

FROM THE CHAIR

Oldham RLFC have embarked on a new season since our last Newsletter went out before Christmas. Judging by results so far it should be a reasonable season but not one that will set Championship 1 on fire. While the club has some promising young players, in my opinion the team lacks the direction that an 'old head' might provide, especially since the retirement of Neil Roden.

As for off the field matters, there is again nothing to report. Development of the ground at Whitebank seems to have stalled entirely and there is no evidence of any planning applications having been made. The lack of progress on this front continues to blight the relationship between the club and some followers whose vociferous outpourings on the Total RL Fans Forum betrays a considerable degree of disillusion.

Meanwhile Rugby Oldham continues to support RL in the town wherever it can. Elsewhere in this Newsletter we report on the Amateur and Junior Club Challenges and on the Standard Cup Final. We have also recently been able to support Mahdlo youth centre with some generous donations of kit provided by the now defunct and much missed Service Area. Special thanks go to Garry Hepworth for his outstanding contribution over the years.

Next up we are due to meet with Steve Tyrell to discuss whether we can help him with Schools RL in the town, Rugby Oldham being determined, if nothing else, to promote the continued health of the sport in the town and to further Oldham's reputation as an RL hotbed even if the professional club is not currently the force it has sometimes been in the past.

On Wednesday 9th April I attended a dedicated RL Supporters Direct meeting at Rochdale Hornets. Jon Dutton from the RFL provided a presentation and feedback on the autumn World Cup which proved extremely interesting and positive about the game at international level.

Afterwards Trust bodies from clubs represented reported on their activities and exchanged ideas. Rochdale, Hunslet and Bramley are of course clubs run by a Supporters Trust, while Swinton now has heavy involvement from its Trust. Also represented were Widnes, Halifax and newcomers Castleford with apologies from Warrington. It all shows how important supporter involvement is to the future of the clubs and game.

Finally, enclosed with this Newsletter are details of our AGM. We invite all our members to attend and if you know of any non-members sufficiently interested please pass on the details as they too will be very welcome. New blood is always desirable.

Regards,
Geoff Cooke, Chairman

HAVE WE GOT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

We are in the process of updating our membership records. As part of this we are hoping to increase the number of member's E Mail addresses that we hold. If you have recently changed your E Mail address or think that we do not hold yours we would like to hear from you. Please send an E Mail including your name and E Mail address to RUGBYOLDHAM@Gmail.com

We will only use the details to communicate with you directly and will not pass the information to anyone else.

STANDARD CUP FINAL 2014

Rochdale Mayfield successfully defended their 2013 crown with a good win against St. Annes. The game was played before a good crowd at Oldham RU's Manor Park and was a thoroughly entertaining contest, closely fought until Mayfield turned on the style in the last 15 minutes.

The Rugby Oldham sponsored Ben Powell trophy for the Man-of-the-Match was awarded to Joe Qnaiuci who was the Rugby Oldham/ Jos. Parr (Alco) Man of Steel whilst playing for Rochdale Cobras in 2011.

Congratulations to the Oldham Amateur League management on a well staged final.



RUGBY OLDHAM KIT OUT MAHDLO KIDS!

Rugby Oldham in partnership with the officials of the former Oldham Rugby League Service Area have come up with a generous offer that will see the Mahdlo Youth Zone rugby teams able to hit the grass running.

After seeing their plight for kits, in a recent edition of the Oldham Chronicle, they have donated four complete sets which were previously used by the town team's under 12, under 13, under 14 and under 15 sides. Young people, staff and volunteers have been fundraising for kits for the many Junior Zone and Senior Zone rugby, football and basketball teams at Mahdlo with Barclays Bank proactively supporting the campaign.

All this comes at a time when Mahdlo is encouraging young people to test out their skills with the oval ball as part of the Try, Train, Team programme and starting to play inter youth club matches.

Said Mahdlo, "Brian Walker of Rugby Oldham told us that over and above the obvious health benefits of fitness and enjoyment, it's great for the game in and around the town introducing the kids to a sport which in all probability would otherwise have passed them by; let's hope that for one or two or even more of today's Mahdlo kids that the next step will be pulling either an Oldham RLFC shirt or that of one of the town's amateur clubs over their head!"



Under the watchful eye of Junior Zone assistant Andy Lafford a section of the Mahdlo kids look forward to testing out their skills with the oval ball.

RUGBY OLDHAM AMATEUR CLUB CHALLENGE

Rugby Oldham Amateur Club Challenge									
Team	P	W	D	L	L (u12)	ABP	DBP	Tot	%
St Annes	7	5	1	1	-	19	9	46	6.6%
Saddleworth	7	3	1	3	-	11	7	29	4.1%
Hollinwood	16	5	1	10	-	30	8	55	3.4%
Higginshaw	8	3	-	5	-	11	6	26	3.3%
Waterhead	7	2	-	5	1	8	7	22	3.1%
Fitton Hill	5	1	-	4	-	5	2	10	2.0%

ABP = Attacking Bonus Points
DBP = Defensive Bonus Points

Table as at 19/04/14

We are well into the season now and the pace is being set by St. Annes.

The entries for Hollinwood and Higginshaw are from their winter seasons with the latter hoping to switch to summer but encountering difficulties in hiring a coach and signing players. Hopefully these problems will shortly be overcome.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MITCHELL AND KENYON

Blackburn, 1897. Sagar Mitchell and James Kenyon make their first factory-gate and sporting-event films and embark on a film-making partnership that will change their lives forever.

Blackburn, 1995. In a dusty old shop two workmen make a startling discovery when they unearth a treasure trove of film reels once thought lost to the ages. One of the reels features what is thought to be the first Oldham try to be captured on film in a match played against Swinton at Watersheddings in 1901.

