

## FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to all our members to this annual Spring newsletter, which contains notice of the Trust's Annual General Meeting, but which also gives us a chance to keep you informed of what has been happening since we last got in touch with you.

The most important point relates to the state of the ongoing relations between the Trust and Oldham RLFC, and in that context I can do no better than to begin by quoting verbatim from an item that featured recently in the March newsletter circulated by Supporters Direct, our parent body :

*'Rugby Oldham is the name of the supporters trust associated with Oldham Rugby League club, but their primary aim was always slightly different from that of most other trusts, not so much to gain representation on the board but rather to assist in generating a ground dedicated to playing the game in the town, after the tragic demise of the old Watersheddings ground in 1997.*

*Given that the membership of the trust is not far short of the club's current average attendance attracted at its current Whitebank home, it is evident that the trust does genuinely reflect the views of the vast majority of the rugby league aficionados in Oldham. Recently an agreement between the club and the trust was reached, under which the trust has now committed itself to contributing significant funds to helping develop the Whitebank ground, in order to help achieve what is the objective of everyone in the town, a club and a facility capable of moving into a level of the game which better reflects Oldham's status than its present position in the third tier of the game.'*

Although this has only recently appeared in SD publicity, it in fact reflects the meeting that took place last September between Chris Hamilton and representatives of the Trust.

At the meeting, the club outlined its plans to develop Whitebank, and in response we undertook to provide financial help as and when the second stage of the proposed development occurs, which would involve installing some terracing to make the lot of the viewing spectator somewhat more attractive than it is at the moment.

It is, of course, extremely frustrating that, as yet, the facilities at Whitebank show no significant change since the club played its first game there. Chris Hamilton has in fact very recently been in contact with the Trust to confirm that, although there continue to be things going on behind the scenes, there is still no concrete progress to report. All we can do is to assure you that, as soon as we are able to give you any further information about this vital issue, certainly as far as the Trust is affected, we shall.

The newsletter also contains some information about other aspects of the Trust's role in recent rugby league activities in the town. I hope very much that as many as possible of you will find it possible to come to this year's AGM, both to find out more about what has been going on, but more importantly to give us your views about what the Trust should be doing in the future.

Regards,

Iain Taylor, Chairman

## SERVICE AREA NEWS

You will probably be aware of the effects that decisions made by the RFL over the past few years have had on youth rugby league both in the town and indeed more widely, and recent financial cutbacks at national level have caused further damage.

As a result, Rugby Oldham has agreed to assist in at least helping to keep going the annual Oldham youth cup competitions. Garry Hepworth, who sits on the Trust's board as the representative of youth rugby league in the town, and whom many of you will know as one of a small group of stalwarts who have worked tirelessly for many years to give youngsters the chance to play the game in an organised and properly-coached manner, has agreed to continue to act as organiser of the competitions.

The draws were recently conducted, as follows :

U16 Final St Annes v Waterhead  
U15 Final St Annes v Saddleworth  
U14 Final St Annes v Waterhead

U13 Preliminary Semi St Annes v Waterhead ; the winner will go to the final, and the loser play at Saddleworth in the Elimination Semi.

U12 Preliminary Semi Waterhead v St Annes ; the winner will go to the final, with the loser at Saddleworth in the Elimination Semi.

The five finals will be played at Saddleworth on a date yet to be finalised. Keep an eye open in the local press, because it always provides a fantastic day's rugby.

## HERITAGE TRUST

The Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust is compiling an archive of film / video of club matches and would be glad to hear from anyone who might be in possession of such items.

They already have many in their collection but are always looking to fill in the gaps especially for matches from pre 1995 and are particularly interested in any film in any format from pre 1984.

Please contact Michael Turner - tel: 01457810197  
e-mail: oldhamr1895@gmail.com

## NOTICE OF AGM

### Notice of Annual General Meeting, Sunday April 28 2013

The AGM will be held at the Junction Inn, Ripponden Rd, commencing at 1pm, with the following Agenda:

- 1 Welcome and Introductions
- 2 Minutes of the 2012 AGM
- 3 Board Membership
- 4 Financial / Membership Summary
- 5 Approval of Accounts for year ended 31 December, 2012
- 6 Proposal to replace audit by review of accounts for year ending 31 December 2013
- 7 Report on Trust Activities
- 8 AOB

Although, as always, the first few items on the agenda represent formalities which have to be completed at an AGM, there will also be plenty of opportunities for representatives of the Trust's board to update members on what has been done in their name over the past year, and for members to express their views and to make any suggestions they feel appropriate.

The club are at home to Oxford on April 28, and it is intended that the meeting should end in good time for attenders to get to the ground in good time for the match if they so wish. We hope to see as many as possible of you at the meeting, and thank you for your continued support.

In terms of the make-up of the Trust's board, there were only five nominations for the five vacancies previously notified to you, so no election is required. I shall give more details under agenda item 3 ; there is also notification on the Trust's website.

