

# PRIDE

MONTHLY MAGAZINE EDITION 03



**KEIGHLEY COUGARS V CORNWALL RLFC**  
**LEAGUE 1 2024 - ROUND 1**  
**17th MARCH 2024**

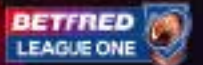
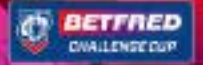
PRINTED BY



**BETFRED**



**PASSIONATE ABOUT RUGBY LEAGUE**



**MAIN SPONSOR**



**ASSOCIATE SPONSORS**



**Brosnans**  
Chartered Accountants





**RESPECT**  
THE PLAYERS,  
OFFICIALS  
& EACH OTHER

**RESPECT**  
TOGETHER LET'S MAKE OUR GAME BETTER

**RUGBY-LEAGUE.COM/RESPECT**

## FROM THE BOARD ROOM MICK O'NEILL MBE



Welcome back to Cougar Park, where the excitement is palpable as we kick off another thrilling season of rugby.

It's always a pleasure to see familiar faces returning to the club, and I extend a warm welcome to all our supporters, old and new.

The Irish party held at the club was a fantastic way to set the tone for the season ahead. It was wonderful to see so many of you come together to celebrate our shared passion for the sport.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the event such a success.

I'm thrilled to hear about Matt Bailey's testimonial. Matt's dedication and contribution to the club over the years have been truly remarkable, and he deserves every bit of recognition he receives.

Speaking of which, I have no doubt that today's game will be another memorable occasion.

Our players have been training hard since November and are eager to showcase their skills on the field. I encourage you all to get behind the team, show your support, and help create an atmosphere that spurs them on to victory.

Matt's coaching efforts have already begun to yield exciting results, as evidenced by the thrilling rugby we've witnessed in the friendlies and cup games leading up to today's match.

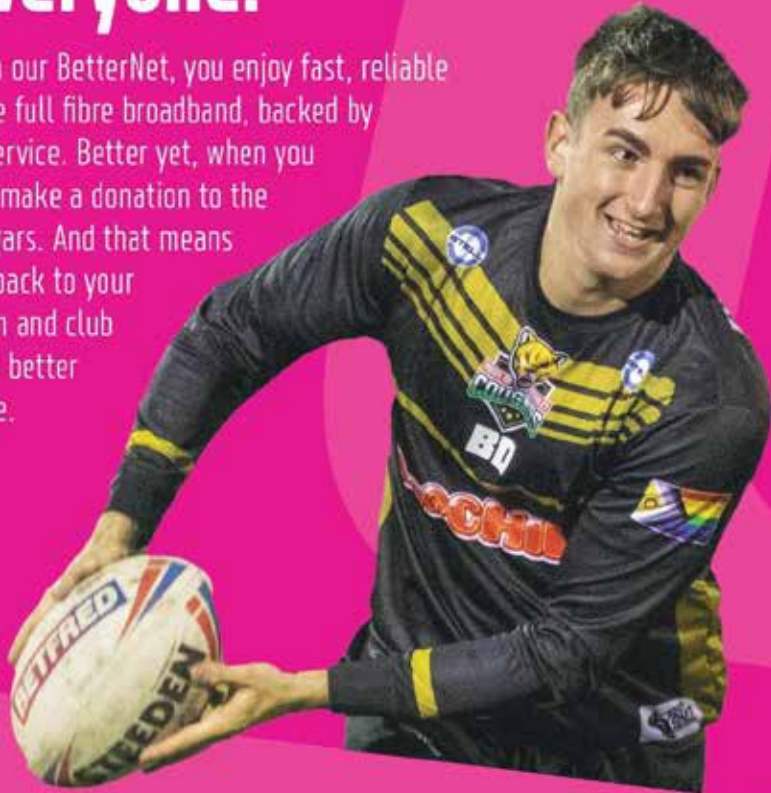
Whether you're here at Cougar Park or following the action from elsewhere, I hope you have a fantastic day filled with excitement and enjoyment.

Let's make this season one to remember. C'mon Cougars!

