



A RUGBY LEAGUE COMMUNITY TRUST

## FROM THE CHAIR

Congratulations to the Roughyeds for not only securing a place in this season's Co-operative Championship One play-off final in their quest for promotion but also for the first time in the club's 135 year history winning each and every one of this season's away from home league matches.

Equally rewarding has been the entertaining football served up by the club's Reserves who also secured a play-off spot despite being in a division dominated by clubs whose senior team play in the Championship as opposed to Championship One.

Rugby Oldham were the main sponsors of the Reserves from formation through until the end of the 2009 season prompted by a belief that it was vital that talented local youngsters had the chance to enhance their rugby skills with their local professional club as opposed to travelling out of town.

It is therefore extremely gratifying to see this season's side packed with local lads coached by John Hough, an Oldhamer through and through.

The Reserves now established, this year the Trust decided to pitch its sponsorship towards the development of Whitebank.

Club chairman Chris Hamilton has already held discussions with the RFL in respect of bringing the stadium up to standard should promotion be gained and he has been quoted in the press saying that regardless of the promotional issue the next development should be the construction of terracing down the length of the Whitebank Rd side of the ground.

This sounds sensible to us. After all, being able to see the whole of the field is a prior requirement and as crowds increase this would become increasingly difficult. The Trust has already signalled that it would be willing to contribute financially to this project.

Members are aware the Trust has also held talks with the club regarding the possible formation of a ground development group comprised of independent trustees whose task would be to generate funds by way of grants and major sponsorship, administered by an independent board of trustees.

September 2010

Newsletter

It is frustrating that this has not yet materialised but once the promotion issue has been determined hopefully we can drive this forward.

Before moving on to our Secretary's piece, there are three other issues which I would like to mention to you. First, membership sec. Geoff Cooke has asked me to ask you if all those with email addresses could let him have them, both new ones and updated ones. We can then communicate with the members involved more easily. He is on [geoff.cooke0454@ntlworld.com](mailto:geoff.cooke0454@ntlworld.com).

Secondly, you should know that our parent body, Supporters' Direct, is holding a RL-dedicated conference at the historic George hotel in Huddersfield on Saturday, October 9th. All are welcome to what should be a very interesting day, with some good speakers and highly relevant topics being discussed. There is no cost; anyone interested can get details on SD's website, where they can also register for attendance at the conference (see page 3 for details).

Finally, you may or may not know that a new RL development officer for the town has recently been appointed, Chris Chamberlain. He met our board earlier this month, and we are confident that we can develop a mutually beneficial relationship with Chris over the months and years ahead."

Regards,

Iain Taylor, Chairman

## PROGRESS RE DISCUSSIONS WITH ORLFC

It was as long ago as March since we last contacted you via a newsletter to let you know what the Rugby Oldham board had been doing to try to further the achievement of the Trust's principal objective – that is, a dedicated RL ground in the town. The main purpose of this newsletter is to bring you up to date.

Sadly, the past few months have been extremely frustrating, for all concerned. We were as excited as everyone else when the Whitebank ground emerged on the scene, and as you know two members of the board met with Chris Hamilton very quickly - on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, in fact - to discuss how we might best proceed. (continued overleaf)

## PROGRESS RE DISCUSSIONS WITH ORLFC

(continued from front page)

We put to him the concept of a Ground Development Fund, and we talked about the sort of arrangements which would need to be in place for it to be viable for Rugby Oldham to get seriously involved.

At that stage, discussions about arrangements between the local authority and the club concerning the use of Whitebank were very much at an early stage, so our discussions with the club were put on hold, until the basis on which the club is to use the ground was finalised.

Unfortunately, the position now, in September, remains unchanged still. We are in regular contact with the club, but the inability yet to finalise the necessary arrangements between the club and the local authority has meant that the club has felt that it is still not worthwhile for the discussions between it and the Trust to be resumed.

It seems unlikely now that there will be much if any change in this situation before the off-season, but we can only give you our continuing assurance that we will continue to press for discussions to re-open as soon as possible, and to continue to keep you in touch.

On a related issue, you should know that the Trust made contact with Paul Whalley when he recently generated publicity and then called a meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up some sort of fund-raising organisation which would aim to help the club finance small items of equipment, and/or a 'squad builder'-type organization. We suggested to Paul that it might be sensible if, at some point, we were to meet to discuss points of common interest.

