

OLDHAM RLFC

The Roughyeds



Portrait of Clive Churchill
by Robert Burns

SOUTH SYDNEY

BOUNDARY PARK SUN 19TH NOVEMBER 2000 KO 1.30PM

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Up Front

... with Christopher Hamilton



WELCOME back to Boundary Park for this great occasion against one of the most famous clubs in the game of Rugby League.

This is our first pre-season game before the start of the 2000/2001 season and as such will be treated as a serious workout by all connected with the club. South Sydney will be keen to impress in their first game of the four match tour and the game has the ingredients to whet everybody's appetite for the campaign ahead.

On behalf of the club I would like to extend a very

warm welcome to all the players, officials and supporters of Souths and we hope you thoroughly enjoy your day with us. I'm sure the Roughyeds fans will make you feel at home.

The game in some quarters has already been billed as 'The Founders Challenge' Oldham founder members of the Northern Union following the breakaway from the English Union in 1895 and Souths being one of the founder clubs forming in 1908 the New South Wales RL fore runner to the Australian Rugby League. Following the playing of both national anthems the teams will be introduced to the Mayor, Councillor John Dillon, and Mayoress, Councillor Philomena Dillon, and other VIPs, including the Chairman of the Rugby Football League, Sir Rodney Walker.

The match also takes on added presence due to the fact that it is being played in between the two World Cup semi-finals and we are hoping to have the Australian squad at today's game.

The Lincoln Financial Group World Cup has been the subject of some criticism over the last couple of weeks but my opinion is that it has been well organised and I for one am glad that games have been taken to 'new' areas.

A final word to thank all of you for your superb support during the course of last season. We are all obviously working hard to improve upon that this time and I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Mike and the players good luck in advance of what is surely another landmark in the history of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton



The Roughyeds

Oldham Rugby League Football Club (1997) Limited

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FRONT COVER

Portrait of Clive Churchill,
Captain of Australia and South
Sydney, by Robert Burns

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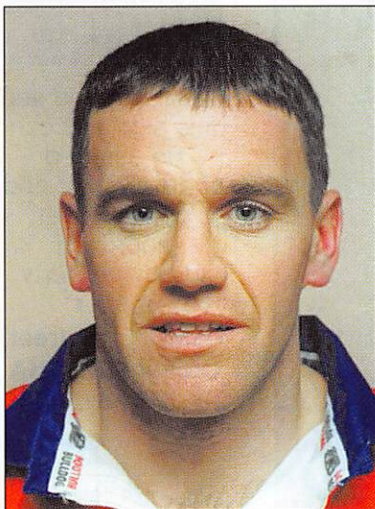
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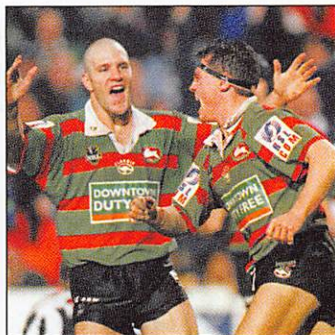
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FORD FOCUS . . . with Mike Ford



WELCOME to the start of a new season. I say this advisedly because as far as myself and the players are concerned the season starts here! Compared to last season we are ahead of schedule in our preparations, it being our twelfth week of training, with a lot of good work having been done. It was a big help to re-sign all of last season's squad which is a sign of the players' confidence in us and our confidence in them. Having also added some new faces, who we welcome to the club, we feel we have more strength in depth than last season when at the climax of the year we were disappointed to fail at Leigh because the toll of injuries and intense matches caught up with us. We are quietly confident about the season to come but will take nothing for granted. Last year we were an unknown quantity but this time other clubs will be looking out for us and we will be regarded as a big scalp. Our target is to improve on last season's standing and to reach the Grand

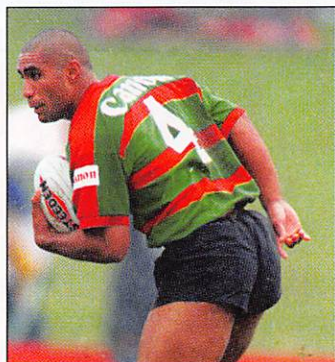


Final, but Dewsbury, Leigh, Keighley, Featherstone, Hull K.R., Widnes and Doncaster will all feel the same. And then again teams outside the eight last time will be pushing hard, teams like Rochdale, who always want to turn us over, and our first league opponents, Barrow, who are very difficult to over come at Craven Park. Last season we only took one point in Cumbria which cost us a top four position and with three out of four away games (two in Cumbria) to start we face a tough hurdle.

We are conscious that our supporters will have high expectation this season, but I hope you will be patient. Generally our fans give us superb backing especially when we are up against it. However we hope you won't be too demanding if we can't stick 60 or 70 points pass the bottom clubs in the league. In many respects this is when we need your backing more than ever because no team produces it best form in every game. It really does give the players a big lift when the Oldham fans get behind us, so we hope you'll make plenty of noise, starting today.

And talking of today, we could not have a better start to the a new season than a visit from a tough Australian side carrying the colours of the South Sydney Rabbitohs. Although the visitors are a bit of an unknown quantity to us all the players are really looking forward to the game. We hope the Australian squad and the supporters who have come to cheer them on have a successful short tour, though not, of course, at Oldham's expense.

As ever, enjoy the game.



Mike

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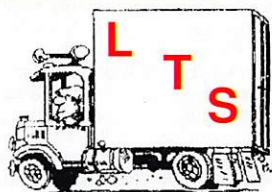
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Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



FOR the new 2000-01 season Michael will be looking back at a previous fixture against the opponents of the day. However for this special encounter with the famous "Rabbitohs" of South Sydney we will recall an Oldham v Australia fixture which brought two of the most famous and fondly remembered players of each club into opposition.

"THE LITTLE MASTER MEETS MR FOOTBALL"

Oldham 7 Australia 7 at Watersheddings on Monday September 15th 1952.

IN DAYS GONE by there was no greater attraction on the fixture list of a British Rugby League club than a visit from one of the overseas touring teams. So, it was with great anticipation that the public of Oldham looked forward to the encounter with the 1952 Kangaroos, led by the South Sydney legend Clive Churchill. Oldham were captained by the mercurial Frank Stirrup, the latest inductee into the Oldham RLFC "Hall of Fame".

The Oldham preparation for the match was hardly ideal. Just 48 hours before they had made the long trip to Barrow where they had succumbed to a thirteen points to five defeat. Then on the morning of the game the RL authorities informed the club that three players chosen for the England v Wales international later in the week, would not be allowed to play. So it was that Terry O'Grady, Bryn Day and Bryn Goldswain had to stand down to be replaced by reserve players, John Watson, Les Anthony and Alf Murray. Watson, a second row forward in the "A" team, was making only his second first team appearance when he stood in on the wing for O'Grady. Likewise, Murray had played only a handful of matches in the senior squad.

While Oldham were going down at Barrow, the Kangaroos had also travelled to Cumbria where they had been pushed all the way before securing a hard fought 15 - 5 win at Whitehaven.

Watersheddings was packed to near capacity with over nineteen thousand spectators, as the teams took the field together, each led by their renowned captains. Frank "Mr Football" Stirrup and Clive "The Little Master" Churchill, both of them diminutive in stature but giants in their respective teams. Stirrup an elusive, canny half back with sublime ball handling skills and Churchill, a full back right out of the top drawer. Resolute in defence and devastating when linking with the attack.

The match saw early points on the board for both teams with a penalty goal each for Ganley and Pidding. Then, with the game just eight minutes old it was Oldham who registered the first try and that man Stirrup was at the heart of the action. After forcing the Kangaroos to make the ball dead over their own try line, the "Roughyeds" kept up the pressure. Stirrup made a diagonal run direct from a scrum near the Aussies line. He drew in three defenders before delivering a try scoring pass to stand-in wingman, Watson. Ganley added the conversion to give Oldham a seven points to two lead. That was still the score at half time, thanks mainly to three missed penalties attempts by Pidding and two by Ganley.



Frank Stirrup and Clive Churchill lead out the teams before the match at Watersheddings on September 15th 1952.