*Mick O'Neill*

# Better broadband for you. A better Keighley Cougars for everyone.

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.



Scan to see how you can support



## CLUB UPDATE WITH RYAN & KAUE



Welcome back to Cougar Park, for the start of the league campaign.

With the recent restructuring of the leagues by the RFL, it makes it even more important that we have a successful season and aim to be promoted at the end of 2024. RFL restructuring seems to be something of a reoccurring event. I hope this will be the final restructuring for the foreseeable future. It is very difficult to run the club as a business when there is so much unpredictability.

The stand redevelopment continues to develop. It is frustratingly slow, but it is moving forward, and things are starting to crystalise now. We expect in all likelihood the works will start later in the season, as it wouldn't be ideal to disrupt this crucial season with building works and disruption. We will though start what we can discreetly as soon as possible.

We have recently concluded a new deal with a brewery, which will see new beers and lagers being installed. There will also be renewal of the bar hardware, which is designed to speed up service, meaning for less queues. We thank

thank Paul Frasier, the club's main sponsors from Bedspredz Poultry, for facilitating this new deal and helping negotiate the best terms for the club.

We are soon to start a remodeling of the club shop, pie shop and first aid block. We will move the club shop into where the current first aid room is, meaning the large double doors will give great access to a larger and more modern shop. Integrated in this will be a take-out bar and hot food take-out. The first aid room will then move into the current shop.

My thanks to Jake and Matt for assembling this great team, we have some great talent and great personalities which makes running this club a pleasure. Thanks also to Steve who works tirelessly to get things done, has supreme patience in dealing with all things RFL bureaucracy throws up, and taking a load of stress off the 2 of us.

Hoping for a great start to the league campaign.

Enjoy the journey.  
*Ryan & Kaue*



**JACK MILLER**

# IT Services for Business

# cosurica

Supporting people powering business

Proudly sponsoring



20 Halifax Road  
Cross Roads, Keighley  
BD22 9DH

01535 358161  
[www.cosurica.com](http://www.cosurica.com)  
[info@cosurica.com](mailto:info@cosurica.com)

## COACH'S CORNER HEAD COACH MATT FOSTER



Good afternoon and welcome from all our coaching and medical staff to what is the first game of our 2024 campaign in League 1.

This pre season has been a long, hard but most of all fun road to this point and I know I speak on behalf of all our staff and players, we are really looking forward to this league campaign!

So far this year we have only played a couple of games against opposition from our League with most games coming from the championship and one from Super League.

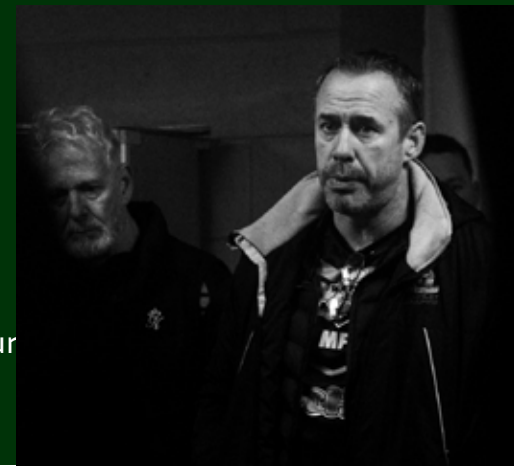
We believe this is a good footing to head into the season and this afternoon we will get an opportunity to see how we stack against an energetic Cornwall outfit who come up here fresh and ready to prove their own points.

Our own energy has been high this week and training excellent as the buzz of starting the new league season ripples through our

squad. I know the troops led by captain Ellis Robson are focused on putting in a good performance for you all today and from that the result will look after itself.

Looking forward to hearing the Cougar Roar!!

*Matt*  
#Inthistogether





West Yorkshire  
Health and Care Partnership



# 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](http://checkinwithyourmate.co.uk)



REACH OUT  CHECK-IN  FOLLOW UP



## OPPOSITION GUIDE CORNWALL RLFC



### 2024 SEASON PREVIEW

2023 was a year of firsts for the Choughs - first home victory, first league double, first back-to-back wins and first win over a heart-lands club.

