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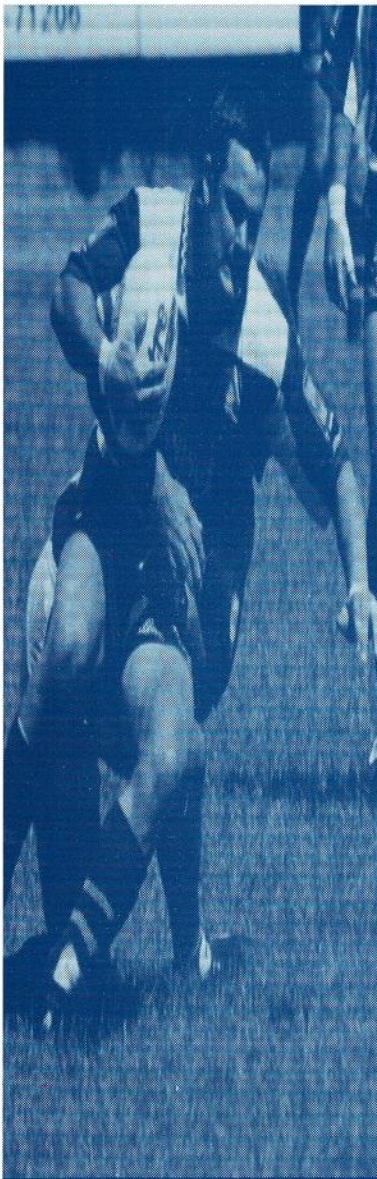
Hallwood Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate  
Lillyhall, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4JR  
Telephone: 01900 66140 Fax: 01900 870309

**Monday 13 April, 1998**  
**OLDHAM**  
**Kick-off 3.00 p.m.**

# BluesReview

**The Official Magazine of Workington Town R.L.F.C.**

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## Club Officials & Honours

Club President:	T. Mitchell, BSc(Hons) NDA
Directors:	W. Harrison (Chairman), G. Tubman (ViceChairman), B. Earl, P. Counce, K. Kirkwood, W. Dobie, T. Falk, J.C. Donovan
Patrons:	H. Walker, J.S. Williams
Vice-Presidents:	J. Aitcheson, P. Charlton, B. Edgar, K. Davies, J.D. Elliot, G.W. Graham, R.V. Graves, K. Irving, J.D. Nelson, R.B. Viney, J.D. Yeowart, W. Whalley
R.L. Council Rep:	J.C. Donovan
Deputy:	B. Earl
Chief Executive:	
Football Manager:	Mrs. J. Kennedy
Finance Manager:	W. Dobie, G. Smyth
Pool Promoter:	K. Ray
Company Secretary:	J. Aitcheson
Schools Liason Officer:	R.B. Viney
Junior Development Officer:	M. Cunningham
Head Coach:	R. Tew
Assistant Coaches:	G. Smith, D. Robley
Academy Coach:	P. Penrice
Academy Administration:	I. Humphries, K. Singleton
Kit Supervisor:	J. Woolagahan
Supporters Club Liason Officer:	Shaun Weaver
Medical Officers:	Mr. D. Richards and Dr. K.R. Joy
Hon. Surgeon:	Mr. M. Griess Mch(Orch) FRCS
Physiotherapist:	Jack Cunningham/Mark Frazer
Time Keepers:	A. Murray, G. Short
Programmes	
Contributors:	K. Singleton, P. Williamson, S. Leggett, B. Coulter
Press Officer:	P. Williamson.

Divisional Premiership Winners 1993/94, Runners-up 1992/93  
 Second Division Championship Winners 1993/94  
 Third Division Runners-Up 1992/93  
 Wigan Sevens Winners 1978  
 Lancashire Cup Winners 1977, Runners Up 1976, 1978, 1979  
 Lancashire Shield Winners 1966/67, 1967/68, 1971/72  
 Western Division Championship Winners 1962/63  
 Lancashire League Championship Runners-Up 1950/51, 1961/62  
 National Sevens Winners 1958  
 Challenge Cup Winners 1952, Runners Up 1955, 1958  
 Rugby League Championship Winners 1951, Runners Up 1958

# WEST CUMBERLAND Times & Star

WORKINGTON TOWN R.L.F.C. would like to thank the  
**WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES & STAR**

