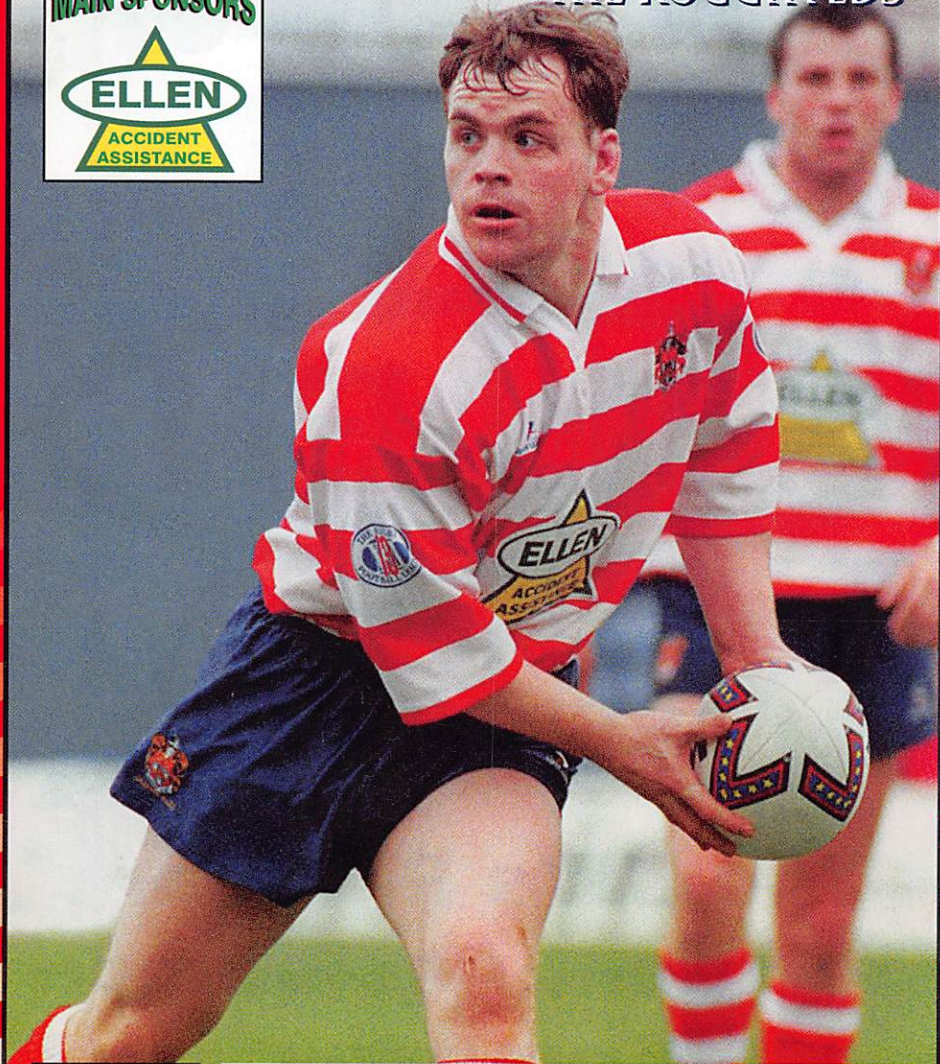


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Chairman's CHATTER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

HAVING reached the halfway post for the season I feel that our position in the League, third, probably reflects our progress. We have done well but there is still scope to get better. Over the last three weeks we have been more solid as a team and have managed to reduce the errors in our play. Today we entertain Lancashire Lynx who are currently lying in top spot but who seem to have been riding their luck in recent matches, winning by the narrowest of margins on two occasions and the point they gained against us was a point we gave them. Anyone who went to that game will know that we should have won after staging a great comeback. Tonight we hope to continue the good form of the past three weeks and of course victory will also take us to the top of the tree, although it may only be for less than 48 hours.

At the present time we are also top of the Red Rose Championship on points difference from Lynx so the game tonight really is a 'four-pointer'. The final of the Round Robin competition will be played at the home of the



Club winning the toss of a coin. As there are several teams, including ourselves, who share grounds - we in fact share a ground with anybody who will have us! - I will know when I return from today's (Friday) FASDA meeting whether or not the Lancashire Club or the Yorkshire Club will be at home. The coin will be tossed today to enable teams who share to approach their landlords to check out pitch availability for the final which will be played on Sunday 19th July.

At the time of writing these notes, we are trying to organise a friendly, behind closed doors, to give some much needed match practice to those players returning from injury and those not getting into the match day squad. You are all aware of the reasons why we as a Club only have one team this year but my opinion is the RFL have made a big mistake in allowing Clubs to dispense with their Alliance Teams if they wished to do so and I hope that steps will be taken to remedy this in time for next season.

Keep up the noise!

Christopher Hamilton



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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



THOSE who believe there is no life outside Super League should be here at Spotland tonight.

The attendance is sure to be a respectable 2,000 or thereabouts, and Oldham fans will be out in force to paint Spotland red and white.

If last Sunday's game against Barrow is a guide, the atmosphere will be electric...and with a lot at stake we are sure to experience one of those special rugby league nights for which Watersheddings used to be renowned.

You know, Spotland can generate a similar atmosphere to that we used to get at Watersheddings. It is tight and compact and, unlike Boundary Park, the spectator is close to the action.

There was plenty of action to grip spectators last Sunday and judging by the standing ovation given to the Oldham team at half time and again at the end of the match the fans clearly felt they had had value for money.

Many of them are now openly admitting that they are enjoying watching the "new" Oldham in the second division far more than they enjoyed supporting the old Oldham Bears team in the Super League last year.

For them, this is "real" rugby league, played not by highly-paid full time sportsmen who have lost their affinity with fans, but by part timers who might have to miss the old training session because they are on the night shift or might have to sit out the occasional game if full time work demands it.

In this sport, which stood the test of time for more than a century, Sunday's heroes are Monday's work mates. They are the bloke

next door, the chap at the end of the street or the guy who plays tig and pass with the kids on the local park on a summer evening.

This was the culture which fed and nurtured the game that survived for more than a hundred years. An ever increasing number of supporters want it back...and they are getting it around the FASDA clubs and particularly so in the second division.

