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One minutes silence will be observed prior to todays game to honour the memory of Trevor Buckley who recently died at the age of 53.

Trevor played 90 first team games for the club between 1966 and 1971 and today our thoughts are with his family.

OLDHAM

Coach: Paddy Kirwan

1 Ricahrd DARKES			
2 Adrian MEAD			
3 Afi LEUILA			
4 Sean COOPER			
5 Chris ECKERSLEY			
6 Chris WILKINSON			
7 Neil FLANAGAN			
8 Paul ROUND			
9 John HOUGH			
10 Mick EDWARDS			
11 Graeme SHAW			
12 Mick MARTINDALE			
13 Paul CROOK			
14 Jason CLEGG	16 Nathan VARLEY		
15 Martin MADERS	17 Ian SINFIELD		

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Mr S. Taylor



WORKINGTON TOWN

Coach: Rob Tew

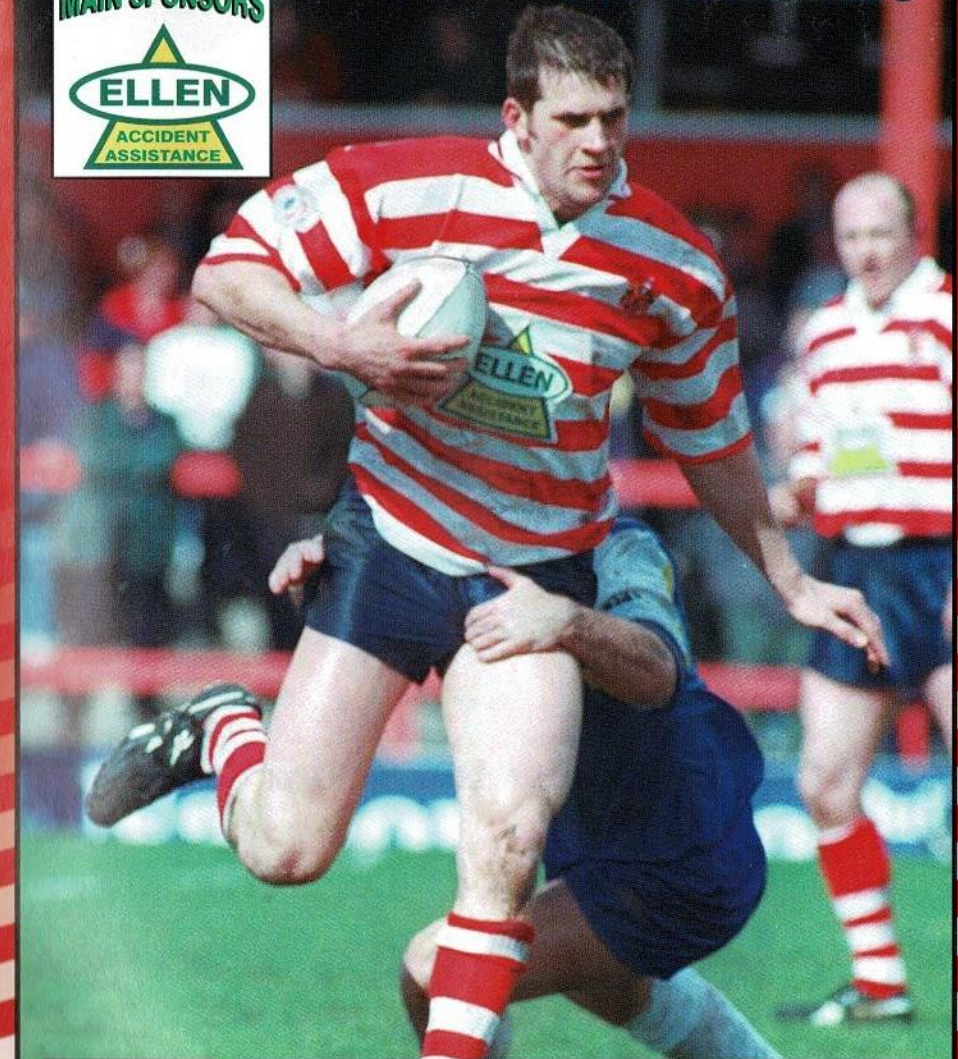
1 Steve ARNOLD			
2 Richard HENARE			
3 Craig STORKER			
4 Mark KEENAN			
5 Andrew LITTLE			
6 Paul BRANTHWAITE			
7 Graeme CLOSE			
8 Steve HEATON			
9 Carl RODEN			
10 Peter RILEY			
11 Barry WILLIAMS			
12 Anthony SAMUELS			
13 Steve McGUIRE			
14 Craig ARMSTRONG	16		
15 Nicholas CRELLIN	17		

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OLDHAM RLFC

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Chairman's CHATTER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

AFTER a gap of over two months we today return for a home fixture to Boundary Park for a game which, in view of our recent disappointing form, takes on greater significance. It is important we pick up the two points today to keep our promotion push on course and equally important that we give yourselves something to shout about. Having played Workington three times already both teams will be familiar with what to expect and although we have won all three contests there is no room for complacency and the Cumbrians will be here today to prove what I have said all season - that there are no easy games in the Second Division this year. Turning to our recent games I must take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the trouble to support us when we played our three games at Rochdale. Having won all of these games and the Law Cup game on New Years Day we now have the distinction of having won more games this season at Spotland than Rochdale!

On a more serious note I would, on behalf of everybody at the Club, offer our sincere thanks for the tremendous way in which the

fans have got behind the team at every single game this season and I can assure you that it is very much appreciated. The disappointment you feel after having lost at Batley is hard to take and nobody took that defeat more to heart than myself, particularly as we outnumbered the home fans by at least three to one. Arriving at the ground I was taken back at the number of Oldham fans milling around early in the afternoon and leading up to the game. The atmosphere created was fantastic. Unfortunately, we didn't perform on the day and Batley rightly took the plaudits. Following the defeat I thought that it was no bad thing that our next game was another 'biggie' against Lancashire Lynx, as I hoped that the players would need no motivation to get the Mount Pleasant game out of their system. Again, it wasn't to be and now is the time for the squad to buckle down and do the business on the park to give us what we all want to see - a winning team. You are a vital part of that team and we need your vocal support.

Keep up the good work.

Christopher Hamilton



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



"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Oldham Evening Chronicle's HALSTEAD

Roger



OF ALL the talking points currently being argued and debated whenever and wherever Rugby League men meet, the one most likely to directly involve YOU, the paying customer, is whether we should play in the summer or the winter.

Before we go any further I have a confession to make.....yes, I was a passionate supporter of the switch to a summer season, and I felt that way long before News

Corporation appeared on the scene with the £87 million deal that gave the RFL no option but to bring out the shades and the sun block.

As we approach the turn of the century, one can still advance a very positive argument for summer rugby. Just think back to those bitterly cold January nights at Watersheddings or those journeys to away games down the M62 with the fog closing in or the first flakes of a snowstorm descending on the windscreen.

If only 700 paying customers can be attracted to a second division promotion battle between Lancashire Lynx and Oldham in Preston on a Sunday afternoon in July, how many would make the effort with rain and sleet lashing down on a cold Saturday afternoon in December?

That might not be a fair question, given that the one tiny grandstand at Preston Grasshoppers can accommodate only 250 or so.

But, clearly Deepdale isn't always going to be available to Lynx, any more than Boundary Park is always free for use by Oldham Roughyeds. So if there are difficulties in the use of soccer grounds in summer, how many more difficulties would there be in the winter?

Those who do not want to return to winter can advance a very powerful argument, but I have to admit that summer rugby has not worked out as I envisaged it would when I backed the push for a change of seasons two or three years ago.

I believed it would have made a more significant difference in the size of crowds. It hasn't. I felt it might have attracted some soccer supporters and I certainly believed it would have pulled in substantial number of fans who are involved in winter with amateur Rugby League. On both counts, there has not been any difference to speak about.

Purely on a personal note, I have also discovered that summer rugby is not nearly such an

attractive proposition now that the novelty has worn off.

I miss the game in the winter. Thank heavens the amateurs provide us with our favourite sport. At least, this softens the blow. It's pleasant, of course, to watch rugby in the sort of summer we are currently experiencing, but what would it be like in a scorcher?

There are certainly more counter-attractions in the summer than in the winter and this is reflected not merely in attendance figures, but in the appalling shortage of coverage given to Rugby League in the national tabloids.

Time was when the tabloids were full of League and the "posh" broadsheets were interested only in Rugby Union. That is no longer the case, with papers like the Independent, the Guardian, the Times and the Daily Telegraph giving far more coverage to League - albeit most of it to Super League - than the tabloids.

Would there be more coverage in the winter? We can only guess, but there couldn't be less than there is now when the sporting columns of so many national publications are concerned only with Test cricket, Wimbledon, the soccer World Cup or the European Championships (depending on where we stand in each competition's four year cycle), the British Open Golf and major flat racing festivals.

The problem for FASDA, of course (we can forget Super League because they are committed to summer under the terms of the new deal with News Corporation) is this: how do you determine whether more supporters would turn up in winter or in summer.

It is easy ask a fan in a survey...do you want winter rugby or summer rugby?

Yet, no matter what the reply, the fan will be tempted to give it a miss in winter if the weather is poor or sidestep a game in summer if the lawns are desperate for a trim or the wife wants to be taken to the seaside.

To sum up, yes I am leaning towards a switch back to winter months, but I do so with no great conviction that such a move would be for the good of the sport in the long term.

The answer, perhaps, lies with TV companies...and wouldn't it be the ultimate irony if FASDA clubs felt they had no option but to revert back because that was the only way they could attract television companies to the delights of first and second division rugby?

Compromise may also come into the equation. A season from the start of March to the end of November could pacify both the summer lobby and the winter lobby.

To provide a season of nine months duration, however, we would need a lot more than 20 games. And that brings us to the debate on a fixture formula for FASDA in 1999. That's another story.

Oldham RLFC

The Roughyeds

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Don Yates
On This Day

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

DON YATES RECALLS THIS DAY IN HISTORY

NOT many years ago, the beginning of August was the time for pre-season charity matches before the serious stuff started later in the month.

Seventeen years ago, on Sunday 2nd August 1981, the Roughyeds visited Rochdale Hornets for the annual Law Cup encounter. Earlier that year Oldham had unearthed a promising half back who had just established himself into the first team. He was one of the stars of the 31-15 Law Cup win at Rochdale, scoring one of Oldham's seven tries. Paddy Kirwan will be just as involved today although from the dugout instead of the base of the scrum.

Twelve months ago British clubs were involved in the disastrous World Club Challenge competition with Australasian clubs. On Saturday, 2nd August our champions, Bradford Bulls, visited Cronulla where they suffered their sixth defeat in six outings. The Bulls trailed 24-0 at half time before losing by 40 points to 12, both their tries being scored by their Australian skipper Graeme Bradley.

Another British defeat was suffered on Saturday 2nd August 1924 when the British Lions lost the first test 16-8 against New Zealand at Carlaw Park, Auckland. Oldham had two players involved in that match, full back Ernie Knapman and centre Sid Rix.

Thirty four years later, Britain were back in New Zealand and on Saturday, 2nd August 1958 took on Canterbury in Christchurch. The Lions won that one 41-21, scoring nine tries to Canterbury's two. Oldham centre Alan Davies played that afternoon whilst Workington had two representatives, winger Ike Southward who landed seven goals, and prop Brian Edgar. Exactly four years later, on Thursday 2nd August 1962, the two teams met again at

the same venue and with the same result, Britain winning by 26-5 on that second occasion.

It was on this day in 1947, Saturday 2nd August, that Balmain defeated Parramatta 47-14 in an Australian Premiership match. Star of that match was test winger Bobby Lulham who scored five tries to equal the Balmain club record for tries in a match.

Another record was established on Friday, 2nd August 1991 when Western Suburbs drew 6-6 with St. George in an Australian Premiership match at the Campbelltown Sports Ground. The attendance at that match was 17,286, the biggest crowd to watch a match at that venue.

Staying in Australia, it was on this day in 1995, Wednesday 2nd August that the former Labour politician Fred Daly died aged 83 years. Daly was a great Rugby League supporter. He followed the fortunes of Newtown until their demise in 1983 and then he was a familiar figure at Canberra matches, taking great delight at their recent successes and fighting passionately for the club during their salary cap crisis in 1991.

Staying with Canberra, it was on this day in 1994, Thursday 2nd August, that the Raiders renewed the contract of outstanding utility back Brett Mullins who signed on for a further five years.

Workington Town were involved in the transfer market on this day in 1993, Monday 2nd August. That day they signed prop-forward Shaun Wane from Leeds. Wane was a very much underrated forward although his best years were spent at Wigan. He stayed for just one season at Derwent Park, making eight appearances and scoring two tries.



"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Comments from THE COACH

IT IS now four weeks since our last home game, at Spotland, also against Workington. On the day we played some of our best attacking rugby of the season so far with both Afi Leuila and Mickey Edwards scoring hat tricks. We needed a big score to clinch the Red Rose division and as on the day Workington were under strength, I obviously expect much stiffer opposition today.

Winning the Red Rose title was a major achievement given the resources we have at the beginning of the year compared with all the other Second Division clubs coupled with the nomadic way we have had to move from training ground to training ground.

It was great to be involved in the final at Batley and to see once again so much support coming out of Oldham. Once again the game was delayed due to the volume of Oldham support queuing to enter the ground. On the day we suffered a defeat and also the loss of 4 key men due to injury. The 'Roy Powell' incident mid way through the first half was a key factor. If we had been playing down the slope when that happened I am sure it would have been Oldham and not Batley who would have lifted the trophy. I also thought the referee was the poorest we have had all season (for both sides) and that the Rugby League administration should have



produced a Grade 1 referee for the final on a day when there were no Super League fixtures.

The loss of Andy Procter, Joe Nadiole, Ian Sinfield and Stephen Wilde meant the call up of Martin Manders, Jason Clegg, Craig Diggle and Paul Crook for the top of the table clash at Lancashire Lynx. In the event the lack of match practice showed particularly in a lack lustre first half performance, during which the Lynx took all their opportunities and finished with clinical precision. Though we did not play well, it has to be said we missed 3 clear cut first half opportunities.

Going back in at half time 22-0 meant we had a mountain to climb but to be fair the lads responded well and hit back with 16 unanswered points to restore pride. The mountain proved just too big to climb though and it was a very disappointed team that returned to Oldham.

The Second Division has been very competitive all season and although we lost last week, other results went in our favour. We are still in the promotion race and need a couple of wins from the next two home games to put pressure on the teams above and below us. We now have four home games and two away games before the end of the season so our destiny is still in our own hands.

Paddy Kirwan



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The Medlock Team wish the Oldham players, staff and directors every success for the future and look forward to us being a major force in Rugby once again

Oldham RLFC
The Roughyeds

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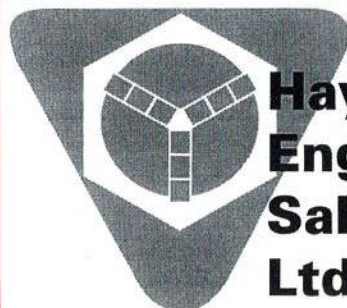
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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

A very warm welcome to all the Players, Supporters and Junior members of Workington. It is nice to be playing Workington at home but sadly for the last time this season.

Our Mascot for today's match is Sam Kershaw. Sam is 10 years old. His favourite player is Paul Round.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

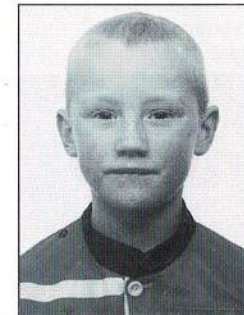
We would like to wish **Happy Birthday** to the Junior Roughyeds sharing birthdays in August

- 6th August Daniel Wood
- 13th August Christopher Tarkenter
- 15th August David Gough
- 27th August Lisa Connor
- 31st August Jonathan Mills

The Mascot for the day against Barrow on the 14th June was James Greenwood. This what James thought of his day:-

THE DAY I WAS MASCOT

When I found out I was going to be the Mascot I was very excited and could not wait for my Big Day. When we arrived at the ground, we met Red Ed the Roughyed. We went past the dressing rooms and to the entrance of the pitch where we waited for both teams to come out. Barrow came out first and then Oldham came to the tunnel. Neil Flanagan, the captain,



came up to me and we ran out together, leading the team out to a great cheer and clapping. I was rather nervous but also very excited. I tossed the coin and Oldham won the toss. We also won the game. It was a really great day.

**James Greenwood
 Age 7**

I would like to thank the new set of Ballboys and Ballgirls who are doing a great job each game - well done.

Team B: Frankie Byrne, Lisa Wooley, Sam Abbott, Nigel Scott, Lawrence Sambrook, Jonathan Mills, Kieran Aitken, Dawn Reed, Lee Reed & Ryan Carter - Keep up the good work.

We will be holding our last Junior Roughyeds meeting of this season on the **3rd August (7pm start)** at the **Pennine Lounge**. We hope to make this a special meeting so make sure you are there. The mascot draw will be made for the last 4 games of this season.

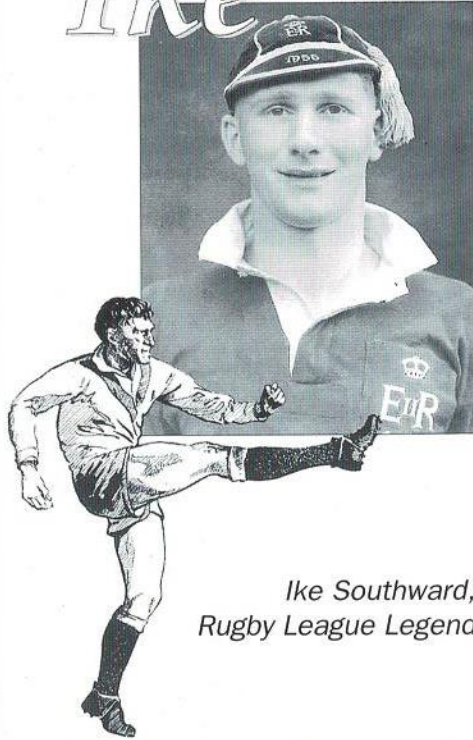
Debra Rafferty

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1959 "Oldham Sign Southward" CELEBRITY

Ike



*Ike Southward,
Rugby League Legend*

AS CUMBRIAN as Kendal Mints that's Ike Southward. Andy Key, Ikes lifelong friend and team colleague from the 1955 Wembley Challenge Cup Final remembers fondly the pre-match line up and Southwards introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh - 'Afternoon' says the Duke 'Aw reet marra' Ikes reply. 'And where are you from' continued the Duke 'Ahs frae Elbra (Ellenborough) old lad' replies Ike!

