

THE TEAMS

ROCHDALE

Paul OWEN	1
Marlon BILLY	2
Brendan O'MERA	3
Danny WOOD	4
Marlon MILLER	5
Neil ALEXANDER	6
Paul ASHTON	7
Danny SCULTHORPE	8
Darren ROBINSON	9
Andy IRELAND	10
David LARDER	11
Martin BUNCE	12
Chris NEWALL	13
Warren AYRES	14
Michael COATES	15
Shaun COOPER	16
Mickey EDWARDS	17
David STEPHENSON	18
Steve CAMPBELL	19

OLDHAM

Mark SIBSON	
Daryl LACEY	
Dean CROSS	
Pat RICH	
Warren BARROW	
Gareth BARBER	
Neil RODEN	
Andy PROCTOR	
John HOUGH	
Jason CLEGG	
Phil FARRELL	
Shayne MCMENEMY	
Kevin MANNION	
Ian SINFIELD	
Mike FORD	
Danny GUEST	
Chris FARRELL	
Leo CASEY	
Paul NORTON	

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Peter Tabener
TOUCH JUDGES	Pete McLaughlin Steve Ellaby
RESERVE	TBA

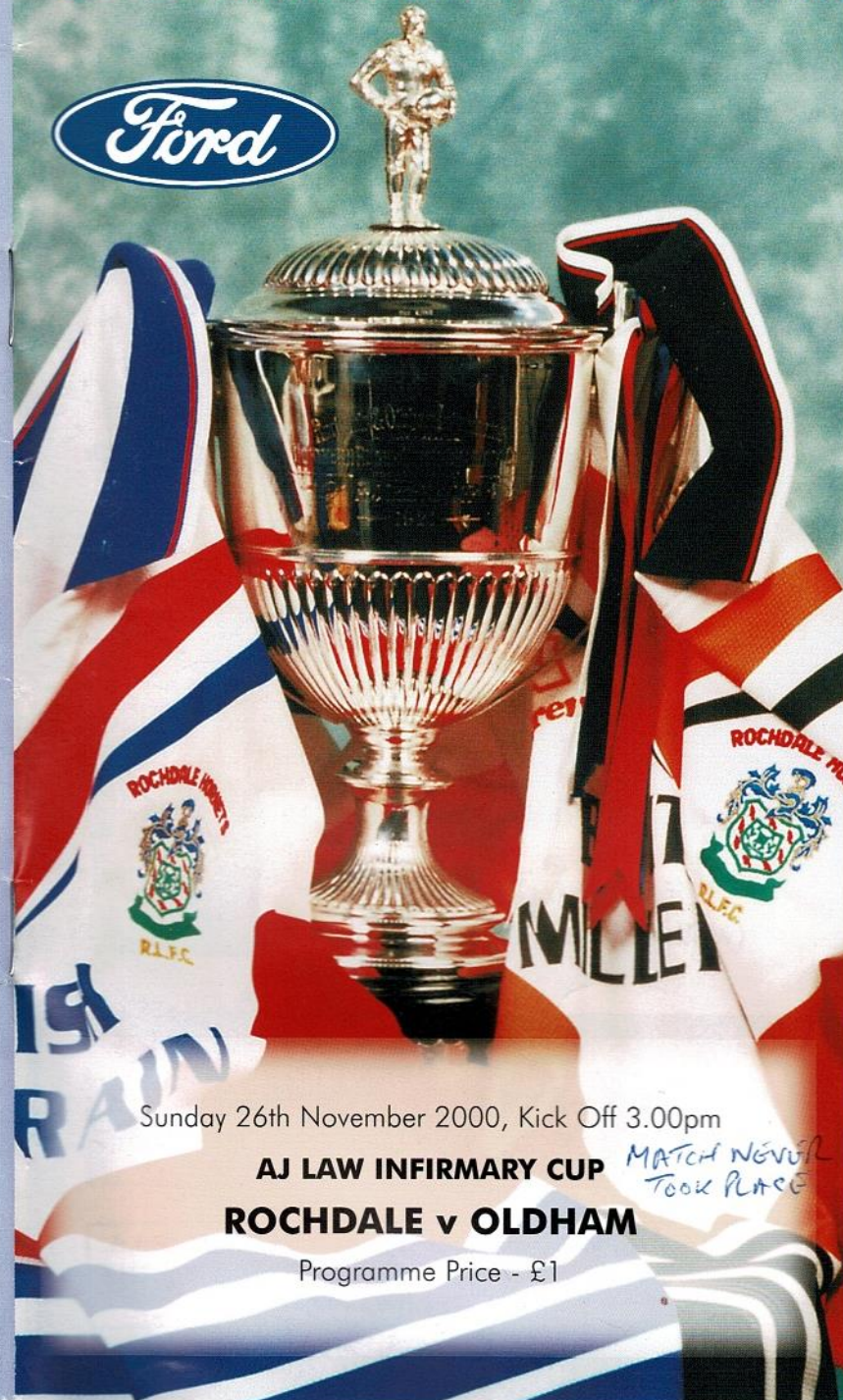
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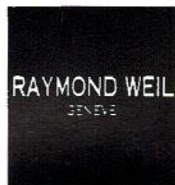
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PRESTONS OF ROCHDALE ARE VALUED SUPPORTERS OF ROCHDALE HORNETS AND EACH SEASON THEY DONATE A ROLEX WATCH TO THE COACH'S PLAYER OF THE SEASON (See Page 15)

MARTIN'S CORNER

Today is my first game as Coach, since taking over a couple of weeks ago. To say I was delighted to get offered the job would be an understatement. I really enjoyed my playing days here at Rochdale Hornets and want to repay the faith the Board of Directors have placed in me.

And I couldn't have asked for a better game to start, playing one of my other previous club's, Oldham, for the A J Law Infirmary Cup. I know all about the passion surrounding these games, local derbies mean a lot to the fans and players alike and there are all the ingredients for a hard fought match.

I've not had a lot of time to work with the squad but I've been watching lots of videos of last years games and we've started to work on things which hopefully will pay dividends today and in the coming season. There are also a number of new players in the squad, so today will provide me with a good opportunity to see them in competitive action.

By the time you read these notes I may have been

able to confirm the appointment of my Assistant Coach. Also I have been tracking a couple of players who I think could strengthen the squad. Watch this space, as they say!

We have been working really hard in training and I'll expect to see a good commitment and attitude from everyone who pulls on a Hornets shirt throughout the season, starting this afternoon. I know things have not gone too well for Rochdale Hornets over the last few years but I know that with a lot of hard work, everyone in the club pulling together and a bit of patience, we can turn things round.

