

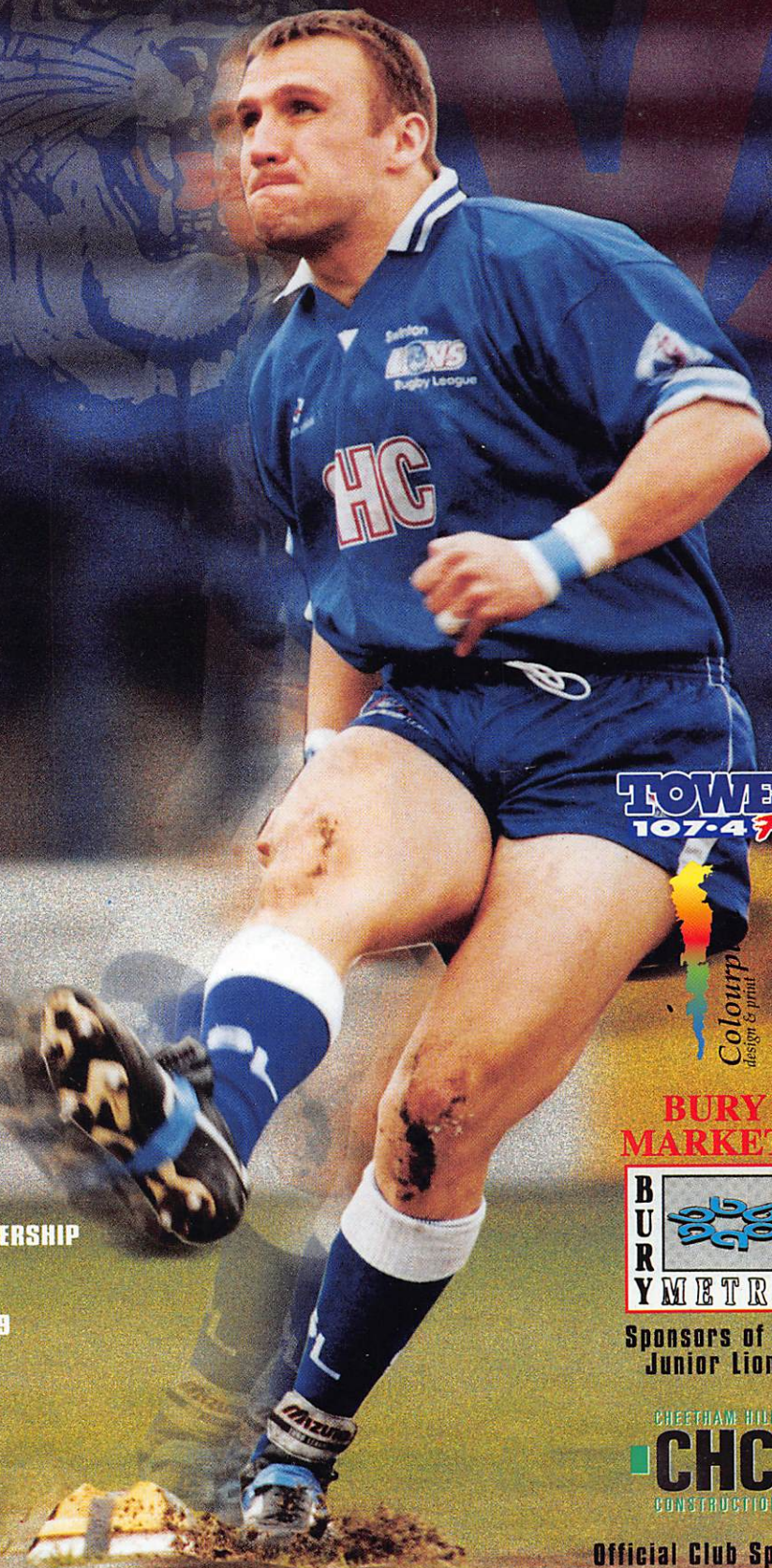
LIONS

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V OLDHAM
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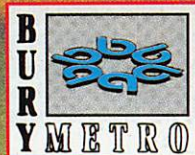
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Programme Editor: Peter Young

The club gratefully acknowledge
contributions from Mike Caine, Ian Rigg,

John Spellman, Steve Wild,

Vinny Kirkman, Michael Turner,

Martin Kelner, John Edwards.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Championship Winners: 1926/27, 1927/28,
1930/31, 1934/35

Runners up: 1924/25, 1932/33

War League beaten finalists: 139/40

Division One Champions: 1962/63, 1963/64

Division Two Champions: 1984/85

Division Two Runners-Up: 1996/97

Challenge Cup Winners: 1899/1900, 1925/26,
1927/28

Runners-Up: 1926/27, 1931/32

Lancashire League Winners: 1924/25, 1927/28,
1928/29, 1930/31, 1960/61

Lancashire War League Winners: 1939/40

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1925/26, 1927/28,
1939/40, 1969/70

Runners-Up: 1910/11, 1923/24, 1931/32, 1960/61,
1961/62, 1962/63, 1964/65, 1972/73

B.B.C. Floodlight Trophy Runners-Up: 1966/67

Western Division Championship Beaten Finalists:
1963/64

Division Two Premiership Winners: 1986/87

CLUB RECORDS

Record Attendance: 44,621 Wigan v Warrington
7/4/51

Record Score For: 90-0 v Prescott Panthers 11.8.96

Record Score Against: 0 - 78 v Wigan 29/9/92

Tries in game: 6 Mark Riley v Prescott Panthers
11.8.96

5 W. Wallwork v Widnes 15/12/1900, 5 J. Evans v
Bradford Northern 30/9/1922, 5 H. Halsall

v St. Helens 24/1/1925, 5 R. Cracknell v Whitehaven

Rec. 11/2/1928, 5 R. Lewis v Keighley 12/1/1946,

5 J. Stopford v Bramley 22/12/1962, 5 A. Buckley
v Salford 8/4/1964, 5 J. Ropati v Nottingham

21/1/1990

World Record Kick: Martin Hodgson 77½ yards
(for Swinton) April 13th 1940, at Rochdale.

Goals in a game: 12 K. Gowers v Liverpool City
3/10/1957

Points in a game: 30 Greg Pearce v Prescott Panthers
11.8.96

Tries in a season: 42 J. Stopford 1964/65

Goals in a season: 128 A. Blan 1960/61

Points in a season: 283 A. Blan 1960/61

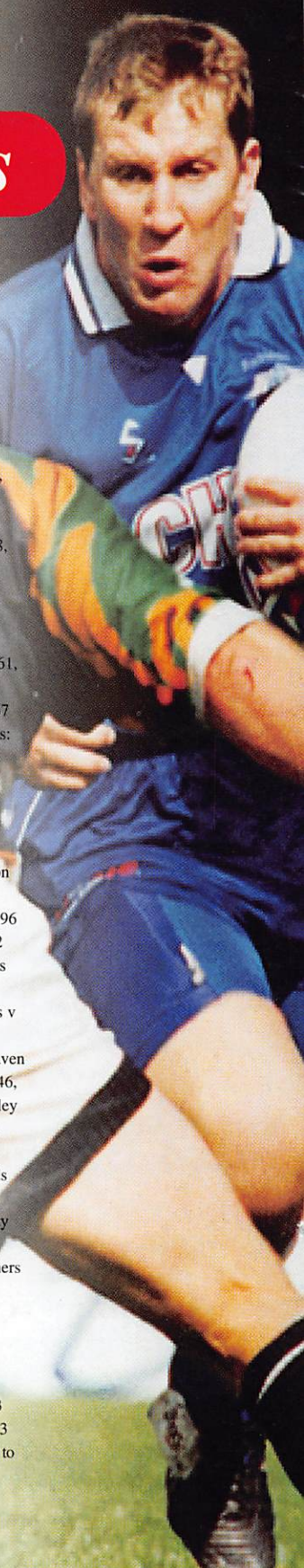
Tries in a career: 197 F. Evans 1921 to 1931

Goals in a career: 970 K. Gowers 1954 to 1973

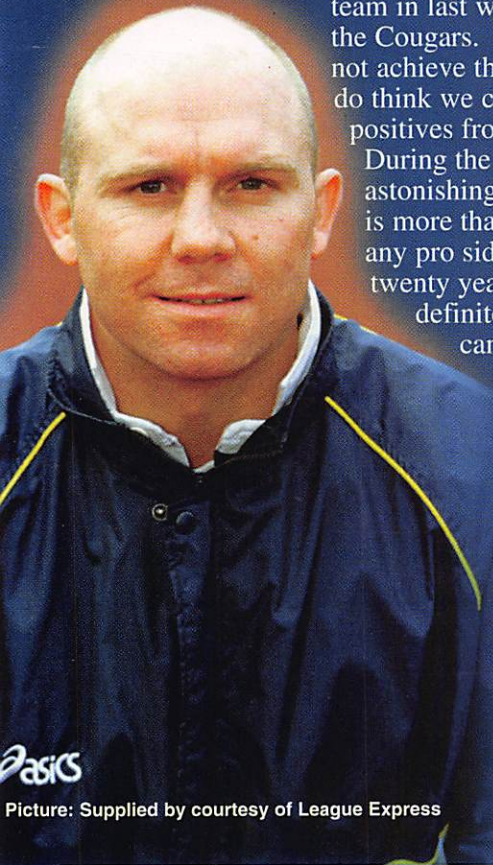
Points in a career: 2015 K. Gowers 1954 to 1973

Appearances in a career: 594 - 8 sub. K. Gowers 1954 to
1973

Consecutive Club appearances: 150 R. Fleay.
August 1972



GREG'S *Greeting*



asics

Picture: Supplied by courtesy of League Express

First off a big thank you to our supporters who got behind the team in last weeks game against the Cougars. Although we did not achieve the required result I do think we can take some positives from our performance.

During the game we made an astonishing 327 tackles. That is more than I can remember any pro side making in my twenty years experience. It

definitely shows that we can defend but we let ourselves down by spilling the ball on so many occasions. It was a massive effort on our part to keep Keighley to a low score when they enjoyed so much possession. Offensively we need to improve and it will have meant hard work in training this

week concentrating on ball control, patterns of play and set pieces.

Today we welcome Oldham who are similar to us in that they too have not had the best of starts to this season.

Having set ourselves a target of four wins out of four short term and slipping up against Keighley it is vital we take two points from todays game.

We must have confidence in the way we play and hopefully we will improve in every game. I would like to welcome Phil Chadwick who will act as my assistant for the next month or so. Phil joins us from London Welsh where he is power conditioner. I feel it is a real coup for our club to get Phil on board even for the short term, I have worked with him over the last eight years and he is one of the best in the business.

Enjoy the Game
Mike Gregory

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TODAYS MATCH

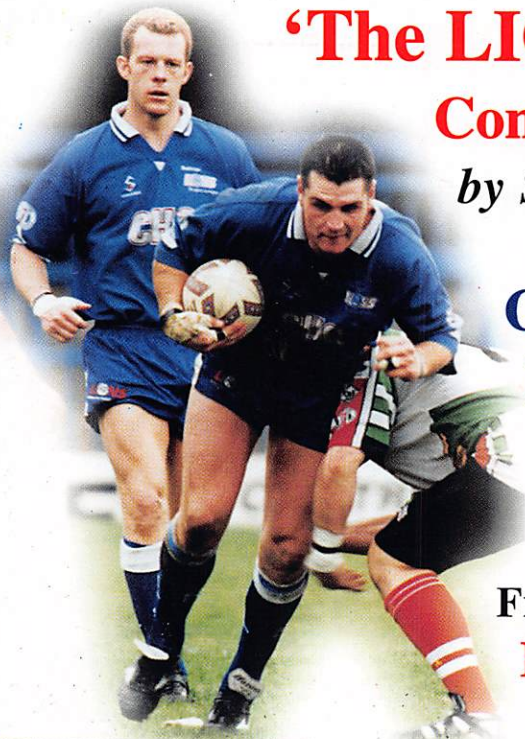
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THE THOUGHTS OF *Chairman Mal*

WITH MALCOLM WHITE

Welcome to chairman Chris Hamilton, the board, players & fans of Oldham.

Tony Barrow always says that when he was at Oldham, the supporters were tremendous and I'm sure they will be behind their team today.

As you will all have read in the press, today we have children with us from Pendlebury Childrens Hospital, most of whom have long term illnesses. I hope the day is successful and happy for them, not just financially, but spiritually. Please make them feel especially welcome. John Prince & Tony Barrow have worked hard to put the day together, and maybe today will make us all reflect on just what the important things in life are.

I thought we deserved a point against Keighley last week, & for sure we are playing better football



**"I thought
we
deserved a
point
against
Keighley
last week"**

than earlier in the season, & the team defence is much improved. I actually enjoyed watching us last week and thought the effort from the lads was tremendous. We will only get better, and although it is early days I am impressed with Mike Gregory's professionalism. Welcome to Phil Chadwick who will be assisting Mike Gregory for the next month. Phil is mainly concerned with strength and speed, and I am sure will have a significant input into the club. It's good to have someone with longer hair than me at the club - the only thing is that I met him for the first time last week and kept expecting him to say "Rock on Tommy". Think about it when you see him. Again thanks to John Prince for today, and I hope everyone from the Children's Hospital enjoys the Lions Den.



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WITH PETER YOUNG

Our Match Sponsors today are J. Properties (Oldham) Ltd and we welcome John Humphreys and all his guests and hope they have a very enjoyable afternoon at Gigg Lane.

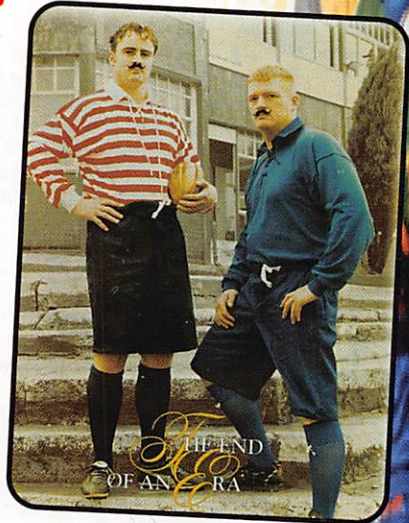
our next home game will be versus Doncaster Dragons on Sunday June 27th.

Why not join us for Lunch 'n' Crunch? Cost just £20 per person. Tel. 0161 761 2328.

Starkies Restaurant will be full of Roughyeds for today's game and it's a warm welcome to each and every one of them. It will be great to see lots of my old colleagues and friends from my time at Oldham Rugby.

Due to pitch renovation work we have had to rearrange the game against Batley Bulldogs and this match will now take place on Wednesday 7th July k.o. 7.30pm. This means that

Cover from Oldham v Swinton 1996 the last match at Watersheddings. Howard Hill, in Oldham kit, will play today for Swinton and Leo Casey in Swinton kit, will captain todays Oldham team



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LOOKING BACK *with John Edwards*

SWINTON v OLDHAM P189 W84 D10 L95 F1722 A2086

Our visitors were founded in 1876 and their meetings with the Lions soon became one of the highlights of the season although under Union rules Swinton only lost 2 and drew 6 of the 27 meetings with the Blues opening the famous Watersheddings enclosure of the Roughyeds in 1889 when they first wore red, white & blue.

The clubs first met as Northern Union opponents at Chorley Rd on September 26th 1896 when the visitors were successful by 6-3 and although the Lions won the next season Oldham won the following 2 games. The Lions won the next 4 with the 15-2 victory in 1902-03 their highest score before the war. Honours were even over the following 4 meetings but the visitors were victorious in the remaining 7 pre war matches with the 23-10 success in 1912-13 their highest score at Swinton.

The Lions won the first meeting at Oldham by 4-0 on March 2nd 1897, but were defeated on their following 3 visits. As the clubs battled for the championship the replayed game on February 25th 1901 resulted in the first draw after Oldham's appeal against the original Swinton victory had been upheld. Harold Cooper scored a hat trick as Swinton won 24-2 on March 1st 1902 but Oldham won the next 10 games including 9 successive victories and a 36-8 success in 1911-12. The dismal run was ended with a Lions 10-6 victory the next season but the home side won the remaining 2 pre war meetings.

Swinton won the Challenge Cup meeting by 14-2 on March 31st 1900 but Oldham won the other meeting after a replay and the 2 Lancashire Cup meetings including the final in 1910.

Swinton achieved the double only once to Oldham's 10.

The Lions won 5 of the 8 meetings during World War 1.

Swinton won the first meeting between the wars by 12-9 on April 2nd 1920 repeating the success the next season before Oldham won 11-2 on April 14th 1922. The Lions won 4 & drew 1 of the next 5 meetings before Oldham's famous 9-8 success on April 6th 1928, the last meeting at Chorley Road which ended the Lions remarkable run of 54 home games without defeat. Swinton won the first game at Station Road by 8-2 but Oldham won the next game by 8-2 the following season. The Lions won 8 of the 10 games before the war.

Oldham won the first meeting after the war at Watersheddings by 10-2 with the Lions being successful by 7-3 the following season. Oldham won 4 of the next 5 meetings including a 37-10 victory on Christmas Day 1923. Swinton won 2 and drew 1 during

Oldham and were successful in 6 of the next 11 games.

Swinton gained 6 doubles with Oldham 2.

Each club won 1 Challenge Cup Final game and 1 Lancashire Cup game with Swinton winning the only top 4 meeting.

Each club won on the others ground during the 2 Second World War meetings.

Oldham won 23-6 in the initial post war meeting before Swinton won the following 5. The visitors won 6 of the next 8 games including a 34-11 success in 1956-7 during their championship season. The Lions were undefeated in the following 11 meetings before the visitors fortunes changed with 3 victories in the next 4 games. John Gorton attained 16 points as Swinton gained their highest home success by 35-6 on April 13th 1979. The Lions won the last game at Station Rd by 15-12 on April 13th 1989. Oldham have won the only two meetings at Gigg Lane with their 36-10 victory on their last visit in 1992-93 being their highest score at Swinton.

Swinton won at Watersheddings on December 25th 1945 but lost on their next two visits but after a success were defeated on 5 visits but won 2 of their next 5 meetings. The Lions won 8 of the next 10 meetings but their sole success in the following 12 games was on September 4th 1985 with Oldham's 56-6 victory on November 1st 1992 their highest success over the Lions.

Swinton have attained 9 doubles to Oldham's 11.

Each club have a Challenge Cup success with Swinton winning the only BBC2 TV meeting. Oldham have won 6 of the 10 Lancashire Cup meetings.

Dai Moses and Dave Mortimer commenced their coaching career against Oldham with Stan Gittins ending his career against Oldham.

Hooker Henry Blewer was the first Lion to reach 400 appearances in the Oldham game on April 18th 1930.

Prop Bert Morris was the first Lion to attain 500 career points in the game on May 7th 1927. Ken Gowers reached 300 points on March 27th 1959.

Derek Whitehead who played for both teams kicked his 100th goal on September 2nd 1966.

Tony Barrow, Richard Irving, Paul Topping, Scott Ranson, Darren Abram and Leo Casey have represented both clubs.

Whilst the Bears never met Swinton except in the friendly in 1996 that saw the closure of Watersheddings this will be the first time the official Roughyeds from Spindledon have visited the Den.

RUGBY League Express

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BURY MARKETS JUNIOR LIONS

Hi there!

Today I make no apology for sending out our biggest ever Junior Lions welcome to friends I met last month at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital in Swinton, who are all special guests of ours in the Lions Den for this our first meeting against the Roughyeds of Oldham. Like roving Mike said on his page in last week's programme, a number of loyal supporters have been out and about in pubs in Swinton and surrounding areas. Your favourite mascot, along with the big guy (my keeper) John Prince, have also been out this week with our collecting tins at Swinton, Walkden and Bury shopping precincts. It's all been a team effort to raise cash for the above hospital. Today sees the climax of this, our first attempt. My personal thanks go to all the supporters who give up their time after doing a days work, to the players who came along to the Road Shows after training, to the two nuns, the nurse, the doctor and the little girl from St. Trinians who accompanied me on a fancy dress water hole crawl around Swinton. Also putting his best foot forward was our very own Gavin Price Jones. Also on the walk was a group from The Royal Oak pub in Pendlebury. Thanks go also to Accrington RLC, Spotland RLC and members of our visitors, Oldham, for turning up in fancy dress for today's game. Thanks to all the people who put their hands in their pockets to give the hospital their hard earned cash.

Today's visitors, Oldham, like ourselves are playing their matches away from the town where they belong and no doubt like ourselves have been knocked from pillar to post by the "they don't play round here anymore" gang, "why should we go to another town to watch 'em". Well for every knocker a club has there are people who care and they are the future of the club. So apart from playing Oldham in Oldham or in Swinton, the only other ground to meet has got to be the place dreams are made of. Both clubs have never played there, both clubs would love to play there, both sets of fans would die to see their club there. Yes, you're right, it's got to be Wembley. We will never play at the old Wembley but maybe, just maybe, in the new century the new Wembley will have room for two new clubs, I hope so.

CONTINUING OUR LOOK AT THE RULES

This week, 4 rules on tackling.

2.1.1. A player in possession may be tackled by any number of opposing players.

2.1.2. It is illegal to tackle or obstruct a player who is not in possession.

2.1.3. A player in possession is tackled.

A When he is held by one or more opposing players and the ball or the hand or arm holding the ball comes into contact with the ground.

D When he is lying on the ground and an opponent places a hand on him.

These are just a few of many rules on the tackle.

TODAY'S MASCOT

Luke Webster, age 2. Luke is our special mascot, he is a Leigh lad who has spent a lot of his young life in the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Luke suffers from Cerebral Palsy. His favourite animal is the lion (I hope).

If Luke is too unwell to attend there will be a stand in.

JUNIOR LION OF THE WEEK

A bit different this week. Why? I've not got one, I've got loads, and each one of them is very special. All of them are in the Children's Hospital, I hope that each one will soon be back home with Mum and Dad.

LIONS LUCKY NUMBERS

The winner versus Keighley was Damien Harris, he won a £5.00 note.

CORRECT SCORE

No winner.

DID YOU KNOW

Lions Chairman Malcolm White is a season ticket holder at Manchester United.

Lions Director Terry Robinson is Chairman of Bury F.C.

Lions Director Dave Jones supports Bolton Wanderers.

My favourite football team is Bolton Wanderers.

SPOT PRIZE

First to tell me where Oldham play their home games (£1.00 coin).

Hope you all enjoy the day, to all my friends from the hospital I'll be down to see you with my keeper in a couple of weeks time.

Yours in Rugby

Vinny Lion



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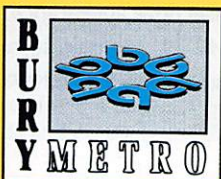
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IN OPPOSITION TODAY **OLDHAM**

Oldham Rugby League Club - a famous name that was nearly lost from the game forever a couple of seasons ago. That would have been a travesty and thankfully the club was saved and we welcome the Roughyeds to Gigg Lane today. Coach Mick Coates is having to work on a tight budget and so far this season Oldham have found the going tough. They have nearly always produced spirited performances and have run many sides close, notably at Craven Park where they held Hull Kingston Rovers to a draw.

They suffered a cruel blow when their Australian centre Josh Bostock was badly injured and returned home for an operation. Captain Leo Casey, a former Lion of course, has been in inspirational form as he leads from the front. Loose forward Mick Martindale and hooker John Hough have produced consistently good performances all season and big things are expected of massive prop forward Jason Clegg. Veteran forward Paul Round could be in the Oldham pack this afternoon and as always Roundy will be full of enthusiasm. The side will include two Frenchmen and some promising youngsters and so we

look forward to a keenly fought and interesting encounter.

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE PEN PICTURE 1999 AIDE MEAD

Product of Oldham Bears Academy this utility back is a handy member of the Roughyeds squad. Played on the wing so far this season and has not let the side down.

AFI LEUILA

Only member of the Bears Super League squad to join the 'new' Oldham team. Of Tongan origin Afi is a strong running three-quarter who likes nothing better than to attack the opposition.

BRIAN QUINLAN

Local born goal kicking centre of second row. Missed most of last season through injury.

MICK FARRELL

21 year old utility back was outstanding for Rochdale in 1997 but had a disappointing 1998. The ex-Waterhead amateur has just broken into the first team and is playing centre for his hometown club.

JOE McNICHOLAS

This young winger is one of the most exciting prospects in the new First Division. Having turned down an offer from Bradford Bulls Joe was unfortunate to miss most of '98 after breaking his leg in the early season. Rochdale born, he is armed with pace and a great sidestep.

PAUL CROOK

Half back who previously played with Dewsbury, Oldham Bears and Hull Sharks. Creative player who is happy at either stand off or loose-forward.

CRAIG BARKER

Local half-back or hooker who was not always a first choice in '98 and this has been the case so far this season. After some impressive performances in the alliance side he is beginning to get first team opportunities.

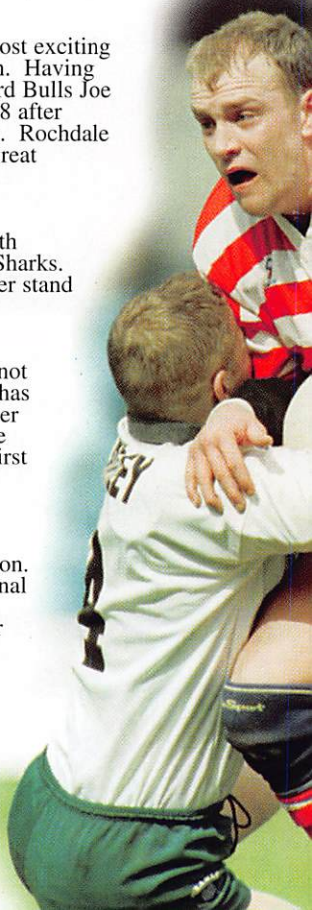
LEO CASEY

Now at the veteran stage, Leo has returned to Oldham in the close season. Has represented Ireland at international level. This tough prop forward was delighted to be named as Captain for this season's campaign. His performances in '99 have been outstanding and he has certainly led by example.

JASON CLEGG

Formerly a Bradford Bull this prop has opened this season in

**THEY HAVE NEARLY
ALWAYS PRODUCED
SPIRITED
PERFORMANCES
AND HAVE RUN
MANY SIDES CLOSE**



barnstorming form. Scored a typical Rampaging try in the Law Cup against Rochdale. 'Cleggy' is becoming a firm favourite with the Oldham spectators with his eye-catching performances.

PAUL ROUND

Now in his second spell with Oldham, Paul is a real veteran of the game. Formerly a back rower he now tends to lead from the front row. Former clubs include St Helens and Castleford.

DANIEL BROWN

Australian half back or hooker who played for Hull KR last season. Good play maker and also an extremely hard working tackler.

JOHN HOUGH

John will go down in the 'new' clubs history books as the first to officially sign for the Roughyeds. A bright future is expected for this ex-Warrington Wolves hooker who is renowned for his hard work and sportsmanship. John has been the model of consistency this season and is very popular among the Roughyeds spectators for his 100% commitment.

MARK PERRETT

This Welsh International is another of the Roughyeds major close season signings. Mark is a hard working prop or second row who is determined to restart his career after injury. He has just been called up for the Welsh training squad and will be hoping to kick start his season.

MIKE PRESCOTT

Another player who will be determined to have a good season after last season was wrecked through injury. Mike is a deceptively quick back row forward.

MICK MARTINDALE

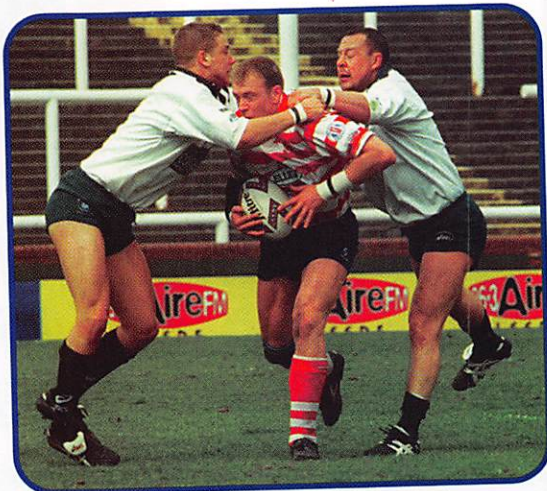
A good ball playing loose forward, 24 year old Mick was at Halifax for a number of years before joining his hometown club via Wakefield Trinity. Showed his full repertoire of skills when scoring a wonderful try against Bramley recently.

EMMERSON JACKMAN

A BARLA tourist in the summer of 1998 this stand-off or loose forward established his reputation at Saddleworth Rangers and Oldham St Annes.

NATHAN VARLEY

Started most games from the subs bench last season but was



still one of the clubs top tacklers. This ex-Bradford back rower has had his pre-season ruined by an ankle injury picked up on New Years Day at Rochdale. Having recovered from this Nathan made his first full appearance of the season in the last home game against York Wasps.

GRAEME SHAW

Hard working back row forward signed from Bradford Bulls. Became the 'new' clubs first international in October 1998 playing for Scotland.

LAURENT MINUT

French full back signed from Villeneuve. Courageous tackler and good under the high ball. Known as 'Mins' to his team mates.

EMMANUEL PERALTA

Came to Oldham with his team-mate Laurent. 'Manu' is no stranger to England having previously played for Keighley.





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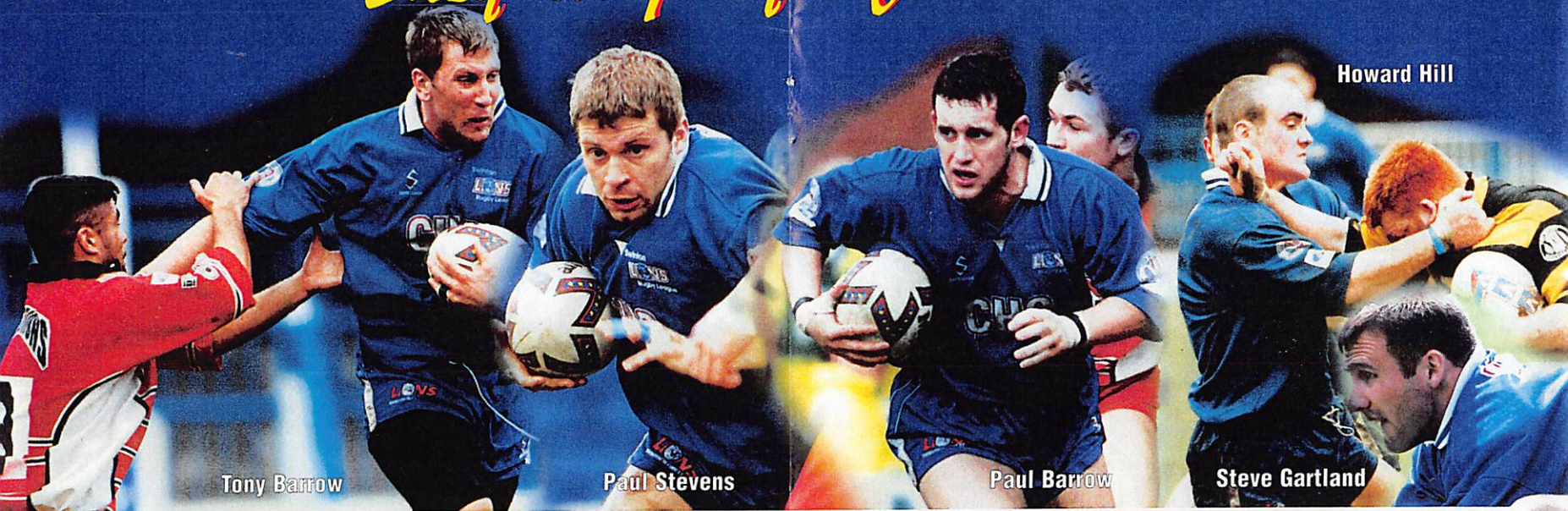
BURY TIMES



LIONS NEWS EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

LIONS

They all played for Oldham!



Tony Barrow

Paul Stevens

Paul Barrow

Steve Gartland

Howard Hill

LIONS A SPECIAL DAY LIONS

Today we offer a very warm welcome to our very special guests and their helpers (the children from Manchester Children's Hospital) for what we hope will become an annual event, "A Family Day Out In Aid of Manchester Children's Hospital". We at the Swinton Lions sincerely hope that the children enjoy the day, and the occasion, and it becomes a day to remember by putting a smile on a child's face, a little fun in life, and help them on their way to a full recovery from their many different illnesses. Today's event was only planned a couple of months ago, after the Lions players Ian Watson and Gavin Price-Jones, and Vinny the Lion, visited the hospital to distribute gifts donated by Phil Denman, from The George and Dragon in Leigh, for the benefit of the Children's Hospital.

The Lions players and officials were so moved by the reaction of the children and the hospital staff, who, despite life's many problems, always walk around with a smile and a very deep compassion inside, making all of us realise how lucky we are in life. At this stage I would like to take the opportunity to thank every single person who has helped in making today possible, to Mike Caine, Ian Rigg, John Spellman, John Edwards, Danny Bentham and Paul Kidd, and everyone else who helped in the roadshows, many thanks, with a very special thanks to Vinny the Lion and his wife Olwyn and Marlene and Lee for their outstanding efforts that go well beyond the call of duty, and also the Swinton Lions players who have given up their personal time in helping the club in it's community work.

Today's event has been sponsored by the members of the Lions' recently formed Lions Company Club, local businesses who have made a long term commitment to sponsoring Swinton Lions and their ongoing development and community projects. There is no doubt the Lions need the support and links with businesses if they are to survive and build a long term future, and I urge even more businesses to get behind the scheme which has so many mutual benefits for professional sport - local businesses working together for the community and making events like today's even better in the future. Today's itinerary consists of the following:

1.45 Bury Junior Schools Tag Rugby Finals This year's finalists are Radcliffe County Junior, Cams Lane, Greenmount and St. Paul's, Ramsbottom. We congratulate these schools on reaching the finals that we have now been playing for 3 years (and the game of Rugby Union has decided to adopt it as a national sport in primary schools). To our schools we offer our congratulations on reaching the finals and we hope you enjoy the day, with a special thanks to Mr Tony James, Ron Filer, Chris Spalding and John and Mr Thorpe for all their hard work in Schools Development.

2.30 A Parade of Mascots from sport and businesses when Vinny the Lion invites fellow mascots to join him in welcoming the children from the Children's Hospital. Half Time A display of rugby skills from the girls of Hillside Hawks Girls Rugby League Team from Rochdale will take place in the centre of the field. The girls, who have walked from Rochdale to the game to raise funds, have one of our own stars, Bury

girl Susan Colinge, in their team. Susan having just completed two weeks work experience in the Lions Den. To Sue and the girls, thanks for your efforts, we at the Lions wish you every success for your future.

Fancy Dress Also taking place at half time are our Fancy Dress Parade and Competition, please listen to the P.A. system for instructions on the day.

Thanks also go to other groups who, like the Rochdale girls, are walking to the game to raise funds for the hospital, including Accrington A.R.L.C., Spotland Rangers A.R.L.C. and supporters from Oldham Rugby League Club.

The mascots present today, to join Vinny the Lion, are Robby the Bobby (from Bury F.C.), Brookie the Pig (from The Brooktavern, Swinton), Marshall the Dog (from GX Superbowl, Swinton), the Pink Elephant (from Total Fitness, Walkden), hopefully Whellyphant (from Bury Fire Brigade), Marshal the Dog's twin brother (from Megabowl, Pillsworth, Bury) and hopefully representatives from Wigan Rugby League Club with the Super League Cup.

Also present today are Face Painters, Magicians, Children's Entertainers, Clowns and others who have given their time free of charge in the cause of the hospital charity. Again, to everyone, thanks for your help and efforts.

Yours in Sport

John Prince

Lions Rugby League Development Officer



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A FEW BARS *from the jazzman*

WITH MARTIN KELNER

As an old boy of Booth Hall Hospital in Manchester, it's a pleasure to welcome some of the present day inmates to this afternoon's match.

I spent just over a month in the hospital when I was about eight years old, after breaking my ribs when a car knocked me down.

As any of you who were around in the late fifties will recall, in those days we children were told to look right, look left, and look right again, before crossing the road. The fatal flaw in this routine was that if you spent too long on your second look to the right, some blighter would come from the left and knock you down.

I'm fairly sure this is what happened to me as I dashed across the road on my way home from my friend Michael's house. Then again, it was the afternoon of bonfire night, and may just have been so caught up in the excitement of the evening to come, that I just ran across the road without looking, and ended up unconscious by the side of a brand new Hillman Husky with a sizable dent in its grill.

I remember being on liquids for the first week or two in hospital, but breaking the rules by snaffling a liquorice allsort out of a packet somebody had left in my cupboard. My most vivid memory, though, was of a burning desire to be home for Christmas, not particularly to be in the bosom of my family, but so that I wasn't in hospital when Ed "Stewpot" Stewart came round for the

special Christmas edition of Junior Choice. The staff were brilliant, as I am sure they are nowadays, but it was still a treat to get out for a while, even if it was just to walk round the grounds with a visitor. So let us hope the entertainment this afternoon can make

the day out even more memorable for our very special visitors.

I do hope the Family Day takes off, as our development manager John Prince has put a tremendous amount of work into it.

I only hope he didn't encounter some of the cynicism I did when I mentioned the event on my award-winning radio show (7-10am, Monday to Friday, Jazz FM, 100.4, since you ask).

When I said on my programme one morning that Swinton had invited some children from local hospitals to the Lions' match on

Sunday, somebody rang up to say, "Why? Haven't they suffered enough?" People can be cruel.

On the subject of my award-winning radio show (7-10am etc, etc), regular customers will know my studio is equipped with a cosmic vibrator which feels the vibes from the other side, enabling me to predict with uncanny accuracy future events. I can, therefore, comment on yesterday's Cup Final despite writing these notes several days before the match.

Well done United, I say.

**"...but it
was still a
treat to
get out for
a while..."**

jazz^{fm} 100.4

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING *To Spelly*

Hello there and can I offer my personal welcome to our super special visitors today from Pendlebury Childrens! I hope you have a magic day!

I'll tell you what, we've got some pretty ladies here at Swinton and the other day I sat down with one of our prettiest! I've got a good job I have!

Look across at our bench today and you'll see Laura Henderson who these days helps out in our treatment room.

I don't know how true it is but I did hear a rumour that Norman was treating a first teamer for an ankle injury, got called away to the phone, asked Laura to take over and this player told her to her innocent face he's got a rupture! She went crimson!

She's 18 in August and one of her claims to fame is she was chatted up in a pub by Dwight Yorke and told him politely to go away! (Actually between you and me it wasn't all that polite!)

During our talk she pleaded with me not to print this bit, but I'll make you blush Miss H, I'll make you blush! The truth hurts.

Remember **that** game a couple of seasons

ago back at Hunslet? Yes **that** game when Weller pulled off **that** tackle, and Les dropped **that** goal to virtually ensure promotion? Yes, **that** game! Well our Laura wasn't there! Where was she? At a bloody Boyzone concert! Shame on you woman, shame on you! What price loyalty? "Have you a favourite player at Swinton?" I asked "No" was the diplomatic reply but away from the Gigg her number one Rugby League pin-up is Iestyn Harris.

She doesn't like hearing fans going on about "The good old days" and also those who "slag off" the team yet can't be bothered to turn up at Supporters Club meetings and forums that are held for their benefit!

Apart from Harris the Rhino, her dream date would be "with Michael Owen if he was a foot taller" I believe the Anfielder is already on daily stretching exercises!

Thanks for your time Laura and if I'm ever injured you can rub me down anytime!

(Make sure your mum doesn't read this bit!)

Come on you Lions

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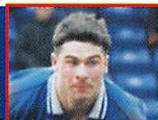
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THE *Roving Mike*

WITH MIKE CAINE

If I was to forget about the odd trip to South Wales, the one and only game of Rugby League I have been to, which didn't take place on British soil, was in Paris. It took place on the Tuesday after the August Bank Holiday in 1997 at the Charlety Stadium. For me it was a night I shall never forget. However, for the visiting supporters, it was a game which signalled the death of their club.

When the final hooter sounded to signal a Paris victory, the very large following of Oldham Bears fans were stunned into a tearful silence as their club's last chance of Super League survival had vanished. The sight of grown men, women and children, united in grief at the

fall of their beloved team, was moving to say the least. I can honestly say that I felt for those Oldham supporters that night in Paris.

Yet ironically, the win which should have ensured PSG's Super League place for 1998, proved to be a very hollow victory indeed. The least said about the disgraceful circumstances surrounding the culling of the Paris club and its players, the better. The phrases "drinking session" and "brewery" spring immediately to mind!!

However, back to those Oldham supporters. It always annoys me when a team fails to acknowledge the presence of its own followers. Win or lose. It says a lot about the lack of spirit in that team. The Bears had a very large following that night in Paris and yet, to the best of my knowledge, not many of their team, if any at all, acknowledged their presence at the end of

the game. Alright, the players had just suffered the sinking feeling that is relegation, but the fans took that defeat, just as hard, if not harder. Most of those players packed their kit-bags and left for pastures new. The Oldham Bears went down the plug-hole faster than a tub of bath water, but I wouldn't mind betting that many of those self same, Oldham fans are here today watching the "Roughyeds" as they take on the

Lions, for the first competitive match in many years, between these two old rivals. How the "new" Oldham club came into being is also a moving story. Suffice to say that they are here today and they are most welcome.

The moral for all my rambling on so far, came to me last month during a chat with one of our club officials. I expressed an opinion that even at Super League level, the game seemed to be struggling, attendance wise. Apart from the top three of four clubs that is. I have to ask the question myself - Is Rugby League a dying game? It certainly strikes me as though it is. Forgive me if I'm wrong, but there seems to be an awful lot of people who are ready to take whatever they can out of this sport, without putting too much back. It's about time that those people (I'm choosing my words very carefully here), realised that the gravy train will one day, hit the buffers. If they don't, the Rugby League gravy train will be derailed much sooner. When that happens, I wonder who will be the first to cry wolf?

The phrases "drinking session" and "brewery" spring immediately to mind!!!

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SPELLY'S Quiz

Greetings Brain-Boxes! This afternoons theme is "Sporting Trophies"

1. In which sport do participants compete in the "Britannia Cup"?
2. The "Anne Boleyn Trophy" is awarded in which sport?
3. If you won the "Betty Uber Trophy" which

sport would you be playing?

4. The "Armsworth Trophy" was for many years a prestigious award in which sport?
5. The fastest first class century in cricket merits which award?
6. Gerry Helme was the first to win which trophy twice?

THE LIONS OF SWINTON A COMPLETE HISTORY

I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that my long-awaited history of Swinton RLFC will be available as from Friday, 4th June. At 7.30pm on that particular date, I would like all Swinton supporters to come to the White Lion on Manchester Road in Swinton for the official book launch. At the moment I am in the process of inviting one or two current and ex-Swinton celebrities to come along as well. The book itself (656 pages, 290 illustrations, and extensively researched over an 8 year period) will cost £22.50, but I am convinced that everyone will think that £22.50 is more than a fair price once they have seen and read it. I will be selling it on the night, and of course anyone who has already reserved a book in advance will be welcome to come along and collect their copy. Otherwise copies will be available direct from myself at 70 Swinton Hall Road, Swinton, M27 4BJ. Tel: 0161 728 1068.

Steve Wild

ANSWERS
1. Rowing 2. Real Tennis 3. Badminton
4. Powerboat Racing 5. The "Lawrence Trophy"
6. The "Lance Todd Trophy"

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FIXTURE CHANGE

Due to Pitch Renovation Work the match

LIONS V BATLEY BULLDOGS

scheduled for Sunday June 6th

will now be played on

WEDNESDAY JULY 7TH.

KICK OFF 7.30PM at Gigg Lane.

BOB IRVING

The Rugby League world was saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Bob Irving last month in Blackpool aged 51.

Bob Irving was born in Huddersfield and played for local amateur side St Joseph's before signing for Oldham. It was whilst he was at Oldham that he enjoyed a most distinguished career in the second row for both club and country. Bob won eleven full Great Britain caps, eight in the starting line-up and three as substitute, between 1967 and 1972. In 1970, he was selected for the most successful ever British Lions tour to Australia and New Zealand under captain Frank Myler. Bob played in 18 tour games, scoring 6 tries and also featured in the Test Matches in Brisbane and Auckland.

Between 1973 and 1977, Bob played for Wigan 152 times plus 2 as substitute scoring 40 tries.

He was coach at Blackpool between August 1981 and February 1982, before finishing his career at Swinton, mainly in the front row. He played at Swinton for the 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons for a total of 25 games scoring 10 tries. A broken jaw ended his playing career and subsequently he settled in Blackpool with his family, where he ran his own accountancy firm.

His son Julian was on the books at St Helens and has also played for Fylde RU.

FROM THE PEN OF *Michael Turner...*

Rugby League Milestones - a summary of important events 1945 - 50

The Rugby League championship resumed after the Second World War with Workington Town taking their place in the competition. The Cumbrians won 16 of their 36 matches they played in that first campaign and respectable as that was they would go on to much greater things in the very near future.

In the two county cups Bradford maintained their Wartime form to take the Yorkshire cup and Widnes were the somewhat surprise winners of the Lancashire trophy with a 7-3 victory over Wigan in the final at Warrington. However, the men from Central Park would make amends by taking the overall championship with a 13-4

victory over Huddersfield at Maine Road. The achievement was made more remarkable by the fact that four of their star players had already departed with the 1946 touring party to Australia. The cherry and whites also reached the Challenge Cup Final but the day belonged

to Wakefield Trinity and most notably to captain Billy Stott who kicked the deciding goal in the 13-12 victory in the last few minutes of the match and also became the first winner of the now legendary "Lance Todd Trophy". This award which goes to the outstanding player in the final is still one of the highest personal honours a player can receive in any form of rugby.

The aforementioned tourists became known as the "indomitables." This name was taken from the Royal Navy ship on which they travelled on the trip "Down Under". The tour, under the captaincy of Salford's Gus Risman, was a success in so much as the "Ashes" were secured after a draw and two victories in the series against the Aussies although the one test in New Zealand was lost.

Bradford Northern became the first club to reach three successive Wembley finals. Their defeat to Wigan in 1948 was sandwiched between victories over Leeds in 1947 and Halifax in 1949.



Wigan captain Joe Egan holds up the Challenge Cup after the 1948 Wembley victory over Bradford Northern. He was the first winning captain to receive the trophy from the reigning monarch, King George VI.

FROM THE LIONS' Archives

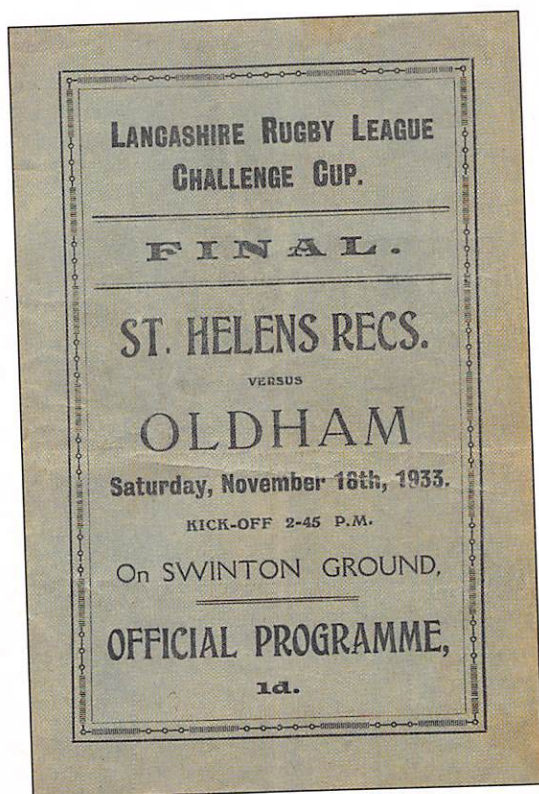
WITH STEVE WILD

The rivalry between Swinton and Oldham is older than the history of the Rugby League itself. Many battles have ensued over the years but not many people here today will be old enough to remember the Challenge Cup finals of 1926 and 1927 when the Lions and the Roughyeds were in turn successful against each other. However, perhaps the most controversial altercation between the respective clubs came about in season 1900/01, when they were locked in a battle royale in a quest for the championship of Lancashire. (There were separate county competitions in those days). Swinton had won the Challenge Cup in season 1899/1900, and off the back of a record unbeaten run under Rugby League rules stretching back 25 games they looked odds on to lift the championship in the following season. The only team with a remote chance of stopping them was Oldham, so when the two clubs met at Watersheddings on 12th January, 1901, excitement was at fever pitch.

Both sides had ten league games left to play, but a Swinton victory would put them six points clear and with a superior points difference. Trains began leaving Swinton at 10 o'clock in the morning and according to the "Journal", "the ground

was besieged long before noon." The gates were locked over an hour before kick off, by which time a paying crowd of 21,294 had assembled. However, this figure did not include 1,800 non-paying members and the hundreds who had broken a fence down. Those that had got there early had their views hampered by the hundreds who stood on the bales of straw at the side of the pitch, whilst outside the ground "the hillside was black with would-be spectators."

With many supporters encroaching onto the field of play Swinton captain Jim Valentine was reluctant to kick off, but the referee feared trouble otherwise and the game was set in motion. The pitch was heavy and the tackling ferocious, but by half time Bob Valentine had kicked two goals to give Swinton a 4-2 advantage. In the second period, an Oldham try gave them a slender one point lead and this resulted in immense excitement amongst the home crowd which led to further encroachment. Jim Valentine protested to the referee, asking that either the game be considered a friendly, or be abandoned. The Oldham captain, not surprisingly, objected strongly, and the official agreed it should be played to a finish. Nevertheless, Swinton's strength was their ability to gradually grind down their opponents and so it proved again. After pinning Oldham in their own "25" for some time, Bob Valentine made a break and passed the ball around his tackler to Bobby Messer who scored what proved to be the winning try. Surely now the championship belonged to Swinton. Afterwards, however, Oldham protested to the Northern Union on the grounds that Jim Valentine had himself objected to the match constituting an official league game and added that due to the number of people straying onto the field of play that the referee had failed to see an Oldham try early on in the encounter. Swinton argued that whatever their captain had said during the game was irrelevant because Northern Union rules clearly stated that any such objections had to be made in writing. Furthermore, the same rules stated that, "Any competition matches are not to be declared friendly matches. A match played to a finish must stand as a competitive fixture." Oldham demanded a replay, and a three man Northern Union commission sat in judgement with, incredibly, an Oldham official acting as their secretary! Oldham then delivered the coup de grace, because they promised that if the game was replayed they would give a third of the gate receipts to the Northern Union! To the Lions' utter disbelief the match was ordered to be replayed, but even more suspicious arose when the authorities order that the gate money should be split 50/50 between the Northern Union and Swinton. The "Journal" reflected, "What Oldham failed to achieve on the pitch, they have achieved with cloaked diplomacy." Incidentally, the replay ended in a draw, and Oldham went on to win the Championship by a single point.



A CUP FINAL FOR OLDHAM AT STATION ROAD IN THE EARLY 30'S

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SATURDAY 15TH MAY 1999

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	B0295	Mrs B Carroll	Barry Teal
	C4792	Mrs C Holloway	Alan Hughes
£50	H1769	Mrs G Belfield	Debbie Talbot
	R3624	M Jenkins	Keith Towers
	E0792	Mrs M Miller	Greg Edyvean
	T0339	J McGrath	Frank Shatlift
£25	Q2644	D Turner	Mrs Bhikha
	G3566	Mrs J Watson	Brian Clarke
	C1562	M Wordsworth	Alan Radin
	G3335	V Hargreaves	Declan Colgan
£5 Consolation Prizes	E0185	I2703	D2538 A0785

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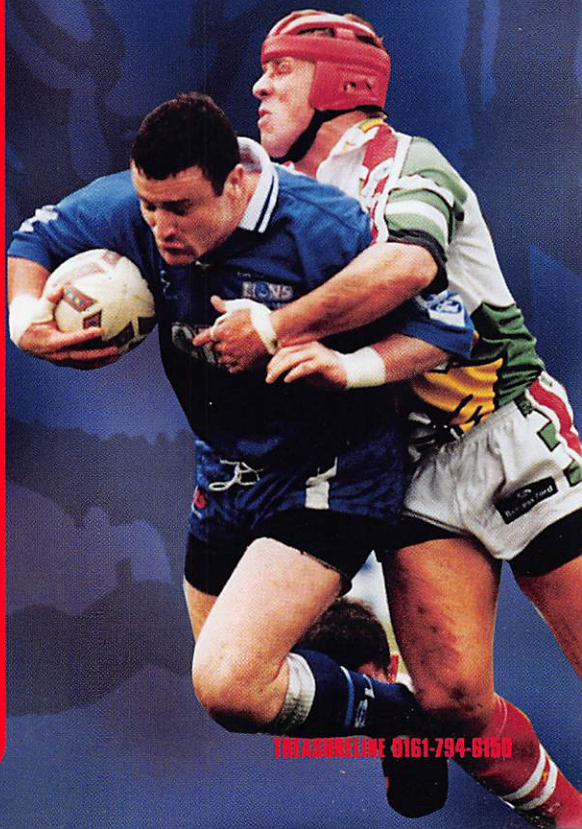
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A	56-10
H	14-15
A	3.00
H	22-34
A	10-25
H	24-31
A	20-50
H	28-24
A	12-4
H	19-29
A	16-16
H	23-8
A	18-22
H	4-78
A	10-21

FEATURES 1000

Day	Time	Home	Away	Postponed
Wednesday	Feb 10th	HUMSLT	AWAY	Postponed
Wednesday	Feb 24th	BATLEY	HOME	6-34
Wednesday	Mar 3rd	OLDHAM	HOME	Postponed
Wednesday	Mar 10th	FEATHERSTONE	HOME	Postponed
Thursday	Mar 18th	DENSHURTH	AWAY	20-23
Saturday	Mar 27th	WEST CLIMBRIA	HOME	34-24
Saturday	Apr 10th	BARRY	AWAY	20-28
Wednesday	Apr 14th	ROGRODLE	HOME	28-12
Wednesday	Apr 21st	LEIGH	AWAY	Postponed
Wednesday	Apr 28th	OLDHAM	HOME	24-36
Thursday	May 8th	BARROW	HOME	20-16
Thursday	May 13th	KEIGHLEY	AWAY	28-26
Wednesday	May 19th	OLDHAM	AWAY	28-35
Tuesday	Jun 1st	HUMSLT	AWAY	7-30pm
Saturday	Jun 5th	BATLEY	AWAY	7-30pm
Wednesday	Jun 9th	LEIGH	HOME	7-30pm
Wednesday	Jun 16th	HUMSLT	HOME	7-30pm
Wednesday	Jun 23rd	KEIGHLEY	HOME	7-30pm
Wednesday	Jun 30th	FEATHERSTONE	HOME	7-30pm
Thursday	Jul 8th	ROGRODLE	AWAY	7-30pm
Wednesday	Jul 14th	DENSHURTH	HOME	7-30pm
Saturday	Jul 31st	West Climbria	AWAY	2-30pm
Thursday	Aug 5th	Featherstone	AWAY	7-30pm

[illegible]

DIVISION 1 *Match Stats*

	BARROW BR	BATLEY B	BRAMLEY	DEWSBURY R	DONCASTER D	FEATHERSTONE R	HULL KR	HUNSLY H	KEIGHLEY C	LANCASHIRE L	LEIGH C	OLDHAM B	ROCHDALE H	SWINTON L	WHITEHAVEN W	WIDNES V	WORKINGTON T	YORK W
BARROW BR						30-10	43-20		21-22		26-44				18-12		25-12	
BATLEY B	32-19		14-12	24-28				8-14			25-16	30-0	14-19					
BRAMLEY				16-17					14-12			24-18	36-16					
DEWSBURY R					42-3		25-14		35-8		31-16						58-24	30-4
DONCASTER D		20-29				33-24						12-27		22-18	30-40			18-28
FEATHERSTONE R		16-15						15-26		32-18			32-12	50-20		28-12		
HULL KR		8-6	12-0		12-2	23-2						8-8			44-18	14-2		22-16
HUNSLY H	46-14		11-16	20-21	30-18		14-26					44-2	33-12		36-16		48-6	
KEIGHLEY C					42-16	18-32				40-14		32-28			30-16	24-22		8-10
LANCASHIRE L	16-58		13-12	22-12							24-44			10-56			24-38	
LEIGH C						16-12			28-16						24-20	22-23	42-10	16-12
OLDHAM B	24-20										20-26					18-33		14-43
ROCHDALE H	36-16				26-10		14-20			22-27	22-40	29-18						
SWINTON L	26-31		23-8	19-29				10-21	14-15		22-34		28-24					
WHITEHAVEN W		21-8	40-16							24-12				4-12		28-6		
WIDNES V	34-16	16-17		30-12						40-4			6-2	25-10				
WORKINGTON T			22-16		22-22	10-15	14-21			36-8					30-16	30-24		26-14
YORK W		20-20	22-12					16-6		32-6				16-15	46-0			

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