

Leigh Centurions

V

Oldham

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David Alstead	1	Gavin Dodd
Michael Watts	2	Joe McNicholas
Dale Cardoza	3	Paul Anderson
Damian Munro	4	Ian Marsh
Eric Andrews	5	Chris Irwin
John Duffy	6	Gareth Barber
Lee Sanderson	7	Neil Roden
Sonny Nickle	8	Steve Molloy
Paul Rowley	9	John Hough
David Bradbury	10	Darren Shaw
Shaun Richardson	11	Chris Morley
Bryan Henare	12	Lee Doran
Adam Bristow	13	Phil Farrell
Rob Ball	14	Simon Svabic
John Hamilton	15	Martin McLoughlin
Phil Kendrick	16	Danny Guest
Pat Weisner	17	Will Cowell

Referee: Mr P Tabener  
 Touch Judges: Mr D Mallalieu & Mr P Taylor  
 4th Official: Mr P Bentham

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For all the latest information including:

- Match Details • Ticket Information • Club History •
- Player Details • Youth Development •



For all the latest match action



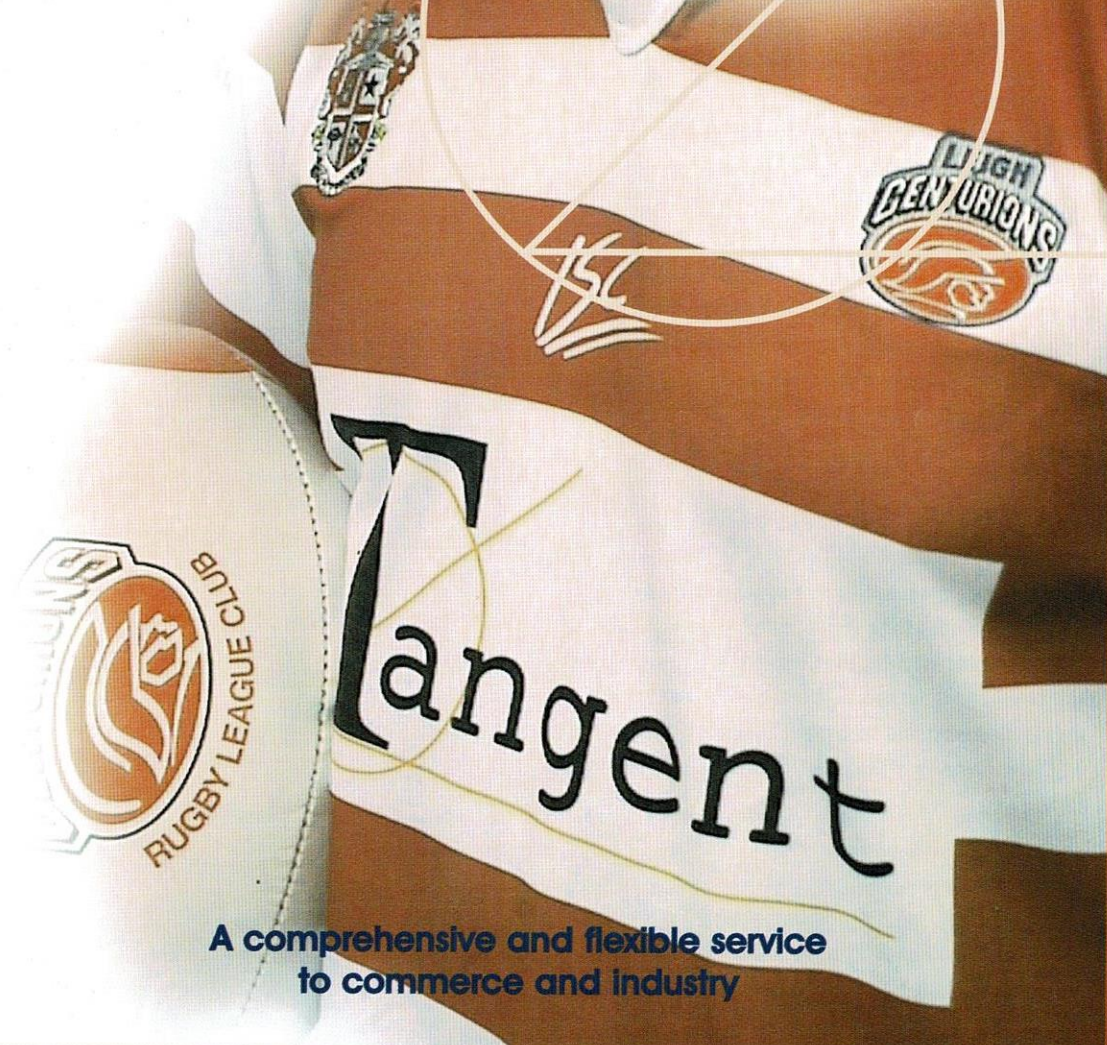
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May we kick off by introducing ourselves to you, the Consortium currently consists of Phil Coffey, Derek Beaumont, Steve Blakeley, Steve Grainey, Steve Pike, Tommy Coleman and Keith Freer.

Each member is totally committed to putting Leigh Centurions onto a sound financial footing and to provide the funds to present the town with a match winning team that is going to lift the interest in our Club to the heady days of 5,000 plus crowds. At this stage can we say that the response over Christmas to our take-over has been magnificent, season ticket and replica shirt sales etc have been excellent and we hope this will continue throughout the season.

The coaching and playing staff have our full support, Paul is bringing to the Club players he wants and we back his judgement to put an unbeatable outfit onto the Park. Lets all look forward to a great season, do keep checking our Web Site and remember any suggestions are more than welcome.

On a final note you may be aware we have recently incorporated the brand 'The Coliseum' to Hilton Park. This purely a marketing ploy to be expanded in the future and is in no way intended to be disrespectful to the late Jack Hilton. The official title is The Coliseum At Hilton Park and we still entertain our sponsors in the Hilton Suite. We will always remember and be in great debt to those great servants and founders of the club like Jack Hilton (God rest his soul).

## MATCH VOUCHER

#1 (v Oldham)

20/1/2003

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N.F.P League Champions 2001 • N.F.P Grand Final Runners-Up 2000, 2002 • Trans-Pennine Cup Winners 2001

**MATCH RECORDS** Goals: 15 by Mick Stacey v Doncaster 28/3/76  
Tries: 6 by Jack Wood v York 4/10/47 & Neil Turley v Workington 31/1/01 Points: 38 by John Woods v Ryedale York 12/1/92 • **WORLD RECORD** Tries in a season by a Full Back: 55 by Neil Turley 2000-01 • **SEASON RECORDS** Goals: 173 by Chris Johnson 1985-88 Tries: 55 by Neil Turley 2000-01 Points: 400 by Chris Johnson 1985-88 • **CAREER RECORDS** Goals: 1,043 by Jim Ledgard 1948-58 Tries: 189 by Mick Martyn 1954-67: Points: 2,492 by John Woods 1976-85, 1990-92 **RECORD APPEARANCES** 503 by Albert Worrall 1921-35, 1936-38 **BIGGEST WIN** 92-2 v Keighley 30/4/86 **HIGHEST ATTENDANCE** 31,224 v St Helens 14/3/53

### LEIGH CENTURIONS CLUB OFFICIALS

Hon. Life President: Mr T Sale  
Executive Directors: Mr P Coffey, Mr D Beaumont, Mr S Blakeley  
Directors: Mr S Blakeley, Mr K Freer, Mr S Grainey, Mr S Pike  
Company Secretary: Mr J Massey  
Head Coach & General Manager: Mr P Terzis  
Operations Manager: Mr M Callaghan

The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Leigh Centurions RLFC or the Directors

Sporting Club Leigh, The Coliseum at Hilton Park, Kirkhall Lane, Leigh, Lancashire WN7 1RH  
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We are proud installers to the following players:

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# Welcome to Oldham

This afternoon we welcome players, officials and supporters to the Colosseum at Hilton Park.

After taking the coaching reigns in the middle of last season Steve Molloy steadied his side and guided them into National League One. The good news continued over the close season with the club returning to play at Boundary Park after a year in exile at Ashton United's cosy Hurst Cross surroundings. Like many sides, the Roughyeds have recruited, bringing seven new faces into their squad.

After being released by the Centurions in October, Chris Morley, Paul Anderson, Simon Svabic and Chris Irwin all became Oldham players and it is somewhat ironic that the draw for the opening round of the Arriva Trains Cup pairs the two clubs, giving three of those players a great opportunity to show why they should still be here at the Colosseum.

The Roughyeds other new recruits include:

**Darren Shaw** - An experienced Australian forward who has played for Sheffield, London and Salford during his time in this country. He can play in the second row or at prop and featured in 15 and 9 games for Salford and London respectively last season.

**Martin McLoughlin** - Formerly of Wigan, 22 year old McLoughlin played 25 games last season for Barrow, scoring five tries. McLoughlin is a player who will mainly be utilised in the front row.

**Iain Marsh** - Another recruit from Barrow, Marsh appeared in 33 games for the Craven Park outfit last season, scoring 13 tries. Prior to his spell in Cumbria, Marsh played for Salford and St Helens and is a centre by trade.

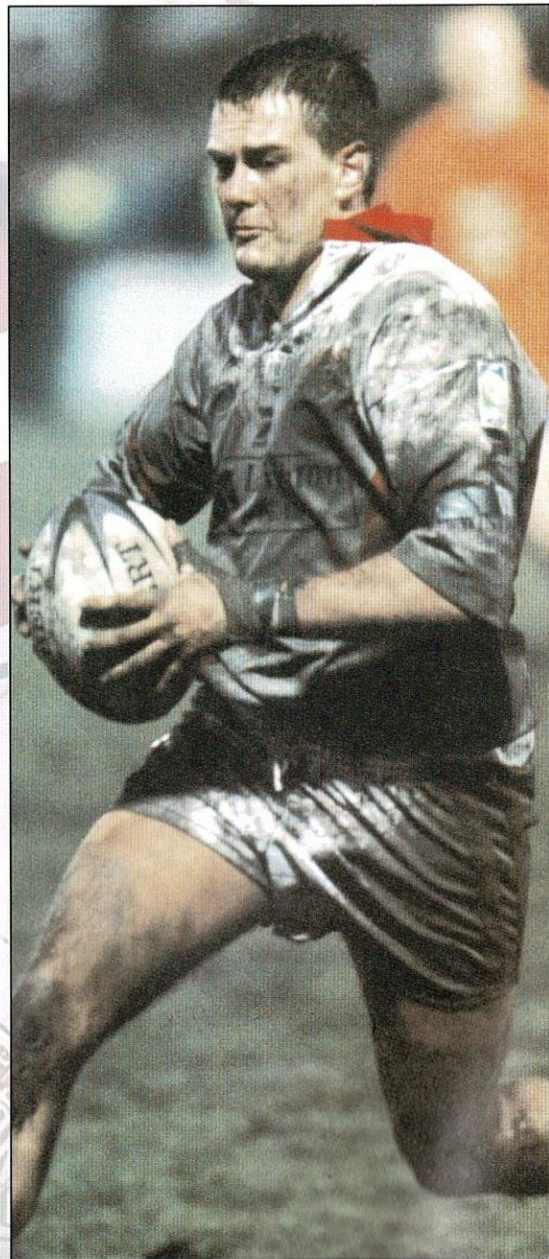
The players that have moved from Oldham include one of our signings in Bryan Henare, twin brothers Dave and Anthony Gibbons and last season's top try scorer Mark Sibson. Despite the loss of this firepower and consistency, the Roughyeds can still call upon Neil Roden, one of the top halfbacks in the competition and the highly promising Gareth Barber who totalled 18 tries, 81 goals and 233 points in all competitions last season.

Last season Oldham and Leigh met on two occasions, the first game here at Leigh saw the Centurions play some excellent rugby to secure a 46-12 victory. Neil Turley was the Leigh hero with a try hat-trick and nine goals.

A much closer game followed in July when new Roughyed Simon Svabic was the hero with a late try for Leigh. Oldham gave a

dogged display in which Bryan Henare, John Hough and Neil Roden were top performers in a 22-26 defeat.

If today's game is half as good as the last one between the sides we are all in for a good afternoon!



Roughyed Simon Svabic in action for Leigh last season

**Paul Anderson** - One of four players snapped up from Leigh Centurions. Originally a forward, Paul played for St. Helens and Sheffield Eagles before the then Hilton Park boss Ian Millward took him to Leigh - and converted him to centre. Big and strong, Paul has signed a one year deal with the Roughyeds.

**Gareth Barber** - 21 year old Oldham born half back or centre who was reared on rugby with his best pal, the Leeds and GB loose forward, Kevin Sinfield. When Sinfield signed for Leeds, Barber signed for Warrington, but returned home to Oldham for the start of the 2000-1 season. Played for the NFP under 21's at Widnes in the autumn of 2001. Became a regular last season and took on goal kicking responsibilities.

**Jason Clegg** - Former Bradford (Northern, not Bulls) forward who has had five good seasons with Oldham. Powerful on the break, he is a favourite with Oldham supporters and regularly picks up the Junior Roughyeds Player of the Year award. Has relished the competition for prop places since Steve Molloy became coach.

**Will Cowell** - A 22 year old who has played at Warrington. This Cumbrian utility back is equally at home at full-back, wing or centre. Played 18 Super League games for the Wolves after signing from Kells, the Whitehaven amateur club. Recommended to Oldham by former Wolves boss Daryl van de Velde, Will kick started his NFP career with the Roughyeds last season and promises much for the future.

**Gavin Dodd** - A local player. A wing or full-back, 21 year old Gavin has played for the NFP's under 21's. He made the full-back position his own towards the end of last season and will be eager to continue his development this season. Either at full-back or as a lively winger he knows where the try line is.

**Lee Doran** - Another young player in whom Oldham have a lot of confidence. A Wiganer, Les has worked his way through the Oldham Academy and Alliance sides and last season made the second row spot his own. A great prospect for the future and the Roughyeds are looking for a big season from Lee. Has previously shown up well in the NFP under 21 side against their Super League counterparts.

**Phil Farrell** - Younger brother of Wigan and GB ace Andy Farrell. In his first three seasons at the club has a remarkable record of consistency. Unfortunately had a couple of injuries last season that sidelined him for some time. Now back to full fitness he is raring to go for the new season. Played for the NFP under 21 side against their Super League counterparts in 2001.

# Pen Pictures

**John Hough** - The first player ever to sign for his hometown club when they were re-formed way back in 1997. Before the start of the 2000 season, 'Scruff' had played 87 of the clubs 90 matches and scored 62 tries, a phenomenal record for a hooker. He didn't enjoy one of his better seasons in 2001, but a change of job, and less travelling, saw him back to his best in 2002. The first player again this season to sign a new two year contract.

**Ian Marsh** - A big lad who was at Barrow last season, Ian hails from St. Helens. He spent several seasons with Salford City Reds before moving North to Craven Park where last season he forged a regular centre partnership with Kiwi Cliff Beverley. The Roughyeds have put a good deal of emphasis in their new signings on strength and physique. Marsh fits the bill more than admirably.

**Joe McNicholas** - One of the original 1997 Roughyeds, wingman Joe made a first team spot his own mid way through the 2000/1 season and went on to score 8 tries in 14 consecutive appearances. Fast off the mark, good on his feet and always gives 110%.

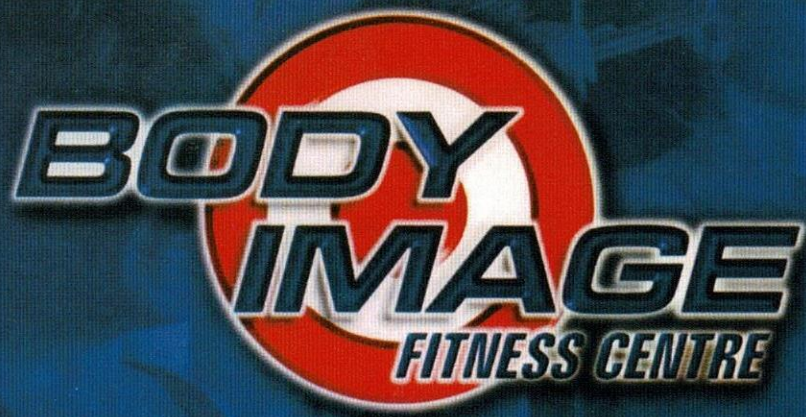
**Steve Molloy** - Local lad Steve had been playing for Batley on a short-term contract after leaving Huddersfield. A strong prop forward and ex captain of England, Steve's other previous clubs are Featherstone and Sheffield. After accepting the role of player-coach when John Harbin left, Steve guided the Roughyeds to safety to ensure National League One rugby this season. Has recently signed a new contract to stay on as player coach.

**Chris Morley** - Elder brother of Adrian, the Sydney City Roosters and GB pack star. Like Anderson, Chris has also played previously for St. Helens, Sheffield and Leigh as well as Warrington. A tough and experienced back row forward; he has also played several times for Wales. Is relishing the challenge of a new club with Super League ambitions.

**Neil Roden** - A clever half-back who joined Oldham from Wigan, with Phil Farrell. Has only missed a couple of games since. Can play at stand off or scrum half and was a key figure in the Roughyeds' run through to the NFP Grand Final a couple of seasons ago. He is sure to be a regular performer in the long and testing 2003 campaign.

**Darren Shaw** - One of the most experienced forwards in the English game, Aussie born Darren, has played most of his rugby league in this country - at London Broncos, Sheffield, Castleford and Salford. He played second-row for the Eagles of Steel City when they beat Wigan 17-8 at Wembley in one of the Challenge Cup's biggest upsets in 1998.





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## Behind The Sticks with Mike Hulme

NEWS of the RFL's plans to consider fast-tracking a leading French team into Super League as early as next season should be met with alarm, not only here at Hilton Park, but at all other National League clubs who aspire to join the game's elite division.

A heavyweight RFL delegation, including Richard Lewis and David Waite, spent last weekend in the south of France (not bad work if you can get it) meeting the Super League hopefuls Toulouse, UTC and Villeneuve.

By all accounts the British delegation returned very impressed with the business plans presented by the French club and although they admitted there were three diverse proposals, the Super League clubs are due to chew over the idea this week.

But hang on a minute. Is this French 'revolution' something we should be rushing towards? I think not.

What message does this send out to clubs outside Super League who aspire to win promotion to the highest level. If a French club is re-admitted to Super League for 2004, does it mean that this year's National League Division One Grand Final will be denied the right to move up? The response from HQ when asked that question has been deafening.

Before the RFL rushes off lemming-like to give Super League a 'European' element National League

Clubs should be consulted and have an input into any decision-making. In theory they are all potential Super League clubs and deserve to have their voices heard.

Is the RFL a democracy or dictatorship. We'll soon find out.

We rugby journalists are supposed to be objective. But when it comes to beating the Aussies (at anything) you can stuff your objectivity.

You can keep your tied series against the Kiwis in the autumn, the most significant results for years came later when Great Britain's Academy side turned the previously invincible Australian Schoolboys over not once, but twice.

The 2-0 series win Britain's first victories in over 30 years of trying shows that perhaps we are closing the gap at junior level.

We should be shouting out from the roof-tops after these results. Just look at the long list of players who have tried and failed to beat the Aussies at this level and gone on to have long international careers. That must make this bunch of players particularly special and I, for one, can't wait to see their careers blossom.

**Congratulations to  
John Andrews of Atherton, 87 on Saturday  
He has watched Leigh for 80 years**

## Commercially Speaking with Mike Callaghan

Here we are at the start of what promises to be a great season for the Centurions in the new era of 'Sporting Club Leigh'. A brand new kit manufactured by Australian sports company ISC has created a lot of interest. We have secured a shirt sponsorship deal with local company Tangent Ltd based on Twist Lane.

Firstly, have you ever wondered what it is like to travel on the team coach? Well if you have the Centurions have devised a package giving you the chance to travel with the team to away games. The package includes:

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## Paul's Point

Welcome back to Hilton Park for the new season.

What a dramatic few weeks its been off the field. But now the consortium has taken control at Hilton Park I can only see this great club going from strength to strength. We have all started to work together and at the moment their is a great buzz of excitement both on and off the field.

Off the pitch I'm really enjoying the role of general manager, it's something I did a little of when I first arrived and it's something I'm keen to continue. With a supportive board of directors, we can now continue to lay the foundations for a successful future for this club. Of course while all the takeover talk was going on, the coaching staff and the players had to try and get on with pre-season preparation as well as we could. We put the boardroom problems out of our minds and have prepared really well.

A lot of players who were with us last season have moved on - that's how it is in this game, nothing stays the same. We wish every single one of them all the best but I've got to say I'm more than happy with the quality of player

we've managed to recruit. Players like Sonny Nickle, Sean Richardson, Pat Weisner and Bryan Henare will be key figures for us this season but I'm expecting big things from every player as we push hard again for the Grand Final and Super League.

I've no doubt at all that this season is going to be tougher than any of the others. There are no 'soft' games in our division any more. Each match will pose it's own challenge. That's how it should be. The players respond better when faced with better quality opposition.

Although the league programme doesn't start until Easter, the Arriva Trains National Cup looks a better competition than last year's Buddies Cup. Just a look at the teams in our group indicates that it's going to be very competitive.

Enjoy today's game and don't forget to join me and the players in the Mick Martyn Bar later for the after-match awards. See you there.

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## 2003 Season Stats

www.leighrl.co.uk

### 2003 Leigh Centurions Fixtures

Date	Fixture		Kick Off	Competition
19th Jan	Oldham	Home	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
25th Jan	Locomotiv Moscow	Home	7.30pm	TXU Energi Challenge Cup
2nd Feb	Swinton	Away	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
9th Feb	4th Rd		3.00pm	TXU Energi Challenge Cup
16th Feb	Salford	Home	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
23rd Feb	Chorley	Home	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
2nd March	5th Rd		3.00pm	TXU Energi Challenge Cup
9th March	Rochdale	Away	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
16th March	Oldham	Away	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
23rd March	Swinton	Home	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
30th March	Salford	Away	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
6th April	Chorley	Away	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
13th April	Rochdale	Home	3.00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
18th April	Hull KR	Away	6.00pm	National League One
21st April	Whitehaven	Home	3.00pm	National League One
4th May	Batley	Away	3.00pm	National League One
11th May	Featherstone	Home	3.00pm	National League One
18th May	Quarter Final	TBA	3.00pm	National League Cup
25th May	Oldham	Away	3.00pm	National League One
1st June	Doncaster	Home	3.00pm	National League One
8th June	Semi Final	TBA	3.00pm	National League Cup
15th June	Dewsbury	Away	3.00pm	National League One
22nd June	Salford	Home	3.00pm	National League One
29th June	Hull KR	Home	3.00pm	National League One
6th July	Final	TBA	3.00pm	National League Cup
13th July	Rochdale	Away	3.00pm	National League One
20th July	Whitehaven	Away	3.00pm	National League One
27th July	Batley	Home	3.00pm	National League One
3rd August	Featherstone	Away	3.00pm	National League One
10th August	Oldham	Home	3.00pm	National League One
17th August	Doncaster	Away	3.00pm	National League One
24th August	Dewsbury	Home	3.00pm	National League One
31st August	Salford	Away	3.00pm	National League One
7th September	Rochdale	Home	3.00pm	National League One
"14th,21st & 28th Sept"	Play Offs	TBA	3.00pm	National League One
5th Oct	Grand Final	TBA	TBA	National League One

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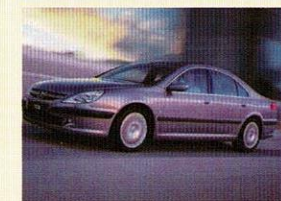
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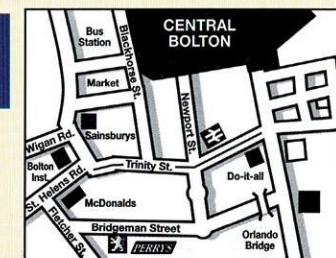


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## Onside Offside with Dave Parkinson

Lots of uncertainty, board-room changes, administration, new kit, released, retained and new players - it can only be a close season at Leigh Centurions!

I wonder if anyone has thought of making a soap opera based on a rugby league club, forget Dream Team, if it's drama you are after, tune into Glebe Street enders! In all seriousness, like many Leigh fans, I thought it was a great Christmas after the announcement that the consortium has taken over the running of the club. Weeks prior when the Leigh Reporter screamed "Oh no, not again" from the front cover, I had that natural sinking feeling before reality and optimism kicked in again.

The mood at the club has changed and in my opinion for the better. With Mike Callaghan, Paul Terzis and the Directors working hard behind the scenes we look set for what will be a challenging, yet enjoyable season.

This new feel good factor is sweeping over the Internet and I think it's great that we now have a board in place that is willing to answer fans questions in such an open way - long may it continue!

I'd like to welcome all our new players to the club and it's great that we can also welcome back Alan Hadcroft and Michael Watts.

I am delighted that the season is back, although I've really enjoyed watching our local amateur sides Leigh East and Leigh Miners Rangers. One of the best games I've seen in ages took place at Grasmere Street a few weeks ago when Halifax side Siddal, riding high in the conference came up against Leigh East.

Heading into the final five minutes, Siddal held a commanding 10-point lead but two tries from John Woods junior and a towering conversion from the touchline by new Chorley recruit Dave Radley saw East's clinch a very entertaining game.

New seasons always signal renewed optimism and our visitors Oldham have certainly signed some good players during the close season. I wonder if Simon Svabic, Chris Irwin and Paul Anderson expected to return to Leigh so soon?

The new structure of the National League means that games will be competitive week in, week out and certainly our Arriva Trains Cup group should help to prepare us for that.

Along with today's visitors, Rochdale and Salford are also in our group, which means that by the time we trek over to Hull KR for our league opener we'll already have a good idea how we will fare against true competition.

Finally, the board has already gone on record saying they are budgeting for a 3,000-crowd average. Now is the time for us all to get behind the club and the town and make it a reality.

Yours in sport,  
Dave Parkinson - <http://www.leighrl.co.uk>

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### Leigh Centurions Players 2003

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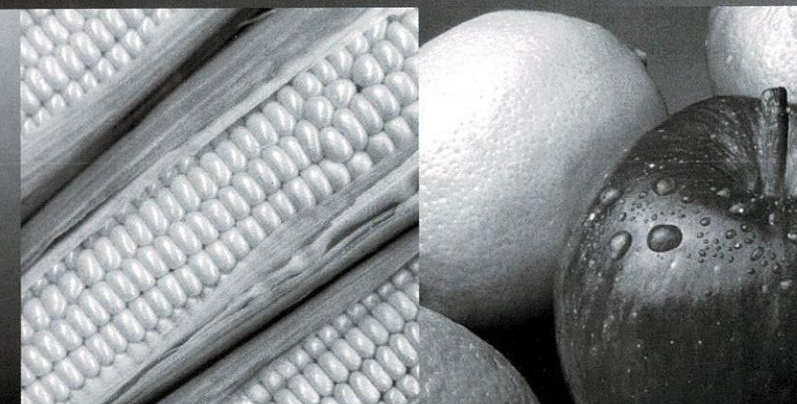


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What can you do? **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to show that our supporters back the proposed development of the new state of the art 10,000 all seater stadium providing superb viewing, corporate facilities and playing conditions, complimented with new education facilities, new employment and commercial opportunities for everybody in Leigh.

Lets be visionary and put the town Leigh back in the spot light.

To show your support for the 'Leigh Sports Village' send your e-mails to [commercialsales@leighsl.co.uk](mailto:commercialsales@leighsl.co.uk) or send a letter to 'I support L.S.V', Leigh Centurions, The Coliseum, Kirkhall Lane, Leigh WN7 1RN.



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## From The Terraces

### Mike Travers reflects on Leigh Rugby, the sporting love of his life.

I was five years old when my father took me to my first match at Hilton Park, from that moment I have been hooked to a team that has frankly let me down more often than I care to remember.

Of course I have been privileged to share in the wonderful victory against Leeds at Wembley, to date the greatest sporting spectacle of my life and the wonderful league Championship in 1982, but oh the let downs, why did we not go into Super League two years ago when we swept every team in the League away. We did not even make the Grand Final. Last season the euphoria of the Final, getting up every morning the week previously going to work listening to the whole town talking about the lads. "Are they going to do it on Saturday? Who will play? Will Goulding turn it on? Oh the anticipation.

Setting off from the house with the whole family two hours early, getting to the pub and seeing familiar faces dressed in Roman Centurion outfits, rattles, horns, drums a melee of colour, excitement. The knowledge that our team is competing for one of the greatest prizes in Rugby League. The right to play with the big boys in Super League.

The walk to the Stadium settling into our seats and drinking in the atmosphere, looking for Parky and waving to a man in a pig costume, am I going mad. So nervous I can hardly swallow, dry mouth, butterflies as big as bats. The teams are walking out I am singing Leigh Oh Leigh Oh Leigh as loud as possible this is the moment we have waited all Season for kicking off in the Grand Final (Division 1 style). After 20 minutes I am in shock, Huddersfield the odds on favourites are being made to look ordinary we are in front and looking confident, but rugby is a game of two halves and superior physical size and fitness told

at the end and once again Leigh were the bridesmaids.

Now, I know it is better to have played and lost than never to have played at all but I assure it is a bloody sight better to have played and won.

However, it is now the start of the Season 2003 and this is our year we are going to top the League have a great cup run beating at least one Super League team and we are going to win the Final and take our rightful place in Super League 2004, nothing less will do, and whatsmore if they do not do it this Season I am going to go home have a good moan and be back on the terraces this time next year.

Good Luck Leigh we all deserve it!!

Putting my business man head on my Company Collins and Darwell Limited have suffered twice with poor management taking the club into administration. I must say after seeing the current management team in operation for only a matter of weeks I feel more confident than ever before our beloved Club is going to make it on and off the field.

Once again Good Luck to everyone concerned!!



## Leigh Past Players Association

May we welcome the new season with an undertaking to assist and support the new Board of Directors, and look forward to a very successful period with them.

In each programme, we will endeavour to give our supporters as much information as possible about our activities throughout the season.

Our first organised event will be a Sportsmans Dinner for David Ingram, on Friday 28th February 2003 in the Mick Martyn Lounge for his services to the club over the last ten years.

The guest speaker will be Kevin Ashcroft, the comedian will be Eddie Archer, and the MC will be Allan Rowley.

Tickets for this event will be £20.

The second event will be a Sportsmans Dinner for Kenny Green, who has a serious illness.

This will be held on Friday 14th March 2003 also in the Mick Martyn Lounge at The Coliseum, with guest speakers Andy

Gregory, Dave Chisnall and Kevin Ashcroft. The comedian will be Charlie Hale and the MC Norman Turley.

Tickets are priced at £25 inclusive of draws.

Enquiries for tickets for both events can be made to the Secretary, Brian Fallon, 4 Landedmans, Westhoughton, Nr Bolton, BL5 2QB, or by telephone on 01942 810296, or from any committee member.

In each programme it is our intention to provide a Competition Corner.

This Competition Corner No.1 picture is from yesteryear, with questions to be answered. The correct answers will be published in the next programme.

We hope all our supporters enjoy today's fixture with Oldham, and proceed to have a successful season.

## Competition Corner 1



**Question 1:** Name all of the players

**Question 2:** What was the occasion?





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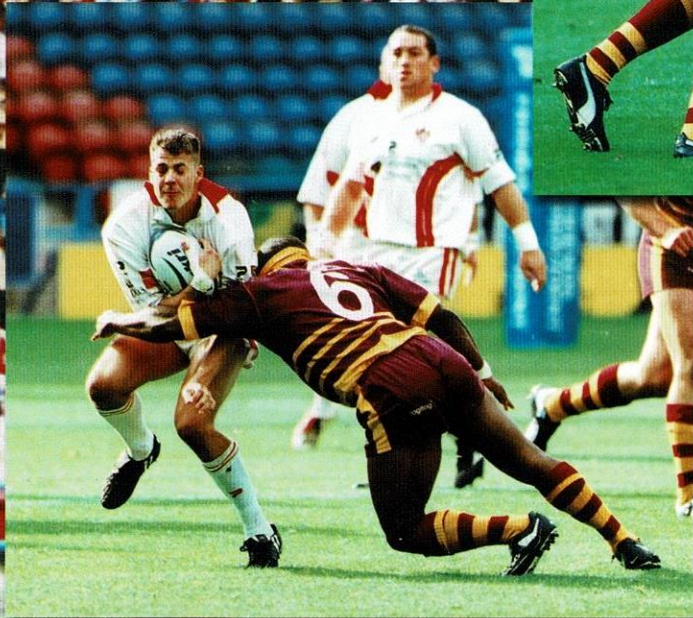


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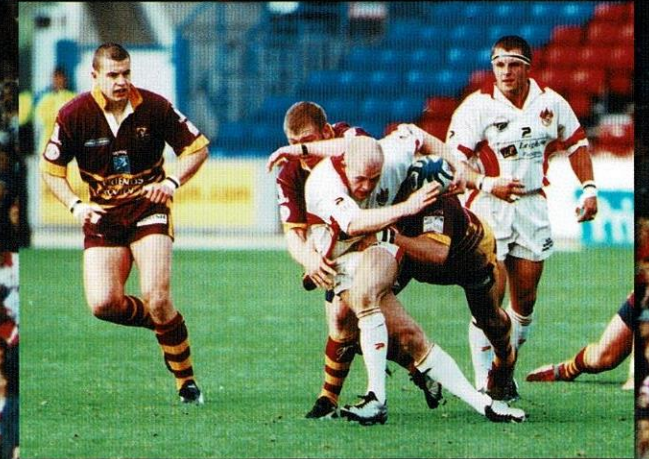
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Action from last season against Huddersfield who claimed the Super League place ahead of the Centurions





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