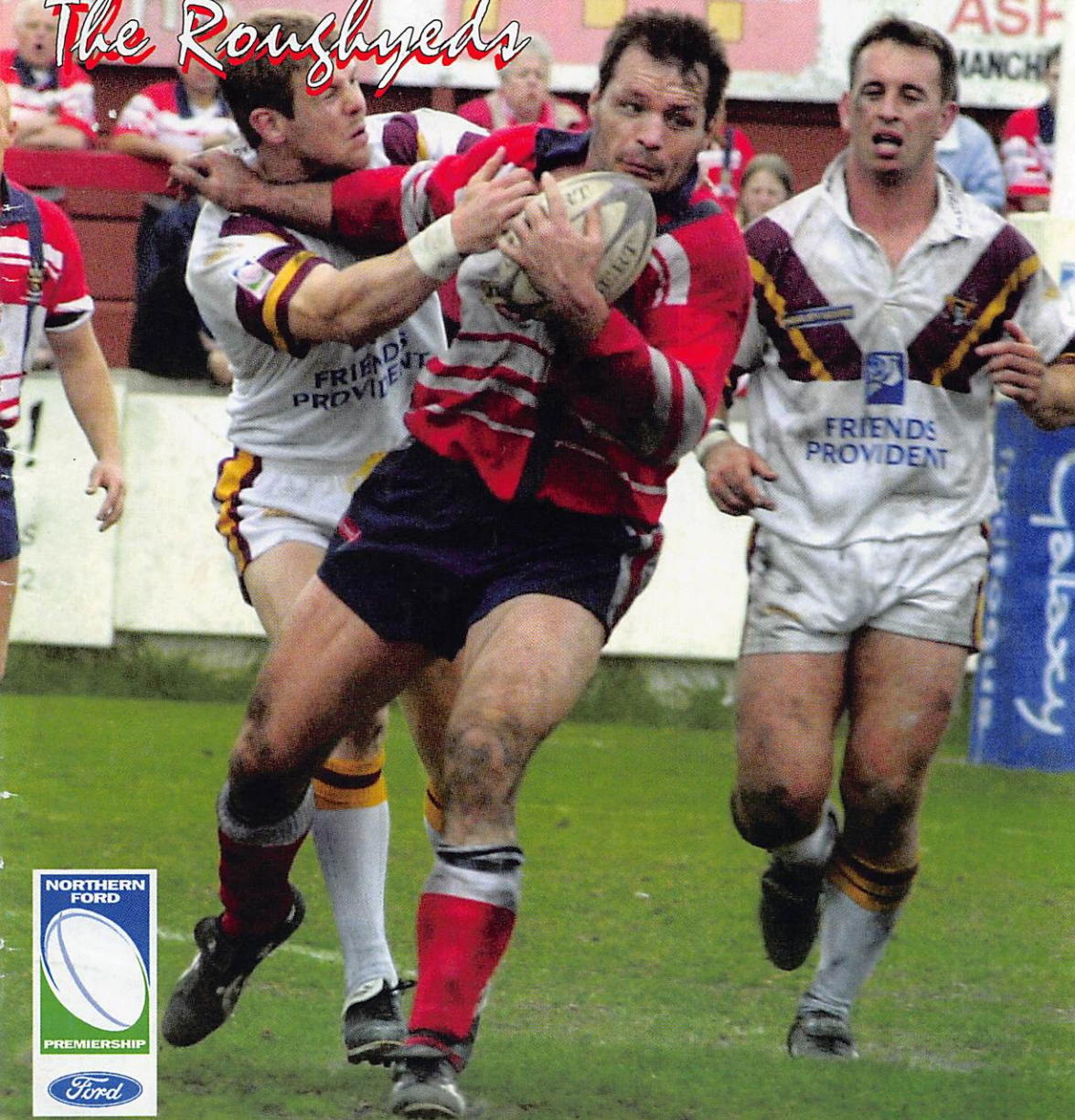


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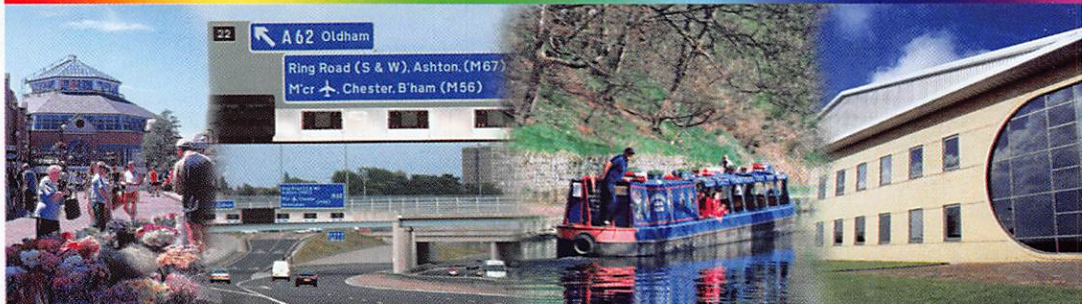
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OLDHAM 
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IN THE HOT SEAT

with
Christopher Hamilton



WELCOME back to Hurst Cross for today's game against Whitehaven. I have had to write these notes before the Keighley game due to the Jubilee Bank Holiday so the result of that match is unknown.

Having got the Buddies National Cup out of the way we are now in the process of securing as high a position as possible in the Northern Ford Premiership.

As ever with Oldham it has already been a roller coaster season with more than our fair share of tribulations to date. On the field we have made steady progress under John Harbin and the players have responded well to what he has asked them to do.

Our opponents today always provide a tough game and it will be no different as they are riding high in the league. Paul Cullen has done an excellent job since becoming coach and with plenty of local lads in their side they will be fired up.

We have had to deal with some unwelcome attention at the club over the last couple of weeks with first Steve Molloy, who has been very influential since returning to the club, being targeted by a leading Super League club and then with John Harbin being linked with the Salford coaching position. Needless to say both are still at the club and we are delighted that they are. Outside recognition is always flattering for both Oldham and the people concerned but is also worrying if you think you are in danger of losing key personnel.

In another key issue we have discussed at a recent APC meeting the issue of whether or not we should have 2 divisions below Super League starting next year. Although not yet finalised the one thing you can be sure of is that you won't have heard the last of it.

The reason behind the (unanimous) decision to create National League 1 and 2 in the first place was to provide a more evenly balanced playing competition and to ensure via promotion/relegation play offs more meaningful games for clubs in each division.

What has happened since is clubs who are now realising that they may be in Division 2 are concerned that they will struggle financially with this less 'attractive' opposition, who bring lower levels of support etc.

The situation is compounded by being in the middle of the longest playing season for a long, long time and the associated problems that this brings financially.

There is no doubt that the debate still has a long way to go but just a word of warning - if clubs in the NFP decide to reverse their 2 division structure I expect the Super League clubs to try and do away with the automatic promotion and relegation between Super League and the NFP - You have been warned!

Enjoy the game.

Chris



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1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

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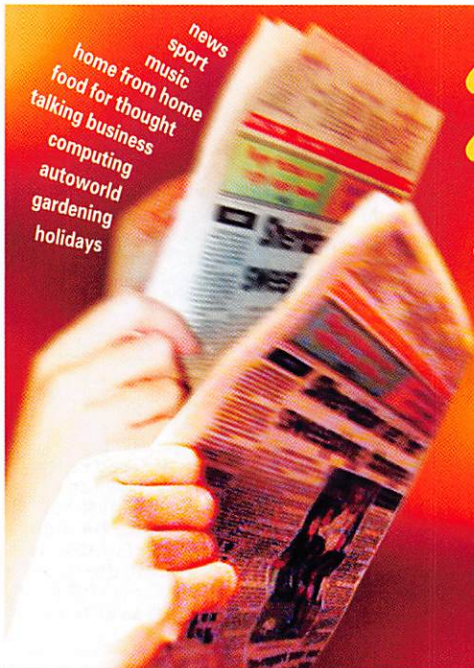
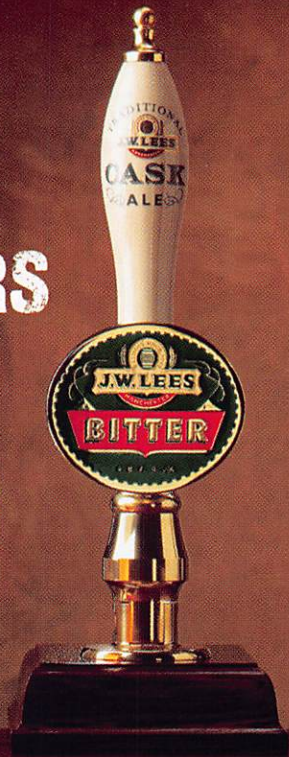
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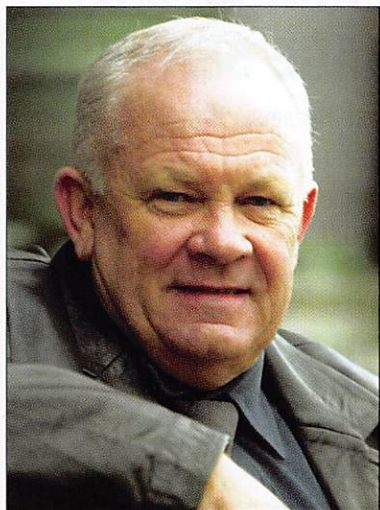
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COACH'S COMMENTS . . . with John Harbin



WELCOME to Paul Cullen and his Whitehaven team for today's Northern Ford Premiership match of the round. It is a very important game for both sides and I'm certain that the fans will receive value for money.

My goal for the team since arriving at Oldham has been to secure a place in the top ten by the end of June, to consolidate in July and August, and then prepare for the Play-offs in September. Obviously there are always going to be setbacks but I still feel we are on the right track to achieve our goals. I firmly believe that we have a squad which is capable of being in contention when the finals are contested at the end of the season.

There is a tremendous spirit among the players at the club and a strong desire to do well for Oldham. There are no egos and no segregation between the first team and the Alliance and Academy players. Indeed, it is one of the happiest clubs I've been connected with in my thirty odd years of coaching. I'm fortunate to have a very good backroom staff and a Board of Directors which has supported me in every way possible since my arrival at the club. Perhaps this will briefly explain why I'm not interested in moving back into Super League. The players at this club have had enough distractions for one season and like myself, just want to get on with the job.

On the injury front Joey Hayes is back in first team contention after a couple of games in the Alliance and Phil Farrell is very close to a come back following a lengthy spell on the sidelines. Personally, there will be no one happier than myself when 'Faz' gets back on the field as he's like a bear with a sore paw and a bloody nuisance to have in the dugout each week. We do have one or two players with minor injuries and it will be a case of resting them when the opportunity arises. Unfortunately for Whitehaven, this will not be today.

It isn't often that I single players out for special mention but Steve Molloy and 'Knocker' Norton have been producing incredible stats in recent games and there wouldn't be too many props in the Northern Ford or Super League who could match their work rate. Not far behind them are Lee Doran, Bryan Henare and David Gibbons whose work ethic is also second to none.

On a final note, I would like all the fans to know that we all really appreciate your support. It is so much easier to face adversity when we know that you are behind us. Your loyalty and commitment to the team does not go un-noticed, particularly by the players and coaching staff. Thank you!!

John

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In Yer Face



RAIN stopped play at just the right time: 2pm. A taxi got us to Ericsson Stadium at 2.40pm in time, we hoped, for a 3pm kick off between New Zealand Warriors and Newcastle Knights. I had read back in the U.K. that the Warriors got a lot of late walk up support so anticipated no problem getting in. Wrong! Although Ericsson is a big stadium well able to hold any crowd the Warriors are likely to get, there are no turnstiles where you pay to get in. Instead you queue at the box office for a ticket which you then take to the turnstile (I believe this now happens at Wigan) and the result is.....chaos! Solution to the problem? Out comes a woman with a book of tickets for the dearer seats and takes your money. Great.... and we get in on time. But what's the point? Yes, I know it stops gatemen pocketing cash, but it sure as hell complicates life for the spectators.

The rest of the experience was excellent. There were plenty of toilets. Food was easy to get, plentiful and cheap. The same with beer. I've now been to quite a lot of sports grounds abroad and the one thing that stands out is that the price is the price. If you pay 3 dollars (about £1 in N.Z.) for a beer outside the ground or the same for an overflowing tub of chips that's what you pay inside. Now try that at any English ground: 50% dearer is about standard, double the price not unusual. No wonder we complain about rip-off Britain.

The other thing that struck me about Ericsson Stadium was its location and the crowd. The stadium is definitely set in a working class area (Manukau) well away from central Auckland. And the crowd is equally working class very much like any crowd at an English game. Since we went to a Super Twelve game in Wellington it was quite a contrast to the 'chattering classes' who turned up at the Westpac Trust Stadium. 'Chattering class' is a particularly apt description as the four young ladies immediately behind me never stopped talking - boyfriends, make-up, clothes, music, work in fact anything at all except rugby. But, then the cynics among you would say that's what you'd expect with rugby union!

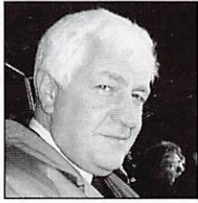
Actually the Super Twelve game - Hurricanes v Cats was quite good. The match presentation was excellent (Bradford Bulls style) and the emphasis of the play was to recycle the ball quickly and attack. Even the lineouts showed imagination Jonah Lomu was desperately disappointing, but centre Tana

Umaga (a relative of ex-Halifax fullback Mike Umaga?) was outstanding and would be great in R.L. Best for the Jo'burg side was stand-off Andre Pretorius.

Access to the Westpac Trust Stadium (where New Zealand will play their R.L. Test against Australia later this year) is fantastic. It's an easy walk from central Wellington - 10 minutes at most along the quayside - and there's masses of car-parking in multi-storey car parks. The stadium's just past the railway station, so fans coming in from outlying areas like the Hutt Valley and Palmerston North walk off the platform, up the ramps and straight onto the stadium concourse. All the entry points are computerised so you put in your ticket, the barrier opens and in you go (a bit like the London Underground). Again, loads of food and drink at sensible prices. Smoking was absolutely banned anywhere in the ground: smokers are definitely discouraged everywhere in N.Z. The ground itself holds about 30,000 and is nicknamed 'the cake tin' because that's what it resembles. It's all seater and the hospitality boxes run all the way round the ground. It generates a terrific atmosphere unlike Ericsson which is open on three sides, although the main stand there is massive.

And, how about this? You can walk into any Post Office anywhere in New Zealand and buy a ticket to any match anywhere in the country because the whole system is computerised. Imagine getting tickets for Man. U. at a Post Office in Plymouth! And the cost? The cheapest tickets at North Harbour Stadium in Auckland were 5 dollars to stand or sit on the grass bank (3 dollars to the pound). At Ericsson or Westpac you could get a good seat for 10 dollars (about £3.30). It certainly makes you think.

And, don't you just love a country where you walk into a bar at weekend and there's three massive T.V. screens, two showing Super Twelve and one N.F.L. rugby league? In New Zealand RUGBY (of whichever sort) is definitely king! That said there was the usual contrast in marketing. Walk into just about any shop and you can buy an All Blacks shirt and the official Adidas shirts are plentiful. However a Kiwis shirt or a Warrior shirt is a different matter. Both are manufactured for Puma but except at Ericsson Stadium they were as rare as hen's teeth in the shops. It just goes to show that R.L. has exactly the same problems on the other side of the world as it does at home.



'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to June 9th yesteryear

This afternoon Whitehaven pay their first ever visit to Hurst Cross. These days clubs are called upon to play at various venues and two years ago, on Friday 9th June 2000, Whitehaven also broke new ground when they visited Edge Hall Road, the Orrell RUFC ground for a Northern Ford Premiership match against Swinton. At half-time Swinton looked home and dry when they led 24-8 but Whitehaven staged an astonishing revival which saw them lead until two minutes from time when a late try enabled Swinton to snatch a 28-28 draw. The five Whitehaven tries that evening came from Craig Chambers, Craig Walsh, Graeme Morton, Lee Kiddie and David Seeds with Kevin Hetherington adding four goals. Four years previously, on Sunday 9th June 1996, Whitehaven won on more familiar territory when they registered a 33-24 victory over Rochdale Hornets at Spotland. Loose-forward Steve Maguire was the star of that Whitehaven victory, landing three goals and a dropped goal, and driving on his colleagues who scored tries through David Seeds (2), Peter Dover, Glyn Palmer and Cassino Doyle. Sean Casey also landed three goals. On that same afternoon' Sunday 9th June 1996, Oldham defeated Warrington 35-24 before a Watersheddings crowd of 3,243. Darren Abram, Ian Sherratt, Rob Myler, David Bradbury and Adie Belle scored tries for the Roughyeds with Paul Topping adding seven goals and Martin Crompton chipping in with a dropped goal. Three former Oldham juniors were included in the Warrington line-up, full-back Chris Eckersley, stand-off Iestyn Harris and second-row forward Paul Sculthorpe whilst alongside Sculthorpe in the Warrington pack was Paul Cullen, now doing a fantastic job as head coach at the Recreation Grounds.



Paul Cullen

Five years ago British clubs were suffering against Australian opposition in the

World Club Championship competition. However, on Monday 9th June 1997 results took a little turn for the better. Over at Odsal Bradford led Penrith 16-6 at half-time and should have gone on to win but the Panthers hit back in the second half to snatch a 20-16 victory. Meanwhile, on the other side of the World in Sydney, Wigan pulled off a remarkable 22-18 victory over Canterbury at the Belmore Sports ground. The pie-eaters actually led 22-0 after an hour of that match before a late flourish made the score a little more respectable for the Bulldogs.

Forty-five years ago World Champions Great Britain set off to defend their crown when the World Cup was staged in Australasia. Three Oldham players were included in the British squad and all three appeared when the Lions met Western Australia in a 'warmup' game at Perth on Sunday 9th June 1957. The locals were no match for Britain who ran in 16 tries as they coasted to a 66-5 victory. All three Oldham players made the score sheet with prop-forward Sid Little and loose-forward Derek Turner each scoring a try whilst substitute Alan Davies touched down twice and also landed three goals.



Derek Turner

Although Britain lost that World Cup to Australia, they continued to dominate the test series around that time. On Saturday 9th June 1962 a crowd of 70,174 crammed into Sydney Cricket Ground for the first test of that 1962 tour. Most left disappointed because, although the Kangaroos jumped into an early 7-0 lead,

Britain dominated thereafter and ran out comfortable winners 31-12. Loose-forward Derek Turner again scored a try, although by then he had left Oldham for Wakefield Trinity, and another try scorer was the St.Helens' second-row forward Dick Huddart, arguably the greatest player ever produced by the Whitehaven club.

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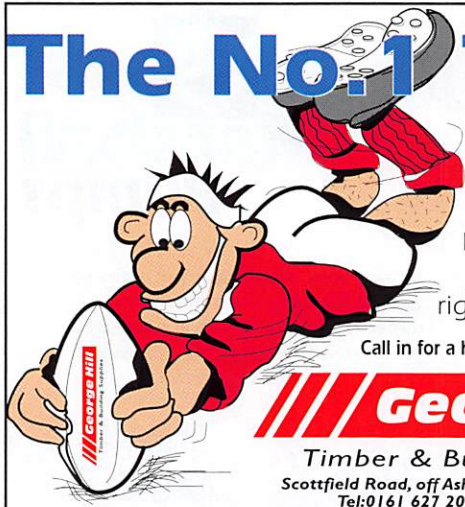
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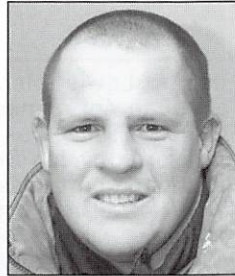
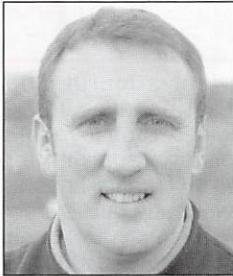
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ACADEMY FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

MAY

11	OLDHAM	v	Sheffield Eagles	W 22-20
15	OLDHAM	v	Keighley Cougars	W 60-12
18	OLDHAM	v	Workington Town	P
25	Dewsbury Rams	v	OLDHAM	L 20-12

JUNE

2	Keighley Cougars	v	OLDHAM	W46-26
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			

U21 ALLIANCE APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2002

PLAYER	APP	SUB	T	G	DG	PTS
G. DODD	2					
M. HARLAND	6		2			8
A. GIBBONS	1					
S. CONWAY	5			2		4
J. MITCHELL	6	2	1	2		8
G. BARBER	1		1	3		10
P. BENNETT	5		2			8
D. GUEST	5					
J. KIRKLAND	6	2	1			4
A. SHARPLES	6					
D. NEWTON	7	1	1			4
A. WHITAKER	2	1				
G. JOHNSON	8		1			4
J. WANKLYN		6				
A. CLAYTON		4				
A. PROCTOR	7	1	1			4
D. HEYWOOD		2				
C. CAMPBELL	3		6			24
K. BRENNAN	4		4	16		48
D. LACEY	7	2	1			4
D. ATKINSON	1					
M. GRADY	3					
R. ARROWSMITH	1					
K. LANCASHIRE	6	2		5		10
D. HULBERT	1	3	1			4
N. GRENNAN		1				
A. MURRAY	3					
M. McDERMOTT	3	1	3			12
J. BRASSINGTON	3	2	1			4
R. HOLLIC	3					
T. LANSMAN	3	1	3			12
D. NANYN		1				
W. COWELL	3		4			16
D. NORCROSS		3	1			4
M. SIBSON	2		3			12
R. STAZICKER	2		1			4
S. BROWN	1	1				
J. HEYES	1					
N. RODEN	1					
C. CARTER		1				

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

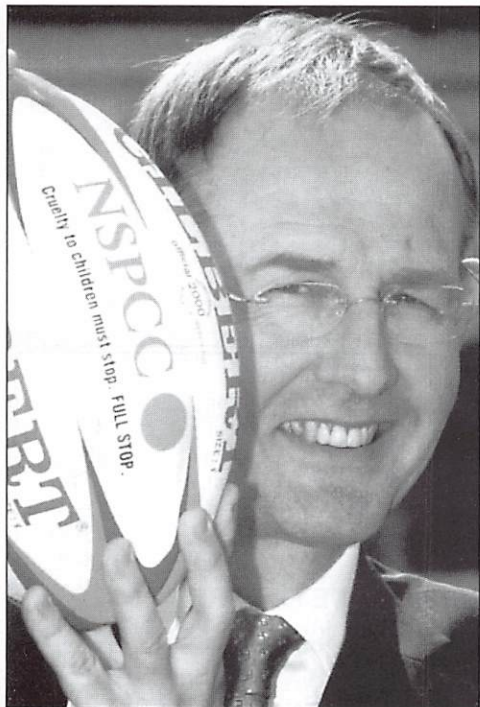
U21 ALLIANCE CONTINUATION LEAGUE FIXTURES

Saturday	18th May	Batley Bulldogs	(A)	Won	52-6
Thursday	23rd May	Rochdale Hornets	(H)	Won	22-21
Thursday	6th June	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	7.30pm k.o.	
Thursday	13th June	Rochdale Hornets	(A)	7.30pm k.o.(Castleton)	

NFP Round Up

APC clubs covered old ground re-discussing next season's fixture formula (one division or two) at a meeting held on Thursday 30th May and chaired for the first time by new RFL executive chairman Richard Lewis. Reports indicate that the issue is evenly split and will probably go before the RFL Council on July 31st. Should this happen Super League club will become involved, each having two votes and each APC club one. As the two division structure had previously been ratified by the Council it's on the cards that Super League clubs will affirm the earlier decision.

Hull KR chairman Wayne Smith best summed up, "My personal opinion is that we should have a stable situation and follow through the commitment we made after the Strategic Review. I believe it's good for all clubs in both the first and second division to play more competitive rugby. We can't go on with the league structure we've got.". Here, here!



Richard Lewis

Richard Lewis infers that a fourth club (although not named but believed to be Bridgend RUFC) has joined Bramley, York and North London Skolars in applying for inclusion in next season's National League Two. The Welsh club have made public a bid for Super League for season 2004, their chief executive former Salford and Widnes Adrian Hadley, claiming that the nucleus of the side will be recruited from established league players with 'consideration' being given to applying to join the NFP next season to give the 'South Wales kids' a chance to play both codes.



THE first full weekend of NFP fixtures following the break for the National Cup were completed last weekend with today's visitors Whitehaven undoubtedly still smarting from the defeat by Swinton Lions, a side that had previously won only one of eleven NFP matches. Suffering injuries with the added problem of fatigue from the mid week derby against Workington two defeats have seen 'Haven drop from third to seventh in the table.

No other shocks but why oh why were Barrow, Workington and Whitehaven all playing at home on the same day?

Hard pitches are now allowing for a good number of high scoring, exciting and competitive top of the ground matches Keighley 32 Oldham 34, Doncaster 20 Leigh 35, Featherstone 46 Hull KR 40, Whitehaven 26 Swinton 34 are all examples from last Sundays results. If the majority of NFP fixtures fell into this category there would be no need to continuously discuss attendances.

NFP Fixtures Sunday, 9th June

Barrow Raiders v Swinton Lions
Chorley Lynx v Gateshead Thunder
Dewsbury Rams v Huddersfield Giants
Hull Kingston Rovers v Keighley Cougars
Hunslet Hawks v Batley Bulldogs
Leigh Centurions v Sheffield Eagles
Oldham v Whitehaven
Rochdale Hornets v Featherstone Rovers

IN Town TODAY



WHITEHAVEN RLFC

HAVEN this season are once again coached by ex Warrington star Paul Cullen and are looking to go better than last season when they just missed out on a play off berth despite of a lengthy injury list.

WESLEY WILSON - Full Back

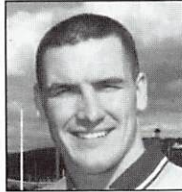
A talented full back who captained his country at BARLA U18 level. he signed from Wath Brow Hornets in January 1997 and secured a first team place very quickly. Came back last year from a bad injury and looks to be in top form for this season.

PAUL O'NEIL - Full back/winger.

Originally signed as a full back but now featuring as a winger, this former Kells youngster graduated to the top flight during last season and appeared many times in the first team. A consistent player.

DAVID SEEDS -

Full back/centre . A strong running centre and prolific try-scorer, one of the most experienced players in the squad. David toured Australia with the BARLA GB squad in 1998, another product of the famous Kells club.



HOWARD HILL - Second row/centre. A local lad who played for Oldham Bears in Super League and has now rejoined his home town club after a spell at Swinton. He brings a good physical presence to the team and turned in consistently good performances last season.

RYAN CAMPBELL - Centre. A former Wath Brow Hornet who made his name in the Alliance side last year and has a lot of potential. A Cumbrian County Academy player and recently played for GB students v Queensland.

MARK WALLACE - Winger. Returned to Haven in 2000 after spending some time at Workington Town. A pacy winger who has missed most of last season through injury but making a good comeback this year.

LEROY JOE - Scrum Off. Re-signed by the Haven last year, after a spell with Hull KR, after originally joining the club in 1997 from North Queensland Cowboys. Represented the Cook Island in the recent Lincoln World Cup. A classy footballer and a key member of the Haven squad.

STEVE KIRKBRIDGE - Scrum Half. A product of local amateurs Kells. He joined Warrington in 1997 and was their Alliance player of the year in 2000 before returning home in Jan 2001. A classy no.7 and a very accurate kicker.

MARK COX - Prop. A giant forward signed from Wath Brow Hornets in 1996, he was noticed by GB in the Academy side and represented them in the 1997 Academy team against France. Strong robust forward with good hands.

AARON LESTER - Hooker. The club captain, a New Zealander, Aaron is rated by many as one of the best players outside Super League. A dedicated professional he played for Auckland Warriors before coming to Haven in 1999.

MARC JACKSON - Hooker. This livewire hooker from the Wath Brow Hornets ARLFC joined the club last year. A former BARLA international who has quickly adapted to pro rugby.

DEAN VAUGHAN - Prop. Young player with tremendous work rate. A former Academy skipper and BARLA international from Kells, he was one of Haven's most consistent performers in last season's first team.

PHIL SHERWEN - Prop/Second Row . Big powerful forward who joined the Haven in Jan 2001 after featuring for BARLA in the emerging Nations World Cup. A product of Wath Brow Hornets ARLFC, he is having a big season in 2002.

GRAEME MORTON - Second Row. Experienced and long serving forward, he was signed from (yes, you guessed) Kells in 1993 after representing BARLA Great Britain U19s against Australia and France. Missed most of last season through injury but looking to regain his place this season.

CHRIS MCKINNEY - Second Row. A member of last season's Widnes Vikings NFP Premiers. Returned to his home town club during the close season and is proving a good acquisition. An industrious hard working back row forward.

GARY SMITH - Prop/Utility forward. A signing from Kells amateur in 1999 who made his name in the Alliance side before gaining some first team experience last season. Strong running forward.

SPENCER MILLER - Back Row. Another signing from the Kells amateurs. A hard running fast forward who was a regular first teamer last season. He represented the NFP Under 21s last year.

IAN DEVLIN - Utility Player. A BARLA international forward who joined the club in 2000 from Barrow amateurs Walney Central. Can play second row and also cover back positions.

GARRY PURDHAM - Loose Forward. A member of Egremont's Conference winning side and has powered his way into a regular first team place since joining Haven. Powerful runner and strong in defence.

Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

SAT IN the psychiatrists chair wearing a bulging and dated replica shirt the middle aged man was asked by the shrink 'Are you a Roughyeds fan then?' 'Give over' growled the reply 'it's bad enough being a nutcase!'

The oldest are always the best but being a nutcase and having a thick skin are for most of us prior requisites to being Roughyeds fans.

'It's two seasons since the club won a major trophy!' moaned the back page of the Wigan local, 'Rhino's supporters experience a roller coaster of emotions' complained the Yorkshire Post, 'Murrayfield is no Wembley!' bleated the St. Helens correspondent. If life's tough at the top for Super League fans it's red hot in the wrong half of the N.F.P. for us Roughyeds. How we Oldham fans would love to read 'It's two season since the club won a major trophy!' we would fall over ourselves for the headline 'Roughyeds in first major final for almost 50 years'.

'Small club Oldham almost snatch victory', 'Oldham create shock!' 'Oldham destined never to play at Wembley' and from one tabloid during Super League days 'Emerging Oldham failed at Odsal by narrowest of margins'. That's after 120 years of emerging! But it's headlines fashioned in this manner that Oldham fans have lived with, year in, year out.

Over the years the club has won lots of first class trophies and for periods been one of the strongest in the game but for too many years now has been at best the bridesmaid and for most of that time no more than a member of the congregation.

Today's Roughyeds supporters could never claim to have been influenced by footballing success and there are not many amongst us who can remember way back to 1956 when we last won a major trophy. Had that success continued until recent times we would be greater in numbers.

This was best highlighted at last seasons Grand Final. Whilst the game was covered live on television some 3000 Oldham supporters responded to the bugle call but Widnes a team successful through the eighties and early nineties brought around 5000 supporters and what was noticeable there were many more youngster amongst the Viking support than the Roughyeds.

It has been well publicised that Hurst Cross attendances' are disappointing with only around 1000 Oldham fans turning out for Tuesday nights Rochdale Hornets needle derby. They should each take a bow.

But the bottom line is that the choice that everyone now has in how to spend their leisure time and the cash associated with it is wider than ever before. To attract back on a regular basis the missing fans from the 3000 who attended the Grand Final plus those that were happy to watch the game from the comfort of their own armchair the product has to be more desirable than all the alternatives. As simple as that.

That desirability will be determined by three things, continual success on the field, attractive fixtures and a comfortable and conveniently sited stadium from which to watch it.

Not everybody is a nutcase!

Iva Slateloose



BELIEVE it or believe it not but every now and then Rugby League actually produces some good ideas. In recent years foremost of these has been the Big Screen and the video referee. With soccer unable to grasp the importance of ensuring correct decisions, particularly regarding when the ball has crossed the goal line or when a player is offside, preferring instead to have a pack of baying hounds surrounding the referee or his assistant (linesmen in any sensible person's language) shouting obscenities and intimidating said officials thereby setting a wonderful example to the nation's youth by overpaid, underworked prima donnas and with cricket trapped in some half way limbo whereby a run out that a blind man could award is referred to a third umpire but an lbw that had every chance of demolishing all three stumps and was somehow held in doubt by the dozing official at the crease is not passed on, you might think that Rugby League would be universally praised for its innovative use of technology and its ability to get the most crucial decisions in a match right i.e. whether a try has been scored or not. [When did you last read a sentence that long? - Ed.]

Well, apparently in Widnes (and one or two equally obscure places) they think differently. And all because in a recent game against Hull the video ref. chalked off three would be tries to the home side with the result that the Airlie Birds ran out winners. And was the video ref wrong? Well, actually, no he wasn't! So, what we are saying is that Widnes fans don't want the Big Screen so that their side can be awarded illegal tries and thereby win the match. (That's called cheating to you and me). I think there must be something in the water over Halton Stadium way because any sensible person would recognise what a boon the Big Screen has been to the game. A fortnight ago Halifax similarly had three 'tries' rubbed out in their game against Warrington: the difference here was that the Blue Sox had the resilience and determination to overcome their disappointment and, playing the full 80 minutes won the game in the dying seconds. A lesson here for all those Viking bleaters - if your team is

good enough you'll win the game anyway: it's down to a little thing called character.

So, having established that the Big Screen is good for the game [have we? - Ed.] the obvious thing is to extend the use of video refs. to every game possible. Of course not every ground will have Sky T.V. technology available but since every game is already videoed it wouldn't be too difficult to have a camera on the in goal area as well. After all they manage it in Australia so why not here? When the stakes are so high it makes sense to use the technology we've got. So let's hear no more from the Luddites and moaners who want to take us back to the dark ages!

Now, for every remarkable and successful development in Rugby League there is always a cock up waiting round the corner. In this case it's the League structure. having decided to split the N.F.P. in two and to develop a pyramid structure of five national divisions of 10 clubs per division the whole idea is suddenly in jeopardy. Me thinks planning in R.L. does not extent beyond about 10 days! All of a sudden the N.F.P. clubs are getting cold feet because the lowlier brethren fear for their attendances without fixtures against the big boys (you see you didn't realise Oldham, Rochdale and Leigh were the big boys did you?). Since two divisions was tried within living memory (three seasons ago to be precise) I happen to think they're right but, then, that's just me a humble journeyman.

Equally, it now transpires there might not be enough B.A.R.L.A clubs willing to convert to summer and come on board. Well, surprise, surprise! Didn't anyone actually do any lobbying or research before coming up with the master plan or did the R.F.L./B.A.R.L.A. 'war' extend so far that no-one was speaking to each other? So, in the next few weeks I fully expect it to be back to the drawing board, Jim, for plan B. I only hope Mr Lewis has a strong constitution and a good supply of tranquillisers: he's going to need them trying to run Red Hall.

GC

Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of our Cumbrian visitors from Whitehaven. The match I've chosen to feature in the programme today was the opening fixture of the 1987-88 campaign. On that day, Sunday August 30th 1987, Oldham travelled up to the Recreation Ground and the match was played in brilliant sunshine.

A good crowd of over three thousand turned up for what was expected to be a closely fought match. They weren't disappointed.

"Haven" opened brightly but it was Oldham who opened the scoring by way of a Keith Atkinson penalty goal after

seven minutes. There were some "big hits" going in from both sets of forwards and a couple of Oldham indiscretions enabled the Cumbrians to take the lead courtesy of two Willie Richardson penalties on sixteen and twenty five minutes. However, the advantage for the home side was short lived and Oldham got the first try of the match when the ever alert Paddy Kirwan pounced on a loose ball to score just before the half hour mark. Atkinson converted to conclude the first half scoring with the Roughyeds ahead by eight points to four.

Another Richardson goal early in the second half reduced the arrears for Whitehaven but again Oldham hit back straight away and within two minutes big prop Ian Sherratt had forced his way over by the posts to give Atkinson an easy conversion. For the next 25 minutes Whitehaven through everything at the Oldham defence but the Roughyeds held firm with splendid tacking stints from Sherratt, Ian Sanderson and skipper Mal Graham. Seven minutes from time Hugh Waddell emulated his prop colleague by scoring himself with a similar effort. This time Mick Worrall added on the extras and Oldham finished up winners by twenty points to six.

OLDHAM:

K Atkinson, R Irving, C Hawkyard, K Meadows, J Edwards, S Peters P Kirwan; I Sherratt, I Sanderson, H Waddell, M Worrall, M Graham, T Flanagan.

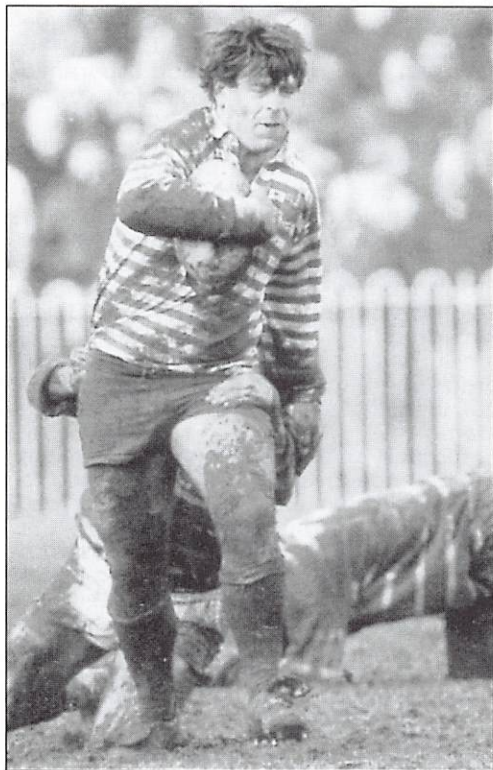
subs: P Sherman, P Round.

WHITEHAVEN:

Lightfoot, Richardson, Fisher, McConnell, Lofthouse, Cameron, Hall; Rose, Mounsey, Howse, Bell, Hetherington, Fearon.

Attendance: 3,122

Referee: Mr B Simpson - Manchester



"Oldham prop forward Hugh Waddell, who scored in the match v Whitehaven in August 1988."



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A Chance to Meet . . . GARETH BARBER

Gareth, first of all, welcome to 'A Chance to Meet' and the first question has to be, where and when were you born and who's in your family?

I was born at the Royal Oldham Hospital on 15th December 1980 and there's myself, my older sister, she's 24, and my Mum and my Dad.

That's the family then. What about your first memory of Rugby League?

Well my Mum and my Dad got me into it and I've always been a bit of an Oldham fan to be honest. From an early age my Dad used to always watch Oldham and he used to drag me along when I was about three or four. I always used to lie on the top of the opposition dug-out. So it was you back at the old Watersheddings? I remember seeing you there when you were a little lad! Yes, my favourite player was Tom Naidole, I think it was then, and a few others like that. Early memories.

I'll ask you about them in a moment, but first where did you play your first game of rugby league?

Throughout my amateur career I always used to play for Waterhead so my first game, I think, would have been for the 'Under 9's' of Waterhead at Stanningly in Leeds. Did you play rugby at Junior school? Yes, a bit. I went to Knowsley Junior School which led to Saddleworth with Eddie Barton, Oldham's 'Stats man'. So rugby straight through. What about your pinnacle at Waterhead, you didn't ever get to feature in any of the Standard Cup Finals did you? No, no I was way gone before then. I played there up until I was fifteen, my last season, as I'd signed a contract and Warrington weren't too keen on me playing amateur rugby, I played 'Town Team' and England Schools and never further up.

Now you signed for Warrington, how did they get to find out about you, and what did you think when you found out they were, 'sniffing round' I think is the phrase?

To be honest I'm not too sure how they found out about me, but it was at quite an

early age, about thirteen or fourteen. Obviously at the time I was a bit nervous because they weren't the only club, there were quite a few and they were a bit pushy. What do you mean 'a bit pushy'? Well, when you're getting four phone calls, once they have someone in their sights, as the other lads will tell you, they don't give up until you've made a decision. At the time, with me playing with Kevin Sinfield, Chris Hough and that, there always tended to be a scout around. You just got on with it!

Right you got on with it and signed for Warrington. What was it like? Did you go over there to train? What was your time like there?

Well initially before signing the contract I had a look round, at other clubs as well, and at the time Warrington were really big on Youths. Iestyn and Paul Sculthorpe had just broke through and even John Hough. They were in the first team. At the time it was Brian Johnson and they made a big effort towards me, they didn't promise me a lot of things, but they said "produce the goods, and you'll do alright here". It was just a family club and as I progressed through from fourteen, fifteen, just before playing the Academy I really enjoyed it. I trained quite a lot. John Dorahay was in charge and things were looking good and then Darryl came in and that's when I started playing. I enjoyed my time, but never really reached the potential that I had leaving the amateur game towards the professional game. Having had a good couple of seasons I suppose you could say I hit a bit of a rut in the A Team side and never really progressed onto the first team. Disappointed with that, and any reason for it? A major disappointment. I had such expectations of myself. I really wanted, and still do, I've still got this burning ambition inside me to be the best I can be. I was just majorly disappointed never to really make the grade. But the club had financial troubles and was in a bit of a mess and at times the Youths just seemed to get pushed away and it was all you know.

So how did it come about your parting from Warrington? What actually happened and why Oldham?

Well with Oldham being my home town, and I've always supported Oldham, and before actually signing for Warrington I did have talks with Oldham Bears, but things never progressed due to you know. We'll gloss over that. What did Warrington say when the time came, did they just say sorry? No. What actually happened was the season before I left I had a couple of enquiries and to be quite honest Warrington really didn't want me to go. They said that I had a future there. Then towards the back end of my last season there I became more aware that chances were becoming more limited and to progress I needed a fresh challenge. As soon as Oldham became a firm interest there was no other club for me. It had to be Oldham so I jumped at it really. You didn't let Christopher Hamilton know that because he'd have been knocking some numbers off the end of the contract. No, you never tell him that do you? Not when it comes to contracts. Once the firm approach came from Oldham nothing else was in my mind. Just get away from Warrington and get that fresh challenge at Oldham.

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

I'd have to say my parents. They've backed me through thick and thin over the years. Certainly in my early years I did have a lot of success and they managed to keep my feet on the ground and when times became a bit rough at Warrington they were always there for me. So I'd have to say my parents. But Waterhead have a great youth section and my skills level through them were superb and even my school teachers so there's been a lot of people who've helped me.

What's the most memorable moment, for you, so far in your rugby career?

There's been quite a few. I'd have to say one of my early ones was playing in the curtain raiser at Wembley for Oldham schools. You weren't in the first ever Oldham team to play at Wembley? You look far too young. No, it was 1991, Oldham versus Batley and Dewsbury. So I'd have to say that was one of my earliest and best memories, scoring a try at Wembley! It's something I can always take with me. I can tell by the size of the smile

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that came across your face as you said "scoring a try at Wembley" how good that was. Yes, it felt fantastic. At the time I was only eleven and a bit naive, it's just another try. But looking back now it's something good. Also I'd have to say playing for England schools was memorable.

What about your worst memories then?

As a spectator, that try that got disallowed in the semi-final for Oldham against Warrington. As soon as you started "As a spectator" I thought you may bring that one up. As a player? It must have been when I realised that Warrington wasn't the dream move for me. That times were bad and something had to be done to get a fresh challenge. I suppose it was towards the back end of my last season at Warrington that I had my worst time!

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

Well there's certainly been a few. There were a few at Warrington, but you've got your Cleggy, he's a big, massive, character at the club, and Keith Brennan as well, you've even got your Phil Farrell's who manages to chip in with the odd joke here and there. So I'd have to say one of those three.

If I asked you what was your ambition in Rugby League, you're enjoying playing for Oldham, but is it Super League for you?

I'd like to think so. Certainly at the moment things are going well for me. I'm hoping to establish myself within the Oldham side, but Super League is something that I've always wanted and I've still got that ambition. So yes, it's still Super League, but at the moment let's get Oldham into the Super League.

Are you enjoying your rugby?

Yes, Loving it. If you don't enjoy it, you don't perform, so training and everything about it is just fantastic. I mean, getting paid for playing the game you love, you can't fault it can you really.

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

Garth (pictured right) in his 1999 Student Rugby League World Cup strip.



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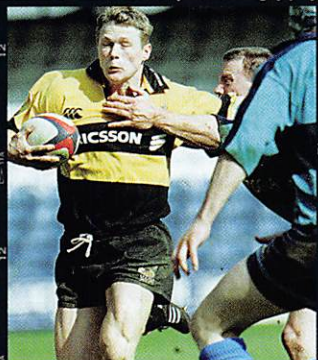
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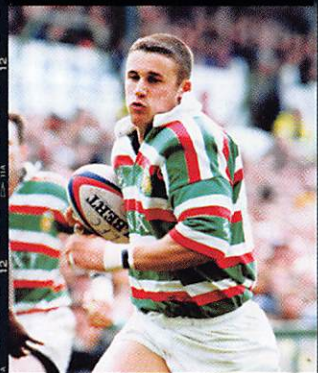
Just some of Maximuscle's sponsored rugby players



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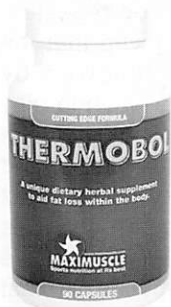
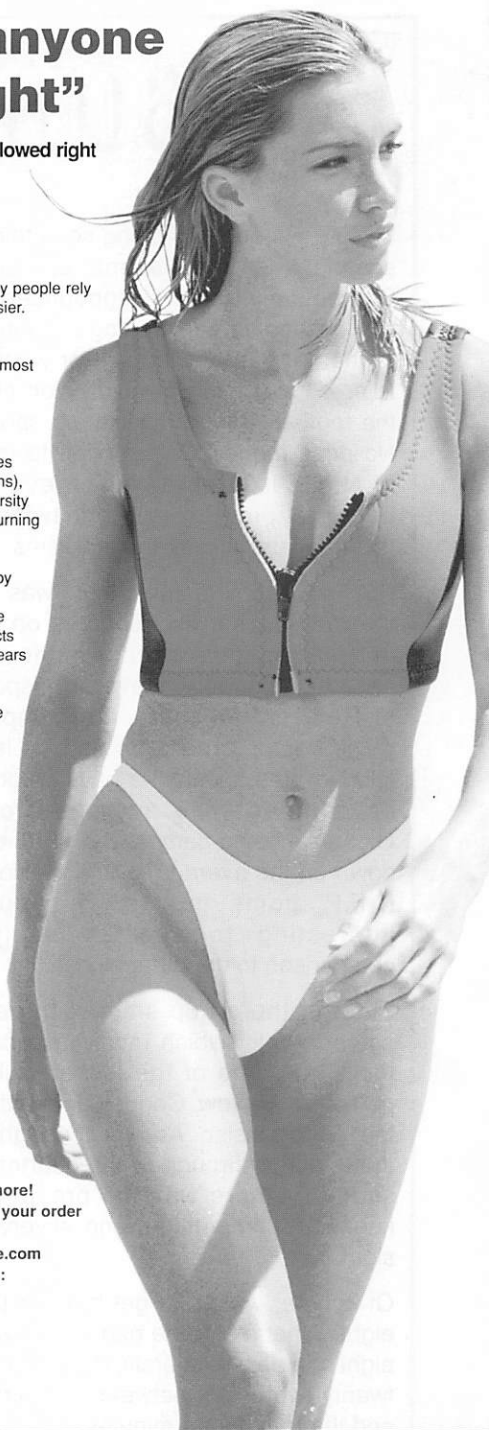
Thermobol also contains caffeine, which can boost the fat burning effects of exercise by around 30%^[2]. Moreover, caffeine can almost double fat loss in the hours following exercise^[3]. However, don't make the mistake of thinking that coffee or tea will have the same effect - it won't. It's well established that coffee does not produce the same effects as caffeine. Although scientists have been unable to establish the reasons why, it appears that one or more of the substances in coffee 'interferes' with the effects of caffeine.

Another fat burning nutrient found in Thermobol is known as synephrine. Synephrine is found in the peel of a citrus fruit known as bitter orange. Scientists found that a herbal formula containing synephrine can increase your metabolic rate over the course of a day^[4]. Which means you burn more calories watching TV or sitting at your desk - even while you're sleeping.

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Wilson's Wisdom

... with Ian Wilson

I HAVE TO admit to being something of a sceptic when the National League Cup Competition was first announced, even though I could see the logic - equivalent to that for the LDV trophy (or whatever it is now called) for lower division clubs in the football league. Initially no sponsors? No prize money? Interruption to the flow of N.F.P. fixtures, in which every club does not play every other twice? You must be familiar with the criticisms.

But I am happy to admit that I was wrong. With a Sponsor like Buddies on board, and some decent prize money - and congratulation to whoever is responsible at Red Hall for that - the competition gained some credibility. And, at least at Oldham, the spectators have stood up to be counted! The average crowd at Oldham's home games was 1130, only 25 down on the average for the previous five N.F.P. home games. (It would be interesting to see an equivalent comparison to the other clubs).

Even in the group stages, there were some results, which must have boosted moral at some of the lesser clubs - in particular, Barrow, Chorley and Swinton in the West division. And for the eight clubs that made it through to the quarter finals, suddenly there was the prospect of a knockout competition, and silverware in sight.

Of course, we didn't get beyond the last eight. What a strange game that was! For eight minutes Huddersfield pulverised us - twenty two points between the thirty sixth and the forty-fourth minutes.

But for the other ninety percent of the game, we won 16-14 and all that with no

successful conversions. Not dissimilar, of course to the excellent evenings entertainment against Rochdale. In that one, we conceded 18 points in the 7 minutes between the forty-fifth and the fifty-second minutes - and won the rest of the game 24-10 with only two successful kicks at goal. I have no doubt that Mr Harbin is attempting to hammer home the obvious lessons.

But, to return to the Buddies Cup: was it a good idea? And is it worth repeating next year? My answer is, a qualified yes on both counts.

By all accounts, the final was a decent occasion, with a decent crowd. Not up to the N.F.P. Grand Final, of course - but then, it should not be. And the prospects of a competition that they could realistically win, must be a good idea, surely, for N.F.P. Clubs? An alternative suggestion I have seen, is to replace it by bringing back the County Cups - but this is surely stupid - N.F.P. Clubs would be hammered by teams in Super League, whose players anyway would complain of even more fixture overload.

Assuming sponsorship can be repeated, the only issue I suggest - given that the format of mini leagues followed by knockout seems correct - is when to play it. Personally, I do not favour the idea of it being spread throughout the season: it would come to dilute to have any impact at all. So it is either as this season, or as a pre-season tournament. Which of these to go for, though, I think depends on what happens to the League structure in 2003.

And that is another story!

Junior Roughyeds



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photograph but we will try our best to include one in our next home programme).

Once again lots of thanks to the **OLDHAM ADVERTISER** for your sponsorship.

Our next meeting is scheduled to be prior to the home fixture against Batley Bulldogs (June 23rd) and a newsletter will give everybody all the details.

Enjoy the game.

WELCOME to today's match to all you Junior Roughyeds and on everybody's behalf a warm welcome to all Juniors who have made the long trip down from Whitehaven.

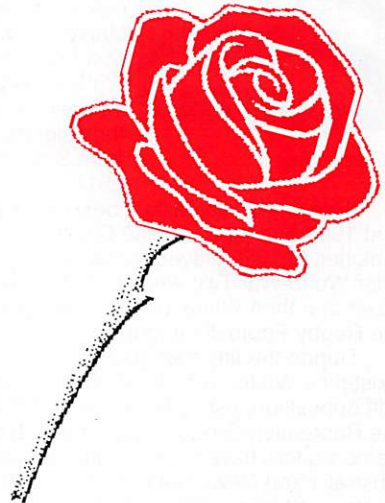
Today's match mascot is **ANNE MARIE WRIGHT** who is eleven years of age and attends Counthill School. (Sorry there is no

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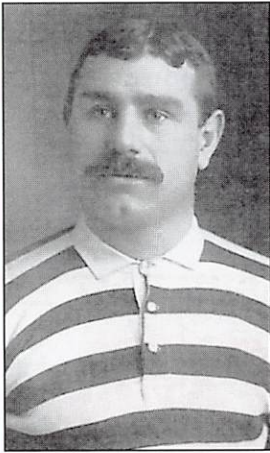
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A Potted History of Whitehaven

RUGBY LEAGUE has been played in West Cumbria ever since the great rugby split way back in 1895. The county team first entered the County championship in 1898 and shared the title with Lancashire in 1906 before winning the competition outright for the first time in 1908. During that era Cumbria did not have a senior club although several star players were plying their trade with other clubs throughout the north of England. Cumbrians who made their mark at Watersheddings around that time include Jim Kelley, a forward from Egremont who was a



James Lomas

member of the Roughyeds' Championship winning team in 1905, the incomparable Joe Ferguson of Ellenborough who made a club record 627 appearances between 1899 and 1923 and James Lomas, a native of Maryport, who cost Oldham a World record transfer fee when they signed him from Salford in 1911.

Amazingly only Millom between 1899 and 1904 and then Carlisle City for 10 matches in 1929 played professionally until after World War Two when first Workington Town and then Whitehaven in 1948 joined the Rugby Football League.

During the fifty-four years of their existence Whitehaven have always provided stiff opposition, especially up in Cumbria at the Recreation Ground where many big name visitors have come to grief including Australia and New Zealand. In 1956 an Australian team containing rugby league greats Clive Churchill, Ian Moir, Roy Bull and Norman Provan lost 14-11 at Whitehaven in a match, which was refereed by Oldham's Dicky Thomas. Nine-years later the New Zealand Kiwis went the same way, beaten

12-7 by a very much home grown Whitehaven outfit.

Despite the talent produced by Whitehaven, few honours have come their way. 'Haven have yet to lift a trophy at first team level although their 'A' team won the Lancashire Shield way back in 1955. Perhaps the closest Whitehaven came to lifting a major trophy came in 1957 when the club reached the semi-final of the Challenge Cup. Over 49,000 spectators were at Odsal that day to see Whitehaven outplay wealthy Leeds only to lose 10-9 following a late dropped goal. Press photographs later showed that one of the Leeds' tries should have been disallowed because the scorer had been bundled into touch just as he was about to touch down. Had video referees been in use in those days would it have been Whitehaven lifting the cup at Wembley instead of Leeds? Playing loose forward at Odsal that afternoon was Geoff Robinson, without doubt the unluckiest player never to appear at Wembley. A couple of years after that semi-final defeat, Robinson moved to Oldham in a £9,000 transfer deal, a massive sum in those days and, indeed, a World record transfer fee for a forward. Robinson was a member of the Oldham team during that epic Challenge Cup run in 1964. He missed the drawn semi-final against Hull Kingston Rovers at Headingley but returned for the replay at Swinton. That replay was also tied after 80 minutes and so went into extra time. It was Robinson who broke the deadlock, scoring the try that put Oldham 17-14 in front and with one foot in Wembley before the match was abandoned because of fading light. No floodlights in those days and, with the Roughyeds losing the second replay 12-2, no glorious day out at Wembley for Robinson or his heart-broken teammates.

Although Huddersfield are firm favourites to lift the Northern Ford Premiership, Whitehaven will certainly make the play-offs and have every chance of reaching the Grand Final. Of course anything can happen in a final so what chance Whitehaven lifting that title, taking Super League rugby up to Cumbria and collecting that elusive piece of silverware come October 12th.

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MORE NEWS FROM THE PAST

1909 TROUBLE AT KEIGHLEY

On December 29th at a NRL meeting Hull complained that their team was assaulted by the crowd after their match at Keighley, both on the way to their hotel and at the hotel yard. Their complain was raised to compel Keighley to provide dressing accommodation at the ground. The complaint was up held and Keighley were ordered to comply.

MORE TROUBLE

On January 18th, James Butterworth (Runcorn) was suspended for attacking a Rochdale Hornets player in the dressing room.

Two days later the Merthyr Ground was suspended for two matches because of misconduct by spectators. The club treasurer was suspended for conduct not in the best interests of the game. He had refused to pay the referee his fee.

At the Batley v Hull KR game the referee sent four players off and two more players went off injured. Both clubs complained about the referee to the N.R.L. at a special meeting the referee said he had given seven cautions before sending anyone off. He was exonerated by N.R.L.

1910/11

On January 21st after the Runcorn v Oldham game there was a demonstration against the referee and Oldham players. They were escorted from the field by police & officials. Runcorn were fined £30 and advised to erect dressing rooms at the ground.

On January 8th, the Swinton 'Waggonette' was hit by a tramcar while on its way to St. Helens. Morris was injured and unable to play and other players were shook up. Swinton lost 11-10.

On January 31st, the York players were asked to turn out for practice instead of the Merthyr Tydfil game. The players demanded half of winning pay which the committee refused. The team turned up but refused to

practice unless given 5/- (25 pence!) each. The committee refused this also and left the players concerned out of the next game.

1960's

Oddly enough at the Bramley ground at Barley Mow - the referees changed in the pub just outside the ground.

By this time, teams travelled by coach to away games, though occasionally, for long trips they would use the train.

By and large, the referee would travel to his game by car - BUT - from this side of the Pennines it was possible to go to Hull or HKR by driving to Huddersfield, parking at the station and buying a cheap day ticket to Hull and since referees were allowed second class fares, they could make a slight profit. What about those officials who did not have a car?, such as Denis Davies, George Wilson, Brian Baker etc. Denis would always beg a lift from R.L. writers or a touch judge - Brian Baker was an official on the railways and could easily get back after a night game in Hull by using the very early morning milk or parcel train.

Did You Know?

1. That the shirts now worn by officials are easy for spectators to identify, and depending on club colours, they are also in different colours - BUT - they are not new! Joe Mauley wore a black & white one similar to ice hockey officials for a trial run in the 1960's but it was quickly discontinued.

2. The officials you see at Oldham games are all REFEREES. There is the man in charge in the middle, another controlling substitutions - (the 4th official who would take over if the appointed official took ill) and the two guys with the flags who are also referees in the lower reaches - eg: Alliance, Academy or amateur games.

If there were sufficient numbers of officials then in goal judges would also be provided where there is no video ref.

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TOPIC OF THE DAY

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

12 MARTIN OFFIAH. In 1987 a young, unknown wingman was signed by Doug Laughton for Widnes from Rosslyn Park R.U. Laughton has seen Offiah play in a sevens tournament and had spotted his raw potential. The Widnes coach's judgement was spot on and Martin Offiah became one of Rugby League's greatest players and most marketable assets over the next fourteen years. The young Offiah, of course, went into a magnificent Widnes side which, in 1989, became World Club Champions when defeating Penrith Panthers at Old Trafford. It was a year in which Offiah scored 58 tries in 41 matches. At Naughton Park Offiah had the benefit of playing alongside one of the most under rated centres in the accomplished Darren Wright and it was players like Wright and Tony Myler who brought out the best in him. Blessed with phenomenal pace Offiah developed a wonderful swerve and grew to read the game so well that he could pop up anywhere on the field to prize an opening and a possible try. In 1992 Wigan paid a world record £440,000 to take him to Central Park and over the next eight years Offiah won every honour the game has to offer, including two Lance Todd awards in 1992 and 1994, a most difficult feat for a wingman so often isolated from the main action. Spells with Salford and London Broncos took Offiah past the 500 try mark and placed him third in the all time try scoring list behind Brian Bevan and Billy Boston. Back in R.U. with Wasps Offiah may be about to retire. He will be sadly missed, he maintained his skill because of his work ethic and his incredible fitness, qualities springing from dedication and determination. It has been a privilege to watch him in action.



11 JOHNNY WHITELEY. In an era of great loose-forwards such as Derek Turner and Vince Karalius 'gentleman' Johnny Whiteley of Hull was a match for any of them. The playmaking genius of a formidable Hull pack in the late '50s and early sixties Whiteley was not only a wonderful ball handler but also an astute tactician, an inspiring leader and a tireless tackler. That all three of the named loose forwards played for Great Britain and went on to become highly successful coaches is quite remarkable. However, Whiteley was the one who had the best try scoring record and the one who became the national coach.

10 VINCE KARALIUS. Deciding between top quality players is almost impossible and with Turner at 16 and Whiteley at 11 my own opinion is, obviously, that Karalius was the best of the three. Others may disagree but



the fearless Karalius was the man the Australians most feared and respected and Aussies aren't usually wrong in their estimations of a player. They christened him 'the Wild Bull of the Pampas' because in many respects Karalius was, quite simply, mad. He would stand up to anybody, no matter what, never taking a backward step, a player you loved to hate but who spilt blood for his team be it St. Helens, Widnes or Britain. Ever protective of his halfbacks, woe betide the opponent who tried to come down the blindside of a scrum! But Karalius was not just a wrecker: on his day he was a beautifully balanced creative player who could open up a defence with ease, his shovel like hands able to pass and offload in the tightest of situations. As with several players Karalius' finest hour came in Britain's ten man victory in the 1958 Brisbane Test. Despite sustaining a back injury which required hospital treatment after the game Karalius, like Prescott, stayed on for the full 80 to guide Britain home 25-18.



9 ALAN PRESCOTT. And speaking of Brisbane 1958 who should appear at No.9 in my list but the heroic skipper himself, Alan Prescott. Breaking his right arm as early as the third minute the St. Helens prop stayed on the field to inspire his side to a magnificent victory which has gone down in R.L. folklore alongside the 1914 'Rorke's Drift'

Test as the two greatest performances of all time. Strangely, Alan Prescott started as a wingman before graduating to prop forward a position in which he was to win 28 Test caps and, for a time, to hold the record as Britain's most capped player. Always in the thick of the fray Prescott was a workaholic defender and ball carrier with a neat line in offloads. A gifted leader of men he was a key figure in the rise of St. Helens to be, possibly, the outstanding team of the late '50s, early '60s.

8 DICK HUDDART. When Dick Huddart scored a hat trick of tries in the 1959 Championship Final against Hunslet his feat served to emphasise that he was the outstanding second row runner of his generation. He is another who played in the 1958 Brisbane Test when still on the books of his native Whitehaven, and so impressive was he on tour that St. Helens recruited him immediately on his return. For the next five years Huddart's pace and power terrorised defences throughout the League as Saints embarked on a cup winning spree of Challenge Cup (1961), five successive Lancashire Cups and several Lancashire League triumphs. During this period there was no finer sight than the free flowing running onto the ball of the powerful Huddart whose defence splitting capabilities were crucial to the try-scoring prowess of such as Large and Van Vollenhoven.



Stat Attack

APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2001-2002

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	SUBSTITUTIONS	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
M. SIBSON	15	3	6			24
G. DODD	16	2	3			12
D. GIBBONS	17	1	8			32
J. GODDARD	20		6			24
J. McNICHOLAS	19		11			44
J. BRADDISH	16	2	4	54	2	126
N. RODEN	14	3	8		4	36
S. KNOX	3					
J. HOUGH	19		6			24
J. CLEGG	18	2				
P. FARRELL	13		4			16
B. HENARE	17	1	4			16
L. DORAN	17	3	5			20
T. HODGKINSON	2					
G. BARBER	9	10	7	19		66
D. GUEST		15				
L. CASEY	1	3				
W. COWELL	3	6				
K. BRENNAN	5	5	4	2		20
A. PROCTOR		7				
P. NORTON	12	2	2			8
A. GIBBONS	10	2	1			4
D. FOSTER	5	1	5			20
A. MURRAY		3				
S. MOLLOY	6	2	2			8
D. LACEY		3	1			4
C. CAMPBELL	3	1	2			8
D. NEWTON		1				
R. STAZICKER		1				

* For club records appearance and scorers for the York game have been retained within these stats.

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP TABLE 2001-2002

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Huddersfield Giants	14	13	1	0	504	98	406	27
Rochdale Hornets	14	10	1	3	370	311	59	21
Leigh Centurions	11	9	1	1	381	174	207	19
Featherstone Rovers	14	9	1	4	396	281	115	19
Sheffield Eagles	16	9	0	7	405	288	117	18
Workington Town	15	9	0	6	348	257	91	18
Whitehaven	13	8	1	4	312	208	104	17
Dewsbury Rams	13	8	0	5	363	245	118	16
Hull Kingston Rovers	11	8	0	3	286	171	115	16

Doncaster Dragons	12	7	1	4	318	241	77	15
Batley Bulldogs	13	6	0	7	262	339	-77	12
Oldham	12	5	1	6	282	262	20	11
Barrow Raiders	13	4	0	9	309	334	-25	8
Keighley Cougars	13	4	0	9	222	458	-236	8
Chorley Lynx	14	2	0	12	225	407	-182	4
Swinton Lions	12	2	0	10	153	428	-275	4
Hunslet Hawks	15	2	0	13	213	557	-344	4
Gateshead Thunder	13	0	1	12	126	416	-290	1

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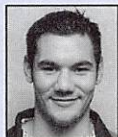
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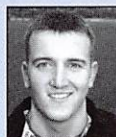
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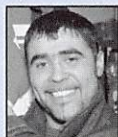
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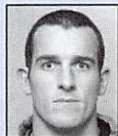
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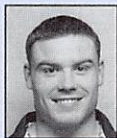
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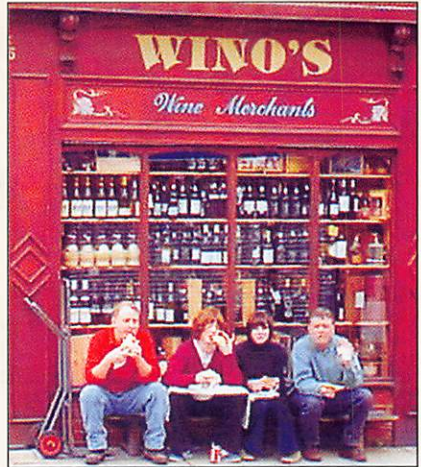
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30	Leigh	L	12-46	3388

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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	L	24-28	1050

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	W	40-16	1204
12	HUDDERSFIELD(NC/F)	L	16-36	1699
19	National Cup Semi Finals			
26	National Cup Final			

JUNE

2	Keighley Cougars	W	34-32	1188
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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- Jon GODDARD**
- Mark SIBSON**
- Gareth BARBER**
- Keith BRENNAN**
- Steve MOLLOY**
- John HOUGH**
- Paul NORTON**
- Lee DORAN**
- Bryan HENARE**
- David GIBBONS**
- John BRADDISH**
- Jason CLEGG**
- Neil RODEN**
- Will COWELL**

WHITEHAVEN

Coach: Paul CULLEN

- 1 Lee KIDDIE**
- 2 Paul O'NEIL**
- 3 Spencer MILLER**
- 4 Peter LUPTON**
- 5 Leigh SMITH**
- 6 Leroy JOE**
- 7 Stephen KIRKBRIDE**
- 8 Warren STEVENS**
- 9 Marc JACKSON**
- 10 David FATIALOFA**
- 11 Chris MCKINNEY**
- 12 Dean VAUGHAN**
- 13 Garry PURDHAM**
- 14 Ian DELVIN**
- 15 Gary SMITH**
- 16 Tony CUNNINGHAM**
- 17 Mark COX**

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