Finally, it is clear that, in the fairly near future - or at least we hope so! - we shall be needing to raise funds, possibly on quite a large scale. With this in mind, we have begun to plan how we might go about this, and have made a small beginning - thanks in particular to the good offices of Paul Gough, whose Total Plus Communications business is the Trust's latest corporate sponsor - by scheduling a 'golf day' at Werneth Golf Club for the spring of 2011.

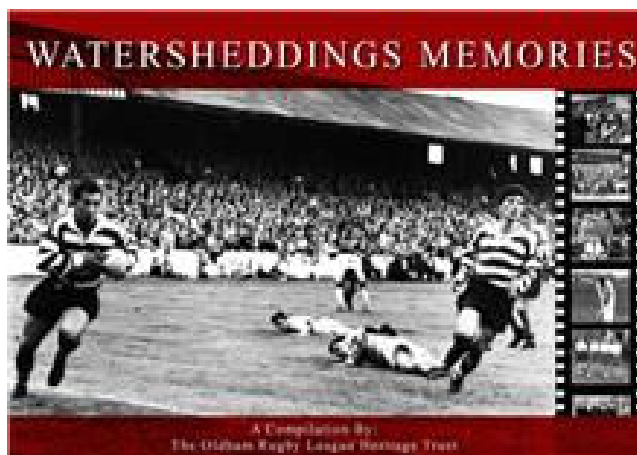
Hopefully, there will be those among our membership who might be able to generate one or more 4-person teams to take part in the day; and perhaps there may also be those who would be willing to join a small working group to help organize the day itself. If you might be in either, or indeed both, categories, could you please make contact with me at [ejw48@hotmail.com](mailto:ejw48@hotmail.com) in the first instance?

Ian Wilson, Secretary

## WATERSHEDDINGS MEMORIES

Watersheddings Memories, the latest book from the Heritage Trust is a magnificent collection of greyscale photographs and images all of which are centred in and around the famous old ground that was for so long the home of Oldham Rugby League Club.

As you would expect there are many fantastic photographs of rugby league action but that is not all. The 'sheddings was also witness to lots of other activities. Did you know, for instance, that international soccer stars Tom Finney, Bill Shankly, Stan Mortenson and Jack Rowley played there and that an England women's soccer side took on the French? That Great Britain rugby league hard man Don Vines wrestled the Outlaw and that famous league stars Jim Sullivan and Gus Risman played pro baseball in the stadium?



But, first and foremost, Watersheddings was famous for being the home of Oldham Rugby League Football Club and for over a century was graced by the most famous players of the sport, both professional and amateur. Thousands of us, some scattered to the four corners of the earth, will each cherish our own memories, whether it might be a packed to the rafters, thrill-a-minute Tuesday night cup replay or queuing at half-time for a plastic cup of lukewarm coffee in the driving rain.

This limited edition is sure to be a sell out. It's a big book - 400 pages x A4 and it's hard-backed all for just £20. Available in the autumn it will make the ideal Christmas present. Rugby Oldham members now have the chance to secure their copy in advance. Simply send a cheque for £20 made payable to Oldham RL Heritage Trust to: Oldham RL Heritage Trust c/o 158 Balfour St, Oldham, OL4 1NS. We'll get the book to you.

## RUGBY OLDHAM CHALLENGE 2010-2011

The prestigious RUGBY OLDHAM CHALLENGE won last time around by St Annes is again being competed for by the Higginshaw, Hollinwood, Rochdale Cobras, Saddleworth Rangers, St Annes and Waterhead clubs plus a new outfit Fitton Hill and Hathershaw.

Each of the seven sides are eligible to pick up points from every league match in which they play. Because clubs compete in different competitions – Higginshaw, Fitton Hill and Cobras in the North West Counties, Hollinwood in the Pennine and Saddleworth Rangers, St Annes and Waterhead in the National Conference leagues a mini-league will again be created.

Points are awarded as follows:

- 3 points for a win
- 2 points for a draw
- 1 bonus point for a loss by 12 points or less

There are also extra bonus points for both defensive and attacking prowess:

- 1 extra bonus point is awarded for every 10 points scored in a game.
- 1 bonus point for conceding 30 points or below.
- 2 points for conceding 20 points or below.
- 3 points for conceding 10 points or below.

In the event of clubs playing an uneven amount of fixtures at the end of the season points totals will be adjusted on a percentage basis.

Again, just as last season, league matches for the forthcoming weekend will be formatted in a RUGBY OLDHAM advert printed each Thursday in the Oldham Evening Chronicle. League tables will also be printed regularly in the Oldham Evening Chronicle along with match reports and other features.

