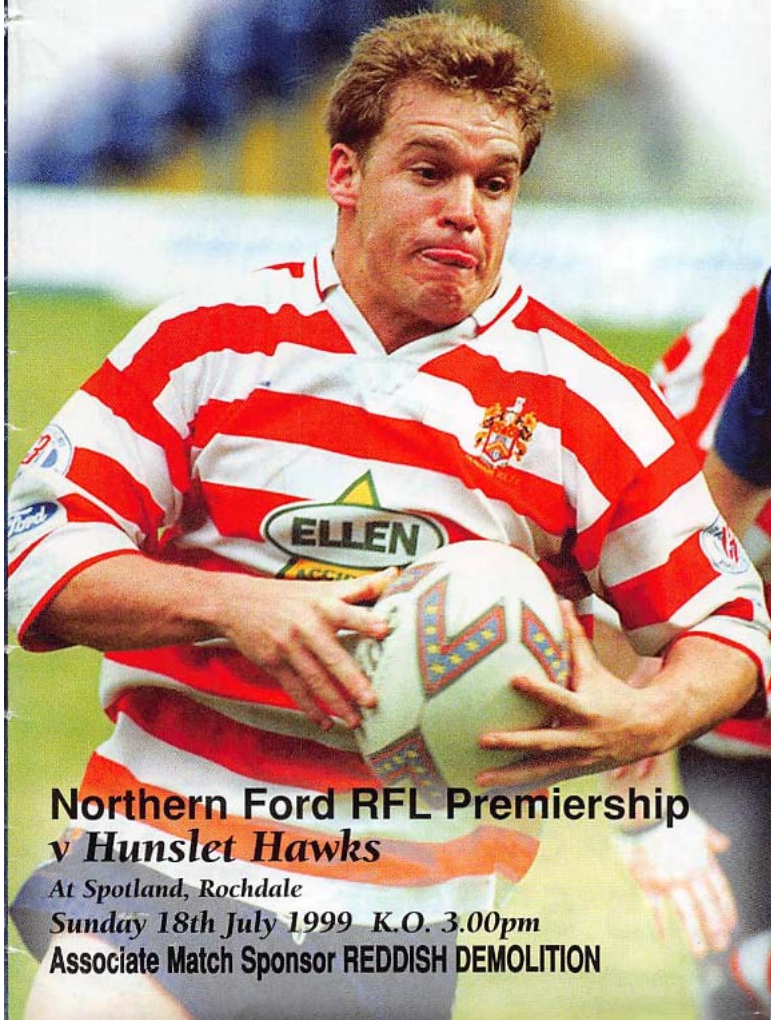


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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



THE last few days have been extremely difficult for a variety of reasons. The harsh realities of life in professional sport have been seen at the club. Nobody is, or ever has been, under any illusions about the size of the job we took on when we started the new club.

What is needed right now is some of the old bulldog spirit. Britain was made Great as a result of it and Brits are respected around the world for it. At times like this when it is far easier to criticise than to stick to your guns, those of us leading the club need to be strong. Make no mistake about it I have the desire, honesty and commitment to see this job through. Myself and the board always knew that the early years would be the hardest and if we weren't prepared to go through the "pain barrier" then there would have been no club in 1997. This is a fact and people shouldn't forget it.

Don't misunderstand the situation - none of us are happy to see the side struggling, but achieving success on and off the field is not an overnight matter; we are all learning all the time. We are also realistic enough to know that spectators will not follow a losing side and you can rest assured that we are trying to do all we can to turn things around.

Hunslet are today's visitors and despite losing at Hull KR last week, they have proved to be a very consistent side this season. We lost heavily to them early in the season and, hopefully, that can provide the motivation for the lads to win today. If we do, it certainly won't be easy but now is a good time as any to get back on the winning trail.

Good luck to Danny Webster who should be making his debut today.

Please give your vocal support to the team.

Christopher Hamilton



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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

THE Roughyeds have seven games left in which to pick up points in their push to climb a few places up the Northern Ford Premiership table.

Four of those matches are at Spotland - against Hunslet today, Doncaster on Friday July 30th (7.45), Bramley on Friday, August 23rd (7.45) and Lancashire Lynx on Sunday August 22nd (3.00pm).

These are the games which will largely determine whether the Roughyeds will rise significantly in the league ladder or continue to languish in the bottom three.

The three away games are at Widnes, Leigh and York - this on the last day of the league season and not many teams this year have come away from these venues with points in the bag, certainly not from Widnes and Leigh.

Despite their surprise home defeat by in-form Featherstone last Sunday - Peter Roe seems to have made a big difference there - the Vikings are one of the form teams of the Premiership and are now starting to pull in the sort of crowds that will give real support to their push for Super League status.

Last Sunday, they pulled in 3,885 - a most encouraging attendance for all at the Autoquest Stadium and one which will make a lot of Oldham fans wonder what sort of backing the Roughyeds would get if they were similarly placed in a new stadium and with a real base to offer for elevation to the big time.

Leigh, undoubtedly the surprise packets of the season, have enjoyed a wonderful season under new Aussie boss Ian Millward and come up with a success story that will give heart and encouragement to all those teams, Oldham included, which have found it tough this year.

Leigh don't forget, were the division's also-ran last season and looked at one stage as though they would never win a match again.

Both these teams will be going hell for leather to cement their places in the top five play-off by the time the Roughyeds take them on in their own back yard.

And that brings us to today's game against Hunslet, currently places third in the division with 15 wins from 21 games and, like Hull K. R. and Dewsbury, whom the Roughyeds played last week during a hectic spell of three games in eight days, determined not to slip up in the quest for play-off spots.

Nobody can write off anybody - we saw that with the Roughyeds battling 8-8 draw at Hull K. R. and their shock win at Workington without Leo Casey and John Hough - but it is fair to say that Mick Coates's men will have the most realistic chance of picking up points from the forthcoming home games against Doncaster, Bramley and Lynx.

Six points from those matches would send everyone home for the winter in a much happier frame of mind after a difficult period in which the club has been denied the services of key men, either through injury or the sort of internal problem which has a habit of afflicting all clubs from time to time.