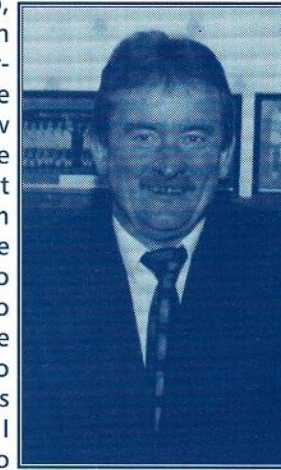
for their continued support in supplying photographs for this match programme. If you would like to order any photograph that is reproduced in this magazine you can do so by calling in at the Times & Star office on Oxford Street, Workington  
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# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

*By Workington Town Chairman Wilf Harrison*

I would like to start by welcoming you all to Derwent Park for the first home game of the 1998 season and this is my first public opportunity as Chairman of Workington Town Rugby League Club to thank all those people who rallied to support the club last November when things were looking bleak, to say the least.

We are embarking upon a very important phase in the life of this club, the trauma of Administration is fading and we can look forward with optimism to the coming season. The new Board of Directors have worked extremely hard to get things in place to put a team the field, along with all the back-up that is required to go with it and we make no secret of the fact that the budget has been stretched to the limit, as have the pockets of those backing the club. I feel that our gratitude to



everyone connected to the club in whatever capacity cannot be overstated. The season ahead is going to be difficult, of that there can be no doubt, but with the right level of support from both yourselves, the paying public, and from the local business community or other organisations, then I am more than confident that we can be a very competitive side in this division. To return to the first division has to be a main priority this year and we all have to realise that this in itself brings enough pressure on all con-

nected with this team, so it is vitally important that we get behind the team and the officials from the very beginning. There is no 'Quick-Fix', it has to be a patient process with all concerned sticking together to keep spirits and morale at the highest level.

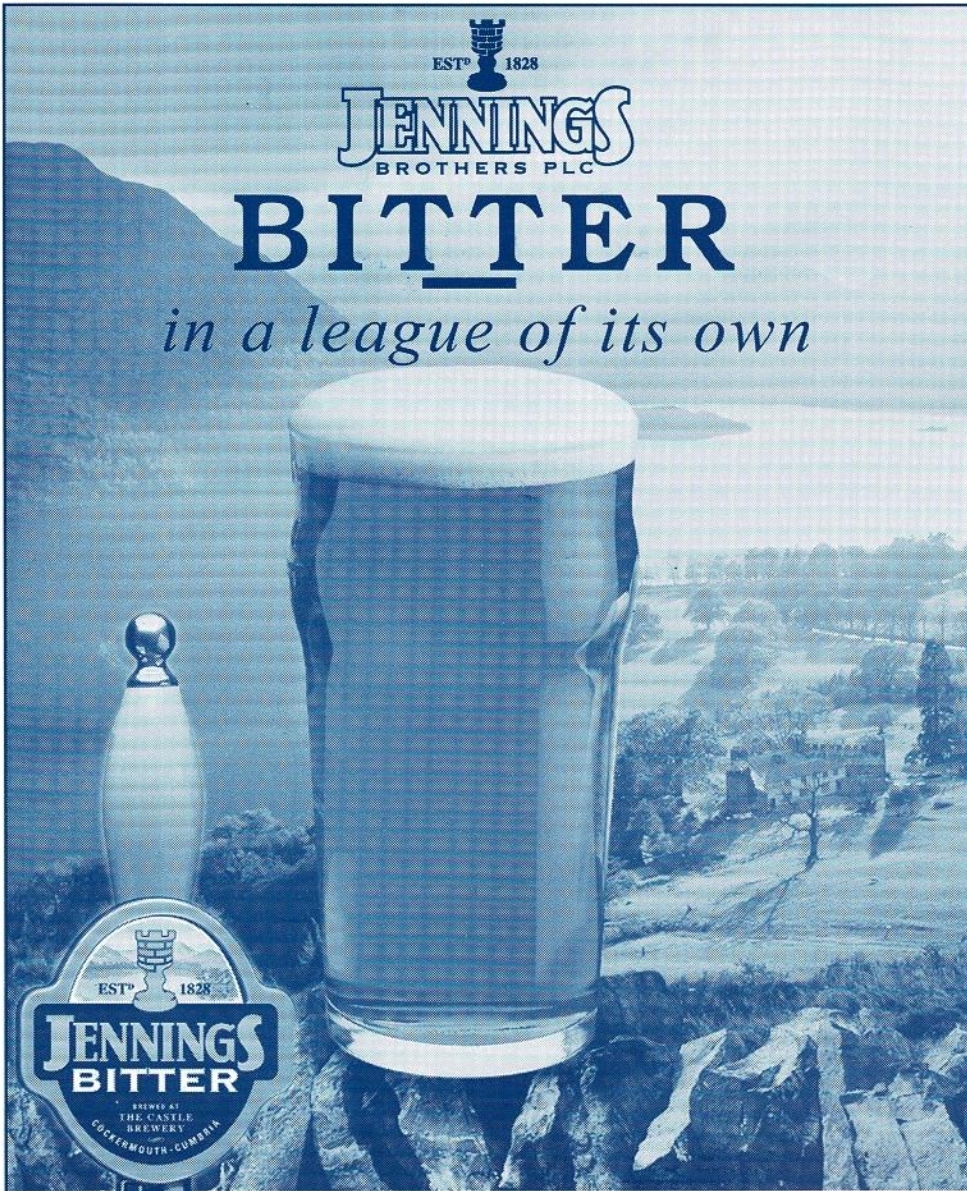
We, as a new board, have clearly stated our willingness to listen and we stand by that claim, but it is constructive criticism, presented at the right opportunity that we will take notice of and there will be various opportunities in the future for this as there already have been in the recent past.