So is that the only appeal of a club like Oldham? No way.

It helps when the coach's avowed policy is to play good, old fashioned open rugby. No five drives and a downtown here. There is enough of that in Super League, and that's not the voice of a disillusioned cynic, but of an observer of rugby league in a professional capacity for nearly 40 years.

It helps when the chairman has enough PR in him to turn a negative into a positive....to convince Oldham's rugby league die hards that, with their backing and support, the new club can take on the world and win.

So far, so good. The team is doing well on the field, the fans are turning up in numbers and those who watch regularly and travel away are actually ENJOYING the experience.

"Great stuff." said one fan, whom I quizzed after the Barrow game. "It's genuine, it's honest, it's good rugby....and there are no men on stilts."

"We're a rugby town. And we are playing against other rugby towns....like York, Barrow, Workington and Batley. In rugby league terms I see Paris and London as unreal. You might call me parochial, but I am what I am and I reckon there are thousands like me."

He believed that Super League was attempting to elevate a grassroots game on to a stage that was too big and too demanding and advanced the view that in the long term FASDA clubs would be more likely to survive and prosper.

Many in this ground tonight will agree with him.



Oldham RLFC

The Roughyeds

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Don Yates On This Day

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

DON YATES RECALLS THIS DAY IN HISTORY

UPTO two years ago, the only 'on field' action which took place at this time of year occurred on the other side of the World, either in Australia or New Zealand. There was plenty of 'off field' action here in England, however, as clubs prepared for the forthcoming season. Such was the case on this day in 1989, Sunday 19th June, when Oldham signed a player who is currently one of the stars of the Rochdale Hornets outfit. That player is hooker Richard Pachniuk who turned professional from Dewsbury Moor amateurs. Pachniuk went on to make 42 appearances for Oldham, scoring 80 points from 16 tries and eight goals, before moving here to Spotland in February 1993.

During the summer of 1977, Australia and New Zealand combined to stage the World Championship series. It was during that tournament that New Zealand met France in Auckland on Sunday 19th June. It was an evenly fought contest in which both sides scored four tries but the match winner for New Zealand was the Ellerslie centre Chris Jordan who scored a try, four conversions and four penalties in the 28-20 Kiwi victory. Fourteen years later, in 1991, France were back in New Zealand where a disappointing tour saw them win just one of five matches. That solitary victory came on Wednesday 19th June at Wingham Park, Greymouth where West Coast were beaten 14-6. Winger Jean-Marc Garcia was the match winner for the French, setting up the first try for Cyrille Pons and scoring the other two himself.

The most successful French touring team were the 1951 tourists to Australia who lost only four of 21 matches and won the test series 2-1. It was during that trip, on Tuesday 19th June, that the French met Central Queensland at Rockhampton where they registered a comfortable 38-14 victory.

It was on this day in 1984, Monday 19th June, that Queensland defeated New South Wales 14-2 at Sydney Cricket Ground to clinch the Australian State of Origin series. The match drew a crowd of 29,088 despite torrential rain which fell throughout the match. There was no scoring in the first half but after the break Queensland scored tries through prop Greg Dowling and centre Gene Miles. Two players who later coached the Roughyeds appeared in

that match. Peter Tunks was at prop for New South Wales and Bob Lindner was on the Queensland substitutes bench.



Bob Lindner.

Queensland were also in action on Saturday 19th June 1920 when they met the Great Britain tourists. The Lions won 25-5 with Leeds winger Jim Bacon scoring four of the five British tries.

On the very same afternoon, Saturday 19th June 1920, the now defunct University club entertained another defunct club, Glebe, in the Sydney Premiership competition. Glebe won 41-0 scoring 11 tries and four goals. Glebe's international forward Frank Burge led the scoring. He scored eight of his club's tries and all four goals.

Another high scoring match took place on Wednesday 19th June 1946 when Great Britain defeated the Northern Division 61-5 at Tamworth. Wigan centre Ted Ward landed 11 goals and another pie-eater, hooker Joe Egan, led the try scoring with three of the 13 touchdowns. Oldham second rower Doug Phillips was included in the British pack and he, too, was amongst the try scorers.



"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Comments from THE COACH

MANY thanks to all the supporters who made the journey along the A627 (m) to Spotland for the game against Barrow. As their Coach said we have got terrific supporters both home and away. The lads certainly appreciated your support and made special comment about the ovation they received as they left the field at half time.

Against Barrow we started really well without finishing and allowed them to score two tries against the run of play. Each time though we bounced back with tries from Afi Leuila. The try on the stroke of half time was just reward for the effort that had been put in during the first twenty minutes. It was a great finish from Stephen Wilde who broke a couple of tackles to go in under the posts and effectively seal the game.

In the second half, we scored 14 points without reply despite conceding 10 penalties to 5. If we continue to improve each week as we have over the last three games and reduce the number of penalties we concede then promotion is a very realistic target and

with other teams taking points off each other the Second Division Championship is within our grasp.

One team who will have a big say in the promotion and championship stakes are our visitors tonight, Lancashire Lynx. Lynx felt they were unlucky not to win in our last game at Preston Grasshoppers, whilst I felt we deserved more than one point out of the game. Lynx have shown a dogged resilience which has seen them take a point off ourselves and Barrow and beat Batley and Workington by a single point. I expect to name a stronger side tonight than the team that played at Preston, with Afi Leuila available and Paul Crook, on loan from Hull, giving me a number of options. Paul Crook showed touches of class in his debut last week and will certainly give us more options going forward.

Tonight's game is critical for both sides as I am sure it will go a long way to deciding the Red Rose championship and in turn the race for promotion.

Paddy Kirwan



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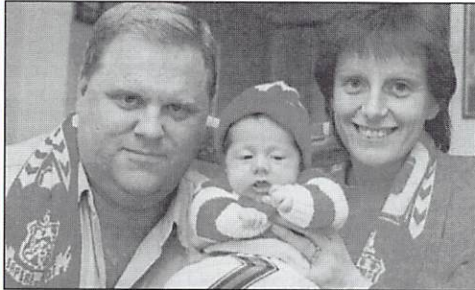
"THE ROUGHYEDS"

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

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

Our mascot for the day is **Mark Brocklehurst**. Mark is 11 years old. Mark is also one of our ball boys this season. Hope you enjoy your day.

