

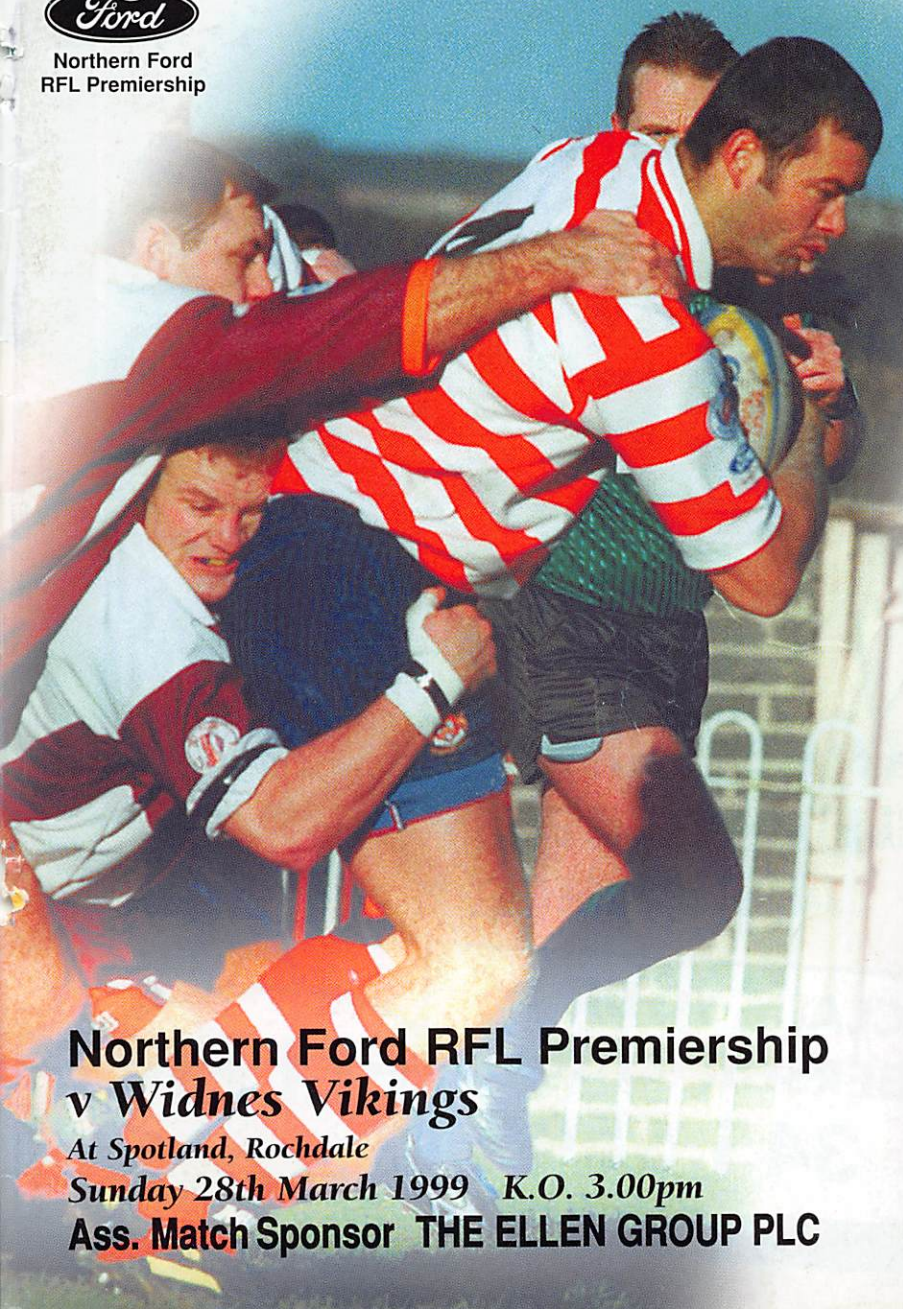
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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



WELCOME back to Spotland after two very hard gruelling games at Hull KR and Hunslet.

There is certainly a rollercoaster feel about our season so far and I know that Mick and the players are working to get some consistency. Looking back at those two away games we probably picked up one more point than anybody expected us to, and for the performance at Hull KR the team deserves an enormous amount of credit. Like everyone else however they have to realise that all the hard work counts for nothing if you then turn in the type of performance like the one at



Hunslet when quite frankly we got what we deserved. It certainly hasn't been an easy start to our Premiership campaign, with three away games against the teams that now lie 1st, 2nd and 4th in the table but if nothing else we have seen at first hand the standards we need to achieve to make a mark in this League. By the time you read these notes we will know what fate awaits Josh Bostock who was carried off at Hunslet. Lets keep our fingers crossed for Josh that it is not too serious. Our visitors from Widnes have also had what they would consider an indifferent start to their season and we must hope that we make sure it continues today!

Seriously though there is a great deal of talent in their squad and you can see why they feel they have the team to take them to the Super League. Games against teams with the tradition of Widnes are what we all wanted to see when we formed the new Club and I hope that today we do ourselves justice.

The Alliance team finally started the season with a tough game against a Batley team that was playing its sixth game! The circumstances in which the team had prepared were not ideal, but it was a real pleasure to watch the game without feeling all the pressure that is associated with matchdays for the first team. The attendance was encouraging and there is a lot more to come as Graeme gels the side together. One spectator said I had arrived at half time – how dare they – I had been in the cupboard putting more money in the meter to make sure that both sides of the floodlights were working!!

Enjoy the game!

Christopher Hamilton

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

I MAKE no apology for once again using the facility of the Roughyeds match-day magazine, to which I am invited to contribute, to push for public support of the proposed new stadium in Oldham.

As an avid reader of the paper that employs me - like you, I hope - I have been following closely the lively debate on the stadium issue in letters to the editor.

One or two points have struck me forcibly, not least the vast amount of column inches devoted to political and social issues thrown up by the stadium proposals, but comparatively few letters discussing what the stadium is all about - sport.

We hear constantly about John Battye, Hire Target, the Clayton Action Group, B & Q, the Council, road congestion, town greens, but very little indeed about what it would all mean to Oldham Roughyeds, Oldham Athletic, sport in the town at amateur level and the possible provision of more sporting facilities in a town with great traditions of sporting excellence.

Why should this be? Is no one interested in the sporting issues? Are the pro-stadium elements complacent? Are they apathetic? Why is it that stadium debate has become a battle ground for local politics?

