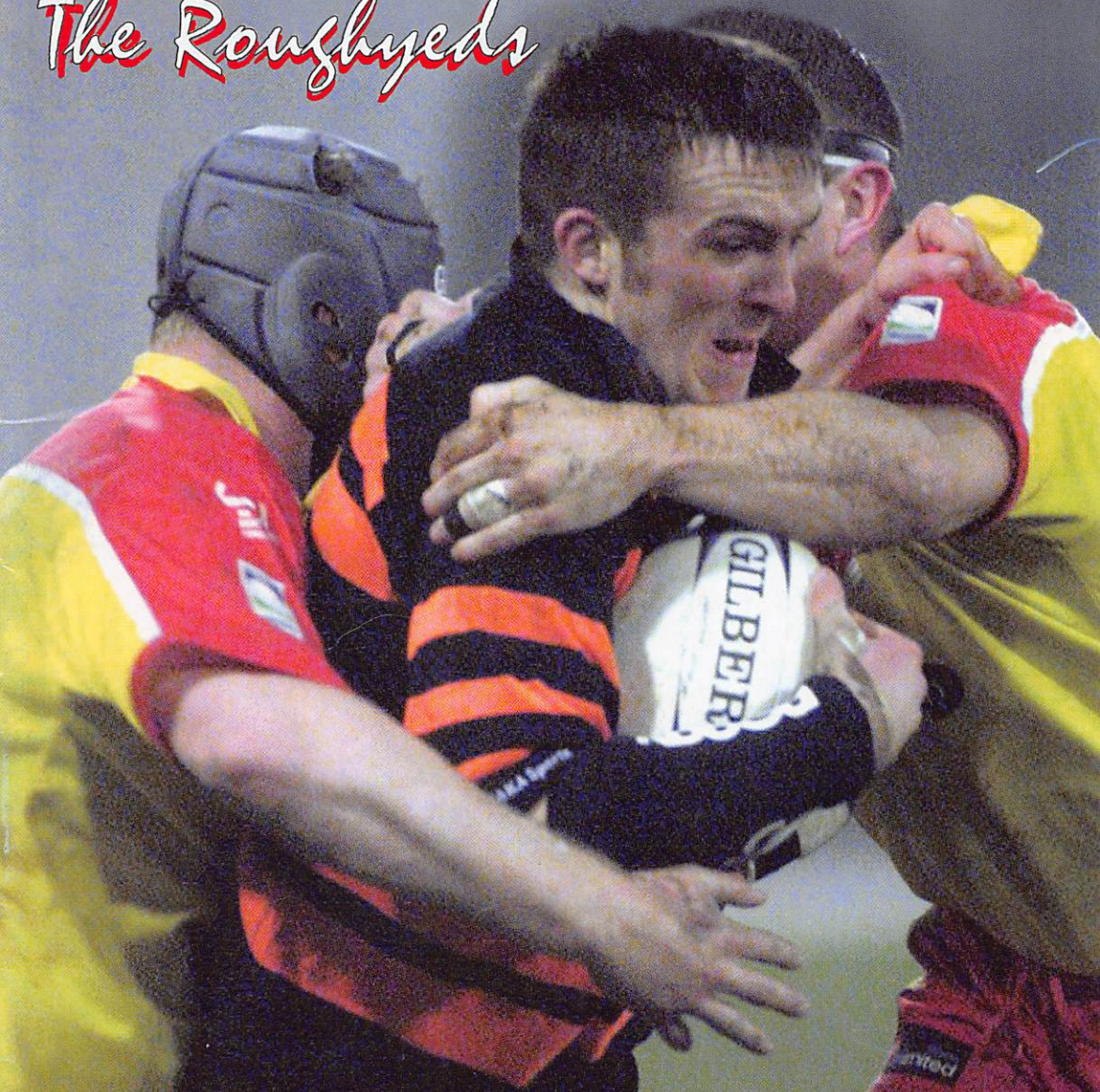


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The Roughyeds



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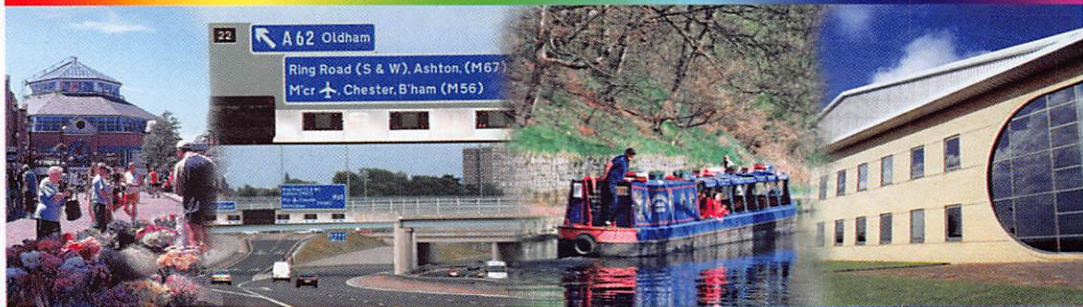
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IN THE HOT SEAT

with
Christopher Hamilton



ALTHOUGH these notes are written before our Good Friday game at Rochdale and therefore the result is unknown I am confident that our recent upsurge in form will have continued. The commitment and determination that I have witnessed for so long in the players has emerged stronger than ever and the spirit we have at this club, right through the club - Board, Staff, Coaches, Players, Sponsors and supporters is unique. I make that statement with no qualms whatsoever because no club has had to go through what we have and despite some major setbacks before and in the early part of this season there is no doubt that what we wanted to achieve this year is still very much on target.

We have had our knockers, and unfortunately, many are people in Oldham who really should have a bit more about them but rest assured the more they try to undermine what we are trying to do the more determined we are to do it. One thing is for sure if it was easy being the Chairman of Oldham Rugby League Club I wouldn't be the only person in the town who is prepared to have the job.

Today I will be attending a meeting with OMBC regarding our ground situation in an attempt to make some progress about finding a solution. Since things came to a head at the end of last year it has been as frustrating as ever trying to get the Council to sit down with us to talk about the options that are available to us. With that in mind it is obviously a very important day today and rest assured after this meeting you will be told what is happening.

People may have been under the impression that we have been doing nothing because nothing has been reported but again I can assure you that there has not been a week gone by where a letter or a phone call(s) have not been sent/made to OMBC. Let's hope the meeting today gives me something positive to report - who knows it may not have escaped the politicians minds that the elections are coming up!

Tonight's visitors are Dewsbury Rams who have made a more than reasonable start to the season. As ever it will be a hard game and I'm sure that our players will be keen to show Dewsbury the 'real' Oldham after a disappointing performance away earlier this season. As ever you also have a part to play with your support which has been a big lift to the players, please make as much noise as possible.

Enjoy the game.

Chris

Phil Farrell missed last weeks Featherstone game injured bringing to an end an magnificent run of 67 consecutive appearances. Phil made his Oldham debut at Featherstone on the 26th March 2000. In today's modern game this is a remarkable achievement. Congratulations to him.



The Roughyeds

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1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,
Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

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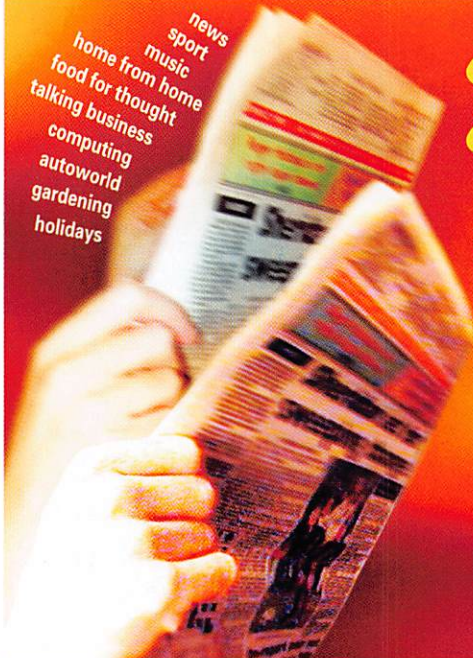
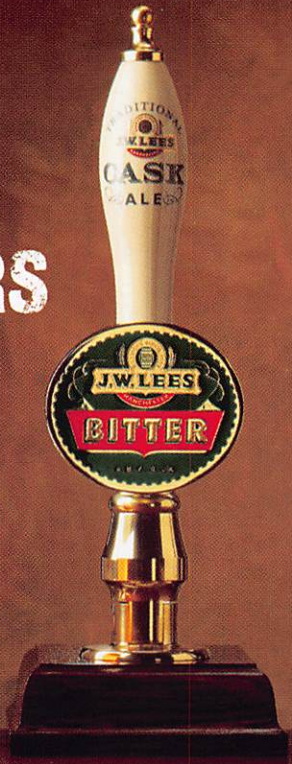
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COACH'S COMMENTS... with John Harbin



WE welcome Dewsbury today, a club I had a short time with as Chief Executive and I look forward to renewing a few acquaintances during the day. Whilst enjoying them moving up the ladder I am not going to be so generous as to give them two points today - friendship only goes so far.