Early in the second half Pidding was successful with a kick at goal when Oldham were pulled up for off side which reduced the tourists arrears to just three points. Going into the last quarter of the match the Kangaroos gained the upper hand. Churchill made one of his famous charges linking into the attack and looked all over a scorer when he burst down the touchline, only to lose his balance after a full length dive by Murray managed to tap his ankles. By the time he recovered the Oldham defenders were there in force to bring him down. Still the Aussies piled forward and after Wills had a try disallowed for a blatant forward pass, McCaffery managed to scramble over for the equalising score. The conversion attempt by Pidding hit the upright and bounced out. In the closing seconds it was Oldham who almost won the game when Stirrup chipped over the defence and re-gathered but this time it was the Australian's turn to hold firm and the match ended in a draw, seven points each.

The press were lavish in their praise of the Oldham performance not least for the three stand-in players. Watson the try scorer. Murray, the try saver and Anthony, who had a storming game in the thick of the fray. However the major plaudits were reserved for Stirrup whose non-inclusion in the Great Britain squad had the critics baffled.

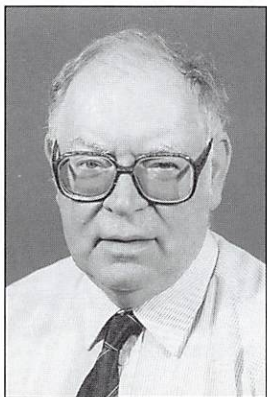
TEAMS:

Oldham: W.B. Ganley; J Warham, W Mitchell, A Davies, J Watson; F Daley, F Stirrup; H Ogden, J Keith, L Anthony, S Little, A Tomlinson, A Murray.

Australia: C Churchill; D Flannery, H Wills, N Hazzard, N Pidding; C Geelan, K McCaffery; D Hall, C Gill, B Davies, H Crocker, F Ashton, A Paul. Referee Mr F Smith: (Barrow) Attendance: 19,370

Post Script: Four years later Stirrup and Churchill found themselves in opposition again. The occasion was when Oldham played the 1956 Kangaroos. Press reports would suggest that, this time, neither player made a major impact on the game. However, unlike the 1952 tour, the match did provide a clear winner with Oldham walloping the Aussies 21 - 2 in this Championship winning 1956/57 season.

ROGER ROGER



THE Roughyeds versus the Rabbitohs produces a fascinating contest between one of the youngest clubs in the English game and one of the oldest in Australia.

Oldham RLFC (1997) has made rapid strides, from humble beginnings, in the three years since the collapse of Oldham Bears after only two seasons in

Super League.

The Bears, of course, were founder members of the Northern Union in 1895 and some 13 years later the South Sydney club helped to form the New South Wales Rugby League 12,000 miles away on the other side of the world.

Both clubs went on to enjoy phenomenal success, Souths having won more Premiership than any other club in Australia, including St George, who had a decade of unrivalled supremacy when Johnny Raper and sundry other Australian all-time greats were at their peak.

Oldham were at their best at the turn of the century, again in the 1920s and then in the 1950s when Watersheddings stars like Derek Turner and Alan Davies were renowned for their battles with Raper, Reg Gasnier and Co when Great Britain toured Down Under or the Kangaroos came here.

Great players, great games, great days for sport and for rugby league in particular.

Who ever thought, then, that there would come a day when Watersheddings would be no more or that the original Oldham club would go under?

On the other side of the world in Sydney did anyone in the southern suburbs even consider that the day might arrive when Souths were on the outside of the big-time and merely looking in?

The Rabbitohs current plight has been well chronicled and rugby league fans the world over will sympathise with them and wish them

well in their continuing fight to win reinstatement to the NRL.

A recent court judgement went against them, but Souths are not about to cave in or concede ground and if public support counts for anything they can take great heart from the demonstrations of their fans and from the backing of many high-profile personalities, not least the former Australian captain, Laurie Daley.

It is a measure of the club's fighting spirit that, despite the tears and the heartache, the management undertook to bring a squad of players to England for a mini-tour that will involve games against Keighley, Leigh and Warrington as well as today's tour opener here at Boundary Park.

Souths are determined to keep the Rabbitohs' flag flying proudly and Oldham fans will know all too painfully how they feel, having suffered similar agonies in 1997.

Fortunately for them, the old club had hardly been laid to rest when Christopher Hamilton and his fellow directors set about the task of launching and then building the new Oldham club which we know today as the Roughyeds.

Three years on, and with Mike Ford in charge of the playing operation, the club is making good progress as witnessed last season when it reached the Northern Ford Premiership semi-finals and carried off a club-of-the-year prize.

The future, right now, probably looks somewhat brighter for the Roughyeds than it does for the Rabbitohs, but nobody at Oldham will derive any pleasure from that and if Souths can gain any encouragement from what has been achieved in Oldham I know the Roughyeds board would be more than delighted.

Today's game is sure to form the basis of a long and lasting friendship between the clubs, notwithstanding the traditional Anglo-Aussie rivalry which is sure to be in evidence for 80 minutes.

May the better team win. May both teams and both clubs fight successfully for their rights in the uncertain years ahead.

Roger Halstead

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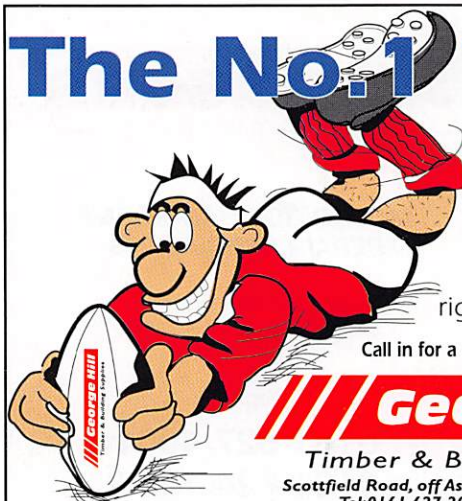
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TOO MANY TEAMS IN SYDNEY, THEY YELL. LET'S KILL A FEW!

... by Robert Gate

LOTS OF people in rugby league think that I do not have a good word for Rupert Murdoch. That is not true. In fact I have several good words for him. They are just not printable in a family publication like the Oldham programme.

It is a safe bet that many people involved with both today's competing clubs, Oldham and Souths, have a pretty good idea of what those unprintable words are. They will share my anger, for Oldham and Souths are two of the most grievously harmed victims of Murdoch's annexation of the game. Both were sacrificed on the altar of News Limited's vision of holy Super League. Oldham's plight as a result of the Super League war will be only too familiar to home fans. Death and resurrection in the parallel universe of the NFP about sums it all up.

At least Oldham was resurrected and aspires to regain former glories. It will, however, be hard to do so in today's greed-ridden, self-serving rugby league environment where only those with their noses deep in the Super League trough and lawyers guarding their backs can hope to thrive.

South Sydney, Australia's most famous and historically most successful rugby league club, has been even harder whacked than the Roughyeds. Their experiences in the Australian courts, following on from those of the ARL a couple of seasons ago, have confirmed what



George Piggins

some of us have long suspected – that the legal process does not always equate to justice. The recent refusal of the courts to allow Souths to be readmitted to the NRL Premiership may well be one of the last acts of the Super League war, the moment when the jackboot stamps on the victim's head.

Personally, I hope and pray that Souths live to fight another day, that George Piggins leads the Rabbitohs back to the forefront of Australian rugby league and that miraculously some of the values of sport as we knew them resurface in the 21st century.

I have a personal and long-standing

interest in what happens to Souths. Although my prime loyalty in rugby league has always been toward my native Halifax, followed by perennial underdogs Doncaster, Souths are my Australian team. This emanates from the fact that for the last two decades I have been inundated, and I do not use that term lightly, with Souths material from Michael Waring, former Secretary of the International Rugby League Supporters Federation and lifelong Rabbitohs obsessive. Readers will notice an article by Michael elsewhere in this programme.

My house is full of Souths stuff. Admittedly my wife, a Philistine of the first order when it comes to rugby league, would be far happier if it were not. The loft is bulging with Souths ephemera in particular and Australian rugby leagueana in general and it all came from Michael Waring. Not only do I blame Michael for the parlous state of our floorboards but for the depression which sometimes afflicts me when I consider the state of rugby league in modern times. It is his fault that I know so much about what went off in Australia over the last five years or so, hardly any of which, shamefully, seems to have appeared in our own press.

