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OLDHAM RLFC

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

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Chairman's CHATTER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

WE find ourselves back at Boundary Park for the third week in a row against a Barrow side who I am sure will be there or thereabouts come the end of the season. I would like to offer a warm Roughyed welcome to everybody from Barrow but hope that this doesn't extend too much to their Players during the game! With only 10 'home' games this season it is important that we pick up points on a regular basis and the players will be keen to keep the momentum gained from last week's exciting win.

I have to admit that last week's crowd was very disappointing and I can't help but wonder where the extra 1,000 spectators went. I can't believe that we had that many floating fans at the Bramley game and I would dread to think that we had lost those spectators because we didn't win. I can't overstate the point enough that we really do need your support and I hope that today's attendance will reflect that.

We were more than pleased last week to get back into winning ways, although our goal-

kicking problem remained. I can assure you though that Chris Wilkinson is an accomplished goal-kicker and last week was merely an off-day - I should know as I was ball-boy for Chris before the match when he was banging them over from everywhere!

Results in the division so far have proved that each club is capable of beating the others and this augers well for an exciting season. It would appear, even at this early stage, that any team striking a reasonable level of consistency will have an excellent chance of being in the top three come the end of the season.

The scenario above, with bottom teams beating top teams, has also been repeated in both the First Division and Super League and it may well be that, at last, we are perhaps witnessing a levelling out of the playing standards. Could this be due to the introduction of the Salary Cap? Only time will tell.

Best wishes.

Chris Hamilton



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A J Law Cup Winners 1998

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF OLDHAM RLFC (1997) LTD.



Oldham Evening Chronicle's HALSTEAD

Roger



ONE of the most heartening aspects of rugby league life in Oldham right now is the coming together of the amateur and professional arms of the sport.

For as many years as I can recall - and my association with rugby league in Oldham goes back nearly 35 years - there has been a damaging "us" and "them" syndrome, similar to the

hostilities between BARLA and the RFL.

Perhaps it is more than mere coincidence that Oldham RL Club has eagerly grasped the hand of friendship extended to it by the Oldham Amateur League at a time when BARLA and the RFL are smoking the pipe of peace.

Coincidence, no. But I do feel the lead set by BARLA and the RFL at national level is only one of several reasons why relations between the amateurs and the professionals locally are improving so quickly and so conclusively.

It helps, of course, when a director of the new Oldham club is Sean Whitehead, a real stalwart of the amateur game in Oldham for the past 15 years or so and a player who captained St Anne's in the Standard Cup final against Higginshaw at Boundary Park on Friday last week.

Hands up now if anyone can tell me when a director of Oldham RL Club last played in a Standard Cup final while serving on the board of the town's professional club.

It helps also when the Roughyeds coach is an Oldham man who learned his rugby as a youth at Saddleworth Rangers and in more recent times has been coaching kids at both Rangers and at Waterhead.

Paddy Kirwan's assistant, Mick Coates, has a similar background. Indeed, Mark Lord and Mick Swift, joint coaches at Greenfield now, will have to go some to equal Coates's record as a trophy-winning coach at Shaw Hall Bank Road.

The switch to summer rugby at pro level has also brought the two sides closer together, particularly at local level.

Crowds at local amateur games in the past two winter season have improved beyond

recognition, particularly at National Conference premier division clubs Saddleworth and St. Anne's, but also at Waterhead and Higginshaw, who have been playing in the premier division of the NW Counties League.

Attendances have been swollen to some degree by followers of the pro game who have been starved of their weekly rugby fix in the winter months and have now become interested and appreciative spectators on amateur league touchlines.

On top of all that, the management of the new Roughyeds club made it crystal clear from the moment the new club was launched that one of its priorities would be to build and foster good working relationships with the local league and its member clubs.

As a consequence, chairman Christopher Hamilton accepted an invitation to present the Standard Cup and it would be interesting to know when a chairman of Oldham RL Club last had the privilege of being recognised thus at the biggest occasion in the Oldham Amateur League's year.

Two nights before the final, Mr Hamilton and his fellow director Sean Whitehead attended a monthly meeting of the local league, after which its president, the long serving Ronnie Hardaker, claimed publicly that it was the first time in 25 years to his knowledge that Oldham RL Club had accepted an open invitation to attend.

I recall the Oldham Bears marketing and media man Abe Kerr addressing the local league about a year ago, but I guess Ronnie was referring to the specific presence of two directors, including the chairman.

Main point under discussion was the signing of local amateurs by the Oldham club and the desire of both sides to follow a structured way forward.

The Roughyeds have submitted proposals which have now gone to the league's member clubs for their consideration.

Such attention to detail has been one of the hall marks of the Roughyeds club during the first few months of its existence. In most walks of life, attention to detail and the concentrating of the mind on specifics brings its rewards and I am sure the Roughyeds will get their rewards if they stick rigidly with the policies they have adopted so far.

To take positive steps to build bridges and relationships with the amateurs is a policy labelled "priority" - and that must represent a massive step forward in the continuing development of rugby league in Oldham.



Oldham RLFC

The Roughyeds

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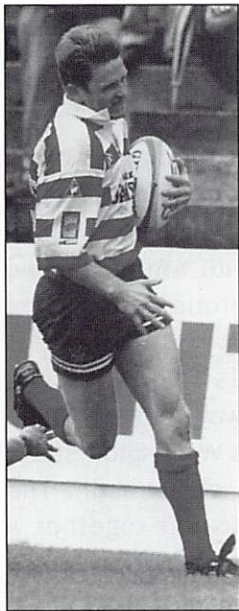
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Don Yates On This Day

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

DON YATES RECALLS THIS DAY IN HISTORY

It may seem longer, but it was just six years ago, on Sunday 17th May 1992, that Oldham met Sheffield Eagles in the final of the Divisional Premiership at Old Trafford, Manchester. That final was decided in the opening 30 minutes by which time Eagles' centre Daryll Powell had scored a hat-trick of tries and Oldham prop Ian Sherratt had been sent off for attempting to behead him between his second and third tries. Sheffield won 34-20, the Roughyed try scorers being



Scott Ransom

Duncan Platt, Ged Byrne, Keith Newton and Scoff Ranson with Tommy Martyn landing two goals. Oldham ended the 1957-58 season top of the table but it was fourth placed Hull who lifted the Championship following their fine 20-3 victory over Workington Town in the Championship Final. That final was staged on Saturday, 17th May before an Odsal crowd of 57,699. Town were in the match up to half-time when they trailed by only 5-3, Ike Southward having scored a try for the

Cumbrians. The try scorers for the Airlie Birds were Brian Cooper, Tommy Finn, Mick Scott and Johnny Whiteley. Peter Bateson landed four goals.

The Championship play-off was replaced by the Premiership in 1975 and it was on this day in 1980, Saturday 17th May, that Bradford Northern met Widnes in the Premiership Final at Station Road, Swinton.

Champions Bradford were favourites to win but Widnes centre Mal Aspey had different ideas. He played magnificently to walk away with the Harry Sunderland Trophy as man-of-the-match and in so doing put winger Keith Bentley in for a try which was described as the best of the season by far. Aspey also scored himself in the 19-5 Widnes victory. It was his 234th try for the Chemics and also his last but that total still stands as a Widnes club record for tries scored in a career.

It was on this day in 1969, Saturday 17th May, that Castleford won the Challenge Cup with an 11-6 victory over Salford at Wembley. Castleford, fielding thirteen local lads, were too good for Salford's expensive collection, especially half-backs Alan Hardisty and Keith Hepworth who, together with loose-forward Mal Reilly, steered Castleford to a famous victory.

Twelve months ago, Saturday 17th May 1997, Saddleworth Rangers ended their campaign with a home fixture against Wigan St. Patricks. The pie-eaters had to win by 14 points in order to clinch third spot and so qualify for prize money. Rangers only had pride to play for but it proved enough for they ran out 32-18 winners. Chris Ardern (2), Chris Garforth, Nick Clough and Danny Tyrell scored tries with Tyrell also landing six goals.

At a slightly higher level of the game, on Saturday 17th May 1947, England met France at Headingley, Leeds, looking for a draw which would clinch the European Championship. It was a tough match which England did win but only by 5-2. The English try was scored by Wigan hooker Joe Egan and converted by Bradford's Ernie Ward. The French points came via a penalty converted by the legendary Puig-Aubert of Carcassonne. Oldham were not represented in that match but at stand-off for England was another legendary figure, Barrow's Willie Horne.



Comments from THE COACH

FOLLOWING the disappointment of the defeat by Bramley 2nd Division results have gone our way. Bramley were defeated at Workington and have now lost 2 games, Lancashire Lynx were beaten at home by York and have now dropped 3 points. By beating Batley, who were also beaten by Doncaster in midweek, we have put ourselves back in the promotion hunt. The results also indicate that



all eight teams in the Division are capable of taking points off each other

The win against Batley was based on an improved defensive display although there is still a lot of room for improvement. We still had serious lapses of concentration during the critical periods before and after half-time. I feel at the moment as though we are earning the majority of our points but giving away too many points through our own errors or lapses in concentration. Obviously we have been working hard to eradicate this problem for today's game against Barrow and for the rest of the Season.

Against Batley, Paul Round had a terrific first 30 minutes, much to the delight of his many supporters. I also thought Joe Nadiole went much better than in his opening game, and I am sure he will go from strength to strength as his match fitness improves. Good displays from Martin Maders, Nathan Varley and Jason Clegg gives us a lot of competition for places in the forwards.

I thought Neil Flanagan fully deserved his Man of the Match Award, but I am sure Chris Eckersley pushed him close, along with Afi Leuila who both looked dangerous every time they handled the ball.

Today's visit by Barrow, followed by tough away games at York, Lancashire Lynx and Workington starts a critical period in our season. The team that starts to put together a series of wins in this division has a good opportunity of pulling clear whilst other teams take points off each other.

Paddy Kirwan

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The Roughyeds

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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

What a great win for Oldham against Batley Bulldogs.

We wish to send out a warm Oldham Rugby League welcome to all the Players, Supporters and Junior members of Barrow Braves.

This is our last home match for a while so let's cheer, 'Come on Oldham' for another great home win.

The mascot for the Bramley match at home was Alison Newton.

This is what Alison had to say:-

MY DAY AS A MASCOT

"I was really nervous in the tunnel waiting. Then 'Red Ed' the Roughyed came and waited with me and we had a picture together. I was the first person to be mascot after he was launched at the home match. Then he went onto the pitch and received a loud cheer.

"It was then time for me to go on with Neil Flanagan. We won the toss and I ran off the field and sat with my best mates, Jen and Sean, their family and mine.

"It was an exciting game but they lost in the end.

"Hard luck lads."

by Alison Newton



Alison Newton

Here is a photo of Alison when she was chosen as Mascot by Craig Diggle.

I would like to thank all the Junior Roughyeds who sent in their ideas for names for the Roughyed. I would also like to apologise. I put in the wrong name of the winner of the competition, it was Mrs Wood, not Mrs Shaw – sorry!

Debra Rafferty

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Today's VISITORS

PAUL McMILLAN

6'2" 15 stone – Hard to stop. Ex Walney amateur, winger or full back, good pair of hands, excellent positional player.

DARREN CARTER

Darren is a local lad who escaped the net to go to Workington. A former BARLA International, Darren is a fine footballer who can play either half back or in the forwards. Darren started his career with Barrow Island. In his loan spell Darren wrote himself into the Barrow record books when he scored 42 points against Nottingham City on November 27th 1994. He also holds the club record for goals in a match, which was 17, and in the same game he scored two tries.

GARY SPENCELY

Signing from Barrow Island. Strong running prop forward. Ex-BARLA International.

BRETT McDERMOTT

Academy player who shows a lot of maturity. High work rate and renowned for his tackling.

DEAN THOMAS

Former York utility man, 6' plus, powerful back line player.