Overall, I think it is fair to say that most teams would view the Roughyeds' season as a disappointment - just as big a disappointment to chairman Chris Hamilton, his fellow directors and the coaching staff, as to the club's supporters.

But perhaps we should not lose sight of the fact that, despite being less than two years old and despite having only a fraction of the Murdoch money enjoyed by most of the other teams in the Premiership, the Roughyeds are only two points behind Rochdale Hornets and within striking distance of Swinton given a good run to the end of the season.

The season will certainly go down as a learning experience for the new club and if those lessons can be put to good use who knows what might happen next year when the playing field - at least in financial terms - will be more level than this time...just ask Leigh.

One more point. Under Bosman, we are going to find that seasons are far more clearly defined than they ever were traditionally. There are going to be big changes of playing staff at all clubs on an annual basis as most players opt for short term, one year deals.

The days of ten year testimonials have gone. You can gamble that all clubs will be rebuilding on a yearly basis and it naturally follows that we can stand by for huge fluctuations in fortunes from one season to the next.

It says more for coach Millward's work behind the scenes that Leigh have gone from bottom to near-top without too much change in the playing register, but from here on I daresay all clubs will be in the same boat as hundreds of players come out of contract.

It will be like Euston Station - "all change". I was told by one Premiership Chairman only the other day. I think he's right, too. Watch this space.



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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to all from Hunslet!

Well after a busy last week, when we again played three games, and disappointingly came away without a result, it now looks like we can be safe in saying that the remainder will be played at a rate of one a week, which under the sweltering heat we have been enjoying will be music to the players' ears.

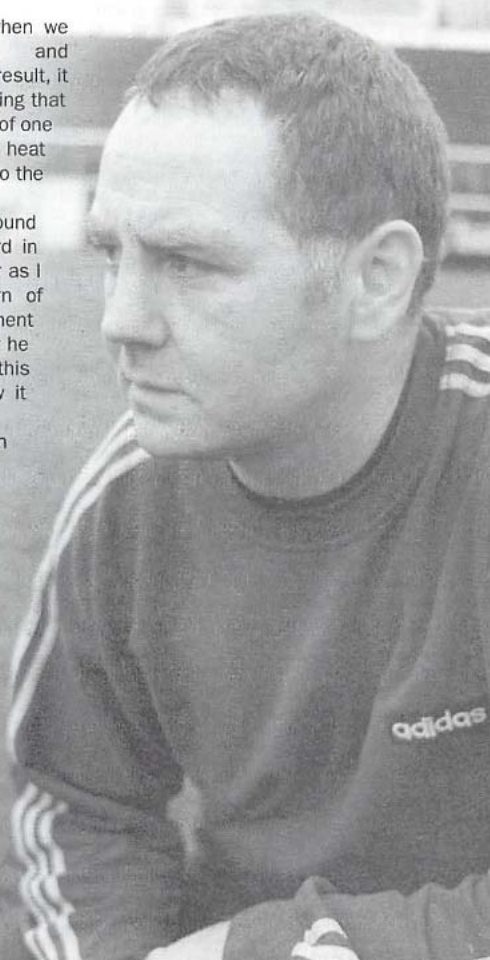
By the time the match comes round we may have a new player on board in Danny Webster, who is travelling over as I write. We may also see the return of Martin Maders. My big disappointment with Martin is that I thought last year he could have been a real big player in this division. We'll just have to see how it turns out now!

Well, the results have been getting more disappointing as we start to finish this season, and the fans have been voting with their feet to show their disappointment, and those who have stayed have been airing their views whether rightly or wrongly. But we will see the season through at which point there will be an overall assessment carried out.

With the club then having played in two seasons, and hopefully being a bit wiser for all their troubles, and the financial hand outs being equal (not before time), they may then become a more solid and competitive club.

Enjoy the game.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

AS the business end of the season approaches it's time to see how the Northern Ford Premiership is beginning to shape up. At the outset of the season Hull K. R. were most people's favourites to top the League and so far the Robins have fully justified everyone's expectations. With the Craven Park Board keen to replace their neighbours and rivals, Hull Sharks, in Super League it remains to be seen whether they can survive the play-offs, something they were unable to achieve last term.

My own personal favourites for honours at the start of the season were Featherstone Rovers. After a poor start to the campaign the Rovers, under new coach Peter Roe, are putting together a late run as they did last year. Last week's victory over Widnes at the Autoquest Stadium takes them to within a point of the Vikings in sixth place. Definitely the form team, Featherstone could just edge out one of their rivals for a top five spot.

Current evidence suggests it's six teams for five places. As I forecast at the start of the season Dewsbury Rams and today's visitors, Hunslet Hawks, are two of the others in the running for the play-offs. On current form Dewsbury are the team with the jitters. Three out of four defeats in June and last week's draw at Keighley have done them no favours. Hunslet, meanwhile, will be keen to bounce back from last week's narrow defeat at Hull K.R.

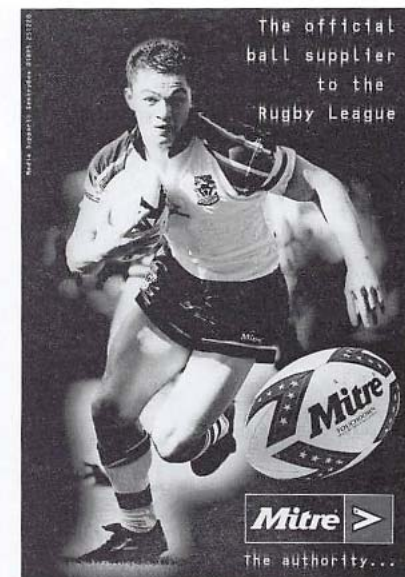
The sixth team in the frame are Leigh Centurions. Last time Leigh competed on an unequal share of NewsCorp funding, but this year shrewd coach Ian Millward has shown what can be done with a level playing field. I have a soft spot for Leigh since the days of John Woods and Des Drummond when they played such glorious football and took out the Championship. Their lofty position has been well earned.

Of the other sides Keighley Cougars are the biggest disappointment and their below par performances have brought on a financial crisis. York Wasps and Batley Bulldogs have done well on their elevation from last year's Second Division, though you might not think so on the evidence of their attendances. Barrow have also had an excellent season and, as I said back in February, this is largely due to their home form, as Oldham discovered last week.

