



www.rugbyoldham.org

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RUGBY OLDHAM BACKS LOCAL YOUTH!

Rugby Oldham has been working with the Directors of Oldham RLFC for a number of months in an effort to establish pathways for the future development of RL in the town. On the back of the highly successful Tri-Team Challenge promoting the amateur game, Rugby Oldham was keen to assist development of a different sort. To that end cordial talks were entered into with the Board of the professional club which resulted in Rugby Oldham agreeing to become the principal backer of the club's new Reserve team, an outcome reported in the Press recently and announced to the crowd before the Northern Rail Cup fixture against Rochdale. The money to fund this initiative has come from the proceeds of the 1957 Commemorative Dinner, the sale of the 1957 replica jerseys and commission from on-line sales traffic (incidentally we would urge members with internet access to click on to participating retailers from the Rugby Oldham website as we earn commission on sales booked that way without it in any way affecting the price you pay).

The intention behind Rugby Oldham's initiative is to provide a ladder of opportunity for Oldham boys to progress to professional rugby with their home town team and to stop the drain of talent out of town to the likes of Salford and Rochdale (among others). To assist with this we have also been engaged in fruitful negotiations with the Service Area and members will be pleased to know that our next project will be to aid the setting up of a Scholarship Scheme. According to RFL regulations such a scheme can only operate through the professional club so we have involved Bill Quinn and his fellow Directors in these talks. It is unlikely that there will be any immediate progress as the minutiae of a Scholarship Scheme will take a lot of thrashing out. However, once a scheme is in place it will place an automatic block on all bar a very few Oldham boys being poached by other clubs. We hope members will be patient as it takes time for everything to fall into place. Nevertheless we are determined to pursue our stated aim of promoting the game of rugby league in the town at all levels.

Geoff Cooke
Community & Media Relations,
Rugby Oldham

AGM/ELECTIONS

Once again, we are fast approaching the time when we need to hold the next AGM. With this Newsletter, you will receive the relevant pre-AGM documentation. You will see that it includes the opportunity to nominate members to sit on the Board. According to the Trust's constitution five of the current Board are due to stand down, three having served two years and the other two having been co-opted midway through the current year. Besides the formal business there will be opportunity for members both to express any opinions about the progress of the Trust and make any suggestions for the future as well as pose questions to the current Board members. Because of the closure of the Clayton Arms it is impossible this time around to hold the AGM prior to a Roughyeds' home game so it is planned to hold

it on Wednesday evening May 14th at St Annes RLFC, Higginshaw Rd, Oldham (although, at the time of going to press, this venue hadn't yet been confirmed) with a supper provide. Please watch the press for further details.

RUGBY OLDHAM TRI-TEAM CHALLENGE

As was reported in the last Rugby Oldham Newsletter the challenge was to both foster relationships with the Oldham Amateur League and to bolster attendances at the six National Conference Division One matches played between the 'Big 3' local sides Saddleworth Rangers, St Annes and Waterhead . The competition has been successful on both counts with attendances well above the average and in some cases nudging four figures. The trophy has been claimed by Rangers by winning three of their four matches.

The competition has received excellent coverage from both the local and rugby league press and has been followed on Channel M's, CODE XIII programme. The trophy will be presented at the Oldham League's annual dinner.



Iain Taylor parades the impressive new trophy

WEBSITE REVAMP

We are to launch an exciting upgrade to our website www.rugbyoldham.org . It was designed at the time that Rugby Oldham was formed and has served us well over the last three years. However, with the changing focus of the Trust, now is the ideal time to take advantage of the opportunities that recent web developments have opened up to us.

The original site was designed and constructed by one of our corporate members - Mark Wadsworth and it is Mark who will oversee the developments. Should you have any suggestions please e-mail Steve Brown on stevebrown1957@yahoo.co.uk

BUY AT RUGBY OLDHAM WEBSHOP

The Buy@ facility via the website can be a great fundraiser for Rugby Oldham. By simply following the link, you can purchase a whole range of products. It doesn't cost you any extra, but the big bonus is that it can generate for the Trust between 1.5 and 10% of the value of your order. Lots of well known names are there, including Marks & Spencer, Amazon, Play.com and many more. Please remember to go to our website first before buying on-line.

RETRO RED & WHITE HOOPED SHIRTS



Prior to Christmas we topped up our stocks of the red and white hooped shirt which we originally had manufactured to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Roughyeds' Challenge Cup final victory over Hull at Odsal. Again, these proved popular but we still have a few looking for a good home!

£39-99 adults, £29-99 kids. Phone Dave Blackburn on 0161 620 9583 for details.

APPEAL FROM THE OLDHAM RL HERITAGE TRUST

Over the past few years, the Heritage Trust has published a number of very successful books covering the history of the famous Oldham club, the latest being the acclaimed **Kangaroos, Kiwis and Roughyeds**.

Later this year the Heritage Trust hopes to publish a 'coffee-table' style book made up of previously unseen or long forgotten photographs surrounding both the local professional and amateur rugby league scenes. If you have in your possession any images that you might think suitable (they needn't be of player or official, in fact, the quirkiest the better!) please ring one of the numbers listed at the foot of this article.

Those who attended the Championship Celebration Dinner back in May will remember watching the restored film of the 1957 Championship final. This was made up from a number of clips accumulated down the years. The Trust already has in its possession a collection of film dating back to the Edwardian era which they hope in the future will form the basis of a DVD. Have you got any old film that may be relative? It doesn't matter what format (be it 16mm, standard 8, super 8, 35mm, VHS or Betamax) or quality as we can recruit the assistance of the North West Film Archive.

Please ring:

01457 875084
01706 845422
0161 620 6005.

OTHER NEWS

Rugby Oldham congratulates local born player John Hough reaching the ten year milestone as a player with the Roughyeds and congratulates him on being appointed coach to the club's new Reserve side. We are pleased to be able to make a contribution of £200 towards his benefit brochure which will include a Rugby Oldham advertisement.

FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks for taking the time to read this Newsletter. It seems a long time since we last posted one out – October last year -- but the Board felt that until it had some positive progress to be able to report on, that we should refrain from doing so.

Nevertheless, your Board has continued to work relentlessly behind the scenes on your behalf. The 50th Championship Celebration Dinner - held last May - was an overwhelming success, the attendance proving that rugby league at all levels in the town can come together to present a united front.

Hand-in-glove with the town's top amateur clubs the promoting of the Rugby Oldham Tri-Team Challenge throughout the autumn and winter has also been a spanking success and has turned the spotlight in the direction of the excellent amateur talent that we have here in Oldham and District.

Finally, and most recently, Rugby Oldham's financial contribution to the running of the Roughyeds' new Reserve team further highlights the crucial role the Trust is playing in the success of rugby league at all levels locally. I hope that this has sown the seed for a long association and that together we can proceed to achieve the ultimate goal of having a successful professional team in Oldham once more. One thing is for certain, it is the youth of today who will provide the success of tomorrow. A healthy and prosperous professional club with strong links to the local amateur and Service Area scenes will pay dividends for years to come.

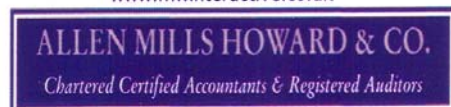
For those of you who have renewed your Rugby Oldham membership, a very big thank you. To those who haven't, please do so and kindly encourage people who you know to join the Trust.

Iain Taylor,
Chairman
Rugby Oldham

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