Today's game sees the return of Oldham, a club with its own share of trauma in recent times, so on behalf of Workington Town Rugby League Football Club can I warmly welcome them and all their supporters to Derwent Park and say how glad we all are to see them 'Alive and kicking'. We hope to see a competitive and entertaining game of Rugby League but obviously we hope the result is in our favour at the end of 80 minutes.

To conclude I would say that the future of the club depends on the level of support we get from you, the true rugby league fans, we will do our best by you if you will bear with us over the difficult months ahead.

*Many thanks,  
 Wilf Harrison.*

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and Local Rugby

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Jump for joy, spring is in the air, the sap is rising, (although that hour of lost sleep is difficult to catch up on eh ?) Yes folks 'Eastertime' heralds the warmth and light of a seasonal change, following long dark winter nights, as the circle of life turns merrily on.(Doesn't it??). Not only has spring sprung into life all the flora and fauna, but it also more importantly for us here today as right loyal to the core Townies, signals the genuine commencement of activities for this new season of R.L. Let's put far behind us the stark cold facts of a miserable winter, especially that long "black Friday" endured at our least favourite sporting emporium. A sad day indeed, but now we can warm to the realisation that player recruitment , always an important issue on the club's agenda, gained added momentum. Therefore many of those irons already in the fire were stoked up and some are now hotting up the challenge for a Town shirt. I welcome all such newcomers to Derwent Park, plus some old faces returning, great to have you with us. All players joining us can only supplement what was without question a decimated squad at the end of 97, and eventually the new look team will enable us Townies to walk tall again.

The settling in process will however require all round perseverance, on the field and the terraces, patience will be a key factor as it invariably is with a major refurbishment task.

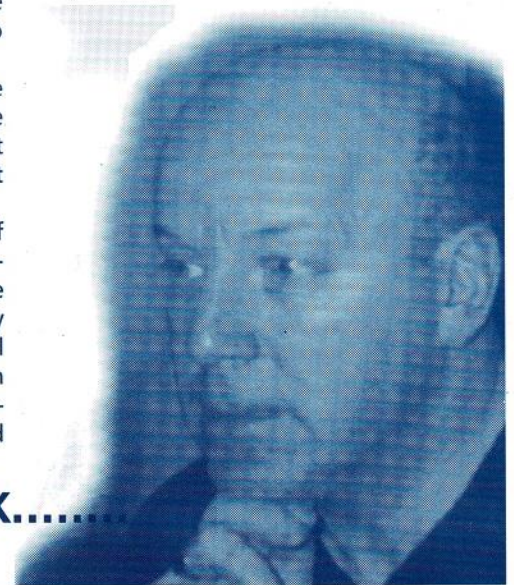
I feel having sort of tested the water of public attitude that our Derwent Park terraces may not be so easily filled at the moment. So many good folk, (and so they are, but will not earn a loyalty bonus) will currently prefer to be 'ex Townies'. I mean the ones who joyfully accepted those successes of the mid nineties but vanished

faster than lemmings, or snow off a dyke, last season. As Arnie Schwotsit says, "they will be back", and rejoin our bandwagon. The wheels of which were repaired by the new consortium, the coaches and players will now get this outfit back on track, then these fans will swarm right back.

