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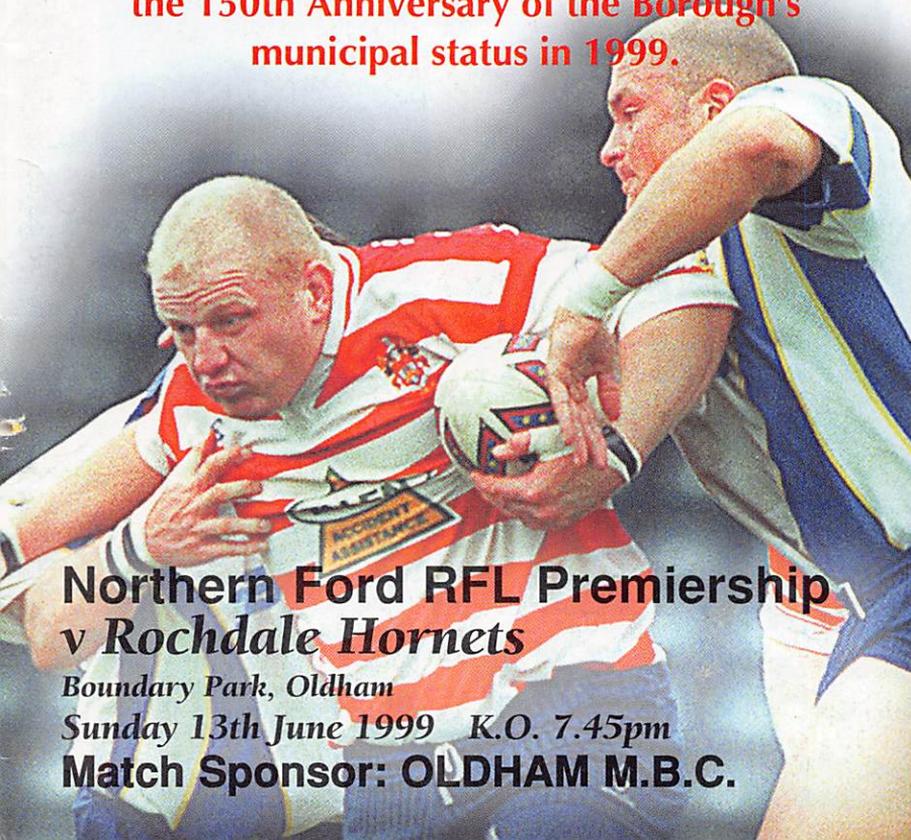
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A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor of Oldham



Message from the Mayor of Oldham 1999/2000 Councillor John B. Battye



It is with great pleasure that Oldham Council welcomes you all to Boundary Park today as a major part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Borough of Oldham.

The Charter of Incorporation of the Borough was granted by Queen Victoria 150 years ago today on 13th June 1849.

It is entirely appropriate that Oldham Rugby League Football Club, with its long tradition of success dating back to 1876, and our hosts today, Oldham Athletic AFC founded 100 years ago, should be part of these celebrations.

We hope the many young people here today enjoy the atmosphere and the pre and post match entertainment and remember the day for years to come.

At the end of the match you are invited to join the procession from Oldham Town Centre to Oldham Edge where there will be a spectacular firework display to bring down the curtain on today's celebrations.

A successful professional rugby league side is an important asset to the Borough and hopefully it will not be too long before the Roughyeds' permanent home is back in Oldham at the new stadium.

Enjoy your evening along with our friends and supporters from Rochdale.

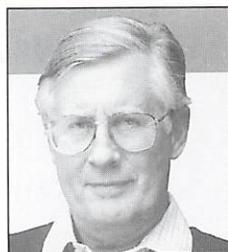
*Mayor and Leader of the Council,
Councillor John B. Battye*

MESSAGES FROM THE

Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP & Phil Woolas MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



I keenly anticipate the local derby against the old 'enemy' Rochdale Hornets. This of course goes back to the first Northern Union match that took place in 1895 and I am pleased that the tradition continues.

I think this is a good opportunity to express my appreciation to the officials and supporters of Rochdale Hornets RLFC and Rochdale FC for their support and encouragement in enabling the Roughyeds to share the Spotland ground through these difficult times.

I would also like to welcome Oldham RLFC home for this special match which celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Borough. It is my sincere hope that we will soon see the return of the Roughyeds to Oldham permanently.

Finally, I would like to offer my best wishes to everyone associated with the club and hope that the spectators and the people of Oldham will continue to get behind the team and give them every support in the future.

Good luck and best wishes. *Michael Meacher*

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP, Oldham West & Royton



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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It seems like only yesterday that the founding match of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd. took place against Rochdale Hornets at Spotland and yet, already, 18 busy months have passed. The enthusiasm of that opening New Year's day crowd overwhelmed the outnumbered Rochdale supporters as much as the players on the pitch did their opponents.

Congratulations to all those involved since those beginning heady days - the fact that we are still here is testament to all the hard work and, in the words of the famous pop song, "things can only get better". And they will.

The rules governing TV sponsorship have meant that the Roughyeds have not had their fair slice of the financial cake yet. However, as the club begins to look forward, the future holds much promise for better times. The team is in good spirits and behind the scenes staff are grafting hard. Success does not come overnight, it has to be planned and worked for. I know that solid foundations are being laid for the future and the supporters are very much part of that.

Oldham without a Rugby League team is simply unthinkable. As we celebrate 150 years of our Borough's foundation, I look forward to many years to come of successful Rugby League.

Phil Woolas MP, Oldham East & Saddleworth

CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



WELCOME to Oldham - literally! Unfortunately for several reasons I will only be able to offer that phrase once this season. As things stand it is entirely fitting that tonight's game should be in the Borough as it is exactly 150 years ago today that Oldham celebrated receiving its royal charter.

To mark the occasion the board have spent a considerable amount of time and money putting together all the activities which we hope you will all have taken advantage of before you are reading this article. As a club



Oldham Rugby League felt it was very important to be part of the 150th celebrations and we have worked closely with Oldham Council to organise what we hope will be a major part in a very significant day for the town. A big vote of thanks for all their efforts on behalf of the club are due to the office staff, namely, Tracy, Louise, Scott and Yvonne. I only hope that as you read this it's not bouncing down.

Turning to the rugby and it is also fitting that tonight's game is against our local rivals. They have already beaten us twice this season so now is a good time to reverse that particular trend. Those of you who made the long journey to Workington saw a performance full of guts and determination and the players answered a lot of questions that day. Hopefully we will have picked up a further two points against Featherstone on Wednesday and be looking to keep the run going tonight. This season has been very frustrating and that has been underlined in our attempts to supplement the playing staff recently. We have worked hard on several deals only for things to fall down for different reasons but undaunted we are currently active on several fronts and hope to have some news soon. May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far this season: believe me everybody is working hard to take this club forward.

Enjoy the game,

Christopher Hamilton

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

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

CAN YOU imagine, for a moment, what life must have been like in Oldham 150 years ago today? You think that's difficult.....then look ahead 150 years and try to picture what it might be like in the year 2149.

Vivid in the memory of hundreds of older people in today's Boundary Park crowd will be the Oldham of clogs and shawls, of mules and looms, of spinning sheds and mill chimneys, of cobbled streets with back to backs and outside loos, of football specials and full house crowds at Boundary Park and Watersheddings.