We would like to send out **Happy Father's Day** wishes to all the dads for Sunday 21st June. Hope you have a good Father's Day.



Signed on...Nigel, baby Charlotte, Jenny

During the season the number of members to the Junior Roughyeds has gradually increased. Charlotte Speck can claim to be Oldham Rugby League Club's youngest member. She was signed up for the Junior Roughyeds on the day she was born in the Royal Oldham Hospital, the 26th March 1998.

Charlotte made her debut when her father Nigel, took her to watch the Oldham - Batley game. We look forward to Charlotte coming to the Junior Roughyeds monthly meetings when she is bigger.



Emma Buckley

MY DAY AS A MASCOT

"When I got picked to be mascot I was a bit excited. My mum (Karen), my grandma and grandad (Mary & Stafford) travelled all the way up to Workington just to watch me, and the game, of course.

When we arrived one of the stewards told me to wait at the tunnel end until the players had finished their warm up so that they could all sign my shirt, and they did. At this point I was getting very nervous. While I was outside the dressing room the Ref was shouting very loud at the players to get on the pitch.

When I came running on to the pitch I thought that there was nothing to it. I tossed the coin to see which team kicked off, and then the Ref gave me the £1 coin to keep. I then ran off and watched a brill game and went home very happy."

by Emma Buckley,
Age 12

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Derek Turner CELEBRITY



One of the GREAT Rugby League loose forwards of all time, Derek Turner has, more often than not, shied away from interviews and media attention. He did, however, agree to make a contribution for the "Roughyeds" programme . . . here is the result of his interview with Brian Walker.

DEREK joined Oldham from Hull KR in 1955 and by the time he left to join Wakefield in 1959 he had played 134 matches for Oldham having scored 35 tries and one goal. He recalls that, while at Hull KR, the ex GB tourist (1946), Warrington and Barrow player, Bryn Knowelden had a big influence on his career. Bryn instilled into the young Turner the need for personal 'hardness' and the need to assess the opposition, both their strengths and frailties.

He enjoyed his time at Oldham tremendously and rates the 1957 Championship Final victory over Hull as being his finest Rugby memory (although the Trinity victory over Wigan at Wembley in 1963 runs it close), and still has nightmares of how the game was almost lost in the last seconds. Derek still smiles when he brings to mind the fact that his first knowledge of his debut selection for Great Britain came via the column of Arthur Haddock in the Yorkshire Evening News.

He never really wanted to leave the club and regrets that he was "shown the door" when he clearly did not want to move but could not accept that other internationals were being paid substantially more elsewhere, as was proved by his offer from Wakefield.

When asked about the best players in the great Oldham team of the fifties the first names to spring forward were those of Alan Davies and Charlie Winslade, Derek failing to understand why big Charlie only ever gained one full GB cap. When pressed further he spoke of the football ability of Frank Stirrup, a player who was steeped in Rugby League, and the ability of Frank Daley to "read" a game and blot out his opposing player. He also had high praise for hooker Jack Keith who he reckoned could "talk" the team through a bad patch. Alan Kellett was rated as the best prospect but was unfortunate to break into the senior side as the great team was disintegrating around him. The wingers Etty and Cracknell also rated a special

mention as did Sid Little, who Derek considered a "thinking" forward. From his Wakefield days he speaks very highly of Harold Poynton and the magical talents of Neil Fox.

Of the opposition he rated Alex Murphy as one of the great players of all time and recalls an occasion at Warrington when, covering across to tackle Brian Bevan, he dived at the fleet-footed Australian only to miss him by a yard and finish up in a snow drift where he was duly snow-balled by the "Wires" fans as "Bev" touched down under the posts.

St Helens away was a fixture always regarded with a certain amount of apprehension, particularly because of the forwards – Alan Prescott, Ab Terry and "hard-man" Nat Silcock whom Derek was usually assigned to watch. Not forgetting centre Doug Greenall who once intimidated Alan Davies into getting himself sent off, whereafter Derek was switched to the backs to "look after" the Saints three-quarter.

With regard to himself, he was afraid of no one, stating that he was the smallest player in both the Oldham and Wakefield "packs", but made up for the lack of height with skill and aggression.

After his playing days he enjoyed a successful spell as coach at Leeds and prides himself on developing the career of John Holmes, who he groomed from being a full back to an international half back / three-quarter. Other stars of the team were the wing pairing of Smith and Atkinson, along with half backs Hardisty and Hepworth who he signed from Castleford.

Derek watches "Super League" and is of the opinion that if the players of his era were given the chance to train and become as fit as they are today, they would probably have "pasted" the current teams and asks where are the players today with the class and skills of Karalius, Whiteley, Murphy, Ashton, Davies, Prescott and Fox?

Now aged 66, Derek lives in Ossett in a bungalow overlooking the local golf club from where he is still running his successful removal and haulage business. He still retains that forceful drive that made him the top loose forward of his day. Indeed when his great Australian counterpart, Johnny Raper recently published his autobiography, Derek was one of only three British players in his all time "World Best" thirteen.

Derek Turner

Oldham Roughyed hero –
Three times Wembley winning captain with
Wakefield Trinity – revered Great Britain test
forward . . . Pastime: Gardening!



INTERVIEW

"THE ROUGHYEDS"



Four Oldham players selected for the 1958 tour to Australia and New Zealand - Frank Pitchford, Derek Turner, Ken Jackson and Alan Davies. (Derek Turner later withdrew through injury.)