Daragh Carville's brand new play coming soon to the Oldham Coliseum Theatre celebrates the life and times of Lancashire icons Mitchell and Kenyon. Enjoy the spirit of the music hall in a show – no, an extravaganza! – full of songs, laughter and the original films themselves

Show runs from Thursday 15 May through to Saturday 31 May.

Box Office: 0161 624 2829

www.coliseum.org.uk

RUGBY OLDHAM JUNIOR CLUB CHALLENGE

Rugby Oldham Junior Club Challenge									
Team	P	W	D	L	L (u12)	ABP	DBP	Tot	%
St Annes	6	3	-	3	2	10	10	31	5.2%
Waterhead	7	4	1	2	2	8	9	33	4.7%
Saddleworth	3	1	-	2	1	4	4	12	4.0%

ABP = Attacking Bonus Points
DBP = Defensive Bonus Points

Table as at 13/04/14

Waterhead led the way in 2013 but the 2014 season has seen St. Annes setting the pace. It looks like being a good contest to claim the trophy this year.

MAN OF STEEL

The Rugby Oldham Man of Steel competition is underway again with a £500 prize from Jos. Parr (Alco) Ltd. up for grabs. The leading contenders are Hollinwood's Pete Jackson and Andy Gorey by virtue of having played the winter season. With the summer league only 7 weeks in the early pacesetters are Chris Hough (Waterhead) and Ryan Moore and 2 times previous winner Dale Lowe (both Saddleworth) together with Kiel Lancashire of St. Annes.
Competitions administered by Geoff Cooke

OLDHAM COLISEUM AND THE DUKES THEATRE PRESENT

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MITCHELL & KENYON



FROM LANCASHIRE TO THE WORLD!
A NEW PLAY WITH SONGS BY DARAGH CARVILLE
DIRECTED BY AMY LEACH • DESIGNED BY BARNEY GEORGE

THURSDAY 15 TO SATURDAY 31 MAY
TICKETS: £10.50 - £18.50 • CONCS: £9.50 - £16.00
UNDER 26? • SEE THE SHOW FOR JUST £5

BOX OFFICE: 0161 624 2829

Oldham Coliseum Theatre
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RUGBY OLDHAM TRIPLE CELEBRATION DINNER

The White Hart, Lydgate, Oldham. Friday October 3rd 2014.

The Year of 2014 is a very special one for the Rugby League fraternity in Oldham for it marks the anniversary of three significant events with Oldham connections.

1. It is 30 years since the 1984 Great Britain Rugby League tour to Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea which included five Oldham players; Ray Ashton, Terry Flanagan, Des Foy, Andy Goodway and Mick Worrall, a record of the club.
2. It is 100 years since the famous "Rorkes Drift" test match was played against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Having been pressured by the Australian R.L. authorities to play a third, and deciding, test match within a week, in spite of an appalling injury list, the British team under instructions from Rugby League Headquarters that, "every man should do his duty", prevailed to win the match.

The victory was secured by 14 points to 6 in spite of suffering further injuries on the day that at one point saw them reduced to just nine men on the field. The team was captained by the Huddersfield legend, Harold Wagstaffe and included three Oldham players. Centre, Billy Hall. Forward, Dave Holland and 'hero of the hour' full-back, Alf Wood, whose four goals added to a magnificent defensive effort proved to be vital in tipping the scales in Britain's favour. It was "boys own" stuff that has ensured that this fantastic victory will be forever regarded as one of the greatest, "backs to the wall" successes in sporting history.

3. Finally it is 125 years since the first match was played at Watersheddings on September 28th 1889. The match against Swinton resulted in victory for the visitors but over the next 108 years the Roughyeds would register many famous victories on that hallowed turf. The heroes of the Oldham faithful through the years; Joe Ferguson, Alf Wood, Bob Sloman, Frank Stirrup, Alan Davies, Bob Irving, Martin Murphy and Terry Flanagan etc would give their all against the best that the rest of the league and the touring teams had to offer. Billy Batten, Jonty Parkin, Jim Sullivan, Billy Boston, Alex Murphy, Ellery Hanley, Martin Offiah... G.W. Smith, "Dally" Messenger, Clive Churchill, Reg Gasnier, Mal Meninga and many more. All would enter the Watersheddings arena to the cheers (and sometimes boos) from the assembled supporters.

All three of these landmark anniversaries will be celebrated at a special gala dinner organised by Rugby Oldham to be staged at the White Hart, Lydgate on October 3rd, 2014.

Tickets, priced at £25 each will be available soon and are sure to be snapped up quickly as was the case with, two similar events organised by Rugby Oldham in 2007 and 2011. Further details to follow.

NOTICE OF AGM

Notice of Annual General Meeting, Sunday May 18, 2014

The AGM will be held at the The Famous King George, commencing at 1.00pm, with the following Agenda :

- 1 Welcome and Introductions
- 2 Minutes of 2013 AGM
- 3 Board Membership
- 4 Financial / Membership Summary
- 5 Approval of Accounts for year ended 31 December, 2013
- 6 Proposal to replace audit by review of accounts for year ending 31 December, 2014
- 7 Report on Trust Activities
- 8 AOB

Although, as always, the first few items on the agenda represent formalities that have to be completed at an AGM, there will also be plenty of opportunity 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 York on May 18, and it is planned that the AGM will be completed in plenty of time for attenders to get to the ground in time for kick-off. We hope to see as many of you there as possible, and thank you for your continued support.

In terms of the make-up of the Trust's board, the number of nominations was fewer than the number of vacancies, so that no election will be necessary. I shall give more details under Agenda item 3.

Ian Wilson, Secretary.

OLDHAM EVENING
Chronicle



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