



TODAY'S TEAMS



OLDHAM

SWINTON LIONS

Mike FORD Coach Tony HUMPHRIES

Mark SIBSON **1** Wayne JACKMAN

Gavin DODD **2** Mike WOODS

David GIBBONS **3** Matt BATEMAN

Jon GODDARD **4** Stuart DICKINSON

Joe McNICHOLAS **5** Jason ROACH

Gareth BARBER **6** Karl FITZPATRICK

John BRADDISH **7** Craig DEAN

Simon KNOX **8** Andy LEATHAM

John HOUGH **9** Danny BUTLER

Jason CLEGG **10** Alan SHEA

Phil FARRELL **11** Dale HOLDSTOCK

Bryan HENARE **12** Chris NEWALL

Tommy HODKINSON **13** Jason JOHNSON

Gavin JOHNSON **14** Wayne ENGLISH

Lee DORAN **15** Ian LEWIS

Danny GUEST **16** Hugh THORPE

Leo CASEY **17** Craig WINGFIELD

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

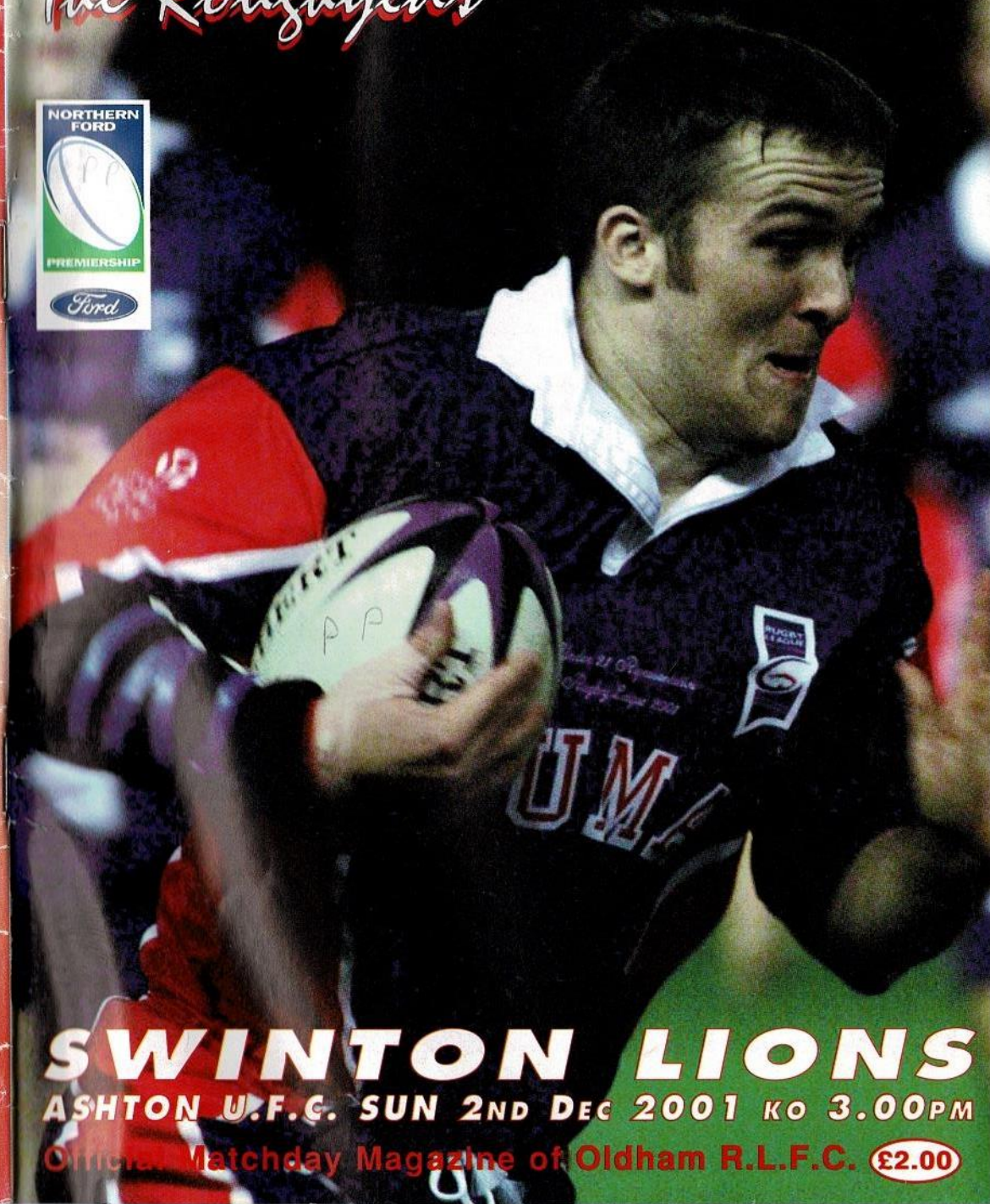
D. TURTLE  REFEREE:

M. HAWKS  RON

R. HICKS  4th LAUGHTON

OLDHAM RLFC

The Roughyeds



SWINTON LIONS

ASHTON U.F.C. SUN 2ND DEC 2001 KO 3.00PM

Official Matchday Magazine of Oldham R.L.F.C. £2.00

OLDHAM

at the very heart of the North West

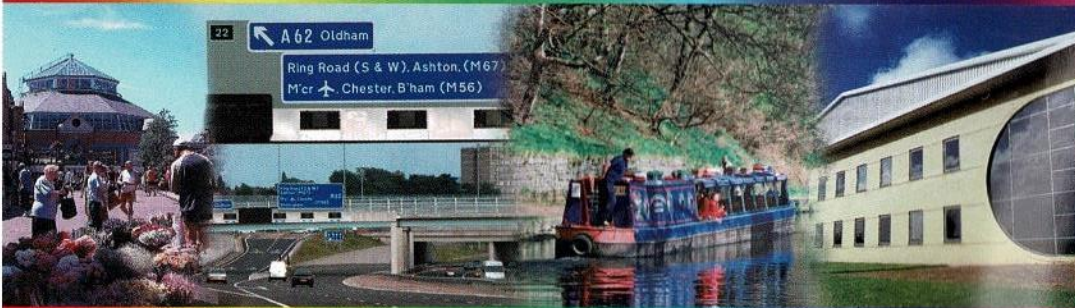
Oldham continues to take significant strides to be THE desirable place to live, work or visit at the heart of the North West.

Massive investment in regeneration and renewal continues apace and Oldham has the region's largest town centre based indoor shopping area.

Businesses are benefiting from the new M60 motorway which now puts Oldham less than 25 minutes away from Manchester Airport. A new bus station and the anticipation of the Metrolink tram system coming to Oldham soon further strengthen the appeal of the town for investment and new opportunities.

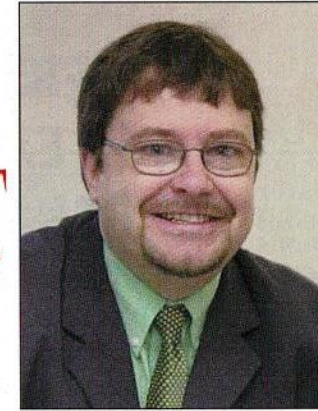
Add to this superb opportunities for education and training, including a new Business Management School, exciting developments in tourism and the arts like the newly opened Huddersfield Narrow Canal and the soon-to-be opened Art Gallery and the desirability of Oldham becomes even clearer.

Enquiries to the Marketing and Communications Unit, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UG. Telephone 0161 911 4707, Fax 0161 911 4936. E-mail ce.presspr@oldham.gov.uk, or visit our website at www.oldham.gov.uk



OLDHAM
Metropolitan Borough

IN THE HOT SEAT



with
Christopher Hamilton

HERE we are again! It doesn't seem long ago that we were playing in the Grand Final and, although having lost we were hoping that the experience would stand us in good stead when it came to the challenge that lay ahead for the season.

How a short period of time can bring you back to earth with a bump! Just when we thought that, after vacating Boundary Park so that the new pitch could be laid, leaving the way clear for us to play a full season in our home town and with the first opportunity since our formation to build up our support base and sponsor base on the back of relative success... the rug has been pulled from under our feet.

Everybody is now aware that, instead of saying publicly what they said in meetings; ie that they did not want Oldham RLFC to play at Boundary Park, Oldham Athletic simply increased their rent demands to a level that they knew was beyond, not only our financial means but, I would suggest, most of the clubs in the rugby football league. There were several weeks of prolonged negotiations between the two clubs and Oldham Council. All of which were fruitless and, with three weeks to go to the start of the season, we were faced with the dilemma of having no ground to play our games on, in a season which will be the longest for a considerable time.

As ever, everyone at the Club pulled together and after many long, hard days of trying to find a new ground we now find ourselves here today at Ashton United. We must place on record our thanks to Terry Styring, Chairman of Ashton United, his fellow Board Members and all their staff for their willingness to accommodate us, and for their co-operation in helping us to reach the stage where we are now ready to put on our first game. We hope to be back in Oldham as soon as is practically possible, but in the meantime we will make the most of the situation we find ourselves in and hope that, once again, you the supporters will stick with us in this difficult time.

As I said previously, we are about to embark on a long, demanding season and today will not be an easy start against a Swinton side which, with a new coach and several new players, will be keen to impress. Our own squad, with the additions of Simon Knox, Tommy Hodgkinson, John Braddish, Will Cowell and Jon Goddard, will not be short of ambition and it should make for an exciting start.

Enjoy the Game.

Chris



The Roughyeds
**Oldham Rugby League Football
Club (1997) Limited**

**64 UNION STREET
OLDHAM OL1 1DJ
TELEPHONE: 0161 628 3677
FAX: 0161 627 5700
CLUB SHOP: 0161 627 2141**

CHAIRMAN
Christopher Hamilton
DIRECTORS
Christopher Hamilton, Stewart
Hardacre, Sean Whitehead
HEAD COACH
Mike Ford
ASSISTANT COACH
John Henderson
ALLIANCE COACH
Mark Knight
ACADEMY COACH
Shaun Gartland
ACADEMY MANAGER
Pete Beswick
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
Lisa Sharratt & Danni Turner
CONDITIONER
Andy Proctor
TIMEKEEPER
John Barrett
CLUB DOCTOR
Dr Ian Wilkinson
STATISTICS
Eddie Barton, Bruce Deadman
PROGRAMME EDITOR
Geoff Cooke

CLUB HONOURS
A J Law Cup Winners 1998,
1999/2000
Trans Pennine Cup Finalist 1998
NFP Grand Finalists 2001
HALL OF FAME MEMBERS
(SPONSORED BY J. W. LEES, BREWERS)
Joe Ferguson 1899-23, Herman Hilton
1913-26, Alan Davies 1950-62,
Frank Stirrup 1950-62, Bernard
Ganley 1950-61, John Etty 1954-59,
Derek Turner 1955-59, Bob Irving
1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,
Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

Front Cover: Oldham RLFC was proudly represented by have five players, Phil Farrell, Gavin Dodd, Gareth Barber, Lee Doran and Neil Roden all included in the NFP u21 side that recently defeated Super League U21's 28-22 at Widnes. The photograph depicts Phil Farrell driving in the ball

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF OLDHAM RLFC (1997) LTD.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE & RUGBY LEAGUE EXPRESS FOR THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

D.A.L.
DEREK ANTHONY LTD.
 General Sheetmetal Workers &
 Structural Steel Fabricators
 UNITS 4/5 · WHITESWAN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
 DERKER STREET · OLDHAM OL1 3LY
 Tel. 0161 627 4200 · Fax. 0161 627 3616
 WISH ORLFC EVERY SUCCESS FOR 2002

**SPEEDY HIRE CENTRES
 (NORTHERN) LTD.**
 OLDHAM DEPOT
 Tel 0161 626 8111
 For all your
 Plant & Tool Hire Needs
*Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds
 throughout the 2002 Season*

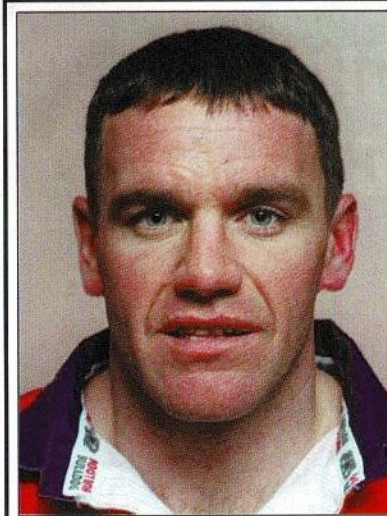
**PERSONAL TYRES
 EXHAUSTS &
 GARAGE SERVICES**

PUNCTURE REPAIRS · WHEEL BALANCING
 TRACKING · SHOCKERS · SERVICING
 CLUTCHES · BRAKES · WELDING
 M.O.T. REPAIRS · EXHAUSTS



BEEVER STREET · OLDHAM OL1 3TD
 Tel: 0161 624 2826 & 0161 628 9949
 Fax: 0161 628 9949

 **FORD FOCUS** ... with Mike Ford



WELCOME to a new season and if it's anything like the last one you can be sure of plenty of entertainment and excitement. So far we have improved each year since I became Coach and that is what we are looking to do again. If each individual player improves then it follows that the whole team will improve. Our new players have all been with us for several week and have trained well, although it takes time to learn our plays and adapt to our system. That is why the two warm-up games were important as there is nothing like game time to put things into practice and get the rustiness out of the system. The only drawbacks are injuries and suspension with Kevin Mannion, Anthony Gibbons, Neil Roden, Paul Norton and now, possibly Keith Brennan unavailable. Our main rivals all tend to have bigger squads than us

but we will look to strengthen as and when we can.

This year our training base has been at Manor Park where we have enjoyed the use of great facilities and hospitality. However, I must record our thanks to all concerned at Castleton Gabriels who have been terrific with us all the time we have been there and to whom we owe an enormous debt of gratitude.


In welcoming today's opponents, Swinton, we realise we are up against a much changed side playing under a new Coach and are sure that they will provide formidable opposition. They seem to have assembled a strong squad and we will be taking nothing for granted. Although we would like to play open football we recognise that ball retention is all important, so we will be working to play as error free as possible.

The N.F.P. looks very strong this year with the likes of Huddersfield, Leigh and Rochdale sure to be among the challengers. Other strong sides will be Hull K.R., Doncaster, Workington and Whitehaven where Paul Cullen started his training build up for this season last August.

The ground situation is outside the players' control and we only focus on those things within our control. Our attitude, therefore, is that we will play anyone, anywhere at any time. However, we are all in this together and we would ask you, the supporters, to be patient. It's a long season and we don't want you to get frustrated, because at some point there will be a sticky patch and we all need to pull together at the low points. We would love to top the league but if it doesn't happen it doesn't and the important thing, as we showed last year, is to be firing on all cylinders at the business end of the season.

As ever, enjoy today's game,

Mike

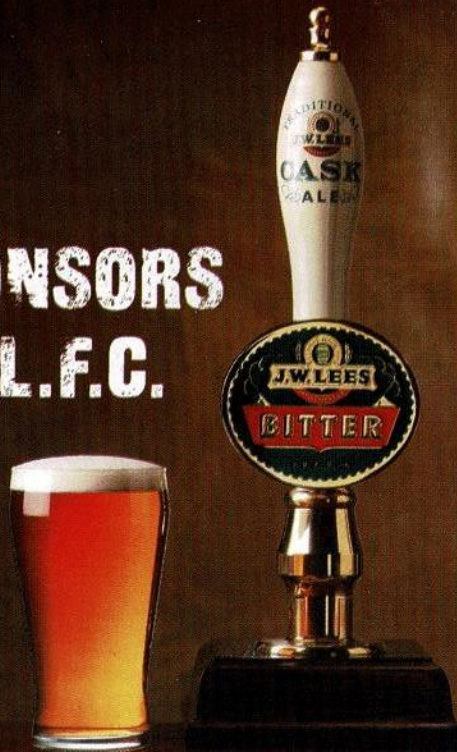

hall needham associates architects
 136 Werneth Hall Road
 Coppice, Oldham, OL8 1QZ
 Tel: 0161 624 4445
 Fax: 0161 633 6570

RIBBLE PACKAGING LIMITED
 MANUFACTURERS OF SPECIALISED CORRUGATED PRODUCTS
 PACKAGING SOLUTIONS FOR BRITISH INDUSTRY
 GREENGATE ST. OLDHAM OL4 1DF
0161-284 9000



**HOME SHIRT SPONSORS
OF OLDHAM R.L.F.C.**

A FIXTURE NOT TO BE MISSED



In Yer Face

FIXTURES and RESULTS 2000 - 20001

Date	Opponents	Competition	Venue	Result	Score
03.12.00.	BARROW R.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	28 - 16
17.12.00.	WORKINGTON T.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	22 - 6
24.12.00.	ROCHDALE.H.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	10 - 6
01.01.01.	WIDNES V.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	20 - 12
14.01.01.	LEIGH C.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Lost	18 - 44
28.01.01.	QUEENSBURY (amt)	RLCC 3rd Rnd	Home	Won	64 - 0
30.01.01.	CHORLEY L.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	56 - 2
13.02.01.	HULL K.R.	RLCC 4th Rnd	Home	Won	17 - 6
18.02.01.	GATESHEAD T.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	52 - 6
25.02.01.	WAKEFIELD T.W.	RLCC 5th Rnd	Home	Lost	6 - 26
11.03.01.	DEWSBURY R.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Lost	13 - 18
14.03.01.	WHITEHAVEN W.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Lost	8 - 19
18.03.01.	SHEFFIELD E.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	24 - 16
25.03.01.	FEATHERSTONE R.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Lost	8 - 22
28.03.01.	HUNSLET H.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	58 - 4
01.04.01.	YORK W.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	70 - 6
08.04.01.	BATLEY B.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	26 - 8
13.04.01.	ROCHDALE H.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Lost	10 - 38
16.04.01.	WIDNES V.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Lost	16 - 34
22.04.01.	BATLEY B.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	9 - 8
25.04.01.	DONCASTER D.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	23 - 4
29.04.01.	KEIGHLEY C.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	38 - 4
02.05.01.	SWINTON L.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	33 - 10
06.05.01.	BARRROW B.R.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	36 - 10
09.05.01.	SWINTON L.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home	Won	22 - 20
13.05.01.	CHORLEY L.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	60 - 10
20.05.01.	WORKINGTON T.	Northern Ford Premiership	Home*	Won	24 - 18
03.06.01.	GATESHEAD T.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	20 - 50
16.06.01.	WHITEHAVEN W.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	16 - 15
23.06.01.	KEIGHLEY C.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Won	26 - 16
01.07.01.	HULL K.R.	Northern Ford Premiership	Away	Lost	4 - 24
08.07.01.	LEIGH C.	NFP prelim semi final	Away	Won	15 - 14
22.07.01.	ROCHDALE H.	NFP Major semi final	Away	Won	39 - 32
28.07.01.	WIDNES V.	NFP Grand Final	Neutral*	Lost	14 - 24
	Other	Match			
19.11.00	South Sydney	Friendly	Home	Draw	14 - 14

news
sport
home from home
music
food for thought
talking business
computing
autoworld
gardening
holidays

*Catch the
Chronicle!*

the **daily** choice
for local **News**
and **Sport**

**OLDHAM
CHRONICLE**

Take it as read!

www.oldham-chronicle.co.uk



'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to December 2nd yesteryear

IT WAS on this day in 1997, Tuesday 2nd December that the newly formed Oldham club pulled off their first signing. Hooker John Hough was that historic first capture, joining his hometown club after a short spell with Warrington. During his four seasons with the Roughyeds, Hough has appeared in 107 matches including two finals, both unfortunately lost, so although he will be hoping to continue his run of first team appearances, John will be looking for a different conclusion to next September's NFP play-offs.

Ninety-years ago, on Saturday 2nd December 1911, Oldham lost another final when Rochdale Hornets defeated them 12-5 in the Lancashire Cup. The Roughyeds were firm favourites to win that final which was staged at Broughton before a crowd of 20,000. Inexplicably, an Oldham side containing eleven internationals was outplayed by a Hornets team, which thoroughly deserved their victory. Kiwi international George Smith scored the Oldham points, a try and conversion, on what was a disappointing afternoon for the club.



George Smith

The Lancashire Cup competition was a popular early season knock-out tournament, which ran from 1905 to 1992. The first Lancashire Cup Final was also staged at Broughton on Saturday 2nd December 1905 when Leigh met Wigan. The attendance was 16,000 although those present were disappointed with the fare on show as the match ended in a scoreless draw.

There was not another drawn Lancashire Cup Final until 1967 when the two finalists were St. Helens and Warrington. The replay was staged on the old Station Road ground at Swinton on Saturday 2nd December and again a close match resulted. The teams were level at half time, 3-apiece, before St. Helens

pulled away to win 13-10. A couple of players included in the Warrington line-up that day are well known in the Oldham area. Back-row forward Billy Churm, a former Royton junior, was substitute whilst at loose forward was Ray Clark who later moved to Oldham and who is now involved with the Butterworth Park complex at Castleton where the Oldham alliance and academy teams played and where the club's training headquarters were once based.

Thirty-nine years ago, on Sunday 2nd December 1962, Great Britain stumbled to a disappointing defeat across the Channel in Perpignan. The Lions, who earlier that year had come within a whisker of whitewashing the Kangaroos in their own backyard, were beaten 17-12 by France. At fullback for Great Britain in that test was Ken Gowers, arguably the most talented fullback in the history of the Swinton club. Gowers is a native of Rochdale and the son of an outstanding servant to the Rochdale Hornets' club, Walter Gowers. Despite this Rochdale declined to sign Gowers junior from the Kirkholt amateur club because they considered him to be too small. He certainly was no giant in stature but between 1954 and 1973 he made 642 appearances for Swinton, Lancashire and Great Britain, scoring 2,315 points including 1,075 goals. Rochdale's loss was indeed Swinton's gain.

On Thursday 2nd December 1993 Great Britain met France at under-21 level. The match was staged at Wilderspool, Warrington where the British youngsters defeated France more easily than the 28-16 scoreline suggests. Two late French tries made the score respectable. Two members of the British team that evening later enjoyed short spells with the Roughyeds. Standoff Francis Maloney was then with Featherstone Rovers and is now at Salford, whilst second-row forward Mark Perrett was with Halifax at that time. Another local connection came in the shape of winger Iestyn Harris, then of Warrington but now involved with kick and clap although he obviously keeps in touch with proper rugby judging by the solidarity he showed towards Oldham during the recent ground sharing talks.

Adamsons

CRASH REPAIR CENTRE

**MOTOR BODY ACCIDENT
REPAIR SPECIALISTS**

Approved repairers to all
leading insurance companies

Telephone

**0161 627 4001
0161 624 1904**

Cross Street Bottom o'th Moor
Oldham OL4 1JG

**24 HOUR RECOVERY SERVICE
• QUALITY WORKMANSHIP ALWAYS •**



*As approved distributor for many of
Europe's leading manufacturers, we
support an extensive stock range with
guaranteed delivery and unrivalled
technical expertise*



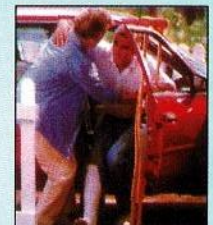
Certificate No. 910554

Marshall Pump Systems Limited,
Rhodes Bank · Oldham · OL1 1UA
Tel: 0161 678 6111 · Fax: 0161 627 0913 (Sales)
Fax: 0161 628 7747 (Service)
E-mail: info@marshallpumps.co.uk
Web Site: www.marshallpumps.co.uk

HAD AN ACCIDENT?
YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION

**NO WIN, NO FEE
FREE HOME VISITS**

FIRST INTERVIEW FREE WITHOUT ANY OBLIGATIONS



CALL US NOW ON:

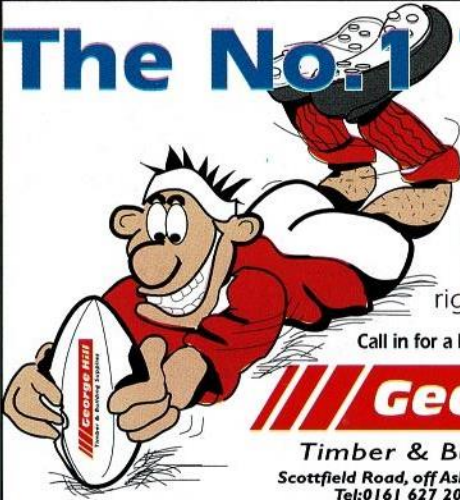
0800 917 7278

WE KNOW THE ANSWER

KEITH DYSON SOLICITORS
THE PERSONAL INJURY SPECIALISTS

39 Liverpool Road Castlefield Manchester M3 4NQ
Tel: 0161 832 9933

The No.1 TEAM



At GEORGE HILL it's never a **TRYING** experience. We have all the products you need to get the right **RESULT** every time.

Call in for a helping hand not a **HAND-OFF**

George Hill

Timber & Building Supplies
 Scottfield Road, off Ashton Road, Oldham OL8 1LB
 Tel: 0161 627 2020 Fax: 0161 633 2250
 E-mail: sales@georgehill-timber.co.uk www.georgehill-timber.co.uk

RYDER & DUTTON

ESTATE AGENTS
VALUERS AND SURVEYORS

Wherever you see this sign you can be assured of an efficient and professional approach to any property matter

7/15 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1HA
 Tel. 0161 652 1234
 www.ryder-dutton.co.uk

Also at Chadderton, Middleton, Shaw, Uppermill, Heywood, Glossop, Mossley & Ashton-u-Lyne

LAWRENCE PERRINS & SONS LIMITED

Established 1947

Plumbers • Electricians Heating Engineering Security Systems

176 OLDHAM ROAD, SPRINGHEAD, OLDHAM OL4 5SJ
 TEL 0161 624 1723 FAX 0161 624 3798




Goodwin BEST

Contact Goodwin Best for a quality assured, professional review of your commercial risk insurances. Exclusive facilities for local businesses incorporating Risk Management and Health & Safety Audits.

Commercial Insurance Brokers
 Castle House, Schofield Street, Oldham, OL8 1QL
 Tel: 0161 628 2200 Fax: 0161 628 7785





WRIGLEY CLAYDON

SOLICITORS since 1795

29/33 UNION STREET OLDHAM OL1 1HH
 TEL : 0161 624 6811 FAX : 0161 624 3743
 EMAIL: info@wrigleyclaydon.com WEB: www.wrigleyclaydon.com
 PLEASED TO BE PART OF THE TEAM

Alliance & Academy

.....with Shaun Gartland and Mark Knight

Review of the Alliance Season 2001

DIVISION ONE FINAL TABLE
 (Last Season's Final Placings in brackets)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Widnes (1)	18	14	1	3	574	279	295	29
Oldham (7)	18	14	0	4	595	368	227	28
Leigh (3)	18	13	1	4	594	267	327	27
Keighley (10)	18	12	1	5	448	398	50	25
Rochdale (8)	18	9	0	9	421	429	-8	18
Featherstone (4)	18	6	1	11	305	444	-139	13
Doncaster (-)	18	6	0	12	412	517	-105	12
Batley (6)	18	5	1	12	275	470	-195	11
Workington (9)	18	4	1	13	332	478	-146	9
Whitehaven (2)	18	4	0	14	215	521	-306	8

TOP TRIES
 19 Gavin Dodd (Oldham); 17 Wayne Green (Doncaster); 15 Paul George (Widnes); 14 Mike Briggs (Widnes); 13 Matt Foster (Keighley), Gavin Johnson (Oldham) & Lee Sanderson (Leigh); 12 Gareth Barber (Oldham), Mark Flanagan (Widnes) & Jason Johnson (Leigh); 11 Wayne McHugh (Rochdale); 10 Chris Foran (Widnes) & Will Jordan (Featherstone).
 Best individual: 7 Keiron Purtill (Leigh); 5 Dodd; 4 Briggs, Foster Twice & Stephen Jones (Featherstone).

Elimination Play-Off:
 Keighley 38 Rochdale 29

Qualifying Play-Off:
 Oldham 16 Leigh 27

Semi-Final Eliminator:
 Oldham 14 Keighley 16

Semi-Final Qualifier:
 Widnes 43 Leigh 42

Final Qualifier:
 Leigh 46 Keighley 10

GRAND FINAL:
 Widnes 13 LEIGH 19

TOP GOALS
 70 Sanderson; 61 Green; 39 George Mack (Batley); 34 Mark Holker (Keighley) & Jamie Winrow (Widnes)
 Best individual: 9 Sanderson; 8 Green, Liam Jones (Widnes) & Winrow; 7 Warren Ayres (Rochdale), Holker, Mack & Sanderson three times
 Top field goals: 5 Paul Ashton (Rochdale/Keighley) & Barber

FIFTY PLUS SCORES
 Widnes 68 Whitehaven 2; Widnes 64 Keighley 0; Oldham 64 Whitehaven 10; Keighley 58 Whitehaven 6; Leigh 58 Keighley 10; Oldham 56 Keighley 12; Doncaster 16 Oldham 56; Oldham 18 Leigh 54; Oldham 54 Doncaster 28; Leigh 52 Whitehaven 4; Widnes 52 Batley 6; Widnes 52 Featherstone 10; Leigh 52 Workington 20.

TOP POINTS
 192 Sanderson; 186 Green; 106 Mack; 97 Barber; 88 Dodd; 86 Jones, 84 Holker; 82 Keigh Brennan (Oldham), 80 Winrow; 78 Craig Wingfield (Leigh); 60 George; 56 Ayres & Briggs; 55 Ashton; 54 Foster & James Walker (Keighley); 52 Flanagan & Johnson; 50 Danny Naylor (Oldham)
 Best individual: 28 Purtill; 26 Sanderson; 23 Green; 20 Barber, Brennan, Dodd, Jones, Sanderson twice and Winrow.

BEST WINNING SEQUENCES
 10 Widnes; 6 Leigh (twice) & Oldham

BEST HOME
 21 Widnes; 9 Leigh (10 undefeated)

BEST AWAY
 7 Oldham

ALL STAR TEAM
 Gavin Dodd (Oldham); Danny Horne (Keighley), Wayne McHugh (Rochdale), Mark Flanagan (Widnes), Will Jordan (Featherstone); Chris Dootson, Lee Sanderson (both Leigh); David Mills, Mike Briggs (both Widnes), Paul Norman (Leigh), Lee Doran (Oldham), Alan Shea (Widnes), Chris Wainwright (Keighley)
 Subs: Wayne Green (Doncaster), Gareth Barber (Oldham), Paul George, Gareth Haggerty (both Widnes)

Leigh were undefeated at home, with Keighley suffering one defeat. Batley, Doncaster and Workington failed to win away, the latter recording a draw.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
 With thanks to League Express



SWINTON LIONS

SINCE last the Roughyeds met the Lions Swinton have acquired a new Coach in TONY HUMPHRIES the well respected former Warrington back-row forward who is predicted to improve the fortunes of the Gigg Lane outfit. Humphries has signed a number of new players and at the commencement of a new season boasts a squad of 31 from which to select his team. This includes 13 new signings as follows:-

CRAIG DEAN Scrum Half - Craig played for Halifax under Steve Simms, before he moved to Leigh. Plagued with injury in his time at Leigh but has now made a full recovery and has been made captain of the team where his experience will be a vital asset. Will be the hub of the Lions attack and is a top quality player.

ANDY LEATHAM Prop Forward - New signing this year played for Leigh last season, previously with St Helens for six years. Big strong and fast forward will provide power and leadership.

STEVE GEE Second Row Forward - Steve is also a new signing from Widnes he scored a try in last seasons Grand Final, Steve is a big strong runner and will be a great asset to the Lions. Once a star at Lancashire Lynx Gee will be a dangerous wide runner.

JASON JOHNSON Loose Forward/Stand Off Jason played for Leigh in last seasons campaign, after signing from St. Helens. Excellent ball player.

CRAIG WINGFIELD Second Row - Signed from Leigh this year. Craig played most of last year in the reserves. Will prove himself this year.

JASON ROACH Wing/Full Back - Roachy returns for his third spell with the Lions, he is big powerful and pacy previous clubs St. Helens, Warrington, Castleford, Whitehaven and (almost) Oldham.

NEIL HAYDEN Scrum Half/Stand Off - Neil is our youngest player Signed from rivals Salford. But is a Swinton lad target for Sale Rugby Union but declined their offer, to play for the Lions, very quick and elusive players and works hard in defence.

HUGH THORPE Centre - Hugh played for the English Students on the Tour of Russia last year big and powerful centre.

JOHN WHALLEY Scrum Half/Stand Off - New signing from Warrington at only 18 years of age plays way above his years. Strong running half back with lots of confidence.

ADAM HUGHES Fullback - Adam is a new signing played for Widnes last season and won their Alliance Player of the Year. Strong runner and solid tackler prominent in their first team squad last year.

WAYNE JACKSON Full Back - Signed from St. Helens amateur club Thatto Heath last season, proved to be a top player before breaking his jaw at Workington. Very reliable full back.

MIKE WOODS Wing - Signed at the same time as Wayne Jackson from Thatto Heath Mike was the top try scorer in the BARLA Conference last season.

ALAN SHEA Second Row - As yet only a loan signing from Widnes Vikings. A young back-rower full of potential.

Among the players retained by Swinton from last season there are several of outstanding ability. First among them is **MICK NANYN** Centre - Product of the Academy broke into the first team when he was only 17 years of age and has been a permanent fixture since. Mick played for G.B. Students and more recently played for NFP Under 21s against the Super League 21s. One of the best young centres in the game today.

ROB BARRACLOUGH Hooker - Signed from Warrington in 2000, won Player of the Year in 2001.

Very strong tackler, pocket battleship. A former Great Britain Judo and Wrestling Junior Champion.

SHAUN FUREY Scrum Half/Stand Off - Shaun is another product of the Lions Academy side very talented player who has been unlucky with niggling injuries.



Lee Hansen

LEE HANSEN Prop Forward - Ex Leigh, Wigan, Widnes and Keighley player featured in the World Cup with Tonga. Very fit strong forward. Never takes a backward step. Always a handful. One of the best props in the NFP.

JON NEIL Prop Forward - Veteran Jon played for St. Helens and Huddersfield before signing for the Lions. Jon was out of action for most of last season with ligament damage. A powerful prop capable of causing damage to any defence.

CHRIS NEWALL Back Row Forward - Chris signed from Rochdale last season but like so many players broke his jaw now fully recovered and raring to go.

MATT BATEMAN Centre/Wing - Signed for the Lions in 1999 from St. Helens good turn of pace and good sidestep featured regularly in the first team since his arrival, started out with Eccles.

PHIL CUSHION Prop/Second Row - Played for John Prince's Academy side as a centre, worked his way into the first team and has matured into strong running and tackling prop regular first team player for the last 3 years.

JIMMY EVANS Utility Back - Jimmy is the longest serving player in the squad signed from Folly Lane and played for England Students. Good all round player.

DALE HOLDSTOCK Second Row - Son of Roy Holdstock, ex Hull KR prop forward, signed from St. Helens last season, proving to be a very strong and intelligent player.

DANNY BUTLER Utility Player - Danny signed from St Helens last year and proved to be a vital asset to the team, playing nearly every position in the team.

ADE MEAD Wing - Ade signed last season from Oldham he was a regular member of the first team squad, quick and elusive.

IAN LEWIS Utility Player - Signed from Leigh in the middle of last season on loan and has now secured a permanent deal with Lions for this season. Very tall strong running forward or back.

GARETH CHAMBERS Second Row - Ex Wigan player, signed for the Lions last season, strong all round player.

ROB GALLAGHER Stand Off - Signed from Wigan St. Pats last season, shows maturity above his years. Came to fruition at the end of last season.

BARLA GB U.18 and GB Students Representative honours.

LEE HUDSON Winger - Signed from Rochdale. Pacy runner, regular squad member last season.

KARL FITZPATRICK Half Back - Karl signed for Widnes after being spotted by Doug Loughton playing for GB Under 17's. He has plenty of first team experience with Widnes also had a short spell playing in France. Excellent organiser.

STUART DICKINSON Centre/Wing - Stuart originally signed for Leigh where he was a regular before breaking his leg, he then signed for Chorley Lynx where he was leading try scorer last season. Stuart is quick and elusive.

FORECASTING anything in sport is a dangerous game but I've never been frightened to stick my neck out so I'll provide my usual opinion for you to laugh at or take apart at your leisure.

Before I do, however, I would point out that I didn't do too badly last season. For example: "top of the tree - look no further than Dewsbury and Leigh". The Centurions of course finished as Minor Premiers (top of the League to you and me!). And I could not be expected to foresee the collapse of the Rams. My reasoning was that Dewsbury had a top Coach and some top players and since that Coach and several of his players departed for Widnes and went on to win the Grand Final I think I was fully justified in my opening day predictions.

At the other end of the table I said Chorley would definitely not finish bottom and I am pleased to record that they didn't. I also predicted the Cumbrian trio of Barrow, Whitehaven and Workington would fall just short of the play-offs and was right again.

Of Oldham I said: "They should be serious challengers for honours." Not bad, eh?

Widnes did better than expected but that was down to pinching Neil Kelly and half the Dewsbury team, while I thought Featherstone and Hull K.R. might slip. Fev duly finished 5th as in the previous season and the Robins scraped into eighth spot with a final day defeat of Oldham.

My big failures were Keighley and Rochdale. The Cougars had the plug pulled when their millionaire backer decided enough was enough (watch out Latics!), while Hornets, brilliantly coached by Martin Hall, took advantage of other clubs off-loading big wage players in mid-season to strengthen their squad to some tune.

As to this season, we have the rarity of a new side in the League in Huddersfield who, with a full time squad, should be one of the top dogs. However they will not be able to underestimate the current N.F.P. big guns and together with Leigh, Oldham and Rochdale should constitute a 'big four' though I'm not confident enough to forecast in what order they'll finish.

My reading of the rest is that Workington will make the play-offs this time (and it's a top 9 this season), principally because they've signed Martin Wood. An injury free Whitehaven could join them, because in Paul Cullen they have one of the best Coaches in the game. Hull K.R. and Featherstone will still be there or thereabouts but Fev will miss Peter Roe at the helm. Incidentally, if ever a Coach deserved a Super League break it's Roe: I only hope Wakefield isn't a poisoned chalice.

God only knows about Dewsbury and Keighley. To date the Rams have signed 23 new players and dispensed with 14, and since I'm not Russell Grant I can't tell you what this will mean. Meanwhile, the Cougars will rely heavily on home grown talent and are likely to be good, but not that good.

Elsewhere I expect Batley, Swinton and York to do better than last time and think Barrow and Hunslet will struggle. And I think Sheffield, Gateshead and Chorley will be fighting with the latter two near the bottom, though once again I say the Lynx will NOT prop up the table!

EDITORS STAR SIGNINGS FOR 2001-2

ROCHDALE: RICHARD AGAR, DAMIAN BALL, RICHARD PACHNIUK

SWINTON: CRAIG DEAN, ANDY LEATHAM, STEVE GEE

OLDHAM: TOMMY HODGKINSON, SIMON KNOX, JOHN BRADDISH

DONCASTER: JASON LEE, MARTIN MOANA, MARVIN GOLDEN

CHORLEY: SARFRAZ PATEL, TIM STREET, STEVE ARGENT

GATESHEAD: DAVID MYCOE, IAN HUGHES

DEWSBURY: RICHARD SLATER, FRANK WATENE

WORKINGTON: MARTIN WOOD

WHITEHAVEN: CHRIS MCKINNEY

Walkerbout

... with Brian Walker



CONGRATULATIONS to George Piggins and all concerned with the South Sydney club in forcing the issue and succeeding in getting the Rabbitohs back where they belong – in the NRL. A superb crew with tons of tenacity! At the time of writing it was planned that Oscar winning Russell Crowe, a lifelong Souths fan, would belt out a few tunes with his band, 'Thirty Odd Foot of Grunts' at a 'Thank The Fans' day held in sunny Sydney. Glad he didn't make last season's curtain raiser although the Roughyettes probably wouldn't agree!



Kevin Fitzpatrick

Expect a call from Saddleworth Rangers and ex-Roughyeds half back Kevin Fitzpatrick! The young journalist is currently putting together a Roughyeds memories CD surrounding the clubs' Hall of Fame. As well as interviewing lots of fans I understand he has

had the mike in front of the likes of Alan Davies, John Eddy, Frank Stirrup, Martin Murphy, Andy Goodway and Bernard Ganley. The CD is targeted for release late next spring and I'm sure we'll be kept posted.



Congratulations to Oldham fan and former club forward Les Anthony who celebrated his 80th birthday the other day. Les, who still rarely misses a game, played three times for the Welsh RU International, side all during the 1948 season, against England, Scotland and France and 113 first team games for Oldham RLFC.



Les Anthony



Oldham Sixth Form College pride themselves in the success rate achieved by students taking their 'A' level PE course. 70% of the course work is theory and one of the six areas that students are expected to study surrounds the history of sport. Oldham RL Heritage Trust ensures that students are encouraged to include rugby league in this section by providing permanent display boards within the sports hall area.



Sixth Form
COLLEGE



Sixth Form College students Ryan Bailey and Chris Tickle (Warrington RL Academy) study the history of league.



Winner of the Belle Vue tracks inaugural Oldham Roughyeds Stakes was speedy right winger Bally Curran Boy. Sponsored by Oldham fan Mick Harrop the number two dog romped home and can be seen here receiving its just award from Roughyed's Jenny and Sarah Turner (both far right).



Player SPONSORSHIP



Gareth Barber
Harry Long (Oldham) Ltd
Plumbing, Heating &
Mechanical Services
Tel: 0161 626 9175



Anthony Gibbons
Alpha Tec



Joe McNicholas
Iain Taylor



John Braddish
Tymbuku Health &
Beauty Clinic
0161 624 5667



David Gibbons
Allen, Mills, Howard & Co.
Accountants
Oldham & Tameside



Kevin Mannion



Keith Brennan
Lansdowne Roofing
Supplies Ltd
Tel: 0161 626 0896



Jon Goddard



Paul Norton



Leo Casey
Alpha Tec



Danny Guest



Andy Proctor



Jason Clegg
ORLFC Staff



Joey Hayes



Neil Roden



Will Cowell



Bryan Henare



Mark Sibson
Mick Harrop



Gavin Dodd
John Barrett
(Time Keeper)



Tommy Hodgkinson



Lee Doran



John Hough
Bull's Head
Heyside



Phil Farrell



Gavin Johnson



Mike Ford



Simon Knox

For details of
Players
Sponsorship
Please phone
either
John Battye
or
Dave Roberts
0161 628 3677

Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we welcome our near neighbours from Swinton for the first 'home' game of the season. The Lions were the first ever visitors to our old Watersheddings' ground when they provided the opposition for the game on September 28th 1889.

However, when the great divide of 1895 occurred and 22 of the leading Northern Clubs broke away from the RFU to form the Northern Union, Swinton were not amongst their number. Very much one of the leading clubs of the time, their absence from the new league (along with Salford) caused some concern within the defecting clubs and offered solace to the Union authorities who dearly wanted the new venture to fail.

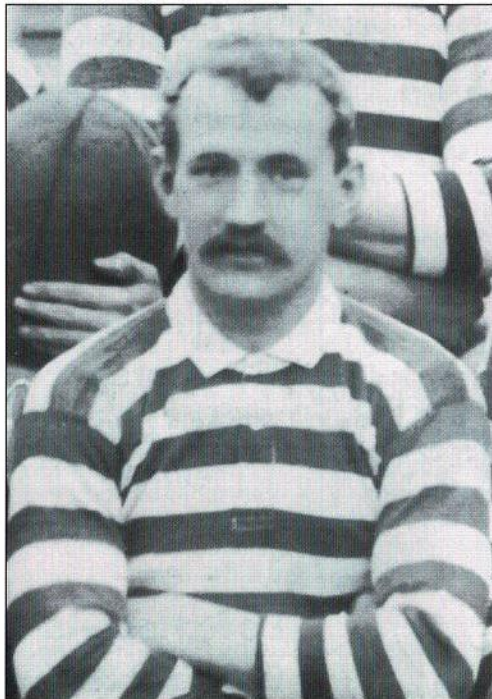
As it happened one season without fixtures against the likes of Oldham, Rochdale, Wigan, Leeds etc., was enough to convince the Manchester giants that their future lay firmly with their prestigious Northern neighbours.

So it was in the following 1896-97 season that the first 'Rugby League' between the Roughyeds and the Lions took place at Swinton on September 26th 1896. Oldham won the match by six points to three thanks to tries from wingman Jack Hurst and forward Jim Merrill. A feature of the match was the playing of the bustling forward Bob Edwards at stand off in place of the injured club captain Harry Varley. The honour of leading the team going to Sam Lees.

The return league fixture was originally scheduled to be played on January 9th and although the game went ahead, due to adverse weather prior to the match, officials of both sides agreed this match to be deemed as a friendly. This decision in effect cost Oldham the Lancashire champions' title because on that January day they won by six points to nil. However, when Swinton visited Watersheddings the following March they triumphed by four points to nil, and at the season's end Broughton Rangers nicked the title from the Roughyeds by a single league point.

Oldham team for first Swinton v Oldham Northern Union match September 26th 1896.

H. England; T. Martin; I. Taylor, S. Lees (Capt.), J. Hurst, R. Edwards, A. Lees, T. Furniss, G. Frater, E. Bonser, E. Hughes, J. Merrill, R. Wylie, E. Etchells, A. Childs.



Sam Lees captain of the Oldham team in their first league encounter with Swinton.



BECAUSE EVERYONE'S TASTES ARE NOT THE SAME

Table d'Hote
Asian & Oriental Restaurant



WE SIMPLY CATER FOR ALL WITH WORLD CUISINE UP TO 30 DISHES

Eat as much as you can all day, every day!!!

Lunch Time Special £5.95
Evenings £9.95

Opening Times
Mon-Sun 11.30-2.30
5.30-11.00

Conference / Seminar Facilities and Party Bookings Welcome

145-145a Union Street Oldham
T. 0161 652 5559 W. www.GioCuisine.com




A Great Place To Learn



SPORT & EDUCATION A WINNING COMBINATION

For information on all courses including
Sports, Fitness & Recreation
Telephone Learning Line **0800 269 480**

The Oldham College, Rochdale Road, Oldham OL9 6AA. Tel 0161 624 5214 Fax 0161 785 4234



The Red House

welcomes

Oldham Rugby League Supporters

MEALS AVAILABLE ALL DAY

LEES NEW ROAD · ASHTON-U-LYNE

0161 330 2641

Paul & Kay
welcome

Oldham Rugby League Supporters to the

Hare & Hounds

Live Football ♦ Free Pool
Tuesdays & Thursdays

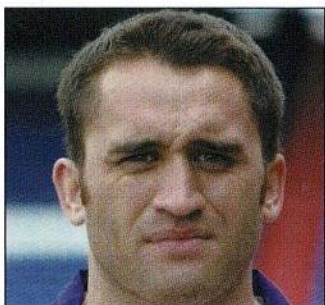
238 KINGS ROAD, HURST CROSS, ASHTON-U-LYNE

0161 339 4908

A Chance to Meet . . .

. . . BRYAN HENARE

with David McGeale, Radio Cavell 1350AM



How many are there in your family?

Two brothers (one older, one younger), mum, dad and wife Odette and we're expecting a baby next year.

What's your first memory of Rugby League?

I was a lad, about five or six, and we were playing rugby. I had no shoes on and I scored a try. After, we all rushed home to tell mum and dad. But my brother ran in before me and told everyone I'd scored a try before I could tell them. I think he did it to 'grass cut me' or something like that.

Who did you play for in your first real game of Rugby League?

Otahuhu, a local amateur club in Auckland. It's one of the best amateur clubs in New Zealand and has produced the likes of Hugh McGann, Mark Graham, Gary Freeman, Ritchie Blackmore, Ritchie Barnett. We all just came through the ranks.

Who did you first sign professional for, and how old were you?

Auckland Warriors and I was twenty one. No, twenty.

That's fairly old for a Rugby League player in this country, is it the same in New Zealand?

Not really. It was a brand new club and they were signing players to play in their Under 21's. I just happened to be one of them for which I was pretty rapped because it's a good club.

What happened to your career from then on?

I played four years at Auckland and when I neared the end of my contract St Helens, who were coached by Ellery Hanley, rang up and asked if I wanted to sign for them. I came over and signed a two year contract but after a couple of months Ellery got fired and Ian Millward came over. I played my two years out with St Helens and then Oldham asked me if I wanted to come with them. I said yes, No worries.

As a Super League player was it a big step down to come to Oldham?

No it wasn't. It's just the same intensity in the Northern Ford Premiership. It's just that maybe Super League has more skilful players with the likes of Andy Farrell and it is quite a bit faster. But other than the toughness and that, is still the same.

At the end of last season quite a few people thought you'd move back to Super League but you decided to stay with Oldham in NFP, why?

I really got on well with Fordy and the lads. Once I heard that Fordy was going to stay and coach Oldham and that most of the lads were going to stay for another year and, because I'd enjoyed my time at Oldham, that was it. I decided to stay because I really enjoyed it.

Who's been the greatest influence on you in Rugby League?

My wife, I think. She keeps me in check and I think she's my biggest critic. When I think I've had a good game she puts me right.

Knowledgeable about the game then is she?

She is, she does know a fair bit. She knows how I play and what I can, and can't do, and all that kind of thing and what I need to improve on.

What was your most memorable moment in rugby league?

When I was over with the Junior Kiwis' Under 19's and we played the Great Britain Under 19's at Wembley and won. The atmosphere was great and I can say I've played on Wembley and not many people can say that.

What about the semi-final against Rochdale last year?

Ah well! My first try, I think anyone could have scored that. The second one was a good pass from Fordy and I just happened to be on the end of it. But I was rapped, especially as we were losing and we thought we were going to be down and out. But when we came back and won it we were rapped.

What about your low point?

My low point was during pre-season training in 1998. I ruptured my knee after I'd done a real good pre-season. I was probably at the fittest and strongest I'd ever been. During

training for the first game I went down early to play a bit of touch with some of the lads and I done my knee in and that was it - me out for the season. So after all that work, I just blew it on one stupid training session. I was pretty gutted and had to have the knee reconstructed. Luckily, it's mended and is 100%.

What's the strangest thing you've ever seen on a rugby field?

That was when I was watching my younger brother play when he was about thirteen and a fight broke out. You know, kids fighting and all that kind of thing. Then one of the grandparents ran on with a broly and started wacking the opposition players. I thought, 'what the hell's going on here?'. I just couldn't stop laughing.

Who's the biggest character you've come across in the game?

That'd have to be Cleggy. He's a good bloke and all that. But the whole team's full of characters who come up with their own individual comments and remarks. That keeps the team bonding.

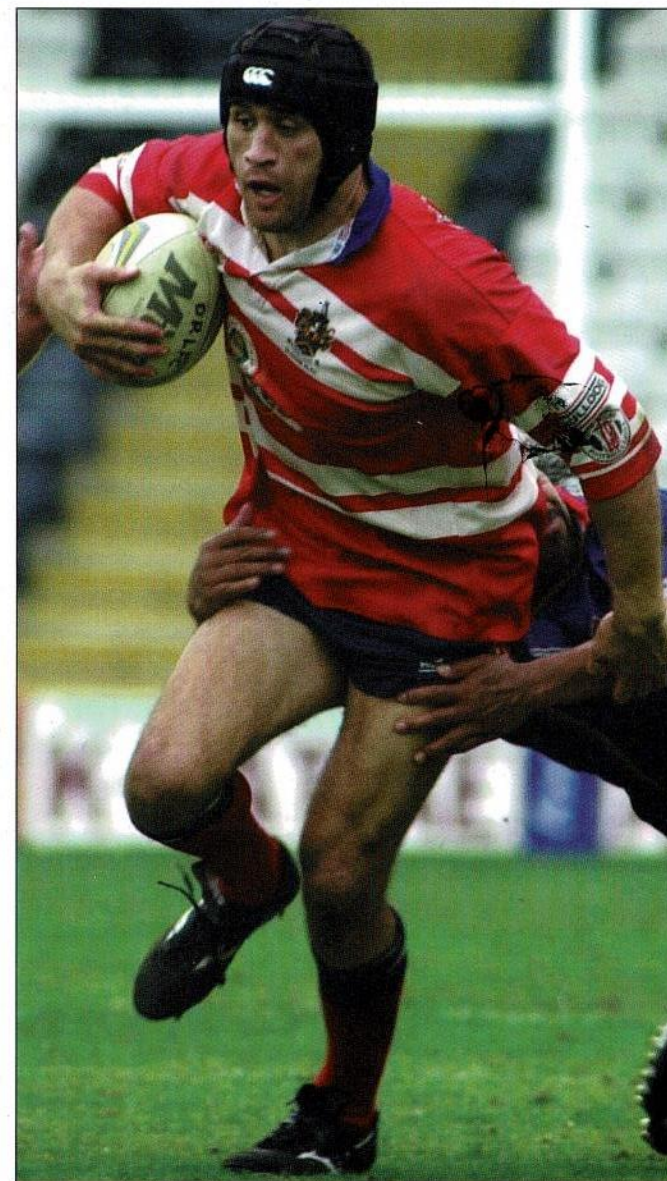
What's your ambition in Rugby League?

I want to finish on a high note. To do well and be proud of what I do and just have no regrets.

Tell us a secret about one of your team mates at Oldham?

No, no, no. No secrets. I'm not saying nothing. Nope. No. I'm sure the others will tell you about nicknames and that, but I'm not saying anything. No!

This interview will be broadcast in full on Radio Cavell - 1350AM next Friday during 'Sports Preview' between 5.00 and 6.00pm.



RUGBY
League Express

For the best coverage of the Northern Ford Premiership...Every Monday.



Increase your performance to an all time best

No matter what position you play, supplements can play a key role in your quest for increasing your performance, whether it is endurance, stamina, energy or increased power & strength. Every time you train hard, you place your body under immense stress, break down precious muscle tissue and use up valuable energy and nutrient stores. If these vital nutrients are not replaced quickly, your body will become more susceptible to over training, burn-out, injuries, colds and flu, not forgetting general fatigue, loss of motivation and performance.

By replacing these lost nutrients your body uses during intense training and supporting your body's recovery process, you can avoid many of the problems players take for granted, such as over training and injuries. More importantly you can expect a dramatic increase in performance, well being, health and reduced stress at home and work.



MAXIMUSCLE
Sports nutrition at its best

'IOC allowed' guarantee



All Maximuscle 'IOC allowed' supplements are tested to ensure they do not contain any banned substances. Using Maximuscle supplements correctly and as instructed, will not result in a positive reading. Proof can be provided for all athletes, coaches, etc...

Contact Maximuscle today for your **FREE 96 page colour catalogue...**

Maximuscle Limited:
40 Caxton Way, Watford Business Park
Watford
WD18 8JZ

Tel: 01923 650600 Fax: 01923 229339

Visit the best nutrition site on the web:
www.maximuscle.com

Iwa Slateloose



A SEASONAL FABLE

WHEN Mary was espoused to Joseph she was found to be with child and they were visited by the Holy Spirit who told them the child should be called CHRIS.

Now when CHRIS was born the Head of the Council of Elders demanded to know where he was, so he dispatched three wise men who did follow a star to the north. And the star did stop at the Civic Centre (for it was like unto a stable) and there the wise men did each of them deposit a gift; one a badly worded contract, the second a football ground and the third a brand new pitch. And when he did grow up he did take possession of these gifts.

But the Lord did fear for CHRIS, for the King of the Roughyeds did want to share with him. So CHRIS did depart and flee into Oxenford on the wings of a big bird lest he come to harm. But the Roughyeds were roused to anger by the loss of their birthright and did petition the Lord High

Leader of the Council, his Deputy and all his councillors and they did demonstrate with banners and did write numerous letters to the local press to point out that while CHRIS might be the Saviour of the Latics he was the destroyer of the Roughyeds.

And the Council were sore afraid, for the Roughyeds did pay their taxes and all their dues, whereas the Latics did seek a handout. And the Chairman of the Roughyeds did think he was a voice crying in the wilderness, for the Latics had chosen to worship a false god. And the Roughyeds were cast out into the desert (Ashton) and were condemned to wander in the wilderness for a time unknown. And lo! a palsy did descend on the town of Aldhulme and its citizens did fear the worst.

And the disciple of the Lord CHRIS did team up with Laurel for he was an exceeding good joke. And no-one did know what the future might be...

APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2000-20001 (CUP & LEAGUE ONLY)

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	3	7			1			4
BARROW Warren	2000-01	5		5			5			20
BRENNAN Keith	2000-01	16	1	17			12		2	50
CASEY Leo	2000-01	20	2	22			2			8
CLEGG Jason	2000-01	20	13	33			3			12
CROSS Dean	2000-01	7		7			3			12
DODD Gavin	2000-01	12	4	16	2		7		1	29
DORAN Lee	2000-01		7	7						
FARRELL Chris	2000-01	7	19	26	1		2			8
FARRELL Phil	2000-01	34		34			5			20
FORD Mike	2000-01	8	12	20			1		2	6
GIBBONS Anthony	2000-01	32		32			13			52
GIBBONS David	2000-01	29	1	30			17			68
GUEST Danny	2000-01	1	25	26						
HAYES Joey	2000-01	10		10			5			20
HENARE Bryan	2000-01	10	1	11			6			24
HOUGH John	2000-01	21	6	27			5			20
JOHNSON Gavin	2000-01		1	1						
LACEY Daryl	2000-01	20	4	24			5			20
MANNION Kevin	2000-01	18	9	27			7			28
McMENEMY Shayne	2000-01	1		1						
McNICHOLAS Joe	2000-01	14		14			8			32
NORTON Paul	2000-01	24	7	31			3			12
PROCTOR Andy	2000-01	11	9	20			2			8
RICH Pat	2000-01	34		34			7	146		320
RODEN Neil	2000-01	34		34			16		6	70
SIBSON Mark	2000-01	22	1	23			18			72
SINFIELD Ian	2000-01	18	7	25			1			4
Total	2000-01	442	133	575	3		158	146	11	935

Wilson's Wisdom

... with Ian Wilson

I WOULD like to begin the new season – wherever we may be playing – by sharing a few recent diary jottings with you:

Sunday, November 11th

Lunchtime in a Huddersfield town centre pub, a bit low key – certainly not like similar lunchtimes before first tests in many previous Ashes series. Similar feeling at the McAlpine pre-match “entertainment” – though at least we had a brass band! Very disappointing to see empty seats. But all changed after Peacock's first try, and the afternoon went from good to better, to superb, as a fantastic GB defensive effort won the day.

Saturday, November 17th

Amazingly, an even more low key event at the Reebok, and disappointed to see so many empty spaces in the stands. Pre-match also awful – who is running this series? Having persuaded six RU followers to stump up £30 for a seat beyond the corner-flag, the all-over-after-30-minutes events on the field were even more of a let down. Crept away quietly after the game.

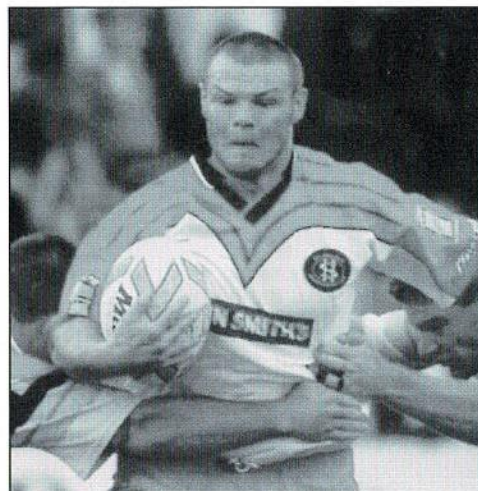
Sunday, November 18th

A cracking afternoon at Leigh. Very hopeful performance on the field and good to see some old friends again on the terraces.

Saturday, November 24th

Pre-match in Wigan felt a bit more like an Ashes test, though not a lot of confidence around. More of an atmosphere inside the JJB, too. Great start by GB, and a fantastic effort for 20 minutes after going 6-18 down. Aussies obviously deserved to win, but 8-18 would have been a fairer reflection. Far fewer empty seats too, and much more of an “at least we gave it a real go” feeling as the crowd dispersed.

Another lost series, then, but that is less important than that the new RFL administration learns some appropriate lessons. On the field, we would obviously have been more competitive still if Long, Morley and Cunningham had been fit –



Keiran Cunningham

though they were missing Tallis and Webcke. But, off the field, surely we can do better? The first test should have been in London or Cardiff; £40 is too much for a ticket, especially with tests played over such a short time scale; we must not go to the Reebok again; the pre-season selling of tickets must be through clubs, amateur and professional, as well as centrally; the match presentation needs a considerable rethink; 7pm on a Saturday evening is not the right time; etc. etc.

My feeling is that we are moving in the right direction on the field, and that the game is beginning to accept the important of international rugby league. Now let us have a 21st century set-up running the game, with long-term strategies and a real vision.

Junior Roughyeds



sponsored by **Advertiser**

Hi to all the Junior Roughyeds.

A warm welcome to the Directors, Supporters and Junior members of Swinton Lions.



Nicola Woodward

The Oldham mascot for today is 12 year old **Nicola Woodward** and her favourite player is Bryan Henare.

Emma Cameron is the mascot for the Hull KR game. Emma is 11 years old and her favourite player is David Gibbons. Emma is really excited that she will be running out with

David. Enjoy the day Emma.

A new feature this year is that a Junior Roughyed is to ask a question to their favourite player: 11 year old **Megan Hartley** has asked Jason Clegg; if he was a film star who would he be? Jason has had a good think and he said he would really love to be

Oliver Read. Megan, your dad will explain this one!



Emma Cameron

Thanks to the Juniors who attended our enrolment morning. A mention must be made of our youngest member – his name is Joseph Paul Ford and he will be 7 weeks old. He said he would love to be a mascot, but it could be quite tricky.

The Junior Roughyeds would like to say a big thank-you

to Melvyn Lord of Reddish Demolition for supplying the Juniors with baseball caps and to Geoff Cooke of Saddleworth Sports for all his help.

If anyone would like to become a Junior Roughyed please telephone ORLFC offices for more details.

Thanks also to the Oldham Advertiser for help with photography.

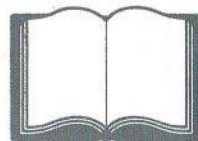
Adele Knowles

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP TABLE 2000-2001

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Leigh Centurions	28	26	0	2	1139	321	818	52
Widnes Vikings	28	21	1	6	961	377	584	43
Rochdale Hornets	28	21	0	7	865	433	432	42
Oldham	28	21	0	7	780	416	364	42
Featherstone Rovers	28	17	2	9	825	401	424	36
Dewsbury Rams	28	18	0	10	801	438	363	36
Hull KR	28	16	2	10	555	450	105	34
Keighley Cougars	28	16	1	11	810	498	312	33
Workington Town	28	16	0	12	681	568	113	32
Whitehaven	28	15	1	12	608	419	189	31
Sheffield Eagles	28	14	0	14	637	543	94	28
Doncaster Dragons	28	14	0	14	622	532	90	28
Batley Bulldogs	28	13	0	15	452	618	-166	26
Barrow Border Raiders	28	12	1	15	631	685	-54	25
Swinton Lions	28	10	0	18	538	711	-173	20
Hunslet Hawks	28	6	1	21	380	959	-579	13
Gateshead Thunder	28	2	0	26	346	990	-644	4
Chorley Lynx	28	2	0	26	395	1361	-966	4
York Wasps	28	1	1	26	193	1499	-1306	3

Amateur Album

.....WITH DON YATES



THIS afternoon we feature a former amateur star, Norman Widdall, who enjoyed considerable cup-tie success during his lengthy playing career with Saddleworth Rangers.

Norman Widdall began playing rugby at Clarksfield school and moved to Saddleworth Rangers in the late 1950's when he was in his early teens. Thus began a 25 year association with the Greenfield club which brought many happy memories for the reliable, hard working hooker. Despite Norman's consistency, he failed to gain selection at international or even county level although he did make a dozen or so appearances for the Oldham town team.

But Norman did enjoy success in the prestigious local Standard Cup competition, appearing in five finals. Four of those finals ended in victory with only an 18-7 defeat against St. Anne's in 1978 spoiling the record. Either side of that defeat Rangers beat St. Mary's 9-0 in 1967, St. Anne's 20-8 in 1971, Waterhead 16-4 in 1976 and St. Anne's again 11-8 in 1980. Norman had difficulty selecting a highlight from his playing career, he simply enjoyed it all, but when pressed he said, 'I suppose it was scoring a try against Waterhead in the 1976 final. It was the first try I'd scored for about three years!! I really enjoyed playing and I would urge any of the kids playing now not to stop playing too early. They don't know how much they'll miss it.'

When his playing career was over Norman began coaching. He took his coaching badge under the guidance of former Oldham centre Graham Starkey who Norman described as a 'good talker' although he added, 'I learned a good deal from him actually.' Norman learned a good deal from other coaches he was privileged to play under. They include Duggie Baker, Dave Leeming, Norman Harris, Harry Dyson, Tony

Finan, Jimmy Russell, Peter Goddard, Johnny Noon and Ray Hicks. When Norman was assistant coach to Mick Coates at Saddleworth in the early 1990's, he regarded Rangers as having the strongest amateur set-up in the history of BARLA. In 1993 when Rangers were Conference League Champions and also lifted the National Cup and Conference League Challenge Cup, Norman led the Rangers' 'A' team to success in the Riley Cup, the Rochdale Charity Cup and the Oldham Championship Cup as well as winning the North West Counties fifth division Championship.

A couple of years later Norman moved across to Waterhead. During his first season there Waterhead gained promotion to the premier division of the North West Counties League and twelve months later, in 1997, he led them to the Standard Cup Final, although it was his old club, Saddleworth Rangers, who again lifted the trophy, beating Waterhead 25-12.

Nowadays Norman has no active involvement in the game although he frequently watches amateur matches as well as the odd Roughyeds' home game. He now keeps himself fit by long distance walking. In April 1998 he walked across country from St. Bee's Head, Cumbria to Robin Hood Bay, North Yorkshire, raising £520 in sponsorship which was shared by the Saddleworth Rangers' youth section and a motor neuron disease charity. This year Norman was hoping to walk the Pennine Way with sponsorship money being donated to Dr. Kershaw's Hospice but, unfortunately, that had to be postponed because of the foot-and-mouth crises and instead Norman spent a week walking the Austrian Alps. Hopefully he will tackle the Pennine Way next year, no doubt with the same determination and commitment with which he tackled opponents during his impressive spell as the Saddleworth Rangers No. 9.

The Saddleworth Rangers' team photo includes the following local personalities:

Fred Royales, referee featured last season on this page; **Dave Barrow**, son of former Oldham centre Roly Barrow; **Trevor Buckley** now sadly deceased and former Oldham player; **Gordon Howard**, former Oldham player; and **Ray Hicks**, former Oldham player.



Standing (L to R): Fred Royales, Dave Barrow, Trevor Buckley, Dave Harrop, Pete Byrne, Gordon Howard, Dai Evans & Paul Wilson.
Kneeling (L to R): Dave Cassells, Steve Dean, Dave Kershaw, Peter Reeves, Ray Hicks, our man Norman Widdall & Mick Healey.

CLUB CALL

THE SATURDAY YANKEE

Did you know the Top Prize now stands at £4,650. So if you are still not a member call Lorraine on

061 628 3677

Remember - You've got to be in it to win it.

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

Anyone who is interested in helping the Club and also themselves can become Yankee Agents and earn generous commission.

Collectors are needed in most areas so if you are interested call Lorraine on 0161 628 3677

CLUB MERCHANDISE

New stock has arrived in time for Christmas so get down to our shop on Union Street and take a look at all out new official Roughyeds merchandise.

SPONSORSHIP 2001/2

For full details of our first class Sponsorship Packages for this coming season ring John or Dave in our Commercial Department.

0161 628 3677

The Whistle Blower

..... With Sam Shepherd

Sam Shepherd, perhaps Oldhams most famous International Rugby League referee and assessor, is a new columnist for the matchday magazine.

BOTTOM 14 COMPLETION FINAL Tuesday 18th May, 1965 DONCASTER v HUDDERSFIELD

THE GAME featured two teams with contrasting pedigrees.

Huddersfield, Challenge Cup Winners six times from 1913 to 1953, and twice runners up. Championship Winners seven times 1912-1962. And Doncaster, formed in 1951, took the field for the first time on August 18th that year to do battle with the formidable Wakefield Trinity, defeating them in front of a crowd of 12,000.

Doncaster went on to win 21 of 36 games that season, and by beating Castleford 18-5 at one stage took 3rd place in the Rugby League table, two points behind Workington and one point behind Leeds. (The club finished 11th that season, but thereafter never finished above the halfway line).

In season 1964-65, teams finishing in the bottom 14 were given their own competition for



Back Row (L to R): Goodchild, Holt, Smith, Saville, Strawbridge, Roberts, Redfean,
(Front Row): Arrand, Robinson (Capt.), Astbury, Charlton, Horsman and Kennedy

the first time, but, and it was a big "but", the Rugby League Secretary Mr Bill Fallowfield introduced a new rule, viz: the team in possession would only be allowed one play the ball, and subsequently, if that team were tackled again, the ball had to be released by the tackled player and be played by the foot by either team before being picked up.

I was not given an early round or a semi-final, nor had I seen any of the games. I was advised by our "mentor" in the Oldham referees society, the late R. L. Thomas, to give this series a miss because players, not knowing what to do, were throwing the ball around like a "hot potato".

Lucky me! I got the final and it was chaotic/ Players were throwing the ball anywhere to avoid being tackled, and I was dishing out penalties galore. All this despite being given "advice" by Don Robinson (ex Leeds) the home captain, and by the late Peter Goddard playing at prop for Huddersfield, the latter particularly after I sent off his stand-off team mate for foul play.

It was a game best forgotten, but I was reminded of it some days later by a letter from Mr Fallowfield in which he admitted that it had been a poor game, but in which he indicated that my interpretation of the new rule was sadly lacking. The new rule was scrapped and to my knowledge, there was never again a bottom 14 competition or an experiment like this.

Lansdowne Roofing Supplies Ltd.

*Secondhand tiles and slates
bought and sold*

*Demolition work undertaken
All materials can be picked up
and delivered*

Lansdowne Road, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 9EF

Tel 0161 626 0896 and 627 4231

Night 0161 633 4252

Proprietor: Sean Whitehead

first for Ford in Saddleworth

- New & used car sales
- Service & repairs

Mondeo Fiesta

KA Ford focus

Galaxy Puma

Rick Whyman Ltd.

**The SADDLEWORTH
MOTOR CO**

**HIGH STREET,
UPPERMILL, OLDHAM**

01457 872178

PILGRIM INTERNATIONAL

*Locally manufactured hydraulic equipment for
the Power & Marine industries Worldwide*

www.pilgrim-international.co.uk

Tel: 0161 785 7700

Working for a brighter future

Sunset Windows PVCu Windows, Doors & Conservatories *Limited*

SUNSET WINDOWS LIMITED, WADDINGTON STREET, OLDHAM OL9 6QH

Tel. 0161 624 5962 · Fax 0161 627 5094

SADDLEWORTH SPORTS AND SCHOOL UNIFORM

Suppliers of Sports Equipment,
Footwear and Clothing for
all Major Sports

**SPECIALIST SUPPLIERS OF SCHOOL
UNIFORM AT BEST PRICES**

Personal Service Guaranteed
Mail Order & Delivery Service
Available

PROPRIETORS: GEOFF & MARJORIE COOKE
93 CHEW VALLEY ROAD, GREENFIELD,
OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE. OL3 7JJ

Phone or Fax: 01457 872515
24 Hr ANSWERPHONE

e.mail: saddsports@excite.co.uk
www.saddleworthsports.co.uk

EASY PARKING · VISA · MASTERCARD · SWITCH ·
DELTA · SOLO · AMEX

WE'VE CURED HEADACHES FOR THE ROUGHYEDS



Manufacturers
of upholstery
fillings for over
a century, Platt
& Hill make
foam and fibre
fillings of the
highest quality
right here in
Oldham.

PLATT & HILL
FOAM AND FIBRE FILLINGS

Platt & Hill
Belgrave Mill
Fitton Hill Road
Oldham OL8 2LZ

Tel. 0161 621 4400 · Fax: 0161 621 4408

Fu's



CANTONESE RESTAURANT

富林

Manchester Road · Mossley OL5 9QW
Tel: 01457 839638 / 01457 834169

TOPIC OF THE DAY

...DISCIPLINE

EVER thought to yourself, which is the dirtiest team in the league? Or, that lot really mixed it with us last week, I wonder if they're like that every week? Well, read on because now, thanks to League Express and their weekly penalty count, I can tell you! Okay so it includes offside and interference at play the ball but Coaches will tell you that the stats don't lie, so here goes:

The dirtiest side in the N.F.P. is . . . SHEFFIELD EAGLES! Surprised? Well, given the tactics employed by some sides last year against Oldham, I was. Still I'd better not go into that or I'll be in trouble again.

And the cleanest side in the league? . . . WHITEHAVEN. So well done Paul Cullen and the marras! Second best were Keighley, which was surprising after their display at Boundary Park, but to be fair, they conceded more penalties in that game than in any other all season and it was their first game after the financial collapse of the club when they fielded a scratch side.

The team most likely to be awarded penalties was FEATHERSTONE ROVERS, but since they were also the second most penalised side after Sheffield, a Featherstone game was more likely to be littered with penalties than any other. KEIGHLEY, meanwhile were the team least likely to benefit from penalties and with their second best placing for giving away penalties this meant a Keighley match was the least likely to require much intervention from the merry whistle-blower.

SO, HERE NOW IS THE EXCLUSIVE ROUGHYED PENALTY COUNT CHART covering all matches, including cup ties and play-offs, played by N.F.P. clubs.

AVERAGE PENALTIES CONCEDED		AVERAGE PENALTIES AWARDED		ROUGHYED FAIR PLAY AWARDS (PENALTIES PER GAME)	
1 WHITEHAVEN	5.35	1 FEATHERSTONE	7.59	1 KEIGHLEY	10.87
2 KEIGHLEY	5.55	2 LEIGH	7.38	2 GATESHEAD	11.50
3 GATESHEAD	5.63	3 DONCASTER	6.77	3 SWINTON	11.60
4 HULL KR	5.69	4 WIDNES	6.70	4 WHITEHAVEN	11.61
5 BARROW	5.70	5 OLDHAM	6.65	5 HULL KR	11.81
6 CHORLEY	5.76	6 WORKINGTON	6.50	6 BARROW	11.83
7 SWINTON	5.83	7 CHORLEY	6.45	7 BATLEY	11.93
8 OLDHAM	5.91	8 WHITEHAVEN	6.26	8 HUNSLET	12.03
LEIGH	5.91	9 DEWSBURY	6.26	9 CHORLEY	12.21
10 WORKINGTON	6.20	10 YORK	6.13	10 OLDHAM	12.56
11 DEWSBURY	6.32	11 BARROW	6.13	11 DEWSBURY	12.58
12 BATLEY	6.33	12 SHEFFIELD	6.12	12 WORKINGTON	12.70
HUNSLET	6.33	13 ROCHDALE	6.12	13 YORK	12.79
14 WIDNES	6.42	14 HULL KR	6.12	14 ROCHDALE	13.12
15 YORK	6.66	15 GATESHEAD	5.87	WIDNES	13.12
16 ROCHDALE	7.00	16 SWINTON	5.77	16 LEIGH	13.29
17 DONCASTER	7.16	17 HUNSLET	5.70	17 SHEFFIELD	13.78
18 FEATHERSTONE	7.16	18 BATLEY	5.60	18 DONCASTER	13.93
19 SHEFFIELD	7.66	19 KEIGHLEY	5.32	19 FEATHERSTONE	14.75

And does all that prove anything? Well some Coaches will tell you discipline is all important if you want to win things (Table 1). But some might argue that nice guys win nothing (Table 3). And those with a persecution complex can always resort to Table 2! Perhaps it's best to be in the middle – like the Roughyeds!

Stat Attack

LEADING SCORERS 2000-01

All Cup, League, play-off and representative matches.

The only representative matches played during the season were France v Ireland, France v Scotland and Yorkshire v Lancashire.

() Representative match scores included in total



TOP TEN GOALS

1 Simon Svabic (Leigh Centurions) 156

- 2 Pat Rich (Oldham) 146
 - 3 Jamie Rooney (Fetherstone R) (9)130
 - Danny Wood (Rochdale Hornets) 130
 - 5 Barry Eaton (Dewsbury Rams) (4)114
 - 6 Richard Goddard (Sheffield E) (1)104
 - 7 Darren Holt (Barrow Border R) (5) 97
 - 8 Chris Charles (Hull KR) 77
 - Martin Wood (Keighley Cougars) 77
 - 10 Ian Watson (Widnes Vikings) (2) 74
- () Drop goals included in total



TOP TEN TRIES

1 Neil Turley (Leigh Centurions) (1)56

- 2 Phil Cantillon (Widnes Vikings) 48
- 3 Graeme Lewthwaite (Workington T) 33
- 4 Marlon Billy (Rochdale Hornets) 31
- 5 Damian Munro (Widnes Vikings) 25
- 6 Adrian Flynn (Dewsbury Rams) 24
- 7 Paul Anderson (Leigh Centurions) 21
- Matt Bramald (Featherstone Rovers) 21
- Jamie Stokes (Featherstone Rovers) 21
- 10 David Seeds (Whitehaven) 20
- Danny Seal (Featherstone Rovers) 20
- Darren Robinson (Rochdale Hornets) 20



DROP GOALS

1 Jamie Rooney (Featherstone Rovers) 9

- Steve Kirkbride (Whitehaven) 6
- Neil Roden (Oldham) 6
- Darren Holt (Barrow Border Raiders) 5
- Robert Roberts (Hunslet Hawks) 5

TOP TEN POINTS

	Tries	Goals	Drop Goals	Points
1 Simon Svabic (Leigh Centurions)	8	153	3	341
2 Danny Wood (Rochdale Hornets)	16	130	0	324
3 Pat Rich (Oldham)	7	146	0	320
4 Jamie Rooney (Featherstone Rovers)	14	121	9	307
5 Barry Eaton (Dewsbury Rams)	13	110	4	276
6 Richard Goddard (Sheffield Eagles)	14	103	1	263
7 Neil Turley (Leigh Centurions) (1)56		12	0	(4)248
8 Darren Holt (Barrow Border Raiders)	8	92	5	221
9 Mick Nanyn (Swinton Lions)	15	72	0	204
10 Phil Cantillon (Widnes Vikings)	48	0	0	192

WINO'S WINE SHOP

63 GEORGE STREET, OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE OL1 1LX

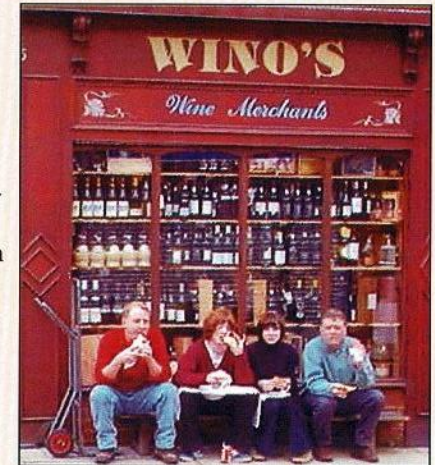
0161 652 9396

Established in 1983, Wino's is an Independent Oldham based company. We stock over 1500 different wines, 250 spirits and over 60 beers.

Apart from the retail shop in George Street, Oldham we now supply direct to the trade, from restaurants and wine bars through to the company board room.

We also offer a sale or return service on many of our wines for parties, weddings etc., you pay for what you drink.

The free loan of champagne flutes, wine goblets and beer glasses, whether it be a party of 20 or a function of 520, is available.



We pride ourselves on offering friendly professional service.

5% DISCOUNT on any MIXED CASE OF 12 BOTTLES

Wines supplied Sale or Return for Weddings or Functions

FREE GLASS LOAN - FREE DELIVERY SERVICE - MAILING LIST

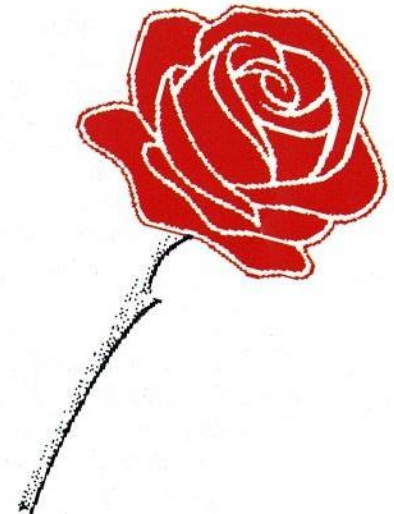
Hope to see you soon - PHIL, IAN, MARK and STEVE

Oldham Labour Party

Continuing its support

for

OLDHAM RLFC



OFFICERS

Oldham Labour Group
Civic Centre Oldham

David Heyes MP
Ashton-U-Lyne

Michael Meacher MP
Oldham West & Royton

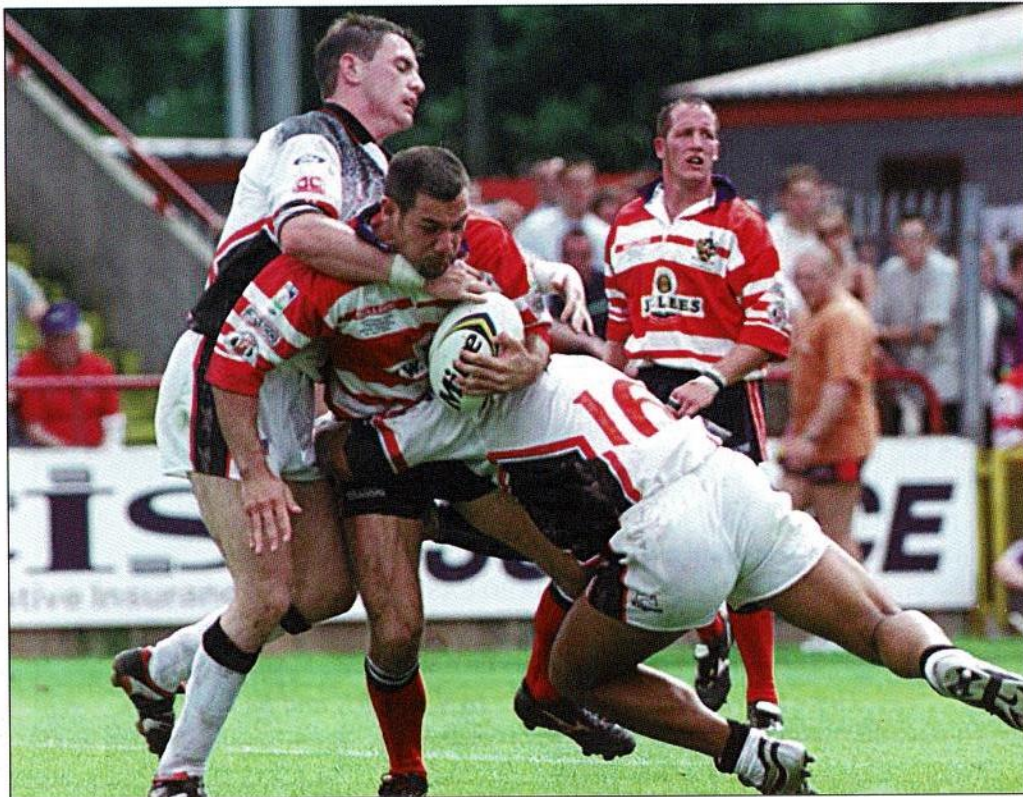
Phil Wodas MP
Oldham East & Saddleworth

0161 911 4037

0161 331 9307

0161 626 5779

0161 624 4248



**NFP PREMIERSHIP
GRAND FINAL**



**Widnes Vikings
versus
Oldham**

*Top: Joe McNicholas
Bottom: Phil Farrell*

**LEVER'S
FISH & CHIP
RESTAURANT**

**BEST WISHES
TO
OLDHAM RLFC**

UNITS 2 & 3 · MARKET HALL
OLDHAM

MON - SAT 10.30- 5.30
0161 633 0074

***If you're not
satisfied with your
bank, convert***

** The Royal Bank
of Scotland**

For more information on the range of
Business Services available from
The Royal Bank of Scotland
please contact
Tina Horton, Business Manager
on 0161 633 8460

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square,
Edinburgh EH2 2VB
Registered in Scotland No. 90312

**DRONSFIELDS
— MERCEDES —**

WALLHILL MILL, WALLHILL
ROAD, DOBCROSS
OLDHAM OL3 SRB
TELEPHONE: 01457 - 871717
FAX: 01457 - 871940

***New & Used Mercedes
Vehicles & Spares***



**Amega
Labels Ltd**

*Manufacturers of Computer Barcodes
and High Quality Self Adhesive Labels*



Shaw Street
Oldham OL1 3RR

Tel 0161 785 0813
Fax 0161 624 6507

Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER F - A

2 SWINTON LIONS H
16 Hull K.R. A
23 ROCHDALE HORNETS H
30 Leigh A

JANUARY

6 YORK H
13 Dewsbury Rams A
20 CHORLEY LYNX H
27 Challenge Cup (3rd Round)

FEBRUARY

3 Workington A
10 Challenge Cup (4th Round)
17 GATESHEAD H
24 Challenge Cup (5th Round)

MARCH

3 Huddersfield A
10 DONCASTER DRAGONS H
15 Sheffield Eagles A
24 FEATHERSTONE H
29 Rochdale Hornets A (Nat Cup)

APRIL

1 DEWSBURY RAMS H (Nat Cup)
7 Huddersfield A (Nat Cup)
14 KEIGHLEY H (Nat Cup)
21 Hunslet Hawks A (Nat Cup)

MAY

5 BATLEY BULLDOGS H (Nat Cup)
12 National Cup Quarter Finals
19 National Cup Semi Finals
26 National Cup Final

JUNE

2 Keighley Cougars A
9 WHITEHAVEN H
16 Barrow A
23 BATLEY BULLDOGS H
30 Hunslet Hawks A

JULY

7 LEIGH H
14 Chorley Lynx A
21 Whitehaven A
28 HUDDERSFIELD H

AUGUST

4 HUNSLET HAWKS H
11 Batley Bulldogs A
18 Rochdale Hornets A
25 WORKINGTON H

SEPTEMBER

1 York A
8 KEIGHLEY COUGARS H

OLDHAM RLFC FULLY SUPPORT THE LET'S TACKLE RACISM IN RUGBY LEAGUE CAMPAIGN AND WELCOMES ALL PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR ETHNIC OR RACIAL ORIGINS. RACISM HAS NO PLACE IN OUR GAME AND RACIST CHANTS ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.
ALLOW EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE GAME.

Sponsors

SPONSORSHIP 2001/2

For full details of our first
class

Sponsorship Packages
for this coming season ring
John or Dave
in our

Commercial Department.

0161 628 3677

two players

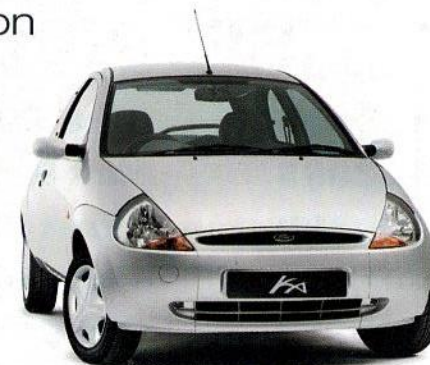
that deserve a try this season

fordka collection

1.3i 3dr

- cd player
- electric windows
- central locking
- leather steering wheel

£7,995



new fordfocus zetec

1.6i 16v 3dr

- cd player
- alloy wheels
- remote central locking
- electric windows

£11,745



northern ford dealers – official sponsors of the northern ford premiership

call 0845 7111 888 for your local ford dealer

