

Coming Soon...1956-57 RFL Champions Shirt



Keep your eyes peeled over the coming weeks for the launch of the Commemorative 1956-57 League Champions Rugby shirt (as modelled by Sid Little.....).

Rugby Oldham are excited to announce, in conjunction with the Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust, the launch of a retro red and white hooped shirt commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1956-57 League Championship winning side.

The shirt will be based on the red and white hooped design of the classic 50s shirt and manufactured in cotton. It will be available in a range of sizes including kid's, at a cost of £39.99 (£29.99 for kids) plus postage and packing.

The shirt will be available through our webshop (www.rugbyoldham.org).

Also, look out for other Rugby Oldham merchandise coming soon.



WITH THE AMATEURS

In the forthcoming season which will start in late August and early September the following clubs will be playing in all the local leagues.

St Annes will play in the National Conference League premier division and both Saddleworth and Waterhead will play in the National Conference League division 2. Higginshaw, St.Annes and Waterhead will also enter teams in the North West Counties League with Hollinwood being the local representative in the Pennine League.

All matches will be played on Saturday afternoons with a 2-30pm kick off till late November when kick off times will be 2-00pm, all the local fixtures appear every Friday night in the local press. It is with regret though that one of the local teams Shaw Rhinos will not be entering in the League this season due to a shortage of players at open age level, but I'm sure that next season Shaw will be back stronger than ever.

So any Saturday afternoon get along to a game and watch a match and support the local amateur teams. The first round games of the famous Standard Cup are also being played over the coming weeks with the final once again being played at Easter on the Boundary Park Ground, as usual attracting a large following; all fixtures and dates will appear in the local press. If anyone is interested in playing amateur rugby league or refereeing, details can be obtained from the local League Secretary Phil Bradbury telephone number 0161-284-3728 or by e-mail on philip.bradbury4@ntlworld.com. So don't just sit there on a Saturday afternoon or get dragged round town shopping, get along and support this great game of amateur rugby league, or better still get involved.

Phil. Bradbury; Secretary Oldham A.R.L.

MEET THE BOARD

At the Trust's first annual meeting, held in April at the professional club's Social Club, eight people were elected to the first board of Rugby Oldham. Each now has responsibility for a particular aspect of ongoing activity, as follows :

Iain Taylor Chair
Ian Etchells Vice-Chair
Michael Ackroyd Treasurer
Iain Ashworth Marketing

Geoff Cooke Community Relations
Linda Mills Administration
Brian Walker Ground development
Simon Winnard Media Relations and Website

There are also five additional members of the board - **Ian Wilson**, the Secretary, and our co-opted members, who each represent a local RL body with an interest in the Trust and its objectives. They are **Phil Bradbury**, **Roger Halstead** and **Michael Turner**, who represent the Oldham Amateur League, Oldham RLFC and the Heritage Trust respectively. The Oldham Service Area is also represented.

Of course, the more people who not only join the Trust but who are also able to get involved actively in its efforts, the better, and already there are five others playing such a role - **Dave Blackburn** and **Charlotte Deakin** helping with the membership group, **Steve Brown** with corporate membership, **Phil Whitworth** on community relations and **Tim Hughes**, who is legal advisor as well as being involved with the grounds group.

If you would like to help or get involved, particularly with regard to helping drive the membership forward then please get in touch with one of the board members (contact details at www.rugbyoldham.org).

Don Yates

On 23 July, Don sadly lost his battle with Leukaemia. Don was a fervent supporter and champion of rugby league at all levels and particularly with regard to youth development in Oldham. He was chairman of the Oldham Service Area, and represented the organisation on the Rugby Oldham board.

Our sympathies are with Don's family.

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www.rugbyoldham.org

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THE STORY SO FAR...

Dear Members,

May I first of all apologise for the delay in this, the first of our regular newsletters. Despite a lack of publicised news, the Board of the Trust has been working extremely hard since the launch in November and has made major headway in terms of the primary aim of the Trust, to secure a stadium and facilities for the game of rugby league in Oldham.

We recognised at the outset that this was not going to be an easy task and that has been borne out by the amount of time and effort it is taking. In the following notes the various sub-groups within the Board will be highlighting their progress and achievement to date.

I am very proud of the progress we have made so far and am encouraged that what was initially a dream can possibly become reality. This has only been possible because of the increasing swell of support for the Trust by you, its members and those people of the rugby fraternity within the Oldham area.

As and when further major news becomes available, we will make further announcements in the press and on the website.

Thank you once again for your support.

Iain Taylor
Chairman

GROUND NEWS

As members are well aware, the Trust's main long-term aim is to generate a dedicated RL ground on which the professional club can play but which is also available for local representative amateur and junior games. You will be keen to know how we have been progressing in our efforts to achieve this objective.

The short answer is that, as much as we would like to be able to make some form of an announcement, there is no hard news yet. However, this hides a huge amount of work, and several ups and downs which have already tested our patience and resilience quite a bit! No doubt there will be lots more of the same, too, before we get where we all want to be.

That said, we remain completely focused and committed to the cause and have come a long way in a year of negotiations. This is particularly true in terms of being recognised as a professionally run organisation but also in being able to narrow down our focus by ruling out a number of 'potential' sites throughout the town.

We are sure you can appreciate that it is difficult to be precise about the various discussions we have had because of the confidential nature of any form of negotiation about land use changes. The most important thing about them, though, is that the relevant people in the local authority have been very supportive and positive about what we are trying to do.

Rest assured that we regard this area of our activities as by a long way the most important of all that we do. We will continue to report to you whatever we can about the progress we make - so watch this space....

