

ROUGHYEDS & KANGAROOS DINNER

A GREAT RUGBY LEAGUE NIGHT OUT WITH A DIFFERENCE! A

special celebratory dinner has been organised by Rugby Oldham to commemorate the 25th and 100th anniversaries of two great Oldham RLFC matches played against the fabulous Australian Rugby League touring sides of 1986 and 1911.

The event is to be held at St. Anne's Rugby League Club,
Higginshaw Road, Oldham, on Friday November 11th

Film of previous Oldham v Australia clashes – seen in public for the first time - will be shown, plus of course, extended highlights of the 1986 match. Players from the game of 25 years ago have been invited as special guests for the occasion including any of the Australians who might be in UK for the Four Nations competition which will be taking place at the time.

Oldham's Mick Worrall, Terry Flanagan and Colin Hawkyard along with Roughyeds' Australian loose-forward Stuart Raper, are already confirmed to attend.

The M.C. for the event will be Radio Manchester's, Kevin Fitzpatrick.

Plus guest speaker.

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED BOOK NOW!

SUPPORT YOUR TRUST.

Tickets for this mixed event are priced at £25 and are

available by 'phoning: **0161 620 9583**

or **01457 875084** or **0161 652 2918.**



UPDATE ON WHITEBANK STADIUM

Rugby Oldham was well represented at the meeting at Whitebank on September 22nd when Chris Hamilton explained ORLFC's plans for the development of Whitebank Stadium. The development will be in 3 or 4 stages taking several years to complete. In Phase 1, priority is given to the provision of terracing on the Whitebank Road side of the ground in order to boost capacity from the current 1,502 to 3,000+. In this phase there will also be provision of permanent toilets, new turnstiles, improvements to car parking and upgrading of the floodlights. All this is to bring the ground up to minimum standards for entry to the Championship should Oldham gain promotion. Much depends on the provision of funds but the first likely source is the RFL's Ground Facilities Trust. Further terracing and improvements to undercover and seating requirements will be in phase 2, which should commence in 2013 if not sooner.

The most immediate problem centres on gaining planning permission, with Oldham's proposals not due for discussion until a planning department meeting in February. As the plans have been drawn up by professional architects it is hoped they will pass with little fuss. If so, work could start immediately and the terracing be ready for the start of the league season if not for the Northern Rail Cup.

Following Mr. Hamilton's presentation, Geoff Cooke, on behalf of the Board of Rugby Oldham, asked a number of pertinent questions. These established that the part of the site owned by Molton-Coors brewery would be purchased by Oldham Council. The land being administered by Enville Estates would be acquired on a 99 year lease to OMBC. The whole estate would then be assigned under a 99 year lease to Oldham Rugby League Football Club (1997) Ltd.

There would be provision for ORLFC to purchase by instalments through the rent payable the land bought by the Council thereby repaying the Council Tax payers.

Under these circumstances, and the guarantees provided for the future of ORLFC, the Board of Rugby Oldham felt they were in a position to support the club's plans and an offer was made in front of a decent sized audience to make a grant towards the improvements. We also pointed out that we had within our membership expertise in grant applications for sports stadia and offered our assistance in this area if and when required.

Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust now awaits contact from Mr. Hamilton to discuss how to progress matters, with one outstanding question being whether and how to establish an independent Ground Development Fund and how this should operate and be controlled to ensure transparency.

As Rugby Oldham came into existence to help acquire a ground for professional and community rugby league in the town we feel that this objective is now considerably closer and deserves our support. Since our inception we have lost very few of our members and we would hope that anyone who has dropped out can recognise the progress now being made and see their way to renewing their support.

Feedback from members on anything contained in this article would be welcomed and a visit to our website would give you the opportunity to pass comment.

The Board of Rugby Oldham would like to thank all our members for their ongoing support.

Iain Taylor, Chairman

MERCHANDISE



With Christmas in mind Rugby Oldham has available a number of ideal presents for the rugby enthusiast:

- Red, white and blue Rugby Oldham ties in gift box - priced at £12 each or 2 for £20
- Rugby Oldham cotton sweatshirt in navy in sizes Medium (38/40"), Large (42/44"), XL (46/48") and XXL (50/52") – priced at £15
- A limited number of Rugby Oldham cotton polo shirts remaining – priced at £12. Please ring for colours and sizes
- Rugby Oldham gent's quality umbrellas – priced at £15

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Chronicle

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A full report on the amateur scene will be included in the next issue