Bramley and Workington have performed much as expected and will be building for the future. Whitehaven saw a lot of changes from

1998 and Kevin Tamati has done well to keep them competitive. As I forecast Tamati's former club, Lancashire Lynx, together with Doncaster Dragons, have propped up the table for much of the season. Each totters on the edge of crisis and it is to be hoped they can pull through.

Finally the 'local' triumvirate of Swinton, Rochdale and Oldham occupy places 14, 15 and 16 in the league. All three are bitterly disappointed with their season, although each has had to contend with horrendous injury problems which have stifled progress. However, after the outgoings at Grigg Lane I did say at the start of the season that Swinton would suffer. And, despite the enthusiasm of their local journalists, it was obvious that Hornets did not have a top five side. And Oldham? Well, we all see things through rose-coloured glasses! Bags of effort: not enough class.



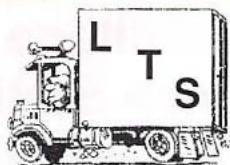
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

I would like to welcome Hunslet Hawks to Spotland for today's match.

We hope the Hawks' Juniors, Supporters and Officials enjoy their visit.

At the Junior Roughyeds' meeting held on the 12th July we selected the mascots for the remaining seven matches of the 1999 season.

I hope you all enjoy your day as Mascot.

The Mascot selected for the Dewsbury Rams game was **Christopher Tarkenter**. Christopher has waited a long time to be mascot and he was very nervous on the evening. It made his night when he had his photo taken with Leo Casey.

The Mascot for the day at Boundary Park was James Hutchinson.

James had this to say about his big day.



Debra Rafferty

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

ON behalf of the Supporters Club Committee we would like to invite you the supporters to an open meeting with a difference.

On **WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY** we are holding an open meeting at Dr Syntax pub starting at 8.00pm. On the evening we shall be having a guest speaker, buffet, coffee and not forgetting the bar where the first drink will be free.

We hope that everyone will be able to attend, meet the committee and voice your opinions.

But most of all enjoy yourselves at the friendly event.

David

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RUGBY LEAGUE IS A GAME TO BE ENJOYED BY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AND RACISM HAS NO PART TO PLAY IN OUR SPORT. RACIST LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOUR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLUB AND ANY MEMBER OR SPECTATOR ENGAGING IN SUCH CONDUCT WILL FACE THE SEVEREST PENALTIES AVAILABLE. WE MUST ALL TACKLE RACISM AND ENSURE THAT RUGBY LEAGUE IS A GAME FOR ALL.



James Hutchinson

My Day as a Mascot for Oldham

by James Hutchinson
When I got to Boundary Park I was excited because I could see loads of Oldham fans getting their faces painted and talking about the match.

When Debbie called me in to be the mascot I was even more excited.

After I was the mascot I was Ball Boy and at half time I went on the pitch with the Oldham Town Team.

I was proud because it was the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Oldham Borough.

At the end I saw the fireworks up on Oldham Edge, then I went home.

My favourite player is Jason Clegg because he always gives it his best and plays hard in every game.



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GUEST WRITER

IAN WILSON, RUGBY



Ian Wilson

"THE labourer is worthy of his hire". It's a fairly well known statement, though its meaning is not entirely clear. But there is an awful lot of talk around

at the moment to suggest that it is certainly not true in professional rugby league; that the players are taking too much out of the game; and that this is the reason for the dire financial position of most clubs.

Graeme Bradley, in his excellent and provocative column "The Penguin Brief" (Total Rugby League, Friday July 9th), has now joined the same bandwagon. "Too many ordinary players are getting paid too much, which in turn allows the good players to ask for even more", he concluded. "After watching every team in the Northern Ford Premiership, I can't see how anyone can justify either paying or receiving more than £15,000." It is interesting, too, that in the same

column, Graeme had done some sums to estimate that Salford's players had earned not far short of £25,000 each on average so far this season, on a conservative basis, with 13 games still to play.

What, though, determines what people earn? One thing is certain. It is not some consensus view of what they "deserve" I think everyone agrees that nurses "deserve" more than they get. And I saw an advert for postmen last week, offering four pounds something an hour, less than half the current national average pay rate; is that what is "deserved"? And do top soccer players "deserve" £50,000 per week, or the Spice Girls what they earn, or fat cat bosses their multi-million share options and platinum coated golden handshakes?

No, people don't get what they "deserve", they get what the market pays. Most employers pay the minimum they have to, to employ the people they want to employ; and workers earn the most they can to do a job they are able to, and want to, do. These two forces then meet somewhere in the middle. And this principle applies in rugby league, just as it does in every other walk of life.

Graeme is right, of course, when



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he says that most NFP clubs - presumably including us (!) - can't afford to pay players more than £15,000, certainly out of gate receipts. And his article demonstrates clearly that Salford similarly can't afford to pay what they are currently paying. Recent experience at Halifax, Keighley and Doncaster - and no doubt many other less publicised places too also support his case. But I don't think that it is quite so simple as that.



Graeme Bradley "The Penguin Brief" (Total Rugby League, Friday July 9th)

For example, what about Bradford and Leeds? Their gate receipts are huge, comparatively. And they generate significant extra income from rugby related commercial activities. The result is presumably that their players earn very healthy wages - and good luck to them, I say.

Then let's take Wakefield last season. On gate receipts, presumably pay would have been low. But they won the league, and the Grand Final, and gained admission to Super League, eventually generating hugely increased revenue; so presumably pay has risen significantly.

The lesson is obvious, isn't it? Players are entitled, like the rest of us, to earn as much as they can, and are certainly not responsible for the financial ills of the game. These are purely down, where they exist, to irresponsible, not to say stupid, management. Sensible club management - and I am sure, after our experiences with Oldham Bears, that we all desperately hope that this describes ours - would offer pay and contracts which are tied, now and in the future, to income generated by the club. The player can then decide whether he is prepared to play for that income/contract. If he decides it is not worth his putting his skills, and his body, on the line for, he will choose to do something else, or try his luck somewhere else - at some other club, if there is one prepared to offer him more, or overseas, or in some other sport (!) or wherever. In the end, Economics rule, o.k.?