There are many people inside and outside the Chronicle who are far better qualified than I to debate the aforementioned political and social matters - and debate must have its place in the democratic order of things.

It seems to me, however, that the silent majority are once again missing a wonderful opportunity to take part in that debate. The "antis" would have us believe that the whole town is vigorously opposed to the stadium; that it is some sort of play-thing for John Battye; that the only other people who want it are the Roughyeds because they don't have a stadium of their own anyway.

In short, it is time for those with an interest in Oldham sport - be it rugby league, soccer, rugby union, a variety of other winter sports or even traditional summer activities such as cricket and bowls - to stand up and be counted.

What do YOU think of the new stadium? What could it do for YOUR sport, or YOUR team? What could it do for future generations of sports loving Oldhamers, who no longer have Watersheddings and whose much loved Boundary Park (and rugby folk who 'lost' Watersheddings will surely know how Latics fans feel about BP) is rapidly growing old and being left behind in the race to put new stadiums in towns all around the country?

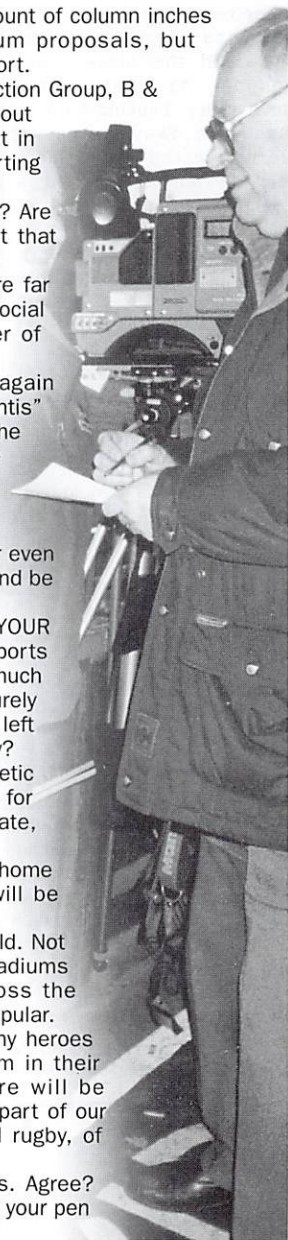
In my home town of Rochdale we have Morrisons on the old Athletic Grounds and Asda on that former bastion of CLL cricket and stage for many of world cricket's immortals, Dane Street. What would the late, great Cec Pepper have had to say about that?

Time moves on, of course. But there is a serious threat to our home town traditions and institutions - and most of you reading this will be Oldhamers - if the old is not replaced by the new.

Watersheddings WAS old. Boundary Park IS old. Not a million miles from here there are new stadiums housing new sports imported from across the Atlantic and already proving immensely popular.

Oldhamers, you can search for many heroes in your sporting history and find them in their hundreds. In the new century there will be hundreds more in the sports that are part of our national heritage such as soccer and rugby, of both codes.

We must not fail future generations. Agree? Then stand up and be counted and get out your pen and paper to tell the world.



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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to Widnes and all their travelling supporters. Well, each team we play just lately seem to be the fancied side for winning the competition: Hull K. R. title favourites, Hunslet hotly fancied for doing well and, today, Widnes, who have made it known they want to push for Super League.

So where do we see ourselves? Well, if you asked me last Thursday morning after the Hull K. R. game I would have said about half way, but on Monday after Hunslet you would have been hard pressed to believe me.

First the Hull K. R. game was a great result and we are justified in believing we could have won "but" for all our efforts we only got the one point.

Then the Hunslet game and the hard work that got us the point at Hull was sadly missing; there were some good points, notably the performance of the front row in both games, but unfortunately there were a lot of lows.

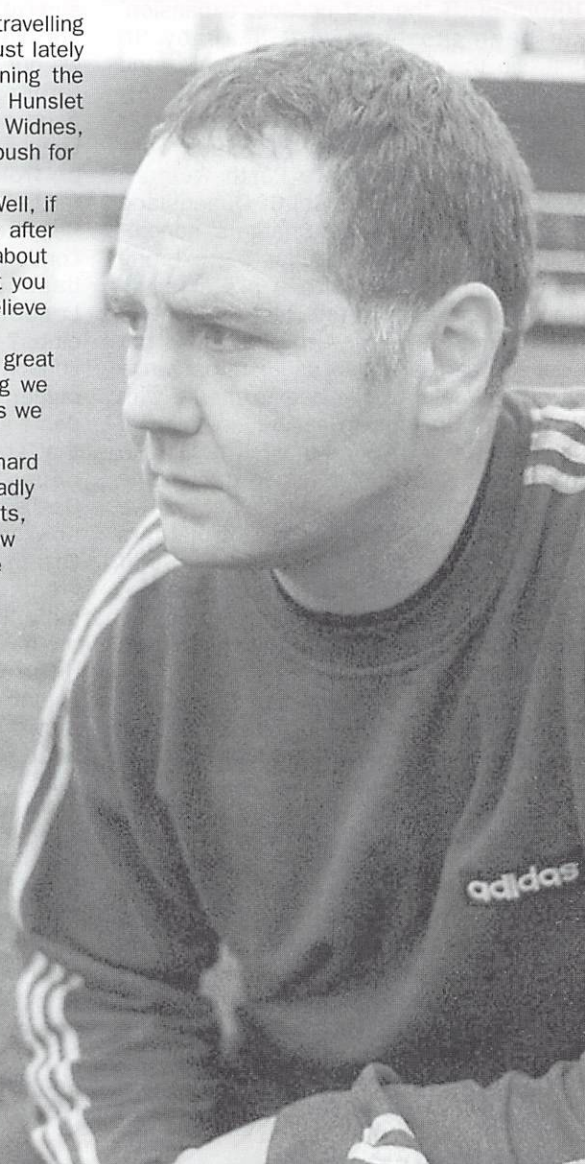
We have to get some consistency: if we get that in our performances then the results will follow.

One more low key is that we may be without Jason Bostock for some time after the injury to his knee.

Anyway, enough doom and gloom; this will all be behind us if we get a result today and set ourselves up for the busy Easter weekend program. By then teams will have played 7 or 8 games and the League will begin to take shape.

