

# AGM / ELECTIONS

It is now coming up to a year since the Trust held its first annual meeting of members. At that meeting we conducted the formal business which is always necessary on such occasions, and in particular you elected eight of those who had been involved in getting the Trust up and running to its board, which meets at least monthly and which works on your behalf to try to achieve the objectives which we all share.

So it is time again to hold our next AGM, which we are hoping to hold at the Clayton Arms (details are currently being finalised), starting at 2.00 pm, on Sunday May 20 - we thought that such a time, just before a match at Boundary Park, would maximise the chance of members attending with relatively little inconvenience. The usual business will be conducted, but this should not take much time, so that there will also be an opportunity for members both to express any opinions they may have about the progress the Trust has made, and to make any suggestions they may have for the future, as well as to question the current board members.

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. I should explain that, according to the Trust's constitution, four of last year's elected board had to serve only one year, and these were chosen by lot to be Iain Taylor, our current Chair, Geoff Cooke, Linda Mills and Simon Winnard. If more than four members are now nominated for the four vacancies, there will be a ballot, with the results being announced at the AGM, and the four elected then being eligible to serve for the standard two-year period.

Ian Wilson, Secretary



**Retro Shirts—Last Few Left**  
We still have some stocks of Adult Large and XXL shirts remaining as well as kids sizes, although these are selling fast. Priced at £39.99 (adults), £29.99 (kids) and available from Saddleworth Sports, www.rugbyoldham.org and by phoning 0161 620 9583, 07738 818915, 0161 620 6005 or 01457 875084

## IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO!

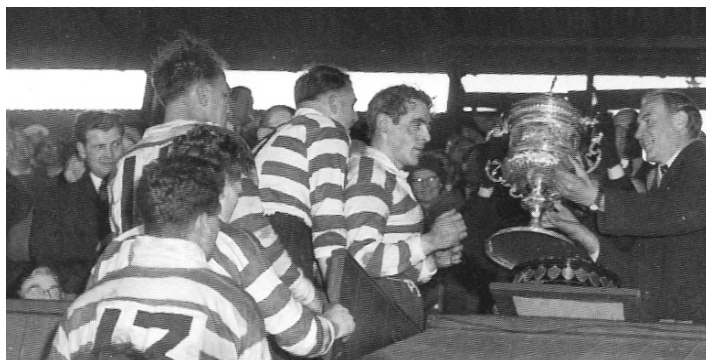
The great Oldham team of the 1950's reached their zenith in a drama filled, never to be forgotten, Championship Final against Hull at Odsal Stadium, Bradford.

When the match was over the Oldham contingent of the crowd of over 60,000 were able to celebrate victory by the narrowest of margins. 15-14 to the Roughyeds was the score. A game full of nerve jangling incident, for players and supporters alike, was on a knife edge right up until the very last seconds of the match.

However, when the dust settled and the cup was handed over it was to the men in red and white and just reward it was for a team that had thrilled their supporters throughout the season with a style of open play that was a delight to watch.

Rugby Oldham in association with the Heritage Trust is proud to announce that a celebration of that great occasion will take place fifty years to the day on Friday May 18th 2007 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in Oldham town centre.

The event will take the form of a dinner and social evening. Players of the team of fifty years ago and other Rugby League celebrities will be attending on what promises to be a "Night of Nights" and gives the opportunity for all of the town's rugby league loving public to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the championship winning team and to support Rugby Oldham's plans to create a purpose built rugby league ground in the town. Tickets are priced at £25 a head and details of how to get hold of them will be announced in the local press and on our website shortly.



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A RUGBY LEAGUE COMMUNITY TRUST

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

On behalf of **RUGBY OLDHAM** I'd like to extend a welcome to Bill Quinn, who, once the legals have been completed, will become both majority shareholder and chairman of the Roughyeds.

We will be holding our first AGM in May, which will give you the chance to meet the Trust's board members and put forward to them any questions or suggestions you may have surrounding Rugby Oldham. That being said, all board members are easily contactable either by phone or e-mail. Visit [www.rugbyoldham.org.uk](http://www.rugbyoldham.org.uk) for details.

On the ground front we are obviously still in negotiations with OMBC and that continues to progress (see details elsewhere in the newsletter).

There are a number of exciting Rugby Oldham projects in the pipeline the first of which is a dinner to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of May to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oldham team winning the RFL Championship at Odsal.

As a final note I would just like to say a sincere thanks to those of you who have already renewed their memberships and would like to remind all Rugby Oldham members that we need your continued support. This board works tirelessly on your behalf so I would respectfully request that you consider persuading a friend or relative to join the cause. We're stronger in numbers.

Iain Taylor  
Chairman.

## GROUND NEWS

Rugby league fans in and around the town will welcome the news that Manchester born businessman Bill Quinn is about to acquire the majority shareholding in Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd and will also take on the responsibilities that go with being club chairman. Whilst Chris Hamilton and Sean Whitehead have done a Herculean job in keeping the club afloat they too will welcome with open arms the extra revenue and the spreading of responsibilities that those changes will bring.

Roger Halstead's interview with Bill Quinn published in the club's latest match day magazine made interesting reading. Mr Quinn is quoted as saying:

*'Promotion this season – that's got to be the first aim. Our ultimate goal will be a return to Super League, but that isn't going to come easily and it will take time.*

*I will make the funding available to give us a realistic chance of reaching these goals and, long term, we also have to look at the stadium issue.*

*I'm in this for the long haul. And, for the first time in my life profit isn't on the agenda. Everything will be ploughed back into the club so that it can achieve its goals, ambitions and dreams for the future.*

*Funds will be made available as and when they are required and in what areas they are required – there will be nothing haphazard about it. Plans will be programmed.*

*We already have ideas to bring revenue into the club and these will be put into place in the next month or two.*

*I'm not here to be second best. I want to take this club back into Super League and I want the talented local boys to come and sign on for Oldham. You can't blame them for looking elsewhere because everyone has the right to aspire to get as far up the ladder as far as their talents and drive will take them. What I want to do is to build a club here that Oldham lads will want to play for and will be proud to play for'.*

As you are aware, the club is (as is the service area and amateur league) represented on our board and therefore is always fully aware of what's happening at Rugby Oldham. However, whilst we appreciate that this will be a busy time for Bill, it's clearly important that we introduce ourselves and bring him personally up to date on our progress so far. It's also important for us to understand what his plans are for the club and we are therefore in the process of setting up a meeting with him. Along with all the other things going on behind the scenes, this means it's a busy time over the coming weeks for the ground team!!

As we reported in our last newsletter, we reluctantly discounted a possible site for building a community rugby league stadium at Snipe Clough. We also reported that we had since opened negotiations with OMBC in respect of developing a council owned facility. As is the nature of these type of discussions, confidentiality is vital but we are pleased to report that things are progressing reasonably well. In many respects, this is by far the most encouraging scheme we have discussed so far and rest assured that as soon as we are able to update you our members, we will.