You, the supporters, can also help. I know from the past that you can be pretty vocal and it's a great help to the players when they sense the crowd is behind them. When we start getting good results on the field, hopefully new fans will come along with our brilliant die hard fans.

The main thing is, enjoy the game and get behind the players.

Martin

ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

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HORNETS MAGAZINE DESIGNED &
PRINTED BY:
Vibrant Graphics Limited, Radnor Works
5 Back Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4PP
Tel: 01260 299262

BOARDROOM BRIEF

Today we offer a warm welcome to all the Directors, Officials, playing staff and supporters of Oldham RLFC who have made the short journey for today's A J Law Cup Infirmary game. This game has become something of a traditional curtain raiser to the season proper and, whilst it's officially classed as a friendly, the local rivalry and the fact that there is some silverware on offer means that we can expect a hard fought contest.

Every close season the Board expect to have a hectic time in agreeing contracts with the players to be retained and negotiating with new players that the coach wants to bring to the club. It has become a bit of a merrygoround and inevitably you lose some players that you would like to retain. However, with Steve Linnane's resignation after our final home game of last season we also had the task of appointing a new Coach as well. Of course, as things turned out, with Steve Deakin's appointment and subsequent resignation we had to go through the process twice.

Martin Hall's appointment was not rushed. We were keen to get the right person for the job, even though we knew the season was rapidly approaching and we didn't want to disrupt preparations unnecessarily. However, in Martin we are confident that we have got someone who can take Rochdale Hornets forward and achieve the sort of success everyone associated with the club craves. If it was all just down to the Coach's enthusiasm alone, we could be booking our seats for the Play-offs now. Of

course it's not that simple. There is a lot of hard work to be done and a lot of tough games to be played. This will be Martin's first chance to see the players in match action and whilst he may want to look at as many players as possible, Martin knows all about the rivalry between our two clubs because he played for both sides before going on to win just about every honour in the game with Wigan.

There will be a number of players pulling on a Hornets shirt for the first time today as a result of the squad rebuilding over the summer months. We also welcome them and hope that they have successful careers here at Spotland. We seem to have been saying it every year recently, but we are really confident that this year we have got the sort of squad that could put together a consistent set of results and get us into one of the play-off spots.

Oldham, our opponents today, managed a remarkable about turn in their results last year and only got knocked out of the play-offs at the last hurdle. We must endeavour to emulate their improvement.

One other major change fans will notice today is the completion of the new Willbutts Lane Stand and the refurbishment of the Sandy Lane end of the stadium. No doubt you will all agree that we now have a marvellous facility here at Spotland, something that we can be really proud of. The other major challenge is for us to increase the size of our support base so that the facilities are used. A good start to the season will help that aim and a victory over our nearest rivals today would be a nice way to start!

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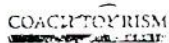
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LAW CUP MEMORIES

BY ROGER HALSTEAD (OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE)

Meandering through Morrisons on Kingsway the other night I caught a glimpse of Norman Short.

Strange how one can bump into Hornets folk of the old days on the site of a million rugby league memories. The trains still trundle past, but they don't emit smoke anymore, they don't slow down once they've negotiated Kingsway Bridge on their route into Rochdale and they certainly don't have a driver and stoker leaning out of the engine for a freebie glimpse of rugby league on the Athletic Grounds.

I wonder how many tries were scored in aisle 21? Or how many magic moments were carved into Hornets' history on the spot where Customer Services stands now?

Whether by coincidence or by some strange mystic power which draws Rochdale Hornets men and women to that plot of land that will be forever part of their hearts and heritage, the "oldies" can often be seen among the beans and the beverages.

Jean Woods, Graham Starkey and Arnold Bagnall have been spotted there in recent times by this intrepid reporter of all thing rugby amongst the rice and the ravioli where we once roared on the likes of Ron and Reg Stamford, Reggie Jones, Ray Buxton and, down the years, hundreds of others.

Nostalgic nonsense? Maybe so. But I could indulge in it for hours because, just as Oldham RLFC took over a large part of my adult life and still does - my childhood belonged to a Rochdale Hornets Club with which I share the same initials.

The Rugby League world has been turned upside down since those post-war days when Watersheddings and the Athletic Grounds regularly rocked to the roar of five-figure crowds.

Half a century on, the Athletic Grounds is no more and Watersheddings accommodates a housing development where Alan Davies, Frankie Pitchford, Bernard Ganley & Co regularly broke the hearts of the fans in red, white and blue.

I know. I was one of them. Some of my earliest memories of rugby league are of Ellen Smiths, the trip to Oldham, the corner shop near the ground, big crowds and 2 features which were unique to our

sport - the old pavilion and the two-tier Hutchins Stand at the Waterhead Park end of the ground.

Oldham were always regarded by Hornets fans as the bigger, more powerful neighbour...a bit like City and United.

If Hornets could pull off a Law Cup shock it would set the club and town buzzing. I didn't happen all that often but occasionally, just occasionally, Teddy Cahill would pull off a try-saving and match-winning tackle on John Etty or Dick Cracknell - or Wilf Lord or Les Jenès would out-kick Ganley and Hornets fans would come back over Summit hill delirious with delight.

In the days before the NHS, profits from the annual clash of the derby rivals in a pre-season warm-up game were split between Rochdale Infirmary and Oldham Infirmary, hence for several of its early years the silverware was known as the Infirmary Cup.

The involvement of A J Law, a Littleborough mill owner, gave it the name that has stood the test of time and although it was put into storage a year or two in the 1970's - they said the games were getting too rough - both clubs didn't take long to realise that a derby clash of the old enemies was the best way, after all, to launch a new season.

The Law Cup will always hold a special place in Roughyeds folklore because it provided the new club - born after the death of the Oldham Bears in 1997 - with its first ever match here at Spotland on January 1, 1998.

Against all odds and all the expectations, the Roughyeds rookies won 36-16 on an emotional day to give the new club the best possible start.

For the record, Oldham lined up like this:- Mead, Eckersley, Wilde, Cooper, McNicholas, Barker, Flanagan, Guest, Hough, Maders, Quinlan, Prescott, Jackman. Subs:- Robinson, Round, Leuila, Diggle, Sinfield.

Hornets got their revenge a year later with a 30-18 win this time last year in Mike Ford's first game in charge.

Memories old and new ... and the Law Cup, hopefully, will continue to make them for many more years to come.



TODAY'S VISITORS

OLDHAM

JASON ROACH

One of the six new signings for the 2000-2001 season. A big, strong winger with Super League experience with St Helens, his home-town club, Castleford and Warrington. A nephew of former Hornets centre Wilf Roach, Jason was with Swinton in the NFP last season.

GARETH BARBER

A 19 year old Oldham born stand-off who was reared on rugby with his best pal, the Leeds and England back-rower Kevin Sinfield. When Sinfield signed for Rhinos, Barber signed for Warrington, but returned "home" to Oldham during the close season.

CHRIS FARRELL

Signed for the Roughyeds from Wigan for an undisclosed fee in September. Followed in the footsteps of his twin brother, Phil, who took the Wigan-to-Oldham path six months ago. Elder brother is Andy Farrell, Wigan, England and Great Britain captain.

PAUL NORTON

Journeyman forward who made a name for himself with Lancashire Lynx. Impressed Oldham when he played against them last season. Like most of the new boys, has signed a one-year deal.

KEVIN O'LOUGHLIN

Another Lynx man, he followed Norton to Oldham in search of a new start to his career after earlier spells with St. Helens and Halifax Blue Sox in Super League.

DARYL LACEY

Daryl hit the headlines as a 13yr old when he signed for Wigan on a seven year contract. Is one of several ex-Wiganers in a Roughyed squad

which has benefitted from the Wigan-area knowledge of Alliance team coach Hadyn Walker and new club scout John Jackson.

MIKE FORD

Celebrated his 35th birthday last week, and recognised as one of the up-and-coming coaches of the English game. Has played for a string of clubs and has won almost every honour in the game. A scrum-half, he is just starting out on the second year of a two-year deal as player-coach.

ANTHONY GIBBONS

There are two sets of twins at Oldham, the Gibbons and the Farrells. Anthony Gibbons played in 31 of Oldham's 34 games last season as the Roughyeds marched into the NFP semi-finals. A versatile player, this Gibbons is used mainly by Ford as a centre.

DAVID GIBBONS

Other half of the "twins partnership" in Oldham's backs. David, used principally as a stand-off, missed only one match last season. Sound and reliable, he joined Oldham from Bramley after starting his career, like Anthony, with Leeds.

MARK SIBSON

Quick full-back who loves nothing better than to attack from deep. Top-scored with 24 tries last season after joining Oldham on a two-year deal from Bramley.

PHIL FARRELL

Anything the Gibbons boys can do in the backs, the Farrells can have you seeing double in the forwards. Phil, a second-rower, joined Oldham last March, quickly made a back-row spot his own and played a major part in the gradual improvement of a team that finished semi-finalists and NFP club of the year.

NEIL RODEN

Another ex-Wigan player, Neil came to Oldham with Phil Farrell. He also quickly established himself with the Roughyeds, either as a scrum-half or as a stand-off.

DEAN CROSS

Dean, A winger or a centre, first played for Widnes after making a name for himself with his local club, Parkside Solborne. Was out of the game for several months before Oldham re-introduced him towards the end of last season.

JOE MCNICHOLAS

A Rochdale boy, who lives close to Spotland, Joe was originally with Oldham Bears. Fast and elusive, he broke a leg in his fourth game for the Roughyeds and missed most of the club's first season. A winger of exceptional pace off the mark.

DANNY GUEST

Another of the Roughyeds "originals" who returned to the club last season. A big prop, Guest is expected to be a force in the NFP this season after a good pre-season and good marks in the squad's stay with the Green Berets during the autumn.

IAN SINFIELD

Another 'original', Ian had a spell in France, but returned to Oldham last season and has been with the club ever since. Elder brother of Kevin, the England forward, Ian works hard in the back-row and always plays above his weight.

JOEY WAYES

Played in every league game last season, but then smashed a knee in the final league game against Featherstone. Surgery followed for the former St. Helens winger and GB tourist, who expects to be back in action by the start of February.

ANDY PROCTOR

Club captain, formerly with Saddleworth Rangers, Wakefield Trinity and Bramley. High regarded by Ford as a genuine grafter with a spot-on attitude and motivational qualities which he uses as skipper.

PAT RICH

This recently qualified lawyer scored more points for Oldham last season than anyone else. Eleven tries and 108 goals gave him 260 points in 32 games from a possible 34. Started with Keighley Cougars and was wanted by new club Gateshead Thunder 2000, but opted to stick with the Roughyeds.

JOHN HOUGH

Walked away last season with three player-of-the-year trophies. Carved himself a niche in Roughyeds history by becoming the new club's first signing in 1997. Has since played in 87 of the club's 90 matches and has scored 32 tries, a phenomenal record for a hooker.

JASON CLEGG

A Wardle lad, big-prop Jason turned pro for Bradford from Sid Miller's Littleborough team, but has since enjoyed three good seasons with the Roughyeds. Powerful on the surge, he was voted Top-Gun by the Green Berets and the player who most demonstrated the commando spirit.

WARREN BARROW

Good, strong winger or centre from St. Helens. Has played all his Roughyeds rugby on the wing, scoring 12 tries in 23 appearances last season.

SHAYNE MCMENEMY

Former Hornets forward, who has never looked back since going to Oldham. Made a massive impression as a second-row forward as Oldham finished sixth last year and went on to the semi-finals. An Aussie, he was named in the NFP "form" team last season.

LEO CASEY

Veteran of the Oldham side at 35, Lee also had a spell with Hornets after leaving Featherstone, where he spent the best years of his career after leaving home-town Oldham for a club record of £100,000. Returned to the Roughyeds after spells with Hornets and Swinton. One of the most experienced props in the NFP.

BIG MATCHPREVIEW

BY GARETH WALKER

AS off-seasons go, it's been a strange one to say the least.

The appointment of Steve Deakin as coach and the ensuing signing of several well-known players at this level indicated a promising campaign ahead, and everything appeared to be going to plan. But then, with just weeks remaining until the new season and with Deakin having only been at the club for seven weeks, the new coach walks out to rejoin the club he left, Keighley, leaving Hornets in the proverbial with little time to do much about it.

It was an amazing sequence of events, but one that must be quickly forgotten. Hornets now have to look forward to this season, and what lies ahead under the new man in charge, Martin Hall.

Martin was a hero on the terraces during his previous time in the red, white and blue shirt, and played a huge part in the most successful Hornets side of recent years. He then went on, of course, to enjoy tremendous success at Wigan, winning every domestic honour the game has to offer, as well as a World Club Championship in Brisbane and representing Wales in the 1995 World Cup semi-final.

And one thing is for certain. Nobody wanted this job more than Martin Hall, and that has to be a great bonus. He will command the respect of the players for what he has achieved himself in the game, and being local will also know the vast majority of the players both in the Hornets squad and in the area, having played a role in coaching at Saddleworth Rangers, the club which produced Paul Ashton and Marlon Miller.

Hall arrives with little time to prepare for the new season, and with a squad of somebody else's

players. But he reports that training has been going well since his arrival, everybody has been present and the players are ready for the new season.

It is hard to know what to expect. The squad certainly looks significantly stronger than last season, but it will be difficult to make up the gap between the strong top eight teams so quickly.

One of those sides is our old rivals and this afternoon's visitor's for the Law Cup, Oldham. Coached by Mike Ford, they enjoyed outstanding success last year in finishing sixth, and came just one game away from the NFP Grand Final, losing a thrilling game to Leigh in front of over 5,000 supporters.

Their club is an a great high at the moment, and having retained the vast majority of last season side and also added a handful of talented newcomers, expect them to continue to progress this year. Last week they drew 14-all with a touring South Sydney side without three of their first choice players, although Leigh went onto beat the Australians 30-8 on Tuesday night.

Today's encounter, therefore, should certainly be interesting.

Hornets again have a lot of new signings on board and will need to settle as a side quickly if they are to avoid the disappointments of recent seasons. There has been some high quality additions to the squad, make no mistake about that, so it must be hoped that they can consistently produce the goods in the coming eight months or so.

And let's hope that it can start this afternoon against Oldham, who narrowly beat Hornets twice in the league last season.

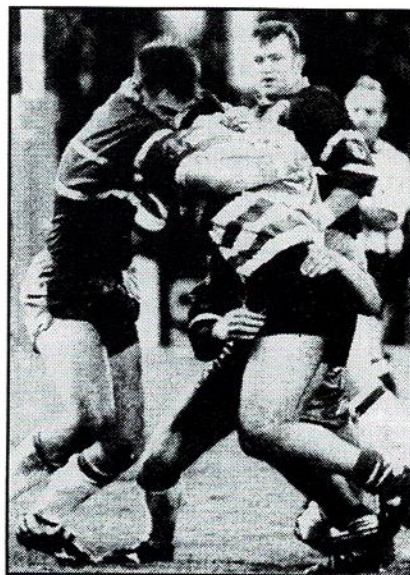
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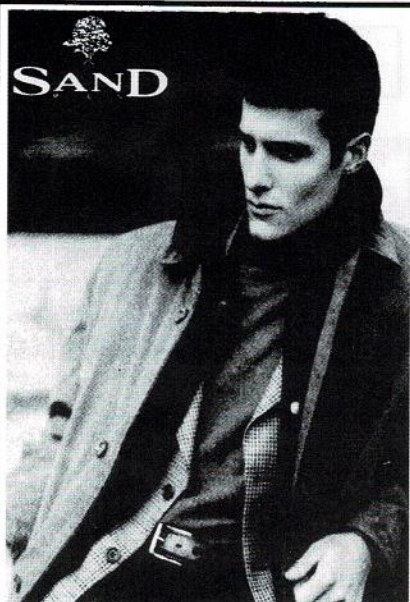
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ROLLCALL



NFP 1999/2000

NAME	APPS	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Paul Ashton	3	(3)				
Dave Best		(2)	1			4
Martin Bunce	14	(14)	2			8
Steve Cameron	(6)					
Sean Cooper	26	(5)	12			48
Jason Demetriou	20		6	1		25
Darrell Derose	11	(5)	1			4
Dane Dorahy	23	9	38	2		114
Mike Edwards	5					
Paul Forber		(2)				
Peter Green	3	(5)	1			4
Rob Hall		(1)				
Phil Harrison		(7)				
Chris Hilton	10		4			16
Lee Hudson	12	(1)	4			16
Gareth Hooson	2					
Chris Hough		(1)				
Andy Ireland	17		2			8
Lee Maher	18		2			8
Scott Martin	24	(5)	13			52
Mick Martindale	7	(7)	3			12
Chris McKinney	25		1			4
Shayne McMenemy	7		2			8
Marlon Miller	17	(1)	8			32
Anthony Murray	6		2			8
Ade Moore	2	(1)				
Chris Newall	14	(5)	5			20
Mark Powell	3					
Lee Prest	1	(6)				
Gavin Price-Jones	22	(3)	4			16
Andy Pucill		(3)				
Darren Robinson	21	(7)	14			56
Danny Sculthorpe	22		1			4
Lee Sculthorpe		(6)				
James Simeunovich	2	(1)				
Ben Simpson	1	(3)				
David Stephenson		(5)				
Gavin Swinson	7	(8)	5			20
Phil Waring	17	(10)	1			4
Steve Wilde	13		3			12
Danny Wood	25	(1)	12	60		168
Darrell Derose	6		3			12
Craig Diggle	3	(1)	2			8
Jason Diggle	1	(2)				
Lee Durrant	3	(1)	1			4
Zal Dyke		(1)				
Nathan Dykes	1					
Paul Forber	1					
Stuart Fraser	7	(2)	5			20
Deon Grayshon		(1)				
Jason Green		(2)				
Peter Green	2		1			4
Michael Hadaway	1					
Robert Hall	12	(2)				
Phil Harrison	18	(1)	5			20
Chris Hilton	15		7			28
Tony Hilton	6	(1)	1			4
Gareth Hooson	2					
Chris Hough	19	(2)	9	4	1	45
Lee Hudson	11		4			16
Matt Irwin	3	(1)	2			8
Glynn Jones		(1)	1			4
Steve Jones	1					
Gavin Kearsley	1	(1)				
Adam Law	1	(2)	1	5		14
Lee Maher	1					
Mick Martindale	7		1			4
Marlon Miller	9		4			16
Ade Moore	3	(2)	1	2		8
Chris Newall	7		4			16
Brian Newby	1					
Dave Newton	3	(6)				
Kenny Nicholson		(1)				
John Pickford		(1)				
Andy Pucill	1					
Mark Powell	14		3			12
Lee Prest	15	(1)	1			4
Gavin Price-Jones	1					
Neil Ramsden	3	(2)	3			12
Ryan Reid		(2)				
Gavin Reynolds		(2)				
Mark Reynolds		(1)				
Darren Robinson	1		1	1		6
Mark Roughneen	3	(2)	2			8
Lee Sculthorpe	6	(1)	3			6
James Simeunovich	1					
Ben Simpson	1					
David Stephenson	1					
Ryan Swindle	1	(1)				
Gavin Swinson	4	(2)	4			16
Graham Sykes	6		3			8
Steve Turner	1		1			2
Luke Vincent	1					
Chris Warner		(1)				
Matt Wilde	1					
Steve Wilde	9		8			24
Matt Williams		(1)				
Jamie Winrow	9		2	15		38

ALLIANCE FIRST DIV

NAME	APPS	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Paul Ashton	15	(1)	5	23		66
Joe Ball	1					
David Best	4					
Jason Best	3	(4)				
Ben Boothman	1					
Gary Bradbury	2		1			4
Gareth Brown	5	(12)	1			4
Chris Buckley	1	(1)				
Steve Cameron	3	(9)	1			4
Stuart Conway		(2)				
Gareth Davies		(4)				

ROCHDALE HORNETS NFP FIXTURES 2000

H/A TIME SCORE ATT



DECEMBER

27	Oldham	A	3.00	20 - 23	3,562	Wilde	Hudson ¹	Martin ¹	Cooper	Price-Jones	Wood	Dorahy ¹⁶	Sculthorpe	Robinson ¹	McMenemy	McKinney	Derosé	Newall ¹	Moore	Cameron	Waring	Bunce
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JANUARY

2	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	3.00	14 - 42	2,112	Price-Jones	Hudson ¹	Martin ¹	Cooper ¹	Hilton	Dorahy ⁶	Waring	McMenemy	Robinson	McKinney	Newall	Derosé	Moore	Ashton	Bunce	Cameron	Hall
9	Lancashire Lynx	A	3.00	38 - 22	320	Waring	Price-Jones	Martin	Cooper ¹	Hilton	Wood ¹	Dorahy ^{27 76}	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Bunce	McKinney	Derosé	Moore	Prest	Hudson	Swinson ¹	Best D ¹
23	YORK WASPS	H	3.00	24 - 14	823	Waring	Price-Jones	Martin ²⁷	Cooper	Hilton	Wood ¹	Dorahy ¹⁶	Sculthorpe	Swinson	McMenemy	Bunce ¹	Derosé	McKinney	Robinson	Prest	Newall ¹	Pucill
30	THE ARMY (Silk Cut CC3)	H	3.00	66 - 6	700	Maher ¹	Miller ¹	Martin ¹	Wood ²⁷	Hilton ²⁷	Waring	Dorahy ^{26 27}	Sculthorpe	Swinson ¹	McMenemy ¹	McKinney ¹	Derosé	Newall	Robinson	Price-Jones	Cooper	Bunce

FEBRUARY

6	Swinton Lions	A	3.00	16 - 34	1,112	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood ¹⁶	Hilton	Waring	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	McMenemy	McKinney	Derosé	Newall	Hough	Price-Jones ²⁷	Cooper	Bunce
13	OLDHAM (Silk Cut CC4)	H	3.00	30 - 14	2,168	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood ¹¹⁶	Hilton ²⁷	Waring	Dorahy ¹	Sculthorpe	Swinson ¹	McMenemy	McKinney	Price-Jones	Newall ¹	Robinson	Bunce ¹	Cooper	Pucill
20	WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS	H	3.00	20 - 22	784	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood ¹⁶	Hilton	Waring	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Swinson	McMenemy ¹	McKinney	Price-Jones	Newall ¹	Cooper ¹	Bunce ¹	Forber	Pucill
27	Hull Sharks (Silk Cut CC5)	A	3.00	10 - 82	3,992	Maher	Hudson	Wilde ¹	Wood ¹¹⁶	Hilton	Waring	Ashton	Sculthorpe	Swinson	Bunce	McKinney	Price-Jones	Martin	Robinson	Newall	Cooper	Harrison

MARCH

1	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	3.00	8 - 34	807	Wilde	Hudson	Cooper ¹	Wood ¹⁶	Hilton	Martin	Waring	Sculthorpe	Swinson	Edwards	McKinney	Price-Jones	Newall	Robinson	Forber	Derosé	Best D
5	Barrow Border Raiders	A	3.00	14 - 32	1,169	Wilde ¹	Powell	Cooper	Martin	Hudson	Wood ¹⁶	Ashton	Sculthorpe	Robinson ¹	Edwards	McKinney	Bunce	Newall	Harrison	Derosé	Martindale	Best D
12	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	3.00	32 - 28	794	Maher	Wilde	Waring	Wood ¹⁶⁶	Cooper ¹	Demetriou	Dorahy ²⁷	Sculthorpe	Robinson ¹	Bunce	McKinney	Price-Jones	Martin	Swinson	Martindale	Harrison	Derosé
19	Batley Bulldogs	A	3.00	6 - 12	464	Maher	Wilde	Waring	Wood ¹⁶	Cooper ¹	Demetriou ¹	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Bunce	McKinney	Derosé	Martin	Martindale	Harrison	Newall	Swinson
26	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	H	3.00	26 - 38	1,253	Maher	Wilde	Waring	Wood ¹⁶	Cooper	Demetriou ¹	Dorahy ¹	Sculthorpe	Robinson ¹	Ireland	Bunce	Derosé	Martin ¹	Swinson	Martindale	Miller	Harrison

APRIL

2	Keighley Cougars	A	2.45	26 - 14	1,450	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood ¹¹⁶	Wilde ¹	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe D	Robinson ¹	Ireland	McKinney	Price-Jones	Cooper	Swinson	Martindale	Sculthorpe L	Bunce
9	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	3.00	18 - 20	1,179	Maher	Price-Jones	Martin	Wood ¹⁶	Cooper ²⁷	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe D	Robinson ¹	Ireland	McKinney	Martindale	Simeunovich	Waring	Bunce	Harrison	Prest
16	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	3.00	31 - 16	1,273	Wilde	Hooson	Cooper	Wood ¹⁶	Hudson ¹	Demetriou ¹⁶⁶	Waring	Ireland	Robinson ¹	Edwards	McKinney	Martindale ¹	Simeunovich	Swinson ¹	Price-Jones	Martin	Derosé
21	OLDHAM	H	3.00	12 - 13	2,288	Wilde	Hooson	Cooper	Wood ¹¹⁶	Hudson ¹	Demetriou	Waring	Ireland	Robinson ¹	Edwards	Sculthorpe	Martindale	Price-Jones	Swinson	Bunce	Martin	Stephenson
24	Leigh Centurions	A	3.00	10 - 42	1,832	Wilde	Miller	Cooper	Martin	Hudson	Wood ¹⁶	Demetriou	Sculthorpe	Waring	Ireland ¹	Price-Jones	Martindale	Martin	Swinson ¹	Simeunovich	Stephenson	Bunce

MAY

1	Dewsbury Rams	A	3.00	2 - 26	1,009	Wilde	Miller	Cooper	Martin	Hudson	Wood ¹⁶	Demetriou	Sculthorpe D	Waring	Ireland	Edwards	Price-Jones	Robinson	Ashton	Stephenson	Bunce	Sculthorpe L
7	Sheffield Eagles	A	3.00	22 - 19	1,055	Maher	Miller ¹	Wood ¹⁶	Cooper	Martin ¹	Demetriou ¹	Dorahy	Sculthorpe D	Murray	Ireland	Price-Jones	Martindale	Robinson	Waring ¹	Bunce	Stephenson	Sculthorpe L
10	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	7.30	24 - 16	921	Maher	Miller	Wood ¹⁶⁶	Cooper	Wilde	Demetriou ¹	Dorahy	Sculthorpe D ¹	Murray	Bunce	Price-Jones	Martindale	McKinney	Waring	Martin	Robinson ¹	Stephenson
14	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H	3.00	50 - 8	895	Maher	Miller ¹	Cooper ¹	Wood ¹⁶	Powell	Demetriou ¹	Dorahy ¹⁶	Ireland	Murray ¹	McKinney	Price-Jones	Martindale ²¹	Robinson ²¹	Green ¹	Martin	Waring	Sculthorpe L
21	Widnes Vikings	A	3.00	10 - 38	3,170	Maher	Miller ¹	Cooper	Wood ¹⁶	Powell	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe D	Murray	Ireland	Price-Jones	McKinney	Robinson	Waring	Bunce	Martin	Newall
26	York Wasps	A	7.30	42 - 22	331	Maher	Miller ²⁷	Cooper	Wood ¹¹⁶	Martin ³¹	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe D	Murray ¹	Ireland	Price-Jones	McKinney	Newall	Waring	Bunce	Green	Robinson
29	SWINTON LIONS	H	3.00	21 - 32	1,061	Maher	Miller	Cooper	Martin	Hudson ¹	Demetriou	Dorahy ¹⁶⁶	Ireland ¹	Murray	Bunce	McKinney	Newall ¹	Robinson	Waring	Derosé	Sculthorpe L	Green

JUNE

4	Whitehaven Warriors	A	3.30	8 - 14	510	Maher	Miller	Cooper ¹	Martin	Green	Demetriou	Dorahy ¹⁶	Ireland	Swinson	Bunce	McKinney	Derosé	Newall	Waring	Harrison	Sculthorpe L	Cameron
11	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	3.00	10 - 30	1,349	Maher	Miller	Cooper ¹	Newall	Green	Demetriou	Dorahy ¹⁶	Ireland	Waring	Prest	Bunce	Derosé ¹	McKinney	Ashton	Cameron	Martindale	Simpson
18	Workington Town	A	3.00	8 - 22	491	Maher	Miller ¹	Cooper	Newall	Green	Wood ¹⁶	Demetriou	Ireland	Robinson	Bunce	Price-Jones	Derosé	McKinney	Waring	Prest	Cameron	Simpson
25	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	3.00	33-20	908	Dorahy ^{16 106}	Miller	Cooper	Martin ²⁷	Hudson	Demetriou	Ashton	Ireland	Robinson ³¹	Bunce	Price-Jones	Simpson	McKinney	Green	Cameron	Newall	Prest

JULY

2	Hunslet Hawks	A	3.30	24-19	633	Maher ¹	Miller	Cooper ¹	Martin	Hudson	Demetriou	Dorahy ^{1 46}	Ireland	Robinson ¹	Bunce	Price-Jones	McKinney	Newall	Wood	Simpson	Green	Prest
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NOTICEBOARD

HAVE YOUR SAY

You can send any letters or articles you wish to have considered for inclusion in the matchday programme to the Club Office.

For example you might want to write about your favourite player or match from the past. Perhaps you want to share your memories of the first time you watched Hornets or some other experiences of supporting Hornets.

All contributions will be welcome.

HAVE SHIRT WILL TRAVEL

It appears Summer is well and truly over. What Summer I hear you cry! Never mind, some of you will have got away for a holiday and hopefully you took your Hornets shirt with you. Like last year, we will be glad to publish pictures of you wearing the kit in unusual or far-flung places. Drop them off in the Club Office with relevant details, name address etc.

TODAYS MASCOTS

Today's match mascots are Sharne, Calum and Carla Marriott, the children of ex Hornet Karl Marriott. Sharne is 8 years old, Calum 7 years old and Carla 4 years old. They are accompanied

here today by Karl's mum and dad, Dave and Koleen, his sister Karen and their mum Linda.

KARL MARRIOTT MEMORIAL TROPHY

The Rochdale Hornets player of the match will be awarded the Karl Marriott Memorial Trophy after the game. Karl's widow, Linda Marriott, will make the presentation.

To further recognise the memory of Karl, one of the most popular players of Rochdale Hornets recent past, the club has decided to name the new gym situated in the new Willbutts Lane stand "The Karl Marriott Memorial Gymnasium".

NEXT UP

Rochdale Hornets first Northern Ford Premiership home game is against Widnes Vikings on Sunday, 10 December 2000, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

All clubs like to build on a good home record so Hornets will be looking to secure two points against a Widnes side that made the NFP Play-off's last season. Widnes will be looking to go all the way this season, to enhance their claims for a Super League place, so a tough match is in prospect. The game will also see the return to Spotland of ex-Hornet Chris McKinney.

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THE LAST LAW CUP GAME



MEMORIES of the A J Law Cup lie deep in the memories of many Hornets fans.

They have always been fiercely contested and at times these "friendlies" were described as mayhem.

However, few can match the poignancy and emotion which surrounded the match of January 1999 at Spotland.

The result a victory for Hornets took second place, as players and fans remembered Karl Marriott and Roy Powell, after two tragic and traumatic months for the club.

The manner of the victory was impressive. Hornets were a class above Oldham, winning by 48 points to ten. They were fitter, faster and better organised than their opponents, and in Mick Shaw, Willie Swann and David Stephenson they had the game's outstanding individuals.

Shaw won the man of the match award for what Observer correspondent, Ian Campbell described

as "an awesome performance." Scorers on the day were Shaw, 2, Swann, 2, Wilde, Hilton, Coussons and Coult. Coach, Deryck Fox added eight goals.

Mick Shaw became the first player to be presented with the Karl Marriott trophy. There were few dry eyes in the house as he received the trophy from Karl's wife Linda.

HORNETS: Steve Wilde, Lee Hudson, Chris Hilton, Mick Coult, Phil Coussons, Willie Swann, Deryck Fox, Matt Knowles, Mick Shaw, Rob Hall, Chris McKinney, Martin Bunce, David Stephenson, Jamie Winrow, Jon Aston, Chris Holland, Danny Sculthorpe.

OLDHAM: Adrian Meade, Mick Farrell, Brian Quinlan, Emerson Jackman, Joe McNicholas, Paul Crook, Craig Barker, Leo Casey, John Hough, Jason Clegg, Graeme Shaw, Nathan Varley, Mick Martindale, Gary Coulter, Afi Leuila, Mike Prescott, Paul Round.

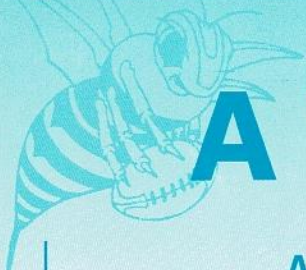
ATTENDANCE: 2879.



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A TEAM SCENE

ALLIANCE 2000 FIRST DIVISION

JANUARY	5	Leigh Centurions	A	16-8
	27	OLDHAM	H	16-4
FEBRUARY	12	Batley Bulldogs	A	18-10
	24	Featherstone Rovers	A	8-37
MARCH	11	Workington Town	A	12-54
	16	Hunslet Hawks	A	16-20
	23	Oldham	A	18-43
	30	Keighley Cougars	A	18-34
APRIL	13	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	30-22
	27	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	28-20
MAY	6	Barrow Border Raiders	A	34-26
	11	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	16-21
	18	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	28-38
	31	Widnes Vikings	A	18-50
JUNE	3	WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS	H	24-14
	7	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	22-30
	13	Whitehaven Warriors	A	12-68
	17	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	44-28
	21	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	46-16
24	BARROW	H	37-16	

ALLIANCE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Widnes Vikings	20	15	0	5	826	350	30
Whitehaven Warriors	20	13	0	7	604	482	26
Leigh Centurions	20	11	1	8	550	508	23
Featherstone Rovers	20	11	0	9	495	529	22
Hunslet Hawks	20	11	0	9	466	576	22
Batley Bulldogs	20	10	1	9	364	371	21
Oldham	20	10	0	10	418	394	20
ROCHDALE HORNETS	20	10	0	10	544	591	20
Workington Town	20	7	0	13	503	508	14
Keighley Cougars	20	7	0	13	487	631	14
Barrow Border Raiders	20	4	0	16	406	722	8

NFP FIXTURES 2000-2001

DECEMBER	3	Workington Town	A	3.00
	10	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	3.00
	17	CHORLEY LYNX	H	3.00
	24	OLDHAM	H	1.00
JANUARY	7	Swinton Lions	A	3.00
	14	BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	H	3.00
	21	Whitehaven Warriors	A	3.00
FEBRUARY	4	Leigh Centurions	A	3.00
	18	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	3.00
MARCH	4	Keighley Cougars	A	3.00
	11	Hunslet Hawks	A	3.30
	18	DEWSBURY RAMS	H	3.00
	25	Hull Kingston Rovers	A	3.00
APRIL	1	Gateshead Thunder	A	3.30
	8	YORK H	H	3.00
	13	Oldham	A	3.00
	17	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	7.30
	22	Featherstone Rovers	A	3.00
MAY	6	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	3.00
	9	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	H	7.30
	13	Widnes Vikings	A	3.00
	20	Chorley Lynx	A	3.00
	27	SWINTON LIONS	H	3.00
JUNE	3	Batley Bulldogs	A	3.00
	10	WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS	H	3.00
	17	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	3.00
	24	Doncaster Dragons	A	3.00
JULY	1	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	3.00

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
Dewsbury Rams	28	22	1	5	848	400	448	45
Keighley Cougars	28	22	0	6	1002	401	601	44
Doncaster Dragons	28	21	0	7	880	397	483	42
Leigh Centurions	28	21	0	7	854	476	378	42
Featherstone Rovers	28	20	1	7	795	523	272	41
Oldham	28	19	1	8	734	513	221	39
Hull KR	28	17	1	10	583	481	102	35
Widnes Vikings	28	17	0	11	698	483	215	34
Swinton Lions	28	13	2	13	726	733	-7	28
Barrow Border R	28	14	0	14	647	711	-64	28
Whitehaven Warriors	28	11	1	16	533	674	-141	23
Workington Town	28	11	1	16	502	776	-274	23
ROCHDALE HORNETS	28	10	0	18	563	696	-133	20
Sheffield Eagles	28	9	1	18	479	585	-106	19
Hunslet Hawks	28	8	0	20	487	678	-191	16
Batley Bulldogs	28	6	0	22	482	759	-277	12
York Wasps	28	5	1	22	392	859	-467	11
Lancashire Lynx	28	1	0	27	301	1361	-1060	2

AJ LAW INFIRMARY CUP

FACTS & FIGURES

1921	Rochdale	0	Oldham	0	1955	OLDHAM	23	Rochdale	17
Replay	OLDHAM	12	Rochdale	2	1956	ROCHDALE	34	Oldham	5
1922	OLDHAM	12	Rochdale	8	1957	Oldham	5	ROCHDALE	31
1923	ROCHDALE	13	Oldham	5	1958	ROCHDALE	25	Oldham	10
1924	OLDHAM	15	Rochdale	4	1959	OLDHAM	28	Rochdale	11
1925	ROCHDALE	27	Oldham	15	1960	Rochdale	11	OLDHAM	35
1926	OLDHAM	34	Rochdale	0	1961	OLDHAM	53	Rochdale	13
1927	ROCHDALE	11	Oldham	0	1962	Rochdale	2	OLDHAM	24
1928	OLDHAM	18	Rochdale	0	1963	OLDHAM	29	Rochdale	13
1929	Rochdale	2	OLDHAM	15	1964	Rochdale	7	OLDHAM	39
1930	OLDHAM	14	Rochdale	7	1965	Oldham	14	ROCHDALE	19
1931	Rochdale	11	OLDHAM	29	1966	ROCHDALE	13	Oldham	5
1932	OLDHAM	24	Rochdale	3	1972	OLDHAM	18	Rochdale	16
1933	ROCHDALE	48	Oldham	8	1973	ROCHDALE	30	Oldham	14
1934	OLDHAM	20	Rochdale	7	1974	OLDHAM	27	Rochdale	15
1935	Rochdale	14	OLDHAM	15	1975	Rochdale	2	OLDHAM	29
1936	OLDHAM	12	Rochdale	4	1976	OLDHAM	21	ROCHDALE	21
1937	Rochdale	4	OLDHAM	9	1977	ROCHDALE	14	Oldham	5
1938	OLDHAM	18	Rochdale	8	1978	OLDHAM	26	Rochdale	8
1946	Rochdale	8	OLDHAM	14	1979	Rochdale	9	OLDHAM	14
1947	Oldham	17	ROCHDALE	18	1990	OLDHAM	32	Rochdale	15
1948	ROCHDALE	9	Oldham	2	1991	Rochdale	15	OLDHAM	31
1949	Oldham	2	ROCHDALE	35	1993	OLDHAM	28	Rochdale	26
1950	ROCHDALE	10	Oldham	9	1994	Rochdale	24	OLDHAM	52
1951	Oldham	7	ROCHDALE	18	1998	Rochdale	16	OLDHAM	36
1952	ROCHDALE	25	Oldham	8	1999	ROCHDALE	48	Oldham	10
1953	OLDHAM	31	Rochdale	19	1999	Rochdale	18	OLDHAM	30
1954	ROCHDALE	17	OLDHAM	17					

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

- The first match took place on 7th May 1921, finishing in an inauspicious 0-0 draw. Oldham were the first holders, winning the replay 12-2 at Watersheddings on 13th May.
- Rochdale Hornets biggest win came in 1999 when Derrick Fox's side won 48-10.
- Oldham's biggest win was 53-13 in 1961.
- Oldham have won the trophy 40 times to Hornet's 16 times.
- Hornets win in 1999 ended Oldham's longest winning sequence of 7 consecutive victories, the longest in the Cup's history.
- Hornets best run of consecutive victories was between 1947 and 1952.
- Oldham were the first team to win the trophy away from home, at the tenth time of asking. In those first 10 years the away team failed to reach a double figure score 9 times!

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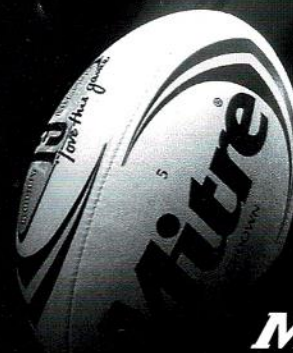
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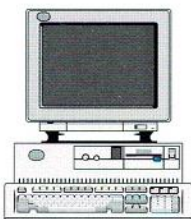
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OLDHAM YESTERDAYS'

BY BRAIN WALKER

The Oldham Football Club was formed in 1876 its first game against Stalybridge on the towns Glodwick Lows with the clubs colours for that match and for the next 13 years being amber and black. The sport in those days, of course, was rugby union the ruling body being the English Union.

On the 18th November 1876 Oldham had it's first ever match against Rochdale playing the Hornets second team with the game ending in a 2-2 draw.

Soon the club was on the move this time to Clarkesfield and it was rapidly becoming a force in northern rugby. By 1883 the club was already producing county players and in 1889 was awarded a prestigious fixture against the touring Maories. Included in the side as guest players were Hornets county stars Pennington and Nolan.

By 1889 the club had moved to Watersheddings and changed its colours to the famous red and white. Oldham had become one of the wealthiest clubs in the land attracting to the town amongst others Welsh International stars David Gwynn, Bill McCutcheon and Abe Ashworth later to play for Hornets who was selected for the England RU side.

Both Oldham and Hornets were to be founder members of the Northern Union (later to become the Rugby League) as part of the 1895 breakaway from the English Union initiated by those clubs insisting on their rights to pay players for any loss of earnings from playing matches in front of paying spectators.

For the next 25 years the Oldham club was to be major power in the sport, rarely far away from the honours. Between the wars the side appeared in 4 consecutive Challenge Cup finals,

a record to stand until finally broken by the Wigan club in the 1990's.

The fine side of the 1950's is still fondly remembered by many Oldham supporters but sadly the winning of the Championship in 1957 was the be the last time the club was to win a major trophy. Of course the side has since appeared in many Lancashire Cup finals, Challenge Cup semis and has won the Second Division Championship and Premiership on more than one occasion but 1957 was the last major success.

The club was to be a founder member of the Super League and in the first season finished a creditable 8th with the final match of that season to be played at Watersheddings. The following season the team was playing at Boundary Park finishing bottom proving to be the beginning of the end for the proud old club that had produced for this sport over 80 international players. The receivers were appointed before the end of the summer of 1997.

The new oldham club was formed by November and voted back into the RL but this time in the second division and without Murdoch cash. Its first game was here at Spotland winning the Law Cup and later that first season reached the final of the Trans-Pennine competition. Last season the first under Mike Fords excellent guidance the team fell only at the last hurdle in its attempt to reach the Grand Final.

Many players have pulled on both the Hornets and Roughyeds colours but how about the following team to more than hold it's own in the NFP - Martin Murphy, Trevor Simms, Malcolm Price, Darren Abram, Norman Brelford, Johnny Noon, Neil Flanagan, Wally Jones, Richard Pachniuk, Leo Casey, Mike Kuiti, Mick Worrall, Martin Hall, subs Bob Welding, Sean Gartland, Chris McKinney and Shayne McMenemy.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are a wide number of sponsorship opportunities for you or your company. They range from corporate hospitality packages involving hospitality box, waitress service, buffet, complimentary drinks, advertisements in the matchday programme, admission to the game etc. through to players kit sponsorship deals.

There's a deal to suit all pockets.

BIG MATCH SPONSOR	£500 + VAT
MATCH BALL SPONSOR	£200 + VAT
PERIMETER ADVERTISING	£450
CORPORATE HOSPITALITY BOX, per game	
There are a couple of boxes available for full seasonal hire - price by negotiation	£200 + VAT
TOP TACKLE SPONSOR	£100 + VAT
SPONSOR FULL KIT OF YOUR CHOSEN PLAYER	£100
SPONSOR JERSEY OF YOUR CHOSEN PLAYER	£50
SPONSOR SHORTS OF YOUR CHOSEN PLAYER	£25
SPONSOR BOOTS OF YOUR CHOSEN PLAYER	£40

If you are interested in taking advantage of any of the above sponsorship opportunities, contact Francis Ward at the Club Offices on (01706) 648004 for full details of the benefits on offer.

ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

CLUB HONOURS

Challenge Cup Winners,	1921-22
Lancashire League Winners,	1918-1919
Lancashire Cup Winners,	1911-12, 1914-15, 1918-19
Beaten Finalists,	1912-13, 1919-20, 1965-66, 1990-1991
Regal Trophy Beaten Finalists,	1973-74
BBC2 Floodlight Trophy Beaten Finalists,	1971-72

CLUB RECORDS

Debut Season,	1895-96
Biggest Victory, 92-0 v Runcorn Highfield	1989-90
Heaviest Defeat, 10-82 v Hull Sharks	1999-2000

Most Tries:	In a Career - 103, J. Williams	1931-37
	In a Season - 30, J. Williams	1934-35
	In a Match - 5, J. Corsi, J. Williams, N. Brelsford	1921 & 22, 1933, 1972
Most Goals:	In a Career - 733, W. Gowers	1922-36
	In a Season - 150, M. Strett	1994-95
	In a Match - 14, S. Turner	1989
Most Points:	In a Career - 1481, W. Gowers	1922-36
	In a Season - 346, M. Strett	1994-95
	In a Match - 32, S. Turner	1988-89
Most Appearances:	455, W. Gowers	1922-36

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DEALERS