

# OLDHAM RLFC

*The Roughyeds*



## WORKINGTON TOWN

SUNDAY 20TH MAY 2001 KO 3.00PM

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# Up Front

... with Christopher Hamilton



WHAT a great achievement it has been by Mike and the lads with 7 wins in 21 days! It takes a huge effort both mentally and physically and this was particularly notable during the second half in our game against Swinton and proves the great commitment of Mike and the lads to the club.

We are second in the NFP league at the moment and although we are in this strong position we cannot rest on our laurels. We know that everyone at the club has to work that bit harder, for the play-offs, from the Board and backroom staff to the players. We are always looking to strengthen the squad even further and hope that with your support we can achieve this.

We have encountered great difficulty securing a ground for today's match against Workington. True to form, nothing seems to run smoothly for Oldham but, as usual, we have got there in the end and we hope that there are plenty of you to watch today's game and that you will continue to support us in the play-offs, which will be here at Spotland Stadium.

Thanks for your continued support in travelling to Rochdale for this 'home' game.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



## *The Roughyeds*

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1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

### FRONT COVER

*'The Roughyettes' Photographs  
courtesy of Tony Davies*

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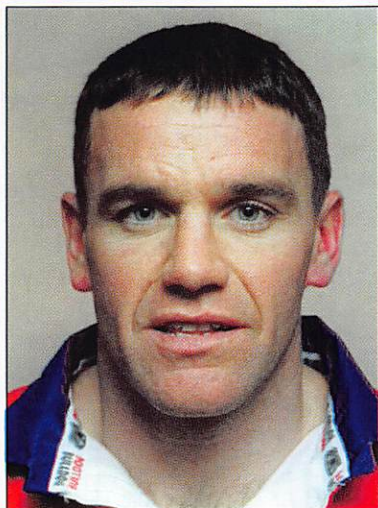
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# FORD FOCUS . . . with Mike Ford



SEVEN games in 22 days and seven wins! That's good going in anybody's language. All our players are to be congratulated on their efforts but, that said, we can't afford to rest on our laurels. Workington come today having lost only seven matches which is only one more than ourselves, so they will be looking at it that if they win today they're level pegging if they can win their games in hand. They'll come out all guns blazing with an eye to a top four spot.

As for ourselves, although Swinton gave us a good run for our money, our stats were really impressive. Our ball control and play completion was the best its been all season and we spent most of the second half camped out in their half. However, on the day, Swinton's tackling was exceptional and we just couldn't finish them off. That, of course makes the game all the more exciting for the spectators.

At Chorley our performance was not all that good, but we still ran in 60 points which helps to build confidence.

Today we could welcome back Joey Hayes and Kevin Mannion should be ready by the time we go to Gateshead. That means that Leo Casey is the only player not yet fully fit although we are optimistic that he will not be out much longer. In the meantime I will be looking at performances in the Alliance side to see who can stake a claim for selection.

As this is our last regular season 'home' fixture I want to thank all our fans for their support this season. We hope to see you for more 'home' games in the play-offs.

As always, enjoy your rugby.

Mike



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# Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters from our Cumbrian visitors Workington Town. Our retrospective feature looks back to an encounter at Watersheddings on March 18th 1961.

Oldham were forced to reorganise their side after the late withdrawal of Bernard Ganley. The reshuffle saw Johnny Noon slot in the full back position with Vince Nestor coming in at centre.

Oldham started well and soon big Charlie Winslade was forcing his way over for a try despite the attention of three defenders. Shortly afterwards winger Bill Patterson capitalised on a good break by Alan Kellett to increase the lead with another try. Both the conversions were missed but on thirty two minutes Johnny Noon popped over a penalty goal to give the "Roughyeds" an eight point advantage. Workington hit back five minutes later with a try from O'Neill with full back Lowden tacking on the extras. Oldham's star player on the day was the recently signed scrum half Jack Pycroft and just before the interval he scythed through the Town defence before handing on to Noon who avoided the tackle of Foord to touch down (see pic). Again the conversion went astray but Oldham turned round with a lead of eleven points to five.

Seven minutes into the second period Oldham were in again. This time hooker Peter Goddard swerved round several defenders to score near the posts. Noon converted to stretch the Oldham lead to eleven points. Workington responded when Moss gathered up a fumble by Kellett to put Gardner in the clear. Wingman McDowall got up in support to go over for an unconverted try. Town were now beginning to dominate the game but another Noon penalty goal on 61 minutes again stretched the home-side's lead. Back came the Cumbrians and after some clever inter-passing between Archer and Roper produced a try for the latter, converted by Brennan, with seven minutes still to play the Oldham fans no doubt began to get the jitters. Another Noon penalty on 76 minutes eased the tension before a last minute try from Patterson, after a superb cross kick from Alan Davies, ensured victory for Oldham by 23- 13.

**OLDHAM:** J Noon, K Holden, A Davies, V Nestor, W Patterson, A Kellett, J Pycroft. W Payne, P Goddard, R Dufty, C Winslade, J Rae, D Parker.

**WORKINGTON:** Lowden; Foord, O'Neill, Brennan, McDowall; Archer, Roper. Herbert, Moss, McLeod, Edgar, Gardner, McCall

**Attendance:** 8,073

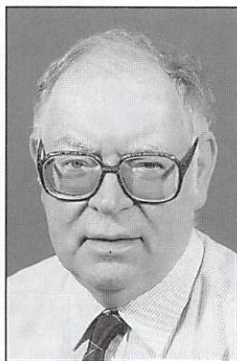


John Noon scores a try in the last minute of the first half. Oldham v Workington March 18th 1961.



# ROGER

# ROGER



OLDHAM'S future looks rosy judging by the amount of talent coming through the Academy and Alliance teams.

One of the most exciting projects currently taking place at the club is the development of a youth policy that is already starting to bear fruit, and will continue to do so for years to come if the club can build on the extensive groundwork that has been put in over the past couple of years.

With the backing of a forward thinking Chairman and board, Mike Ford, Mark Knight, chief scout John Jackson and Academy team manager Peter Beswick have done sterling work to set up a youth policy at the club, while new-boy Shaun Gartland has made a flying start to his new job as Academy coach with two huge wins against Barrow at Boundary Park and Chorley Lynx at Victory Park, both as curtain raisers.

The curtain raiser idea is a cracker. It provides supporters with two games for the price of one, it enables the young players to parade their skills on the big stage and it encourages more followers of the club to turn up early to take a look at the stars of tomorrow.

Between 300 and 400 fans arrived at Boundary Park early to watch the Oldham youngsters overwhelm Barrow 48-8 and by the time the game was well into the second half there were a lot more fans in the main stand.

So to Chorley and a scorching hot day which brought out scores of Oldham fans early to watch the Roughyeds under 18s burn up the Victory Park turf to score 15 tries and seven goals in a 74-8 hammering of the home side.

