

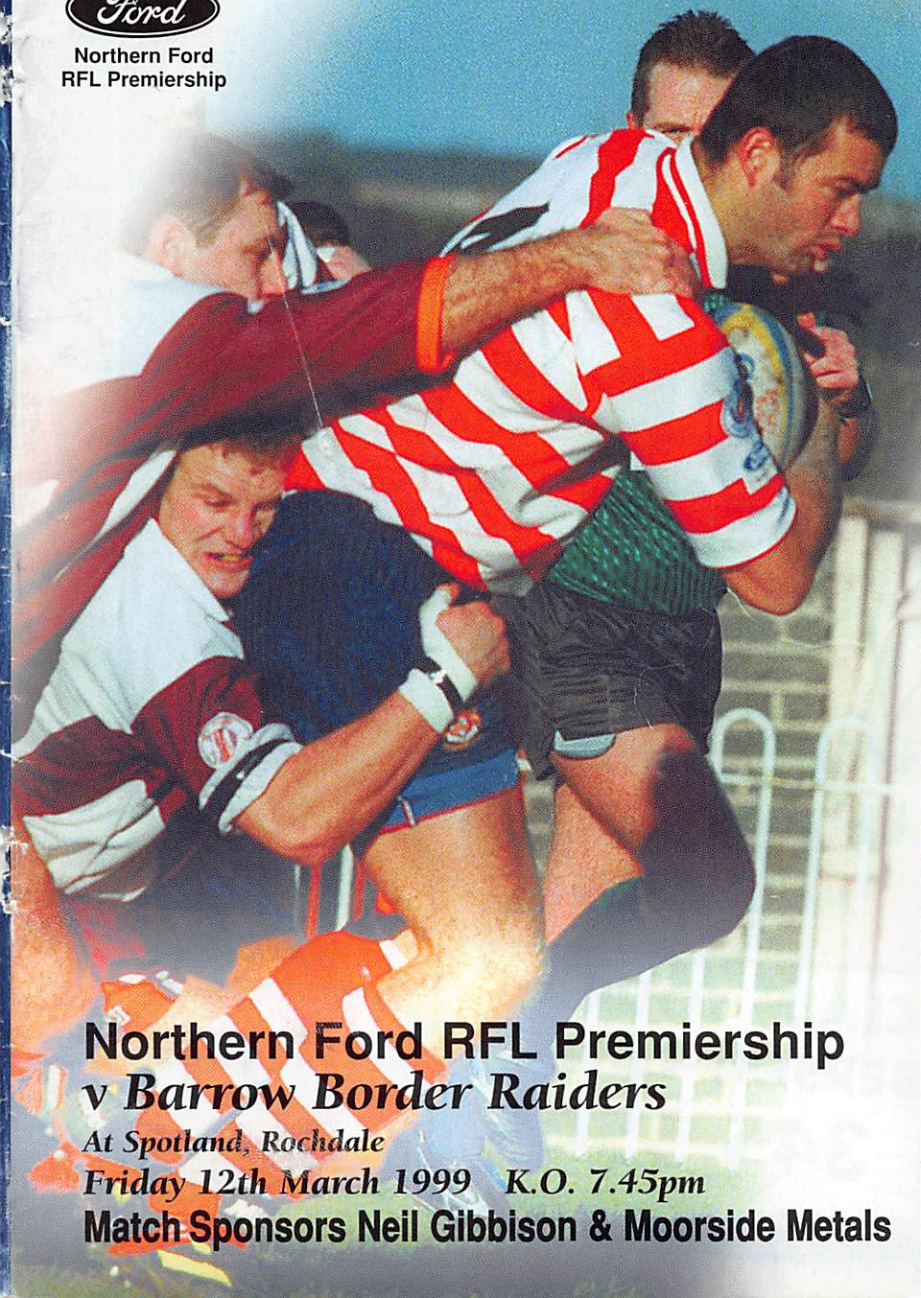
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The Roughyeds



Northern Ford
RFL Premiership

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**Northern Ford RFL Premiership
v Barrow Border Raiders**

At Spotland, Rochdale

Friday 12th March 1999 K.O. 7.45pm

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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



IF at first you don't succeed then try, try again! The way the fixtures are going at the moment for both the first and the Alliance teams that should be the Club's motto!

The present situation with postponements is frustrating for the players, the coaches, the staff and not least you, the paying spectators. I'm sure you don't need me to tell you that the weather is taking matters out of our hands but at Board level we are trying to rearrange fixtures so that any inconvenience is kept to a minimum. We are very much aware that the Club needs your support and the way things have worked out since we made our temporary move to Spotland have only served to make things harder.

On the playing front, ourselves, Barrow, Doncaster and Bramley have already beaten "true" Premiership opposition and flown the flag for the Clubs that were going to be in the Second Division this year. The fact that the beaten Clubs were Dewsbury, Featherstone, Swinton, Whitehaven and Keighley, all teams who finished high in the division last year shows the great stride our Clubs have made to meet the required standards in this season's Premiership.

Our opponents tonight, Barrow, have beaten both Whitehaven and Featherstone so far, and that in itself shows that the game will be a tough one. Lets hope that we can pick up our first points of the season and give you all something to shout about.

The FASDA General manager Bob Scott has recently left his post and on behalf of myself and the Club I would publicly like to place on record our appreciation for his help since we formed the Club, and also for his efforts on behalf of the game in general. Bob has had his critics within FASDA but I make no apologies for supporting someone who first and foremost has the game at heart.

Finally, our Alliance team should start its fixtures next week against Batley at home (rain, hail, snow, fog and sleet permitting!), and the team could wish for nothing more than to have your support as we enter another stage of the Club's development, if possible please try to get along to the game.

Enjoy your evening.

Christopher Hamilton



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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

ENVIRONMENT Secretary John Prescott's decision to approve Sports Park 2000, after a public enquiry, was just the tonic Oldham Roughyeds required as they prepared to square up to the demands of the Northern Ford Premiership.

A 30-0 defeat at Batley in the opening game put everyone at the club on a "downer", but four days later came the much-delayed and long-awaited verdict from the Government on the plans to centre a massive £20 million leisure complex around a new stadium on Clayton Playing Fields.

It was a thumbs-up for the stadium....and as far as professional sport in Oldham is concerned that was the most positive signal yet that both Oldham Roughyeds and Oldham Athletic can look to an uncertain future with at least a hint of confidence and conviction.

What disappoints and saddens me about the whole stadium issue is the amount of opposition to it within a borough, soon to celebrate its 150th Anniversary, which once boasted that, in many walks of life, its sons and daughters could match the achievements of the nation's best.

In the theatre, music and sport Oldham has a rich heritage going back across the 150 years that will be celebrated in some style this summer.

Sport has been to the forefront of Oldham life throughout the last century. Which northern town gave Walter Winterbottom, David Platt and many other big names in soccer? In the world of cricket no prizes for guessing where Michael Atheton was reared. Or which Central Lancashire League club gave Geoff Pullar to Lancashire and England, Malcolm Hilton, (the only man to bowl out Don Bradman twice in one match), to Lancashire and England, Jim Hilton to Somerset, Keith Andrew to Northants and Jack Dyson to Lancashire, not to mention his feats with Manchester City.

The list is endless. In Rugby League, Oldham men have played significant roles in the history of the sport since Joseph Platt became the breakaway code's first secretary in 1895.

The history of the game is filled with the achievement of Oldham men and Oldham teams, both at Watersheddings and on foreign fields.

In recent times, the town provided the Rugby League's Director of Coaching and later Great Britain boss in Phil Larder. It produced the man widely recognised as one of the leading marketing whizkids in sport, Peter Deakin.

And you've only to look around the leading clubs to pick an entire team of Oldhamers, from Iestyn Harris at full-back to Paul Sculthorpe at loose-forward.

Why, it's only nine years since Athletic were in the semi-final of the Littlewood Cup at the same time as Oldham Rugby met Warrington in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup.

Latics got to Wembley, Oldham didn't. But what an achievement for a town the size of Oldham to produce semi-finalists in competitions of such stature.

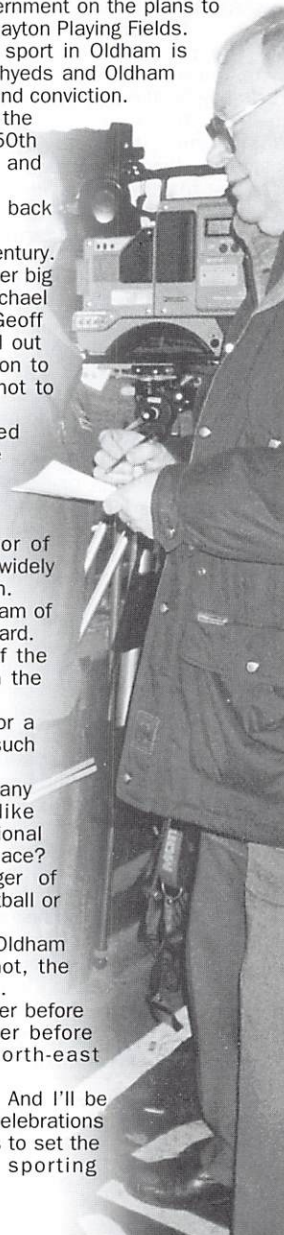
Less than a decade on, times have changed. But how can so many Oldham people question or oppose a new stadium when towns like Warrington, Widnes and St. Helens, which don't even have a professional soccer team, are looking bravely to the future and putting their stadia in place?

In these days of centralisation, towns like Oldham are in grave danger of losing their identity and nothing gives them an identity more than pro football or rugby league teams. Whoever heard of Accrington?

A new stadium must be the centre point of Oldham professional sport into the next century. If not, the clubs could wither and die as the years unfold.

And once they've gone how much longer before other institutions fold? How much longer before Oldham becomes little more than north-east Manchester?

A cry from the heart. You bet it is. And I'll be crying right through the 150th birthday celebrations if the town fails to grasp the opportunities to set the stage for another 150 years of sporting achievements.



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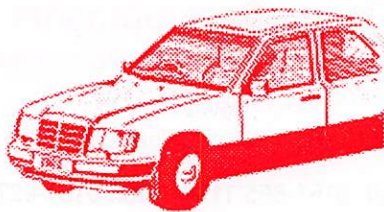
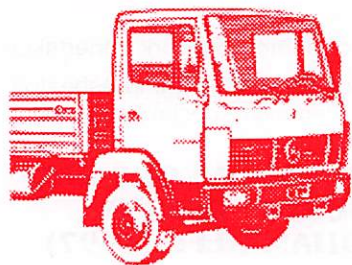
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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to all Barrow officials, players, and especially their supporters, who have to be true to their Club when they travel to Spotland on a Friday night.

We are now six weeks into the season and we have one League game behind us. Something is definitely amiss. Not only is our season stop-start, but the Under-21 side has yet to play, even though they are third off the bottom of their League table?

The weather has been so bad that the pitches just can't cope, and then there is the added pressure caused by ground sharing which seems to be popular these days.

Disappointment was aplenty at Whitehaven, when we went out of the cup, the biggest disappointment being the real belief that we could have matched and beaten them. I thought our front row was a tower of strength to the side and maybe some of the players should have taken some heart from the lead they set.

Congratulations to Paul Charlton and his players on their win over Featherstone, they have sent out a message to other teams who have to go to Craven Park.

Also congratulations to Joe McNicholas who has just been to France to do some modelling. He has been offered a couple of films (it is rumoured), but he has to take up the name of Joe "Holmes".

Back to the weather and the back log that is already causing a problem. Do the officials who make up these fixtures and the season start date, realise that at this rate of cancellations we are likely to be playing in the **summer!**

Enough said, enjoy the game.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

WITH the season barely underway the Northern Ford Premiership already looks likely to be extremely competitive. The difference between last year's first and second division teams looks unlikely to be as marked as one might at first have thought. Bramley's defeat of Keighley, Barrow's win against Whitehaven and Oldham & Lynx's victory over Dewsbury shows that the former Division Two sides have recruited wisely and prepared well. The struggle to hit the top five therefore should be an open contest which, hopefully, will maintain interest right through to the last round of games.

To succeed a club is likely to need good luck with injuries (Swinton have already suffered appallingly in this direction), and not too great a pile up of fixtures due to postponements. And on this last point Oldham, tonight's visitors

Barrow and Featherstone are the first to be put at a disadvantage. However, before we leap to the conclusion that playing at Spotland creates a problem of overuse of the ground, let's remember that Oldham's first fixture last year against Lancashire Lynx at Boundary Park on Good Friday, April 10th, was lost to a waterlogged pitch.

The truth is that we are still in the depths of winter and anything could yet happen to the fixture list. Although sometimes you get the impression that it's Oldham against the world.

Let us hope for a change in fortune so that we can get a regular pattern of weekly matches and some wins under our belt. And let's not be too critical of Featherstone who, rightly, were only trying to protect their own interests in wanting to get their game with Oldham played.

APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1999

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts		Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts
J. Bostock	4	-	-	-	-	-	A. Mead	4	-	3	-	-	12
D. Brown	4	-	2	2	-	12	L. Minut	4	-	-	5	-	10
L. Casey	4	-	-	-	-	-	E. Peralta	1	3	-	-	-	-
J. Clegg	4	-	2	-	-	8	M. Perrett	2	2	-	-	-	-
G. Coulter	1	3	-	-	-	-	M. Prescott	-	4	1	-	-	4
P. Crook	2	1	-	-	-	-	B. Quinlan	1	2	-	-	-	-
J. Hough	4	-	-	-	-	-	P. Round	-	1	-	-	-	-
E. Jackman	4	-	-	-	-	-	G. Shaw	4	-	-	-	-	-
A. Leuila	4	-	-	-	-	-	M. Martindale	1	-	-	-	-	-
McNicholas	4	-	-	-	-	-							

The above appearances & scorers do not include any statistics from Law Cup or friendly matches



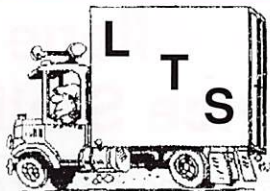
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

A very warm Oldham welcome to the juniors, players and supporters of Barrow Border Raiders.

We hope you had a good journey down.

The next Junior Roughyeds meeting will be on Monday 15th March at 7.00pm. We will be holding the mascot draws for the next 5 matches.

We will have four players in attendance to join in the fun, Paul Crook, Graeme Shaw, Garry Coulter and Nathan Varley.

The meeting will be held at the Pennine Lounge, Mumps Bridge, Oldham.

The mascot for today is **JAMES TREVOR**. James is 9 years old. His favourite player is Jason Clegg. Enjoy your day James.

Two Junior Roughyeds who were lucky to be chosen as mascot were Stephen Fitton against Dewsbury and Maria Holmes against Whitehaven.

Stephen said,

"My Day as Mascot"

I WAS mascot for the fourth round Silk Cut Challenge Cup match.

I ran on the pitch with Leo Casey. We passed the ball about, and then went to the centre of the pitch I was asked to toss the coin.



Stephen Fitton

I felt really proud to be mascot. When the game was ready to start, I ran off the pitch and got changed so I could be Ballboy.

I had a great time and the best thing about my day was we WON.

Maria Holmes travelled to Whitehaven to be mascot for the day.

Maria said,

"My Day as Mascot"

WE ARRIVED at Whitehaven at about 1.40pm. We then made our way to the ground. Then we found Debbie and she took me to where the players came out. I was



Debra Rafferty

very excited, because by this time kick off was getting closer. Just before the team came out, the referee and linesmen were talking to me. Then Leo Casey came out and we ran onto the pitch. Afi came over to talk to me. Then we lined up for one minute's silence. After that I had my photo taken with the referee, linemen, Leo Casey, Whitehaven's captain David Seeds and their mascot.



Maria Holmes

I was sorry that Oldham lost but I still loved it. It was so much of a buzz from setting off to getting home.

Debra Rafferty



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Who pinched the

Our, by now, fully adopted Laurent and Emmanuel are by no means the first Villeneuvs to grace our game in Oldham (or Rochdale for that matter!) which poses the question 'When was the Oldham match programme printed in French?

And what's all this about who pinched the plonk? Oldham v Sporting Athletic Villeneuve, Watersheddings, Monday 17th September 1934 - That's when! (and yes in 1934 the French were 'Sporting').



Oldham Football Club,
WATERSHEDDINGS GROUND.



Oldham v. Sporting Athletic Villeneuve
(FRANCE)

Monday, September 17th, 1934.

Kick-off 6 p.m. prompt.

CLUB CHAT.

SOYEZ LE BIENVENU À OLDHAM.

NOUS nous faisons un grand plaisir de faire un bon accueil à vous le capitaine—JEAN GALIA et votre équipe de Villeneuve.

A l'effet de stagnation à commerce en Oldham nous ne pouvons pas vous offrir beaucoup des souvenirs matériels de votre visite, mais il-y-a une chose que nous en tout sincérité desirons vous offrir. C'est la main de l'amitié avec un bienvenu veritablement Oldham.

Nous en sommes desolés que vous avez perdu le bon vin, parceque il-y-a en Oldham beaucoup des ex-soldats qu'auraient trouvé bon encore un petit coup de vin blanc (ou rouge). Nous voulons que nous pouvions le remplacer, mais hélas!—nous sommes maintenant bouveurs de thé!

Nous espérons que votre camarade Serre-Martin qui était blessé à Belle Vue fait des bons progrès.

Que le jeu ce soir ait pour vous rien que de bons souvenirs, et nous espérons que vous rapporterez à France un message de paix et bienveillance de les inhabitants de Oldham!



Loosely Translated:

WELCOME TO OLDHAM!

WE count it a great pleasure to bid welcome to you Captain Jean Galia and your team from Villeneuve.

Owing to trade depression in Oldham we are not able to offer you many material souvenirs of your visit, but there is one thing we do offer you, in all sincerity, and that is the hand of friendship with a "gradely" Oldham welcome.

Con't on next page...

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Plonk?

by **BRIAN WALKER**



We are sorry that you lost your favourite wine, because we have in Oldham many ex-soldiers who would have liked once again a sip of white or red wine. We wish we could have replaced it, but alas, we are now tea drinkers!

We hope that your team-mate Serre-Martin who was injured at Belle Vue is making good progress towards recovery.

May the game tonight have for you nothing but happy memories, and we hope that you will carry back to France from the people of Oldham a message of peace and goodwill!

BACK to the plonk. Evidently Villeneuve (French Champions) here on a short pre-season tour brought with them their own grape juice, only for them to be relieved of it whilst un-loading the team trolley outside their Leeds HQ. Heard the one about the vol-au-vent and the two Yorkshire Puddings?

BACK TO THE PROGRAMME! (Loosly translated)

After the game our French visitors will be entertained to tea. Each member of the party will also be presented with a beautiful silver Colibri Pocket Lighter. These have been supplied by our well-known jewellers, Messrs. Howell and Walsh. They bear the Oldham coat of arms in enamel on

one side, and on the reverse side the inscription "Oldham FC., 1934". The proceedings are not expected to be of any lengthy character in view of the Frenchmen having to return to their headquarters at Leeds the same evening.

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Only 'cause Wrigleys hadn't been invented!

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TONNIGHT'S VISITORS

Barrow Border Raiders

PAUL BURNS

Big fast centre who previously saw service with rivals Workington Town. Played for Cumbria County at RU in the Twickenham county final against Cornwall in 1998.

DARREN CARTER

Local lad who escaped the net to go to Workington Town. Former BARLA international, Darren is equally at home at half back or in the forwards. This former Barrow Island player wrote himself into the record books with 42 points (including a record goals per match of 17) against Nottingham in 1994.

IAN McALLISTER

Another ex-BARLA international, this winger was known as the best finisher in the local amateur scene.

BRETT McDERMOTT

This ex-academy youngster will go a long way in the professional game. Unlucky with a major shoulder injury last season, his work rate and tackling will surely attract Super League if he can stay injury free.

PAUL McMILLAN

6ft 2", 15 stone and hard to stop. This ex-Walney amateur, who can play on the wing or at full back, has a good pair of hands and is an excellent positional player.

STEPHEN PROCTOR

Having gone all the way as an amateur player and after being chased by a host of other professional clubs, finally signed for Barrow at the age of 28.

DARREN WILSON

This centre is yet another ex-BARLA international. Originally with Walney, Darren has worked hard on his game and should go on to big things.

STEPHEN JACKSON

Penrith based young forward who came out of Carlisle Border Raider's Academy side and from whom great things are expected this season.

TANE MANIHERA

Full name Tane Atva Ira Hohepa Manihera! Originally signed by Carlisle Border Raiders in 1995 from Christchurch City RLFC in New Zealand. This vastly skilled halfback briefly left Carlisle for pastures new in Widnes but is now back in his adopted county where he lives in Wighton. Plays fly half for Wighton RUFC alongside scrum half Darren Holt during his league off season.

DAMIEN WHITTER

Dynamic and hard running young prop who travels through to Barrow three times a week from his home in Warrington.

JONATHAN HUGHES

Another ex-Carlisle player who was originally imported from Waitakere Raiders in New Zealand in 1997. Did not play for the club in 1998 as he returned to New Zealand to finish his teacher's training course. Jonathan had some very big games for Carlisle at second row and he has only improved since then. Played for President's 13 last year in New Zealand.

GEOFF LUXON

This former London Broncos second row evergreen player is a real crowd favourite and improves with every game. Drives a bus for a living outside rugby.

STUART RHODES

Now back playing for his hometown following Barrow's merger with Carlisle last year. Stuart played all last season at prop but is equally at home in the second row. Fast and hugely powerful. Turned down a recent and confident approach from Whitehaven and stayed faithful to his home town.

DAVE CLARKE

Recruited by coach Paul Charlton during his stay in Australia's Gold Coast. Originally a hooker with Gold Coast Chargers. He was amazed to discover that we had gyms and houses in England. Heaven alone knows what they are told about Pommie land over there!

MIKE 'BLUEY' KAVANAGH

Canny half back who can also play at hooker and loose forward. Originally signed by Carlisle from amateur club Askam for whom he still plays in the off season.

DARREN HOLT

This 1998 "Second Division Hooker of the Year" was originally signed by Carlisle from the very posh Lime House Boarding School where he had been spotted playing scrum half in Union games. Still plays the odd game of "lick and clap" for Wighton RUFC alongside his league team mate Tane Manihera. In fact they are the team.

GARY RUDDY

Carlisle's all time record try scorer in 1997 with 31 in the season and 5 in one match against Prescot. Surprisingly he hardly received a pass last season and barely made it into double figures following the Carlisle/Barrow merger. Gary has been playing Union for Carlisle RUFC in the off-season and amazingly for the Union game has seen plenty of ball and returned to his old scoring ways. Let's hope that, embarrassing as it is, we have learned the lesson from the "kick and clappers"

PHIL ATKINSON

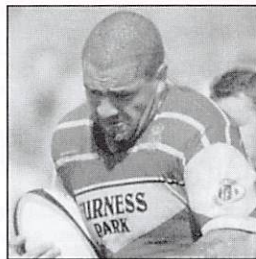
A utility player and goal kicker signed from local club Ulverston. Ex Widnes Academy player.

MIKE WHITEHEAD

A product of Walney Mini-RL Club, signed for Wigan where he spent four years as a second row forward. Also a useful goal kicker. Joined his home town club last season.

PAUL SALMON

A product of Roose Mini-RL Club, Cumbrian Academy 1998, Warrington Academy 1997-July 1998, London Broncos 1998. England Schools under 16 Tour of Australasia. N.W. Counties under 16, Lancashire & N.W. Counties under 16. Cumbria v Lancs Academy League Express Man of the Match. Cumbria Australasian Tour 1st top try and point scorer. Cumbria under 19's school soccer, Cumbria 100m champion.



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Down Memory Lane

DON LOOKS BACK TO A BARROW MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



TONIGHT'S visitors to Spotland are Barrow, a club who have enjoyed more success in cup competitions than they have in Championship campaigns. In fact their only two Championship winning seasons have been the much disrupted wartime campaigns of season 1917-18 and 1918-19.

The Shipbuilders have also been Second Division Champions twice, in seasons 1975-76 and 1983-84. The team which won the

Second Division title in 1976 were a talented and hard working unit who led the table from start to finish after winning their opening ten league matches of that 1975-76 campaign. However, by the time that run was ended they had been eliminated from the Lancashire Cup at the first hurdle and from the Players No.6 Trophy after reaching round two only after an unimpressive victory over the amateurs of Pilkington Recs. Later in the season they were knocked out of the Challenge Cup by bottom club Doncaster but to compensate for those three cup disappointments, Barrow enjoyed a memorable run in the Floodlit Trophy. Barrow's route to the semi-final of the Floodlit Trophy came via two home victories. First of all they beat Leigh 12-7 and then avenged their Player Trophy elimination by beating Huddersfield 14-0. Their semi-final opponents, St.Helens, had won 15-7 at Rochdale and then recorded two impressive home victories over Whitehaven 38-10 and Hull 36-13. By the time that semi-final came round in early December, Barrow were six points clear at the top of Division Two but were still given no chance of winning at Knowsley Road. The teams for that semi-final were as

follows: St.Helens: Geoff Pimblett; Les Jones, Bill Benyon, Dave Hull, Frank Wilson; Dave Eckersley, Geoff Heaton; John Mantle, Tony Karalius, Mel James, George Nicholls, Eric Chisnall & Kel Coslett. Substitutes, Roy Mathias & Graham Liptrot. Barrow: Colin Tyrer; R.Cass, Keith Knight, Eddie Hill, Ralph McConnell; Denis Jackson, Frank Jones; Steve Hogan, Eddie Szymala, Jim Perry, Terry Shaw, Glyn Davies & Peter McLean. Substitutes, Steve Martin & Tony Woods.

Barrow made a fine start to the tie despite losing Denis Jackson who was the victim of an early injury. He was replaced by Steve Martin, then a promising young Wagga Wagga utility back who was visiting Britain in order to pick up experience. His visit was a successful one and experience was not the only thing he picked up. He also won a Second Division Championship winners medal with Barrow although he had to wait two years before he got his hands on it. He picked it up during the 1978 Kangaroo tour of Europe after gaining international recognition following his move to the Manly club. A few years later Martin enjoyed a period coaching Featherstone Rovers. He and his halfback partner Frank Jones were particularly impressive for Barrow during the first half of this semi-final when the Shipbuilders moved into a 9-0 lead, all their points coming from experienced skipper and full-back Colin Tyrer with two tries, a goal and dropped goal. Unfortunately for the Shipbuilders, St.Helens, well led by Eric Chisnall, hit back strongly in the second-half when Les Jones (2) and Geoff Heaton scored tries which, with a Geoff Pimblett conversion, enabled Saints to snatch an 11-9 victory. Saints went on to lift the trophy with a comfortable victory over Dewsbury in the Final. They also won the Challenge Cup and Premiership Trophy that season but of all the ties which they played during that campaign, none could have been as difficult or exciting as that thrilling encounter with Barrow in the Floodlit Trophy.

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Middle Row: Emmanuel Peralta, Josh Bostock, Jason Clegg, Gary Coulter, Graeme Shaw, Nathan Varley,
Mike Prescott, Brian Quinlan,*

Front Row: Mark Perrett, Laurent Minut, Joe McNicholas, John Hough, Leo Casey, Paul Crook, Adrian Mead, Afi Leuila

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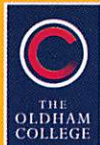
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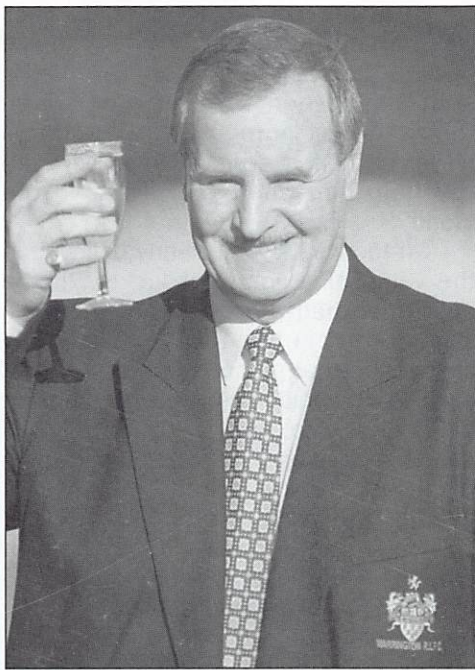
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TODAY'S GUEST

Alex Murphy OBE



Alex Murphy

ALEX MURPHY OBE is undoubtedly one of the greatest players ever to lace up a rugby boot. Almost certainly he is the greatest half-back ever to grace the game. Nevertheless, when asked to sign an autograph at a recent dinner 'from the World's greatest scrum-half' Alex declined. Now, Alex is not noted for being backward at coming forward, but that modest gesture said a lot about his love of the game and his thoughts on his contemporaries and on current players rather than about his own monumental achievements. I suspect that Paul Wilson, who is currently preparing a biography of Alex will have his work cut out trying to prise information from him.

Alex revealed that his signing-on fee for St. Helens at midnight on his

sixteenth birthday was £80, paid in two instalments. (By comparison Tom Van Vollenhoven received £8,000 to turn professional from South African Rugby Union). Saints probably got the bargain of all time! It emerged that he rated his first coach – Jim Sullivan – the greatest coach of all time; 'fifty years ahead of his time' in Alex's own words. And particularly, he singled out Sullivan's man management skills, an area he learned from in his own illustrious career which was to bring him nine Wembley appearances without losing and the distinction of being the only man ever to captain three different clubs (St. Helens, Leigh, and Warrington) to cup final victories.

Of his contemporaries Murphy mentioned Tom Van Vollenhoven, Brian Bevan, Billy Boston and Johnny Freeman – interestingly, all wingmen – as some of the finest he had played with. But he named Australian centre Reg Gasnier as the greatest player he had ever faced.

The 'hardmen' Alex came across included Derek Turner and Frank Foster, both of whom had spells at Oldham. 'If Frank said it were Sunday, it were bloody Sunday!' However, I got the impression that Alex was grateful that the two he rated hardest of all both played with him for St Helens. In the backs there was Dougie Greenall who, when asked why he was so nasty, replied 'Alex, I'm a professional: if I marked me mother she'd have to go!' And in the forwards, of course, there was Murphy's guardian angel the one and only Vince Karalius.

Recently Leigh held a dinner in honour of Alex to mark the award of his OBE. He was clearly very touched by this fine gesture and obviously has a soft spot for the town. Never one of RL's

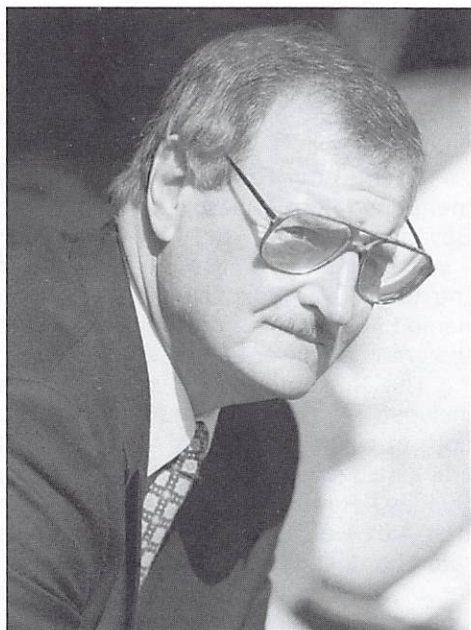
Continued on following page



TODAY'S GUEST (continued)

Alex Murphy OBE

greatest clubs, nor ever likely to be if only because of the size of the town, Leigh have nevertheless had their moments of glory, particularly when Alex was in command during one of his three separate spells as player and coach. He clearly loved Leigh's obsession with Rugby League and of players he coached there singled out Steve Donlan and John Woods – 'a world-class player who never quite got the recognition he deserved' – for special mention.



Of modern coaching methods, Alex was baffled by coaches who sit in the back of the stand. He clearly favoured a seat on the bench, explaining 'when things aren't going quite right for a player he needs a bit of help. How can you help him when you're sat in the stand?'

On tactics Murphy clearly believed in the value of a good goalkicker. 'If the opposition had a good kicker then you knew you couldn't take too many chances in that game'. One of his best signings, he said, was Steve Hesford for Warrington who was worth maybe 300 points a season. 'He could kick goals from behind the stand' was Alex's typical hyperbolic statement. And, of course, we all know Murphy's own prowess with the drop goal, so much so that the Rugby League actually reduced its value from two points to one. "I suppose I'll just have to kick twice as many" was the typical Murphy riposte when quizzed about the RL's decision by the press.

Finally, of the current scene Murphy observed that most half-backs these days lack pace. Although many of them, like Bobby Goulding, are good fastballers they can't make 50 yard breaks to score tries. On this basis he rated Sean Long and Ryan Sheridan as the pick of the current crop.



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PARLEZ-VOUS FRANÇAIS?

- For the benefit of Manu and Mince some current R.L. terms and their meaning.
- Le Hit up** *Carrying the ball forward. Skirmish outside a nightclub, (see also Le Downtown)*
La Bust *Breaking through the defensive line. Jason Clegg's chest.*
Le Grubber *Character in 'Allo 'Allo (effeminate German officer) Super League player's agent.*
Le Blind Side *Match officials. Side not to run at Barry McDermott if you want to keep your head on your shoulders.*
- Les Stats** *French rap group. Johnny Blair's hobby. (Occasionally, how a match is decided)*
Les Arcs *French horse race. Sophisticated R.L. running pattern employed by Australians (generally too difficult for British or French players!)*
- La Ruck** *Punch up on Yorkshire Street on Saturday night. Term to replace 'play-the-ball' which better describes the messy way of restarting the game after a tackle.*
- Belle Vue** *Wakefield or Doncaster ground. Caludia Schiffer*
Le Bomb *Present from Cato to Inspector Clouseau. Or (in Eddy Wring accent) 'Up-n-under'*
Le Dummy *Referee. Clueless prop forward. Object spat out by Super League prima-donna when offered insufficient money to sign on.*
- La Redzone** *Area of Amsterdam or Hamburg offering a naughty night out. Alternatively, Coldhurst.*
- Le Downtown** *Bottom end of Yorkshire Street (see also La Ruck and Le Hit Up). Le Downtown has been partially replaced lately by a term borrowed from scoring in tennis i.e. 40:20.*
- Quarante Vingt** *New form of kicking. Replaces kicking seven bells out of. Also a way of splitting gate receipts when Super League clubs play Ford Premiership clubs.*
- L'état c'est moi** *I'm in a right state. Usually said Monday morning after a night in Monteeze.*
- Le tiers état** *That's the third time I've been in this state!*
État Généraux *I'm generally in this state!*
Grand Prix *Suit yourself!*



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First Time-Last Time

BARROW JOINED the Northern Union just after the turn of the century in time to take part in the 1900-01 season. At this point in time the teams were still 15-a-side and the league structure was regionalised, so the "Shipbuilders" duly took their place in the Lancashire senior competition.

As it happened their inaugural senior fixture was at home to Oldham on September 8th 1900. Naturally this was the opening day of the season and the "Roughyeds" returned home with a six points to three victory, courtesy of a try each for the right wing pairing of Sam Williams and his centre Ike Taylor. The return match was just two weeks later when Oldham completed the double at Watersheddings by eight points to two. The Oldham points came from tries from Joe Lawton and Rob Potter with one conversion from Sam Lees. Oldham would go on to win the league competition with Barrow finishing in a respectable eighth position in their first season.

The most famous encounter between the two teams was the 1954 Lancashire Cup Final. That day belonged to Barrow who secured their first major

trophy by recording a twelve points to two victory at a rain soaked Station Road, Swinton.

Coming right up to date and I'm sure all the "Roughyeds" faithful will remember that Barrow were one of the eight teams who made up last seasons second division and were involved in four fixtures with Oldham in 1998.

The honours were even with each team winning its' home matches. Oldham won the first match on May 17th 13 - 4 at Boundary Park. This was a torrid forward battle that was effectively won by a superb length of the field effort from Chris Eckersley and followed that victory with a 32 - 8 win at Spotland.

Two weeks later Oldham suffered a 19 - 2 reverse on their first trip to Craven Park and Barrow completed the home double with a 31 - 20 victory on August 30th.

The Oldham team that day was: S Wilde; A Mead, A Leuila, B Quinlan, R Darkes; P Crook, C Barker; P Round, J Hough, M Edwards, T Nadiole, M Maders, I Sinfield. SUBS: E Jackman, N Varley, M Martindale, J Clegg. Brian Quinlan kicked 6 goals with tries from John Hough and Emerson Jackman.



Action from the Oldham v Barrow match at Watersheddings on October 11th 1924 A Barrow player gets a pass away in the tackle as Oldham forwards Rod Marlor, Herman Hilton and Bob Sloman look on. Oldham won the game 27 - 5.

IT IS HOPED TO CONTINUE THIS FEATURE IN THE PROGRAMME SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHS 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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On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



Eighty-nine years ago, on Saturday 12th March 1910, Oldham met Barrow in a League Championship match up at Cavendish Park, then the headquarters of the Barrow club but now the home of Marsh Hornets amateurs. The Roughyeds won 11-6 with tries from loose-forward Joe Owens, winger George Smith and stand-off Tom White who also added a goal. Barrow's points came from tries scored by prop A.Hannah and winger S.Treloar.

It was on this day in 1949, Saturday 12th March, that France defeated England 12-5 in a European Championship match which was staged at Wembley. Surprisingly, it is the only full international involving France which has been played in London.

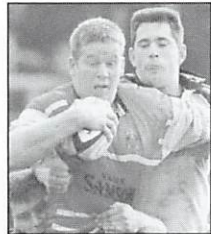
Twenty-three years later, on Sunday 12th March 1972, France were again in action in England, this time at Bradford where they met Great Britain.

The French were not so successful on that occasion, Britain winning 45-10. Current Barrow coach Paul Charlton was a try scorer in that match, one of 223 tries he scored in a career which spanned 727 appearances including 19 tests. One of the British substitutes was Oldham's Bob Irving whilst at hooker was Mick Stephenson (Dewsbury), Stevo of SkyTV fame.

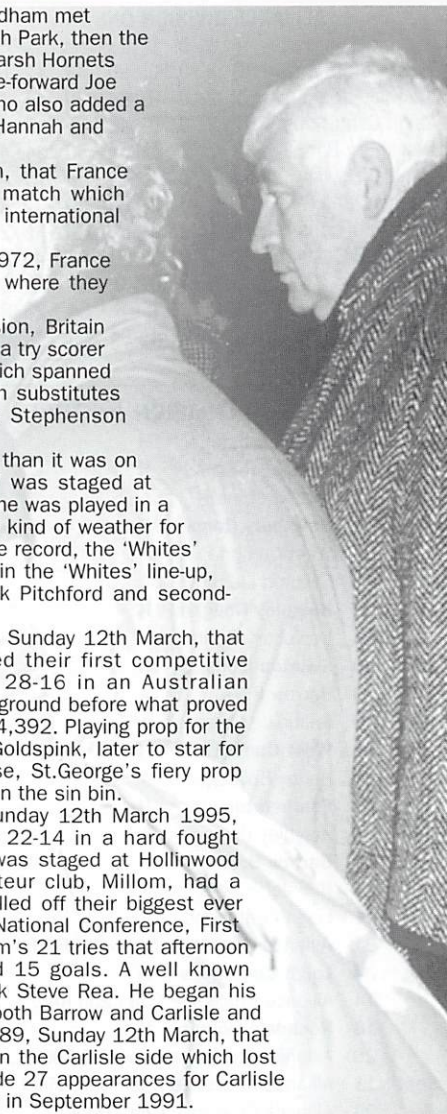
It is to be hoped that the weather tonight is better than it was on Wednesday 12th March 1958. That day a 'tour trial' was staged at Swinton between the 'Whites' and the 'Greens'. The game was played in a blizzard and abandoned after 68 minutes, not really the kind of weather for assessing players to tour in the heat of Australia. For the record, the 'Whites' beat the 'Greens' 22-10. There were three Roughyeds in the 'Whites' line-up, centre Denis Ayres who scored a try, scrum-half Frank Pitchford and second-rower Charlie Winslade.

It was on this day in 1995, Sunday 12th March, that the Perth Western Reds played their first competitive match. They beat St.George 28-16 in an Australian Premiership match at the WACA ground before what proved to be their biggest ever crowd, 24,392. Playing prop for the Reds that afternoon was Brett Goldspink, later to star for the Bears and, surprise, surprise, St.George's fiery prop Gorden Tallis spent ten minutes in the sin bin.

On that same afternoon, Sunday 12th March 1995, St.Annes defeated Higginshaw 22-14 in a hard fought Standard Cup semi-final which was staged at Hollinwood whilst the Furness based amateur club, Millom, had a much easier afternoon. They pulled off their biggest ever victory when they won at Nottingham City 114-6 in a National Conference, First Division match. Hooker Steve Miles scored five of Millom's 21 tries that afternoon and stand-off Paul Tyson finished with two tries and 15 goals. A well known character in Barrow rugby circles is diminutive half-back Steve Rea. He began his career with Holker Pioneers, played professionally with both Barrow and Carlisle and is now coach of Walney Central. It was on this day in 1989, Sunday 12th March, that Rea made his debut for Carlisle. He was a substitute in the Carlisle side which lost 14-4 at Dewsbury in a Second Division match. Rea made 27 appearances for Carlisle and scored thirteen tries before returning to Craven Park in September 1991.



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Leigh Centurions	2	2	0	0	46	8	38 4
Dewsbury Rams	3	2	0	1	84	50	34 4
Hunslet Hawks	3	2	0	1	83	68	15 4
Featherstone R	3	1	0	2	68	80	-12 2
Batley Bulldogs	4	1	0	3	64	107	-43 2
Barrow B Raiders	3	1	0	2	50	96	-46 2
Oldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Swinton Lions	1	0	0	1	6	34	-28 0
Rochdale Hornets	4	0	0	4	94	138	-44 0

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Mar	16	Batley Bulldogs	H
	31	Hunslet Hawks	H
April	8	Featherstone R.	A
	14	Dewsbury Rams	H
May	5	Keighley Cougars	H
	13	Dewsbury Rams	A
	19	Swinton Lions	H
June	24	West Cumbria	A
	28	Swinton Lions	A
	10	Rochdale Hornets	A
	12	West Cumbria	H
July	19	Batley Bulldogs	A
	23	Featherstone R.	H
	1	Keighley Cougars	A
	10	Barrow B. R.	H
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A
Aug	21	Leigh Centurions	A
	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd	
	4	Leigh Centurions	H
	14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd	
	18	Rochdale Hornets	H
	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd	
Sept	11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final	
	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final	

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THERE ARE 2 Alliance Leagues this season to be known as the Championship and the First Division. There will be 25 clubs in total with 14 teams in the Championship and 11 in the First.

The Championship is made up primarily of the Super League reserve sides with the exception being the inclusion of Widnes. Gateshead will not field a second team in this their inaugural season.

Lancashire Lynx, Bramley, York, Doncaster and Hull KR will also not field reserve teams this season.

Promotion is one up and one down providing the promoted club meet the minimum ground requirement criteria. Hemel Hempstead for instance won the Alliance First Division last season but having failed this season to secure a ground that meets the Leagues minimum standard will play instead in the Southern Conference.

Clubs are required to include in the squad 8 players under 21 years of age. The following season this will increase to 10 and the season after that to 12.

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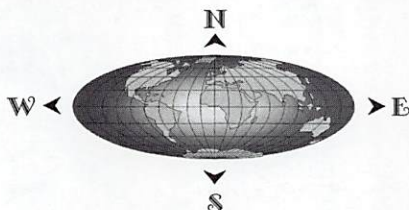
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MARTYN SADLER, the editor of Rugby League Express, hopes that tonight's game can beat the weather.



Anyone for winter rugby?

Not, I trust, in Oldham!

After three weeks of competition in the Northern Ford Premiership, the Roughyeds are lying at the bottom of the league, despite having only lost one match, by an admittedly

decisive 30-0 scoreline at Batley.

Since then, despite a good run in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, Oldham have played no more league matches. The home game against Featherstone Rovers has been postponed twice, because of the heavy state of the Spotland pitch. And last weekend the Roughyeds' away game at Hull Kingston Rovers was also postponed, after the appalling weather on Humberside.

So it was ironic last week to hear Richard Evans, the Chairman of Featherstone, on Radio 5 Live calling for a return to winter rugby. I'm afraid that Richard, and those who think like him, are living in the past, in a different world. Perhaps Richard should be asked to explain his desire for winter rugby to the Oldham fan who travelled all the way to Hull Kingston Rovers last Sunday, only to find the match called off.

Unfortunately you can never re-visit the past. It's about time we all realised that Rugby League should now be a vibrant summer sport that we can all feel good about, as we sip our coke and munch our barbecued sausages. Rugby League has made enormous gains from the switch in seasons, although many clubs have yet to come to terms with the magnitude of the switch.

This season the competition for the Northern Ford Premiership looks like being a thriller, right through to the Grand Final on 25 September. What a summer in prospect! I would hate to predict a winner, although Hunslet Hawks seem to be setting the early pace, to judge from their 14-8 win at Batley Bulldogs last Sunday.

And if you look at the NFP league table, as it was published on Monday in Rugby League Express you'll notice that the club in second place is Barrow, tonight's opponents at Spotland.

Has any club got a greater Rugby League history than the club from the Furness peninsula? In the 1950s they were up there with the Roughyeds, as one of the top sides in the game. But unlike Oldham, as I won't need to remind tonight's older supporters, Barrow went to Wembley three times. In 1955 they won the Challenge Cup, defeating Workington 21-12 at Wembley, and in 1951 and 1957 they lost to Wigan (10-0) and Leeds (9-7) respectively. Great names like Willie Horne, Phil Jackson, Frank Castle and Reg Parker characterised Barrow teams from those days, and it would be good to see them and the Roughyeds building up to those heights again.

Weather permitting, I hope we are in for another thriller this evening.

Martyn Sadler

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Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds throughout the 1999 Season



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- 16 Brian QUINLAN
- 15 Mike PRESCOTT
- 17 Emmanuel PERALTA

Today's Officials

Today's Referee

Mr P. Taberner



Touch Judges

Mr K. Leyland
Mr S. Tordoff

BARROW BORDER RAIDERS

Coach: Paul Charlton

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- 3 Phil ATKINSON
- 4 Dean THOMAS
- 5 Chris MASSEY
- 6 Tane MANEHERA
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