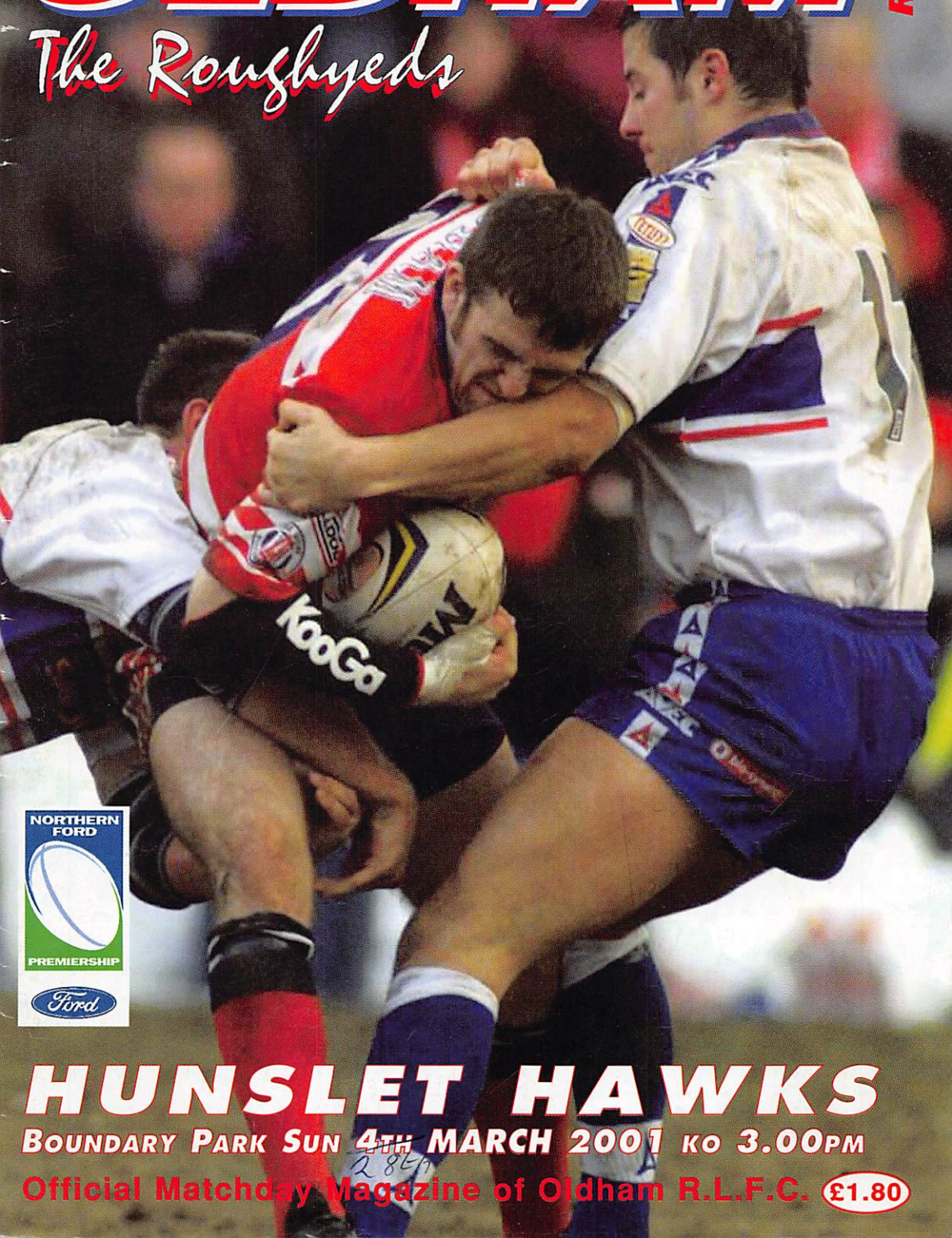


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The Roughyeds



HUNSLET HAWKS

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Up Front

... with Christopher Hamilton



WELCOME to Boundary Park - yet again! Today's opponents Hunslet have gone back to youth as they start to rebuild their club after the disappointments of 2 years ago when they won the Grand Final but were not promoted.

Let's hope that today's game goes ahead with a little bit less work than the cup tie against Wakefield when staff and volunteers

moved 150 tonnes of snow from the pitch before setting about removing the frost covers. A number of us had put the covers down on Saturday after Latics home game which coincided with the first heavy fall of snow. To those people who helped I would like to offer my own sincere thanks and it merely demonstrated, once again, the tremendous commitment that people in the town have for Rugby League.

As a result of that strenuous exertion last week the office has seen a number of people (Haydn Walker and Dave Roberts) complaining about bad backs, blisters etc. Each time an unfortunate caller has visited the office this week their stories of superhuman efforts have increased each time to the point where these two appear to have shifted 75 tonnes each! We'll bear that in mind next time fellas!

After the end of the cup run it's back to the bread and butter of the League and hopefully we can start to creep further up the table, as we play our matches in hand.

Thanks for all your support both before and during the game against Wakefield, and please cheer on the boys today.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



The Roughyeds

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Ganley 1950-61, John Etty 1954-59,

Derek Turner 1955-59, Bob Irving

1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

FRONT COVER

Phil Farrell 'gets the treatment' from two Wildcat defenders.

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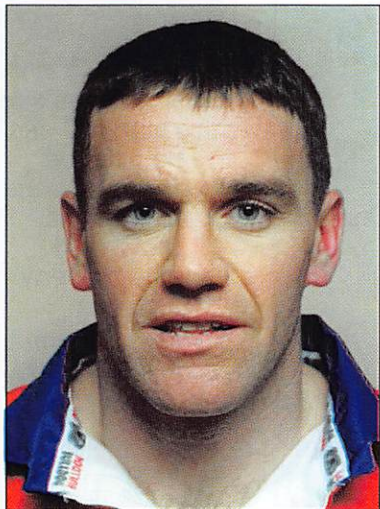
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FORD FOCUS . . . with Mike Ford



WE were obviously disappointed with the outcome of the Wakefield cup tie and we certainly didn't feel that 26-6 was a fair reflection of the game. Maybe about 14-6 would have done justice to our efforts. However, we didn't make them work hard enough for their points so we must regard the game as an experience to be learned from. For our players wanting to play at Super League level the opposition gave us a benchmark as to what is required. We didn't think Wakefield were more skilful than us, but they were bigger and stronger, which reflects the benefits of full time training. Unfortunately, we couldn't get much field position to put them under pressure and we are sorry that as a result our supporters didn't see us at our best on attack although I thought we defended well right up to the last quarter.

Anyway a game against Super League opposition was a bonus we hadn't expected when we began planning this season and, hopefully, the experience will stand us in good stead in the N.F.P.

In a hectic period coming up we could have played at Swinton on Thursday, rested on Friday and Saturday and will have trained this morning in preparation for today's visitors, Hunslet.

David Plange has done a great job in rebuilding Hunslet after they lost so many experienced players from their 1999 Grand Final squad with the emphasis firmly on youth. We look forward to a good game with them today.

Also today we are pleased to welcome back Danny Arnold after injury and we are hopeful that our other wingman Joey Hayes will be back in action shortly.

Enjoy the match.

Mike



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Michael's Match



... from the pen of Michael Turner

TODAY the "Roughyeds" have the pleasure of welcoming the Hunslet club to Boundary Park. Like ourselves Hunslet were founder members of the Northern Union in 1895 and, indeed, were the opponents for Oldham in their first ever fixture in the new code.

Our featured match for this programme goes back to April 12th 1958 when Hunslet were the visitors to Watersheddings for a special game in the career of Oldham full back Bernard Ganley. Going into the match Bernard was four goals short of breaking the 'goals in season' record which was held by the legendary Jim Sullivan of Wigan with 204. such was the consistency of 'Ganley the boot' it seemed inevitable that the record would be broken on this day - and so it was

After losing to Wigan in the third round of the Challenge Cup, the Roughyeds finished the season with ten straight victories in the league with the match against Hunslet number seven

on the list. Oldham were in irresistible form and the game was in the bag by half time by which time the home side had raced into a 23-0 lead through tries from Alan Davies (2), John Etty, Dennis Ayres and Jack Keith. The latter of these scores, coming just before the interval, provided Ganley with that magic fourth goal which broke the record and earned the ace marksman prolonged applause from the thirteen thousand crowd, which was encored upon the half time whistle.

The Yorkshiremen rallied in the second half with tries from Tate, Gabbittas and Colin and two conversions from Langton but a further touchdown from Etty and tries from Derek Turner and Roger Dufty, combined with three more Ganley goals gave Oldham a comfortable 38-13 victory. Ganley went on to finish the season with 200 goals in senior matches for Oldham, plus five in the Law Cup against Rochdale and nineteen for Great Britain in three internationals against France.

OLDHAM: W. B. Ganley, R. Cracknell, D. Ayres, A. Davies, J. Etty, A. Kellett, F. Pitchford, K. Jackson, J. Keith, R. Dufty, C. Winslade, S. Little, D. Turner

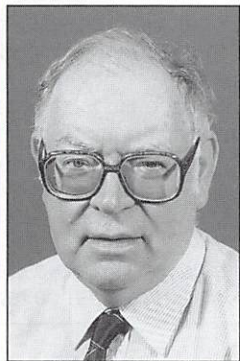
Attendance: 13,602



"Over she goes!" Bernard Ganley's record breaking goal against Hunslet in April 1958

ROGER

ROGER



WATCHING the TV version of last Saturday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie between Castleford and Leeds at The Jungle – I still think of it as Wheldon Road, but am I old fashioned? – it was

easy to see why Oldham have launched their ambitious youth policy in a bold bid to arrest the flow of top young talent from this area to Super League clubs.

Iestyn Harris, Kevin Sinfield and Barrie McDermott all played leading roles in the Rhinos' triumph in a stark reminder of the quality of so many players who carry the "made in Oldham" trademark.

Years ago Saddleworth Rangers used to be the breeding ground for the stars of the future. Remember Terry Flanagan, Paddy Kirwan, Nicky Kiss, the Foy brothers, Mick Nannyn and many, many more, I'm sure.

Then St Anne's had a spell as Oldham's leading nursery, offering us Leo Casey, Steve Molloy, Matt Calland, Aidie Belle and Steve Gartland among many others.

Waterhead chipped in with McDermott, the Sinfields and Paul Highton, not to mention Paul and Danny Sculthorpe . . . and please don't take me to task for missing somebody out because I know I am sure to have done just that.

The point is that Oldham has been, and still is, a marvellous breeding ground for top quality rugby league players, producing at least a dozen able and accomplished players of professional quality for every one who goes right to the top such as Kevin Sinfield, Harris, McDermott and Paul Sculthorpe.

Talk of the town right now is the Waterhead Under-16s team, coached by Andy Yates, which is currently top of the NW Counties Under-16s premier division in the face of competition from teams in hot-beds such as Wigan and St Helens.

The Roughyeds have signed, on three-year contracts, three members of that team in stand-

off Paul Bentley, hooker James Kirkland and second-row or loose-forward Adam Clayton.

They have also put 16-year-old centre James Wilkinson and 17-year-old prop Anthony Whitehead on contract – and there are sure to be more.

Whitehead, the latest signing, made an early impression a year ago when he starred for the club's newly-formed Academy side and went on to enjoy an impressive season, making two or three appearances for the Alliance side while only just turned 17.

But back to Waterhead. Andy Yates' lads are sure to attract more attention from the talent scouts before the end of the season even though Bentley, Kirkland and Clayton have signed for Oldham and scrum-half Ryan Collins has signed for Bradford Bulls.

And just to prove the strength of the Peach Road club's nursery organisation, I have it on good authority that half a dozen of the Waterhead Under-14s are already linked with Super League clubs as members of development squads.

That's the sort of competition Oldham face on their own doorstep, but the Roughyeds are geared-up for the challenge, having established their own development camp and having already started pre-season training for the Academy team, which is expected to make a big impression in the coming months.

The club reports good attendances at Academy sessions, held at Castleton, and coach Mark Knight is enthusiastic about prospects for the summer.

Chief scout John 'Jacko' Jackson, meanwhile, continues to work hard at grass-roots level as the Roughyeds build for the future.

He is particularly active locally and the results of his labours have been witnessed by supporters, to whom new signings have been introduced at recent Boundary Park matches.

That's a nice touch. It makes for good PR, it keeps supporters informed of what's going on behind the scenes on development work and it helps the new boys to feel accepted and at home as they take their first tentative steps on the road to becoming rugby league professionals.

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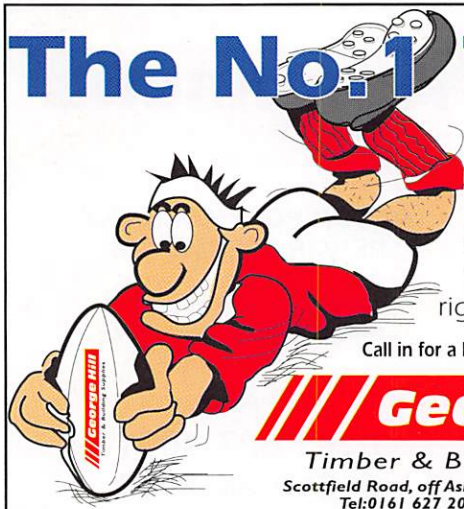
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Daryl Lacey

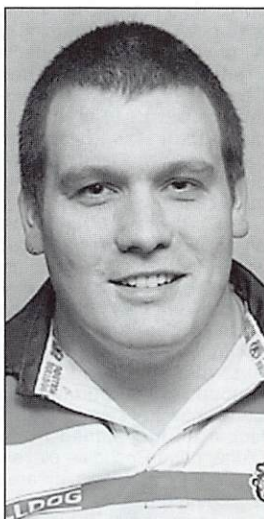
IT WAS the coldest night of the winter so far last Thursday when the Alliance entertained Batley Bulldogs at Castleton Gabriels. It was certainly not our best performance of the season but we still emerged winners by 38-10.

Star of the show was Daryl Lacey who was a constant threat in attack at fullback

and who also pulled off a couple of superb tackles. Running Daryl close and also outstanding was prop forward Danny Guest who broke the Batley defensive line on several occasions. Lee Doran and Alex Peet also had strong games.

The final scoreline could have been much greater had we managed to control the ball better. However on the night we made twenty-one handling errors which is far too high and something we need to address.

On the positive side our support play and defence are excellent and if we can



Danny Guest

ALLIANCE TEAM FIXTURES

Dec					
6	Keighley	A	7.30	L16-36	
21	Rochdale	H	7.30	W24-0	
Jan					
3	Hunslet	A	7.30	W26-10	
10	Leigh	A	7.30	L36-18	
18	Widnes	H	P		
20	Workington	H	2.30	W24-0	
Feb					
3	Whitehaven	H	P		
15	Hunslet	H	7.30	W44-6	
22	Batley	H	7.30	W38-10	
March					
17	Whitehaven	A	2.30		
22	Featherstone	H	7.30		
29	Doncaster	A	7.30		
April					
4	Batley	A	7.30		
19	Doncaster	H	7.30		
May					
3	Featherstone	A	7.30		
10	Keighley	H	7.30		
19	Workington	A	2.30		
24	Rochdale	A	7.30		
31	Leigh	H	7.30		
June					
7	Widnes	A	7.30		
13	Top Five Play Offs				
14	First Division Grand Final				

build on this we should have a good season. That said we now have the frustration of three weeks without a game due to the fixture format.

I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Oldham Schools Under 13s who had a very good win by 30-22 over Salford recently. Also the ever-improving Under 11s who were a little unlucky to go down 28-18 to Salford.

Keep up the good work lads.

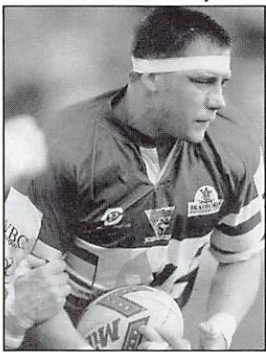
Haydn Walker
Alliance Coach

Probing The NFP

YORK WASPS secured their first win of the season against Gateshead in midweek after the Thunder had been pumelled by Oldham. Shaun Austerfield had moved from centre to loose forward for the Wasps and revelled in his new role. Unfortunately, three days later he was unable to repeat the performance as the Wasps crashed to a 48-6 defeat by Sheffield Eagles. Richard Goddard picked up two tries and eight goals for the visitors as the improving Eagles start to climb the table.

Widnes Vikings leapfrogged Oldham in the table with their 48-14 defeat of Chorley. A hatrick here for prop Simon Knox with six goals for Ian Watson. But the Lynx did not succumb as easily as might have been expected which, considering they had only 16 players available and dragged an extra from the stand (he was a bona fide, registered player as it happens), was a pretty remarkable performance.

As expected two visiting teams went down heavily, Gateshead at Dewsbury and Batley at Keighley. Centre Adrian Flynn scored three tries in the Rams 54-10 victory to emphasise their position in the big three at the head of the table.



Danny Seal

Meanwhile the Cougars stayed ahead of the Rams with a 66-12 mauling of Batley Bulldogs. There were two hatricks here to scrum-half Nathan Antonik and loose-forward Danny Seal plus eleven goals for Martin Wood as the Cougars build up for their big league clash and the Trans Pennine Cup Final against Leigh Centurions.

The other NFP game last week was a thriller and my forecast was wrong yet again as visitors Workington edged out Barrow at Craven Park. Carl Sice starred for Town but Border Raiders paid dearly for Darren Holt's sin-binning for dissent in the first half when Workington notched what proved to be a vital twelve points. Unusual this, because Barrow are the least penalised team in the entire League and the penalty count in this one was 2-1 in their favour.

In the Challenge Cup Leigh and Oldham could take the NFP challenge to Super League clubs no further. Both, however, emerged with credit as they made their higher league compatriots fight all the way. Leigh led at half time at Wilderspool by 4-0 and were 6-4 ahead on the hour. Two late tries by Steve McCurrie finally turned the game in favour of the Wolves as the home side finished the stronger.

It was a similar story at Boundary Park where a 26-6 scoreline flattered Wakefield. The Wildcats were bigger and stronger than the Roughyeds, but Oldham's terrific tackling kept them in with a shout

until the last quarter. Unfortunately there was a clear difference in the two teams, as Oldham could not sustain any pressure and lacked penetration on attack.

Doncaster and Whitehaven also flew the flag with credit for the NFP. Four try Aussie wingman Andrew Frew turned the tide for Huddersfield against the Dragons, but the men from South Yorkshire had every reason to be proud as they went down 38-24 with Paul Mansson their star man. Meanwhile, up at the Recre. Whitehaven gave St. Helens and a 4,750 crowd a pulsating tie and a closer than expected contest. Leroy Joe and David Seeds gave 'Haven a cutting edge and the home side were well in the game at 65 minutes when they trailed by only 18-20. Then a controversial ball-stealing decision by referee Karl Kirkpatrick led to a Tommy Martyn try and gave Saints the impetus to go on to a 34-22 win.

In the other cup ties Leeds Rhinos were always going to win once influential scrum-half Mitch Healey was unable to turn out for the Tigers. The Oldham lads Kevin Sinfield and Iestyn Harris were in majestic form, each bagging two tries and Harris adding five goals.

At Halifax what promised to be a blood and thunder encounter turned out to be a damp squib as the Bulls comprehensively outplayed the Blue Sox by 68-18. And at the Boulevard London Broncos let slip a 16 point lead when going down 30-20 to Hull F.C. All of which leaves Villeneuve Leopards as the first French side to reach the quarter finals of the Challenge Cup. And they did it the hard way coming from behind 19-10 to run out winners by 26-19. First out of the hat the Leopards must now once again travel away, this time to Warrington in what is turning out to be a grossly unfair competition. Nevertheless I am sure the Leopards will do the French game proud.

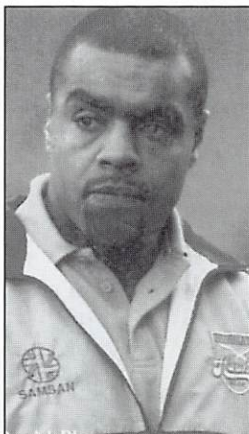
On the news front, meanwhile, strange goings on at Dewsbury regarding control of the stadium which Bob McDermott has not managed to take over (as yet), together with the resignation as Chief Executive of Neil Kelly to concentrate on his role as Coach. There could be changes ahead with Kelly tipped for Castleford if Stuart Raper returns to Australia with Cronulla. At York Lee Tichener announced his retirement, while at Hull KR Colin Carter has transferred from Doncaster and Alasdair McLarran has signed from Driffield R.U. Former Oldham and Rochdale player Mick Farrell has signed for Chorley and Bramley are still in there fighting for reinstatement.

Today the NFP big guns should all take points. Leigh go to York while Keighley entertain Rochdale. Dewsbury are at Swinton, Widnes at Gateshead and Featherstone at Whitehaven, the latter perhaps the likeliest game for an upset. Oldham should account for Hunslet, But Doncaster v Workington pitches in seventh versus eighth though home advantage should be crucial. That leaves Hull KR to win at Chorley and Sheffield to edge out Barrow in what could be the closest game of the day.



HUNSLET HAWKS

HUNSLET HAWKS come to Boundary Park today lying 12th in the League with a playing record of Played 10 Won 3, Drawn 1, Lost 6 with 138 points for and 241 against. After their 1999 Grand Final winning season the club was forced completely to rebuild the side under the tutelage of Coach David Plange. As yet that rebuilding has not reached full fruition, but the area of South Leeds that Hunslet operate in is historically one of the most prolific production lines of young talent in the game and, even, of international quality players such as Gary Schofield, David Creasser and Sonny Nickle to name but a few. The Hawks' team today will reflect that local talent and their young guns will undoubtedly put up a spirited performance in their bid for a top eight finish.



David Plange

Full back GEORGE RAYNER is a fleet footed, well balanced player, a South Leeds local who like so many in his city tried his luck at Headingley before returning to Hunslet.

The handy LEE MAHER has been first choice lately on one wing with AARON CAMPBELL on the other. Campbell went out on loan to Doncaster last season but is now back in his native Hunslet.

At centre expect to see IAIN HIGGINS a qualified barrister who signed for London Broncos before transferring to Hunslet in 1998 and playing in the Grand Final side. His co-centre is MICHAEL WAINWRIGHT on loan for the season from Leeds Rhinos, a quick and elusive 21 year old eager to make a name for himself.

Hunslet's halfback combination can be variable. Local youngsters CHRIS REDFEARN and CRAIG ROBINSON could be first choice, but on occasion ex-Academy international and Leeds Rhinos player MARCUS VASSILAKOPOULOS moves from loose-forward to No. 6 from where he lends his

influence and tactical skill to the development of the Hawks' attack.

From recent teamsheets props and second-rows seem to be interchangeable. MICK BANKS, DAVID BATES, GUY ADAMS, DAVE JESSEY, BEN SKERRETT and BOB ROBERTS are all likely to appear at some stage. Best known of these is ROBERTS who left Hunslet to join Hull Sharks in 1998 where he was player-of-the-year in '99. He transferred to Halifax Blue Sox thereafter but failed to break into the Blue Sox ranks and subsequently returned to lend his power and experience to the Hawks once more.

GUY ADAMS meanwhile is a utility player who, as they say, plays above his weight. DAVE JESSEY is a quick young second row runner, who will be a major force as his physique develops. BEN SKERRETT follows in the footsteps of a famous father and uncle and will hope to develop into a powerhouse forward like Trevor or Kelvin. Meanwhile DAVID BATES was last year's Alliance player-of-the-year and top scorer and is currently on extended loan from Castleford Tigers. Other local youngsters MICK BANKS, BEN THOMPSON, JUNIOR HENDERSON, ANDY ATHA and DANNY BRIGGS add to the selection pool in Plange's mobile pack.

Male model(!) and hooker NICKY (Romeo) DOBSON is the likely hooker who set up the club's highly successful calendar featuring the Hawks players in some interesting poses! One to watch - or not - as the mood takes you.

At 13 if Vassilakopoulos is otherwise engaged will be the stalwart MICK COYLE now enjoying a well deserved testimonial year and thoroughly enjoying leading his charges around the park. Experience personified, Coyle is well respected throughout the game.

Hunslet's full squad also contains several other promising players. Wingman HAMISH MUNTON is all action and another winger, CHRIS HAYWOOD has bags of pace. Tackling mashing hooker-cum-loose-forward GARETH NAYLOR, young prop ADAM MOORE and 17 year old CRAIG IBBOTSON (Batman to his friends) are three others striving to stake a claim for places. And finally there are two Chrises, ROSS and NORTH. Still only 21 CHRIS ROSS has three seasons experience under his belt at full-back or wing, while CHRIS NORTH is a former Oldham and Dewsbury centre.

Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

WHO WANTS TO SHIVER?

IT WAS quarter to eight on the Saturday evening before the Wakefield cup tie and during the last hour, four or five inches of snow had made it impossible to get the car off the drive. The Uppermill to Delph road was almost impassable, there were no taxis and I had just cancelled dinner at the Old Original. That's winter and that's what we should sometimes expect and to be honest the snow was forecast three days before so when it actually arrives why do we act surprised? Oh, look it's snowing!

Wrapped up and legging it to the Indian in Uppermill the conversation soon turned to the match. Can't see them playing in this! They've got covers! it might not be snowing in Chadderton! They'll have it sorted and so on and so forth. But no one actually admitted that as things looked at that moment the chances of playing were about the same as a snowballs chance in hell. Hope springs eternal.

It was a funny day all round Saturday. The morning was cold but sunny, and I took a young hopeful down to Castleton Gabriels to train with the Academy squad in what looked to be ideal training conditions, until you actually looked at the training pitch and the problems caused by this winter's extreme weather!

In the afternoon I went up to Counthill to watch the Waterhead and St. Anne's cup clash. A good size crowd but the morning's sun had disappeared and it was like being in the Arctic. At half time many (and I was amongst the first) were happy to use the excuse of the televised Castleford/Leeds clash to head home!

As a rugby freak I would only need half a chance to promote the idea of year round rugby but if that isn't going to be the case (and it isn't) I am fast moving to the summer camp.

How many Sunday mornings so far this season have we had to ask the same question, "Will the match beat the weather?" I know for certain that Coronation Street will be on TV tonight so if I want to watch it I can plan to do so with certainty. We can't say the same about any of our games scheduled anywhere between November and March and people do need a measure of certainty when planning precious leisure time.

I have heard the arguments both for and against the NFP playing its rugby in winter. But to the working party examining summer and winter options I would ask them to look at the faces of the fans depicted in the two Stephen Bennett water colours. Scott Ranson scores at Old Trafford in the spring sunshine in front of smiling fans and Dick Cracknell scores at Watersheddings in the depth of winter in front of the Oldham spectators with their faces seemingly frozen rigid.



Scott Ranson scores at Old Trafford in the spring sunshine



Dick Cracknell scores at Watersheddings in the depth of winter.

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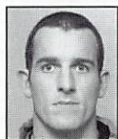
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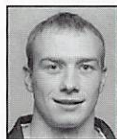
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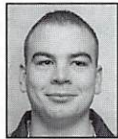
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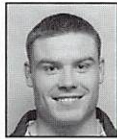
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Ian Sinfield
John Barrett
(Time keeper)



Jason Clegg
Junior Roughyeds



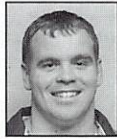
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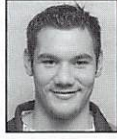
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Cook(e)ing up a storm



Alex Murphy

NOTHING much has happened this week to set me off, so I thought 'what can I write about that will get people arguing?' Well, team selection is just about the most certain thing there is to get people going, so I thought I'd pick an all-time team to make you think. Thing is, this isn't my idea of the greatest team of players I've ever seen, BUT the greatest team of ENTERTAINERS. If anyone wants to write in with their own ideas I'd be happy to publish them. The only condition is you must show a reason for each choice as I do below:

FULLBACK – ANDREW ETTINGHAUSEN

When E.T. played fullback for Leeds in the mid 80s he had everything; pace, great hands, agility and an eye for a gap. He was also one of the finest tacklers around. In Australia he played mainly at centre, but in one memorable international at fullback he twice nailed Martin Offiah on the touchline to deny Great Britain a win. E.T. was one of the greatest players and gentlemen ever to grace our game.

RIGHT WING – DES DRUMMOND

One of the finest sights in British rugby, whether for Leigh or G.B., was the pocket battleship Des Drummond. Fast, elusive, swerve and step Des had it. And could the black belt Karate man tackle! In 1982 he stopped Mal Meninga in his tracks and bounced him back five yards in the most memorable tackle I think I've ever seen as Leigh lost to the tourists 44-4.

RIGHT CENTRE – LEWIS JONES

The Welsh wizard was a complete player. He had a deceptive change of pace and could time a pass to perfection. And his toe-end goalkicking, always off only a two step run-up no matter what the distance, was phenomenal. In 1956-7 Jones scored 496 points from 194 goals and 36 tries.

LEFT CENTRE – MAL MENINGA

Whether for St. Helens, Canberra or Australia big Mal was the most powerful, explosive centre ever yet born. Fast and direct, he was a wingman's dream. Just ask Sean Day, a one-season wonder at Saints who had the good fortune to play outside Meninga and ran in 16 tries in 1984-5. Meninga himself scored 28.

LEFT WING – JOHNNY FREEMAN

Martin Offiah came close here but Halifax wingman Freeman was the most exciting touchline runner ever seen at Thrum Hall. In early December 1958 Freeman had 38 tries to his credit when he was injured at Batley. He would surely have threatened Albert Rosenfeld's record 80 tries in a season but for the injury, bearing in mind that Freeman's replacement, Keith Williams, finished with 40 tries that year. To this day Freeman remains Halifax's leading try-scorer.

STAND OFF – JOHN WOODS

The world's most famous rat catcher, John Woods is the greatest player ever to represent Leigh. Woods could conjure something out of nothing, could score from anywhere on the field, and saw a gap before it was really there. A prolific goalkicker, Woods was also a great tackler and provider. No wonder Leigh won the league championship in 1981-82 with players like Drummond and Woods.

SCRUM HALF – ALEX MURPHY

There has never been a scrum-half like Murphy. Lightning quick off the mark, Murphy, like Woods, could spot a gap or a player off balance before anyone else realised anything was on. Great hands and a superb kicker, Murphy grew into the finest tactician British rugby has ever seen.

OPEN SIDE PROP – MARK BROADHURST

When the Hull clubs ruled the roost in the early eighties no-one was more influential than the Robins' powerful Kiwi-prop Broadhurst. A formidable player with a fierce will to win, Broadhurst always led from the front and had the ability to offload in the tightest of situations.

HOOVER – MAX KRILICH

Perhaps the most complete captain ever to lead a team, Krilich was the on-field brains and inspiration behind Australia's 1982 'Invincible' tourists, the team that changed our concept of rugby league for all time. A shrewd distributor of the ball, the largely unrecognised talent of Krilich was to get the best out of each and every one of his squad.

BLIND SIDE PROP – GEOFF ROBINSON

When player-coach Chris Anderson assembled his Halifax championship-winning side of 1985-86 his best signing was Geoff 'Wild Man' Robinson. I have never seen any forward hit the ball up as hard or as often as Robinson and what was special about him was that he was going just as strong in the 80th minute as in the first. No ten minutes on, ten minutes off for the 'Wild Man'. He always played the full 80. He got his share of tries too, 8 in all, usually off a Gary Stephens short pass or back-flip.

SECOND ROW – DICK HUDDART

St Helens' international Huddart was probably the greatest running second-row there has ever been. He could score from anywhere on the pitch and had pace to burn. Older followers of today's visitors Hunslet will know all about Huddart, as his three try man-of-the match performance in 1959 shattered the dreams of the myrtle, flame and white in that year's Championship Final.

SECOND ROW – TERRY FOGERTY

Saddleworth Rangers' lad Fogerty signed for Halifax on his 16th birthday at one minute past midnight, the deal done when Oldham turned up for him later that day. Fogerty matured into a player who could make a ball talk and created (and sometimes scored) more tries than almost anyone else I have seen. Although not a great tackler, Fogerty was a match-winner. First winner of the Harry Sunderland trophy for best player in a Championship final, Fogerty was a big game player who inspired Halifax to successive finals in 1965 and 1966 from the unlikely positions of seventh and tenth in the league. Later in his career the Great Britain man gave equally entertaining and impressive service to Rochdale Hornets.

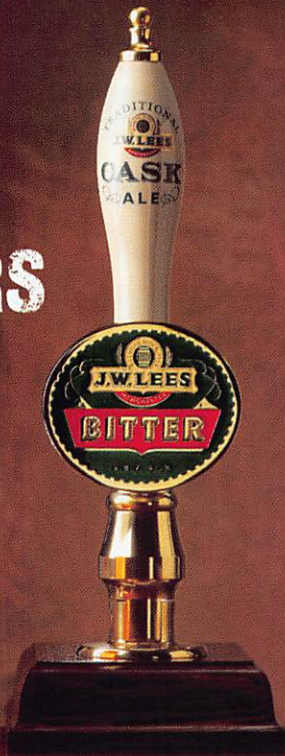
LOOSE FORWARD – ELLERY HANLEY

In the player profiles of Oldham players in this season's programme it is noticeable that several current Oldham players have identified Hanley as their model professional. It is not surprising because Hanley possessed any quality you care to name. Strength, stamina, agility, pace, handling, tackling, finishing, composure, leadership, all are Hanley attributes and more. About the only thing Hanley didn't do was kick goals (not often anyway) and mark out the pitch.



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..... **Chris Farrell**

Q. You seem to come from a rugby league playing family, when did you start playing Chris?

Orrell St James was the first ever club I played for when I was 6 years old, I stayed with them till I was about 13 years old and from there played with Wigan St. Judes and Wigan St. Pats. When I signed for Wigan I was about 16 years old

Graham West was in charge of the A team at Wigan and I thought he was a brilliant coach and I was happy in my training to be a professional. We learned a lot and had some good games, I held a regular spot for maybe 3 years and got on with everything.

Q. How did your move to Oldham happen?

I had always admired Mike Ford and had known Haydn Walker through the North West Counties set up, so when Jacko (the scout), told me more about the club at Oldham I was really interested, I felt the time was right to move on. I am pleased I did, Oldham is an ambitious club with the plans in place for a good future. On a personal level my ambition now is to get to full fitness, I had an operation during the close season and so feel my fitness levels are not quite 100%, I am getting there though.

Q. Who is your favourite player then and now?

I have always admired Wayne Pearce the Balmain loose forward: I thought he was a superb all round player and brilliant as an attacking ball player. I believe he is now coaching in Australia. One of the present game players I most admire is my brother Andy: he is dedicated, a good athlete and a great bloke.

Thinking about opponents, I guess one of the toughest players I have played against would be the huge Samoan prop forward, Vila Matautia, an awesome player, who plays for St. Helens.

Q. How do you relax?

There is not a lot of time, but I enjoy watching most sports, football is a favourite and I like watching Formula One motor racing. I live with my girl friend and we take our two dogs for long walks. For holidays the Canary Islands are a favourite: the climate and the sun are great. I could always enjoy a holiday there, it is a great place for relaxing.

Q. What about the rest of the season?

This is going to be a challenge but the whole squad are aspiring to get to the Grand Final. We all think it's great that the supporters keep coming to watch us. You know when you walk out onto the pitch at an away ground and the red and white cheering meets you it makes us all feel we want to do it for the supporters as well as ourselves.



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DEALERS

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A STORY

LITTLE NODDY set out one day in his car with his friend Big Ears. At first they didn't know which direction they were going in (which was the story of Noddy's life) but he and his friend Big Ears had heard (which you would of course with ears like an African elephant) that there were lots of jobs going (mainly part time at poor rates of pay) at the Red Hall which was the home of the barons of the North. To get to the Red Hall you had to go through Bradcutta the domain of the Prince of Darkness (no, not Peter Mandelson, but one Christopher Caseclosed the sworn enemy of an innocuous publication called Sadler's Weekly News). Now Prince Caseclosed kept a fearsome Bull whose trainer, a certain James Bowen esquire, had taught it to savage all intruders so that nothing should ever disrupt the purity of the great Prince's vision of a Bradcutta untainted by visitors supporting other territories such as those of Pie Town, Wire Town and Glass Town. But most of all the Bull people of Bradcutta hated the people of the Town of the Holy Face which was where Noddy and Big Ears lived.

Well, needless to say, Noddy and Big Ears were stopped in their little car as soon as they crossed the border into Bradcutta and the local police immediately hauled the miscreants before Prince Caseclosed for interrogation.

"And where do you think you are going to?" demanded the Prince

"Please Sir, we want to reach the Red Hall at Leodensis where we are told we can get jobs with whistles and flags," said Noddy.

"Is that so?" said the Prince. "Well, if that's the case you must see my good friend Gergory the Beard who will be able to help you but you must realise certain things. Firstly, men with flags no longer walk in front of cars to keep the road safe (though there are those that say the best thing that could happen to a man with a flag is to walk in front of a car). Secondly, that whistles and flags are no longer used to start trains at railway stations as these day trains no longer operate except in times of national emergency (such as Parliament being in session). Therefore it follows that the only jobs available involving whistle and flags are either as rugby league referees or as clowns in the circus (though some would say the two occupations are identical). Furthermore to qualify for a job with Gregory the Beard you will have to undertake to follow his every

instruction to the letter. If you say you will promise to do Gregory the Beard's bidding then I will let you go on your way although first you must swear allegiance to the Super League which I and my friend Mo the Minimum created after Rupert the Wretched gave us pots of money to play with."

"We don't see that as a problem," said Noddy to which Big Ears concurred as he and Noddy were never known to disagree.

And so, after swearing allegiance to the Super League, Noddy and Big Ears continued on their journey to the Red Hall. On reaching the Hall they found to their surprise that no-one appeared to be in control, although lurking in the corridors were an ambitious couple called Lord Gary and Lady Katherine with obvious pretensions to achieving a higher status. Anyway, eventually a minion was found to lead Noddy and Big Ears to the lair of Gregory the Beard, a dark room full of video screens constantly re-playing incidents or rough rugby which, they were told, would later be judged by a panel of experts whose verdict would invariably be 'no case to answer'. It all sounded a waste of time and little Noddy thought to himself it was as well as the famous Baroness Widdecombe couldn't see these videos as she'd want to hang, draw and quarter the lot of them.

Anyway, after a long interview and a course of instruction Noddy and Big Ears were given a job by Gregory the Beard. They were given a list of appointments and Noddy was awarded a special Super League whistle (it could only blow one way) while Big Ears got a Super League flag (which only indicated offside in one direction). They also received a thick skin, a deaf ear and a blind eye to be used as the occasion demanded.

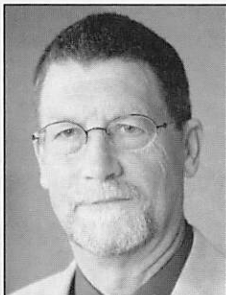
Noddy and Big Ears returned home well chuffed.

And several weeks later Noddy and Big Ears had a job at Boundary Park. And I wouldn't dream of saying anything wrong about their performance that day!



No identification with any person living or dead (probably dead I'd think) should be implied from any of the above. After all it's only a story.

CAPITAL FOR LATICS



Cllr. Chris Hilyer
Deputy Leader OMBC
Lib Dem Cllr for Royton South

SEVERAL readers have formed the mistaken impression that the council is giving away taxpayers' money to Oldham Athletic. This is simply not so and if it were I would have to share their concerns.

The fact is that the money will come from capital funds set aside for the development of the stadium and not from the council tax.

This money is from the sale of Westwood running track and Furtherwood Farm and has always been seen as the very most the council should invest in the stadium.

Comments in the Chronicle Letters columns suggesting that the Council has changed its

policy on funding for the stadium are therefore inaccurate.

Also, it needs to be appreciated that Oldham Athletic's contribution to the investment in the stadium was to come from money the club expect to receive following a revaluation of the land they sold.

The assistance they have been given recently has been set against that expectation. The potential, therefore, is that this will reduce the amount the club finally invests in the new scheme.

The Council wants to see Latics, Oldham Rugby League and community sport thriving in a redeveloped stadium. We will do our best to ensure this happens in the financial limitations within which we have to operate.

Finally, I would point out that the composition of the Stadium Company is in line with the current political balance of the council and for correspondents to suggest otherwise is misleading.

Chris Hilyer

LATIC's request to OMBC for assistance to help them out of their immediate financial plight prompted local headlines and ensured a spate of letters for and against the decision to allow £240,000 to be transferred from OPP (Oldham Property Partnership).

Cllr. Chris Hilyer, Deputy Leader OMBC, felt the need to respond and for the sake of out-of-town supporters his letter is reproduced here. Later I asked Chris for further comments on several issues surrounding the redevelopment of Boundary Park.

Q1 Firstly, why did the Council decide not to go ahead with the building of Sportspark 2000 on Clayton Playing fields?

A. The Liberal Democrats were always against the attempt to build over the playing fields against the wishes of many residents. We have recently found that the scheme never stacked up financially anyway. Redeveloping the present stadium (to be known as The Oldham Stadium) is now, as it always was, the only sensible proposal.

Q2 Who owns Oldham Stadium?

A. OPP (Oldham Property Partnership and formally known as Hiretarget) on behalf of Oldham Council. The monies raised by the sale of the Westwood Running Track and Furtherwood Farm (somewhere between seven and eight million) are invested in OPP by way of preference shares.

Q3. What arrangements do OAFc and ORLFC have for the current use of the stadium?

A. At the moment Latics lease the ground from OPP and by agreement let the rugby use it for matches at a fee. Whilst the rugby's right to play at Oldham Stadium are secure the way forward may be to look at the lease agreement from a different perspective. A new agreement needs to be arrived at.

Q4. Why do the Latics have the final decision as to whether the pitch is fit or not?

A. At the moment the Latics have a full repair and maintenance lease and are the head leaseholders. The cost of ground repairs can be colossal but as I said earlier the lease agreement needs to be looked at from a different perspective.

Q5. What's the story behind the financial help given recently to the Latics?

A. The football club have received an advance (equal to one year's rent) on the money they expect to receive for investment in the stadium to help them out of temporary financial difficulty.

Q6. What is STADCO and why is it being set up?

A. A joint company formed by the Council, Oldham Athletic and Oldham Rugby. It will manage the redevelopment of the stadium.

Q7. What is its eventual aim for the stadium?

A. A redeveloped stadium fit for the 21st century, a home for soccer, rugby league and community sport.

Q8. When will this happen?

A. Redevelopment of an already well-used ground will take time as will the planning. The first priority is to ensure a working agreement with STADCO for the three partners which in turn will ensure the security of the investment and this will be our task for the next few months.

Q9. Is the seven to eight million currently in the pot enough?

A. No, further funds will be required and we will look at outside funding including commercial investment and grants from various sporting bodies.

Q10. Finally, will the fans be consulted?

A. Yes, along with other interested parties. Supporters of both clubs will have input to ensure that the redevelopment is all we hope for.

Junior Roughyeds

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS.

The Junior Roughyeds is now run by a committee of people. Adele Knowles, Stephanie Whitehead, Caroline Byrne and Debbie Rafferty.

We held the enrolment evening and family disco at the Avant Hotel on Friday the 16th February. If anyone would like to join the Junior Roughyeds enrolment forms are available at the club shop.



Matthew Tomaszewski

Each Junior selected as a mascot will receive a replica shirt from the club. Many thanks to Geoff and Marjorie Cooke from Saddleworth Sports who are once again sponsoring the Juniors with match day socks.

Today's mascot is **Matthew Tomaszewski**. Matthew is 10 years old and he attends St. Aidan and Oswald School, Royton. His favourite player is David Gibbons.

Enjoy your day.

The mascot for the Dewsbury Rams match on March 11th is **James Trevor**. James is 11 years old and he plays rugby for St. Anne's under 11's. James also plays full back for his school, Mayfield Primary. Have a great day.



James Trevor



David Gough

I would like to give a mention to some of the Junior Roughyeds who have already been selected as mascots this season. **David Gough** was the mascot against Gateshead Thunder.



Jessica Rafferty



George Yewdale

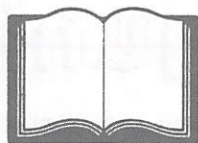
Jessica Rafferty was the mascot for the Wakefield Wildcats game. **George Yewdale** joined the Junior Roughyeds this season and was delighted when he was chosen as mascot for the Swinton match.

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Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES

DAVE WHITAKER may not be the most talented scrum-half to have played amateur rugby in the Oldham junior league but few have approached each match of a lengthy career with as much whole hearted enthusiasm. Dave's rugby career began with Werneth under 17 team and continued with Ferranti, Waterhead and Shaw before winding up as player-coach with Newhey. His aggressive no nonsense style of play has left him with a battered nose, numerous scars and the nickname 'Crazy Horse', a name by which he is known throughout the local amateur game. His career has included two appearances in the Standard Cup final although, unfortunately, both ended in heavy defeat. His first final came in 1974 when he was with Ferranti. He suffered a jaw injury early in that match but played on for the full eighty minutes, the injury not being as painful as the 22-0 defeat handed out by St. Anne's. Dave then went to work, completing a bread delivery round, before visiting the hospital for attention to his jaw which was found to be broken!! Ten years and a few broken noses later, Crazy Horse was back at Watersheddings. This

time as one of the more experienced members of a young Shaw side taking on the might of Mayfield. The Rochdale side won that one 25-2 despite the 100% commitment of Whitaker whose only injury in that final was damaged pride.

Other highlights of Dave's career include two appearances for the Oldham town team, one early in his career and another when he had virtually retired. He turned up to watch an Inter League Cup tie against Rochdale but with Oldham short handed he found himself out in the middle. At the peak of his career Dave was invited for trials with Halifax but he declined the offer, preferring to continue at amateur level. He did make one appearance for Blackpool Borough 'A' team at Watersheddings but that was just a 'one off' arranged by Borough director John Chadwick who has strong connections with the Shaw club.

Dave has been a rugby fan all his life and, off the pitch, has always followed Oldham. As a youngster he was taken to matches by his father and his 21st birthday present was life membership of the Roughyeds. Unfortunately that lapsed with the demise of the Bears but before that he shared the ups and downs of the old club. His biggest disappointment, like that of many others, was the heart breaking semi-final defeat in 1964 when Hull KR denied Oldham a trip to Wembley after three matches, the second of which was abandoned in extra time with Oldham leading 17-14.

Crazy Horse has little active involvement with the game nowadays. He was, until recently, the unofficial P.R.O. at Shaw and, no doubt, would gain great satisfaction if the Rhinos were to complete their spring double of Standard Cup success and promotion into the Premier Division of the North West Counties League. He would also like to see the Roughyeds continue their progress but, apart from that, is content to rest on his laurels, his aggressive career over but his commendable sporting reputation intact and with friends at every club in the region.



Dave Whitaker is sat in the middle bath of the Shaw team being scrubbed down. He is also hiding his right arm because, believe it or not, he had played in a match with a broken arm. Crazy Horse is a very apt nickname.

CLUB CALL

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

The Junior Roughyeds have now had their Enrolment Night but it's not too late to join in the fun.

You could even get the chance to be Team Mascot for the day.

For more details on the Junior Roughyeds give the Club a ring on

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Our trip to London on Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final weekend is proving to be a hit and is already half booked, so if you want to enjoy a trip to the capital taking in, bed & breakfast in a four star hotel in the heart of London, side view tickets for the final at Twickenham, and free time in London call now on

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First Team

SUNDAY 11 MARCH V DEWSBURY RAMS KO 3.00PM

THURSDAY 15 MARCH V WHITEHAVEN KO 7.45PM

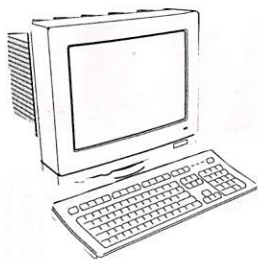
SUNDAY 18 MARCH V SHEFFIELD EAGLES KO 3.00PM

'A' Team

SATURDAY 17 MARCH V WHITEHAVEN KO 2.30PM

THURSDAY 22 MARCH V FEATHERSTONE ROVERS KO 7.30PM

THURSDAY 29 MARCH V DONCASTER DRAGONS KO 7.30PM



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... with Simon Winnard

SEVERAL Rugby League clubs presently face an uncertain future, many suffering at the hands of crude management from previous administrations. Doncaster have recently joined the likes of York on the ever expanding critical list and, despite a reasonable amount of success on the pitch, are currently fighting for survival.

Heads were turned last year as the Dragons announced a plethora of pre-season Super League signings and it seems that they are now truly paying the price for that extravagance. As pointed out in last week's programme notes by Chris Hamilton, there are surely other clubs in similar dire circumstances. We at Oldham, of course, appreciate full well the implications of financial mismanagement. Thankfully, however, our club is now run prudently and speculates within its means.

On a positive note however, maybe the tide has turned as clubs outside the top flight face up to the reality of no News Corporation handouts and the possibility of promotion all but removed. Indeed, strip away the TV money from many clubs, both NFP and SL, and profitability is brought seriously into question.

Whilst we will surely see more cases in the NFP coming to light in the short term, we may also be surprised by further examples of clubs turning things around and really getting to grips with the harsh reality of modern day life in the sport. Will clubs going all out for broke in a vain attempt to reach the top flight become a thing of the past? Maybe the unspoken scrapping of promotion will actually produce some positives after all if clubs are forced to finally get their houses in order.

A recent press release from Batley Bulldogs gave a positive message to other NFP clubs. They announced a trading profit of £72,711.00 for the year ending 31 May 1999. The Northern Premiership club's management have adopted a sensible long term approach, stressing that this encouraging financial performance will not

be making an immediate impact on the club's on-field fortunes. Signs that a common sense and broader perspective is finally entering our game? Let's hope so.

Bulldog's Chairman Kevin Nicholas stated, "We're obviously delighted with this result of our trading and, indeed, we are confident that we shall be able to post another profitable record when our results of our latest financial year that ended last month are announced.

"But it has to be born in mind that last year's profit helped sustain the club through some exceptional circumstances. It enabled us to settle the legal actions entered into by a former club director and coach while, at the same time, going a great deal along the way to settling many of the club's debts which had built up under previous administrations. Encouragingly, even considering our disappointing results in this year's Northern Ford Premiership, we expect to become totally debt-free quite soon.

"We believe this to be a positive sign for all Rugby League clubs especially those in the Northern Ford Premiership. The progress we've made at the Bulldogs indicates that, with the proper kind of financial controls, it will be possible for our clubs to be viable even when the News Corporation support ceases.

"We've totally reconstructed our club financially and, thanks to David Ward, the same kind of process is being applied to the playing side of our business. We have every reason to believe that our club has a bright and encouraging future."

Full credit must go to everybody at Mount Pleasant for their approach to the long term future of one of Rugby League's oldest community based clubs. I'm sure the sporting public in the area will respond positively and really get behind the Bulldogs. A change in playing fortunes will surely follow and, whilst maybe not this season or even the next, it will be all bought and paid for, not just on the never never.



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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY . . . Don Yates looks back to March 4th yesteryear

ON WEDNESDAY 4th March 1914 a tour trial match was staged at Headingley, Leeds. Hunslet had four players involved in that match, all members of the 'Whites' side which took on the 'Stripes'. They were prop Eddie Guerin, hooker Bill Fowler, stand-off Fred Smith and winger Albert Jenkinson who scored a try in his side's 26-18 victory. Also included in the 'Whites' side was second-row forward Dave Holland of Oldham. Smith and Guerin did enough to be selected for the tour alongside Holland. Forward Jack Smales (Hunslet) and full-back Alf Wood (Oldham) also gained selection without appearing in this trial match which, incidentally, was refereed by Frank Renton of Hunslet, one of the top officials of that era.

Centre threequarter Mick Parrish was a well built goal kicking centre who played for both Hunslet and Oldham. He played and scored in every Hunslet match throughout the 1979-80 season and repeated that feat in season 1981-82 after his £20,000 transfer to Watersheddings. On Sunday 4th March 1984 Parrish was a match winner for the Roughyeds in a home First Division match against Bradford Northern. Defences were on top in that match which was

decided by the goal kicking of the Parrish brothers. Mick landed five penalties for Oldham and his brother Steve a couple for Northern in the 10-4 home victory.

It was on this day in 1967, Saturday 4th March, that Great Britain entertained France at Central Park, Wigan. Included in the British line-up was second row forward Bob Irving of Oldham. France led 9-8 at the interval of a close fought game which looked like ending all square when the score stood at 13-13. Unfortunately Britain then suffered a couple of injuries and France pulled away to win 23-13. Each nation scored three tries but seven goals from Marseille full-back Pierre Lacaze swung the game the way of the French.

Six years ago the BARLA open age squad made a short tour of South Africa and on Saturday 4th March 1995 they met the home nation in Johannesburg. The British boys looked home and dry when they led 16-2 after an hour but South Africa hit back to make the final score a respectable 18-12. Second-row forward Tony Nuttall, then of Newsome Magpies, made one of the British tries. He later signed for Oldham and made nine Super League appearances before the demise of the Bears.

That tour to South Africa was the fifteenth such trip to the Southern Hemisphere made by BARLA sides since the association was founded exactly 22 years previously, on Sunday 4th March 1973. Since then the amateur game has grown and developed in spectacular fashion. The introduction of the Conference League must rank as one of their biggest successes alongside the expansion which has seen the number of clubs in membership increase from 125 in 1973 to over 1,000 at the present time. Four years ago, on Tuesday 4th March 1997, there was an excellent amateur match staged at Saddleworth where Higginshaw met Waterhead in the semi-final of the Standard Cup. Waterhead were favourites but just before half time they trailed 14-8 and, although they eventually won 22-20, they were pushed all the way by Higginshaw. Waterhead scored only three tries to Higginshaw's four and, not for the first time, Waterhead had to rely on the accurate boot of stand-off Jon Perks whose five goals proved decisive.



Mick Parrish

Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER

3	Barrow	F - A	28 - 16 1,294
17	Workington	22 - 6	1,295
24	Rochdale	10 - 6	3,402

JANUARY

1	WIDNES	20 - 12	3,471
7			
14	LEIGH	18 - 44	4,747
21	Swinton	A P	
28	QUEENSBURY (SCCC R3)	64 - 0	1,559
30	CHORLEY	56 - 2	1,210

FEBRUARY

4	WHITEHAVEN	H P	
11	HULL KR (SCCC R4)	17 - 6	2,008
18	GATESHEAD	H 52 - 6	1,451
25	WAKEFIELD (SCCC R5)	H 6 - 26	3,071

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	
13	Chorley	A	
20	WORKINGTON	H	
27	DONCASTER	H	

JUNE

3	Gateshead	A	
10	SWINTON	H	
17	Whitehaven	A	
24	Keighley	A	

JULY

1	Hull KR	A	
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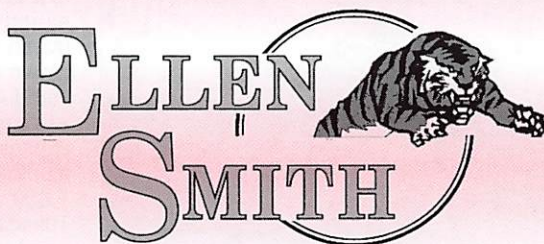
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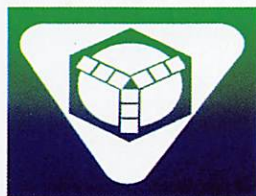
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Oldham is already at the heart of the motorway network and now also benefits from the new M60 orbital route. Metrolink is also coming to the town, and the brand new £3.4 million central bus station has opened this year.



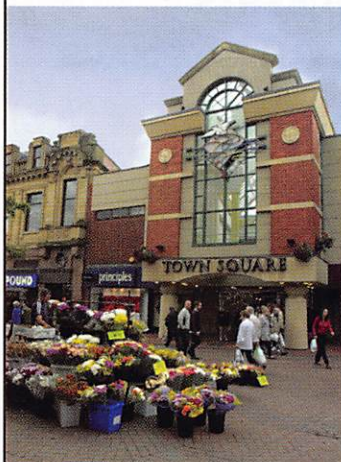
The M60 Motorway

There are many other reasons which make Oldham a desirable place to live, work and visit – its reputation for hard work, commitment and down to earth friendliness are just some of them.

Put them all together and they make Oldham a leading player at the heart of the North West.

Enquiries about projects being undertaken by the Council, or any of its policies, to the Marketing and Communications Unit, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG,

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Pat RICH	4	Mike WAINWRIGHT
Danny ARNOLD	5	Aaron CAMPBELL
David GIBBONS	6	Chris REDFEARN
Neil RODEN	7	Craig ROBINSON
Leo CASEY	8	Mike BANKS
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Gareth BARBER	14	Dave BATES
Jason CLEGG	15	Dave JESSEY
Danny GUEST	16	Ben SKERRETT
Paul NORTON	17	Chris ROSS

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REFEREE:

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