Ian Wilson  
Secretary



# RUGBY OLDHAM AMATEUR CLUB CHALLENGE

# RUGBY OLDHAM JUNIOR CLUB CHALLENGE

Rugby Oldham Amateur Club Challenge									
Team	P	W	D	L	L (u12)	ABP	DBP	Tot	%
Higginshaw	13	10	1	2	-	28	17	77	5.9%
St Annes	4	2	-	2	2	5	7	20	5.0%
Waterhead	5	2	-	3	1	11	6	24	4.8%
Hollinwood	15	4	1	10	5	31	17	67	4.5%
Fitton Hill	4	1	-	3	2	8	3	16	4.0%
Saddleworth	4	1	-	3	2	4	5	14	3.5%

ABP = Attacking Bonus Points  
DBP = Defensive Bonus Points  
Table after games on 08/04/13

Rugby Oldham Junior Club Challenge									
Team	P	W	D	L	L (u12)	ABP	DBP	Tot	%
St Annes	9	4	-	5	2	16	8	38	4.2%
Waterhead	7	5	-	2	1	15	7	38	5.4%
Saddleworth	6	1	-	5	2	7	7	19	3.2%
Rochdale Cobras	2	2	-	-	-	7	5	18	9.0%

ABP = Attacking Bonus Points  
DBP = Defensive Bonus Points  
Table after games on 08/04/13

The Rugby Oldham Amateur Club Challenge is underway again and the table shows the current standings after the round of games on 06/04/13.

As this shows, the task for the Summer season teams will be to overhaul Higginshaw who had a productive season in winning 10 of 13 league fixtures in the North West Counties Winter league. It is a pity that Higginshaw were unable to field a team in the play-offs but it has become obvious that two overlapping seasons creates all sorts of difficulties, especially when enthusiastic amateurs, understandably, just want to play and complex rules hamper playing both Winter and Summer competitions.

Rugby Oldham in fact contacted the RFL regarding fixtures not fulfilled particularly since we invest heavily in advertising games in the Oldham Chronicle to encourage attendances as large as possible.

Unfortunately, there is unlikely to be any resolution to the situation in the near future which is doing nothing to encourage participation in the amateur game.

*Competitions administered by Geoff Cooke*

The second table shows the standings in the Rugby Oldham Junior Challenge competition contested by the U13, U14 and U15 teams of our local clubs. St. Annes were worthy winners last year but as this year's competition has only just got underway there is no clear pattern so all the clubs have something to play for.

## MAN OF STEEL

The Man of Steel competition will no doubt be closely contested all season.

Because of the Winter league, Higginshaw's Jordan Hanley is the early pacesetter with 5 nominations as man-of-the-match. Peter Davies of Hollinwood has 3 but with the Summer season only just into its stride Matthew Bottom of Saddleworth Rangers is already on a score of 3 with plenty of games to come.

Man-of-Steel currently has no clear challengers for the title from the Summer League teams although Dale Lowe – joint winner last year – is already Man-of-the-Match twice in four outings. From the winter league the leading contenders are Andy Gorey, Alistair Williams, Peter Davies and Pete Jackson (all Hollinwood) with Nathan Jewitt and Dave Sweeney from Higginshaw.

Needless to say any player featuring in both seasons for different clubs could only qualify as a winner for one of these.

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## RUGBY OLDHAM CHALLENGE 2012 WINNERS



Pete Beswick chairman of Waterhead ARLFC, this year's competition winners, receives the Rugby Oldham Challenge Trophy from Iain Taylor.  
*(Photo' courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle)*



Mike Cocker, managing of fellow sponsors Joseph Parr (Alco) Ltd, hands over a cheque for £250 to joint Man-of-Steel winner Waterhead's Dale Lowe, while Oldham St. Annes' chairman Neil Flanagan receives a similar cheque on behalf of Jordon Galloway from Iain Taylor, chairman of Rugby Oldham.  
*(Photo' courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle)*

## STANDARD CHALLENGE CUP MAN-OF-MATCH SPONSORED BY TRUST

The Ben Powell Memorial Trophy, annually awarded to the outstanding player in the Oldham Standard Challenge Cup Final is the most prized individual trophy on the local amateur rugby league scene.

Rugby Oldham was again pleased to sponsor the man-of-the-match award for this season's final played out between Rochdale Mayfield and Waterhead at Oldham Rugby Union's Manor Park on Easter Monday.

A late field goal sealed it for Waterhead in a thrilling 25-24 win over the Rochdale side. The Ben Powell Trophy went to Mayfield's Pau; Brierley, who had a great game.



Rugby Oldham board member Geoff Cooke presents the Trust sponsored Ben Powell man-of-the-match trophy to Rochdale Mayfield's Paul Brierley following Easter Monday's Standard Challenge Cup final defeat to Waterhead.  
*(Photo' courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle)*

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