This night of civic celebrations is more a time for looking forward than for glancing back, but it does no harm to consider where we've come from before we map out the direction in which we wish to go over the next 150 years.

Much of our heritage has gone. Cotton is King no more. We have lost Platt Brothers, the original Tommyfield - and dear old Watersheddings.

But professional rugby league and soccer is still playing an important role in the life of the borough, as it has done for more than a century.

The magical sporting days of the Roaring Twenties, when a record 28,000 crowd packed into Watersheddings on the very day that more than 30,000 rubbed shoulders at Boundary Park here on the other side of town, will never return.

They have gone for ever.....like the rattle, the Green Final, the flat-capped crowds and the Saturday tea time queues outside the Chronicle office waiting for 'the Green' to hit the streets with the latest news, views and hot gossip from the two clubs.

We live in a different sporting world in 1999, but we must guard against a growing belief that the small-town club has no key role to play in its local community.

If Oldham is proud of its identity and passionate about its independence, geographically situated as it is in such close proximity to Manchester, it will recognise - as I'm sure it does - that both Athletic and the Roughyeds can be two of its finest ambassadors.

Both clubs can still tug at the heart strings of thousands of Oldhamers and both continue to promote the borough's name, across the country in the case of Athletic and across the northern part of England in the case of Oldham Roughyeds.

The success and failures of the two clubs have been, and will continue to be, closely linked with the fortunes of the borough.

As we plan for the next 150 years we see that local authorities throughout England are working more closely than ever before with their local football and rugby clubs to provide facilities which will enable clubs to meet and overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

Oldham, I'm sure, will be no exception. Happy anniversary, old friend, and here's to the next 150 years.....and a birthday present in the shape of a new stadium. What a present that would be!



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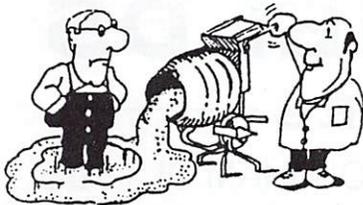
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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to Rochdale and all their fans! Well we are at the halfway stage of the season and there have been plenty of mixed fortunes. Deryck Fox and the players have put some good results together of late and their confidence must be good.

On the other hand we have lost far too many games for comfort. Most disappointment is when we get within sight of a win and then press the self destruct button. There are no excuses for this!

More disappointment came last week when Leo Casey was suspended for one match, but in his absence the lads all dug in and we got a much needed win against a Workington side that was going for their 5th win on the trot. It was one of those few games this season when the ball bounced for us and I'll tell you it was much needed.

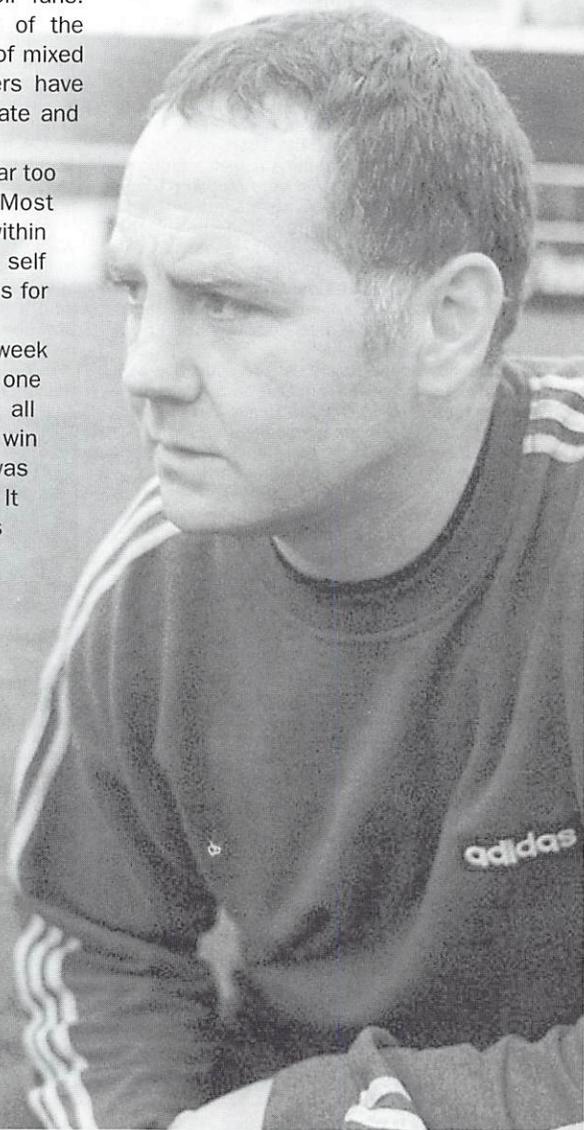
This week is a busy one with 3 first team matches and the U21s playing last Thursday.

This year of course is the 150th celebration year and hopefully we can contribute by gaining a win today. If this week goes well then after the game there might well be a celebration going on. Hopefully the second half of the season will give us the wins we did not get in the first half.

Anyway, let's hope for a good game with plenty to cheer.

Enjoy the game,

Mick



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GUEST WRITER

John Huxley



I THINK that it is fair to say that Oldham's new management have not been given enough credit for what they have achieved since they picked up the pieces left by the collapse of the Super League Bears.

The sport in the town is fortunate that a group of people were prepared to put their heads above the parapet and keep the professional game alive in the town.

Oldham without a professional Rugby League club would have been like Stan Laurel without Oliver Hardy; Ernie Wise without Eric Morecambe or Blackpool without the tower. Inconceivable!

As somebody whose Rugby League education was honed by serving with the Oldham Chronicle in the early 1970s my impressions of Oldham Rugby League Club are still formed by life at Watersheddings.

Regular meetings with larger than life characters such as Frank Diskin, Arthur Walker, Martin Murphy, Johnny Blair, Len Robinson, John Stringer, Ray Hatton and Alex Givvons Senior have left an indelible mark on my professional and personal life.

It was never dull at Watersheddings. Something was always going off up there and, thankfully, for a journalist who under-studied the inimitable Roger Halstead that did make life a great deal easier.

The night they sold Alan Rowley to Leigh stands out. Then chairman Arthur Walker couldn't rush me into the committee room quickly enough to tell me that they had picked up a creditable transfer fee of £5,000.

And committee elections in the old days left General and European elections way behind when it came to excitement and political jockeying.

What I am really saying is that the club is an essential part of the social fabric in Oldham. The men and women who care for the club also care about Oldham as a town. Their civic and sporting pride are the same thing.

Oldham are Rugby League legends. The great team of the 1950s, four successive Challenge Cup final appearances but no Wembley, Bernard Ganley's goal-kicking and hovering over the lot the reputation of having the coldest ground in the game, Watersheddings.

Earlier I mentioned Roger Halstead. Very few clubs can have had their affairs so ably covered for so many years by one man. To those of us who work in the media Roger is Oldham.

From the 'Ginger Group' of the 1960s to the collapse of the Bears Roger has followed the club on a day-to-day basis.

His knowledge of the game is second to none in the media world and the people of Oldham have benefited from his commitment and professionalism.

There have been so many great days for the club in my time with the game.

A great win over Wigan in the Challenge Cup in 1987 thanks to Paddy Kirwan's try, referee John Mean's decision to abandon a match with Leigh after two massive punch-ups.

