

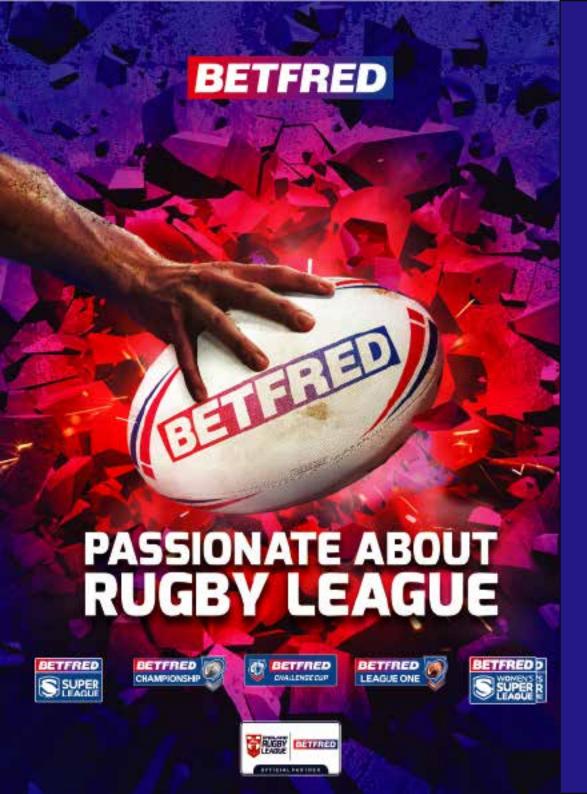








KEIGHLEY COUGARS V BRADFORD BULLS 1895 CUP GROUP ROUND 2 18th FEBRUARY 2024



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# FROM THE BOARD ROOM MICK O'NEILL MBE

DIS TO

We're all feeling the loss of Jeremy Crowther at the club this week.

He was such a bright presence, always a joy to be around. You could count on him for some wise words and a good laugh.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his friends and family at this time.

Today's game is shaping up to be a real thrill, and next week's against Featherstone Rovers looks to be just as exciting.

It's touching to see the club honoring Jeremy's memory with a special collection and raffle proceeds going to Betty's charity.

That's the kind of community spirit that makes this sport, and this club so special.

A big shoutout to our pals from Bradford! Whenever the Bulls swing by Cougar Park, you know it's going to be a blast.

Props to the RFL for shaking things up with the 1895 Cup match format this season.

Local showdowns and more home

games for League One clubs are just what the doctor ordered to spice things up.

Last week's game against Hunslet was a real gem. The guys played their hearts out, and it's awesome to see Matt settling back in so smoothly. That Ryder try? Absolute perfection.

Having Mike Smith by my side at these games is a real comfort. He's making positive strides every day, and I can't wait to see him keep getting stronger.

Here's to a cracking day for everyone here. Let's soak up the (hopeful) sunshine and the good vibes.

I can't wait to catch up with you all again next week for the Featherstone match, where we'll dedicate the day and pay tribute to Jeremy Crowther and share some more unforgettable moments together.

Mick O'Neill





When you join our BetterNet, you enjoy fast, reliable and affordable full fibre broadband, backed by world-class service. Better yet, when you sign up, we'll make a donation to the Keighley Cougars. And that means you're giving back to your favourite team and club facilities for a better fan experience.







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# CLUB UPDATE WITH RYAN & KAUE

We both send our condolences to Betty and family on the loss of Jeremy Crowther. Jeremy was a lovely chap. I enjoyed many chats with him about his time at Bradford Grammar School where I also studied. Jeremy was in the same class at artist David Hockney and tried to contact David for us in the hope be might become a patron of the club. Jeremy's contribution to the Cougars over the decades has left an indelible mark, his legacy as a Hall of Famer will live on.

Today's exciting game against the Bulls is themed to honour LGBTQ+ history month. We are putting specific focus on transgender rights. The transgender community have suffered persecution and bullying for too long. It is shameful that this minority of people, who are trying to live their true self, are consistently criticised so publicly and by people in power. I am proud that our club continues to stand up for people, in the endeavour to make the world a kinder place.

We are honoured to have in attendance at today's game India Willoughby, the UK's first transgender newsreader. India has also presented on ITV's Loose Women, taken part on Celebrity Big Brother, and been a regular on ITV's This Morning and Good Morning Britain. We're really grateful to India for making a long journey to be here with us at Cougar Park. Also attending is highly resepcted former Super League referee James Child, who revealed he was gay in 2021.



We have a fair amount of media at the ground also. ITV News are attending, along with Attitude Magazine, the Daily Mirror and other national and regional press. So I am hoping we can really get our message out there, to change atitudes and bring people together.