Part two of the road to recovery, part one being at Craven park on Good Friday, takes place today versus another club driven right to the cliff-tops of extinction before being rescued. Can you recall when a very short seven years ago we played Oldham here in a cup-tie? Almost six thousand turned up, it's sad to reflect on what has happened to both clubs since then, although we can return to those magical days can't we? Cumbria (primarily of course Workington) is a Rugby League loving area and not an outpost to be ignored. Working together on and off the park we can bury that awful tag. We can, so we will, let's move on and up with the Town.. Actually it's not easy typing this and banging the jungle drums in unison , but you've got the message of the day, now pass it on, Town are back to stay..o.k.

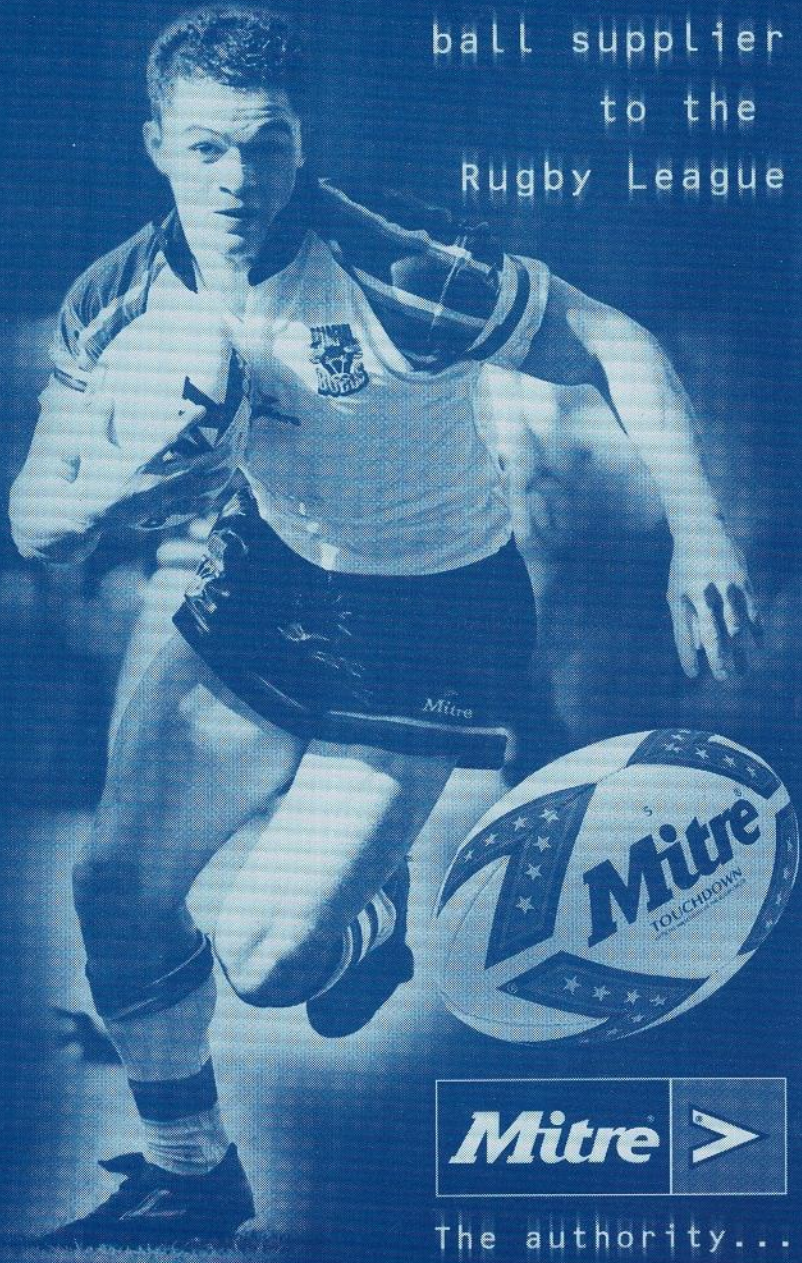
## Back from the brink.....

by Keith Singleton



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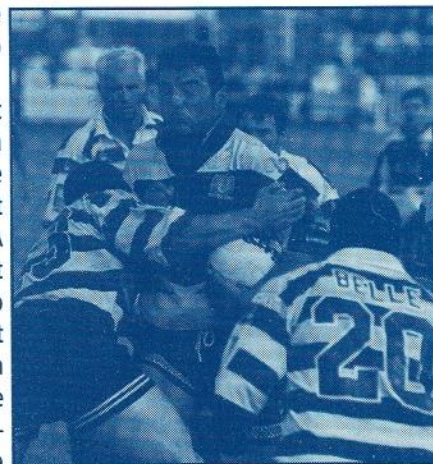
Most of those giant, forbidding chimney stacks untidily scattered around the mill towns of the Pennines have hit the deck, as the changing face of industry has required. The township of Oldham has also gone through the mill as it were, during that industrial evolution, but thankfully some things need never change. Rugby League is still alive and kicking in the newly shaped town, although to be truthful, as we all know, only just. Obviously the old 'Bears' regime found life at the top no picnic at all.