PAUL BURNS

Former Super League player, previously with Workington after making a name for himself in Rugby Union.

IAN McALLISTER

BARLA International winger. Best finisher locally in the Amateur game. Mid 20's 5'10" – Fast.

STEVE PROCTER

Played for Barrow as an amateur and has won everything the amateur game has to offer. After many years being chased by professional clubs finally signed for Barrow at 28.

IAN HALSALL

Former Leigh player signed from Warrington on trials.

GAVIN CHELTON

Local product. Forward with a lot of potential. Very positive player.

ANDY WHALLEY

Second row/loose forward. A strong runner.

STUART RHODES

Stuart is a high scoring second rower who also plays for Askam in the winter. Stuart is a plasterer by trade.

CARL RUDDY

This winger possesses pace to burn and should get a bag full of tries this term if his training enthusiasm is rewarded with a fair bounce of the ball.

JAMIE STEVENS

This talented junior Kiwi half back has electric pace off the mark, can spin a 30 yard pass inch perfect and has a first rate kicking game. His tackling is correct and low. Barrow are expecting great things from Jamie this season.

DARREN WILSON

Centre. Another Walney product and a BARLA International. Darren has worked hard on his game and should go on to better things.

PHIL ATKINSON

Stand off or loose forward. Fine all-round footballer who has stepped up from the Academy side.

GLEN HUTTON

Centre/Wing. Former Walney back has plenty of first division experience playing under Phil Larder at Keighley while at University. Very fit and fast enough "to catch pigeons".

HUGH WADDELL



From the Carlisle Club, Hugh has followed an international career and spells with more clubs than you can count, but including Blackpool, Oldham, Leeds and Swinton.

PEERS BENI

Strong running prop forward. Joined Barrow from Blackpool.

DEAN MARWOOD

Ex-Workington player. Local lad who started his professional career with Barrow. A Prolific goal scorer, Dean has had experience at the

highest level in the Super League. Dean has brought a new dimension to the Barrow attack.

GEOFF LUXON

Back Row. Former London Broncos player. Hard working, strong running forward improving every game. Very popular with the crowd.

GARETH KERR

Second row, fine prospect, formerly with Walney Central.

NEIL SHAW

Another Barrow Island Club product, fine all-round player, Club Captain. In his Testimonial Year.

JONATHON FARRIMOND

Jonathon is a high potential ex-BARLA tourist second rower. We are hoping for great things from Jonathon this season. A product of the Carlisle junior development programme.

DARREN HOLT

Hong Kong born Darren is a Union convert from Lime House School in Carlisle. Darren was originally signed up by Carlisle, as a founder member of the Academy side in 1995. First choice hooker.

MIKE KAVANAGH

Mike is a clever scrum half who can also play on the wing or at loose forward. He is also an accomplished goal-kicker.

STEPHEN JACKSON

This prop or second row is one of those Academy players from whom a lot is expected in the next season or so. He started his career playing at the age of 14 for Penrith.

JASON THURLOW

A devastating centre. Jason, who is a respected soccer player, was born in London.

STUART QUAYLE

Stuart's hobby is body-building. He is a strong tackling, hard running front row forward. 80 minute player; never shirks a challenge.

SHAUN WALLISS

Shaun is an Australian who played for Western Suburbs Season 1997.

JOHN McKELLEHER

Had first grade experience in Australia as a back player, playing for Gold Coast Chargers.

GARY HETHERINGTON

Gary is a very good tackler, hard running, clever front row forward always ready to off load.



Don Yates . . . Statistically SPEAKING

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

THIS afternoon Barrow visit Boundary Park for the first time ever and pay their first visit to Oldham since 1987. Nevertheless, Oldham and Barrow have met on 165 occasions including twice in the Yorkshire Cup when the Lancashire Cup was suspended during the 1943/44 wartime season. The Roughyeds have won 102 of those matches, Barrow have won 57 and six have ended all square. During that 1943/44 'Yorkshire Cup' season Oldham suffered their biggest defeat at Craven Park, losing a league match 49-0. Stand-off Willie Horne dictated play in that match and still found time to score two tries and seven goals. The previous season Willie actually made his professional debut for the Roughyeds with a couple of trial matches. Barrow's best win in Oldham came in December 1952 when they won a league match at Watersheddings 24-8. The Roughyeds' best performances against

RESULT OF OLDHAM-BARROW MATCHES DURING THE PAST TWENTY YEARS

1978-79 Floodlit T.	Barrow 17	Oldham 11
1979-80 League	Oldham 6	Barrow 5
	League	Barrow 23
	Oldham 14	
1980-81 League	Barrow 27	Oldham 11
	League	Oldham 8
	Barrow 15	
1982-83 League	Barrow 12	Oldham 5
	League	Oldham 18
	Barrow 14	
1984-85 League	Barrow 12	Oldham 34
	League	Oldham 44
	Barrow 8	
1986-87 League	Oldham 32	Barrow 20
	League	Barrow 24
	Oldham 22	
1987-88 League	Oldham 36	Barrow 8
	League	Barrow 18
	Oldham 14	
1989-90 Lancs Cup	Barrow 2	Oldham 46

DETAILS OF BARROW'S LAST VISIT TO OLDHAM

Sunday, 25th October 1987
Division Two at Watersheddings
Oldham 36 Barrow 8
Attendance: 3,929

Oldham: Tries Hugh Waddell (2), Mick Burke, Peter Walsh, Des Foy & Ian Sanderson.
Goals Peter Walsh (6)

Barrow: Try Tony Kay
Goals Steve Tickle (2)

Oldham: Mick Burke; Richard Irving, Des Foy, Brian McCarthy, Kevin Meadows; Peter Walsh, Paddy Kirwan; Neil Clawson, Ian Sanderson, Hugh Waddell, Paul Round, Colin Halkyard & Mal Graham.

Substitutes: Ian Bates & Terry Flanagan.

Barrow: Steve Tickle; Phil Stott, Stewart Williams, Tony Kay, Mick James; Steve Rea, Jeff Butcher; Mark Pocock, Paul Creary, Gary Kendall, Rod Reddy, Steve Mossop & Steve Maguire.

Substitutes: Paul Burns & Toby du Toit.



Paul Round

Barrow came in September 1961 when Oldham won a league match at Watersheddings 40-0 and then, when the clubs last played in September 1989, Oldham won a first round Lancashire Cup-tie at Barrow by 46 points to two. Full-back Duncan Platt landed five goals in that match and also scored two of the nine Roughyeds tries.



Iva Slateloose GUEST WRITER

THE FOLLOWING confidential report fell into my hands this week. I leave you to draw your own conclusions!

Name:
Oldham R.L.F.C.

Age:
Seven months

Sex:
Yes please

Occupation:
Garbage Disposal

Position Applied For:
Promotion to Division One

Finance Required From Us:
Nil

Own Resources:
Abundant dedication, plus regular 2,000 paying customers

Manpower:
Almost all local and extremely loyal

Assets:
Keen local following plus national and international interest.

Education:
Division One, Division Two, Super League and any other League, Division, Competition you care to name.

Experience:
Directors who have played or watched the game all their lives and know what they are talking about.

Current Convictions:
Only that the only way is up.

Previous Convictions:
Failure to maintain a ground.
Failure to maintain a decent team.
Failure to maintain credibility.

Prospects:
Short term - unknown
Long term - extremely bright

Notes added to above by recipient
This applicant shows promise but does not have much of a track record. In view of the applications made by other interested parties (ie Hemel Hempstead, Askham, Egremont, Beverley etc.) it might be best to defer judgement. You never know one or more of these applicants could prove a winner.

READING my Daily Informer this week I noted the following adverts:-

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to the '98 Roughyeds*



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If you choose Tenerife for your holidays, call in at the Harlequins for a real Oldham welcome. See photos of the all-time greats, Bryn Day, Alan Davies, Bernard Ganley, Derek Turner, Martin Murphy, Terry Flanagan and Co.

MATCH BY MATCH 1998

		Alt	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
			F - A																			
APRIL 1998																						
10	Fri	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H4.00																			
13	Mon	WORKINGTON TOWN	A3.00	1344	22-18	Mead	Darkes	Leulla	Cooper	McNicholas	Baker	Flanagan	Clegg	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Maders	Varley
22	Wed	BRAMLEY	A7.45	1069	10-12	Wilde	Darkes	Leulla	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Prescott	Varley
26	Sun	DONCASTER DRAGONS	A3.00	1050	20-8	Wilde	Darkes	Leulla	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Varley	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Clegg	Shaw
MAY																						
4	Mon	BRAMLEY	H3.00	2921	32-50	Mead	Darkes	Leulla	Wilde	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Nadiote	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Varley	Sinfield	Prescott
10	Sun	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H3.00	1929	28-20	Wilkinson	Mead	Leulla	Darkes	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Nadiote	Martindale	Robinson	Varley	Clegg	Prescott
17	Sun	BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	H3.00																			
24	Sun	YORK	A3.00																			
31	Sun	RR LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00																			
JUNE																						
7	Sun	RR WORKINGTON	A3.00																			
14	Sun	RR BARROW B R (at Rochdale)	H3.00																			
19	Fri	RR LANCASHIRE L (at Rochdale)	H7.30																			
28	Sun	RR BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	A3.00																			
JULY																						
5	Sun	RR WORKINGTON	H3.00																			
19	Sun	RR FINAL																				
26	Sun	LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00																			
AUGUST																						
2	Sun	WORKINGTON	H3.00																			
16	Sun	DONCASTER	H3.00																			
23	Sun	BATLEY	A3.15																			
30	Sun	BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	A3.00																			
SEPTEMBER																						
6	Sun	YORK	H3.00																			

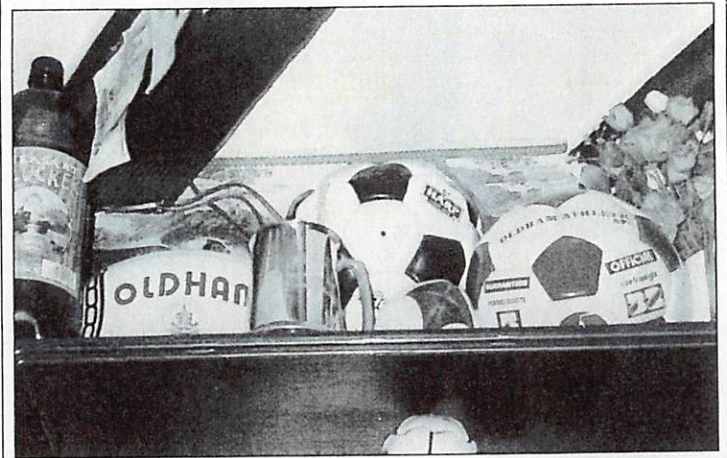
36 YEARS ago, season 1962/63 saw the Rugby League move to 2 divisions, Oldham being founders members of the first. The Oldham coach of the time, should he have all players fit, would have been able to field the following squads

1 John NOON	1 Bill PATTERSON
2 Geoff SIMS	2 Brian LORD
3 Keith HOLDEN	3 Ray FISHER
4 Malcolm PRICE	4 Vince NESTOR
5 Trevor SIMMS	5 Mike ELLIOT
6 Alan KELLETT	6 John DONOVAN
7 Frank PITCHFORD	7 Jack PYCROFT
8 Peter GODDARD	8 Alf MUMBERSON
9 Len McINTYRE	9 Kevin TAYLOR
10 Charlie BOTT	10 Terry OGDEN
11 Peter SMETHURST	11 Geoff ROBINSON
12 Harry MAJOR	12 Stuart WHITEHEAD
13 Dave PARKER	13 John RAE/Don PLATT

County and international players galore! The pedigree of that lot would (or should) be the envy of any current day Super League coach - the fact is though we were relegated! Proof indeed that the mix of ingredients has to be spot on!