We attended the Gaydio Radios awards on Friday, where the club was in the final 3 for 'Sportsclub of the Year'.

We didn't win, but it was great to be included. We were honoured to meet Esther Ghey, the mum of Brianna, the young girl who was murdered last year.

Brianna was a trans girl, and for anyone who has seen Brianna's photo, can see what a beautful young lady she was. Esther has been incredibly strong and brave in sharing Brianna's story, and helping raise awareness. The club will support Esther's work, and help in anyway way can.

We have entertainment by drag performer Marigold Addams before the game and at half time, then in the Hall of Fame after the game, there will be live singing by Keighley's own Emzy.

Whatever the result of the game, I hope everyone enjoys the day, and leaves understanding our off-field mission, to make this world, that we all share, that bit kinder.

Ryan & Kaue

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### COACH'S CORNER HEAD COACH MATT FOSTER

Ey up and welcome to Derby Day as we face our friends from down the road Bradford Bulls.

Local derbies are always a passionate affair and I'm sure this will be no different.

Assistant Coach Craig McDowell has had connections with the Bulls for many years now so I'm sure he is ready and excited for today.

I would like to welcome Eamon O'Carroll and his coaching staff to Cougar Park.

They have been efficiently going about their business in the early parts of the year currently undefeated and has a big name squad that's been put together with the expectation of pushing for honours in the Championship.

The last couple of games for us has brought wins and our progress and performance have been coming along with that too.



Each week we see little improvements in our game and we will

keep working hard to improve and be the best versions of ourselves.

As coaching staff and players we understand that effort is something you the fans love to see more than anything, so will push to keep showing that and see what comes off the back of it.

Can't wait to hear the Passion today!

*Matt* #Inthistogether





# THINK YOUR 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









### OPPOSITION GUIDE BRADFORD BULLS





#### FORM GUIDE

The Bulls are off to a good start in 2024 chalking wins against Halifax Panthers, Hull FC, Leeds Rhinos, Dewsbury Rams and North Wales Crusaders in a mix of friendlies and 1895 Cup games.

The team from BD6 will be looking to move forward on a successful 2023 campaign which saw them eliminated from the play offs at at the semi-final stage in Toulouse.

#### ONE TO WATCH

Jordan Lilley. Joining the Bulls in 2019 he has racked up over 100 appearances in Bulls colours and is at the centre of the Bulls attack.

#### THE STADIUM

Apart from two seasons in 2001 and 2002 when the Bulls played home games at Valley Parade, prior to leaving Odsal for Crown Flatt, Dewsbury in 2019, Odsal Stadium has been the home ground of Bradford Northern / Bulls since 1934.

#### **PREVIOUS 5 MEETINGS**

Bradford 74, Keighley 12 (ChR17, 2/7/23)

Bradford 42, Keighley 18 (ChR12, 28/5/23)

Keighley 34, Bradford 6 (ChR7, 26/3/23)

Keighley 12, Bradford 14 (CCR4, 31/3/19)

Bradford 54, Keighley 4 (L1R23, 2/9/18)

# 2024

DATE	OPPOSITION	SCORE	FB	W	C	C	W	SO	SH	P	Н	P	BR	BR	LF	INT	INT	INT	INT	18
28/01/24	Dewsbury Rams (H) 1895 R1	35-6	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (2T)	RYDER	SA'U	WALKLEY	DEAN (1T)	MILLER (5G 1DG)	MAHER	BROWN (1T)	IOANE	ROBSON	LANSKEY (1T)	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	LYNAM
11/02/24	Hunslet (A) cc R3	14-22	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (1T)	RYDER (1T)	SA'U	WALKLEY	THOMAS (1T, 1G)	MILLER	MAHER	BROWN	IOANE	ROBSON (2T)	LANSKEY	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	LYNAM
18/02/24	Bradford Bulls (H) 1895 R3																			
25/02/24	Featherstone Rovers (H)																			
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																			

# FIXTURES & RESULTS

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# DAY TO DAY WITH STEVE & JAKE

The triumph in our inaugural 1895 Cup game against Dewsbury Rams has not only ignited the flames of victory but also positioned us favorably for the upcoming clash against Bradford Bulls. As we relish in the glory of our hard-fought win, it's clear that our team's determination and resilience have set the stage for further success in the days ahead. With tickets selling fast, now is the time to secure your spot and witness history in the making.

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated supporters who made the journey to Hunslet to cheer us on to victory against Dewsbury Rams. Their unwavering encouragement and unwavering support provided the inspiration we needed to secure a tough-fought win and progress to the next round of the Challenge Cup against Featherstone at Cougar Park. Their presence was felt on the field and their chants reverberated throughout the stadium, reminding us of the profound bond between the team and its loyal fans.

Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome Phat Bois Burgers on board as a new sponsor. Their support and partnership reflect our shared commitment to excellence and innovation, and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration both on and off the field. Together, we aim to elevate the game-day experience for fans and players alike, creating unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime.

Looking ahead to this weekend's showdown against Bradford Bulls, we extend our sincere gratitude to our matchday sponsor, Cosurica, and our match ball sponsor, Hayley from Blue Dragon Designs. Their generous support and unwavering dedication have been instrumental in our success this season, and we are truly grateful for their continued partnership. Hayley, in particular, has been a steadfast ally, supplying the vinyl for the numbering of our kit and

ensuring that our team looks and feels their best on the field.

As we prepare to debut our striking pride kit this weekend, the excitement and anticipation are palpable. A symbol of unity, diversity, and inclusivity, the pride kit embodies the values that define our club and resonate deeply with our community. It serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of acceptance and equality, both on and off the field, as we stand together in solidarity with the LGBTQ+community.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to announce the return of junior games, coinciding with the slight improvement in weather conditions. Young aspiring athletes will once again have the opportunity to showcase their talent and passion for the game, inspiring the next generation of stars to rise to the occasion and pursue their dreams with unwavering determination.

As we gear up for another thrilling weekend of rugby league action, the anticipation continues to build. With the unwavering support of our loyal fans, the dedication of our players, and the generosity of our sponsors, we are ready to write the next chapter in our storied history. So, don't miss out on the excitement – secure your tickets today and join us as we embark on this exhilarating journey towards victory and glory.

#### Steve & Jake



### **CLUB TITBITS**

#### HERITAGE

Former Cougar coaches and players
Peter Roe, Gary Moorby and Paul Moses
are working with the club to recognise
previous players and present them with
their Heritage numbers. The number
identifies which number player they
were to represent the club, ie Gary
Moorby is the 924th player to represent
Keighley RL club. Our club is over 100
years old and has produced many great
players during that time.

Presenting Heritage numbers to former players is a great way for the club to recognise their efforts and to ensure past players are a vital part of the clubs history.

The game against Bradford will see former Keighley and Bradford player Peter Roe presented with his Heritage number. Peter gained international honours as a player, coached Keighley to promotion and is a former Super League coach.

Next in line is Brian Jefferson, BJ gained full international honours with England and appeared several times for Yorkshire. He is the clubs overall points holder playing in 300 games for Keighley, Brian will be presented with his Heritage number on 17th March when Cornwall are the visitors to Cougar park. Brian will be joined by former Keighley and Bradford Northern player Les Thomas who will also be receiving his Heritage number.

"We are delighted to work with the club in recognising its former players, the board have given their full support and offer a warm welcome to all ex players at Cougar Park." Peter Roe, Gary Moorby, Paul Moses.

"This club is about the people in it and the ex players are an integral part of the foundations of it." Ryan O'Neil

#### 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!

#### TRAINING SQUAD

We have recently offered a trial to Leeds Tykes, Junior Nu'u who links up with the squad on Wednesdays while he looks to adapt from Union to League.

Jake Webster, Director of Rugby said "It's great to get another body into training and we're happy to help provide a pathway for athletes to try League. If it turns into something more then great, but no harm no foul at this stage of the season."

Nathan Conroy also rejoins the training group on a 6 week trial.

### 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 Parker (Match Assistant), Brad Foulds (Match Day Videographer)

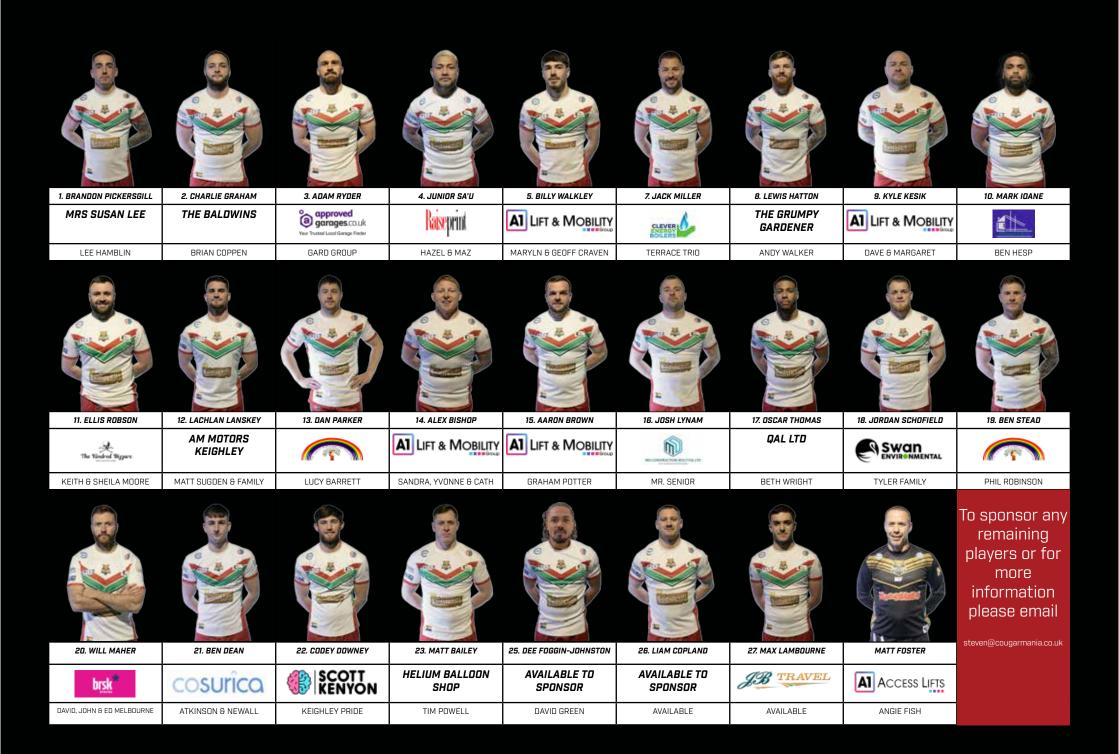
#### **BEHIND THE SCENES**

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

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Tim Powell, Margaret Procotor, 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 & Jeremy Crowther.





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

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#### STILL AVAILABLE:

MAIN MATCH SPONSOR Featherstone Rovers, North Wales Crusaders, Oldham RLFC (both home fixtures), Newcastle Thunder

MATCH BALL SPONSOR

North Wales Crusaders, Oldham RLFC (both home fixtures), Newcastle

Thunder

### A VIEW FROM THE SIDELINE

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

Another year, another Challenge Cup tie at the South Leeds Stadium.

Always a place that I'm apprehensive about travelling to as the games on Hunslets patch always seem to cause us problems. That being said I thought last weekend's game was a good outing – not perfect by any means and against a team we should be expecting to beat, but certainly more comfortable than previous visits.

It's fantastic to see the squad gelling now on the back of these two wins and there have been some great passages of play, the most noteworthy being the move for Ellis Robsons first try last weekend hope to see more of that this year!

While I know respects will be paid to Jeremy Crowther next weekend against Featherstone, I'd like to take the opportunity to share my thoughts after hearing of his passing this week.

I only met Jez towards the very end of his involvement with Cougars and barring the occasional catch up at games/shared car journeys with the old J Team

I didn't have lots of dealings with him. That being said it's been incredibly moving to hear from people who have - current & former players from both the senior squad and the old reserves sides, fans, staff, the list goes on - about the impact that Jez had on them and rugby league in Keighley.

Hope the boys can continue to build on two solid performances of late and get the win today! It's what Jez would have wanted and I'm sure he'll be with us all in spirit.





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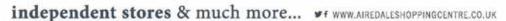
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PEACOCKS NEW LOOK





# In Loving Memory



Teremy Crowther 1936 - 2024





BRANDON PICKERSGILL	1	1	TOM HOLMES
CHARLIE GRAHAM	2	2	BEN BLACKMORE
ADAM RYDER	3	3	JOE ARUNDEL
JUNIOR SA'U	4	4	KIERAN GILL
BILLY WALKLEY	5	5	JORGE TAUFUA
IN MEMORY OF DANNY JONES	6	6	LEE GASKELL
JACK MILLER	7	7	JORDAN LILLEY
LEWIS HATTON	8	8	JORDAN BALDWINSON
KYLE KESIK	9	9	GEORGE FLANAGAN
MARK IOANE	10	10	EBON SCURR
ELLIS ROBSON	11	12	CHESTER BUTLER
LACHLAN LANSKEY	12	13	MICHAEL LAWRENCE
DAN PARKER	13	14	JOHN DAVIES
ALEX BISHOP	14	15	DAN SMITH
AARON BROWN	15	16	KEVEN APPO
JOSH LYNAM	16	17	ERIBE DORO
OSCAR THOMAS	17	18	MITCH SOUTER
JORDAN SCHOFIELD	18	19	SAM HALLAS
BEN STEAD	19	20	BILLY JOWITT
WILL MAHER	20	21	JAYDEN MYERS
BEN DEAN	21	22	WILL OAKES
CODEY DOWNEY	22	23	DAN OKORO
MATT BAILEY	23	24	AIDAN MCGOWAN
DEE FOGGIN-JOHNSTON	25		
LIAM COPLAND	26		
MAX LAMBOURNE	27		

29

**NATHAN CONROY**