In a similar vein to us at Workington, the Oldham camp caught a severe and almost crippling bout of 'Superleagueitis'. A very damaging ailment which is quite difficult to fully recover from, in fact at present Paris are still in convalescence. Therefore for both clubs to be actually playing this fixture today can be put down to the hard work and generosity of both clubs' new backers.

Oldham's portfolio, or policy, regarding the maintenance of their superleague status was, to me, always handicapped by old age. I'm not referring to human elements, rather it was that antiquated crumbling edifice called Watersheddings stadium that was primarily the foundation of some grief.

The old arena had its traditional qualities no doubt, as did the aforementioned chimney stacks, and similar to those old smokeys the

ground had enjoyed its heyday, but it was necessary to call time, with modern moods asking for improved facilities. Many plans were mooted, stay put and refurbish for example, or share a newly built athletics arena, however the ground share option with the local soccer club was adopted. I've watched many such share schemes with the round ball brigade with interest, and some consternation. The rental usually is a killer for the R.L.



*Happier times for Town and Oldham Supporters from the 1996 Super League season.*

tenants, perhaps such as Huddersfield, Swinton or even now Wigan will disagree with my view. However having always had a soft spot for the old 'Roughyeds' from an underdog angle, as they invariably played second fiddle to Wigan, Saints, or Widnes, of the old Lancashire county regime. I do hope the club can pick up the pieces, to eventually obtain their own singular use R.L. stadium and once again tackle the games best, perhaps even making a Wembley appearance. It will be a slow rebuilding process to recover lost faith, but the public are responding quite well, and those loyal fans really do know the best way to Oldham.... soft and gently is it. ?

# OLDHAM

## WELCOME TO DERWENT PARK.....

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# WORKINGTON v OLDHAM

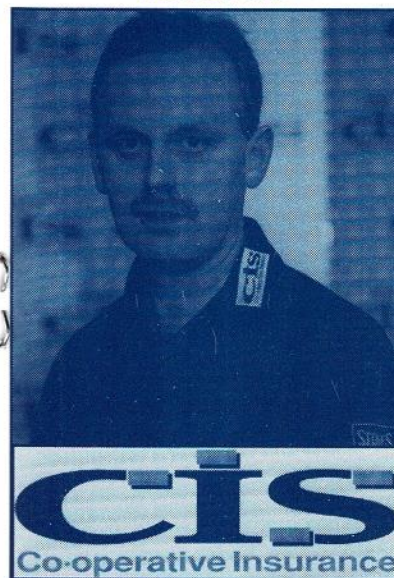
SPONSORED BY CHARLOTTE CUNNINGHAM	<b>Steve Arnold</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Ade Meade</b>
	<b>Richard Henare</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Chris Eckesley</b>
SPONSORED BY I.B. TEASDALE	<b>Mateaki Mafi</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Afi Aeula</b>
SPONSORED BY CHRIS WATSON & GUY MILLS	<b>Mark Keenan</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sean Cooper</b>
	<b>Denis Bibby</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Joe McNicholas</b>
SPONSORED BY KERRY HARRISON	<b>Steve Maguire</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Craig Barker</b>
SPONSORED BY ANNA CUNNINGHAM	<b>Craig Fisher</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Neil Flanagan (Capt)</b>
	<b>Damen Whitter</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Jason Clegg</b>
SPONSORED BY MR. & MRS. A. LAMB	<b>Chris Highton</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>John Hough</b>
SPONSORED BY LISA HARRISON	<b>Nicky Crellin</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Mike Edwards</b>
	<b>Barry Williams</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Graham Shaw</b>
SPONSORED BY J.M. CANTLEY	<b>John Thursfield</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Ian Sinfield</b>
SPONSORED BY TRAVELLERS REST SUPPORTERS	<b>Anthony Samuels</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Mick Martindale</b>
SPONSORED BY TRAVELLERS REST SUPPORTERS	<i>Subs from:</i>	<i>Subs from:</i>	
	<b>Michael Bethwaite</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Paul Round</b>
	<b>Peter Riley</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Darren Robinson</b>
SPONSORED BY I.B. TEASDALE	<b>Steve Heaton</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Nathan Varley</b>
SPONSORED BY RONNIE RILEY JNR.	<b>Jason Moore</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Richard Darkes</b>
	<b>Carl Roden</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Martin Maders</b>
	<b>Andrew Little</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Steve Wild</b>