I arrived in the ground at 1.15pm - quarter of an hour after kick off and there were already loads of Oldhamers, sporting their club colours, sitting on the well-grassed bank which ran the full length of the popular side and reminded me of many an Australian ground.

Curtain raisers in the middle of winter

wouldn't go down as well as this. But at this time of year they are an ideal way of promoting Academy rugby league and at the same time impressing upon young players that there is more to playing Academy rugby than merely turning up with your boots on a Saturday to play in a game watched by merely a handful of proud parents and the proverbial dog.

No. Academy rugby is a serious business. It is, I suggest, an absolutely crucial element of any club's future and the Oldham club can be proud of the work that it has undertaken at this level so early in the Roughyeds infancy.

Not only has the club collected a talented bunch of young recruits, several of whom are already contracted to the club, but it has put together a team that is scoring freely and winning in style despite its tender years.

In the 17 man squad at Chorley, there were no fewer than nine players in the 16 or under age bracket, including newly signed Paul Bennett, James Kirkland and Adam Clayton and one of last year's signings, James Wilkinson, who is still only 16 despite playing regularly in the under 21s.

The 15 tries were scored by full back Matt Harland (2), Wilkinson, Bennett (2), Kiel Lancashire (2), Matt Williams (2), Rob Williams, Clayton, Adam Sharples and substitute John Mitchell, last season's captain of Waterhead under 16s, who scored a hat-trick of tries to polish off the home defence.

Chris Carter (3), Mitchell (3) and Lancashire added goals as the Roughyeds ran riot.

Dare I say it....yes, I will. It reminded me of watching the Oldham Colts team in the 1980s when Terry Flanagan, Paddy Kirwan, Ray Ashton, Mick Worrall and Andy Goodway were smashing everything in sight.

They went on to become powers in the game and to form the backbone of an Oldham side that was to stay in the old first division for five consecutive seasons.

If the Roughyeds get a similar return for their investment, and there is no reason why they shouldn't, then the club's future will, indeed, be a bright one.



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# NFP Play Off Format

## NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP TOP EIGHT PLAY OFF SERIES FIXTURE FORMANT

Week One -

Home Advantage to highest placed team

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINALS

Match A Team One v Team Four

Match B Team Two v Team Three

*Winners go to Major Semi Final, losers go to Minor Semi Final*

ELIMINATION SEMI FINALS

Match C Team Five v Team Eight

Match D Team Six v Team Seven

*Winners go to Minor Semi Finals, losers are eliminated*

Week Two -

Home advantage to highest placed team

*Winners of Match A and Match B have a bye*

MINOR SEMI FINALS

Match E Loser Match A v Winners Match C

Match F Loser Match B v Winners Match D

*Winners go to Major Semi Finals, losers eliminated*

Week Three -

Home advantage to highest placed team

MAJOR SEMI FINALS

Match G Winners Match A v Winners Match F

Match H Winners Match B v Winners Match E

*Winners go to Grand Final*

Week Four -

Neutral venue

GRAND FINAL

Winners Match G v Winners Match H

If you have difficulty in following this just take the current League table and put in the teams according to their current positions.

All should then become clear. This will also show up how important it is to finish as high as possible.

Clearly, there is much still to play for in the remainder of the season. And if Oldham can cling on to second place there could be a big advantage to be had in the fight for a Grand

Final Place.

### NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A
LEIGH	22	21	0	1	901	228
Oldham	23	17	0	6	660	323
Featherstone	22	14	2	6	608	304
Widnes	21	14	1	6	633	301
Keighley	22	13	1	8	642	378
Dewsbury	20	13	0	7	571	306
Rochdale	20	13	0	7	561	334
Workington	20	13	0	7	484	412
Doncaster	20	12	0	8	471	327
Hull KR	22	11	2	9	425	384
Whitehaven	21	11	1	9	447	268
Sheffield	21	10	0	11	445	401
Batley	20	10	0	10	312	370
Swinton	21	8	0	13	397	469
Barrow	20	7	1	12	379	533
Hunslet	20	7	1	16	266	757
Chorley	21	2	0	19	297	967
York	21	1	1	19	161	1043
Gateshead	22	1	0	21	218	773



# Probing The NFP

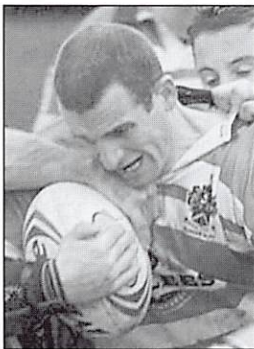
A GOOD week for Featherstone, Doncaster, Leigh, Oldham and Widnes who all recorded two victories. Workington and Whitehaven both played one and won one and - wait for it - Gateshead recorded their first win.

Pride of place goes to Featherstone with two excellent away wins at Barrow and Sheffield. At Craven Park they only secured victory in the last three minutes (two tries providing an unrealistic 38-22 scoreline). Jamie Rooney's five goals and two tries gave him a useful points haul to which he added another six goals at Sheffield. As expected this game was a fiery affair and ended with the double dismissal of Eagles' Ricky Wright and Bright Sodje as Rovers recovered from a 10-6 half time deficit to win 28-14.

Doncaster won comfortably in midweek with a 56-20 defeat of Chorley, but last Sunday Swinton pushed them all the way before the Dragons prevailed by 27-26 with an injury time try by fullback Johnny Woodcock, Swinton Coach Mike Gregory was an unhappy man, both with his team's performance and with a high tackle incident involving Paul Mansson which left Andy Cheetham with a broken jaw. And wouldn't you just know it would be Mansson's kick which led to the winning try.

League leaders Leigh had no trouble with Hunslet, winning 68-4 with Lee Sanderson registering four tries and three goals. Neil Turley added a hattrick for good measure. On Sunday, however, battling Barrow gave them a good run for their money before going down 12-28. Turley scored two more tries in a match described as 'explosive'. Five sin-bins and two on reports tend to support this view in a game of 23 penalties, which culminated in a mass brawl.

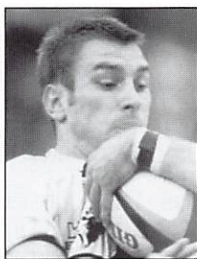
Oldham were hard pressed by Swinton in midweek before emerging 22-20 winners, this game featuring Paul Norton's best performance of the season. Sunday was somewhat easier as Chorley were overwhelmed 60-10, a Mark Sibson hattrick and 8 Pat Rich goals the highlights.



Paul Norton

Widnes had two home wins to their credit.

A 72-4 defeat of Gateshead saw Phil Cantillon notch four tries and Ian Watson land 8 goals. The Vikings followed up by halting Rochdale's winning sequence with a surprising margin of 44-18. Chris Percival scored three tries and Craig Weston one try and six goals for the Vikings, though stand off Richard Agar orchestrated the performance.



Phil Cantillon

Of the Cumbrian clubs Whitehaven's win was a 30-4 demolition of under-strength Keighley at Cougar Park, while today's visitors Workington accounted for Batley 25-16 at Derwent Park. This was another fiery match (does the hot weather suddenly raise the players' temperature or what?), with Town loose-forward Anthony Samuel outstanding. Left wing Graeme Lewthwaite scored twice. The result kept Workington in the top eight while Whitehaven continue to threaten from 11th spot.

In other matches, Rochdale beat Hull KR at Spotland in a midweek fixture by 32-10, but the Robins bounced back to win at York 56-8 at the weekend when Alex Godfrey grabbed three tries and Chris Charles landed eight goals. Dewsbury got past Keighley 19-9 at Ram Stadium where depleted Cougars put up a spirited performance. And finally, Gateshead posted their first points with an emphatic 40-12 win at Hunslet. Second-row Jim Carlton scored a hattrick and inspirational skipper Carl Briggs landed six goals. Needless to say all connected with the Thunder were delighted.

Today throws up the usual array of tight fixtures. Widnes against Featherstone is the pick and could go either way though home advantage should count. The same should go for Oldham v Workington but it will be close. Hull K.R. v Dewsbury is another nail biter for play-off hopes, the Robins perhaps slight favourites. Barrow and Swinton is another tough call, but I'll plump for the Raiders. And Batley might push Doncaster all the way at Belle View. Gateshead at home to York will give the Thunder a second consecutive victory, while Rochdale will win easily at Chorley, Sheffield will defeat Hunslet and, finally, Leigh will win against Whitehaven who will be courageous in defeat.





## WORKINGTON TOWN

WORKINGTON arrive to face Oldham today with a record of 13 wins from 20 matches and lying in eighth place in the table. Since Oldham's early season win at Derwent Park Town have developed a reasonable level of consistency and are keen to win back support by finishing in the top eight. After the traumas of recent years it's good to see a competitive Town taking the field once again. There should be no doubt that shrewd Coach Gary Murdock, himself an ex-Town player, will have his men motivated for today's clash.

A key feature of the Workington side is the number of overseas players in the team, though each possesses a residential qualification which exempts them from quota restrictions. One such player is club captain **MATT STURM**, a man mountain of a forward who arrived at Derwent Park from Huddersfield Giants. A New Zealand Maori, Sturm is well respected and popular with all at Workington and will take some holding.



Matt Sturm



Tane Manihere

Stand off **TANE MANIHERE** is the lynchpin of the back division. A former Barrow and Carlisle player Manihere has given Oldham plenty of headaches in the past and is sure to do so again.

Rampaging prop **HITRO OKESENE** is a real powerhouse who has seen service at Featherstone and Carlisle. Another to keep an eye out for.

Another Kiwi forward is **LOKENE Savelio** once on the books at Halifax Blue Sox and a formidable competitor.

Samoan winger **FATA SINI** is another well known face to Oldham followers. A frequent try scorer Sini has played for Salford, York and Doncaster. In the last two seasons at York and Doncaster he has been involved in sending off incidents, so there will be no love lost today.

In form loose-forward **ANTHONY SAMUEL** was a representative of the Cook Islands in the 2000 World Cup and is a relentless tackler and fine ball distributor. Ex-Widnes.

To blend with their overseas stars Town employ a fine collection of Cumbrian talent. The

best known face belongs to wingman **GRAEME LEWTHWAITE**, a double try scorer last week and a man packing plenty of experience with Town and with Whitehaven after turning professional from Hensingham.

Opposite wing is **JONATHAN HEANEY** who played for Northampton R.U. while studying at Bedford University. His early experience, however, was with crack amateur outfit Ellenborough Rangers. At 21 he is still developing and is one to keep and eye on.

Centre **JOHN ALLEN** left Lowca to join Whitehaven and has since moved up the road to Workington. Packs plenty of punch.

Co-centre **NEIL FRAZER** is also ex-Whitehaven and loves to score. He will need to be well policed today.

At scrum half **LEE ALLEN** has benefited from Coach Gary Murdock's guidance and the ex-Lowca player is now the man in possession of the jersey and is determined not to be shifted.

Behind these at fullback is **LYNTON STOTT** a recent recruit from cash-strapped Doncaster. Stott was a member of the Sheffield Eagles squad which beat Wigan in the 1998 Challenge Cup Final and also appeared with Wakefield Wildcats. His pedigree speaks for itself.

Vying for the number 9 shirt are 20 year old **OWEN WILLIAMSON** a former Barrow lad who moved up the coast to get his opportunity, and the lively **CARL SICE**. Originally with Kells, Sice joined Town's Academy and has progressed from there.

Other forwards in the reckoning are **STUART HOYLES**, a rangy back-row runner recruited from Ellenborough; **JAMIE BEAUMONT** a back converted to second-row and developed through the Academy side; **CRAIG BARKER**, also an Academy product; **WILLIAM BLACKBURN**, a winger turned packman from Egremont; and **MATTHEW WOODCOCK**.

Finally, Town have dependable backs in **STEVE MCGRADY**, a former Kells and Whitehaven threequarter; **MICKEY HORNER**, ex-Halifax halfback; **LEIGH SMITH** another one time Whitehaven man out of Hensingham; and, last but not least, the ever dependable **KEVIN HETHERINGTON** a gifted goal-kicker and playmaker who has featured at Whitehaven, Seaton and top R.U. side Aspatia.



Carl Sice



# Walkerbout

... with Brian Walker



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AS A youngster Saturday mornings used to be a period of anticipation of Oldham rugby's match later that day, almost regardless of where it was to be played, Watersheddings, Station Road, Central Park, Alt Park or even Parkside. Saturday was a day when most people worked the morning and watched the red and whites in the afternoon. Then Saturday football wasn't exclusive to the Latics, and unless the Roughyeds were away in Cumberland (yes Cumberland, not Cumbria) or perhaps on Humberside, Saturday afternoon was rugby league and if you wanted a decent view you were in the ground a good half hour before kick off. I can still in my mind's eye picture the football specials, queuing from the junction of Ripponden Road and Huddersfield Road all the way to Watersheddings, passengers dropping off at unscheduled stops, Edward's Pie Shop, Brown's confectioner's, but more likely the Wellington or Black Horse.

Saturdays kept me going and they were what I looked forward to the whole of the week. Oldham's match, conquest or inquest, would then be the talking point until at least Wednesday, with Thursday and Friday allocated to forecasting the outcome of the next fixture.

Alas, nothing lasts forever and at the end of the sixties social habits changed to such an extent that they caused rugby league to pass through one of the worst periods of its history, and, in an attempt to arrest the decline, matches moved to Sundays. To me, Saturdays still remained sacrosanct and the amateur code a lifesaver.

To the point. That most excellent of establishments The Pump House People's History Museum, Manchester, is currently running an exhibition, 'ALL OUR SATURDAYS', Football and Rugby League playing an important part and many local clubs, including ourselves, providing the exhibition team with various pieces of sporting memorabilia. The Pump House is the only national museum dedicated to the lives of ordinary people, and as such, 'ALL OUR SATURDAYS' is much more than football or rugby league, it explores how from Victorian times working people in the north pushed for the right to at least a half day holiday on Saturday, and how they spent that precious freedom. The museum building itself is worth the visit but this is a superb story and the exhibition first class. Treat yourself, go and see.



7 April -  
28 October  
2001

### What is so special about Saturday?

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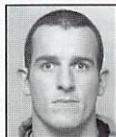
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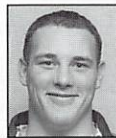
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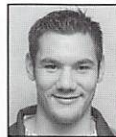
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# Cook(e)ing up a storm



WHATEVER the sport seven wins in twenty one days is a phenomenal achievement. But in a sport as intense and physically demanding as Rugby League it represents an achievement little short of miraculous. Both Barrow and Swinton, towards the end of this run, adopted spoiling tactics and played it hard and mean - which is no more than one should expect. That Oldham's players refused to succumb is a testament to their will power, to their physical conditioning, to their sheer bloody mindedness. And without ever being a 'dirty' team the thing I like best about Oldham is that they will not be intimidated. Truly, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. And, if the other players will forgive me for singling out some of their fellows, I would say that none exemplify this attitude better than the Gibbons twins, Jason Clegg and Phil Farrell, players who are largely unsung heroes but who front up week after week and match it with the best in the league. How little respect is paid to Oldham's squad is demonstrated by a glance at Rugby League World's players of the month chart where Roughyeds players barely rate a mention and NONE make the 'Team of the Month' selection. Whoever complied that little lot needs their bumps feeling!

All of which brought me to a few reflections of a wider vein. Looking at what these players do for a relative pittance evokes a stark comparison with Oldham Bears' Super League days. Given the levels of remuneration received by the former Bears' players, the current team put them to shame. I was going to say that the Bears had more skilful players, but given that they were full time professional I am not sure about even that. Let's face it if the former club had had the heart and the will to win of the current club then the history of Rugby league in Oldham would have been somewhat different.

So, if people will always watch a team of 'triers' isn't it about time the sporting public of Oldham got behind the side in greater numbers? And, for those who choose to criticise the current regime, which while not perfect (what organisation is?), is clearly doing a fantastic job without parallel anywhere else in the NFP, I would just ask where were you when Watersheddings was sold off; where were you when the previous club went bankrupt?



*Continuing our review of N.F.P. club programmes:-*

## **DONCASTER DRAGONS**

Price: In 2000 £1.20 (an extortionate £2 for the play-offs!) 2001 - not known.

Pages: 28 (32 for play-offs)

Format: Changed from black and white with colour cover to full colour.

Printed by: Art & Type Partnership (but may now be different).

**Content:** Very limited reading matter - best piece by Jemmo of 'Who the Hell was St. George anyway?' fanzine fame. Other comments as per usual - Chairman, Coach, Physio, Supporters News, Commercial Department and Development. Also Today's Visitors and brief historical item by club historian Ken Browning. Decent stats for those that way inclined and some colour action shots.

**Verdict:** More show than substance

**Rating:** 6/10

## **CHORLEY LYNX**

Price: £1.00

16 Pages

Format: Black & white

Printer: Not known

**Content:** Very limited. Pieces by the Chairman and Coach. Match reports by Ian Bridge. Visitors pen pictures. Nothing else of note.

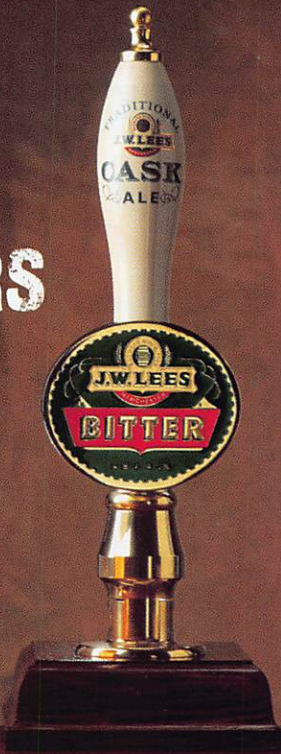
**Rating:** 2/10





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121

..... **Leo Casey**

**Q. Where and when did you start playing rugby league?**

I was seventeen years old when I started playing rugby at St. Anne's, Oldham, and it was Oldham who signed me on as a professional when I was nineteen. I had a great time at Oldham for five years until

Featherstone came in with Peter Fox as coach and paid Oldham £100,000 which I believe was a record at that time. I stayed at 'Fev' for about five years and then moved onto Swinton, eventually coming back to Oldham where I have always felt at home.

**Q. Are there any players you have played with or against that you remember for any reason?**

Playing with Brendon Tuuta was something a 'pro' never forgets: he has an attitude that is awesome. His training schedule is very impressive and he concentrates 100% on whatever he sets his mind to.

I think some of the toughest opponents I have played against are players of the calibre of Steve Roach, Kevin Tamati and of course Les Boyd whose physical presence on the pitch gives off an aura of strength, intimidation and power.

**Q. What about happy memories?**

Oh yes, there are plenty. I remember when Terry Flanagan was given the job of putting together an Irish squad for a Charity Shield game in Dublin: we had to pay our own fare, buy our own kit, you name it, we did it but we had a great time and still keep in touch. I remember Old Trafford in a Premiership Final with Oldham when we were down and out and losing by umpteen points at half time, but we came back some how in the second half, got stuck in, clawed our way back and won the game. The atmosphere was electric and the fans wonderful. It was great.

**Q. I know you have a lovely wife and five young sons, how do you fit everything in?**

Fortunately I have the best wife, ever, my sons are fine and two of them play rugby, so that's not a bad start. I play rugby because I love it, I dearly want to get to the Grand Final with Oldham. We have a great squad of players and Mike is a coach who is going places, he is really thorough. Did you know when I played football for the Oldham Town team, under 15s I went on a European Tour and one of the players was Mike Ford? He was a good footballer, a brilliant scrum half and he is a great coach.

**Q. So what about the future?**

Well I am feeling fit now and itching to get back. Hopefully we'll have a good run up to the end of the season and the play-offs. There is some great support for the team so let's hope we can all put Oldham on the map once again, and all for the right reasons.

HERE'S THE ANSWER TO THE TEASER IN THE LAST PROGRAMME:

**What is Ian Sinfield's new nick name?**

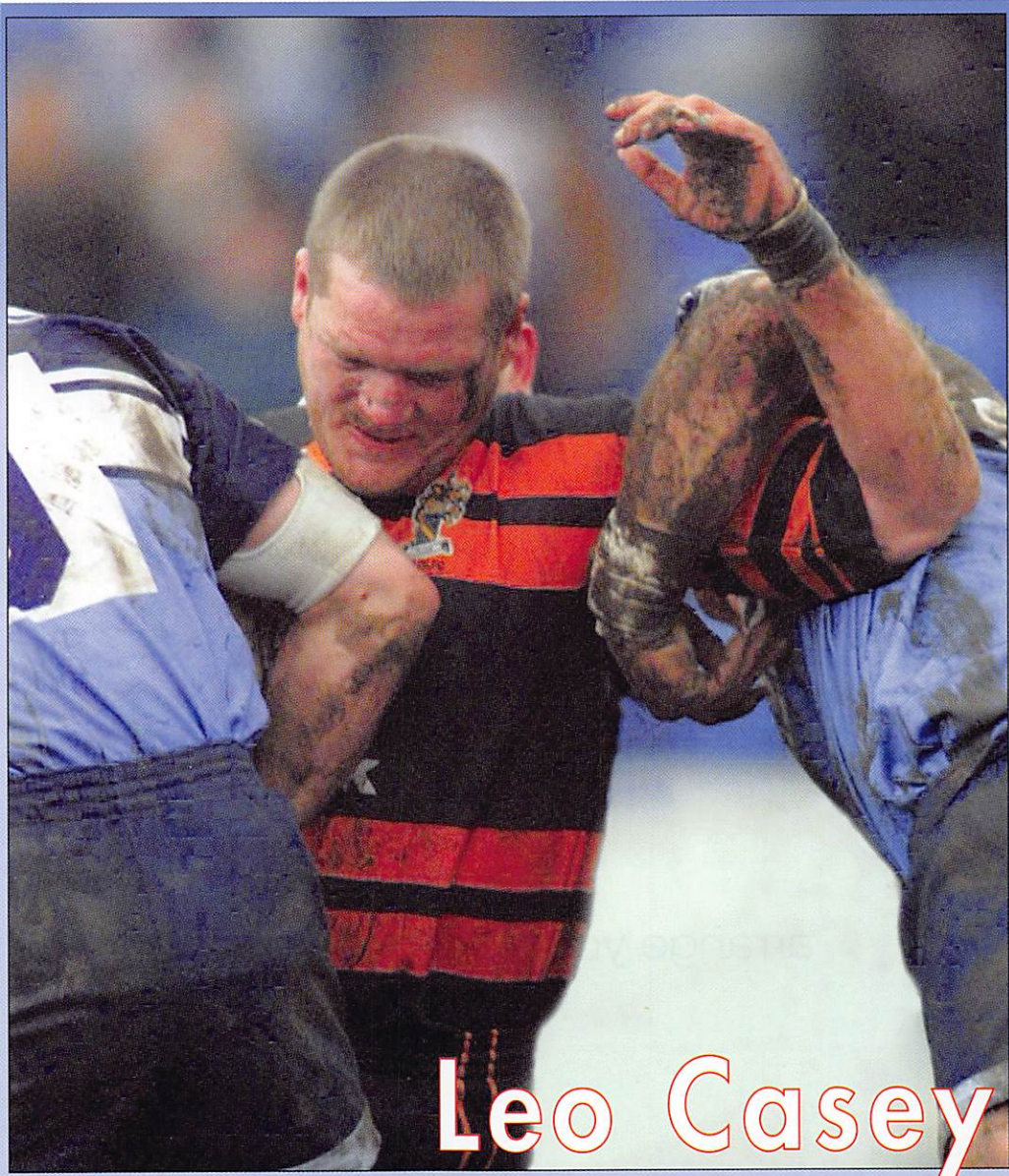
Answer: Zinedine Zidane or more recently Danny from Hear'Say!



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Leo Casey

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DEALERS



# Iva Slateloose



## *Continuing Iva's Guide to Rugby League Grounds.*

### **KEIGHLEY COUGARS**

Cougar Park has the inevitable slope and is a tight little ground with the crowd right on top of the play. It is also the most picturesque ground in the NFP set against the back drop of the Yorkshire moors and dales. If you avoid the motorway and travel via Halifax or Hebden Bridge it is also one of the nicest places to drive to (as long as you avoid the Bronte country tourist buses). Once upon a time, of course, you strolled down Larkholme Lane which was very atmospheric, but these days that pleasure is denied by a town centre by-pass and Bradford (or Dales) link road (depending which way you are travelling) where you take your life into your hands to cross - which is why all Cougars promotion is aimed at the young because the old codgers aren't quick enough to get to the ground anymore. The ground itself has decent facilities: you can get a good pint and a tasty dish of pie and peas. Keighley also boasts one of the finest breweries in England in Timothy Taylor's. The town itself is a bit like the land that time forgot, but all in all I'm struggling to slag Keighley off - except, of course, they no longer have a team!

### **LEIGH CENTURIONS**

Now if Keighley is the land that time forgot, Leigh is the land where time never started. In fact, except to watch rugby, I can't imagine why anyone would ever go there. Once it was so bad people tried to tunnel out: mining coal was only the excuse for all those tunnels don't you know. In the days before Asda and the by-pass (mind you, you need a by-pass for Leigh) the view of the pit-head winding gear was quite dramatic and endearing in an L. S. Lowry sort of way.

And then there's the ground, the only one in the league where an old bus serves as a scoreboard. On the popular side the local yokels gather to spout venom at the day's visitors, usually fuelled by the readily available alcohol served in the dungeon below the stand. So be advised, it's better to stick to the main stand side where it's relatively safe, unless Tim Street gets sin-binned.

Now for an intriguing question: why does a team called the Centurions have a PIG as a mascot? I didn't know the Romans were pig farmers. I only hope the damn thing gets foot and mouth disease before I go again!

### **ROCHDALE HORNETS**

Ah! Rochdale: what can you say? The town that wishes it was Oldham. 105 years of Rugby League and still barely a local lad in the side. Next time you knock London Broncos for lack of development just stop and think: Rochdale! No wonder the ground's next door to a cemetery. The graveyard of all your hopes. Question: as a player how do you know you're not going to make it big? Answer: when you sign for Rochdale! And if you don't make it as a player for Rochdale what happens? They turn you into Henry the Hornet!

The only trouble, of course, is that Rochdale has the best Town Hall in Lancashire (possibly in England), a beautiful spacious centre around Broadfield Park, the 13th century parish church, Town Hall and Esplanade and now, damn them, along with Widnes, possess the best stadium in the NFP. In fact the re-development of Spotland puts to shame the politicians and campaigners of Oldham who have signally failed to deliver on their promises of a new stadium for Oldham. As ever, poor old Oldham at the back of the queue when the treats are dished out.

### **SHEFFIELD EAGLES**

In theory Don Valley should be one of the best grounds in the NFP to visit. In theory! The trouble is that although the stadium looks nice it lacks atmosphere. This is because everyone huddles on one side of the ground and everywhere else looks like 'The Big Country in Cinemascope and Eastman colour. The play is so far away from the stand you need the Hubble telescope to follow it. And the journey to get to Don Valley is not much better because you get entangled with all the traffic going to worship at the shrine of modern consumerism, Meadowhall. Now, if all the churches in England put together could get the attendance that they do at Meadowhall on a Sunday there would be much joy and celebration throughout the land and the Archbishop of Canterbury would dance up the aisle to Eminem.



# Academy Action

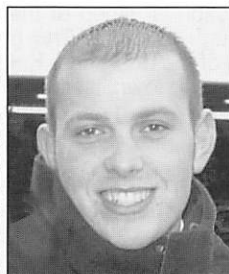
... with Shaun Gartland

## CHORLEY ACADEMY 8 OLDHAM ACADEMY 74

IN WHAT the whole of the coaching staff considered an awesome display the lads romped in for an incredible fifteen tries. John Mitchell took his hat-trick superbly, Matty Harland, Matty Williams, Paul Bennett, Kiel Lancashire all scored a brace each with Adam Clayton, Adam Sharples, James Wilkinson and John Foy touching down. Chris Carter and John Mitchell each kicked three conversions with Kiel Lancashire also converting a try.

Anthony Whitehead, Michael Fitzsimons and Ezra Bailey had great yardage games in the front row.

The most pleasing aspects of the performance were the willingness and intelligence of the boys to eradicate the second half mistakes from the previous fixture. Well done!



Anthony Whitehead

## ACADEMY TEAM FIXTURES

April	Featherstone	A	L 44 - 14
23			
May	BARROW	H	W 48 - 8
5	Chorley	A	W 74 - 8
13	Dewsbury	A	
19	DONCASTER	H	
26			
June	Gateshead	A	
3	FEATHERSTONE	H	
9	LEIGH	H	
16	York	A	
24	Barrow	A	
30			
July	WORKINGTON	H	
7	Leigh	A	
14	DEWSBURY	H	
21	CHORLEY	H	
28			
August	GATESHEAD	H	
4	Doncaster	A	
11	YORK	H	
18	Workington	A	
25			
September			
8	Play Offs - First Round		
29	Play Offs - Grand Final		

## NFP 2000/20001 Match Results (14.5.01)

	Barrow	Batley	Chorley	Dewsbury	Doncaster	Featherstone	Gateshead	Hull KR	Hunslet	Keighley	Leigh	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Sheffield	Swinton	Whitehaven	Widnes	Workington	York
Barrow			50-18		18-16	20-12		44-4		12-28	16-28					5-4	6-6	28-31	
Batley	10-18			14-12	16-19	6-37	24-4	18-16				8-9		23-2		18-14			12-4
Chorley	24-38	4-39				19-14	32-54			4-56	10-60				12-30	10-42	14-48		78-8
Dewsbury	66-10	24-12	70-0			21-12	54-10	32-10		19-9		18-13					12-13	16-22	50-2
Doncaster			56-20			15-21			36-8	17-23	16-11			22-2	27-26	28-24			82-4
Featherstone			64-6	23-15	34-4		68-6	23-16	26-14		20-30	22-8	18-20	12-15				24-4	
Gateshead				22-33	8-27	7-38		0-18	12-26	0-52			15-40			4-23	18-30	8-34	
Hull KR	38-8		40-6		0-30	6-6			40-12	17-10			12-6		32-6	10-10			2-0
Hunslet		4-13		2-34			12-40			12-44	6-50		20-42	14-0	26-16				30-14
Keighley	60-20	66-12	60-18	32-6		22-22		24-8	26-24		6-16		20-23		22-26	4-30			
Leigh	19-8	34-8		32-18			52-4	58-10	68-4				48-0		46-4		26-22	70-0	
OLDHAM	36-10	26-8	56-2		23-4		52-6		58-4	38-4	18-44		10-38	24-16	22-20	8-19	20-12		
Rochdale			52-12	44-26	26-6			32-10				6-10		46-8			14-24	38-16	98-0
Sheffield	40-16	34-1	60-4	6-25	28-4	14-28	38-12	11-12		16-52	28-34						26-17		
Swinton	26-24	12-34		18-20	19-18	28-25	20-8			0-40	10-33	4-8	22-23					20-29	74-0
Whitehaven			28-4			19-10	72-4		50-10	17-4	8-30		13-4	12-18	4-8		14-16	38-18	
Widnes					10-18			28-0	64-4	19-22	20-25	34-16	44-18		16-8	22-14		26-16	90-6
Workington	29-6	25-16	42-0					24-18	60-10	4-32		6-22	18-8	15-12		31-10			
York		6-20			8-26	6-37	21-4	8-56	20-20	14-48	12-84	6-70		6-48		6-54		10-60	



# Behind the Scenes . . . with Dave Roberts

## **BACKROOM STAFF – MAUREEN ALLDRIDGE**

### **Job at Club:**

*I help run the Golden Gamble, I have been involved since day 1.*

*On Match Days I arrive at the office to make sure that all the sellers are there. I then check to see if all the money bags are correct and then we go out selling.*

*At 3.00 I return to the office and start to put the tickets in the drum ready for half time.*

*I then go to Mark Knight who chooses a player to do the draw. When it is half time I go onto the pitch, do the draw and fill in the form and hand it to Dave Roberts (who always shouts at me) to read out on the P.A.*

*After that I watch the second half. I also do the raffle at the 'A' Team games.*

### **How long have you supported ORLFC?**

*About 50 years - I started going with my dad in the 1950's.*

### **Favourite past player**

*Alan Davies*

### **Favourite present player**

*Neil Roden*

### **Favourite other ground**

*Autoquest Stadium*

### **Other interests**

*None!*



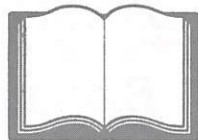
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# Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES



THE League Express National Cup Final takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 28th May at Spotland Stadium, Rochdale, kick off 3.00pm. It is an intriguing final between Thatto Heath Crusaders and Featherstone Lions. Many observers consider that Thatto Heath just cannot fail to lift the trophy. 'Their name is on the cup', they say about a club who, at times, have ridden their luck in this cup campaign but who have also pulled off some superb victories and all against opposition from a higher division than that in which they play.

Thatto Heath's cup run almost ended before it had even begun. They entertained West Bowling in round one and at the end of that tie referee Paul Barrett was convinced that the visitors had won 26-24. In actual fact the scores were level at 24 apiece

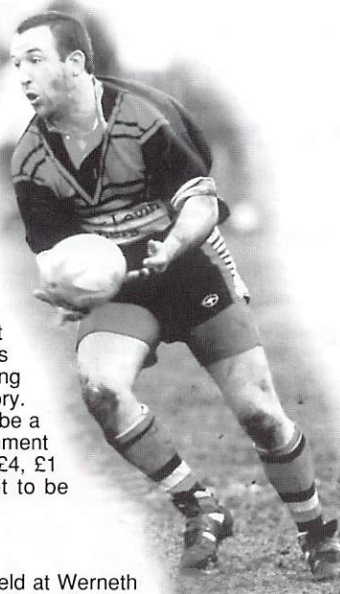
but by the time the correct scoreline had been established, West Bowling were in the showers and the playing of extra time was impractical. It was decided that the match be replayed in St. Helens where another close encounter resulted. Thatto Heath made the most of their reprise and edged through 14-11. Their reward for that victory was a trip to Woolston Rovers and a truly magnificent 15-10 victory. In round three Thatto Heath visited Eastmoor where they turned in another impressive performance. Winger Mike Woods raced in for a hatrick of tries in that match including a spectacular length-of-the-field effort. Next up were Saddleworth Rangers and, here again, Thatto Heath rode their luck. It took a controversial, injury time try from club chairman Chris Honey to squeeze Thatto Heath through 12-10. The Crusaders did not need any luck in their quarter-final tie at St. Anne's where they played magnificently to win 19-10. Scrum half Barry Ashall and a terrific defensive display were the cornerstones of that victory. Luck did play a part in another great victory at Siddal in the semi-final. It was a tough battle in freezing wet conditions but decisions went their way and a 12-6 victory ensued.

Their opponents, Featherstone Lions, have had a relatively comfortable passage through to the final. They began with two home ties, which they were expected to win easily. Cottingham Tigers were duly dispatched 32-0 and St. Judes brushed aside 32-12 before the Lions faced a tricky tie away to Championship chasing Eccles. The Lions turned in an excellent performance at Hallsworth Road where full back Lee Senior scored a try, two conversions and a couple of penalties in Featherstone's 20-6 victory. A home quarter-final tie against Oulton was expected to be close and so it was, with the experience of loose-forward, player-coach Simon Tufts proving decisive. He inspired the Lions to a 14-6 victory and gave them the belief that they could overcome West Hull in the semi-final. That semi-final was played on a heavy pitch which did not suit the Humber-side giants who are, in my view, the best amateur team in the country. But take nothing away from Featherstone who defended magnificently and attacked enthusiastically during the first period when they scored both their tries. Full-back Lee Senior was again inspirational with his reliable defence and excellent field kicking not to mention his three decisive goals in Featherstone's 14-10 victory.

So to the final which really could go either way. It promises to be a cracking game and, indeed, a cracking afternoon with the entertainment starting at 12.30 before the big kick off at 3.00pm. Admission is £4, £1 concessions, so is great value for money and an afternoon not to be missed if at all possible.



The Saddleworth Rangers Presentation Night and Disco is being held at Werneth Cricket Club, Chamber Road, Oldham on Friday 1st June commencing at 8.00pm. Tickets are available from Sue Tyrell on 01457 810748 and are priced £5 which includes buffet. Another night not to be missed.



Chris Honey  
Thatto Heath



# CLUB CALL

## THE SATURDAY YANKEE

The £5,000 Jackpot was won last week and our congratulations go to the lucky winner.

This week's top prize stands at £2,750 so if you are not already a member, you can help the club and yourself by joining for just £1 a week.

**For more details call  
061 628 3677**

IT WAS great to see people turn up early to watch our Academy lads in action at Victory Park last week and at Boundary Park the week before.

The lads have won two of the three games so far and your support can have only helped them along.

Our Alliance team are coming towards the end of their season and also need your support as they push for a good play-off spot.

### FORTHCOMING FIXTURES (FIRST TEAM)

#### June

3	GATESHEAD THUNDER	(A) 3.30
17	WHITEHAVEN	(A) 3.00
24	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	(A) 3.00

#### July

1	HULL K.R.	(A) 3.00
---	-----------	----------

### GATESHEAD TRIP - 2nd AND 3rd JUNE 2001

Inclusive of:

*Coach Travel*

*Match Ticket*

*Bed & Breakfast at 4\* Holiday Inn, Newcastle*

*Breakfast stop on the way*

*Autograph session with the Players before the game.*

**Cost: Elite Club Members:** Adults £75.00/Concession £70.00

**Non Elite Club Members:** Adults £80.00/Concession £75.00

Single Room Supplement £15.00 per person

**\*Courier on this trip will be CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON\***

### GATESHEAD v OLDHAM SUNDAY 3RD JUNE, 2001 DIRECTIONS TO GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

From the South on the A1(M) Follow A1(M) to Washington Service Area where it reaches the junction with the A194(M). Take right hand lanes to join A194(M) (signposted Tyne Tunnel, South Shields).

At the motorway terminal roundabout (A184) leave motorway and take 1st exit (signposted Gateshead, Newcastle) to join A184. At Heworth Metro Station roundabout (junction with A185/B1426) take 2nd exit (straight on). In 1½ miles you will see Gateshead International Stadium on your right. Follow directions for car parks.



The following stats do not  
include any details from  
the pre-season match  
against South Sydney.  
(courtesy of Michael Turner)

# WINNARDS

WEB.SITE: COMMONSENSE.COM

## Appearances & Scorers

NAME	Season	APPS	SUB	Total	n/p SUB	T	G	D	PTS
ARNOLD Danny	2000-01	10	1	11		4			16
BARBER Gareth	2000-01	4	2	6		1			4
BARROW Warren	2000-01	5		5		5			20
BRENNAN Keith	2000-01	8	1	9		3		1	13
CASEY Leo	2000-01	14	1	15					
CLEGG Jason	2000-01	18	7	25		2			8
CROSS Dean	2000-01	7		7		3			12
DODD Gavin	2000-01	12	4	16	2	7		1	29
DORAN Lee	2000-01		6	6					
FARRELL Chris	2000-01	7	14	21	1	2			8
FARRELL Phil	2000-01	26		26		5			20
FORD Mike	2000-01	5	8	13				1	1
GIBBONS Anthony	2000-01	24		24		10			40
GIBBONS David	2000-01	26		26		17			68
GUEST Danny	2000-01	1	18	19					
HAYES Joey	2000-01	5		5		3			12
HENARE Bryan	2000-01	2	1	3		3			12
HOUGH John	2000-01	19	2	21		4			16
LACEY Daryl	2000-01	17	4	21		4			16
MANNION Kevin	2000-01	10	9	19		6			24
McMENEMY Shayne	2000-01	1		1					
McNICHOLAS Joe	2000-01	6		6		6			24
NORTON Paul	2000-01	16	7	23		3			12
PROCTOR Andy	2000-01	11	9	20		2			8
RICH Pat	2000-01	26		26		7	117		262
RODEN Neil	2000-01	26		26		14		6	62
SIBSON Mark	2000-01	14	1	15		14			56
SINFIELD Ian	2000-01	18	6	24		1			4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>747</b>



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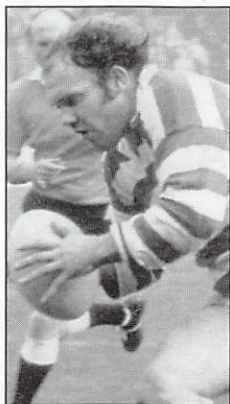


## ON THIS DAY . . .

### Don Yates looks back to May 20th yesteryear

ELEVEN years ago Saddleworth Rangers ended their first season of Conference League rugby by winning promotion to the Premier Division and almost made it a double celebration following their appearance in the National Cup Final. Unfortunately that final, which was staged at Knowsley Road, St. Helens on Sunday 20th May 1990, ended in defeat against Egremond Rangers who won 11-4. Prop forward Gary Dobbs scored the Saddleworth try in that final whilst at loose-forward for Rangers was the Roughyeds' director Sean Whitehead.

Thirty eight years ago, season 1962-63, was another outstanding era for Rangers. During that campaign Saddleworth won both the Standard Cup and the Lancashire Cup but on Monday 20th May 1963 they crashed to a shock home defeat in the Oldham Championship play off when Higginshaw won a semi-final tie at Greenfield by 18 points to two. Of course, shock results are part and parcel of cup-tie rugby and add to the excitement of the occasion. The result of the 1972 Championship Final was something of a surprise considering the build-up to the match which was staged at Station Road, Swinton on Saturday 20th May. St. Helens had won the Challenge Cup seven days previously by beating a full strength Leeds team and were expected to triumph again following the withdrawal of the Leeds quartet of Syd Hynes, Keith Hepworth, Bill Ramsey and Bob Haigh. Saints led 3-2 at half time before prop Terry Clawson, later to join Oldham, added a touchline penalty to his earlier goal and then a similar touchline conversion to John Atkinson's try as Leeds recovered to win 9-5. Former Oldham loose forward Derek Turner was the Leeds' coach that year whilst another local connection in that final came in the shape of referee Sam Sheperd.



Terry Clawson

Leeds first won the Championship in 1961 after they had been losing finalists on no fewer than five previous occasions. An Odsal crowd of 52,177 saw them defeat Warrington 25-10 on Saturday 20th May 1961. Included in the Warrington line up that afternoon was the former St. Mary's and Oldham winger Terry O'Grady but there was also a local connection with the winning team who had another former Oldham winger, Joe Warham, as their football manager.



Sam Sheperd

The 1962 British Lions party which toured Australasia did not include any players from Oldham although assistant manager Arthur Walker (Rochdale Hornets) later enjoyed a spell as the Roughyeds' chairman. Workington Town, however, provided three players and all three appeared in the opening tour fixture against Western Australia. That match took place on Sunday 20th May in the rugby outpost of Perth and attracted the smallest attendance of the Australian section of the tour, a mere 2,842. Britain won the match 39-12 with Workington winger Ike Southward, back with Town after a spell at Watersheddings, scoring two of the nine British tries. The other two Workington tourists who played that afternoon were prop Norman Herbert, whose son Steve later played for Oldham, and second-row forward Bryan Edgar.

On a slightly lower level, twelve months ago, on Saturday 20th May 2000, the Manchester Knights defeated Derby City 56-0 in a Rugby League Summer Conference fixture. They ran in a dozen tries through Lee Baker, Martin Fitton, Ryan Knight (2), Chris Beck (2), John Webster (3) and Paul Lord (3), his three coming in a nine minute spell, with Lord also landing four goals. The Knights play Derby again next Saturday when a much closer encounter it envisaged. Medlock Leisure Centre, Droylsden is the venue, kick-off 2.30pm.



# Fixtures

**Date Opponent Result Att**

## DECEMBER

**F - A**

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

## JANUARY

1	WIDNES	W 20 - 12	3,471
7			
14	LEIGH	L 18 - 44	4,747
28	QUEENSBURY (CC R3)	W 64 - 0	1,559
30	CHORLEY	W 56 - 2	1,210

## FEBRUARY

11	HULL KR (CC R4)	W 17 - 6	2,008
18	GATESHEAD	W 52 - 6	1,451
25	WAKEFIELD (CC R5)	L 6 - 26	3,071

## MARCH

11	Dewsbury	L 13 - 18	1,453
18	SHEFFIELD	W 24 - 16	1,503
25	Featherstone	W 22 - 8	1,966
28	HUNSLET	W 58 - 4	1,038

## APRIL

1	York	W 70 - 6	514
8	BATLEY	W 26 - 8	1,598
13	ROCHDALE	L 10 - 38	2,398
16	Widnes	L 16 - 34	4,072
22	Batley	W 9 - 8	962
25	DONCASTER	W 23 - 4	1,171
29	KEIGHLEY	W 38 - 4	1,815

## MAY

2	Swinton	W 33 - 10	1,014
6	BARROW	W 36 - 10	1,554
9	SWINTON	W 22 - 20	1,360
13	Chorley	W 60 - 10	610
20	WORKINGTON	H	

## JUNE

3	Gateshead	A	
17	Whitehaven	A	
24	Keighley	A	

## JULY

1	Hull KR	A	
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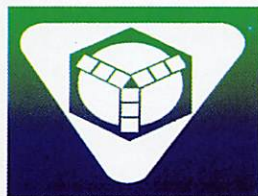
  
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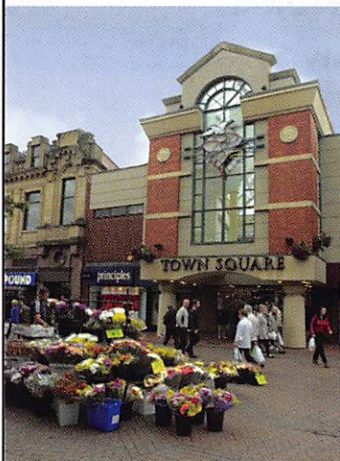
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Metropolitan Borough 





# TODAY'S TEAMS



## OLDHAM

**Coach: Mike FORD**

## WORKKINGTON T.

**Coach: Gary MURDOCK**

<b>Mark SIBSON</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Lynton STOTT</b>
<b>Joe McNICHOLAS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Jonathan HEANEY</b>
<b>Anthony GIBBONS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Neil FRAZER</b>
<b>Pat RICH</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>John ALLEN</b>
<b>Daryl LACEY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Graeme LEWTHWAITE</b>
<b>David GIBBONS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Kevin HETHERINGTON</b>
<b>Neil RODEN</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Lee ALLEN</b>
<b>Jason CLEGG</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Matthew TUNSTALL</b>
<b>John HOUGH</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Owen WILLIAMSON</b>
<b>Paul NORTON</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Hitro OKESENE</b>
<b>Phil FARRELL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Jamie BEAUMONT</b>
<b>Bryan HENARE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Matt STURM</b>
<b>Chris FARRELL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Anthony SAMUEL</b>
<b>Gavin DODD</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Stuart HOYLES</b>
<b>Lee DORAN</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Lokeni SVELIO</b>
<b>Danny GUEST</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Carl SICE</b>
<b>Ian SINFIELD</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Matthew WOODCOCK</b>

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## OFFICIALS

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