Mike Abbott's men will be looking to repeat and build on these feats as the new campaign gets underway.

Having not been involved in the 1895 cup, losing to York Acorn in the Challenge Cup and having not played any pre-season friendlies, Cornwall will be behind the 8 ball at the start of the season, but this could prove critical as the season unfolds.

With their local players having another year's experience under their belts and a whole host of players joining from London Skolars following their withdrawal from the league, Abbott has the most experienced squad the club has ever seen and he'll be expecting that to be evident on field.

### ONE TO WATCH

Aussie halfback or fullback Cameron Brown made a huge impression in his first season with the club, scoring 14 tries in all competitions and playing a pivotal role in each of the five wins enjoyed by the Choughs. If he can recapture and build on that form, Cornwall could well spring a few more surprises.

# 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) <small>1895 R1</small>	35-6	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (2T)	RYDER	SAU	WALKLEY	DEAN (1T)	MILLER (5G 10G)	MAHER	BROWN (1T)	IOANE	ROBSON	LANSKEY (1T)	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	LYNAM
11/02/24	Hunslet (A) <small>CC R3</small>	14-22	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (1T)	RYDER (1T)	SAU	WALKLEY	THOMAS (1T, 1G)	MILLER	MAHER	BROWN	IOANE	ROBSON (2T)	LANSKEY	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	HATTON	SCHOFIELD	LYNAM
18/02/24	Bradford Bulls (H) <small>1895 R3</small>	18-28	PICKERSGILL	GRAHAM (1T)	RYDER	SAU	WALKLEY	THOMAS	MILLER (3G)	MAHER	BROWN	IOANE (1T)	ROBSON	LANSKEY (1T)	PARKER	STEAD	KESIK	LYNAM	SCHOFIELD	DEAN
25/02/24	Featherstone Rovers (H) <small>CC R4</small>	14-58	PICKERSGILL (1T)	DOWNEY (1T)	RYDER	GRAHAM	WALKLEY	THOMAS (1G)	MILLER (2G)	MAHER	BROWN	IOANE	ROBSON	LANSKEY	PARKER	DEAN	CONROY	LYNAM	SCHOFIELD	STEAD
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)																			
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



# Melia Powell Funeral Service

Established 2013



Melia Powell Funeral Service are here to support and guide you. Caring for families of all faiths since 2013 in Sandbeds, Keighley and the surrounding areas.

Our experienced and friendly team are available 24 hours a day by telephone or you can arrange a home visit.

- 24 Hour Service
- Bereavement Advice
- Transparent Pricing
- Private Chapel of Rest
- Floral Tributes
- Memorial Masonry
- Home Visits
- Prepaid funeral plans

Sandbeds  
**01274 567 110**

Melia House, Bradford Road,  
BD20 5LY

Keighley  
**01535 280 402**

111-115 Cavendish Street,  
BD21 3DG

[meliapowellfuneralservice.co.uk](http://meliapowellfuneralservice.co.uk)

 Funeral Partners



## NEW LEAGUE STRUCTURE WITH STEVE

Welcome to the start of an exciting new season!

As we embark on this journey, it's essential to reflect on the meticulous planning and collaboration that has gone into shaping the league structures we're about to witness. Over the past six months, in partnership with the Rugby Football League (RFL), we've delved deep into restructuring the league, aiming to inject fresh excitement and competitiveness into the sport.

One of the most intriguing developments this season is the introduction of an additional playoff final involving the 12th place from the Championship. This innovative move not only diversifies the post-season landscape but also presents a unique challenge for us as a team. It's no secret that ambitious aspirations drive us forward, but with this new playoff in play, our recruitment strategy takes on a whole new dimension.

Recruitment is a delicate balancing act, especially when faced with the allure of playing at the highest level. While our ambitions remain steadfast, we must navigate the intricacies of planning our retentions and signings well in advance of this pivotal playoff game. Players, understandably, crave the opportunity to compete at the pinnacle of their sport, and it's our responsibility to offer them a compelling vision that aligns with their aspirations while ensuring the stability and strength of our squad.

Amidst these challenges, I find myself drawn to the concept of the middle 8's. This innovative structure not only fosters competitiveness but also introduces an element of unpredictability as participants face off against different teams. The stakes are high-

er, the tension palpable, as teams jostle for supremacy in the latter stages of the season. It's a thrilling spectacle for fans and players alike, injecting an extra layer of excitement and jeopardy into the proceedings.

As we embark on this journey, it's imperative to embrace the spirit of adaptability and resilience. The landscape of rugby league is ever-evolving, and success hinges not only on talent but also on strategic foresight and meticulous planning. Our journey this season is not just about the games we play but also about the strategic maneuvers we make off the field.

Together, as a team and as a community of supporters, we embark on this season with optimism, determination, and a hunger for success. Let us embrace the challenges that lie ahead, knowing that each obstacle is an opportunity to showcase our resilience and determination. Here's to a season filled with unforgettable moments, thrilling encounters, and ultimately, triumphs that will etch our names into the annals of rugby league history.

Enjoy the season ahead, and let's make every moment count.

*Steve*



# CLUB TITBITS

## WOMEN'S AND GIRLS PATHWAY

In a groundbreaking move for women's and girls rugby league in the Silsden and Keighley area, Silsden Storm and Keighley Cougars have joined forces to establish a girls' team, marking a significant step forward in the development of the sport in the region. This merger not only expands opportunities for female players but also fosters a sense of unity and community within the local rugby league scene.

Silsden Park, nestled in the heart of Silsden, takes center stage as the main training base for the newly formed team. Its lush green fields provide the perfect backdrop for honing skills and fostering camaraderie among players. However, the aspirations of the team extend beyond training grounds; they aim to grace the hallowed turf of Cougar Park, the esteemed home ground of Keighley Cougars, for all their girls' and women's team matches.

As part of this collaboration, Keighley Cougars will be supplying teamwear to all players, ensuring that they sport the iconic Cougar kit on game days. This not only aligns the girls' team with the esteemed legacy of the Cougars but also instills a sense of pride and belonging among the players. The unified design across all age groups echoes the solidarity and shared vision of the two clubs.

To introduce the newly formed team to the community, taster sessions will be held in the near future, with Cougar Park serving as the venue for potential open days and stalls. This outreach effort aims

to attract talent from a wide age range, spanning from 11-year-olds to open age players, fostering inclusivity and diversity within the team.

If you are interested in taking part, please complete this form and we will contact you in due course.

Furthermore, the collaboration extends beyond player recruitment and training sessions. The girls' team aspires to take the field as curtain raisers in select Keighley Cougars games in the future, providing an exciting prelude to the main event while showcasing the burgeoning talent within the community.

In the realm of digital presence, social media will play a pivotal role in rebranding Silsden Stormettes as Keighley Cougar Girls. This revamped identity not only reflects the amalgamation of the two clubs but also signifies a new era of women's rugby league in the region.

Looking ahead, the aspirations of the team are ambitious yet attainable. By 2025, we aim to enter a women's team into the League 1 system, solidifying their presence in the competitive landscape of rugby league. This strategic progression underscores the long-term commitment of both Silsden Storm and Keighley Cougars to the development and advancement of women's rugby league, laying the foundation for a legacy that transcends generations.

## 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 (SGC), 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 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 & Jeremy Crowther.



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	THE BALDWIN'S	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
KEITH & SHEILA MOORE	MATT SUGDEN & FAMILY	LUCY BARRETT	SANDRA, YVONNE & CATH	GRAHAM POTTER	MR. SENIOR	BETH WRIGHT	TYLER FAMILY	PHIL ROBINSON



20. WILL MAHER	21. BEN DEAN	22. CODEY DOWNEY	23. MATT BAILEY	25. DEE FOGGIN-JOHNSTON	26. LIAM COPLAND	27. MAX LAMBOURNE	MATT FOSTER
brsk	cosurica	SCOTT KENYON	HELIUM BALLOON SHOP	AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR	AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR	JB TRAVEL	A1 ACCESS LIFTS
DAVID, JOHN & ED MELBOURNE	ATKINSON & NEWALL	KEIGHLEY PRIDE	TIM POWELL	DAVID GREEN	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE	ANGIE FISH

