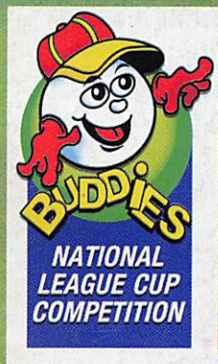


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*The Roughyeds*



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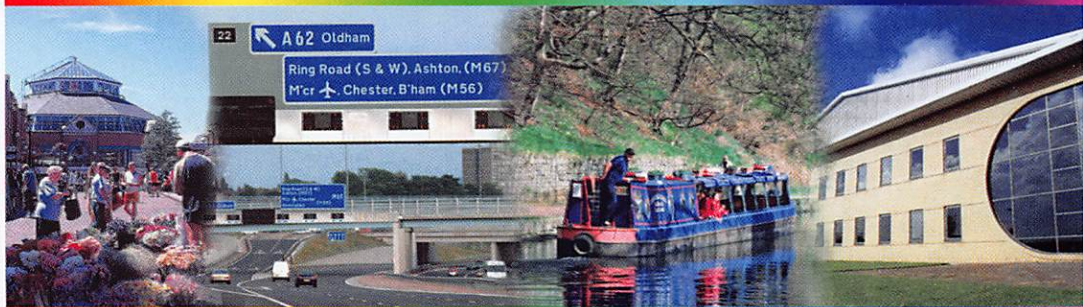
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# IN THE HOT SEAT

with  
**Christopher Hamilton**



TODAY'S game against Batley has now taken on added importance following the last round of results a fortnight ago in the Buddies National League Cup.

It is likely that should we win today then we will progress to the last eight for which the draw will take place tonight at 5.15pm.

The performance at Hunslet in our last game was again a very professional one and the points scored in that game could make all the difference.

Batley will, as ever, provide stiff opposition today and we will need to play well to progress. Indeed a Batley win could see them go through so there is a lot riding on the game.

Today will be our first home game for nearly 5 weeks having lost the Keighley game so we are obviously hoping for a good crowd.

Everybody is aware that a large proportion of our income is generated through the turnstile and circumstances this season have been difficult enough without losing much needed home games. The support over the last few weeks has been tremendous and please keep it up today.

With everybody having a week off last week for the Challenge Cup Final it was interesting to note how Ian Millwards/St.Helens approach to the Bradford Bulls game the week before had turned all the neutrals into Wigan Warriors fans for the day - I bet you thought you would never see that happen!!

Yesterday also saw the clubs Academy Team play it's first game of the season and we are pleased with the way our recruitment of the best young players in the town and surrounding areas is progressing. With a bit of luck (ha ha!) we should be able to look forward to watching a good team taking shape under Sean Gartland. As ever, your support for the Academy Team is important as encouragement is a part of their development and they will no doubt give you plenty of pleasure over the coming months. One of the big pluses we have in attracting players is the fact that we are one of the small number of clubs in the whole game who run teams at Alliance and Academy levels.

With our proven track record of players coming through the ranks to the first team we are confident that this policy will stand us in good stead for the future.

Enjoy the game.

**Chris**

Chicago Rock Cafe, Oldham are collecting at today's game for the club to support breast cancer charity "BREAKTHROUGH".  
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Derek Turner 1955-59, Bob Irving  
1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,  
Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

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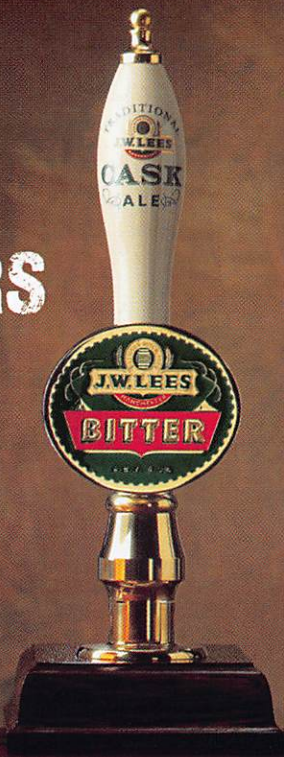
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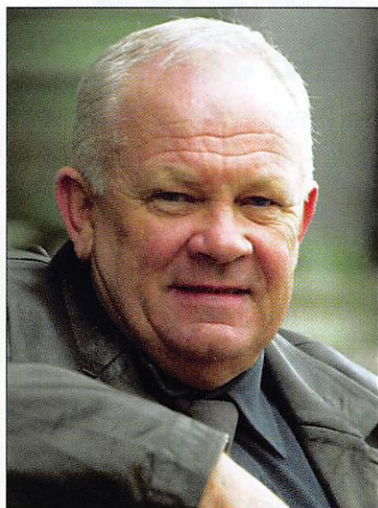
# OLDHAM CHRONICLE

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## COACH'S COMMENTS... with John Harbin



WELCOME back to Hurst Cross for the first time since April 1st when we beat Dewsbury Rams. Today's game sees us clash with a very strong Batley side in what should prove to be a typical cup tie. The National League Cup hasn't been everyone's cup of tea but try telling that to the Oldham and Batley players who do battle today.

Despite only playing two games in April the squad have been training extremely well and are jumping out of their skins to get back to regular rugby. We have no long term injury worries and team selection will pose a few problems in the weeks to come. We have lost David Foster of course, but this has served to create competition for the right wing spot with Chris Campbell, Will Cowell and Mark Sibson being the leading contenders. All three have played particularly well in the Alliance and it looks like being a case of horses for courses.

Then of course there's the battle of the halves - John Braddish, Gareth Barber or Neil Roden? Let's not forget the hooking role - John Hough, Anthony Murray or Keith Brennan? It's obvious that I won't be able to keep everyone happy but it's a good problem to have.

A big thanks to all our fans for showing patience in our 'down' times this season. I'm not going to make any promises but there's a good feeling in the club at the moment, and I personally feel that the 'good' times are just around the corner. Stay with us - you'll enjoy the journey.

John

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# In Yer Face

RECENT complaints regarding crowd trouble and the official response to these have disturbed me. A good general principle to follow is that if someone can take the time and trouble to write to a newspaper with a complaint there must be something in it. I have yet to meet the person who wrote in for sheer devilment or because they had nothing better to do. Of course this does not mean that incidents cannot be exaggerated or magnified out of all proportion, but when followers of various clubs, notably Whitehaven, Wigan and Hull K.R., complain about their reception at Leigh I think I would be inclined to take them seriously. Now don't get me wrong because Leigh has always been one of my favourite grounds to visit and over the years I have witnessed incidents, usually minor, on the grounds of many other clubs, so this is in no way having a go at Leigh. However if anyone accused my club of bad spectator behaviour at a succession of matches I would want to know the reason why and would be looking to ensure the cause of complaint was eliminated. Every spectator put off attending a match represents a loss of revenue and in Rugby League at present that is simply not acceptable. I am sorry, club officials, stewards and police but I do not believe that female spectators from Whitehaven complained without just cause!

And on the same theme: in Super League this season there have been a stream of complaints from visitors about their treatment at Valley Parade. Again, if I were an official at Bradford Bulls, a club rightly proud of its matchday presentation, I would want to know why.

Some of the problems with attending matches stem from the employment of 'jobsworths' as stewards. For example on Oldham's recent blank Sunday because of the transfer of Keighley to another group in the Buddies National Cup (another loss of revenue here, by the way) I went to watch Rochdale play Huddersfield. As I stood in the queue to go in one such 'jobsworth', obviously slightly more senior, informed a

colleague that anyone refusing to have their bag searched should be denied entry. I challenged him that this represented a breach of civil liberties and was told 'Oh! no it was ground regulations! Since the person who had refused to be searched was a female Huddersfield fan I expressed the opinion that searching ladies handbags was not right indeed in my view is a disgrace. And the excuse that this is what you get on soccer grounds with soccer stewards will not wash since Huddersfield is just such a ground and the lady was clearly not used to being searched. And since Oldham have played twice recently at McAlpine Stadium I can confirm that it is NOT practice there to search people. Besides what good does it do? If you wanted to smuggle in a knife to attack someone it would be easy without a full body search and who has the time for that? And since coins make a good weapon if you are stupid enough to want to injure someone are we going to deprive everyone of their change? And what of the Bradford situation? In reply to a St. Helens fan's charges that spectators had cans confiscated but inside the ground could buy beer in glass bottles the Valley Parade management replied that beer was only supplied in plastic bottles. Well, excuse me, but being struck by a full PLASTIC bottle of beer while flying down the wing on the way to a try in the corner might just cause some damage: I don't fancy putting it to the test anyway!

One final point point for my 'jobsworth' friends: when you've denied entry to all these potential miscreants, who will be paying your wages? Where do you think your £25+ per match comes from? In an attendance of just 1476 at Rochdale v Huddersfield I calculated that it took around 250 entrance fees to pay for the ridiculous number of stewards.

And, finally, what happens when you ask these stewards to attend to the antics of loud mouthed, bully boy home fans? They ignore you - and them. Why? Because in the eyes of stewards it's only ever AWAY fans who cause trouble! Makes you think, doesn't it?

G.C.



# 'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

**Don Yates looks back to May 5th yesteryear**

IT WAS on this day in 1966, Thursday 5th May, that the magnificent Parc des Princes stadium in Paris staged a match between a French XIII and a Rugby League XIII. The French were able to win 20-0 against a league side lacking players from clubs involved in the top 16 Championship play off. Nevertheless the league were represented by a capable outfit which included the likes of Billy Langton and Denis Hartley (Hunslet), Gordon Lewis and Mick Martyn (Leigh), Laitia Ravouvou (Rochdale Hornets) and Dave Raynor, the flying Batley winger who joined the Gallant Youths from Halifax junior rugby. The capacity of the Parc des Princes at that time was 48,000 but the attendance that evening was a disappointing 3,485.

There was a much bigger crowd at Odsal Stadium on Wednesday 5th May 1954. The Challenge Cup Final replay between Halifax and Warrington attracted



what was then a World record attendance for a rugby league match when 102,569 paid for admission. A good few more got in without paying after fences were knocked down by spectators anxious not to miss the kick off. Traffic congestion was horrific with traffic jams snaking back across the

Pennines as far as Oldham. Motor vehicles were bumper to bumper from Bower Lane near the Roxy at Hollinwood right across to the ground at Odsal Top. Warrington won 8-4, their first try being scored by centre Jim Challinor who coached the Roughyeds between August 1974 and December 1976. Challinor, incidentally, also played at Odsal during November 1963 when Odsal housed its smallest attendance for a first team

match, 324 watching Bradford Northern lose 29-0 against a Barrow team coached by Challinor.

Another cup final was staged at Odsal on Saturday 5th May 1945. During the war years Challenge Cup finals were staged over two legs. Huddersfield had won the first leg at Fartown 7-4 but favourites Bradford Northern were expected to quickly overturn that deficit. However, after a scoreless first half it was Huddersfield who gained the upper hand to win the match 6-5 and take the cup 13-9 on aggregate. Included in the Huddersfield pack was second row forward Alex Givvons, a Watersheddings legend after his fifty years association with the Roughyeds.

A dream came true for fifteen local youngsters on Saturday 5th May 1984 when they played at Wembley. That day Oldham schoolboys met Hull in the curtain raiser to the Challenge Cup Final, a match which finished in a 6-6 draw. Several of those Wembley Wizards went on to make their mark in senior rugby including Craig Mort, Chris Garforth, Martin Maders and Paddy Mitchell.

Two years ago, on Wednesday 5th May 1999, the former Oldham, Batley and Yorkshire county forward Albert Fearnley died. He began his professional career with Rochdale Hornets, joining Oldham in 1949 and making 29 appearances for the Roughyeds during the following two years when he scored five tries. Fearnley enjoyed his best years with Halifax in the early and mid-fifties before joining Featherstone Rovers and then ending his career with Batley for whom he made 19 appearances during the 1958-59 season. Once his playing career was over Fearnley turned to coaching. He was instrumental in setting up the National coaching system and also spent time coaching in the USA and Italy. He was Halifax coach when they won the Championship in 1965 but his best achievement was taking unfashionable Blackpool Borough into the First Division in 1979.



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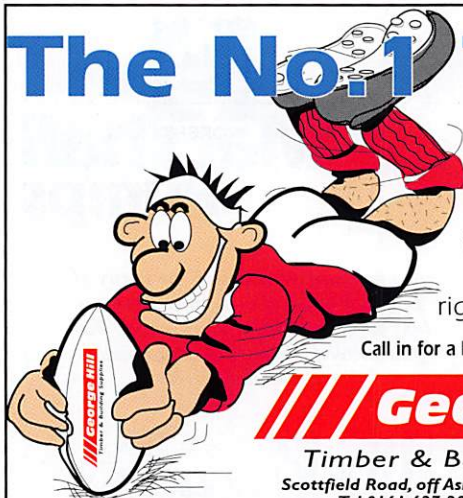
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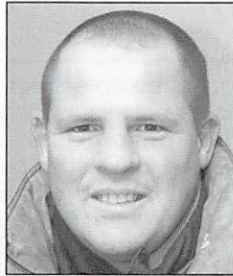
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# Alliance & Academy



with Shaun Gartland and Mark Knight

## ACADEMY FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

MAY				
4	OLDHAM	v	Keighley Cougars	12.00
11	OLDHAM	v	Sheffield Eagles	12.00 TBC
18	OLDHAM	v	Workington Town	2.30 TBC
25	Dewsbury Rams	v	OLDHAM	2.30
JUNE				
2	Keighley Cougars	v	OLDHAM	1.00
8	OLDHAM	v	Whitehaven	2.30
16	Sheffield Eagles	v	OLDHAM	12.30
22	OLDHAM	v	Doncaster Dragons	2.30
29	Barrow Raiders	v	OLDHAM	2.30
JULY				
6	OLDHAM	v	Leigh Centurions	2.30
21	Whitehaven	v	OLDHAM	1.00
27	OLDHAM	v	Barrow Raiders	2.30
AUGUST				
3	OLDHAM	v	Dewsbury Rams	2.30
11	Leigh Centurions	v	OLDHAM	12.45
18	Workington Town	v	OLDHAM	1.00
SEPTEMBER				
1	Doncaster Dragons	v	OLDHAM	1.00
8	Academy First Division Grand Final Play Offs			
21	Academy Championship Grand Final Play Offs			
28	Academy First Division Grand Final			

## APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2002

PLAYER	APP	SUB	T	G	DG	PTS
G. DODD	2					
M. HARLAND	5		1			4
A. GIBBONS	1					
S. CONWAY	5			2		4
J. MITCHELL	6		1	2		8
G. BARBER	1		1	3		10
P. BENNETT	5		2			8
D. GUEST	3					
J. KIRKLAND	5	2	1			4
A. SHARPLES	6					
D. NEWTON	6		1			4
A. WHITAKER	2	1				
G. JOHNSON	6					
J. WANKLYN		6				
A. CLAYTON		4				
A. PROCTOR	5	1	1			4
D. HEYWOOD		1				
C. CAMPBELL	2		2			8
K. BRENNAN	3		3	10		32
D. LACEY	6	2	1			4
D. ATKINSON	1					
M. GRADY	3					
R. ARROWSMITH	1					
K. LANCASHIRE	4	2		2		4
D. HULBERT	1	3	1			4
N. GRENNAN		1				
A. MURRAY	3					
M. McDERMOTT	2	1				
J. BRASSINGTON	1	2				
R. HOLLIC	2					
T. LANSMAN	2	1	3			12
D. NANYN	1					
W. COWELL	1		3			12
D. NORCROSS		1				
M. SIBSON	2		3			12

## U21 ALLIANCE SPRING CUP RESULTS

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	(A)	Lost	74-8
Saturday	6th April	Rochdale Hornets	(H)	Lost	22-10
Saturday	13th April	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	Won	48-20
Thursday	25th April	Batley Bulldogs (Semi Finals)	(A)	Lost	36-18

# NFP Round Up

IT WILL be interesting to see an evaluation of the Buddies National Cup after it is all over and the trophy has been presented. At this stage I do not think that the dire predictions of failure have been realised and, of course, as we get to the knock out stages interest will almost certainly increase. To date attendances have, generally, been below those for League fixtures but today's games have a lot riding on them and could well offset some of the shortfall. So, could it yet be that the Buddies National Cup will prove a popular competition? One thing is for certain the two finalists and their supporters won't be complaining: let's face it the chance of some silverware is always welcome and is always a cause for celebration.

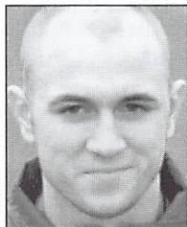
In the Eastern section Doncaster and Hull KR are certain of qualification but Featherstone could yet join them if they beat Sheffield OR the Eagles could reverse the situation if they can win and improve their points difference.

In the Western section I expect Whitehaven to go through by beating Swinton, but one or other of Barrow and Leigh may fail to qualify when the two meet at Craven Park, especially if Workington overcome Chorley by a big score. Then it all comes down to points difference. If the margin of victory at Craven Park is small both sides could just scrape a place in the knock out stages.

Huddersfield have run away with the Central section and will be favourites to win the overall competition. Oldham can join them with a win today but a Batley victory would give the Bulldogs a chance of qualification possibly going to points difference if, as expected, Rochdale defeat Hunslet.

So, there you have it: as things have turned out most clubs have something to play for. And with a straight draw (to be broadcast later this evening on Radio Leeds) to follow any club lucky enough to get two home tries could well progress to the Final on May 26th.

The competition has also thrown up some notable scoring achievements. In the first group fixtures a rare hat-trick was scored for Chorley by loose forward Wayne Bloor. On the same day stand in Leigh fullback Liam Bretherton also ran in three tries and deputy kicker Mark McCully landed eight goals to embark on a terrific scoring run of 18 goals and two tries in four games to date. Hull KR wingman Alex Godfrey was also a hat-trick scorer against Gateshead.



Paul Salmon

On the second week Barrow fullback Paul Salmon ran in three tries against Swinton and followed up with five against Workington. Darren Holt landed 10 goals and then 6 in these fixtures, while winger Jamie Marshall also had three tries at the Lions' expense. Meanwhile Hull KR skipper Chris Charles recorded two tries and six goals against Sheffield and followed with two tries and eight goals against Keighley. For Oldham Gareth Barber had a personal best of 26 points against Dewsbury via three tries and seven goals, and for Featherstone Gavin Swinson scored three tries at Gateshead.

In the third round of games hat-tricks continued thick and fast, Batley fullback Craig Lingard grabbing three against Hunslet and Huddersfield's Paul Reilly three against Dewsbury. (Doncaster's Chris Ross also had three in an NFP game against Featherstone). With Jamie Rooney also going in for three at Cougar Park in the fourth round of games the bright weather and firmer grounds had clearly contributed to some 'champagne' rugby.

Players for whom the National Cup has been a boon are Darren Holt (Barrow) 67 points; Chris Charles (Hull KR) 60; Jamie Rooney (Featherstone) 60; Johnny Woodcock (Doncaster) 48; Gareth Barber (Oldham) 46; and Mark McCully (Leigh) 40.

# IN **Town** TODAY



## **BATLEY BULLDOGS**

TODAY'S visitors to Hurst Cross are Batley, founder members of the Northern Rugby Football Union, and a club who in recent years have made great strides off the pitch. They have smartened up their Mount Pleasant enclosure almost beyond recognition whilst at the same time moving towards financial stability. Much credit for this progress must go to enthusiastic chairman Kevin Nicholas whose intention now is to see the club repeat the successes they enjoyed during the early years of the game.

Batley were winners of the first Challenge Cup competition in 1897, retained the trophy twelve months later and then won it again in 1901. They were also Yorkshire Champions in 1899 but the success that Batley enjoyed during that era has never been repeated. Indeed Batley have never won the Challenge Cup since lifting the trophy those three times in five years. They were Yorkshire Cup winners in 1913 but then had to wait until 1924 for their next piece of silverware. They were Yorkshire Champions that season and entertained Oldham in the Championship play off. Batley demolished Oldham 38-0 in that match and then beat Wigan 13-7 to clinch their only League Championship success.

Since then Batley have won just one trophy, the 1998 Trans Pennine Trophy involving clubs from the Second Division. They lost only one of their qualifying matches and were rewarded with home advantage against Oldham in the final. Playing down the notorious Mount Pleasant slope in the first half, Batley built up a 26-6 lead and held on in the second half to register a 28-12 victory. The attendance at that final was a creditable 2,696 and it would surely have been much bigger but for the fact that the Rugby Football League, in their infinite wisdom, had arranged an international fixture on the very same afternoon.

Batley have only an outside chance of further progress in this Buddies League Cup competition but they are hopeful of clinching a spot in next season's National League Division One. The players Batley hope will achieve that objective include the following:-

**PAUL STOREY** (Head Coach) Made his debut in the Yorkshire Cup Semi Final defeat at Castleford in 1981. In total he made 277 appearances (standing 17th in the all time appearance chart for the club) and was voted Player of the Year 1983-84 and 1985-86. he took over the coaching reins last season from David Ward, having previously been the Alliance Coach.

**CRAIG LINGARD** Age 24 Star fullback who has scored 48 tries in 80 appearances. The former Sheffield Eagle was voted Player of the Year in 1999-2000 and joint Player of the Year in 2000-01.

His match winning hattrick of tries against Dewsbury Rams proved to be the highlight of last season.

**PAUL GLEADHILL** Age 26 Ex Leeds and Featherstone Rovers wingman who passed a century of appearances for the club last season. A firm favourite with the crowds who currently stands on 44 tries at The Mount.



*Roger Simpson*

**ROGER SIMPSON** A popular utility player who joined the club in 1996 from Bradford Bulls as part of the Glen Tomlinson transfer deal. An ex-Great Britain International. Roger has amassed 51 tries as a Bulldogs player and is a firm favourite with the fans - especially the women!

**DANNY MAUN** Age 20. Ex Wigan centre. Danny made the right centre position his own in his first year at the club, before

injury brought an abrupt end to his season. Great things are expected from Danny this time.

**LEON WILLIAMSON** Joined recently from Gateshead. Ex Dewsbury. Has made a very promising start.

**RYAN HORSLEY** A former Wakefield and Featherstone Rovers utility player who impressed in his first season with Batley last year. He appeared in all of the club's 30 games registering 5 tries.

**CHRIS HOUGH** Age 20. A recent signing from Rochdale Hornets. He can play either as a halfback or in the hooking position.

**ANDY SPINK** Age 22. A tough tackling back row forward who has recently joined the club from Dewsbury Rams in the close season. Should figure prominently in the first team squad.

**KRIS LYTHE** 18 years old joined Batley to play 'A' team as a 16 year old. Now grabbed a spot in the first team. Earlier promise now been realised.

**STEVE HILL** Prop forward joined Batley from York recently. Has made a solid start. Keeps going. An asset to the team.

**DAVID ROUKE** Age 20. A second row forward in his second spell with the Bulldogs. He previously made his debut against York in season 2000. He arrived from Huddersfield Giants in the close season.

**WILL CARTLEDGE** A local product who broke into the first team last season, winning the Man of the Match in the victory against Dewsbury Rams. The former Knottingley Rockware second row forward has made 31 appearances to date scoring 3 tries in the process.

**MARK TOOHEY** Signed from Batley Boys, progressed into Alliance and then first team. Now playing really well.

# Walkerbout

... with Brian Walker

## NEW ROUGHYEDS PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

### HELP NEEDED!!

THE OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE TRUST are hoping to publish a comprehensive photographic record of the club from its very conception way back in 1876 straight through to, and including, this current season with the intention to include not just the usual team and action shots but also to cover other aspects surrounding rugby club life, serious or humorous!

The trust has a fine collection of photographs many previously unpublished BUT it is intended that the new book will be a BLOCKBUSTER of a publication including upto 1000 images.

So if you have any photographs

from ANY period in the clubs history, taken either professionally or by your very own camera we would love to take a look. Like I say the photographs need not be formal and can be of any aspect relating to ORLFC.

If the photographs are included they will be returned as soon as the layout of the book is formalised.

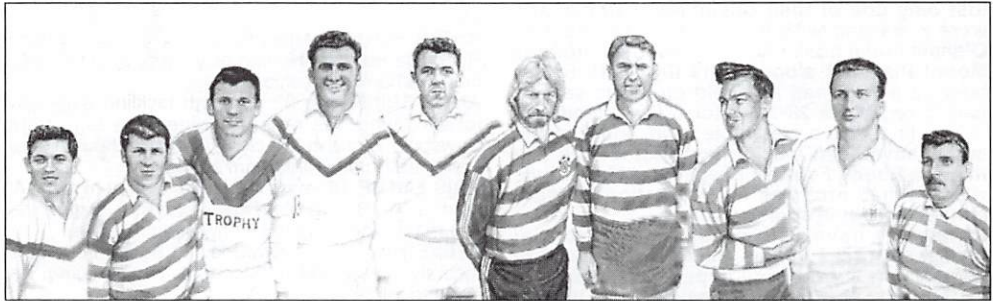
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Left to right: Alan Davies 1950-62, Bob Irving 1964-74, Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94, Derek Turner 1955-59, Bernard Ganley 1950-61, Martin Murphy 1966-82, Frank Stirrup 1950-62, John Eddy 1954-59, Herman Hilton 1913-26, Joe Ferguson 1899-23

The entertaining Hall of Fame CD has now been launched and has received excellent reviews and Kevin Fitzpatrick still has copies available so ring him on 01457 820050.

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# Iva Slateloose



## WIT & WISDOM FROM AROUND THE WORLD

PROVERB: A closed mouth gathers no foot

STAR PLAYER: Glaciers move faster

ANOTHER STAR PLAYER: He is a good decoy, we'll take him duck hunting.

COACHES OPINION: My players have AIDS: Acquired Intelligence Deficiency Syndrome.

ON A POOR PACK PERFORMANCE: If the meek are going to inherit the earth our forwards are going to be land barons.

INJURED WINGMAN: His knee and ankle are that bad he can't even limp. (One for Ian Millward to remember here!)

NEW CONTRACT: I got a million dollar offer from my football club...a dollar a year for a million years.

TRIALIST: You're very deceptive, son - you're even slower than you look.

AWKWARD PLAYER: He's a beautifully balanced player - he's got a chip on both shoulders.

MOTIVATION: Anybody who goes to see a psychiatrist should have his head examined.

TO SIGN OR NOT: I'll give you a definite maybe.

COACH TO PLAYER: I'm playing you £50,000 a year to make some tackles on that wingman". PLAYER TO COACH: 'Boss he's getting £100,000 a year to see that I don't'.

REWARDS: A coach when asked what he admired most about a certain player replied: his contract.

JASON CLEGG (with apologies) In Japan they worship bodies like mine.

SPECTATORS: Like the old saying - you can fool some of the people all of the time...those are the ones we're looking for.

GRAHAM THORPE: There was the husband who got suspicious after he and his wife moved out of town - and discovered they still had the same window cleaner.

PROP FORWARD: He was so ugly as a kid his parents tied pork chops round his neck so the dog would play with him.

DIET: No matter how many zoos you visit you never see a fat monkey (on why bananas and coconuts are good for you).

YORK COACH: After a loss I sleep like a baby: I wake up any cry every two hours.

1970's COACH: I want my players to have my personality - unfriendly, surly and arrogant.

BATLEY: It was a very small town, so small in fact that the number one industry there was taking bottles back to the corner store.

ALEX MURPHY: 'Coach I understand Van Vollenhoven's being paid in the close season and I'm not'. COACH: 'Well Alex he's a better player than you" MURPHY: 'Not in the close season he's not!'

PLAYBOY SECOND ROW: 'Ninety per cent of my money I'll spend on good times, women and drink. The other ten per cent I'll probably waste.'

# Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the Batley club for what is anticipated to be a keenly fought contest in order to progress to the next phase of the national league cup competition. For the featured match we go way back to New Years Day 1915. I have decided to put the spotlight on this encounter after recently coming across a match report for the game.

The action took place at Mount Pleasant and the report stated that the game was played in miserable weather that kept the attendance down to just over 1,000. The ground was soft after heavy rain with large pools of water on the playing surface.

Batley won the toss and elected to receive the ball. Joe Ferguson kicked off and Oldham managed to contain the home team in their own half of the field. The early stages of the game belonged almost entirely to the Roughyeds with Tommy Jones, Frank Holbrook and Bill Thomas (twice) being stopped just short of the Batley line. A penalty

attempt by Ferguson looked like giving Oldham the lead but the strong wind blew the ball back when it was almost over the bar. As the half progressed Batley eventually came more into the match and it took good defensive work by full back Jim Parkinson to keep out the home side. Just before the interval several scrimmages were contested near the Oldham line but the visitors held on to go in level with no score to either side.

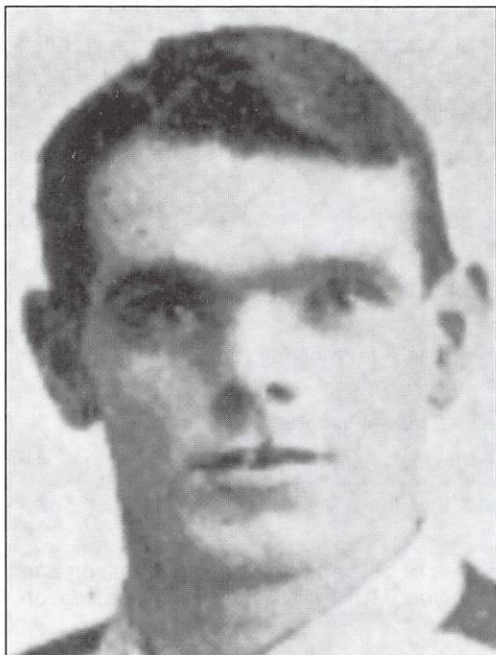
The second half was a reverse of the first period with Batley assuming the ascendancy early on and pressurising the Oldham defence. Eventually a grand clearing kick from Parkinson gained valuable ground for the visitors. Both the Oldham centres, Viv Farnsworth and Evan Davies looked dangerous as once again Oldham sought to take control. Batley fought back and clever play from Hill and Loughlin almost led to a score for the Yorkshiremen. The to and fro nature of the game continued throughout the second half with both teams playing some attractive rugby despite the harsh conditions. Oldham had the most chances but another Ferguson penalty attempt fell short and the match finished with Parkinson again coming to the Roughyeds rescue by foiling a Batley attack in the closing seconds. So the match ended in a scoreless draw. Oldham had earlier won their home fixture against the "Gallant Youths" by 22 - 4 at Watersheddings the previous October.

#### **OLDHAM:**

J Parkinson; F Holbrook, E Davies, V Farnsworth, T Jones; W Farnsworth, A Edwards; A West, J Ferguson, G Liversedge, W Jardine, W Thomas, D Holland.

#### **BATLEY:**

Lyons; Loughlin, Brannan, Parker, Bevan; Lockwood, Thomas; Battersby, Hill, Johnson, Judge, Thompson, Wild.



Thomas Jones Welsh-born Oldham winger who died in the First World War.

*A sad post-script to the game, which as you can see from the date was played in the season before competitive rugby was suspended for the duration of the first world war, is that the 1914-18 conflict claimed the lives of three of the Oldham players who represented the cub at Mount Pleasant that day; Tommy Jones, Arthur West and Bill Jardine.*





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# A Chance to Meet . . . JASON CLEGG

with David McGeally, Radio Cavell 1350AM

Jason welcome to "A Chance to Meet". Let's find out something about yourself. First of all where and when were you born and who's in your family?

I was born at Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale and I've got a brother, Jonathan who's older than me.

So when did you first get interested in Rugby League, or what's your first memory of Rugby League?

Well I first started playing Rugby Union actually at the back of Hollingworth Lake at Littleborough. I had a bet with one of the lads at school who used to play Union that I could play. So I turned up on the Sunday to have a run out with them all and I was absolutely shocking! So how old were you then? I was about thirteen or fourteen. So Rugby Union was your first contact. There was no going near the Rochdale Hornets Club then? No, not at all, no. It's not exactly my kind of scene Rochdale Hornets.

What about Rugby League, when did you first get interested, or involved, with that?

I watched Littleborough Amateur Rugby League playing in a final when I was about nineteen or twenty and I thought I fancied a change so I just went down to have a run out with them to see how it went on. You make it sound so easy as if I'll just pop along and get in the team. Where did they have you playing first of all? Well I tried to get them to play me at Stand-off, but they saw me as a Prop so that's as far as I've ever got. Always played Prop then? Yes. But you still see yourself as a Stand-off? Yes, I think I've got the skills that are needed these days for the modern Stand-off. (laughter)

You were playing amateur rugby league, when did the first professional club come along and who was it?

Actually Rochdale Hornets did come along when I was about twenty one. One of the Directors came up and said he'd have a chat with me in the summer, but he never bothered turning up! Then I was playing in the Challenge Cup against Red Hill, and a Bradford scout came along there, watched me and took me to Bradford on a "trial" basis. How did you find that? I was really impressed at the fact that they came down to watch and it helped that I got the man of the match award. It may also have helped that we got four or five sent off during the game itself! I think they only took me because I was the only one left on the pitch. Well I went to Bradford,

had a few trial games and Peter Fox decided to sign me.

You must have been well set up at that time, Bradford have never been never been a 'small club' by any stretch of the imagination, have they?

No, I was pleased when Bradford came in and put an offer on the table. That's when Rochdale Hornets came back with another offer. But I thought I never fancied going to Rochdale to be honest. I went to Bradford instead.

When you were at Bradford which teams did you play for?

I first started playing with the Bradford Alliance, it was Northern then before it became the Bulls. What year, roughly? About 94 or 95, seven or eight years ago. So you started in the Alliance, did you ever get through to the first team? Yes. Peter Fox with his strategy for playing. He used to have his old team at the time. When the Australians came over touring in 94 that was my debut for the first team! I played eighty minutes against Australia's national side! A nice peaceful game to start off with! How did you perform in that game? I loved the first half, that was brilliant. The second half we started getting a bit of a knocking about. I thought it was time to come off now but Peter Fox had other ideas and left me on for the full eighty! Very kind of him! How long were you at Bradford and where did you move to from there?

I did three years at Bradford then I went on loan to Batley for about half a season. A bit of a change that from Bradford to Batley? Yes. I'd done the first twelve months under Peter Fox and played about eight or nine times and then the year after they introduced Brian Smith and Matthew Elliot and the full-time pro's and changed to the Bradford Bulls. They didn't see me as being a full time player so I had to go and find somewhere else to play.

So off to Batley. Why Batley?

They just phoned me up on a Friday night and said "Do you fancy coming down?" I said "Why not? I fancy a run about." Where from there? Well I'd also been talking to Paddy Kirwan when he was at Oldham Bears and he was trying to get me down there, but it was all up in the air. When the Bears folded and Paddy took over Oldham he still had my number and he asked me if I still fancied a run out? So I said Yes I'll come over. Were you still living in the Littleborough area? Yes I've always been just over the hill" in Littleborough.

Who's been the greatest influence on you in

Rugby League?

I don't really think I've had anybody influence me to be honest. There's never been a coach or player or anybody. I just play my own game. I just come out and enjoy it. As long as I've got a smile on my face I don't mind.

You mentioned the Australians on your debut but other than that what was your most memorable moment so far in rugby league?

That would probably be my first team debut against Wigan at Central Park. Another one of the good easy games! I think he liked to throw me in at the deep end to see if I could sink or swim. The answer was? We sank first half, I think we were thirty four - two down at half time. I came on and we won the second half so I must have been an inspirational substitution.

Greatest achievement so far?

I don't really know. I just enjoy playing for Oldham's first team and it doesn't really bother me, I've no further ambition to be honest to go any further. You just enjoy playing your game? Yes I do. As long as I'm laughing and joking that keeps me happy. But it's a physical game prop forward, how do you laugh and joke through that? The knocks is part of the fun of it. When someone gives you a crack and you have a laugh at them and I've managed to keep my 'good looks' even playing for ten years in the front row, so it's not been too bad. It's not all held in with glue.

If that was the most memorable moment, what is your worst memory of rugby league? A game where you've come off and thought "Oh no!"

I think the worst moment has to be losing the Grand Final last year. We didn't do ourselves justice. I think we'd played well up to the Grand Final, but in the final we just didn't perform at all. To make matters worse a lot of neutrals saw it on TV and thought that's how Oldham are. They're not a good side at all. We didn't really do ourselves justice and we just didn't play at all that game. That's probably the worst moment. But there's not really been bad moments I mean, you lose a game but there's always winners and losers every time. You've just got to pick yourself up and dust yourself down, and go again.

Talking to you Jason it's obvious why you're described as a character but I want to know about the most amusing incident you've ever seen? You said about laughing when someone gives you a crack. Is there anyone who can't take that sort of a response?

I don't remember any specific moments in a game. Just bits of fun and games, here and there, when your mate makes a cock-up and everyone's trying to 'pick them up' and I'm going in their ear

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like, whispering something stupid just to really put them off.

Now virtually every player at the Oldham club when I've asked them who the biggest character is they've mentioned yourself. So if I was to ask you who the biggest character you've played with, or been at a club with who would you nominate?

There's been one or two. There's John Hamer at Bradford he was a big character. Another front row colleague and without question a character is Roundy, Paul Round. Crazy, absolutely crazy! Whether he was in the changing rooms or out for a night, anywhere he was just "unpredictable". Unpredictable, I think we'll leave it at that rather than going into details. Yes, we won't open any closets and that, we'll just leave it there I think!

Now the final thing I need to ask you about is your singing ability. I believe that you're one of the world's greatest singers. But it didn't sound like that outside the Civic Centre last year.

I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket to be honest. I don't know why they got me to sing. It must be something to do with the influence of one or two Budweisers during the day that, sort of, clouded my judgement and made me decide to sing. I don't know. Farrell, Phil, put me up on it didn't he? God knows why I ever opened my mouth, even to this day! You just went along with it didn't you? Yes, well never mind it's .... alcohol has this strange effect on you doesn't it?

Final question, your ambition? How old are you now?

That's a difficult question to ask these days, I've not decided how old I'm going to be yet. I think I'm just pushing 28! What's your ambition in Rugby League? What would you like to achieve? What's he laughing for? Because I've said twenty eight? He's walked away Roger (Halstead). Maybe if Oldham do get promoted to Super League I'm the wrong age now to be looking to be going to play full time Super League. I mean, we raised our game against St Helens but that was just for one game. You know, you've got to take them knocks week in and week out. I don't know. As long as Oldham are successful, maybe get a Grand Final winners medal. A testimonial, anything like that. A double Testimonial. Just enjoy playing rugby? Yeah, yeah. As I say there's no point in playing if you don't enjoy it. It's hard enough when you've got to drag yourself to training four or five times a week. But you've got to do it with a smile on your face, otherwise there's not much point in doing it is there?

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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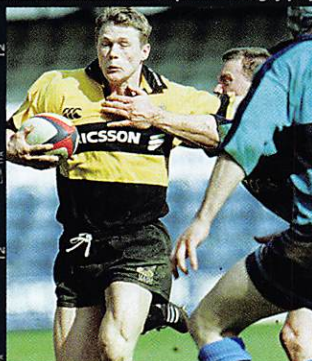
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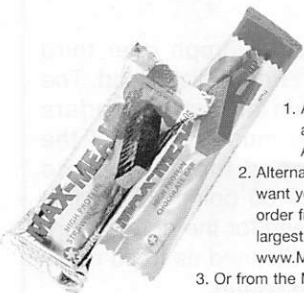
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# Wilson's Wisdom

*... with Ian Wilson*

I HAD a dream last night. Usually I have nightmares - some about the varied reasons for my continuing failures to break three figures on the golf course, which will be of no interest at all to readers; others about a whole series of Oldham RLFC catastrophes over the past forty odd years may be of interest to some, but only in the same sort of macabre sense that the coroner's office finds details of the latest gruesome murder of interest, I suspect.

But what about the dream? It seemed - my recall is less than fully complete - to be taking place some time in the future. A silver haired elderly gentleman - Sir Chris Hamilton, I think he was announced as, was addressing a 25,000 crowd which packed the sparkling new Watersheddings Stadium. The seats in the upper tier of the four stands were packed, and the safely designed terraces beneath resounded to the cheers of thousands, men, women and children, all bedecked in red and white, bathing in the autumn sunshine, which enabled the stadium's retractable roof to be opened.

There were two huge cups on the podium in front of the speaker. I was sitting in the press box area in The Roger Halstead stand - in a fans ballot, the other option, "The Jim Quinn Stand", has hardly got a vote, and Sir Chris was reminiscing about the 'Old Days'. Then, he recalled with a shudder, the Club had been reduced to playing some games at the now sadly decayed Boundary Park Ground, where, a few hundred still loyally followed the local Beazer Homes League 11 a-side soccer team. He also recalled his first few seasons as Chairman, when a bunch of students and local ex-

amateurs guided by such Hall of Fame heroes as Leo Casey and John Hough, kept the club going on the field, and a thousand or so supporters provided the off-field support which had resulted eventually in the triumphs which were being celebrated that day.

He then turned to some of the highlights of the season which had finished in such triumph the day before. Before the Grand Final Victory of course, had come the first ever passage to the Cup Final, and the triumphant after match walk of the fans away from the Rodney Walker Stadium down Wembley Way. The easy win over national League Three Side, Wigan, then the away victories at Cardiff and Toulouse, then the semi-final come back in the nail biter against Rochdale, and then the final triumph itself over the odds on favourites, the mighty Chorley. What a run!

And then the League roller coaster. The first team ever to win from 5th place in the play-off series. And the first team to win the Grand Final with a side containing no overseas players. An easy first round defeat of Cheshire Widnes (Warrington as was).

The last minute triumph over third placed Rochdale at Post Office Road. The final eliminator win at league leaders Chorley: how they must be sick of the sight of Oldham. And then the Grand Final itself, and the 50 point win against Paris, revenge indeed for the defeat there in 1997, which condemned us to so many years out of Super League.

Then I woke up, got out the notepad for Batley, home, in the National Cup, 2002.

# Junior Roughyeds



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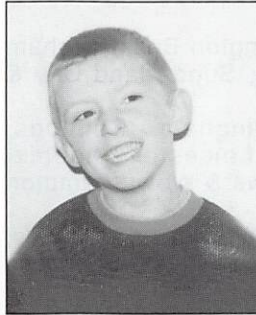
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Pictured left is **RICHARD COWLING** who was the mascot for the Good Friday game against Rochdale.



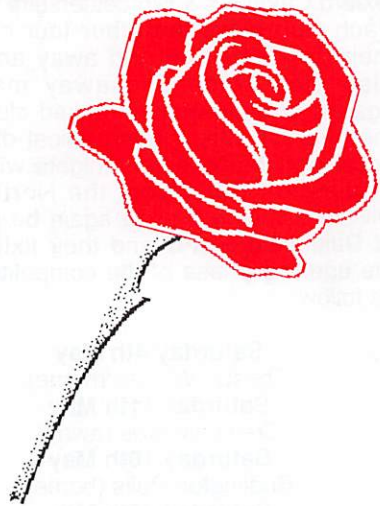
Pictured left is 5 year old **CAMERON CLARE** who was the mascot for the Easter Tuesday game against Dewsbury Rams.

Adele

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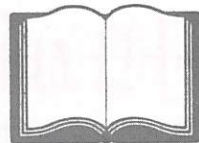
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# Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES

YESTERDAY the Rugby League Conference kicked off its fifth season of summer rugby. It involves clubs spread throughout England and at Cardiff in South Wales. The 30 clubs are split into six regional divisions as follows:

**North:** Chester Wolves, Crewe Wolves, Derby City, Manchester Knights and Rotherham Giants.

**North East:** Bridlington Bulls, Durham Tigers, Newcastle, Sunderland City & Teeside Steelers.

**Midlands:** Birmingham Bulldogs, Coventry Bears, Leicester Phoenix, Nottingham Outlaws & Wolverhampton Wizards.

**East:** Bedford Swifts, Cambridge Eagles, Ipswich Rhinos, Luton Vipers & St. Albans Centurions.

**South:** Crawley Jets, Kingston Warriors, North London Skolars, South London Storm & West London Sharks.

**Central South:** Cardiff Demons, Gloucestershire Warriors, Hemel Stags, Oxford Cavaliers & Worcestershire Saints. Each club plays the other four clubs in their division home and away and they also play home and away matches against an equivalently ranked club from the nearest other geographical division. Local club Manchester Knights will play Bridlington Bulls from the North East Division. They will once again be playing at Dukinfield RUFC and their fixtures in the opening phase of the competition are as follows:

**Saturday 4th May**

Chester Wolves (home)

**Saturday 11th May**

Crewe Wolves (away)

**Saturday 18th May**

Bridlington Bulls (home)

**Saturday 25th May**

Rotherham Giants (home)

**Saturday 1st June**

Derby City (away)

**Saturday 8th June**

Chester Wolves (home)

**Saturday 22nd June**

Crewe Wolves (home)

**Saturday 29th June**

Bridlington Bulls (away)

**Saturday 6th July**

Rotherham Giants (away)

**Saturday 13th July**

Derby City (home)

After these matches have been completed, the top three clubs in each division will go forward to the Grand Final Play-Off Series. For this phase of the competition three new divisions will be formed, these being South & Central South, Midlands & East and North & North East. Clubs who reach this phase will play four matches and the three leading clubs together with the best runners up will contest the semi-finals.

Those semi-finals will be played at the Prince of Wales Stadium, Cheltenham on Saturday 24th August and at Hillsborough Arena on Sunday 25th August. The Grand Final will be staged either on Saturday 7th or Sunday 8th September at a venue yet to be decided. It is a very important campaign because next year it is proposed that ten clubs from the Rugby League Conference will form National Division Three (Development) in the Rugby Football League's pyramid structure. During this 2002 season clubs will be assessed on quality standards surrounding the viability of the club and not just its playing performance.

As predicted in this column last month, the National League Division Three, which the Rugby Football League hoped would be made up of established BARLA clubs, looks to have fallen through. I understand that the only National Conference club to have definitely applied are Dudley Hill. Local clubs St. Annes and Waterhead made enquires as to structure and conditions of entry but it seems highly likely that they will remain in the National Conference League.



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# The Whistle Blower

..... With Sam Shepherd

## 1907

THE New Zealand tourists arrived at Folkstone (by sea) on September 30th and travelled to Leeds the next day.

At the official reception, Mr Joseph Platt (of Oldham) secretary of the Rugby Football Union, read out a letter from the newly formed New South Wales Rugby Football Union, asking for 50 copies of the Northern Union rule book and suggesting that tours should be arranged with Australia.

The Northern Union decided to use some of the games for propaganda purposes and arranged games at CHELSEA, CHELTENHAM and Aberdare. New Zealand agreed to play at Barrow on Christmas Day but had to cancel because they had previously agreed with the N.U. that no fixtures would be arranged outside the official programme.

The minimum admission to the tour games was fixed at one shilling, plus an extra two shillings for the covered stand. These prices were double those normally charged. Although clubs were forbidden to approach the tourists until the end of the tour, it was rumoured that some would remain in England.

The tourists lost 14 of their 35 games but ended with a run of 4 wins including the second and third tests which enabled them to claim the Ashes. The decider was played at Cheltenham before a poor crowd.

On February 22nd, Oldham lost their first game of the season. In the previous 30 games only 2 clubs had managed to hold them to a draw.

## REFEREES IN TROUBLE

At the end of the Huddersfield v Broughton Rangers game, there was a demonstration against the referee. He eventually left the ground disguised as a policeman but as he was not wearing regulation trousers and

boots, his disguise was seen through and he was pelted with snowballs.

After a period of extremely bad weather, the Northern Rugby League decided that, if necessary, a game could be played in four quarters instead of two halves.

In the Hunslet v Merthyr Tydfil game the referee was kicked by a spectator who had a court summons for the offence. Hunslet were ordered to post warning notices and pay the court costs.

On April 19th, Bramley were ordered to play their next two home games AWAY because of stone throwing. Three days later five players were sent off the first half of the Batley v Huddersfield game.

Two days before they appeared in the Northern Union Cup Final, Hunslet were fined £10 for not fielding a full strength side in a league game. They finished the season winning the Northern Union Cup, Yorkshire Cup, Northern Rugby League Championship and the Yorkshire League.

Their goalkicker, Albert Goldthorpe, became the first player to kick 100 goals in a season.

## 1909-10

A record crowd of 22,000 saw Huddersfield beat Batley in the Yorkshire Cup Final, but even that was far short of the 28,600 attendance for the Huddersfield v Halifax semi final.

Problems arose over the replay for the Cumberland v Yorkshire match. For financial reasons, Cumberland wanted the game played at Oldham or Wigan and offered Yorkshire £10 as half share of the first game at Mary Port. Yorkshire wanted to play the game in Cumberland and asked for £25 towards expenses.

The Northern Union decided that as the counties could not reach agreement then they would be declared joint champions.

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# TOPIC OF THE DAY

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

**30 JONATHAN DAVIES.** Wembley, 22nd October 1994, Great Britain v Australia. After 25 minutes Shaun Edwards is dismissed for pole-axeing Bradley Clyde. Can Britain possibly win from such a position? On 36 minutes Jonathan Davies provided the answer. Dennis Betts served the British fullback whose dummy to Connolly was taken by Renouf and Fittler allowing the Welshman to glide away on an arcing run to the corner flag for a try which left Brett Mullins dead for pace and effectively won the match. I never tire of seeing the replay. And it sums up the magic of one of the finest players ever to grace both codes of rugby. And, another for the memory bank, Davies running the length of the field for Widnes in the snow at Watersheddings Wednesday 22.3.89. What a player!



**29 ALAN DAVIES.** Same name, different era. And there will be those Oldham followers who will remember him much better than I. Leigh born Davies is the most capped player ever to represent the Roughyeds (20 caps). In the ten years between 1950 and 1960 when he departed for Wigan Davies GRACED (and the word is well chosen) the Watersheddings arena. A complete footballer in defence

or on attack he was one of the best centre threequarters of his day in an era of top class centres.

**28 CLIFF WATSON.** Cliff Watson lived in Kingswinford in the Midlands having been born in London. He answered an advert placed by St. Helens in a Midlands newspaper and the rest, as they say, is history. Watson made his Saints debut in 1960 and went on to become one of the best props ever to wear a Great Britain shirt, 30 international caps testify that there was no better nor tougher front-row operator in the game. Toured in 1966 and 1970 and in 1968 for the World Cup and became Saints' captain in 1970. He was so good he emigrated to Australia to play for Cronulla in 1971.

**27 PAUL CHARLTON.** Last season Neil Turley of Leigh broke Paul Charlton's 30 year old record for tries in a season by a fullback. The difference, of course, is that nearly all Charlton's tries were scored against better class opposition and he will always be remembered as one of the greatest attacking fullbacks in the game. Starting at Workington, a £13,000 transfer fee lured him to the Willows in 1969 where he was a key figure in a great Salford side. A World Cup winner in 1972, Charlton toured Australia in 1974 before returning to Workington whom he coached to promotion in 1975-6, to add to his First Division Championship medal with the Red Devils in 1973-4.

**26 CHRIS HESKETH M.B.E.** Salford again! Although starting with Wigan Hesketh's career blossomed at the Willows! Appeared at Wembley in 1969, toured in 1970 and won the World Cup in 1972. The 1974 tour captain, Hesketh became a great ambassador for his sport. Led Salford to Championships in 1974 and 1976 and in six other major finals. A centre of power and poise and one of the game's great entertainers.

**25 LIONEL COOPER.** Signing for Huddersfield after the Second World War Australian Cooper only just falls within the remit of the series. But in his achievements over 8 years at Fartown Cooper ranks with the best. 14 stones of muscular power hurtling down the wing, surprising acceleration and a hand-off that any boxer would have been proud of made Cooper one of the big draws in an era of massive crowds. In November 1951 he rattled up 10 tries in a game against Keighley and in his career he notched 443 (plus a few goals). Appeared in Huddersfield's Wembley winning team of 1953. Ranks alongside Rosenfeld in Fartown's hall of fame.

**24 HARRY BATH.** Another player who only just falls within the ambit of this series. Harry Bath is universally acknowledged to have been one of the finest footballers never to represent his country. An Australian who signed for Barrow in 1947 and transferred to Warrington in 1948, Bath was a goalkicking second-row of the highest class. He captained Warrington's 1950 Cup Final winning side and led the Wire at Wembley and Odsal in 1954 and also against Oldham in the 1955 championship Final. An Other Nationalities regular.

**23 FRANK MYLER.** Widnes Director and former Oldham Coach Frank Myler was the last man to bring home the Ashes as GB captain in 1970. A cool head in a crisis, Myler was the ideal man to lead Britain at that time when his pack was noted for its ferocity. Appeared in the World Cup in 1960 and 1970 and also toured in 1966. A Cup Final winner in 1964 with Widnes before transferring to St. Helens in 1968. Harry Sunderland trophy winner with Saints in the 1970 Championship Final. For any winger Myler was a dream to play alongside, always willing to take the hard knocks and give the try-scoring pass. Later coached Rochdale and his beloved Widnes where he was Coach of the Year 1977-78.

**22. GARY CONNOLLY.** This series is not about wallowing in nostalgia but is designed to highlight the qualities of great players over five decades. At the present time it is still possible to enjoy the skills of some truly great players. And in the ranks of the great none stand taller than current British centre Gary Connolly. At 31 Connolly has fourteen years in the game with Saints and Wigan. He is a glowing testimony to the Alex Murphy philosophy that if you're good enough you're old enough, 17 year old Connolly appearing at Wembley for Saints in 1989 at fullback. Since then he has mixed it with some of the best Australia and New Zealand have to offer and never been found wanting. Strong as an ox, Connolly is one of the all-time great defensive centres. But his attacking play is also a joy and, hopefully, we can enjoy his skills for some years yet.

**21. MICK SULLIVAN.** Great Britain record holder for caps and tries (41 touchdowns in 46 Test appearances) says everything about the incomparable Mick Sullivan. Quick, direct, decisive and fearfully hard despite a comparatively slight build, these were the qualities that made Sullivan special. Signed for Huddersfield at 18 from Shaw Cross in 1952 and debuted for Britain in the 1954 World Cup becoming a fixture in the Test side thereafter. A World Record £9,500 fee took him to Wigan in 1957 and another record fee of £11,000 took him to St. Helens in 1961. His last Test was in 1963 and he even donned the colours of York and Dewsbury before retiring.

# Stat Attack

## APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2001-2002

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	SUBSTITUTIONS	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
M. SIBSON	13	2	6			24
G. DODD	13	2	1			4
D. GIBBONS	14	1	6			24
J. GODDARD	17		5			20
J. McNICHOLAS	16		11			44
J. BRADDISH	14	1	3	48	2	110
N. RODEN	14	3	8		4	36
S. KNOX	3					
J. HOUGH	16		5			20
J. CLEGG	17					
P. FARRELL	13		4			16
B. HENARE	14	1	3			12
L. DORAN	15	2	4			16
T. HODGKINSON	2					
G. BARBER	6	10	4	19		54
D. GUEST		14				
L. CASEY	1	3				
W. COWELL	3	6				
K. BRENNAN	4	3	2			8
A. PROCTOR		7				
P. NORTON	9	2	2			8
A. GIBBONS	7	2	1			4
D. FOSTER	5	1	5			20
A. MURRAY		3				
S. MOLLOY	3	2	2			8
D. LACEY		1	1			4
C. CAMPBELL	2	1				

## BUDDIES NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
<b>East</b>								
Doncaster Dragons	4	4	0	0	190	46	144	8
Hull Kingston Rovers	4	4	0	0	160	57	103	8
Featherstone Rovers	4	2	0	2	137	92	45	4
Sheffield Eagles	4	2	0	2	115	114	1	4
Keighley Cougars	4	0	0	4	60	171	-111	0
Gateshead Thunder	4	0	0	4	28	210	-182	0
<b>West</b>								
Leigh Centurions	4	3	0	1	172	71	101	6
Barrow Raiders	4	3	0	1	173	84	89	6
Whitehaven	4	3	0	1	127	72	55	6
Workington Town	4	2	0	2	114	120	-6	4
Chorley Lynx	4	1	0	3	78	157	-79	2
Swinton Lions	4	0	0	4	50	210	-160	0
<b>Central</b>								
Huddersfield Giants	5	5	0	0	206	56	150	10
Oldham	4	2	0	2	132	80	52	4
Batley Bulldogs	4	2	0	2	103	102	1	4
Rochdale Hornets	4	2	0	2	55	74	-19	4
Dewsbury Rams	4	1	0	3	66	130	-64	2
Hunslet Hawks	3	0	0	3	38	158	-120	0

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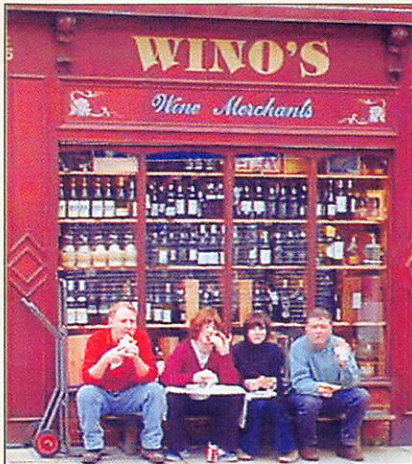
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# Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER		F - A	
2	SWINTON LIONS	H	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	L	13-14 2096

APRIL			
2	DEWSBURY RAMS	W	47-12 1056
7	Huddersfield	L	16-44 2687
21	Hunslet Hawks	W	56-10 747

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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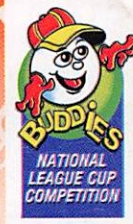
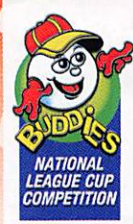


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## OLDHAM

**Coach: John HARBIN**

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**Will COWELL**

**Anthony GIBBONS**

**Jon GODDARD**

**Joe McNICHOLAS**

**Gareth BARBER**

**Neil RODEN**

**Steve MOLLOY**

**John HOUGH**

**Jason CLEGG**

**Phil FARRELL**

**Bryan HENARE**

**Lee DORAN**

**Daryl LACEY**

**David GIBBONS**

**Keith BRENNAN**

**Paul NORTON**

## BATLEY

**Coach: Paul STOREY**

**1 Craig LINGARD**

**2 Paul GLEADHILL**

**3 Roger SIMPSON**

**4 Danny MAUN**

**5 Leon WILLIAMSON**

**6 Ryan HORSLEY**

**7 Chris HOUGH**

**8 Andy SPINK**

**9 Kris LYTHES**

**10 Steve HILL**

**11 David ROURKE**

**12 Will CARTLEDGE**

**13 Mark TOOHEY**

**14 Mark CASS**

**15 Richard DEAN**

**16 Richard HEWITT**

**17 Joe NAIDOLE**

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