



**OFFICIAL MATCHDAY  
MAGAZINE**

**BATLEY**

*Bulldogs*

**RUGBY LEAGUE DIVISION TWO**

**TRANS PENNINE CUP FINAL**

**BATLEY BULLDOGS v OLDHAM**

**Sunday 19th July 1998 K.O. 3.15pm**

**at MOUNT PLEASANT**

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# Welcome to the Mount



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**Conditioner:**

Tony O'Brien

**Academy Coach:**

Steve Conway

**Alliance Coach:**

Paul Storey

**Club Doctors:**

Dr. D. J. Clarke

**Physiotherapists:**

G. Gray-Cowan M.C.S.P.

**Groundsman:**

E. Abbott

**Club Records**

L. Grailey

**Club Statistician**

W. Blunden

A huge welcome to today's visitors from across the Pennines to Directors, Players and Supporters alike. This afternoons 'War of the Roses' Cup promises to be a real 'battle'.

With both teams obviously finishing top in their respective tables and only 3 points separating them in the Division 2 chase, they are the in form teams.

Batley are looking to frighten Oldham to a defeat by looking at loose forward Paul Harrison. Not a pretty sight after breaking his nose and knocking out a tooth in last weeks clash with York or should I say clash with Roger Simpson's head.

David Ward along with his coaching staff have worked tremendously hard with the lads to ensure Batley have a place in this final and today I hope we get the result he deserves. Although Oldham may have a few things to say about that.

Team spirit is riding high at the Mount and this showed last Saturday. It started with the teams training hard alongside Batley Boys Juniors followed by a bowls competition and a barbeque. It seemed an enjoyable time was had by all!

Full marks to our groundsman Eric Abbott who has put in extra time this week to make the pitch look well worthy of a final also a big thank you to everybody working behind the scenes this week too many to mention but you know who you are and we couldn't do it without you.

Lets get back to today's game.

Throughout the season teams have been beating each other. It was Oldham's turn at Boundary Park earlier this year lets hope it's our turn today. Good luck to both teams

*Enjoy the game*  
*Andy Winner*

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*David Ward  
Supporting Batley Bulldogs*

## BULLDOGS FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES

	Career					1998 Season				
	Played	D/goals	Goals	Tries	Pts	Played	D/goals	Goals	Tries	Pts
S JACKSON	14(8)	2		3	14	9 (1)	-	-	4	16
L BARGATE	28(3)			11	44	15	-	-	6	24
C GIBSON	142(1)			86	328	3	-	-	-	-
R SIMPSON	37(1)			19	76	11	-	-	5	20
D TURPIN	26			22	88	1	-	-	-	-
S WALKER	103(11)		16	48	224	8(7)	-	-	2	8
P GLEADHILL	-			-	-	15	-	-	9	36
R PRICE	41		110	27	328	15	-	49	6	122
G BARNETT	61(11)			15	60	12(2)	5	-	6	29
D FOX	-			-	-	3	-	1	-	2
R POWELL	-			-	-	9	-	-	-	-
M CASS	139(20)	1		35	141	11(2)	1	-	2	9
C McWILLIAM	57(5)	1		8	33	12	-	-	1	4
G MIDDLETON	60(22)			7	28	8(4)	-	-	-	-
T. WALTON	104(8)			19	76	12(2)	-	-	3	12
P HARRISON	71(13)			21	84	15	-	-	4	16
M SCOTT	172(20)	1		41	165	-(3)	-	-	-	-
N BRADBROOK	6(6)			-	-	1(6)	-	-	-	-
R HEWITT	15(12)			-	-	2(3)	-	-	-	-
R BROOK	32(7)			2	8	1	-	-	-	-
J MORGAN	-			-	1	1(6)	-	-	2	8
P MIRFIN	68(24)	1		14	58	3(10)	-	-	2	8
D MOXON	136(8)			54	216	-(1)	-	-	-	-
A WRAY	-			-	-	11(2)	-	-	3	12
N CRAVEN	8(1)			1	4	-(5)	-	-	1	4
G MIERS	-			-	-	7(4)	-	-	1	4
J DYSON	34(2)		55	7	138	5(2)	-	2	-	4
D HUGHES	4(1)			-	-	4(1)	-	-	3	12
N SIMPSON	-			-	-	1	-	-	-	-

N.B. Games played include sub appearances referred to in brackets

# WARDY'S WORDS

It was a very emotional day both for me and the players after the York game which I had previously described as being like a semi-final. The way the players were greeted after the match as they made their way into the dressing rooms was excellent to see and made a big impression on them. After the match to be then presented with medals for their achievement completed the day and was the icing on the cake.

The last final I was involved in was 10 years ago with Hunslet at Old Trafford which was a special day for me and the players but today's game at 'The Mount' will be no less special and we aim to go one step better than then and win the Cup. We can enjoy the build up and the after match activities but as far as the game is concerned we are not in it to make up the numbers and we need to be focused and show a mental toughness to win the game which will then also set us up for the promotion battle ahead.

It's great to see that we are playing Oldham in the final. We have had our troubles and Oldham have certainly had theirs and for them now to be competing without any News Corporation monies is a tremendous achievement and they should be proud. Make no mistake we are proud as well. One nice feature of both clubs is that our board and myself are Batley lads and the Oldham board and their coach Paddy Kirwan are Oldham lads and so we all know about pride in our local town.

It was clear when we played Oldham away that they were a good side although that day if a couple of things had gone our way we could have come away with a victory. It was not to be and since then both teams have improved, which should make for a cracking final and it should also set us up for a return game here in August. Oldham qualified on points difference and our close game against York shows how intensely competitive this division is and so prepare yourselves for the 'WAR OF THE ROSES'

Wardy

## WAR OF THE ROSES ITINERARY

- 1.00pm** Batley Academy v York Academy
- 2.30pm** Pre-War Entertainment by Spen Valley High School Samba Band
- 3.00pm** Both Teams emerge for Battle led by Bob Scott of FASDA.
- 3.05pm** Teams presented to Guests of Honour;  
  
Lord Lofthouse  
  
John Etty  
  
Mayors of Kirklees and Oldham
- 3.15pm** War of the Roses begins
- 4.50pm** The battle is over, both teams presented with medals in the Heritage stand, the victors receive the cup.
- 5.00pm** Both teams do a traditional lap of honour before returning to dressing rooms to repair battle wounds
- 5.30pm** Man of the Match Awards presented in Balcony Lounge at Taverners



# Batley Bulldogs Pen Pics



## **David Ward - Head Coach and Director**

As a player David had a distinguished career with Leeds as a hooker and Captain. He also has twelve caps for Great Britain. He started his coaching career in 1986 with Hunslet and during his spell there they became Champions of Division 2 and were beaten finalists in the Division 2 Premiership. He was then Coach at Leeds before taking up his first spell at Batley between 1991 and 1994. His last appointment as Coach was at Featherstone Rovers before commencing his present spell in time for pre-season training this year. As a Batley lad he is a popular choice of Coach among players and supporters alike and is well respected such that he has been invited onto the Board of Directors at the club.