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Progress on membership to date has been excellent with the number of individual members now reaching over 300. Normally it is considered that membership of about 10% of supporters is a reasonable target, clearly we have exceeded that. I would ask all existing members to ask family and friends to consider joining. The more members the greater the influence that we have.

Former Roughyeds Tourists back Rugby Oldham

Following the lead of Oldham greats like Terry Flanagan and Sid Little, former centre Des Foy has joined the Trust. The Great Britain tourist who played for Oldham between 1982 and 1991 is now resident in Ireland, where he is working to establish the game.

After visiting our website, Des is wholeheartedly behind our cause and Oldham RL is still very close to his heart. Not simply happy to become a member of the Trust, Des was also keen to issue a rallying cry to former Oldham players and colleagues working to establish rugby league in Ireland.

In an impromptu email sent to promote the Trust, Des refers to the fact that the club has had to rent a number of grounds since the sale of Watersheddings. He goes on to state, 'A group of RL enthusiasts have got together to form Rugby Oldham, with the aim of developing a stadium in the town that would ensure the future of the game in Oldham. I haven't been asked to do this by anybody, I just thought that as most of you are keen to see Rugby League develop in Ireland, you might also like to give a hand to an organisation that is trying to maintain tradition without the benefits of Super League exposure. Please visit www.rugbyoldham.org to find out more, and I hope you become a member'.

Our thanks go to Des, other ex-players and all our members for their continued support.



Three generations of Rugby Oldham...

Grandad Ian Wilson, who is the Trust's secretary; dad Andy, who is also the Guardian Newspaper's RL correspondent; and Sonny, who was only 7 days old when he became the Trust's youngest member!

CORPORATE MEMBERS

We will endeavour to encourage all our members to review our list and use the services of our corporate members, in the knowledge that they support the aims and objectives of Rugby Oldham.

Corporate Members will receive the following benefits:

- A sponsorship logo link from www.rugbyoldham.org to their own website - accompanied by a description of the services on offer.
- Advertising space in our quarterly Member Newsletter.
- Eligible for a prominent periodical corporate member feature on our web site.
- Inclusion in the Rugby Oldham trade brochure to be circulated annually.
- Hold priority at any functions organised by the Trust.

Should prospective corporate members require any additional benefits they can enquire by email at enquiries@rugbyoldham.org or by contacting a serving board member.

We are proudly supported by the following corporate members:



www.mwinteractive.co.uk



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

We are pleased to report that meetings have been held with representatives of the Oldham Amateur League and with the Service Area looking after junior affairs. The meetings were cordial and both organizations expressed support for the aims and objectives of Rugby Oldham. As a result we were able to attend recent festivals of rugby organized by Saddleworth Rangers and by the Service Area in an effort to attract new members. From our time at both events and the people we spoke to it is obvious that the rugby community of Oldham is crying out for some good news regarding the future of the game in the town.

In addition to the above, Rugby Oldham is in frequent touch with the town's professional club and fruitful negotiations have been held with the Directors. They are broadly supportive of what Rugby Oldham is trying to achieve but, as is to be expected, they are keeping their options open. Useful talks have also been held with Oldham Athletic and the Council, which are reported on elsewhere in this newsletter.



Rosie and Oliver's JUNIOR NEWS!

At Rugby Oldham we like to encourage Family membership.


As only adults have a legal share, it was felt that we should do something to include the Junior Membership.

Our Junior Membership team came up with some ideas for two age groups.

Rugby Oldham Cool Kids
Both age groups receive a membership certificate and Rugby Oldham Sticker
The over 7's group receive a word search about Pro Club players and a quiz about Local Amateur teams.

The younger group of 6years and under were sent sheets to colour, using their favourite team club colours
We have also created new characters called Rosie and Oliver, who think "Rugby Rocks"

Rugby is Cool and Rugby Rocks is our theme for Junior Membership.



RUGBY OLDHAM WEBSHOP

Rugby Oldham has linked up with over 90 major retailers for all of your online shopping needs. As a result, by doing your online shopping via the **Rugby Oldham Webshop**, we will earn commission to help us achieve our aims and objectives.

So, whether it's buying a CD/DVD from play.com or cdwow, Broadband from NTL or BT, a Credit Card from Egg, Bank Account from Lloyds TSB, Books from Amazon or online shopping at M&S or John Lewis - you will be generating vital income for your Trust.

You can even earn money for us without spending a penny! Just take a look at some of these fantastic offers:



shop for less and support

Rugby Oldham



Retailers on our site include:



The retailers involved pay commission on everything you buy - but only if you do it through our webshop

- Shop from the comfort of your home,
- escape the hassle of parking and queues,
- find great prices and gift ideas all in one place,
- save with online discounts,
- many retailers offer free delivery.

www.buy.at/Rugbyoldham

Raise 70p just by filling in a Consumer Products Survey from Experian and you will also be entered into a great prize draw.

Switch gas and electricity provider through your web shop and you'll get the cheapest rate guaranteed and Rugby Oldham will receive up to £24 for each household that switches.

Capital One will give Rugby Oldham £22 for credit card applications which are accepted instantly and £7 if the application is referred for further checks.

Open a current account through Lloyds Bank and Rugby Oldham receive £10

Citibank Direct's current account offers 3.82 AER with no need to pay in your salary or minimum amount. Rugby Oldham Receives £1 for every application and £60 is earned when the account goes live.

If twenty people take up these offers, Rugby Oldham could earn more than £1000 without anyone even buying a thing!