Iva Slateloose Guest Writer

STUDYING my t.v. listings this week I saw the following programmes due to be broadcast:-

- 07.00 **IRONSIDE** Starring PAUL ROUND
- 08.00 **THROUGH THE KEY HOLE** with JOHN HOUGH
- 08.30 **THE GENERAL** NEIL FLANAGAN stars
- 09.30 **TUBBY THE TUBA** featuring JASON CLEGG
- 10.00 **BREAKAWAYS** with CHRIS ECKERSLEY
- 10.30 **HOME GROUND** CHRIS HAMILTON takes us on a tour of his favourite spots
- 11.15 **CLOSE RELATIONS** (Repeat) Another chance to see the steamy three in a bed scene with Oldham RLFC, Rochdale Hornets RLFC and Rochdale FC
- 13.00 **100 PER CENT GOLD** Sleight of hand with PAUL CROOK
- 14.00 **CHILDRENS HOSPITAL** Further treatment to the rib injury suffered by DARREN ROBINSON
- 15.00 **WE CAN WORK IT OUT** PADDY KIRWAN and MICK COATES sort out your consumer problems

- 15.30 **THE TRAVEL SHOW** Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd. take to the road and show you the hottest spots in the North of England
- 16.15 **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LIKELY LADS?** Another chance to re-live that golden age of comedy with PETER TUNKS and TONY BARROW
- 16.45 **HOT PROPERTY** Introducing DARREN ROBINSON (Again!)
- 17.30 **MEN BEHAVING BADLY** A classic episode set in York with AFI LEUILA and SEAN COOPER dishing out the punishment
- 18.00 **LIVE AND DANGEROUS** The inimitable MICK MARTINDALE shows us life on the edge
- 19.00 **THE CLAMPERS** The Oldham Front Row gets to grips with the usual unsavoury set of miscreants
- 20.00 **TOP OF THE POPS** Extended edition with CHRIS WILKINSON showing some fancy footwork
- 21.15 **DROP THE DEAD DONKEY** Featuring CRAIG RICHARDS



"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Dave Chaloner GUEST WRITER

My childhood was, in sporting terms, governed by certainties. In summer it was Lancashire CCC and they usually began: Lloyd (D), Wood, Pilling . . . In Winter it was Latics, announced by bold type in the Chronicle on Friday teatime, commencing: Dowd, Wood, Whittle . . . At Watersheddings, almost inevitably, there was: Murphy Elliot, Larder, and into adulthood it continued: Lancashire flattered to deceive, Latics went twenty-five years without relegation and a different triumvirate entered my life: Quinn, Lindsay, Murdoch.

There came in rapid succession: threatened merger, the Centenary season, Super League, countless final games at Watersheddings, eviction, a whole truckload of administrative/commercial appointments, humiliation, relegation, oblivion. These were followed closely by re-formation, new realism and the joyful, chaotic process of building a new club which took place in the winter. I knew I was back loving the Club and the game fiercely when, at Christmas, a Rochdale Hornets supporter smugly informed me that we only had three players and that the Law cup, if it took place at all, was a mere formality. 'Seven', I snapped back at him peevishly. It was great, truly a defining moment.

But where now for Oldham? Initially this question is simply answered. Gradual and sustainable improvements in playing standard, continued formation of links with the amateur game, foundation of an Academy/Alliance side, strong community infrastructures and a secure and permanent home ground. Efficiently applied and managed, these policies will enable Oldham to take its place in the higher echelons of FASDA Clubs. There lies the crux of the matter.

Professional rugby league in Britain has ceased to be one game. There is super league and there is FASDA. Super league, as an organisation, will seek to develop along national, non-traditional lines and the 'small town' clubs within will, inevitably, be squeezed. Rule changes will be implemented to speed up and simplify the game, making it superficially more exciting and appealing to a mass media audience which knows little, and cares less, about 1895 and all that.

The target audience for FASDA clubs will be different, the game of rugby league in Oldham, and like towns, will continue to appeal to its historical

base and these people may well wish to retain and build upon many features which brought the game to where it was in 1995. The inexorable logic will be, from within rugby league, two related but different games and the great schism of 1895 which divided rugby will have been mirrored by the events of 1995.

Signs of the growing split are everywhere. Most official pronouncements from Super League fail to mention the words 'rugby league'. The behaviour by Leeds RLFC in the Bramley farago is surely designed to provoke a reaction and, of course, to channel more money towards a super league club. The next television rights will be negotiated separately, with FASDA, more than likely, going back to winter with a BBC contract to compete on a Saturday with amateur rugby league and nationwide soccer or on a Sunday with pay-per-view Premiership soccer. Mr Murdoch, or another similar media tycoon, will then be able to buy up rugby union entirely, contract both Super League and rugby union players twelve months per year and play them where he likes in whichever code. This then leads us to three games; an 'elite' media driven game of whatever name it wishes to be called: rugby league as operated by FASDA; and rugby union as operated by the majority of its unwanted clubs.

So back to Oldham, our future clearly lies with FASDA – practically, morally, geographically, historically. Our game, an emotive phrase in itself, must exploit its traditional strengths, use money more wisely than before in order to celebrate the difference that we have. In this way, we can grow from strong foundations and turn the tables on super league, where clubs continually fight like ferrets in a sack over scrapings of money without giving much clear thought to the real process of earning it. The worst thing about the last three years has been the spectacle of once proud and independent clubs fawning and grovelling towards a media collection plate and happily relying on welfare handouts. Oldham, and like clubs, have it in them to reverse this trend, to reward excellence, to make people proud of their clubs and to grow by making and spending money wisely. In these ways our clubs will continue to inherit the spirit of 1895 with qualities of tough fair-mindedness, militancy and community which together brought forth planned innovation and the game of rugby league as it had developed until 1995.

So there are no certainties any longer, just challenge. Growing up, I suppose.

Dave Chaloner

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MATCH BY MATCH 1998

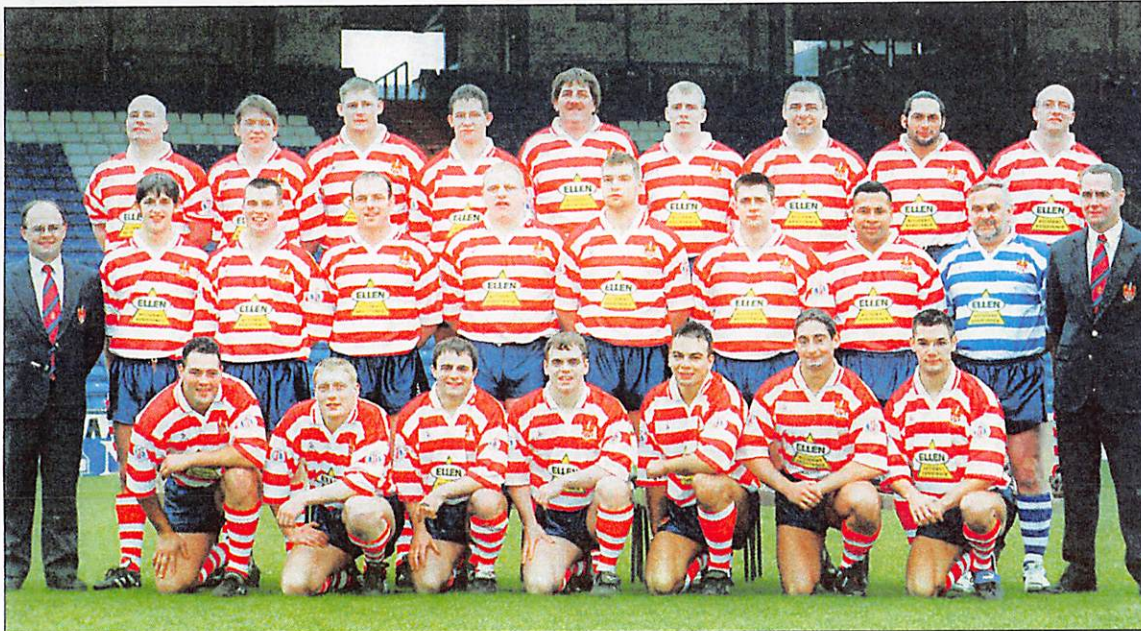
Month	Day	Time	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
JANUARY																						
1	Thurs	ROCHDALE H (Low Cap)	103.00	5097	36-16	Mead	Eckersley	Wilde	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Guest	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Prescott	Jackman	Robinson	Round	Leslia	Diggle
18	Sun	HEWORTH (RLCC 3rd and Prems)	43.00	2943	36-14	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Prescott	Robinson	Eckersley	Clegg	Fleming
FEBRUARY																						
1	Sun	WIGHES (RLCC 3rd Row)	103.00	4579	9-49	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Eckersley	Clegg	Fleming
APRIL 1998																						
10	Fri	LANCASHIRE LYNX	114.00																			
13	Mon	WORKINGTON TOWN	43.00	1344	22-18	Mead	Darke	Leslia	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Clegg	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Maders	Varley
22	Wed	BRAMLEY	47.45	1069	10-12	Wilde	Darke	Leslia	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Prescott	Varley
26	Sun	DONCASTER DRAGONS	43.00	1050	20-8	Wilde	Darke	Leslia	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Varley	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Clegg	Shaw
MAY																						
4	Mon	BRAMLEY	103.00	2921	32-50	Mead	Darke	Leslia	Wilde	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Nadiolo	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Varley	Sinfield	Prescott
10	Sun	BATLEY BULLDOGS	103.00	1929	28-20	Wilkinson	Mead	Leslia	Darke	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Nadiolo	Martindale	Robinson	Varley	Clegg	Prescott
17	Sun	BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	103.00	1867	13-4	Wilkinson	Mead	Leslia	Darke	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Nadiolo	Martindale	Sinfield	Varley	Clegg	Shaw
24	Sun	YORK	43.00	1482	6-27	Wilkinson	Darke	Leslia	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadiolo	Martindale	Mead	Sinfield	Varley	Prescott
31	Sun	RR LANCASHIRE LYNX	43.00	1351	18-18	Wilde	Mead	Darke	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Robinson	Edwards	Nadiolo	Shaw	Martindale	Sinfield	Varley	Prescott	Round
JUNE																						
7	Sun	RR WORKINGTON	43.00	1057	27-10	Wilde	Darke	Leslia	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Hough	Shaw	Sinfield	Nadiolo	Martindale	Mead	Clegg	Varley	Round
14	Sun	RR BARROW B R (at Rochdale)	103.00	1686	32-8	Wilde	Darke	Leslia	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Proctor	Nadiolo	Sinfield	Mead	Crook	Edwards	Varley
19	Fri	RR LANCASHIRE L (at Rochdale)	107.00																			
28	Sun	RR BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	43.00																			

APPEARANCES & SCORERS....SEASON 1998 TO DATE

Month	Day	Team	Time	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts	Apps	Subs	Tries	Goals	D.G.	Pts	
9	Sun	RR WORKINGTON	103.00													
10	Sun	RR FIBAL		Adrian Mead	8	2	3	-	12	Mick Edwards	8	1	2	-	4	
				Richard Darke	10	-	4	-	32	Ian Sinfield	5	4	1	-	4	
26	Sun	LANCASHIRE LYNX	43.00	Afi Leslia	9	1	5	-	20	Joe Nadiolo	7	-	1	-	4	
				Sean Cooper	10	-	3	1	14	Graeme Shaw	9	2	2	-	8	
				Steve Wilde	9	-	3	-	12	Nathan Varley	1	8	-	-	-	
2	Sun	WORKINGTON	103.00	Joe McNicholas	4	-	2	-	8	Mick Martindale	10	-	3	-	12	
				Chris Eckersley	10	2	8	-	32	Darren Robinson	1	8	2	-	8	
16	Sun	DONCASTER	103.00	Chris Wilkinson	6	-	-	14	2	30	Mike Prescott	2	5	2	-	8
				Craig Barker	10	-	2	-	8	Andrew Proctor	3	-	-	-	-	
23	Sun	BATLEY	43.15	Neil Flanagan	13	-	3	-	12	Paul Crook	-	1	-	-	-	
				Jason Clegg	1	6	-	-	-	Paul Guest	1	-	-	-	-	
30	Sun	BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	43.00	Martin Maders	7	1	1	-	4	Brian Quinlan	3	-	-	12	24	
				Paul Round	7	6	3	-	12	Emerson Jackman	1	-	-	-	-	
				John Hough	12	-	4	-	16	Craig Diggle	2	1	2	-	8	

Best Wishes for the Season  **Seton Healthcare Group plc**

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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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Angela Powers, reporter with SKY GUEST WRITER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"



Angela Powers, former reporter with the Oldham Chronicle, former BBC TV North West's Sports Producer and now reporter with the Sky Rugby League team (also devout Wires fan!)

IT'S SUCH a hard life being a sports reporter. I opened up my newspaper yesterday (back pages first of course) to find a stream of articles about the World Cup . . . no, honestly. Looking a bit closer I realised that every article was written by a different reporter. Yes, the Daily Mail had sent SIX journalists to cover the World Cup in France. If you add the number of photographers they'd sent, and then did the same for all the other newspapers from the UK, it's my bet you would have been pushed to get them all on one 747.

The green devil on my shoulder can't help but suggest that those reporters/photographers will be having a fabulous time, watching all of those games live without paying for a ticket, and buying French beer and wine 'for contacts' on their expense accounts.

Why so bitter, you may ask? Well, apart from the fact that I'm not there, I know that my jealous assumptions are probably far from the truth. Reporting jobs abroad are never quite the junket you imagine. I should know, I've had a few.

A couple in particular spring to mind, and, funnily enough, they both involve Oldham RLFC, or the Bears, as they were known then.

The Bears' trip to Paris in the first year of Super League was a newsworthy occasion in the North West because it was the first time a team from the region had played at Paris St Germain. The plan was to get Allan Beswick, GMR presenter, to join the supporters on the trip, travelling on the coach, taking in the sights, watching the game etc. etc. As BBC North West's sports producer, I was sent to direct the crew. After arriving sometime after 11pm, Allan, cameraman Mike and I decided to head straight into Paris for one or two. It turned out to be one . . . two halves of lager and a coffee on the Champs Elysee came to £30.

So, we went to bed early (or so we told the

editor) because we had to get on the sightseeing coach the next day with the fans. I got to reception at 10am to find an eerily quiet lobby. Allan sauntered up to nonchalantly inform me that we had missed the coach – they'd brought forward the departure time to 9.30. We spent most of the day in a taxi, trawling through the centre of Paris, desperately looking out for red and white shirts. Everywhere we went the Gendarmes informed us that "we couldn't film here". The day – and our skins – were saved when the coach driver, on the way to the match the next day, agreed to divert to the Eiffel Tower, where we filmed Oldham fans singing and banner waving like the best of them. We got to the game (a disappointing draw) and my editor was none the wiser.

The second trip to Paris was a less happy occasion. Oldham had to win to avoid relegation. I'd got back from my summer holiday in the south of France at 10pm the night before, went into the office the next day and was promptly sent back out to France on the next plane. I got to the game with minutes to spare, met up with a French cameraman and then watched in dismay as Oldham lost. The tears of the fans told the story. The Bears were out of Super League. Seventeen hours after landing in Paris, I was back in Manchester, compiling one of the saddest reports in my career so far.

Trips abroad for the tv reporter are fraught affairs. You rarely relax because you know that if you miss something there's no going back to reshoot it. What made these two trips memorable for me was the kindness, humour and devotion of the Oldham fans, who without exception went out of their way to make my job easier and to make sure that what went on air was a true reflection of the loyalty and love those fans felt for their club

I'm often asked, as a reporter now for Sky's rugby league programmes, which are the best and which are the worst clubs to visit. Oldham may no longer be in the Super League, but the club still tops my list of the best. Watersheddings was ramshackle, but there was always a cup of hot tea waiting for us and a friendly word from the coaching staff and players (and believe me, you don't get that everywhere). It's the same today, even in DivisionTwo. Best of luck today Roughyeds – hope to see you again one day . . . in Paris!

Angela Powers



From The EDITOR


CHRIS CAISLEY and Maurice Lindsay have recently been very critical of the structure of Rugby League. They seem to think that clubs outside Super League are not producing players of sufficient quality and that many are squandering precious resources on overseas players rather than developing home grown talent. Whilst I can have some sympathy with the latter point I find it ironic that Bradford Bulls most recent signing - Tevita Vaikona - is both an overseas player and one from last season's First Division.

If only Super League clubs can produce players of the right quality why are Leeds Rhinos and Castleford Tigers among others loaning out players to lower division sides or even non-league sides in the case of Warrington Wolves? Surely the "inferior" regimes in the lower leagues will harm the development of these players? Would they not be better served by staying under the expert eye of the Super League clubs' own coaching staff and playing Alliance rugby? Except, of course, Bradford, Leeds, London, Hull, Warrington and Castleford no longer have Alliance

teams. Would it be churlish of me to suggest that the reason for this is to meet large contract payments, some of which will, no doubt, be paying for overseas players? And since Australia has become the model for all that is best in Rugby League would it be wrong to point out that Australian clubs universally turn out three grades and not two?

Whilst Mr Lindsay has a point that many Australian players over here are only here because they are not good enough to obtain lucrative contracts at home, would it not be a good idea to acknowledge that others, like Samoans, Fijians, Cook Islanders etc., can only benefit from experience in England and that such experience can only benefit their native lands if and when another Rugby League World Cup is staged?

So what at first sight appears a justifiable complaint is not such a straightforward situation after all. With Hunslet, Whitehaven, Keighley, Widnes, Leigh, Rochdale, Barrow, Batley and Workington all maintaining three sides who is really providing most opportunity for home grown talent?



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From the Supporters Club

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

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.

Itineraries for both trips are now available and if you are interested please contact either Alice (633 6780) or Trevor (628 8006) for a copy and further details.

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 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.

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We would like to thank Mark Holmes for doing a sponsored silence at last week's game, it was very hard but he did it. Thank you Mark.

Well done lads on your tremendous win last week.

Yours secretary,
Debbie Holmes

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From the Pen of . . . Michael Turner

BILLY MITCHELL

IT WAS with great sadness, to all concerned with Oldham RLFC, that we learned of the death of ex player Billy Mitchell on June 5th.

WILLIAM SANDIFORD MITCHELL joined Oldham from the local St Mary's club in 1937, originally as an amateur due to the fact that he was still only fifteen. On reaching his sixteenth birthday he duly signed professional forms, which began a seventeen year association with the club for this skilful centre three-quarter.

His first game in the Oldham senior side was in the friendly testimonial match arranged for Fred Ashworth against an International "13" on April 30th, 1938. Young Billy came on in the second half to make a try scoring debut. Billy also had the distinction of being one of the few Oldham players to score for the club in the "Yorkshire Cup" This was in the war-time period when, due to a lack of clubs, a few of the Lancashire teams were invited to take part in the competition. Billy scored a try in each of the victories over York (10-0) and Bradford (9-5) in November 1941.

However, it would be as a provider rather

than a scorer of tries that Billy would build his reputation. Wingman, Joe Warham, who topped the Oldham try scorers in 1949-50/50-51/51-52, has always been quick to acknowledge the three-quarter skills of Mitchell who he regarded as the best centre he ever partnered. International Terry O'Grady was another who paid tribute to the guidance he received from Mitchell.

After his senior debut at Widnes in December 1938, Billy soon established himself in the first team and, but for the disruption of the Second World War, his already impressive total of over 300 games for the club would have been many more.

Billy only ever scored one "hat-trick" of tries for Oldham. This was in a 35-8 defeat of Wakefield on September 9th, 1950. This was a good day for the Oldham three-quarter line with winger, Warham grabbing a couple of tries, as did Billy's fellow centre Laurie Platt. The only one to miss out was a young player who made his debut outside Billy on the left wing. His name...Alan Davies! Maybe this was Billy's way of showing the precocious youth just how it should be done.



It is hoped to introduce a new feature to the programme showing TEAM PHOTOS of the "Roughyeds of Yester-year". If anyone has any photos that they think would be of interest please contact Brian Walker, 01457 875084 or Michael Turner 0161-620-6005

To begin the series here is the team that beat Rochdale 21-5 on September 2nd 1950.

Billy Mitchell is on the extreme left of the back row. Back: Billy Mitchell, Eric Wiggett, Arthur Tomlinson, Edgar Brooks, Tommy Leyland, Les Anthony. Middle: Joe Warham, Wills Spencer, Bryn Goldswain (capt), Laurie Platt, Bill Ratchford. Front: Joe Silva, Frank Heyes



The Roughyeds

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Graham Clay, Rugby League Express GUEST WRITER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"



Graham Clay, general manager of Rugby League Express, calls for FASDA clubs to get closer to their French counterparts.

TWELVE months ago, Oldham embarked on a big adventure.

The World Club Challenge was underway, and Oldham travelled down-under to face North Queensland Cowboys and Adelaide Rams. With just three wins and a draw from their opening thirteen league games it was a tough call, but offered much-needed respite from a troubled season.

How times change. So much has happened to Rugby League in the town since then, it is hard to believe that it really is just a year ago.

But now, the club has another attractive overseas tournament to aim for.

The Trieze Tournoi will be played during October between French clubs Limoux, St Esteve and Villeneuve and the top two sides from the English Division One, and the Champions of Division Two.

Currently lying third, the new Oldham has a terrific opportunity to end their first season on a high with involvement in this exciting competition.

And what just reward it would be for Chris Hamilton, his staff and the players who, in great adversity, all have produced a winning team that everyone in Rugby League can be proud of.

Bob Scott, the general manager of FASDA, spent five days in the south of France recently preparing for the competition.

He also took in the French Cup Final,

and was impressed with what he saw.

Quality players with Super League experience, such as Jean-Marc Garcia, Pierre Chamorin, Freddie Banquet, and a few Australians such as former Keighley forward Grant Doorey have breathed new life into the French domestic competition.

France are our nearest international neighbours, yet for years we have ignored them.

But despite the disappointment of Paris St Germain, the game is alive and kicking in the traditional southern heartlands. I have been to several French Cup Finals and Test matches around Carcassone and Toulouse, and witnessed first hand the passion they have for the game.

And whilst it is obvious a thrashing by the full Great Britain Test side won't do anything to develop their game, I do think FASDA clubs could help the French and themselves by getting together to form a representative side to make mini-tours across the Channel.

It would give our first and second players something to aim for and the rare chance of representative honours that might not normally come their way.

I suggest a short tour of four games, three against club or regional sides culminating in a "Test" match.

It would become an annual event, held in Britain one year and France the next.

There's no doubt in my mind that it would create an international representative fixture certain to improve playing standards, raise spectator awareness and attract new sponsors on both sides of the Channel.

Graham Clay



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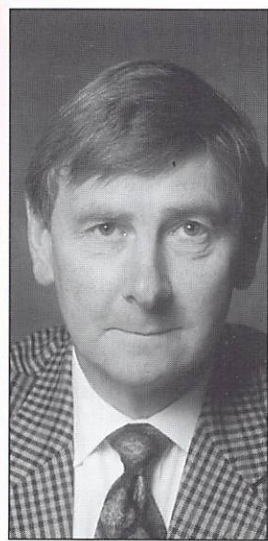
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Good Luck to the Roughyeds



Gerry Kershaw former Grade 1 & International Referee GUEST WRITER



Technological Rugby League
By Gerry Kershaw former Grade 1 and International Referee, now an assessor and video referee. Gerry was born in Oldham and attended Counthill G.S. before leaving the town to further his education and later to take a teaching post in the York area. Gerry has refereed many Oldham matches using his adopted town of Easingwold as his nominated residence.

ONE thing rugby league administrators cannot be accused of through the years is being unresponsive to change. When Rupert Murdoch came along with a lucrative offer the whole of the game was transformed from its historic winter season to presentation on Sky TV in summer. I happened to be in the right place at the right time for, as a member of Greg McCallum's referees advisory board, and having retired at fifty from active refereeing, I was invited to become one of a small panel of video referees.

The technology is wonderful and I'm sure many spectators would be impressed by the massive amount of time, man power and equipment used to bring super league to the screens of Sky viewers twice each weekend.

On Friday June 5th I was video referee for the Halifax v Hull game and, with this article in mind, I was more attentive than usual to the technology which surrounded me in the production van. The thirteen cameras at the

game included the one in the 'bucket' on the end of a huge crane, while in front of me were sixty monitors with another sixty behind. In total there were fifteen members of the production team all sat in front of keyboards.

We went almost the whole of the first half without any involvement from me but I'm then called upon to decide whether a Hull player has scored and, if not, how the game should re-start. I can hear everything the referee says throughout the game but he cannot hear me. In this case the referee feels the Hull player lost possession. Incredibly, the producer calls on videos of the incident from several cameras behind the in-goal area and I can watch the incident from four different angles. In this case it was clearly no try and, the ball having last touched the attacking player before going dead, the game is re-started with a place kick on the 20m line. The decision is flashed up on the big screen and 'Stevo', paid to be controversial, tells the viewers that while he agrees with the 'no try' decision the video ref has got the re-start wrong. Half-time comes and with it my chance to put 'Stevo' in his place. "You didn't know the . . . rules when you were playing and you still don't!!" But did he admit he was wrong over the air in the second-half? - Did he hell!

Two more decisions during the second half are real hair-line affairs and quite excellent examples of the use of technology. In one a Halifax player in putting the ball down for a try is literally only a whisker away from stepping on the dead ball line. In the second the referee suggests another Halifax player has lost the ball at the last moment in the act of scoring. Video evidence takes all the pressure off the referee in these circumstances and in ninety nine cases out of a hundred provides the correct decision. There's the odd one where you could look at video evidence all day and still be in doubt but it's great theatre and I'm privileged to play a small part in it.

Gerry Kershaw

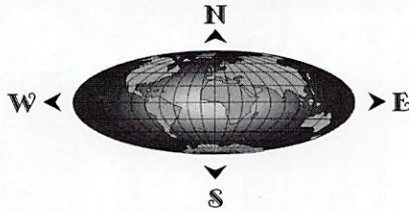
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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

EARLIER this month, the players of the St. Annes club commenced pre-season training just eleven days after their final match of the 1997-98 campaign. Their enthusiasm has to be admired, for the local amateur season is a demanding ten month slog which last season began in early August with the annual Oldham 'sevens'. That competition was staged at St. Annes with the home club entering two teams who both won their way to the final. First blood of the 1997-98 season, therefore, went to Saints with blockbusting prop Bing Findlater winning the man of the competition award.

The most sought after trophy on the local amateur scene is the Standard Cup which is open to all ten Oldham area open age clubs. Saddleworth Rangers were the holders of the trophy but they crashed out at the first hurdle when Waterhead, on form and fired up, won 31-12 at Shaw Hall Bank Road. The 'derby' match between Heyside and Shaw produced a close fought first half at the end of which Shaw led 10-8. Shaw pulled away after the interval to eventually win 34-10.

The quarter-finals produced four clear cut victories. Waterhead defeated neighbours Watersheddings Wanderers 62-0; Higginshaw won 40-2 at Middleton Rhinos; Rick Badby scored a try and four goals as St. Annes won at Salem Hornets 28-6; and Hollinwood won 21-4 at Shaw. Hollinwood led 17-0 at half time, all their points coming from just two players. Wilson scored three tries and Paul Winrow a try, two goals and a dropped goal.

Both semi finals were staged under the Saddleworth Rangers floodlights. The first tie saw St. Annes produce a superb performance to lead Waterhead 24-0 early in the second half before coasting to a 24-6

victory. Second rower Glen Galbraith scored two of Saints four tries. Higginshaw loose-forward Simon Howe also scored a brace of tries but Higgy had to work hard before eliminating Hollinwood 16-6.

Torrential rain on Maundy Thursday caused the postponement of the final and this had a detrimental effect on the attendance, only 757 watching the match in early May. St. Annes were firm favourites to win but Higginshaw gave their best and it was not until late in the game that the Saints pulled away to register a 38-12 win. The Ben Powell Trophy went to second-rower Martin Taylor for his barnstorming runs and solid defence but he was pushed hard by stand off Richard Badby who scored 20 points with three tries and four goals.

Only six clubs entered the Oldham end-of-season play-off competition and one of those, Waterhead, withdrew after being unable to raise a team. Perhaps the timing of this tournament should be changed. It would surely be more beneficial and attractive to clubs if it were a pre-season competition. Saddleworth Rangers did show enthusiasm for the tournament by entering two teams, their under 18 side joining the open age side. St. Annes beat Shaw 28-12 in torrential rain but then lost to Saddleworth who had had a walk over against Waterhead. In the meantime, Rangers under 18s beat Hollinwood and then knocked out Higginshaw 26-20 in an excellent semi-final. So it was Rangers v Rangers at Rangers in the final. The open age side won by 36 point to eight to tie up what has been an entertaining and interesting season of local rugby.

It all begins again on Sunday 9th August at St. Annes for the annual 'sevens'. And the Saints are already in training for it.

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OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE:

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Details from the Club Offices: **0161 628 3677**

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Can anybody come up with reasons behind the alarming variations regarding attendances for home matches?

For the Bramley game on 4th May, there were 2,900 paying customers. A week later against Batley, there were just 1,900, a decrease of some ONE THOUSAND.

Similarly, for the Law Cup game at Rochdale on New Years Day 3,000 people packed into Spotland. Six months later against Barrow, in the first league game at Rochdale, there is just 1,700 a decrease of some ONE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED! Why is this??? Puzzled fan?

Paul Marshall

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**



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Coach: Paddy Kirwan

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2	Richard DARKES			
3	Afi LEUILA			
4	Sean COOPER			
5	Chris ECKERSLEY			
6	Chris WILKINSON			
7	Neil FLANAGAN			
8	Andrew PROCTOR			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Graeme SHAW			
11	Ian SINFIELD			
12	Joe NAIDOLE			
13	Mick MARTINDALE			
14	Adrian MEAD	16	Nathan VARLEY	
15	Jason CLEGG	17	Paul ROUND	

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

TONIGHT'S REFEREE

Mr G. Shaw



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TOUCH JUDGES

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LANCASHIRE LYNX

Coach: Steve Hampson

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2	Steve BYRNE			
3	Steve ASHCROFT			
4	Darren ABRAM			
5	Neil PARSLEY			
6	Phil JONES			
7	Chris KELLY			
8	Lee PREST			
9	John DONNO			
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11	Steve GEE			
12	PJ SOLOMON			
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14	Carl BRISCOE	16	Joe WALSH	
15	Paul NORTON	17	Neil MAWDSLEY	

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