



# TEAMS

## OLDHAM LEIGH C.



Coach: Steve MOLLOY    Coach: Paul TERZIS

- |                   |    |                 |
|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| Gavin DODD        | 1  | Neil TURLEY     |
| Chris IRWIN       | 2  | Leroy RIVETT    |
| Paul ANDERSON     | 3  | Damian MUNRO    |
| Iain MARSH        | 4  | Dale CARDOZA    |
| Chris CAMPBELL    | 5  | Alan HADCORFT   |
| Simon SVABIC      | 6  | Willie SWANN    |
| Keith BRENNAN     | 7  | John DUFFY      |
| Steve MOLLOY      | 8  | Sonny NICKLE    |
| Anthony MURRAY    | 9  | Paul ROWLEY     |
| Darren SHAW       | 10 | David BRADBURY  |
| Lee DORAN         | 11 | Sean RICHARDSON |
| Chris MORLEY      | 12 | Bryan HENARE    |
| John HOUGH        | 13 | Adam BRISTOW    |
| Gareth BARBER     | 14 | Phil KENDRICK   |
| Martin McLOUGHLIN | 15 | Michael WATTS   |
| Ryan STAZICKER    | 16 | Lee SANDERSON   |
| Dane MORGAN       | 17 | Rob BALL        |

### TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: R. LAUGHTON  
R. HICKS 4th

K. LEYLAND  
S. M. ELLABY

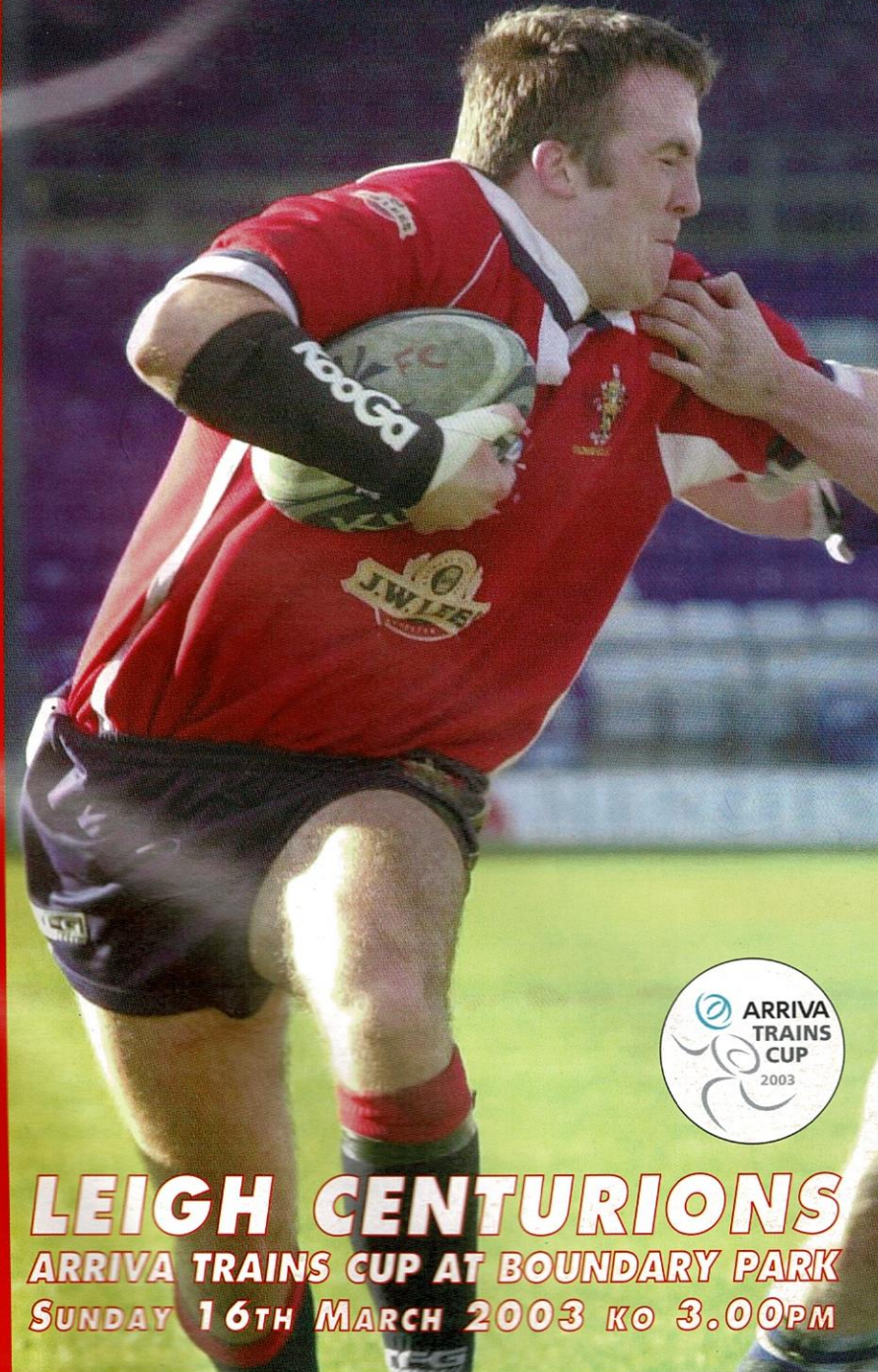


# OLDHAM RLFC

Official  
Matchday  
Magazine

£2.00

# The Roughyeds



## LEIGH CENTURIONS

ARRIVA TRAINS CUP AT BOUNDARY PARK  
SUNDAY 16TH MARCH 2003 KO 3.00PM

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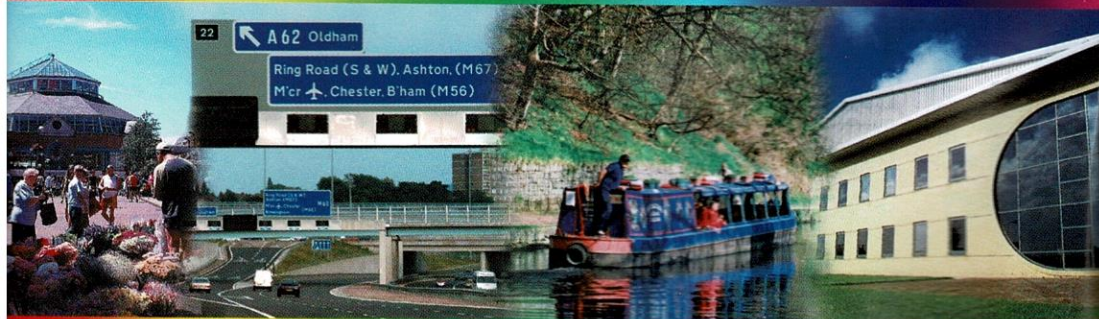
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## The Roughyeds

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Derek Turner 1955-59

Bob Irving 1964-74

Martin Murphy 1966-82

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

# IN THE HOT SEAT

## Christopher Hamilton

WELL, last Sunday was certainly a shock to the system and nobody was more disappointed than me.

Everybody at the club knows that the second half performance was just not good enough and the players are professional enough to know that also.

Steve Molloy, Andy Proctor, Shaun Gartland and all the players have worked hard this week in order to prepare for what will again be a tough test against Leigh, who top our group in the Arriva Trains Cup. In some ways a game like this is just what the players need and I, for one, feel confident that they will respond.

We at Oldham are certainly used to challenges and we will meet this one in the usual, determined manner.

The other aspect of last Sunday's game which certainly went well was the club's move to allow Under 16's in for free. 553 Juniors took up this offer in the Rochdale Road end and we were delighted with this take-up.

The idea is obviously to 'convert' (sorry!) these into regular supporters and to this end, after the result last week, we have again, together with the Oldham Chronicle, allowed Juniors in free of charge. Hopefully to see an Oldham win.

The news surrounding Gateshead this week doesn't look good and it is hard to see them lasting beyond the end of the season which current Chairman, Mike Jeffels, has agreed to underwrite. Crowds at the Thunderdome are less than 300 and if you look at the attendances outside of Super League last week our crowd of 2835 was nearly double the nearest of 1553 and there were five games played with three figure crowds. If ever you needed a reminder of how hard making ends meet at a rugby league club is, that is surely it.

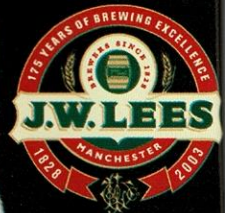
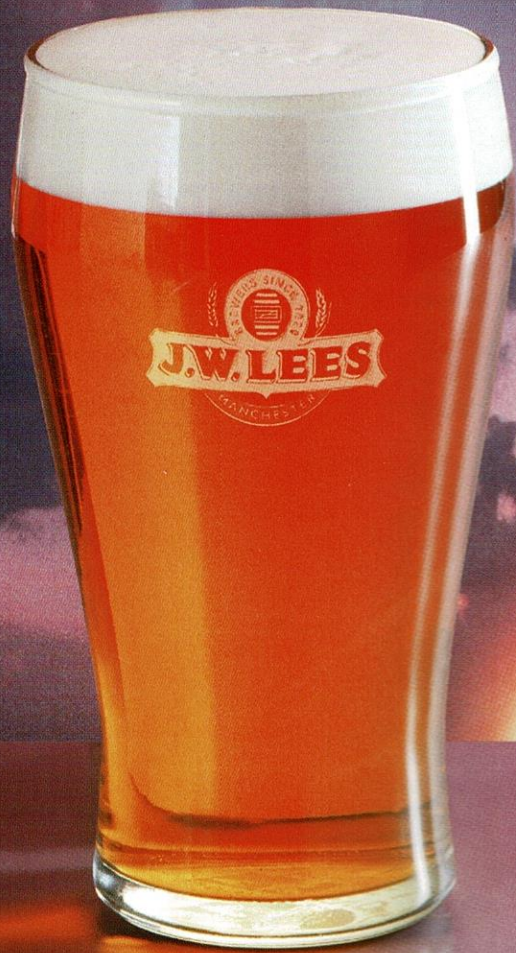
Chris

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

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**GOOD LUCK  
ROUGHYEDS  
FROM YOUR MATE  
JOHN WILLIE**

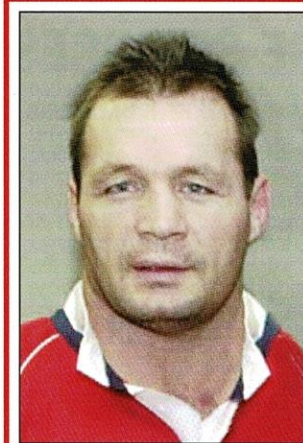


**JOHN WILLIE  
TO HIS MATES.**

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## *Molloy's Message*



GREAT to see so many spectators here last week, unfortunately the performance left a lot to be desired. I feel that if we had stayed in the dressing room at half time we couldn't have conceded as many points as we did in the second half. And all that after getting our way back into the game after conceding an early try. In last week's "Coaches Comment" I went on record as saying this was a benchmark for us to see how far off the mark we were - if any. Well in the second half we were far off the mark.

Today I'm looking for a significant improvement and we will need it against a Leigh side who will be contesting for the major honours in this division. On the injury front we are hoping to have Neil Roden back today and hopefully Jon Goddard with Paul Norton, hopefully, only a week away. This should certainly help to bolster the squad after sustaining a few injuries last week, notably Phil Farrell, whom it looks like will be out for a month with a nasty hand injury. Phil will be sadly missed as a leader and probably one of our most consistent performers. I'm now hoping one of the other players will see himself able to take this mantle over.

Obviously the Leigh Oldham connection will make today even more interesting. We all know of the players who have played for both clubs and also Oldham born Damian Munro who had such a strong game against us at the Coliseum.

Enjoy the game,

Steve

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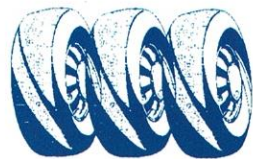
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# IN TOWN Today - Leigh



**Neil Turley** - Neil is already a club legend at Leigh where his scoring exploits in two seasons have been nothing short of remarkable. After a dream debut season in the first team that saw Lancashire and Great Britain Under 21 honours follow the smashing of the club tries in a season record, Turley set a new points in a season mark last term with an impressive tally of 404. Despite being heavily marked Turley still finished the season with 29 tries.

**Leroy Rivett** - Leroy joined the Centurions in mid January on a week-to-week contract and is another potentially exciting signing for the club. A player with speed to burn, given the opportunity Leroy can finish any opportunity. In the last Challenge Cup Final to be staged at Wembley Rivett scored an amazing four tries that earned him the Lance Todd Trophy as Man of the Match.

**Damian Munro** - Outstanding footwork and pace are two ingredients that made Damian one to watch during his days at Widnes. After starting his career at Halifax, 26 year old Munro moved to the Halton Stadium where he found success and real try scoring form as a fullback or winger.

**Dale Cardoza** - Dale is an explosive threequarter who joined the Centurions charge to the grand Final last year. Cardoza has already got a list of clubs behind him. After graduating from the Academy scene at Sheffield the former East Leeds junior went on to represent Huddersfield after their merger with the Eagles, Warrington, Chorley, Doncaster and now Leigh.

**Alan Hadcroft** - Alan Hadcroft is back for a third spell at the club following a year in Australia that saw him play in the local Illawarra competition against the likes of former international Paul McGregor, Jeff Hardy and Craig Simon.

**Willie Swann** - A Samoan International halfback, Willie played in 2 World Cups (1995 & 2000) and brings a wealth of experience to the side after spells with Warrington, Rochdale and Hunslet. Swann is a very punishing player one on one in attack and gives his all in every game, a fact widely acknowledged by the Leigh fans. Despite being recognised more as a halfback, Swann is also at home at stand off and loose forward.

**John Duffy** - John proved last season that the old saying 'never go back' is totally unfounded. The halfback was released by the Centurions at the end of their 2001 romp to the Minor Premiership and promptly joined Chorley. By April 2002 however Duffy was unsettled at Victory park and rejoined Leigh. He quickly proved an inspired signing with a string of good performances that cemented his place in the squad.

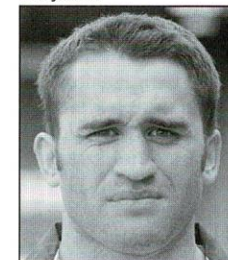
**Sonny Nickle** - Former Great Britain International Sonny Nickle was the Centurions biggest signing of

the close season after his high profile release by Super League champions St Helens. Described by Paul Terzis as the complete player in his position, Sonny is expected to play mainly in the front row, but his mobility and pace could still be utilised in other areas.

**Paul Rowley** - After returning from a seven year absence to play for the club, Paul Rowley was in great form last year, earning a spot in the team of the year. A regular in first team rugby since he was 17, Paul has also played for Halifax and Huddersfield. He has a wealth of top-level experience and represented England in the 2000 World Cup.

**Dave Bradbury** - Dave Bradbury has perhaps been one of Paul Terzis biggest success stories. After playing most of his career in the back row - even representing Great Britain in that position, Leigh signed Dave from Huddersfield in November 2000 and he was switched to prop. Never afraid of being where the action is, former Oldham and Salford forward Bradbury is a crowd favourite at Leigh. and the Irish International is set to make the hard yards again this season and will take on further responsibility as club captain.

**Sean Richardson** - After three times representing teams that have claimed Grand Final glory, Sean Richardson joined Paul Turzis Coliseum revolution during the close season. The 29 year old has previously played for Dewsbury, Wakefield, Widnes, Castleford and St Helens, yet is best remembered for his fiery performances against the Centurions over the years.



Bryan Henare

**Bryan Henare** - Former Auckland Warrior second row Bryan Henare is the Centurions quota player this season. After originally coming to this country to play for St. Helens where he played for a season and a half, Henare moved to Oldham where he featured in 45 games over two seasons.

Always an impressive performer against the Centurions in the past, it is hoped he will show such form for the club in 2003.

**Adam Bristow** - One of the best ever overseas signings for the Centurions, experienced loose forward Bristow is perhaps the most consistent player on the club books. He joined the Leigh side from the now merged Western Suburbs club in November 1999 and has been virtually ever present in the Leigh pack since, notching up over one hundred games.

# A Potted History of . . . . . Leigh . . . . . by Don Yates

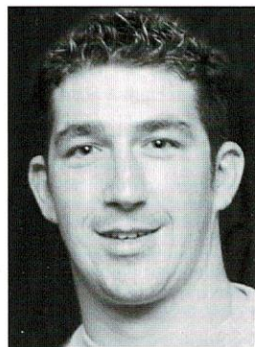
THE VISIT of Leigh to Boundary Park today has been eagerly awaited by several members of the Roughyeds squad who were born and bred in that hotbed of rugby league. The professional Leigh club was founded in 1878 and they were one of the twenty-two clubs who broke away from the Rugby Football Union in 1895 to set up what is now the Rugby Football League.

Since then Leigh have twice been crowned League Champions. The first time was during the 1905-06 season, a campaign that began with a couple of defeats in which Leigh failed to score. Thereafter it was the Leigh defence which dominated, their opponents failing to score on no fewer than 13 occasions. Leigh won 3-0 at Watersheddings before the Roughyeds lost 7-5 at Mather Lane. When Leigh won the First Division Championship in 1981-82 they did not meet Oldham who spent that campaign in Division Two.

Leigh have also won the Challenge Cup on a couple of occasions, in 1921 and 1971. In winning the Cup in 1921, Leigh twice drew at home, against York and Warrington, before pulling off victories in the replays. Once again their defence played a huge part in their success with only Warrington managing to score against them. Halifax were beaten 13-0 in the final. Leigh were underdogs in that 1921 final and they were again 50 years later when they met Leeds at Wembley. Under the leadership of Alex Murphy, Leigh pulled off a sensational 24-7 win with Syd Hynes, the Leeds skipper, becoming the first player to be sent off in a Wembley final.

Other cup successes enjoyed by Leigh have been Lancashire Cup victories in 1952, 1955, 1970 and 1981 and Floodlit Trophy successes in 1969 and 1972. That 1972 win came after they had defeated Oldham 10-8 in the semi-final. In addition to those cup successes, Leigh have been crowned Second Division Champions on three occasions, 1978, 1986 and 1989.

Although this is the first Arriva Trains League Cup competition, a similar tournament has been run alongside the Northern Ford Premiership during the past three seasons. Leigh contested the final of the first two of those competitions, having to



Paul Anderson

play away from home in both finals. The first, in April 2000, was played in pouring rain but the Dewsbury pitch stood up well to the dreadful conditions. Leigh took an early lead with a Paul Winfield penalty but Dewsbury made good use of their ground

advantage and eventually won 10-8. Current Oldham hooker Anthony Murray scored a late try for Leigh converted by Paul Wingfield. Paul Anderson also played in that final as did two former Oldham players, Tim Street and Paul Norman.

The following season Leigh had no trouble in lifting the trophy. They won 36-0 at Keighley in the final. Centre Paul Anderson crossed for a couple of tries and stand-off Simon Svabic landed four goals. Also included in the Leigh line-up at Lawkholme Lane were former Oldham favourites Tim Street and David Bradbury. A couple of former Oldham juniors lined up for Keighley that night, Paul Ashton and David Best whilst a member of the Keighley coaching staff at that time was Steve Deakin, now in Super League with Huddersfield.

It was Huddersfield who won this competition last season but their promotion rules them out this time. Salford and Leigh are the two favourites so today's match is sure to be tough as well as being of vital importance to both clubs.

# From The Pen Of

. . . . .Michael Turner



## Of Roughyeds And Leigh

TODAY we at Oldham RLFC welcome the players, officials and supporters of the Leigh club. Fellow founder members of the Northern Union, there has been intense rivalry between the two teams ever since that first breakaway season of 1895 when Oldham travelled to Leigh on November 9th 1895 to return on the wrong end of a six nil scoreline. However, the following April the Roughyeds took the honours with a 23 - 4 victory at Watersheddings.

In those early days of the game the most major occasion to involve the two clubs was the 1899 Challenge Cup semi final. The match was played at Broughton on April 16th where Oldham prevailed by sixteen points to two before going on to beat Hunslet in the final. On October 10th 1908, 22,000 spectators watched the league match between the two clubs at Watersheddings. Once again the score

ended 16 - 2 in the Roughyeds favour. On December 23rd 1911 Oldham defeated Leigh by twenty points to nil. This being the first of a remarkable run of five home games in just eight days; December 25th HULL K.R. - December 26th BRADFORD N. - December 30th ST HELENS and January 1st COVENTRY were all defeated at fortress Watersheddings.

The biggest crowd to watch the two clubs was at the 1955 Challenge Cup 2nd Round tie at Hilton Park when Leigh triumphed by five points to three in front of 25,000 spectators. On two occasions in the 1950s Leigh attracted an attendance in excess of 19,000 to Watersheddings; November 8th 1952 and April 16th 1955. The latter ended in a draw (fifteen points each) with the dropped league point effectively costing Oldham the league leaders trophy which thus went to Warrington.

Since the Oldham club reformed the teams have met twice in the end of season play-off matches. On July 23rd 2000, Leigh won eighteen points to ten in the major semi final and a year later Oldham gained a somewhat surprise 15 - 14 victory in the preliminary semi final, both matches played at Hilton Park.



Referee George Wilson and Oldham's Cumbrian forward Alf Mumberson look on as one of his team-mates falls to a double Leigh tackle - action from the match at Hilton Park on Sep 29th 1962. Result: Leigh 24 Oldham 17.

I'VE GOT to admit heads were down for about an hour after the match last Sunday. All the work that had gone into trying to get a decent crowd to the Salford match and our link up with The Revolution and The Oldham Evening Chronicle to get Oldham youngsters to the game appeared to have born fruit and it certainly was a great sight to see so many in the Rochdale Road end of the ground. And then that second half where the floodgates opened and we suffered our highest ever home defeat. The heads didn't stay down for long however and the spirit in the camp was probably best highlighted by Phil Farrell, the club captain who returned from hospital with a broken finger just as the match was finishing. Although obviously surprised at the extent of the defeat immediately told everyone it was a long, long season and we would be there or thereabouts at the end of it.

I am sure the Monday night training session at Nautilus was positive and Steve and the players will have had a post mortem examination of the video (nasty??) and will be determined to put things right immediately this weekend against Leigh.

We certainly hope that the youngsters who came for the first time last Sunday weren't put off by our poor performance and to try and get them into the habit of Sundays at Boundary Park we have decided to repeat the experiment again this week. We are again very grateful to The Oldham Evening Chronicle for the help they are giving us in promoting this.

Our relationship with the The Revolution is also flourishing and at half time today one of you will be going home with a brand new bed thanks to a promotion involving us, The Revolution and Manns. It's obviously quite a size, as those of you who saw the Friday before lasts Chron front page can testify. It held two of our biggest

players, Dane Morgan and Steve Molloy and there was still room for two of The Revolution staff. Can I thank all concerned for their support? It really is appreciated.

On the broader front it really is pleasing to see that Super League crowds are breaking all previous records. This was certainly helped by The Bulls return to Odsal, but at the last count there were over 62,000 at Super League games and over 12,000 at National Cup games. On all fronts too it would appear that the quality of matches and their competitiveness is improving. It's a much more difficult job this year to predict the 3 divisions top sides, although on last weeks performance I have heard a few people say they feel Salford appear even stronger than Huddersfield last year. But as Phil Farrell so rightly said, "It's a long, long season."

On the negative front it's sad, so early in the season to see another club struggling to survive. The only club in the North East, Gateshead Thunder, have been rocked by the news that Chairman and owner Mike Jeffels will be leaving the club at the end of the season. This news was compounded by the news that all seven Aussies brought over for this season will depart in the next two weeks with Aussie coach Bill Ryan.

Chairman Jeffels, Head of Kicks Leisure stopped being responsible for any club affairs from the start of the month. He claims he has done all he promised to do for the club and put a lot of money in. "But in truth the club has gone backwards. As soon as you have player power it's time to get out," he said. RFL officials will be travelling to the North East for crisis talks and at the present time seem confident the club will survive at least for this season. Let's hope for all concerned that this is the case.

NM

SO IT'S now the brand spanking new **Roughyeds Kids**. I wonder if the **Junior Roughyeds** ever got their official demob bun fight and bash? Jolly jelly and cream at six paces and all that. Probably.

It's a cracking deal for today's littledoddies and teenyumolies. Free season ticket, sweeties, replica shirts (both home and away of course), baseball caps, team mascot every now and then, seat in the stand, meet the players, party here, party there, first pint of John Willies half price and so on and so forth. And it's even easier on the little dears now as Aunty Adele seems to have finally persuaded Uncle Chris to see off that weird ragtatter Roughyed character, the only rugby league mascot that looked more like a school bully than a school bully!

Jealousy of course. That's all it is. Back in the times when dinosaurs still roamed Watersheddings all we 50's rugby kids had was a home knitted red and white scarf and if grannie was adept with the darning needle the name of the players emblazoned along it.

My old gran was half blind, in her eighties, and couldn't spell for toffee. And the scarf itself was reclaimed from two of dad's old jumpers that he begrudgingly let mum unpick. Trouble was, that whilst one jumper was 'Oldham' red the other was almost yellow! I had the only Oldham rugby scarf that other kids never tried to nick. A red and yellow monster that draped twice around my neck and still managed to drag along the ground. I looked like the life was being crushed out of me by some pantomime boa-constrictor. And the

spelling, PICKFORD, ETY, CRAKNIL, JAKSON, KEETH, LITTEL but she did get DAVIES right; that was a must.

Almost forgot. I did have one of those wooden rattles or were they called rickers? Those you still see sometimes on Pathe News re-runs of old cup finals. Mine was a blue and white second hand affair re-painted in God's true colours. Hadn't had it long before it took a piece the size of a threepenny bit out of the nose of a bloke from St. Helens who had the misfortune to be stood within rickering distance. What he did with that rattle. It's probably still in the gutter of one of those Herbert Street terraces.

I did have a season ticket. Well not a real kid's season ticket; they cost ten bob. In those days the match was on Saturday, first team one Saturday, 'A' team the next and Sunday was 'season ticket' day.

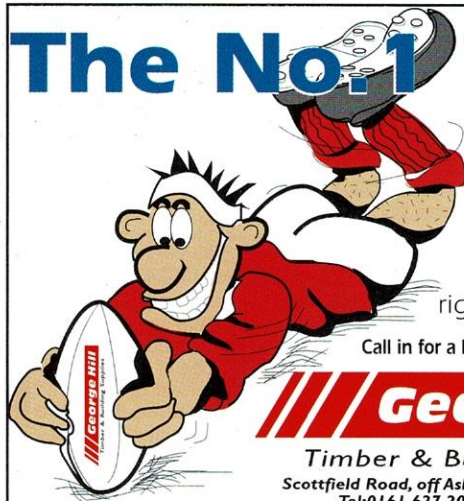
Our house was but a Bernard Ganley kick away from the ground. Bernard often hit our air raid shelter with one of those towering kicks to touch from the Pavilion 25. Every Sunday morning during the season we were over the wall picking up dropped coins from the turnstiles, hunting down discarded beer bottles and taking them back to the Wellington or Black Horse on Ripponden Road for the penny deposit and if pickings were bleak finding an empty beer bottle or two from the back of the pavilion before they were lost! This was our free season ticket money!

But I don't begrudge today's little sods any of it. I just wish I had another three score and ten seasons ahead of me!



'Jealousy!'

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# Back On The Terraces

..... With Simon Winnard

TODAY WE play host to the Leigh Centurions following a 62-4 mauling at the hands of Salford last week. In a performance littered with basic errors, we couldn't have made it easier for the full time City Reds as they broke the Roughyeds line almost at will in the second half. Perhaps the one or two positives, if we are to draw any from the game, were the performance of newcomer Dane Morgan and the kids go free promotion that led to an encouraging crowd of 2839.

It was great to see the Rochdale Road end full of children with their free Roughyed goody bags, full credit to the club for that. However, unfortunately they were forced to witness probably one of the worst performances since the club reformed in 1997. At one stage in the second half, it actually looked like men against boys out there as the visitors cruised to victory.

What's fairly clear that the pre-season hype about a push for Super League looks to be way off the mark at present. Indeed, whilst the team, on paper, looks set to be able to compete with anything that NL1 has to offer, on the pitch we are still not gelling. What also became evident was that the Salford City Reds are head and shoulders above anything else that the game outside SL has to offer. I'd even go as far as to say that they looked a far superior side to Huddersfield Giants last season. Sure enough we didn't so ourselves justice, the refereeing display of Mr Taberner was predictably poor etc. etc. However, the gulf between the two sides was alarmingly enormous and something that concerns me when looking towards the NL1 season.

In my opinion the game looks set to return to the yo-yo syndrome that blighted it pre-Super League and, far from doing something to address this, the powers that be are effectively funding it. Unless there is a level playing field the paying public will lose interest and the new pyramid structure within the game becomes nothing more than aesthetic.

It was of course a slightly more even

matching when we met today's visitors at Hilton Park (I can't bring myself under any circumstances to call it the Coliseum!) on the opening day of the season. The Roughyeds once again weren't firing on all cylinders that day and the home side ran out well deserved 22-14 victors in front of a crowd of over 3000.

Many of the Leigh faithful present that day have this week had the opportunity to view in-depth diagrams of the Leigh Sport Village project. The project includes plans for a new stadium for the Centurions and the ambitious plans have been on show as part of a week long exhibition at the local library. I truly wish our visitors all the very best of luck with this development and, with new stadia on the way in Warrington etc. it's great to see that the worlds greatest game will be housing the best supporters with the facilities and the surroundings they deserve.

On a final note, it's sad to see the events surrounding the South Sydney Rabbitohs down under. Just a year after their much celebrated return to the NRL Premiership, the club is seemingly in turmoil once again. After a run of poor performances the club has not only parted company with coach Chris Coleman, but there is now also rumoured to be a boardroom coup in the offing. Club patriarch George Piggins - a man who has embodied the Rabbitohs fight for survival could now well be the subject of a possible vote of confidence at an upcoming AGM. It's sad that the focus of a common goal that united all involved at South Sydney has now all but dissipated. Of course both the Roughyeds and Centurions know at first hand the fantastic efforts that resulted in their return to the NRL. Indeed both our clubs were instrumental in helping raise the Rabbitohs plight in the UK. Perhaps here at Oldham we can draw a few parallels and indeed learn a few lessons from the plight of the famous Sydney club by all pulling in the same direction. There are inevitably ups and downs in our game, but perhaps a better test of character is how you respond to the disappointments and today's game could actually fall into that category.

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# Iva Slateloose



AFTER the Rugby League International Board apparently threw out the idea of staging a World Cup Tournament in 2005, gloom and despondency descended on British fans who had been eagerly anticipating seeing teams from around the globe participating in a festival of rugby league which would steal the thunder of what may (or may not) be a thrilling display of ruck and maul later this year – you know, that game where seven blokes throw an eighth bloke into the air to catch pigeons.

Anyway, despair not! As ever Iva has the inside info. on what the R.L.I.B. really came up with (does it really stand for Really Loud Ignorant Bastards – in the Aussie sense of 'bastard' (a great chum) of course).

Apparently the Aussies have big plans for a World Series. After adopting grid-iron tactics for playing the game (helmets and long-johns to be adopted in the near future) they've gone for a baseball concept to promote the game to your average ocker. So, stand by for the re-appearance of some famous names such as Glebe, Newtown, Manly, Western Suburbs etc. plus the emergence of a brand new name in Cabramatta. What this means is that loads of new nations will be represented in the new World Series because all these Sydney suburbs contain loads of Greeks, Italians, Lebanese, Serbs, Croats, Malaysians, Chinese and Vietnamese, thereby introducing the game to a host of newcomers at a stroke.

One fly in the ointment though. The Aussies aren't keen to go that far down the baseball route: they know the Yanks can't stand the Canadians in the form of the Toronto Blue Jays spoiling the show, so it'll be 'bye 'bye New Zealand Warriors just in case the shaky islanders get too big for their boots and actually win something.

## SCENE AND HEARD

Aussie halfback and ex-St Helens 'favourite' Darrell Trindall is apparently suffering from a 'genetic alcohol problem' – which explains why he grabbed a woman in a headlock and repeatedly punched her in the face. And there was me thinking all those idiots fighting up and down Yorkshire Street every

weekend were just jobs and hooligans when all the time they could be suffering 'genetic alcohol problems'!

Iva recently saw a glorious company advert: – "ATLANTIC ADVENTURE: the ultimate inflatable experience." The mind boggles!

"Personally, I'm against relegation" says Huddersfield Giants' Chief Executive Ralph Rimmer. Well, if you were C.E.O. at Huddersfield you'd be against relegation too. Might as well get your objection in early 'cos at the end of the season it sounds like sour grapes. Best to try to influence Red Hall now just in case you can get them to change the rules halfway through the season. After all, the Giants have already got one foot on the first rung.

Challenge Cup? Where's the challenge? Surely time for a new name? How about the S.B.W. Cup? No, not a new sponsor just Saints, Bulls, Warriors Cup!

If St. Helens can't pay Batley Bulldogs their share of gate receipts for their cup tie as per R.F.L. bye-laws, Iva says, kick out Saints and reinstate the Bulldogs. That would concentrate minds remarkably. Wonder what rent-a-gob would have to say then?

I see that the Australia NRL referees last week went on an anger management course. Hasn't someone got that wrong? I don't recall the last time I saw a referee throw a tantrum though it would certainly add to the entertainment. Surely it's the players (and even more the coaches e.g. a certain Aussie down the East Lincs Road) who need the course? Anyway, Iva has a great course at £500 a go. It lasts just a minute so the referees get neither bored nor confused: when confronted by an angry player – send him off! My bill is even now winging its way to Red Hall: 20 refs @ £500 = £10,000. Easy money, what?

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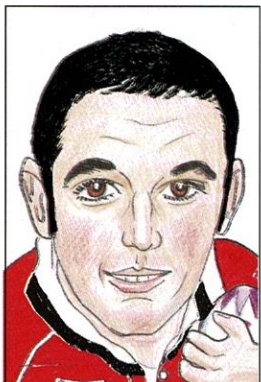
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# Tracey's Tittle Tattle




We were doing our nails when Shaz suddenly shouted "I've done it again!" "What?" I asked, thinking she'd smudged

another nail. "Got another anagram! What's come over me? Lee Doran! it makes **adorn!** How right is that for him! Anybody that wears jeans like them he had on at that Presentation Night must fancy himself as a fashion icon!" she declared. "Well," I said "them patches on his behind made him look like he'd had an accident, and they'd dried out like that." She started getting a bit giddy then, and said "We could do his nails!" "Yeh" I said, catching the

mood, "We could make him up as well!" "Oh, we could really '**adorn**' him, we could do his hair, put an earring in, and stick a sarong on him! He'd make Beckham look like a man! Nearly! Pity that 'Iguana' bar closed - he would've trapped off no problem!" We were a bit hysterical now, and there was a bang on the wall from next door at all the noise. We looked at each other and said, "Must be a Latics' fan!" And fell about laughing again. "Serious though, that health and beauty clinic are sponsoring a good one," I said. (Free plug) "Yeh," she said, "He must be dead famous as well now, 'cos it's in Tymbuktu"

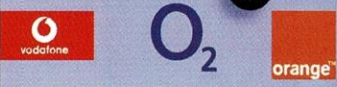
*Love & Kisses,  
Tracey*



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# Profile of . . . . . Lee Doran



Former Orrell St. James junior, Swinton Lions and Widnes Viking Academy forward. When Widnes disbanded their Academy, he was persuaded to join the Roughyeds. Played for NFP U21 side against Super League U21 October 2001. The 20 year old established himself as first team regular last season appearing in 38 out of a possible 39 games scoring 13 tries.

**Lee has developed into a deep thinking, blockbusting, no nonsense forward with a great future in the game.**

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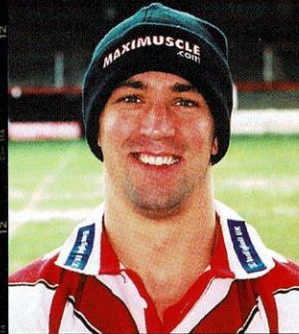
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Steve Molloy - Oldham



Paul Sculthorpe - St. Helens



Gareth Barber - Oldham

# Does the kit fit?



Lee Doran

THANK GOODNESS after the last couple of weeks Lee has different early morning arrangements than the other Wigan lads who appeared to be keeping the baked bean industry alive. Lee is a late riser on match day not getting up until about 10.15. His breakfast of jam and banana sandwiches plus two cups of tea is also a first. In the changing room he also eats two oranges and drinks plenty of water.

When travelling to away games he likes to sit alone so that he can focus on that day's game and before every game Lee goes and visits his Grandparents grave. He always wears the same socks to every game - now we know the real reason he sits on his own in the coach.

The best advice he received from a coach was long the lines of "Always do your best and don't try and change your own style of play too much. You are who you are." And the worst, yes I'm sorry to say it was "The tap dance routine" again from a recent ex coach.

When asked about pre match pep talks he replied, "I just tend to listen to what the coach and captain has to say and take that on board." Although when playing alongside Leo Casey the one statement that stuck was "Let's love to defend." I don't think you can beat that elder statesman's advice. Apart from Molly, Mike Ford is admired as a coach, as he gave him his first chance at first grade rugby.

As for all the transfer speculation Lee was quite clear. "My focus is and always has been ORLFC. I want to play for them in Super League, but before that let's get to the Grand Final again." Best/worst Changing Room Best Boundary Park, Worst Hurst Cross Best/worst playing surface Best Boundary Park, Worst Hull KR

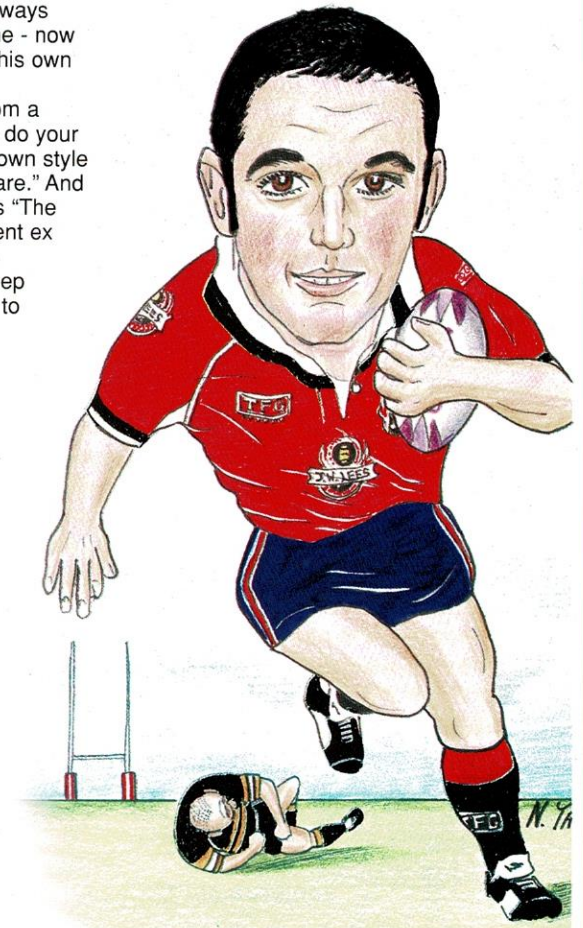
Best/worst Food Best Hull KR, Worst First game at Hurst Cross - the food was served to us out of plastic buckets.

When asked if he had been mistaken for anybody famous the young Elvis look alike replied Tom Cruise.

The printable joke this time is blamed on Knocker. What do cornflakes wear on their feet?"

Kelloggs (clogs)

Mitch



Best wishes to Oldham Rugby League this season.

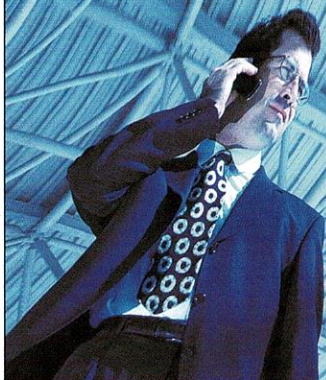
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# Words of Wilson

... by Ian Wilson

I KNOW nothing whatsoever about takeover bids, new consortia or injections of cash, apart from media speculation and rumour. However, I do have a view - and I know I am not the only one.

Since Chris Hamilton and his fellow rescuers M'ssrs Hardacre, Lord and Whitehead - came in to create the new Oldham out of the ashes of the old club, what has been achieved has been a genuine Rugby League phenomenon. The prospect of Oldham ceasing to exist was unthinkable, and not only to Oldham supporters but, without the new Board, it would presumably have happened. I certainly don't recall lots of 'consortia' then queuing up to put their hands into their pockets. The result has been quite remarkable playing successes, putting us solidly on the second rung of the current RL playing hierarchy, and apparently poised to prepare seriously for further progress, with a real possibility that, unlike in the relatively recent past, it might be on a sustainable basis.

How has this come about? By a united, focussed effort, on the part of quite a small number of people, pulling together, meeting challenge after challenge, head on, with the future success of the club as their shared goal. This has been as much the case in terms of administration of the club as it has on the playing and coaching side.

Obviously, no one is perfect. Everyone makes decisions, and takes actions, which they later regret, or with

which other people disagree. And Chris Hamilton, being a human being, is no exception. I don't personally know enough about the detailed ins and outs of what has gone on around the club since 1997 to claim to be able to express authoritative opinions about this and that decision. Like all supporters, I have my own views, which from time to time differ from those made by those who actually do have decision-making responsibility. But my over riding view - and, again, I know it is not only mine - is that it is vital that the shared goal of steady, sustained progress of the club, on and off the field, should take absolute priority.

If a consortium exists which wishes to put money into the club with the aim of enhancing that progress, I would hope and am sure that the current Board would take a positive view of any proposals, which are properly put forward. Equally, I would hope that potential new blood would aim to build on, and work with, what has gone on before, rather than to attempt any revolutionary change, which does not seem to be needed, and would surely distract from the club's over riding goal.

We are surely going in the right direction, and have made very worthwhile steps along what is bound to be a long haul. Surely anyone with the good of the club at heart, current management and 'outsiders' alike, acknowledge this - and that in spite of what we all hope was just a 'blip' last week against Salford! In the famous old saying, 'United we stand,.....'

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# All To Play For . . .

# Express

By GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

WITH the majority of the National League clubs now halfway through their Arriva Trains Group matches, potential quarter-finalists are beginning to come to the fore.

Whitehaven remain the only team with a 100 per cent record following last Sunday's comfortable victory over Swinton Lions, and are expected to continue that run today against winless Gateshead Thunder.

Gateshead, Swinton Lions and London Skolars are the only teams yet to record a win. 'Haven look certain qualifiers from the North pool, while Chorley Lynx and Barrow Raiders are currently jostling for that all-important second place. The two clubs clash at Victory Park today in a vital encounter, having drawn their previous meeting at Craven Park.

In the East, Doncaster Dragons moved to the top of the group by virtue of ending Hull KR's unbeaten start to the competition last weekend. The two teams are now tied on eight points at the top of the pool, with Featherstone - who entertain the Robins today - just two points behind.

Picking two qualifiers from that trio is certainly a difficult task at present.

It appears more clear cut in the West, where Leigh Centurions look set to join Salford in the last eight after their narrow win at Rochdale Hornets last week. The Reds look sure-fire quarter-finalists - in their last two games they have blown both Rochdale and Oldham off the Park.

Hornets and the Roughyeds can still qualify, though either would probably have to win all of their remaining games.

Arguably the most interesting group is

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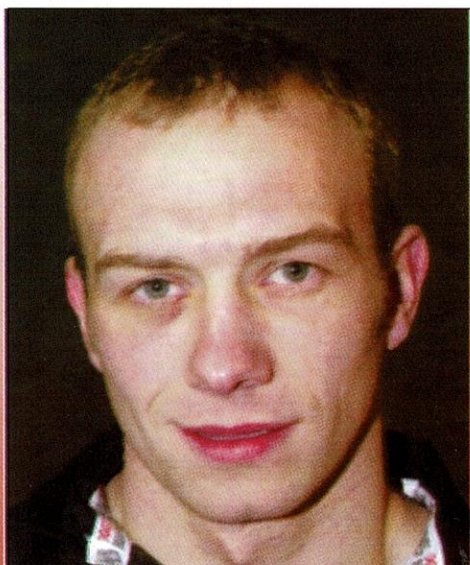
Central, where Dewsbury Rams took over at the top of the table last Sunday after winning a gritty Heavy Woollen derby at home to neighbours and previous leaders Batley.

Two defeats in four days for the Bulldogs - they had lost at Sheffield on the Wednesday - has dented their progress somewhat, though they are still expected to finish in the top two.

But neither Hunslet Hawks or even fourth-placed Keighley can be ruled out yet, though the Cougars simply have to beat the Rams at home in today's game.

So then, the picture is becoming much clearer, though virtually nothing is assured yet. Each team will play ten games before the quarter-finalists are confirmed, with the eight remaining sides then going into an open draw in the knock-out stages of the competition.

There's plenty of action to come in this Arriva Trains Cup, and more than a few issues still to be decided.



Keith Brennan - League Express  
Man of the Match v Salford

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# In Yer Face

AS CHRISTMAS presents go a good book is as good as anything. And if there isn't a new John Grisham or Frederick Forsyth to get your teeth into a book on sport is better than nothing. Cricket lends itself better than other sports to entertaining writing if only because the length of the game, extended over hours and days, provides more opportunity for incident, comment, confrontation and controversy. I've just finished 'Opening Up' by Mike Atherton: it's a decent read but you have to be an enthusiast to enjoy it because there's not much humour in it. Atherton's no raconteur in the David Lloyd mould.

Before that I'd tackled Mike Parkinson's books 'Parkinson on Football' and 'Parkinson on Cricket', which were both a disappointment in that re-hashing articles written for newspapers over a quarter of a century is a bit of a crude way to bank a few extra shekels.

Traditionally Rugby League has suffered from a dearth of good writing but the last decade or so, I'm happy to report, has seen the publication of some outstanding material. In fact several works would stand the test with the very best of sporting literature. Among these are the outstanding collection of essays edited by Dave Hadfield in XIII Winters and XIII Worlds. Perhaps now we play so called 'summer' rugby there's an obvious way in for a new title. Having dropped the hint I look forward to its appearance.

'The Forbidden Game' by Mike Rylance will stand comparison with any sporting book ever written being, as it is, a crushing indictment of French society before, during and since the second World War as well as a joyous celebration of the treizeiste movement and its importance in southern France.

'At the George' by Geoffrey Moorhouse is another classic which, published in 1989, paved the way for the intelligent and searching appraisal of the game and its characters which has become the hallmark of recent R. L. literature.

Meanwhile, for penetrative writing on the history of the game no one comes better than Robert Gate, once official historian of the game, though latterly, since his disillusionment with events post 1995, a bit of a pariah.

These days with the proliferation of Bargain Book shops it's possible to pick up some incredibly good buys. I once found David Lawrenson's biography of Martin Offiah called

'A Blaze of Glory' in a harbour front shop at Whitby - of all places - for £1.99. And what a good read it is. I similarly picked up 'Ultimate Warrior, the Dean Bell Story' written with Richard Becht for an absolute song and can again thoroughly recommend it. Currently, 'Bamford, Memories of a Blood and Thunder Coach' can be had for a pittance and anyone who likes an insight into their favourite game, its setting and its personalities should give it a go. It'll make you chuckle and keep you absorbed. For instance, Bamford records how as a young player making his first visit to Workington he found the clothes hooks in the dressing room exceptionally high until enlightened by a more senior colleague that 'they do that up here to make you think they're all giants'.

Given that good Rugby League writing can be hard to come by I find it disappointing that some poor efforts come highly recommended. Ten years ago I came across 'A Trying Time' by Derek Parker an effort to produce a R. L. novel. Now, brave as the effort might be, you really do have to be a quality writer to get involved with novels. Plots, sub-plots, characterisation and descriptive skill are needed in an abundance and Mr Parker is no David Storey whose brilliant novel 'This Sporting Life' is first of all about relationships, with rugby league as its setting rather than being a rugby league novel, if you see the difference.

Since Derek Parker's effort Geoff Lee has produced 'One Winter' in 1999 and 'One Spring' in 2002. Described respectively, as 'Romance, Rock 'n' Roll and Rugby League in the Swinging Sixties' and 'Romance Rock 'n' Roll and Rugby League in the 1970's' I can only say the spin outdoes the content and if I were you I'd save your money because I found the whole experience disappointing. Reported speech is a poor vehicle for telling a story, such as it is, and the characterisation is feeble. I'm sorry to belittle anyone's efforts but there's no point beating about the bush when something's not up to scratch.

So there you have it, if you like reading about as well as watching the greatest game, I hope you appreciate my recommendations; if you have any of your own I'd love to hear of them.

G.C.

# ON THIS DAY

... with Don Yates



SEVENTEEN years ago, on Sunday 16th March 1986, Oldham were involved in a gripping Challenge Cup quarter-final tie



David Hobbs

against Bradford Northern up at Watersheddings. The visitors went ahead with a dropped goal which looked like settling the issue until a break by Glen Liddiard set up a try for his brother David. A conversion by David Hobbs put Oldham into the semi-finals by a margin of 6-1.

The Roughyeds lost that semi-final to Castleford but in 1907 Oldham reached the final of the Challenge Cup after overcoming a tough first round tie on Saturday 16th March. Runcorn were the visitors to Watersheddings that afternoon when a try from George Tyson and goal from Joe Ferguson saw Oldham win 5-0. The Roughyeds then beat Halifax, Wakefield Trinity and Salford before losing to Warrington in the final.

Nowadays Challenge Cup-ties are decided at the first attempt with no replays. In years gone by clubs would continue to play replays until eventually a winner emerged. In 1931 Oldham drew at Halifax in a quarter-final Challenge Cup-tie. The replay, two days later, was also drawn. Twenty-four hours later Oldham were involved in a re-arranged league fixture followed by another league fixture four days after that. A further 48 hours later, on Monday 16th March 1931, the Oldham-Halifax second replay was staged at Huddersfield. It was Oldham's fifth match in ten days and Halifax won 5-2 against an exhausted Roughyeds outfit.

On Tuesday 16th March 1999 the Oldham Alliance team played their first ever match when they entertained Batley A at Butterworth Park, Castleton. Paul Round was the first scorer for the A team, his try being converted by Danny Wood. Despite this Oldham lost by 40 points to six watched by a crowd of 258.

On Friday 16th March 1979 England defeated Wales 15-7 at Naughton Park, Widnes. One of the English substitutes in that match was John Woods who was as skilful a player as any who have worn the red & white of Leigh. He stepped off the bench that evening to score a try and two goals in England's win. Twelve months later, on Sunday 16th March 1980, Woods was in action for England again. He was stand-off in the England team which won 4-2 against France in Narbonne. Also included in the England line-up that day was another outstanding Leigh player of that era, winger Des Drummond.

It was on this day in 2000, Thursday 16th March, that Paul Terzis was appointed coach of Leigh following the defection of Ian Millward to St.Helens. Since then Leigh have won the Trans-Pennine Trophy and twice reached the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final, losing agonisingly to Dewsbury by a point in 2000 and pushing full-time Huddersfield all the way last October. Perhaps later this year the deep thinking Terzis will lead Leigh to their main objective, a place in Super League.

Sadly it was also on Thursday 16th March 2000 that the death occurred of Phil McLean, the Waterhead youth chairman. Phil, who was only 49 years of age, died at home after suffering a heart attack. He founded the Oldham Juniors club, which later merged with Waterhead, and he was then instrumental in setting up the fine youth section at Peach Road which has produced so many outstanding players for the professional game.

# STATS AND FACTS

## APPEARANCES & SCORERS SEASON 2003

PLAYER	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Gavin Dodd	6	0	5	0	0	20
Iain Marsh	5	1	0	0	0	0
Jon Goddard	5	0	2	0	0	8
Paul Anderson	6	1	2	0	0	8
Joe McNicholas	4	0	1	0	0	4
Simon Svabic	4	3	0	17	0	34
Neil Roden	5	0	1	0	0	4
Steve Molloy	7	0	0	0	0	0
John Hough	3	2	1	0	0	4
Martin McLoughlin	4	2	0	0	0	0
Lee Doran	7	0	2	0	0	8
Chris Morley	3	3	1	0	0	4
Phil Farrell	7	0	4	0	0	16
Gareth Barber	3	4	3	6	0	24
Gavin Johnson	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ryan Stazicker	4	2	1	0	0	4
Danny Guest	1	1	0	0	0	0
Chris Campbell	3	0	2	0	0	8
Anthony Murray	4	1	1	0	0	4
Chris Irwin	4	0	1	0	0	4
Will Cowell	2	0	0	0	0	0
Darren Shaw	3	1	0	0	0	0
Keith Brennan	2	1	0	0	0	0
Dane Morgan	1	1	1	0	0	4
Adam Sharples	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jason Clegg	0	1	0	0	0	0

### ARRIVA TRAINS NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP - WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
Leigh Centurions	5	4	1	0	138	96	42	9
Salford City Reds	4	3	1	0	198	46	152	7
Oldham	5	2	1	2	114	133	-19	5
Rochdale Hornets	4	1	1	2	102	122	-20	3
Swinton Lions	4	0	0	4	38	144	-106	0



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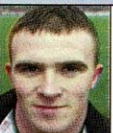
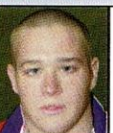





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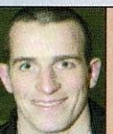
	<b>Jason Clegg</b> Gaskell's		<b>Will Cowell</b> Mike Neild Builders		<b>Gavin Dodd</b> Revolution Radio
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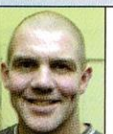
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