To sponsor any remaining players or for more information please email

[steven@cougarmania.co.uk](mailto:steven@cougarmania.co.uk)



***CHARLIE GRAHAM***

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](mailto:steven@cougarmania.co.uk)

STILL AVAILABLE:

#### MAIN MATCH SPONSOR

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

#### MATCH BALL SPONSOR

North Wales Crusaders, Oldham RLFC, Newcastle Thunder

## **A VIEW FROM THE SIDELINE**

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

At last the season is upon us for real, the early stages of 2024 have been fantastic with a solid preseason campaign, the 1895 & Challenge Cup fixtures – but nothing compares to league fixtures week in week out.

The year so far has been a stark contrast for me from previous pre-seasons, I have been much more involved with the squad – having taken player headshots as well as attended several training sessions – I'm really enjoying the opportunities that I have to contribute further to the club ahead of what should be a fantastic season.

Not only does the squad and the improving performances give me hope and optimism, but looking at the bigger picture I feel like this weeks restructure of the League 1 & Championship competitions will be huge for the clubs in this division.

If we don't get promoted this season (hope we do of course but take nothing for granted in this mad

sport) the future of League 1 is in safer hands than it has seemed. Onto today's game and a bit of a prediction/speculation – I would like to think we can finish off the first game week at the top of the league.

While I mean no disrespect for this Cornwall side and look forward to seeing some familiar faces in their ranks, they haven't had the same sort of preseason preparation that our boys have had and I am expecting big things from a squad of this calibre in 2024.

Thanks for reading as ever, I hope you enjoy the game is enjoyable and we start as we mean to go on!

*JT*



airedale  
shopping centre



LOOK OUT FOR  
COMPETITIONS TO  
WIN  
KEIGHLEY  
COUGARS  
TICKETS  
ON OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE!



HIGH  
STREET  
BRANDS



FOOD &  
DRINK

FREE  
PARKING  
ON SUNDAYS  
& BANK  
HOLIDAYS

FREE  
FAMILY  
EVENTS



independent stores & much more... [www.airedaleshoppingcentre.co.uk](http://www.airedaleshoppingcentre.co.uk)

Airedale  
Opticians



PEACOCKS

next



NEW LOOK



Café  
Incontro

# GALLAGHER

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS



- ✓ Fully Trained and Qualified Team
- ✓ 24 Hour Service
- ✓ Traditional & Alternative Funerals
- ✓ Golden Charter Funeral Plans
- ✓ Direct Cremations
- ✓ Modern Care Facilities
- ✓ Private Chapel of Rest
- ✓ Serving Keighley, Worth Valley, Craven & Surrounding areas



*"Our Family, Caring For Yours"*

SCAN TO MEET  
OUR CARING TEAM



Airedale House, Skipton Road, Utley, Keighley BD20 6DT | 01535 690 979



Gallagher Family Funeral Directors is an appointed representative of Golden Charter Limited trading as Golden Charter Funeral Plans which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN965793)

FUNERAL PLANS FROM  
Golden Charter  
Smart Planning for Later Life





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  
NATHAN CONROY 29

1 LIAM WHITTON  
2 GEORGE MITCHELL  
3 COBY NICHOL  
4 TOM ASHTON  
5 HARRY AARONSON  
6 CAMERON BROWN  
7 ADAM RUSLING  
8 JOSH HARTSHORNE  
9 LUKE COLLINS  
10 HARRY BOOTS  
11 NATHAN CULLEN  
12 DARCY SIMPSON  
13 DAVID WEETMAN  
14 MORGAN PUNCHARD  
15 KAINE DIMECH  
16 DECARLO TRERISE  
17 MALIKHI LLOYD-JONES  
18 MATT ROSS  
19 LIAM O'CALLAGHAN  
20 CHRISTIAN BANNISTER  
21 ERROL CARTER  
22 JAKE LLOYD  
23 CALLUM ABBOTT  
24 JACK SANDER  
25 KYLE MARVIN  
26 AARON SMALL