And the players too. Tug Wilson, Billy 'Cheyenne' Walker, Kevin Taylor, Martin Murphy, Norman Hodgkinson, Adrian Alexander, Bob Mordell, Phil Larder, Mike Elliott, John Winton, Johnny Farrell, two Yanks who paid a short visit in the 1970s, Frank Foster, Terry Clawson, Mick Morgan and so many others who all made it worthwhile watching Oldham.

Great club, great town and great people. Long live Oldham Roughyeds!

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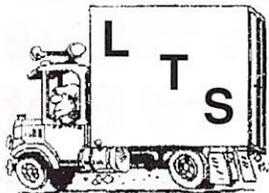
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GEOFF COOKE

Sapere Aude



IN 1799 Britain was at war with Napoleon Bonaparte. George III was king and William Pitt the Younger was Prime Minister. Income Tax had recently been introduced for the first time to pay for the war.

Oldham, meanwhile, was on the verge of the Industrial Revolution. Yorkshire Street had recently been completed as the main route for the coaching traffic using the turnpike routes between Lancashire and Yorkshire. As manufacturing grew the surrounding rural areas lost population to Oldham where 5,906 people were now engaged in manufacturing occupations as against only 42 in agriculture (1801 census). There was as yet no organised sport.



Yorkshire Street about 1849

By 1849 Oldham had expanded enormously. The 1801 census gave the population as 12,024: by 1851 this had more than quadrupled to 52,820. Sanitation was virtually non-existent and policing the town was a nightmare. Poor Law, anti-Corn Law and Chartist agitation threatened Oldham with the use of military force and under these circumstances a number of citizens felt it would be better to be in control of their own affairs. Hence the moves for a Charter of Incorporation which was duly granted in June 1849.

On the big stage Europe had seen a year of revolution in 1848. Britain was in dispute with Greece over trading rights, which Victoria's bellicose Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston successfully enforced in 1850.

On the sporting scene cricket was the only truly organised activity, but the Ten Hours Act of 1847 would be the forerunner of organised working class sport in the form of both soccer and rugby.

In 1899 the Boer War started. Lord Salisbury was Prime Minister. The T.U.C. already existed and in 1900 the Labour Party would be founded. Oldham's population was now 137,246 (1901 census). The Town Hall had been extended (1879), the Royal Infirmary built (1870-73), the Library, Art Gallery and Museum completed (1881-85) and the School of Science and Art rebuilt to be in keeping with the Lyceum (1881). Thus did a proud town proclaim its self confidence.

What carried Oldham's name beyond the confines of south-east Lancashire other than cotton spinning, engineering and electrical engineering (Ferrantis was established at Hollinwood in 1896) was the formation of Oldham Rugby Football Club whose first game was played at Glodwick in October 1876 against Stalybridge. By 1889 Oldham R.L.F.C. were established at Watersheddings. In 1895 Oldham were one of the breakaway clubs which pioneered the Northern Union and by 1899 had already been Lancashire Champions (1897-8) and Challenge Cup Winners, defeating Hunslet at Fallowfield by 19 points to 9 before a gate of 15,763. Also in 1899 was formed Pine Villa F.C. forerunner of Oldham Athletic, a second major promotional vehicle for carrying the name of the borough across the world.

Continued on following page



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GEOFF COOKE

Sapere



The Victorious Challenge Cup Squad of 1899

By the centenary of the incorporation of the borough the world had changed again, two World Wars saw to that. In 1949 Mao Tse Tung came to power in Communist China. N.A.T.O. was formed that same year. In Britain the N.H.S. and the Welfare State had been founded. The coal industry, railways, road transport, electricity and gas had been nationalised. Food rationing was still in force. India, Pakistan and Burma were now independent.

In Oldham in 1949 the population was around the 120,000 mark. (The

population of the borough had peaked in 1911 at 147,483). The town had spun more cotton than anywhere else in the world shortly before the First World War and had enjoyed more public houses per head of population than any other town in Britain. The slump in the thirties and increased competition from the Far East had, however, already sewn the seeds of decline in the textile industry by 1949.

On the leisure front Oldham Repertory Theatre Club opened on January 30th 1938 and cinemas were abundant. Oldham R.L.F.C. had enjoyed

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Aude (continued)

success in the early years of the century and were Challenge Cup Finalists four years in succession from 1924 to 1927. But in 1949 the club was in the doldrums finishing a disappointing 23rd in the League and exiting the Challenge Cup in the third round against that years losing Finalists, Halifax. Irving Barraclough finished leading scorer with 55 goals and 1 try.

The 150th anniversary of Oldham's status as a borough sees Britain at war again, in Kosovo. As in 1949 Labour are in power, but this time seem more intent on privatisation than nationalization and, arguably, on reforming rather than establishing welfare. Abroad Communism has collapsed in Europe and the E.C. is the dominant issue of the day.

The borough of Oldham has been transformed. Bigger now, since local government reform in 1973, the town's population hovers around the 225,000 mark. The town centre has been completely redeveloped and the old coaching route through the town would now be hard to follow. The old industries of the Industrial Revolution have gone to be replaced by light industry and the service sector, although unemployment is higher than one would wish. The population, too, has changed with many ethnic minority groups adding to the rich diversity of the town's culture.

On the sporting front the glory days of the 1950's for Oldham R.L.F.C. are a distant memory, if memory at all. Indeed the recent glory has all belonged to Oldham Athletic despite their current fall from grace. So bad did the fortunes of the rugby club decline that despite recent

Challenge Cup semi-finals, the club's home at Watersheddings was lost before even the club itself was liquidated.

1999, however, sees Oldham fighting back on all fronts. There are ambitious plans for further redevelopment of the town and plans, too, to build a new stadium to house the two clubs which carry the town's name. Oldham R.L.F.C. (1997) Ltd. is the phoenix rising from the ashes and despite its current lowly status is well placed to take advantage of further changes in the administration of Rugby league. As ever the town's sports clubs epitomise the indomitable spirit of Oldham and its people. SAPERE AUDE. DARE TO BE WISE.



Acknowledgements: Hartley Bateson - *History of Oldham*
Michael Turner - *Oldham RLFC - The Complete History*

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TODAY'S VISITORS

Rochdale Hornets

DERYCK FOX (Player/Coach & Scrum Half)

A product of St John Fisher amateur club, Deryck signed for Featherstone in 1983. He made his full Great Britain debut against France in 1985, taking the man of the match award. He was an automatic choice in the Yorkshire team that monopolised the War of the Roses series between 1985-89. He toured New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in 1990 and took part in a full Lions tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1992. Deryck was the captain of the 'mid week team' in 1992, a team which remained unbeaten throughout the tour. Deryck's last appearance for GB was the World Cup Final v Australia at Wembley in 1992. He played for Bradford Bulls from September 1992 until May 1998 when he joined Rochdale Hornets as Player Coach.

JON ASTON (Prop Forward)

Signed from Hull Sharks in 1998, after previously being on loan. Jon carries the ball well and is a strong, powerful and dependable performer. He has tremendous stamina, leads from the front and has an eye for a try scoring opportunity.

MARTIN BUNCE (Wing/Second Row)

Been at Hornets since May 1994 having signed from Oldham amateur club Waterhead. Hard and very strong no nonsense player who runs way above his weight and tackles tenaciously. Versatile player with a good try scoring record.

ANDY BURGESS (Back Row Forward)

Signed from Salford Reds in December 1998 after 10 years at the Willows. An intelligent, ball playing loose/back row forward and current Irish International. His progress this year has been hampered by injury.

STEVE CAMERON (Prop Forward)

Product of Hornets Academy, he made his debut in the successful 1997 Second Division campaign. Steve is a powerful runner who can break the first tackle and has a good future if he continues to develop at the same rate.

SEAN COOPER (Centre)

Signed from Oldham in November 1998, Sean is a powerful player with a safe pair of hands and experience in the top flight. Having played with him previously at Bradford he was one of Fox's first new signings in the close season.

MICK COULT (Centre)

Signed from Hunslet Hawks after a successful loan spell last year and is a valuable member of the squad due to his versatility. A strong running and hard tackling player with an eye for a try scoring opportunity.

PHIL COUSSONS (Winger/Centre)

Signed in December 1998, another former Salford Reds player who has GB Academy honours to go with his Super League experience. A hard working, pacy three-quarter who can tackle, Phil is capable of scoring tries from anywhere on the field.

ANDY EYRES (Winger)

Signed from Keighley Cougars at the beginning of the 1998 season. Andy is a vastly experienced player. He is a quality player, is reliable under the high ball and had an excellent season in 1998, scoring several important tries from the wing.

PETER FITZGERALD (Stand Off/Full Back)

Signed from York Wasps during the 1997 close season, this Aussie is extremely skilful both with the ball in his hands and with the boot. A prolific points scorer throughout his career, he missed most of the 1998 campaign with a broken leg but is now reaching his best form again.

ROB HALL (Prop Forward)

Joined Hornets promotion winning team in 1989 having come through

the Oldham amateur scene. A no-nonsense prop he is an important squad member and has regularly captained the Alliance team. A model pro, soon to have a testimonial.

CHRIS HILTON (Centre)

Plucked from a local amateur club he is in his second spell at Hornets. Extremely strong on defence and near the opponents' try line. Determined to make the most of his latest opportunity in the pro-game.

LEE HUDSON (Winger)

Signed for Hornets in January after impressing during a loan spell. Previously spent three years on Salford Reds books. A powerful, wide player who finds space with his elusive jinking runs and has scored several important tries already this season.

CHRIS KELLY (Scrum Half)

Hornets have monitored his progress ever since his days in Widnes' Alliance Team and swooped to sign him at the end of March. He is a pacy scrum half with an excellent try to games ratio and also has a good kicking game.

MATTY KNOWLES (Prop Forward)

A tall and powerful prop with good hands and able to punch holes in the best defences to make yards and score tries. One of Hornets most eye-catching players this term and starting to achieve his potential. Signed from Swinton but was previously 5 years at Wigan. Toured with GB Academy in 1994.

STEVE MARSH (Centre/Winger) (Ex-Blackbrook, Salford Reds)

Signed during the season after impressing as a trialist. Always likely to make good yards as he is a powerful runner with the ball and can break the tackle. Defends well and has already shown he can score tries.

CHRIS MCKINNEY (Second Row)

Another signing from the Oldham Bears, Chris' uncompromising hard hitting style make him a favourite with the fans. Never gives less than 100% and is an important player for Hornets.

DANNY SCULTHORPE (Prop forward)

(Ex-Leeds Rhinos, Warrington Wolves)
With youth still on his side Danny has the ability to follow in the footsteps of his brothers Paul and Lee by going to the top. A skilful ball player, powerful runner and rugged tackler and has unusually good tactical kicking ability for a prop.

MICK SHAW (Hooker)

Signed from Sidal amateur club, Mick has Super League experience with the Leeds Rhinos. He's a livewire player who scores tries and makes big yards with his pace and jinking runs from dummy half. Voted fans player of the year in 1998.

WILLIE SWANN (Half Back)

Signed from Super League club Warrington Wolves. Willie's experience, skill and try scoring ability coupled with his enthusiastic tackling completes Hornet's best half back pairing for years. A Western Samoan International he comes from a large Kiwi rugby playing family. Team captain.

DAVID STEPHENSON (Loose Forward/Hooker)

Another player with recent Super League experience at Hull Sharks. It was a major coup when David signed for Hornets before the start of the current season. A strong running, tenacious forward, with a good pair of hands who leads by example with his all-action style. An ex-Oldham Bear.

STEVE WILDE (Full Back)

Signed from near neighbours Oldham in November 1998. Tall, strong running and pacy, he is a highly rated player. Reliable under the high ball and an excellent one on one tackler with the knack of scoring important tries.

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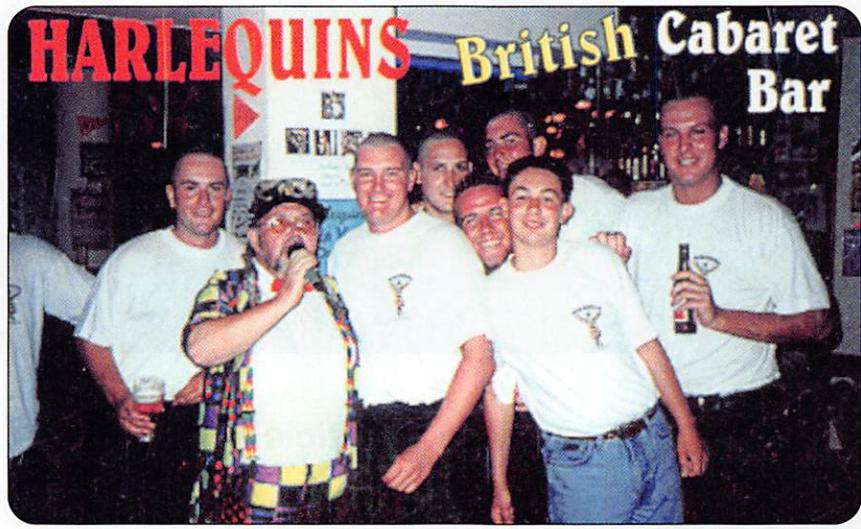
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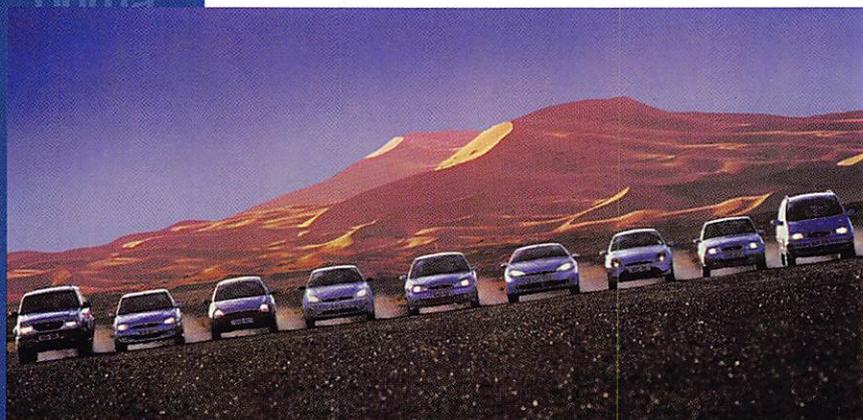
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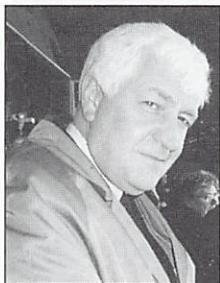
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DON YATES

The Life and Times of a Roughyed



DON LOOKS BACK AT ALMOST 50 YEARS A ROUGHYED



I RECKON that I have been pretty lucky in life. For one I have always enjoyed good health. Another reason is that I have been in employment all my adult life, the past 27 years with the same employer. However, that employment ceases at 5pm on Tuesday 7th December 1999. Not that I am counting. I am happily married to a very

patient rugby widow, have a brilliant daughter and now a little, well not so little, grandson who, sadly, by a great misfortune of birth, is a Yorkshireman.

I have been much, much more fortunate. I was born and bred in Oldham. Born just across the land from this stadium at what was then Boundary Park Hospital. I was brought up in Greenacres, in a two up, two down relic of the industrial revolution called 29, Wrigley Street. It was there where my mother taught me left from right and right from wrong. Being from that part of the town my father took me up to Watersheddings and introduced me to rugby league. That had a profound effect on the rest of my life. As a youngster I played for Strinesdale with the likes of Jimmy Russell, Trevor Gerard and Terry Fogarty. Then for Werneth with Kevin Taylor and Phil Larder before moving on to Platts. It was whilst at Platts that I reached the pinnacle of my playing career. We played Saddleworth Rangers at Shaw Hill Bank Road and I had the distinction of scoring all our side's points. We lost 79-2. It was around that time that I decided that my rugby league career should take on a different direction. Perhaps I could be a referee, or a reporter? Or maybe just settle for being a fan.

Being an Oldham follower in the 1950's was great. I was at Odsal along with 62,216 others to see the Roughyeds win the Championship in 1957. I was stood behind the goals where Colin Hutton missed the late conversion leaving Oldham 15-14 in front. I also watched the hattrick of Lancashire Cup Final victories in 1956, 1957 and 1958. Fabulous times. There have been some frustrating moments too. On five occasions I have travelled with Oldham to Challenge Cup semi-finals. And five

times I have travelled home crestfallen. I was at Swinton in 1964 when, eight minutes from time, Hull KR looked Wembley bound at 14-7 in front. Eight minutes later we were level and looking good as we moved into extra time. Geoff Robinson scored and we led 17-14. The Roughyeds would have scored again but, in cricketing parlance, bad light stopped play. No floodlights in those days. The Roughyeds were in Division Two then and had beaten three First Division clubs to get that far. The second replay at Fartown was one match too far for the Roughyeds who looked jaded and flat as the Robins went on to win 12-2. It is totally irrelevant I know but, at the final whistle, it was darker at Huddersfield than it had been at Swinton.

The roller coaster ride which encapsulates the emotions of being a Roughyed fan was adequately covered by events which occurred during that eventful 1986-87 season. In November the invincible Aussies were rocked and almost defeated at Watersheddings before that never-to-be-forgotten cup tie against Wigan the following February. Little did I know, as I jumped about after Paddy Kirwan's match winning try, that less than three months later I would see my heroes beaten 54-12 on the same Watersheddings pitch by Leigh. Days later we were relegated.

Memories since then have included two thrilling Old Trafford victories against Featherstone and Hull Kingston Rovers and two miserable seasons of Super League. What's super about four drives, a bit of a passing move and then hoof the ball skywards?

Eventually the trauma of the death of the Bears was replaced by the euphoria of the Roughyeds reborn. Today's team may not be the best we have ever had, but at least it's here.

As the Town celebrates its 150th Anniversary at tonight's match I, hopefully, will arrive just in time for kick off after travelling back from last night's France-BARLA match. During the trip I am sure that at least one Frenchman will ask me where I am from. "I am from the north of England....." I will proudly state.....from Oldham....."the home of the tubular bandage.....where Sportspark 2000 will be built.....and where they play the greatest game on earth".

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OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS SEASON 1999

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 Middle Row: Emmanuel Peralta, Josh Bostock, Jason Clegg, Gary Coulter, Graeme Shaw, Nathan Varley,
 Mike Prescott, Brian Quinlan,
 Front Row: Mark Perrett, Laurent Minut, Joe McNicholas, John Hough, Leo Casey, Paul Crook, Adrian Mead, Afi Leuila

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DON YATES SELECTS A

XIII Oldham – A

THE TOWN of Oldham has been a rich source of rugby talent ever since the breakaway of 1895 which led to the eventual formation of the Rugby Football League. Contrary to common belief, a high percentage of these players have spent at least part of their careers with the Roughyeds. I have selected a team of Oldham born players which, I suggest, would give any side a run for their money.

At full back I have chosen the versatile **lestyn Harris** skipper of Challenge Cup winners Leeds, last season's JJB Man of Steel and Players Player of the Year. Although only 22 years of age, Harris has already played in seven tests for Great Britain and looks certain to lead Wales in next year's World Cup Competition. Harris is a product of St. Annes juniors who maintains his interest in the local amateur game by coaching the Shaw Rhinos junior side. A prolific point scorer.



George Tyson

Winger **George Tyson** was an outstanding winger in the early days of our game. International competition was not as frequent as it is nowadays and Tyson only played in four tests for Great Britain. Three of those tests came during the first test series against Australia when the Kangaroos toured Britain in 1908. Tyson scored tries in all three tests including the late match winner in the decisive third test. Tyson was signed from Werneth and scored 111 tries from his 246 appearances for the Roughyeds.

1908. Tyson scored tries in all three tests including the late match winner in the decisive third test. Tyson was signed from Werneth and scored 111 tries from his 246 appearances for the Roughyeds.

Tyson's centre partner would be **Sam Lees**, a versatile back and accurate goal kicker. Lees was a regular in the Lancashire county side and a member of the Oldham team which won the Challenge Cup in 1899. He was signed from Leesfield Trinity Juniors, a club he helped to



Billy Mitchell

establish in the early years of the game.

The other centre spot would be occupied by **Billy Mitchell**, a former St. Mary's junior who played in over 300 matches for the Roughyeds either side of the Second World War. Although Mitchell never played representative rugby he was well respected by

his fellow professionals who all realised what an outstanding talent he was.

Left winger **Terry**

O'Grady always praised Mitchell for the help he gave him in the early years of his career. O'Grady was also a product of St. Mary's Juniors who went on to play 14 times for Lancashire and in six tests for Great Britain, touring Australasia in 1954. A devastating finisher, O'Grady enjoyed success with both Wigan and Warrington after leaving Watersheddings.



Terry O'Grady

Lightening fast utility back **Des Foy** played the majority of his rugby in the centre spot but I select



Des Foy

him at stand-off, the position he played in during one of his three test appearances. Foy is a product of Saddleworth Rangers who began his professional career with Widnes before moving back to Oldham in 1982. He was one of five Oldham players who toured Australasia with

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TEAM OF ROUGHYEDS

Champion Team



the 1984 Lions and towards the end of his career represented Ireland.

Scrum-half **Mick Ford** has had the misfortune of playing during an era when several brilliant half-backs were around. He is a former St. Annes junior who has enjoyed success with Wigan, Leigh, Oldham, Castleford and now



Mick Ford

Bramley where he is player-coach. My two outstanding memories of Ford are the 1985 Challenge Cup Final at Wembley when I thought he should have been awarded the Lance Todd Trophy and the John Player Trophy Final when he led Castleford to that amazing 33-2 victory over Wigan. Ford made only two test appearances for Great Britain but he toured Australasia in 1988 when he

skipped the Lions in several club matches. Without doubt an outstanding half-back and clever tactician.

There have been a number of outstanding Oldham born prop-forwards including Harry Ogden and Rod Marlor but the two I go for are **Ken Jackson** and



Ken Jackson

Barrie McDermott who both learned their rugby with Waterhead Juniors. Jackson was a member of that great Roughyed team of the mid-fifties, winning two test caps and selection as a 1958 British Lion. Unfortunately a knee injury sustained early in that tour brought his career to a premature close but as a prop-forward in an era when scrums really were scrums, he was an invaluable member of the team.

If Ken Jackson was a prop-forward from the old school, then Barrie McDermott is the epitome of the modern day forward. He began his professional career with Oldham, then moved to Wigan and is now at Leeds where he is something of a cult figure. McDermott has won three caps for Britain but is likely to be representing Ireland in next year's World Cup. A double cup winner this year - with Leeds at Wembley, where he scored that memorable blockbusting try, and with Waterhead here at Boundary Park where he was assistant coach to the Standard Cup winners.

Hooker is another position which throws up a number of candidates. Edgar Brooks was a fine ball winner and a great character, Kevin Taylor was a reliable and loyal servant. Between them they made over 700 appearances for the Roughyeds. However, my hooker would be **Nicky Kiss**, the Saddleworth Rangers Junior who spent all his playing career with Wigan and who is currently on the coaching staff at Halifax. Kiss never gave less

continued on page 26

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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

LIKE ourselves Rochdale Hornets were founder members of the Northern Union in 1895 and although fixtures between the two clubs pre-dated the breakaway by almost 20 years, it was at Watersheddings on November 30th 1895 and the first "Rugby League" derby match was contested by these two East Lancashire rivals. Oldham won the match by thirteen points to eight. The Roughyeds points came from a try each (3 points) for Charley Bradbury and Bob Edwards which were supplemented by a penalty goal from Sam Lees (3 points) and a drop goal from Jack Hurst (4 points).



Frank Pitchford touches down for one his four tries in the Law Cup game against Rochdale in August 1961

Oldham Team: H. England; C. Bradbury, S. Lees, W. McCutcheon, J. Hurst, H. Varley, A. Lees; E. Bonser, T. Furniss, J. Merrill, R. Edwards, R. Wylie, J. Lees, A. Childs, E. Eтчells.

Attendance: 11,000

The return fixture was also played at Watersheddings due to the temporary suspension of Rochdale's Athletic Grounds. This game was played on March 21st 1896 with Oldham completing the double by sixteen points to three.

The last meeting between the clubs was of course the League match at Spotland on May 3rd when Hornets ran out winners by 29 - 18 and prior to that there was the Law Cup match on New Year's Day when Hornets proved much the stronger side in a 48 - 10 victory. The last senior competitive match

before this season was in the Challenge Cup 4th Round on February 9th 1997. The match was played at Boundary Park with Oldham 'Bears' progressing to the next round after a comfortable 48 - 6 triumph.

The last League encounter took place at Spotland, as long ago as April 9th 1993. This was in the days of the 'eight club' second division. Oldham won the game 32 - 18 on their way to promotion. Iva Ropati (2), Wally Gibson, Tommy Martyn and Ben Olsen scored tries with Steve Kerry adding six goals.

Oldham Team: W. Gibson; S. Ranson, D. Abram, I. Ropati, A. Phillip; T. Martyn, S. Kerry; I. Sherratt, J. Graziano, B. McDermott, R. Phillips, S. Tupaea, B. Olsen, Subs: D. Bradbury, M. Solomona.

Attendance: 1,929

IT IS HOPED TO CONTINUE THIS FEATURE IN THE PROGRAMME SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 'ROUGHYEDS OF YESTERYEAR'. IF ANYONE HAS ANY PHOTOS THAT THEY THINK WOULD BE OF INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN WALKER 01457 875084 OR MICHAEL TURNER 0161-620-6005



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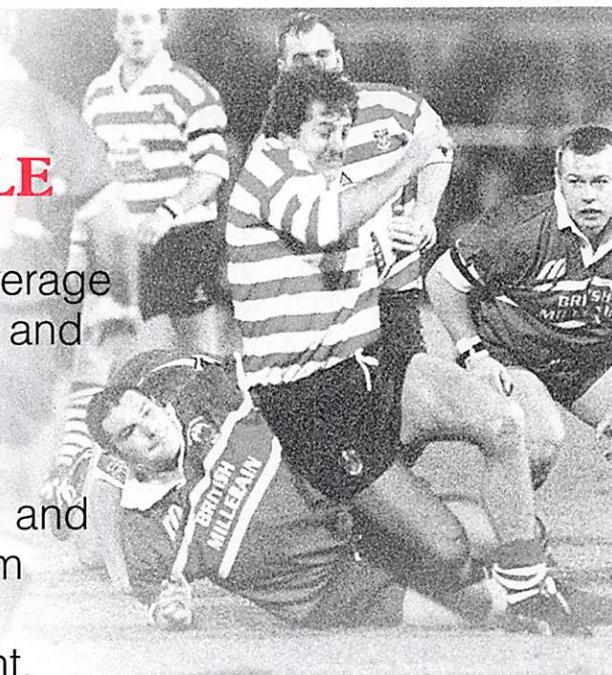
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DON YATES

On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



THIS EVENING'S match is the only professional fixture scheduled to be staged in Oldham during 1999. That sad

state of affairs would be unheard of years ago but playing rugby in the English summer would also be unheard of prior to 1995.

Action before then would be taking place down under in Australia which was exactly the case 33 years ago, on Monday 13th June 1966, when the British Lions visited Newcastle. The home side were roared on by a partisan crowd of 13,125 who so inspired their heroes that Great Britain were only able to win 5-2. The British try was scored by winger Berwyn Jones of Wakefield Trinity and converted by Arthur Keegan (Hull). Included in the Lions line-up that day were centre Frank Myler (Widnes) and second rower Terry Fogarty (Halifax), both of whom were to play for and coach Hornets later in their careers. Myler, of course, also coached the Roughyeds.

Another tourist included in that 1966 trip was utility back Ken Gowers (Swinton), a Rochdale lad whose father Walter played for Hornets and who also toured Australasia. Walter Gowers toured in 1928 and it was on this day of that year, Wednesday 13th June 1928, that the Lions visited Lismore where they defeated the Far North Coast by 20 points to nine. Full-back Walter landed a solitary goal for Britain that evening although the Lions were well on top throughout and crossed for six tries.

Last night the Great Britain amateurs were in the south of France but seventeen years ago they were further afield in Papua New Guinea. It was on Sunday 13th June

1982 that BARLA took on the Northern Zone at Lac. There were two local juniors on that tour, Pete and Dave Grimbley of St. Annes and both played in that match, Pete on the wing and Dave at scrum-half. BARLA won 17-14 with Pete Grimbley scoring two of their five tries.

It was on this day in 1990, Wednesday 13th June, that Queensland entertained New South Wales in the third State of Origin match of the season before a sell out 31,500 crowd at Lang Park, Brisbane, NSW had won the first two matches and looked set to record a whitewash when they led 10-4 late in the first half. However, former Oldham player-coach Bob Lindner was in inspirational form for the Maroons who came back to equalise by half time and then snatch a 14-10 victory with a late try from substitute Steve Jackson (Western Suburbs).

In 1964 France were on tour down under where, on Saturday 13th June, the first test was staged at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The French put up a brave performance but were beaten 20-6 by a Kangaroo team who went on to win the other two tests. Centre Claude Mantoulan (XIII Catalan) landed three penalties for France whilst all four Australian threequarters scored tries, Mike Cleary (South Sydney), Reg Gasnier (St. George), Greame Langlands (St. George) and Ken Irvine (North Sydney). Langlands also added four goals.

Twenty seven years later, on Thursday 13th June 1991, France suffered a much heavier defeat when they met New Zealand at Carlaw Park, Auckland. The Kiwis rans in eleven tries to win 60-6 and it was not until three minutes from time that stand-off skipper Giles Dumas got France on the scoreboard with a consolation try which he converted himself.

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DON YATES'

Champion Team (cont'd)

continued from page 21

than 100%. His commitment was unbelievable and another unbelievable fact was that he only made one test appearance for Great Britain.



Herman Hilton

Second-row forward **Herman Hilton** joined Oldham from Healey Street Juniors in 1913 and went straight into the first team. He remained there until his retirement in 1925. He toured Australasia with the 1920 British Lions and appeared in seven test matches. Hilton had every attribute required by a top class second-rower, speed, size, tackling ability and a good pair of hands. Certainly one of the World's best forwards of his era.

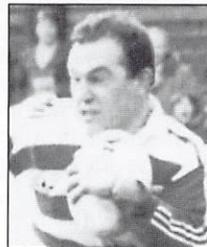
My other second-row forward would be **Terry Fogarty**. Although he was born in Glossop, he was brought up in Oldham, however, and played his early rugby by Strinesdale and then Saddleworth Rangers. Fogarty turned professional with Halifax and then joined Wigan, returned to Halifax and ended his playing career with Rochdale Hornets. During a highly successful club career, Fogarty won numerous honours, the highlight of which was his winning of the very first Harry Sunderland Trophy for his magnificent performance in the 1965 Championship Final. He represented Great Britain whilst with all three of his professional clubs and he toured Australasia with the 1966 Lions. Fogarty was an extremely skillful forward on attack as well as a capable defender.

At loose-forward I would have the current Great Britain international **Paul Sculthorpe**. He is a former Waterhead Junior who turned professional with Warrington and who was then transferred to St. Helens for £370,000. He is still only 21 years of age but has already made 11 test appearances and should be around for several years to come. Sculthorpe is a good all-round forward combining solid defence and excellent ball handling skills with natural speed, strength and a fine tactical brain.

No team nowadays goes into a match without three prop-forwards so the first name on my substitutes bench would be **Steve Molloy**. This

former St. Annes Junior began his professional career with Warrington and has since had spells with Leeds and Featherstone Rovers before joining Sheffield Eagles. A hard running prop he has played in four test matches, toured New Zealand and the South Pacific with Great Britain in 1996 and skipped England against Wales last season.

Another substitute would be **Terry Flanagan**, principally a loose-forward but a versatile player who displayed outstanding ball-playing skills during his career at Oldham, his only professional club. Flanagan made four test appearances and toured Australasia in 1984. He is a former Saddleworth Rangers Junior.



Terry Flanagan



Tommy Cash

Utility back **Tommy Cash** was a versatile back who joined Oldham from Werneth Juniors in 1902. Although a talented attacker, Cash was also an effective defender despite his small stature. A prolific try scorer, Cash left Oldham in 1920 when he joined Coventry.

Probably the most versatile player to come from Oldham is **Richard Russell**. He is another product of Saddleworth Rangers who served Wigan, Oldham, Castleford and now Bramley. Russell has played professionally at full-back, wing, centre, stand-off, hooker and loose-forward. His versatility makes him the ideal substitute.

So there is my team. If nothing else, my selection indicates the strength of rugby talent produced by this town and, remember, these players represent only the tip of the iceberg. Literally hundreds of Oldhamers have gone on to play professional rugby and I am sure that hundreds more will follow in their footsteps. Long may that tradition continue and long may rugby league thrive in Oldham, a hotbed of northern sporting culture.

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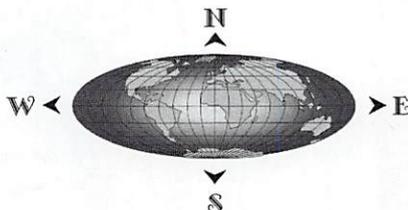
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Back Row (l to r): Gary Coulter, Nathan Varley, Jim Rogers, Adam Browne, Gary Keegan, Craig Barker, Paul Round, Chris Coop, Adam Baker, Robert Ward, Mick Farrell, Daniel Wood
 Front Row: Jason Brassington, Rhys Winston, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Michael Coates, Craig Milner

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NB: Some Players featured in the above team group are already sponsored in the group on p.19.

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Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds throughout the 1999 Season

Match by Match Analysis 1999



Month	Match No	Home Team	Score	Time	Referee	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
JANUARY																							
1	Rochdale H. (Law C)	L10-48	2879		Mead	Farrell G	Quinlan	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Casey	Hough	Clegg T	Shaw	Varley	Martindale	Coulter	Leuila T	Prescott	Round		
17	Widnes	L6-12	2500		Mead 1T	Farrell	Leuila	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Fitzpatrick	A.N.Other		
24	Leigh	L12-34	1000		A.N.Other	Mead	Leuila	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook G	Farrell	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan G	Coulter T	Bostock	Barker	A.N.Other T	Fitzpatrick		
FEBRUARY																							
1	ECCLES CC 3rd Rd	W26-7	1764		Minut 3G	Mead 2T	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Coulter	Jackman	Round	Peralta	Prescott 1T	Perrett		
7	Batley Bulldogs	L0-30	1018		Minut	Mead	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan	Jackman	Coulter	Prescott	Perrett	Peralta		
15	DEWS. R CC 4th Rd	W18-10	1620		Minut 2G	Mead 1T	Leuila	Bostock	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 1T1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan	Peralta		
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 CENTURIANS	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		
25	YORK	L14-43	1125		Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas	Wood 1G	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Varley	Prescott	Martindale	Crooke	Barker	Round	Peralta		
MAY																							
1	SILK CUT CC Final																						
3	Rochdale Hornets	L18-29	1568		Minut	Mead	Wood	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook 5G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Peralta	Clegg 1T	Prescott	Martindale 1T	Quinlan	Varley	Round	Sinfield		
9	Keighley Cougars	L28-32	1842		Minut	Mead	Wood 1G	Farrell 1T	McNicholas 2T	Crook	Brown 1T, 3G	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Round	Quinlan	Sinfield	Coates	Varley	Jackman	Peralta		
23	Swinton Lions	L24-31	1478		Minut	Mead	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1T, 4G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Round 1T	Varley	Sinfield	Coates	Shaw	Prescott	Quinlan 1T		
30	WHITEHAVEN W.	L24-32	775		Minut	Mead	Farrell	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 4G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Round 1T	Varley 1T	Sinfield 1T	Fitzpatrick	Shaw	Prescott	Barker		
JUNE																							
6	Workington Town	W22-17	1148		Minut 1T	Mead	Leuila 1T	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook 2T	Brown 1G	Clegg	Barker	Peralta	Round	Varley	Shaw 1T	Coates	Darke	Hough	Jackman		
9	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H																					
13	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H 7.45																					
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																					

Hi, everyone from the Supporters Club Committee.

After our first open meeting at Mr Wrigley's you will have read in the Oldham Chron. about our social evening on SATURDAY 12TH JUNE at Mr Wrigley's, which, hopefully was a great success.

The committee would like to know if anyone has any ideas or venues where we could hold our open meetings, so that we can get around and meet you the supporters. This will also give you a chance to meet the committee and put any ideas forward you may have.

Do not forget on SUNDAY 4th JULY we are holding a sponsored WALK. This will start from OLDHAM to SPOTLAND. We would like your help with this such as walkers and sponsors.

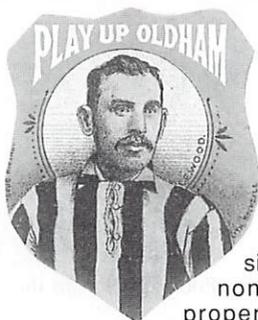
The date of the FUN DAY will be announced soon. If there is anyone out there with any ideas or help just get in touch with me. Thank you to everyone who has put their names forward for the supporters rugby team. We still need more, either male or female so come along. Don't be shy, give me a ring and join in the fun.

Please come forward and ring DAVID on 345 8566 anytime. Hope to hear from you soon. Cheers,

David Patterson

WHAT WE ARE

Celebrating



A SHORT HISTORY OF OLDHAM BOROUGH

FROM 1827 to 1849 the Township of Oldham was governed by a body of residents known by the somewhat misleading title of Police Commissioners. They were a non-elected body of property owners and professional men. Every townsman who received £50 per annum from property or paid £30 in rent was entitled to be a Commissioner. It was this non-elected body which ran the town.

In 1848 there were 360 residents entitled to sit as Commissioners. They had the power to levy taxes up to and not exceeding 2/6d (12.5p) in the pound and were responsible for sanitation, repair of highways, the lighting of streets, control of police and the fire brigade. The front of the Old Town Hall was built by the Commissioners in 1841.

This body seemed to be fairly efficient and enterprising. However the town had a reputation for inadequate public services and lack of amenities. The local police force was unable to cope with recurrent outbursts of violence and lawlessness.

In 1833, the year after Oldham had become a Parliamentary Borough, a number of powerful citizens were pressing for municipal status. This first attempt to gain a Charter of Incorporation failed.

In 1849 due to further problems, mainly with policing, a petition written on 100 sheets of parchment was drawn up and presented to the Privy Council asking for the Charter to be granted.

Despite continued opposition and following an official enquiry, the Charter of Incorporation of the Borough of Oldham was finally granted on 13th June 1849 and delivered to the Town Hall on 14th June where it was put on public display.

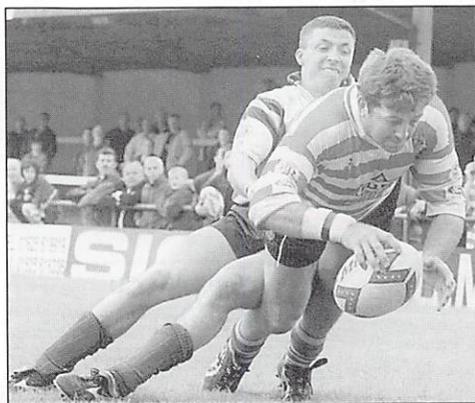
Originally the Borough comprised eight wards, each one electing three Councillors and an Alderman. In 1887 the number of wards was increased to 12, increasing again

in the early nineteen-fifties to 13 with a total of 52 councillors.

In August 1887, following a petition to the Privy Council and after much opposition from outside, the Borough was granted its own Court of Quarter Sessions, which meant that most criminal offences committed within the Borough could be tried at the Quarter Sessions in Oldham rather than in Manchester. The first Court was held on 27th October 1887.

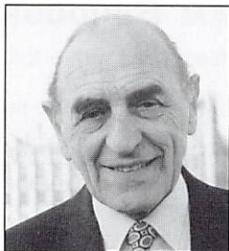
Under the Local Government Act 1888, Oldham was raised to County Borough status making it an autonomous local government unit which had control of the police, roads, elementary education (and later secondary education), transport, water and the fire brigade – although some of these responsibilities were removed in the 1960s.

By the Local Government Act of 1972, Local Government in England and Wales was reorganised with effect from 1st April 1974. The Queen, by Charter on 23rd November 1973, granted the District Borough Status – such status to take effect from 1st April 1974. On that date the new Metropolitan Borough came into being, having been formed from the County Borough of Oldham, the Urban Districts of Failsworth, Chadderton, Crompton, Royton and Lees in the Lancashire County Council area and the Urban District Council of Saddleworth in the area of the West Riding of the County of York.





A MESSAGE FROM THE Rt Hon Robert Sheldon MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Robert Sheldon welcomes the participation of Oldham Rugby League Football Club in the 150th Celebrations of the founding of the Borough.

Rugby League is an essential part of the Oldham scene and the opportunity for the Club once again to play in Oldham as part of the Borough's celebrations is a welcome reminder of the close links between the town and the sport. The expectation now is that a permanent presence in the town for the Club will be actively encouraged.

I do hope that the Club's participation in the 150th Celebrations will lead to a greater appreciation of Rugby League's importance in the town. I shall, like so many others, be taking part in the weekend's activities and shall be expressing my appreciation of the role of the Club even though I shall, unfortunately, not be able to join you at the game.

With all good wishes for your future success.

*The Right Hon. Robert Sheldon MP
for Ashton U Lyne, Droylsden, Failsworth and Hollinwood*

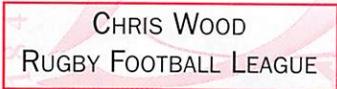
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Oldham Chronicle

OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

1	Laurent MINUT			
2	Adrian MEAD			
3	Emmerson JACKMAN			
4	Mick FARRELL			
5	Joe McNICHOLAS			
6	Paul CROOK			
7	Daniel BROWN			
8	Leo CASEY			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Jason CLEGG			
11	Paul ROUND			
12	Nathan VARLEY			
13	Ian SINFIELD			
14	Michael COATES	16	Mike PRESCOTT	
15	Graeme SHAW	17	Brian QUINLAN	

Today's Officials

Today's Referee

Mr Stuart Cummings



Touch Judges

Mr Pete McLaughlin
Mr Chris Lee

Welcome to all the
Oldham ex-players -
Enjoy The Day!

ROCHDALE HORNETS

Coach: Deryck Fox

1	Mark POWELL			
2	Andy EYRES			
3	Phil COUSSONS			
4	Sean COOPER			
5	Lee HUDSON			
6	Peter FITZGERALD			
7	Chris KELLY			
8	Jon ASTON			
9	David STEPHENSON			
10	Martin BUNCE			
11	Chris McKINNEY			
12	Mick COULT			
13	Chris NEWALL			
14	Steve MARSH	16	Rob HALL	
15	Willie SWANN	17	Deryck FOX	

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS