 away plus the additional Summer Bash game against Swinton Lions at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool) will be followed by another seven in the Super 8s, these to be played on Sundays throughout August and September.

NOTE: Since the fixtures were first released by the RFL last October, our game at Sheffield Eagles has been brought forward from Sunday, July 3 to Friday night, July 1, kick-off 8.00pm.

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