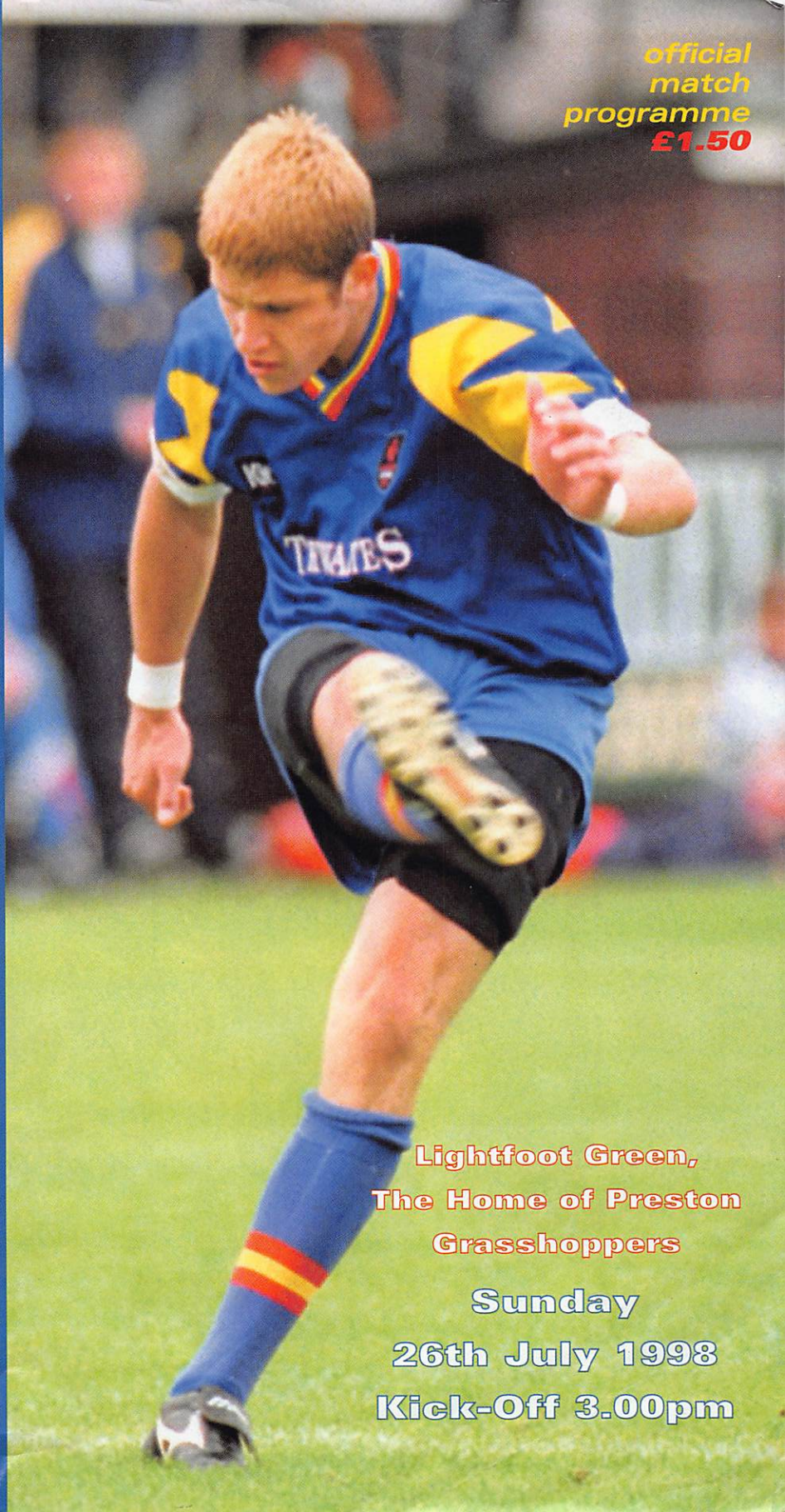


LYNX *v* OLDHAM

RUGBY LEAGUE DIVISION TWO



official
match
programme
£1.50

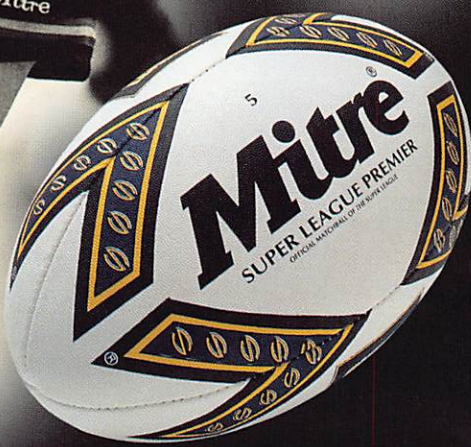
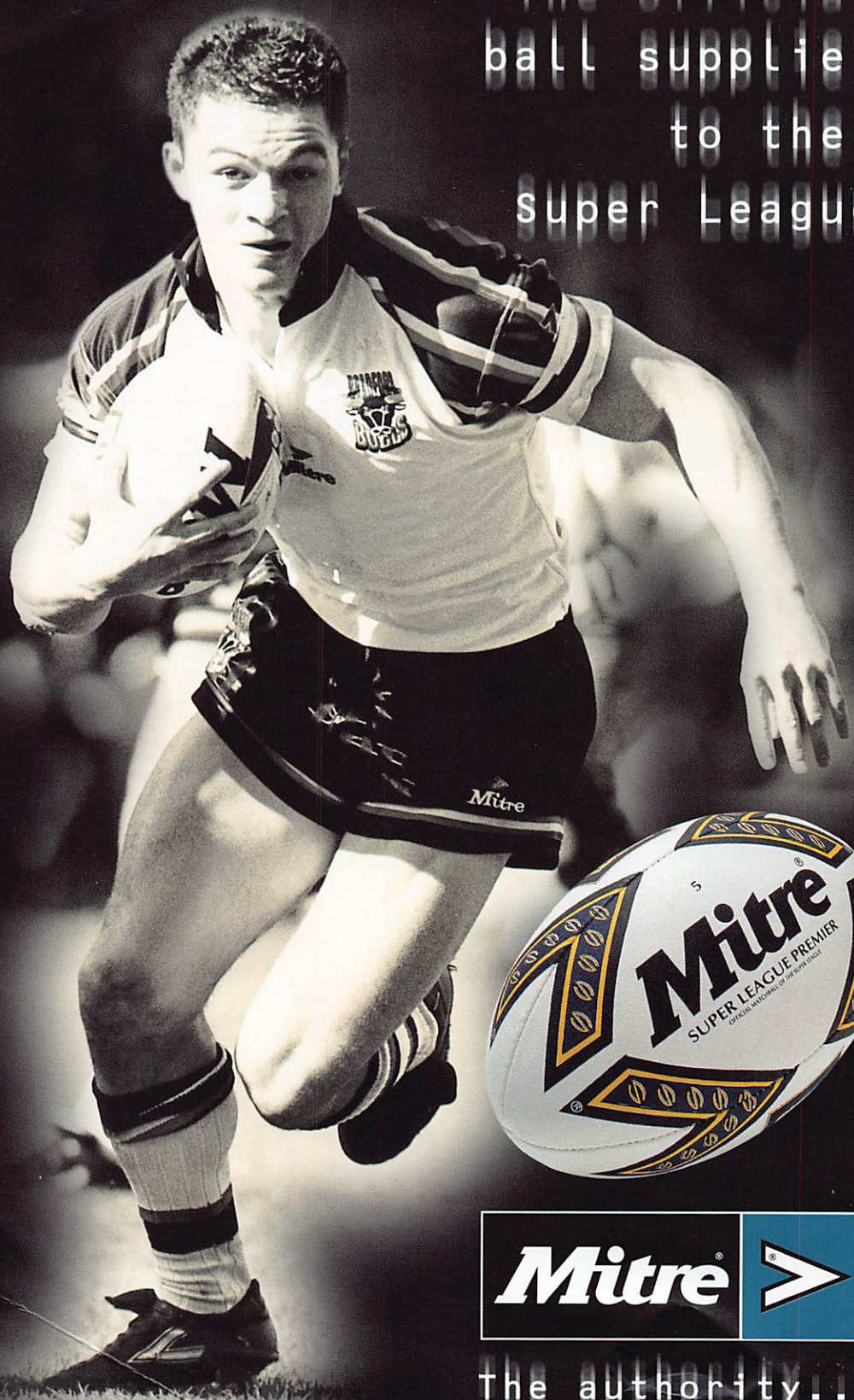


Lightfoot Green,
The Home of Preston
Grasshoppers

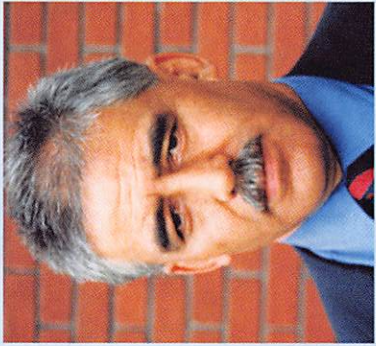
Sunday
26th July 1998
Kick-Off 3.00pm

Media Support: SentryBox 01895 251220

The official
ball supplier
to the
Super League



The authority...



message

from

Kevin Tamati

Welcome once again to Lightfoot Green the home of Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Union club. Many thanks to all at Grasshoppers for once again allowing us the use of this tremendous facility.

I travelled across to Mount Pleasant on Sunday to watch the final of the Pennine Cup, played between Oldham and Batley. It was a physical encounter, both sides intent on causing as much pain on the opposition as they possibly could.

It was very clear to me that the memo I received from the RFL with regards to head tackles had not been received by

either of the two sides or the referee. The number of head shots that were missed or ignored by the officials would have flattened Mike Tyson.

The game was a very tense affair and it was soon obvious that home advantage was going to be a major factor in the final outcome. This indeed proved to be the case, with Batley Bulldogs clocking up a 28-12 victory.

Today's match is very important for both sides, two very important league points and a commanding position in the league.

Our players have had a good break and are looking forward to today's encounter.

On the injury front, John Donno and Joe Walsh both casualties from our last match against Barrow are on-the mend. John suffered severe whip-lash and is back in training. Joe suffered damage to the right ankle and calf. He will be out for further four weeks.

Steve Taylor is making steady progress with his knee injury but only time will tell how long he will be out for. Hopefully he will be back this season.

Enjoy the game.

Kevin Tamati

LANCASHIRE LYNX RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Directors

- * Jeff Mallinson (Chairman)
- * Peter Church
- * Tony Scholes
- * Bryan Gray
- * Henry Morris
- * Allan Livesey

Manager

- * Kevin Tamati

Club Secretary

- * Mick Wearmouth

Asst. Club Secretary

- * Pat Elliott

First Team Coach

- * Steve Hampson

Academy Team Coach

- * Dennis Ramsdale

Programme Secretary

- * John Booth

Ticket Office & Bookings:

(01772) 902000

Club Shop:

(01772) 902040

Reception:

(01772) 902020

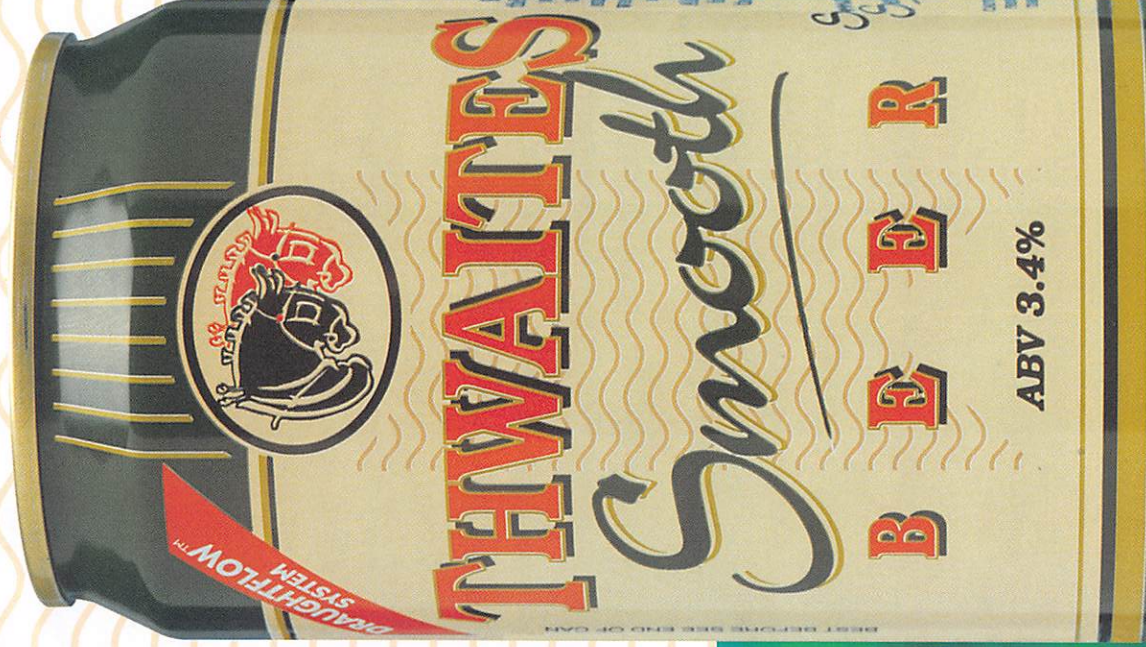
Conference and Banqueting:

(01772) 902010

Sponsorship, Marketing & Advertising:

(01772) 902001

N O W A V A I L A B L E I N C A N S



THWAITES
Smooth

BEER

TAKE HOME
THE
NORTHERN
SMOOTHIE

THE
NORTHERN
SMOOTHIE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE
CONTACT CUSTOMER SERVICES
ON 01254 54431
info@thwaites.co.uk

N O W A V A I L A B L E I N C A N S

message from **Peter Church**



I would like to welcome all supporters to Lightfoot Lane for the 3rd and final time this year. For our remaining home fixtures this season, against Bramley, Workington and Batley, we will be returning to Deepdale.

Whilst we are disappointed that today's game could not be accommodated at Deepdale, owing to a Preston North End pre-season friendly against Celtic, we are delighted to return to the home of Preston Grasshoppers, where there is always a special atmosphere. On behalf of the directors and supporters of Lancashire Lynx, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality offered by Preston Grasshoppers to the Lynx this year.

Today, should see the first appearance of David 'Doc' Murray as a Lancashire Lynx

player following his transfer this week from Wigan Warriors. The capture of Doc Murray is a record breaking signing for Lancashire Lynx, and again is a further indication of our commitment towards attaining Super League status at Deepdale. Doc has been impressive during his loan period from Wigan, and his experience at the highest level should prove a significant factor as the squad further develops over the next 18 months.

The first challenge for Doc and the players is a crucial encounter with a strong Oldham team this afternoon. It is highly probable that our remaining 2 games against Oldham will determine the destiny of the Second Division Championship. Victory today will place the Lynx in pole position, and I would urge our supporters to shout Oldham and cheer our lads to triumph!

chief executive

FIVE

welcome to **OLDHAM**

KEITH ATKINSON

The stalwart. This is Keith's 8th comeback! Signed for Oldham in 1985 and hung up his boots for what everyone thought was the final time in 1992. Little did we know! Back come forward who has played in every position with the possible exception of scrum half. Broke more bones that a butcher (his own that is!). Superb attitude.

CRAIG BARKER

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

JASON CLEGG

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

SEAN COOPER

Former Saddleworth Rangers star, who was taken to Bradford in the Peter Fox era. Captained the Alliance side at Odsel, won numerous Alliance player of the year awards and joined Oldham as a free agent

when the Bulls decided to scrap their reserve team. Impressive so far in the Roughyeds early games.

RICHARD DARKES

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

CRAIG DIGGLE

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

CHRIS ECKERSLEY

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

MICHAEL EDWARDS

St Helens born, Michael first joined the old club as a 15 year old scrum half. Was a regular in Alliance rugby for two or three

today's

SIX

seasons before Oldham coach Tony Barrow took him to Swinton. Now playing in the pack, he had a spell on loan with Salford last season and was delighted to return to Oldham when the opportunity arose.

NEIL FLANAGAN

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

JOHN HOUGH

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

AFI LEUILA

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

MARTIN MADERS

Young prop, who joined Huddersfield from Saddleworth Rangers as a club record buy for a teenager. Had a spell in Australia and later played with local amateurs, Waterhead before joining Oldham for an undisclosed fee. His father Dennis played

for Oldham in the sixties and seventies.

MICK MARTINDALE

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

JOE McNICHOLAS

Out and out winger. Fast, elusive and good on his feet. Still only 18, signed for the Bears as a boy, but played only one senior game, at Leeds in the Premiership play-off last season. Rejected Bradford Bulls in a bid to make his name with the Roughyeds.

ADRIAN MEAD

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

MIKE PRESCOTT

Back-row forward, also from Wigan. Make a big name for himself as a strong running forward in the early days of Academy rugby. Since served his apprenticeship in the Alliance side and capable of doing well for the new Oldham club at prop or in the backrow.

BRIAN QUINLAN

Raised at St Anne's, Brain was one of the three Oldham amateurs taken to Bramley by Maurice Bamford. The others were Jon Perks and Roy Jewitt. A strong prop or second-row, Brian is a useful goalkicker.

visitors

SEVEN

He also plays, during the winter, for Oldham RU but he is the first to admit that RL is his real sporting love.

PAUL ROUND

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

DARREN ROBINSON

'Baby' of the squad at 18. Scrum-half, who can also operate at stand-off. A Leeds lad, Darren played for the Bears Academy and Alliance teams, but never signed on.

Signed for the Roughyeds as a free agent and has since caught the eye in warm-up matches, particularly in the 27-26 defeat at Castleford.

GRAEME SHAW

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

IAN SINFIELD

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

NATHAN VARLEY

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

STEVE WILDE

Utility back. Strong and pacy. Started with Saddleworth Rangers. Signed by Brian Gatland for the Bears Alliance side last season. Played with Waterhead when the Bears folded, but was keen to sign the new club when opportunity knocked.

JOE NADIOLE

Big forward signed from Featherstone Rovers for an undisclosed fee. Huddersfield-born Joe played for his home-town club before moving on to Post Office Road. His elder brother, Tom, used to play for the former Oldham club and Joe made many visits to Watersheddings in those days to watch big brother in action. He never realised then that one day he would play for a new Oldham club.

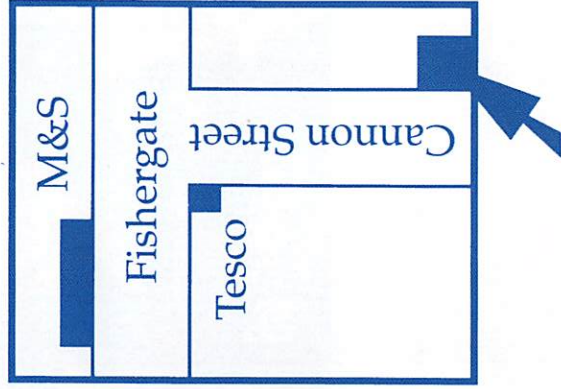
CHRIS WILKINSON

Played for Oldham as a teenage amateur in the old colts team of about 15 years ago. Signed for London Crusaders and also played for Carlisle, Dewsbury, Swinton and home-town Leigh, from whom the Roughyeds snapped him up on a free transfer a month ago. An experienced half-back, Wilkinson played his first few games for Oldham at full-back before being switched to stand-off in the 18-18 draw with Lancashire Lynx at Preston Grasshoppers RU ground recently.

today's visitors

EIGHT

Academy Menswear



Gentleman's
formal
wear/dress
hire specialist

Academy Menswear



24-25 CANNON STREET, PRESTON PR1 3NR

Tel: 01772 555581

on the **HOME** front

These depart at 12.30 and 11.30 respectively and don't forget that the coaches leave from the Deepdale Hotel not from the ground. For more information or to book your place phone Mike Croasdale on 01772 252423.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

Membership numbers continue to grow, but if you haven't joined it's not too late and you can join today. Remember, it only costs £2 for adults and £1 for concessions.

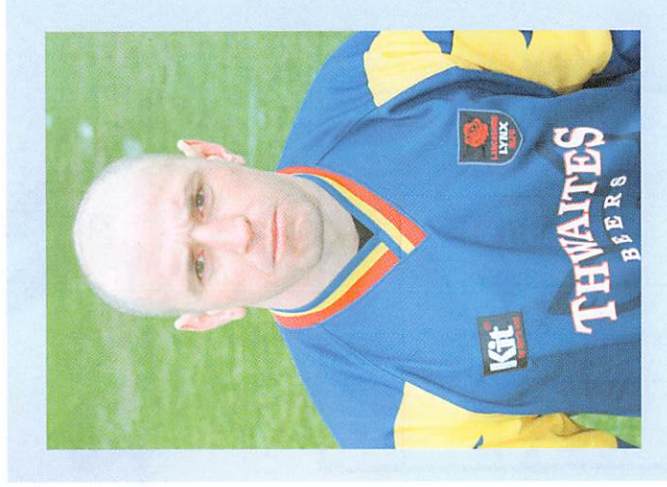
You can also join the Lynx Supporters Club raffle club. This costs £12 for a year and remember, the more people that join, the more you can win. You don't have to be in the Supporters Club to join, even Ray French is a member so you have no excuses.

The last meeting was held on July 8th and one of the main issues on the agenda was that of social events for players and supporters. Although nothing has been decided as yet, there should something on the cards very soon, so watch this space for news.

Finally the latest newsletter should be on it's way to you very soon and the next open meeting of the Supporters Club will be held on August 5th at the Guild Room, Deepdale starting at 8pm. Everyone welcome.

AWAY TRAVEL

The usual luxury transport will be available for the trip up to Barrow on the 2nd August and that at Doncaster on the 9th.



Lancashire Lynx have signed Doc Murray on an eighteen month contract. The ex-Wigan full-back becomes Lancashire Lynx record signing and will appear today for the first time as a Lynx player.

Doc had previously been playing on loan from the Super League club, but he was able to sign for Lynx after Wigan agreed to release him from his contract.

lynx news

T E N

Player	App	Sub	T	G	D/G	Pts
Darren Abram	15		6			24
Neil Alliday	3			8		16
Steve Ashcroft	8	3	4			16
Carl Briscoe	10	3	2			8
Steve Byrne	11	3	5			20
Craig Campbell		1				
John Donno	12	3	3			1
Craig Fairhurst	6	2	1			4
Milton Finney	6		1			12
Steve Gee	8		3			
Danny Jones		2				
Phil Jones	15		7	48		124
Chris Kelly	14		8		1	37
Rob McLoughlin	3					
Neil Mawdsley	2					
Doc Murray	6	12	2			8
Paul Norton	1	1				
Neil Parsley	14	10	13			52
Jason Pekepo	9	4	4			16
Lee Prest	11	1	1			4
Andy Ruane	14		3	2	4	20
Simon Smith		6				
PJ Solomon	13	2	4			16
Steve Taylor	10	1	2			8
Jason Viller		1				
Joe Walsh		5				
Ray Waring	3		1			4
27 players used			70	58	6	402
Total						

27 Players used

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
Lancashire Lynx	12	8	2	2	3	14	193	121
Bramley	14	9	0	5	3	42	251	91
Oldham	13	8	1	4	2	99	222	77
York Wasps	13	8	0	5	2	72	183	89
Batley Bulldogs	13	7	0	6	2	86	241	45
Barrow Border Raiders	13	6	1	6	2	33	234	-1
Workington Town	13	2	1	10	1	88	384	-196
Doncaster Dragons	13	1	1	11	1	197	423	-226
								3

Academy 2nd Division

Month	Date	Opposition	Result	Points
April	19th	Batley Bulldogs	H W18-16	
	25th	Hunslet Hawks	A L4-44	
May	2nd	Silk Cut Challenge Cup - FINAL		
	10th	Gateshead	H W20-12	
23rd		Devsbury Rams	A L7-32	
	31st	Cardiff Demons	W42-10	
June	7th	Doncaster Dragons	W14-10	
	14th	York	L14-16	
	21st	Hemel Hempstead	W38-24	
	28th	Hunslet Hawks	L22-24	
July	5th	Gateshead	L32-22	
	19th	Devsbury Rams	L28-10	
	25th	Cardiff Demons	A	2.30
August	2nd	Doncaster Dragons	H	2.30
	9th	York	A	2.30
16th		Hemel Hempstead	H	12.30
	24th	Batley Bulldogs	A	7.30
September	30th	SECOND DIVISION PLAY-OFFS		
	6th	SECOND DIVISION PLAY-OFFS		
	13th	SECOND DIVISION PLAY-OFFS FINAL		

DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	SCORE/K.O	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
February																					
Sun 1	WEST HULL (SCC4)	H	46-0	488	Alday 5g	Waring	Finney 1T	Abram 1T	McLoughlin	Jones 2T	Kelly 2T	Taylor	Ruane	Pelepo	Gee 1T	Briscoe 1T	Solomon	Byrne 1T	Mawdsley	Norton	Domo
Sun 15	DEVENSBURY (SCC5)	H	28-28	736	Alday 3g	McLoughlin	Finney	Abram 1T	Parsley 1T	Jones	Kelly	Taylor 1T	Ruane 1g	Pelepo	Gee 2T	Briscoe	Solomon	Byrne	Mawdsley	Norton	Domo
Wed 18	DEVENSBURY (SCC5 Replay)	a	14-31	750	Alday 3g	McLoughlin	Finney	Abram	Parsley 1T	Jones	Kelly	Taylor	Ruane 1T 1g	Pelepo 1T	Gee	Briscoe	Solomon	Byrne	Mawdsley	Norton	Domo
April																					
Fri 10	OLDHAM	a	Postponed																		
Mon 13	BARRON B RAIDERS	H	20-20	721	Fairhurst	Waring	Byrne	Abram	Parsley 2T	Jones 4g	Kelly 1T	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Pelepo	Briscoe	Ruane	Ashcroft	Norton	Mawdsley	Solomon
Sun 19	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	40-6	750	Fairhurst	Byrne	Finney	Abram	Parsley 2T	Jones 4g	Kelly 2T	Taylor 1T	Donno 1T	Prest	Solomon 1T	Briscoe	Ruane 1T	Ashcroft	Smith	Pelepo	Mawdsley
Wed 29	BRAMLEY	a	19-14	463	Fairhurst	Byrne	Finney	Abram	Parsley	Jones 1T 4g	Ruane 1dg	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Briscoe	Mawdsley	Solomon 1T	Ashcroft	Smith	Pelepo 1T	Viller
May																					
Sun 10	WORK WASPS	H	12-25	863	Fairhurst	Byrne	Finney	Abram	Parsley	Jones 1T 2g	Kelly 1T	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Briscoe	Mawdsley	Ruane	Murray	Soloman	Pelepo	Smith
Sun 17	WORKINGTON TOWN	a	40-6	869	Murray 2T	Byrne	Ashcroft 1T	Abram	Parsley	Jones 6g	Kelly 1T	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Briscoe	Soloman 1T	Ruane	Fairhurst 1T	Smith	Pelepo 1T	Mawdsley
Sun 24	BATLEY BULLDOGS	a	17-16	501	Murray	Byrne	Ashcroft 1T	Abram	Parsley	Jones 1T 3g	Kelly 1T 3g	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Briscoe	Soloman	Ruane 3dg	D Jones	Smith	Norton	Mawdsley
RED ROSE CHAMPIONSHIP																					
(At Lightfoot Lane, Preston Grasshoppers' Ground)																					
May Sun 31st Oldham		H	18-18	1351	Fairhurst	Byrne	Ashcroft 2T	Abram	Parsley 1T	Jones 1T 3G	Kelly	Taylor	Donno	Norton	Briscoe	Solomon	Ruane	D. Jones	Prest	Smith	Mawdsley
June Sun 7th Barrow Border Raiders		A	22-12	886	Murray	Byrne	Ashcroft	Abram 2T	Parsley 1T	Jones 4G	Kelly 1DG	Prest	Donno 1DG	Pelepo	Gee	Solomon	Ruane	Fairhurst	Norton	Walsh	Mawdsley
Sun 14th Workington		A	26-25	709	Fairhurst	Byrne	Ashcroft	Abram	Parsley 2T	Jones 3G	Kelly	Prest	Donno 1T	Pelepo	Gee	Solomon	Ruane	Briscoe 1T	Norton	Walsh	Mawdsley
Fri 19th Oldham (at Sportland)		A	20-25	1856	Murray	Byrne 2T	Ashcroft	Abram	Parsley 1T	Jones 4G	Kelly	Prest	Donno	Pelepo	Gee	Solomon	Ruane	Briscoe	Norton	Walsh	Taylor
Sun 28th Workington Town		H	48-12	647	Murray	Byrne 2T	Ashcroft 1T	Abram 1T	Parsley 1T	Jones 1T 6G	Kelly	Prest 1T	Donno 1T	Pelepo 1T	Gee	Solomon	Ruane	Walsh	Norton	Campbell	Mawdsley
Sun 19th Trans Pennine Cup Final		H	32-14	339	Murray	Waring 1T	Ashcroft	Abram 1T	Parsley 1T	Jones 8G	Kelly 1T	Prest	Donno	Pelepo	Gee	Solomon	Ruane 1T	Mawdsley	Norton	Walsh	Briscoe
Sun 25	OLDHAM	H	3pm																		
August																					
Sun 2	BARRON B RAIDERS	A	3pm																		
Sun 9	DONCASTER DRAGONS	A	3pm																		
Sun 16	BRAMLEY	H	3pm																		
Sun 23	YORK WASPS	A	3pm																		
Wed 26	OLDHAM	A	3pm																		
Sun 30	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	3pm																		
September																					
Sun 6	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	3pm																		
All games except Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties, friendlies and the Trans Pennine Cup Final count towards the Second Division Championship. The winners of the Red Rose Championship Round Robin (31st May - 5th July inclusive) play the winners of the White Rose Championship in the Trans Pennine Final																					
Friendly Results																					
January																					
Sun 18	ST HELENS	H	14-34	1405	Alday 1T 3g	Parsley 1T															
April																					
Sun 5	N LANCAS AMATEURS	H	58-0		Byrne 1T	Waring 1T	Donno 2T	Mawdsley 1T	Jones 2T 4g												

Parsley 2T Westwood 2T Pelepo 1T Murray 1g

Lynx
TWELVEupdate
THIRTEEN



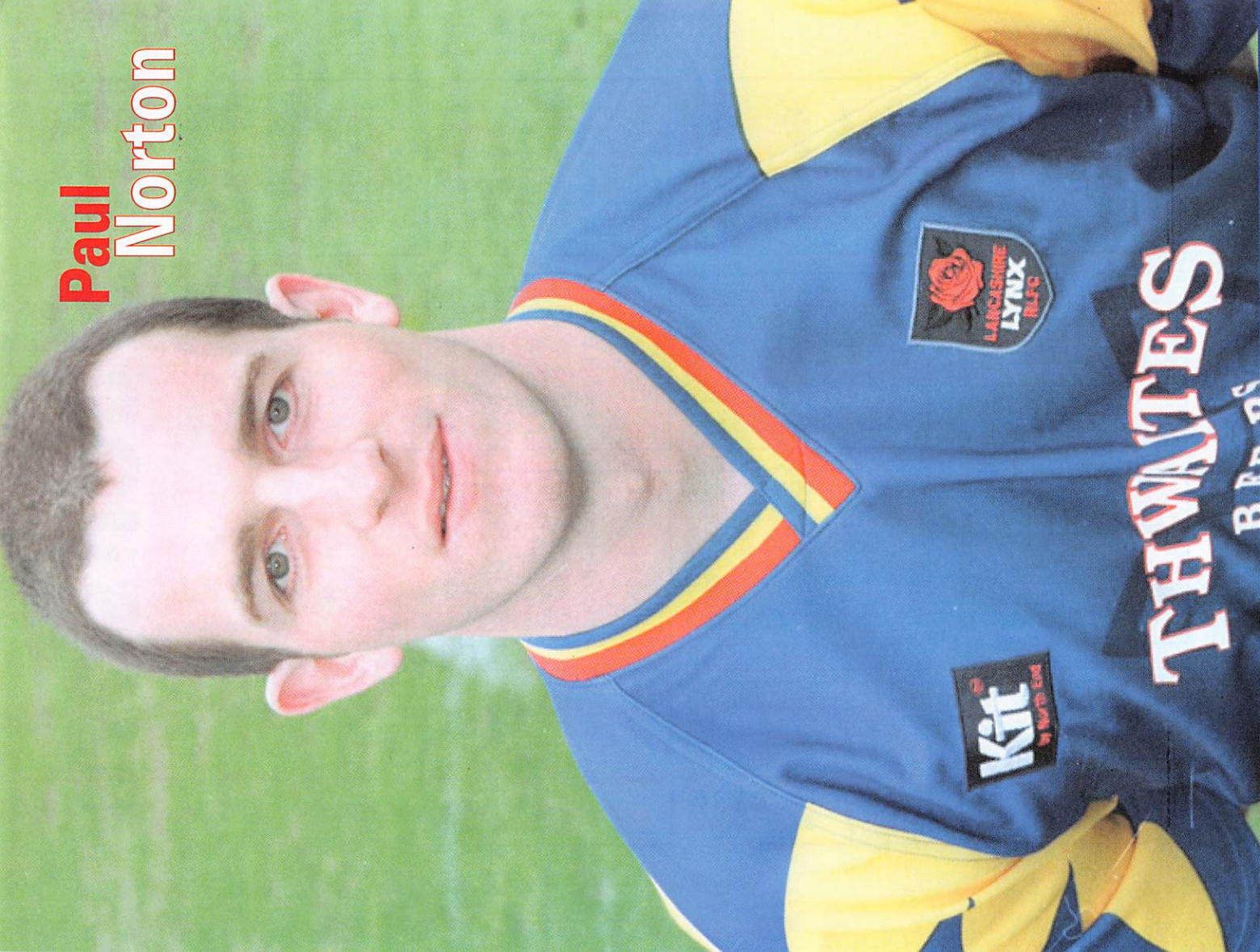
*Products and Suppliers of High Quality Bread, Rolls
& Confectionery*

**Suppliers of bread,
barmcakes, batons, soup
rolls, french sticks, burger
buns, petit pains, fruit pies
& confectionery**

**BAKERY SHOP
OPEN DAILY
8.30am - 1.30pm.**

**Baker Street,
Coppull PR7 5UH
Telephone: 01257 471101**

**Paul
Norton**



star man

FIFTEEN

Kit Sponsors

1998



Steve Ashcroft
Sponsored by
**NORMAN
WILCOCK**



Steve Byrne
Sponsored by
**MICHAEL
DUNDON**
Health Matters



Carl Briscoe
Sponsored by
GEORGE LUNN



John Donno
Sponsored by
MIKE CROSSDALE
Deepdale Hotel



Craig Fairhurst
Sponsored by
NEWEY & EYRE



Milton Finney
Sponsored by
G. HENDERSON



Steve Gee
Sponsored by
GEORGE LUNN



Phil Jones
Sponsored by
ALAN LIVESEY
The Livesey
Group



Chris Kelly
Sponsored by
GRAHAM YATES
M & Y Joinery



Neil Mawdsley
Sponsored by
JEFF MALLINSON
Harry Ramsdens



Paul Norton
Sponsored by
JEFF MALLINSON
Harry Ramsdens



Neil Parsley
Sponsored by
TOMMY BRINDLE



Jayson Pekepo
Sponsored by
HENRY MORRIS
Morris's Bakers



Andy Ruane
Sponsored by
K. LOCKE

sponsor a player

SIXTEEN

Great News!

Every Lynx player has been sponsored for the season at £60 each.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN OUT A SPONSORSHIP, WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



Simon Smith
Sponsored by
PRESTON ARLFC



P.J. Solomon
Sponsored by
GRAHAM & RACHEL
Preston North End



Steve Taylor
Sponsored by
LE SOUCI GATEAUX



Joe Walsh
Sponsored by
S & J WESTHEAD



Ray Waring
Sponsored by
JOHN CHADWICK
Insurance Broker



Lee Westwood
Sponsored by
MIKE CROSDALE
Deepdale Hotel



Darren Abram
Sponsored by
HENRY MORRIS
Morris's Bakers



Doc Murray
Sponsored by
STAN STOCK
Stan Stock Haulage



Jason Villier
Sponsored by
LISA SEED



Lee Prest
Sponsored by
EMMA SEED



Kevin Tamati
Sponsored by
SUZ MEMBER
Nooklands P.O.

Photographs courtesy of Rugby League Express

sponsor a player

SEVENTEEN

LYNX EFFORTS ARE ALL IN VAIN

SUNDAY JULY 5TH

LANCASHIRE LYNX 32
BARROW B RAIDERS 14

JUDGING by their pained expression at the end Lancashire's players looked like they had just lost the game instead of winning handsomely.

It was of course another two points towards the main objective of the Second Division title.

But Lynx wanted desperately to make the Trans-Pennine Cup Final and clinch the Red Rose Championship at the same time.

And they were well on course to fulfil their double goal leading 26-0 after 56 minutes.

That gave them a 39-point advantage over Oldham in the competition.

The wheels however then fell off.

Oldham piled up the points against Workington while Lancashire allowed their Cumbrian visitors back into the match while becoming over anxious to run up a cricket score themselves.

Eventually they were beaten by the clock and their own failings when they might have added to their five touchdowns.

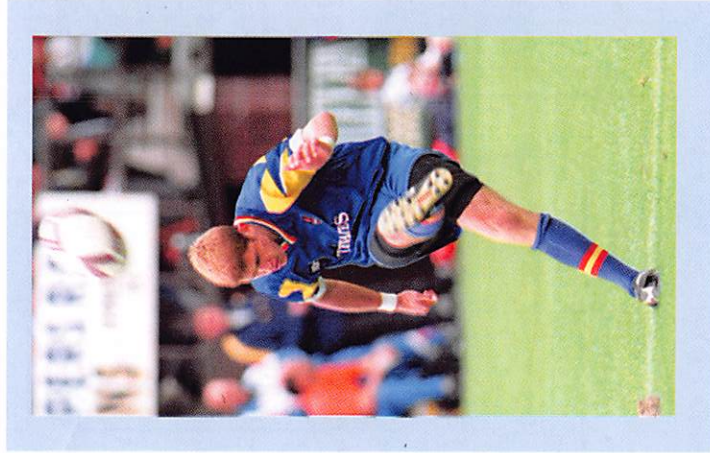
However on any other day they would certainly have been satisfied by the margin of victory.

They weren't probably helped by having to switch the game from Deepdale to the smaller pitch belonging to their rugby union neighbours at Preston Grasshoppers.

The extra width of Deepdale would certainly have suited them but they had to accept what was on offer and certainly there was nothing wrong with a pristine playing surface.

"The main thing was to just to get the win and the two points", said influential loose forward Andy Ruane.

"It we had managed to score plenty of points than that would have been a bonus."



match report

COURTESY OF RUGBY LEAGUE EXPRESS

EIGHTEEN

"It would have been nice to get to the final but our priority is the Second Division."

"We will probably go up anyway but we don't want to come second or third. We want to be promoted as champions."

After their victory over Oldham seven days earlier Barrow had hoped for better things.

"We certainly came here to win" said frustrated coach Stewart Wilkinson.

"I have the players who can do the business but they showed too much indiscipline and lost the ball more that I would have liked."

"The effort was there but it was all mis-directed."

It took Lancashire 15 minutes to get the scoreboard ticking over.

Winger Ray Waring, in for Steve Byrne, scored his first try of the season to set Lynx on the way.

Phil Jones converted for the first of his six successful kicks.

Man of the Match Darren Abram added try number two after 35 minutes, ironically with Barrow back at full strength after the earlier sin-binning of Stewart Rhodes.

Scrum-half Chris Kelly added another try before the interval and with Jones booting three further goals, Lynx led 20-0 at half-way. Winger Neil Parsley finished off some good work by Doc Murray, for touchdown number four before his own afternoon and that of the teams took a turn for the worst.

To their credit Barrow stuck to their task.



Mick Kavanagh sent in hard-working prop Geoff Luxon for a try improved by Dean Marwood before Rhodes thundered over after 62 minutes to put another nail in Lancashire's coffin.

By the time Ruane bulldozed over six minutes from time Lancashire's Cup Final dream was well and truly over leaving Barrow winger Garry Ruddy to add insult to injury with the game's final try after 79 minutes.

GAMEBREAKER:

Ray Waring's disallowed try after 53 minutes was the last hope Lancashire had of building a big enough lead to deny Oldham on points difference.

GAMESTAR:

Darren Abram - always in the thick of the action and deserved his own personal moment of glory in 35th minute.

match report

COURTESY OF RUGBY LEAGUE EXPRESS

NINETEEN

CHRIS JONES examines the future for the clubs outside Super League

The FASDA clubs recently joined their Super League colleagues in voting to accept the new deal being offered to the game by Rupert Murdoch's News Limited.

That means that Super League will continue to be broadcast on BskyB until the end of the 2003 season, with the Super League clubs receiving £45 million from News Limited over that period.

The FASDA clubs, those professional clubs outside Super League, will not share in the long term broadcasting deal, however.

Instead they will receive £10.8 million over the next two years, the timescale of the original BskyB deal, and they will be free to negotiate with other broadcasters to screen their competitions.

The FASDA clubs now face some thorny questions about the structure of their leagues, and how they will distribute their funds. Will they allow all the money to go to players, or will they attempt to invest it to secure their future?

And will they stick with their previous decision to have 14 clubs in Division One next season, leaving just four of five clubs remaining in Division Two.

"At the time those decisions were made the game was shrouded in uncertainty", says Bob Scott, the General Manager of FASDA, who believes that his organisation

will now open up a debate about some fundamental issues.

"The future has been uncertain for the last 18 months, both with regard to finance and the right to get into Super League", adds Scott.

"We now have to begin making positive plans for the future, and the debate has to begin at this Friday's FASDA meeting.

"The key issues are the league structure, the distribution of finances, and the timing of the playing season".

WHAT WILL WORK?

COMING up with the best league structure for FASDA clubs next season is a tough problem, possibly demanding brainpower of MENSA proportions.

19 clubs is too many for one division, but is too few for two divisions. And the fact that there is an odd number of clubs adds to the problem.

The RFL Council has already decided that there will be 14 clubs in division one next season, with the remaining clubs staying in division two. But that may remain in the lowest division, unless new clubs can be found from somewhere. And only Hemel Hempstead would seem to be realistic contenders to come into division two next season.

Batley Chairman Kevin Nicholas, whose club is battling to get into division one, is convinced that the structure would be unjust, whether his club is still in division two or not.

fasda news

COURTESY OF RUGBY LEAGUE EXPRESS

TWENTY

"The prospect of having five or six teams in division two next season is unworkable," says Nicholas.

"Even if we were lucky enough to be promoted, I wouldn't want to see five teams abandoned in division two."

At the other end of the FASDA scale, Wakefield Trinity Chairman Ted Richardson accepts that the league structure already decided upon is now unrealistic.

"Everything should be up for discussion," says Richardson.

"We were presuming things when we made that decision that are no longer true."

"We decided on having 14 clubs in division one when we didn't have the knowledge we have now. I believe, for one, that we should have twelve clubs in division one." Oldham Chairman Chris Hamilton, whose club is also in division two, is another who believes that division two threatens to be unworkable next season.

"FASDA can go from strength to strength, but we need to sit down and plan our structure now," says Hamilton.

"Everyone in Oldham is loving their rugby this year. They are glad to get back to watching rugby for the right reasons, after the traumas of Super League last season."

"But we don't have clubs queuing up to get in the second division next season, although not long ago we are assured that other clubs were wanting to come in."

"Even Hemel Hempstead must wonder about joining division two. And the last thing we would want to do with them is destroy 15 years of Rugby League

development."

"But we need to have a plan for next year. Clubs like Lancashire and York have said that they will not be here next season unless they are in division one, and we can't allow that to happen."

But will bringing all the clubs into one league be the best solution?

"If 19 teams were in one league that would give 36 games, which would also not be ideal, although if we had 20 teams it would be easier to find a solution," argues

Nicholas, although Bob Scott is cautious about whether that is likely to happen.

"Some clubs, particularly those that aspire to get into Super League, are resisting bringing all the clubs outside Super League into one division," says Scott, although most FASDA clubs recognise that they have to find a solution.

"We have to talk until the best possible system emerges." Says Rochdale Hornets Chairman Ray Taylor.

"At the moment we are all coming from different directions."

And Taylor is ready to jettison one aspect of the game that he believes has created many of the financial problems FASDA clubs are currently suffering from.

"Promotion and relegation has eaten the game away," claims Taylor.

"Almost every club in the game is paying more than it can afford to avoid being relegated from its respective division.

"I certainly don't think it's vital that promotion is retained to Super League.

fasda news

COURTESY OF RUGBY LEAGUE EXPRESS

TWENTY ONE

view from the **FAR SIDE**

So here we are again. At Grasshoppers. Again. And Playing Oldham. Again. Maybe it's just me, but it's starting to feel as if we're always playing Oldham these days. Don't get me wrong, that's not necessarily a bad thing, well apart from the fact that we still haven't managed to claim more than a point from them yet. So far we've managed to draw against them here at Lightfoot Green, and then (sob) lost our unbeaten away record to the one Friday night in Rochdale. Looking at it that way it's a shame that the hoards of travelling Oldham fans have only seen our home turf as being here at the home of the town's rugby union team. That isn't meant to be a criticism of the facilities here at Grasshoppers, far from it, any ground where you can watch the game with a pint in your hand gets my vote. It's just that Deepdale is our home. It's an excellent stadium, especially since the construction of the Bill Shankly Stand and I hope that the Celtic fans appreciate that today.

The decision to shift our game will have come as a shock to many Lynx supporters, particularly those faced with loyalties divided between the round ball game and the much superior one that you're here to watch today. There is perhaps a feeling that our being 'kicked out' of our own Theatre of Dreams (farce's and Greek tragedy a speciality) undermines the position of the Lynx at Deepdale. It also appears to add fuel to the argument of the less open-minded sections of the Town End who believe that rugby league shouldn't even dare to consider sullying their pitch.

Sadly in rugby league, as in day-to-day life it seems as if we only hear the two extremes of an argument, as if there's no place for balanced discussion. Within the game as a whole we have on one hand, the prophets of doom who have condemned every change since the game became thirteen-a-side. From when we hear nothing but predictions of the game's decline and ultimate destruction on the other hand there are those who continue to grin cheerfully whilst glossing over any cracks that might truly threaten aspects of the sport. As supporters we just hear whoever shouts the loudest or writes the most letters to Rugby League Express.

Closer to home are the plans and concerns for the future of the Lynx. In recent weeks we've heard a public commitment to the club's success (alright, so far it's with the condition that we must get promotion this season, but you'd have hoped that we'd do that anyway) and yet there is still a niggling feeling of doubt. Although there are those in the PNE fraternity who, whilst not flocking to our games in their thousands, feeling that we're not a bad thing, and yet for the moment, the people who are still shouting the loudest are those who only want football at Deepdale.

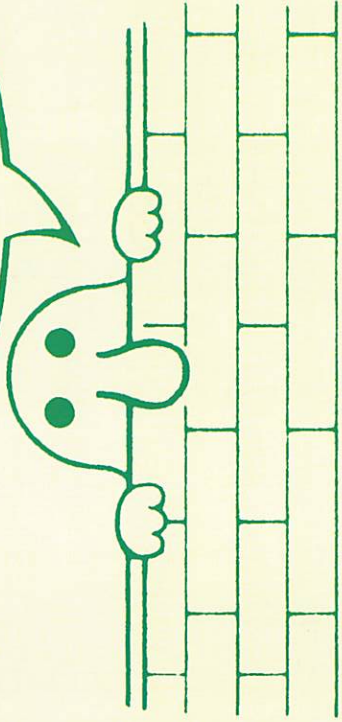
In every aspect of the game, it would be nice (and maybe this is my mindless optimism again) to actually hear something that vaguely resembles fact for a change, that accepts that there are problems but that emphasises the positive and looks for solutions. Or should I just ask for the moon on a stick instead?

Today is one of the most important games in the club's history. The final outcome is likely to have an effect on the top three and may well prove to be vital in deciding the champions. We're not at Deepdale, but that was something to worry about last week and maybe even in weeks to come. For now the most important thing is the eighty minutes being played on the bit of grass in front of you. Nothing else.

cassie willecroft

TWENTY TWO

**WOT NO
TROPHIES**



Darren Abram was
Man of the Match
Lynx v Barrow Border
Raiders and received a
trophy courtesy of the
Trophy Centre

THE TROPHY CENTRE

Hill Street, Preston. PR1 2BB

RING CHAD (01772) 254894

Team Check

26TH JULY 1998

LANCASHIRE LYNX

Full Back

1. Doc Murray

T G DG

Threequarters

2. Ray Waring
3. Steve Ashcroft
4. Darren Abram
5. Neil Parsley

Halfbacks

6. Phil Jones
7. Chris Kelly

Forwards

8. Lee Prest
9. John Donno
10. Jayson Pekepo
11. Steve Gee
12. P J Solomon
13. Andy Ruane

Substitutes

14. Joe Walsh
15. Paul Norton
16. Carl Briscoe
17. Neil Mawdsley

Referee

I. McGregor

Touch Judges

S. M. Ellaby
D. Tidman

4th Official

I. Crabtree

OLDHAM

Full Back

1. Steven Wilde

T G DG

Threequarters

2. Richard Darkes
3. Afi Leulia
4. Sean Copper
5. Chris Eckersley

Halfbacks

6. Chris Wilkinson
7. Neil Flanagan

Forwards

8. Andrew Proctor
9. John Hough
10. Michael Edwards
11. Ian Sinfield
12. Graeme Shaw
13. Mick Martindale

Substitutes

14. Adrian Mead
15. Jason Clegg
16. Nathan Varley
17. Paul Round

head to head