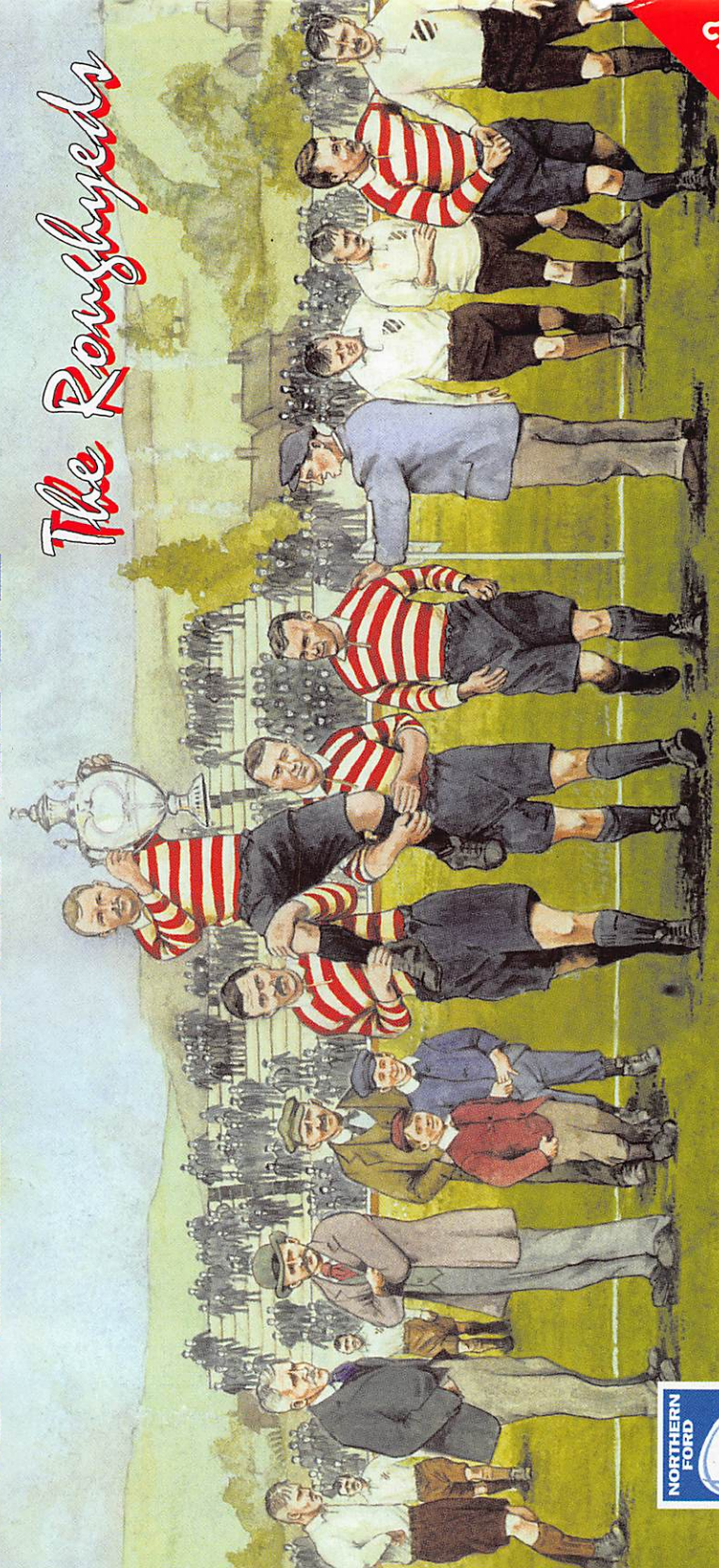


OLDHAM

The Roughyeds



HUNSLET HAWKS

AT ASHTON UNITED F C SUN 4TH AUGUST 2002 KO 3.30PM

Official Matchday Magazine of Oldham R.L.F.C. **£1.80**

THE OCCASION?
SEE PAGE
141

OLDHAM

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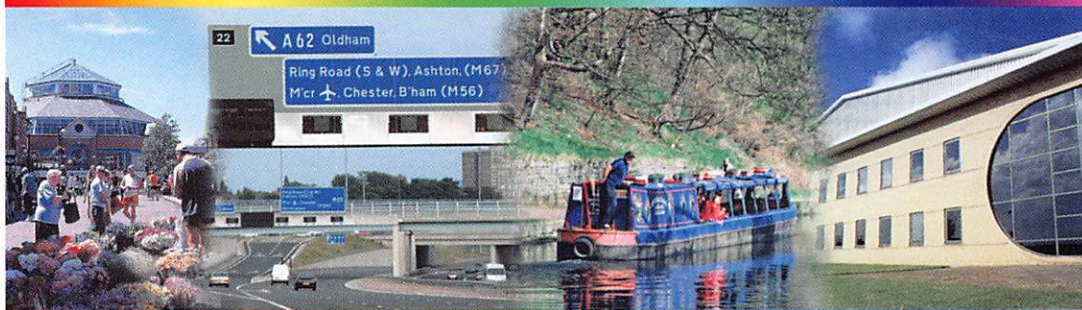
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Add to this superb opportunities for education and training, including a new Business Management School, exciting developments in tourism and the arts like the newly opened Huddersfield Narrow Canal and the soon-to-be opened Art Gallery and the desirability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

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IN THE HOT SEAT

with Christopher Hamilton

SIX games to the end of the normal season and all to play for. Without any doubt that is the message coming out of the club. After coming so close to being the first team to beat Huddersfield last week the players have nothing to fear.

If we play like we did in the second half against the 'Giants' we will win all 6 games of that there is no question. The performance last week should have given the players all the self belief they will need. We must remain focused, however, and that starts today against a Hunslet side who will, if nothing else, play with lots of enthusiasm.

We must not underestimate them and make sure we provide a platform going into our last 2 away fixtures at Batley and Rochdale.

By the time you are reading this the decision will more than likely have been made to ratify the split of the NFP into 2 divisions from next season. This has been a big talking point, and none more so than with our visitors today, Hunslet. As you will be aware we voted to keep the changes as were originally proposed by the strategic review.

I genuinely believe that the changes will benefit everybody but it must not be forgotten that the RFL itself has a crucial role to play in ensuring that the clubs in National League Division 2 are not forgotten.

We know from first hand experience in 1998 what it is like and for the sake of the game's future let's hope that for once we learn some lessons. The NFP competition is again proving what a tremendous league it is despite all the problems this year and if we can make National League 1 and 2 half as exciting we won't have done badly.

Finally the support the team got last week was superb and is greatly appreciated by Steve and the players. Please keep it up this week and let's hopefully set the team on the way to an unbeaten finish to the season.

Enjoy the game.



The Roughyeds
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Chris

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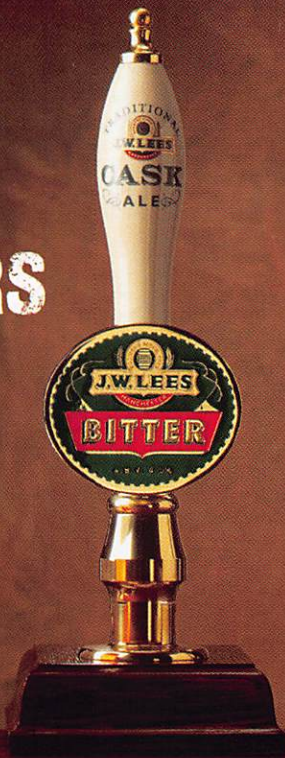
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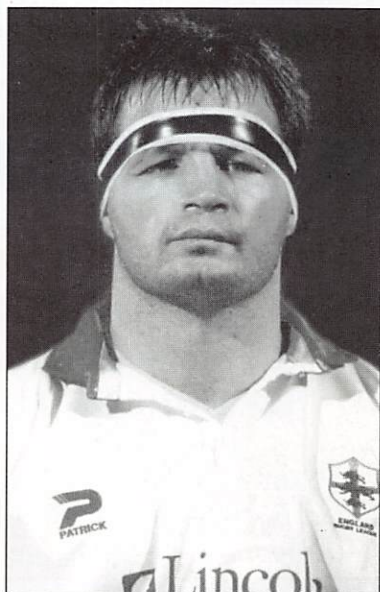
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COACH'S COMMENTS... with Steve Molloy

A SPECIAL welcome to all the officials, players and spectators of Hunslet Hawks. This will be your first visit to our modest Hurst Cross home for this season. We hope you have an enjoyable afternoon. We all know there has been a fact finding mission over to your South Leeds Stadium with a view to us emulating the facilities that Hunslet and the people of Leeds enjoy. Let's hope that all this comes to fruition, sooner rather than later and our nomadic existence finally comes to an end.



On the playing front it has been a frustrating first month as coach with the Leigh, Whitehaven and Huddersfield results. Competiting for such long periods in these games and not coming away with a single point is very disappointing but I know they guy's resolve and we have promised each other that we will not let it happen again. We all realise that at this stage of the season in the position we are in, every point is crucial. Let's hope we start with two precious points today.

Enjoy the game,

Steve



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In Yer Face



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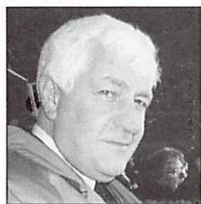
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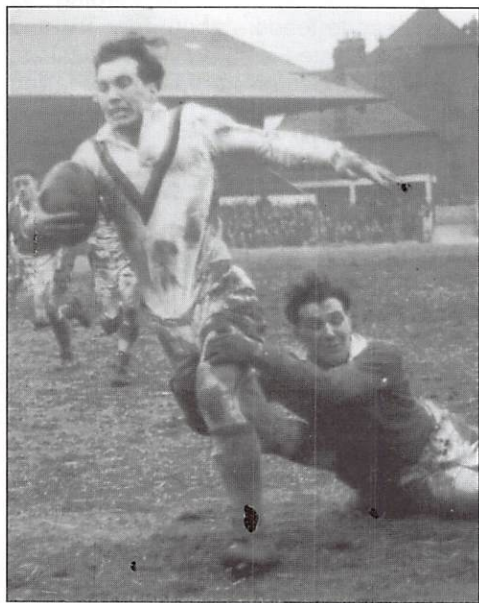


'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to August 4th yesteryear

In 1954 the British Lions toured Australasia under the leadership of skipper Dickie Williams, the outstanding Hunslet halfback of that era. Two other Hunslet players accompanied Williams to the other side of the World, his halfback partner Alf Ginger Burnell and second-row forward Geoff Gunney, a Hunslet legend who made 579 appearances for the Parksiders between 1951 and 1973. On Wednesday 4th August 1954 the tourists met the South Island of New Zealand at Dunedin where all three Hunslet players were included in the British line-up. Great Britain won that match 32-11 before a disappointing crowd of 1,154 who saw scrum-half Ginger Burnell score one of the six British tries. Oldham had just one player selected for that tour, winger Terry O'Grady, and he, too, appeared against South Island, scoring two of the 28 tries he was credited with during that trip.



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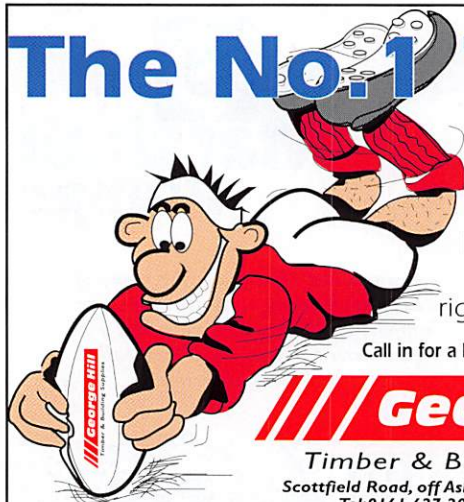
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In Yer Face



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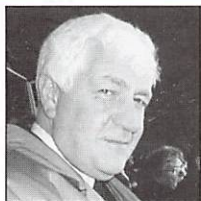
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IN **Town** TODAY



HUNSLET HAWKS

ROY SAMPSON Head Coach

Back at the Hawks after spending two seasons at Dewsbury Rams as Assistant Coach, and last season as Head Coach, before returning to the club where he spent 18 years as a player, Club Captain, and Assistant Coach to David Plange. Assistant Coach in two Grand Final winning teams - in '99 with Hunslet, and '00 with the Rams.

JIM MURGATROYD Assistant Coach

In his third term at the club and with vast experience after spending time with Hull KR, York and Dewsbury.

BRYN POWELL Winger

Hunslet Warriors, Great Britain Under 21. A highly rated winger with pace and a hunger for tries, Bryn had attracted the attention of several clubs from the NFP.

DANNY DOBSON Centre winger

In his second full season, Danny has size, speed and an eye for an opening.

PAUL SEAL Centre

Paul was signed from Normanton ARLFC, and has already made a big impact in the Hawks' nest.

LEE BARGATE Centre

With vast experience with Batley and Featherstone, Lee is an aggressive, speedy centre with an eye for an opening.

ANDY ATHA Second Row

Another player who has come through the academy, with a great appetite for work. Andy missed the start of the season through injury, but has a bright future.

CRAIG IBBOTSON Prop

Made his first team debut three seasons ago. Craig never takes a backward step, and had a spell on loan at Leeds last season. He has the potential to go all the way.

MICK COYLE Assistant Coach/Loose Forward

Mick is the longest serving member of the

squad - he has just finished his Benefit Year, is a Grand Final winner, and a new member of the coaching staff.

NEIL LEE Utility Man

In his second spell at the club after spending the last two years at the Jungle with Castleford Tigers.

DANNY COOK Fullback

Recently signed from Leeds Rhinos, and looking forward to establishing himself in the Hawks first team.

AMRAZ HAMID Full back, winger

Came up through the Club's Under 16 team two years ago, and made his first team debut last season.

GARETH NAYLOR Mr Versatile

Another local lad signed at 18, Gareth can play in any back position, as well as hooker and loose forward. He never gives less than 100%

DAN BRIGGS Prop

In his second team at the Hawks after having a short spell at Featherstone last season makes good yards and defends well.

TONY HOWCROFT Hooker

A Great Britain student, Tony is always in the thick of it, and leads by example - always from the front.

ANDY WRAY Prop

Former Featherstone Rovers and Batley player, Andy has the potential to go to the top if he can keep clear of injury.

DAVE JESSEY Second row

Dave came up through the academy, and has great potential to go on to play at a higher level.

JONLEE LOCKWOOD Second row

As a 17 year old Jonlee signed with Wakefield Wildcats on a full time contract. he has just finished a spell in Rugby Union, and is a great acquisition for the team.

Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

BACK HOME

WELCOME to the players, officials and supporters of today's visitors Hunslet and I wonder if any of them were able to identify the occasion of the scene depicted within the atmospheric water colour on the front cover of today's match programme? It is in fact the Challenge Cup final of 1899 when Oldham defeated Hunslet 19-9 at Manchester's Fallowfield Stadium.

This was just the third season the Challenge Cup had been contested and won on each of the two previous occasions by Batley thus Oldham became the first Lancashire side to lift the trophy.

There are three reasons why I decided to feature this painting. First and foremost it's a delightful piece of art, secondly it features today's visitors and thirdly and the main reason is that surrounding the occasion of the 1899 Challenge Cup Final has recently emerged a "nice little story".



Bob Edwards

One of the medal winners from the Challenge Cup campaign of 1899 was Oldham's Lancashire County forward Bob Edwards.

Although Bob had played for Lancashire his county of birth was Durham where his grandson of the same name and Oldham supporter to boot still lives.

Bob (Jnr), now in his seventies cherished his grandfather's medal which had become very much a family heirloom and was devastated when it was part of a burglary haul back in the early nineties. Mike Turner, club historian and trustee to the Oldham Rugby League Trust was to come to the rescue.

Last summer whilst scouring a sporting auctioneers catalogue Mike came across the Edwards medal which was about to go under the hammer. Of course, Mike, aware of the background to its disappearance informed both Bob and the auctioneers who immediately withdrew the medal subject to an enquiry and I am pleased to say that just this week taking a year to complete their investigation the police knocked on Bob's door returning the heirloom. Needless to say he was over the moon!



Iwa Slateloose



GREAT story from Down Under this week. Scott MacDougall brother of Test winger Adam MacDougall (also known as 'Mad Dog') fled from Canberra Stadium when asked to take a random drug test. Eyewitnesses say that the 'mad puppy' ran out of the dressing room wearing only a pair of shorts with drug testing officials in hot pursuit (presumably brandishing a milk bottle or whatever they us to get a sample these days). MacDougall then clambered over a wire perimeter fence and sped off in a car. Was it his car or was someone in the know already waiting? Sounds like MacDougall could have been on the wacky baccy (or worse) the night before or does it go deeper than that? Central Coast Bears say MacDougall will be sacked. And players refusing a drug test can be banned for two years. It transpires MacDougall later offered to take the test at home. If he's banned I wonder what price a punt by some enterprising R.U. official on his services. FOOTNOTE: You see, all those rumours about Dougal and chums on the Magic Roundabout had substance after all. However, what the substance was I'm not sure.



Classic comments by Doncaster Coach St John Ellis after his side's defeat at New Crown Flatt (whoops, Ram Stadium) last week:-

"We had too many people with their own agenda out there today, too many people wanting to do their own thing or try that little extra piece of fancy stuff which wasn't even remotely connected to the game plan....making over ambitious passes in stupid parts of the field.

"Trying to prove that they had more testosterone (careful, Singe you'll have the drug busters on your case) than the bloke they were tackling, taking things too far and getting penalised. Fatigue was not an issue, our fitness is excellent,

our attitude today was far from that. That's before I even get started on the unforced errors.

"There are people in that dressing room right now who are liars. They are liars to themselves about how good they are."

Doesn't mince his words that Singe, does he?



"We wanted it easy; we copped a few on the chin and ended up with a bloody nose." (Tony Rea). Now I don't know about you, but my anatomy doesn't quite match up to Tony Rea's ideas. I know rugby players can be a bit ugly but a nose on the chin means someone's copped one hell of a high tackle.



"It's a significant victory without Jason Smith and, in a way, it takes a monkey off our back and shows we can win without him." (Shaun McRae). This bloomin' monkey gets around a bit. So far he's been at Bradford, Wigan and Hull: wonder where he'll turn up next? it's time one of these top coaches taught him to catch and pass: he'd make a terrific scrum half!



I see that since Martin Hall's outburst recently: 'we haven't won a penalty count for six weeks', the Hairnets have won the last two including one against Whitehaven last week (6-4), by far the N.F.P.'s best disciplined team. Coincidence?

Still, I loved the Discipline Committee's verdict on Latham Tawhai's appeal: ban raised from two games to three! Greee...at

GC

Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we offer a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of the Hunslet club. Proud, founder members of the Rugby League and succeeding against very difficult circumstances to keep the RL flag flying in South Leeds. We wish them well in their continuing endeavours.

Our feature today goes back to January 1994 and a Challenge Cup fourth round tie played at Elland Road. At the time Hunslet were struggling in the old second division with Oldham likewise experiencing a tough time in the top flight. However, it was widely expected that the senior status of the Roughyeds would carry them through, and so it did but not until the Yorkshire men had given them a terrific fright. It looked like it would be easy for the visitors when Paddy Mitchell went under the



Scott Ranson - scored Oldham's second try in the cup tie at Elland Road in January 1994.

sticks straight from the first scrum and Steve Kerry added the conversion but within minutes Hunslet had hit back with a try in the corner by Alan Daniel. Scott Ranson increased Oldham's lead after a good break by Shaun Irwin. Once more the score was improved by Kerry. Again Hunslet were quick with a reply this time a bustling run by prop Eugene Currie paved the way for Bramwell Mwololo to race over. Still Oldham must have been confident going in at half time with a twelve points to eight advantage and their optimism would have increased when Nigel Heslop beat three defenders in a blistering run to the corner from where Kerry added a magnificent conversion. The travelling support awaited the floodgates opening only to be left with the jitters as tries from Beath and Burrow both converted by Bartliff gave Hunslet the lead as the game moved into the final quarter.

Fortunately for the visitors this effort had taken its toll on the Yorkshire side who visibly seemed to tire in the final fifteen minutes allowing first David Jones and Heslop to spare the Roughyeds blushes with two tries, the latter converted by Kerry who also kicked a late penalty to leave the final score: **Hunslet 20 Oldham 30**. Oldham had benefitted from a strong early display from Barrie McDermott and the excellent kicking of Kerry but no one would deny the man-of-the-match award was well earned by the home full back, Paul Burrow.

HUNSLET: Burrow, Bartliff, Daniel, Boothroyd, Mwololo; Brook, Clark; Currie, Sampson, Ellis, Precious, Hughes, Beath.
SUBS: Coyle, Liles.

OLDHAM: S Ranson, D Jones, S Irwin, N Heslop, C McAlister; P Mitchell, S Kerry; I Sherratt, D Stephenson, B McDermott, I Green, S Tupaea, M Kuiti.
SUBS: A Goodway, D Bradbury.

Attendance: 1,257

Referee: Mr N Wood - Keighley



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A Chance to Meet

. JOE McNICHOLAS

Well Joe welcome to A Chance to Meet and the first question is always the same. Where were you born, when you were born and who's in your family?

I was born in Wellington, New Zealand. I was adopted. I've got my mum and my dad George and Marie and I'm currently engaged to Nicky, my girlfriend. So that's the background. Adopted in New Zealand, do you know anything about your natural parents or not? Nothing at all. No, not really. I've never bothered trying to find out or anything. So Doesn't interest you at all? No, not at all really. You've got a good set of parents who've adopted you though. I have yes. So nothing else ever really. What about your date of birth when was that? Twenty-sixth of the twelfth, seventy eight. Boxing Day! (laughter) One lot of presents a year then? That's right. Yes. That's a bit of a bad do that isn't it! OK, New Zealand. So when did you first come over to this country? I was about eighteen months old when I came over so I don't really know much about the country itself. Lost the accent straight away. Before you'd even acquired it. That's right.

What about your first memory of Rugby League?

My first memory was really watching my mates at school play rugby. I didn't start till it was quite late, so I was about fourteen years old. Where was that? I used to play for Spotland Rangers in Rochdale. Before that I was doing Athletics. But all my friends were doing rugby so I decided to change.

A bit lonely athletics when there's only you doing it.

That's right, yes. So watching your mates play rugby that's your first memory. What about memory of the professional game? Professional game coming down to Oldham really when I was brought down by Brian Gartland. He brought me down to watch a few first team games and really that's the only major rugby I watched before joining the professional game. Brian was a fair judge of a young lad playing rugby, what did he say to you? I don't know. He just came down watching my amateur games and everything with some other people from Oldham, Andy Goodway. He became a big influence on me, along with his sons as well.

They've been really good to me over the years when he was coaching me. OK, so you start playing in Rochdale with Spotland Rangers. What league do they play in? I'm not sure now where they are, but when we were there they were doing quite well! Not as well as the other team in the town, Mayfield, but we held our own, definitely. Brian Gartland sees you, likes something, brings you down to Oldham, when did you sign? I'm not sure of the date now, it's going back some years, ninety-four it was. So you've been playing six years, no eight years at Oldham. In that time you must have thought, hey I'm getting in here. Yes. But I've seen a lot of changes in the club and the town. Going from Oldham Bears, being relegated, then starting up as the 'new club' now. So a lot's happened in that time, definitely.

What about yourself. The greatest influence on you in the game? Did any of the family play rugby league?

They've not played rugby league. My dad used to play rugby union in Leigh and the Wigan area until he moved over to Rochdale but really no. I've not had any family influences on my game. So apart from your mates playing rugby and Brian Gartland who else has influenced you and you thought, "Hey, I've learned a lot there"? Well Andy Goodway had a big influence on me. As he brought me in Brian and Paul Deakin told him at the same time. So he taught me a lot. Mike Ford, when we had him last season and the season before. I've learned more off him than anyone to date, definitely.

In your eight years of playing rugby league what's been your most memorable moment in that time? A time when you really felt good.

I think it has to be the Semi-final when we beat Rochdale to get into the Grand Final. Coming back like that, we were so many points down, it just took the biscuit. I've never played in a game like that in my life and probably never will again. Oldham were dead and buried that day, goodness knows what brought you back. You were on the field, what made the difference? I'm not sure really. At the beginning of the year we went to Plymouth with the army and they drummed into us "never say never" and I think that came out in that game. Certainly did.

If that's the best moment, what's the worst moment in rugby league?

It has to be a week later, losing the Grand Final in

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the way we did. I think after that Semi-final it took everything out of us and we just didn't have anything left unfortunately.

What about your most amusing moment or memory you've had in the game? At times strange things happen in all sporting fields, what's happened with you? Or around you?

Around me, the most amusing one was when I was playing at Watersheddings once and a fox happened to

run on the pitch. They couldn't get the fox off so they had to delay the game for a few minutes till the stewards managed to chase it away. You were playing in that game, that day? Yes. I remember that fox. Because it came on and seemed surprised when it suddenly found itself surrounded by a crowd and a rugby match. A bit startled, yes. Not only that it seemed a bit annoyed because it couldn't get out of the place. That's right, up onto the roof it went. How do you get over that in a game because your all psyched up ready to play the game and something like that happens. Does it throw you? Erm, it did me. Yes. I must admit I forgot about the game as I was watching that run about everywhere. Yes, so it did throw me a bit.

Who's the biggest character you've come across in the game of Rugby League, either at Oldham or when you've played other clubs?

It's got to be Jason Clegg, definitely. Everyone says Cleggy. What does he do? Erm, what doesn't he do is the question I think! He's just a great lad to have in the team. His enthusiasm, his sense of humour. He brings out the best in all the players whether it be on game day or especially in training. I suppose you need someone like that in training because that's the hard work time. You do, yes. Especially when you're going through the tough part you need someone to, like, pull you through it a bit, with a laugh and a joke now and again.

What about your ambition in rugby league? You've been in the game for eight years now, what's your ambition?

Erm, My main one is just to stay clear of injury and keep enjoying my rugby. Super League, yes, but it's not my main goal I don't think. I just want to do as well as I can for the club I'm playing for at the time. Have you suffered with injuries over the years? I've just had one major one, that's when I broke my ankle in the first year of the new club at Oldham, which I missed every game, bar one at the end of the season. That's been my only major downfall. So fit, and playing for Oldham, and promotion? Hopefully. If we get into that top nine anything can happen then. You never know really. After last season we've still got that fight in us, so the top nine will bring it out in us, Definitely.

This interview will be broadcast in full on Radio Cavell - 1350AM next Friday during "Sports Preview"

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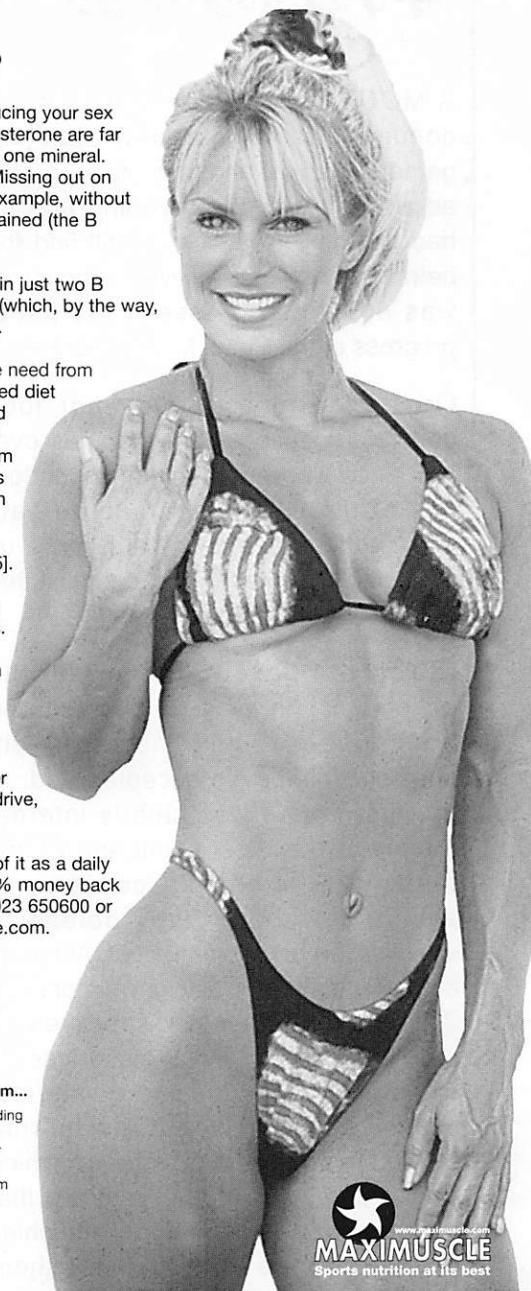
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Wilson's Wisdom

... with Ian Wilson

A MONTH after John Harbin's 'no comment' radio interview after our game at Hunslet and then his miserable admission later that evening that he had defected to Latics - I still find the betrayal difficult to believe - I thought it was now time to assess the initial progress of the Steve Molloy regime.

On the surface, it may not look particularly successful - victories over two sides who are stuck in the bottom five of the NFP table, and defeats against three teams who are above us in the table. However, I do not think that that tells the full story.

I think you have to begin with the performance in the final phase of the brief Harbin reign. The home win against Whitehaven excepted and, at the time, there was clearly internal trouble at the West Cumbrian Club - there was some real concern, in particular about the defensive organisation and commitment. Although all these games were won, to concede 32, 25 and 20 points respectively at Keighley, Barrow and Hunslet was so out of character compared with last season's amazingly successful run, that you had to conclude that something was wrong. It has to be admitted that we were very lucky to win at Keighley and Barrow and then of course there was the awful surrender at home to Batley - which may yet come back to haunt us at the end-of-the-season when

league table positions come to be decided. Again, the concession of 34 points, 22 of them in the final 16 minutes when we seemed to be coasting to victory, spoke volumes about the character which the coach was engendering amongst the players at the time.

In contrast, in my view, a very, very different character and attitude has been in evidence during the last five games. Against Chorley and Swinton we were very clearly focussed, and determined not to struggle against clearly inferior opposition and the scorelines reflect the fact that we did not turn off for spells during the matches. And three close losses to Leigh, Whitehaven and Huddersfield, although they did nothing to make top 9 qualification any easier, were much, much more heartening in terms of our performances than quite a few of the wins earlier in the season. More sustained effort: much more commitment in defence, especially close to our own line; signs of better organisation on attack - for example, the excellent 'move' in our opponents 22 which resulted in Lee Doran's try at Whitehaven; and also evidence of a more 'professional' and less panicky approach in tight games - the way we played in the final quarter, notwithstanding their freak last second try, at Whitehaven being the best illustration of this.

Junior Roughyeds



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we draw them in the top nine play offs we can then finish the job off. It's all about the right attitude, and I repeat, NEVER GIVING UP!

The programme was printed early this week and at the time of going to press the match mascot was not known but who ever you are enjoy the day and your name will be in the next programme.

Welcome to the Hunslet supporters particularly you younger ones and hope you enjoy the game.

Keep up the support.



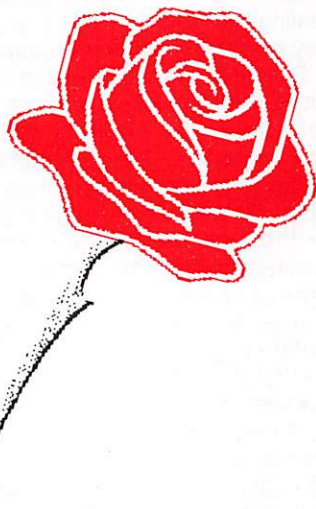
GOOD AFTERNOON KIDS!

Well, wasn't last weeks game a thriller? One minute I was digging in my pocket for my hankie the next up on my toes as we scored a try, screaming with delight! It just shows that you should never give up. The Giants beanstalk was certainly well shaken and we gave them a fright or two. The bigger they come the harder they fall and should

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A Potted History of Hunslet

THE ORIGINAL Hunslet club was established in May 1883 and, like most clubs, has had an up and down existence. They were founder members of the Northern Rugby Union and, incidentally, they were Oldhams first opponents in the new code back in September 1895. Hunslet won that match 16-8 but the Roughyeds gained revenge three seasons later when they defeated Hunslet 19-9 in the Challenge Cup Final.

In those early years of our game Hunslet were a team to be feared. They were Yorkshire Champions in 1898 and in 1905 they were the first ever winners of the Yorkshire Cup, beating Halifax 13-3 in the final. Two seasons later, 1907-08, Hunslet swept the board, becoming the first club to win all four trophies available to them. During that season they lost only six matches. Remarkably five were lost consecutively but the club recovered their composure and were able to end the season in a blaze of glory. Seven days after beating Hull 14-0 in the Challenge Cup Final they met Oldham in the Championship Final at Salford. That match ended in a 7-7 draw but Hunslet were able to claim their historic clean sweep the following week when they won the replay 12-2 at Wakefield. The star of the Hunslet team in those days was Albert Goldthorpe, Ahr Albert, who played for the club for 21 years. He scored all Hunslets points in the drawn Championship final, a try and two goals, and added another two goals in the replay, the second taking his goal tally for the season to 101, the first player to register a century of goals in a season.

From then until the late 1920s, little success came Hunslets way but it was a different story in the 1930s. Hunslet won the Yorkshire Championship in 1932 and were Challenge Cup winners at Wembley in 1934 when they beat Widnes 11-5. Four years later Hunslet met Leeds in the Championship Final. The match was controversially switched from Wakefield to

Elland Road days before the final at the request of the two clubs who expected a bigger crowd than could be accommodated at Wakefield. The switch proved a resounding success for 54,112 spectators, at the time a record crowd for a rugby league match in Britain, turned up to see Hunslet win 8-2.

Sadly Hunslets only major success since then came in 1962 when they beat Hull Kingston Rovers 12-2 in the final of the Yorkshire Cup. Prior to that a gallant Hunslet team led St.Helens 12-4 in a magnificent 1959 Championship Final before losing 44-22 and in 1965 they were involved in arguably the most entertaining Challenge Cup Final of all time. Little consolation to Hunslet who lost 20-16 to Wigan.

Hunslets fortunes dipped in the early 1970s and in 1973, eight short years after that Wembley glory, their Parkside ground was sold to ease debts and the club folded.

They bounced back the following season under the name New Hunslet, playing at Leeds Greyhound Stadium, Batleys Mount Pleasant ground, Elland Road and Bramleys McLaren Field enclosure before settling at South Leeds Stadium in 1995. By then they were Hunslet again and had lifted the Second Division Championship in 1987. Their stay in Division One was short lived and in 1997 they found themselves down in Division Three. Nevertheless, they won that Division Three title in 1997 and they also reached Wembley, albeit for the Silk Cut Plate competition.

Two years later Hunslet won the Northern Ford Premiership with a dramatic 12-11 victory over Dewsbury in the Grand Final. Their Super League dreams, however, were shattered when promotion was blocked.

It was a devastating blow and one from which they have yet to recover. But Hunslet have swept the seas before and I am sure that they will do so again.

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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



1 ELLERY HANLEY M.B.E. (pictured with former Oldham favourites Mike Ford and Andy Goodway)

Ellery Hanley was not the greatest passer of a ball I have ever seen. And that said I would find it hard to find any other fault with him. It is arguable that no one has ever been so single minded or so resolute in seeking perfection in his chosen career. It would be difficult to name anyone who trained harder or more frequently in pursuit of excellence. Quite simply, as a player Ellery had everything any coach could wish for. He was astute, thoughtful, tactically aware, a superb reader of the game, a leader by example and by force of personality. Like Alex Murphy he knew the laws of the game and how to use them to his own advantage and that of his team. Hanley was so good that he could play virtually any position and you could argue all day as to which was his best - if it mattered! Because Hanley is the forerunner of several modern footballers such as Paul Sculthorpe who can turn their hand to anything: total rugby in the way of 1970's Dutch or 2002 Brazilian soccer.

Leeds born Hanley signed for Bradford Northern (as they were) without ever having seen a game of Rugby League and was blooded at international level on the 1984 tour coached by Oldham's Frank Myler and captained by his club skipper, a certain Brian Noble. Four years later and following a move to Wigan who were to dominate British rugby for the next decade, and Hanley was himself captain of Mal Reilly's 1988 tourists. And on the 9th of July Hanley led his side (including a wonderful display by Oldham prop Hugh Waddell) to a 26-12 British victory over Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium before a

disappointing and disbelieving crowd of 15,994. It was Britain's first win in Australia for 14 years and followed 15 consecutive defeats at the hands of the Kangaroos.

In 1992 Hanley was again nominated tour captain but injury restricted him to 9 minutes of a warm up fixture and Garry Scholfield took over. Meanwhile during Australia's visit to these shores in 1990 Hanley led his side to a 19-12 Wembley win and had almost snatched the Ashes when, with the scores locked at 10-10, Australia broke away to snatch a 14-10 last minute victory at Old Trafford, Mal Meninga's obstruction of Carl Gibson proving decisive in allowing him to take Ricky Stuart's try-scoring pass.

By 1994 Hanley had graduated to Great Britain Coach, the First Test that year another memorable British victory as 12 man Great Britain overcame the sending off of Shaun Edwards early in the game to win 8-4. As usual the Lions went on to lose the next two games and the series.

Domestically Hanley captained Wigan in a remarkable era of one club success. He appeared at Wembley in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991, winning the Lance Todd Trophy in '89 and becoming the first man to lift the cup on three successive occasions in 1991. Wigan were also First Division Champions over five successive seasons, Premiership winners in 1986-7 and 1991-2, Lancashire Cup winners 1985-6, 1986-7, 1987-88 and 1988-9 and Regal Trophy winners 1988-9 and 1989-90. Hanley was also a World Club Championship winner against Manly in 1987. In 1991 Hanley moved from Wigan to Leeds but was unable to repeat his trophy winning exploits with the under achieving Loiners.

The first black man to captain his country in any major sport Ellery Hanley was a private man, proud, dignified and uncompromising. One of only a handful of Rugby League stars with an instantly recognisable national profile he also played Down Under with Western Suburbs and Balmain Tigers being disgracefully 'taken out' of a Grand Final when targeted as Balmain's 'danger man'. A brief flirtation with London Monarchs American football team was, perhaps, not to his credit. Despite this Ellery Hanley was a fine ambassador for his sport and is rightly honoured with an M.B.E.

'At his peak he was the greatest player I ever saw in 40 years of watching rugby', says Maurice Lindsay and I, for one, agree. A non-smoker and non-drinker Hanley was a fitness fanatic, a devastating and tireless tackler and a try-scorer supreme. Pace, power, swerve, side-step, hand off were all Hanley characteristics, but what marks him out above all others is mental toughness and the will to win. In my book Ellery is 'simply the best'.

Stat Attack

THE list of scorers published in League Express each week refers only to League fixtures but in my view the Challenge Cup and Buddies Cup constituted first class fixtures as recognised by the R.F.L. My records also include scores against York Wasps which at the time the games were played constituted first class fixtures. I know if I had notched a hat-trick against the Wasps I'd be pretty cut up to have the scores wiped out, although this no doubt is what the R.F.L. will do.

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TOPIC OF THE DAY

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



1 ELLERY HANLEY M.B.E. (pictured with former Oldham favourites Mike Ford and Andy Goodway)

Ellery Hanley was not the greatest passer of a ball I have ever seen. And that said I would find it hard to find any other fault with him. It is arguable that no one has ever been so single minded or so resolute in seeking perfection in his chosen career. It would be difficult to name anyone who trained harder or more frequently in pursuit of excellence. Quite simply, as a player Ellery had everything any coach could wish for. He was astute, thoughtful, tactically aware, a superb reader of the game, a leader by example and by force of personality. Like Alex Murphy he knew the laws of the game and how to use them to his own advantage and that of his team. Hanley was so good that he could play virtually any position and you could argue all day as to which was his best - if it mattered! Because Hanley is the forerunner of several modern footballers such as Paul Sculthorpe who can turn their hand to anything: total rugby in the way of 1970's Dutch or 2002 Brazilian soccer.

Leeds born Hanley signed for Bradford Northern (as they were) without ever having seen a game of Rugby League and was blooded at international level on the 1984 tour coached by Oldham's Frank Myler and captained by his club skipper, a certain Brian Noble. Four years later and following a move to Wigan who were to dominate British rugby for the next decade, and Hanley was himself captain of Mal Reilly's 1988 tourists. And on the 9th of July Hanley led his side (including a wonderful display by Oldham prop Hugh Waddell) to a 26-12 British victory over Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium before a

disappointing and disbelieving crowd of 15,994. It was Britain's first win in Australia for 14 years and followed 15 consecutive defeats at the hands of the Kangaroos.

In 1992 Hanley was again nominated tour captain but injury restricted him to 9 minutes of a warm up fixture and Garry Scholfield took over. Meanwhile during Australia's visit to these shores in 1990 Hanley led his side to a 19-12 Wembley win and had almost snatched the Ashes when, with the scores locked at 10-10, Australia broke away to snatch a 14-10 last minute victory at Old Trafford, Mal Meninga's obstruction of Carl Gibson proving decisive in allowing him to take Ricky Stuart's try-scoring pass.

By 1994 Hanley had graduated to Great Britain Coach, the First Test that year another memorable British victory as 12 man Great Britain overcame the sending off of Shaun Edwards early in the game to win 8-4. As usual the Lions went on to lose the next two games and the series.

Domestically Hanley captained Wigan in a remarkable era of one club success. He appeared at Wembley in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991, winning the Lance Todd Trophy in '89 and becoming the first man to lift the cup on three successive occasions in 1991. Wigan were also First Division Champions over five successive seasons, Premiership winners in 1986-7 and 1991-2, Lancashire Cup winners 1985-6, 1986-7, 1987-88 and 1988-9 and Regal Trophy winners 1988-9 and 1989-90. Hanley was also a World Club Championship winner against Manly in 1987. In 1991 Hanley moved from Wigan to Leeds but was unable to repeat his trophy winning exploits with the under achieving Loiners.

The first black man to captain his country in any major sport Ellery Hanley was a private man, proud, dignified and uncompromising. One of only a handful of Rugby League stars with an instantly recognisable national profile he also played Down Under with Western Suburbs and Balmain Tigers being disgracefully 'taken out' of a Grand Final when targeted as Balmain's 'danger man'. A brief flirtation with London Monarchs American football team was, perhaps, not to his credit. Despite this Ellery Hanley was a fine ambassador for his sport and is rightly honoured with an M.B.E.

'At his peak he was the greatest player I ever saw in 40 years of watching rugby', says Maurice Lindsay and I, for one, agree. A non-smoker and non-drinker Hanley was a fitness fanatic, a devastating and tireless tackler and a try-scorer supreme. Pace, power, swerve, side-step, hand off were all Hanley characteristics, but what marks him out above all others is mental toughness and the will to win. In my book Ellery is 'simply the best'.

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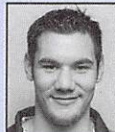
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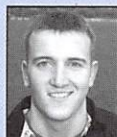
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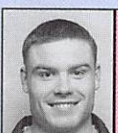
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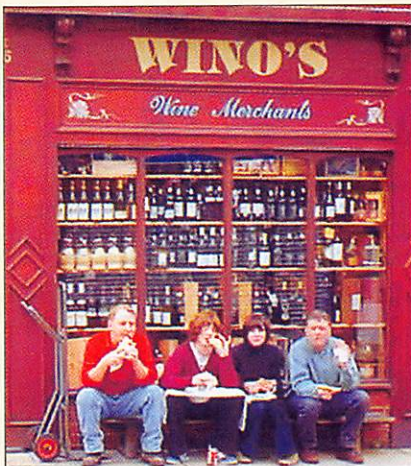
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Fixtures

Date	Opponent	Result	Att
DECEMBER			
2	SWINTON LIONS	H F - A P	
16	Hull K.R.	L 10-26	2032
30	Leigh	L 12-46	3388
JANUARY			
6	YORK	W 32-16	1130
13	Dewsbury Rams	L 6-30	1410
20	CHORLEY LYNX	W 34-2	1114
27	WEST HULL (C'cup Rd3)	W 38-4	1131
FEBRUARY			
3	Workington	L 20-28	991
10	ST HELENS (C'cup Rd4)	L 6-40	4089
17	GATESHEAD	W 54-2	931
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	L 22-26	1,526
14	Chorley Lynx	W 52-10	605
21	Whitehaven	L 17-20	1,010
28	HUDDERSFIELD	L 30-32	1,339
AUGUST			
4	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	
11	Batley Bulldogs	A	
18	Rochdale Hornets	A	
25	WORKINGTON	H	
SEPTEMBER			
8	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	

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Will COWELL
Danny GUEST
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Jason CLEGG



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Coach: Roy Sampson

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2 Bryn POWELL
3 Lee BARGATE
4 Paul SEAL
5 Alan WHITE
6 Gareth NAYLOR
7 Phil HASTY
8 Steve PRYCE
9 Dave MYCOE
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