Bryan Walker

BAR in Monterey, California
 ORLFC and LATICs balls spotted by ex Waterhead stalwart,
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OLDHAM 1998 The Roughyeds

Back Row: Michael Edwards, Chris Eckersley, Brian Quinlan, Nathan Varley, Paul Round, Graeme Shaw, Keith Atkinson, Craig Diggle, Sean Cooper.

Middle Row: Paddy Kirwan (Coach), Darren Robinson, Graig Barker, Richard Darkes, Jason Clegg, Martin Maders, Andy Fleming, Afi Leuila, Steve Wanless (Physio), Mick Coates (Asst. Coach),

Front Row: Michael Prescott, Steven Wilde, Neil Flanagan, John Hough, Ian Sinfield, Aidrian Mead, Joe McNicholas.

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From the Supporters Club

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

MAIN BRANCH CASINO EVENING

We can't take you to Monte Carlo or Las Vegas, but we can bring you the excitement of the Roulette Wheel, as we are looking at organising a Casino Night in June, at a venue yet to be arranged. Watch this space, and local paper or ask any Supporters Club Official for further details.

If you want to mix with the "high rollers" come along to the Casino Night.

AWAY TRAVEL

We will be organising coach travel to all away matches this season, with coaches departing from the Black Horse public house on Ripponden Road, Watersheddings. Seats on the coaches can be reserved by contacting Joyce (665 1832) prior to match day.

Members of the main branch of the Supporters Club receive a discount on the above prices.

Please contact Joyce (665 1832) for details of the departure time and prices for the coaches to future away matches.

These coaches are scheduled to arrive at the match within a reasonable time prior to kick-off and depart for home immediately after the match.

We will also be organising coaches for travel to our home matches to be played at Spotland, Rochdale when Boundary Park is unavailable.

ROUGHYHEAD REWARD

This year the half time draw will be known as the Roughyhead Reward and will again be sold by the main branch of the Supporters Club. As in previous years the winner will receive 50% of the total sales at each match. The winning number will be drawn at half time and the holder of the winning ticket will be presented with their prize on the pitch.

Please look out for the Roughyhead Reward team at today's match and future fixtures (including those taking place at Rochdale) and please buy a ticket or two. Remember the more you purchase, the bigger the prize, the more it helps Oldham RLFC.

FUTURE EVENTS

We are always looking at different ideas for fund raising so watch this space in the programmes for details of future events that we hope you will attend and enjoy. If you have any fund raising ideas please contact either Alice (633 6780), Sue (681 3397), Trevor (628 8006) or any other Supporters Club official.

DUTY FREE SHOPPING

Looking to the future, we are considering the possibilities of organising a special Christmas Shopping Weekend to either Bruges or Paris, including a trip to a Hypermarket on the outskirts of Calais on the return journey. The trip will include a one night stay on the continent and a Channel crossing by Le Shuttle.

If you are interested please contact either Alice (633 6780) or Trevor (628 8006) for further details.

MEMBERS DRAW

Please remember that a free draw will be held for members of the main branch of the Supporters Club attending at any function we organise, so come along and enjoy yourself, you may be the lucky member.

ORLFC SUPPORTERS CLUB CHADDERTON BRANCH

We are now running coaches to away matches, picking up at Little Cot Whitley Street, Chadderton, Chadderton Park Inn (Owl and Spindle), then at Asda. Anyone interested in booking please ring Sylvia 284 5127 after 6pm, or Maureen 628 6407.

Come on and get your sponsor forms for our Sponsored Walk on Sunday 14th June. Pick them up at the shop or ring Sylvia on 284 5127 after 6pm.

We would like everyone to come along and make this a special day for Oldham Roughyeds.

The committee of the Chadderton Branch who helped us with our copper mile. Thank you for all your donations every penny was gratefully received.

Thank you again for helping the Chadderton Branch: We really appreciate the support you are giving us. Please keep it up.

ORLFC SUPPORTERS CLUB WATERSHEDDINGS 107

ARE proud to announce a special video night plus quiz on Tuesday 19th May. Watch Oldham v Wigan 1987 with Paddy Kirwan's try. After the video a quiz will take place. Everybody welcome - gallon of beer to be won.

There will be a general meeting that night for potential members or anyone who wants to know what is arranged for future months or for anyone to have their say.

Coaches for York leave 9.30am - ring Debbie on 663 0847 or Cathy on 624 2942 - come and join our fun away trips. If you haven't partied you haven't been with the 107. See you there.

Debbie Holmes
Secretary



From The EDITOR

WITH the Second Division table beginning to shape up it is becoming clear that there will no easy matches. With results likely to be close it is important to be on the right side of the scoreline. Against Batley last week in an enthralling and exciting encounter Oldham achieved just that. Behind only at the start to a penalty, Oldham fought hard to maintain a lead and deservedly took the points. Whatever the team's shortcomings the one thing this Oldham side does not lack is heart. Our job as spectators is to get behind the players and lift them when things are going wrong, as go wrong they will from time to time.

Hard as it may be, we have to be patient. The team is still learning and not everything can fall into place at once. But what we can be sure of is that Oldham will play entertaining football, moving the ball about with a style and freedom we have not seen in many a year. If that makes the side vulnerable to conceding points so be it, but knowing Paddy Kirwan he will be pinpointing the defensive areas requiring attention and getting the players to work on these.

The important thing after watching Super League is not to underestimate or dismiss our Second Division opponents. On their day all are capable of producing

top class performances. If we take the trouble to study our opponents we might take note of some top class players. Last week Richard Price was outstanding for Batley, closely followed by Mark Cass. At Workington Barry Williams was head and shoulders above anyone else on the field, while in the games against Bramley first Gavin Brown and then David Gibbons gave superb performances.

So the moral of the story is: don't take anything for granted. It's going to be a tough season and any side which gains promotion will certainly have earned it.

TALKING POINT

WHEN Rugby League adopted the sin-bin it seemed like a good idea. It probably still is. As far as I know the idea came from ice hockey where it's purpose is to calm down players who are getting overheated. Eminently sensible in my view. So why is it that in R.L. the sin-bin is used more for technical offences and so called professional fouls? While I have no objections to this, I still feel that there is a case for using the sin-bin in cases of foul play. At the moment a foul is either considered serious enough to warrant immediate dismissal or merely incurs a ticking off. There appears to be no 'half way' punishment or, if there is, I do not see that all referees apply the law



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From The EDITOR Continued

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

consistently. Worst of all the 'on report' situation infuriates spectators. What seems logical to legislators - and I do not deny that there is merit in the system - looks like a 'cop out' to the man on the terraces who cannot understand why an incident seen by him no been seen by the referee or his touch judges. All too often it looks as if the easy way out has been taken and a player guilty of foul play has got away with it. Whether that player is subsequently suspended after trial by video is irrelevant because that does not alter the result of the game in which the

offence took place. Indeed in a worst case scenario the guilty player's team could win the match in which the offence was committed but go on to lose a match to a team who are rivals for promotion because that player was then suspended. And where would be the justice in that? Solution: Ten minutes in the sin-bin thereby enabling the side which was offended against to take advantage of depleted numbers if they are good enough. Consistently applied I see no reason why this system should not be of benefit all round.

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From the Pen of . . . Michael Turner

THE BARROW BOYS!

Now after the merger with Carlisle, they are the "Border Raiders", before that it was the "Braves" but the majority of spectators will remember them as the "Ship Builders".

Under whatever guise, today we extend a warm welcome to the Barrow club, who are continuing to keep the Rugby League flag flying in their isolated, west-coast, outpost against all the odds. In days gone by a visit from Barrow would be eagerly anticipated, as a fast, open game would often be in store for the spectators.

The first encounter between the two clubs was in fact our visitors first ever match in senior competition in the 1900-01 season. Oldham travelled to Barrow for this historic fixture on September 8th, 1900 and returned home victorious by six points to two, courtesy of a try each for the right wing pairing of Sam Williams and Ike Taylor. A fortnight later the return game was played at Watersheddings with Oldham completing the "double" after another close match ended in

an 8 - 2 win for the "Roughyeds".

The most important match between the clubs was the Lancashire Cup Final of 1954, when Barrow claimed their first major Rugby League success with a 12 - 2 win at Swinton. This was complemented by the "Furness Men", when, later that season they defeated Workington Town in the Challenge Cup final at Wembley. This was their only ever win in the competition but they have reached the twin towers on four other occasions.

The Barrow side of the mid 1950s was arguably their best ever and our older supporters will well recall the names of such notables as Great Britain captain, Willie Horne, Phil Jackson, Frank Castle, Jim Lewthwaite and Jack Grundy from that successful and entertaining team.

There has been little to shout about for the Barrow faithful in recent years, although in 1983 they turned the form book upside down to beat Widnes in the Lancashire Cup Final.



"Scene from a by-gone age"

There has always been a good relationship between the two clubs and it is well illustrated in this photograph which shows Oldham players helping to swell the proceeds of Jim Lewthwaite's benefit season by taking a collection at the half time interval in the match at Craven Park on March 13th, 1954. The photo shows Jack Keith picking up the coins as Harry Ogden and Bryn Goldswain hold the blanket. Barrow won the game 12 - 6.

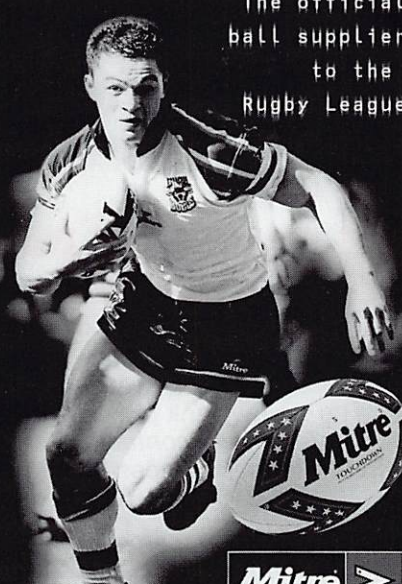


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The Roughyeds

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The Roughyeds

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Don YatesDown Memory Lane

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear

Sheffield's refreshing Challenge Cup victory earlier this month wasn't the first shock result in the history of the game and it certainly will not be the last. Today's visitors to Boundary Park are Barrow who pulled off one of the biggest surprises in Lancashire Cup history during the autumn of 1983. The Furnessmen were in Division Two during that 1983-84 season but they were quite a useful side, losing only two matches throughout a league campaign which saw them lift the Second Division Championship with 14 points to spare over second placed Workington Town.

Their Lancashire Cup campaign began with a home tie against Whitehaven who, like all the opponents they met during that Lancashire Cup competition, were in the First Division. Barrow won 13-6 and on the same day Oldham beat Workington Town 26-20 and Widnes knocked out Wigan 36-20. In the quarter-finals, Barrow had to visit Salford where two tries from scrum-half David Cairns saw the Cumbrians win 15-2. At this point Oldham's interest in the competition ended with an 8-6 defeat at Swinton and Widnes overcame a tricky visit to Leigh, winning 27-10. Barrow's reward for that fine win at Salford was an away draw at Warrington, handily placed in Division One and holders of the trophy so Warrington were hot favourites to reach their third Lancashire Cup Final in four years. Barrow had different ideas and forced the home side into a series of first half mistakes. Ian Ball was in superb form, he scored a first half try, four goals and a decisive dropped goal in Barrow's 19-18 victory.

Second Division Swinton almost caused another upset, leading Widnes for most of their semi-final before conceding two late tries and losing 22-8. The final was staged at Central Park, Wigan with Widnes firm favourites. Not only were they up amongst the First Division pacemakers but their side was packed with experienced cup campaigners. They were appearing in their 21st final covering the previous nine seasons whilst Barrow's Second Division outfit had appeared in just one final during the previous 17 years and had lost that. The one-sided look to the final kept the

crowd down to 7,007 who turned up to watch the following two sides:

Barrow: Steve Tickle; Terry Moore, Andy Whittle, Ian Ball, David Milby; Ralph McConnell, David Cairns; Alan Hodkinson, Les Wall, Mark McJennett, Steve Herbert, Eddie Szymala & Steve Mossop.