Anyway, no doubt we will be written off as no hoppers, in which case "things can only get better". Enjoy the game and get behind the lads.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

THROUGHOUT the last decade 'expansion' has been the buzz-word in rugby. In Australia the rivalry between the ARL and Super League spawned a host of new clubs. Yet, even before the current merger of interests in the new NRL, clubs were being dumped. Gone are Perth Western Reds, Adelaide Rams, South Queensland Crushers and Gold Coast Chargers, none of which were in areas duplicating existing teams and tapping into a pre-existing support base as with the Hunter Mariners. Now Penrith Panthers, ARL Champions but a decade ago, are also under threat while Illawarra Steelers have had to merge with St. George Dragons to secure any kind of future. Can you imagine that? It is like St. Helens and Wigan being forced to combine to preserve the future of the game! And we all saw how popular the idea of mergers was in England back in 1995. So if Australia, World leaders in rugby league, cannot sustain teams in major centres like Perth, Adelaide or Penrith what price expansion in Britain?

All of which brings me to the recent comments of Wigan Coach John Monie and his Oldham based Chairman Peter Norbury. Speaking on GMR Monie said, "I don't think that moving 25 Australians up to Gateshead is really a good move" . . . "If I had anything to do with it I'd take an area like Cumbria that has good grass roots and has always been a rugby league place, and I would try and get a team up there".

Welcome to the Club, John! Because isn't this what many of us have been saying for years.

And Peter Norbury went even further: "I may be proved wrong, but I can't see how Gateshead in the long term is going to

survive" . . . "Why don't we find areas that are already strong in rugby, and why don't we put money into them?" . . . "I would far rather we were putting money into the existing clubs in strongholds of Rugby League, and supporting those clubs, than on frolics that are probably doomed to failure".

After nearly 20 years in various guises London Broncos still operate largely on the basis of Australian players. How many Londoners have played for the London clubs? And in a city of over eight million London have yet to prove they can attract a bigger audience than, say, Widnes. Now don't get me wrong; I am not advocating that London be disbanded and I sincerely hope that the Broncos can defeat Castleford to secure a place at Wembley, if only so that Shaun Edwards and Martin Offiah, two of Rugby League's all-time greats, can grace the hallowed turf once more. But doesn't it make you wonder if all the money spent in London had been spent differently, say in buying a stadium to provide a permanent base instead of pursuing a nomadic existence, then a better outcome might have been achieved than is currently the case?

And doesn't it also make you wonder if with a little more fairness the likes of Doncaster, Workington and Oldham might have been saved from ruination by their flirtation with Super League? And shouldn't Keighley and Batley have had their chance after winning promotion fair and square? And what price Wakefield with every conceivable obstacle put in their way?

Yes, what price "expansion"? Perhaps someone would like to provide us with a cost-benefit analysis of the last ten years!



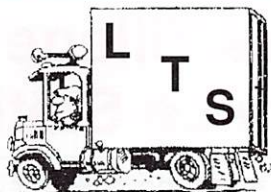
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

Welcome to the players, supporters and junior members of Widnes Vikings.



Emma Cameron

The lucky mascot for today's match is Emma Cameron. Emma is 8 years old. Her favourite player is Afi Leuila. Have a great day Emma.

The Oldham mascot for the Barrow game at Spotland on Friday 12th March was James Trevor. James plays rugby for St.

Anne's U.9s. He has also become a matchday ballboy. *James said,*

"My Day as Mascot"

I WAS the mascot when Oldham played Barrow on Friday the 12th March. I have always wanted to be mascot for Oldham. When I was on the pitch I was passing the ball to Leo Casey, it was great. I was chosen to be one of the ball boys and we won the

match which made it even better.

BIRTHDAYS

We wish to send out Happy Birthday wishes to all Junior Roughyeds having birthdays in March.

Leo Casey	7th March
Stefan Holmes	18th March
Lauren Pemberton	24th March
Carl Clare	26th March
Lisa Wooley	27th March
Nigel Scott	27th March

ROUGHYED MUM'S ARE THE BEST!

At the last Junior Roughyed meeting there was a Mother's Day competition. **Stella Greenhalgh** won a box of gift wrapped chocolates for her mum with the following poem:

My mum's the best
sometimes she is a pest.
My mum is sweet
sometimes she has smelly feet.
My mum is a nag
and she has a fag.
But I love my mum a lot.
She has given me everything
I have got.

The winner was chosen by the players

We only had 4 entries but they were all really good. Well done to all the entries.

MUM & ME

My mum likes the Roughyeds, until they lose their game.

My mum shouts for Oldham

again and again and again.

Next time you see her at the match

don't be blinded by the sun

Make your way behind her

and hide behind her bum.

Laurence Rafferty Age 6

MY MUMS A SUPERMUM

My mums a supermum

She's always good to me,

She washes, cooks and cleans

While I am fast asleep

She feeds and looks after me

She's never a nagging hen

If I could give her a mark

It would be 10 out of 10

Jessica Rafferty Age 10

MY MUM

My mum had me on the 24th of the third

She sings as nice as a happy blackbird.

She's very talented when it comes to cooking

I think she's very good looking.

Her name is Kath,

When she gets annoyed she takes a relaxing bath

She is not shy

Neither sly.

My mum likes to share

She looks after me with a lot of care.

Lauren Pemberton Age 10.

MANCHESTER STORM

The next Junior Roughyeds meeting will be a trip out. We will be meeting and having tea at Kentucky Fried Chicken then catching a coach to the Manchester Storm match on Saturday 27th March.

I know we will all have a great time.

Debra Rafferty



Debra Rafferty



James Trevor



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A CHRISTMAS FAIRY!

I Think Not!



CHRISTMAS Fairy! – Not a recommended outburst just before the Boxing Day clash of the front rows of a rugby league pack, especially when the opposing prop happens to be John Brian Hogan! Not unless you wanted a ‘Quick kiss on the misletoe’!



1982, Brian Hogan backed up by Ray Ashton v Cardiff (Away)

A welcome 1981 Christmas present from Widnes was how the arrival of England forward Brian Hogan was greeted. What the Oldham fans were not to know was that Hogan would have returned to his old club by the cessation of the following Christmas festivities. Not the longest servant the Roughyeds ever had on their books!

Brian Hogan played just 34 matches for the Oldham Club, enough though, to seal the 1981/2 second division championship and provide a springboard to gain a top eight spot in the following season's first division – a feat not achieved by the Club for over 20 years!

The long haired firebrand never outstayed his welcome. Aged 33 on his arrival at Watersheddings, Hogan's CV already boasted spells at St Helens, Wigan, Workington, Bradford, Widnes, back to Wigan, and on again to Widnes. As short as Brian Hogan's stay at Oldham was, he will remain one of the most fondly remembered and often talked about players in the history of the Club.

Today Brian Hogan (aged 51) lives with his wife in St. Helens and is the Sales Manager for a window manufacturer. He is not involved within the game in any official capacity but keeps an interest watching the sport on TV and paying the occasional visit with Doug Laughton to Knowsley Road.

Along with the reputation of being one of the best ball playing forwards the sport has ever produced, also went the reputation 'Do not light the blue touch paper' (not ever!). Not admitting to the number of times he was dismissed during his career, it is amazing therefore that Brian's attitude to rugby is the same as it is to life itself: 'It's nice to be nice'.

Hogan well remembers the call from the then Oldham Coach and ex-Widnes star Frank Myler looking for on the field direction for his young, up and coming stars Ashton, Worrall, Flanagan, Goodway, Kirwan etc.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH

JOHN BRIAN HOGAN

by Brian Walker



Not taking too much persuasion Hogan arrived for his first training stint at a snowbound 'Sheddings. Myler explained that due to the unplayable state of the training pitch the session would be held in the Counthill School gym. Told to run up Counthill Road to 'Limber up', Myler would then take the opportunity to introduce Hogan to his new team mates. Never known for his enthusiastic approach to training, Hogan

suggested that if he was expected to play the following Sunday no way would his legs take that amount of stress and strain and far better to relax his aching limbs in the Watersheddings bath. Thus Hogan was introduced to his new mates – still in the bath! It worked. Making his debut at home to Huyton he was nominated Man of the Match!

Starting his career as a ball playing centre to St Helens crack winger Tom Van Vollenhoven, Hogan moved into the second row before making his name at prop. He remembers with amusement the times during his debut that Vollenhoven was bundled into touch after the defence swallowed his outrageous dummies!

Hogan rates Castleford's 18 stone prop Dennis Hartley the hardest and toughest opponent he ever played against. Describing himself as 'a big, fit, young lad'



1983. Return to Widnes. Hogan in the Widnes front row. Oldham win 23-13.

who could 'Run a bit', 'fight a bit' and 'play a bit', he names Vince Karalius and Doug Laughton as having the most influence on his career and Tommy Bishop as the best on-field organiser and handler of a rugby ball. He played in 2 Challenge Cup finals and 5 times for England.

It best sums up the man and the player that soon after his return to Widnes (probably the only player ever to sign for the same Club 3 times!) Oldham were the visitors and the young Watersheddings team ended the match 23-13 victors. Despite being hit in the back pocket, Hogan privately took great pride in that Oldham performance. *Hogan was sent off for a 'stiff arm' on Mick Morgan!*

John Brian Hogan enjoyed his contribution to rugby league – the best years of his life.

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TODAY'S VISITORS Widnes Vikings

**PHIL CANTILLON** Hooker/half-back

Once of Wigan and Leeds and former GB Academy international. Good dummy half player with pace.

JIM CASSIDY Hooker/back row

Talented, versatile forward with a good turn of speed. Has ability to break games.

DEAN CROSS Wing/full-back

Highly promising threequarter. A strong defender, brave and with good footballing skills.

FABIEN DEVECCHI Scrum half.

French international half-back impressed during the Tri-Nations series and signed from Villeneuve.

ANTON GARCIA Wing

Burst through last year to stake a claim for first team wing spot. Breaks tackles well and will only get better.

PAUL MANSSON Stand off

New Acquisition. Has crossed the Pennines from Hunslet Hawks. His skill and experience will prove vital.

NEIL MEASURES Prop

Should improve now he has recovered from injury.

DAMIAN MUNRO Wing

Appeared briefly with Oldham before signing for Halifax. A good finisher who should grab plenty of tries.

DANNY MYLER Centre/Stand-off

Has the attitude and ability to go a long way in the game.

KEVIN O'LOUGHLIN Loose-forward/centre

Plenty of skill, good hands and tactical awareness.

GEORGE MANN

Prop/second row
Newly installed as captain. Vastly experienced forward with good ball handling skills and plenty of pace.

**GARETH ADAMS** Second row

Signed from Swinton to add speed around the field to the pack. Consistent and a hard worker.

STEVE ARGENT Prop

Former local junior and Academy star. Started to make a first team impression at the end of last season.

JAMES BRIERS Centre/Wing

Starting to fulfill promise shown when signed by Widnes as a schoolboy. A big season for him.

PAUL GARTLAND Hooker

Solid performer and a first-class defender. Can cover at stand-off if needed. Excellent squad member.

LEE HANSEN Prop

Powerful Tongan International returning after spells with Wigan and Keighley. Strong running front-rower.

PAUL HARRIS Second row/loose forward

Hard working back row man needs a spell free from injury to make a real impact.

MARK HEWITT Scrum half

Top points scorer last season. Superb goalkicker and a good organiser.

ANDY O'NEILL Second-row

Now established in the first team squad as a grafting forward in attack and defence.

CHRIS PERCIVAL Centre

Made a big breakthrough last season. All-action style makes him difficult to stop.

TERRY REID Prop

Improving all the time and now a solid squad member to back up the first-choice props

JIM SALISBURY Full-back

Developed well in first season to top try scoring lists, and once away is rarely caught.

LOKENI Savelio Prop/second-row

Super League regular signed from Salford to help beef up the Widnes pack.

DAVE SMITH Second-row

Tough tackling young player who should benefit from the experience around him in the pack.

JASON CRITCHLEY Centre

Returned to RL following a spell in Welsh RU

RICHARD EYRES Back Row

Joined Widnes for a second spell having recently played RU for Coventry.

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DON YATES

Down Memory Lane



DON LOOKS BACK TO A WIDNES MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



THERE is no doubt that from the mid-70s to the mid-90s the most successful club in Britain were Widnes. During that period the Chemics collected no fewer than 28 major trophies and were involved in numerous high profile matches. The most sensational occasion during this glittering era for Widnes came at Old Trafford in October 1989 when the Chemics met Canberra for the World Cup Challenge.

Widnes had qualified for that final by first winning the 1988-89 Stones Bitter Championship and then defeating French Champions St. Esteve 60-6 in a one-sided European play-off. The visit of Widnes to Oldham that season proved to be another memorable occasion, if only for the thunder, lightening and spectacular hailstorm which battered Watersheddings throughout the Chemics' 35-16 victory.

In the meantime Canberra were winning the Australian Premiership for the first time in their short history. But they were doing so the hard way. They ended their league programme in fourth position in the league table so faced a difficult path to the final through the play-offs. First of all they beat Cronulla 31-10, then eliminated Penrith 27-18 before reaching the final with a 32-16 victory over South Sydney. The Grand Final against Balmain attracted a ground record attendance of 40,500 to the Sydney Football Stadium. Balmain, with Andy Currier in their line-up, led 12-2 at half-time in a thrilling encounter which went into extra time after Canberra had fought back to equalise at 14-14. A dropped goal from former Oldham stand-off Chris O'Sullivan broke the deadlock before Canberra added a late try which saw

them crowned Champions with a 19-14 winning scoreline.

So the action moved on to Old Trafford where a crowd of 30,786 saw the following two teams line up to do battle:

Widnes: Alan Tait; Andy Currier, Jonathan Davies, Darren Wright, Martin Offiah; Tony Myler, David Hulme; Joe Grima, Phil McKenzie, Derek Pyke, Kurt Sorensen, Paul Hulme & Richard Eyres.

Substitutes, Barry Dowd, Paul Moriarty, Brimah Kebbie & David Smith.

Canberra: Gary Belcher; Matthew Wood, Mal Meninga, Laurie Daley, John Ferguson; Chris O'Sullivan Ricky Stuart; Steve Jackson, Steve Walters, Glen Lazarus, Dean Lance, Gary Coyne & Bradley Clyde.

Substitutes, Phil Carey, Paul Martin, Mark Lowry & Craig Bellamy.

Canberra began in sensational fashion, scoring tries through Mal Meninga and Chris O'Sullivan in the opening eleven minutes. Matthew Wood converted both and such was Canberra's superiority at that stage that a rout looked on the cards. However, Widnes stuck to their task and by half-time they were back in contention after first Paul Hulme and then Martin Offiah scored. It was during the opening fifteen minutes of the second half that Widnes grabbed the initiative. Jonathan Davies scored an early try, taking a reckless, head high tackle from Laurie Daley in the process. Daley was duly sin binned and by the time he returned both Martin Offiah and Richard Eyres had scored further tries to put Widnes 24-12 in front. Darren Wright was next to score and a third goal from Jonathan Davies saw Widnes stretch their lead to 30-12. Steve Walters scored a late try for Canberra converted by Chris O'Sullivan but that was where the scoring ended.

Widnes were 30-18 winners and Champions of the World following a superb evening's entertainment which was undoubtedly the highlight of a glorious chapter in the history of the Widnes club.

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TODAY'S GUEST

Graham Clay

Rugby League WORLD



Rugby League World editor GRAHAM CLAY was in the crowd at Sydney's Olympic Stadium as Australia claimed the world record for a Rugby League crowd.

EARLIER this month - on March 6th, to be precise - Australia's new Olympic Stadium in Sydney opened

its gates for the first time and immediately welcomed a new world record crowd.

Odsal's proud claim to fame had been snatched away after 45 years. The 102,569 that stood on railway sleepers and steep dirt bankings had finally been overtaken, a feat many people never believed would happen.

And as a lonely Pom present at the big night - and my grandad who'd been at Odsal in '54 would expect it of me - I had to argue, maybe it didn't.

The official figure was 104,583, on the face of it a new League record. But amid the celebrations, I continued to wave the flag for Britain. Was it really time to re-write the record books?

Allow me to put my case.

The event was a double header, not a one-off like the Halifax-Warrington Challenge Cup Final replay.

And if you take into account the changeover between the departing Manly and Newcastle fans after the first game, and those arriving purely for the second game between Parramatta and St George-Illawarra, I doubt whether there were actually 104,583 inside the stadium at the same time.

Officials admitted that when the first game kicked off, only 89,000 were inside the stadium.

And while it is indisputable that 104,583 people passed through the turnstiles at some stage of the evening, another suit leaked out that the crowd peaked at just over 100,000.

But I'm being a spoilsport. Let the Aussies wallow in their glory.

Because there's one thing they will never take from us Brits.

Atmosphere.

Even with 100,000 plus inside the monolithic heap of concrete and steel, the noise wasn't on a par with even a run-of-the-mill League game over here. I can honestly say that 15,000 screaming Bulls fans at Odsal make more noise than the Sydneysiders managed.

Prior to Sydney, the biggest crowd I had been

in was the 98,000 who saw Brett Kenny's Wigan defeat Peter Sterling's Hull at Wembley in 1985.

Now that was a crowd, and legend has it that another 10,000 people were crammed in Wembley Stadium that day!

Maybe the relative silence in Oz was because arriving fans were simply knocked breathless by the sheer scale of the place. It is, in every sense, a gigantic stadium.

Its own sprawling road and rail network, the huge escalators that transport you forever upwards, the arching roof that would comfortably span four jumbo jets, the world's biggest video screens.

Entering the stadium is like walking into a posh hotel. All the public concourses are thickly carpeted and frosted glass walls flank each level.

Then you step out into a small section and the enormity of it all smacks you in the face. Down each touchline, tier after tier of seating reach skyward, sandwiching row after row of corporate hospitality boxes.

At each end, slabs of seating stretch endlessly backwards. Looking out on this great expanse, you can just make out the bodies of

continued on page 20

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TODAY'S GUEST (continued)

Graham Clay

continued from page 19

hundreds of people streaming in like scurrying ants.

It really is an incredible feat of architecture.

But strangely, bits of it are only temporary. After the Olympic Games next year, the two ends will be down-sized to reduce the capacity to a mere 80,000.

The whole thing was designed with this in mind. Apparently, officials reckon its capacity will be tested only six times before the Games, and therefore the ends have been built with a maximum life span of just five years!

The rebuilding of the ends will mean that the stadium will transform into a rectangular shape,

but in the meantime, Stadium Australia - to give it its official name - has a quaint tribute to the stadium that previously held the world record.

Just like Odsal, it has stick-down artificial corners!

Incredible. A \$690 million project has deliberately incorporated the one thing for which Odsal has copped universal derision!

Not only that, the pitch isn't even the standard width. Artificial run-off strips have to be placed over the track on each touchline.

It's good to see the Aussies respecting Odsal!

Next they'll be wanting to import the thick fog that descended in the days of winter rugby!



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THE INCORRIGIBLE

Iva Stateloose



OH! WHAT A CIRCUS, OH! WHAT A SHOW!

HAVE you ever studied speecie speak? Here's a few examples to warm your cockles (What are cockles anyway?)

"... 2,278 on a stinking afternoon to see the visit of, let's face it, last season's basement Super League club is, I feel, a pretty reasonable turnout". (So now we know why London Broncos can't get a decent crowd!)

"... Another whinging Northern bigot". (Not Kevin Maguire, surely?)

"... The game wasn't offered £87.5m just to prop up its existing clubs and carry on as it was". (And there was me thinking that in addition to London and Gateshead S.L.E. was intended to have a club (clubs?) in Europe - you know E for Europe!)

"... Did Leeds actually have a mascot during their first Super League campaign?" (Who the hell cares? Anyway Ronnie was still roaming the Massai Mara till Gary Heth touched his horn with gold).

"... It was a total embarrassment to me as a Salford fan of 47 years." (Thought you might have had enough practice by now.)

"Union takes itself far too seriously." (Is this a League fan I see before me...?)

"It never ceases to amaze me the incredible support and atmosphere created by H.K.R. supporters."

(It never ceases to amaze everyone else either: it certainly expands the vocabulary of offensive expressions.)

"... I found them (Cas Fans) rude, offensive and utterly disgusting." (Apart from which they were quite nice, really.)

"... I appreciate the appalling decisions made by the referee..." (Widnes v Leigh)

"... Referee Kirkpatrick's awesomely pathetic performance..."

(Castleford v Wakefield)
(Guess whose team lost!)

"... I also agree that Odsal is not exactly perfect..."
Understatement of the century.)

"... The rubbish you print in your letters column" (Who rattled this one's cage, then?)



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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

TODAY WE welcome Widnes, one of the founder members of the Northern Union in 1895. In that first season after the "breakaway", our first Northern Union clash with the "Chemicals" took place at Widnes on October 26th 1895. The Roughyeds returned with the points after a 13-0 victory and completed the double at Watersheddings on February 15th 1896. This time the margin was 21-0. The Oldham points came from two tries converted from Jack Hurst and one each from Arthur Lees and Tom Martin. Sam Lees converted three of the tries and Harry Eagland landed a penalty goal. It is interesting to note that in those days the try was worth three points, the conversion two points and the penalty goal three points. The attendance was 10,000 and the Oldham team was as follows:

H. Eagland; T. Martin, S. Lees, W. McCutcheon, J. Hurst; H. Varley, A. Lees; E. Bosner, E. Hughes, J. Merrill, R. Edwards, R. Wylie, A. Childs, E. Etchells, F. Worrall.

Coming right up to date Widnes defeated the

"Roughyeds" in a pre season friendly game in January this year by twenty points to six. The last senior match between the two teams was in the Challenge Cup last season. This was a third round tie played at the revamped Naughton Park/Autoquest Stadium on February 1st. The Vikings proved too strong for Oldham in this first match for the re launched club against senior opposition after they had defeated the York amateur outfit, Heworth in the previous round. The final score of 48-8 underlined the superiority of the home team in front of a good attendance of over four and a half thousand spectators.

Oldham Team:

S. Wilde; S. Diggle, A. Mead, S. Cooper, J. McNicholas; C. Barker, N. Flanagan; P. Round, J. Hough, M. Maders, B. Quinlan, G. Shaw, M. Martindale. Subs: D. Robinson, C. Eckersley, J. Clegg, A. Fleming.

Goals: Quinlan 2

Try: Hough

Attendance: 4,579



Vintage action - Oldham 16 v Widnes 2, February 21st 1925

Sid Rix manages to put in a kick despite the attention of two Widnes defenders. The two other Oldham players in the centre of the photo are Albert Brough (behind Rix) and Ambrose Baker (behind the ball).

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
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DON YATES

On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



This afternoon's visitors to Spotland are Widnes, one of the favourites for the Northern Ford Premiership and a club who have ambitions of returning to their halcyon days of the 70s and 80s. It was on this day in 1981, Saturday 28th March, that the Chemics enjoyed one of the many big cup victories of that era. That day they met neighbours Warrington at Wigan in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup. Warrington led 7-0 late in the first half of that tie but Widnes failed to get ruffled and hit back to win 17-9. Full-back Mick Burke, later to join Oldham, scored a try and four goals in that match.

Eleven years later, on Saturday 28th March 1992, Wigan met Bradford Northern in another Challenge Cup semi-Final which was staged at Burden Park, the old Bolton Wanderers soccer ground. It was expected to be a close match but Wigan winger Martin Offiah put paid to that theory by running in five tries as the pie-eaters coasted to an astonishing 71-10 victory.

Leigh registered an even more comfortable victory on this day in 1976, Sunday 28th March. That day they entertained Doncaster in a Second Division match and beat them 75-3. Centre Mick Stacey led the scoring spree with two tries and 15 goals and there was also a try for former Oldham scrum-half Cliff Sayer. Another former Roughyed in the Leigh line-up that afternoon was prop-forward Geoff Fletcher.

In 1982, Sunday 28th March, Oldham were running up the points when Blackpool Borough visited Watersheddings for a Second Division match. The Roughyeds won 66-7 with winger Geoff Munro running in four tries and centre Mick Parrish claiming 27 points with three tries and nine goals. Parrish played and scored in every Oldham match throughout that 1981-82 season.

Next weekend is Easter which means the staging of the Standard Cup Final. On Good Friday, 28th March 1975 the trophy went out of town to Rochdale after Mayfield had defeated Higginshaw 11-5 in the final.

Eleven years later, Good Friday 28th March 1986, Mayfield were again in the final although on that occasion Waterhead lifted the trophy, winning 13-8. That day a substitute, Waterhead's Gary Dobbs, was awarded the Ben Powell Trophy as man-of-the-match.

A further eleven years on, Good Friday 28th March 1997, Dobbs was again a Standard Cup winner although he was playing against Waterhead that day when Saddleworth Rangers won the trophy 25-12. Full-back Kevin Fitzpatrick, now a member of the Roughyeds' Alliance team, was a try scorer in that final. Next weekend the final will be played on Easter Monday 5th April at Boundary Park with an 11.00am kick-off and it's Shaw Rhinos v. Waterhead.

Staying with the amateurs, twelve months ago, Saturday 28th March 1998 was a mixed day for our local amateurs. Waterhead recovered from a 14-6 deficit to draw 15-15 at home to Haydock, Watersheddings Wanderers won 24-20 at Silsden Park Rangers after trailing 10-0 early on but the Higginshaw 'come back' was not so successful. They were losing 30-4 early in the second half at Folly Lane and, although they staged a stirring revival, they still lost 38-20. Both our Conference League clubs won however. Saddleworth Rangers beat Walney central 44-21 at Greenfield where that man Kevin Fitzpatrick again scored a try and St. Annes won 30-24 at Beverley where the Saints full-back Mark Whitehead went one better, he scored two tries.



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ALLIANCE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Dewsbury Rams	5	4	0	1	125	78	47	8
West Cumbria	4	3	1	0	118	76	42	7
Hunslet Hawks	5	3	0	2	127	98	29	6
Batley Bulldogs	6	3	0	3	136	125	11	6
Keighley Cougars	4	2	1	1	104	80	24	5
Leigh Centurions	3	2	0	1	76	40	36	4
Featherstone Rvs	4	2	0	2	100	110	-10	4
Barrow Border	4	1	0	3	62	132	-70	2
Swinton Lions	2	0	0	2	26	57	-31	0
Oldham	1	0	0	1	6	40	-34	0
Rochdale Hornets	4	0	0	4	94	138	-44	0

ALLIANCE TEAM MATCH REPORT

Tuesday 16th March, 1999

OLDHAM 6 BATLEY 40

YOU GET used to it. Batley turn up with a massive pack of forwards featuring the likes of Darren Moxon, Will Cartledge and Neil Bradbrook behind which a clever, quicksilver scrum-half in Nigel Craven, starts spraying out telling passes and it's déjà-vu time.

Oldham compete manfully for 30 minutes but the withdrawal of props Chris Coop and then Paul Round - after he's been awarded a penalty try - leaves Oldham light on beef.

When Gary Coulter goes off in the second half it's floodgates time and Batley take full advantage. Craven grabs two tries and flying 17 year old winger Carl Riley finishes with a hat trick. Scoring out wide stops Batley running up 50 as the goal kicks keep going astray.

For Oldham Coulter does enough to grab the subs spot at H.K.R., but the outstanding displays come from the aggressive Mick Farrell in the backs and the talented Danny Wood at loose forward, posting a warning to Paul Crook, Emerson Jackman and Mick Martindale that the number 6 and 13 shirts could be under threat.

Defeat: yes, but the big picture is that Oldham are back in the Alliance fold. Regular practice, regular matches, top class coach - the only way is up!

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

Mar	16	Batley Bulldogs	H	6 - 40
	31	Hunslet Hawks	H	
April	8	Featherstone R.	A	
	14	Dewsbury Rams	H	
	24	West Cumbria	A	
	28	Swinton Lions	A	
May	5	Keighley Cougars	H	
	13	Dewsbury Rams	A	
	19	Swinton Lions	H	
	29	Barrow B. R.	A	
June	10	Rochdale Hornets	A	
	12	West Cumbria	H	
	19	Batley Bulldogs	A	
	23	Featherstone R.	H	
July	1	Keighley Cougars	A	
	10	Barrow B. R.	H	
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A	
	21	Leigh Centurions	A	
	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
Aug	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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RUGBY LEAGUE IS A GAME TO BE ENJOYED BY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AND RACISM HAS NO PART TO PLAY IN OUR SPORT. RACIST LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOUR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLUB AND ANY MEMBER OR SPECTATOR ENGAGING IN SUCH CONDUCT WILL FACE THE SEVEREST PENALTIES AVAILABLE. WE MUST ALL TACKLE RACISM AND ENSURE THAT RUGBY LEAGUE IS A GAME FOR ALL.

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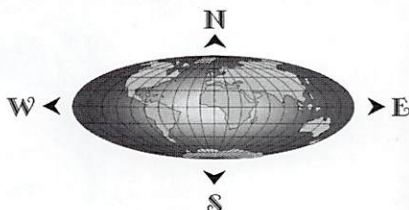
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1999

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts		Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts
J. Bostock	7	-	3	-	-	12	A. Mead	7	-	3	-	-	12
D. Brown	7	-	3	3	-	22	L. Minut	7	-	-	7	-	14
L. Casey	7	-	-	-	-	-	E. Peralta	1	5	-	-	-	-
J. Clegg	7	-	2	-	-	8	M. Perrett	4	4	-	-	-	-
G. Coulter	1	5	-	-	-	-	M. Prescott	-	7	1	-	-	4
P. Crook	4	1	-	-	-	-	B. Quinlan	3	3	-	4	-	8
J. Hough	7	-	-	-	-	-	P. Round	-	1	-	-	-	-
E. Jackman	5	1	-	-	-	-	G. Shaw	6	1	-	-	-	-
A. Leuila	7	-	-	-	-	-	M. Martindale	4	-	-	-	-	-
McNicholas	7	-	-	-	-	-							

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

1999 Match Results as at 22/3/99

	Barrow	Batley	Bramley	Dewsbury	Doncaster	Featherstone	Hull KR	Hunslet	Keighley	Lancashire	Leigh	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Swinton	Whitehaven	Widnes	Workington	York
Barrow					30-10											18-12		
Batley			14-12				8-14					30-0						
Bramley								14-12										
Dewsbury								35-8		31-16								
Doncaster		20-29											22-18					
Featherstone												32-12			28-12			
Hull KR		8-6		12-2						8-8								
Hunslet						14-26					44-2						48-6	
Keighley				42-16											30-16		8-10	
Lancashire			13-12	22-12														
Leigh					16-12										24-20		16-12	
OLDHAM	24-20																	
Rochdale				26-10					22-27	22-40								
Swinton			23-8	19-29			10-21											
Whitehaven									24-12							28-6		
Widnes	34-16			30-12										6-2				
Workington			22-16		22-22	14-21											26-14	
York										32-6					16-15			

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Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds throughout the 1999 Season

