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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



WELCOME back to Spotland for what is our last home fixture for over a month, due to the re-seeding of the pitch.

Today's opponents, York, will provide a big test as they have already proved themselves capable of performing at Premiership level against some of the top teams in the division.

We had two very tough encounters with the 'Wasps' last season and lost both, so lets hope today sees the lads start to redress the balance with a win. With no game last weekend and then two this week, the season has continued in its stop-start mode but the one constant factor this season has been the competitiveness of the Premiership and you only need look at the League table for proof of that.

Most of you will know by now that Josh Bostock has returned home for major surgery on his injured knee and everybody at the Club send their best wishes to Josh for a full and speedy recovery. We are trying to find a replacement for Josh at the present time whilst working within the confines of our budgets and the restrictions (sensible ones) of the salary cap.

It has been announced this week that the Lincoln Financial Group will be the major sponsors of next year's World Cup. That announcement is a significant boost for the Cup and the game in general and to have the sponsor in place already should now give all those concerned at Red Hall the opportunity to make the event a great success. With 16 nations competing there will be entertainment in abundance and of course we all look forward to the day when we put the Aussies in their rightful place!

Enjoy the game!

Christopher Hamilton



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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

THE strength of rugby league in Oldham was there for all to see on Easter Monday.

I thought the Standard Cup final was losing its appeal, but what can you say when more than 2,200 fans turn up to watch Shaw Rhinos and Waterhead at Boundary Park?

It was a superb final, the presentation was first class, there was a lovely touch when Mrs Maureen Gartland presented the cup to the wheelchair-bound Fred Hall on behalf of Waterhead and I was impressed also with the parade of previous Ben Powell Trophy winners.

In short, it was a terrific occasion which kindled memories of Standard Cup finals past on Good Friday mornings at Watersheddings – and there can be no higher praise than that.

I confess to having a lump in the throat when Maureen, whose late husband Brian did so much for the sport in Oldham, handed over the cup to Fred, whom I still recall easily as a real 100 per center in the Oldham pack of yesterday.

The Gartlands and the Halls have done a great deal for rugby league in Oldham – and to recognise that on such a prestigious occasion as the Standard Cup final showed clearly that the Oldham Amateur League had its standards.

Later that evening, another 2,000 plus crowd watched the Roughyeds play Leigh at Spotland and although it was somewhat ironical that the Oldham amateurs had used Boundary Park and the Roughyeds were out of town at Spotland, it again focused the mind on the importance of going ahead with the new stadium.

Now is neither the time nor the place to mourn the passing of Oldham Bears or to rejoice in the birth of Oldham Roughyeds, but it is appropriate to consider for a moment the strength of the game in our area and to reflect on its impact on rugby league at the highest level.

Three Oldham-born and bred players will soon be playing for Leeds at Wembley - Iestyn Harris, Barrie McDermott and Kevin Sinfield.

All three were products of the local amateur game and there are many more scattered around clubs in Super League and the Northern Ford Premiership.

Indeed, do you think Leigh would have beaten the Roughyeds on Easter Monday without Tim Street? And how would you have rated Bramley's chances of inflicting another defeat without Mike Ford?

I could go on. But there are many others, outside the dressing room, who are making an impact on the game in various capacities.

Ian Smith, once a player with Salem Hornets, is a young referee from Oldham who is destined for the top.

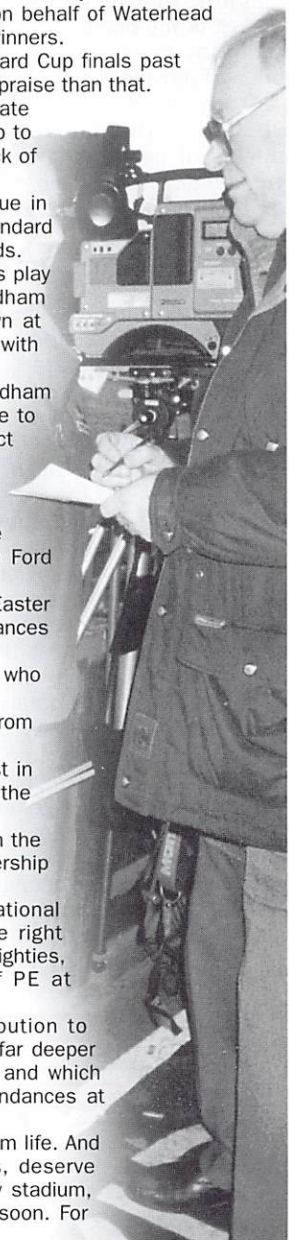
Peter Deakin – no introductions needed – first developed his interest in the game at his beloved St Anne's club before becoming THE big name in the world of rugby league marketing.

Roughyeds' chairman Christopher Hamilton, in less than two years in the sport, has risen to become deputy chairman of the Association of Premiership Clubs.

Phil Larder, a former Great Britain coach, former head of the National Coaching Scheme and the man who pointed the British game in the right direction after the international disasters of the eighties, was Oldham born and a former head of PE at Saddleworth School.

Oldham can be proud of its contribution to Rugby League – a contribution that goes far deeper than the pro club that carries its name and which cannot be measured merely by the attendances at Roughyeds matches.

League is a vibrant element of Oldham life. And those who contribute to it, at all levels, deserve better than to live in a town with no rugby stadium, shared or otherwise. That may be rectified soon. For the town's sake lets hope so.



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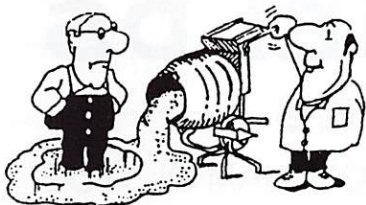
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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to York who last season in Division Two did well, even if they did have help from Castleford and chose to disregard the salary cap rules.

Anyway, this is another season and we will be watching two very different sides with changes in player personnel to both.

On the subject of the previous game, I find myself in the same frame of mind – “disappointed”. I won't say that we deserved to win at Bramley, but when we play so well at times, usually against some of the more fancied teams in the division, you have to believe you can go and beat the less fancied, but it's not happening. We need to start winning soon, and then regularly.

Last weekend saw us with no game, which is crazy, then we get two in four days. We are also one of the few teams that have a fixture on Monday after Wembley weekend.

Now, is it me, or are the referees just not my cup of tea? Some decisions that are being made, not only those against but the ones in our favour, leave me scratching my head in disbelief. I know decisions are made in split seconds and are given as the man sees it. But perhaps, if before the decision is given he takes time to consult his linesmen then we might get a little more consistency. (Linesmen, now there's another can of worms.)

On the player front Ian Sinfield is back in the fold hoping to show what he learnt in France. The Club will also have spoken to several U21 players about their futures with the Club.

Anyway, I hope it's a good game and one where all you Roughyeds get to go home with a smile on your face.



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FROM

The Editor

HAVING voted to add four extra fixtures to their season Super League clubs are now waking up to the folly of their decision. Already, long before the advent of the midweek games, clubs are bleating about a glut of fixtures, under-strength teams and injuries; and all because of a heavy Easter programme, compounded in the case of the semi-finalists by the demands of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

And what is the response to this situation? In an otherwise sensible and closely argued article in League Express, Martyn Sadler, a keen advocate of SUMMER rugby, concludes that Super League, like the Northern Ford Premiership, should have begun on the 7th February. Come again! As I sit writing this on the 15th April there has been twelve inches of snow overnight on the Pennines, with some roads impassable and motorists having to be rescued from their stranded vehicles. And for those with short memories on Easter Monday, April 13th 1998 I encountered blizzard conditions returning from Workington versus Oldham. How much more likely, therefore, is it that impossible weather conditions will prevail in February and March? Isn't this what summer rugby was meant to avoid? Haven't Oldham for one already encountered problems with postponed fixtures? And haven't the R.F.L. made a laughing stock of themselves in trying to re-arrange games by scheduling Oldham and Rochdale to play matches on the same night on the same ground at the same time?

I'm sorry, but as one who prefers winter rugby but accepts that change may have been necessary, I'm not going to rest until summer rugby MEANS summer rugby, or at least spring, summer and autumn rugby, because unless this is what it means I don't see the point in the changes in the first place. So what's the answer? Not too difficult, actually. Begin the season on Good Friday and follow up with fixtures on Easter Monday. Make this the only double weekend of the year because it is, uniquely, the only weekend of the year with two Bank Holidays together. It's now the start of the season so first team squads of 25 players should be able to cope with any bumps and bruises incurred in the opening round matches. Since we know that holiday fixtures produce bumper crowds (why else are clubs

arranging challenge matches on Boxing Day and New Years Day?) it's obvious this opportunity should be seized. If no other fixtures are arranged until the following Sunday no club should be disadvantaged. With fixtures then played on a once a week basis a thirty match programme would run until October 17th in 1999. And in some years the season would finish earlier because Easter is a movable feast. Play-offs and Grand Final to follow. Now tell me why that isn't logical! O.k. it doesn't fit with the Australian season and complicates the international programme but, unless you fall in completely with Australia and pray the weather doesn't upset your schedule, you can't solve the problem. And remember the Australians are reducing their fixtures next year while we have headed in the opposite direction! So back to you S.L.E. and R.F.L.: you broke it, now fix it!

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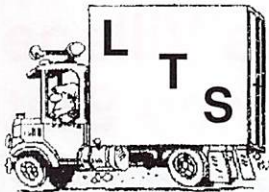
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

A warm Oldham welcome to York Wasps, to their players, supporters and Junior Members.



Laurence Rafferty

The Mascot for today's match is **Laurence Rafferty**. Laurence is 6 years old and his favourite player is Jason Clegg. He is really looking forward to being the mascot. Enjoy your day son.

Three lucky Junior Roughyeds who have been the Mascot, had this to say about their day.

My Day as a Mascot

I had been looking forward to this day for a long time and when the day arrived I was very excited. I really enjoyed running out with the team and passing the ball on the pitch with Leo Casey.

Jonathan Fullalove Age 8

My Day as a Mascot

My name is Emma Cameron. I was mascot for the Widnes game at Spotland. I came out of the tunnel with Leo Casey the captain and passed the ball with him and then went in to the centre of the pitch I shook hands with the referee and the captain of Widnes then we tossed the coin which I got to keep. I went off and watched the game then at half time I got called to the tunnel to have my photo taken with the ball and went back to where I was standing with my family. It was a lovely day.

Emma Cameron

My Day as a Mascot

My day started by having to fly back to Liverpool after visiting the Isle of Man. Me and my mum drove back to Oldham had lunch and set off for Doncaster. Me and my brother, Matthew, passed the time by playing "Paper,

scissors, stone". When we got there we had to wait for the turnstiles to open. When we got inside Mr Hamilton showed me where to get changed. Later on, I ran on with Leo Casey and passed the ball around a bit. Oldham didn't have a good start, but we came back and won!



Debra Rafferty

Nicholas Watterson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff and Majorie Cooke of **SADDLEWORTH SPORTS** for sponsoring the Junior Roughyed mascots with hooped rugby socks for the season. Many thanks.

On Thursday 15th April the Junior Roughyeds went to watch the Manchester Giants play the Birmingham Bullets in a play-off game at the M.E.N. arena in Manchester. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening which started with tea at...Kentucky Fried Chicken. Thanks once again to the club for their support and to Chris Hamilton. Thanks also to Stuart Gough from **CELEBRATE CATERERS** for providing drinks and refreshments for the children.

The next Junior Roughyeds meeting will be on the 10th May at the Pennine Lounge, Mumps Bridge, Oldham. See you there.

Debra Rafferty

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A BRIAN WALKER INTERVIEW WITH ...

JOHN NOON



Noon tackled by Vollenhoven, Lancashire Cup Final v St. Helens 1958 at Station Road, Won 12-2

JOHN NOON was born in Oldham in 1935, attended St. Patrick's Junior School before moving to De La Salle where he played for the school union side. His "stomping ground" was the Star Inn end of Rochdale Road. Tough area, tough times. Noon, leaving school at 16 soon made his mark in League with both the Lowermoor and St. Patrick's Junior sides.

"Noony" signed for Oldham in 1953 making his debut, aged 18, in a match against Leigh staged at Blackpool. The game had been arranged to promote the professional code in the seaside town and help provide the cradle for the soon to be born Blackpool Borough Club. **It was the cradle, too, for the talented young threequarter who was to be a regular member of that 50's team of all talents.**

Johnny Noon, prolific goal and try scorer was to play 256 first team matches over the next 10 season, tour France with the British Under 21's, gain full County Honours and be selected for the 1961 GB squad. All before joining Rochdale Hornets to become at 29 the youngest player-coach in the history of the pro game.

There were very few Oldham born players who commanded regular first team spots in

that famous 50's side. In the halcyon days perhaps only Noon and Ken Jackson. Earlier in that decade there had been the likes of Harry Ogden, Roland Barrow, Billy Mitchell and Terry O'Grady.

On the sidelines, appearing here and there, now and then, were local lads some with exceptional talent, Dennis Ayres, Harold Lomas, Alan Jones, Alf Murrey, Ian Curruthers, Lewis Laverty, Des McKeown all come readily to mind.

I am sure I wouldn't even have to ask the question for John to fondly reminisce about the Davies and Turners, Ganleys and Daleys, Lancashire Cup and Championship Finals but I was more interested in those Oldham born fringe players, about whom, for years people have often said *'It was practically impossible for local talent to break into that side!'*, *'The committee was never interested in local lads!'*, *'You had to be from Leigh to have any chance!'*, *'They were more interested in breaking transfer records than nurturing local talent!'*

Was it true?

John dispels out of hand 'as myth' all those anecdotes, proclaiming that the management of the 50's were an enthusiastic and reasonably professional lot and to a man



1962, Wintry Watersheddings, Noon puts out the ball v Liverpool.

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were determined that the club would return to those heights enjoyed by the Oldham side of the 1920's, (a team that had reached 4 consecutive Challenge Cup finals!)

John's philosophy is that the team of the early to mid 50's containing several Oldham born players proved to be the springboard for the success enjoyed by the club later that decade. The Roughyeds were determined to bring in the best regardless of being from Oldham or Timbuktu! *Places were won on merit.* He makes the point that anyway the first team were all members of a squad of some 20 players and that the likes of Dennis Ayres, Des McKeown and Harold Lomas were often members of the squad. He makes the point too that those who were classed simply as reserves and consequently regular 'A' teamers were good enough to get into many first teams using Reg Bailey as a classic example. Reg, a second row forward only managed a couple of

first team games at Watersheddings but moved on to Rochdale where he was a regular and highly regarded first teamer.

John Noon remembers his time at Oldham with more than just affection, proudly proclaiming that his 126 tries for the club is a feat that was only ever surpassed by 3 players, Sid Rix, Alan Davies and Mike Elliot. His time at Rochdale as player-coach was rewarding, too, assembling a squad to include the talents of Malcolm Price, Stan Owen, Kevin Ashcroft, Ken Parr, Apesai Toga, Peter Birchhall, Jimmy Gaskell and, as though to make the point, Oldhamers Mick Crocker, Ken Payne and Mick Goddard. Successful in reaching the 1965 Lancashire Cup Final, it was one of the most successful periods in Hornets history.

John Noon still turns out to watch both pro and amateur rugby, lives locally and will be our guest at today's game.



Will he make it? Treatment Room, Watersheddings 1958

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TODAY'S VISITORS

York Wasps

SHAUN AUSTERFIELD

Signed in 1998 from Dewsbury. The former Bradford Bulls centre has made a huge impact since establishing himself last season. Also played for Villeneuve in France.

CRAIG BOOTH

Powerful front row forward signed from Hunslet Hawks last season who boasts an excellent kicking game. Previous experience with Oldham.

JAMIE BENN

Recent acquisition from Castleford Tigers having played for York on loan last season. Fast, skilful winger or full back who will take responsibility for goal kicking this season.

MARK CAIN

Product of local Amateur Football who has played in a variety of positions in the past few seasons. Now firmly established at stand-off, big things are expected of him this season.

DARREN CALLAGHAN

Former BARLA International signed recently from local club York Acorn despite stiff opposition from several other First Division Clubs. Having quickly established himself in the squad, he is another player with a bright future.

MICK CRANE

Scrum half signed from Hull Kingston Rovers after two loan spells with the club. Very experienced player who always gives 100%.

PAUL DARLEY

First class second row forward signed from Hull Sharks in 1998 having previously been at York on loan. Fearless in the tackle with great handling skills. He was a cornerstone of York's Promotion Winning Team.

LEIGH DEAKIN

Enjoying his second spell with the club after re-signing from Hull Sharks. Previously played for Leeds after graduating from Junior Rugby in York. Last season's Top Try Scorer, he was named in the FASDA Team of the Season.

PETER EDWARDS

Former New Zealand International Full Back signed only recently from Salford Reds where he spent 3 years as first choice hooker.

RICHARD GODDARD

Former England International Centre in his first season with the club. Fast, hard running back who has made an immediate impact. Formerly at Castleford, he has also played at Wakefield, Hunslet Hawks and Manly.

MICK HAGAN

Local front row forward who has progressed through the Academy ranks. Unable to play at all last season because of injury. Mick has now fully recovered and is once again on the fringe of the first team.

STEVE HILL

Front row forward signed this year from Castleford Tigers having spent last season on loan. Strong, powerful player

who leads from the front.

CHRIS HOPCUTT

Long serving utility back who joined the club from local Amateur Football. A solid, reliable player who has proved to be an excellent club man.

CHRIS JUDGE

In his second spell at the club having been released from Wakefield Trinity. Skilful, ball handling second-row forward, who can also play centre or loose forward. Chris has had spells in both France and Australia.

MATT LAMBERT

Vastly experienced Australian second-row forward, signed last season from Featherstone Rovers. Now off the overseas quota, he is expected to be a great asset to the club this season.

ALAN PALLISTER

Another long serving product of local Junior rugby, "Pally" is York's Mister Consistent. Now entering his ninth season with the club. A string of sterling performances at hooker have gained him the respect of colleagues and supporters alike.

ANDY PRECIOUS

Utility forward signed from Hunslet, although he is another product of York Amateur Rugby. Tough tackling and speedy, he has played both front and second row as well as loose forward.

ANDY PRESTON

Yet another local amateur who turned professional with York in 1997. The former Great Britain Student can play in a variety of positions but has recently been starring at scrum half.

MICK RAMSDEN

Now in his second spell with the club, having returned from Wakefield Trinity last year. The hard hitting second-row forward is yet another product of York's Amateur Rugby scene.

FATA SINI

A Western Samoan Rugby Union International signed last year from Salford Reds. Powerful running winger or centre who made a tremendous impact in his first season with the club.

JOHN STRANGE

York's captain was signed from Featherstone Rovers last season. Equally at home at Full Back or Scrum Half, John was one of the stars of York's Promotion Campaign last season. Previously played for St. George and Balmain in Sydney.

LEA TICHENER

Strong front row forward who signed professional for York in 1993. Yet another product of York Amateur side York Acorn, Lea has improved tremendously over the past two years.

LEROY MCKENZIE

Speedy, try scoring winger recently playing Rugby Union with Wakefield R.U. Previously with Hull Sharks.

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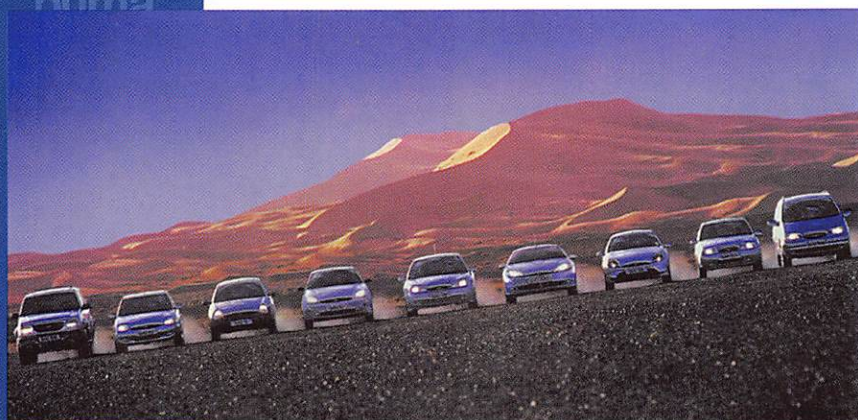
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Down Memory Lane



DON LOOKS BACK TO A YORK MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



LATE next month the draw will be made for the Millennium World Cup competition which is to be staged during the autumn of next year. One hopes that dates between September 14th and October 2nd will be avoided so matches will not clash with the Sydney Olympics, but certainly a rugby league bonanza is expected to give the British game a tremendous boost in the new millennium.

The 2000 Championships will be a true World competition and will compare favourably with the first World Cup in 1954. The four traditional nations have each committed themselves to global expansion with Britain, helpfully assisted by the York club, giving valuable assistance to the development of the game in Russia.

It was in May 1991 that York made the long trek over to Russia for promotional matches which were staged in Alma Ata, Leningrad and then Moscow. Accompanying York were Fulham who first provided the opposition before the two English sides combined to take on the Russian national side.

The first match of the tour ended in a 20-20 draw between the tourists, a match which thrilled a sizable crowd at Alma Ata. The two teams then moved on to Leningrad where the entertainment consisted of three 40 minute 'halves'. In the first half Fulham beat the All Stars of Asia 6-4, the second half saw York beat the All Stars 22-4 and then Fulham beat York 18-12 in the third half.

Once those preliminary skirmishes were over, the action moved on to the Dynamo Stadium, Moscow where a crowd of 3,200 saw Russia take on a combined side drawn from Fulham and York. The line up for that historic match was as follows:

Russia: Belaev; Mikhail Piskunov, Alexander Dyatlov, Igor Nichaev, Andre Olar; Mikhail Parshow, Valerity Kartsev; Zamba, Ossachie, Anatoliy Strakh, Lysov, V. Senin & Peter Sokolov. Substitutes, Sycophsky, Sharcoff, Andrey Taran & Glotico.

Combined XIII: Graham Sullivan (York); David Kettlestring (York), Mick Taylor (Fulham), Daryll Pitt (Fulham), Adrian Smith (York); Russell Browning (Fulham), Steve Dobson (York); Richie Hayes (York), Stewart Horton (York), Dave Rotherham (Fulham), Mark Lee (Fulham), Geoff Pryce (York) & Greg Pearce (Fulham). Substitutes, Nick Pinkney (York), Paul Maxwell (York), Tim Dwyer (Fulham), Glen Workman (Fulham) & Nick Render (York).

The visitors began well and put Russia under pressure straight from the kick-off. That pressure soon paid off when Graham Sullivan and David Kettlestring scored tries to put the Combined side 8-0 in front. The Russians had been favourites to win going into the game but they were surprised by the strength of the opposition and they struggled throughout the encounter. Before half time the visitors had scored two further tries by Steve Dobson and Stewart Horton so with a lead of 24-4 the contest was virtually over. Russia's first half try was scored by Mikhail Piskunov who spent some time with Oldham immediately after the 1995 World Cup. The Combined side were not so dominant in the second half when Russia tightened up their defence. Nevertheless the visitors scored another three tries by Nick Pinkney, Greg Pearce and Tim Dwyer. Graham Sullivan (3) and Greg Pearce (4) added goals, whilst for Russia Igor Nichaev scored a try which was converted by Mikhail Parshow.

So Russia were beaten 42-10 by the Combined Fulham-York XIII. The result, however, was of secondary importance. What was important was that the Russian players had been given valuable experience against overseas opposition, that the Russian public were given the opportunity to watch professional rugby and that further progress had been made to establish the game in eastern Europe.

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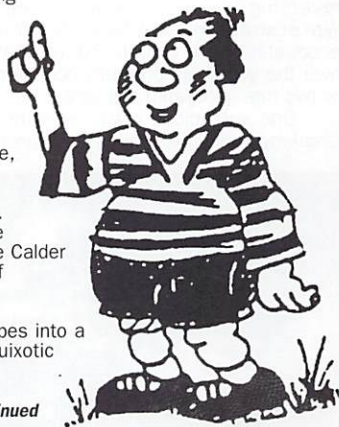
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IVA'S A TO Z OF RUGBY LEAGUE CONTINUED.....

- J** is for: **J**ock Straps. Rugby League's greatest supporters. Or, **J**eremiahs who lament every change to the greatest game, something Iva would never do of course.
- K** is for: **K**haki, the one colour not yet used by clubs and shirt manufacturers to dress our heroes in. Just imagine: instead of MYRTLE, FLAME and WHITE we could have KHAKI, PUCE and MUSTARD. New club: new colours. Come on you Cardiff Hot Dogs.
- L** is for: **L**ions - as always led by donkeys. Funny isn't it how down the ages the lions (players and spectators) have always been governed by donkeys (administrators) with the notable exception of the late, great Tom Mitchell (1958 and all that)?
- M** is for: **M**aurice, the **M**aster **M**agician of the **M**urdoch **M**illions. Now where would we be without the **M**ighty **M**oguls **M**orsels of **M**onopoly **M**oney? Don't answer that!
- N** is for: **N**icknames, the **n**ightmare of the **n**ineties **n**itwit. The marketing man's dream is the supporters's **n**aughty **n**omenclature, from Normanton Nobheads to Todmorden Tossers, from Bingley Bogtrotters to Pudsey Plonkers. Go on invent your own: then imagine what the mascot would look like! By the way whatever happened to the Barracudas? Ahead of their time in Huddersfield yet again!
- O** is for: **O**ldham, to whom we pay **o**beisance. The very **o**xxygen of life, **O**ldham's **O**dysey is **o**ur **o**bsession.
- P** is for: **P**eople **P**ower, best demonstrated in the anti-merger movement. With Castleford and Wakefield already in Super League it would be ironic in the extreme if Featherstone made it too, so placing the entire Calder trio in the top flight on their own merits. Ah! well, the best laid plans of mice and Maurice....
- Q** is for: **Q**uinn, the **q**uintessential **Q**uasimodo who **q**ashed Oldham hopes into a **q**uagmire. The **q**uest for **q**uality quite **q**uickly **q**uivered under the **q**uixotic **q**uintet guiding Oldham before '97. Arise, ye Roughyeds....



... to be continued

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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

THIS programme sees a departure from the usual format for the "First Time - Last Time" column. This is because a similar account of our first fixture against York was featured in the last programme in the 1998 season when the "Wasps" were our visitors. I am sure that no one will need reminding that the "Minster Men" did the double over the Roughyeds last season with a 27 - 6 victory at the Ryedale Stadium, which was followed up by the 38 - 8 success at Boundary Park in the above mentioned closing game of the 1998 campaign.

The first meetings between the teams were in the 1923-4 season when York were successful at home by seven points to five, with Oldham reversing the result with a three nil victory at Watersheddings. These two closely fought encounters were an indicator of what was to follow over the years, as on many occasions only a point or two has separated the sides.

One such close match was the second round Challenge cup tie played at Watersheddings on

Sunday February 29th 1976. Perhaps some of the older supporters of both clubs will remember.....The result was a six point to five victory for Oldham. However, their passage into the quarter final came only after a titanic struggle. Veteran Neil Fox, the ex-Wakefield points machine who was playing loose forward, opened the scoring for York with a penalty from the touchline in the fourth minute. This was cancelled out by a similar effort from Phil Larder who went on to give Oldham a 4 - 2 half time lead with a second successful penalty shot at goal.

The match was dominated by the forwards with each set of six effectively cancelling out the other. Larder increased the lead to 6 - 2 with another penalty before York scored the only try of the match on 67 minutes when Fox and Marston combined to send in winger Dave Barends. Good covering by home hooker Kevin Taylor forced the York man to touch down wide out and the conversion was missed. However, it looked like York would secure the match when Oldham scrum half Mick McCone was penalised for "feeding at the scrum" (it did happen in those days) only 20 yards from the Oldham line and almost in front of the posts with just six minutes to go. The usually reliable Fox seemed certain to score but he badly sliced the kick and the Roughyeds held out for victory.

Two conclusions can be drawn from this result. 1. Even the all time greats do slip up occasionally. 2. Oldham have, just now and again, enjoyed some good fortune in the Challenge Cup.

Oldham Team: M. Murphy; M. Elliott, P. Larder, S. Bottom, E. Barton; D. Treasure, M. McCone; T. Ramshaw, K. Taylor, B. Kear, F. Hall, K. Flanagan, T. Peters. Subs. J. Blair, B. Hughes.
Goals: Larder, 3.
Attendance: 6,290



Oldham forward Kevin Flanagan attempts to escape the attentions of York forward Billy Harris. Action from the Oldham v York Challenge Cup tie on February 29th 1976.

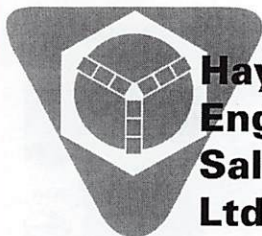
IT IS HOPED TO CONTINUE THIS FEATURE IN THE PROGRAMME SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 'ROUGHYEDS OF YESTERYEAR'.
IF ANYONE HAS ANY PHOTOS THAT THEY THINK WOULD BE OF INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT
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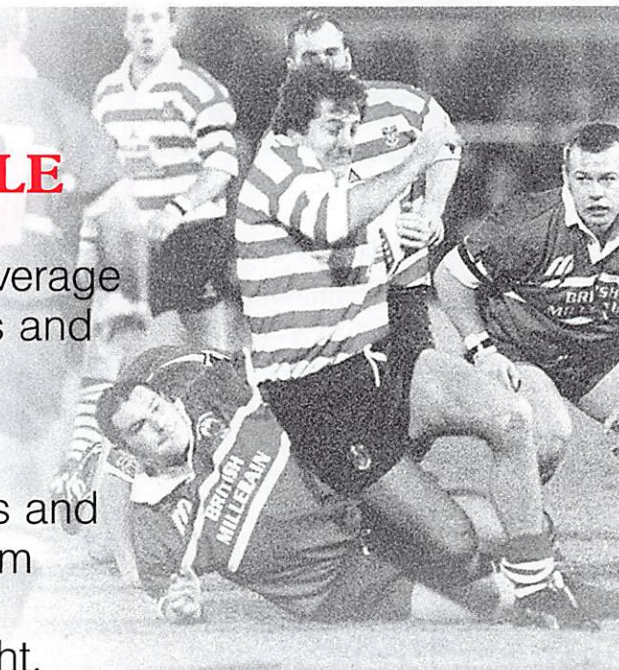
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On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



NEXT weekend fans will be making their annual pilgrimage to Wembley, the last final to be staged at the old Empire Stadium. Although the Roughyeds have never appeared at that World famous venue, they have appeared in seven Challenge Cup Finals including one which was staged on this day in 1925, Saturday 25th April. Their opponents that day were Hull Kingston Rovers who were beaten 16-3 at Headingley. The Roughyeds scored four tries that afternoon from second-rower Albert Brough, winger Joe Corsi, centre Evan Davies and the other winger Reg Farrar who added a conversion and a penalty.

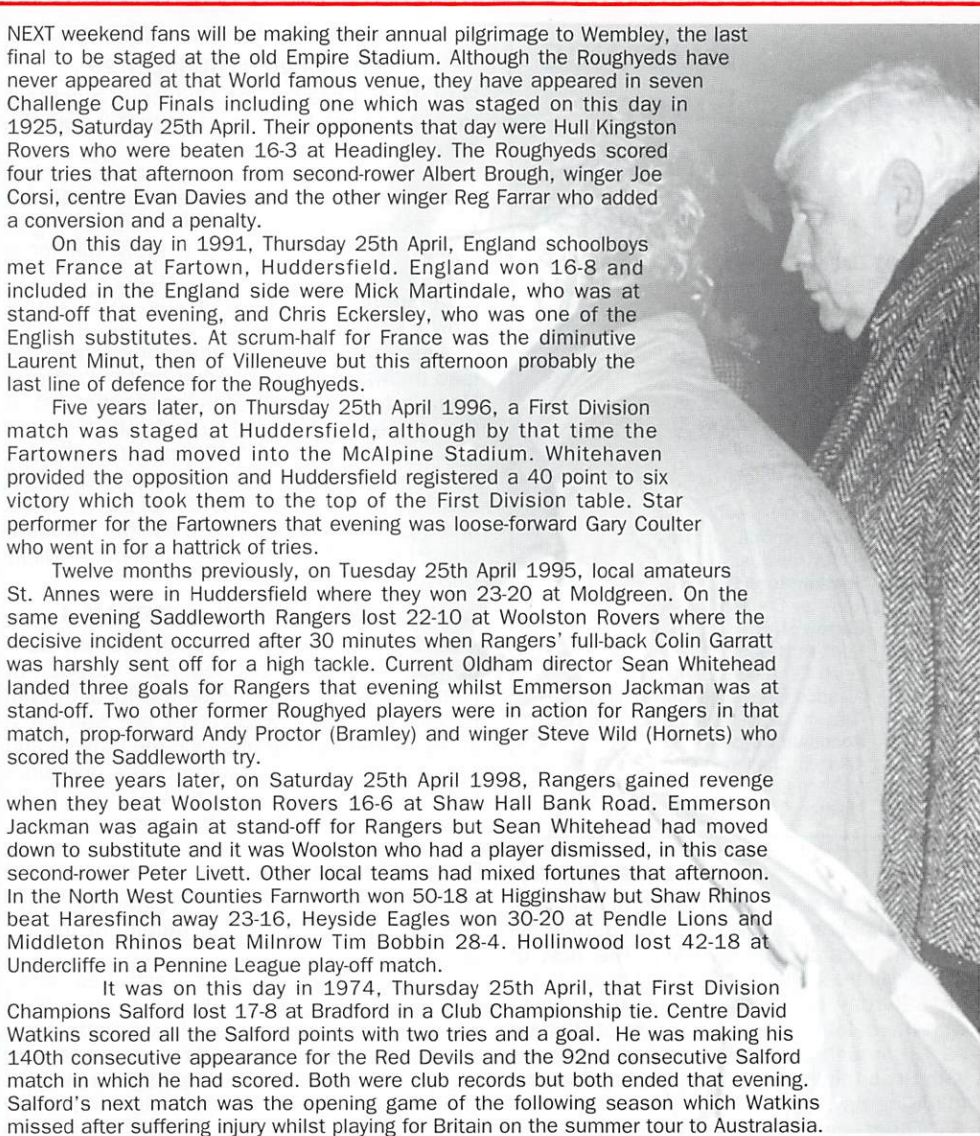
On this day in 1991, Thursday 25th April, England schoolboys met France at Fartown, Huddersfield. England won 16-8 and included in the England side were Mick Martindale, who was at stand-off that evening, and Chris Eckersley, who was one of the English substitutes. At scrum-half for France was the diminutive Laurent Minut, then of Villeneuve but this afternoon probably the last line of defence for the Roughyeds.

Five years later, on Thursday 25th April 1996, a First Division match was staged at Huddersfield, although by that time the Fartowners had moved into the McAlpine Stadium. Whitehaven provided the opposition and Huddersfield registered a 40 point to six victory which took them to the top of the First Division table. Star performer for the Fartowners that evening was loose-forward Gary Coulter who went in for a hattrick of tries.

Twelve months previously, on Tuesday 25th April 1995, local amateurs St. Annes were in Huddersfield where they won 23-20 at Moldgreen. On the same evening Saddleworth Rangers lost 22-10 at Woolston Rovers where the decisive incident occurred after 30 minutes when Rangers' full-back Colin Garratt was harshly sent off for a high tackle. Current Oldham director Sean Whitehead landed three goals for Rangers that evening whilst Emmerson Jackman was at stand-off. Two other former Roughyed players were in action for Rangers in that match, prop-forward Andy Proctor (Bramley) and winger Steve Wild (Hornets) who scored the Saddleworth try.

Three years later, on Saturday 25th April 1998, Rangers gained revenge when they beat Woolston Rovers 16-6 at Shaw Hall Bank Road. Emmerson Jackman was again at stand-off for Rangers but Sean Whitehead had moved down to substitute and it was Woolston who had a player dismissed, in this case second-rower Peter Livett. Other local teams had mixed fortunes that afternoon. In the North West Counties Farnworth won 50-18 at Higginshaw but Shaw Rhinos beat Haresfinch away 23-16, Heyside Eagles won 30-20 at Pendle Lions and Middleton Rhinos beat Milnrow Tim Bobbin 28-4. Hollinwood lost 42-18 at Undercliffe in a Pennine League play-off match.

It was on this day in 1974, Thursday 25th April, that First Division Champions Salford lost 17-8 at Bradford in a Club Championship tie. Centre David Watkins scored all the Salford points with two tries and a goal. He was making his 140th consecutive appearance for the Red Devils and the 92nd consecutive Salford match in which he had scored. Both were club records but both ended that evening. Salford's next match was the opening game of the following season which Watkins missed after suffering injury whilst playing for Britain on the summer tour to Australasia.



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	25	Leigh Centurions	H	26 - 14
	31	Hunslet Hawks	H	29 - 29
April	8	Featherstone R.	A	4 - 39
	14	Dewsbury Rams	H	
	24	West Cumbria	A	
May	28	Swinton Lions	A	
	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	
July	23	Featherstone R.	H	
	1	Keighley Cougars	A	
	10	Barrow B. R.	H	
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A	
	21	Leigh Centurions	A	
	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
	Aug	14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd	
Sept	18	Rochdale Hornets	H	
	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd		
	11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final		
	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final		

ALLIANCE TEAM MATCH REPORT

OLDHAM 20 : HUNSLET 29

PAUL Round against Joe Nadiole is a contest to relish at any time. The fact that it came in an Alliance fixture matters not a jot: it was worth £2 of anybody's admission money. And while Nadiole (since departed the Hawks for Doncaster Dragons) ran powerfully all night, Round tackled himself to a standstill for a little over an hour before being substituted to a generous ovation from the 200 strong crowd.

As for the match, Oldham briefly held the lead midway through the first half but, after a Nadiole try on 23 minutes, spent the rest of the game playing catch-up football before finally succumbing 20-29. Apart from Round the other Roughyeds to impress were Paul Crook (initially at scrum-half!), David Lewis and substitute Craig Barker. For the Hawks a powerful pack and clever half-back Nicky Dobson called the shots.

FEATHERSTONE 39 : OLDHAM 4

AGAIN out-gunned in the pack Oldham went down to a comprehensive defeat at Featherstone despite the best efforts of Paul Round. Oldham's youngsters are still on a steep learning curve and lack the muscle and experience to take on some of the division's best. Still, no-one ever said it was going to be easy starting from scratch.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

THE Supporters Club have several functions in the pipeline and wish to encourage all Oldham fans to get involved. The first of these will be **A Rugby Night** at Mr. Wrigley's on Saturday the 12th of June to coincide with the celebration of 150 years of Oldham as a borough prior to the big derby game with Rochdale Hornets at Boundary Park the following day.

Other events planned include: (a) a Sponsored Walk (b) A Fun Day and (c) A

Cricket Match. Watch the programme and the local press for further details of these events.

Any ideas for events, activities and functions are welcome. Please contact the Supporters Club Secretary David Patterson on 0161 - 345 - 8566 if you have any suggestions. And don't be shy! Remember, the Supporters Club is YOUR Club and it all benefits the Roughyeds. Enjoy the game and shout the lads to victory.

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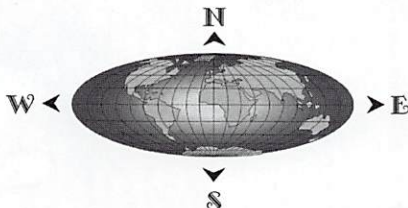
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Guest Writer.....Gareth Walker of Rugby League World and Total Rugby League.

My main role for Total Rugby League and Rugby League World involves covering the inaugural Northern Ford Premiership, and so far this year the standard of the competition has exceeded all expectations.

Virtually every single game can potentially go either way, which has made for some terrific matches and surprising results. There was a healthy influx of Super League players that filtered down from the top flight during the close season, and generally the quality of rugby being played appears to have gone up a notch or two from last year's Division One.

But if you could pick a Premiership "Dream Team" who would go in it? There are several candidates for each position, and most teams would feel that they deserve at least one player in the side. My choice would be as follows, and is basically picked on players' form this season rather than just ability and reputation.

At full back would be Hull KR's Richard Smith, who is revelling in the extra space that the number one jersey provides and has given most defences a torrid time this year with his strong, incisive running and textbook one-on-one defence. The only other real contender was Nathan Graham of Dewsbury.

The Rams have been the Premiership's most potent attackers and take up two of the three-quarter's positions, with winger Adrian Flynn and Aussie centre Brendan Williams already having racked up a highly impressive number of tries. Leigh's Dave Ingram takes the other centre spot, while Featherstone's new Australian Wayne Simonds takes the second wing position after a superb start since coming to England.

At half back Richard Agar partners Barrow's young gun Darren Holt. Agar has one of the best kicking games in the Division and his distribution is one of the main reasons his side has scored so many points. Paul Mansson and Mark Cain have also impressed but haven't attained Agar's consistency. Scrum half Holt has been outstanding in virtually every one of the Raiders' matches so

far, and would just get my vote ahead of player-coaches Mike Ford Deryck Fox.

There are plenty of potential front rowers to choose from, but who - particularly Oldham fans - could deny the irrepressible Timmy Street his place in the side after some barnstorming performances, not least the one against the Roughyeds at Spotland. Oldham's Jason Clegg just about takes the other spot from teammate Leo Casey, Rochdale's Matt Knowles, Leigh's David Whittle and Steve Hill of York.

At hooker Richard Chapman's all round kicking and distribution puts him in the team well ahead of the electric Anthony Murray. Hunslet's Richard Pachniuk would probably have been my original choice but he has missed much of the year through a troublesome groin injury.

So to the back three, and in the second row I have plumped for the dynamic Rob Wilson of Hunslet to partner Workington's skilful Barry Williams, whose ball-handling ability has been sorely missed by Town recently following an injury to the Welsh International. Leigh's Andy Fairclough takes the loose forward position and could also be put forward for "Most Improved Player" after a tremendous start to the campaign.

So that's my choice, and I'm sure that you will all have plenty of different ideas and opinions on my selections. That's what makes Rugby League such a great sport - every aspect of the game can be a talking point and everyone has their own, equally valid opinion.

Enjoy this afternoon's game.

1. Richard Smith (Hull KR)
2. Adrian Flynn (Dewsbury Rams)
3. Brendon Williams (Dewsbury Rams)
4. Dave Ingram (Leigh Centurions)
5. Wayne Simonds (Featherstone Rovers)
6. Richard Agar (Dewsbury Rams)
7. Darren Holt (Barrow Border Raiders)
8. Tim Street (Leigh Centurions)
9. Richard Chapman (Featherstone Rovers)
10. Jason Clegg (Oldham)
11. Barry Wilson (Workington Town)
12. Rob Wilson (Hunslet Hawks)
13. Andy Fairclough (Leigh Centurions)

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Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds throughout the 1999 Season

Match by Match Analysis 1999



JANUARY		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
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	ECCLLES 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
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	L18-33		Minut	Mead	Leuila	Jackman 1T	McNicholas 2T	Wood 3G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Peralta	Martindale	Farrell	Prescott	Perrett	Quinlan
APRIL																				
2	Doncaster Dragons	W27-12	878	Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas 1T	Wood 1T3G10G	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Lewis	Crook	Peralta
5	LEIGH CENTURIONS	L20-26	2163	Minut	Mead 2T	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas	Wood 4G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Quinlan	Crook	Peralta
11	Bramley	L18-24	500	Minut 3G	Mead	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas 1T	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale 1T	Barker	Varley	Round	Peralta
21	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H																		
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 Centurions	A																		
13	BRAMLEY	H	7.45																	
22	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H																		
29	York	A																		

APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1999

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts		Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts
J. Bostock	7	-	3	-	-	12	M. Martindale	8	-	1	-	-	4
D. Brown	11	-	5	3	-	26	A. Mead	11	-	6	-	-	24
L. Casey	11	-	-	-	-	-	L. Minut	11	-	-	10	-	20
J. Clegg	11	-	2	-	-	8	E. Peralta	2	7	-	-	-	-
G. Coulter	1	5	-	-	-	-	M. Perrett	4	5	-	-	-	-
P. Crook	5	2	-	-	-	-	M. Prescott	3	8	1	-	-	4
M Farrell	3	1	2	-	-	8	B. Quinlan	3	5	-	4	-	8
J. Hough	11	-	1	-	-	4	P. Round	-	2	-	-	-	-
E. Jackman	9	1	1	-	-	4	G. Shaw	10	1	-	-	-	-
A. Leuila	8	-	-	-	-	-	N. Varley	-	3	-	-	-	-
J McNicholas	11	-	4	-	-	16	D. Wood	3	-	1	10	-	25

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



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Bob Irving (1948-1999)
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Manchester Airport

Associate Match

Lansdowne Roofing

Supplies Ltd

Man of the Match

chosen by Roger Halstead

OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|--|
| 1 | Laurent MINUT | | | |
| 2 | Adrian MEAD | | | |
| 3 | Emmerson JACKMAN | | | |
| 4 | Mick FARRELL | | | |
| 5 | Joe McNICHOLAS | | | |
| 6 | Danny WOOD | | | |
| 7 | Daniel BROWN | | | |
| 8 | Leo CASEY | | | |
| 9 | John HOUGH | | | |
| 10 | Jason CLEGG | | | |
| 11 | Graeme SHAW | | | |
| 12 | Mike PRESCOTT | | | |
| 13 | Mick MARTINDALE | | | |
| 14 | Paul CROOK | 16 | Paul ROUND | |
| 15 | Nathan VARLEY | 17 | Emmanuel PERALTA | |

Today's Officials

Today's Referee

Mr Ron Laughton



Touch Judges

Mr R. Stevenson

Mr L. S. Meweur

YORK WASPS

Coach:

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Jamie BENN | | | |
| 2 | Leroy McKENZIE | | | |
| 3 | John STRANGE | | | |
| 4 | Richard GOODARD | | | |
| 5 | Leigh DEAKIN | | | |
| 6 | Mark CAIN | | | |
| 7 | Darren CALLAGHAN | | | |
| 8 | Mick HAGEN | | | |
| 9 | Alan PALLISTER | | | |
| 10 | Andy PRECIOUS | | | |
| 11 | Paul DARLEY | | | |
| 12 | Mick RAMSDEN | | | |
| 13 | Peter EDWARDS | | | |
| 14 | Andy PRETON | 16 | Shaun AUSTERFIELD | |
| 15 | Chris JUDGE | 17 | Matt LAMBERT | |

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