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Oldham Rugby League Community & Supporters Society Limited Registered as an Industrial and Provident Society. Registered Number: 29986 R

TRUST STRATEGY UPDATE

You will recall that, in the new circumstances which have applied since Bill Quinn became the club's Chairman and effective owner, we asked you to express your views about the future strategy which you felt that the Trust should attempt to follow. Since Bill has made clear the club's intention to pursue its own efforts to generate a ground, without any input from the Trust - which, of course, it is entirely within its rights to do - our avowed aim to facilitate the creation of a dedicated RL community-based ground in the town has had to, at the least, go into abeyance. So the Trust needs to re-establish its immediate future role - hence the invitation to express your views.

Of the four options mentioned, votes were cast as follows :

To invest in the club with a view to obtaining Trust representation on its board	47%
To fund-raise for the club	2%
To keep the trust going on a low-key level, available if needed in the future	34%
To dissolve the Trust	17%

As a result, a letter has been sent to the club, seeking its agreement that we should enter into discussions about the Trust's future links with the club. We will let you know the outcome in due course

TRI-TEAM CHALLENGE

The Challenge - as well as fostering the Trust's relationship with the Oldham Amateur League - aimed to bolster interest in this season's six National Conference Div. One league fixtures between the town's 'big 3' amateur sides - St. Annes, Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead. The Trust, using part of its Oldham Evening Chronicle - sponsored budget, has taken out a series of punchy quarter-page adverts. promoting each of the six games, and has also commissioned an impressive trophy which will be awarded to the Challenge winner.

So far three games have been played. There were more spectators on the Park than for many years to take in the Waterhead v St. Annes clash, and the two matches played at Greenfield both attracted crowds approaching 1,000. Local builders' merchants Joseph Parr [Alco] Ltd. have pitched in by sponsoring a series of man-of-the-match awards.

It is also worth noting that the Trust has received excellent publicity as a result of the Tri-Team sponsorship from TV, local and trade press. The well-written Opinion column in the Rangers programme, for example - click onto our website to read it - was extremely supportive of the Trust and its aims, for example.

OLDHAM SERVICE AREA

Garry Hepworth, who is very well known in RL circles in the town, sits on our board as the representative of the Service Area, and we have recently been in discussions about ways in which the Trust might be able to support the Service Area's activities in the future. Garry has been reporting some remarkable successes amongst the town's junior RL players recently. Pride of place goes to the U18 side, which has been winning big games and also getting lots of its players into representative sides; no fewer than 8 local lads are in the North West U18 squad, for example. We can strongly recommend that you look at the Roughyeds website, and click onto the Community Development page; it gives details of what is currently going on at all levels of youth RL in the town.

TRUST BOARD CHANGES

Since the AGM, two of the elected members of the Trust's board have tendered their resignations. Simon Winnard and Ian Etchells were both very influential founder members of Rugby Oldham, but have now felt it appropriate to leave the board because of the necessity for it to pursue objectives, in the immediate future at least, other than the original one of generating a dedicated RL ground; they do not feel their expertise lies in the areas currently being pursued, and so felt it was in the interests of the Trust if they resigned so as to make space on the board for two new board members. They both emphasised, however, that they will continue to be supportive members of Rugby Oldham, and happy to make their expertise available to us if this is appropriate in the future.

On behalf of the members, the board has expressed huge thanks to Simon and Ian for the massive contribution they have made since Rugby Oldham began. Dave Blackburn and Steve Brown, both of whom have been involved in the work of the Trust and its sub-committees from the outset, have been co-opted onto the board in their place until fresh elections take place next Spring.

In addition, it has been necessary to replace two of the originally-co-opted Trust board members. Garry Hepworth replaced the late Don Yates as the representative of the Oldham Service Area some time ago. Now Phil Bradbury has had to relinquish his place as the representative of the Oldham Amateur League, because he has ceased to be a member of their committee. We would like to record our sincere thanks for his valuable input to board discussions. His replacement has not yet been nominated.



Retro Shirts—Purchase for Christmas

The fondly-remembered red-and-white hooped cotton shirt favoured by so many fans this season will be available in limited numbers again during the run-up to Xmas this year. Oldham's trademark for over 100 years is offered for order. It is of superb quality, embroidered with both the town crest and 'Oldham FC Rugby League Champions 1956-57', and available in all sizes, adult for £39.99 and children for £29.99. Phone 0161-620-9583 or 01457-875084 to reserve.

OTHER NEWS

The Trust's website is currently being updated, after a period when we were rather lax in doing this. If there are any members who would like to take on this task in the future, please let us know.

Michael Turner, the Heritage Trust's representative on our board, has a new book out very soon. Many of you will recall the two previous books published by the Heritage Trust – "Oldham RLFC" and "Roughyeds – the Story"; they were both a marvellous read, and a reference book, for supporters, and very successful too – indeed "Roughyeds" sold out in less than a week! The new book is entitled "Kangaroos, Kiwis and Roughyeds", and raises the bar yet again. Enclosed with this newsletter is a promotional leaflet which explains how you can pre-order a copy.

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