



DONCASTER Dragons

PROGRAMME

£1



RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

RUGBY LEAGUE DIVISION 2
SUNDAY APRIL 26TH 1998 KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.

VERSUS

OLDHAM

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR:
SPORTS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

DONCASTER DRAGONS CLUB SHOP IS NOW OPEN!



Situated on Copley Road

As most of you are already aware, the Club has now opened a new shop on Copley Road in the town centre. The shop opened back in December and has been doing quite well. Now we are looking to continue to build up the trade and along with our new kit sponsors and manufacturers, Sports Management Corporation with their Woolf brand, we are going to sell a wider variety of goods. The shop is going to be closed for approximately a week, whilst alterations are carried out and the new stock is brought in. So, soon you will be able to come on down and have a browse around.

The new kit is a sample of the quality of the goods available and I feel you would agree it is a good quality garment.

So watch the local press for details on the shop and its re-opening.

***Come down and see us in the shop,
open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday and Saturday.***



DONCASTER
Dragons
RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

FROM THE DRAGONS LAIR

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO
DONCASTER DRAGONS
RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB,
22 COPLEY ROAD,
DONCASTER, DN1 2PF
TELEPHONE/FAX 01302 322688

PROGRAMME PRINTED BY
THE SPORTS PROGRAMME PRINTERS
TEL: 01924 280202 FAX: 01924 280868

Today we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Oldham to Doncaster for our first home game of the season, having had to cancel the game against Batley. Oldham come over today in a similar position to the Dragons of 1995, when we had to start afresh, after the old Dons had folded. Oldham have come back into the league as guest members with no Sky money this season, and as we know from experience it is a difficult task to get everything right and we wish them well for the future.

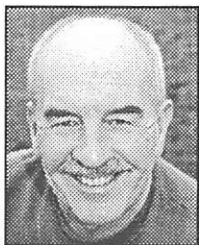
Today we start our third match of the season, having lost our opening two fixtures against Bramley and Lancashire, we are looking for a confidence boosting victory. The new format of the second division this season sees only eight teams competing home and away, with the Trans-Pennine Cup competition sandwiched in between.

After an excellent performance at Bramley, it was very disappointing to see us lose at Lancashire where we did not really perform to the best of our ability. Now we have to build things up again and put that defeat behind us, all the sides are going to be competitive and will take points off each other.

On a more positive note the new kit is available in the club shop and the team looks good in both the home and away kits. We would like to thank Chris, Gerry and all their staff for the help and time spent producing this great team strip.

We would also like to thank everyone at Doncaster Rovers for their help over the past few weeks in allowing us to play at Belle Vue.

THE MANAGEMENT



COMMERCIAL CORNER

Well at long last it's 'here', the first home game of the new season. Still it was only eight months since the last game, didn't it go quick (nearly like being pregnant)!

New Agents for the Daily Draw are still required, along with new members, why not give it a try, you might enjoy it.

The club shop has now got home shirts available, with away shirts due in soon, along with Polo Shirts, sweat shirts etc. Call in at the Shop on Copley Road and have a look around.

P.S. George the Physio and Mike Geoghegan both have new jobs now, working in the club shop, one serves behind the counter, the other stands in the window with the other two new dummies (Kevin & Ray)



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THE DRAGONS DAILY DRAW

is vital in keeping Rugby League
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N^o. 33

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Wednesday	0786	1256
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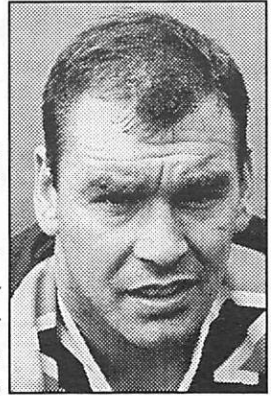
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**WISH
DONCASTER
DRAGONS
EVERY SUCCESS**

COLIN MASKILL'S TEAM TALK



First of all let me welcome you all to Belle Vue, a little belatedly after our first home game against Batley was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

Everyone connected with the club would like to thank all the officials at Doncaster Rovers Football Club for their co-operation and assistance in accommodating us for the coming season. The facilities here at Belle Vue are first class and all the players are looking forward to playing on a superb surface.

Having no game on Good Friday allowed us to go to Bramley on Bank Holiday Monday fresh and after putting in so much effort and commitment the players were very disappointed to come away from Headingley with a loss. We did not play particularly well but when we edged in front at 10-6 we should have gone on to win the game, but we made too many unforced errors and at times were our own worst enemies. At least it proved to the players that they are capable of competing with the top sides in our division.

We then travelled to Lancashire Lynx last week and put in a performance that can only be described as inept. Our defence that proved to be secure at Bramley was practically non-existent and we found ourselves 18 - 0 down in the first 12 minutes. A cricket score looked to be on the cards but thankfully Lancashire did not play that particularly well so that tells you our display was not one of our best. I am hoping that that performance was a one-off but the difference with this season is that I have a bigger squad and I have the luxury of being able to drop players.

I think some of the team got a little carried away with our performance at Bramley and thought we were better than we actually are.

It is going to take a lot of hard work this season to claim one of the three promotion spots that are available, but I believe that the squad we have put together and the experience of the coaching staff (Trevor Leathley, Kevin Spears and Ray Green) can take this club forward. I just ask that the supporters of Doncaster Dragons get right behind us like I am sure they will.

I would like to welcome today's opponents Oldham, who like ourselves have gone through some tough times but it's great to see a club with so much tradition and history back where they belong in the RFL.

Enjoy the game.

Colin Maskill

JOHN POWELL TRAVEL

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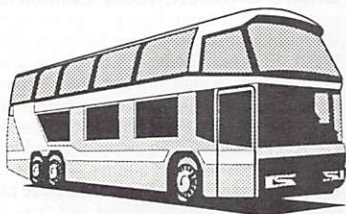
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IN TOWN TODAY ... OLDHAM

ADRIAN MEAD. A Wiganer, Aidi first played in the Bears Academy side as a winger, but he switched to centre last season and impressed as a strong pace runner who could score tries. Keen to improve further and build on the success he enjoyed in the Bears 'A' team in 1997

CHRIS ECKERSLEY. Former Schoolboy sprint champion, who signed for the Oldham club as a 15 year old on a club record contract for a teenager. A long running contract dispute ended with his move to Warrington before he returned to his new home town club as a free agent after a major shake up of personnel at Wilderspool.

AFI LEUILA. Played 22 Super League games for the Bears last season after coming close to representing Tonga in the 1995 World Cup. First played for St. Helens. This strong, tough South Sea Islander born in Tonga, raised in Auckland, will probably figure in the centre this season, although he is equally at home on the flank.

SEAN COOPER. Former Saddleworth Rangers star, who was taken to Bradford in the Peter Fox era. Captained the Alliance side at Odsal, won numerous Alliance player of the year awards and joined Oldham as a free agent when the Bulls decided to scrap their reserve team. Impressive so far in the Roughyeds early games.

CRAIG DIGGLE. A Rochdalian, Craig played with Rochdale Hornets when Roughyeds boss Paddy Kirwan was Alliance team coach at Spotland. Best position, wing. Scored two tries in Oldham's first competitive match against Heworth in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

CRAIG BARKER. Young stand-off half and a product of the Waterhead amateur RL club. Signed as a pro for the former Bears club and joined the Roughyeds as a free agent. Captained the Bears Academy side and graduated to the Alliance side, which he also led on occasions.

NEIL FLANAGAN. Club skipper and an influential leader. A product of St Anne's, Neil turned pro for his home town club and became its youngest captain at the age of 19. Eventually moved on to Huddersfield where he also had leadership responsibilities before joining Rochdale Hornets. Proud to be back in his home town and even prouder to be skipper.

JASON CLEGG. Big prop. Started in Union with Littleborough moved into League with Littleborough-based North West Pioneers and turned pro with Bradford Northern, (as they were then called), after being spotted by a Northern scout playing in a BARLA cup tie at Redhill (Castleford). Played several senior games with Bradford and later had a spell on loan with Batley.

JOHN HOUGH. Made his name as the first player to be signed by the Roughyeds shortly after the new club was formed. A product of the Oldham schoolboy and youth game, John is a determined little hooker, who gained considerable experience from his 30 senior games for Warrington. Expected to have a big season in division two.

MIKE EDWARDS. St. Helens born, Michael first joined the old club as a 15 year old scrum half. Was a regular in Alliance rugby for two or three seasons before Oldham coach Tony Barrow took him to Swinton. Now playing in the pack, he had a spell on loan with Salford last season and was delighted to return to Oldham when the opportunity arose.

GRAEME SHAW. Son of former Oldham Athletic and West Brom soccer star David Shaw. Graeme played Union as a boy at Rakewood (Littleborough), but turned to amateur RL with Moldgreen when his family moved to Huddersfield. Represented the Young Lions against the Junior Kiwis and then signed for Bradford. Made a try-scoring Super League debut at Leeds. Second row forward.

IAN SINFIELD. Made a big impression so far. Another Oldhamer, a product of Waterhead. Turned pro with Salford who got an undisclosed fee when he signed for Oldham at Christmas. A natural back-rower, he is the elder brother of England schoolboys star and now Leeds youngster, Kevin Sinfield.

MICK MARTINDALE. Clever ball handler. Represented Oldham schoolboys on tour in Australia with Iain MacCorquodale, Eric Fitzsimons and Fred Laughton in 1988. Turned pro with Halifax, moved to Wakefield as part of a swap deal and joined his home-town club in January. Made his debut in the cup defeat at Widnes. Loose-forward or stand-off.

PAUL ROUND. Veteran of the squad at 34. Joined Oldham from St Helens in 1987. The fee, £65,000 set by tribunal. Enjoyed the best days of his career at Watersheddings. Since had further experience with Wakefield, Halifax and Castleford. One of the 'old heads' in a young pack.

DARREN ROBINSON. 'Baby' of the squad at 18. Scrum-half, who can also operate at stand-off. A Leeds lad. Darren played for the Bears Academy and Alliance teams, but never signed on. Signed for the Roughyeds as a free agent and has since caught the eye in warm-up matches, particularly in the 27-26 defeat at Castleford.

NATHAN VARLEY. A go-go forward, who excelled with his all-round performance on attack and defence in the friendly at Wheldon Road. Not the biggest of forwards, Nathan has a big heart. He won Yorkshire youth honours before rejecting Keighley to sign for Bradford. One of several ex-Bradford men in the Oldham camp.

RICHARD DARKES. Former Huddersfield, Bradford and Dewsbury utility back. Ex-paratrooper. Signed after impressing in a pre season match at Castleford. Played wing in his early days with Huddersfield and Bradford, but has since acquired considerable experience in the centre and in the back row of the pack.

TODAY'S SPONSORS

SPORTS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Today we welcome the representatives from Sports Management Corporation, who have designed, manufactured and sponsored this season's home and away kits for both the First and Academy teams. The sponsor's name across the front of the shirts is "Woolf", which is a brand of clothing SMC are looking to launch next year. Over the past couple of months Chris Maddox and Gerry McCreedy, along with the rest of the SMC staff have worked hard to get the kit ready for the start of the season and what a great job they have done.

Now we are looking forward to the rest of the merchandise arriving which is all under our own official Dragons brand label.

We look forward to having a great relationship with SMC from the Midlands and a successful partnership.

Have a good day one and all, thanks for your sponsorship.

TODAY'S REFEREE:

Dave Atkin

33 year old, Hull born and bred, Dave is married and has one child. He enjoys walking in the countryside and taking his wife out to dinner. Dave enjoys bungee jumping and watching a Question of Sport and the Bill. Dave likes visiting Paris and enjoys the music of UB40 and Tina Turner.



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View from the Press Box.....

By STEVE HOSSACK,
(SPORTS EDITOR, DONCASTER STAR.)

LET me start this new regular column in the Dragons' programme by wishing the club more success at Belle Vue than their Third Division soccer counterparts Doncaster Rovers have enjoyed.

It has been a most traumatic season for the football club with Rovers winning just three home games this season. Hopefully there will be better news to report in the next five months.

Stainforth's Meadow Court Stadium served the fledgling club well and had the money to develop the stadium been available, rugby league could have had a future there.

But there was always going to be a problem attracting big crowds to Stainforth because of its location and most fans will welcome a return to a more central base.

Having campaigned for a return to the town it is to be hoped that the fans turn up in greater numbers than they did at Stainforth.

If the club is to have any future, crowds have got to show a significant improvement on the last couple of years.

Yet it won't be easy tempting back the stayaway fans during a summer packed with high-profile events such as the football World Cup which is set to capture the nation's heart in much the same way as Euro '96 did. Colin Maskill's side will need to produce not only winning rugby, but also entertaining rugby, if they are going to pull in four-figure crowds this season.

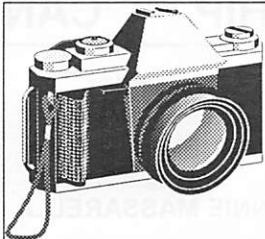
Despite there only being eight clubs in this season's Second Division, it promises to be a most competitive campaign and I wouldn't like to have to put much money predicting the likely champions.

With Prescott Panthers finally dropping out of the league (and not before time), Dragons started the season as one of the favourites to land the wooden spoon. Certainly defeats in their opening games at Bramley and Lancashire Lynx will have done little to change that view.

But the situation could change dramatically were Dragons to cash in on successive home games against Oldham and Batley. Certainly player-coach Colin Maskill, who has made some excellent acquisitions on a very limited budget, remains optimistic of better things as do the players.

I saw first-hand the team spirit in the camp when I travelled over to Deepdale on the team bus on Sunday.

**FOLLOW THE DRAGONS IN THE DONCASTER STAR.
MATCH REPORTS, MATCH PREVIEWS, RUGBY POINTS,
MIDWEEK UPDATES
PLUS THE BEST COVERAGE OF
THE DONCASTER SPORTS SCENE**



IN THE CAMERA'S EYE

Photos courtesy of Phil Callaghan



Dragons Cliff Key is sandwiched between two Hunslet Players

Dragons Andy Rothwell tries to make ground against Featherstone Amateurs



Dragons Alex Goulbourne touches down to score a try during the Cup match against Featherstone Amateurs

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IN TOUCH

FARRELL 500 SUPER POINTS

ANDREW FARRELL of **Wigan Warriors** became the first player to total 500 Super League points with six goals in the 40-6 home defeat of Halifax Blue Sox. The loose forward's 501 points have come from 12 tries and a Super League record 228 goals, including three drop goals.

Farrell is the only player to have been in the starting line-up in every round since Super League was launched in March 1996, a total of 47 matches - and he has failed to score in only four. After being third in the inaugural 1996 Super League points chart with 226, Farrell finished at top last year with 243 points. He also headed the goals chart in 1997 with 109, including three drop goals.

Farrell has twice equalled the joint record for most goals in a Super League match, kicking 11 in successive matches against St. Helens and Paris St. Germain in May 1997.

Farrell's Super League record:

	App.	T	G	D	Pts
1996	22	5	103	0	226
1997	22	7	106	3	243
1998	3	0	16	0	32
Totals	47	12	225	3	501

Born 30 May 1975

FRIDAY SKY-TV : Leeds Rhinos v Salford Reds

Salford have won only once at Leeds in the League since the scrapping of the old one division in 1973. That victory was 28-13 in 1976-77. Since then Leeds have won 15 successive home matches against Salford in the top division.

Salford's last League victory over Leeds was 23-18 at home, followed by a 21-12 Regal Trophy home win, in 1993-94. Since then Leeds have won all five home and away League matches plus a Regal Trophy home win.

Super League record: 1996 No Meeting
1997 Salford 20 v Leeds 33; Leeds 34 v Salford 18

Old Division One/Super League Meetings;
(since reintroduction of two, later three divisions, in 1973)

Leeds won 29 (18 home); Salford won 8 (1 away)

Leeds' highest score: Leeds 60 v Salford 6... 1987-88 (Also widest margin)

Salford's highest score: Salford 61 v Leeds 13... 1973-4 (Also widest margin)

POINTSCORING RUN

ANDREW FARRELL of **Wigan Warriors** has the longest club pointsoring run of 24 successive Cup and League matches. The run began with three goals in the 56-22 World Club Championship defeat at Canberra Raiders on 22 June 1997 and has brought the loose forward 272 points from six tries and 125 goals, including two drop goals.

STEVE McNAMARA of **Bradford Bulls** has the current longest Super League pointsoring run with a sequence of 20 matches bringing him a total of 202 points from 91 goals and five tries.

WINNING RUN

WIGAN WARRIORS have the current longest winning run of 13 successive victories against British* clubs, including three Super League and three Premiership matches last season plus four Silk Cut Challenge Cup-ties and all three League games this year. Their last defeat was 14-21 at home to Salford Reds on 17 August 1997.

They are the only club to have won all their Cup and League matches this season.

*They lost 18-22 at home to Australian club Hunter Mariners in the World Club Championships at the end of last season.

LOSING RUN

ROCHDALE HORNETS have the current longest losing run of seven matches, all in the First Division. Their last victory was 20-16 at home to Keighley Cougars on 3 March. Huddersfield Giants and Doncaster Dragons are the only clubs without a win this season. Huddersfield have lost a Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie plus three JJB Super League matches and Doncaster have lost a Cup-tie and both Second Division matches.

DONCASTER DRAGONS 1ST TEAM FIXTURES 1998

RUGBY LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

		F	A	Att
APRIL				
Friday 10th	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	7.30	POSTPONED
Monday 13th	Bramley	(A)	7.45	14 18 420
Sunday 19th	Lancashire Lynx	(A)	3.00	6 40 750
Sunday 26th	Oldham	(H)	3.00	
MAY				
Saturday 2nd	Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final			
Wednesday 6th	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	7.30	
Sunday 10th	Barrow Border Raiders	(A)	3.00	
Sunday 17th	York	(H)	3.00	
Sunday 24th	Workington Town	(H)	3.00	
Sunday 31st	White Rose Championship			
	Batley Bulldogs	(A)	3.15	
JUNE				
Sunday 7th	Bramley	(H)	3.00	
Sunday 14th	York	(A)	3.00	
Sunday 21st	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	3.00	
Sunday 28th	York	(H)	3.00	
JULY				
Sunday 5th	Bramley	(A)	3.00	
Sunday 19th	Trans Pennine Cup			
Sunday 26th	Batley Bulldogs	(A)	3.15	
AUGUST				
Sunday 2nd	Bramley	(H)	3.00	
Sunday 9th	Lancashire Lynx	(H)	3.00	
Sunday 16th	Oldham	(A)	3.00	
Sunday 23rd	Barrow Border Raiders	(H)	3.00	
Sunday 30th	York	(A)	3.00	
SEPTEMBER				
Sunday 6th	Workington Town	(A)	3.00	

Home Fixtures are shown in bold type

DONCASTER DRAGONS ACADEMY FIXTURES

RUGBY LEAGUE ACADEMY, SECOND DIVISION

F. A.

APRIL

Sunday 26th	York	(A)	12.00
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MAY

Saturday 2nd Silk Cut Challenge Cup - FINAL

Sunday 10th	Hemel Hempstead	(H)	2.30
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Monday 18th	Batley Bulldogs	(A)	7.30
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Sunday 24th	Hunslet Hawks	(H)	1.00
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Sunday 31st	Gateshead	(A)	2.30
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JUNE

Sunday 7th	Lancashire Lynx	(H)	1.00
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Saturday 13th	Dewsbury Rams	(A)	2.30
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Sunday 21st	Cardiff Demons	(H)	1.00
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Sunday 28th	York	(H)	1.00
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JULY

Sunday 5th	Hemel Hempstead	(A)	2.30
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Sunday 12th	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	2.30
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Monday 20th	Hunslet Hawks	(A)	7.30
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Sunday 26th	Gateshead	(H)	2.30
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AUGUST

Sunday 2nd	Lancashire Lynx	(A)	2.30
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Sunday 9th	Dewsbury Rams	(H)	1.00
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Saturday 15th	Cardiff Demons	(A)	2.30
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Sunday 30th	Second Division Play Offs		
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SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th	Second Division Play Offs		
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Sunday 13th	Second Division Play Offs Final		
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ACADEMY NEWS

The Academy season kicks off on the 26th April 1998 against York in our second season of academy rugby. Last year was a learning curve for the lads, a lot of whom had never played together before and a number of players who had been playing Union and fancied a shot at League. The nucleus of last year's squad is still here and we will be adding to those, with other lads from the area and a few lads from the Castleford area, who have shown an interest in playing for the Dragons. We have also got some young lads from our schools' side which has been tremendous this year, run by Ray Green, who will give you a run down on their season.

The Academy players are currently training on Wednesday and Friday nights at Doncaster Rugby Union ground. So if you are interested in a run out this year then come along, speak to Kevin Spears or Ray Green and let's see what you can do, you never know until you try.

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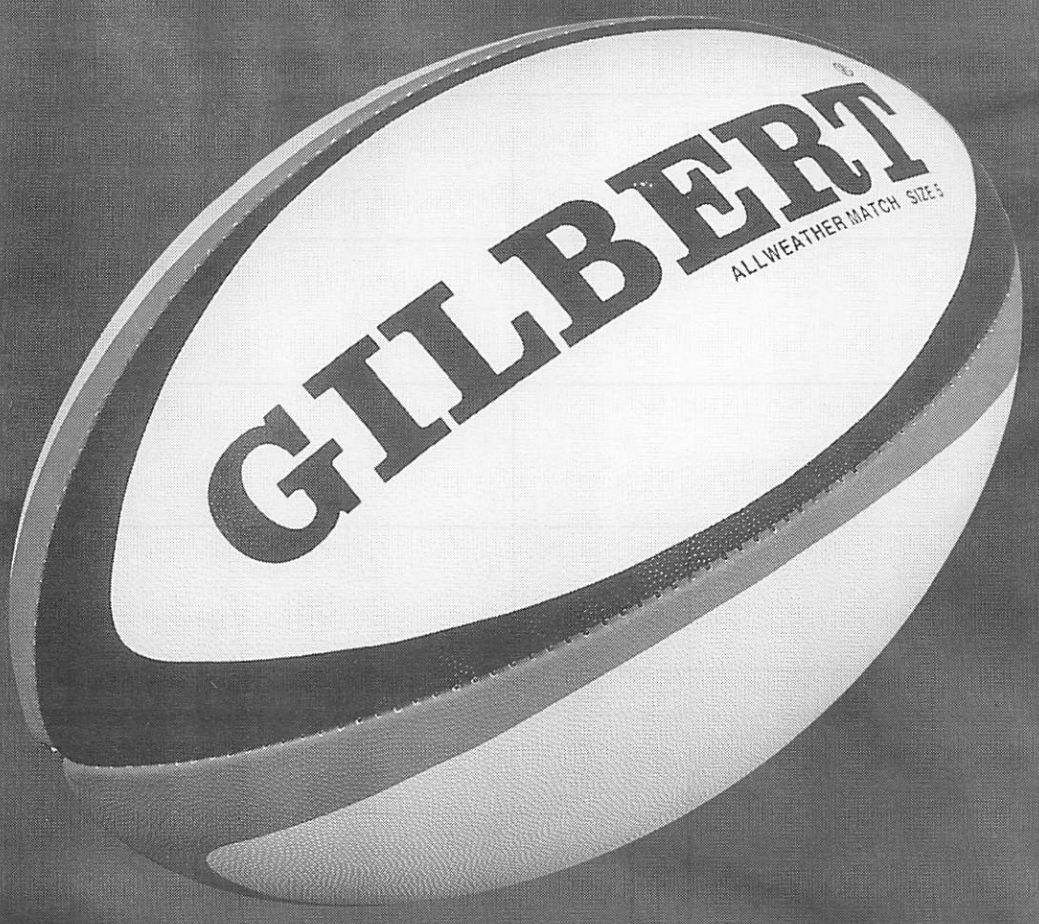
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FIRST TEAM

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

FOR THE 1998 SEASON

NAME	APPS	SUB	GOALS	D/G	TRIES	POINTS
David Birdsall		2			1	4
Dean Creasser	2		4		1	12
Alex Green	2					
Alex Goulbourne	2					
Mark Kear	2					
Colin Maskill	1	1				
Tony Miller	2					
Gareth Pratt	2					
Richard Pell		1				
Martin Rowse	2					
Andy Rothwell	1					
Lee Senior	2					
Jason Sims	2					
Chris Watson	2				1	4
Ian Watson	1	1				
Lance Busby		1				
Alan Dickinson	1	1				
Carl Saul	1					
Warren Wilson	2					



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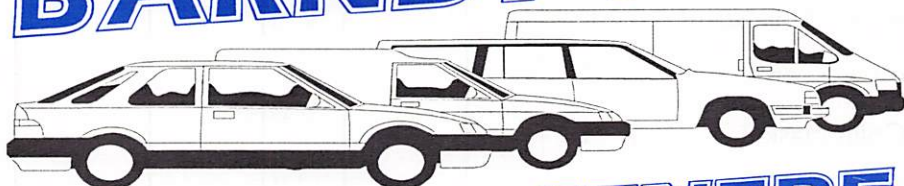
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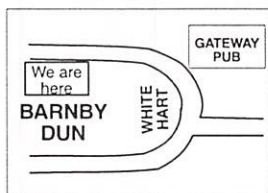
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SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS & VIEWS

BENTLEY BRANCH

The members of the Bentley Branch have already raised several hundreds of pounds towards the players' fund and have also sponsored player No. 1 for the coming season. The branch is growing but new members are always welcome.

A function is planned for Friday July 3rd at the Bentley Comrades which will be an ideal time to meet the players, also helping to raise much needed funds.

An away bus will be run to Barrow on May 10th, for details ring Ray Hall on Doncaster 337610.

ARMTHORPE BRANCH

Armthorpe Branch are continuing to support the Dragons by running their excellent fanzine. 'Who the hell was St. George anyway'. This fanzine has raised a lot of funds for the branch, which have been donated to the Dragons.

Buying the fanzine helps the club and gives you a laugh. If you feel you want to contribute, then contact. The Hiltons, 34, Brampton Lane, Armthorpe DN3 3HX

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THEY SUPPORT US.***

AWAY TRAVEL: Seats for coaches to be booked through:

Karen:- (01302) 788400
Ray:- (01302) 337610

Askern, Armthorpe, and Bentley now have branches holding regular meetings, so if you want to become a part of the growing band of supporters, find out more by contacting the following:-

ASKERN:	Jean Dean 702017
ARMTHORPE:	Ian Thompson 300363 or Shaun Walker 835476
BENTLEY:	Ray Hall 337610
CENTRAL BRANCH:	Karen Wilson 788400

MARKET PLACE

Good afternoon and welcome to our first home League game of the 1998 season.

Eight months without any competitive rugby is just no good for players and supporters and it certainly is not good for the running of the Club's commercial side.

We have been working hard to put things together but we can only hope that things will be, as they say, 'all right on the night'.

The biggest project that we have been working on is the new kit deal. I know that we keep reading of teams getting large sums of money for various kit deals, but if we have to be honest, since the Peglers sponsorship with the old Dons, we have not had a shirt sponsorship that has made the club money. Whilst we have had talks with many people on various offers we have come up with a deal that whilst not bringing in vast amounts of cash now, it will, I believe, bring in constant cash flow through the shop with two new kits all branded with our own Dragons label, plus a wide range of merchandising. More on the shop in the near future.

I would like to make my position clear. Now I am back for my second spell with the Club my job is to help market the Club and bring in much needed finances. I do not intend to get too involved in politics or argument on certain policies, I just want to do all I can to keep this Club in business. I have set a target of at least 6 events throughout the season to raise funds. I would like to tell you about the first one.

On the 28th May we will be holding our first Dragon's Sportsman's Dinner. The event will be held at Le Bistro, East Laith Gate, Doncaster. There will be a First Class, Five Course Dinner, Comedian Al Conway and we are proud to have former England and Liverpool footballer Tommy Smith as guest speaker, plus the usual auction. The price for this event will be £250 per table of ten people. If you have a business or work for someone who may be interested, please give me a ring at the shop.

Finally a wanted notice - Dancers required for the soon to be formed Dragon's Dancers - the Dragonettes.

P.S. I have spent many a sleepless night, hoping that the new kit arrived for the start of the season and to SMC's credit it arrived as promised. You have all heard the saying 'wolf in sheep's clothing' - well today you will witness 'Dragons in Woolf clothing'.

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ALEX GREEN	6	CRAIG BARKER
MARTIN ROWSE	7	NEIL FLANAGAN
JASON SIMS	8	JASON CLEGG
CHRIS WATSON	9	JOHN HOUGH
MARK KEAR	10	MIKE EDWARDS
TONY MILLER	11	GRAEME SHAW
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REFEREE:**Mr. D. ATKIN****TOUCH JUDGES:****C. Tobin, & B. Hunter****Reserve Referee: C.M. Johnson**