

# LYNX *v* OLDHAM

RUGBY LEAGUE DIVISION TWO



official  
match  
programme  
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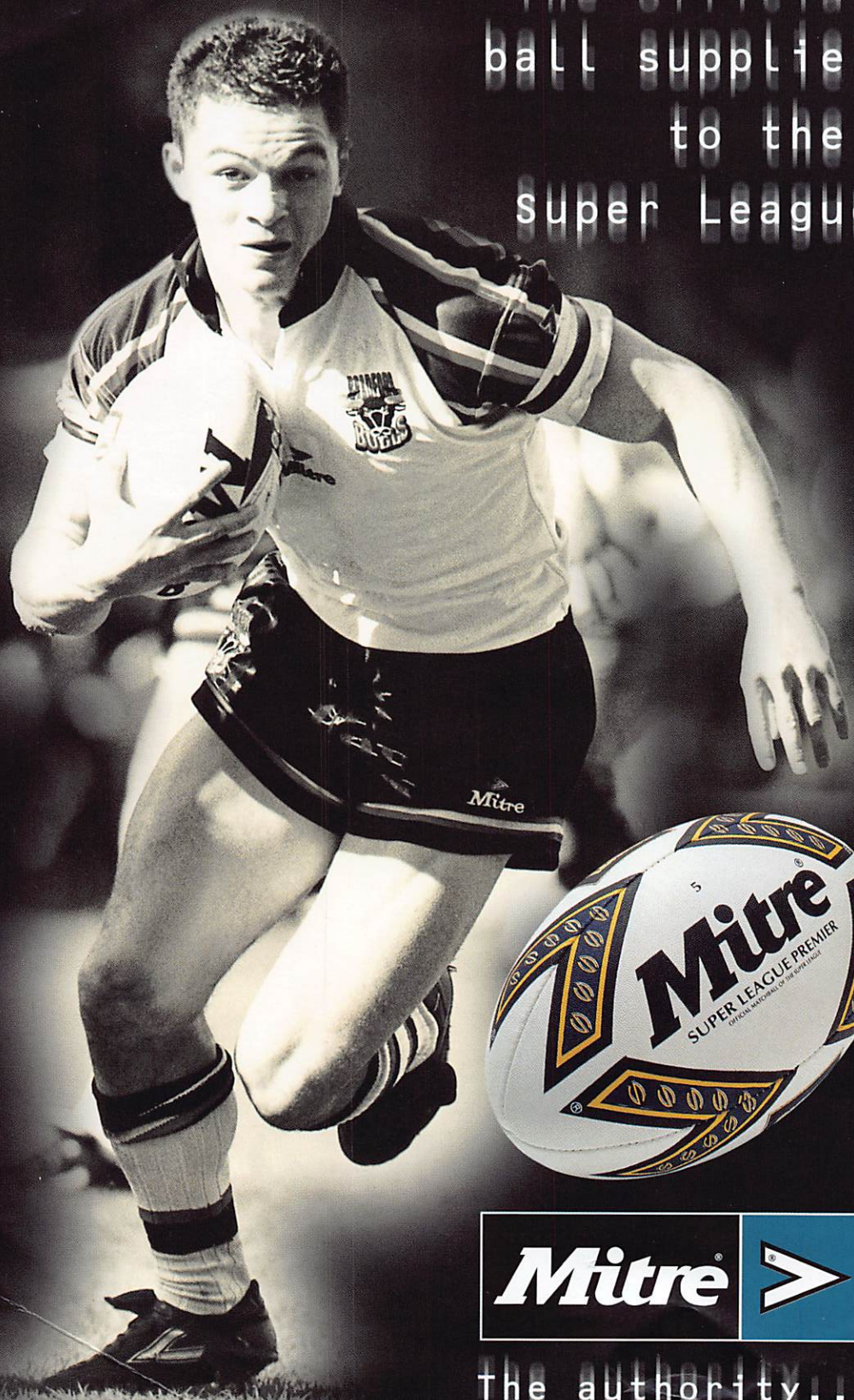
Lightfoot Green,  
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Grasshoppers