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## **Roy Powell - Prop/Second Row**

Roy has joined the Club this season from Featherstone Rovers and was immediately made Club Captain which he appears to be relishing. He played on 29 occasions for Featherstone last season and also had a long and distinguished career with Leeds. Whilst at Leeds he won a total of 19 caps for Great Britain as well as 5 caps for Great Britain Under 21's. He is well known for his defensive qualities and is a Batley lad.

---



## **Roger Simpson - Centre/Winger/Stand Off/Full Back**

Roger signed for Batley in January 1996 as part of a deal which saw Glen Tomlinson transferred in the opposite direction to Bradford Bulls. He has recently had a testimonial as recognised long service at Bradford Bulls during which time he received one cap for England against France in 1995. He has now played some 40 games for Batley scoring 21 tries and is still capable of going the length of the field.

---



## **Simon Jackson - Full Back/Centre**

He signed for the Club in June 1995 having previously played Junior and Amateur Rugby League for St. John Fisher. He is a product of the Academy Team at Batley. He broke into the First Team last season and has now established himself as a regular member of the First Team Squad at the age of 21.

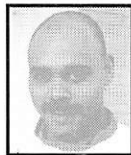
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## **Lee Bargate - Wing/Centre**

He is in his second spell at the Club having initially signed from Middleton Amateurs in 1990. He then went to Featherstone Rovers being persuaded back to Batley by David Ward.

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## **Carl Gibson - Centre/Winger/Full Back**

Carl is another player in his second period at the club. He initially signed as a junior before transferring to Leeds in 1990 for a record £50,000.00. He then moved to Featherstone Rovers before re-joining Batley in 1996. He has played eleven times for Great Britain as well as some 144 times for Batley scoring 86 tries. He is a Batley lad born and bred.

---



## **Paul Gleadhill - Winger**

Paul came to Batley with David Ward at the beginning of this season having previously played at Featherstone Rovers. As a speedy and elusive Winger he is already making his mark at the Club by getting on the score sheet. Last season he played 22 times for Featherstone scoring 13 tries.

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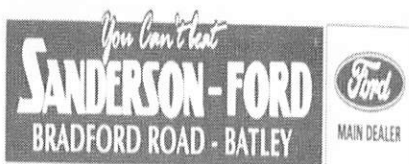
## **Steve Walker - Centre/Winger/Full Back**

Steve signed from Dudley Hill Amateurs in 1992 and since then prior to this season has played 103 times for Batley scoring 48 tries and 16 goals. Last season he played on 22 occasions and scored 11 tries and 10 goals.

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# Batley Bulldogs Pen Pics



**Nick Simpson - Centre**

A tall and strong centre who came to Batley for a trial when he moved into the area as a student. Has had a chance in the First Team. He is learning the game in the Alliance, may feature again in the First Team squad this year and is a name to look out for in the future.

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**Andy Wray - Prop/Second Row**

Andy is on loan from Featherstone until the end of July 1998. He is another player persuaded to join Batley by David Ward and having impressed in the early Alliance games has now broken into the First Team Squad.

---



**Grant Miers - Second Row**

Grant played for Oulton ARLFC when we played them in the R.L. Cup this year and had a fine game. He came to Batley for a trial and due to his high work rate now established himself as a regular. An Australian by the way.

---



**Richard Price - Stand-Off/Goal Kicker**

Richard signed from Sheffield Eagles in 1996. Last season he broke the Clubs point scoring record in 31 appearances scoring 22 tries and 110 goals making a total of 308 points. He has also previously played for Hull during which time he played twice for Great Britain Under 21's.

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**Gary Barnett - Scrum Half/Loose Forward**

Gary signed from Bramley in 1995 and by the end of last season had played on 61 occasions scoring 16 tries. He was one of the most consistent players last season playing in 25 games and scoring 9 tries.

---



**Mark Cass - Scrum Half/Hooker**

Mark signed from Hull in 1992 having previously played amateur Rugby League in Middleton, Leeds. A past Batley Player of the Year, up until the beginning of this season he had played 139 games for Batley and scored 35 tries and a drop goal. Last season he played on 27 occasions scoring 10 tries and a drop goal.

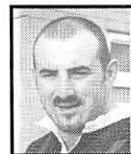
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**Chris McWilliam - Prop**

Chris is an Australian of Scottish descent who signed for Batley in 1994 having previously played for Ovenden Amateurs and Keighley Cougars. Due to injury and a dispute with the previous Board he did not play last season but has now returned to the Club under the new regime and coaching staff and no doubt will now lead from the front. He has previously played 57 games for Batley scoring 8 tries and a drop goal.

---



**Graham Middleton - Prop/Second Row**

Graham joined Batley from Leeds in 1993 and prior to the start of this season had made 60 appearances scoring 7 tries. He is another player who due to a dispute with the previous Board did not play last season but under a new Coach and Board he has now re-joined the Club and has immediately made his presence felt in the First Team Squad.



# CLUBS RECORDS 1894 TO DATE

## RECORD ATTENDANCE

23,989 v. Leeds (home) 13.3.25.

## RECORD SCORE

78 - 22 v. Leigh (home) 26.3.95.

64 - 0 v. Nottingham City (away) 10.11.91.

## GOALS

Game- S. Wilson (13) v. Leigh 26.3.95.

Season- S. Wilson (127) inc 2 drop goals - Season 1994-95.

Career- W.P. Davies (463) - 1896-1912.

## TRIES

Game- J. Oakland (5) v. Bramley (H) 19.12.1908

T. Brannan (5) v. Swinton (H) 17.3.20

J. Wale (5) v. Bramley (H) 4.12.26

J. Wale (5) v. Cottingham (H) R.L. Cup 12.2.27

T. Oldroyd (5) v. Highfield (A) 6.3.94

Season- J. Tindall (29) Season 1912-13

D. Moxon (27) Post War tries in a season

(season 1993-94)

Career- W.P. Davies (123) 1896 - 1912

## POINTS

Game- S. Wilson (30) v. Leigh (H) 26.3.95

Season- R. Price (308) Season 1997

Career- W.P. Davies (1297) Season 1896 - 1912

## APPEARANCES

Season- J. Etty (44) Season 1950 51

Career- W.P. Davies (421) Season 1896 - 1912

## REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

### GREAT BRITAIN-

F. Gallagher 1922-26

J. Oliver 1928

N. Field 1963

C. Gibson 1985

### ENGLAND-

F. Hill 1909

G. Davidge 1924

F. Gallagher 1923-27

J. Oliver 1928

G. Brown 1945

W. Hudson 1946-7

G. Palmer 1951

### GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 24's

S. Gittins 1969

WALES

W.T. Davies 1909

F. Willis 1921

B. Williams 1921-2

H. Rees 1923-5

I.J. Fowler 1926

### OTHER NATIONALITIES-

F. Willis 1921

B. Williams 1921

I.J. Fowler 1926

### GREAT BRITAIN TOURISTS-

F. Gallagher 1924

J. Oliver 1928

### YORKSHIRE APPEARANCES

(Post War)

W.R. Riches 1946-52

W. Hudson 1946

S. Hargreaves 1947

D. Burnell 1947

J.W. Etty 1947-50

N. Field 1963

P. Doyle 1969

J. Naylor 1973

C. Gibson 1985

## CLUB HONOURS

R.L. Challenge Cup Winners - 1896-7, 1897-8 & 1900-01

Yorkshire Cup Winners - 1912-13

Yorkshire Cup Runners-Up - 1909-10, 1922-23, 1924-25 & 1952-53

Yorkshire Rugby Union Cup Winners - 1884-85

Yorkshire Rugby Union Cup Runners-Up - 1892-93

Yorkshire Senior Cup Runners-Up ('A' Team) - 1981-82

Rugby League Championship Winners - 1923-24

Stones Bitter Championship Division 2 Runners-Up - 1994-95

Yorkshire League Winners - 1898-9 & 1923-4

Yorkshire League Runners-Up - 1899-1900, 1908-9, 1921-2 & 1925-6

Alliance Division 2 East Champions ('A' Team) - 1991-2

Alliance Division 2 Cup Runners-Up ('A' Team) - 1991-2

# NAME THE WOODEN BATLEY PLAYER WIN A JUNIOR DRILL TOP

All forms to be handed back to the officials or posted in the post box at the entrance to the dressing rooms.

All entries to be in by 26th July 1998.

**GOOD LUCK!!**

# FREE CHILDRENS RAFFLE DRILL TOPS

Organized by Roy Powell

At each home game as children enter the ground they will be given a free raffle ticket and at half time there will be a draw for the prize of a

# BATLEY BULLDOGS DRILL TOP

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*Thanks*

# Rugby League Division Two

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Lancashire Lynx	12	8	2	2	314	193	121	18
Bramley	14	9	0	5	342	251	91	18
Oldham	13	8	1	4	299	222	77	17
York Wasps	13	8	0	5	272	183	89	16
Batley Bulldogs	13	7	0	6	286	241	45	14
Barrow Border Raiders	13	6	1	6	233	234	-1	13
Workington Town	13	2	1	10	188	384	-196	5
Doncaster Dragons	13	1	1	11	197	423	-226	3

# Batley Bulldogs Pen Pics



**Tony Walton - Second Row**

Tony joined the Club from Doncaster in 1993 and up until the start of this season had made 104 First Team appearances scoring 19 tries. Due to injuries he played on only 16 occasions last season scoring 3 tries but should play a major part in the First Team Squad this season.



**Paul Harrison - Centre/Second Row/Loose Forward**

Paul joined the Club from Hull in 1994 and up until the start of this season had played on 71 occasions scoring 21 tries. Due to a dispute with the Club he did not play last season and eventually went to York but has now re-signed for Batley and is relishing his new role as a loose forward having previously played mainly as a centre and on occasions in the second row.



**Jonny Morgan - Second Row**

Jonny had joined the Club this season as yet another recruit from Featherstone Rovers having previously played for Doncaster. He has quickly established himself in the First Team Squad.



**Neil Bradbrook - Second Row**

Neil joined the Club last season from Hunslet Hawks having previously played for Doncaster and Featherstone Rovers. He played on 6 occasions at the end of last season and after him performing well in the Alliance he is now a member of the First Team Squad.



**Mark Scott - Hooker/Prop**

Mark is a Batley lad having played for Batley all his career after signing from Batley Boys Amateurs in 1984. Prior to this season he had played a total of 172 First Team games for Batley and scored 41 tries. He only played 3 games for the First Team last season but now seems to be back in form and if he stays clear of injury he should yet again be a valuable member of the First Team Squad.



**Jeremy Dyson - Fullback**

A local lad from Dewsbury who did not play last season but was persuaded back by David Ward. Initially started in the Alliance but after impressive games was rewarded with a First Team call and has seized his chance to now be part of the First Team Squad and is presently in top form.



**Richard Hewitt - Utility Player**

Richard joined Batley last season having previously played with Doncaster and has already shown his versatility by playing on the wing and in the forwards.

**Darren Hughes - Centre**

A powerful strong running experienced centre who last season played at Featherstone and in 20 appearances scored 14 tries. Has already notched up a hat-trick against Bramley this year at Batley and is dangerous especially near the line.



**Nigel Craven - Stand Off / Scrum Half**

A local lad from Batley who will never let any team down. Has had excellent games in the Alliance and has recently broken into the First Team Squad and has already got on the scoresheet.

**Phil Mirfin - Second Row/Loose Forward**

Phil joined the Club from Castleford in 1995 and is another player who did not play for the Club last season due to a dispute but has now returned after impressive games in the Alliance and is again part of the First Team Squad.

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# SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES AND RESULTS *at a glance*

	BATLEY BULLDOGS	BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	BRAMLEY	DONCASTER DRAGONS	OLDHAM	LANCASHIRE LYNX	WORKINGTON TOWN	YORK WASPS
BATLEY BULLDOGS		9/8	30/8	26/7	23/8	16-17	42-18	25-11
BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	19-17		16-12	42-8	30/8	2/8	10/4	16/8
BRAMLEY	24-14	5/9		18-14	12-10	14-19	23/8	26/7
DONCASTER DRAGONS	33-20	23/8	2/8		8-28	9/8	18-18	8-29
OLDHAM	28-20	17/5	50-32	16/8		10/4	2/8	6/9
LANCASHIRE LYNX	6/9	13/4	16/8	40-6	26/7		30/8	10/4
WORKINGTON TOWN	16/8	26/7	21-14	6/9	134	17/5		9/8
YORK	2/8	26/4	6-13	30/8	24/5	23/8	19/4	
<b>WHITE ROSE GAMES</b>								
BATLEY BULLDOGS			34-18	33-20				8-3
BRAMLEY	24-12		18-44	57-12				29/5
DONCASTER DRAGONS	22-28		18-40					20-26
YORK	4-13		27-10	44-12				
<b>RED ROSE GAMES</b>								
BARROW BORDER RAIDERS					19-2	12-22	34-12	
OLDHAM		32-8				25-20	56-8	
LANCASHIRE LYNX		32-14			18-18		48-12	
WORKINGTON TOWN		31/5			10-27	14/6		

# The Rebirth of a Great Club

by Oldham programme editor Geoff Cooke

On Monday 27th October 1997 I was the last person to speak from the floor to recommend that the shareholders vote to wind up Oldham Bears R.L.F.C. as the club's dept at that time was £1,198,908 the shareholders bowed to the inevitable. I was wearing a black tie at the time as a symbol of the loss that all Oldham supporters naturally felt.

Also present at the meeting was Christopher Hamilton and a group of Oldham businessmen comprising Melvyn Lord, Sean Whitehead and Stuart Hardacre. Little were those shareholders present that day to know that within weeks they would be attending another meeting celebrating the launch of a new Oldham Club. A turn-out of over 600 at this meeting and shortly there after at a fund raising dinner gave grounds for optimism. But the question was: Could Oldham put together a team in time to meet their targets of a Law Cup match against Rochdale Hornets on New Years Day and entry into the Silk Cut Challenge Cup later that month?

The first step was the appointment of a coach. Paddy Kirwan was a universally popular choice, being a former Bears Alliance Team coach, the head of Oldham's Challenge Cup defeat of Wigan in 1987 and a member of the family which, like a good stick of rock, has Oldham running right through. Paddy appointed as his assistant Mick Coats, a coach highly respected in local amateur circles and one with a track record at Saddleworth Rangers which was second to none.

But what of players? First to sign was local lad John Hough, a hooker out of Waterhead with considerable experience of Super League football at Warrington Wolves. Again the Houghs have Oldham in their veins, Uncle Mick having given stalwart service to Waterhead and, late in his career, having seen professional service with Mansfield Marksman where, I am led to believe, a young John Hough had been known to sell programmes with much burning of midnight oil, by the turn of the year Chris Hamilton, his directors and dedicated secretary Michele Fitzpatrick and honorary marketing man Brian Walker had signed up enough players to take on the

Hornets at Spotland.

Would the team be good enough? The answer was a resounding 'yes' as Oldham, playing on pure adrenaline, defeated their First Division neighbours 36-16 to lift the Law Cup, thereby winning a trophy in their first match. What was even better was that in an attendance of 3,097 over 2,000 were Oldham fans. There followed entry to the Challenge Cup and a preliminary round victory over Heworth by 36-14. But before anyone could get too euphoric defeats at the hands of Hunslet in a friendly and Widnes in the cup soon restored a sense of reality.

Further shrewd recruiting followed in time for the start of the Second Division season.

Due to open with a home fixture against the powerful Lancashire Lynx on Good Friday, fate in the form of torrential rain caused the post-ponement of what would have been a glorious re-birth. Instead it was to be at Workington on a snowy Easter Monday that the 'new' Oldham made their league debut. Over 700 fans journeyed to Derwent Park to see their heroes register a 22-18 victory. Oldham were back!

The season since has had its inevitable ups and downs, but considering that to have a team at all is a bonus the ups outnumber the downs, especially considering that an appearance today against Batley in a Cup Final is beyond the wildest dreams of any Oldhamer contemplating the Rugby League scene in November 1997.

The players who have made this possible and who are likely to feature in today's game include, at fullback, Steve Wilde a former Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead player who is always likely to burst through strongly from the back. On one wing will be Richard Darkes, one of a contingent of Bradford Bulls players to join Oldham after the Bulls disbanded their Alliance side, a forthright and powerful player who takes a lot of holding. On the other wing you can expect to see leading scorer Chris Eckersley. Another former Saddleworth Junior, Chris originally signed for the previous Oldham club who, being unable to fulfil his contract, released him to Warrington Wolves. Like John Hough, Chris

# The Rebirth of a Great Club

## continued

was a victim of the Wolves wholesale clearout at the end of last season. It speaks volumes for the player after his bad experience with the former club that he was prepared to sign with his home town club under the new regime. Chris is a real flyer with the ability to score long range tries.

At centre Afi Leuila, the only former Oldham Bear to sign for the Roughyeds, will be hoping to have recovered from injury after his three try performance against Workington. Now striking his best form, Afi is a very exciting attacker. Leuila's partner in the centre will be Bradford Bulls former Alliance team captain, the cultured Sean Cooper. A classy centre who reads the game expertly Cooper is also an ex-Saddleworth man.

At halfback ex-Leigh goalkicking stand-off Chris Wilkinson has recently displaced former Oldham Bears Academy star Craig Barker. Vastly experienced, Wilkinson actually played Colts football with Oldham a decade or so ago. Scrum-half Neil Flanagan bears a name forever associated with Oldham teams and is an inspirational captain who leads from the front. Starting with St Anne's, Flanagan signed first for Oldham before moving to Huddersfield and then Rochdale. Targeted by Paddy Kirwan to lead his fledgling side, Flanagan is ever present this season and has fully justified his coaches' confidence.

Vying for places at prop will be Andrew Proctor, Paul Round, Jason Clegg and Mick Edwards. Proctor is a recent acquisition from Wakefield Trinity. He usually gets through a mountain of work in both attack and defence and has already proved a valuable addition to the squad. Paul Round is a living legend in Oldham. The most expensive player ever to sign for an Oldham team (£65,000 in 1987) Round made 111 appearances after signing from St Helens. Gaining further experience at Wakefield, Halifax and Castleford, Round was semi-retired (he was actually playing with Oldham RU) when he volunteered his services to the new Oldham Club. An inspiration to his younger colleagues and enormously popular with the fans, Round tends to be used as an

'impact' player. Jason Clegg is another ex-Bradford player who has actually had trials at Batley. Signed to add weight and 'presence' to Oldham's pack, Clegg can be devastating when used in short bursts. Never-say-die Mick Edwards, who started life as a scrum-half, has played above his weight all season and has carried off several man-of-the-match awards. A barnstorming attacker and tenacious defender, Edwards loves nothing better than scoring tries, another player who has returned to play for Oldham after spells with Swinton and Salford.

As already mentioned the wily John Hough will feature at Hooker where his duel with Mark Cass will be a highlight of today's game.

Oldham's second row will comprise, at various stages, Graeme Shaw, Ian Sinfield and Nathan Varley. Shaw, whose father was part of a magnificent goal-scoring strike force with Jimmy Fryatt at Oldham Athletic, came to the Rugby Club via Moldgreen and Bradford Bulls. A willing worker he has all the hallmarks of a player from a Super League background. Ian Sinfield is another local lad proud to sign for his home town club. Ian is a former Waterhead and Salford player who is a model of solidity and reliability. Nathan Varley has the unique distinction of appearing in all of Oldham's League fixtures but of only actually starting in one. Coming off the bench Nathan, another ex-Bradford Bull, has a steadying influence on the team with his masterful tackling.

Loose-forward is Mick Martindale an Oldhamer who played for Halifax and Wakefield before re-turning home. A ball-handler in the manner of the loose-forwards of yesteryear, watch out also for his work at acting halfback in hunting down the first receiver.

Finally others who could feature today are Aidrian Mead, an Academy player with Oldham Bears, and Paul Crook, another Oldham Bear who left for Hull Sharks and is in the midst of negotiating a return to the new club. A clever ball-player Paul is the son of the former Wakefield 'Great' and now radio commentator Terry Crook.



# RON LYLES & SON

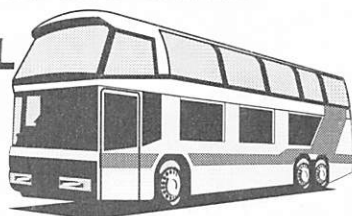
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## ALLIANCE FIXTURES-1998

Feb	21st	v Hemel Hempstead	(H) L 12-45
Mar	7th	v Workington Town	(A) L 12-14
	21st	v Leigh Centurions	(H) W 20-16
	28th	v Whitehaven Warriors	(H) W 34-4
Apr	4th	v Keighley Cougars	(A) W 34-18
	11th	v Hemel Hempstead	(A) P
	18th	v Barrow Border Raiders	(H) W 23-18
	23rd	v Rochdale Hornets	(A) L
May	9th	v Leigh Centurions	(H) W 26-25
	16th	v Workington Town	(H) P
	23rd	v Keighley Cougars	(A) L 16-31
	30th	v Leigh Centurions	(A) L 36-46
June	6th	v Barrow Border Raiders	(H) W 26-14
	13th	v Whitehaven Warriors	(A) 2.00pm
	20th	v Keighley Cougars	(H) 2.30pm
	27th	v Rochdale Hornets	(H) 2.30pm
July	4th	v Hemel Hempstead	(A) 2.30pm
	25th	v Workington Town	(A) 2.30pm
Aug	1st	v Rochdale Hornets	(H) 2.30pm
	8th	v Barrow Border Raiders	(A) 2.30pm
	15th	v Whitehaven Warriors	(A) 2.00pm

22nd	Alliance Challenge Cup	Premier Round
29th	Alliance Challenge Cup	First Round
Sept 5th	Alliance Challenge Cup	Second Round
12th	Alliance Challenge Cup	Semi Final
26th	Alliance Challenge Cup	Final

## ACADEMY SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES AND RESULTS *at a glance*

HOME	AWAY	BATLEY BULLDOGS	CARDIFF DEMONS	DEWSBURY RAMS	DONCASTER DRAGONS	GATESHEAD	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	HUNSLET HAWKS	LANCASHIRE LYNX	YORK
BATLEY BULLDOGS			5/7	27/4	18/5	20-40	31/5	10/8	24/8	20/7
CARDIFF DEMONS	9/5			6/6	15/8	23/5	54-24	11/7	25/7	18/4
DEWSBURY RAMS	27/6	1/8			13/6	11/7	18/4	9/5	23/5	15/8
DONCASTER DRAGONS	12/7	21/6	9/8			26/7	10/5	24/5	7/6	28/6
GATESHEAD	16/8	19/7	17/5	31/5			72-0	19/4	5/7	2/8
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	26/7	26/4	23/8	5/7	9/8			7/6	21/6	17/5
HUNSLET HAWKS	15/6	16/5	6/7	20/7	22/8	2/8			25/4	1/6
LANCASHIRE LYNX	19/4	31/5	19/7	2/8	10/5	16/8	28/6			14/6
YORK	24/5	23/8	21/6	26/4	7/6	12/7	26/7	9/8		

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# Today's Teams

## BATLEY BULLDOGS v OLDHAM

			David Ward	<b>Coach</b>	Paddy Kirwan			
			Jeremy Dyson	<b>1</b>	Stephen Wilde			
			Lee Bargate	<b>2</b>	Richard Darkes			
			Darren Hughes	<b>3</b>	Afi Leuila			
			Roger Simpson	<b>4</b>	Sean Cooper			
			Paul Gleadhill	<b>5</b>	Chris Eckersley			
			Richard Price	<b>6</b>	Chris Wilkinson			
			Gary Barnett	<b>7</b>	Neil Flanagan			
			Roy Powell	<b>8</b>	Andrew Procter			
			Mark Cass	<b>9</b>	John Hough			
			Chris McWilliam	<b>10</b>	Michael Edwards			
			Grant Miers	<b>11</b>	Graeme Shaw			
			Tony Walton	<b>12</b>	Joe Nadiola			
			Paul Harrison	<b>13</b>	Ian Sinfield			
			Phil Mirfin	<b>14</b>	Adrian Meade			
			Graham Middleton	<b>15</b>	Paul Crook			
			Andy Wray	<b>16</b>	Nathan Varley			
			Steve Walker	<b>17</b>	Paul Round			

### Progressive Score

<b>Bulldogs</b>														
<b>Bears</b>														

**Today's  
Officials**

*Touch Judges*  
**Referee Mr. S. Nicholson** **Mr B Sharrock**  
**Mr J Kinsella**

# IN THE WHITE CHAIR

Zulu is one of my favourite films and as Michael Caine would say "Not a lot of people know that."

Michael Caine, Winston Churchill, The Queen and Glen Hoddle would all have been proud of our defence last week, never mind David Ward who I am now proud to say leads us into a final today.

I was stood watching the game near where Gleaders scored his try only to be denied by the touch judge prompted by a couple of York substitutes warming up nearby. Stood next to me was Beverley on one side and Ron Earnshaw on the other and all three of us survived to tell the tale. Ron's heart by pass operation was tested to its full and thankfully it passed. There was no happier man in Batley on Sunday than Ron himself and I couldn't have been happier to enjoy that moment with him.

The crowd was poor but those present made themselves heard especially on the Long Stand terrace and everyone that waited to greet the players as they left the field.

After the game in the Taverners 22 players who took part in the six White Rose Trophy games and David Ward were presented with medals by the Club to mark their achievement.

Only 17 players can play today and receive a medal so this was our way of recognising the efforts of members of the squad who helped get us to the final.

Oldham are the team I wanted us to play in the final as I have friends and clients who are Oldham

supporters and because Oldham and Widnes have always been my favourite Lancashire teams. When we beat them in the snow was a great day for Batley and I hope it is repeated today. We agreed to let Oldham have an input in our programme so that their supporters can have plenty to read and I would especially like to thank our friend Don Yates for his contribution. He has details of every team that has played in every match since 1895 so if Rothmans need an editor they should contact him. D. C. Keith Liner should be here from Oldham C.I.D. so let's hope the only charges he sees today are from our pack charging towards the Oldham line.

There will be plenty of others from Oldham today so the Batley crowd will have a job outshouting them let's hope we're up to it. I expect to be hoarse at the end of the game. We do not have the added pressure of league points at stake today so let's all enjoy a festival of grass roots rugby league at its best and let's have a party and be giddy for the day as these occasions do not come along very often and if it takes another 46 years, I for one will be watching from that terrace in the sky and the teams may be running over my ashes scattered on the Mount Pleasant pitch. On that happy note I'll finish, save to say thank to Beverley, my wife, for putting up with me especially since November 1997 and to my Dad and Granddad who were Batley supporters, this one is for you. Last, but not least, thanks to all the players and David for bringing this special occasion to our Club.

*Kevin*

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# RUGBY LEAGUE

## BULLDOGS · SCORERS · APPEARANCES · RESULTS · ATTENDANCES

January	Att.	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6
31 CULTON RAIDERS Silk Cut 3 H 2.30	849	W44-2	S.JACKSON (11)	L.BARGATE (21)	C.GIBSON (14)	R.SIMPSON (11)	P.GLEADHILL	R.PRICE (6g)
<b>February</b>								
15 LONDON BRONCOS Silk Cut 4 H 3.15	956	L20-44	S.JACKSON (11) (14)	L.BARGATE	D.TURPIN	R.SIMPSON	P.GLEADHILL (11)	R.PRICE (11,4g)
<b>April</b>								
13 YORK H 3.15	745	W25-11	S.JACKSON (14)	L.BARGATE	C.GIBSON	R.SIMPSON (11)	P.GLEADHILL (21)	R.PRICE (4g)
19 Barrow Border Raiders A3.00	1,266	L17-19	S.JACKSON	L.BARGATE (1)	C.GIBSON (14)	R.SIMPSON	P.GLEADHILL	R.PRICE (2g)
26 WORKINGTON TOWN H 3.15	622	W42-18	S.JACKSON (21)	L.BARGATE (13)	S.WALKER (1)	R.SIMPSON	P.GLEADHILL (21)	R.PRICE (6g) (14)
<b>May</b>								
6 Doncaster Dragons A 7.30	530	L20-33	S.JACKSON	L.BARGATE (1)	S.WALKER	R.SIMPSON (14)	P.GLEADHILL (1)	R.PRICE (1) (2g)
10 Oldham A 3.00	1,929	L20-28	S.JACKSON	R.HEWITT	L.BARGATE	S.WALKER (14)	P.GLEADHILL	R.PRICE (1) (4g)
17 Bramley A 3.00	450	L14-24	S.JACKSON (14)	R.HEWITT	L.BARGATE (1)	S.WALKER	P.GLEADHILL	R.PRICE (1) (g)
24 LANCASHIRE LYNX H 3.15	512	L16-17	S.JACKSON (14)	R.BRADBROOK (15)	L.BARGATE	S.WALKER	P.GLEADHILL	R.PRICE (1) (2g)
31 DONCASTER DRAGONS H 3.15	595	W33-20	J.DYSON (2g)	L.BARGATE	S.WALKER (1)	R.SIMPSON	P.GLEADHILL (1)	R.PRICE (4g)
<b>June</b>								
7 York A 3.00	718	W13-4	J.DYSON	L.BARGATE	D.HUGHES (14)	R.SIMPSON	P.GLEADHILL	R.PRICE (g)
14 BRAMLEY H 3.15	627	W34-18	J.DYSON (15)	L.BARGATE	D.HUGHES (31)	R.SIMPSON (11)	P.GLEADHILL (11)	R.PRICE (5g)
21 Doncaster Dragons A 3.00	432	W28-22	J.DYSON	L.BARGATE	S. WALKER	R.SIMPSON (11)	P.GLEADHILL (11)	R.PRICE (4g,1)
28 Bramley A 3.00	620	L16-24	S. WALKER (17)	L.BARGATE	D.HUGHES (1)	R.SIMPSON	P.GLEADHILL	R. PRICE
<b>July</b>								
5 YORK H 3.15	644	W 8-3	J. DYSON	L.BARGATE	D.HUGHES	R.SIMPSON (11)	P.GLEADHILL	R.PRICE (2g)
19 OLDHAM Trans Pennine Cup Final H 3.15								
26 DONCASTER DRAGONS H 3.15								
<b>August</b>								
2 York A 3.00								
9 BARROW BORDER RAIDERS H 3.15								
16 Workington Town A 3.00								
23 OLDHAM H 3.15								
30 BRAMLEY H 3.15								
<b>September</b>								
6 Lancashire Lynx A 3.00								

The club would like to thank **Mavis Kerr** a long time Batley supporter for her sponsorship of **Mark Cass** and her continued support.

Also the club would like to thank;

**Glynn Gilbert**

**John Sykes**

**Chris Rowley**

For their sponsorship of **Jeremy Dyson**.

Under the name of **SNAP DRAGON**, of Scisscett, nr Denby Dale, 2 of these gentlemen are new supporters to Batley Bulldogs and we thank them for their interest.

If anyone else is interested in sponsoring a player then please contact Beverley on **0161 203 4558** or **0113 253 2718**.

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# DIVISION TWO

## BULLDOGS · SCORERS · APPEARANCES · RESULTS · ATTENDANCES

7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
G. BARNETT	R. POWELL	M. CASS	C. McWILLIAM (15)	G. MIDDLETON (16)	T. WALTON (17) (1)	P. HARRISON (21)	S. WALKER	M. SCOTT	R. HEWITT	J. MORGAN (1)
D. FOX	R. POWELL	M. CASS	C. McWILLIAM (15)	G. MIDDLETON	J. MORGAN (16)	P. HARRISON	S. WALKER (17)	M. SCOTT	G. BARNETT	N. BRADBROOK
G. BARNETT (1)	C. McWILLIAM	M. CASS (dg)	A. WRAY	P. MIRFIN (16)	T. WALTON	P. HARRISON	S. WALKER	J. MORGAN	N. BRADBROOK	R. HEWITT
G. BARNETT (dg)	C. McWILLIAM	M. CASS (1)	R. BROOK (17)	G. MIDDLETON (15)	T. WALTON (16)	P. HARRISON	S. WALKER	P. MIRFIN (1)	R. HEWITT	A. WRAY
D. FOX (g)	C. McWILLIAM (11)	M. CASS	A. WRAY	G. MIDDLETON (15)	T. WALTON (1) (17)	P. HARRISON (16)	N. CRAVEN (1)	P. MIRFIN	G. MIRES	J. MORGAN
D. FOX	C. McWILLIAM	M. CASS	A. WRAY (1) (16)	G. MIDDLETON (15)	T. WALTON (17)	P. HARRISON	G. BARNETT	P. MIRFIN	G. MIRES	J. MORGAN
G. BARNETT (1)	C. McWILLIAM (15)	M. CASS (1)	A. WRAY	G. MIDDLETON (8)	T. WALTON (16)	P. HARRISON	J. DYSON	P. MIRFIN	G. MIRES	J. MORGAN
G. BARNETT	R. POWELL (16)	M. CASS	A. WRAY (11)	G. MIDDLETON (15)	T. WALTON (17)	P. HARRISON	N. BRADBROOK	P. MIRFIN	G. MIRES	J. MORGAN (1)
G. BARNETT (1)	R. POWELL	M. CASS	A. WRAY (17)	P. MIRFIN	G. MIERS	P. HARRISON	J. DYSON	D. HUGHES	T. WALTON	G. MIDDLETON
G. BARNETT (dg)(21)	R. POWELL (16)	M. CASS (14)	A. WRAY	P. MIRFIN (17)	G. MIERS	P. HARRISON (1)	N. CRAVEN	N. BRADBROOK	G. MIDDLETON	T. WALTON
G. BARNETT (3dg)(1)	R. POWELL	A. WRAY (17) (1)	C. McWILLIAM (16)	G. MIERS	T. WALTON (15)	P. HARRISON	S. WALKER	P. MIRFIN	N. BRADBROOK	N. CRAVEN
G. BARNETT (14)	R. POWELL (17)	A. WRAY (11)	C. McWILLIAM	G. MIERS	T. WALTON (15)	P. HARRISON	N. CRAVEN	P. MIRFIN	S. WALKER	G. MIDDLETON
G. BARNETT	C. McWILLIAM (17)(10)	A. WRAY	G. MIDDLETON (17)	G. MIERS	T. WALTON (16)	P. HARRISON (1)(14)	N. CRAVEN	P. MIRFIN	M. CASS	N. BRADBROOK
G. BARNETT	R. POWELL (14)	A. WRAY	C. McWILLIAM (16)	G. MIERS	T. WALTON (15)	P. HARRISON	M. CASS	P. MIRFIN	M. SCOTT	S. JACKSON
G. BARNETT	R. POWELL (16)	M. CASS	C. McWILLIAM (17)	G. MIERS	T. WALTON (15)	P. HARRISON (12)	S. WALKER	P. MIRFIN	G. MIDDLETON	A. WRAY

In keeping with Batley Bulldogs' policy of including the community we have invited the Spen Valley High School Samba Band to play today. This is a newly formed group of around 30 children aged 11 - 14 years, conducted by teacher Paul O'Donoghue. The school is situated on Roberttown Road, Liversedge and the headmaster is John Cottrill.

The school specialises in Performing Arts and sports and have had a number of pupils performing in West End shows. We thank them and their supporters for coming today. They will be making a collection at half time for the purchase of much needed new instruments.

**Today's Match Mascot**  
is George Anthony Gavaghan  
who is 4 years old and lives at  
Commonside.  
George attends St Josephs School,  
Batley Carr



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**BATLEY BULLDOGS**

**R.L.F.C.**

# IN THE RED CHAIR

Today's game sees the Second Division, and particularly Oldham and Batley, take the opportunity to savour the occasion of a final and the prestige that goes with it. Without doubt the quality of the competition in the Division this year is higher, significantly so, than has been the case for a considerable period of time and it is of great credit to the players of both sides that they have made it through to the final. The format of the fixtures this year has been the subject of much debate and before the season started people wondered if there would be significant interest.

I think the fact that the six games in the Trans Pennine Cup Competition have also counted towards the Second Division Championship has meant that every team in the competition has had something to play for in every game and anything that helps to increase the playing standards and therefore the profile of the game is a very welcome bonus. The significance of the appearance of today's teams in the first final may not yet be apparent but the ongoing uncertainty with regards to next year's Second Division and the composition of it

may increase this as time goes on.

Several people have raised the question of why one club should have home advantage for such an important game. I can understand these sentiments and we would have been more than happy to have played at a neutral ground. However, when the format of the Trans Pennine Cup was discussed there was a feeling among several Chairmen that the level of support for a game played at a neutral ground may have meant that, after the deduction of expenses for the staging of the game, the finalists could have been faced with a loss on gate revenue. Added to the fact that obviously nobody could foresee who the finalists would be, the decision, a correct one in my view, was taken to toss a coin for home advantage. The justification in that decision has been borne out in the general attendances at the Clubs, Oldham excepted, since the beginning of the season.

Finally, I hope that everybody sees a superb game of rugby today, as long as the trophy finishes up travelling back to Oldham !

*Christopher Hamilton*

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# ON THIS DAY . . . .

## Don Yates recalls this day in history

Four years ago no-one would believe that today this famous old Mount Pleasant ground would be staging a cup final, that Batley would be facing Oldham in that final, or even that we would be playing rugby league in July.

The Super League revolution brought about summer rugby and it was on this day in 1996, Friday 19th July, that Oldham entertained St. Helens at Boundary Park in Super League action. The Roughyeds were only 18-14 behind at half-time but they were overrun after the interval and crashed to a 54-18 defeat. The only player who appeared for Oldham that evening and who is likely to appear this afternoon is utility player Paul Crook, substitute then and probably substitute today.

Oldham's two year stint in Super League proved difficult both on and off the pitch. Relegation last autumn was followed by liquidation. The newly born Roughyeds began life in Division Two, alongside Batley, and today both clubs hope to climb back to former glories via this inaugural Trans-Pennine Trophy.

Saturday 19th July 1958 was a glorious day in British rugby league history. For it was on that day 40 years ago that the British Lions met Australia at Sydney Cricket Ground in the decisive third test of that 1958 tour. The Lions had lost the first test 25-8 but recovered to win the second test 25-18 in memorable circumstances. Skipper Alan Prescott (St. Helens) broke his arm in the first few minutes of that second test and four other players accompanied him to Brisbane Hospital after the match.

There were no substitutes in those days so the British victory was quite remarkable. And so to

July 19th, to Sydney Cricket Ground and the third test which attracted a crowd of 68,720. Britain played magnificently in this match, arguably the most complete performance in British test history. The Kangaroos were fortunate to be only 14-12 behind at half-time but the Lions ran riot in the second-half to win 40-17. Centre Alan Davies was the only Oldham representative in the team and he scored one try. His wing partner was Mick Sullivan, a native of the Heavy Woollen District, who crossed for another three of the eight British tries.

The British Lions were also in action eight years previously, on Wednesday 19th July 1950, although their performance on that occasion was far from glorious. That day they played the Southern Division at Wollongong and were surprisingly beaten 18-11, despite scoring three tries to their opponents two. There were two players from the Heavy Woollen District in the British line-up, winger Roy Pollard and centre Harry Street, both of Dewsbury.

Twelve months ago British Super League clubs were involved in the disastrous World Club Championship and it was on Saturday 19th July that Perth Reds met Sheffield Eagles at the WACA cricket ground. The match ended in the same fashion as most of the other games, in a resounding Australian victory, the score in this particular match being 48-12.

In 1989 Australia made a short tour of New Zealand and it was on this day, Wednesday 19th July, that the Kangaroos defeated Wellington 28-10 at the Basin Reserve ground. At loose-forward for Wellington that evening was Mike Kuiti who was later to serve both Oldham

and Batley whilst in the centre was Charlie McAlister, another former Oldham player. On that very same day, Wednesday 19th July 1989, Oldham signed the versatile Richard Russell from Wigan. During his three seasons with the Roughyeds, Russell proved to be the ideal utility player. He scored 20 tries from 125 appearances in a variety of positions including full-back, stand-off, hooker and loose-forward.

Five years later, on Tuesday 19th July 1994, it was Batley who were in the transfer market. That day they signed the former Featherstone Miners Welfare junior Paul Harrison from Hull. He proved to be a powerful and penetrative centre for the Gallant Youths before falling into dispute and moving to York. Harrison returned to Mount Pleasant earlier this season and he has regained both his form and first team spot, although he now operates from the loose-forward position.

On the day that Harrison first joined Batley, Tuesday 19th July 1994, the Sydney Eastern Suburbs club appointed Phil Gould as coach for the 1995 season. Gould was a talented player and is an even more talented coach. He led both Canterbury and Penrith to Premiership success and New South Wales to State of Origin victory. Gould has always been an ally of the Australian Super League. Twelve months ago, on Saturday 19th July 1997, he indicated his belief that the Australian Rugby League should go it alone and not amalgamate with the Super League. 'I'd tell Super League to go to hell.' he was quoted as saying.

I have a tendency to agree with him.

# ROUTES TO THE FINAL

## BATLEY

v	DONCASTER	(H)	W	33 - 20
v	YORK	(A)	W	13 - 4
v	BRAMLEY	(H)	W	34 - 18
v	DONCASTER	(A)	W	28 - 22
v	BRAMLEY	(A)	L	12 - 24
v	YORK	(H)	W	8 - 3

## WHITE ROSE TROPHY

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Batley Bulldogs	6	5	0	1	132	91	41	10
Bramley	6	4	0	2	185	119	66	8
York Wasps	6	3	0	3	118	99	19	6
Doncaster Dragons	6	0	0	6	102	228	-126	0

## OLDHAM

v	LANCASHIRE LYNX	(A)	D	18 - 18
v	WORKINGTON	(A)	W	27-10
v	BARROW	(H)	W	32 - 8
v	LANCASHIRE LYNX	(H)	W	25 - 20
v	BARROW	(A)	L	2 - 19
v	WORKINGTON	(H)	W	56 - 8

## RED ROSE TROPHY

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Oldham	6	4	1	1	160	83	77	9
Lancashire Lynx	6	4	1	1	166	106	60	9
Barrow	6	2	0	4	100	116	-16	4
Workington Town	6	1	0	5	83	204	-121	2

# BATLEY - OLDHAM CUP TIES

**Reviewed by Don Yates**

This afternoon's historic cup final is the first final involving Batley and Oldham although these two founder members of the code have met in ten previous ties going back 100 years.

Their first cup meeting came in 1898, a Challenge Cup quarter-final at Batley which the home side won 3-0, stand-off Joe Oakland settling the issue with a try midway through the second-half. The Gallant Youths were cup holders going into that match and they went on to retain the trophy. Batley won the Cup again in 1901 and, once again, they beat Oldham en route to the final. The semi-final meeting at Fartown, Huddersfield attracted a crowd of 16,000 and it was stand-off Joe Oakland again who scored the only try of the afternoon in Batley's 9-2 victory.

Three years later, in March 1904, Oakland was at it again, his try easing Batley through a home first round Challenge Cup-tie 5-0. Twelve months later Oldham broke the Batley bogey when they won a second round Challenge Cup-tie at Mount Pleasant 14-10. Joe Oakland did score, but it was a goal and not a match winning try this time.

In February 1923 Oldham found themselves travelling over the Pennines again for a Challenge Cup-tie. The match at Batley ended scoreless but the Roughyeds made no mistake two days later when they ran in four tries in a 14-0 replay victory.

Oldham's biggest ever defeat against Batley came at the end of the 1923-24 season when they travelled to Mount Pleasant in the Championship semi-final. Batley were without loose-forward Frank Gallagher, en route to Australia with the British Lions, but Oldham were harder hit for they had Ernie Knapman, Sid Rix, Bob Sloman and Albert Brough on the same boat with Gallagher. There was a crowd of 9,500 at the Mount where the Gallant Youths completely outplayed Oldham to win 38-0. South African winger Herbert Murray and centre George Davidge each scored a brace of tries whilst stand-off Harry Rees directed operations and still found time to score a try and seven goals.

Fourteen years passed before the two clubs met again in cup football when it was much

closer at Watersheddings in the first round of the Challenge Cup in February 1938. The Roughyeds led 7-6 as the match moved into injury time, stand-off Mick Downey having scored the only try of the afternoon. But then up popped Batley scrum-half Dicky Ralph to drop a goal and give the Gallant Youths victory by 8-7. Oldham and Batley have not met since in a Challenge Cup-tie but they have met on three occasions in the John Player Trophy, the first time at Watersheddings in October 1976. Batley put up a brace performance against their First Division opponents that afternoon but the Roughyeds came through to win 17-9.

In season 1987-88 both Oldham and Batley found themselves in the Second Division but they experienced contrasting fortunes. The Roughyeds finished top, the Gallant Youths finished bottom and their league placings were graphically exposed when the clubs met at Mount Pleasant in the second round of the John Player Trophy. Oldham won 44-0, their biggest ever victory over Batley, with second-row forward Paul Round leading the rout with three of the Roughyeds' eight tries.

Three years later Oldham again visited Mount Pleasant for a second round Regal Trophy tie. Batley were still in Division Two but Oldham were in the top division and favourites to win. The match was played on a snow covered pitch and, once again, Paul Round was amongst the Oldham try scorers. But Batley played with much more fire this time and were able to frustrate the Roughyeds. So much so that Oldham's Australian loose-forward, John Cogger, lost his head and was sent off on the stroke of half-time after giving the Mount Pleasant crowd the V-sign. The second half was full of end-to-end, gripping action and it ended with prop-forward player-coach Keith Rayne crashing over in the last move of the match to claim a hatrick and give Batley a well deserved 20-16 victory.

Oldham will probably start today's match as slight favourites but Mount Pleasant has proved to be a slippery slope for them in the past so Batley will not be short of confidence. A great game is in prospect, may the best team win.



# **Four Games To Remember**

## **Saturday 16th January 1971:**

Oldham 7 Batley 10 HT 5-8 att 2211

gls Toohey 4 Gittins

Gittins, Marsh, Toohey, Holmes, Edwards, Watts, Oldroyd, Grinhaff, Hudson,  
Tyson, Brooke, Martyn, Doyle (P)

Subs: Gorman (for Oldroyd) & Bell (JS) (for Brooke)

Oldham

gls Briggs, Garrett, try Clark

Murphy, Clark, Starkey, Garrett, Elliott, Briggs, Smith, Wilson, Taylor, Walker,  
Irving, Ashcroft, Bonser

Subs: Davies 7 Reynolds

## **Sunday 29th October 1989: Stones Bitter Championship Division 2:**

Oldham 22 Batley 4 HT 10-4 att 4120

Try McGowan

Storey, McGowan, Williams, Bownass, Waites, Wilson, Stainburn, Spendler,  
Scott, Speight, Hinchliffe, Gearey, Smith

Subs: Hartley (for Scott) & Mackay (for Smith)

Oldham

gls Martyn 3 tries Martyn 2 Meadows Irving

Russell, Robinson, Meadows, Irving, Lord, Martyn, Ford, Casey, Ruane,  
Fairbank, Fieldhouse, Allen, Cogger

Subs: Clark & McAllister

## **Sunday 9th December 1990: Regal Trophy Round 2:**

Batley 20 Oldham 16 HT 4-10 att 2054

gls Stainburn 2 tries Rayne 3 Child

Hamill, Thornton, Marshallm, Wilson, Williams, Booth, Stainburn,, Rayne,  
Hartley, Speight, Bailey, Whakarau, Fortis

Subs: Rees (for Hartley) & Child (for Speight)

Oldham:

gls Platt 2 tries Lord, Russell, Round

Platt, Francis, Anderson, Irvine, Lord, Clark, Ford, Donegan, Russell, Fairbank,  
Round, McAllister, Cogger

Subs: Duane (for McAllister) & Fieldhouse (for Donegan)

John Cogger sent off.

## **April 26th 1924: Rugby League Championship Semi Final:**

Batley 38 Oldham 0 att 9,500

gls Rees (H) 7 tries Davidge 2 Murray 2 Rees (H) Leeming, Carter (F) Smith

Team: Robinson, Williams, Davidge, Rees (E), Murray, Rees (H), Fowler, Douglas,  
Leeming, Ramsbottom, Carter (F), Brooke, SMith

Oldham Team: Higgins, Corsi, Hall, Grimes, Phillips, Hesketh, Beynon, Baker,  
Kendall, Marior, Tomkins, Fisher, Hurtley

***Batley went on to beat Wigan in the Championship Final to  
become R L Champions for the only time in our history !!!***

# SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

The Barfield Arms/Batley supporters club are to hold a Beach Party/BBQ/Disco on **SUNDAY 26 JULY 1998** - at the Barfield Arms.

Although it will start at 3pm it will be continuing late into the evening allowing supporters to go to the Batley v Doncaster game first.

**Batley players will be attending and supporting the event.**

There will be a loud beach shirt competition/limbo dancing and raffles.

For further details contact the club/Roy Barron 01924 478886 or Simon Greene at the Pub.

## AWAY TRAVEL

There will be a coach on Sunday 2 August, York v Batley KO 3pm. Coach leaving Batley 1pm and Birstall 1.10pm.

£5 members £6 non-members  
Please contact Roy Barron for further details. Tel: 01924 478886

## CLUB SHOP

The club shop underneath the Heritage Stand will be open before and after home games.

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Front Left to Right: G. Kenny, J. ETTY, B. Riley, R. Laycock, P. Walshaw, B. Paynje.



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Recent directives from the Association of Chief Police Officers means that from now on Police Officers will not respond to alarms on commercial premises unless the situation has been verified as a genuine alarm call. The remote monitoring employed by Response Digital Surveillance Systems overcomes this problem at a fraction of the cost of employing a security guard. The company even have the ability to make 'electronic patrols' of premises and speak to potential intruders as a deterrent. So why not let Chris and Mark speak to you, and let them keep an eye on your business?

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