Over 40 years on the accents still the same, his shapes changed! but the twinkles still in the eye. It was good to meet up with Ike and his inseparable pal Andy Key prior to the earlier Workington game at Spotland. With Ike what you see is what you get, there's no frills, he's exactly the same man who in the Spring of '59 with his wife Betty and young son David prepared to settle into their new Chadderton home.

'Is Roger here?' the first question from Ike, (trying to change the subject but referring of course to our very own scoop Halstead).

Andy Key (after trials at Oldham) signed for Workington in 1952. Ike meanwhile was playing for Carlisle 'Amateurs' for £1 a game. Andy persuaded Town coach Gus Risman to allow Ike to train with Workington and for the club to pay his bus fares of sixpence!

Soon spotting Ikes potential Risman didn't have much of a problem obtaining his signature in return for £100 signing on fee.

The tin ribbed Rugby league player with a burst of nervous energy and exhilarating speed had taken the first steps in earning himself a place in the sports hall of fame as one of the greatest wingers of all time.

By 1954 Southward had gained county honours, international recognition coming with his selection for the 1958 Australian tour. He played in all three of the Australian tests, including scoring 2 glorious tries in the famous 'Battle of Brisbane' in which depleted by injuries they beat the Aussies not to just level the series but to so bravely write their names in the annals of Test Rugby.

It was after gaining his fifth international cap v France in March 1959 Ike was to sign for Oldham for that world record breaking transfer fee of £10,650, (at todays value in excess of £350,000). It was also the first time a Rugby League player had signed for a 5 figure fee.

The truth of the matter though was that Workington didn't want to sell Southward but needed the cash to survive and that Ike and his wife didn't really want to leave their native Cumberland. It was with the promise from Club Chairman Tom Mitchell that should Workington find themselves in a financial situation where they could re sign Ike and should the Southward family want to return north they would attempt to do so.

Being used to top class wingers, and with Southward serviced by crack centre Alan Davies the Oldham supporters soon took to the speedy Cumbrian who managed to score on his debut against Barrow and subsequently on a regular basis. Famous for his long field kicks usually from within his own 25 and using his tremendous speed to beat the retreating defence regathering the other side of the

In World Record Transfer Deal" INTERVIEW

with
Brian Walker



Ike hands off St.Helens South African winger, Prinsloo.

opposing 25 often culminating in a spectacular try.

Ikes biggest disappointment at Oldham was the defeat by Hull in the 1959/60 Challenge Cup Semi. Losing 12-9 Southward was adjudged to have put a foot in touch before flying over for what all the world except the touch-judge thought to be a late winning try.

Whilst at Oldham Ike represented his country 6 times played 52 games for the club scoring 54 tries. He remembers the Oldham supporters as being fanatical - 'They were great. You couldn't wish to meet any better. As a matter of fact they are very much like Cumbrians for hospitality and mixing - they were unbelievable...'

As time passed it became clear that he and his family would never make a permanent home in Oldham, 'My heart was always at Workington.' Workingtons finances did improve, as often happens an unofficial approach was made to the player, the Southwards moved back to Cumberland, Oldham left with little choice but to negotiate a deal.

St. Helens had again broken the world transfer record paying Wigan £11,000 for the services of Mick Sullivan. Ike Southward was

soon again to be subject to a world record transfer £11,002.10s.

What wasn't made known to the Oldham public was that Whitehaven (armed with £9000 they had received from Oldham for Geoff Robinsons transfer) offered £9000 plus hooker Hacker Hill who later was transferred to Wakefield for £6000 - that would have pushed the world record transfer through the roof to £15000!

Anyway Ike was to play another 182 first team games for Town before being appointed player/coach at Whitehaven and subsequently coach back at Workington.

Looking back on his career Ike is obviously very proud of gaining 11 international caps and being selected for 2 Australian Tours but is equally delighted to be the first player in British Rugby League to have achieved the feat of scoring both 300

tries and 300 goals, a feat only having been achieved twice since by both Neil Fox and Eric Ashton.

Today Ike is avidly interested in watching cricket (playing 10 season for Workington CC) rarely a summer weekend goes by without him taking in at least one match. Winter is amateur Rugby time and again both Saturday and Sunday Ike can be found on one local ground or another.

We welcome Ike Southward and Andy Key to todays match - they could be sat next to you!



Ike Southward and Andy Key at Derwent Park



"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Terry Flanagan GUEST WRITER

Terry Flanagan played 281 games for Oldham over ten years. He represented Great Britain at Colts, Under 24 and Full international level. He toured Australia as one of five Oldham representatives in 1984.

THE seventies and eighties were a great period for clashes between Oldham and Workington. Entering the era as a player there seemed to be a special tradition between these two great clubs. Each game seemed to have real significance to the season's outcome and former greats like Ike Southward regularly turned out to add that special behind the scenes spice to the game. During this period a number of great games easily come to mind.

Firstly, in season 1981-82 we went to Workington needing a win. The Workington team was a formidable force at this time with the likes of Bill and Bob Pattinson, the Gourley brothers and Arnie 'Boxer' Walker leading their squad. I fondly recall the evening before when I was preparing for the game my brother Kevin and dad Bill gave me some expert advice. I was a little nervous and apprehensive about the game when they dragged me for a couple of pints of Guinness. Being a young, dedicated pro I had never had a pint the night before a game but I gave in to experience and had a couple. It certainly did the trick as I scored twice to lead us to a significant 17-13 victory that set us up for the remainder of the season. I wonder if this tactic works in the game of the 90s!!

Another memorable game at Derwent Park was in season 1987-88. I was having difficulty keeping a regular spot at this time and the lads started calling me 'the judge' because I was always on the bench! This situation was also the case for one Paul Round, a recent signing from St. Helens, and together we sat out a dismal first half display in atrocious conditions. I can easily recall sitting freezing cold and wet in the Derwent dugout thinking 'What am I doing here?'. Anyway the coach decided to change things and Roundy and Flan were sent into action for the second half. There was another twist to the tale here because the referee was French and was causing problems for both teams. There was a real need for a couple

of players to get hold of the game, without going into detail Round and Flanagan did the business and turned defeat into victory and yours truly's basic French helped develop a rapport with the referee. Incidentally, it's good to see Roundy is still doing the business.



Terry Flanagan

Both clubs have had their difficulties in recent times but I am delighted to see both now on sound, honest footings. Yes, Super League may be some distance off but let's not lose the plot here: Rugby League is more than just Super League. It means and delivers so much more to so many people. Let us enjoy and develop our sport without 'fantasy' ideals and let us make steady, consolidated progress with enjoyment thrown in and without unrealistic expectations, demands and aspirations. Of course we need to evolve but not at the expense of our core values.

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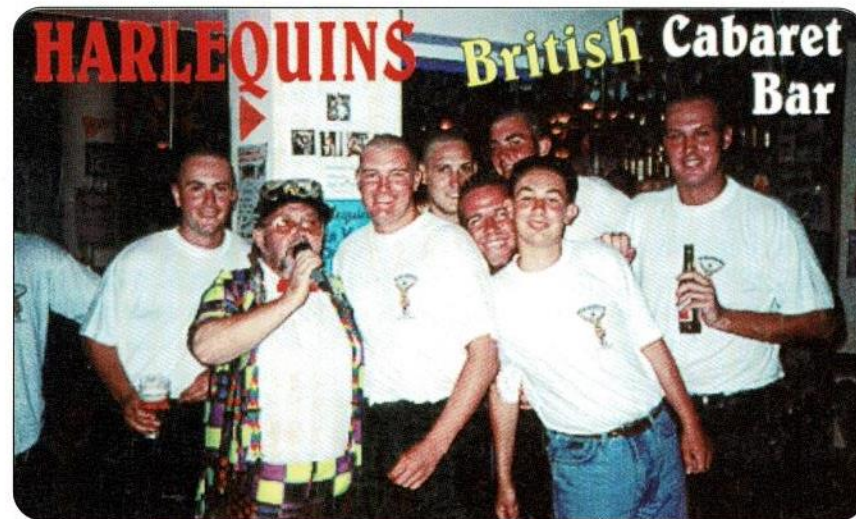
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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

MATCH BY MATCH 1998

	Att	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
JANUARY																					
1 Thurs	ROCHDALE H (Law Cup)	H3.00	3097	36-16	Mead	Eckersley	Wilde	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Guest	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Prescott	Jackman	Robinson	Round	Leuila	Diggle
18 Sun	HEWORTH (RLCC 3rd Rnd Prelim)	A3.00	2943	36-14	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Prescott	Robinson	Eckersley	Clegg	Fleming
FEBRUARY																					
1 Sun	WIDNES (RLCC 3rd Rnd)	H3.00	4579	8-48	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Eckersley	Clegg	Fleming
APRIL 1998																					
10 Fri	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H4.00																			
13 Mon	WORKINGTON TOWN	A3.00	1344	22-18	Mead	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	McNicholas	Baker	Flanagan	Clegg	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Maders	Varley
22 Wed	BRAMLEY	A7.45	1069	10-12	Wilde	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Prescott	Varley
26 Sun	DONCASTER DRAGONS	A3.00	1050	20-8	Wilde	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Varley	Martindale	Robinson	Round	Clegg	Shaw
MAY																					
4 Mon	BRAMLEY	H3.00	2921	32-50	Mead	Darkes	Leuila	Wilde	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Naidole	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Varley	Sinfield	Prescott
10 Sun	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H3.00	1929	28-20	Wilkinson	Mead	Leuila	Darkes	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Naidole	Martindale	Robinson	Varley	Clegg	Prescott
17 Sun	BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	H3.00	1967	13-4	Wilkinson	Mead	Leuila	Darkes	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Naidole	Martindale	Sinfield	Varley	Clegg	Shaw
24 Sun	YORK	A3.00	1482	6-27	Wilkinson	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Naidole	Martindale	Mead	Sinfield	Varley	Prescott
31 Sun	RR LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00	1351	18-18	Wilde	Mead	Darkes	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Robinson	Edwards	Naidole	Shaw	Martindale	Sinfield	Varley	Prescott	Round
JUNE																					
7 Sun	RR WORKINGTON	A3.00	1057	27-10	Wilde	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Hough	Shaw	Sinfield	Naidole	Martindale	Mead	Clegg	Varley	Round
14 Sun	RR BARROW B R (at Rochdale)	H3.00	1686	32-8	Wilde	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Proctor	Naidole	Sinfield	Mead	Crook	Edwards	Varley
19 Fri	RR LANCASHIRE L (at Rochdale)	H7.30	1856	25-20	Wilde	Mead	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Proctor	Sinfield	Naidole	Martindale	Crook	Edwards	Shaw	Varley
28 Sun	RR BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	A3.00	1333	2-19	Wilde	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Naidole	Martindale	Mead	Crook	Varley	Round
JULY																					
5 Sun	RR WORKINGTON	H3.00	1620	56-8	Wilde	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Naidole	Martindale	Mead	Crook	Varley	Clegg
19 Sun	BATLEY RR Final		2696	12-28	Wilde	Darkes	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Naidole	Martindale	Mead	Sinfield	Varley	Round
26 Sun	LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00	733	16-32	Darkes	Mead	Leuila	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Martindale	Maders	Crook	Diggle	Edwards	Varley	Clegg

APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1998 TO DATE

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts																	
							Andy Fleming	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Brian Quinlan	2	-	-	6	-	12
							John Hough	16	-	6	-	-	24	-	-	-	Darren Robinson	1	7	2	-	-	8
							Afi Leuila	14	-	8	-	-	32	-	-	-	Paul Round	9	7	3	-	-	12
							Martin Maders	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Graeme Shaw	13	3	2	-	-	8
							Mick Martindale	15	-	5	-	-	20	-	-	-	Ian Sinfield	6	5	1	-	-	4
							Joe McNicholas	3	-	2	-	-	8	-	-	-	Nathan Varley	1	13	-	-	-	-
							Aidie Mead	9	5	4	-	-	16	-	-	-	Steve Wilde	12	-	5	-	-	20
							Joe Naidole	11	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	Chris Wilkinson	11	-	-	29	3	61
							Mick Prescott	1	5	1	-	-	4	-	-	-							
							Andy Proctor	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							

Does not include Law Cup and Friendlies

Best Wishes for the Season  Seton Healthcare Group plc

All photographs by kind permission of the Oldham Evening Chronicle whose co-operation we gratefully acknowledge.

Letters To The EDITOR

My apologies for the delay in replying but many thanks for the copy of the Oldham Rugby Club programme. It made very interesting reading and congratulations on making it such high quality material and presentation. I can't recall programmes being of such a high quality in my time.

An influence on him because he now looks like a real hard-nosed tight head prop. I just couldn't resist that. But if you do happen to mention my comment to him please also add my best wishes. He gave me a lot of support when I was playing.
Best wishes

Dave Parker

I'm sure it is no coincidence that the opposition was Barrow when you chose to publish my contribution and Trevor Simms' smiling face attracted me to the statistics of matches against them. I can tell you that Eddie Tees currently lives almost next door to my brother's farm on Walney Island, I was at school with Bill Burgess and his father was still a Barrow RLFC committee member at that time. Bobbie Wear was a Powderhall sprinter and the finest tackle I ever saw on any rugby pitch was made on Bobbie at Craven Park, Barrow by none other than Peter Smethurst. Jim Challinor I knew from when he played for Hull, a very good player who was always difficult to tackle. Ivor Kelland didn't take life too seriously and wasn't the kind of person you expected to find as a rugby league prop, but after he finished playing he got involved in coaching not only with Barrow but with rugby league in the local area. And I used to play against Maurice Redhead before either of us turned professional.

A Trip to Workington

It was 1957 and surely Oldham would go to Wembley this time. British Rail had laid on three special trains, all fully booked. As we headed north out of Preston, my pals and I went to the buffet car for a coffee. There was a long table running down the centre of the car and sitting at it were a number of folks drinking ale. They seemed to have had plenty already.

We steamed up Shap to Penrith where a change of engine was coupled up to haul us to the coast. When we reached Workington the drinkers were still in the buffet. They remained there and never saw the match – which incidentally Oldham won.

But the real reason for me writing is that on page 4 I saw a name that I recognised but a face that I didn't. As a result I just can't resist the following comment. In the early 1960's Roger Halstead was a young, fair-haired, spirited, slim chap with a manner that gave the impression that he was a confident, carefree, three-quarter kind of guy. Maybe the pressures of journalism and possibly the stress of supporting Oldham RLFC through it's recent trials and tribulations have had

The return journey took us down the coast and somewhere in the Barrow area we went for another coffee. The drinkers were still there and one looked up and said, "What time is it?" When I told him he said "B..... H...! Two more hours to sup!"

They must have become unruly because the train stopped at Carnforth, presumably for the guard to ring the police, for as we stopped again at Lancaster the police were waiting and our fellow supporters(?) were removed from the train.

Best wishes,

George Worthington

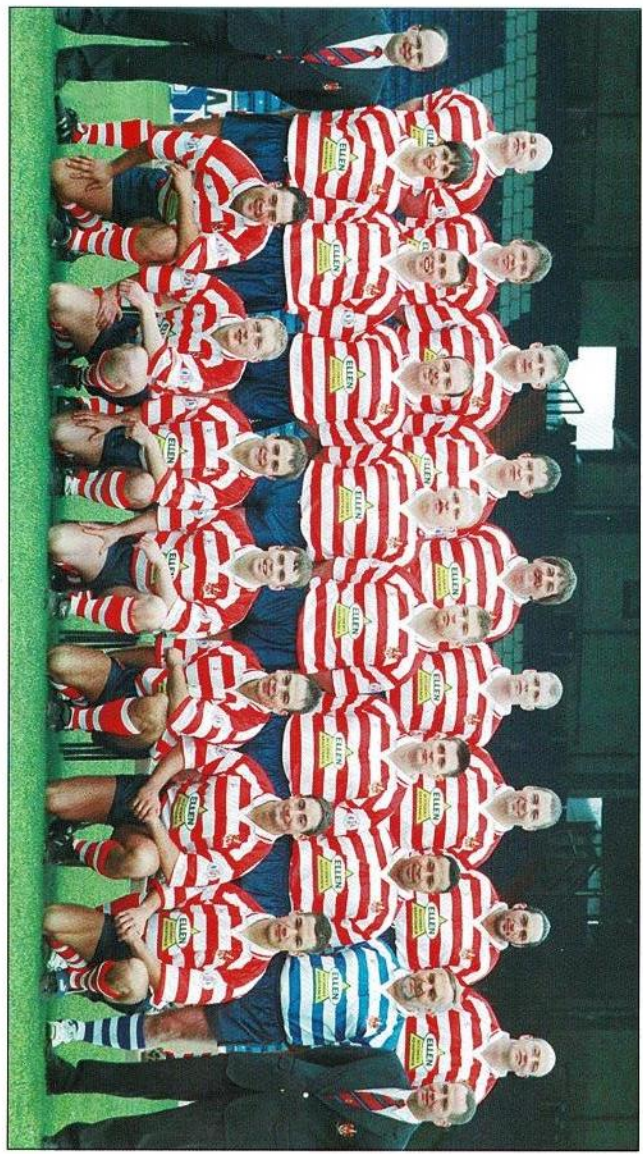
Iva Slateloose Guest Writer

COLLECTIVE NOUN COMPETITION

The answers to last month's competition are:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A myopia of referees | A back-hander of agents |
| A breakage of contracts | A bafflement of disciplinary committeemen |
| A waxworks of touch judges | A meglomania of Chief Executives |
| An embezzlement of treasurers | A flood of water carriers |
| A statistic of coaches | A mockery of franchises |
| A gerremonside of spectators | An injection of physios |

Thanks for your many entries.



OLDHAM 1998 The Roughyeds

Back Row: Michael Edwards, Chris Eckersley, Brian Quinlan, Nathan Varley, Paul Round, Graeme Shaw, Keith Atkinson, Craig Diggle, Sean Cooper.
Middle Row: Paddy Kirwan (Coach), Darren Robinson, Graig Barker, Richard Darkes, Jason Clegg, Martin Maders, Andy Fleming, Afi Leulila, Steve Wanless (Physio), Mick Coates (Asst. Coach),
Front Row: Michael Prescott, Steven Wilde, Neil Flanagan, John Hough, Ian Sinfield Aldrian Mead, Joe McNicholas.

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Alyson Brown



From The EDITOR

AT THE outset let me say that the following ideas do not reflect the official views of the Oldham Club. However I have been giving some thought to the structure of the game and the fixture set up outside Super League, particularly in view of what I consider to be poor attendances for some top class rugby.

Leaving aside the topic of winter versus summer rugby, and trying to address some of the concerns of club chairmen, the first thing that strikes me is that one division would be better than two. Why? Because the public, rightly or wrongly, perceive second division rugby as second class, whereas you and I, having watched Division Two rugby this season, know this is not the case. If Doncaster meeting Hull KR can add to the Dragons' overall average gates then surely this is the route to take? Would such fixtures produce uncompetitive football with one sided scores, thus putting off potential support? Who knows? But the incentive would be there to improve standards to prevent this. What's more, financial incentives could be put in place according to a club's final placing in order to prevent an accumulation of so-called 'meaningless' fixtures. This however, would demand a close examination of the distribution of News Corporation monies and, possibly, some self-sacrifice, not something club chairmen are usually noted for.

The real problem regarding league structure, however, is the number of clubs. Nineteen is awkward; twenty almost perfect. If Hemel Hemstead are judged capable of taking a place in the League (and assuming none of the current clubs went out of business) then the following format would be possible:-

Western Division	Eastern Division
1 Whitehaven	1 Wakefield
2 Workington	2 Dewsbury

3 Barrow	3 Batley
4 Lancashire	4 Hunslet
5 Widnes	5 Bramley
6 Swinton	6 Hull KR
7 Leigh	7 York
8 Rochdale	8 Featherstone
9 Oldham	9 Doncaster
10 Keighley	10 Hemel Hemstead

Every team in the Western Division would play every other team and the same in the Eastern Division. This makes eighteen fixtures. There could even be a trophy for the winners of each section. (For the traditionalists among you a kind of revival of the old Lancashire and Yorkshire Leagues.)

In addition team 1-5 Western could play teams 1-5 Eastern, and teams 6-10 Western teams 6-10 Eastern. This provides another 10 fixtures for the overall League Table, making a complete fixture list of 28 games. Since not every club plays every other we could have a top four play-off. The leading team would be Champions, and the top four play-off winners would be Premiership winners.

But for the sixteen non-premiership contestants to keep the season going and make every League position count we could have a Plate competition. (Remember we've already tried this successfully in the Challenge Cup). The team finishing fifth would play twentieth, sixth would play nineteenth and so on. After a straight knock-out the final two sides would play the plate final as a curtain-raiser to the Premiership.

I could even suggest that £250,000 per club per season would add up to £10 million over the two years of News Corporation sponsorship, with the other £200,000 used as prize money.

Go on then, shoot me down!
Back to the Future or what?

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From the Supporters Club

DUTY FREE SHOPPING

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

This trip is planned for 4th - 6th December, 1998 including a trip to a Hypermarket on the return journey. For more details ring Alice 633 6780 or Trevor 628 8006.

AWAY TRAVEL

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

Members of the main branch of the Supporters Club receive a discount on seat prices. Watch this space for details of the Player of the Year and Awards Night.

WATSHEDDINGS 107 BRANCH

Watersheddings 107 branch announce a Charity Match in aid of **John Power** at Waterhead Park on **Saturday 29th August, 1998 at 2.00pm**, Donations can be made on the day.

O.R.L.F.C.

Chadderton Branch - Supporters Club

FAMILY FUN DAY

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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

From the Pen of . . . Michael Turner

BULL DOG SPIRIT

SETTING aside our own natural disappointment, it is most appropriate to offer congratulations to Batley for their victory over the "Roughyeds" in last weeks Trans-Pennine Cup Final. The Yorkshire team made best use of the Mount Pleasant slope to run out deserving winners. It is interesting to note that Batley were also the first winners of the RL Challenge Cup in 1899 and it is refreshing to see one of our old established clubs still capable of a moment of glory nearly 100 years on - well done the Bull Dogs or as we used to say the "Gallant Youths".

Our lads still have to travel to Batley for a League encounter, so they will have the opportunity to reverse the result and gain what would be a vital two extra points in the push for promotion. I am sure they will need no extra motivation for that game.

TREVOR BUCKLEY



I am sure that I speak for all "Roughyeds" supporters in extending our sympathy and condolences to the family of our ex-player Trevor Buckley who died two weeks ago aged 53.
Trevor played 90 games for the club between 1966 and 1971 mostly in the centre position.



To continue our series of old team photographs here is a group from the match at Swinton on April 2nd 1926. As you can see this photo is damaged. Does anyone have a better copy of this image for our files? If so please contact Michael Turner: 0161 620 6005 or Brian Walker: 01457 875084
Back Row: Ernie Knapman, Albert Brough, Rod Marlor, Jack Read, Abe Clayton
Front Row: Reg Jones, Jack Corsi, Bob Sloman, George Hesketh, Sid Rix
The Missing Players are: Alf Higgs, Percy Carter and Reg Farrar

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

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The Roughyeds

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Oldham RLFC INAUGURAL
Golf Classic with
 Brian Walker (cont. on P.26)

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

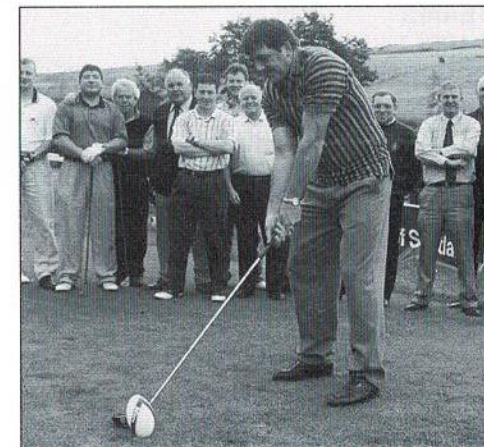
A window in this summer's unseasonal weather provided the backdrop to a super day's Fund Raising Golf held on the 'Pennine' Oldham course.

Sponsored by **The Royal Bank of Scotland** and fully subscribed by twenty teams of four, comprised of supporters, sponsors, players and mountaineers it was not too typical of the day that with his opening 'shot' from the first Jason Clegg managed to hit the bonnet of a VW 'Golf' parked on Lees New Road (this he still vehemently denies!)

Team prizes went to Carpet Showcase, Mallinsons, Lawrence Perrins, Ray Hill & Co. with Jason Clegg taking the wooden spoon!

Seriously though a superb day and our whole-hearted thanks to contestants, sponsors, those who donated prizes (listed on page 26) and not least to organisers, officials and staff at Oldham Golf Club.

To next year!



Veteran forward Paul Round teed off in light hearted fashion at the start of the Roughyeds golf tournament

Golfers make it a day to remember

THE Roughyeds first fund-raising golf day on the hilly Oldham course was an unqualified success according to many of those who took part.

Long time Oldham fan Lawrence Perrins, captain of a four man team that figured in the prize list, was so impressed that he took the opportunity to make an impromptu speech at the prize giving function.

Another impartial golfer, attending an Oldham RL golf event for the first time said: "It was an excellent day. First class."

Lawrence said later: "The Roughyeds are working miracles on and off the pitch and, having attended the golf day, it is easy to see why."

"The atmosphere was superb, attention to detail could not be faulted and everyone was made to feel appreciated, welcome and part of the party."

"With that sort of team spirit I feel sure the new club will make a go of it. I was so impressed I was moved to get to my feet and say so."

Oldham Evening Chronicle

Chris Roberts Esq.,
 Captain,
 Oldham Golf Club,
 Lees New Road,
 OLDHAM OL4 5PN.

'WATERSHEDDINGS'
 16, Longhouse Lane,
 Poulton-le-Flyde,
 Lancashire FY6 8DF

Dear Captain,

Re: Oldham R.L. Golf Tournament 9th July, 1998

I brought a number of guests to the Oldham Rugby Club Tournament and we had a splendid day out and thank you for your kind hospitality received at Oldham Golf Club.

My guests and I were extremely impressed with the warmth of the reception and the quality of service and the attentiveness and pleasantness of the staff.

I should be very grateful if you would convey our thanks to the Golf Club for a very enjoyable day out.

Once again, thank you very much indeed for your kind hospitality.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MACAULEY



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 to the Roughyeds*

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Good Luck to the Roughyeds



"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Oldham Golf Day, Thanks to all The Teams & Sponsors

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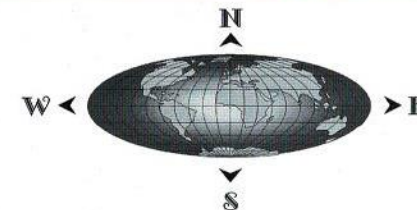
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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear

WHEN the Super League was created in 1995 it was decided that one club would be relegated at the end of the 1996 summer season. No club would be relegated from the last shortened winter season although that campaign was expected to confirm that the relegated club would come from a shortlist which included London Broncos, fast tracked into Super League, Sheffield Eagles, Oldham and Workington Town.

Sheffield surprised everyone by finishing in the top half of the table but for the three other candidates it proved to be a long and difficult last season of winter rugby.

Workington Town began the campaign with a 48-6 home defeat against eventual Champions Wigan but Town then defeated Sheffield 26-20. A narrow 32-24 defeat at Castleford followed before St. Helens visited Derwent Park and ran in 12 tries as they hammered the Cumbrians 66-22. Town's next match was at Warrington with the game switched to Friday evening for Sky television coverage. Warrington themselves had not made the best of starts to the season but they had won at Sheffield seven days before taking on Workington and were firm favourites to beat Town who had not won at Wilderspool for 14 years and were given 28 points start by the bookies.

The teams for this match were as follows:

WARRINGTON: Lee Penny; Mark Forster, Ronnie Kettlewell, Jonathan Davies, Jason Lee; Paul Sculthorpe, Greg Mackey; Dave King, John Hough, Mark Hilton, Paul Cullen, Bruce McGuire and Mike Wainwright.

Substitutes: Graeme Close, Gareth Davies, Gary Chambers and Iestyn Harris.

WORKINGTON TOWN: Peter Livett; Paul Penrice, Kevin Pape, David Fraisse, Mark Johnson; Wayne Kitchin, Dean Marwood; Gary Schubert, Jonty Gorley, Rowland Phillips, Colin Armstrong, Steve Holgate and David Carter.

Substitutes: Mark Wallace, Jason Moore, Gary McGuirk and Peter Riley.

Warrington began well and were well on top during the opening thirty minutes. They took the

lead with an early Davies penalty but eight minutes into the match came the first shock. A fumbled bomb ended with French centre David Fraisse putting Town in front much against the run of play.

As the half wore on Town gradually got into the match. During one of their attacks Wayne Kitchin dropped a goal so Town led 5-2. Warrington still looked dangerous when in possession and five minutes before half-time current Oldham hooker John Hough was involved in a move which ended with full-back Lee Penny crossing in the corner. Jonathan Davies converted from the touchline but Dean Marwood landed a penalty minutes later to leave the half-time score 8-7 in Warrington's favour.

Early in the second-half Iestyn Harris dummied his way over for a converted try which put Warrington 14-7 in front and looking to pull away for a comfortable victory. Workington had different ideas and continued to plug away driven on by former Wilderspool favourite Rowland Phillips. On the hour the ever reliable Colin Armstrong was involved in the move which put centre Kevin Pape over and Marwood's conversion brought Workington back into the match at 14-13. Just when the match seemed like ending in that narrow home victory came three sensational dropped goals in three sensational minutes. Wayne Kitchin, David Fraisse and Dean Marwood were the scorers who put shell shocked Warrington 14-16 behind. The match which had failed to whet the appetite of paying and armchair fans alike had produced a classic with a fairy tale ending as far as Workington were concerned.

Town lost their next eleven league matches and ended the campaign in bottom spot six points adrift of their closest rivals. Twelve months later they did lose their Super League status and are now battling along close to the bottom of Division Two.

But events of that September night in 1995 show that in rugby league no club can be written off – whatever their league placing.

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE 1998

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THE SADDLEWORTH SHOW

Congratulations to Roughyeds' Coach Paddy Kirwan who was invited by the organisers to officially open this year's show! p On a typical July day (rain and gale force winds) the Club also for the first time supported the event with a Souvenir stall. Despite the conditions it was a super day with the crowds still rolling up to support the Town's main Charity Fund Raising Event of the year. Congratulations also to ex Roughyeds player Ray Hicks, this year's president of Saddleworth Rotarians and his team for the excellent organisation and hard work in making the day so successful. Quoting the show's publicity officer Roland Gaskell. "Our sincere thanks to Paddy and the Club for their support and hope this can be repeated next year".

OLDHAM CARNIVAL



Oldham Roughyeds were pleased to be able to have a float in the Oldham Carnival on Saturday 25th July. Thanks go to the Chadderton and Watersheddings Branches of the Supporters Club for their enthusiastic decorating of the float. Also to Mr Wrigley's for providing a D.J. and most of all to Howarth Brothers for providing the truck.

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