Last weekend we enjoyed wins for both the Alliance and the first team. The first team game against Featherstone was a real arm wrestle and discipline won the day. I was particularly pleased with the contribution of the forwards as we knew it was going to be a physical game. Our half backs, Neil Roden and John Braddish have come to the fore in recent games. It is no coincidence that their form has run parallel to the team's recent successes.

The Alliance had a big win against Workington and were well led by Andy Proctor and I was very pleased with the form and contribution of some of our younger brigade. There is no doubt in my mind that, on the playing front, the club has a very sound future. Team spirit is at a premium, all the players are very coachable and it is one of those places where you enjoy going to work each day.

Once again special mention to our fans who contributed to our success and provided us with our best attendance in an NFP home game this season.

Today's game is our second in the National Cup campaign and whilst there is no doubt that our priority is the league we are treating this competition with the importance it deserves. We will also be making sure that every member of the squad gets an opportunity over the course the next six weeks.

John

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In Yer Face



CONTINUING last home match's theme of volunteers for just a minute can I mention the terrific hard work that Steve Baldwin of Hathershaw has put in setting up our official website. The website address for those of you blessed with the expertise and the equipment to access it is: www.roughyeds.co.uk

Steve is a long time fan of the Roughyeds and is another giving his time freely. The site is in its early stages but is developing by the day. There are fortnightly competitions with prizes of free tickets to home matches, and the club always tries to ensure that any news at the club can be found first on the official website. The number of 'hits' on the site is increasing greatly I am informed by Steve and we now are looking for individuals or firms who will advertise on the different pages of the site. Anybody requiring details should contact John or Dave on 0161 628 3677. I know this task has proved bigger than Steve initially thought and on behalf of the club I would like to thank Steve and his family. It really is appreciated.

On to rugby matters: As I write this piece on Wednesday 20th March (we have to be early because of Easter deadlines), the news on teletext is that York Wasps have folded. This really is sad news, especially as I met most of the Board at our recent encounter at Hurst Cross, and although they had problems they were upbeat that things would improve. It is ironic that the bad news comes so soon after their surprise victory against Chorley Lynx. Let us hope that like Gateshead and Swinton something can be done to save them at least for this season.

If not, what is going to happen to past results and forthcoming games. In normal circumstances all games against York could be voided, but this does not work as some sides play them twice and others only once. Another way out of this situation I have heard is that we assume that every team beat York by a common score, let's say, 30-0. Therefore if you were to play York twice you would receive 4 points and 60 in the 'For' column and 0 in the 'Against'. If you were only down to play them once you would receive 2 points and 30 'For' and zero 'Against'. All scores and results against York already accrued would be ignored. This of course would mean that Chorley would gain an extra 2 points and an improved For and Against tally.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting this is the way forward, but is one of the better suggestions I have heard. It really is a nightmare scenario, especially as it is so important where you finish this year with the league reorganisation at the end of the season. What happens could well decide which League a club ends up in and we don't want the season to end in confusion and disarray, with lawsuits flying around. But as I see it,

it is a distinct possibility. Has anybody got a solution for this if it happens? If so answers on a postcard please to Red Hall.

Let us hope that the situation resolves itself and all my dire prognostication prove irrelevant, but, with the benefit of hindsight, wouldn't it have been better for all sides to have played each other twice in the league rather than introducing the new competition that started for us on Good Friday and continues today. A recent enquiry revealed that it was a cup competition without, at that time a cup, a sponsor or any prizes. Now I'm sure that problem will resolve itself, but surely in a season where position in the table at the end of the season is probably more important than ever before, it would have been helpful if all teams were playing on a level playing field. This would not only have made the York situation easier to solve but would have avoided complaints at the end of the season that certain teams had more difficult fixtures than others.

The other sad news relates to the Standard Cup Final that will have been played last Sunday when you read this programme. Was it really necessary to leave it so late to move this great game from its traditional Good Friday spot? It would appear that working with and for the community only applies when it is in the football club's own interest. But that doesn't surprise us in rugby league, does it? Why am I reminded of the last line of a comic version of the Red Flag I learned as a young man?

"For you I could not care two hoots.
I'll crush you with my hobnail boots."

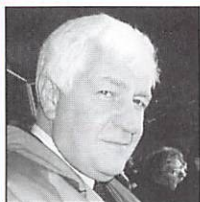
Let's hope that it didn't affect the crowd too much and that Roughyed fans were able to turn up in large numbers not having to persuade the better half to allow them to attend two rugby matches on the same day.

Just to lighten matters Sam Shepherd's story in today's programme about the purchase of Barry Kear by fans throwing money into a pillowcase has an hilarious aftermath, that Roger Halstead swears is true. Kear never lived up to expectation and left the club after only 40 games. At a match at Castleford, an Oldham fan, Billy Collins, was in the Gents at half time when he noticed that standing in the next stall to him was somebody who looked just like Barry Kear.

"Eh! Young lad, is thy name Barry Kear?" asked Billy "Aye it is. Do I know you?" replied Kear.

"No, but I know thee. A put a fiver in a pillowcase for thee up at Watersheddings and reet waste a money that were 'an all." said Billy.

Barry Kear did no more than pull out his wallet, take out a five, and give it to Billy. Billy was out of them Gents in a flash.



'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to April 2nd yesteryear

TWO YEARS ago, on Sunday 2nd April 2000, Oldham travelled across the Pennines to the Don Valley Stadium where they defeated Sheffield Eagles 28-6 in the Northern Ford Premiership. Making his debut for the Roughyeds that day was substitute Neil Roden who had been signed from Wigan earlier in the month. Roden had been a non-playing substitute the previous week at Featherstone but Sheffield was where he saw his first piece of action. Since then he has been a regular member of the first team squad and prior to last Friday's match at Rochdale he had made 66 appearances for the Roughyeds, scoring 27 tries and ten dropped goals.

On the same afternoon, Sunday 2nd April 2000, Hull Kingston Rovers defeated Widnes 24-10. Making his debut for the Vikings was substitute Tommy Hodgkinson who had joined Widnes from Lancashire Lynx. An experienced utility player who has also served St. Helens, Bradford Bulls and Swinton, Hodgkinson made 46 appearances for Widnes, scoring one try, before moving to Oldham last September.

Saturday 2nd April 1927 was an important day for both Oldham and Dewsbury as both clubs were involved in Challenge Cup semi-finals. A crowd of 18,000 assembled at Central Park, Wigan where Oldham met Wakefield Trinity whilst the attendance at Fartown, Huddersfield was 24,227 and they saw Swinton defeat Dewsbury 10-0. Occupying the centre positions for Dewsbury that afternoon were the Lyman brothers, Joe and Jim. Joe played for Dewsbury over a period of 20 years and was captain for eight of those years. He was regarded as being the most versatile player of his era. The equally talented Jim moved to Batley towards the end of his career and they frequently clashed in the Heavy Woollen 'derby' matches when brotherly love was tested to the full. Other outstanding players who appeared in that semi-final were fullbacks John Stocks, winger Cliff Smith and prop Billy Rhodes, all Yorkshire County players. As Dewsbury lost to Swinton Oldham were defeating Wakefield Trinity 7-3. Centre Alf Higgs scored the Oldham try and stand-off Abe Johnson and second row forward Albert Brough each landed a goal. Five weeks later Oldham returned to Central Park and defeated Swinton 26-7 in the final.

It was on this day in 1938, Saturday 2nd April, that Wales entertained France needing just a draw to clinch their third consecutive European Championship. The match attracted a crowd of over 20,000 to Streboneath Park, Llanelli and also caused the local Llanelli Mercury newspaper to send 'Nomad', their rugby union correspondent to cover the event. In true rah-rah tradition he reported thus 'This is not ruggar as we know it, fast though the



Norman Pugh

game is, and as spectacular as some of the tackling is, the game is not full-bloodied iike the rugby union game'. Obviously a gin and tonic man, 'Nomad' should have interviewed French winger Henri Sanz who left the field with a badly broken nose. After his departure Wales went on to win 18-2 after leading by only 3-2 at half time. Included in the Welsh pack that afternoon were two forwards who gave loyal and exceptional service to the Roughyeds, Norman Pugh and Alex Givvons. Pugh made 363 appearances between 1934 and 1948 before later being instrumental in the formation of the ex-players association. Givvons was associated with the club for over 60 years from 1933, first as a player, 241 appearances, then coach and later kit man. He accepted an invitation to open the Oldham Hall of Fame in 1995.

Finally and sadly, twelve months ago, on Monday 2nd April 2001, Peter Goddard committed suicide at the Dog & Partridge public house, Roundthorn Road where he had been landlord for 10 years. Peter joined Oldham in 1958 from Waterhead and made 74 appearances, scoring eight tries. At first he played hooker but later moved over to prop. He was transferred to St. Helens in 1962 and later he enjoyed spells with Huddersfield, Bradford Northern and Swinton. Peter was a jovial, extrovert character and it is a mystery why his life ended as it did.

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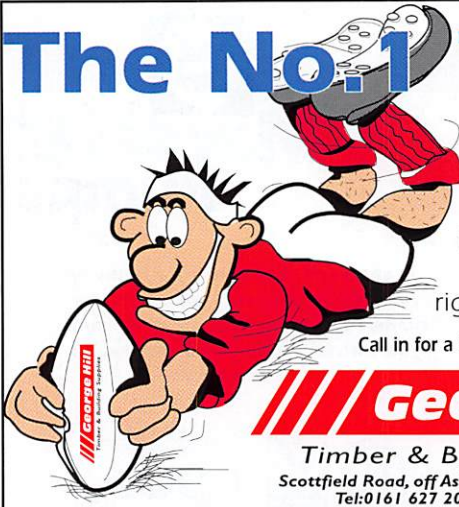
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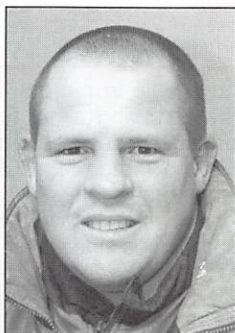
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The points scorers were Kiel Lancashire, Dave Newton, Paul Bennett all one try each, and Keith Brennan scored two tries and kicked five goals.



Keith Brennan.

Spring Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PS
Rochdale Hornets	4	4	0	0	109	32	77	8
Batley Bulldogs	4	3	0	1	113	52	61	6
Oldham	3	2	0	1	58	58	0	4
Dewsbury Rams	3	0	0	3	30	92	-62	0
Workington Town	4	0	0	4	40	116	-76	0

APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2001-2002

PLAYER	APP	SUB	T	G	DG	Pts
G. DODD	2					
M. HARLAND	3		1			4
A. GIBBONS	1					
S. CONWAY	2					
J. MITCHELL	3		1	1		6
G. BABER	1		1	3		10
P. BENNETT	3		2			8
D. GUEST	1					
J. KIRKLAND	3		1			4
A. SHARPLES	3					
D. NEWTON	3		1			4
A. WHITAKER	2					
G. JOHNSON	2					
J. WANKLYN			3			
A. CLAYTON			3			
A. PROCTOR	1	1				
D. HEYWOOD			1			
C. CAMPBELL	1					
K. BRENNAN	1		2	5		18
D. LACEY	2					
D. ATKINSON	1					
M. GRADY	2					
R. ARROWSMITH	1					
K. LANCASHIRE	1	1				
D. HULBERT	1	2				
N. GRENNAN					1	

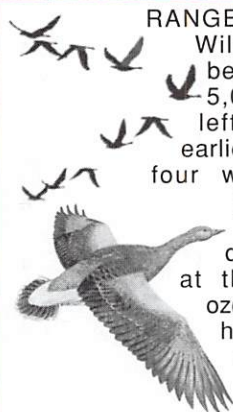
U21 ALLIANCE SPRING CUP FIXTURES

Thursday	14th February	Dewsbury Rams	(A)	Won	18-12
Saturday	2nd March	Rochdale Hornets	(A)	Lost	32-10
Saturday	22nd March	Workington Town	(H)	Won	30-14
Saturday	30th March	Batley Bulldogs	(At Mount Pleasant)	ko 2.30	
Thursday	4th April (Prov.)	Rochdale Hornets	(At Manor Park)		
Saturday	13th April	Semi Finals			
Saturday	20th April	ALLIANCE SPRING CUP FINAL			
		<i>(Played on ground of the competing club who has the highest league position)</i>			

To overcome the withdrawal of the Gateshead side from the Alliance Spring Cup an extra match has been included for each remaining side. In Oldham's case this is v Batley Bulldogs at Mount Pleasant Saturday 30th March, ko 2.30pm.

Also the postponed Alliance Spring Cup match v Rochdale Hornets has been provisionally rearranged for Thursday 4th April at Manor Park.

NFP Round Up



RANGERS at Martin Mere Wildfowl Reserve were bewildered when some 5,000 Canadian geese left their winter habitat earlier this month at least four weeks prior to the previously earliest recorded migration date pointing the finger at that much maligned ozone layer. They needn't have worried as the dinner table dodgers had taken up residence on the more inviting and extensive mudflats of Hurst Cross where enterprising locals had already established a new cottage industry, the erecting of hides, which they were confident would double up as much needed extra seating on the return of the rugby team Oldham Mudlarks.

In the middle of what was, looking back, a strange week, prospective signing Steve Molloy had already been required to produce his 25 metre breaststroke certificate before coach John Harbin would even entertain commencing contract negotiations and the Magnificent Muddyettes had just perfected their first underwater routine for which music wasn't required anyway and it stopped raining. The first Hurst Cross non rain day since November 2nd!

In my minds eye I can picture Steve Molloy now, taking his first look at the Hurst Cross Arena, stood on the edge of the pitch, flippers tucked under his arm scratching his head. The tide had gone out along with the geese! And in their place? grass and a fair amount of it too! And white lines. The first home whitewash this season. John Harbin had done a remarkable job in persuading players, touchjudges and refs alike that white lines were not required at Hurst Cross because the club had received a dispensation from Headquarters!

During the last home match the mud had rendered players unrecognisable but despite monsoon conditions managed to produce a thriller of a game with the home side not

quite able to put out the Dragons fire with a draw proving a fair result. But now able to produce fast and entertaining top of the ground football the Oldham side carried on where they left off at Sheffield the previous Friday and despite the close attentions of a sometimes undisciplined Featherstone outfit took the match three tries to one.

Normally the writer of this column would at this stage be either pontificating last weekends Hornets home defeat and the effect it might have on the outcome of the Good Friday Hornets/Oldham National League Cup clash or predicting the outcome of the other Easter weekend divisional cup games. But today (25th March) all that is over shadowed by the demise of York Wasps. Without News Corporation cash it didn't need the FT to predict that most NFP clubs would find this season tough neither did it need to spell out that our sport was in grave danger of losing clubs. But mid-season?

The RFL would now have to admit that alarm bells were already ringing at some clubs even before the season kicked off but the only bells heard at the Huntington Stadium were those from the Minster that dominates the Ryedale skyline. How can a club when just at the end of January its Chairman was reported to have put together a £5.5 million package to rescue the ailing York City Football Club now had to padlock its own gates?

By the time you read this the club may have been bailed out but already this season the Alliance Spring Cup has had to be reformulated due to the goings on at Gateshead the National League Cup minus York now has an unbalanced look, three unequal divisional leagues of five, six and seven clubs and already doubts are being expressed that the RFL will as hoped be able to formulate two divisions from NFP clubs for next seasons league revamp!

The RFL is set to announce its new Executive Chairman and name the new Business Director so lets hope the financial status of particularly our smaller clubs is high on their agenda.

Brian Walker

IN Town TODAY



DEWSBURY RAMS

THE current Dewsbury club was formed in April 1898 and was admitted into the Rugby Football League in 1901. Since then the club has had an interesting existence. Challenge Cup winners in 1912 and League Champions in 1973, Dewsbury were the first club to qualify to play at Wembley. However Dewsbury's best sustained spell came during the Second World War. The club were managed at the time by media personality Eddie Waring who won fame and popularity through BBC television coverage of the game and then the 'It's a Knock Out' game show. With wartime troops, including several rugby players, assembled at the nearby Caulms Wood Army Camp, Waring was able to gather a strong team around him such as all time greats Gus Risman, Roy Francis, Vic Hey, Jim Sullivan, Charlie Seeling, Barney Hudson and Alan Edwards. Between 1940 and 1944 Dewsbury were Yorkshire Cup winners and beaten finalists, Challenge Cup winners as well as Championship winners and runners-up. They also won the 1943 Championship Final but that was declared null and void after it was declared that Dewsbury had fielded an ineligible player in the final.

When Dewsbury won the Championship in 1973 they were skippered by another television personality, Mick Stephenson, Stevo of Sky-TV fame.

Dewsbury's most recent success came two years ago when they won the Northern Ford Premiership, beating Leigh 13-12 in the Grand Final before a record Gigg Lane crowd of 8,487.

The current Dewsbury squad who hope to emulate that season 2000 success includes the following players:

ANDY FISHER Coach. A very experienced player, recently appointed coach after being assistant coach last season.

NATHAN BATTY Full Back. One of John Harbin's Wakefield signings, toured Australia with Wakefield. Played for the Yorkshire Academy 2000.

DANNY BROUGH Half Back. A local lad formally with Thornhill Trojans, signed for Wakefield 1998 and toured Australia in 2001.

CHRIS CHAPMAN Centre/Second Row. Signed at the start of the season from Sheffield Eagles, formally with Leeds Rhinos and has Great Britain Academy experience.

JIMMY ELSTON Half Back. Signed from Oulton Raiders by John Harbin in 1999 was Wakefield Alliance Player of the Year 2001.

TONY FELLA Forward. a strong fast prop signed from Doncaster Dragons in the close season.

ADRIAN FLYNN Three-quarter. Now in his sixth season at Dewsbury. A local lad with over 150 appearances. Last seasons leading try scorer.

PAUL HICKS Forward. Signed from Batley Bulldogs for the start of this season. Formally with Wakefield Wildcats.

JIM LEATHAM Forward. An experienced player joined Dewsbury from Keighley mid way through last season.

DAVIDE LONGO Threequarter. Second spell at Dewsbury, first joined in 1993/4 season, has been at Bradford, Keighley and Batley before returning.

GEORGE MACK Threequarter. Product of local amateur club, now in third season at Dewsbury.

CHRIS PARKER Forward. Signed from Gateshead Thunder, formally with Bradford also had a couple of seasons in South West Australia.

CHRIS REDFEARN Half Back. Signed from Bradford, former Redhill and Kippax junior player. Has been on loan for a short spell at Hunslet.

ANDY SPEAK Hooker. Another signing from Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. A player with plenty of potential.

RICHARD SLATER Forward/Captain. A very experienced player, signed from Hull KR. Formally with Featherstone Rovers where he was also captain.

FRANK WATENE Forward. A pack leader with a wealth of experience. Captained Auckland Warriors reserves in 1998, and was also a junior Kiwi.

SIMON WILEMAN Forward. Signed from Featherstone Rovers at the start of this season. A good attacking player.

CHRIS KITCHING Stand off/Centre. Recent signing from Hull KR. An experienced player.

CARL BRIGGS Stand off/Half back. Recent signing from Gateshead he has played at all levels and has brought a wealth of experience to the club.



Adrian Flynn

Walkerbout

... with Brian Walker



I RECEIVE regular telephone calls regarding the Oldham RLFC Hall of Fame either enquiring as to its present whereabouts or expressing concern that it is still 'down at the Latics' so I thought I would explain.

Yes, the Hall of Fame is displayed at Boundary Park but in the Clayton Arms complex which, as most rugby fans will already know, is a separate J. W. Lees entertainment/sporting venture annexed from the football ground. Also J. W. Lees are one of two main Oldham RLFC club sponsors and are also official sponsors to the Hall of Fame. The Clayton Arms is used from time to time for rugby functions and the occasional rugby match is still played on Boundary Park, next Sunday's Standard Cup Final for instance.

And because the Clayton Arms is a sporting venue it is open from early in the morning until late into the evening so the Hall of Fame is accessible to visitors for a good proportion of the day, seven days a week. The display is informative, interesting,

well presented and is kept in good visual order. So, at this time there are no plans to move it.

There is also a large Oldham RLFC display cabinet within the Civic Centre situated in the main reception to the political area. This is at the Rochdale end of the Civic Centre and entry is at the main entrance behind the Queen Elizabeth Hall. As the security desk is also in this area the display is accessible to the public from early morning until late evening, seven days a week.

The display, which is changed regularly, depicts the important roll that the club has played in entertaining the sporting public of Oldham down the years.

Details of The Hall of Fame are to be included on the clubs new website contactable at www.roughyeds.co.uk.

**THE OLDHAM RLFC HALL OF FAME
AND SEPARATE HERITAGE
COLLECTION ARE MANAGED BY THE
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**HALL OF FAME MEMBERS
(SPONSORED BY J. W. LEES, BREWERS)**

Left to right: Alan Davies 1950-62, Bob Irving 1964-74, Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94, Derek Turner 1955-59, Bernard Ganley 1950-61, Martin Murphy 1966-82, Frank Stirrup 1950-62, John Etty 1954-59, Herman Hilton 1913-26, Joe Ferguson 1899-23,

Iva Slateloose



THEY SAID WHAT?

"I have opinions of my own – strong opinions – but I don't always agree with them." (*George Bush*)

"If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life." (*Brooke Shields*)

"This rock salt is produced from deposits laid down over two million years ago. Best before April 2002."

"People are slowly inching towards metrication." (*Harriet Harman*)

"I am not a nest egg person" (*Elton John*)

"From now on everyone can go out and be as extravagant as they wish, safe in the knowledge they will never spend as much as Elton." (*Jasper Conran*)

"There is even a rose named after me. The catalogue describes it as superb for bedding." (*June Whitfield*)

"With musical chairs the competition is not fair, because it is the largest and strongest children who win." (*Department for Education*)

"The world's tragedy is that men love women, women love children and children love hamsters." (*Joanna Trollope*)

"Getting information from the internet is like getting a glass of water from Niagara Falls." (*Arthur C. Clarke*)

"There is a sense that the Government are somehow out of touch with gut British instincts. This even applies to me." (*Tony Blair*)

"I'm a very keen ornithologist. Very interested in birds and now I want to learn how to shoot them." (*Lord Norman Lamont*)

"Each American produces three times more greenhouse gases than a Frenchman" (*Jacques Chirac*) **Must be the diet!**

"I can't bear to put up with drunks." (*Boris Yeltsin*). **Takes one to know one!**

"Yob attacks dinosaur." (*Scarborough Evening News*). **You can't keep a good yob down can you?**

"Trude and Steve are surprised to find just how aggressive a camel can be when they try to castrate one." (*Radio Times*). **Surprised? They're lucky still to be alive!**

"It's typical of me to be finishing a long and distinguished drinking career just as the Government is planning to open the pubs 24 hours a day." (*George Best*)

"I don't think we got off the bus before half-time and maybe our confidence is a bit low ..." (*Batley Coach Paul Storey*). **Damned tricky things those steps at the front of the bus!**

"Just a little gripe. Wakefield looked very smart in their new strip, but the white jersey with a red and blue 'V' looked too much like a Great Britain one and that can't be right." (*Raymond Fletcher in League Express*) . **Pity, really, that Great Britain don't play in a Great Britain jersey then, eh! Raymond?**

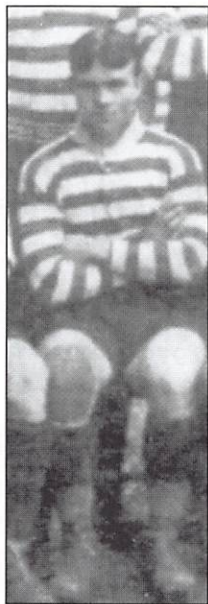
Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the Dewsbury club and recall probably the most important match ever between the two clubs. The occasion was the Challenge Cup final of 1912 played on April 27th, at Headingley.

Dewsbury won the toss and started the game which saw Oldham soon on the attack and after six minutes Joe Ferguson gave them the lead with a penalty goal. The Yorkshiremen soon replied with a drop goal by Neary levelling the scores. Soon after this only the speed of George Cook saved Oldham when his opposite number Rhodes followed up his own cross kick, only to be denied by the Oldham winger. Defences dominated in what was a tight and bruising encounter and it took a brilliant piece of play by the Oldham back division to break the deadlock. From a scrum in the Dewsbury half a slick piece of handling involving both half



George Cook

backs and both centres put George Cook over for an unconverted try. Swift passing from "George" Anlezark to Jim Lomas to Evan Davies paved the way for Sid Deane to cut through the Dewsbury defence before supplying Cook with a run in at the corner. The score was marred by the fact that Cook was fouled after touching down and as a result could not play to his full potential from this point onwards. The fact that the perpetrator of the deed got away with just a warning was but one decision that Oldham would regret from referee Mr Ennion.

Oldham started the second half leading by 5 points to 2 and when one of Dewsbury's

best forwards, Hammell, had to retire injured, the game looked safe for the Roughyeds. However, the superiority of numbers was short lived.

The controversy that followed is the subject of some doubt, as to the precise events involved. Some reports suggest that Anlezark complained about Milner being constantly off-side at the scrum and the referee, after at first seeming to award Oldham a penalty, reversed the decision and was immediately besieged by the aggrieved Oldham players. Other accounts state that Avery remonstrated with the referee after what seemed to be a legitimate call for a "mark" by Tom Williams was turned down. Whatever the reason, the final outcome was the dismissal of Avery for dissent. From this point the game slipped from Oldham's grasp.

Rhodes scored an unconverted try to level the scores once more and after Alf Wood had missed a penalty the game seemed to be heading for a draw, but with just 5 minutes left to play a break through by Milner again paved the way for Rhodes to go over in the corner. The conversion was missed but the cup belonged to Dewsbury, victorious by eight points to five.

Oldham had started as hot favourites. Was it the injury to Cook? The dismissal of Avery? Or perhaps a combination of both? No doubt the arguments went on long after the game. Nevertheless, Dewsbury proved to be resolute opponents and worthy cup winners.

OLDHAM: A Wood; G Cook, S Deane, E Davies, T Williams; J Lomas, E.A.

Anlezark;
J Ferguson, A Smith, J Wright, F Wise, J Wiltshire, A Avery.

DEWSBURY: E.J. Jackett, W Rhodes, E Ware, E Ward, G Sharples; J Neary, T Milner;

F Richardson, P O'Neill, G.A. Garnett, J Hammell, A.V. Abbishaw, A Evans.

Referee: Mr B Ennion - Wigan

Attendance: 15,371.



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A Chance to Meet . . . STEVE MOLLOY

with David McGeally, Radio Cavell 1350AM

Where and when were you born and who's in your family?

I was born in Manchester in 1969, March 11th so I'm just thirty three.

Manchester's never been known as a hot bed of rugby league.

Well my first love, and I still follow them quite avidly, is Manchester City and soccer. I was an aspiring footballer until we moved up to Oldham when I was about eight. My mother and father were licensees and they got the opportunity to take the Fitton Arms on Fitton Hill. The rest of the family? I've got a younger brother, Martin who lives in Bury and an elder sister, Suzanne who still lives locally.

When you came to Oldham which primary school did you attend?

Holy Rosary, the local catholic school. We didn't get that much of a bedding in rugby but we had a teacher there who was quite interested and occasionally used to get the old oval ball out as opposed to the round one. Who was that? Mr Littleford.

So at eleven you've still not started playing rugby league. Where did you go to from there?

I went to Fitton Hill Comprehensive School which was the local school, not the catholic one my mother and father wanted me to go to. That's where I crossed paths with Iain McCorquadaile who will be known to a lot of people in Oldham. He converted me to rugby league. I was hooked from the word 'go'. Every dinner hour with the rest of the lads in our class and from the year above he used to have us in the training hall playing games of 'tig and pass'. It was a standard ritual virtually every dinner time.

Iain McCorquadaile wasn't only a teacher and very keen on rugby, he played rugby league as well. Was he playing at the time?

I think he was. He'd just come back from Fulham and I think he was at Workington. We actually went to watch him play a couple of times. He was a goal kicking winger and a lot of the young lads were in awe of him because he was a professional rugby player as opposed to being a very good and talented English teacher.

That's your first memory of Rugby League?

Yes, but one of my first memories is of breaking my leg while playing. But at that age you're very resilient and I just bounced back luckily that was probably the last time I had a serious

injury in rugby league.

How old were you then?

Just starting secondary school, probably about eleven.

Did it put you off the game?

It did initially, but as I said you just bounce back at that age. So you go through school boy rugby. I played for the town team, played for Lancashire and I was very, very fortunate as I think I was the first boy from the area to play for England schoolboys. A great honour. I've still got the pictures and the video at home. It seems a long time ago now but I can still remember it very vividly.

Obviously playing at that standard you get a number of clubs coming and taking a look at you. Which clubs were interested in you and who did you sign for?

A lot of clubs were interested. As a school boy I didn't know, but I got a lot of advice from another teacher in this area, Eric Fitzsimons. Iain McCorquadaile was affiliated to Bradford Northern at the time so he had me down there wanting me to sign school boy forms for them. So I was offered a contract there. But I decided I was going to hang off a little bit and pursue my amateur career, and I actually played for BARLA and as a seventeen year old I actually captained the Under 19 side. After that when we'd played our games I decided I would sign professional. There were a lot of clubs being touted about. A lot of the big names, Saints, Wigan, but I ended up signing for Warrington. At the time, and probably still now, they had one of the best youth policies in the game. They've plucked the likes of Iestyn Harris and Paul Sculthorpe from the Oldham area, so they do monitor 'hot beds' of rugby league and Oldham is very definitely one of them. They do come and have a tendency to sniffle up all these young aspiring stars.

Now you've mentioned a few names there, Eric Fitzsimons, Iain McCorquadaile. Who has been the greatest influence on you?

It's very hard to say. It's a culmination of a lot of things. My father initially. He was great. He pushed me. There was times when you didn't want to get up for training, or you didn't want to do certain aspects of the game, but he was there pushing me. At the time I probably didn't appreciate what he was trying to do for me. Iain McCorquadaile was a great influence and a lot of

coaches who pointed you in the right direction. Also a lot of players. I was very fortunate to play with some household names in rugby league. The likes of Ellery Hanley, Shaun Edwards, Andy Gregory. You pick a little bit of the positive things up off these players and you can understand why they're at the top of the game. You aspire to copy them and to be like them and the little assets that they have, you hope to get them to rub off on you.

You certainly mentioned a few very famous names there. What has been your most memorable moment so far in rugby league?

I've been fortunate enough to captain my country which is obviously the pinnacle of anybody's career. Where was that? I captained them three times. The first time was at Widnes, the new Auto Quest Stadium against a Welsh side. Then the year after in 1999 I captained England against France over there and over here. On all three occasions we came out victors. I don't think there's many England captains can say they've played three, won three. So maybe on that score I'm probably a little bit unique. Also makes you feel several inches taller I should imagine? Well yes, it's a great honour now, but in later life it's something I can look back to. It's always going to be on my CV - Former England Captain.

If that was the 'good' moment, what is your worst moment in rugby league?

Unfortunately there's been quite a few. When I was at Warrington, and it was part of the reason I left, I wasn't selected for the Challenge Cup Final having played every game that year. Especially when they beat Oldham in the semi-final. It was that year was it? Yes. I really, really wanted to play a part in the game and I didn't. That was a major, major upset but I also got an opportunity when I went to Sheffield. Unfortunately because of some sort of fall out I'd had with Featherstone and the Rugby League wouldn't adjudicate on the actual incident I ended up missing the Challenge Cup deadline in 1998. That was when Sheffield went on to Wembley and caused, probably, the biggest upset in rugby league history beating Wigan in the final. I was in the squad and went down with Sheffield but I couldn't play. I wasn't injured, I wasn't dropped, I'd have played if this silly deadline had been sorted out. Must be great regrets there? Yes, not playing at Wembley. Especially as it's not certain that there's going to be a Wembley Stadium or a Challenge Cup Final there and at my age I'm not certain there's going to be that many more opportunities.

Let's see if we can't cheer things up a little bit. Rugby League's full of characters and incidents that happen, what's the most amusing incident

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you've ever seen in a match?

The funniest thing I've seen was not in a match it was after it. I'd just signed at Leeds and we'd not got a result. We'd lost in the last minute. David Ward, the then coach and a good friend of mine now, had come in ranting and raving, like they do. He was throwing things around, knocking the water bottles off the rubbing down table. Unfortunately there was a big tray with resin on it that the players used to put on their hands to get rid of the sweat and make the ball stick a little bit better. This tray was lay on the table. Ward thumped the table and caught the corner of the tray which managed to flick the resin all over him. It's bright yellow this stuff and he's there in his 'number ones', his best Leeds blazer and his Leeds tie and that. It just covered him from head to foot. Obviously from a very sombre and serious dressing room with everybody looking at their shoelaces things changed. You could see the players shoulders start to roll and that just infuriated David Ward more. So a few of the players had to make a quick departure to the physio's room to stop him seeing them rolling over laughing.

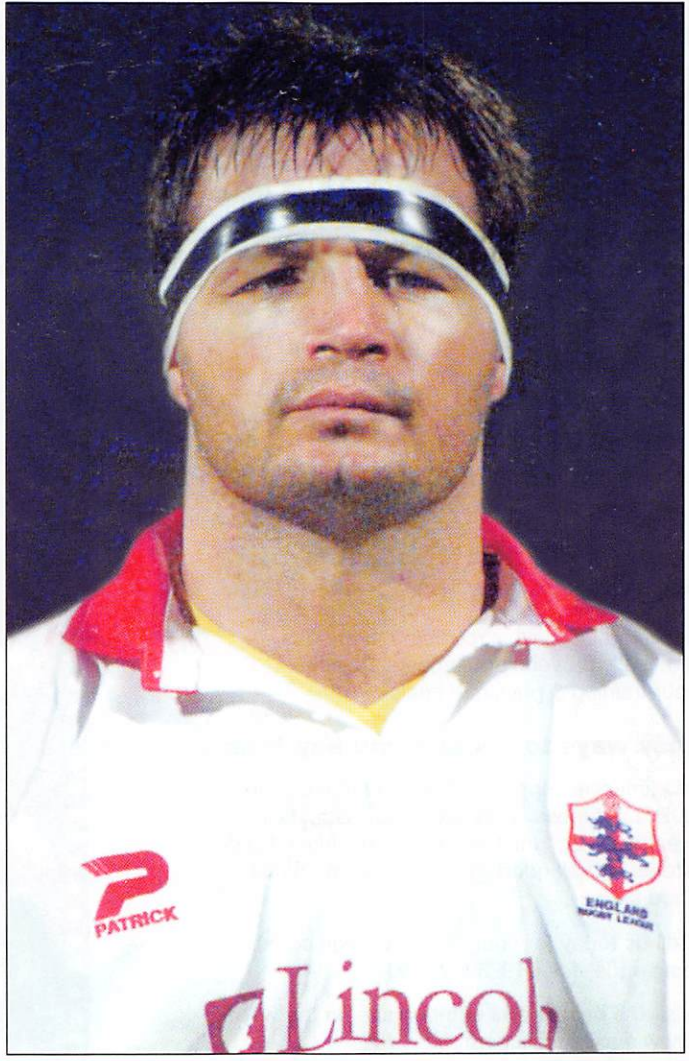
What about the biggest character you've come across in the game?

There's a lot of them. Some of the real pranksters like Andy Gregory a fantastic player but also a real character. He played tricks and had a tale for every situation. He's permanently a showman on and off the field. Such a small lad. He's not so small now. Quite stout. I still bump into him. He's coaching at an amateur side in Wigan and every now and then when I go up to watch St Annes, my club who I was affiliated to, we joke about the old times and have a beer.

You say you joke about the old times have you still got ambitions in rugby league?

Yes. The one that springs to mind having signed for Oldham is that the first time I was here we got to the semi-final of the play-offs, last year they got to the final, so you've got to aspire to go that one step further. Of course that would be putting one over your old team. Well, yes. Huddersfield are favourites, by a country mile. Their form in the early part of the season has been fantastic and they've got probably one of the best coaches in the country, if not the world, at their helm. They'll be a very, very formidable side but play-off rugby, as a lot of people will recollect from last year, is a totally different subject.

This interview will be broadcast in full on Radio Cavell - 1350AM next Friday during "Sports Week" between 5-00 and 6-00pm.



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Moreover, CLA can prevent the re-gain of fat most people suffer from after several months of dieting. According to Dr. Michael Pariza, an expert on CLA based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, CLA users are "more likely to gain muscle and not fat", when they stop dieting.

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Wilson's Wisdom

... with Ian Wilson

WITH great respect to the other historians of the club who regularly contribute so much to the match programme, I thought that I too would go down memory lane today, to have a look back at a few of the past Easter experiences the club has enjoyed in my lifetime.

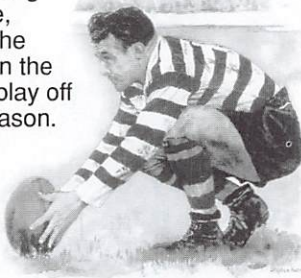
The first that comes to mind is April 4, 5 & 7, 1958 - yes, that's right, we did play three games in four day in those far-gone times - and no 17 man squads then! That year, it was Swinton, as always, away on Good Friday, followed by Wigan and Huddersfield at Watersheddings on Saturday and Easter Monday. Incredibly 11 players played in all three games - Ganley, Cracknell, Nestor, Davies, Kellett, Pitchford, Jackson, Duffy, Winslade, Little and Turner. What a roll call!

We were riding high in the table, having topped the League and won the Championship play off the previous season.

We came into this 1958 Easter programme with only 4 games

previously lost - to Hull, St. Helens (twice) and, significantly, at home to Swinton on Christmas Day 1957. The Good Friday fixture gave us ample revenge, however, with a 28-18 win. Bernard Ganley kicking 8 goals. The came Wigan, and a crunch match.

We had had an amazing winning run of 14 matches against them, stretching back to November 1951, including victories away in the League (9-8) and in The Lancashire Cup Final (13-8) in the '57-'58 season. That run had been ended in a 0-8 reverse in the Challenge Cup 4 weeks before the Easter Sunday match. No Wembley again, unfortunately. Revenge



Bernard Ganley

was duly gained, though, with 5 more Ganley goals and tries by Alan Kellett (2) and Frank Pitchford. After that, Huddersfield - no mugs themselves in those days on Easter Monday was a piece of cake - 27-3 on the way to another top-of-the-table placing. (Sadly, though, there was no Championship title in '58. A powerful Hull pack did us 8-20 in a game, that, sadly, I can remember to this day.)

Of course, Easter has not always seen Oldham challenging near the top of the table! I shall gloss over 1970, when two Easter losses merely served to confirm our final 29th place in the single League table (29th out of 30th, that was), and 1981, when Easter losses at home to Wakefield and away to Hull KR made certain of last place in Division 1 and relegation.

Let us move swiftly, and finally, to 1995. It was the final pre-Murdoch season. The Super League revolution had recently broken, and coincidentally we were at home on Good Friday to Salford, the club with whom we were supposed to merge, according to the men in suits. The match itself seemed to be of rather less significance than the peaceful and amicable demonstration by fans of both clubs to make clear that neither were interested in merger.

We won fairly easily, 28-16, with tries from Neal (2), Stephenson, Lord and Gibson, with 4 goals from Paul Topping as it happened. Even though this was followed by a loss at Workington on Easter Monday, and then two more losses to finish the season, it turned out that the result against Salford was absolutely crucial to our future. Why? Because it meant that we finished in tenth place in the 1st Division - just one place above Salford - and so qualified to take the final Super League place. How might the history of the club have been different if we had lost that game against Salford.

I hope you all had a happy Easter. Happy memories!

Junior Roughyeds



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three Shredded Wheat. Incidentally all this was said in front of John Harbin who looked very pleased!

The mascot for the Rochdale game on Good Friday was 14 year old **RICHARD COWLING**. Richard goes to North Chadderton School and although Richard does not play rugby he is currently learning to be a Rugby League Referee. Richard's favourite player is John Hough because he likes the way he runs with aggression and gives 100%.

The mascot for tonight's game is 5 year old **CAMERON CLARE**. Cameron goes to Alt Primary School and his favourite player is our Junior Roughyed Player of the Year Jason Clegg. His favourite programme is the Tweenies and his mum says that Cameron loves messing about and getting very dirty - I just know what she means. Enjoy the game.

Adele

WELCOME to the Junior Roughyeds page.

I hope that you have all had a great Easter and that you have not eaten too much chocolate!

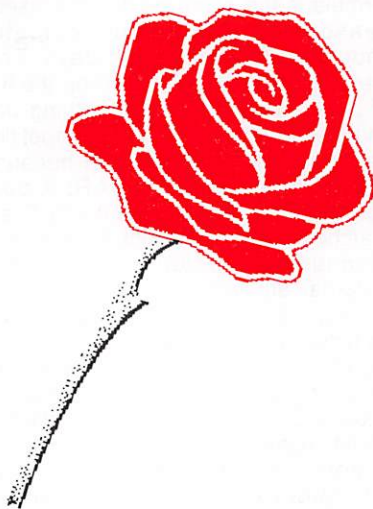
Many of the Junior supporters have asked me what do the players have for breakfast. Last Sunday I asked a few of them and here is what they said:- Keith Brennan has Frosties, Phil Farrell toast, John Braddish Weetabix, Danny Guest Ready Brek and Andy Proctor Rice Krispies. Andy says that when they are going a long way to play rugby they stop off for breakfast and they all have scrambled eggs and toast. We all know that Joe McNicholas has

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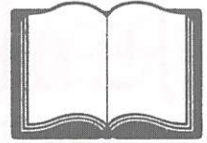
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Phil Woolas MP
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Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES

ALTHOUGH Saddleworth Rangers have been relegated from the premier division of the National Conference League, they could still play some part in the eventual destination of the Championship. Next Saturday they entertain Oulton who are hot on the heels of leaders West Hull. Oulton visit West Hull tomorrow and, should they win at the Boulevard, Saturday's match would assume even greater significance.

St. Annes also play at home next Saturday when Skirlaugh visit Higginshaw Road. The Green & Golds still have high hopes of qualifying for the end of season play-off competition involving the top five clubs. Although lying in mid-table, Saints have six fixtures to fulfil including the visit of both West Hull and Thornhill to Higginshaw Road. West Hull are scheduled to visit on April 17th and Thornhill seven days later. Saints away programme sees them travelling to Leigh East, Lock Lane and St. Patricks.

The play-off competition is scheduled to commence on Saturday 11th May and, if the formula is the same as the one used in last seasons Super League competition, it should cover four match days. The final, therefore, should be staged on the weekend of June 1st/2nd although nothing has been finalised at this stage. The competition must be completed that weekend because early the following week a BARLA open age squad jets off to the south of France for matches against a French Presidents XIII on Wednesday 5th June and France 'B' on Saturday 8th June.

First Division Waterhead have been fighting against relegation all season. They lie in a false position, however, after throwing away points which they were capable of accumulating. They still have four home matches to play starting with a vital encounter against fellow relegation strugglers Eastmoor this Saturday. The following Saturday Thatto Heath visit North Chadderton School where Waterhead have been playing this season. Either side of the Challenge Cup Final, Dudley Hill and then Redhill travel over the Pennines to meet Waterhead.

The remaining programme of matches involving our local clubs is as follows:

Saturday 6th April

Saddleworth Rangers v Oulton

St. Annes v Skirlaugh.

Waterhead v Eastmoor

Wednesday 10th April

Leigh East v St. Annes

Saturday 13th April

Lock Lane v St. Annes

Waterhead v Thatto Heath

Wednesday 17th April

St. Annes v West Hull

Saturday 20th April

St. Patricks v St. Annes

Waterhead v Dudley Hill

Wednesday 24th April

St. Annes v Thornhill

Saturday 4th May

Waterhead v Redhill

The other big talking point in amateur rugby league circles is the proposed summer National League, Division Three, applications for which had to be submitted by last Thursday. It is part of a pyramid structure by which clubs, providing facilities are suitable, are able to climb up the leagues presumably into Super League. However, there is no promotion and relegation for the first three years.

Clubs are playing their cards close to their chests and it is difficult to know just who has applied and who has not. Saddleworth will remain in the winter Conference League and would be quite pleased if any other premier division club switched to summer as it would enable them to retain their premier division status. St. Annes have certainly discussed joining the new set up and a source close to Waterhead tells me that the Peach Street club have actually applied.

I find it amazing that any National Conference League club would even consider joining this National League, Division Three. Despite criticism, the winter National Conference League is the best-administered competition in British rugby league and I include both Super League and NFP in my considerations. Moving to summer would increase travelling expenses for a competition involving inferior opposition. It is definite non-starter.

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The Whistle Blower

..... With Sam Shepherd

THE SAGA OF BARRY KEAR

NOT many people will remember the player who was in the Hull team to play Oldham on the 12th October 1974. It was a Second Division game at Watersheddings. I went to watch the game as a spectator but was drafted onto the touchline because one of the appointed officials failed to arrive. I was supplied with a pair of boots, but apart from that, I was in 'civvies', and opted for the touchline on the 'E' stand side.

The referee was both young and inexperienced and also quite nervous. Early on in the game the Hull forwards, led by Kear, were giving Oldham some 'grief', and their tackling was barely legal. The referee did not quite know how to cope.

Suddenly an irate Oldham spectator from the terraces in front of the 'E' stand, climbed over the wall and ran onto the field to remonstrate with either the referee or the Hull forwards or perhaps both. Fortunately, for him, the police caught him (I bet Walter Alcock was involved) and took him outside the ground. I say fortunately for him, because the Hull forwards looked quite disappointed, they would have loved to 'grapple' with the intruder.

The referee was having a torrid time, but the half time whistle finally came, and I was able to reassure the young man in the dressing room and give him some sound advice, viz: dismiss the next player to query a decision, and so he did. Unfortunately it happened to be the Oldham captain, Brian Gregory!!! In the event Oldham won the match 10-5 (Larder kicked 5 goals).

However, the Oldham committee was very impressed by the Hull forward, Barry Kear, and in subsequent matches, collections were taken in a 'pillowcase' and eventually Kear became an Oldham player who made his debut on the 12th October, 1975 as a member of the following team.

MURPHY

ELLIOTT LARDER WAINWRIGHT BARTON

TREASURE McCONE

HUGHES TAYLOR HICKS

HALL KEAR

REYNOLDS

Subs: J. BLAIR & K. FLANAGAN

Kear made just 40 appearances for Oldham and left in 1977 (See In Yer Face).



RECENTLY, I asked you why 3 Hull players burst into the dressing room at the Boulevard with a shotgun, shouting, "Where is that b....y referee?" Meaning Eric Lawrenson who at that time was in a state of undress in the dressing room.

I can now reveal that some weeks earlier in a match at York, Eric had sent off these self same three players, who had decided on a spot of 'revenge'. Luckily it was all in good clean 'fun'.



Answers to questions in Featherstone programme.

Team 'A' kick off to start game and ball is caught by Team 'B' player standing on touchline.

Decision: Penalty to Team 'B' on centre spot. Team 'A' have kicked ball directly into touch.

Team 'A' kick off to start game, ball lands on crossbar and goes dead on the full.

Decision: Penalty to Team 'B' on centre spot.

A Team 'A' player, in possession runs towards Team 'B's posts and as he approaches he slips and the ball shoots out of his hands, hits the upright on the full and bounces back into Team 'A' players hands, without touching the ground, whereupon the Team 'A' player grounds the ball on the '**GOAL LINE**' (NB There is no such thing as a try line).

Decision: 10 metre scrum. Team 'B' head and ball. (Knock on)

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TOPIC OF THE DAY

...THE 100 GREATEST RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS - EVER! (Well, 1951 to 2001)

40 GARRY SCHOFIELD. Garry Schofield shares the record for the greatest number of Test caps at 46 with Mick Sullivan. He also shares the record for most appearances against Australia with 15 (shared with Jim Sullivan). So, there should be no underestimating the quality of Schofield's play whether as playmaker, try poacher, tactical kicker or interception king. The influential Hull and Leeds stand-off was one of the stand out players of his generation. His first Test appearance made him the youngest Ashes player ever when he played in Sydney on 9.6.84. He was then 18 years and 344 days. he went on to appear in no fewer than six Ashes series a testimony to his fitness, skill and durability.



39 JASON ROBINSON. He may now be the darling of that other code and there are those who would brand him a Judas but it would be criminal not to acknowledge the attacking flair of Jason Robinson. A key player for Wigan and Britain no matter where selected, 'elusive' might have been coined to describe him. But Robinson is a lot more than just elusive: incredibly strong for his size, keen anticipation and opportunism mark him out as extra-special. And he has that electric burst of pace to take him into the clear, a feature of his game he has worked hard to achieve.

38 DENNIS HARTLEY. Beginning with Doncaster Dennis Hartley became a bargain signing for Hunslet in 1961 and an even bigger bargain for Castleford in 1964. The big prop went on to feature in all 'classy Cas's' cup exploits of the late '60s and earned selection for the 1970 tour as a late replacement. He rapidly emerged as Britain's first choice no.8 and was a cornerstone of Frank Myler's Ashes winning team.

37 JOE LYDON. Widnes and Wigan wingman, centre and fullback Joe Lydon possessed that yard of pace which could be a killer for the opposition if you gave him half a chance of a break. Some of his best feats feature regularly on T.V. and video such as his 1984 Wembley tries for Widnes or his 60 yard drop goal for Wigan in the cup semi-final win over Warrington in 1988. The first player to be transferred for £100,000 when he departed Widnes for Wigan in 1986. Lydon was a mainstay of Wigan's Wembley triumphs over the next eight years.

36 DAVID WATKINS. Capped 21 times for Wales at Rugby Union Watkins was a major coup for Salford when he was paid £16,000 to turn pro in October 1967. He quickly became one of the brightest stars of his new code and thrilled the crowds at the Willows in one of Salford's greatest ever sides. He possessed a wonderful sidestep, terrific pace, great handling and finishing skills and, above all, was a phenomenal kicker. In 1971-2 he set a world record with 221 successful goalkicks and set a club appearance record with 140 consecutive outings. Toured in 1974 and captained Wales in the 1975 World Cup. Coach of the 1977 Great Britain World Cup squad. A delight to watch and a true gentleman.

35 CLIVE SULLIVAN. Clive Sullivan M.B.E. was the captain of Great Britain's World Cup winning side of 1972. He will always be remembered for scoring a length of the field try in the Final of that competition and he was, undoubtedly, one of the classiest wingers the game has seen. Equally popular on both sides of the river Hull, Sullivan spent 13 years at the Boulevard before signing for Hull KR in 1974. He went on to record a century of tries for the Robins as he had done for the 'Airlie Birds'. In 1980-81 Sullivan even graced the colours of Oldham making 17 appearances for 3 tries. The game was deprived of another true gentleman and one of its finest ambassadors by his early and untimely death from cancer. It is a fitting tribute that when entering Hull from the west you drive down Clive Sullivan Way.

34 JOHN WOODS. Leigh stand-off John Woods is one of my all time favourite players. He was one of the finest attacking players the modern game has seen. Tough and wiry Woods seemed to glide past would be tacklers and possessed an electrifying burst of pace to take him clear, pace nevertheless that he could sustain over a distance. He was also an outstanding handler and kicker of a ball. In 1977-78 he kicked a century of goals before Christmas (a very rare feat indeed) and became only the fifth player ever to play and score in every game in a season. He was a British tourist in 1979 but, in my opinion, never won as many international caps as his talent deserved. Behind an impressive pack Woods led his unfashionable Leigh team to an always exciting and thoroughly well deserved Championship victory in 1981-82.

33 GERRY HELME. However highly you might rate Frank Pitchford (and it would be deserved) the dominant scrum half in British rugby before the emergence of Alex Murphy was Warrington's Gerry Helme. His partnership with Ray Price was at the heart of Warrington's early/mid 50s success and was the first choice pairing for Britain despite the claims of Halifax's Dean and Kieley. A real, old fashioned, playmaking halfback Helme cajoled his forwards onto the ball. The first player to win the Lance Todd Trophy twice (1950 & 1954) Helme scored the winning try in the 1954 Challenge Cup Final replay before 102,000 fans at Odsal.

32 SHAUN EDWARDS. A halfback from a different era but one as commanding as any. Equally at home at 6 or 7 Edward was one of the fiercest competitors you could wish to meet. A beautiful passer of a ball and a fine tactical kicker, Edwards was also a try poacher supreme. Edwards was just 17 when he broke into Wigan's first team in 1984 and soon became a regular for both club and country. Notorious for his early bath against Australia at Wembley in 1994 in a famous GB victory (8-4) with 12 men. Notorious, too, for his marriage to Heather Small one of the country's finest female vocalists.

31 ERIC ASHTON. St. Helens Director Eric Ashton was born and lived within spitting distance of Knowsley Road. But the Great Britain skipper played his rugby for Wigan, forming, with Billy Boston, one of the most devastating right wing partnerships you could ever imagine. A classy centre who could time a pass to perfection Ashton captained Wigan six times at Wembley, toured in 1958 (scoring 116 points) and skipped the Lions on the 1962 tour. Also skippered G.B's 1960 World Cup winners. One of Rugby League's true 'immortals'

Stat Attack

APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2001-2002

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	SUBSTITUTIONS	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
M. SIBSON	13		6			24
G. DODD	9	2	1			4
D. GIBBONS	13		6			24
J. GODDARD	13		4			16
J. McNICHOLAS	13		9			36
J. BRADDISH	13		3	44	2	102
N. RODEN	10	3	5		2	22
S. KNOX	3					
J. HOUGH	13		3			12
J. CLEGG	13					
P. FARRELL	12		3			12
B. HENARE	10	1	2			8
L. DORAN	11	2	4			16
T. HODGKINSON	2					
G. BARBER	3	8				
D. GUEST		12				
L. CASEY	1	3				
W. COWELL	2	6				
K. BRENNAN	3	2	1			4
A. PROCTOR		5				
P. NORTON	6	1	1			4
A. GIBBONS	4	1	1			4
D. FOSTER	2	1	4			8
A. MURRAY		1				
S. MOLLOY		1				

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP TABLE 2001-2002

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Huddersfield Giants	13	12	1	0	464	98	366	25
Whitehaven	12	9	1	2	314	148	166	19
Hull Kingston Rovers	11	9	0	2	268	133	135	18
Leigh Centurions	10	8	1	1	354	154	200	17
Featherstone Rovers	12	8	1	3	332	197	135	17
Rochdale Hornets	12	8	1	3	324	241	83	17
Dewsbury Rams	12	8	0	4	345	214	131	16
Workington Town	14	8	0	6	340	235	105	16
Sheffield Eagles	13	7	0	6	301	225	76	14

Doncaster Dragons	10	6	1	3	256	188	68	13
Batley Bulldogs	13	6	0	7	253	329	-76	12
Oldham	11	5	1	5	254	218	36	11
Barrow Raiders	12	4	0	8	285	276	9	8
Keighley Cougars	12	4	0	8	190	424	-234	8
Chorley Lynx	12	2	0	10	206	358	-152	4
Hunslet Hawks	13	2	0	11	194	462	-268	4
Swinton Lions	10	1	0	9	113	362	-249	2
York Wasps	11	1	0	10	105	430	-325	2
Gateshead Thunder	11	0	1	10	106	312	-206	1

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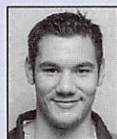
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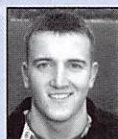
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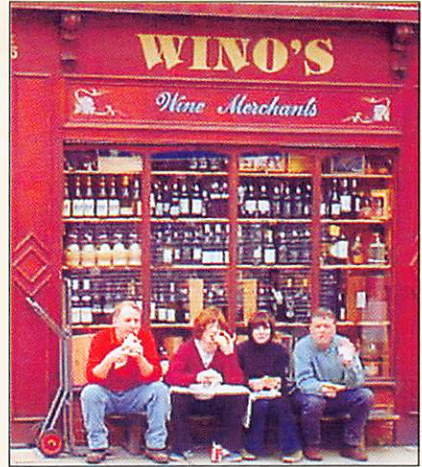
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Fixtures

Date	Opponent	Result	Att
DECEMBER			
2	SWINTON LIONS	H F - A P	
16	Hull K.R.	L 10-26	2032
30	Leigh	L 12-46	3388
JANUARY			
6	YORK	W 32-16	1130
13	Dewsbury Rams	L 6-30	1410
20	CHORLEY LYNX	W 34-2	1114
27	WEST HULL (C' Cup Rd3)	W 38-4	1131
FEBRUARY			
3	Workington	L 20-28	991
10	ST HELENS (C' Cup Rd4)	L 6-40	4089
17	GATESHEAD	W 54-2	931
23	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H P	
MARCH			
3	Huddersfield	L 18-28	3191
10	DONCASTER DRAGONS	D 22-22	1067
15	Sheffield Eagles	W 25-6	1095
24	FEATHERSTONE	W 23-12	1533
29	Rochdale Hornets	A (Nat Cup)	
APRIL			
2	DEWSBURY RAMS	H (Nat Cup)	ko7.45
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	

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