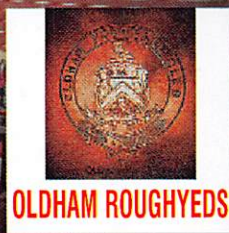




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in the chair

The views of club Chairman and Chief Executive Steve Worsnop

It gives me great pleasure today, to welcome Oldham officials, players and supporters to the Thunderdome.

Their chairman, Chris Hamilton also has the unenviable task of leading the Association of Premiership Clubs through surely what is the most difficult period that the game, and in particular the APC clubs, have faced.

Chris has been a great help and a good friend to Gateshead Thunder during our first season back in the NFP and on behalf of everyone at the club I would like to thank him sincerely for his support.

In these uncertain times, it is reassuring to know that the man charged with "fighting our corner" is forward thinking and has the best interests of the game at heart. We need strong leadership and radical changes if we are to survive and grow, and I'm sure that everyone here in the North East will join me in offering Chris our full support and best wishes for the task ahead.

Last week we suffered a hug disappointment in losing to Batley. Having secured a winnable position, a combination of errors - not only from our own players - let the Bulldogs in to steal the points late in the game.

That aside the lads again demonstrated the improvements that have been made over the season



and I'm certain we haven't seen the last of the victory celebrations down at the Schooner!

Today's visitors are well positioned for a tilt at the Grand Final and a possible promotion to Super League. This must have seemed a million miles away a few years ago, when the Oldham Bears Super League club folded.

Being in this position in such a short space of time is testimony to the hard work put in by everyone at the club and should serve as a real inspiration to us all at Gateshead.

Let's hope that inspiration begins with a victory for the Thunder this afternoon!

Enjoy the day

Steve

By the way, Happy Birthday Rich!

Who's Who AT THUNDER

Directors

Chairman/Chief Executive **Steve Worsnop**
 Director/Company Secretary **David Wickham**
 Commercial Director **David Faulkner**
 Thunder Storm Rep **Mark Wightman**

In the Office

Administration Manager **Lesley Worsnop**
 Office/Development **Rob Jones**
 Accounts **Lorraine Kirby**

With the team

Head Coach
 Assistant Coach
 Academy Coach
 Doctor
 Physio
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Andy Kelly
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DEALERS

FROM THE DUGOUT



Hello Thunder fans

So near and yet so far. Last week we had Batley on the rack for long periods of the game and looked as though the third win was in our grasp. But it was not to be and at a time when we should

have sealed the victory, we allowed Batley back into the game. For the first time in a winning position, we sat back and took too much for granted, and stopped concentrating on what we were doing well.

I do feel that some outside influences had an effect on the final result, but we can only focus on things within our control, so working for the full 80 minutes and areas of defensive weakness are the things we have looked at this week - here's to all parties performing well.

We play today's fixture against Oldham, currently second in the division and doing exceptionally well under Mike Ford, coach and friend whom I have the utmost respect for.

Oldham have also faced the problems of starting out with debt and no funding, but under the astute guidance of Chris Hamilton, have resurfaced as a stable and progressively thinking club. Everything takes time and hard work, but as they are showing, there can be some quite rewarding moments for the faithful. Good luck Oldham, as you work towards and into the play-offs.

The team, although very disappointed by last week's result, remain extremely positive and are looking forward to today's encounter, Oldham whacked us quite comprehensively earlier in the year, so we have the opportunity today, once again to chart the improvement at the Thunder. We would love to beat a top 8 side, and Oldham quite possibly are the last team in that category we will play this season, so if we are to achieve our dream today will have to be the day!

Okay enough said; let's get down to the action.

Enjoy the game

Andy Kelly

By the way - Happy Birthday Richard!!

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	S, M, L, XL, XXL	£33.99
Home Replica Shorts	26/28, 30/32	£11.49
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Home Replica Socks	Boys/Youths	£4.99
	Mens	£6.49
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press cuttings

PRESS CUTTINGS

Jeff Bowron is a freelance sports journalist who covers the Thunder for various media including Rugby Leaguer, League Express, Tyne Tees TV, Press Association, Gateshead Post, The Newcastle Evening Chronicle, Journal and Sunday Sun.



It was a disappointment of a different kind last weekend when Thunder squandered a healthy 22-10 lead after an hour to miss out on the opportunity of a third consecutive win. You've got to hand it to Batley for taking their opportunity to get back into the game but Thunder were also architects of their own downfall when the Bulldogs were all but tamed.

Perhaps we're getting carried away after back to back wins lifted the expectancy levels here at the Thunderdome but there's no doubt

last Sunday was an opportunity missed.

Defensive frailties in the last quarter of the game were exploited and while 96 points from three games is a great effort, the Batley game was a timely reminder that there is still much work to do in the close season.

Having said that there was a lot to enthuse over in another encouraging display and Gateshead's last three games have certainly provided excellent entertainment.

It was a pity then that the Batley attendance was 120 down on the previous weekend's clash with York Wasps, especially as the Bulldogs had a greater travelling support than York. Thunder Chairman Steve Worsnop was understandably disappointed with the turn out but it will take more than two wins to convince the stay away supporters to return in significant numbers.

I said before a game was played this season that results and performances would be all important. People would not - and indeed have not - lent their support to a struggling side that lost 21 consecutive league games apart from loyal hard core. We all realise there have been mitigating circumstances but your average punter will not be attracted to the Thunderdome until the impressive wins over Hunslet and York begin the norm rather than the exception.

That's why a win over Batley would have been another step in the right direction and it's important Thunder get it right from the off next season

and establish themselves as a competitive mid-table NFP side.

The nucleus is certainly there, and if Andy Kelly brings in five players of the quality of Carl Briggs, Micky Johnson, Gareth Lloyd and Darren Callaghan, then I for one believe the good times will return on a regular basis.

Some of the recent football produced has been tremendous, and while second placed Oldham will obviously provide a stern challenge another good performance and result will only add to the clubs credibility.

I just hope today's match official Ronnie Laughton referees the game in an even handed manner after last Sunday's abysmal display by Huddersfield's Stephen Addy, but for whom Thunder would have achieved a third successive win. The standard of refereeing in the NFP has at best been baffling and as every game is recorded on video by the RFL it would be interesting to see the amount of poor calls Gateshead have suffered this season.

The Tynesiders comeback season has been difficult enough without external influences affecting their progress and last Monday's Chronicle headline was a pearly: "Thunder have Addy enough of this ref."

Oldham gave the Thunder Army one of their warmest welcomes this season at Boundary Park and while I'm sure this will be reciprocated this afternoon, I trust the Roughyeds will face a hotter welcome on the pitch.

Jeff Bowron

FOLLOW THE THUNDER
EVERY WEEK IN THE GATESHEAD
POST, THE PINK AND SUNDAY SUN

U21 AND ACADEMY NEWS

Gateshead Thunder 16

Featherstone Rovers 34

Last week saw our ever-developing Academy side take on a very strong Featherstone Rovers.

In fifth position going into the game, the lads made a great start with Thorman, Peers and Neighbour again leading the way.

Against all the odds the Thunder went ahead at half time and an upset appeared to be on the cards.

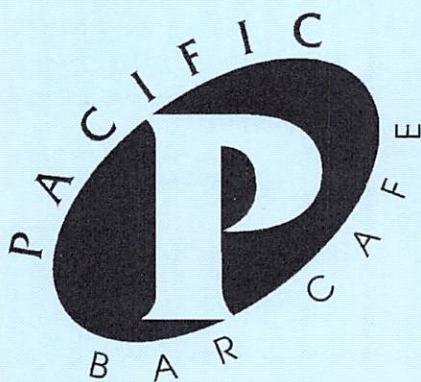
Unfortunately, the second half was dominated by an improving Featherstone side, helped by a number of mistakes from Gateshead as they tried to regain the initiative.

It was not to be and Featherstone ran out deserved if somewhat flattering winners at 34 - 16.

PACIFIC BAR CAFÈ

Man of the Match

ROBIN PEERS



12-22 Northumberland Road
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0191 245 0440

Today the Academy entertain another strong side in Oldham.

Coach Rob Jones will be keen to eliminate the mistakes, which let Featherstone in to steal the points last week.

Expect to see a big performance again from our stars of the future Neil Thorman, Kevin Neighbour, Robin Peers, Richard Spence and Tony Doherty, as well as all the other promising youngsters in the side.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE THUNDER ARMY

TODAYS VICTIM IS Jonathan (the Bons) Maclellan from Benton, via Blackpool & Chorley

1ST THUNDER GAME ?

Halifax vs Thunder in 1999

FAVOURITE THUNDER PLAYER

CURRENT ?

Andy Field

FAVOURITE THUNDER PLAYER ALL

TIME ?

Deon Bird - my cousin told me to say this (interfering so-and-so)

FIRST LIVE RL GAME ?

Halifax vs Thunder in 1999

FAVOURITE OTHER RL TEAM ?

Wigan/St Helens

FAVOURITE NON THUNDER PLAYER ?

Possibly Sean Long

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT ?

Squash & Saloon Car Racing

FAVOURITE NON RL TEAM ?

Sorry I don't have one apart from Thunder

FAVOURITE NON RL SPORTS PERSON ?

Daley Thompson

MOST MEMORABLE THUNDER MOMENT ?

The Rebirth. Thanks for the commitment.

WORST THUNDER MOMENT ?

The 'Merge'

PLAYER YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE IN A THUNDER SHIRT ?

Any Wigan or Saints player

FAVOURITE RL GROUND (EXCLUDING THUNDERDOME) ?

Barrow - it was the easiest to find - just behind a pub

WORST RL GROUND (EXCLUDING THUNDERDOME) ?

Chorley, even though I'm from nearby.

BEST RL FANS (EXCLUDING THUNDER ARMY) ?

St Helens or Wigan

WORST RL FANS (EXCLUDING THUNDER ARMY) ?

Hull fans - on advisement from everybody I know

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS FOR THIS YEARS THUNDER ?

To have a fair game (as the refs have been a bit dodgy)

WHAT ARE YOUR LONG TERM GOALS FOR THUNDER ?

To become one of the best teams in the land.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT SUPPORTING GATESHEAD THUNDER ?

Everybody is so friendly, and the good old social gathering after a game in the pub (for medicinal purposes only)

Oh, by the way , Happy Birthday Richard!!!



TODAYS VICTIM IS Peter Bowen from Newcastle via Barrow

1ST THUNDER GAME ?

At home v Wakefield 2/4/99

FAVOURITE THUNDER PLAYER

CURRENT ?

Carl Briggs

FAVOURITE THUNDER PLAYER ALL

TIME ?

Kerrod Walters

FIRST LIVE RL GAME ?

Barrow v Australia 1952

FAVOURITE OTHER RL TEAM ?

Barrow

FAVOURITE NON THUNDER PLAYER ?

Sean Long

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT ?

Cricket

FAVOURITE NON RL TEAM ?

Lancashire CC

FAVOURITE NON RL SPORTS PERSON ?