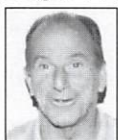
Through my letter-box have flowed torrents of Murdoch papers and anti-Murdoch papers, videos of Rupert exposing his complete ignorance of the game in Panorama style interviews, court reports and gossip columns – the whole shebang and a bit more. The absolute wretchedness of the Super League war has constantly been dropping through my front door. It is apparent that what we have suffered in England is merely the fall-out from Australia. Imagine what it has meant to fans of clubs like Souths. The power-brokers have tried to institutionally and judicially murder the Rabbitohs. Of course, they dress it up differently, they call it rationalisation. Too many teams in Sydney, they yell. Let's kill a few.

If they do finally kill South Sydney Rabbitohs, they will have done away with more than just a rugby league club. For many they will have obliterated the game's soul, the encapsulation of the game's history and spirit. Let's hope for the game's sake that George Piggins can lead Souths to one more victory if and when Souths appeal against the recent death sentence comes to court.

IN Town TODAY South Sydney



THE OLDHAM club is pleased and proud today to welcome to Boundary park our visitors from Australia, South Sydney District Rugby Football League 'A' Grade Ambassador Tour.



Henry Morris
Chairman &
President of the
League

As you will be aware South Sydney Rabbitohs, the most successful club in the history of Australian Rugby League, were expelled from the N.R.L. on its reduction from 20 teams to 14. For the past year the club has fought for reinstatement through the courts, but in a judgement handed down just a fortnight ago lost their case.

Club President George Piggins has vowed to fight on and hopes to organise a rally of up to 100,000 fans to back South Sydney's case. Of course, in the meantime, the club has lost the services of its brightest stars to other N.R.L. clubs,



Spyro Spyrou
Tour Manager



Keith McCraw
Coaching &
Development
Manager

not being in a position to honour N.R.L. style contracts. Nevertheless the team you will see today carrying the South Sydney colours includes a number of quality players. In particular watch out for centre Craig Carrington and stand-off Ben Decker who have played A.R.L. First Grade for Souths;

Darren Taaffe an experienced and wily playmaker; and fresh from representing the Cook Islands in the 2000 World Cup, running second-row forward Tere Glassie. We hope you will welcome our visitors for what promises to be an



Gus King
Team Manager



Ron Harder
Secretary to the
League

enthralling contest with true Oldham hospitality. At the same time we are honoured to have as our guests today the Australian World Cup Squad who are here to support their compatriots.

It is, of course, fitting that a club representing South Sydney District R.L. should open their four



Mick Fisher
Board of
Directors

match British tour at Oldham. If ever a club knew all about the trials and tribulations of going out of business then it is Oldham. Fortunately we have witnessed the emergence and revival of a new, invigorated Roughyeds: let us hope that justice can prevail 10,000 miles away and that one day our friends

from South Sydney can once again take their rightful place in Australia's premier competition.

Certainly, the reaction of a number of leading figures supports South Sydney's cause. Ex-state of Origin coach Phil Gould said: "Removing South Sydney from Rugby League is like someone knocking down the Sydney Town Hall to put up a hamburger joint". "I



John Hurst
Trainer



Rod Gorman
Chief Executive
Officer

feel embarrassed. I am embarrassed that this can happen in the sport to which I have devoted the whole of my adult life". Similarly, former Balmain and Souths coach, now radio broadcaster, Alan Jones said: "If Souths lost on Friday, as they surely did, then make no mistake the biggest

loser was the game itself. And any sensible administrator, seeing the passion, commitment and faith exhibited by Souths' supporters Australia-wide would harness, rather than reject it. Indeed Souths, in the year 2000, seemed to



Darryl Neville
Coach



Paul Judd
Assist
Coach/Trainer

exemplify all the qualities of exuberance and passion, of loyalty and faith, that the game of Rugby League now lacks". "This is not D-Day for South Sydney. This is D-Day for Rugby League. You can't build history by destroying history."

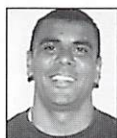
I wonder if anyone is listening in the corridors of power in both Australia and Britain?

Geoff Cooke

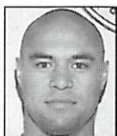
IN Town TODAY



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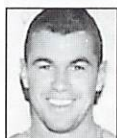
No. 1 Wayne McGrath
Full Back, Age 28
Representative Hons.
SS Jersey Flegg,
NSWRL 1st Div
(South Sydney)



No. 2 Tere Glassie
Second Row/Wing, Age 23
Representative Hons.
SS Harold Matthews Cup, SS SG
Ball, SS Jersey Flegg, World Cup
2000 (Cook Islands), ARL 1st
Grade, NSWRL First Div (S.Sydney)



No. 3 Michael Lyons
Centre, Age 34
Representative Hons.
Aus & NSW Indigenous Team
1994, NSW 1st Div, S. Sydney
Juniors Combined A Grade Rep
Team 1996/7/8/9/2000



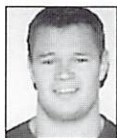
No. 4 Craig Carrington
Centre, Age 25
Representative Hons.
ARL 1st Grade (South
Sydney/Balmain Tigers)



No. 5 Lindsay Munro
Wing, Age 24
Representative Hons.
NSW Indigenous Team 1997/98/99,
S. Sydney 2000, La Perouse United
Undeated Premiers 2000, Souths
Juniors Combined A Grade 2000



No. 6 Ben Decker
Stand Off, Age 23
Representative Hons.
SS Harold Matthews Cup, SS SG Ball,
SS Jersey Flegg, ARL 1st Grade
(South Sydney), NSWRL First Div
(South Sydney)



No. 7 Brad Taaffe
Half Back (Captain), Age 24
Representative Hons.
South Sydney Jersey
Flegg, NSWRL 1st Div
(South Sydney)



No. 8 Clint Cooke
Front Row, Age 23
Representative Hons.
South Sydney Jersey
Flegg, NSWRL 1st Div
(South Sydney)



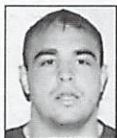
No. 9 Josh Annesley
Hooker, Age 21
Representative Hons.
South Sydney Jersey
Flegg, NSWRL 1st Div
(South Sydney)



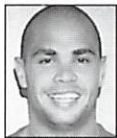
No. 10 Ryan Maddern
Front Row, Age 25
Representative Hons.
NSWRL 1st Div, South Sydney
Juniors Combined A Grade
Representative Team 2000



No. 11 Matthew Rooke
Second Row, Age 21
Representative Hons.
Australian Indigenous
Under 20s 1998



No. 12 Damien Parsons
Second Row, Age 22
Representative Hons.
SS SG Ball, SS Jersey
Flegg, NSWRL Presidents Cup, SS
(Jack Gibson Squad) 2000, Souths
Juniors Combined A Grade 2000



No. 13 Robert Simms
Lock Forward, Age 23
Representative Hons.
SS Harold Matthews Cup, SS SG
Ball, SS Jersey Flegg, NSWRL
First Div (South Sydney)



No. 14 Justin Gale
Front Row, Age 25
Representative Hons.
SS Harold Matthews Cup, SS SG Ball,
SS Jersey Flegg, NSWRL Presidents
Cup (South Sydney)



No. 15 Nathan Isles
Second Row, Age 22
Representative Hons.
SS (Jack Gibson Squad) 2000, La Perouse
United Undeated Premiers 2000, Souths
Juniors Combined A Grade 2000



No. 16 Steve Driscoll
Second Row, Age 23
Representative Hons.
SS Harold Matthews Cup, SS SG
Ball, SS Jersey Flegg, NSWRL
First Div (South Sydney)



No. 17 Darren Taaffe
Stand Off, Age 29
Representative Hons.
SS Harold Matthews Cup, SS SG
Ball, SS Jersey Flegg, NSWRL First
Div (S. Sydney) NSWRL 1st Grade



No. 18 Todd Foley
Hooker, Age 29
Representative Hons.
South Sydney Juniors Combined
A Grade Representative Team
1997/8/9/2000



No. 19 Greg Kennedy
Utility, Age 27
Representative Hons.
SS Jersey Flegg, NSWRL
1st Div (S. Sydney)



No. 20 Colin Hanslow
Second Row/Lock Forward Age 24
Representative Hons.
SS (Jack Gibson Squad) 2000, La Perouse
United Undeated Premiers 2000, Souths
Juniors Combined A Grade 2000



No. 21 Joel Greig
Second Row, Age 21
Representative Hons.
Sydney City Jersey Flegg/President Cup
SS (Jack Gibson Squad) 2000, Souths
Juniors Combined A Grade 2000



No. 22 Adam Howard
Front Row, 25
Representative Hons.
Sydney City Met Cup Team, S.
Sydney Juniors Combined A Grade
Representative Team 2000



Darryl Neville
Coach



Paul Judd
Assistant Coach/Trainer

Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

THE REVENGE OF SOME 'POM POM GIRLS'

SOUTH SYDNEY was not on Oldhams Australian itinerary in June of 1997 though Townsville, North Queensland and Adelaide, South Australia very much were. It was the 'first half' of the ill-fated Super League Visa World Club Challenge.

front of 12,631 spectators the Bears succumbed meekly to a 10 try (54-16) pistol whipping. To sour matters further Paul Davidson was now to miss the forthcoming Adelaide game after receiving a 3 match ban for biting Cowboy's half back Ian Dunemann.

At the after match press conference Cowboy's coach Tim Sheens quoted "World Club Championship! all this match did was to truly highlight the world of difference between Australian and European club sides!", only to the amazement of the Australian press for Bob Lindner to retort "The teams are not that far apart, honest!, and I expect the game in England to be much closer!".

Oldham did play much better on the Adelaide Oval though still going down 42-14, but with Adelaide coach Rod Reddy admitting "They came at us hard and we had to defend as well as at any time this season. In the end goal kicking too made a big difference".

There was again a sizeable Oldham contingent amongst the 14,000 crowd, with Aussie and ex-Oldham loose forward John Cogger making the trip to support the Bears all the way from Sydney (a distance no less than from Manchester to Milan!).

Paul Davidson was to again make the headlines for all the wrong reasons, receiving a 4 month suspended prison sentence for his part in an Adelaide bar room brawl.

Oldham headed home to be followed by a forlorn Davidson both with more than a point or two to prove.

The Bears were to lose all three of their Super League fixtures sandwiched between the first and second half of the World Club Championships, probably costing them Super League status, and it would have been understandable if morale was not as high as it might have been for the return Cowboys fixture.

Luke Goodwin was to get only his second start of the season at stand off, Jimmy Cowans was a surprise call up at centre and Aborigine veteran Ian Russell made his debut against his fellow countrymen at loose forward. But it was that man Davidson who was to boss the show.

Villain to hero Paul Davidson was the best forward on view scoring two of the Bears' three tries. Other than that it was an all Australian show with Goldspink scoring the third try and Goodwin kicking four goals in a famous 20-16 victory.

COWBOYS		OLDHAM	
<p>WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE RD 2: SATURDAY, JUNE 14, STOCKLAND STADIUM, KICK-OFF: 7.30PM REFEREE: GRAHAM ANGLIS. TOUCH JUDGES: BOSS PITCHER & STEVE HADGE. VIDEO REF: JACK DANCEY</p>			
<p>KEY PLAYERS</p> <p>LUKE PHILLIPS 28 MARK SHIPWAY 20 SCOTT MAHON 22 SHANE VINCENT 41 IAN DUNEMANN 23 ANDREW DUNEMANN 6 KYLE WARREN 1 OWEN CUNNINGHAM 13 PETER JONES 21 *10 MARTIN LOCKE/IAN ROBERTS (5) 31 STEVE TAYLOR 49 JOHNNY LOMAX 8</p> <p>INTERCHANGE</p> <p>GLEN MURPHY 27 JOHN DOTY 24 BERT TABAU 30 RAY MERCY 34</p> <p>COACH TIM SHEENS</p> <p>*One to be omitted</p>	<p>FOOTBALL</p> <p>1 PAUL ATCHESON 2 BOB MYLER 3 VINCE FAWCETT 4 HOWARD HILL 5 ALFIE LEUILA 6 FRANCIS MALONEY 7 MARTIN CROMPTON 12 LUKE GOODWIN 13 MATT MUNRO 11 PAUL DAVIDSON 10 BRETT GOLDSPIK 9 DAVID STEPHENSON 8 IAN GILBAR</p> <p>KEY PLAYER</p> <p>LUKE GOODWIN (10 tries in 12 games)</p> <p>FOOTBALL</p> <p>14 GARY LORD 15 JOE FAHALO 16 JOHN CLARK 17 PAUL TOPPING</p> <p>COACH BOB LINDNER</p>		

The Oldham team had already spent a week 'acclimatising' in the North Queensland holiday spot Cairns, before being joined by a surprising number of Oldham supporters, who soon knuckled down to some serious acclimatisation of their own in the bar of the towns 'Club Crocodile'.

Preceding Oldham's gunfight with the Cowboys expectations were questioned when news filtered through of the woeful performance the previous week of some of the high profile British clubs, but again refuelled when the Queensland newspapers carried the infuriating **Pom Pom Girls** advert. The Cowboys had just thrashed Leeds and, really, Pom Pom Girls was more a slight on the Rhinos than the Bears.

Bob Lindner, not one to miss an opportunity, used the advert to fire the Bears but the promised gunfight never materialised, and as far as the Oldham players were concerned, turned out to be no more than saddlebags at fifty paces. Thus in

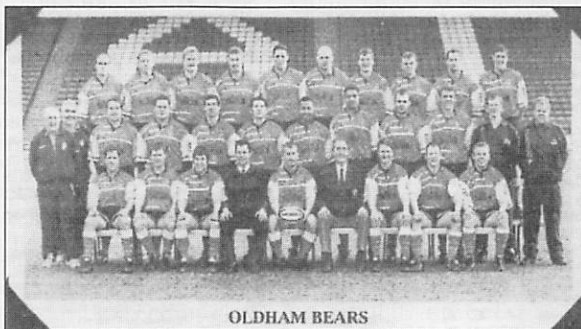


Former Barrow, Huddersfield and St Annes forward Butch Murray now resident in Australia joins Dave Whitehead, John Cogger and myself at The Adelaide Oval.

Lindner's after match comments in Townsville had been vindicated, and the revenge of The Pom Pom Girls was sweet although the disappointment of only a 2,961 attendance was a bitter pill to swallow.

For the record Oldham lost their return fixture with Adelaide 18-2 in front of just 3,513 spectators. There were 60 group matches providing northern v southern hemisphere opposition. 52 of those were won by the southern hemisphere sides, with Wigan (twice) Leeds, Salford, London, Paris, Sheffield and Oldham victorious for the north. Not that it matters, but Brisbane Broncos won the competition beating Hunter Mariners in the final.

SEE NORTH QUEENSLAND TACKLE SOME POM POM GIRLS.



OLDHAM BEARS

IT'S ROUND TWO of the Visa World Club Challenge and North Queensland are keen to give some more Poms a hiding. This Saturday night, Oldham will be doing their



level best to prove they're not a bunch of girls. So pick up your passport to the World Club Challenge, and get down to Stockland Stadium for a 7.30pm kick off.

JUNE 7 - NORTH QUEENSLAND vs LEEDS. JUNE 14 - NORTH QUEENSLAND vs OLDHAM. JUNE 21 - NORTH QUEENSLAND vs SALFORD.

By George the Souths have done it . . . by Michael Waring

'Michael Waring lives in Marsfield, NSW and besides being a true Souths fan he was also secretary of the International Rugby League Supporters Federation. He was invited to provide a fans view of the rugby scene in South Sydney and this article was written before the verdict of the court case between the NRL and Souths was known.'

AS WE enter the 21st Century Australia faces all kind of new challenges in its approach to its nationhood, and 2001 will see the Centenary of Federation upon which Australia built its roots in the modern Industrial World and the springing forward of new sporting games which will indelibly be built into Australian and cultural folklore. However, the encroachment of outside influences and the growing up of this wide land is threatening to wind Australia back into its past, but this time to be engulfed by a world that is seeking new challenges. For over 100 years the inner Sydney suburb of Redfern has been home of a tribal sporting culture known as Rabbitoh fans. In 1987 the viability of subjecting modern Rugby League to market forces meant giving away this home and entering stadiums that lacked family and cultural atmosphere! So, it was time for these Rabbitoh fans to walk their beanies and flags to a plush new mansion, one that befits a winner tag in these times: go Broncos!

To any league fan that knows Sydney RL culture South Sydney are the core that bound the game for over the whole of 20th century living! If the Rabbits were in the Grand Final everyone that was a friend of yours also supported them, because, win or lose, you knew that honesty and integrity, a word that I

have been hearing a lot of lately but so little delivered, would be the essence to attracting legends of life and sport to this club. When Neil Whittaker rang George Piggins on that fateful October day in 1999 to say that a club built on such loyal honesty and greatness was to be no more because the National Rugby

League said they didn't fit the criteria (what criteria! honesty, toil, support of community!) The tears that flowed from South Sydney Leagues club on that day flowed out onto adjacent Redfern Oval, and suddenly a shrine of modern day sport was changed. The days that I went

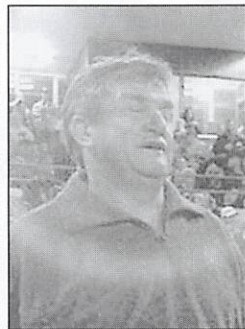
to watch the Rabbitohs at home

on Sunday would often see junior jerseys such as Coogee Wombats, Alexandria Rovers or Mascot running around the green hills of the oval playing touch footy while Norm Nilson would announce the changes for the main 1st grade team. But as soon as that Rabbit mascot ran on the field you saw Clive Churchill, John Sattler or Eric Simms suddenly emerge like a golden knight, and everything good about life was on cloud nine, and opposing supporters knew that not only were their team in for a game but that their fans were in for curry when they entered those Redfern gates.

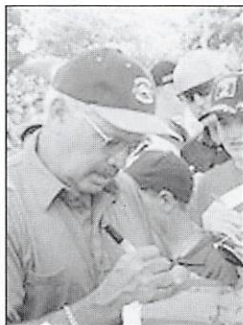
The most indelible impression left on me as a supporter of Rugby League was the tribalism that was evident on match day and again when Rabbitoh supporters were called to march from home to City of Sydney in October 1999. We've seen unionists and ticker tape parades for other sporting teams but when league fans really wanted to say something about what they believed in (honesty and integrity), it was said or seen on that day!

Little has been said in the past about junior football in South Sydney district, but everyone always said that the best players came from Souths Juniors and they were the needle in the knitting yarn of the game. You knew that Souths junior representative teams were as tough as that 1st grade squad and that one of them was even named after a Souths stalwart S G Ball.

As this last week before Souths possible final judgement is to unfold, it is befitting that half of the former Auckland Warriors squad pledged that they would join Rabbits if they were to be re-admitted to NRL in 2001, and if they do win, long live Souths! Up the Rabbitohs!



George Piggins



Eric Simms former Australian International

Player Awards - Season 1999/2000

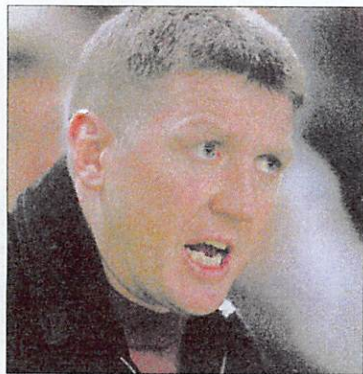


Back Row (L to R): Shayne McMenemy, Joint Clubman of the Year. Lee Doran, Alliance Player of the Year. Kevin Fitzpatrick, The Roughyeds Times Alliance Player of the Year. Chris Naylor, Joint Clubman of the Year. Jason Clegg, Junior Roughyeds Player of the Year.

Kneeling: John Hough, OMC Ford Player of the Year, The Elite Club Player of the Year, The Roughyeds Times Player of the Year.



STARS OF South Sydney



Craig Coleman



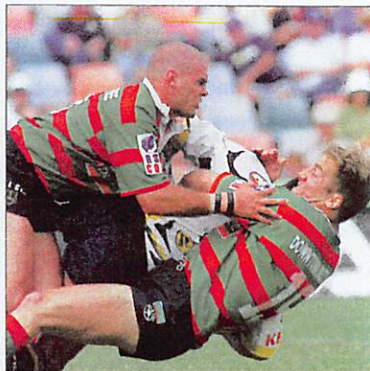
Clive Churchill



Bob McCarthy



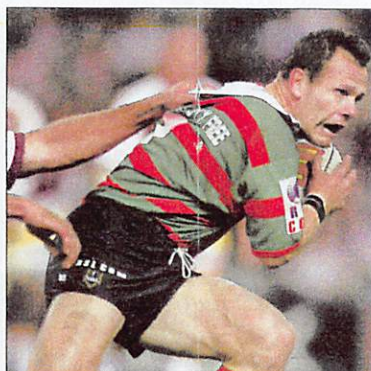
Mark Carroll and Sean Garlick



Andrew Dunneman



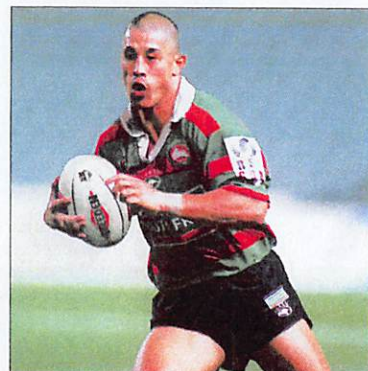
Eric Simms



Julian O'Neill



Ron Coote



Justin Loomans

northern ford dealers
In a league of their own



northern ford dealers
official sponsors of the Northern Ford Premiership

convert to ford this weekend



DEALERS

Never say die

... by Andrew Denton

WHAT is it about Souths? Why does the red and green inspire so much passion? I've supported the Rabbitohs for more than 30 years but it's only recently I've begun to understand.

Whatever happens, being part of the struggle for the Rabbitohs' survival has shown me, finally, why it is that Souths attract so much passion. We've always been a bit rough around the edges as a club. "Stylish" is not a word often associated with Souths. I think there are many in the NRL who genuinely hold us in contempt for that: we don't fit their image of what the modern football "franchise" should be.

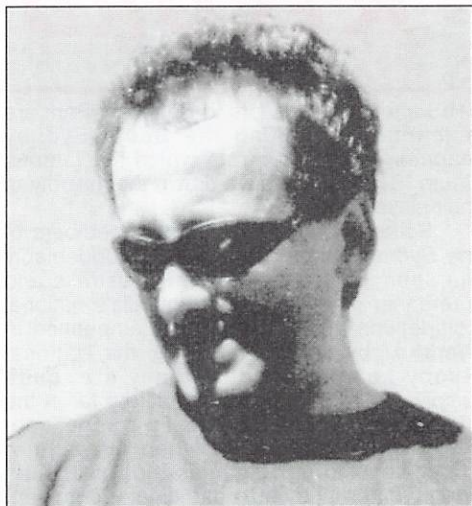
But they are missing the point. Souths is about something far more rare; a quality a thousand PR hacks and marketing managers couldn't possibly hope to create: Spirit.

It's an over-used term in sport, but in Souths' case it's official. In the Oxford Companion to Australian Sport, on page 324, under the entry marked "Souths' Spirit", you'll find the story of Souths' 1955 Grand Final victory - achieved after losing seven of their first 10 games, meaning they had to win 11 games straight for the premiership. The entry concludes: "Behind 11-7, with six minutes left, Souths' unyielding spirit helped them score a converted try to win 12-11, thus achieving the apparently impossible for a remarkable premiership victory."

It's that "unyielding spirit" that makes Souths special. You don't find it very often, but it's capable of making the ordinary, extraordinary.

And, in a world which is being increasingly made to look the same by brand names, logos and mega-corporations, something out-of-the-ordinary is something to be treasured.

Souths' spirit has created many legends on the field, but it was also in evidence in the streets of Sydney last October when 40,000 fans attended the "Reclaim the Game" Rally. And again at the



Darling Harbour fundraiser that followed. And the Redfern Oval touch footy match and concert.

At each of these events the dignity and determination of Souths supporters was remarkable and affected many people beyond Rugby League. We are certainly not a franchise and we are much more than just a club. Souths is a community. Whether the team survives or not, I will always be a Souths' supporter and proud to say so.