Referee: Mr. P.W. Lee

Reserve Official: Mr. S. Addy

Touch Judges: Mr. S. Tordoff (Red), Mr. R.G. Willis (Yellow)

## This Afternoon's Referee



**PAUL LEE**

40 year old Paul lives and works in Wigan. Paul became senior referee in 1994/95. He is married with two children and enjoys evenings out with his family and friends but would like the opportunity to pilot a jet aircraft. Paul enjoys the Naked Gunb film series as well as Coronation Street and Sky Sports. His favourite city is Paris, and his favourite music the French Lady, by Celine Dion.

### Our Mascot

This afternoon we would like to welcome 8 years old Emma Spencer to Derwent Park. Emma attends Victoria Junior School and her favourite player is Peter Riley. Enjoy your day with us Emma.

# OLDHAM

by Marcel L'Estrange

CONFUCIUS said: "Study the past if you would define the future." And while Oldham's new board of directors, I'm sure, are in no way arguing with the Sage's wisdom. Neither are they sitting around waiting for things to happen. In the wake of the Bears spectacular tumble from Super League to oblivion, the new regime are aware that they must eke out their own future and forget the triumphs, turmoil and eventual demise of the former Oldham club.

While it will be interesting to witness the first chapter of the new club's history unfolding, it is perhaps worth recalling how the rich and colorful past of the town's original club added greatly to Rugby League folklore, from its formation in 1872, when a few enthusiasts gathered in Oldham's Prince Albert Hotel.

There had been several notable periods in their history, going back to the 1898-99 season when they became the first Lancashire side to win the Northern Union Challenge Cup.

The 1904-05 season found 'Owdham Lads' at the top of the First Division of the Northern Rugby League. In the first three seasons of the play-offs, Oldham were runners-up in the Final, and League Champions in the two seasons of 1909-10 and 1910-11. In modern times the championship was secured only once - in 1954-55.

On April 12th, 1924, Oldham lined-up against Wigan in the Challenge Cup Final at Rochdale. The ground was submerged by a mass of humanity - 41,831 individuals to be exact.

Although Wigan, superbly led by the legendary Jim Sullivan beat Oldham 21-4, they were far from being down and out. They appeared in the next three finals, establishing a record - at that time - in playing in four consecutive Challenge Cup Finals. The team triumphed over Hull Kingston Rovers and Swinton in 1925 and 1927, and lost to Wigan and Swinton in 1924 and 1926.

This period was one of the most memorable in Oldham's entire history, well served by a team containing such names as Sid Rix, Reg Farrar, Evan Davies, George Hesketh, Bob Sloman, Archie Brough, Herman Hilton and not forgetting Joe Corsi.

Despite over thirty major finals, Oldham's great dream - Wembley - was never to be realised. The nearest they came was 1964, leading Hull Kingston Rovers 17-14 in a semi-final replay with twelve minutes remaining - the match was abandoned, The Robins won the replay 12-2.

One policy the club continued to follow from the fledgling days of the Northern Union, when Oldham were one of the most powerful sides in the land, to more recent times. The Watersheddings outfit had a penchant for Cumbrian born players .... Owens, Dixon, Fletcher, Kelly, Spottiswoode, Parkinson and Robinson are names from another age, but all were seasoned Cumberland County players during service with the Lancashire (latterly Greater Manchester) club.

Legendary Cumbrian Jim Lomas - first captain of a British Touring party to the Antipodes - was another Cumbrian to wear the famous red and white hooped jersey; while both 'Pop' Shearman and the immaculate Ike Southward left Workington Town to join the 'Roughyeds.' Ike's

moves between the clubs twice breaking the world transfer record with fees totaling £21,652.10s - an astronomical amount of money for a player in the late fifties and early sixties - his 31 tries in 1959-60 still stands as a post-war Oldham record.

But perhaps the Cumbrian who gave Oldham the greatest service was the immortal Joe Ferguson who made a mammoth 626 appearances between 1899 and 1923.

Born at Crosby Villa, Joe made his debut on 2nd September 1899, against Morecambe and played his final game more than 24 years later on 28th August 1923, in an 'A' team Lancashire Combination match against Wigan at the age of 44.

Joe had represented Lancashire County for six seasons before a rule change in 1906, gave Cumberland first claim



Joseph Fearon Sanderson Fearon John Fearon

on his services, they immediately made him captain - an honour he held until 1923 - and during this period led his native county to two championships in 1909-10 and 1911-12..

An outstanding goalkicker, it was Joe's boot that brought the first of those titles with a last minute drop-goal against Yorkshire. His superb kicking was also a major feature of Cumberland's 25-5 success over Baskerville's 1907-08 pioneer tourists.

A gifted goalkeeper, Joe was tempted to take up soccer before and after his retirement from Rugby League; in fact he won a long-range kicking contest with a clearance of 85 yards over Sam McLure (Blackburn Rovers) and Liverpool's Jack Cox.

Joe, however, never did take up soccer professionally and sadly died in October 1936. He was 57 years old.

With the Alliance fixtures commencing in February half a dozen matches have been played by our lads without a programme available to mention them, it really does ever more convince me that not enough thought was given to the first team's schedule. Nonetheless Town's second string calendar has provided a useful opportunity to forge the playing staff resources into a well drilled unit.

Workington are not the only club to utilise this alliance convenience, as some of line ups faced to date prove.

The Town team has fared really admirably in the opening matches, winning a "Team of the Month" award, with the away win at Barrow probably the highlight so far. The players have shaken off the malady that affected the

Egremont performance, (can we have a rematch?) and also Barry Williams has demonstrated his fitness on his return from a knee problem requiring a flick of the scalpel and has displayed all his magic touches. One young man who I feel deserves special recog-

nition for his efforts is Denis Bibby, six tries to date, a veritable Penrith Panther is our Den. Incidentally 'Kipper' says I must mention that he is the club's **Human Dynamo**, I can't argue, getting just a word in is difficult, but the laal fella is currently in electric form. Enough of the 'plugs' for now though. This weekend sees the Division Two kick-off and therefore the Alliance team line ups will settle

into more consistent shape, and so I expect any new recruits will now be given an opening to show their expertise on a regular basis. I will attempt to keep up to date with Alliance 'appenings as much as possible on this page.

Academy news is also on this page's agenda, but no match as yet to report on with circumstances forcing the postponement of

last weeks opener with Halifax. This being due to inclement winter weather, and the knock-on effect with some amateur schedules which hadn't been resolved. Therefore rather than cause dismay all round, it seemed best to let our academy personnel involved fulfil their

outstanding amateur commitments, which decimated our squad of course.

Many of you will by now have heard that a new Academy Coach has been appointed. Long serving Townie Paul Penrice has taken on the role following Glen Burgess' departure. Some supporters have asked me why Glen has left the club? Well I honestly don't think it right and proper for me to say here, but what I need to say though is that "Budgie", a little over twelve months ago was almost a stranger to me, and since working together I really did enjoy his friendship and company. We liaised quite instinctively on all academy issues, I often reconciled problems that occurred, I do have broad shoulders to lean on. And thankfully Glen steered me as basically a shy person (yes I am), in the art of mixing with and managing the players. Consequently, along with Director Barry Earl, we established a brilliant spirit between team and staff, and I enjoyed every moment, well almost.

Life goes on does it not? We must now pick up the threads, re-gather strength and move

forward.

The Division One schedule will be tough, no doubt about it, but if we all knuckle down to the tasks to be confronted we can hold our heads high and show the R.L. world that we are not just academy scholars, and we know a trick or two ourselves.

Finally, many thanks to Steve's Paints for sponsoring the Town "A" team for this coming season. Your continued support is very much appreciated by all at the club.



Keith Singleton.

**IF IT'S  
WALLPAPER YOU'RE  
PICKIN'...  
WE TAKE SOME  
LICKIN'**



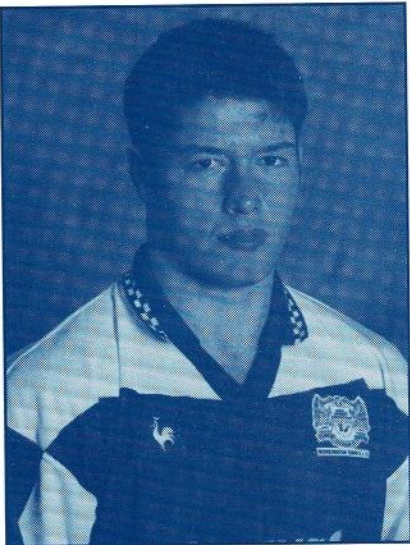
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It seems an eternity since the last league match at Derwent Park and obviously a lot of water has run under the bridge since then. We had the away trip to Salford, coming away with a victory for a change and the disaster at the "Wreckreation" ground. Talking of the enemy it's been a crying shame to see them doing so poorly with such dreadful crowds, my heart bleeds for them, that is when I eventually stop laughing!!

Well in the off season, rather than watch Knighton's Clowns, I've kept up my live sporting intake by watching Ipswich Town Super Blues and of late they've been a delight to watch, and I must admit the atmosphere is much better at the footie than generally at the rugby league, but let's hope that can change at DP this season.

It's nice to see the England cricket team have kept up their fine tradition of late, of being comprehensively beaten on foreign tours against anyone remotely decent. Still it's not a bad life even losing in the tropical caribbean, sure beats working for a living. Whilst on the Rugby Union front, I've got a suggestion for the nations to make it the "Two Nations" because let's face it Ireland, Wales and Scotland are just very poor. I mean Alan Tait



*Former Town favourite  
Stephen Holgate about to make a  
Wembley debut with Wigan*

and George Graham, two players past their prime, were getting a game for the Scots, whilst the Taffs were humiliated by both us and the French.

Finally back to league it's been nice to see ex townie "Holly" (Stephen Holgate) play a starting role in seeing Wigan back to their familiar home of Wembley. Let's hope he plays there too, as they no doubt thrash the Seagulls sorry I meant Eagles. By the time of reading we will have been on the long and

winding road to Barrow Border(?) Raiders, first of many difficult matches, even in this league. Anyway good luck to the team for the season ahead, let's make it a good one.

PS Looking at the fixture list I see we don't have another home game now for a month, yet more excellent fixture planning from the brains at RL HQ. I suppose the thinking is what's one month after six months without any matches. Never mind there's a trip to York to look forward to next Sunday?? A bogey

ground for town, but hey at least it's got a decent bar and the ten pin bowling next door, where I no doubt can embarrass myself once again by continually bowling into the gutters.

See you there,  
Steve

## Steven Leggett's Sporting Chronicles

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Yes two can be company and compatible enough, and is usually numerically sound in team competition. It even takes just two to tango. Although to have a good old boogie you need many more participants, which has had me querying if eight of us is quite enough to make our season party along enjoyably. Having said that the division two contestants look capable of making it an exciting struggle for supremacy. In fact it seems rather easier to forecast the Superleague outcome in 98 (the bookies also confirm that) than our division. There isn't a clear cut concrete firm favourite or indeed a born loser in the Prescot mould. I will though stick my neck out and go for a final top three in some order comprising of Town, Barrow and Oldham, with Doncaster looking rather wooden spoonish.

It is difficult to predict considering how the clubs have made inroads on their team development during the winter break, some of them controversially via "feeder links". These nursery pacts have become a rather emotive issue, being especially disapproved by those preferring to slog it out independently using their own resources. I personally believe it is fine to assist struggling clubs, steeped in Rugby Leagues

### **SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS**

As most of you will have read in the local papers, two leading supporters club officials have decided to hang up their boots (or is it scarves?) after many years of loyal service. George Petrie and his able companion Les Horrigan have decided to take a step back and allow some new faces to take over the running of the Supporters Club and the Junior Supporters Club. New man at the helm

finest traditions in every way possible, especially if it alleviates the possibility of them going under, as seen much too often in the past, and more recently the sad loss of Carlisle and Prescot, which really dilutes the strength of the game, so player loans from above can be 'manna from heaven' to some, also giving the division a modicum of equalisation of playing assets, somewhat akin to the all American theme of team strengthening. Although looking into to such details I'm not sure if the benefits will really work out in the long term, these "ins and outs" as they will probably be, may offer more of the short stay compatibility. Not to worry, with some good luck on our side we won't be hanging around down here in the depths more than necessary will we?

You may have noticed the moves afoot for re-organisation, so if we don't gain promotion it may well see us journeying to the likes of Ipswich, Worcester or Northampton etc., all bound to have us digging deeper into our much maligned pockets. Nice places to visit that they may well be I would prefer Div. One and a short haul to that 'Haven of hell, meanwhile 'Two' is our company for 98.

of the main Supporters Club based in the Gus Risman Bar is Shaun Weaver. So, all you travelling Townies, take a note that if you wish to travel on the main Supporters Bus **contact Shaun on 01900 61034** and not George Petrie. Memberships are now due for renewal and are priced as follows: £3 - Adults, £1 - OAP's, with a life membership being available for £10. Call in to the Gus Risman Bar after the match for a drink and a chat with your fellow supporters.

WTR Reels and Spools Ltd.

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