

PRIDE

MONTHLY MAGAZINE EDITION 01



KEIGHLEY COUGARS V DEWSBURY RAMS
1895 CUP GROUP ROUND 1
28th JANUARY 2024

BETFRED



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FROM THE BOARD ROOM MICK O'NEILL



Greetings Cougar Park faithful,

I am thrilled to extend my heartiest congratulations to Jake on his well-deserved testimonial. His stellar performance against Castleford was a testament to his superstar status, and we are truly fortunate to have such a remarkable player in our ranks. Jake, you make us proud.

As we celebrate Jake, it's also exciting to announce the upcoming Matt Bailey testimonial. Join me in wishing Matt all the best for this significant milestone, and let's come together to ensure it becomes a resounding success. The support of our fans is instrumental in making these events memorable.

I cannot contain my excitement about our new recruits—Jake, Steve, and Matt have executed a phenomenal job in the recruitment process. Their dedication bodes well for an exciting season ahead, and we're ready to position ourselves strategically to reclaim our rightful place in the sport.

The return of players who once donned our colors and then ventured elsewhere warms our hearts. Cougar Park holds a special place,

and we welcome back our returning stars with open arms. There's truly no place like home.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our unsung heroes—the volunteers. Week after week, their tireless efforts contribute to the essence of our club. Your commitment does not go unnoticed, and we owe much of our success to your selfless contributions.

Let's take a moment to appreciate the incredible Matt Foster—a man of commitment and loyalty who splits his life between hemispheres. His wife Debs, a true superstar, stands as a pillar of support not only for Matt but for our entire club. We are fortunate to have this remarkable couple with us.

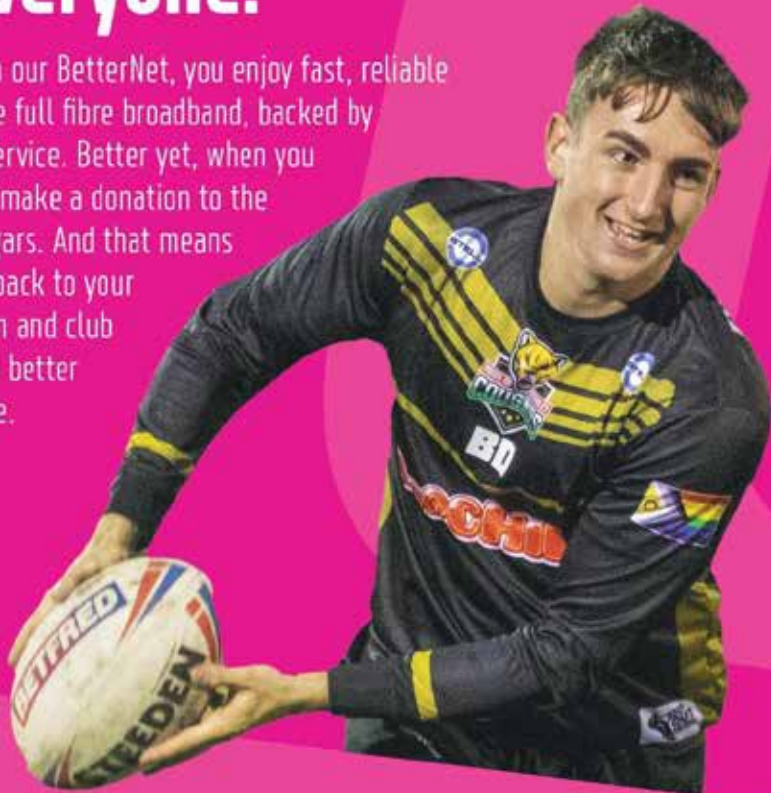
As we look ahead to the season, the prospect of facing tough rivals like Oldham excites us. The competition will be fierce, but with our fantastic team, we are ready for the challenge.

Wishing everyone the very best and eagerly anticipating a thrilling 2024 season.

Mick O'Neill

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CLUB UPDATE WITH RYAN & KAUE



It's great to be back! It's been a very short close-season, as we have been fortunate to have had a number of preseason friendlies.