Substitutes, David Elliott & Dave Tyson.

Widnes: Mick Burke; Joe Lydon, Eric Hughes, Keiron O'Loughlin, John Basnett; Tony Myler, Andy Gregory; Steve O'Neill, Keith Elwell, Kevin Tamati, Fred Whitfield, Eric Prescott & Mick Adams.

Substitutes, Tony Garrity & Paul Houghton.

Barrow's commitment in this final was total. It was built, as most famous victories are, on superb tackling led by Steve Herbert and the abrasive duo of skipper Alan Hodkinson and Eddie Szymala. The early exchanges were fearsome and saw Szymala, together with the Widnes pair of Kevin Tamati and Andy Gregory spending time in the sin bin. Midway through the first half man-of-the-match David Cairns slipped Andy Whittle through a half-gap and he burst through a couple of tackles to put Ralph McConnell in for a try converted by Ian Ball.

Joe Lydon reduced the arrears with a penalty before half-time but Barrow were well worth their 6-2 interval lead.

Widnes came back strongly after the break but Steve Tickle settled his side with a dropped goal quickly followed by a Ball penalty. Nine-two to Barrow. Joe Lydon once again struck a blow for the Chemics, converting his own try to reduce Barrow's lead to a single point. Everyone expected the Chemics to pull away just as they had in the semi-final but Ian Ball again came to the rescue with another penalty and dropped goal. Barrow had won 12-8.

Widnes recovered to win the Challenge Cup at Wembley the following spring whilst Barrow's Lancashire Cup-Second Division double was the last piece of silverware to adorn the Craven Park boardroom. However, they have made a satisfactory start to this season and could well end the season involved in European competition.



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Geoff Cooke GUEST WRITER

WATCHING Chris Eckersley fly down the wing for his two tries against Batley reminded me that a wingman in flight is the most exciting spectacle in rugby. It also reminded me that in former days wingmen scored a lot more tries. Now I know the game has changed and that players are fitter and faster than they have ever been and this all works to the wingman's disadvantage. However I also feel that two other elements enter into the equation.

Firstly, the modern obsession with 'running the angles' leads to players moving diagonally across the pitch taking room on the touchline away from the wingman or forcing him inside. Similarly the desire to retain possession for a full six tackles does not encourage wingmen to try to beat defenders on the outside for fear of being forced into touch.

The second factor militating against the wingman is the decline in quality centre play. In the past a good centre saw his job as to provide his wingman with scoring opportunities. At the crucial moment the good centre would straighten up, draw his man and put his wingman away with a well-timed pass and ten yards of room to work in, giving him the chance

to attack the opposing full-back in a one-on-one situation.

How often do we see this today? Yet in the early recent past if you were lucky enough to follow the right team you could still witness this exciting aspect of the game. The most notable recent example of such play was provided by that most under-rated centre Darren Wright for the raw Martin Offiah. Back in the seventies Les Dyl was the provider for John Atkinson at Leeds, and Oldham followers from that era are sure to remember Phil Larder providing the ammunition for the admirable Mike Elliott.

Older followers of the game have even more such partnerships to drool over: Ashton and Boston at Wigan, Palmer and Freeman at Halifax. Naughton and Bevan at Warrington, Large and Van Vollenhoven at Saint Helens and for local followers of course Noon and Cracknell and the peerless Davies and Ety.

So, while I would not suggest that Oldham's current players are in this league, I nevertheless look forward to a productive partnership from a fit again Cooper and Eckersley.

OLDHAM RLFC HALL OF FAME

OUR MEMORABILIA display within the Rochdale Road reception area of the Civic Centre has now been revamped and of course the Hall of Fame (including Martin Murphy!) is now sited in the Lounge Bar of the Clayton Arms (behind the Chadderton Road end stand)

Anyone who has any artifacts (shirts, caps, medals, programmes, documents etc) relating to either the professional or amateur game in or around Oldham and would consider donating or loaning these to the Hall of Fame please ring either Michael Turner on 0161 620 6005 or Brian Walker on 01457 875084.

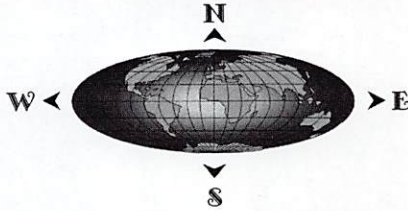
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Don Yates' Here & There

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

NEXT Saturday, 23rd May, Featherstone Rovers' Post Office Road ground stages the final of the BNFL National Amateur Cup. Although no local team is involved, that final promises to be a thrilling encounter. The finalists are Ideal of Hull and Redhill of Castleford. Ideal are currently playing in the Premier Division of the competitive Humberside League but next season they join the big boys in the National Conference League. That promotion should not be too big a step for Ideal. In reaching Saturday's final, the Humbersiders have defeated Conference clubs Dewsbury Moor, Millom and then Thornhill who have just won promotion to the Premier Division.

Redhill's path to the final also included some impressive scalps. They beat Lancashire Cup Finalists Rosebridge, the much improved Moldgreen and then West Bowling before travelling up to Ellenborough Rangers. Cup holders Ellenborough were the form team of the year. They did everyone a favour by knocking Bramley out of the Challenge Cup and followed that up by beating Hunslet. However, Redhill beat Ellenborough 32-26 on their own pitch, without doubt Redhill's best win of the season so far. Saturday's final kicks off at 3pm and should provide a fitting finale to what has been a superb season of amateur rugby.

I am not a big fan of summer rugby. I simply believe that there are far too many counter attractions and far too many problems for clubs who share their facilities with either soccer clubs or other sporting organisations. Today's match is the last one at Boundary Park until the beginning of August because of the need to prepare pitch and facilities for the 1998-99 soccer season. Recently Swinton had to postpone a match

for urgent pitch re-seeding and the Roughyeds' visit to Lancashire Lynx will now be accommodated at the Preston Grasshoppers rugby union ground for the very same reason. A clash with local athletic meetings caused York to play a couple of early season matches on Sunday evenings before abysmal crowds and Sheffield Eagles' switch to Saturday afternoon dates has more to do with stadium availability than they would have us believe.

Worse still is the haphazard way the season now starts with the Challenge Cup being reduced to a pre-season knock out and Championship campaigns beginning in either March, April or Good Friday depending upon which Division you were involved in. This total lack of impact leads to an air of apathy, apathy which clearly resulted in poor attendances at cup-ties and at many league matches, including Super League matches, no matter what figures the powers-that-be throw at us.

I really do think that serious consideration should be given to clubs outside Super League switching back to a winter season. Clearly First and Second Division clubs do not figure in the long term plans of the Super League giants, hence the scrapping of promotion and relegation. Autonomy was at the root of amateur success in the BARLA organisation and I feel that the semi-professional clubs could find similar success if they moved away from Super League. Obviously I do not feel that clubs should break away from the Rugby Football League but I do feel that it would be of benefit to the game as a whole if there were three separate tiers under the Rugby Football League umbrella - Super League, semi-professional and the BARLA amateurs.

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*Best wishes to the Oldham RLFC team for
the Season - Gain promotion!*



"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Roughyeds Notice Board

PLAYER KIT SPONSORSHIP

Why not sponsor your favourite player?

Full Kit for the season £200,

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All sponsorship will be acknowledged in the programme.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have any comments on any aspect of OLDHAM RLFC (1997) please contact the Editor at:- 93, Chew Valley Road, Greenfield, Oldham OL3 7JJ

Phone/Fax: **01457 872515**

OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE:

Match Sponsorship, Associate Match Sponsorship, Matchball Sponsorship, Man of the Match Sponsorship, Roughyeds Match Day Club + Programme and Electronic Scoreboard Advertising.
Details from the Club Offices:
0161 628 3677

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Collect Programmes?

Relative/friends/living out of the area?

Why not book a full season's League match programmes for despatch to your nominated address? Cost £18 for the season inclusive of P&P.

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Mr Wrigleys 'Penny Rush' Bar

Every Tuesday Night – 'Roughyeds Night'

View on the 'Big Screen' : The previous weekend's Roughyeds Game!

Commences 8.00pm Prompt

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CLUB!

167 Union Street (opposite the Evening Chronicle Offices)

Tel. 0161 627 3999

A designated Roughyeds Players & Supporters Area! – (John Smiths Smooth £1.20 Pint!)

On Thursday, 9th July, the Club will be holding a

Fund-Raising Golf Tournament

at Oldham Golf Club.

It will be a 4-Ball Betterball - Stableford competition with a 2.30pm Shotgun Start.

Entry will be £200 for a team of 4 or £110 for a team of 2.

Included will be Lunch on arrival, a 5-course Evening Dinner and obviously prizes galore!

For tickets or enquiries please ring any Club Official on 0161 628 3677

Brian Walker on 0145787 5084 or

Chris Roberts (Oldham Golf Club Captain) on 0161 633 5399

Away Travel . . Away Travel . . Away Travel

DIRECTIONS TO YORK away **SUNDAY 24th MAY** at **RYEDALE STADIUM, JOCKEY LANE, HUNTINGTON, YORK.** Take the A64 out of Leeds. Continue past York until you come to a large roundabout. Take the first left off roundabout and follow signs for Monks Cross. Ryedale Stadium is signposted from there on.

DIRECTIONS TO PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS GROUND:

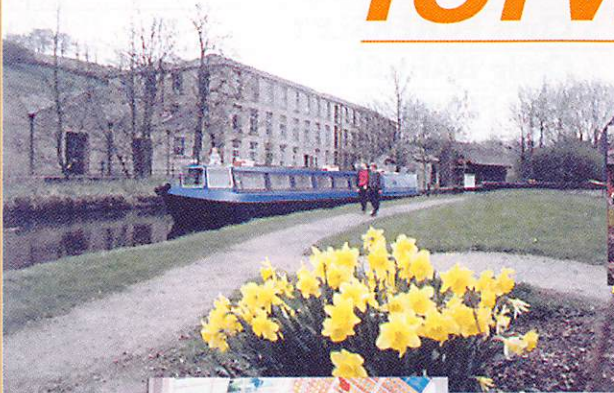
(The venue of our away fixture against LANCASHIRE LYNX on SUNDAY 31st MAY.)

M61 to M6 take junction 32 off M6, signed M55/A6 take A6 slip road (Not M55). At the Roundabout turn towards Preston and immediately turn back on yourself, ie under the A6 - This is Lightfoot Lane - the ground is approx 1 mile on right - lookout for the golf range.

IMPORTANT - Do not be tempted to take the new junction 31A off the M6



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Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council is the driving force behind the continued regeneration and revitalisation of the Borough.

Council endeavour has enabled Oldham to become a centre of real opportunity within the North West region.

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OLDHAM

Coach: Paddy Kirwan

1	Chris WILKINSON			
2	Adrian MEADE			
3	Afi LEUILA			
4	Richard DARKES			
5	Chris ECKERSLEY			
6	Craig BARKER			
7	Neil FLANAGAN			
8	Paul ROUND			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Michael EDWARDS			
11	Martin MADERS			
12	Joe NADIOLE			
13	Mick MARTINDALE			
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Coach: Stuart Wilkinson

1	Darren WILSON			
2	Gary RUDDY			
3	Ian HALSALL			
4	Paul BURNS			
5	Glen HUTTON			
6	Darren CARTER			
7	Dean MARWOOD			
8	Shaun WALLIS			
9	Darren HOLT			
10	Stewart RHODES			
11	Geoff LUXON			
12	Gareth KERR			
13	Brett McDERMOTT			
14	Stuart QUAYLE	16	Mike KAVANAGH	
15	Gary SPENCELY	17	John McKELLEHER	

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