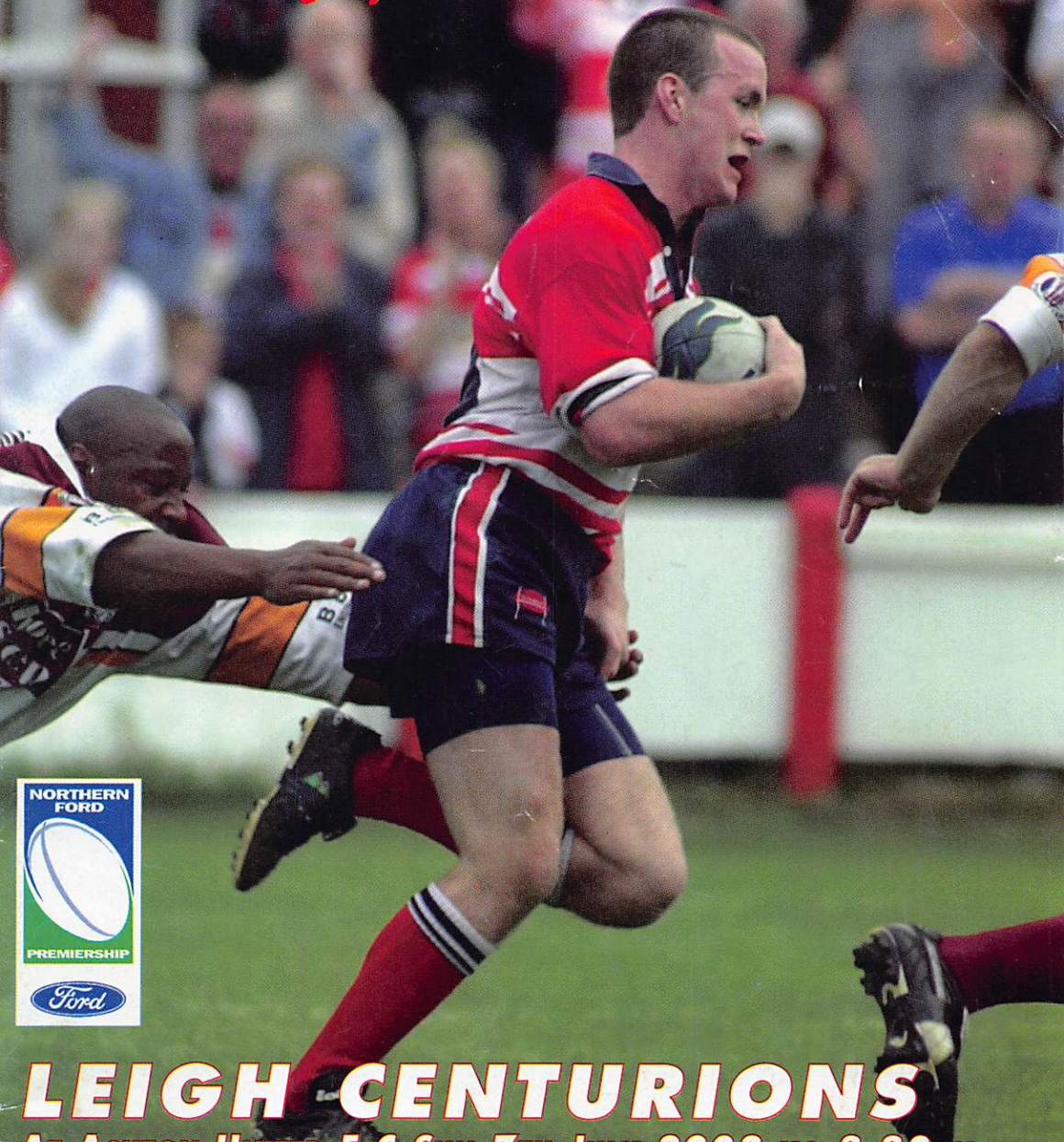


# OLDHAM RLFC

*The Roughyeds*



## LEIGH CENTURIONS

AT ASHTON UNITED F C SUN 7TH JULY 2002 KO 3.30PM

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



# OLDHAM

*at the very heart of the North West*

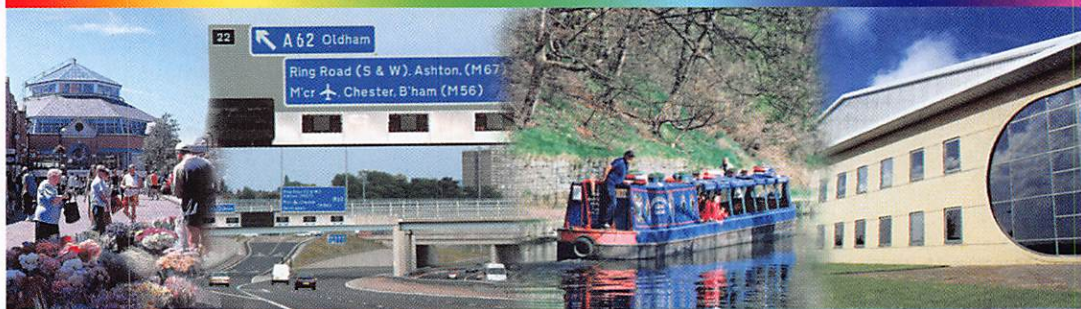
Oldham continues to take significant strides to be THE desirable place to live, work or visit at the heart of the North West.

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

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

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

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



**OLDHAM**   
Metropolitan Borough 



# IN THE HOT SEAT

with Christopher Hamilton

WELL, where do I start!

It's been another eventful few days at the club to say the least and as all of you will know we now have a new player coach in Steve Molloy.

There will undoubtedly be lots of speculation and debate over the reasons for us needing to find a new coach but it is my intention to focus 100% on what happens from now rather than looking back and on behalf of myself and everybody at the club I would like to wish Steve all the best in his new role.

The unenviable task of informing the players on Monday about events was one I was not relishing but as sometimes happens things work out differently to how you conceive they will and that was indeed the case. The resilience of the group of players we have at the club never ceases to amaze me and I came away from training feeling relived and proud.

It's not easy constantly seeming to be the bearer of bad news but their reaction and determination to do well against all odds is nothing short of remarkable.

We sometimes lose sight of the commitment shown by the players week in, week out and judge them purely on what happens in 80 minutes on a Sunday. That is obviously important but working and training 5 nights a week is not easy and if nothing else the last few days have renewed my fierce determination to do my utmost for the players and you the fans to get us back into town at the earliest opportunity and hopefully into our own stadium.

The stadium issue has come more into the public arena over the last couple of weeks and we hope to be to bring you more news on a regular basis as thing progress. At the moment we are still awaiting dates from OMBC for the visit to Hunslet but we will keep pressing.

Today's game is obviously a big one for the club against a Leigh side who are going to be making a big challenge for honours and under normal circumstances it would be a great achievement if we could win but given recent events it would be even better.

Everybody at the club has been through a lot already this season and I would like to thank the rest of Steve's backroom staff for their support. By coming today you shown your support but wouldn't it be fantastic if we could really raise the roof and give Steve and the team the type of welcome onto the pitch that makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up and intimidate the opposition?

As ever your support is vital please be as encouraging as you can for 80 minutes - it really does make a difference - ask any player.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



*The Roughyeds*

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

**64 UNION STREET  
OLDHAM OL1 1DJ**

**TELEPHONE: 0161 628 3677**

**FAX: 0161 627 5700**

**CLUB SHOP: 0161 627 2141**

**CHAIRMAN**

Christopher Hamilton

**DIRECTORS**

Christopher Hamilton,  
Stewart Hardacre, Sean Whitehead

**HEAD COACH**

Steve Molloy

**ASSISTANT COACH**

Mark Knight

**ALLIANCE/ACADEMY COACH**

Shaun Gartland

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS**

Nic Walker, Louise Waters

& Clare Gross

**CONDITIONER**

Andy Proctor

**TIMEKEEPER**

John Barrett

**CLUB DOCTOR**

Dr David Harrison

**MEDIA & MARKETING MANAGER**

Nigel Marland

**COMMERCIAL MANAGER**

John Battye

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Robin Highfield

**SECRETARY & LOTTERY MANAGER**

Lorraine Rowbottom

**PROGRAMME EDITORS**

Nigel Marland & Brian Walker

**CLUB HONOURS**

A J Law Cup Winners 1998,  
1999/2000

Trans Pennine Cup Finalist 1998

NFP Grand Finalists 2001

**HALL OF FAME MEMBERS**

(SPONSORED BY J. W. LEES, BREWERS)

Joe Ferguson 1899-23, Herman Hilton

1913-26, Alan Davies 1950-62,

Frank Stirrup 1950-62, Bernard

Ganley 1950-61, John Ety 1954-59,

Derek Turner 1955-59, Bob Irving

1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

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

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

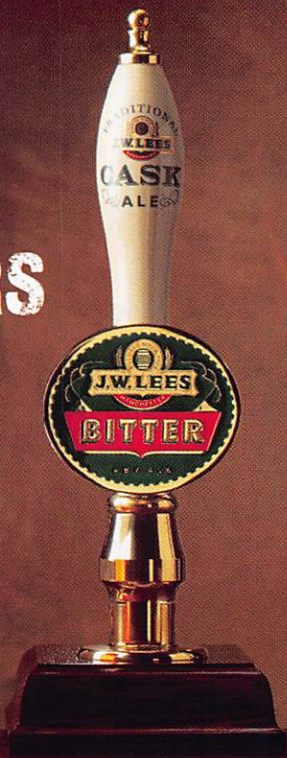
PRINTED BY PENNINE PRINTING SERVICES LTD. RIPPON, WEST YORKSHIRE HX6 4EH • TEL 01422 825333 • FAX 01422 825444





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

A FIXTURE NOT TO BE MISSED



## Catch the Chronicle!

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

## OLDHAM CHRONICLE

*Take it as read!*

[www.oldham-chronicle.co.uk](http://www.oldham-chronicle.co.uk)





## COACH'S COMMENTS... with Steve Molloy

IT SEEMS funny welcoming Paul Terzis and his players to Hurst Cross today as Coach of Oldham Rugby League Football Club. It certainly is different sitting on the other side of the fence and wearing a Coaches hat as well as my more familiar player's one.

Along the way I have played with many of the present Leigh squad including Paul Anderson, Paul Rowley, Steve Baldwin and Jon Roper. I extend a warm welcome to them and all the other players and officials from Leigh Centurions.

My first game as Coach certainly couldn't be much harder than today's fixture against Leigh, especially after their recent blips away from home against Featherstone and Whitehaven. But I hope to be toasting a memorable performance and Oldham's highest attendance at Hurst Cross. This really would put the icing on the cake on what has been a week and a half for me and would certainly be a great start for me as the Roughyeds' Coach.

Watching the club for over 25 years and playing for the Roughyeds was an honour in itself, but actually coaching the club is, to me, the stuff of fairy tales. I can promise all of you that, as always, the players and I will give you, the spectators, 100% and I am confident that this will result in at least a top 9 position and success in the play-offs.

I am firmly of the opinion that our squad is one of the three strongest in the NFP and deserves to be fulfilling its potential at the top despite all the knocks and set backs they have received this season. I am immensely proud of the resilience shown by players and spectators alike, they seem capable of bouncing back despite everything that is thrown at them they are without doubt the best I have played with and for all my sixteen seasons in professional rugby league.

Today will be one of the proudest days in my life and I just hope that the performance reflects that.

Steve



### PACKAGING LIMITED

MANUFACTURERS OF SPECIALISED CORRUGATED PRODUCTS

**PACKAGING SOLUTIONS FOR BRITISH INDUSTRY**  
**GREENGATE ST. OLDHAM OL4 1DF**

**0161-284 9000**





**DEREK ANTHONY LTD.**  
**General Sheetmetal Workers &  
Structural Steel Fabricators**

UNITS 4/5 · WHITESWAN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE  
DERKER STREET · OLDHAM OL1 3LY

Tel. 0161 627 4200 · Fax. 0161 627 3616

**WISH ORLFC EVERY SUCCESS FOR 2002**

**SPEEDY HIRE CENTRES  
(NORTHERN) LTD.**

**OLDHAM DEPOT**

**Tel 0161 626 8111**

For all your

Plant & Tool Hire Needs

*Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds  
throughout the 2002 Season*

**PERSONAL TYRES  
EXHAUSTS &  
GARAGE SERVICES**

**PUNCTURE REPAIRS · WHEEL BALANCING**

**TRACKING · SHOCKERS · SERVICING**

**CLUTCHES · BRAKES · WELDING**

**M.O.T. REPAIRS · EXHAUSTS**



BEEVER STREET · OLDHAM OL1 3TD

**Tel: 0161 624 2826 & 0161 628 9949**

**Fax: 0161 628 9949**

**hall needham associates**

136 Werneth Hall Road  
Coppice, Oldham, OL8 1QZ

Tel: 0161 624 4445  
Fax: 0161 633 6570

architects

**Roughyeds  
website address:  
[www.roughyeds.co.uk](http://www.roughyeds.co.uk)**



# In Yer Face



RUGBY LEAGUE is a wonderful sport, in my opinion, rightly referred to by its devotees as 'the greatest game'. No doubt other sports are plagued by politics and infighting but every time you pick up a paper about rugby league there is always some controversy, some idiocy, some petty minded self-aggrandisement to read about. Try as one might to concentrate on the good things about the game it becomes almost impossible to write constructively about rugby league.

Here at Oldham this week it is difficult not to feel a sense of betrayal in the wake of John Harbin's defection to Oldham Athletic. But that is not a topic to dwell on because - as ever - Oldham R.L.F.C. is strong enough to overcome the setback. If the past five seasons have taught us anything it should be that Oldham's Directors, staff, players, volunteer helpers and supporters will battle back no matter what. And that starts today against Leigh.

In the wider context, however, what are we to make of the following examples of nonsensical behaviour?

1) The Chairman of Bradford Bulls allegedly making provocative gestures (not obscene) to the crowd at St. Helens?

2) The National Conference League expelling its most successful club, West Hull, for failing to fulfil a fixture against Oldham St. Anne's because they had five players selected for county honours and that despite B.A.R.L.A ruling that West Hull had no case to answer?

3) Wigan being able to operate outside a salary cap that applies to everyone else and then being able half way through a season to sign the best young player in Super League (Danny Tickle) from the Blue Sox?

4) Chairmen and Chief Executives of Super League clubs speaking on radio and T.V. to promote another sport (R.U.)?

5) The Chief Executive of Whitehaven (Harry Edgar) having to resign because he spoke the truth about the club's indebtedness to the Inland Revenue?

6) The abolition of Alliance football with only Oldham, Rochdale and Batley apparently ready to swim against the tide? Name me any other major sport that operates without reserve teams.

7) R.L. staff being allowed to watch live World Cup soccer during working hours but not live State of Origin from Australia?

Do you know, you couldn't make it up if you tried.



Monopoly is never a good thing and monopoly of the news is potentially disastrous. So, while the 'merger' (read buy out) of League Express and the Rugby Leaguer may have made commercial sense, control of the R.L. press by a single organisation, League Publications Ltd., who also publish Rugby League World in Britain and Australia, was never likely to be a good thing. So, although I have personally always favoured League Express over the Rugby Leaguer, I am pleased to record that Danny Lockwood as Publisher and Phil Hodgson as Editor have re-assembled the Rugby Leaguer's team of discarded writers, Ray French, Dave Parker, Martin Richards, John Robinson and Maurice Bamford in a new weekly called, surprise, surprise THE NEW LEAGUE WEEKLY. I wish them luck with their venture and recommend you give it a try. And last Monday's issue no. 2 had a splendid obituary to Alex Givvons written by our good friend Robert Gate.



After my personal selection of the Great Britain Test team for the game against Australia next weekend David Waite didn't do too badly did he? Except there's only one specialist scrum-half in the squad and that's Ryan Sheridan. A match for Andrew Johns? God forbid.





# 'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

**Don Yates looks back to July 7th yesteryear**

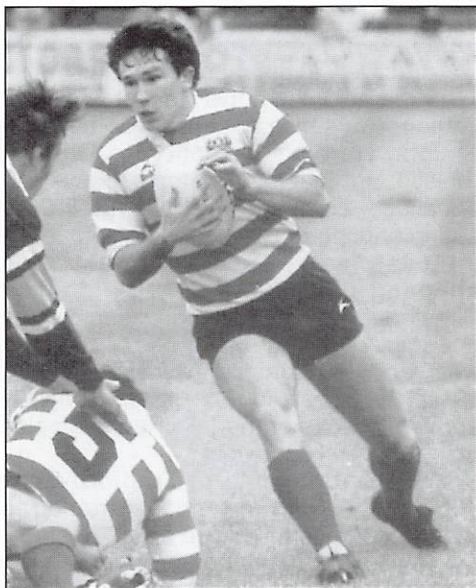
SIX years ago, on Sunday 7th July 1996, Oldham registered a fifth consecutive Super League victory when they completed a league double success over Leeds with a heart stopping 28-26 win across at Headingley. The victory was achieved with a sensational, last minute, length of the field move which ended with prop Jason Temu crashing over for an equalising try. Paul Topping's conversion, his second goal of the match, snatched victory for the Bears. Second-row forward Matt Munro was outstanding for Oldham, scoring two tries, and stand off Francis Maloney also touched down twice as well as landing a couple of goals. David Bradbury, now with visitors Leigh, was loose forward for Oldham that afternoon whilst Anthony Gibbons was a non-playing substitute for Leeds.

As Oldham celebrated that exciting victory, today's visitors Leigh were down in the doldrums following a 44-12 home defeat at the hands of Hunslet. It was the first time the Hawks had beaten Leigh at Hilton Park for 33 years. Stand off David Ingram and second-row Rob Ball scored the Leigh tries with winger Dean Purthill converting both. Pick of the Leigh side, not for the only time, was popular prop Tim Street, well know here in Oldham where he began his career in junior rugby.

It was on this day in 1999, Wednesday 7th July that Oldham crashed to a 28-12 home defeat against Dewsbury before a Spotland crowd which numbered a disappointing 859. Making their debuts for the Roughyeds were a couple of Saddleworth Rangers juniors, winger Paul Braxington and substitute Stuart Frasier. Both worked hard in a gallant Oldham team which took a surprise 12-8 lead early in the second half against a side destined to reach the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final a couple of months later. Centre Afi Leuila and loose forward Daniel Brown scored the two Oldham tries with Brown converting both.

Nineteen years ago the Great Britain under 19 team undertook a highly successful tour of New Zealand, winning seven of their eight matches. The tour opened at Addington Showgrounds, Christchurch on Thursday 7th July against a strong Canterbury district team. Britain won that match 11-4. One of the British substitutes in that match was centre three quarter David Ruane who turned professional with Widnes and later enjoyed a successful

spell at Leigh. Another substitute was hooker Alex Melling, one of five St. Annes players selected for the tour. At standoff was Mike Ford who played in all eight tour matches and whose outstanding playing career has included spells with both Oldham and Leigh.



*Des Foy*

In 1984 five Oldham players were included in the senior British Lions squad for the tour of Australasia. Leigh had two players selected for that tour, Des Drummond and Steve Donlan. Unfortunately injury restricted the appearances of both Donlan and Oldham scrumhalf Ray Ashton. However, Drummond and Oldham's Terry Flanagan, Mick Worrall, Des Foy and Andy Goodway all impressed on tour despite the fact that Britain did not return home with the Ashes. The third test of that tour took place at Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday 7th July before a crowd of 18,756. Leigh's Des Drummond was on the wing for Britain whilst Andy Goodway appeared in the second row. Britain began well and shortly before half time led 7-2. The Kangaroos recovered, however, to take a one point interval lead and they then went on to win by 20 points to seven.



# Adamsons

CRASH REPAIR CENTRE

## MOTOR BODY ACCIDENT REPAIR SPECIALISTS

Approved repairers to all  
leading insurance companies

Telephone

**0161 627 4001**

**0161 624 1904**

Cross Street Bottom o'th Moor  
Oldham OL4 1JG

**24 HOUR RECOVERY SERVICE**

**• QUALITY WORKMANSHIP ALWAYS •**



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



Certificate No. 910554

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

## HAD AN ACCIDENT?

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION

## NO WIN, NO FEE FREE HOME VISITS

FIRST INTERVIEW FREE WITHOUT ANY OBLIGATIONS



CALL US NOW ON:

**0800 917 7278**

WE KNOW THE ANSWER

**KEITH DYSON SOLICITORS**

THE PERSONAL INJURY SPECIALISTS

39 Liverpool Road Castlefield Manchester M3 4NQ

Tel: 0161 832 9933



# The No.1 TEAM



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

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

**George Hill**

**Timber & Building Supplies**

Scottfield Road, off Ashton Road, Oldham OL8 1LB

Tel: 0161 627 2020 Fax: 0161 633 2250

E-mail: [sales@georgehill-timber.co.uk](mailto:sales@georgehill-timber.co.uk) [www.georgehill-timber.co.uk](http://www.georgehill-timber.co.uk)

## LAWRENCE PERRINS & SONS LIMITED

Established 1947

**Plumbers • Electricians Heating Engineering  
Security Systems**

176 OLDHAM ROAD, SPRINGHEAD, OLDHAM OL4 5SJ

TEL 0161 624 1723 FAX 0161 624 3798

**RYDER &  
DUTTON**

ESTATE AGENTS  
VALUERS AND SURVEYORS

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

**7/15 Union Street,  
Oldham, OL 1HA  
Tel. 0161 652 1234**

[www.ryder-dutton.co.uk](http://www.ryder-dutton.co.uk)

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

**Goodwin  
BEST**

A Member of  
OLDHAM CHAMBER

**BIIBA**  
BRIEFING INSURANCE INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA

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

Commercial Insurance Brokers

Castle House, Schofield Street, Oldham, OL8 1QL

Tel: 0161 628 2200 Fax: 0161 628 7785



Community  
Legal Service



**WRIGLEY  
CLAYDON**  
SOLICITORS *since 1795*

**29/33 UNION STREET OLDHAM OL1 1HH**

**TEL : 0161 624 6811 FAX : 0161 624 3743**

**EMAIL: [info@wrigleyclaydon.com](mailto:info@wrigleyclaydon.com) WEB: [www.wrigleyclaydon.com](http://www.wrigleyclaydon.com)**

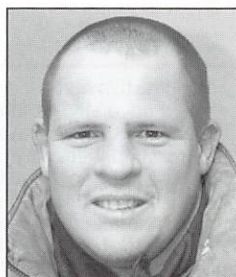
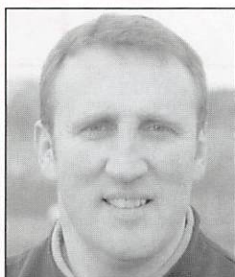
**PLEASED TO BE PART OF THE TEAM**

Criminal  
Defence Service





# Alliance & Academy



with Shaun Gartland and Mark Knight

## 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	W 46-26
8	OLDHAM	v	Whitehaven	P
16	Sheffield Eagles	v	OLDHAM	W 40-36
22	OLDHAM	v	Doncaster Dragons	2.30
29	Barrow Raiders	v	OLDHAM	W 31-14

### 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			

## Senior Academy Championship 2002

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Diff	Pts
Leeds Rhinos	11	11	0	0	535	148	387	22
Wigan Warriors	11	9	0	2	494	172	322	18
Halifax Blue Sox	11	8	0	3	339	213	126	16
Hull	11	8	0	3	358	266	92	16
Bradford Bulls	10	6	0	4	359	291	68	12
Castleford Tigers	11	6	0	5	248	302	-54	12
Salford City Reds	12	5	0	7	322	333	-11	10
Hull KR	11	5	0	6	291	366	-75	10
St. Helens	11	4	0	7	304	446	-142	8
Wakefield T W	11	4	0	7	173	340	-167	8
Huddersfield Gts	11	3	0	8	238	287	-49	6
Warrington W	11	3	0	8	274	311	-37	6
Widnes Vikings	11	3	0	8	152	422	-270	6
Featherstone R	12	2	0	10	240	374	-134	4

## Senior Academy First Division 2002

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Diff	Pts
Leigh Centurions	8	8	0	0	396	100	296	16
Oldham	8	7	0	1	311	168	143	14
Sheffield Eagles	9	4	0	5	260	266	-6	8
Doncaster D	6	3	1	2	269	160	109	7
Whitehaven	6	3	0	3	168	182	-14	6
Barrow Raiders	8	3	0	5	192	255	-63	6
Dewsbury Rams	7	2	1	4	176	172	4	5
Workington Town	6	2	0	4	84	242	-158	4
Keighley Cougars	7	0	0	7	108	371	-263	0

## U21 ALLIANCE SPRING CUP RESULTS

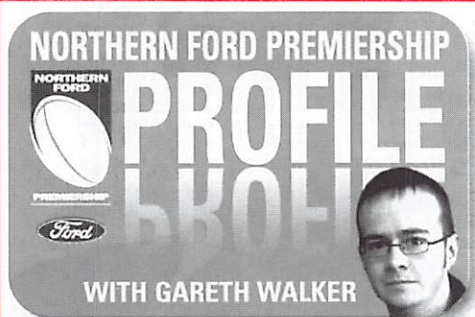
Thursday	14th February	Dewsbury Rams	(A)	Won	18-12
Saturday	2nd March	Rochdale Hornets	(A)	Lost	32-10
Saturday	22nd March	Workington Town	(H)	Won	30-14
Saturday	30th March	Batley Bulldogs	(A)	Lost	74-8
Saturday	6th April	Rochdale Hornets	(H)	Lost	22-10
Saturday	13th April	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	Won	48-20
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)	Won	48-22
Thursday	13th June	Rochdale Hornets	(A)	Lost	52-0



# NFP Round Up



We thank RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD for permission to include in today's Oldham match programme the following article by Gareth Walker which is featured in their July issue.

## MAN of the PEOPLE



FIRST and foremost, Chris Hamilton is a Rugby League fan. He is not a businessman seeking the prestige of running his local club, nor is he in this game for personal gain. He started off on the terraces of his hometown club Oldham and remained there until a series of events thrust him into the chairmanship of the reborn Roughyeds almost five years ago.

Sitting in Hamilton's Oldham RLFC office in the centre of the town, his stance as a supporter is easily detected. All around the walls are framed match reports from notable games over the last few seasons, awards the club has received and family pictures with people decked out in Oldham shirts. When he talks about memorable matches from his time at the helm, he does so with an excited expression and tone of voice.

Hamilton was an Oldham season ticket holder for many years prior to 1997. That was the year that Oldham Bears folded, before Hamilton, along with three other directors, relaunched the club from the brink of oblivion.

Since then, he has been at the forefront of the fledgling club's development from not having a bootlace, as Hamilton puts it, to being within one game of attaining Super League status. In addition, after the professional game was in danger of dying in the League-mad town of Oldham, the club now fields sides at first team, Alliance and Academy levels, providing opportunities for scores of local youngsters.

And all this against a background of almost constant adversity. Of the four full seasons that Oldham RLFC have played since their rebirth, only one has seen them play uninterrupted within the town. Their current homelessness sees them playing at Ashton United's tiny Hurst Cross ground, and attendance figures are beginning to reflect the town's disappointment at them playing outside the boundaries of Oldham.

The club, just as most in the NFP this season, are experiencing financial difficulties - difficulties that have seen Hamilton himself working full-time without any pay in recent months. But more of that later. Oldham are still here, and looking a good bet for a top-nine place come the end of the season.

Add all of this up and outsiders would be justified to presume Hamilton is a local hero in Oldham. But that is not the case, and despite the success of his tenure, Hamilton has been on the receiving end of some heavy criticism during his time at the helm.

"That's the beauty of paying your eight quid every two weeks, people think they've got the right to abuse you and say that everything you do is wrong," he says.

"It does get to you sometimes, particularly when, at the end of the day, what I am basically is a fan."

At the moment it isn't easy being Chris Hamilton. This should have been the season that saw the Roughyeds kick on from the achievements of 2001, when they reached the NFP Grand Final against all the odds before losing out to Widnes.

But while the Vikings have established themselves as a genuine force in the top flight, Oldham have struggled, playing on a foreign field in front of crowds around 800 per match down on the previous year.

Oldham were finally told that they would not be playing at Boundary Park this season three weeks before the start of the campaign. Oldham Athletic were demanding 12,500 rent per match, without including the cost of stewarding and gatemen - well outside the Roughyeds' budget. At a press conference in November Hamilton described the ultimately fruitless two months of negotiations as the most difficult period of his life.

Then inspirational coach Mike Ford left the club after two games of the current season, both of which were lost. Much of the hard work that Hamilton, his fellow directors and the playing squads and coaches had built up over the last four years appeared to be crumbling away.

But in typical Oldham, and Hamilton, style, they have again battled hard and look set to make the play-offs again. It hasn't been easy though.

*Continued on page 15*



# IN Town TODAY



## LEIGH CENTURIONS

**SIMON SVABIC** After something of a stop-start career, Simon joined home town Leigh from Salford last season and set the NFP alight with a series of good displays from stand-off. He is a very good kicker and finished top of the NFP points scoring charts. Described by his coach as having a great RL mind, he can take the team around the park and is a pivotal figure for the Centurions.

**CHRIS IRWIN** Another player signed from Wigan in time for this season. Irwin is at home at fullback or on the wing and has a lot of potential. He could go a long way in the game according to his coach.

**PHIL KENDRICK** Fans favourite Phil joined the club from Widnes in 1998 and now finds himself one of the longest serving players. A schoolboy star, Kendrick is equally at home in the centre or at second row and has even played stand off for the club. Described by Paul Terzis as a player with exceptional timing, Phil always seems to be in the right place at the right time on attack and defence.

**JON ROPER** A Great Britain Tourist at the age of 19 back in 1996, Roper had his injury problems and subsequently played for Warrington, London and Salford before enjoying a tremendous season with Castleford. An imposing presence in the backline, Roper has outstanding footwork and is very dominant in one-on-one defence. Could prove to be a great signing for Leigh this season.

**MARK McCULLLEY** One of a number of young players released by St. Helens at the end of the summer. Mark was recently recruited by the Centurions. Reported to be very nimble on his feet, Mark can play in a number of positions including wing, centre, fullback and even loose forward.

**WILLIE SWANN** Samoan International halfback. Played in 2 World Cups (1995 & 2000) and has a wealth of experience from spells at Warrington, Rochdale and Hunslet. Very punishing one on one in attack, Swann gives his all in every game he plays.

**DAVE WHITTLE** Capped at international level by Wales, Dave has been with the club permanently since November 1998. Described by Paul Terzis as a powerhouse forward, he reckons 2002 will be the time when Dave really makes his mark in R.L. Another well respected player with the fans.

**PAUL ROWLEY** After an absence of seven years, Rowley has returned to his roots after playing with Halifax and Huddersfield. He has a wealth of top level experience and represented England in the 2000 World Cup. He controls play well around the play-the-ball and has been re-united with good friend Simon Baldwin this season. Has the desire, commitment and ability to achieve even more in the game according to his coach. In his previous spell at

the club, Rowley became the youngest ever Leigh captain and his leadership qualities have seen Paul Terzis name him as joint on field captain this season.

**DAVE BRADBURY** Irish international. Can play a number of pack roles although he has been utilised at prop by Leigh. Previously with Oldham and Huddersfield, Bradbury toured Fiji and New Zealand with Great Britain in 1996. Described by his coach as simply as "Power and strength".

**SIMON BALDWIN** Powerful and experienced Second Row Forward. Possesses a wide running game that troubles the opposition. Described by his coach as a tower of strength, Baldwin is the current NFP Second Rower of the year. Previously played for Halifax and Sheffield Eagles.

**CHRIS MORLEY** Welsh international and an experienced second rower who has had spells with St. Helens, Warrington, Salford and Sheffield. Plays the game one way very tough! Has a very good knowledge of the game.

**ADAM BRISTOW** An astute signing by Ian Millward back in November 1999. Adam has proved his worth time and time again and is one of best back row forwards running around in the Northern Ford Premiership. Adam was one of two on field captains used by the Centurions last year, a role he will continue this season. He has great leadership qualities according to Paul Terzis, and is always in control of the situation.

**ANDREW ISHERWOOD** Signed from Wigan after spending four years there, graduating from the Academy. Can play a multitude of forward positions and described as a punishing runner and defender by his coach. Could take the Northern Ford competition by storm this year.

**GARETH PRICE** Another forward recruit from St. Helens. Despite his youth he has represented Wales. Very light footed for a big man with a destructive running game. Paul Terzis feels his talent has not been realised at his previous club.

**ROB BALL** Tallest player in the squad, could be the surprise packet of the season according to his coach. Rob is a product of Leigh's Academy and returned to the club from Wigan after an absence of four years. Equally at home at prop or second row.

**VILA MATAUTIA** Aggressive prop forward who joins the club this season after a long association with St. Helens. Became something of a terrace icon at Knowsley Road and could yet have the same effect at Hilton Park. Professional and strong as they come according to Paul Terzis. Previously played for Chorley and Doncaster after arriving in this country 10 years ago.



# Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

## ADAM SHARPLES: BOOTS FIRMLY ON THE GROUND

WHEN the Australian U18 Schoolboys hit these shores this winter they will face the England RFL Academy side in two December scheduled Tests plus three further Internationals against the BARLA lads but if previous tours here have been anything to go by the Junior Kangaroos will hardly be shaking in their boots!

The wiser amongst them, though, will be issuing more than the odd word of caution pointing to the much improved performance of the RFL Academy side that toured Australia last summer, which, whilst losing the series, pushed the home team to the limit.

Touring Fiji, New Zealand and Australia at the same time as the British Academy side was in Australia was front row forward Adam Sharples a member of the successful NW Counties Oceanic Tour designed to give talented U16 and U15 youths a taste of international rugby and which was the highlight so far of Adam's sports career.

Pre-tour, Sharples, Bluecoat boy, Royton Tiger, 6'2" and over 14st, listed rugby, the gym, Kris Radlinski, chicken pasta, Braveheart, Manic Street Preachers, Britney Spears, Eminem and manufactured bands amongst his pet love and hates but at the same time would he have dared to dream that less than twelve months on not only would he have signed for the Oldham club, played in most of

this seasons Alliance U21 matches and trained with the first team but also have been selected and played for Lancashire against Yorkshire in the first of the two Academy County of Origin games scheduled as trials for selection to the full Academy International squad to face the incoming Kangaroos.

The answer is a resounding no! and Adam, who has only now just turned seventeen and been appointed head boy at Bluecoat school has his rugby boots placed firmly on the ground resisting any temptation to place sporting aspirations before academic. Entering his final 'A' level year he has twin objectives to gain a place at university to study sports related subject and gain a place in the Oldham first team pack. Not too many years ago the latter would be almost impossible for a seventeen year old prop but today's game and in particularly as Adam, now weighing in at 15 st, is involved I wouldn't back against it!

And as a word of advice to Adam, don't be overawed by the fact that most of the other contenders for the front row spots for this winters England squad are from Super League clubs a few stand out performances in the Roughyeds Academy side will force RL Player Performance manager Bill Appleton to take notice.



Lancashire Academy side to face Yorkshire Academy at Castleford.  
Adam Sharples back row 6th from right.

*Photo Courtesy of Sig Kasatkin*



# NFP Round Up



Continued from page 12

"We were left high and dry with literally three weeks to go until the start of the season," says Hamilton.

"It completely knocked the stuffing out of everybody at the club. But what it did do was strengthen my resolve to make sure we make this work in Oldham. The one thing that the bulk of people at the club have got is spirit. There's a lot of clubs that would die for the spirit that we've got here. Everything we do here seems to be done with our backs to the wall. There's a great togetherness here.

"But playing outside the town is a killer, an absolute killer. A lot of clubs find it difficult to survive full stop, and one of the things that keeps them going is income from bars at the ground, things like that. We never had the luxury, if you like, of that.

"I think there's a degree of malaise about the club in the town now. The fact that we're now out of the town and people don't think that we've got a chance of us getting back into Oldham, certainly has stopped some people from going. It's just frustrating.

"Some of the things that we hear are just absolutely heart-breaking - for example we know that there a number of speccies who have been to every away game this season and not one home game. Because it's not in Oldham, because they think Hurst Cross is not up to it. That to me is so sad, and frightening."

There are on-going talks with the local council about building a new stadium for the Roughyeds, talks that Hamilton is confident will reach realisation in the future. And although Hamilton maintains that the club will progress what ever, he also stresses the significance of getting back into Oldham.

"I dream about that going to bed every night," he says.

"It would just be an incredible boost. I think it would absolutely change the mood of the spectators 100 per cent. The people that come now are heroes, and I'd like to think that they accept that the situation we are in now is not of our making. Those are the fans that every club dreams of - that stick with you through thick and thin. But we need to put those plans into operation so that the fans that have given up on it can say 'oh right, we'll get behind it again now'."

The potential for big support is certainly there in Oldham - at last year's NFP Grand Final at Spotland Stadium was roughly equally divided between themselves and the now flourishing Widnes.

But first rewind a little to how Hamilton arrived in the chairman's seat at Oldham. He played League at secondary school while a permanent fixture on the Watersheddings terraces, but was much more of a soccer player, and actually had the opportunity to turn professional as a left back with Rochdale. But his mother's influence instead saw him turn to his studies, and accountancy, and the death of his father at 16 increased the importance of going out and getting a job.

He studied accountancy in the evenings at night school, and by a young age had set up his own business, with practises in Oldham and Rochdale. Then came the demise of the Super League Bears, and that was then the thought of relaunching Oldham RLFC came into Hamilton's mind.

"It's almost corny really, but every Rugby League fan looks at their own club and thinks 'I can do a better job than that'," he explains.

"During the summer of '97 when Oldham Bears were in Super League and struggling, and different stories were coming out in the press, everybody

knew that the situation was quite serious. Then the directors announced that the club was for sale, but it was massively in debt - they couldn't quantify what their debts were, which was frightening. It then went into

liquidation, and the scenario was that it didn't look like there was going to be a club in the town.

"Again, it sounds corny when I'm saying it, but it was it was like a fairytale, a dream, a play or whatever - I just decided at that point that we couldn't not have rugby in Oldham. Nobody else was going to do it. There was rumours in the press about Joe Bloggs and Mr X, but I contacted those people and by process of elimination we were the only ones. That really was the reality of it."

The further reality of it was that Hamilton, Stewart Hardacre, Sean Whitehead and Melvin Lord - the quartet that came together to resurrect professional League in Oldham - had nothing with which to begin. But within months of starting they had a team out on the field against local rivals Rochdale Hornets in the traditional pre-season Law Cup. Incredibly, Oldham's patchwork side won 36-16 in front of over 3,000 emotional supporters. And Hamilton's description of that afternoon sees the fan in him surface again.

"One of the greatest days of my life was January 1 1998 when we played our first ever game," he recalls.

"We had this team of guys that had basically been thrown together, with some of them only

***"People think that it's the Chris Hamilton show, but it's not. We've always said that if there are people out there who think they can do a better job, then we're out of here. This is not something personal for me, this is about Rugby League in Oldham."***

Continued on page 30



# Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we extend a warm welcome to the players, supporters and officials of the Leigh club. Founder members of the Rugby League they have provided Oldham with many a tough Lancashire derby match for over 100 years and with that fact in mind for our feature today we look back at a season rather than a particular game.

The 1963-64 campaign saw Oldham and Leigh in the second division. There was also, like this season, a supplementary regional competition. The so-named "Western Division", also pitched the two clubs against each other and they were also destined to meet in the semi-final of the Lancashire cup.

The first encounter was the league match at Watersheddings which ended in a draw, six points each. Then came the Lancs cup semi when over fifteen thousand people crammed into Hilton Park to see Leigh progress to the final by ten points to nil. The

points coming from tries by Leadbetter and Large with two goals from Colin Tyrer. The Western Division matches both went to the Roughyeds. The first game at Leigh by six points to two, courtesy of two tries from Stuart Whitehead, and the return at Watersheddings by twelve to nil. The last meeting was the return league fixture when a weary Oldham side definitely "not fresh" from their epic, twice replayed Challenge Cup semi-final against Hull K. R. went down 21 - 7.

An interesting point to consider is that all five matches produced the total scoreline of 31 points to Oldham and 39 to Leigh. The sort of numbers that now frequently occur in just one match. Also the combined attendances for the confrontations were in excess of 38,000. Lets hope that particular level of interest can be re-kindled and these two great clubs can continue to do battle for the next 100 years.



**The Oldham team squad for 1963-64**

*Back row:* H. Major, S. Whitehead, B. Lord, C. Bott, J. Noon, G. Robinson, K. Wilson, D. Parker, L.McIntyre

*Front row:* J. Donovan, G. Sims, F. Dyson (Capt), P. Smethurst, T. Simms

*Kneeling:* J. Pycroft, V. Nestor





Table d'Hôte

Asian & Oriental Restaurant

**BECAUSE EVERYONE'S  
TASTES ARE NOT THE SAME**

**WE  
SIMPLY  
CATER FOR ALL**

**WITH WORLD  
CUISINE  
UP TO  
30 DISHES**

**Opening Times**

**Mon-Sun 11.30-2.30  
5.30-11.00**

**Conference / Seminar Facilities  
and Party Bookings Welcome**

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

**Lunch Time Special £5.95  
Evenings £9.95**



**145-145a Union Street Oldham  
T. 0161 652 5559 W. [www.GioCuisine.com](http://www.GioCuisine.com)**



**A Great Place To Learn**



**SPORT & EDUCATION A WINNING COMBINATION**

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

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



**The Red House**

*welcomes*

**Oldham Rugby League  
Supporters**

**MEALS AVAILABLE ALL DAY**

LEES NEW ROAD · ASHTON-U-LYNE

**0161 330 2641**

**Paul & Kate**

*welcome*

Oldham Rugby League Supporters to the

**Hare & Hounds**

Live Football ♦ Free Pool

Tuesdays & Thursdays

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

**0161 339 4908**



# A Chance to Meet . . . . .

## .. . . . ANTHONY MURRAY with David McGealy, Radio Cavell 1350AM

First of all, welcome to 'A Chance to Meet' Anthony and it's a pleasure meeting you although your start at Oldham has not been, perhaps, quite the best, has it? Talk us through that.

*Well no it's not. John came in for me when I was at Swinton and my first game was Sheffield away and I got injured and was out for a couple of weeks. After that I played in the Alliance for a few games and managed to get back in on the bench a couple of times. Then the last time I was in was against Barrow and I got injured again. So I was out again! This hasn't been the story of your career elsewhere has it? Injuries. No to be honest with you I was at Leigh for three years and I missed two games in three years and last year at Barrow I played 28 games every one for 80 minutes. So things will turn round soon. Hopefully.*

The departure of John Harbin from the club comes as a bit of a surprise, how did you hear about it? *I rang John up today (Monday 1st July) to let him know I couldn't come training because of my circumstances and he just said, "Oh you've not heard have you?" I said no, and he said he was going to Oldham Athletic. That was it like. Were you a bit surprised, a football club? Yes I was, very surprised. John's very professional he gave no indication whatsoever and I'd not heard any rumours or anything that something else was on the cards for him. But he's got some sort of psychology degree, hasn't he? He seems to have a whole host of qualifications, looking at his CV. Well that's it. I was a bit surprised at first but when he said the psychology side and a bit on the fitness side, but he's not so sure what his role is yet. But I suppose that's sort of normal within any sporting environment. Definitely. Within sport your main aim is always to better yourself and if that means moving on to a different club, or a different sport, or a higher level then I say fair play to you and good luck to you.*

Right, well lets find out about yourself and the first question is, where were you born and when?

*I was born in Leigh on 27th of May, seventy seven. A quick bit of maths tells me that's about 25. That's right. What about your family, as a youngster and your family now? As a youngster, there was my brother and my sister and obviously mum and dad. My family now is my wife and our little girl and my wife's expecting another child which is due on November 25th.*

Is there any Rugby League connections in the family?

*No, not really. My dad played a bit of amateur but that was it really. In that case what's your first memory of rugby league and how did you get involved in it? Well my first memory is watching my dad play rugby and that's where I got interested. Then I went down to Leigh Juniors, it's called Leigh Easts now, but at that time it was Leigh Juniors. I went there at seven and started playing and it just went on from there really. What about your first memory of the professional game? That was when I started at Wigan as an apprentice. What about watching the game? Watching it! Oh that was watching Leigh when Derrick Pike played for them, and Harry Pinner, Geoff Clarke, Tony Cotteralls and people like that. All the famous names from the past. Definitely.*

You started playing rugby league from seven, but when did the professionals come in and started showing an interest in yourself?

*Oh that was when I was at Leigh Easts. I'd say I was about 14. I signed for Wigan when I was about 14. They started coming round, scouting about, you know. About eleven years ago? Wigan were a pretty big club eleven years ago. Oh yes,*

*they still are a massive club aren't they? Even though I was a Leigh lad, it was every lad's dream to sign for one of the best clubs in the world. They showed an interest in me, and "I put pen to paper" as they say. What was it like those first few weeks?*

*I only did a year and it was a massive step up from schoolboy rugby to going to Wigan as an apprentice and I suppose I just wasn't ready for it, to be honest. Coming from, not wanting to sound big-headed, but England schoolboy and being at the amateur club where no one ever dreamed of leaving me out of the side to go to Wigan where you're, just like, nobody really. You're not getting in the Academy and you think, "Why am I not playing?" I'm an England schoolboy and all that. But I didn't realise at the time, that I was sixteen and getting into the Academy side were lads of nineteen. But you don't think of it like that at the time, you just want play rugby and if your not quite getting in, it gets a bit frustrating really. So you're there*

*a year, what happened then? I ended up moving over to Warrington where I had three cracking seasons. Really enjoyed it. In my last year I was a full time pro. I was under numerous coaches at Warrington, I first started under Brian Johnson, Clive Griffiths, John Dorahay, Paul Cullen and then Darryl van de Velde took over and I moved on then. You seemed to have played for just about everyone there, but after three years at Warrington, then what? I moved on to Widnes for a short spell, about two months. Then I fell out with the game to be honest. It was a bad move for me, they were at the bottom of the league and I just didn't enjoy it what so ever. I basically packed in and I went playing amateur rugby union for Leigh RU as my mates were down there and then Leigh (RL) came in and I never looked back after that.*

From Leigh to Barrow, why? *I did about eighteen months under Ian Millward at Leigh, then he got the post at St Helens. In my time at Leigh I'd gained quite a few awards, I'd played for that, I think it was called, Easts v Wests that was played before the Hunslet v Devsbury Grand Final at Headingley. I got selected and named 'Man of the Match' for that. Then I played for the 'Select 13' and got picked before Richard Pachniuk, who that year got the 'NFP Player of the Year'. I cleared up (Awards) at the club. Then the second season under Ian, Micky Higham came on the scene then and we were sharing the role, which was great like. I had no problem with him. Half way through that season Ian left and Paul Terzis came in and I just didn't fit with Paul Terzis. I didn't fit with his plans. He was there two weeks and I basically ended up at Rochdale on loan. He just didn't want to play me. That was it really. It just went a bit pear shaped for me at Leigh. Which I was a bit devastated by, being a Leigh lad, and having done so well there. I just couldn't understand it at the time. I don't hold no grudges. I hope Leigh do really well. I still go down there and see all the lads, they're all my mates and everything. Libbie's (daughter) Godfather plays down there and it's fine. It's just coaches, people have different opinions about people, and that's fine.*

So off to Barrow? *Yes. I did about eighteen months up at Barrow. Great, enjoyed it. Like I said I played every single game and signed again for this year. But Cameron Bell came in and he just wanted too much commitment for how far away it was. In my contract I only had to go twice a week but he wanted us up there three and four times a week. I just couldn't give him that sort of commitment, not up there. Not with my job, and my wife's got a good job, and with the baby and everything. I just couldn't like. So ... we parted and went our separate ways and I ended up at Swinton for three weeks. Right! Your not a nomad are you by any chance, living in tents and caravans? No. Like I said I was happy enough up at Barrow and I'd signed my contract again for this year. But the commitment side .... So we're down to Swinton, what happened there? Well I did three weeks at Swinton and Oldham came in for me. Obviously, if a club like Oldham comes in for you, you don't stay at Swinton do you if you can get away? No disrespect to Swinton. They came in, paid a small fee for me and basically threw me some armbands and stopped me from drowning. The bright lights of Oldham attracted you? Yes, well they were NFP Finalists last year and a good club. Having gone out of business and coming back in, and look where they've got in such a short space of time. It's like playing for Leigh, to be honest with you. A lot of local lads. It's good I like it.*

## Let your Jobcentre work for you

With 50,000 new jobs coming on to our books every week, we can help you find the job you want. If you are out of work and looking for a full or part time job, call in at your local Jobcentre or telephone **Employment Service Direct on: 0845 6060 234**

You can also search online through our entire jobs database at the Jobcentre Plus website: [www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)



**JobCentre**





**Who's been the greatest influence on you in the game of rugby league?**

*I'd say the person who brought the most out of me was Ian Millward, or got the best out of me. Definitely.*

**What about your most memorable moment in rugby league or the thing that you can look back on and say "I was really proud of that"?**

*I'd say probably playing in that Easts v Wests and getting Man of the Match because it just finished my season off on a high. It's funny that, they just played it the once and then forgot about it. Yet your saying that that was a tremendous achievement for you as a player. Oh, definitely. It topped my season off. To get picked in the seventeen best players in the NFP at the time, I know it was without Dewsbury and Hunslet, but it just finished the season off for me on a good note. Especially as MoM and then getting picked in the Select Seventeen, or whatever it was. It was great and I really enjoyed it.*

**That's the high, what about the low? Your worst memory?**

*Worst memory? Leaving Leigh. Definitely, yes. Definitely*

**Most amusing memory?** *Strange things happen either on or off the pitch. I'd say when Heath Crookshank scored a good try and I went over to celebrate and he poked me in the eye! Ian Millward 'freeze framed' it and showed me the video. Me pulling away covering up my face after he'd poked me in the eye.*

**You've worked under so many different coaches and been at so many different clubs, you must have come across a huge number of characters. Every club has at least one character. Who's been the biggest 'character' you've come across in the game? In players or coaches? Either or.** *I'd say one massive character was Paul*

*Charlton up at Barrow. Yes? Yes! What a guy! In what way? Just ... for such ... an old guy, his enthusiasm. If he could ... If we'd have let him pull a shirt on, he'd have pulled one on and played! He'd have been out there with you? Definitely. He was crazy. Honestly.*

**What about your ambition in rugby league? You started off at Wigan, so you must have been thinking, "Hey this is all mapped out for me"?** *Well obviously my ambition from leaving school was to play rugby. When I was at school, I wasn't a bad lad, but teachers used to say to me, why won't you revise and I say 'well I'm going to play for Wigan'. Then I went to Wigan and I didn't get off to the best of starts, then I went to Warrington, obviously your ambition is always to play at the highest level which is obviously Super League. But unfortunately, for me, it's not happened, so my ambition now is to try and stay injury free and to get in Oldham's first team and make a start to what's left of my season. What's the prognosis for your current injury? How long will you be out? Well hopefully, I'll get back into training as soon as my wife's well, hopefully this week and so I'll be up for selection this week. But I'd not expect to be picked this week as the lads who played last week got a result. So I'll just have to get myself fit and be patient really.*

**Well Anthony we look forward to seeing you playing at Hurst Cross, pulling on the Roughyeds shirt and winning Man of the Match Awards. Hopefully. Thanks very much.**

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

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

**RUGBY**  
**League Express**





# The power & protection behind Britains top rugby players

**Britains most popular and effective  
sports nutrition brand for achieving your  
physique and performance goals..**

- Improved rehydration
- Pack on muscle size
- Increase raw strength
- Develop explosive power
- Lose excess bodyfat
- Increase energy
- Gain increased mental focus
- Boost your immune system

Safe,  
natural, legal  
& drug free  
supplements

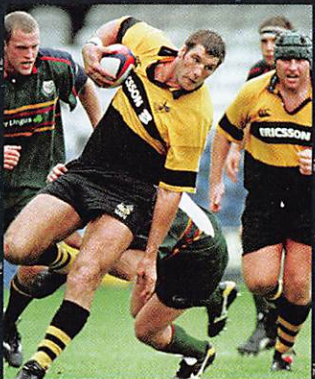
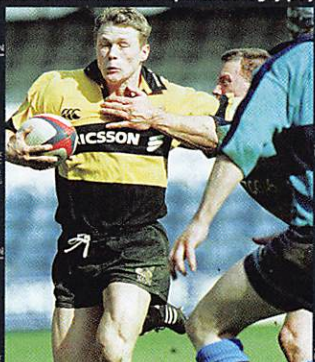
Whatever your goals... You'll find numerous  
scientifically proven supplements specific  
to your training & physique goals.

### 3 easy ways to contact and buy from us...

- 1) Maximuscle supplements are available from  
JJB, L.A fitness, workout world, Asda, GNC,  
Health & diet, Unichem, AHA, lillywhites, Naafi  
stores and all good gyms, sports and health  
food shops.
- 2) Call us today for your FREE 96 page colour  
catalogue. Tel: 01923 650 600
- 3) Visit the best sports nutrition site on the web:  
[www.maximuscle.com](http://www.maximuscle.com)



Just some of Maximuscle's sponsored rugby players





# "How to improve your performance - whether you're on the pitch or in the gym..."

If you exercise regularly, you want to see results. To make rapid progress, your diet has to provide you with enough carbohydrate and protein. Unfortunately, most of us are too busy living our lives to worry about what we eat.

**C**yclone makes nutrition easy. It provides you with all the nutrients you need to improve your performance, accelerate muscle growth, and enhance recovery. Cyclone contains a blend of high quality protein, energy dense carbohydrates and essential vitamins and minerals. Researchers now agree that you need far more protein than the average couch potato<sup>[1]</sup>. Two servings of cyclone give you a whopping 52 grams of protein - which means you don't have to spend hours shopping for, cooking, and preparing meals.

Cyclone also contains Creatine - one of the most effective performance ingredients on the market. Countless studies have shown that Creatine can improve performance<sup>[2]</sup>, increase lean muscle mass<sup>[3]</sup> and boost power - all in just seven days. More recent research shows that Creatine improves performance during endurance exercise<sup>[4]</sup>.

Creatine is a natural substance found in many foods, such as salmon, tuna and beef. Although it is possible to obtain creatine from your diet, it would be almost impossible to get enough to have any effect on performance. Cooking can also damage the Creatine in food. As a result, many athletes rely on creatine supplements to provide them with a competitive edge.

Cyclone also contains HMB, a nutrient with an impressive amount of research supporting its use. When you train, your muscles burn protein. The harder and longer you train, the more protein they burn up. HMB has been shown to prevent this muscle-destroying problem. Clinical trials prove that HMB helps you recover more quickly from exercise and can be especially valuable if you're doing a lot of training.

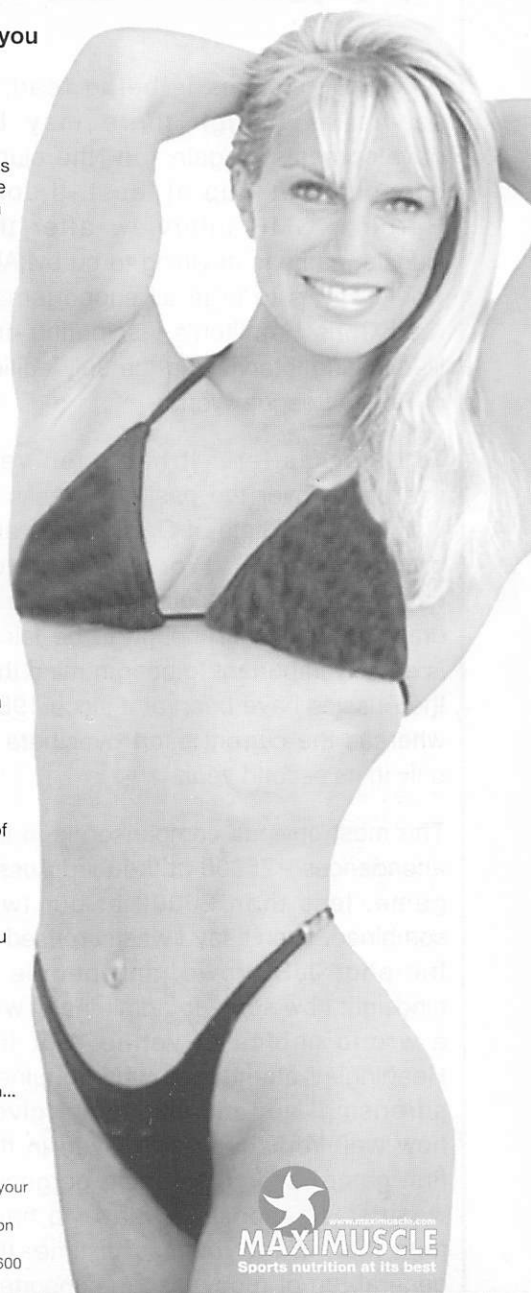
Cyclone is an all-in-one supplement that takes the guesswork out of your nutrition programme. Expect a rapid improvement in exercise performance after just seven days of use.

Cyclone comes with a 'no-hassle' 100% money back guarantee of satisfaction\*. To order, call Maximuscle today on 01923 650600. You can also visit Europe's largest sports nutrition web site at [www.maximuscle.com](http://www.maximuscle.com).

\* In accordance with the guarantee in the Maximuscle catalogue or shown on [www.maximuscle.com](http://www.maximuscle.com)

Maximuscle supplements can be purchased from...

1. All good health food shops, gyms and chemist, including GNC, JJB, Asda, L.A Fitness & many more!
2. Alternatively, if you don't like shopping and want your order within 48 hours, you can order from Europe's largest sports nutrition website: [www.Maximuscle.com](http://www.Maximuscle.com) or from the Maximuscle customer service line on: 01923 650600



#### References:

1. Engelhardt, M., Neumann, G., Berball, A., & Reuter, I. (1998). Creatine supplementation in endurance sports. *Medicine and Science in Sports & Exercise*, 30, 1123-1129
2. Mujika, I., Padilla, S., Ibanez, J., Izquierdo, M., & Gorostiaga, E. (2000). Creatine supplementation and sprint performance in soccer players. *Medicine and Science in Sports & Exercise*, 32, 518-525
3. Slater, G.J., & Jenkins, D. (2000). HMB supplementation and the promotion of muscle growth and strength. *Sports Medicine*, 30, 105-116
4. Vandenberghe, K., Goris, M., Van Hecke, P., Van Leemputte, M., Vangerven, L., & Hespel, P. (1997). Long-term creatine intake is beneficial to muscle performance during resistance training. *Journal of Applied Physiology*, 83, 2055-2063
5. Wolfe, R.R. (2000). Protein supplements and exercise. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 72, 551S-557S



# Wilson's Wisdom

*... with Ian Wilson*

BY THE time this is being read, it seems as though there may be developments - again - in the club's coaching set - up at least, if John Harbin's GMR interview after the Hunslet game is anything to go by. All I would say is to urge all supporters to read Chris Hamilton's fascinating and illuminating interview in the July edition of Rugby League World.

To other matters. It has been very interesting over the past few weeks to watch Aussie State of Origin series and our own Lancs v Yorks two match contest. It is an obvious thing to do to draw comparisons, though to be fair, it is equally important to bear in mind that the Aussies have been at it since 1980, whereas the current effort over here is only in its second year.

The most obvious comparison is in the attendances - 75000 at the third Aussie game, less than 20000 at our two, combined. I can't say I was surprised at the poor JJB crowd, and people in hindsight now seem to admit that it was a wrong choice of venue. But the Headingley attendance was genuinely surprising, and disappointing, given how well Yorkshire had played in the first game, and given some gorgeous weather. I suppose we have to have faith that, in the fullness of time, the general run of rugby league supporters will come round to the view that the games are genuine contests, played at

a higher level than the week - by - week Super League games, and seen to be such by the players. Certainly, there was evidence in both matches this year that there was full on commitment. The party to play Australia announced only a few days later accentuated this. I have no doubt that, for example, Stewart and Sheridan against Calderwood and Deacon realised how significant the Origin contest actually was.

How does the comparison between the two series stand in terms of our prospects in this week's Sydney Test? Although we obviously go in as underdogs, and their Origin games are played at a considerable greater pace and fiercer intensity than ours, I don't think we should be overawed. It looks as though we are going Down Under with roughly our strongest team, at least, and the prospect of them at least being reasonably prepared. And, although the NSW v Queensland games contained lots of very impressive attack and immensely powerful defence, there were lots of errors. We live in hope!

(P.S. I have just heard the news of John Harbin and Oldham Athletic - and re-read my piece in the programme for the Saints cup tie on February 10 with disgust. Speechless and gobsmacked are two words that come to mind.)



# Junior Roughyeds



sponsored by .....

## Oldham Advertiser

was the last game for many of them. I hope you have all had a good season and scored many tries.

Before we go a few jokes to make you laugh or groan!

What do you call two banana skins?  
*A pair of slippers*

What kind of invention was the clock?  
*A timely one!*

What is a ghost's favourite dessert?  
*Ice Cream*

Enjoy the game

WELCOME to the Junior Roughyeds page and a warm welcome to young supporters of Leigh and we hope we have an entertaining day.

The Junior Roughyeds would like to wish Steve Molloy good luck in his new position in the club. Steve is a favourite of a lot of our juniors and we hope that he can lift us up the table.

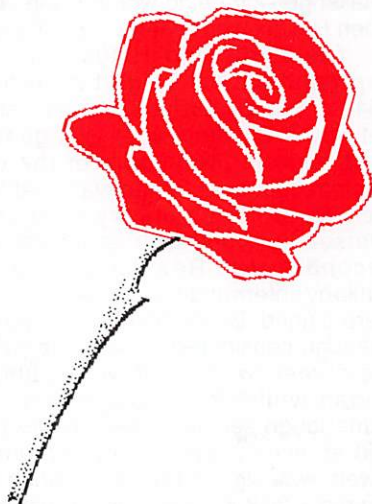
A lot of our Junior Roughyeds play rugby for local teams and last week

**Adele**

## Oldham Labour Party

*Continuing its support  
for*

# OLDHAM RLFC



### OFFICES

Oldham Labour Group  
Civic Centre Oldham

0161 911 4037

David Heyes MP  
Ashton-U-Lyne

0161 331 9307

Michael Meacher MP  
Oldham West & Royton

0161 626 5779

Phil Woolas MP  
Oldham East &  
Saddleworth

0161 624 4248



# A Potted History of Leigh

THE most consistent club in the Northern Ford Premiership since its inception three years ago have been Leigh. They were fourth in 1999 fourth again in 2000 when they reached the Grand Final and they were runaway leaders last season before again faltering in the play-offs. A couple of months ago the club went full time in an effort to match leaders Huddersfield and go a little further this time and reach the top division.

During its 124 year history, the Leigh club has known many ups and downs but it is a history about which the club has plenty to be proud. Not least of all is the fact that Leigh were one of the 22 founder members of the Northern Rugby Football Union, the clubs who, in 1895, formed what is now the Rugby Football League.

The first major success enjoyed by Leigh came eleven years later, in 1906, when the club won the League Championship. It took another fifteen years to claim another major honour, the Challenge Cup being won by Leigh in 1921 when Halifax were beaten 13-0 in the final.

The 1930s and 1940s were mainly unproductive for Leigh but in the late 1940s the progressive Leigh management set about building what is arguably the best team in the history of the club. A World record transfer fee was paid for goal kicking full back Jimmy Ledgard and overseas players such as Australian test second-rower Rex Mossop and the Wallaby international centre Trevor Allen were signed. British test hooker Joe Egan, although considered to be in the twilight of his career, was a shrewd signing from Wigan whilst from Langworthy juniors came tough second rower Charlie Pawsey and an even tougher character, prop Stan Owen, was signed from Pontypridd RUFC. Winger Frank Kitchen gained test honours after being signed from St Helens junior rugby whilst Wigan junior loose-forward Peter Foster also gained test recognition.

Leigh beat St. Helens 22-5 in the 1952 Lancashire Cup Final before winning the

trophy again three years later when, after winning 13-11 at Watersheddings in the quarter final, they brushed Widnes aside 26-9 in the final.

Another highly successful period for the club came during the late sixties and early seventies. In 1969 they won the Floodlit Trophy with a hugely satisfying 11-6 win at Wigan followed twelve months later by Lancashire Cup success, a 7-4 victory over St. Helens at Swinton. In 1971



Alex Murphy, Leigh  
Player-Coach at  
Wembley in 1971

Leigh pulled off one of the greatest shocks in Wembley history when mighty Leeds were beaten 24-7 in a sensational Challenge Cup Final. Twelve months later they again lifted the Floodlit Trophy beating Widnes 5-0 after narrowly defeating Oldham 10-8 in a gripping semi-final at Hilton Park. A

few lean years followed before Leigh again won the Lancashire Cup in 1981, Widnes again being their final victims, 8-3 at Central Park. That surprise win was the beginning of an exceptional run of good form for Leigh which included a run of 14 consecutive victories. The last league match of the 1981-82 season was a midweek fixture up at Whitehaven. If Leigh won they would be crowned First Division Champions. A huge following travelled up to West Cumbria and, although Leigh were far from their best and struggled early in the match, they eventually won 13-4. Champions again after a 76 year wait.

That was Leigh's last major success although they have been Second Division Champions in 1986 and 1989 whilst last season the Trans-Pennine Trophy ended up at Hilton Park following Leigh's emphatic 36-0 victory at Keighley.

After the disappointments suffered during the past couple of seasons who can deny Leigh a little slice of good luck this time round when the vital promotion issues begin in a couple of months time.



# CLUB CALL

## WHITEHAVEN WEEKEND

Saturday/Sunday 20/21 July

*A fantastic weekend in the Lakes with Grandstand seats for the Whitehaven v Oldham clash.*

This promises to be a great value weekend which includes: luxury coach travel, a day in the Lakes, an executive hotel room with full English breakfast: dinner at the hotel: a trip to The Rum Story; lunch before the game; Grandstand seats with the directors; a buffet meal after the game before we return to Oldham on Sunday evening.

**All inclusive price:**

Single Room £95

(£90 for Elite Member)

Double/Twin Room £175

(£165 for Elite Member)

**Ring Club for details 0161 628 3677**

**Roughyeds website address: [www.roughyeds.co.uk](http://www.roughyeds.co.uk)**

## THE ROUGHYEDS ORLFC CLUB MERCHANDISE

64 UNION STREET, TEL: 0161 627 2141

OPENING HOURS MON-FRI 9AM - 4PM · SAT 9AM - 1PM (FULLY STAFFED)

**COME & SEE OUR LATEST OFFICIAL CLUB MERCHANDISE**

**NEW IN POLO'S RED & BLUE WITH CREST £15.00 • NEW IN FULL ZIP FLEECE WITH CREST £30.00 • NEW IN MATCHDAY JACKETS £38.99**

**DON'T FORGET THE ROUGHYED BEANIES IN ALL 4 CLUB COLOURS  
£6 EACH OR ALL 4 FOR £20.00**

BUBBLE COATS	£36.00	PU JACKETS	£32.99
LADIES WATERPROOF JACKETS	£30.00	ADULT FLEECE	£36.00
HOODED ROUGHYEDS FLEECE	£24.00	CRESTED SEAT COVERS	£16.99
T-SHIRTS	£10.99	HOME SHORTS	£6.99
ROUGHYEDS RAINJACKETS	£20.00	HOME SOCKS	£4.99
LADIES SAILOR JACKETS (CRESTED)	£30.00	WHISKY GLASSES	£3.50 - £4.00
CHILDREN'S TACKSUIT PANTS	£18.00	PINT/HALF PINT GLASSES	£3.50 - £4.00
CHILDREN'S TRACKSUITS	£36.00	SUPERMARKET TROLLEY KEY RINGS	£2.99
NECK FLEECE	£22.00		





# The Whistle Blower

..... With Sam Shepherd

## 1. SOME ORDINARY LAWS OF THE GAME

A BLUE player makes the ball dead by touching down in his own in-goal area. From the ensuing dropout between the posts, the ball goes 10 metres but enters the touch on the full. You educated readers of this programme - all potential referees, know that this incurs a penalty to the RED team 10 metres out from the posts - easy!!

But what if the drop out is kicked ten metres upfield, the ball stays in the air, is blown back by the wind, bounces in the field of play and then goes over the BLUE dead ball line?

## 2. OLDHAM V WIDNES

Some years ago at 'Sheddings there was a controversial refereeing decision. The Widnes full back gathered a kick from Oldham, and, with all his colleagues **in front of him**, kicked downfield. An Oldham player tried to catch the ball, but only succeeded in deflecting the ball backwards behind the Oldham posts, where a Widnes player, blatantly offside touched down for a try. To the amazement of all the Oldham players and the crowd, Fred Lindop, the referee awarded the try. WAS HE CORRECT?

### ANSWERS

1. The kicker has succeeded in kicking the ball 10 metres, even if it hasn't touched the ground, so there is no penalty. The ball has bounced in the field of play, but he is deemed to have kicked the ball over his own dead ball line.

#### Decision:

Another dropout by BLUE from between the posts.

2. The referee was quite right. the law states - if player touches the ball without retaining it, all players of the kickers side are immediately placed onside.

**N.B.** One assumes that all you readers are knowledgeable and you are aware that after a kick ahead players who are offside must not tackle the catcher unless the latter runs ten metres. Not only that, if the kicker, who is

not offside, attempts to tackle the catcher, any offside player going to help would be penalised.

Hence the referee will normally warn players with a shout of 'Give him ten!'

## 3. THIS IS A BIT TRICKIER!!

A BLUE player tries a drop goal from thirty metres out, the ball soars over the cross bar, between the posts and dead. The alert referee awards the goal, but the notices both his colleagues in the field of play, flagging, they inform the referee that a RED player fouled the kicker as he kicked the ball. The referee, Cliff Hodgson, then gave BLUE an additional penalty ten metres out from the RED team's posts, the referee ruled they could have gone for goal or taken a tap penalty. This rule was invented in this game, as there was nothing in the rules covering the situation. Alan Burke was one of the touch judges involved in this situation.

The rules were subsequently rewritten to cope with this situation and Cliff Hodgson's decision was adapted slightly: viz: if the drop goal was successful, the subsequent penalty must be a kick at goal. If, however, the drop goal was unsuccessful, the kicker could go for goal or decide on a tap penalty, which could result in six points.

## 4. HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?

In a game a few years ago being refereed by Alan Burke, the RED team player was taking a penalty kick at goal from near the touchline. The ball missed the goal, went across the field and entered touch on the full, on the far side of the field and fifteen metres from the corner flag. The touch judge signalled touch and head and ball to the BLUE team. He was however over ruled by Alan who decided it was a second phase penalty to RED, ie a tap kick ten metres in from touch, he was later proved to be right and he has a tape of the game to prove it.

**\*\***Alan always took a blank tape, which he handed to the home team in each of his games, and with these he can extract interesting points of play for use in referees' meetings.



# ALLEN MILLS HOWARD & CO.

*Chartered Certified Accountants & Registered Auditors*

*Supporting Business & OLDHAM R.L.F.C. in Oldham & Tameside*

*for all your accountancy, audit & taxation problems contact:*

*Hyde - Stephen Howard 0161 - 366 6535 · Ashton - John Mills 0161 - 339 6140*

*Oldham - David Savidge 0161 - 624 2550 · Failsworth - Peter Scholes 0161 681 5600*

AMH

*Library Chambers, 48 Union Street, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 1ND*

*Telephone 0161 366 6535 Fax 0161 367 8584*

AMH

## Lansdowne Roofing Supplies Ltd.

*Secondhand tiles and slates  
bought and sold*

*Demolition work undertaken*

*All materials can be picked up  
and delivered*

**Tel 0161 626 0896 and 627 4231**

**Night 0161 633 4252**

*Proprietor: Sean Whitehead*



**PILGRIM**  
INTERNATIONAL

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

**[www.pilgrim-international.co.uk](http://www.pilgrim-international.co.uk)**

**Tel: 0161 785 7700**

*Working for a brighter future*

**Sunset Windows**  
PVCu Windows, Doors & Conservatories *Limited*

SUNSET WINDOWS LIMITED, WADDINGTON STREET, OLDHAM OL9 6QH

Tel. 0161 624 5962 · Fax 0161 627 5094



## SADDLEWORTH SPORTS AND SCHOOL UNIFORM

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

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

*Personal Service Guaranteed  
Mail Order & Delivery Service  
Available*



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

**Phone or Fax: 01457 872515**

24 Hr ANSWERPHONE

e.mail: saddsports@excite.co.uk

www.saddleworthsports.co.uk



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

## WE'VE CURED HEADACHES FOR THE ROUGHYEDS



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

**PLATT & HILL**  
FOAM AND FIBRE FILLINGS

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

Tel. 0161 621 4400 • Fax: 0161 621 4408

Fu's



**CANTONESE RESTAURANT**

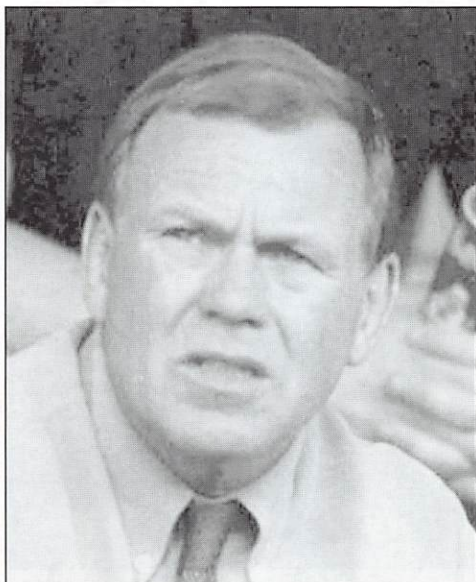
富林

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



# TOPIC OF THE DAY

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



**3 MALCOLM REILLY.** The best forward I have ever seen pull on a rugby league shirt is Malcolm Reilly. Younger readers will know Reilly as the current assistant coach at Leeds Rhinos. But as the former Head Coach of Castleford, Leeds, Halifax and Huddersfield Reilly forged a path of innovative coaching methods which also saw him re-invigorate Great Britain at the time of our greatest depression in the late '80s/early 90s and subsequently led him to take up the reins at Newcastle in Australia where he led the Knights to Premiership glory, elevating himself in the process to the status of a demi-god in the New South Wales mining town.

Older readers will remember Reilly the player. Signed by Castleford as an 18 year old in 1967 from Kippax Intermediates Reilly quickly established himself as first choice loose-forward. He appeared at Wembley in 1969 and 1970 when Cas twice took out the Challenge Cup for the first and second time since 1935. In 1969 Reilly was the winner of the Lance Todd Trophy as Cas subdued a great Salford side 11-6. The following year 'classy' Cas defeated Wigan 7-2 and Reilly was on his way to Australia with the Great Britain tourists, quickly establishing himself as the undoubted star of the tour at 21. In the Official History of Rugby League Geoffrey Moorhouse writes: Reilly 'had been trouble for Australia since his test debut at Lang Park: at SCG that 4th of July, he was quite simply their nemesis, clattering every green shirt before it

could even move, supplying the crafty pass or kick that led to Millward's try, to another by Hynes, and to countless sweeping British attacks. Reilly's performance on that tour had Australian clubs queuing up to sign him, but it was a record fee of £15,000 offered by Manly that took him to Brookvale for a four year stint Down Under. What distinguished Reilly from his contemporaries was his single minded pursuit of excellence. A fitness fanatic who never knew when he was beaten, he helped Manly to Premiership victories in 1972 and 1973.

On his return to his beloved Castleford in 1975 Reilly was suffering from a long standing knee injury. Nevertheless, Reilly with one good knee was better than any forward in the British competition with two. And by now Reilly's use of the 'bomb' was wrecking havoc in the English game and causing a rush to emulate his success with this new 'Australian' tactic. In 1976-77 Castleford won both the Floodlit Trophy and the John Player Trophy. In October 1977 they secured their first ever Yorkshire Cup win and Reilly was re-called by Great Britain. Homespun Cas continued to be a powerful force in British League despite a woefully low budget and in 1986 - as all Oldham followers know only too well - Reilly, as Coach, took Cas back to Wembley after the Roughyeds went down 7-18 in the semi-final. In a nail biting Final Cas overcame Hull K.R. 15-14. Reilly's success led to his appointment as Great Britain Coach and in 1988 he led the Lions to their first win over Australia in a decade when Britain triumphed 26-16 in Sydney to give English fans hope that, at last, we were closing the gap on our antipodean rivals.

As an influence on the game as it is played today few people, whether as a player or coach (let alone both) have had an impact like Malcolm Reilly. His personal standards have been, and are, of the highest calibre which explains his frustration with the quality of player he had to work with at Huddersfield for example where his forthright views on the lack of basic skills among paid professionals did not go down too well despite the obvious truth of his observations. And what of Reilly the player? My own memory is of the finest tackler I have ever seen. Despite incredible attacking skill, invention, subtlety, reading of a game, leadership, tactical awareness, it is to defence I turn to justify my rating of Reilly. And why? Because when Reilly tackled you, you stayed tackled. Swift, powerful and (modern theorists, please note) almost invariably low, a Reilly tackle was sheer perfection. No wonder the Aussies hated him and then came to admire him.



# Stat Attack

## NFP Round Up

*Continued from page 15*

having had a couple of training sessions with the team. But they went out and put on a superb performance to win the Law Cup. The support that day...I had tears in my eyes. I remember when I first got to the ground and got out of my car to have a look and there was so many people there in red and white. When the players first came out for the start of the game, the reception they got was just incredible. It's making the hairs on the back of my neck stand up now just reliving it. The performance just capped it all off."

There have been plenty of highs and lows for the club, and Hamilton since then. In the first season the club ended up fifth in the old Division Two after topping the table early in the campaign, but still reached the inaugural Trans Pennine Cup Final, losing to Batley. But in the second year they struggled badly, forced to play at Rochdale's Spotland and picking up a number of hammerings along the way to finishing second bottom of the whole Rugby League.

Then the resurgence, aided significantly by the shrewd appointment of Mike Ford as player coach. In Ford's first season in charge the Roughyeds finished sixth and were one game away from the Grand Final, and a year later they went one better, winning away at Leigh and Rochdale in the play-offs before that 24-14 defeat to Widnes in the NFP's showpiece event. But despite the loss, the four year old club of Oldham had put together a business plan that had been accepted by Super League should they have won that game. From not having a bootable in 1997, this was a remarkable achievement.

"Everything had been accepted, we'd got everything in place but it wasn't to be," Hamilton says.

"But the main thing for me, without my Oldham head on, was the fact that a pathway to Super League had been re-established, and with the way Widnes have performed that is totally justified. I think having that pathway there is absolutely essential. I'm in this to be a winner, and winning is linked to ambition. If you haven't got those two things then there isn't any point doing it as far as I'm concerned."

So to where Hamilton and Oldham are now. The financial position at the club this season has dictated that Hamilton hasn't been paid for several months, and he is currently actively looking to alternative employment.

"It's a reflection of the situation at the club this season. Were at the stage now where I'm certainly not rich enough to afford not to work, I need the income. I would very much doubt I will be full-time in the future.



*Steve Molloy and John Hough in action against NFP leaders Huddersfield*

"The situation in the NFP is changing and that's reflected in what's happening at Oldham. To get the club going and keep it going and steer it right it needed that full-time person, and to be honest there's probably still a need for it with the problems we have that are unique to Oldham. But at the end of the day I'm not in a position where I can't afford to be earning. It looks like some long hours."

Despite that, there are still sections of the Oldham support that constantly criticise Hamilton.

"There's been a lot of misconceptions about what sort of salary I was on, which were just absolute garbage," he adds.

"People think that it's the Chris Hamilton show, but it's not. It is the three of us (the fourth director Lord left the club in March 2000). We've always said that if there are people out there who think they can do a better job, then we're out of here. This is not something personal for me, or the other directors Sean or Stewart, this is about Rugby League in Oldham.

"I'd be lying if I said I haven't thought about quitting. There have been plenty of occasions when I've thought about packing it in; there have been plenty of occasions where people have told me I should pack in. But I'm a pretty strong and determined character and I think we're still in the same position as were five years ago in as much as if us three don't do it for the town, no-one else will."





# LEVER'S FISH & CHIP RESTAURANT

**BEST WISHES  
TO  
OLDHAM RLFC**

UNITS 2 & 3 · MARKET HALL  
OLDHAM

MON - SAT 10.30- 5.30

**0161 633 0074**

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



**The Royal Bank  
of Scotland**

For more information on the range of  
Business Services available from  
The Royal Bank of Scotland  
*please contact*

**Tina Horton, Business Manager  
on 0161 633 8460**

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

## **DRONSFIELDS** — MERCEDES —

**WALLHILL MILL, WALLHILL  
ROAD, DOBCROSS  
OLDHAM OL3 SRB**

**TELEPHONE: 01457 - 871717**

**FAX: 01457 - 871940**

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



## **Amega Labels Ltd**

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



**Shaw Street  
Oldham OL1 3RR**

**Tel 0161 785 0813**

**Fax 0161 624 6507**



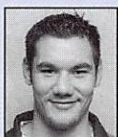
# Player SPONSORSHIP



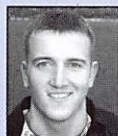
**Gareth Barber**  
Harry Long (Oldham) Ltd  
Plumbing, Heating &  
Mechanical Services  
Tel: 0161 626 9175



**Anthony Gibbons**  
Alphatec



**Joe McNicholas**  
Iain Taylor



**John Braddish**  
Tymbuktu Health &  
Beauty Clinic  
0161 624 5667



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



**Anthony Murray**  
Bull's Head  
Heyside



**Keith Brennan**  
Lansdowne Roofing  
Supplies Ltd  
Tel: 0161 626 0896



**Jon Goddard**  
Medlock  
Communications



**Paul Norton**  
Sunset National  
Conservatories  
Tel: 0161 624 5962



**Neil Roden**  
David Macauley  
Chartered Surveyor  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
01253 883833



**Danny Guest**  
John Barrett  
(Time Keeper)



**Andy Proctor**



**Jason Clegg**  
ORLFC Staff



**Joey Hayes**  
Ray & Chris Broadbent



**Phil Farrell**  
Hall Needham  
Associates  
Architects  
0161 688 1820



**Will Cowell**



**Bryan Henare**  
Lansdowne Trading  
Services Ltd  
0161 626 1141



**Mark Sibson**  
Mick Harrop



**Gavin Dodd**  
Oldham Rugby Union



**Gavin Johnson**



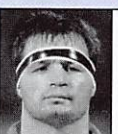
**Chris Campbell**



**Lee Doran**  
Alphatec



**John Hough**  
Medlock  
Communications



**Steve Molloy**  
Lees Village Service  
Station  
0161 624 2306

**oldham** together  
the outlook's bright



# WINO'S WINE SHOP

63 GEORGE STREET, OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE OL1 1LX

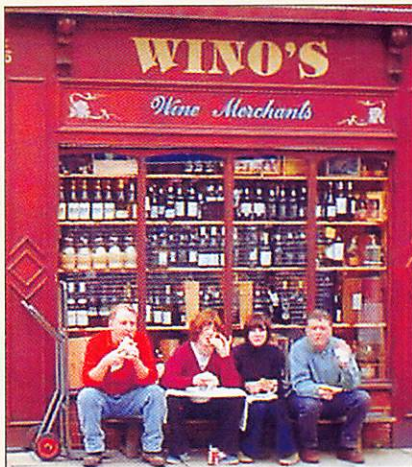
**0161 652 9396**

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

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

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

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



*We pride ourselves on offering friendly professional service.*

5% DISCOUNT on any MIXED CASE OF 12 BOTTLES

Wines supplied Sale or Return for Weddings or Functions

FREE GLASS LOAN – FREE DELIVERY SERVICE - MAILING LIST

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



# HAYNESWOOD

## Engineering Sales Limited

## Best Wishes to Oldham Roughyeds

### UK Office:

St John's Mill  
113 St John Street, Lees,  
Oldham OL4 3DJ, England.  
**Phone:** +44 (0) 161 620 5337  
**Fax:** +44 (0) 161 627 4367  
**E-Mail:** anilox@hayneswood.u-net.com

### USA Office:

Hayneswood Engineering USA LLC,  
1658 Soquel Drive, Unit 6,  
Santa Cruz, California 95065  
**Phone:** +1 831 462 2680  
**Fax:** +1 831 462 3583  
**E-Mail:** anilox@pacbell.net

**Web Site:** [www.hayneswood.com](http://www.hayneswood.com)



# 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
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 (NC)	L 13-14	2096
APRIL			
2	DEWSBURY R. (NC)	W 47-12	1056
7	Huddersfield G. (NC)	L 16-44	2687
21	Hunslet Hawks (NC)	W 56-10	747
MAY			
5	BATLEY B. (NC)	W 40-16	1204
12	HUDDERSFIELD (NC/F)	L 16-36	1699
23	ROCHDALE HORNETS	L 24-28	1050
JUNE			
2	Keighley Cougars	W 34-32	1188
9	WHITEHAVEN	W 46-12	867
16	Barrow	W 27-25	791
23	BATLEY BULLDOGS	L 26-34	1058
30	Hunslet Hawks	W 34-20	679
JULY			
7	LEIGH	H	
14	Chorley Lynx	A	
21	Whitehaven	A	
28	HUDDERSFIELD	H	
AUGUST			
4	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	
11	Batley Bulldogs	A	
18	Rochdale Hornets	A	
25	WORKINGTON	H	
SEPTEMBER			
1	York	A	
8	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	

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

# Sponsors

**Associate Match  
Sponsor**

**OLDHAM LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS**

**Man of the Match  
Sponsor**

**GOODWIN BEST  
INSURANCE BROKERS**

**Matchball  
Sponsor**

**COUNCILLOR  
SID JACOBS**



# two players

that deserve a try this season

ford**ka** collection

1.3i 3dr

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

**£7,995**



new ford**focus** zetec

1.6i 16v 3dr

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

**£11,745**



northern ford dealers – official sponsors of the northern ford premiership

**call 0845 711 888 for your local ford dealer**







# TODAY'S TEAMS



## OLDHAM

**Coach: Steve MOLLOY**

**Mark SIBSON**  
**Joey HAYES**  
**Gareth BARBER**  
**Jon GODDARD**  
**Joe McNICHOLAS**  
**John BRADDISH**  
**Neil RODEN**  
**Steve MOLLOY**  
**John HOUGH**  
**Danny GUEST**  
**Lee DORAN**  
**Bryan HENARE**  
**Dave GIBBONS**  
**Keith BRENNAN**  
**Phil FARRELL**  
**Steven BROWN**  
**Jason CLEGG**



## LEIGH C.

**Coach: Paul TERZIS**

**Neil TURLEY**  
**Chris IRWIN**  
**Paul ANDERSON**  
**Jon ROPER**  
**Mark McCULLY**  
**Simon SVABIC**  
**Willie SWANN**  
**Vila MATAUTIA**  
**John DUFFY**  
**David BRADBURY**  
**Simon BALDWIN**  
**Chris MORLEY**  
**Adam BRISTOW**  
**Phil KENDRICK**  
**Rob BALL**  
**Andy ISHERWOOD**  
**Simon KNOX**



### TODAY'S

**REFEREE: COLIN A. MORRIS**  
**G. MAXWELL**



### OFFICIALS

**R. STEPHENSON**  
**C. TOBIN**

**oldham**

**together**

the outlook's bright