Shane Warne

MOST MEMORABLE THUNDER MOMENT ?

Beating Hunslet

WORST THUNDER MOMENT ?

Losing at York (Don't mention Nov '99)

PLAYER YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE IN A THUNDER SHIRT ?

Jason Robinson

FAVOURITE RL GROUND (EXCLUDING THUNDERDOME) ?

Craven Park - Barrow

WORST RL GROUND (EXCLUDING THUNDERDOME) ?

Craven Park - Barrow

BEST RL FANS (EXCLUDING THUNDER ARMY) ?

Sheffield

WORST RL FANS (EXCLUDING THUNDER ARMY) ?

Featherstone

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS FOR THIS YEARS THUNDER ?

To entertain

WHAT ARE YOUR LONG TERM GOALS FOR THUNDER ?

Super League and some Geordie International Players

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT SUPPORTING GATESHEAD THUNDER ?

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STORM FORCE

The Thunder Storm supporters association page

Well I'm not going to go on too much about the Batley game. Suffice it to say that any sport that wishes to take itself seriously needs to act as if it's serious about its own image. The distance between Batley and Huddersfield might seem vast beyond imagining to a "heartlander", but to those with a more national perspective the two towns look very close together indeed. Cosy, you might almost say. And "cosy" is one of the few printable words that might summarise some of the decisions we saw in the second half. Would it have been so difficult for the RFL to have allocated a referee from Lancashire, Cheshire or Cumbria for a game against a West Yorkshire side? Not that I'd expect any great difference in quality, but at least we'd all be spared the sneaking suspicion that the man in the middle was relying on the visitors for a lift home.

But time to look to the future! We only have a few games left now, it's up to all Thunder fans to help the club end the season on a high. I know we were all disappointed with the attendance last week - it was a nice enough day, and after two wins I think the players deserved to be playing in front of a larger crowd than that. Hopefully numbers today are swelled by the Roughyed contingent: I know we were all pretty impressed with the welcome we received at Oldham earlier in the year. All the same, in general we can't rely on visiting clubs to boost our gates, and we all need to work hard to bring in a some more home supporters for the last game at the Thunderdome this season, against Barrow. It will be great to finish our home account with a large crowd cheering the lads on to another win.



Also looking to the future, Thunder Storm recently presented the club with a cheque for £1,000. For those that don't know, Thunder Storm is the club's supporters' association. We are independent, with our own constitution and funds, but are recognised by the club and have a representative on the board of directors. We are now enrolling members for next season, so if you're a Thunder fan and haven't joined us yet, please do so! Membership costs just £5 (£1 if you're under 16) and gets you frequent newsletters, discounted away travel and access to all sorts of Thunder-related social events. Also, Thunder Storm will put all money raised to good use: half the £1,000 we donated recently was targeted at covering the North Eastern players travelling fees to training.

You can join Thunder Storm at our stall in the concourse, or alternatively collar one of the committee (someone I'm sure will point us out!) down at the Schooner!

Where I'm sure I'll be seeing some of you after today's game...!

Mark Wightman - Chairman
Thunder Storm - the Gateshead Thunder Supporters Association

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Captains Message!

Hello everybody,

Wasn't it a lovely day last Sunday, the only thing that spoilt it was that we didn't win. Never mind, at least I showed that Bulldog who was the top mascot!

Myself and the Thunderkids easily beat him and the Batley fans at the Tug of War.

I saw a lot of you with your faces painted on Sunday. There were tigers, butterflies, clowns dogs & cats and many more and I thought you all looked fantastic.

Did you have a go on the kiddie rides and games? I did and I won a puzzle book on the tombola, it was great.

I hope you all have a good time today. I wonder if Oldham will bring their mascot, so I can issue another challenge, maybe a penalty shoot out?

Let's really get behind the Thunder today and sing and shout really loud, and see if we can't give the Roughyeds a bit of a scare!

Happy Birthday to Richard Kirby, not really a Thunderkid, but near enough!!!



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Stats

Player appearances up to and including 2nd June 2001

	App	Sub	Tries	Goals	Pen	D/G	Points
Richard Arrowsmith	4						
Gareth Barron	7	6	1				4
Steven Bradley	6	2					
Carl Briggs	18		5	22	1	2	64
Matthew Brown	3	1					
Darren Callaghan	7		2				8
James Carlton	22	2	4				16
Darrell Derose	14	2	3				12
Scott Dyson	17		3				12
Andrew Field	16	4	3				12
Martin Gambes	9	4	2				8
Lee Garside	7	15		1			4
Andrew Grundy	22	1	2				8
Stephen Hall	18	4	1	10	7		38
Mick Johnson	16		4				16
Paul Lister	10	6					
Gareth Lloyd	8		3				12
Wesley McGibbon	23		2				8
Richard Mervill	12	5	2				8
Christopher Parker	22	4	1				4
Mattie Robers	5	10					
Stephen Rutherford	4	13	2				8
Paul Sebine	3	14					
Darren Simpson	5						
Roy Southernwood	20	1	1				4
Richard Spence	2	1					
Paul Thorman	11	6	8				32
Mark Wilkinson	1	3					
Leon Williamson	26		5				20
Total	338	104	54	33	8		298

Northern Ford Premiership Table as at 2nd June 2001

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leigh Centurions	24	23	0	1	995	250	46
Oldham Roughyeds	24	18	0	6	684	341	36
Widnes Vikings	23	16	1	6	683	329	33
Rochdale Hornets	22	15	0	7	661	353	30
Featherstone Rovers	23	14	2	7	630	329	30
Keighley Cougars	23	14	1	8	668	392	29
Dewsbury Rams	22	14	0	8	645	324	28
Doncaster Dragons	22	14	0	8	528	349	28
Hull KR	24	13	2	9	469	396	28
Workington Town	23	13	0	10	518	482	26
Whitehaven	23	12	1	10	475	310	25
Sheffield Eagles	23	11	0	12	499	437	22
Batley Bulldogs	22	11	0	11	351	432	22
Barrow Border Raiders	22	8	1	13	419	583	17
Swinton Lions	23	8	0	15	432	541	16
Hunslet Hawks	23	4	1	18	282	829	9
Gateshead Thunder	24	2	0	22	274	814	4
Chorley Lynx	23	2	0	21	325	1085	4
York Wasps	23	1	1	21	179	1141	3

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MATCH STATISTICS

Date	Fixture	Venue	Res	Att	Full Back	Right Wing	Right Centre	Left Centre	Left Wing	Stood Off	Scrum Half	Open Side	Hooker	Blind Side	2nd Row	2nd Row	Loose F	Sub	Sub	Sub	Sub
December 2000																					
3rd	Hull Kingston Rovers	H 3.30pm	0-16	2332	Simpson	Arrowsmith	McGibbon	Hall	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Gambles	Lister	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Roberts	Derose	Sebbie	Garside	Field	Parker
10th	Batley Bulldogs	A 3.00pm	4-24	832	Simpson	Arrowsmith	McGibbon	Hall	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Gambles (T)	Lister	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Roberts	Derose	Sebbie	Garside	Parker	Field
17th	Featherstone Rovers	A 3.00pm	6-66	1717	Hall (G)	Field	McGibbon (T)	Simpson	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Gambles	Garside	Sebbie	Grundy	Carlton	Parker	Derose	Brown	Roberts	Merrill	Rutherford
24th	Kingfish Cougars	H 12.30pm	0-52	1052	Brown	Field	McGibbon	Hall	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Gambles	Merrill	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Parker	Derose	Roberts	Garside	Rutherford	Thorman
January 2001																					
7th	Doncaster Dragons	H 3.30pm	6-27	675	Brown	Field	McGibbon	Hall (2G)	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Gambles	Merrill	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Parker	Derose (T)	Sebbie	Lister	Garside	Roberts
24th	Sheffield Eagles	A 1.00pm	12-29	753	Brown	Field	McGibbon	Hall (4G)	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Gambles (T)	Merrill	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Parker	Derose	Sebbie	Lister	Garside	Roberts
28th	Wigan St. James (SCCC 5th)	H 3.30pm	34-20	501	Derose	Thorman (T)	McGibbon	Hall (T) (5G)	Williamson (C) (T)	Dyson	Gambles	Lister	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Parker	Rutherford (T)	Sebbie	Merrill (T)	Roberts	Barron
February 2001																					
4th	Hunslet Hawks	H 3.30pm	12-26	464	Derose (T)	Field	Simpson	Hall	Williamson (C) (T)	Briggs	Thorman	Lister	Gambles	Merrill	Carlton	Parker	Rutherford (T)	Sebbie	Garside	Roberts	Barron
14th	Whitehaven (SCCC 9th)	H 7.30pm	0-56	377	McGibbon	Field	Sebbie	Hall	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Thorman	Merrill	Gambles	Grundy	Carlton	Parker	Rutherford	Derose	Lister	Garside	Roberts
18th	Oldham	A 3.00pm	6-52	1451	Johnson	Field	McGibbon	Hall (G)	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Briggs	Barron	Southernwood	Merrill	Carlton (T)	Roberts	Parker	Gambles	Grundy	Lister	Rutherford
22nd	York Wasps	A 7.30pm	4-21	426	Johnson	Field	McGibbon	Hall	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Briggs	Barron	Southernwood	Grundy (T)	Carlton	Roberts	Parker	Gambles	Merrill	Lister	Rutherford
25th	Dewsbury Rams	A 3.00pm	10-56	832	McGibbon	Field	Sebbie	Hall (G)	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Briggs (T)	Lister	Southernwood	Grundy	Roberts	Parker	Derose (T)	Gambles	Merrill	Bradley	Barron
March 2001																					
7th	Widnes Vikings	H 7.30pm	18-30	517	Johnson (T)	Field (T)	McGibbon	Hall (3G)	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Briggs	Lister	Southernwood	Grundy	Merrill (T)	Parker	Rutherford	Thorman	Roberts	Derose	Garside
11th	Whitehaven Warriors	H 3.30pm	4-23	532	Johnson	Thorman	Field	Hall	Williamson (C)	McGibbon	Briggs	Lister	Dyson (T)	Grundy	Merrill	Parker	Derose	Spence	Roberts	Carlton	Garside
18th	Lough Centurions	A 3.00pm	4-52	2242	Johnson	Field	McGibbon (T)	Hall	Williamson (C)	Dyson	Briggs	Lister	Spence	Grundy	Merrill	Parker	Derose	Thorman	Carlton	Garside	Roberts
25th	Workington Town	H 3.30pm	6-34	617	Johnson	Arrowsmith	Simpson	Hall	Williamson (T)	McGibbon	Briggs	Lister	Southernwood (T)	Grundy	Carlton	Parker	Derose	Field	Bradley	Barron	Garside
April 2001																					
1st	Rochdale Hornets	H 3.30pm	15-40	367	Johnson	Arrowsmith	McGibbon	Field (T)	Williamson (C)	Callaghan	Briggs (T) (5 G)	Lister	Southernwood	Grundy (T)	Carlton	Parker	Derose	Thorman (T)	Merrill	Garside	Barron
6th	Chorley Lynx	A 3.00pm	19-14	356	Johnson	Thorman	Field	Lloyd (2T)	Williamson	Callaghan	Briggs (T) (G)	Barron	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Merrill	Derose	Rutherford	Lister	Garside	Parker
16th	Dewsbury Rams	H 3.30pm	22-33	489	Johnson	Thorman	McGibbon	Lloyd (T)	Williamson	Callaghan	Briggs (3G)	Barron (T)	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton (T)	Merrill	Parker	Rutherford	Field (T)	Garside	Sebbie
22nd	Barrow Border Raiders	A 3.00pm	12-20	689	Johnson	Field	McGibbon	Lloyd	Williamson	Callaghan (T)	Briggs (2G)	Barron	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Merrill	Parker	Thorman (T)	Rutherford	Garside	Sebbie
29th	Featherstone Rovers	H 3.30pm	7-26	467	Johnson	Field	McGibbon	Lloyd	Williamson	Callaghan	Briggs (C,T,G,DG)	Barron	Southernwood	Garside	Carlton	Bradley	Parker	Thorman	Rutherford	Sebbie	Hall
May 2001																					
6th	Swansea Lions	A 3.00pm	8-20	614	Johnson	Thorman	McGibbon	Lloyd	Williamson	Callaghan (T)	Briggs (C,T,G)	Barron	Southernwood	Garside	Carlton	Bradley	Parker	Sebbie	Rutherford	Hall	Wilkinson
9th	Widnes Vikings	A 7.30pm	4-72	3105	Johnson	Thorman (T)	McGibbon	Hall	Williamson	Callaghan	Briggs (C)	Garside	Spence	Grundy	Carlton	Bradley	Wilkinson	Rutherford	Sebbie	Southernwood	Parker
13th	Hunslet Hawks	A 3.00pm	40-12	607	Johnson (2T)	Thorman (T)	McGibbon	Lloyd	Williamson	Dyson (T)	Briggs (C,R,G)	Garside	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton (3T)	Bradley	Parker	Rutherford	Sebbie	Hall	Wilkinson
20th	York	H 3.30pm	30-12	675	Johnson (T)	Thorman (T)	McGibbon	Lloyd	Williamson (T)	Dyson	Briggs (C,T,G)	Garside	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Bradley	Parker (T)	Rutherford	Sebbie	Hall	Wilkinson
27th	Batley Bulldogs	H 3.30pm	26-29	553	Johnson (T)	Thorman (T)	Hall	Lloyd	Williamson (2T)	Dyson	Briggs (C,3G)	Garside (T)	Southernwood	Grundy	Carlton	Bradley	Parker	Gambles	Sebbie	Rutherford	Barron
June 2001																					
3rd	Oldham	H 3.30pm																			
10th	Hull Kingston Rovers	A 3.00pm																			
17th	Barrow Border Raiders	H 3.30pm																			
24th	Whitehaven Warriors	A 3.00pm																			

SO YOU THINK I



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at the Forte Posthouse Hotel - Newcastle

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THUNDER HEROES



1. Leon Williamson
Swallow Hotel



2. Wes McGibbon
Ian Nesbitt



3. Steve Hall
Katy Grace Livesey



4. Andy Field
Johnathan McLellan



5. Scott Dyson
Abesco Ltd



6. Martin Gambles
Claire Worsnop



7. Andrew Grundy
The Perola Family



8. Roy Southernwood
Neil Wickham



9. Jimmy Carlton
ThunderStorm



10. Paul Sebine
Andy Whitworth



11. Lee Garside
Dr Pat Wright - Impotence
Assessment Clinic at Belmont Clinic



12. Chris Parker
The Claber Family



13. Richard Mervill
Janine Wickham



14. Paul Thorman
Gateshead Panthers



15. Stephen Rutherford
Gateshead Junior Panthers



16. Steven Bradley
Gateshead Panthers



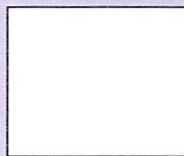
17. Gareth Barron
Jan & Dave Purvis



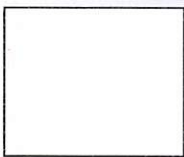
18. Richard Spence
Jan & Dave Purvis



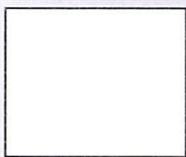
19. Carl Briggs
Daniel & Anna Horrabin



20. Michael Johnson
Arya Foods Ltd



21. Gareth Lloyd
Lightning Promotions



22. Darren Callaghan
The Hutchies



Head Coach-Andy Kelly
Table 2



Doctor
Roger Checketts



Physio
Tony McPartlin

Richard Spence

Sponsored by Jan & Dave Purvis



Full Name	Richard James Spence
Date of Birth	15th November 1981
Birthplace	Durham
Family	Mum, dad and sister
Positions	Hooker/Half Back
Height	5' 7"
Weight	12st 7lb
Nickname	Spence
R L Debut	11 yr old, 7-a-side tournament at Framwellgate School
Professional Debut	London Broncos Academy v Castleford Tigers

Previous Clubs
Gateshead Academy, London Broncos

Highlight of career so far
Signing for Gateshead Thunder

Most admired player
Stephen Rutherford

Favourite: -

Food Chicken

Film Snatch

Group/Musician Nelly

Drink Lager

Actor Brad Pitt

Actress Cameron Diaz

Likes Music, socialising with mates

Dislikes Arrogant people, pre-season training

Favourite other sports
Football, Golf

Hobbies
Shopping

Your ideal day
A BBQ on the beach with all my mates

Describe yourself in one sentence:
Laid back

VISITING THE THUNDERDOME

Today's visitors:

BARROW BORDER RAIDERS



Today we welcome to the Thunderdome Oldham RLFC, below we take a closer look at the Roughyeds

MARK SIBSON

Loughborough student who has had spells at Castleford and Bramley. Very elusive runner from Full Back, capable of scoring from long range.