Ian Wilson Rugby LeagueExpress



IN TOWN TODAY

HUNSLET

Butch Fatnowna 24, Utility Back

Exceptional utility back with tremendous attacking flair. A product of the Brisbane Broncos' youth set up. He has also played for Penrith Panthers and Workington in the Super League before joining Hunslet via the London Broncos.

Richard Barker 24, Winger

Richard is the reigning player of the season as voted for by the supporter's club following another excellent season in 1998 culminating in becoming top try scorer. He gains many of his fans by his willingness to work in both attack and defence.

Rob D'Arcy 28, Centre

Prolific try scorer whose size and strength mean he is a constant threat to the opponents line.

Shaun Irwin 30, Centre

Great Britain tourist who gave sterling service to Castleford, Oldham and also captained Featherstone to the Grand Final in 1998, before returning to Hunslet where he had previously had a period on extended loan.

Iain Higgins 22, Centre/winger

Signed from London Broncos following an impressive loan spell last season. He had scored 8 tries in the 3 games he played at South Leeds Stadium, which made him a priority signing for the coach.

David Mycoe 26, Stand off

Recent signing from Wakefield Trinity after spending 7 seasons with Sheffield Eagles, where he proved to be a prolific scorer. He also gained under 21 International Honours.

Latham Tawhai 27, Scrum half

Kiwi signed from Keighley who has been in excellent form since his arrival at the end of the 1997 championship winning season. A talented player, who, as captain, is a key member of the team.

Craig Richards 29, Prop

Strong and powerful prop formally with Oldham and Bradford. He is an experienced forward who collected International Junior Honours.

Richard Pachnuk 27, Hooker

One of the most talented hookers in the game and recently a target for Wigan. He is on a 2 year contract from Rochdale having previously played for Oldham.

Richard Hayes 28, Prop

Richie signed from York in 1998 and has established himself at the Hawks with his powerful running and committed tackling.

Rob Wilson 26, 2nd row

£20,000 signing from Hull K. R. the big forward is a gentle giant who is seen by many as a key player in the 1999 season.

Jamie Thackray 19, 2nd row

A product of the Hunslet Academy team, Jamie has already established himself as a first team regular with a very bright future.

Mike Fletcher 31, Loose forward

An exceptional goal kicker signed from Hull K.R. in the

close season, he is a very skilful ball handler. He also had a testimonial at Hull last year for his committed service to the club.

David Plange 33, Winger

David took over from Steve Ferres in November 1996 as Head Coach of the Hawks. The dynamic winger has played for Doncaster, Castleford, Sheffield and Hull K.R. before joining the Hawks and continuing the successful try scoring rate achieved during his distinguished career, including 2 Great Britain caps.

Lee St. Hilaire 31, Hooker/2nd row

Formerly spent 9 years with Huddersfield, as a winger before successfully moving into the pack. Signed in 1996 by Castleford, but lack of first team opportunities saw him move to Hunslet, where he has impressed with solid defensive displays and a winning attitude.

Mick Coyle 27, 2nd row/loose forward

He is Hunslet's longest serving player in his 9th season with the Hawks. Over the years he has become a firm favourite both with fans and players, due mainly to his consistently good performances in a Hawks shirt.

James Walker 21, Prop

Talented ball handling forward who served his apprenticeship with the Bradford Bulls. Another with a bright future, with the added bonus of possessing a fine all round kicking game.

Chris Ross 20, Full Back/winger

A young Hunslet lad with massive potential. After a successful period in the Hawks Academy, Chris has gone on to become a first team regular.

Matthew Green 20, Hooker

Up and coming Hawk who is one of many potential stars from the successful Academy team.

Stephen Parnell 18, Full back

Has come through the Hunslet apprentice scheme. He is a talented player with a bright future.

Steve Pryce 29, Prop

Signed from York in 1994, 'Stevie' has gone on to become one of the most popular players at the club with his hard working, never say die attitude.

Adam Moore 18, 2nd row

Product of the Hunslet Hawks youth development who has forced his way into the first team squad with outstanding Academy performances.

Chris North 23, Centre

Previously played for Oldham and Dewsbury. After time as a fringe player Chris has now pushed himself to the fore following many excellent displays.

Lafaele Filipo 33, Prop

He has played for Keighley and Workington where his strength and power caught the eye of many.

Marcus Vassilakopoulos Utility player

Outstanding and versatile ex Leeds Rhinos and Academy International

Paul Cook Utility back

Recent signing from Huddersfield. Ex-Leeds goalkicking back. Represented England in 1995 World Cup.

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DON YATES Down Memory Lane

DON LOOKS BACK TO A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



THIS afternoon's visitors to Spotland are Hunslet whose history has several parallels to that of the Roughyeds. Both, for instance, have suffered spells without a home. Thankfully, Hunslet are now based in the well equipped South Leeds Stadium following an eleven year nomadic existence shunting between Leeds Greyhound Stadium,

Batley, Elland Road and then Bramley. Hopefully, the Roughyeds will not have to wait so long before they are settled in a base within the Borough of Oldham. Both clubs enjoyed glittering success when playing at their original grounds of Parkside and Watersheddings, with the 1907-8 season being particularly successful for both clubs.

The Roughyeds made a blistering start to that campaign. It was the end of February before they suffered their first defeat of the season. By that time they were well on the way to clinching the Lancashire Championship to fit alongside the Lancashire Cup which had been won the previous November.

Hunslet had also made an excellent start to the season. They were undefeated until mid-January but they then ran into a spell of indifferent form which saw them lose five consecutive matches. Fortunately they had already lifted the Yorkshire Cup, beating Halifax 17-0 in the final. When the Challenge Cup came round, Hunslet had recovered some of their zest but a first round visit to Leeds certainly wasn't the draw they had hoped for. Nevertheless they won 14-5 whilst Oldham were winning 13-2 at Dewsbury. The two clubs were then drawn together at Parkside in round two. The Roughyeds were favourites, but Hunslet won 15-8 with winger Fred Farrar scoring two of their three tries. Thereafter Hunslet had little trouble in winning the trophy, beating Hull 14-0 in the final.

In the meantime, Hunslet clinched the Yorkshire Championship and then hammered Broughton Rangers 28-3 to reach the League Championship Final. Oldham's semi-final victory had been a little closer but a 12-5 home win over Wigan enabled the Roughyeds to travel down to Salford set on revenge in a final which saw the following two teams in opposition:

Hunslet: Herbert Place; Charlie Ward, Walter Goldthorpe, Bill Eagers, Billy Batten; Albert Goldthorpe, Fred Smith; Harry Wilson, Bill Jukes, John Willie Higson, Jack Randall, Tubby Brookes and Tom Walsh.

Oldham: Dickie Thomas; George Smith, Tommy Llewellyn, Billy Dixon, George Tyson; David Beynon, Tom White; Jim 'Bumper' Wright, Joe Ferguson, 'Mad' Arthur Smith, Bert 'Slosher' Avery, Joe Wilkinson and Billy Longworth.

The Roughyeds were contesting the second of five consecutive Championship Finals and fielded an experienced team containing eight internationals.

Hunslet's strength lay in their pack, known as the 'Terrible Six' who provided the possession and set up attacking positions for a talented set of backs which included the outstanding star of that era, Albert Goldthorpe, affectionately known throughout the game as 'Ahr Albert'. He was set for retirement after 21 years with Hunslet and needed just three goals to become the first player to land 100 goals in a season.

Ahr Albert indicated just how much he would be missed in retirement by scoring the try and two goals which gave Hunslet a 7-4 half-time lead. Tom White had landed a couple of penalties for Oldham but he could not convert Bumper Wright's second half try so the match ended in a 7-7 draw.

Albert Goldthorpe landed two more goals in the replay seven days later at Wakefield and so claimed his historic century of goals but it was his brother Walter who received all the plaudits. He scored both Hunslet tries as the Parksiders won 12-2 to become the first team in the history of the game to end a season holding every trophy open for them to win.



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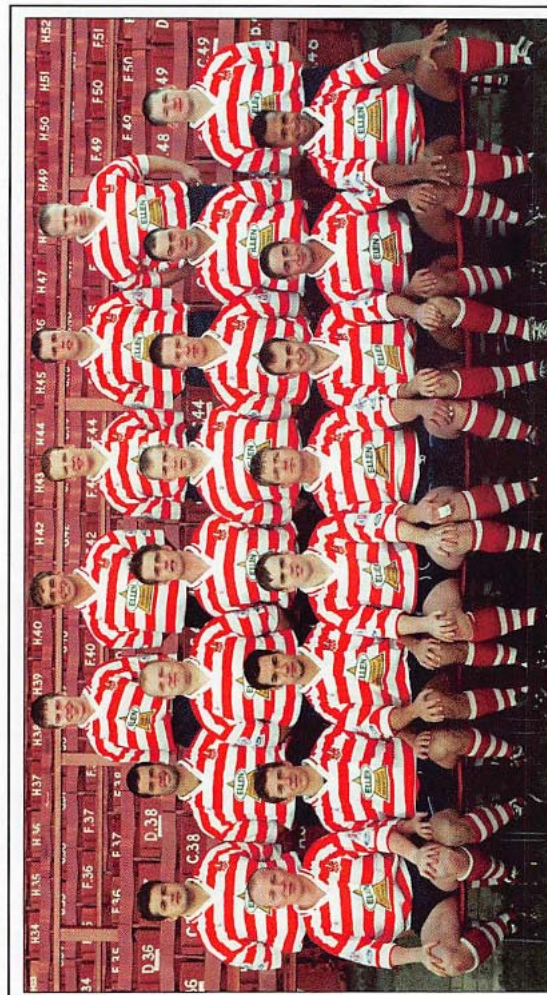
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OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS SEASON 1999

Back Row (left to right) Kevin Fitzpatrick, Daniel Brown, Mick Farrell, Craig Barker, Emerson Jackman,

Middle Row: Emmanuel Peraltia, Josh Bostock, Jason Clegg, Gary Coulter, Graeme Shaw, Nathan Varley,























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NEXT WEEK THE REAL FRANK PITCHFORD STORY! By BRIAN WALKER



If you don't remember a half time at Watersheddings with bags of Mintoes being thrown high into the crowd and a threepenny bit flying in the opposite direction (usually viciously aimed at the head of the vendor!), blanket collections for kids with rickets (this time halfpennies aimed anywhere but the blanket! (with the kids mopping up and pocketing the strays), football specials, Saturday nights after the match at Hill Stores, Billingtons or Savoy dance halls or one of Oldhams dozen or so flicks, Latics continuously applying for re-election, the Green Final cut into squares and nailed to the inside loo door (most kids in Oldham from time to time had bums that carried imprints of last weeks sports headlines!) chances are you won't remember PITCHIE. But you will have heard of him. Little Frank was a BIG hero. An OLDHAM hero. A WATERSHEDDINGS hero. MY hero. It was that time when jeans were only worn by cowboys or convicts, we didn't have a telly, no bugger had heard of beef burgers and everything in Oldham smoked, people, house chimneys, mill chimneys...but we had OUR heroes. REAL HEROES.

It was the mid/late fifties and kids in places like Rochdale and Ashton (but particularly Rochdale) would run around the streets with mags fastened loose at the neck cape like (why in the 50's did all kids wear mags?) aspiring to be Zorro, Superman or Flash Gordon (yes Flash Gordon!)...we Oldham lads had real heroes, (none of those 'tupenny Saturday morning cellular types for us! Well not unless you were one of the towns three Latics fans!) WE HAD THE BEST RUGBY TEAM IN THE WORLD - and, if like me, you lived up at Watersheddings they played where we played right at the end of our street! Davies, O'Grady, Winslade, Goldswain, Jackson, Keith, Pitchie the lot.....

Saturdays were match days but Tuesday and

Thursday nights were for training for that BEST team in the world and for US too! It was training night for me and my mates. You see I was Frank Pitchford, my mate Chris Roberts was Alan Davies, Kevin Taylor was Jack Keith (no wonder he too became a hooker!), Alan Ogden (he was the biggest and could pass a bit) so he was Charlie Winslade, Trevor Givvons was crack winger Dick Cracknell (funny that because he had knee trouble and was slower than anyone else!), Derek Dransfield was tricky half back Frank Stirrup, Roland Gaskell was threequarter Dennis Ayres, John "Eggo" Jackson was Billy Boston (yes Billy Boston - "Eggo" today would have learning difficulties but in 1956 was just bloody thick but also big and fast claiming to be 100 yard champ of Chaucer St Tech!)

The best team in the world trained on the 'Sheddings training pitch (yes Oldham actually had a training pitch!) and regularly 500 would turn up to watch! We played behind the training pitch 'sticks' - four, five or six a side. That was unless that lot from Barrowshaw turned up, mugged those of us they could catch and shot off with the ball! In fact it was the club's ball (kids in the 50's didn't have balls, a bit like us when that Barrowshaw lot turned up!) and I can still hear the thunderous roar of then club secretary Bert Summerscales - 'Jenkins, there's another ball missing, sixpence out of everyone's pay packets!' A real bundle of joy. But Frank had not just trained hard but unbeknown to him had scored at least a hat trick behind those sticks! No wonder he looked knackered!

When that Barrowshaw lot turned up I was bloody glad to be Frank Pitchford the fastest scrum half in the world!

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

- R** is for **Relegation** the scourge of clubs down the ages, as Hull Sharks will shortly discover...Or for **Renaissance**, the re-birth of Rugby League via **Red Hall** - **Restore** some **romance** and **rectitude** to the **rudderless** rulers of the game.
- S** is for **Super League** and the **self-serving** souls who run it. A wonderful concept ruined by greed and backstabbing.
- S** is also for **Spectators** without whom there is no game. And those **spectators** cannot understand why **Super League** required separate admin. and marketing (!!) staff and slapped down the likes of Widnes, Keighley and Featherstone.
- T** is for **Tours** and **Tent Matches**, something else the long suffering fan has had taken away. Will it ever be possible to plan another trip to Australia to support Great Britain as in 1992? Does anyone know or care what a dream that was for the fans?
- U** is for **unrinding** and **unequivocal** support of the game. Despite current **unease** Rugby league is still **unequaled** and **unrivaled** for its on field skill, athleticism and honest endeavour.
- V** is for **voting** with your feet. **Vast**, **vacant** terraces at too many matches provide a **valid** **verdict** on the perceived weakness of the game.
- W** is for **Wakefield Trinity Wildcats** whose **wonderful** results **warm** the hearts of all fans of NFPL clubs and **warm** the **wealthy** **wielders** of power that 'traditional' clubs can still hack it.
- X** is for **Xena**, warrior princess, or **Xarxes** (a hooker with Melbourne Storm under 11s - Greek parents, you see). Well, can you do any better? Could of course, be for **xenophobia**...but do we really hate those Aussies, Kiwis, Samoans etc. who dominate our game?
- Y** is for **yo-yo** clubs. The old four up, four down system crucified teams and nearly bankrupted them all. Now, if only we'd had soccer's play-off system (including a club in danger of going down as well as those fighting to go up) well...! Controversial? Me?
- Z** is for **Zululand**, **Zambia** or **Zimbabwe**, wherever the next target zone for the expansionist zealots might be. **Zeus** Murdoch zooms Rugby league into the 21st century on a **zephyr** of hope....



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First Time-Last Time

TODAY in welcoming our visitors to Spotland we play host to Oldham's first ever opponents in the Northern Union. That was way back on September 14th 1895, when the Roughyeds made the trip to play Hunslet at their famous old Parkside ground. There was much interest in the new competition and so a special train was chartered to ferry the Oldham supporters over to Leeds, there to be transferred to Hunslet by "wagonette". Great things were expected of the Oldham team, captained by the ex-Liversedge and England RU international, Harry Varley and including county players, Jack Hurst, Arthur & Sam Lees, Emanuel Bonser and Bob Edwards. Also in the line up was future club secretary, Bob Wylie. Alas, on this momentous day the Roughyeds met with defeat by 16 points to 8. In the Hunslet ranks were the

famous Goldthorpe brothers Albert and Walter. Oldham's points came via tries from the left wing pair, Charley Bradbury and Sam Lees, who also converted his own try.

Oldham team: D Lamonby; J Hurst, I Taylor, S Lees, C Bradbury; H Varley, A Lees; E Bonser, E Hughes, T Furniss, J Merrill, R H Moore, P Phillips, R Edwards, R Wylie.

Attendance 6,000.

In the return match on January 18th 1896 Oldham gained revenge with a 17-4 victory at Watersheddings.

The most famous meeting between the clubs came in the Challenge Cup Final of 1899 at Fallowfield, Manchester, when Oldham became the first Lancashire club to win the trophy with a 19-9 success.

Prior to the heavy defeat Oldham suffered at the South Leeds stadium earlier this season the last first class fixture between the clubs was at Elland Road in the fourth round of the Challenge Cup on January 30th 1994. At the time the Roughyeds were going through a bad spell of form in the pre Super League first division. However, they found enough form to prevail on the day despite a plucky performance from the home team, eventually running out winners by thirty points to twenty.

Steve Kerry kicked five goals with tries from Nigel Heslop (2), Paddy Mitchell, Scott Ranson and David Jones.

Oldham Team: S Ranson; D Jones, S Irwin, N Heslop, C McAlister; P Mitchell, S Kerry; I Sherratt, D Stephenson, B McDermott, I Green, S Tupaea, M Kuiti.

Subs: A Goodway, D Bradbury.
Attendance: 1,257



Des Foy takes a pass from the grounded Jimmy Hornby. Action from the match against Hunslet on September 2nd 1984.

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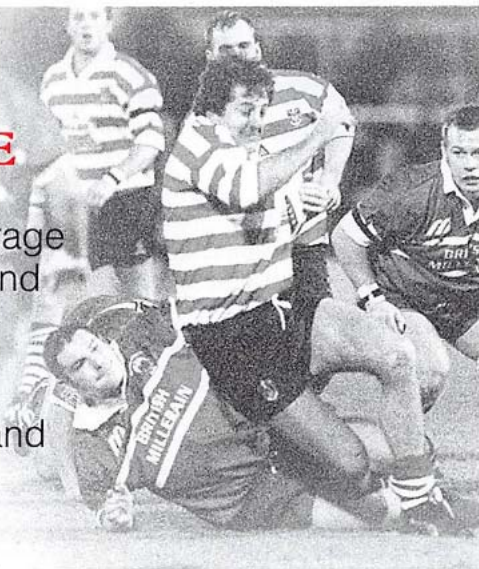
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On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



SEASON 1997 was not exactly the most successful season in the history of Oldham RLFC. They finished bottom of the

Super League, winning only four league matches plus a couple of Challenge Cup-ties. But, on Friday 18th July 1997, they succeeded where Super League giants Bradford, St. Helens, Warrington, Halifax and Castleford all failed. They beat Australian opponents in the World Club Championships. North Queensland visited Oldham that evening and were beaten 20-16. Second-rower Paul Davidson (2) And prop Brett Goldspink scored tries with stand-off Luke Goodwin adding four goals.

The only player who turned out that evening and who is likely to be lining up for the Roughyeds this afternoon is Afi Levula who was on the wing. His centre partner that night was Jimmy Cowans, absent today because of injury. At hooker was Jon Clark, who later played for Hunslet but who is now with Batley, whilst at centre was Howard Hill, Hill had joined Oldham exactly three years previously, on Monday 18th July 1994, when he turned professional from the Hensingham junior club. He made 50 appearances for Oldham and scored nine tries before moving on to Hull K. R. in December 1997. This season he has been playing for Swinton. A player who has been a loyal servant to Hunslet, versatile back row forward Mick Coyle, joined the Hawks on this day in 1990, Wednesday 18th July. Coyle was signed from Middleton (Leeds) amateur club and prior to the start of this season he had made 184 appearances for Hunslet and had scored 45 tries and a dropped goal.

Hunslet have had several outstanding back-row forwards down the years including Harry Beverley, who toured Australia with the British Lions in 1936. Beverley was at loose forward for the Lions on Saturday 18th July 1936 when they met Australia at Sydney Cricket Ground in the decisive third test match. It was a typically torrid test in which Ray Stehr (Australia) and Jack Arkwright (Britain) were sent off, but the Lions clinched the test series with a 12-7 victory.

Walter Guerin was another Hunslet back-rower who toured Australasia. He went with the 1914 Lions who, on Saturday 18th July 1914, met Hawkes Bay at Napier in New Zealand. The Lions won easily enough 30-7 with Guerin landing five goals.

Between 1956 and 1966 the Sydney St. George club dominated Australian domestic rugby, winning the Premiership in each of those eleven seasons. Because of that dominance, in 1962, they were awarded a match against the touring British Lions. That match was switched from their Kogarah Jubilee Oval (capacity 24,000) to Sydney Cricket Ground and, on Wednesday 18th July, a crowd of 57,895 attended the match. Great Britain silenced the multitude by beating St. George 33-5.

Twenty two years later, on Wednesday 18th July 1984, Britain appeared before a somewhat smaller crowd - 2,061 - when they beat the New Zealand Central Districts 38-6 in Wellington. Oldham's Terry Flanagan was in the second row for Great Britain that evening.

Finally it was on this day in 1896, Friday 18th July that the first sod of grass was laid at Boundary Park, then the new ground of the Oldham Athletic Football and Athletic Club, later to become known as Oldham Athletic F.C.



ROUGHYEDS

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Coach Graeme Bradley

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

Mar	16	Batley Bulldogs	H	6 - 40
	25	Leigh Centurions	H	26 - 14
	31	Hunslet Hawks	H	29 - 29
April	8	Featherstone R.	A	4 - 39
	14	Dewsbury Rams	H	P
	24	West Cumbria	A	24 - 10
	28	Swinton Lions	A	36 - 24
May	5	Keighley Cougars	H	8 - 22
	13	Dewsbury Rams	A	4 - 25
	19	Swinton Lions	H	28 - 39
	29	Barrow B. R.	A	24 - 42
June	10	Rochdale Hornets	H	16 - 44
	12	West Cumbria	H	P
	19	Batley Bulldogs	A	18 - 36
	23	Featherstone R.	H	10 - 34
July	1	Keighley Cougars	A	32 - 24
	10	Barrow B. R.	H	16 - 26
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A	
	21	Leigh Centurions	A	
Aug	14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
	18	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd		
	28	Rochdale Hornets	H	
	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd		
Sept	11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final		
	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final		

KEIGHLEY 24 : OLDHAM 32

SHAW Rhinos' scrum-half Keith Brennan stepped into the fray for Roughyeds' 'A' team and dictated the course of the game against a Keighley side which had beaten Oldham comfortably 22 - 8 at Butterworth Park.

Another plus was the return of Jimmy Cowan in the second-row, but unfortunately Cowan was subsequently injured in a first team game and could be ruled out for the season.

Tries were scored by Druggitt (2), Mike, Mayers, Brennan and Conway. Brennan landed 2 goals and a drop goal and Conway a drop goal.

OLDHAM 16 : BARROW 26

22 points conceded in the ten minutes before half-time cost Oldham dear against Barrow Border Raiders.

After starting well with a Mayers try and with Farrell at scrum-half and Conway in the second-row standing out, ten minutes of madness saw Oldham give themselves far too much to do. As they did against Featherstone, Oldham restricted their opponents in the second-half with much tighter defence. Mark Perrett scored two tries with Farrell landing the goals but, as with the first team, constantly playing 'catch-up' football is too demanding.

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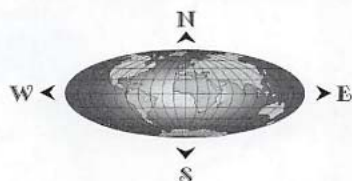
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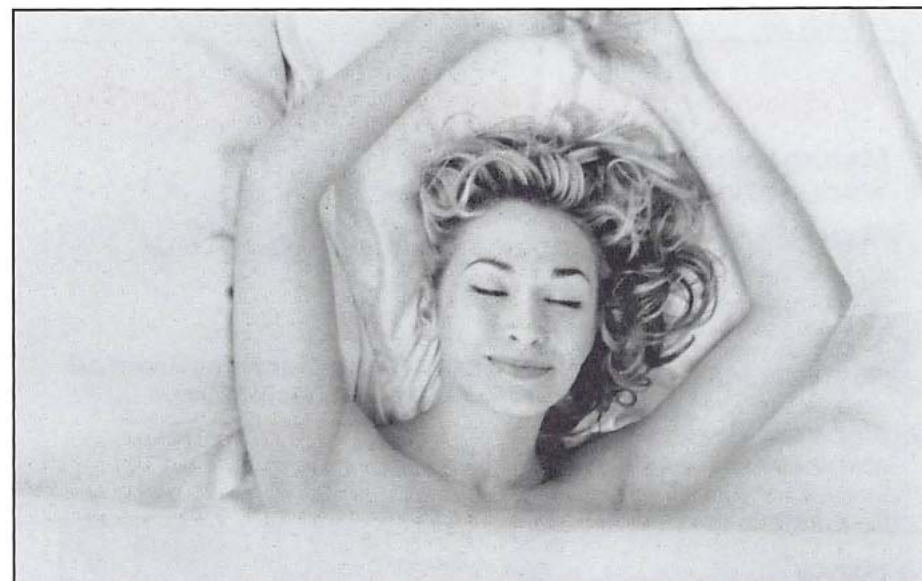
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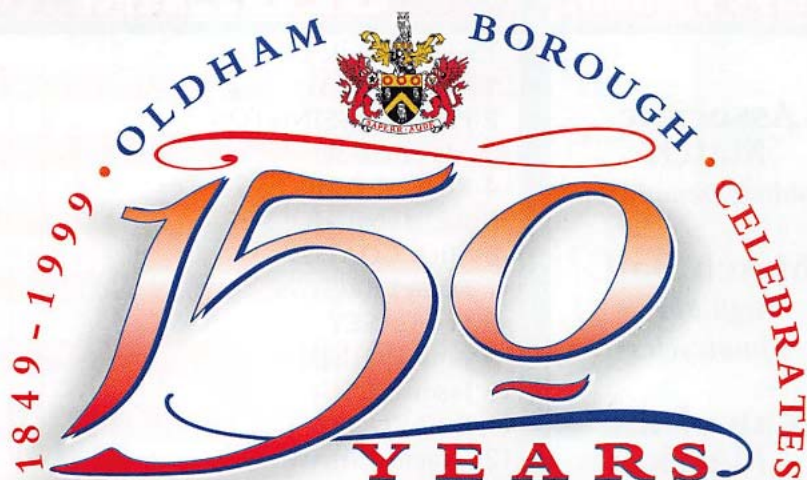
NB: Some Players featured in the above team group are already sponsored in the group on p.19.

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Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds throughout the 1999 Season

Match by Match Analysis 1999



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																							
JANUARY	1 Rochdale H. (Law C)	18-40	2379	17 Widnes	18-12	2500	24 Leigh	112-34	1000	FEBRUARY	1 ECCLES CC 3rd Rd	W26-7	1764	2 Barrow Bulldogs	13-30	1018	15 DEWS. R CC 4th Rd	W16-10	1820	28 Whitehaven CC 5th Rd	12-18	1438	MARCH	12 BARROW B.R.	W24-20	1123	17 Hall K. R.	09-8	2080	21 Huddersfield Hawks	12-44	1533	28 WIDNES WINGS	118-33	APRIL	2 Doncaster Dragons	W27-12	878	5 LEIGH CENTURIONS	L28-26	2183	11 Braxley	118-24	500	25 YORK	114-43	1125	MAY	1 SILK CUT CC Final	18-29	1658	9 KIRKBY COUGARS	L28-32	1842	23 Swinton Lions	L24-31	1478	30 WHITEHAVEN W.	L24-32	775	JUNE	6 Workington Town	W22-17	1148	9 FEATHERSTONE	L18-25	901	13 ROCHDALE	W25-18	3823	18 BATLEY BULLDOGS	020-20	9113	27 Featherstone Rovers	L8-61	1437	JULY	4 HULL K. R.	L22-44	1190	7 DEWBURY RAMS	L12-28	859	11 Barrow B. R.	L16-55	843	25 Widnes Vikings	H	7-45	30 DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	7-45	AUGUST	8 Leigh Centurions	A	7-45	22 BRANLEY	H	7-45	22 LANCASHIRE LYNX	H	7-45	29 Feak	A



Oldham Council is proud to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Borough's municipal status in 1999.

The Council is committed to continuing the good work of all its predecessors in serving the people of Oldham and in driving the Borough's economic, social, environmental, educational and recreational aspirations into the new Millennium.

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OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

Today's Sponsors

Associate Match
Reddish Demolition

Match Ball
High Barn Motorcycles

Man of the Match
Comet

OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

1	Adrian MEAD			
2	Paul BRASSINGTON			
3	Afi LEUILA			
4	Richard DARKES			
5	Joe McNICHOLAS			
6	Mick COATES			
7	Daniel BROWN			
8	Leo CASEY			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Jason CLEGG			
11	Paul ROUND			
12	Graeme SHAW			
13	Emerson JACKMAN			
14	Stuart FRAZER	16	Emmanuel PERALTA	
15	Ian SINFIELD	17	Mike PRESCOTT	

Today's Officials

Today's Referee
Mr Paul Lee



Touch Judges
Mr Phil Brooks
Mr Chris Lee

HUNSLET HAWKS

Coach: David Plange

1	Paul CROOK			
2	Richard BAKER			
3	Shaun IRWIN			
4	Butch FATNOWNA			
5	Iain HIGGINS			
6	Marcus VASSILAKOPOULOS			
7	Latham TAWHAI			
8	Richard HAYES			
9	Richard PACHNIUK			
10	Steve PRYCE			
11	Tony BOWES			
12	Mick COYLE			
13	Mike FLETCHER			
14	Rob D'ARCY	16	Lee ST. HILAIRE	
15	James WALKER	17	Rob WILSON	

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS