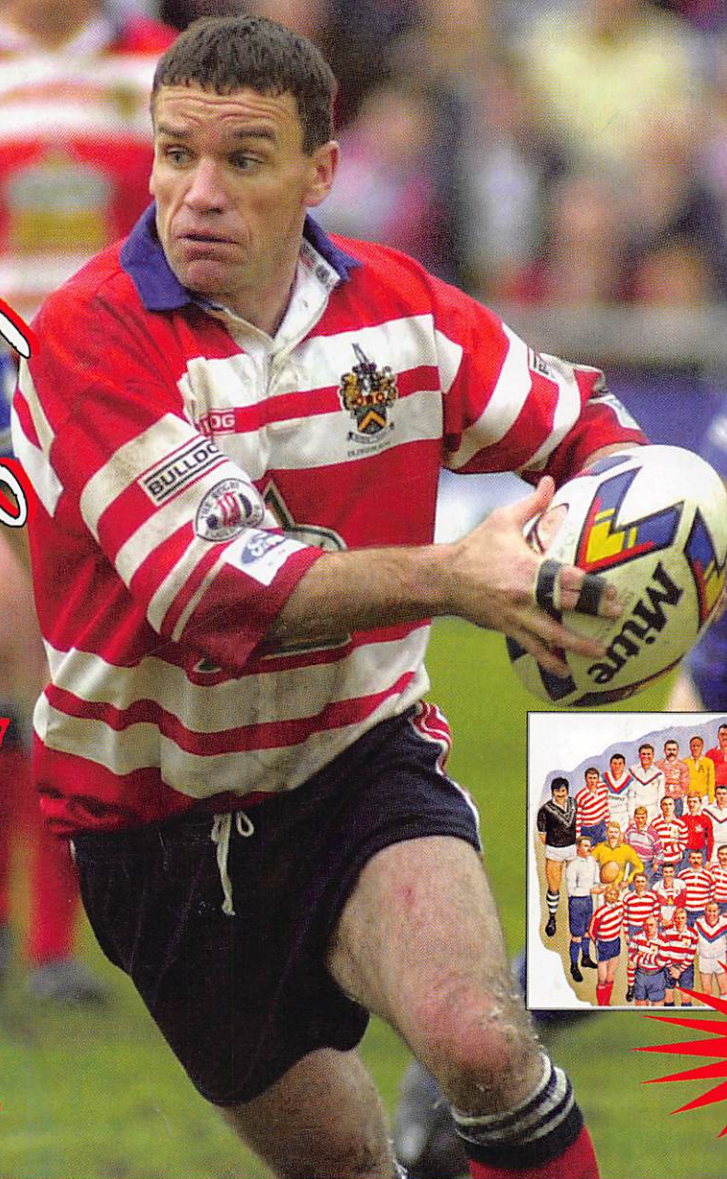


OLDHAM RLFC

Official Matchday Magazine of Oldham Rugby League Football Club £1.50

The Roughyeds



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See inside for details

Widnes Vikings

at Spotland, Rochdale Sun 18th June 2000 Kick-off 3.00pm

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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



WELL, welcome back to Spotland! The last 2 weeks have, to say the least, been very difficult and finding an alternative venue for our last matches has been harder and more complicated than you could imagine. However, as usual, we have overcome our problems and we are now looking forward to entertaining Widnes in what should be another cracker of a game.

Last weekend's victory over Lancashire Lynx was another milestone in the clubs history when we secured our place in the end of season top eight play-offs. The fact that the achievement gained almost no media coverage alarmed me slightly and underlined just how much people's expectation for the team have risen.

Admittedly the goal at the start of the season was a top eight finish but the way the team has performed in the last 25 games has meant that everybody has expected nothing less. We are now striving for a top four finish to try and make

the play-off challenge slightly easier but nobody should forget the tremendous strides the club has made this year.

I am desperately trying to find something different to say in my Boardroom speeches after our home games because the comment about what a good competition the Northern Ford Premiership is has become 'old hat'. The thing is, however, it is true and this is exemplified by the fact that, no matter how many games we win, or who we beat at the moment we can't go higher than sixth position. The next 3 games are vitally important as they are all against teams in the top eight and as ever, your support is crucial. I hope that sufficient numbers will have made the journey to Rochdale today and will provide your usual vocal support to make it another occasion to remember.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

The Roughyeds The Roughyeds

Oldham Rugby League Football Club (1997) Limited

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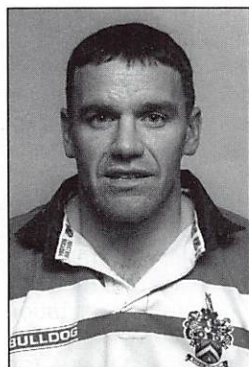
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF OLDHAM RLFC (1997) LTD.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE FOR THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY



FORD FOCUS . . . With Mike Ford

Mark Knight . . . Academy Notes



I REALISE that the situation regarding the use of Boundary Park is unsettling for you, the spectators. But for the playing staff we realise that it is out of our control and it has no effect whatsoever on our attitude. We can't play at Boundary Park - so what? Let's just get on with the

task of preparing to tackle Widnes.

Today's game is obviously another 'four pointer'. Having already achieved our first goal of finishing in the top eight we now want to make sure we hang on to sixth spot and then improve on it. Widnes will be equally keen to finish as high as possible, so today's game for them will be 'all or

nothing' and we can expect them to come out all guns blazing. With David Hulme's new coaching team having put together a fine blend of youth and experience today's game should be another absolute cracker.

I won't dwell on recent results except to say that wins against Doncaster and Leigh prove we can match the best. If there are still any doubters about our quality I would say just look at the league table, because we are where we are on merit. In the outside world we never get a mention regarding the Grand Final, but we feel we are good enough to develop a ruthless streak and a reputation for being relentless, similar to the aura that currently surrounds Dewsbury.

Anyway the only way to achieve that is to keep winning, starting with today.

As always, enjoy the game.

Mike

I AM very pleased to be able to let you know how things are going with the Academy team. From the outset I have been very impressed with the set-up at Oldham and the way Christopher Hamilton and the coaching staff look after the young players we have signed. We were disappointed to inherit the two defeats suffered by Hunslet whose fixtures we took over but will continue to try to get these games expunged.

To date we have played four games, losing to Leigh (16-26) and Hull K.R. (0-32) and defeating Dewsbury (40-14) and York (34-20). Unfortunately as a new team it takes time to gel and the Leigh and Hull K.R. fixtures came a few weeks too early for us, these being the best sides in the competition. That we held Hull K.R. who are unbeaten in 29 games to 0-2 at half time is a credit to the lads determination. All the players have shown a terrific attitude and commitment and they are learning fast. Our immediate aim is to qualify for the top 5 play-offs and the longer term aim to match the standard of Leigh and Hull K.R. Nearly all our players will be available next season so our prospects look good. The experience of such as David Harris, Warren Druggitt, Alex Peet and Lee Doran has been beneficial and already Anthony Whitehead and David Newton have been called into the Alliance side.

We were thrilled with the turnout at our home fixtures and hope as many of you as possible can get along to Castleton for tomorrow's game against Doncaster (k.o. 7.30). Thanks for your support.

Mark

ALLIANCE SCOREBOARD

TOP TRIES

20 Chris Spurr (Featherstone); 18 Simon Lewis (Wigan); 16 Phil Jones (Wigan); 15 Mike Briggs (Widnes); 14 Shane Irabor (Barrow) & Alan Reddcliffe (Widnes); **13 Gavin Dodd (Oldham)**; 12 Paul George (Widnes) & David Hodgson (Wigan); 11 Stuart Dickinson (Leigh), Jim Forshaw (Salford) & Andrew Nelson (Whitehaven).

TOP GOALS

62 P. Jones; 60 Steve Stoddart (Whitehaven); **57 Kevin Fitzpatrick (Oldham)**; 40 Liam Jones (Widnes); 39 Simon Verbickas (Widnes); 36 Paul Sykes (Bradford); 34 Craig Wingfield (Leigh); 33 Craig Fisher (Workington) & Steve Kirkbride (Warrington)

Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Widnes Vikings	18	13	0	5	669	290	379	26
Leigh Centurions	19	11	1	7	498	436	62	23
Whitehaven Warriors	16	11	0	5	422	345	77	22
Featherstone Rovers	18	11	0	7	465	440	25	22
Hunslet Hawks	17	11	0	6	362	366	-4	22
Oldham	19	10	0	9	394	357	37	20
Batley Bulldogs	19	1	9	9	343	361	-18	19
Rochdale Hornets	16	7	0	9	322	431	-109	14
Workington Town	17	5	0	12	371	416	-45	10
Keighley Cougars	17	5	0	12	365	471	-106	10
Barrow B Raiders	18	3	0	15	336	634	-298	6

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In Yer Face



I AM not a native of Oldham, but a 'comer-in', albeit of long standing. What has always struck me about Oldhamers since my first bacon butty at the old Market Cafe, my first pint in the Mare and Foal, and my first pub crawl taking in the Top Drum, the Snipe and the Albion, is their friendliness and good heartedness. As a town Oldham leaves a lot to be desired despite recent attempts to rebuild. It does not have a clear-cut town centre like Bury or Huddersfield. It does not have a town hall to rival Rochdale or Bolton, and it does not have stylish architecture like Leeds or Halifax. But it does have a warmth and a spirit which compensates for its failings. Which is why, when surrounding towns are re-asserting their identity through the building of new sports stadiums, Oldham deserves not to be left behind. It is my opinion that only the best is good enough and I make no secret of the fact I was in favour of Sports Park 2000, the rejection of which has almost certainly cost Oldham the prestige of housing the planned Rugby League Museum plus the chance to leave to our children and grandchildren sporting facilities to rival those of any town in the North. Isn't it about time we stopped pussyfooting around and provided the best the sporting world has to offer? After all, in Rugby League terms, Oldham is the ideal place for any trans-Pennine Cup Final or Semi-Final not to mention an excellent international venue.

So it will be with considerable interest that I await the unveiling of plans to re-vamp Boundary Park because in my view - and I stress that this is my personal view - a second best, make-do-and-mend project is not acceptable. As recently as last week John Battye, now an ex-councillor, confirmed that the funding WAS in place for Sports Park 2000, despite what our new council leaders tell us. A different scheme almost certainly means that some investors will no longer be interested, but other funds could become available. To the

ordinary sports fan it is all bewildering and frustrating and it would be helpful if Lib-Dem 'open government' would run to informing us just how the new plans will be paid for.

Additionally, I will want to know how well designed the 'new' stadium will be. I would hope for state of the art facilities regarding access, provision for the disabled, leg room, viewing, comfort, toilets, refreshments etc etc. Then there are facilities for Corporate Hospitality, Changing Rooms and Treatment Rooms for players, Boardroom, Kit Rooms, Groundsman's equipment etc. And, if we were really ambitious we should be looking at Conference Facilities, Sports Hall, Gymnasium, Swimming Pool, Restaurants, Bars and Shops to make the area a seven day a week attraction. If you think that's over-reaching ourselves, just take a trip to Huddersfield and see what the McAlpine Stadium and the surrounding complex has to offer. And if you think it's all well and good talking in these terms but it all costs money, well I for one would pay more Council Tax if I thought it would produce something worthwhile along the lines suggested. And if you disagree, as you are entitled to do, just think what use we could put the money to that is currently producing a plethora of quite unnecessary road humps, ridiculous mini-roundabouts, and bitumen pavements that will be lethal as soon as there is a frost.

And, finally, in view of the decision to prevent Oldham R.L.F.C. completing their season at Boundary Park a new stadium MUST be run by a Stadium Company which gives equal representation to Oldham Athletic and Oldham R.L.F.C. in its administration so that never again will the situation arise which has caused today's and succeeding games to be played away from Oldham. I come back to my starting point: Oldham deserves the best. I wait with bated breath!

ROGER ROGER

IT'S good to know that, at last, we seem to be making progress on the new stadium.

Confused? Don't be. To all intents and purposes we will have a new stadium when Boundary Park is redeveloped and upgraded, so long as it is done to first-class standards to produce corporate and leisure facilities in keeping with those found at new grounds all over the country.

Yes, I admit it. I was sorry to see the back of Sportspark 2000. But I'm sure most supporters of both the Roughyeds and of Oldham Athletic would prefer to see Boundary Park rebuilt and modernised than wait for a new stadium to be built on the very edge of town in Hollinwood or almost in Moston.

You know my feelings about Manchester in terms of Oldham sport. Let's keep Oldham sport in Oldham and if that means abandoning plans for a brand new stadium in favour of a major facelift for Boundary Park then so be it.

A modern stadium is absolutely essential to the future well being of Oldham Rugby League (1997) Ltd and of Oldham Athletic, but you've only to look at how Turf Moor or Deepdale have been developed in recent years to acknowledge what wonderful things can be done to turn an old ground into a new one which can compare very favourably indeed with the new stadia that are appearing in towns all over the country.

The Oldham Stadium, as it will be known, is unlikely to be turned round 45 degrees as has been considered in the past.

As I understand it, no decisions have yet been made about exactly what will be done, although the feeling seems to be that the comparatively new stands at the Chadderton Road and Rochdale Road ends will be left intact.

The bulk of the development will probably take place on both sides and involve the replacement of the George Hill and Lookers Stands with the focal point of the development on the Broadway side of the ground.

Building work on the Sheepfoot Lane side of the ground will inevitably be restricted, but there is scope on the opposite side to really go to town and make that side the "main" side of the ground.

I can envisage access off Broadway and through the car park as the main route to and from the stadium, but I must stress that my imagination is running away with me: no decisions have yet been made.

This would appear to be the next best thing to Sportspark 2000 - just as the transfer to

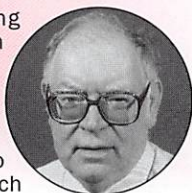
Spotland for the remaining home games of the season was also "second best". If we are not playing at Boundary Park where better than Spotland?

The board had offers to take today's game, the match against Featherstone on July 2 and any home games to various places such as Mossley FC, Hilton Park at Leigh, the Willows at Salford, Victory park at Chorley and even Mount Pleasant at Batley.

Spotland is a neat, trim little ground which is also in the midst of redevelopment with a new stand going up on the popular side to complement others that have gone up in recent years on the main side and behind the posts at the Rochdale end of the ground.

One hopes Oldham fans will turn out in force today to back Mike Ford and his players and to show Christopher Hamilton and his fellow directors that the supporters appreciate the massive strides that have been taken this season.

It was a blow to be asked to leave Boundary Park, but that blow will be softened if the fans display an act of faith by turning up in numbers against Widnes and Featherstone and also in the play off whether here at Spotland or elsewhere.



Mike Ford

Congratulations to Mike Ford and his players for assuring the club of a play-off spot with three games still to go. Their achievements since the start of April have been phenomenal and well worthy of the backing of anyone in Oldham who calls himself or herself a rugby league supporter.

Roger Halstead

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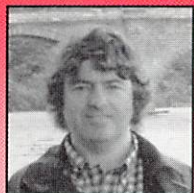
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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1970 - 1980

1970 SAW the last success for Great Britain in an ashes series, to date, against the Kangaroos and it was in Australia too. The first test in Brisbane was lost 15 - 37 but the tourists stormed back to win the second in Sydney 28 - 7. The decider was again played in Sydney where a Roger Millward inspired Lions roared to a famous 21 - 17 victory. I'm sure, at that time, no one would have thought it possible that 30 years later the feat would not have been repeated.

The 1971 -72 season saw the introduction of the John Player trophy (originally known as the Players No 6 trophy) with Halifax defeating Wakefield in the first final. Also in 1972, the four tackle rule was changed to the six tackle rule and the timekeepers / hooter method was adopted for finishing a match. Bramley won their first major honour when they defeated Widnes in the final of the BBC 2 floodlit trophy in 1973. Strangely enough this match was played not under lights but

in mid afternoon due to national strikes by the power workers. Despite the loss to Bramley the "Chemics" enjoyed tremendous success in the Challenge Cup in the 1970s, securing the trophy in 1975 & 1979 and ending up beaten finalists in 1976 & 1977. In 1974 the drop goal was devalued from two points to one.

There was a return to the two division system for the 1973-74 season when Salford were crowned champions and Bradford Northern took the second division title. The "Red Devils took the title again in 1976 when they pipped Featherstone by one point. However, Rovers went one better the following season to take the championship for the first time in their history. There was another first in 1977 when Workington Town took the Lancashire Cup back to Cumbria for the first time.

On November 5th 1978, Great Britain defeated Australia 18 - 14 at Odsal stadium in the second test of the series. It would be ten years before they beat the Kangaroos again!

The end of the decade saw the Humberside clubs emerge as the major force in the domestic game. Hull Kingston Rovers won the first division in 1979 while neighbours Hull F.C. took the second division title winning all 26 league matches along the way. A unique achievement.

On the 1979 tour Britain were ominously whitewashed by the Aussies and although they beat the Kiwis by two tests to one, the domination from down under had begun.



Action from the Great Britain victory over Australia at Bradford in 1978
Brian Lockwood takes on Aussie defence.

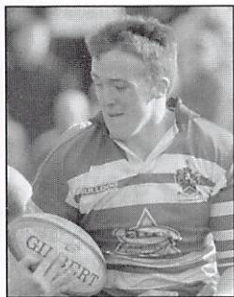
PROBING THE NFP

AS THE season reaches its climax the leading clubs are jostling for position as the higher up the table they finish the bigger the advantage in terms of number of games and matches at home.

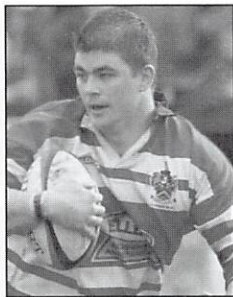
Round 24 saw today's visitors Widnes become the latest victims of Barrow's Fortress Craven Park as the Cumbrians continue to battle for a place in the eight. Missed goal kicks cost the Vikings dear as in form second-row Geoff Luxon (that man again!) notched two tries.

If I got the Barrow result right, I was wrong about Keighley, who were turned over at home by Doncaster Dragons wingman Neil Bennett scored a hat-trick in the last ten minutes to deny the Cougars and leave Karl Harrison spitting feathers.

With Dewsbury enjoying a comfortable 30-8 win at Don Valley the Rams were able to cement their position at the top. However, Leigh came a cropper at Boundary Park where the Oldham pack, with Farrell and McMenemy to the fore, outplayed the Leigh six enabling the ever reliable John Hough to add two more tries to his season's tally.



Phil Farrell



Shayne McMenemy

Meanwhile Featherstone were grateful for an Andy Heptinstall drop goal in the 40th minute because it turned out to be the winner as Hunslet mounted a late rally only to fail at 12-13.

As expected Hull K.R. won at York (24-6) to hold onto eighth spot, thereby frustrating Swinton who won at Batley by 28-24. The inconsistent Lions need a few results to go their way if they are to gatecrash the eight especially as they could only draw with Whitehaven in a Friday night 'home' fixture played at Orrell R.U.

Last Sunday there were no surprises as all the top eight won to widen the gap over the challengers.

Dewsbury disposed of Barrow 42-20 but had to fight hard for the win, Brendan O'Meara in top form. Barry Eaton 2 tries and five goals.

Second placed Keighley went to Spotland and came away 30-10 winners against Hornets, but again it was no walkover. Steve Linnare shook the hands of every Hornet player at the end as his patched up side turned in an heroic performance.

Leigh hammered Hunslet 44-4. Centre Paul Anderson finished with 16 points from a try and 6 goals.

Similarly Featherstone were convincing to the tune of 56-12 against reprieved from the Inland Revenue York Wasps. Skipper Danny Evans was again a stand out performer with two tries to his credit. Doncaster entertained Sheffield to 29-8 points of pain, free scoring full-back Steve Booth notching two tries and six goals, though hooker Peter Edwards was the man of the match.

Oldham, meanwhile coasted to victory over Lancashire Lynx 48-14, a Sibson hat-trick and Roden brace of tries the highlights. Prop Jason Pekepo outstanding for Lynx.

Hull K.R. overcame Batley 30-10 and had to battle all the way. Centre Whetu Taewa was the star of the show.

And finally, today's visitors Widnes crushed Workington 42-16. Hooker Phil Cantillon added another three to his formidable try tally to emphasis his value to the Vikings.

Today could prove more interesting. Oldham v Widnes is THE big game, the Roughyeds keen to complete a double, the Vikings to take their revenge. Both anxious for points to maintain or improve their position. Expect Featherstone to win at home to Batley. Dewsbury to win at York, Doncaster to overwhelm Hunslet and Keighley to demolish Sheffield. However Hull K.R. face a tough trip to Whitehaven and Barrow will be praying their Cumbrian neighbours can prevail as they hand out a Craven Park beating to Swinton. With Leigh entertaining Lancashire Lynx places 6,7, and 8 are the ones most likely to undergo change.

In Town Today



....WIDNES VIKINGS

WIDNES VIKINGS, today's visitors, come to us in seventh position in the league, but for the Vikings' ambitious Board of Directors that is an unacceptable statistic. Eager to regain Super League status, the Vikings fired Coach Colin Whitfield when results did not come up to expectation, installing Great Britain international David Hulme in his place. Despite the change Widnes have not been able to improve their lot, but they will be aware that any team which can mount a late season charge will have a chance of going all the way to the Grand Final, and if any team has big game players plus a stadium well up to Super League standards then that team is Widnes.

Current full back is an Oldham lad making a welcome appearance against his home town club: DAMIEN MUNRO was briefly an Oldham Bear before signing for Widnes where his pacy running from the back and eye for an opening have transformed him into a free-scoring and dangerous attacker as well as a reliable last line of defence.

On the flanks will be LIAM JONES and ANDY CHEETHAM. Recent signing Jones is a promising 20 year old able to fill a variety of positions and is also a reliable goal-kicker; while strong-running Cheetham is a 6'2" powerhouse signed from Huddersfield Giants and is well capable of scoring long range tries.



Afri Leuila

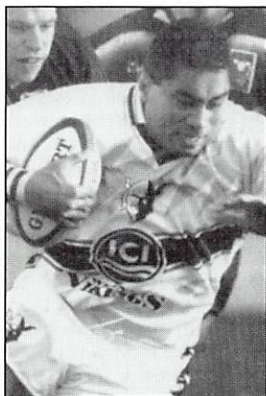
At centre perm any two from three. AFI LEUILA will need no introduction to Oldham fans being both a former Bear and Roughyed. His abrasive style endeared him to Roughyed supporters, although it would be true to say we did not see the best of him in 1999 when his style seemed at odds with what Mick Coates wanted. CHRIS PERCIVAL, at 21, is a similar all action player to Leuila and EDDIE KILGANNON is a

perfect foil for either partner with his silky skills and timely passing.

At stand off New Zealander PAUL MANSSON arrived at the Autoquest Stadium via Hunslet Hawks. At his best Mansson is a majestic play-maker capable of opening up any defence with his sleight of hand, rarely needing more than one

opportunity to post his name on the scoresheet as Oldham discovered earlier in the season.

Scrum-half LEE BIRDSEYE has graduated from the Alliance side and at 20 years old is highly promising and possessed of a good kicking game. He is rivalled for the number 7 shirt by KARL FITZPATRICK, a fiery but livewire halfback, at his best when Widnes pack is on top.



Lee Hanson

Up front Widnes boast some big men. Tongan international LEE HANSEN has played with Wigan and Keighley and takes some holding. So too New Zealand international GEORGE MANN who made his name at St. Helens and has also featured with Keighley and Swinton. Then there is recent signing from Halifax SIMON KNOX, a tough Cumbrian who started at Workington and can play at either prop or second-row. Big STEVE ARGENT is another nonsense, go-forward player. Now add to these fellows irrepressible hooker PHIL CANTILLON. Once of Leeds, Cantillon has really blossomed at Widnes and, like Oldham's John Hough, can not be neglected at play the ball because a moment's inattention will produce a try for the speedy number 9, as witness his recent 5 tries in a game, the second time he has registered this remarkable feat in his Widnes career.

In the back row strong running STEVE GEE joined the Vikings from Lancashire Lynx where he had earned rave reviews as one of the best second-rows in the N.F.P. He has been partnered recently by workaholic MICK HILL, while last man down has been the lively TOMMY HODGKINSON another arrival from the Lynx and prior to that with Leigh Centurions.

Others on the Vikings register include CLIFF ECCLES, an ex-Rochdale and Swinton packman; young stand-off DANNY MYLER; prop CHRIS MURPHY and second string hooker KARL LONG. With little time on his side DAVID HULME one of Widnes all time greats and a favourite son of his hometown (and arguably one of the most wholehearted players ever to don a Great Britain shirt) has to lick this side into shape for a late push. We wish him luck but certainly not at Oldham's expense.

MUSICAL VENUES - NEW CRAZE HITS RUGBY LEAGUE

Don Yates Points Out The Pitfalls of a Trip To France

OLDHAM supporters were quite rightly disappointed earlier this month when they realised that, with Boundary Park unavailable, the closing home matches of the campaign would have to be switched to other venues. They have my sympathy, especially after I suffered a spate of venue changes during a recent visit to France.

When I heard that the Russian national team were to make a short trip to France in preparation for the forthcoming World Cup I just knew that it was a trip tailor-made for me. The Russians were to play France in Carpentras first, a French Presidents XIII in Salon second, and then finish with a match against an Alps-Rhone XIII in Lyon. I therefore booked flights from Manchester to Avignon (Carpentras does not have an international airport) and from Lyon to Manchester. I also booked hotel accommodation in Avignon, Salon and Lyon.

Two days before my trip began I read that the match in Salon had been switched to Arles and the match in Lyon had been switched to Villefranche. Villefranche is not too far from Lyon so there was no problem with the flights but I cancelled my hotel accommodation in Salon and Lyon and booked accommodation in Arles and Villefranche.

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Unfortunately my flight to Avignon was delayed at Manchester and I missed my connecting flight in Paris so I was stuck at Orly airport for eight hours. Delays at airports can sometimes be pleasant. Both Paris Charles-de-Gaulle and Manchester International airports have plenty of shops, restaurants and bars.

Eight hours at either of those would have been a delight. But Orly. It is half the size of Greenacres Cemetery and twice as dead. The redeeming feature for Orly is that it does have an Irish theme pub. The flight from Orly to Avignon was uneventful. Or at least I think it was uneventful, but events do tend to pass you by when you are slumped in seat 11F of a Fokker 100 with twelve pints of Kilkeny Bitter tucked under your belt.

The following morning I visited Avignon railway station and booked a rail ticket from Avignon to Arles. In France they have a system at railway stations where, on entering the booking office, you take a ticket with a number upon it and

wait for your number to be displayed on an electric 'scoreboard' telling you which ticket desk to attend. French bureaucracy dictates that your wait is never shorter than it should be. You wait and you wait. Believe me, in Oldham you don't wait that long for a council house. But at least I was now booked on the Avignon to Arles express.

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Page 1/1

I then took a 40 minute bus ride into Carpentras where the international ended in an 82-0 defeat for the Russians. Before the match I discovered that the last bus from Carpentras back to Avignon was at 7.50pm. The match kicked off at 8pm. I also discovered that the match at Arles was not taking place in the attractive city of Arles between Avignon and Marseilles and where I saw France defeat South Africa three years ago. It was taking place in Arles-sur-Tech, a tiny village which, I was told, was just outside Perpignan on the French-Spanish border. Also the match at Villefranche had been switched to Villeurbanne.

The return journey from Carpentras to Avignon was taken in a taxi which had a meter which went round faster than the taxi wheels. During the journey the taxi driver told me just how good a rugby team Carpentras were and how beautiful this region of France is alongside the magnificent River Aude. I did tell him that Carpentras had just been relegated, but I didn't have the heart to tell him that the Aude was, in fact, the Rhône. We swept into Avignon and he pulled up outside the Hotel Ibis alongside the Rhône, although, of course, he thought it was the Aude. 'Wallah, your hotel.', he said. I told him I was staying in the Ibis which was adjacent to the railway station. 'There are two Ibis hotels in Avignon?' he asked. 'No' I explained, 'There are three and this isn't the one I'm staying at.' I'm just glad he doesn't work for Bob Sopel Travel.

The following morning I cancelled my hotel accommodation at Arles and Villeurbanne and booked accommodation at Perpignan and Villeurbanne. I spent the rest of the day in Avignon station booking a train to Perpignan. After moving on to Perpignan I found out that Arles-sur-Tech 'just outside' Perpignan was in fact 40 miles

....Continued on Page 21

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Map showing the location of Harlequins Cabaret Bar in Tenerife. The map includes labels for Parque Santiago III, Mediterranean Palace, Royal Garden, Compostela Beach, and Playa Central. The bar is located near the Royal Garden and Compostela Beach.

If you choose Tenerife for your holidays, call in at the Harlequins for a real Oldham welcome. See photos of the all-time greats, Bryn Day, Alan Davies, Bernard Ganley, Derek Turner, Martin Murphy, Terry Flanagan and Co.

OLDHAM RLFC INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION

ART in sport is quite rare and art in our own sport, rugby league, is rare indeed but, once in a while comes along something special! OLDHAMS own artist ANDY PEMBERTON commissioned with a difficult brief has produced one of the most spectacular of rugby watercolours.

This superb painting has been commissioned by way of a TRIPLE celebration. To mark both the Millennium and the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the old Oldham club, and perhaps most important, to celebrate the achievements of Oldham Rugby Club, who, over those 125 years has not just produced many, many representative players, but has attracted famous players from each corner of the rugby playing world. But this painting is more, much more! A spectacular image of the gathering of 43 Oldham players from many eras, from many countries, captains of Australia, New Zealand, Wales, England and Great Britain captured together in one frozen moment in time.

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OLDHAM RLFC INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION

Back Row (left to right): Maseesee Solomon (1992-94) Oldham & New Zealand. Bob Irving (1965-73) Oldham, Great Britain - Tourist 1970.

Andy Goodway (1978-85 & 1993-94) Oldham, England, Captain of Great Britain - Tourist 1984. **Derek Turner** (1955-59) Oldham & Great Britain.

John Armstrong (c1884-92) Oldham & Lancashire RU. **Billy Farnsworth** (1912-20) Australia & Oldham. **Bryn Goldswain** (1949-56) Oldham, Wales & Other Nationalities.

Sid Little OBE (1952-59) Oldham & Great Britain. **Bob Lindner** (1993-94) Captain of Australia & Oldham. **Hugh Waddell** (1986-89) Oldham & Great Britain - Tourist 1988.

Bob Sloman (1921-29) Oldham, England & Great Britain - Tourist 1924 & 1928. **Sir Philip Sidney Stott** (c1877-85) Oldham. **Ike Southward** (1958-61) Oldham & Great Britain.

Joseph Platt (1885-1930) Oldham FC President. First Hon Secretary Northern Union 1895-1919.

Third Row (left to right): Harry Varley (1893-97) England RU & Oldham. **John 'Ben' Andrew** (c1891-95) Oldham, Lancashire RU & South Africa.

Syd Dean (1908-12) Captain of Australia, Rokes Drift Test & Oldham. **Bert Avery** (1905-14) Oldham, England & Great Britain - Tourist 1910.

Bill McCutcheon (1888-97) Oldham & Wales RU. **Bernard Ganley** (1951-61) Oldham & Great Britain. **Abe Ashworth** (1891-93) Oldham & England RU.

Alex Givvons (1933-42 & 1948) Oldham & Wales. **Ken Jackson** (1950-61) Oldham & Great Britain - Tourist 1958. **John Etty** (1955-59) Oldham & Yorkshire.

Reg Farrar (1920-30) Oldham & Yorkshire. **A. E. 'George' Anlezark** (1909-14) Australia & Oldham.

Second Row (left to right): Martin Murphy (1966-82) Oldham & England. **Frank Stirrup** (1950-60) Oldham & Lancashire.

Mike Ford (1987-91 & 1999-2000) Oldham & Great Britain - Tourist 1988. **Jim Lomas** (1910-13) Oldham, Captain of England and Great Britain.

George Tyson (1902-11) Oldham, England & Great Britain. **Viv Farnsworth** (1912-15) Australia & Oldham. **Sid Rix** (1919-32) Oldham, England & Great Britain - Tourist 1924.

George (GW) Smith (1908-14) New Zealand All Black RU, New Zealand All Golds RL & Oldham. **Herman Hilton** (1913-25) Oldham, England & Great Britain - Tourist 1920.

Joe Ferguson (1899-1923) Oldham & Captain of England.

Front Row (left to right): Alf Wood (1908-20) England RU, Oldham, England & Great Britain, Rokes Drift Test - Tourist 1914 & 1920. **Billy Hall** (1913-25) Oldham, England, Great Britain, Rokes Drift Test - Tourist 1914. **Terry Flanagan** (1979-89) Oldham & Great Britain - Tourist 1984. **George Frater** (1896-1905) Oldham & Other Nationalities.

Arthur Lees (1892-1907) Oldham, Lancashire RU & Lancashire RL. **Alan Davies** (1950-61) Oldham, England & Great Britain - Tourist 1958.

Dave Holland (1913-21) England RU, Oldham, Great Britain, Rokes Drift Test - Tourist 1914.

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3



3. Player goes to place ball on ground (please note absence of half the opposition pack on his back)

4



4. Player puts foot on ball (remember to send memo to all Super League players regarding this).

5



5. Player heels ball to acting half-back (without, of course, moving several yards forward to prevent opposition marker from tackling said acting half-back).



Now what could be simpler?

However, please note that if you get it wrong and elect to send off a player for not doing it right, the following could happen.....

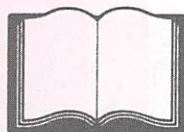
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Amateur Album



.....CROMPTON AND WERNETH

DURING the past six months this column has attempted to give you a brief history and outline the future ambitions of our local amateur clubs. However, those clubs represent just a minority of the amateur organisations which have operated in the Oldham area during the past one hundred years or so.

When rugby league, or the Northern Union code as it was then known, was first played there were about 50 clubs playing in the Oldham area. Of course there was no National Conference League in existence in those days but a similar grade of competition, just below professional level, was played in the early years of the last century. That competition was the Lancashire Second Competition and two clubs from this region, Crompton and Werneth, were involved in that competition.

Crompton were members of the Second Competition for just one season, 1897-98, at the end of which they disbanded after suffering financial difficulties. It was a sad end to the 15 year existence of a fine club. Since then clubs in that area have included Shawside, East Crompton and Royton, whose glorious spell in the late fifties saw them win the Standard Cup in 1957, 1958 and 1959. Nowadays Shaw Rhinos carry the flag in that district of the town.

Werneth's stay in the Second Competition lasted a little longer, five years, during which time their Block Lane ground, adjacent to the railway line, became a venue feared by visiting clubs. However, just like Crompton, Werneth ran into financial difficulties, problems made worse by numerous 'big name' recruits which frequently brought accusations from opposing clubs of illegal payments being made to induce those signings.

International winger George Tyson, who won four test caps, was a product of the Werneth club who went on to star with the Roughyeds. In 1904 Werneth changed their name to Chadderton and within three years the club had folded.

In the early 1960s another Werneth amateur club was founded by the late Tom Webb, an outstanding historian. The most famous product of the latter Werneth club was hooker Kevin Taylor, an England international who went on to make 429 appearances for the Roughyeds between 1962 and 1977. The photograph shows Taylor, skipper of the Werneth team, holding the ball before a match on the old Watersheddings training pitch. On the far right of the front row is another player who enjoyed a lengthy spell with the Roughyeds, centre Phil Larder. Back-row forward Denis Maders also turned professional with Oldham as well as enjoying a spell with Huddersfield. He is stood second from the right and next to him, far right on the back row, is programme columnist Don Yates, then with dark hair.



ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES 2000

JANUARY

8th	Whitehaven Warriors	A	W	18 - 16
15th	BARROW B.R.	H	W	42 - 2
22nd	Workington Town	A	L	26 - 4
27th	Rochdale Hornets	A	L	16 - 4

FEBRUARY

3rd	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	W	34 - 6
26th	Batley Bulldogs	A	W	18 - 11

MARCH

8th	Widnes Vikings	A	L	40 - 6
14th	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	W	34 - 12
23rd	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H	W	43 - 18
30th	Featherstone Rovers	A	L	32 - 6

APRIL

5th	Hunslet Hawks	A	L	10 - 24
13th	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	P	
20th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	L	14 - 36
27th	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	W	26 - 8

MAY

3rd	Keighley Cougars	A	W	38 - 14
20th	Barrow B. R.	A	W	23 - 18
27th	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	W	36 - 4
31st	Leigh Centurions	A	L	10 - 32

JUNE

10th	WHITEHAVEN W.	H	L	14 - 22
15th	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	W	7 - 30

JULY

1st				
22nd				

TOP FIVE PLAY OFF
GRAND FINAL PLAY OFF FINAL

Musical Venues

....Continued from Page 14

south west of Perpignan and there was no public transport whatsoever either into or out of the village. In the past I have been able to travel to international fixtures on the team bus due to my connections within the French Rugby League. However, I noticed at Carpentras that the French team travelled in private cars. I kid you not. Even Watersheddings Wanderers have a team bus. One cynical French journalist told me that a certain French back (I won't name him so as to avoid any embarrassment), has an uncle with an eight seater people carrier. Hence his selection despite a series of low par performances.



Anyway, because of the lack of public transport I arranged to travel to Arles-sur-Tech and back with a local taxi firm. As in England taxi fares differ between day rates and night rates. It was bound to be an expensive night out but I was determined to see the match, especially as it marked the end of the career of international referee Claude Alba. On the

way to the match the taxi driver again pointed out the scenic beauty of the region. I agreed with him but at £1.50p per mile going to the game and £2 per mile coming back, the scenery somehow lost some of its splendour to my eyes.



At the end of the match, which Russia lost 50-16, referee Claude Alba left the pitch in tears. When I got the taxi bill I knew exactly how he felt.

Whilst at that match I discovered that the game at Villeurbanne had been switched to the Stade Vuillermet, close to the centre of Lyon.

The following morning I cancelled

my hotel accommodation in Villeurbanne and arranged accommodation in central Lyon. It was the accommodation I had originally booked in Lyon before this French version of musical venues had begun. I spent the rest of the day booking a train from Perpignan to Lyon.

The final few days of this French farce ran relatively smoothly. Russia lost in Lyon 28-20 and my flight home was completed without any delays. I am now eagerly awaiting my next visit to France. It is for the World Cup match between Papua-New Guinea and Tonga which the ticket application form, issued from Rugby Football League headquarters, indicates is to be staged in Perpignan. It has already been switched to St Esteve

Something tells me this saga is set to run and run.

OLDHAM ACADEMY RUGBY LEAGUE

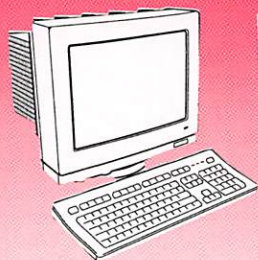
CLUB FIXTURES 2000

MAY			
6th	Hemel Hempstead	A	2.00 P
21st	York	W	34-20
29th	Leigh Centurions	L	16-26
JUNE			
5th	DEWSBURY RAMS	W	40-14
11th	Hull K.R.	L	0-32
19th	DONCASTER	H	7-30
25th	Lancashire Lynx	A	1.00
JULY			
1st	GATESHEAD	H	2-30
8th	Whitehaven Warriors	A	2-30
24th	Featherstone Rovers	A	7-30
26th	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H	7-30
29th	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	H	2-30
AUGUST			
5th	Cardiff Demons	A	2-30
12th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	2-30
To be Arranged: Workington Town (Home)			
Whitehaven Warriors (Home)			
Cardiff Demons (Home) Gateshead (Away)			

ACADEMY FIRST DIVISION

(Provisional results to 13th June 2000)

	Games				Pts	
	P	W	D	L	For	Against
Leigh Centurions	9	8	0	1	351	116
Hull Kingston Rovers	8	8	0	0	282	71
Featherstone Rovers	8	6	0	2	336	84
Workington Town	8	6	0	2	244	113
Dewsbury Rams	10	5	0	5	222	291
Gateshead Mets	8	4	0	4	141	171
Whitehaven Warriors	8	3	0	5	234	252
Oldham	6	2	0	4	107	148
Doncaster Dragons	6	2	0	4	128	188
Lancashire Lynx	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hemel Hempstead S'	1	0	0	1	4	56
Cardiff Demons	6	0	0	6	85	282
York	7	0	0	7	64	366



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With Simon Winnard

THE exhilarating performances on the pitch have been somewhat overshadowed by events off it in recent weeks. The achievement of securing a well deserved play-off place should not be underestimated in Mike Fords first season in charge. Congratulations to all involved who have clearly demonstrated the necessary commitment, determination and desire to succeed and a self belief is now really starting show.

However, the announcement of The Oldham Stadium represents scant reward for that achievement as the Roughyeds continue in their desperate search for a sympathetic host for the climax of what has been a magnificent Northern Ford Premiership campaign.

The Oldham Chronicle's editorial comment this week, which headlined "Stadium for all Oldham" has done little to placate the public outcry generated by the Roughyeds treatment in recent weeks. It states that there should be relief in all quarters that a final decision on the Stadium has been made. However, I'm sure I can be forgiven for demonstrating a little scepticism here. Should this development ever materialise, and on that issue I have very serious doubts, it is quite clearly far too early at present to offer premature, misplaced enthusiasm until the facts are clearly and publicly presented..we have been down this road too often before.

The immediate scrapping of the Sportspark 2000 and subsequent decision to redevelop Boundary Park was always seen as the least politically damaging option. However, what should have been a pre-election declaration of intent was never offered and we are now told that the option of redeveloping Boundary Park should not be seen as a political compromise. However, whilst new Stadia are built all over the country, it would appear that the Oldham sporting public are now being asked to settle for second best once again.

The Comment goes on, The Oldham Stadium has the backing of both clubs. What choice does either realistically have in the matter ? The football club have sold Boundary Park, the proceeds clearing off the majority of their massive debt. This has not only ensured their short term survival but they now also look set to get their ancestral home upgraded for free into the bargain. Unfortunately the Roughyeds were not afforded that luxury with the sale of Watersheddings to the very same company but, having gone down that road, have no real alternative venue options in the town.

Given the recent track record of both elected councils, Hiretarget and Oldham Athletic the long term prospects are uneasy. Contractual assurances will have to be given if the club are to be encouraged to participate and without that participation, the possibility of external funding for the development would be diminished considerably. The Roughyeds can ill afford the instability to continue as the poor relations in any leasing agreement.

On a somewhat brighter note, today we welcome Widnes Vikings for what should be another absolute cracker in the end of season run in.. A victory would keep the pressure on Doncaster and Featherstone and maintain the push for a top four finish. Our form in recent weeks, particularly at home, has been exceptional and the battle between the NFPs two outstanding hookers should be something to look forward to.

The sheer determination and pride shown by the team this season typifies the spirit which has been sorely tested on numerous occasions throughout the last couple of roller coaster Roughyed years. Overcoming one major obstacle after another has almost become a way of life for the club since its re-birth. However, one thing is for sure, anything is possible and when the taste of success does finally arrive it will be all the sweeter for the suffering.



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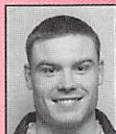
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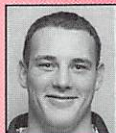
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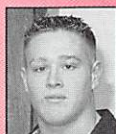
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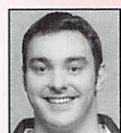
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Club Call

CLUB CALL

A warm welcome to all supporters to this afternoon's game between two play off contenders. It has been an eventful few weeks at the club but the spirit and enthusiasm of our supporters never ceases to amaze me. Please continue your tremendous support as we enter the 'business' time of the season.

SHOW YOUR COLOURS

New stock continues to arrive at the shop. We have just received some shower proof hooded jackets at only £30.00!! Our new Clubcrest Leisure Tops are made from a revolutionary new fabric called micro-fibre. These tops are amazingly priced at only £16.99!! Another delivery of the popular heavyweight polo shirts are already selling fast, these are priced at £15.99. When you are travelling away why not show that you are part of the Barmy

Army with our car stickers. The large "Roughyed" ones are priced at £1.99 and the smaller Oldham RLFC ones are priced at £1.00.

WATCH THE ROUGHYEDS ROUND UP THE RAMS!

We visit Dewsbury Rams on Sunday 25th June 2000. The game will take place at Owl Stadium, Dewsbury and will kick off at 3pm. Coaches can be booked on 0161 628 3677 (or 0161 627 2141 Saturday 9-1pm) All Elite Club members receive a 10% discount on fares. For those going by car directions are as follows. Leave the M62 at junction 28. Go along the A653 following signs for Dewsbury. At the 4th set of Traffic Lights after the M62 turn left into Owl Lane. The stadium is on the right hand side. Admission to the ground is £7 Adults and £4 Concessions.

ROUGHYEDS HIT THE INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY

We have been in the process of setting up a Website over the past month or so. The site is almost completed and we will be launching it within the next two weeks...So watch this space!! (Anybody wanting a sneak preview of the site should try <http://www.renegade-wds.co.uk/orlfc>).

Scot

'ELITE' CLUB

A big Thank You to all supporters who have joined our new membership scheme the 'Elite'.

The 'Elite' is the only OFFICIAL Supporters Club. There is no deadline for joining the 'Elite' and membership costs £15. There are numerous benefits to be had . . . not least the fact that YOU are helping YOUR Club.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT: 0161 628 3677

END OF SEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS!

We will holding our annual Player of the Year awards at the
Pennine Lounge, Mumps on Friday 7th July 2000.

All the players including the Alliance and Academy players will be in attendance.

The Junior Roughyeds will be involved in the evening and they will also present their Player of the Year Trophy.

The finale of the evening will be the announcement of the **OMC Ford** Player of the Year and the 'Elite' Club Player of the Year.

There will be a disco and buffet on what promises to be a highly enjoyable evening as we celebrate what has already been a tremendous season.

Further details will be announced in the press next week or you can phone

0161 628 3677

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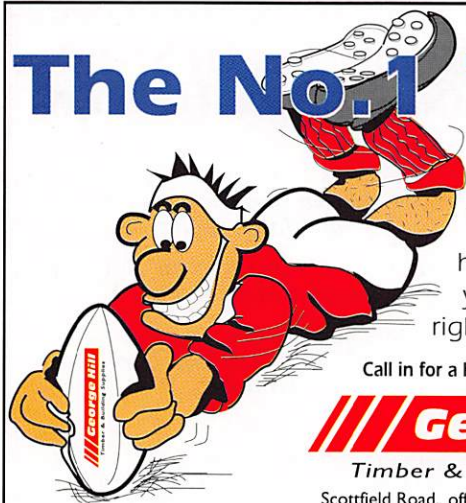
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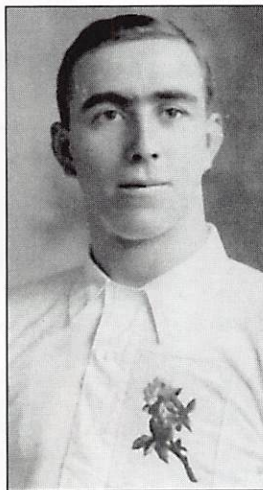
On this Day

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO JUNE 18TH YESTERYEAR

Twelve months ago, on Friday 18th June 1999, a team totally unrecognisable from today's Oldham line-up were involved in a home Northern Ford Premiership match against Batley. That match was staged at Spotland, Rochdale and only five of the players on view that evening have a realistic chance of making the Oldham team today. The front row of Leo Casey, John Hough and Jason Clegg are, injuries apart, almost certain of selection whilst unsung hero Ian Sinfield should once again find himself on the bench and winger Joe McNicholas is still very much included in Mike Ford's plans. Joe McNicholas was a try scorer that evening as the Roughyeds clawed their way back from 8-20 behind to force a 20-20 draw. Forwards Paul Round and Graeme Shaw together with scrum-half Daniel Brown were the other try scorers whilst Brown landed one goal and substitute Mick Coates another.

A couple of weeks ago the Russian national team undertook a brief tour of France in preparation for autumn's Lincoln Finance World Cup. Five years ago, on Sunday 18th June 1995, France met another of the developing nations when they visited the Olympic Stadium, Montreal for a ground breaking match against Canada. As expected, the French proved much too powerful for the Canadians who were beaten 72-32. Included in the French line-up that afternoon were six players who have spent time with British clubs including half-back Fabien Devecchi who made 21 appearances and scored nine tries for Widnes during the 1999 season. That French-Canada international was played in good spirits but that certainly was not the case when Great Britain met Australia in Brisbane on Saturday 18th June 1932. A torrid afternoon left the match being dubbed 'The Battle of Brisbane' and the local emergency hospital working overtime. The action began at the very first scrum when Leeds prop Joe Thompson was knocked unconscious. Second-rower Martin Hodgson (Swinton) and hooker Les White (Hunslet) suffered wounds which required stitching during the mayhem which followed. Australia did not escape unscathed either. Backs Ernie Norman and Frank McMillan suffered concussion, half-

backs Eric Weissell, ankle injury, and Hector Gee, gashed mouth, also required hospital treatment whilst loose-forward Frank O'Connor suffered a badly cut eye and hooker Dan Dempsey broke his wrist. Widnes prop Nat Silcock managed to get through the match without suffering any major injury but, from what I have read about him, I am sure he would have been deeply involved in most of the action. Incidentally, Australia won the match 15-6.



Albert Avery

The first ever Lions tour took place in 1910 and it was during that tour, on Saturday 18th June, that the Lions played two matches on the same day. At Sydney Great Britain, known then as the Northern Union, beat Australia 27-20 with Hunslet prop Bill Jukes scoring a hat-trick of tries before what was then a World record attendance of 42,000. Oldham loose-forward Albert Avery was included in the British pack for

that match whilst the Australian stand-off was Billy Farnsworth who was to spend eight seasons with Oldham between 1912 and 1920. Eighty miles up the coast at Newcastle, the rest of the British party, plus a handful of guests, defeated a Newcastle District XIII by 24 points to eight.

The 1977 World Cup was staged in Australasia. On Saturday 18th June Australia met Great Britain at Lang Park, Brisbane. The Lions led 5-4 at half-time in that match after skipper and stand-off Roger Millward (Hull KR) had scored a try converted by Wigan full-back George Fairbairn. However, the Kangaroos fought back to eventually win 19-5 with fullback Graham Eadie (2) and second-rower Terry Randall scoring tries and centre Mick Cronin landing five goals. Widnes winger Stuart Wright appeared in that match and also included in the British party for those 1977 World Championships was Keith Elwell, Widnes's record breaking hooker.

Fixtures

Date	Opponent	Result	Att
DECEMBER			
		F - A	
12	ROCHDALE H (LAW CUP)	W 30-18	1,204
27	ROCHDALE HORNETS	W 23-20	3,562
JANUARY			
2	Swinton Lions	W 23-18	2,567
9	WHITEHAVEN W	W 26-22	2,446
16	Barrow B.R.	L 19-16	1,618
23	WORKINGTON T	W 30-17	2,222
FEBRUARY			
6	Doncaster Dragons	L 16-26	2,130
8	Wigan St. J (SCCC R3)	W 44-0	1,376
13	Rochdale H (SCCC R4)	L 14-30	2,168
20	Leigh Centurions	L 10-28	2,410
MARCH			
5	LANCASHIRE LYNX	W 50-8	1,522
12	Widnes Vikings	W 20-31	3,300
19	DEWSBURY RAMS	L 12-14	2,115
26	Featherstone Rovers	L 26-61	2,071
APRIL			
2	Sheffield Eagles	W 28-6	1,220
9	HUNSLET HAWKS	W44-18	1544
16	Batley Bulldogs	W28-16	805
21	Rochdale Hornets	W13-12	2288
24	SWINTON LIONS	W34-28	1908
MAY			
1	YORK WASPS	W40-18	1852
7	Hull Kingston Rovers	W32-12	2005
10	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	L14-24	2528
14	Whitehaven Warriors	L18-26	808
21	BARROW B.R.	W30-16	1604
26	Workington Town	D12-12	595
29	DONCASTER DRAGONS	W25-6	2043
JUNE			
4	LEIGH CENTURIIONS	W27-10	2823
11	Lancashire Lynx	W48-14	616
18	WIDNES VIKINGS	H 3.00	
25	Dewsbury Rams	A 3.00	
JULY			
2	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H 3.00	

Oldham RLFC fully support the let's tackle racism in rugby league campaign and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable. Allow everyone to enjoy the game.

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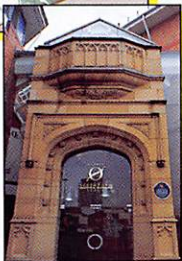
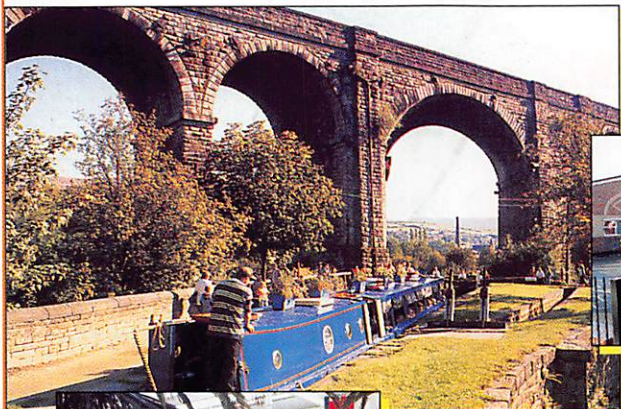
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All this, together with Oldham's reputation for innovation, hard work and friendliness means that the Borough finds itself well placed to meet the challenges of the New Millennium.

The Council is committed to continuing to serve the local community and in helping Oldham maintain its significant status in the North West Region.

OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

Enquiries about the Council's policies and activities, including its regeneration programmes and policies to the Chief Executive's Department, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UG.



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Kevin MANNION

Joe McNICHOLAS

Leo CASEY

Danny GUEST

Mark CAMPBELL

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Coach David HULME

James BRIERA

Afi LEUILA

Chris PERCIVAL

Eddie KILGANNON

Karl LONG

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