The opening of the new season was heralded by an excellent celebration pull-out which appeared in the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

**Spice is added by the Man - of - Steel competition worth £500 to the winner again sponsored this season by local builders' merchants JOS. PARR (ALCO) LTD.**

| Rugby Oldham Amateur Club Challenge |   |   |   |   |         |     |     |     |      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Team                                | P | W | D | L | L (u12) | ABP | DBP | Tot | %    |
| Hollinwood                          | 1 | 1 | - | - | -       | 3   | 2   | 8   | 8.0% |
| Rochdale Cobras                     | 1 | 1 | - | - | -       | 1   | 3   | 7   | 7.0% |
| Waterhead                           | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | -       | 4   | 2   | 9   | 4.5% |
| Saddleworth                         | 5 | 2 | - | 3 | 2       | 8   | 6   | 22  | 4.4% |
| Higginshaw                          | 2 | - | - | 2 | 2       | 1   | 3   | 6   | 3.0% |
| St Annes                            | 1 | - | - | 1 | -       | 2   | -   | 2   | 2.0% |
| Fitton Hill & Hathershaw            | 2 | - | - | 2 | -       | -   | 2   | 2   | 1.0% |

ABP = Attacking Bonus Points  
DBP = Defensive Bonus Points  
Table after games on 13/09/10

## LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE FOR RL CONFERENCE

A small number of places are still available for Supporters Direct's first ever rugby league conference, to be held at The George Hotel Huddersfield on Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The conference, which brings together supporters, players and journalists from across rugby league, aims to show the positive differences that can be made to the game through greater supporter involvement and representation.

Laura Harrison, Rugby League Development Officer for Supporters Direct said of the conference: "What we're trying to do is show people that there is an alternative to the boom and bust model we see so much of these days. We want clubs to see that by working with supporters rather than keeping them at a distance, huge developments can be made both on and off the field and clubs can become more sustainable and community focussed and we want supporters to see that only by beginning to question how clubs are being run can we actually begin to put an end to it."

Following on from the recent announcement that Robbie Paul will be attending the conference, Supporters Direct are pleased to announce that further presentations will come from Neil Kelly, Foundation Director at Warrington Wolves and Chris Thair from the RFL plus a number of current supporters trusts including Hornets Rugby League, Trust in Widnes and Swansea City FC.

Anyone wishing to attend the conference is urged to register as soon as possible via the Supporters Direct website at [www.supporters-direct.org](http://www.supporters-direct.org). Alternatively you can contact Laura Harrison on [Laura.Harrison@supporters-direct.org](mailto:Laura.Harrison@supporters-direct.org)

## RUGBY OLDHAM JUNIOR CLUB CHALLENGE

| Rugby Oldham Junior Club Challenge |   |   |   |   |         |     |     |     |      |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Team                               | P | W | D | L | L (u12) | ABP | DBP | Tot | %    |
| St Annes                           | 5 | 4 | - | 1 | 1       | 12  | 10  | 35  | 7.0% |
| Saddleworth                        | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 1       | 6   | 10  | 26  | 6.5% |
| Milnrow Cobras                     | 4 | 2 | - | 2 | 2       | 5   | 6   | 19  | 4.8% |
| Waterhead                          | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1       | 2   | 2   | 8   | 4.0% |

ABP = Attacking Bonus Points  
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Table after games on 13/09/10

## MERCHANDISE



With Christmas in mind Rugby Oldham will have available ideal presents for the rugby enthusiast.

Available immediately are men's ties as illustrated. 52" length in red, white and blue with the Rugby Oldham logo these come in a presentation box and are priced at £12.

To order phone 0161 620 9583 or 01457 875084.

Cheques are payable to Rugby Oldham



Available from November will be the Rugby Oldham sweatshirt in navy in sizes Medium (38/40"), Large (42/44"), XL (46/48") and XXL (50/52").

These will carry the Oldham Football Club badge as used on the polo shirts last year and illustrated above. The price is expected to be £15 and details of how to order and pay will appear in Rugby Oldham's advertising in the Oldham Chronicle when they are ready.

## PLAYERS ASSOCIATION DINNER

Earlier this year the Oldham RLFC Players Association decided to formally affiliate with Rugby Oldham, since our aims are very strongly supported by the former players of the club, and in fact the Association is now officially a special corporate member of the Trust. They have asked us to inform our members that they have their annual dinner on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at St. Annes clubhouse, with Martin Crompton as main guest speaker. If anyone would like to attend, they can get details and tickets from Bernard Holford [07714/520063] or John Watkins [07974/612038].

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