Should justice and the law prove to be the same thing, it will be a famous victory. And when the Rabbitohs take the field again in 2001, living proof that true spirit can neither be bought nor broken, it will genuinely be a great day for Australian sport.

It will also be the day that the Souths' jersey should change. Only a small change but one that says it all. The red and green would stay, or course, and the famous rabbit would remain untouched. But underneath it, never to be removed, would be the creed that has always set Souths apart. Three simple words: "Never Say Die".

Edited from Andrew's foreword of the 2000 edition of Pride Of The League

SOUTH SYDNEY RECORD BREAKERS

THIS afternoon's visitors to Boundary Park are a team representing the South Sydney leagues, the district from which the famous South Sydney club have drawn the majority of their players.

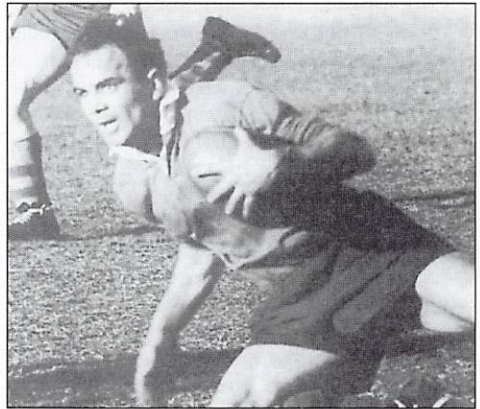
South Sydney were founder members of the Sydney Premiership in 1908, undeniably the strongest championship in Australia and forerunner of what is now Australia's national competition and the toughest competition in World rugby league, the NRL, the National Rugby League. South Sydney are, quite simply, the most successful outfit by far in the history of Australian domestic competition. They have been crowned Premiers, Champions to us Pommies, no fewer than twenty times and were particularly dominant during the 1920s, the early 1950s and again in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Throughout their history Souths have been producing players who have gone on to represent Australia. In fact, 61 South Sydney players have won Kangaroo honours with five of those representatives skipping the national side.

The first South Sydney player to skipper Australia was Ash Hennessy, in whose house the initial meeting took place which led to the formation of this great club. He was also South's first captain and coach who, despite the fact that he was a tough front-row forward, drilled into his team the policy of 'no kicks', thus establishing South's fine reputation for playing open, attractive rugby. Although this style of play was preached by Hennessy, it was reported that when he first received a rugby league rule book in 1907, he was less than impressed, claiming that 'it was a game for racehorses'. He should see it now!! In those early years Souths recorded their biggest ever victory, a 67-0 thrashing of Western Suburbs in July 1910. It was a national record which stood for 25 years and even now, 90 years later, it has only been bettered three times.

A couple of years later Souths recruited arguably the greatest attacking winger of all time when Harold Horder was signed from the South Sydney junior league. Horder played 86 matches for Souths and scored 102 tries. He still holds the club record for tries in a match with five in a 32-17 victory over North Sydney in June 1917. The following month he scored

another five against North Sydney who were beaten 31-8 on that second occasion.

South Sydney's record try scorer, however, is Benny Wearing who crossed for 144 touchdowns between 1921 and 1933. He was an outstanding winger who won seven Premiership titles with Souths but, remarkably, he made only one test appearance. That test appearance came in 1928 when he scored two tries and three goals for the Kangaroos when they beat Great Britain 21-14, their only victory in that test series. Despite scoring those 12 points, and his continued success at club level, Wearing never played for Australia again.



Clive Churchill

Another prolific point scorer for South Sydney was Johnny Graves, signed from Maitland and scorer of over 550 points between 1947 and 1952. In July 1949 he equalled Harold Horder's record of five tries in a match when Eastern Suburbs were beaten 48-6 at Redfern Oval and in 1951 he became the only player to score four tries in an Australian Grand Final. Souths beat Manly 42-14 in that final. The following year Graves established the South Sydney record for points in a match when he scored 29 from three tries and 10 goals as Eastern Suburbs were hammered 50-0. Many knowledgeable judges of our game regard Clive Churchill as the greatest player in the history of rugby league. He certainly was the greatest player of his era. Full-back Churchill played for Souths, his only

club, between 1947 and 1958. He also appeared in 34 test matches and was Kangaroo skipper between 1950 and 1954, leading Australia in the inaugural World Cup competition. An indication of the esteem in which he is held down under is shown by the naming of the 'Clive Churchill Stand' at Sydney Cricket Ground and also by the awarding of the 'Clive Churchill Medal' to the player adjudged to be man-of-the-match at each Australian Grand Final.



Eric Simms

When South Sydney won the Grand Final in 1954, winger Les Brennan failed to score but he had already touched down 29 times that season, the record number of tries for a South Sydney player in any one season. Full-back Eric Simms was the next record breaker for South Sydney. A local player, Souths were his only club and between 1965 and 1975 he scored a record 1,841 points for the Rabbitohs, mainly from goal kicks. In April 1969 he landed 11 goals in the 43-4 defeat of Cronulla and three months later he landed another eleven, five of them dropped goals, in a 40-18 away victory over Penrith.



Ron Coote

Simms was a member of the Australian team which won the World Cup in 1970, a squad which was skippered by Souths loose-forward Ron Coote. Another local junior, Coote played first grade for Souths between 1964 and 1971 before moving on to Eastern Suburbs. Coote's leadership of Australia in 1970 came about because of the injury suffered by another prominent South Sydney forward, John Sattler. A distinguished leader, he skippered Souths to four Grand Final victories as well as captaining Australia on their tour to New Zealand in 1969 and against the 1970 British Lions. In the 1970 Grand Final against Manly Sattler suffered a fractured jaw in the opening minutes but played on to ensure a Souths victory. It cost him his

place in World Cup history but endeared him to Souths fans who still recall his heroics in that final.



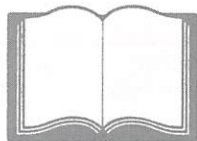
Bob McCarthy

Between 1963 and 1978 second-row forward Bob McCarthy played in a record 211 matches for South Sydney, a remarkable total considering that for two years, 1976 and 1977, he left the club and was playing for Canterbury. He was also the fifth, and possibly the last, South Sydney player to skipper Australia. He played in the 1970 and 1972 World Cup competitions and toured Europe with the Kangaroos in 1973 and New Zealand in 1969 and 1971.

In recent seasons South Sydney have experienced a lean spell. Their worst ever season came in 1996 when they won only five Premiership matches, ended the season next to bottom and suffered their heaviest ever defeat when Sydney City hammered them 62-0. In October 1999 they were voted out of the competition in dramatic circumstances. They were not in debt. They were founder members of the competition. They were, and still are, the most successful club in the competition's history. It was a dreadful decision. Earlier this month they lost the court case brought to overturn that decision.

It is difficult to envisage just where this famous old club will go from here. The Redfern district, home of South Sydney for the past 92 years, is a hotbed of rugby league in a city where the game thrives. Several of the players you will see this afternoon are expected to go on and play the game at the highest level but there now must be grave doubts about the future of South Sydney, Australia's most successful club. They have been sold down the river.

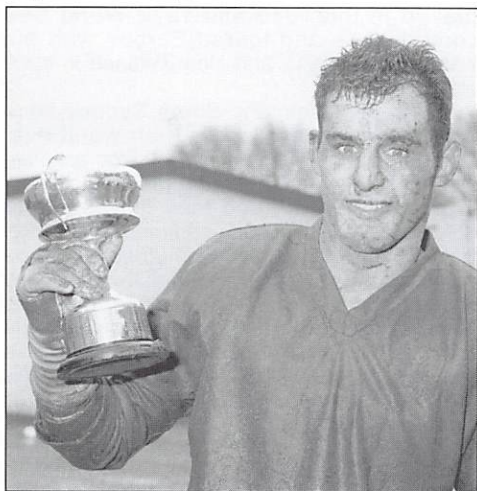
Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES

THERE is a theory within our game that everything Australian is better than the British product. It was refreshing, therefore, to hear earlier this year of a British coach reversing the trend and registering a Grand Final success down under in Australia. Even more heartening was the fact that the coach was a product of the Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

Back-row forward Roy Jewitt began his career with Waterhead, enjoying success at local amateur level during the early 1990s when he was loose-forward in the Waterhead side which appeared in the Standard Cup Finals of 1992 and 1993. In both those finals Jewitt was awarded the Ben Powell Trophy for his outstanding performances despite the fact that Waterhead were beaten on both occasions. Jewitt described those finals as the highlight of his Waterhead career. 'At the time the Standard Cup was the big prize in local rugby and to win the Ben Powell Trophy was a great honour,' he said.



Roy Jewitt

In May 1993 Jewitt turned professional when he joined Bramley and, although life at McLaren Field was no bed of roses, he enjoyed several memorable occasions during the following four years during which time he made 61 appearances and scored

seven tries. He recalls a cup-tie against the great Widnes team of that era and also a trip to Watersheddings when, although Bramley were heavily defeated, Jewitt was nominated by the national press as being the visitors' best player. He spent the summer of 1995 playing in Australia and when he returned to Britain he learned that Bradford Northern were interested in signing him. Bramley, though, demanded a £50,000 transfer fee and after lengthy negotiations the deal fell through. It was a bitter disappointment for Jewitt who had eagerly looked forward to playing under Brian Smith, a coach who he regarded as one of the best in the World. Further disappointment followed. He had a loan spell at Wigan as a full time player but put on weight, did himself no favours, and never looked like making the first team squad. The last couple of months of that first summer season, 1996, were spent on loan at Rochdale where even six first team appearances could not mask his disappointment.

Just when Jewitt's career appeared to be going nowhere, he received an offer from Australia where, obviously, he had impressed during his stint there twelve months previously. With nothing to lose, he moved down under during the winter of 1996, set up home with Australian girlfriend Lindie, obtained employment as a joiner, and eventually took on a playercoaching appointment with Yanko Wamoon in the NSW Country competition. The standard of play in that region is quite high by British standards, certainly not far short of Northern Ford Premiership standards, so the success achieved by Jewitt is no mean achievement. That success reached its pinnacle last August when Yanko won the Group 20 district Grand Final. Their opponents in that final, Yenda, were favourites to lift the title but Yanko were much the better side on the day and, led by Jewitt, they won 39-14 with the player-coach grabbing one of the tries. Said the modest Jewitt, 'Full credit to my boys, they played brilliantly. We had a simple game plan, stuck to it, and it paid off.' Who said British coaches can't do the business?

CLUB CALL

WORLD CUP FINAL

The club are running a trip to the World Cup Final on Saturday 25th November.

Coach depart 11.00 am

*Price includes:
Award Winning Brunch Menu
at the Britannia Hotel
+ bar facilities.
Transfer to Old Trafford
Tickets to the game.
Return transport to Oldham*

Price
£30.00

**Why not join us for
a great day out?**

MIXED DINNER

*The club have organised a
season 2000-01 celebration
Christmas Dinner.*

Venue:
Avant Hotel,
Manchester Road,
Oldham

On:
Thursday
14th December
7pm for 7.30pm

Guest Speaker:
BRODIE FRY
(Not to be missed)

Price: £22 per ticket inc vat

All Welcome

AWAY MATCH TRAVEL

LAW CUP ROCHDALE on 26th November, 2000 .

Coaches depart Black Horse 2.00pm
Depart Barlows, Unions Street West 2.15pm

**Fare £3.20 Adult
£2.00 Child**



BARROW B.R. on 3rd December, 2000
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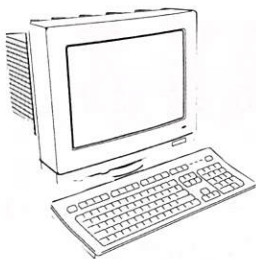
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... with Simon Winnard

AFTER A lengthy closed season, we are finally back and anxiously looking forward to a new Northern Ford Premiership campaign with the Roughyeds. If last season did nothing to whet your appetite for the game then I'd urge you to check yourself for a pulse as a matter of urgency!

With last years squad base to build on, some promising additions over the summer and time for a thorough pre-season build up this time around its time to forget the Sunday DIY, fasten your seatbelts and prepare yourself for another roller coaster Roughyed season.

Whilst the closed season seems to have lasted forever, the recent World Cup action has warmed us up nicely for another great season in the NFP. Today we welcome our visitors from South Sydney. This mouth watering clash against the Rabbitohs not only forms an integral part of a tough pre-season build up for Oldham but also allows the opportunity to draw global attention to our visitors fight for justice down under.

Just 12 days ago Justice Paul Finn of the Federal Court denied the Rabbitohs claim to be reinstated to the NRL. This was no doubt viewed as a disaster to South Sydney Club Chairman George Piggins and his board. South Sydney Officials will no doubt now consider an appeal to the Full bench of the Federal Court and we wish them every success with their efforts to restore one of the RL world's most historic clubs to its rightful place in the game's elite.

Over the years, RL communities like Oldham and South Sydney have consistently offered a massive production line of young talent to the game indeed clubs like ours are the very heartbeat of the game itself. However, whilst the world of RL is media controlled and merger mad, it increasingly seems that clubs like ours survive at the whim of the powers that be and the sheer fight left in its own people.

Meanwhile, despite the unique opportunity of promoting our game offered by the World Cup, Super League is this country continues to shoot itself firmly in the foot.

Whilst Huddersfield propped up the league for the third consecutive season without the fear of relegation, the present financial plight of Wakefield gives some indication of the real cost of top flight mid-table mediocrity, namely around £3.5 million worth of debt.

The threat of closure forced the release of all the clubs playing staff over the age of 24 and only Super League paying players wages and a last minute creditors voluntary agreement halted the impending winding up of the club. What does surprise me is that Wakefield didn't try and effect a merger with one of their many near RL neighbours. After all, this move would have been substantially incentivised by Super League and a year later they could have simply backed out, changed their name back and temporarily kept the financial vultures at bay..and it wouldn't even matter if they finished bottom of the league!

The sustainability of the competition is being brought ever increasingly into question. The official crowd figures may be on the increase, however, is the competition viable outside the top six or seven clubs ? What do clubs such as Warrington, Halifax and Salford really have to play for ? More importantly, what kind of message does this give to prospective investors in our sport ? As the game heads towards financial ruin we see the steady flow of top RL British coaching talent defect to Rugby Union and ask the question, just how long before we are forced into a hybrid game ?

This season we welcome Gateshead Thunder into the NFP family following their exclusion from Super League. However, rather than simply celebrating the fact that they have a competitive club once again playing professional rugby league, they are already publicly stating grand plans of reaching Super League in the near future. Quite frankly they are welcome to it. The prospect of reaching the dizzy heights of eighth or ninth in Super League whilst chancing financial ruin in an attempt to compete with the big boys somehow doesn't appeal to me.



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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to November 19th yesteryear

FORTY-EIGHT years ago the 1952 Kangaroos were touring Europe and on Wednesday 19th November they met Lancashire at Wilderspool, Warrington. At scrum-half for Lancashire that afternoon was Oldham half-back Frank Stirrup whilst Oldham born flyer Stan McCormick (St.Helens) was on the wing. Skipping those Kangaroos was legendary South Sydney full-back Clive Churchill who was outstanding against a test strength county side. Another South Sydney legend, stand-off Greg Hawick, also made a significant contribution to Australia's 36-11 victory. He subdued his opposite number, Barrow's Willie Horne, with a series of jolting tackles and still found time to score a brilliant 50 yard try. Two years later Churchill skippered Australia in the first ever World Cup competition which was staged in France. At the conclusion of that tournament the Australians played New Zealand three times, their first meeting coming on Friday 19th November 1954 when those two nations met at Hilton Park, Leigh. Churchill was again at full-back and Hawick was again a try scorer from the stand-off berth. Flying South Sydney winger Ian Moir also scored a try in that match as did centre Harry Wells, then with Woollongong, but a player who began his career with Souths. Australia won 18-5 and they also defeated New Zealand in the other two matches at Los Angeles and Long Beach, California.

South Sydney's only representative on the 1921 -22 tour of Britain was loose-forward Ted McGrath who scored a try and two goals in his 16 tour appearances. One of those appearances was against Huddersfield on Saturday 19th November 1921. The Kangaroos won that match 36-2 with winger Harold Horder in sensational form scoring 21 points from three tries and six goals. Horder was then with North Sydney although he both began and ended his career with Souths.



Joe Faimalo

It was on this day in 1995, Sunday 19th November,

that Oldham defeated Castleford 25-20 at Watersheddings. An Oldham substitute in that match was second-row forward Joe Faimalo, one of five players who have appeared in the first team of both Oldham and South Sydney. Joe made just one appearance for South Sydney but he played 91 times for Oldham. The other four players who have represented both clubs are Tate Moseley who played once for Oldham and twice for South Sydney, clearly a player who does not like to stay too long in any one place, Andrew McIlwaine, one appearance for Oldham, nine appearances for South Sydney, Matt Munro, 37 appearances for Oldham, 17 for South Sydney and Brett Goldspink who made 21 Oldham appearances and turned out 20 times for South Sydney.



Matt Munro

On that Sunday, 19th November 1995, three former South Sydney players were involved in the London Broncos-Warrington match which was played at the Stoop Memorial Ground. Broncos had winger Evan Cochrane and substitute forward Tony Mestrov whilst scrum-half Greg Mackay was one of the Warrington substitutes. Warrington won 18-10 with a team which included four Oldham born players, half-backs Iestyn Harris and Mike Ford, hooker John Hough and second-rower Paul Scunthorpe.



Bret Goldspink

As well as guesting with Warrington, scrum-half Greg Mackay also enjoyed a spell with Hull. On Sunday 19th November 1989 he was a try scorer for Hull as they won a Regal Trophy tie 19-12 at Wakefield. Also included in the Hull side that afternoon was hooker Lee Jackson, the Humberside junior who enjoyed a lengthy spell down under. His first Australian club was South Sydney with whom he spent the 1995 season, scoring two tries in eight first grade appearances.

The Longest Season

... by Mark Courtney

**SO, WHAT'S IT BEEN LIKE THEN?
THIS YEAR WITHOUT A SEASON, THIS
SEASON WITHOUT A TEAM.**

**IT'S BEEN BITTER AND IT'S BEEN
SWEET.**

IT'S BEEN a year when you couldn't help but marvel at the downright stupidity of the NRL. At the sheer bloody-mindedness of a group of people determined to ignore public opinion. Determined to wipe the floor with tradition. Determined to exterminate a Club that has always paid its way, all the while continuing to prop up a group of other Clubs who couldn't even afford the paper to write to News Ltd asking for more money unless they had received their last handout.

It's been a year when you never once bought the Telegraph, when you cancelled your subscription to Foxtel (if you ever had one), and when you told friends who invited you to Fox Studios for dinner that you had nothing against them, but if they wanted your company then it'd have to be somewhere else. A year when you turned the news off when the footy results came on, and you only looked at the sports pages to see if there was an update on the Court Case.

It's been a year when sometimes, on a gorgeous sunny Sunday, somewhere around lunchtime, you absolutely ached to get in the car, drive to the Football Stadium and scream for the Rabbitohs till you sounded like you'd smoked three packs a day for thirty years.

It's been tough, no doubt about it. But it's been wonderful as well.

It's been a year when you filled your wardrobe with red and green t-shirts and

Rabbitohs 2001 Shirts and caps, got yourself a new Souths jersey and hardly ever left the house without wearing the colours. Just to show everyone where your heart was.

It's been a year where you met hundreds of people you never knew before at fundraising events, at supporters nights and at the Red & Green Ball. A year when you found out the bloke across the road, who you'd only ever said "Giddy" to, was a Souths fan, and now you stopped for a long chat every time you saw him.

It's been a year where you'd go up to the local shops on a Saturday morning wearing your Souths jumper and four separate strangers would catch your eye as you went past and say "Up the Rabbitohs" or "Go the Bunnies".

It's been a year when you bookmarked every Internet site that you could find with any Souths info on it, and you checked them all every morning before you settled down to work (and then you checked them all again at lunchtime).

It's been a year when you'd have a really bad day at work and then, when your head was pounding and you were cursing the traffic jam you were caught in on the way home, you'd notice a sticker on the car in front saying "In George We Trust", and you'd smile.

It's been a year where you took a couple of days off work, that you couldn't really afford to go and sit in the Federal Court, straining to hear, struggling to understand what the hell they were on about, because you felt you just had to be there.

It's been a year of hope. Of togetherness. Of community.

A year when you'd never felt prouder to say "I'm a South Sydney supporter".

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AND ANOTHER THING . . .

RUGBY LEAGUE'S ability to shoot itself in the foot is legendary. And some of the ticketing arrangements for the current World Cup only go to confirm that opinion.

However, criticism of the basic concept and format of the World Cup is way off the mark. Like the Millennium Dome the competition has suffered from media unfriendliness from the word go, yet speak to someone who has been to either Dome or World Cup matches and the reaction you get is almost always positive. The decision to stage matches in non-traditional areas was the right one and every spectator who attended at Gloucester, Watford, Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow or Edinburgh is one more potential convert to the greatest game on earth. Just for once let's not blame Red Hall if attendances weren't as good as expected: Red Hall can't control the weather or floods, and I wonder how many fans of other sports would have turned out in the conditions currently being experienced when they had the option of sitting at home and watching games on T.V.? Encouragingly, some good attendances were posted in the South of France, which sends a positive message about taking Anglo-French competition seriously.

The most disappointing aspect of the World Cup has been the negative reporting and, all too often, this has come from regular R.L. correspondents rather than from our known 'enemies'. So what if players qualify for their country through the 'grandparent rule'? One would think that Jack Charlton's Eire side had never competed at the highest level and drawn massive interest with barely an Irishman to be seen. Current rules on selection, be it soccer, cricket, rugby union or whatever apply across the board, so Rugby League is no different to any other sport. And

as a vehicle for expansion national teams carry far more clout than any club side ever can. Alright there have been some lop-sided scores, but anyone would think Australia, New Zealand or South Africa had never slaughtered other rugby union playing nations. Nor does anyone contest the right of Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Kenya or Denmark to play international cricket. And is the credibility of soccer's World Cup destroyed because North Korea, Jamaica, Australia and the like compete to the exclusion of Croatia or Bulgaria or Chile who would wipe the floor with them? Of course not. It is perfectly obvious that the participation of Jamaica and Australia in a soccer World Cup fired interest in the development of those sports. So why should the participation of Lebanon or Ireland or Scotland be any different? Let's face it the biggest cause of inequality in Rugby League has been the ruinous 'Super League War' which has split the game in Fiji, Britain and Australia, on the one hand serving to raise standards of play to new heights and on the other denying the right to exist of some of the most historic clubs in the game, of which today's visitors are a supreme example.

Meanwhile, amidst all this negativity the ordinary spectator continues to support the game where and when he can. Oldham's efforts to get bums on seats at Twickenham, Cardiff and the McAlpine stadium later today are to be commended. And if any Chairman anywhere has worked harder than Chris Hamilton in this respect I'd like to meet him. At the risk of blowing our own trumpet let me say well done to Oldham fans and administrators. The game has no better followers anywhere.

The Editor

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3 Barrow A

10 CHORLEY H

17 Workington A

24 Rochdale A

JANUARY

1 WIDNES H

7

14 LEIGH H

21 Swinton A

28 Silk Cut Challenge Cup H

FEBRUARY

4 WHITEHAVEN H

11 Silk Cut Challenge Cup

18 GATESHEAD H

25 Silk Cut Challenge Cup

MARCH

4 HUNSLET H

11 Dewsbury A

18 SHEFFIELD H

25 Featherstone A

APRIL

1 York A

8 BATLEY H

13 ROCHDALE H

16 Widnes A

22 Batley A

29 KEIGHLEY H

MAY

6 BARROW H

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3 Gateshead A

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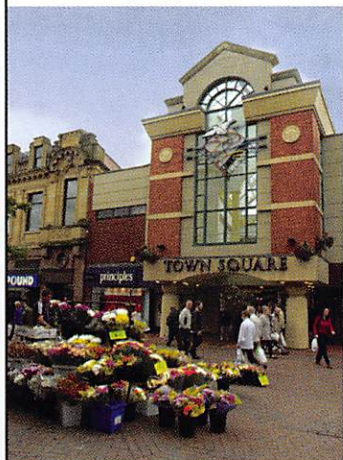
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