Sunday  
26th July 1998  
Kick-Off 3.00pm



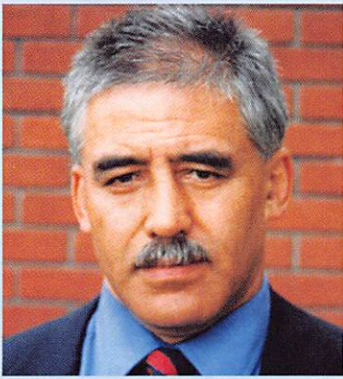
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## message from **Kevin Tamati**

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

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- \* 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

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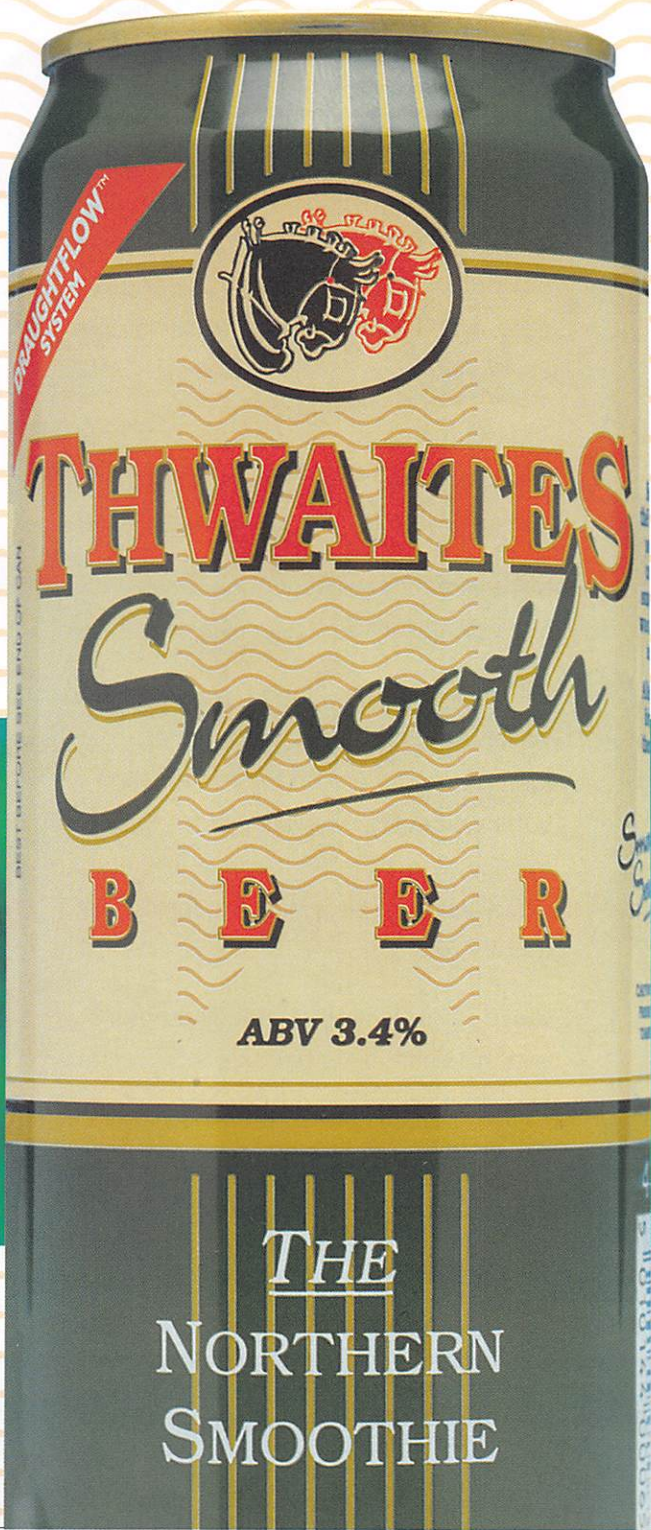
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N O W A V A I L A B L E I N C A N S



# 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 than 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 Laughton in 1988. Turned pro with Halifax, moved to Wakefield as part of a swop 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, Brian 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**

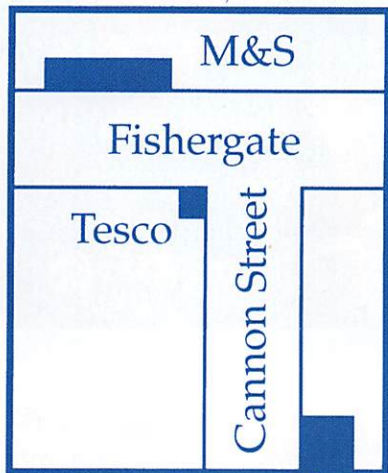
Played for Oldham as a teenage amateur in the old colts team of about 15 years ago. Signed for London Crusaders and also played for Carlisle, Dewsbury, Swinton and home-town Leigh, from whom the Roughyeds snapped him up on a free transfer a month ago. An experienced half-back, Wilkinson played his first 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



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# 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

TEN



# LYNX Stat Attack

Player	App	Sub	T	G	D/G	Pts	App	Sub	T	G	D/G	Pts
Darren Abram	15		6			24	15		6			24
Neil Allday	3			8		16	24	3	4	61		138
Steve Ashcroft	8	3	4			16	50	3	13			52
Carl Briscoe	10	3	2			8	183	28	37	1		150
Steve Byrne	11	3	5			20	24	8	13		1	53
Craig Campbell		1						1				
John Donno	12	3	3			1	13	16	6	4	1	17
Craig Fairhurst	6	2	1				4	23	2	2		8
Milton Finney	6		1			4	35	4	10			40
Steve Gee	8		3			12	34		14			56
Danny Jones		2					9	9	2			8
Phil Jones	15		7	48		124	23	5	9	48		132
Chris Kelly	14		8		1	37	38	1	17		1	73
Rob McLoughlin	3						10	5	4			16
Neil Mawdsley	2	12					2	12				
Doc Murray	6	1	2			8	6	1	2			8
Paul Norton	1	10					14	12				
Neil Parsley	14		13			52	35	1	23			92
Jason Pekepo	9	4	4			16	9	4	4			16
Lee Prest	11	1	1			4	11	1	1			4
Andy Ruane	14		3	2	4	20	78	10	23	14		103
Simon Smith		6					19	6	8	8		48
PJ Soloman	13	2	4			16	37	2	15			60
Steve Taylor	10	1	2			8	50	1	5			20
Jason Viller		1						1				
Joe Walsh		5					116	26	40		1	161
Ray Waring	3		1			4	43		39			156
27 players used												
<b>Total</b>			<b>70</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>402</b>				<b>27 Players used</b>		

## DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	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

## Academy 2nd Division

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

news

ELEVEN



# LANCASHIRE LYNX R.L.F.C. FIXTURES

# RESULTS, LINE-UPS, SCORERS, SEASON 1997

DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	SCORE/K.O	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>February</i>																					
Sun 1	WEST HULL (SCCC4)	H	46-0	488	Allday 5g	Waring	Finney 1T	Abram 1T	McLoughlin	Jones 2T	Kelly 2T	Taylor	Ruane	Pekepo	Gee 1T	Briscoe 1T	Solomon	Byrne 1T	Mawdsley	Norton	Donno
Sun 15	DEWSBURY (SCCC5)	H	28-28	736	Allday 3g	McLoughlin	Finney	Abram 1T	Parsley 1T	Jones	Kelly	Taylor 1T	Ruane 1g	Pekepo	Gee 2T	Briscoe	Solomon	Byrne	Mawdsley	Norton	Donno
Wed 18	DEWSBURY (SCCC5 Replay)	a	14-31	750	Allday 3g	McLoughlin	Finney	Abram	Parsley 1T	Jones	Kelly	Taylor	Ruane 1T 1g	Pekepo 1T	Gee	Briscoe	Solomon	Byrne	Mawdsley	Norton	Donno
<i>April</i>																					
Fri 10	OLDHAM	a	Postponed																		
Mon 13	BARROW B. RAIDERS	H	20-20	721	Fairhurst	Waring	Byrne	Abram	Parsley 2T	Jones 4g	Kelly 1T	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Pekepo	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	Pekepo	Mawdsley
Wed 29	BRAMLEY	a	19-14	453	Fairhurst	Byrne	Finney	Abram	Parsley	Jones 1T 4g	Ruane 1dg	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Briscoe	Mawdsley	Solomon 1T	Ashcroft	Smith	Pekepo 1T	Viller
<i>May</i>																					
Sun 10	YORK WASPS	H	12-25	853	Fairhurst	Byrne	Finney	Abram	Parsley	Jones 1T 2g	Kelly 1T	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Briscoe	Mawdsley	Ruane	Murray	Soloman	Pekepo	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	Pekepo 1T	Mawdsley
Sun 24	BATLEY BULLDOGS	a	17-16	501	Murray	Byrne	Ashcroft 1T	Abram	Parsley	Jones 1T 3g	Kelly	Taylor	Donno	Prest	Briscoe	Soloman	Ruane 3dg	D Jones	Smith	Norton	Mawdsley
<b>RED ROSE CHAMPIONSHIP</b>																					
May Sun 31st	Oldham	H	18-16	1351	Fairhurst	Byrne	Ashcroft 2T	Abram	Parsley 1T	Jones 1T 3G	Kelly	Taylor	Donno	Norton	Briscoe	Solomon	Ruane	D. Jones	Prest	Smith	Mawdsley
<i>(At Lightfoot Lane: Preston Grasshoppers' Ground)</i>																					
June Sun 7th	Barrow Raiders	A	22-12	896	Murray	Byrne	Ashcroft	Abram 2T	Parsley 1T	Jones 4G	Kelly 1DG	Prest	Donno 1DG	Pekepo	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	Pekepo	Gee	Solomon	Ruane	Briscoe 1T	Norton	Walsh	Mawdsley
Fri 19th	Oldham (at Spotland)	A	20-25	1856	Murray	Byrne 2T	Ashcroft	Abram	Parsley 1T	Jones 4G	Kelly	Prest	Donno	Pekepo	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	Pekepo 1T	Gee	Solomon	Ruane	Walsh	Norton	Campbell	Mawdsley
July Sun 5th	Barrow Border Raiders	H	32-14	339	Murray	Waring 1T	Ashcroft	Abram 1T	Parsley 1T	Jones 6G	Kelly 1T	Prest	Donno	Pekepo	Gee	Solomon	Ruane 1T	Mawdsley	Norton	Walsh	Briscoe
Sun 19th	Trans Pennine Cup Final																				
Sun 26	OLDHAM	H	3pm																		
<i>August</i>																					
Sun 2	BARROW 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																		
<i>September</i>																					
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

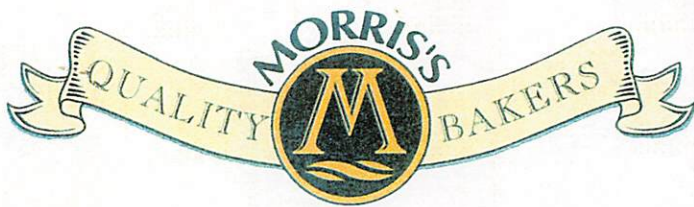
### Friendly Results

<i>January</i>																						
Sun 18	ST HELENS	H	14-34	1405	Allday 1T 3g	Parsley 1T																
<i>April</i>																						
Sun 5	N LANCs AMATEURS	H	58-0	Byrne 1T		Waring 1T	Donno 2T	Mawdsley 1T	Jones 2T 4g	Parsley 2T	Westwood 2T	Pekepo 1T	Murray 1g									

**lynx**  
TWELVE

**update**  
THIRTEEN





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FIFTEEN



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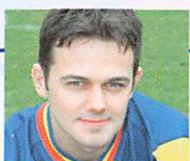
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# sponsor a player

SIXTEEN



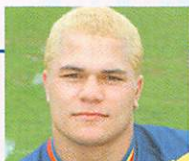
# Great News!

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.



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Photographs courtesy of Rugby League Express

## sponsor a player

SEVENTEEN



# LYNX EFFORTS ARE ALL IN VAIN

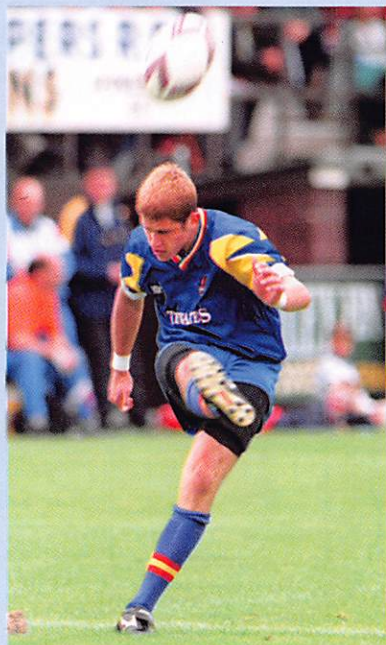
**SUNDAY JULY 5TH**

**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.

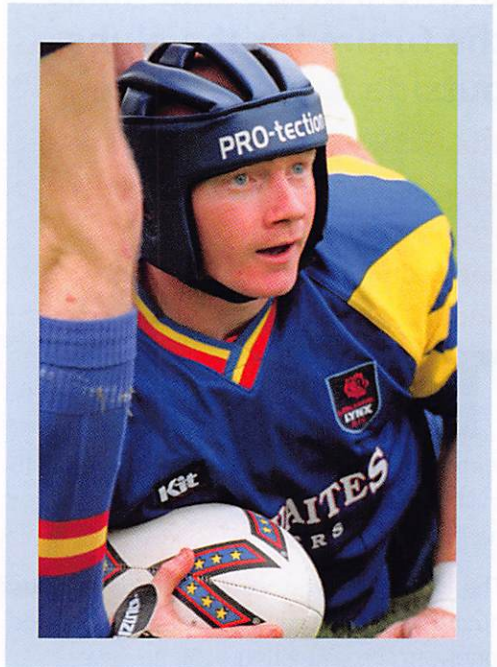
Winger Ray Waring, in for Steve Byrne, scored his first try of the season to set Lynx on the way.

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

Man of the Match Darren Abram added try number tow 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.**

**T**hat 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

should 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 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 sully 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?

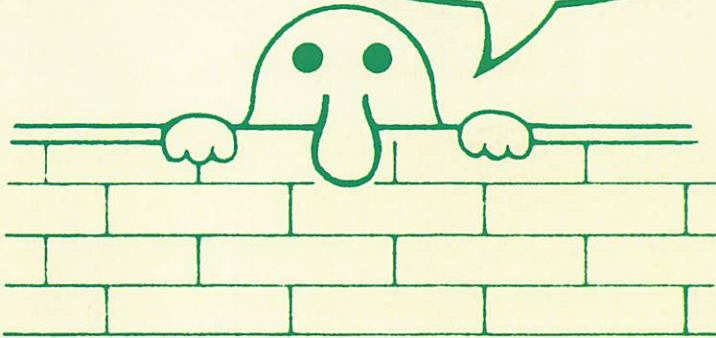
Today is one of the most important games in the club's history. The final outcome is likely to have an effect on the top three and may well prove to be vital in deciding the champions. We're not at Deepdale, but that was something to worry about last week and maybe even in weeks to come. For now the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

## **cassie willescrot**

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 Leuila        □ □ □ □  
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