This has been really beneficial for the coaching staff as well as for the players to get to know one another in the physicality of the field of play. In addition it has been helpful financially for the club over what is always a lean period. In the build-up to the 2023 campaign we only had 1 pre-season friendly against Newcastle away, which with hindsight was not enough, so we fixed that for 2024.

There has been a fair bit of comment and rumour about the building of the new stand. This has been a little frustrating, as the media shared an article which was quite negative, asserting that the project has been hugely scaled back. This is misleading, and I was disappointed the journalist didn't reach out to the club for comment.

The stand remains an exciting project. Our initial planning application was for a stand with 2500 seats – this was expected to cost in the region of £4-5 million. We had hoped to achieve-matched-funding to reach that target amount, but with the tough state of the economy it was proving difficult to obtain.

Rather than delay on the hope of obtaining additional funds, which were not certain, we decided to press ahead with the £2.25 million we have been awarded by the Towns Fund. This meant changing things around a bit, the biggest change was the reduction in seats, but retaining all of the new community facilities that we need.

The architect has redesigned on a future-proofed plan that means we can add more seats in the future within the existing design, so we have what we need for now, and can add as and when our crowds grow and more seating is needed. We don't need 2,500 seats right now, but we will in the future, so it is a perfect solution. Here is a brief overview of what we will have:

The stand will go all the way to the boundary with the cricket club, that means a much bigger footprint, meaning bigger facilities under the stand. The walkway down the back of the stand will therefore disappear.

The stand will go higher, meaning we can maximise space under the stand for a plethora of community rooms, heritage centre, large gymnasium, classrooms, multi-use fitness room, hospitality facilities, media room and changing facilities.

The stand will be cantilevered so there will be clear line of sight without pillars getting in the way. It will be fantastic, and we are incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity.

During the construction of the stand, we are also committed to ancillary improvements to the ground. We will be remodelling the Hall of Fame bar, to make a larger bar to avoid the current bottleneck that there is with the bar at the end of the room.

We are in final negotiations with a brewery partner who will be investing with us into making this happen. We will be opening up the Hall of Fame bar by putting in bi-fold doors facing onto the pitch, which will open onto a levelled standing/seating area pitch-side.

This will make the bar much brighter, and larger given the use of the outside space. Upstairs in the Presidents suite we will be doing similar to what we are doing in the Hall of Fame, by installing a balcony which will run the full length of the President's suite, overlooking the pitch, with bi-fold doors opening onto the balcony.

As ever, if fans have comments or questions, feel free to drop either of us an email. Feedback is truly important to make this club bigger and better. Hoping for a great season, a huge amount of fun, and making great memories together.

Ryan & Kaue

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COACH'S CORNER HEAD COACH MATT FOSTER



G'day and welcome to our first game as we kick off the newly formatted 1895 cup competition.

We have been pitted against Dewsbury and Bradford in the group stages and duly welcome Dale Ferguson, his staff, his team and all the officials of the club to Cougar Park today.

Today should be an intriguing game between 2 teams who have swapped positions in the league structure. Our assistant coach Adam Mitchell is particularly keen for this fixture having spent the last few seasons as Dewsbury's strength and conditioner.

Pre seasons are dreaded by many a player as they are tough sessions in generally bad weather and with no games in sight.

Fortunately, we have assembled a bunch of good men who have come together really well and pushed each other on throughout the whole process.

Our togetherness is there and our game is building week by week and these friendlies have been an important part of this journey.

All our friendlies have been against tough opposition and we have improved each week.

Today will be about continuing to improve incrementally across the park and whilst previously we have had the luxury of unlimited subs today will see us back to limited interchange 17 players only.

I trust that you the supporters have all had fantastic Christmas's and just like myself are happy the drought of competitive rugby league on Sunday afternoons is over.

Hope you enjoy the game.

Matt
#Inthistogether



THINK YOUR MATE is BOTTLING SOMETHING UP?

HELP A FRIEND WHO MIGHT BE STRUGGLING ALONE.

Anyone can feel low, alone and even suicidal. We can all listen and give our mates the support they need but you don't need to have all the answers. Ask your mate to take a look at checkinwithyourmate.co.uk



REACH OUT CHECK-IN FOLLOW UP

OPPOSITION GUIDE DEWSBURY RAMS



FORM GUIDE

Dewsbury start life in the Championship following pre-season friendlies against Featherstone, Batley and Huddersfield.

Three tough fixtures with the best result a draw with Batley.

ONE TO WATCH

Paul Sykes. Debut in 1999 for Bradford Bulls then left in 2002 for London Broncos before re-signing for Bulls in 2008. Sykes also spent time with Wakefield and Featherstone. Sykes made his England National debut in 2005 and represented Great Britain.

Having played close to 500 games he has the experience on field to control a game.

THE STADIUM

Dewsbury play out of FLAIR Stadium, home since 1994.

PREVIOUS 5 MEETINGS

Dewsbury 24, Keighley 12 (ChR25, 31/8/14)
Keighley 40, Dewsbury 20 (ChR9, 4/5/14)
Keighley 28, Dewsbury 32 (ChR20, 21/7/13)
Dewsbury 18, Keighley 10 (ChR8, 12/5/13)
Keighley 34, Dewsbury 6 (ChR15, 5/8/12)

2024

DATE	OPPOSITION	SCORE	FB	W	C	C	W	SO	SH	P	H	P	BR	BR	LF	INT	INT	INT	INT	18
28/01/24	Dewsbury Rams (H)																			
11/02/24	Challenge Cup R3																			
18/02/24	Bradford Bulls (H)																			
25/02/24	Challenge Cup R4																			
03/03/24	1895 Cup QF																			
11/03/24	Challenge Cup R5																			
17/03/24	Cornwall RLFC (H)																			
24/03/24	Workington Town (H)																			
28/03/24	Hunslet RLFC (A)																			
14/04/24	NW Crusaders (H)																			
21/04/24	Newcastle Thunder (A)																			
28/04/24	Rochdale Hornets (A)																			
05/05/24	Hunslet RLFC (H)																			
12/05/24	1895 Cup SF																			
19/05/24	NW Crusaders (A)																			
26/05/24	Oldham RLFC (H)																			
02/06/24	Midlands Hurricanes (A)																			
23/06/24	Cornwall RLFC (A)																			
30/06/24	Workington Town (A)																			
07/07/24	Rochdale Hornets (H)																			
21/07/24	Oldham RLFC (A)																			
28/07/24	Midlands Hurricanes (H)																			
04/08/24	Newcastle Thunder (H)																			
11/08/24	NW Crusaders (A)																			
18/08/24	Oldham RLFC (H)																			
25/08/24	Hunslet RLFC (H)																			
01/09/24	Rochdale Hornets (A)																			
15/09/24	League 1 Play Off 1																			
22/09/24	League 1 Play Off 2																			
29/09/24	League 1 Semi Final																			
06/10/24	League 1 Final																			

FIXTURES & RESULTS

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DAY TO DAY WITH COUGARS DOR JAKE

Dear Fans, Friends, and Supporters,

I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I reflect on the incredible turnout at my last game.

Your cheers, chants, and positive energy created an unforgettable atmosphere that fueled our performance on the field. It was a bittersweet moment, but your presence made it truly special.

As we bid farewell to this chapter, in my career, I am filled with anticipation for the upcoming season.

We have worked tirelessly to progress and refine our skills, and I am confident that the dedication of our players and coaching staff will translate into an exciting and successful season ahead.

Today, specifically, brings with it the promise of a fresh start, and we are eager to showcase the

progress we've made on the field.

Your continued support is our driving force, and we are counting on you to be there, cheering us on as we kick off the first stage of the newly reformed AB Sundecks 1895 Cup.

So, once again, thank you for being a crucial part of my personal journey.

Your presence at my last game will forever be etched in mine and my families memory, and I can't wait to see you all again as I embark on my full time role at the club.

Let's make it a season to remember!

Jake



CLUB TITBITS

AARON HARLOW-STEPHENSON

A change in Aaron's work scheduling means he can no longer make the heroic commute from Durham to Keighley for training session and as such the club have released Aaron from his contract and he joins up with Newcastle Thunder for 2024.

DID YOU KNOW?

Newly appointed vice captain Aaron Brown has played over 200 professional games, featuring for Dewsbury Rams, Sheffield Eagles and Widnes Vikings. At 31 years of age he still has plenty to give.

2024 SHIRT SALES

We have placed a restock order on home and away shirts. The current shirt sales far outweigh those of recent years and we are on track for record sales numbers in 2024.

RETAIL UPDATE

We will shortly take delivery of a training kit range for the shop and dependant on the reaction in sales, this could develop further as the year unfolds.

NEW SPONSOR ALERT!

Our thanks go out to Brosnans Chartered Accountants who become our final shirt sleeve sponsor for the 2024 season.

Adam Brosnan (son of ex-player Bernard Brosnan) links up with the Cougars in homage to his fathers connection with the club.

MATCH DAY SPONSORSHIP

We've relaxed our match day sponsorship packages to allow further flexibility when booking with us.

You can book your seat in hospitality from just £50 via our ticketing website online, and upgrade to Main Match Sponsor for £250+vat or Match Ball Sponsor for £150+vat.

Both packages includes signed Cougars memorabilia and enhanced PA announcements throughout the day.

For further information email steven@cougarmania.co.uk

PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to all our fanzone and corporate sponsors of our players this year. We have just two players remaining who are looking for a corporate sponsor, those are Charlie Graham and Liam Copland.

KEIGHLEY'S GOT TALENT

We're looking for Keighleys finest bands, tribute acts or DJs to perform pre-match in the car park area.

This is a great stage to showcase your talent and prove Keighley has what it takes to mix it with the big leagues.

Contact us via phone, or email steven@cougarmania.co.uk and reach for the golden buzzer!

CLUB INDEX SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



THE BOARD ROOM

Mick O'Neill MBE (Chairman), Kaue Garcia (MD), Ryan O'Neill (CEO), Jackie O'Neill (Director), Mike Smith (Director).

RUGBY

Steve Watkinson (COO), Jake Webster (DOR), Matt Foster (Head Coach), Paul Royston (S&C), Adam Mitchell (Assistant Coach), Craig McDowell (Assistant Coach).

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Darran Millar (Doctor), Lyndsey Hatton (Physio), Steph Petty (Masseur)

MEDIA TEAM

Jonny Tomes-Green (Club Photographer), Kian Fisher (Match Assistant), Brad Foulds (Match Day Videographer)

BEHIND THE SCENES

Ross Normington (Groundsman), Dave Roberts (PA Announcer), John Pitchford (Club Historian)

VOLUNTEERS

Tim Powell, Margaret Proctor, Dave Proctor, Stephen Artist, Sue Artist, David Baldwin, Geoff Baxter, Ben Emmott, Alan Inman, Carol Inman, Richard Lee, Maz Reape, Hazel Stevens, Paul Wilson, Phil Robinson.

In memory of David Kirkley.



1. BRANDON PICKERSGILL	2. CHARLIE GRAHAM	3. ADAM RYDER	4. JUNIOR SA'U	5. BILLY WALKLEY	7. JACK MILLER	8. LEWIS HATTON	9. KYLE KESIK	10. MARK IDANE
MRS SUSAN LEE	AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR	approved garages.co.uk Your Trusted Local Garage Finder	Raisepoint	A1 LIFT & MOBILITY	CLEVER ENERGY SOLERS	THE GRUMPY GARDENER	A1 LIFT & MOBILITY	BEN HESP
LEE HAMBLIN	BRIAN COPPEN	GARD GROUP	HAZEL & MAZ	MARYLN & GEOFF CRAVEN	TERRACE TRIO	ANDY WALKER	DAVE & MARGARET	BEN HESP



11. ELLIS ROBSON	12. LACHLAN LANSKEY	13. DAN PARKER	14. ALEX BISHOP	15. AARON BROWN	16. JOSH LYNAM	17. OSCAR THOMAS	18. JORDAN SCHOFIELD	19. BEN STEAD
The Hundred Signers	AM MOTORS KEIGHLEY	RAINBOW	A1 LIFT & MOBILITY	A1 LIFT & MOBILITY	RECONSTRUCTION RESOLVE LTD	QAL LTD	Swan ENVIRONMENTAL	RAINBOW
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20. WILL MAHER	21. BEN DEAN	22. CODEY DOWNEY	23. MATT BAILEY	25. DEE FOGGIN-JOHNSTON	26. LIAM COPLAND	27. MAX LAMBOURNE	MATT FOSTER
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To sponsor any remaining players or for more information please email

steven@cougarmania.co.uk

JOSH LYNAM



Dining Packages for 2024 include a 3 course meal, post match cheese board, premium seating in the main stand, pre and post match interviews with the head coach, players and staff.

Enhance Your Experience

Main Match Sponsor +£250

PA Announcements throughout the day, social media recognition of your sponsorship plus a signed & framed shirt presented to you.

Match Ball Sponsor +£150

PA Announcements throughout the day, social media recognition of your sponsorship plus a signed match ball presented to you.

For more information or to book, please email steven@cougarmania.co.uk

A VIEW FROM THE SIDELINE

Club photographer Jonny Tomes-Green provides an insight from our Preseason campaign.

What a fantastic run of fixtures we were able to get through at Cougar Park this offseason with a Super League team, a local derby with an ambitious Championship side and an early look at the bookies favourites for the League One title at our home ground.

While a glance at the results from these three games might not inspire much confidence, the performances on the pitch suggest otherwise.

In fact the Boxing Day clash vs Oldham brought to light memories of taking on Swinton in 2022, a similarly tough outing and scoreline against a team with the same lofty ambitions as ourselves.

My personal highlight was Webbo's tribute game against Castleford Tigers.

As a rugby fan, the opportunity to watch a top tier defence operate at such close quarters as Cas did

in the first half to hold us scoreless was fantastic.

While I thought perhaps holding Jake up short of the line in the dying seconds was a bit unnecessary for a legend of both clubs, the intensity and organisation was really a step up from anything I'd seen close up before and shows the levels needed to play in the top division.

All in all an enjoyable period where games can feel a little pointless, these fixtures were anything but and the continual improvement of the product on the pitch fills me with nothing but confidence for the season to come.

JT



Month	Match Day	Match Ball
January	Castleford	PPS Design & Build
	Halifax	Scott Kenyon
	Dewsbury	A1 Lift & Mobility
February	Bradford	Cosurica
March	Cornwall	A1 Lift & Mobility
	Workington	Available
April	NW Crusaders	Available
May	Hunslet	A1 Lift & Mobility
	Oldham	Available
July	Rochdale	BRSK
	Midlands	The Kindened Bizarre
August	Newcastle	Available
	Oldham	Available
	Hunslet	Available
		Approved Garages

MATCH DAY SPONSORSHIP

THE TIGER HOLDINGS LTD

110 #3





BRANDON PICKERSGILL	1
CHARLIE GRAHAM	2
ADAM RYDER	3
JUNIOR SA'U	4
BILLY WALKLEY	5
IN MEMORY OF DANNY JONES	6
JACK MILLER	7
LEWIS HATTON	8
KYLE KESIK	9
MARK IOANE	10
ELLIS ROBSON	11
LACHLAN LANSKEY	12
DAN PARKER	13
ALEX BISHOP	14
AARON BROWN	15
JOSH LYNAM	16
OSCAR THOMAS	17
JORDAN SCHOFIELD	18
BEN STEAD	19
WILL MAHER	20
BEN DEAN	21
CODEY DOWNEY	22
MATT BAILEY	23
DEE FOGGIN-JOHNSTON	25
LIAM COPLAND	26
MAX LAMBOURNE	27

1	OWEN RESTALL
2	PERRY WHITELEY
3	OLLIE GREENSMITH
4	BAILEY O'CONNOR
5	LEWIS CARR
6	PAUL SYKES
7	CALUM TURNER
8	JIMMY BECKETT
9	JACOB HOOKEM
10	RONAN DIXON
11	BRAD GRAHAM
12	MATT GARSIDE
13	LOUIS COLLINSON
15	JOE SUMMERS
16	ELLIOT MORRIS
17	JACKSON WALKER
18	DAVEY DIXON
19	TRAVIS CORION
20	CURTIS DAVIES
21	MARCUS WALKER
22	BAILEY DAWSON
23	NATHAN LAWRENCE
24	JOEL RUSSELL
25	HARRY COPLEY
26	JAMIE FIELD