JOEY HAYES

A firm favourite with the Oldham crowd. This former Super League star with St Helens and Salford is always likely to get on the scoresheet.

ANTHONY GIBBONS

Former Leeds and Bramley player with a good step off either foot. Also one of the best defensive centres in the NFP.

PAT RICH

Geordie Law Graduate who was previously with Keighley. A very reliable goal kicker, who has represented England students in the Student World Cup Final.

DANNY ARNOLD

Another player with Super League experience, playing at St Helens and Huddersfield. A prolific try scorer who can play Wing, Centre or Full Back.

DAVE GIBBONS

Twin brother of Anthony, he too played at Bramley and Leeds. Very pacey, with an eye for an opening. He is an aggressive defender, who also has a sound kicking game.

JASON CLEGG

A massive Prop with deceptive agility. He gives the team a big go forward and a quick play the ball.

JOHN HOUGH

The clubs first ever signing, this Oldham born Hooker was the clubs player of the season last year. Very fast out of dummy half; he is a regular try scorer.

ANDY PROCTOR

Club captain and a Prop with a big work rate. Formerly with Wakefield and Bramley.

LEO CASEY

Now reaching the veteran stage. An Irish International Prop with a wealth of experience. Former clubs include Rochdale Hornets.

DANNY GUEST

Huge young Prop, previously with Keighley and Chorley. Has started to push through this season and big things are expected from him.

PHILLIP FARRELL

Second Row who joined the club along with Neil Roden. Brother of England captain Andrew, he's probably the most exciting young Second Row in the NFP. A massive work rate and a great pair of hands.

PAUL NORTON

Signed in the off season from Chorley. Knocker has been one of the clubs most consistent performers. Very strong defender who can play Prop or Second Row.

IAN SINFIELD

Oldham born player, equally at home as Loose Forward or Second Row. An aggressive defender with pace out wide.

VISITING THE THUNDERDOME

KEVIN MANNION

Former student International player. A Loose Forward with a good pair of hands. Wigan born and another Rochdale player.

GARETH BARBER

Young Stand Off, born in Oldham and signed in the summer from Warrington. A player with huge potential, he has already played a number of first team games.

DARYL LACEY

Young Winger or Full Back, signed in the summer from Wigan. A player with plenty of pace and a safe pair of hands.

DEAN CROSS

Former Widnes Wing or Centre with great pace. A regular try scorer.

CHRIS FARRELL

Twin brother of Phil and another summer signing from Wigan. A Loose Forward with great vision.

GAVIN DODD

Young Full Back or Winger and a former student International. A very elusive runner with great pace.

LEE DORAN

Teenage Prop who has been starring in the clubs' Alliance team. A very exciting prospect.

KEITH BRENNAN

Reserve team Scrum Half coming back after a serious knee injury. Expected to push through strongly for a first team place when he's back to full fitness.

WARREN BARROW

Big Winger signed from St Helens. A regular try scorer last season and strong finisher.

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SPONSORSHIP

CORPORATE AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH GATESHEAD THUNDER

Here at Gateshead Thunder we pride ourselves on our family and community ethos. Hopefully this is supported by the way we have structured the club and also the way in which we present our matchday programme.

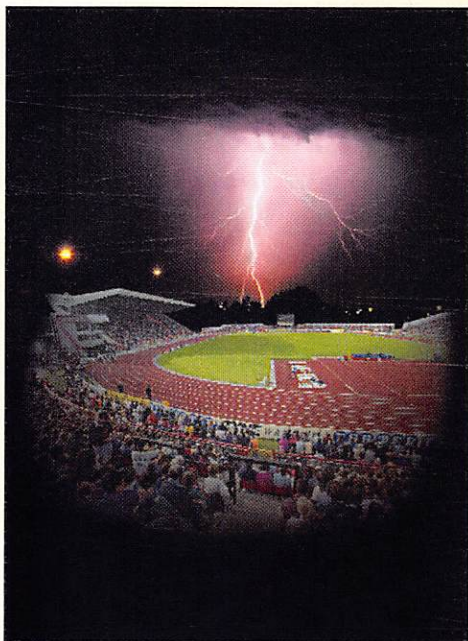
As well as that family ethos we also aim to build close links with the North East business community, offering a professional value for money range of corporate opportunities. These will provide an ideal way for companies to entertain clients or reward staff with a great day out and a great sporting experience.

We have a range of packages at varying cost so we feel we can offer something for every budget.

The region has a fearsome sporting reputation and we want to become part of that. We want the name Gateshead Thunder to be synonymous with skill, effort and excitement and we want the spectators, players and local

businesses to be proud to associate their name with the club.

If you would like to discuss corporate opportunities with the club or would like to receive a copy of our corporate brochure, please call Steve Worsnop on 0191 440 0161.



VIEW FROM THE DOME

John Proud from Jesmond pens this week's view

You could say my interest in Rugby League was all Adolf Hitler's' fault. I mean, if it hadn't been for that silly war of his there wouldn't have been the hug upsurge of interest in sport in 1946. Every sport you can name had record attendances that year and as a sport deprived eleven-year-old, I was swept along with the tide.

My prime passion was soccer and I began to collect football pictures to put in a scrapbook. Most of my pictures came from the match reports in the Monday edition of the "Sporting Chronicle". Of course I had no idea that the newspaper was intended mainly for racing enthusiasts, so goodness knows what the newsagent thought when this small boy turned up every week and asked for a copy.

However, as well as soccer and racing, the paper also featured Rugby League and before long I had another scrapbook. My long association with the game had begun.

There was no chance, in those pre-TV days, of me ever seeing a game, so one of the first things I did was to buy a little book called "Know the Game - Rugby League". It's something I can recommend to all NFP referees!

However, this had unforeseen repercussions some years later when I was persuaded to play for Winlaton Vulcans. Well, you try playing Rugby Union when you only know the rules of Rugby League!

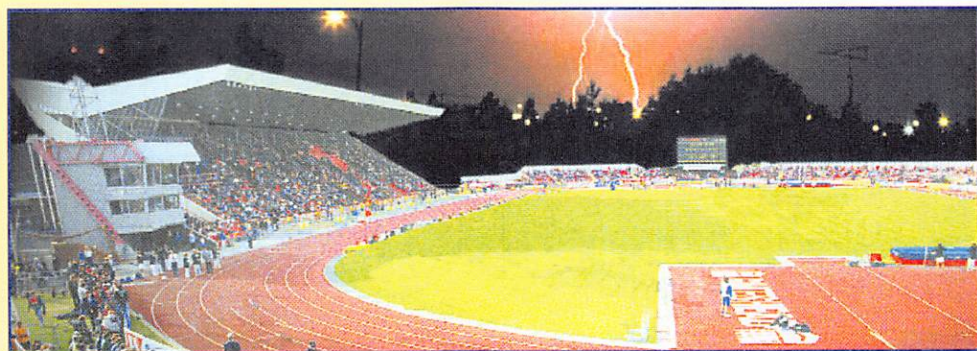
From then on my connection with the game will be familiar to many Thunder fans. Playing Union with League lads at college and in the RAF. Watching the game on "Grandstand" with Eddie Waring commenting. Poor lad. He was never popular in the "heartlands", but then, when was a prophet acclaimed by his own people?

There were various games here at the stadium, then in March 1999, after half a century, I had my own team to support. The rest you all know about.

Rugby League is a great game with a wonderful history. Part of that history has been its ability to innovate and move forwards. Now that momentum (sorry Stevo) seems to be faltering. There is a lack of confidence abroad. Some would have the game move back to the fifties. Well, I remember the fifties and they were no great shakes, believe me.

We need strong leadership from the RFL, a united game and no silly ideas like return to winter rugby. Arise Sir Rodney! Your time has arrived!

Oh! By the way , Happy Birthday Rich!



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

This week saw the Northern Region Development Camp take place in Durham.

Over 100 children aged from 12 to 15 were selected from the area camps held earlier this year.

A number of top coaches took the players through their paces, concentrating on every aspect of the game.

The North East was well represented with a number of participants who have progressed through our own development programme here on Tyneside.

The weeklong event will culminate in a series of games, which will be recorded on video. These videos will be analysed by GB Technical Director David Waite and players put forward to attend the National camp later in the year.

The event has been financed by Sport England through the World Class funding secured by the Rugby Football League.

Details of how our local lads got on will be given in our next programme.

In the meantime, congratulations to everyone from the area who was selected for the regional camp.

NORTH EAST SUMMER LEAGUE TABLES UP TO & INCLUDING 22ND APRIL 2001

UNDER 15	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Carlisle	3	2	0	1	46	76	4
Gateshead Panthers	1	1	0	0	58	0	2
Killingworth	2	1	0	1	44	41	2
Sunderland	2	1	0	1	41	54	1
Framwellgate	2	0	0	2	28	53	0
Newcastle Juniors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

UNDER 13	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Carlisle	3	3	0	0	124	20	6
Gateshead Vikings	3	2	0	1	104	32	4
Gateshead Warriors	2	1	0	1	48	20	2
Newcastle Juniors	2	0	0	2	4	88	0
Longbenton	2	0	0	2	8	124	0

This weeks results: UNDER 15

Carlisle 0 Gateshead Panthers 58

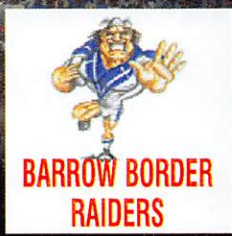
UNDER 13

Carlisle 24 Gateshead Vikings 12

Newcastle Juniors 4 Carlisle 44



**See the Thunder
repel the Raiders!**



**Sunday 17th June 2001
Kick Off 3.30pm**

Thunder Fanzine editor Richard 'Kirbs' Kirby



Last week's defeat against Batley Bulldogs demonstrated two things; the first is just how far this squad has improved since our early season reverse at Mount Pleasant. We are now scoring some exceptional tries, the like of which we only

used to concede and some of the defensive work inside our own twenty was magnificent.

Although we saw some fine individual performances from Lee Garside, Mike Johnson and Andy Grundy, my man of the match was Leon Williamson, whose efforts were rewarded with a couple of well-taken tries. Leon is the first to hold his hand up when he thinks he's played below his best, so I have no problem in highlighting Leon's fine current run of form.

Incidentally, I gather that what we saw from Lee Garside last Sunday was only a sample of what he's capable of producing, although it does take him some time to come up with the goods...

The second is the continuing frustration at how one man can still have such an influence on the outcome of a game. On the basis that this is the club's official publication, let me just say that some of the refereeing decisions last Sunday were "baffling". Given any sort of even

break we'd have won the game and won it convincingly, but (hardly for the first time this season) it wasn't to be and we must now look forward to today's visit of the highflying Oldham Roughyeds.

We visited Boundary Park back in February and, although we conceded over fifty points, there were some early signs that we were starting to find our feet in this division. Another feature of that rather chilly afternoon was the way we were treated by the home fans.

When you're struggling to get things right on the field, when you're striving to establish a new professional side in a soccer-mad region, you accept the occasional sneer from the flat-cap brigade. After all, it's part and parcel of terrace banter, but at Oldham it was different.

Whilst the majority of supporters around the league have offered words of encouragement, ALL the Oldham fans we met remembered their own club's recent history, knew what we were going through and expressed a wish for Gateshead Thunder to succeed. In this parochial sport, the attitude of the Oldham supporters should not go unnoticed and I bid the Roughyeds supporters the warmest of welcomes to Gateshead. I hope you enjoy your afternoon and look forward to seeing some of you at the Schooner after the game.

Get the latest copy of **Thunderstruck** from the Thunder Storm stall on the Tyne & Wear concourse

SQUADBUILDER

QUESTION : WHAT IS SQUADBUILDER?

SQUADBUILDER is a new initiative independent of both the club and Thunderstorm. It's prime objective is to raise funds to assist in the securing of new player contracts here at Gateshead Thunder.

Although independent, SQUADBUILDER has the full backing of the club and the supporters association and is based on a highly successful scheme that has been operating at Leigh Centurions for almost 3 years.

QUESTION : WHAT DOES IT COST ME?

You can support SQUADBUILDER by contributing "Lots" of £5 per month. That is half a lager a week and will go a long way to helping strengthen the squad.

QUESTION : HOW IS THE MONEY CONTROLLED?

The committee formed at the meeting on the 11th April will manage the money and handle any requests for funding a potential player from the club's coaching staff.

QUESTION : HOW DO I JOIN?

Simply contact

Ritchie Lloyd on 01254 603855 (Home)

07767 437602 (Mobile)

SQUADBUILDER

C/o 27 Cliff Street, Rishton, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 4EE.



SQUADBUILDER

Directions to Hull Kingston Rovers

Craven Park is in East Hull, the directions to Craven Park are: Follow the M62 all the way eastwards to J38 where it joins the A63 (Clive Sullivan Way), follow this under the Humber bridge, over the flyover and past the floodgates on the River Hull, at the first roundabout carry straight on on the A63, at the next roundabout carry straight on (3rd exit) joining the A1033 (Hedon Road). Follow this until you come to the signs for Craven Park (opposite Olivers garage) where you turn left at the traffic lights down Marfleet Lane.

At the next traffic lights turn right onto the dual carriageway (Preston Road). Craven Park is on your right opposite the cemetery.

SUPPORTERS BEHAVIOUR AT THE THUNDERDOME

Here at Gateshead Thunder we pride ourselves on being a friendly club. We encourage families and people from all cultural backgrounds to come and enjoy themselves at the Thunderdome.

We will not tolerate any foul or abusive language or anti social behaviour.

Nor will we tolerate racism of any kind and will take firm, specific action against supporters from EITHER team who engage in such behaviour, including racist chanting, abuse or intimidation of any kind.

THUNDER ON THE ROAD

Travel with the Thunder Army to watch the boys on their travels

Next away games

Hull Kingston Rovers - Sunday 10th June

Whitehaven - Sunday 24th June

Adults £10 (£9 for ThunderStorm members)
Children £5 (£4.50 for ThunderStorm members)

To book your seats call at the ThunderStorm stall on the Tyne & Wear South Concourse, e-mail transport@thunder-storm.co.uk or telephone John Claber on 0191 371 9006

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

A very Happy Birthday Dad, lots of love Rebecca xxxx

Have a great day Dad, love Chris

All my love for your Birthday Richard, Lorraine xxxxxx

Hope it's a good one Kirbs,
lots o lurve frim Loosely, Stove & Eclair

TODAY'S NFP FIXTURES

Hunslet Hawks v Hull KR

Keighly Cougars v Sheffield Eagles

Leigh Centurions v Chorley Lynx

Oldham Roughyeds v Doncaster Dragons

Rochdale Hornets v Swinton Lions

Whitehaven v Barrow Border Raiders

Workington Town v Widnes Vikings

York Wasps v Dewsbury Rams

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SUNDAY 17TH JUNE

SUPER FANS SUNDAY

Celebrating the BEST supporters in Rugby League

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3.30pm

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Bouncy Castle • Face Painting • Games • Music from Grease

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Prize for best fancy dress after the presentations

70's Disco in the main hall

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TODAY'S TEAMS



THUNDER

Michael Johnson	1
Paul Thorman	2
Steve Hall	3
Gareth Lloyd	4
Leon Williamson	5
Scott Dyson	6
Carl Briggs	7
Lee Garside	8
Roy Southernwood	9
Andy Grundy	10
James Carlton	11
Steven Bradley	12
Chris Parker	13
Martin Gambles	14
Paul Sebine	15
Stephen Rutherford	16
Gareth Baron	17

Match Officials

Referee
Touch Judge
Touch Judge
4th Official



OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

Mark Sibson
Joe McNicholas
Anthony Gibbons
Pat Rich
Daryl Lacey
Dave Gibbons
Neil Roden
Jason Clegg
Keith Brennan
Paul Norton
Phil Farrell
Brian Henare
Kevin Mannion
John Hough
Danny Guest
Gavin Dodd
Ian Sinfield

Mr R. Laughton
Mr P. Grundhill
Mr P. Wharton
Mr G. Hewer