Match by Match Analysis 1999



JANUARY

1	Rochdale H. (Law C)	L10-48	2879	Mead	Farrell G	Quinlan	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Casey	Hough	Clegg T	Shaw	Varley	Martindale	Coulter	Leuila T	Prescott	Round
17	Widnes	L6-12	2500	Mead 1T	Farrell	Leuila	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Fitzpatrick	A.N.Other
24	Leigh	L12-34	1000	A.N.Other	Mead	Leuila	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook G	Farrell	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan G	Coulter T	Bostock	Barker	A.N.Other T	Fitzpatrick

FEBRUARY

1	ECCLES CC 3rd Rd	W26-7	1764	Minut 3G	Mead 2T	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Coulter	Jackman	Round	Peralta	Prescott 1T	Perrett
7	Batley Bulldogs	L0-30	1018	Minut	Mead	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan	Jackman	Coulter	Prescott	Perrett	Peralta
15	DEWS. R CC 4th Rd	W18-10	1620	Minut 2G	Mead 1T	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 1T1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan	Peralta
19	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	P																	
28	Whitehaven CC 5th Rd	L2-18	1438	Minut	Mead	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Peralta	Perrett	Shaw	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan	Crook

MARCH

12	BARROW B.R.	W24-20	1123	Minut 2G	Mead	Leuila	Bostock 2T	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 2T	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan 2G	Peralta
17	Hull K. R.	D8-8	2080	Minut	Mead	Leuila	Bostock 1T	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Coulter	Peralta	Perrett	Prescott
21	Hunslet Hawks	L2-44	1533	Minut	Mead	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Peralta	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Jackman	Prescott	Perrett	Shaw
28	WIDNES VIKINGS	H																		

APRIL

2	Doncaster Dragons	A																		
5	LEIGH CENTURIANS	H																		
11	Bramley	A																		
25	YORK	H																		

MAY

1	SILK CUT CC Final																			
3	Rochdale Hornets	A																		
9	Keighley Cougars	A																		
23	Swinton Lions	A																		
30	WHITEHAVEN W.	H																		

JUNE

6	Workington Town	A																		
13	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H	(Boundary Park)																	
18	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	7.45																	
27	Featherstone Rovers	A																		

JULY

4	HULL K. R.	H																		
11	Barrow B. R.	A																		
18	HUNSLET HAWKS	H																		
25	Widnes Vikings	A																		
30	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	7.45																	

AUGUST

8	Leigh Centurians	A																		
13	BRAMLEY	H	7.45																	
22	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H																		
29	York	A																		

ROUGHYEDS' SUPPORTERS CLUB

Dear Friends,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your support and kindness to me in the first couple of weeks since my election. I count it a great honour to represent so many supportive and committed fans and promise that I will do all I can to raise the profile of Oldham Roughyeds in and around the area and amongst the Supporters Clubs of teams that visit us.

As some of you may know I have not been involved with Oldham for very long but as all of you will know, once in its hard to get out. Rugby League is such an addictive sport, like the lager, it reaches parts in people that other sports just don't reach. I am therefore, counting on all of you to pour in with help and advice as to what **you** think goes down best with the best, **Oldham RL Fans**.

Most of the suggestions so far, have I believe, been done before. They are a great way of raising funds and also (my favourite part) of having a brilliant time with lots of people, with a heart for **Oldham Roughyeds**, this is apparent to everyone who attends them. Let's however have some new ideas please.

The other members of the committee are

well known to most of you and I will be relying on them a great deal to steer me in the right direction. Joyce has agreed to arrange the away travel, as she has done so well before (Phew! One job gone) and Jack Roscoe is to be Membership Secretary (Two down! delegation is my favourite thing). Jack spends a lot of time helping out at the office so if you have any questions about your membership, give him a ring there and he will be very pleased to talk to you. As soon as he has fathomed out how to work the computer and the laminator your membership cards and club information will be winging their way to you. Only kidding! Jenni, Scott and everyone at the club, yes, even Chris, have been great in offering their help and expertise assisting in setting up the Supporters Club.

The Golden Gamble Draw which takes place at home games is in the capable hands of Christine Wilcox our Club Treasurer and Mrs Sylvia Patterson. If you would like to get involved with this and help sell the tickets on match days, we would love to hear from you. We also desperately need people to help out at our Alliance games.

If you would be available to help in either of these areas, please ring me or the office

and leave your name and telephone number and we will contact you with details of what would be involved. Neither of these take too much time. We need a couple of teams of people to ensure there will always be enough help with cover for holidays and unexpected unavailability of collectors. So if you are going to the game anyway why not get involved with us?

Please remember that we on the committee are elected by you to represent you so please do not hesitate to contact us about any aspect of the Supporters Club. We need your views.

Finally I would like to welcome the Widnes Supporters, Team and Officials and hope they enjoy their visit to Spotland. As a Christian, at this time of year my thoughts turn to the death and resurrection of Jesus and similarly to Oldham and Widnes, two great teams who have suffered adversity through no fault of their own. We can look forward and rejoice in the continuing success of Widnes, A **ONCE MAGNIFICENT TEAM** and Oldham Roughyeds, **THE BEST**, both resurrected by the love and commitment of their supporters.

God Bless.

Linda



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OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

1	Laurent MINUT			
2	Adrian MEAD			
3	Afi LEUILA			
4	Josh BOSTOCK			
5	Joe McNICHOLAS			
6	Paul CROOK			
7	Daniel BROWN			
8	Brian QUINLAN			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Jason CLEGG			
11	Emmerson JACKMAN			
12	Graeme SHAW			
13	Mick MARTINDALE			
14	Mark PERRETT	16	Mike PRESCOTT	
15	Gary COUTLER	17	Emmanuel PERALTA	

Today's Officials

Today's Referee

Mr A. Bates



Touch Judges

Mr P. Meadows
Mr A. D. Perris
Reserve T. Brierley

WIDNES VIKINGS

Coach: Colin Whitfield

1	Jim SALISBURY			
2	James BRIERS			
3	Chris PERCIVAL			
4	Jason CRITCHLEY			
5	Damien MUNRO			
6	Paul MANSSON			
7	Fabien DEVECCHI			
8	Lee HANSEN			
9	Phil CANTILLON			
10	Lokeni SVELIO			
11	Paul HARRIS			
12	George MANN			
13	Jim CASSIDY			
14	Mark HEWITT	16	Jason HUNTER	
15	Steve ARGENT	17	Richie EYRES	

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS