



TEAMS

OLDHAM WHITEHAVEN

Coach: Steve MOLLOY

Coach: Steve McCORMACK



OLDHAM
RLFC

Official
Matchday
Magazine

£2.00

The Roughyeds



WHITEHAVEN

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 AT BOUNDARY PARK
SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2003 KO 3.00PM

- | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----------------|
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| Paul ANDERSON | 3 | David SEEDS |
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| Dane MORGAN | 10 | David FATIALOFA |
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| Ryan STAZICKER | 16 | Gary SMITH |
| Martin McLOUGHLIN | 17 | Graeme MORTON |

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: RONNIE LAUGHTON
MICK YOUNG 4th

BOB AINSWORTH
MICK WILSON

OLDHAM

at the very heart of the North West

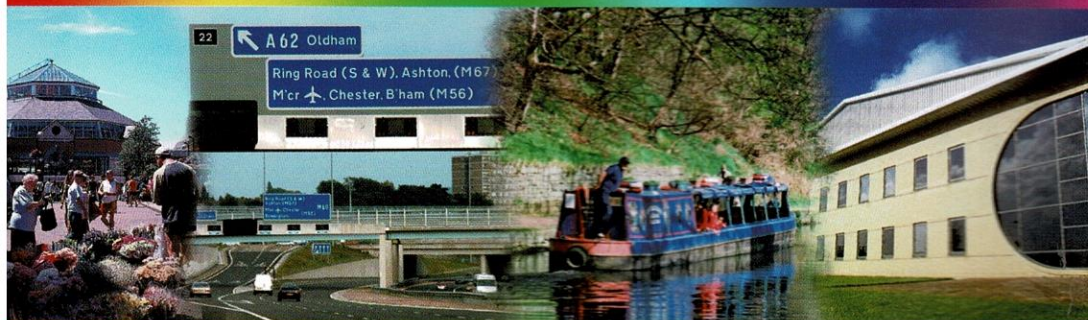
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IN THE HOT SEAT

Christopher Hamilton

WITH having had a blank weekend last Sunday we will hopefully be picking today's side from a virtually fully fit squad (with the possible exception of Paul Norton, depending on the results of his neck scan).

That will enable Molly to put out his best side for probably the first time this season and underlines the extent of the injury problems we have had this season.

We must start to find some consistency in our performances if we are to move up the table, and we need to repeat, if possible, the desire that we showed in our last home game against Leigh.

The players have worked hard over the last two weeks but they need to realise that it is all wasted if we don't produce the goods on a Sunday afternoon.

Our visitors today, Whitehaven, will come looking for a win after a good start to the season and I know from working with Steve McCormack for the National League Under 21s that they will be well coached.

Although we have not had a game for two weeks, things at the club have still been as hectic as usual as we are working hard to get our social club (the former Hartford Social Club) ready for opening.

We are hoping that the club will be the focal point for lots of club activities for years to come and a lot of time, effort and money is being spent to give the premises the identity of Oldham Rugby League club from the moment you walk into the place.

There will be lots happening over the next couple of weeks when we hope to open for business and there will be plenty of information to come in the press to let you know all the necessary details. The Club will be a members club and will hopefully provide good value for money.

Finally, the support you gave the team against Leigh was tremendous and contributed to the best atmosphere we have had at the ground all season. Without a doubt the noise lifted the team and was appreciated by myself and the players - If possible please do the same again today.

Enjoy the game

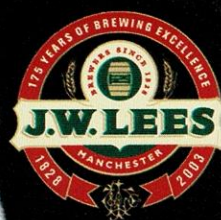


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Molloy's Message



WELCOME to all the players, officials and spectators who have made the long journey from Whitehaven. It's really good to see the local community getting behind their side and I feel this is a major factor in the clubs recent good form.

With last weekend's fixtures being Arriva cup semi-finals and us not being involved we took the opportunity to intensify our training and observe Whitehaven's clash with Leigh and see at first hand what a competitive side they are. Today, from what I observed, looks like being a very hard fought, tight contest. For the first time this season we hope to have a selection problem of the better kind, having a virtually fully fit squad with the exception of Paul Norton, whose scan results we will not have until this programme has gone to print. So let's keep our fingers crossed for Klocker, and for the injury situation in general for the rest of the season.

The Hull KR game was frustrating. After the heroics of the Leigh fixture I had hoped that the result was going to be a springboard for the remainder of the campaign, but it just shows how competitive a season this is going to be. I couldn't fault our commitment level at Hull KR but this game is about using your head as well as your heart. We didn't play smart enough, and this

coupled with two questionable groundings plotted our downfall.

To be serious contenders, our home form needs to be good but we also need to pick points up on our travels.

On a closing note, congratulations to Tommy Cone, on becoming, probably, the Roughyeds only Millionaires Club member. If, however, anybody knows any different will you please introduce the other members to Mr Hamilton or myself as soon as possible. Seriously we all wish Tommy all the best and when he asked for members of the squad and I to present the cheque, it was a real honour, but I have to admit it was the hardest thing I have ever had to let go of.

Enjoy the game.

Steve

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IN TOWN Today-Whitehaven



Gary Broadbent - Full back Havens major close season signing from Salford City Reds. One of the best full backs in the game. A classy skilful player who will be one of the stars of National League 1 this season.

Wesley Wilson - Full back/centre A skilful player who grabbed international honours with BARLA at U18 level. He signed from Wath Brow Hornets in January 1997 and secured a first team place very quickly. Has been unlucky with injuries in the last few years.

Paul O'Neill - Full back Originally signed as a full back but now featuring as a winger, this former Kells youngster graduated to the top flight during 2001 and last season appeared many times in the first team. A consistent goalkicker.

David Seeds - Full back/centre A strong running centre, David is one of the best centres outside Super League. David toured Australia with the BARLA GB squad in 1993, another product of the famous Kells club, he signed pro later that year. Was the clubs top tries scorer last season with 18 and establishing a new club record for career tries in the process.

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

Jamie Stenhouse - Centre A strong running centre who joined the club from Swinton during the close season a former Warrington Wolves centre for whom he made 12 Super League appearances in 2001.

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

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

Leroy Joe - Scrum half Re-signed by the Haven last year, after a spell with Hull KR, after originally joining the club in 1997 from North Queensland Cowboys. Represented the Cook Island in the recent Lincoln World Cup.

Darren Holt - Scrum half Major close season acquisition from Barrow. A clever footballer and astute kicker Darren is acknowledged as one of the best no 7s in the National League.

Dean Vaughan - Prop Young player with tremendous work rate. A former Academy skipper, he was one of Haven's most consistent performers in last season's first team.

Phil Sherwen - Prop/second row Big powerful forward who joined the Haven in Jan 2001 after featuring for BARLA in the merging Nations World Cup. A product of Wath Brow Hornets ARLFC, he is looking for a big season in 2003.



Aaron Lester

Aaron Lester - Hooker/loose forward Another New Zealander, Aaron is rated by many as one of the best players outside Super League. A dedicated professional he played for Auckland Warriors before coming to Haven in 1996. Current Club skipper.

David Fatialofa - Prop A former Kiwi who joined Haven in 1998. A strong

runner and solid tackler who has made a good recovery last season from major knee surgery in 2001.

Chris McKinney - Second row A member of Widnes Vikings NFP Premiers in 2001. Returned to his home town club during the close season and is proving a good acquisition. An industrious hard working back row forward.

Mike Whitehead - Back row Tall rangy forward who was previously with Barrow. Strong runner with a good offload and a good defensive work rate.

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

Lee Kiddie - Stand off Signed from the Kells club in 1994. Lee is a skilful and elusive footballer who has been a regular try scorer for the club and is now approaching his 100th try for the club.

Steven Kirkbride - Scrum half A product of local amateurs Kells. He joined Warrington in 1997 and was their Alliance player of the year in 2000 before returning home in Jan 2001.

Mark Jackson - Hooker This live wire hooker from the Wath Brow Hornets ARLFC, joined the club last year. A former BARLA international who has quickly adapted to pro rugby.

Gary Smith - Prop/utility forward A signing from Kells in 1999 who made his name in the Alliance side before gaining some first team experience last season.

Graeme Morton - Second row A strong tackling, hard running forward who doesn't take a backward step. He was signed from Kells in 1993 after representing BARLA Great Britain U19s against Australia and France.

A Potted History of Whitehaven.....by Don Yates

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



Joe Ferguson

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

Despite the talent produced by Whitehaven during their 55-year existence, few honours have come their way. Haven have yet to lift a trophy at first team level although their A team won the Lancashire Shield way back in 1955. Perhaps the closest Whitehaven came to lifting a major trophy came in 1957 when the club reached the semi-final of the Challenge Cup. Over 49,000 spectators were at Odsal that day to see Whitehaven outplay wealthy Leeds only to lose 10-9 following a late dropped goal. Press photographs later showed that one of

the Leeds tries should have been disallowed because the scorer had been bundled into touch just as he was about to touch down. Had video referees been in use in those days would it have been Whitehaven lifting the Cup at Wembley instead of Leeds? Playing loose forward at Odsal that afternoon was Geoff Robinson, without doubt the unluckiest player never to appear at Wembley. A couple of years after that semi-final defeat, Robinson moved to Oldham in a £9,000 transfer deal, a World record transfer fee for a forward. Robinson was a member of the Oldham team during that epic Challenge Cup run in 1964. It was Robinson who broke the deadlock during extra-time in the replayed semi-final against Hull Kingston Rovers, scoring the try that put Oldham 17-14 in front before the match was abandoned because of fading light. No floodlights in those days and, with the Roughyeds losing the second replay 12-2, no glorious day out at Wembley for Robinson or his heart broken teammates.

Whitehavens exploits in the League Championship have also met with less than moderate success. Only twice has the club managed to gain promotion to the top flight. In 1981 and 1983 they were promoted from the old Second Division, each time from fourth position of the four promoted clubs. Unfortunately on both occasions their stay in the top flight was short lived, being relegated each time after finishing bottom of the First Division table. Since Super League was introduced seven years ago, Whitehaven have only qualified for the play-offs on two occasions. In 1997 they ended the season in fourth position but, after winning at Leigh, they lost 45-18 at Hull in the play-off semi-final. Last season they were eighth in the Premiership table and fell 42-14 at the first hurdle away to Featherstone Rovers. Whitehaven have been widely tipped to reach the play-offs again this year when they are expected to mount a serious challenge for promotion, perhaps even shocking title favourites Leigh and Salford and taking Super League rugby back to Cumbria for the first time since 1996.

From The Pen Of

.....Michael Turner



Of Roughyeds And ... Whitehaven

A WARM WELCOME is extended to the players, officials and supporters of our Cumbrian visitors from Whitehaven. "Haven" first played the Roughyeds in the 1949-50 season with the first ever match between the two clubs taking place at Watersheddings on February 18th 1950. Oldham won that encounter by seventeen points to three but it would be another seven years before they registered their first win at Whitehaven, although they did manage three draws in that period.

After Oldham had won the Lancashire cup for three consecutive years in 1956-57-58, it was at Whitehaven that they suffered defeat in the first round of the 1959 competition. Can any of our older supporters remember the winger Roy Needham? Roy spent most of his time with the

Roughyeds in the "A" team but of his five first team appearances he would have good cause to recall the match against Whitehaven on April 18th 1960, for in that match Roy scored four tries in a 36 - 8 Oldham victory.

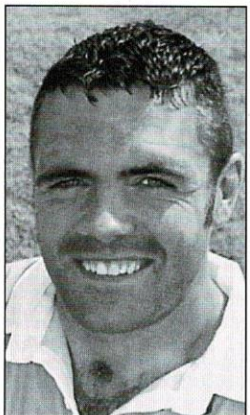
On December 22nd 1968 the Cumbrians provided the opposition for the first ever Sunday match at Watersheddings with Oldham emerging winners by seventeen points to seven.

Another first to feature the two clubs was on November 14th 1971, when the sides met in the first round of the new "Players No 6" competition later to be re-named the John Player trophy. Oldham travelled to the recreation ground with high hopes only to finish on the wrong end of a five-nil scoreline thanks to a first minute try from Kenny Gallacher and a Peter Donnelly goal.

Since the Roughyeds re-formed in 1997 the clubs have met eight times with Whitehaven ahead five to three in the sequence. However, if the referees whistle would have been blown a minute sooner in the last encounter at the Recreation ground last year the tally would be all square. How well do I remember that length of the field try that denied Oldham victory. It certainly made the drive home seem a lot longer.



Prop forward Charlie Bott drives into the Whitehaven defence. Action from the match at Watersheddings on September 18th 1963. Result Oldham 35 Whitehaven 4.



Tommy Martyn

SO LEIGH'S coach Paul Terzis has admitted that he has spoken to beleaguered Super League and former Oldham star Tommy Martyn about turning out for Leigh this season but the talks have been informal. So that's all right then. "I just spoke to him about where he's looking to go, because he has to look to his future and he knows that doesn't lie with St Helens." Now that might not be the best of Queens English or even Menzies' Australian but it's not informal. And Tommy? There's two years of Super League left in him yet, Warrington and their new stadium perhaps? And where would Leigh get the cash anyway?

Whilst Terzis now has a problem persuading his current number six that he is good enough (for the time being anyway) Swinton coach Peter Roe appears to have a memory problem. He begged the question in last week's 'Leaguer' as to what all the fuss was about surrounding the seven second world record try scored by Roughyeds winger Chris Campbell. World record? No way because he, Rapid Roe, had scored one in six! It was supposed to have happened when he played centre for Bradford Northern against Warrington back in the seventies. According to Roe, Bradford started off the match with a short kick, he took the ball on the full and scored unopposed, all confirmed by the timekeeper of course! The timekeeper has since died but the Bradford Telegraph and Argus, God bless them, haven't. And they didn't quite see it the same way as Peter either. Warrington kicked off (not Bradford), the ball was fielded on the 25 (yard in those days) by Blacker who passed to Fearnley who in turn passed to Roe. Six seconds! Wrong! Marginally under 20 according to the Argus.

Stephen Pearson, acting chief executive and leader of the 'Advisory Group' now in control at Halifax is absolutely certain that the club will have their two points reinstated that were deducted for breaching the salary cap "And if we go down, next year we'll have the squad in place to take the National League by storm". Really, so why bother appealing? It absolutely amazes me that club's with a poor financial track record should want to be within a mile of their salary cap and even more so that when they get caught with their finger on the calculator button and deducted a couple of points that they take such a cavalier attitude. "It was not us my Lud, it was Wigan." If their appeal fails deduct another two points!

I took a look at the Manchester Knights v South London Storm National League Three game last Saturday and was particularly impressed by Storm. They run four open age sides and one or two players in this cosmopolitan squad caught the eye especially their slightly built but aggressive and tricky full back Corey Simms and Gavin Calloo was also a speedy handful on the leftwing. They have aspirations to be fast tracked into National League Two and providing they can satisfy the necessary financial criteria they look a good outfit to me. But how will these sides survive with all the travelling expenses? There were hardly 50 or so spectators at £1 each. Evidently the coach cost Storm £700.

An incident during the Knights/Storm game gave cause for thought. One of the Knights players was subbed and had just crossed the touchline when he was involved in a fracas which in turn caused the touchjudge to bring the problem to the refs attention resulting in the Manchester player being sent off. Knights were allowed to play the rest of the match with 13 players on the field but could only use three subs. Think what a machiavellian coach could do with that. Always assuming the ref was right with his decision. There were one or two rule books brought out!

Chorley Lynx back rower Anthony Blackwood currently on trial from Leigh, and relation to our Bob? Now there was a player....



Three o'clock on a 1950's Saturday afternoon, when just minutes earlier dozens of football specials had been hooting the crowds out of the way in an attempt to manoeuvre their journey up Rippenden Road with yet another load to be shoehorned into Watersheddings for the Wigan cup tie.



Bill Broomhead and Frank Dyson pose for a fans camera lens at the back of the Pavilion Stand, the beginning of that infamous rat run so hated by the visiting teams who had yet to negotiate the Oldham supporters who congregated on the pavilion steps, more often than not baying for blood.



Two young programme sellers waiting for the crowd to arrive at the Peach Road end of Watersheddings.

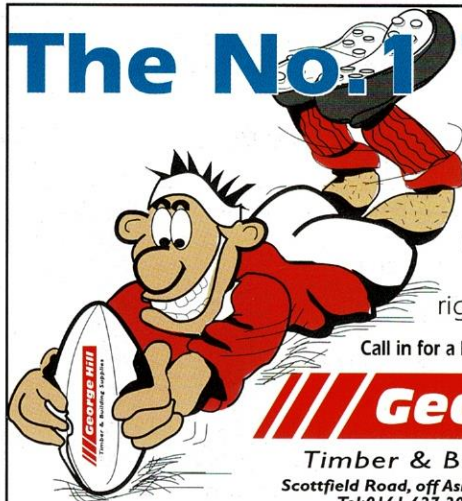


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Meanwhile, if you have any photographs that might be included (especially if they were taken AFTER 1975) please ring either myself on **01457 875084** or Michael Turner on **0161 620 6005**. Photos reflecting any aspect of Oldham rugby life are of interest.

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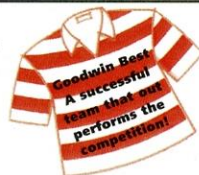
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Back On The Terraces

..... With Simon Winnard

IT'S NEVER DULL being a Roughyed! Since the last time this column was penned, we have pulled off a magnificent and well deserved victory over league leaders Leigh, followed that with a disappointing loss at Hull KR, a life long Roughyed has won the lottery and our football neighbours are on the brink of bankruptcy.

Firstly, let me congratulate Tommy Cone on his fantastic lottery win. I'm sure that we have all uttered the words, 'if I won the lottery I would?' ? well Tommy has now got the opportunity to live out his dreams and I wish him the very best of luck. Should Tommy wish to invest some of his new found fortune (fingers crossed of course) in the Roughyeds, perhaps this should be accompanied by the cautionary tale of Mr Moore and Oldham Athletic.

Money is no guarantee of success of course. There are a whole host of other critical success factors that produce a winning formula. Indeed, the present Roughyeds' administration has been harshly criticised in the past for running a tight ship? despite being financially crippled by forced exoduses from the town during the struggle to achieve a re-birth of professional Rugby League in Oldham.

It is perhaps ironic that it is the very administration that was responsible for those exoduses that is now being accused of the financial mismanagement of their own club. The significant financial backing that Latics have received from Chris Moore has been well chronicled. However, it's all well and good having a significant amount of money to throw at a club but, without an accountable management structure in place, it clearly can all too quickly spiral out of control.

The football club have been reported to be losing a massive £50,000 per week with the vast majority of their expenditure accounted for by players' wages. If this is the case then surely the people responsible for balancing the books and bringing all these players into the club in

the first place are to blame. Let's hope that any financial investment gratefully received by the Roughyeds is managed in the same frugal manner as to date.

The football club are now in danger of suffering the same fate as the Bears. If that turns out to be the case, Boundary Park could well go the same way as our beloved Watersheddings - demolished and used for housing. Roger Palmer Way, Andy Ritchie Close and Joe Royle Avenue may not be that far away which begs the serious question of what then happens to the Roughyeds?

The nomadic Roughyed faithful will of course welcome the recent shift in local political power. After all, had there not been a change of power the last time around we may well have been now housed in a state of the art Stadium. However, realistic options now have to be investigated as a contingency plan should we see BP's demise. I have always campaigned for a smaller scale community stadium on similar scale to the early developments of the Halton Stadium at Widnes and perhaps now is the right time to take control of our own destiny?

Meanwhile, negotiations for a new Sky TV contract have been concluded, and a meeting of Super League clubs will take place this week to discuss the offer on the table.

Far from giving anything away, RFL Officials are being extremely cautious and, whilst it's understood that the deal could involve a small increase in TV funding, it is likely to include all competitions as opposed to merely the Super League.

Having got the structure and unification of the game sorted out, I firmly believe that now is the perfect time for the RFL to open up the Super League funded cartel for the good of the game and for us ALL to decide the funding and direction of the game over the next five years. It's clear that TV funding is not going to continue at the same level and paramount should be the desire to promote our game as one superb product.

Iva Slateloose



WHAT WITH Yorkshire fast bowler Chris Silverwood playing on the wing for Castleford Lock Lane and London Broncos, among others, showing interest in Liam Botham Iva got to wondering what other celebs might be an attraction in rugby league. So, how about this for an all star team.

1. FULL BACK JOHN PRESCOTT

The Hull heavyweight bruiser is pretty full from either front or back. Able to defend the indefensible and extremely aggressive on attack. Throws a good punch when provoked and favours a Churchillian 'V' for victory (I think) gesture to the crowd.

2. RIGHT WING MICHAEL PORTILLO

The gay caballero can dance a neat two step down the touchline. Needs some watching as he can change tack at any moment and sidestep with the best. Fancies himself as captain of the crew.

3. RIGHT CENTRE IAN DUNCAN SMITH

The Tory titan likes to position himself at right centre but is not so sure about being on the right wing. A Keith Senior lookalike but not such a big hitter. More you Cadbury's type: firm on the outside but soft in the middle.

4. LEFT CENTRE ROBIN COOK

A tricky, little customer given to bouts of self-analysis. A believer in ethical standards of play who can, nevertheless, cut up rough when provoked.

5. LEFT WING CLARE SHORT

A real firebrand able to finish off a flowing move. Can mix it with the best of them and will take on an entire side by herself if necessary. However, has the reputation of not always being a good team player.

6. STAND OFF CHARLES KENNEDY

The urbane Scot is an ideal stand-off, committed first one way and then the other. Very clever at switching positions, at scissors movements, angled runs and drop-offs. In fact he's so elusive you never know where he is.

7. SCRUM HALF SAMANTHA FOX

A real handful and very fit. Deceptive

runner, swinging first one way then the other. Tricky to follow but always shows up well.

8. OPEN SIDE PROP MEATLOAF

Built like a brick outhouse and plays like a bat out of hell. A solid rock(er) who always makes an impact.

9. HOOKER ULRIKA JOHNNSON

Pulls them in like nobody else. A seductive play-maker able to eye up the main chance. Has given good service to many and continues to attract a lot of attention. Likes to lie on in the tackle and slow moves down.

10. BLIND SIDE PROP DAVID BLUNKETT

Ideal position for the Sheffield sledgehammer. Likes to play it tough and uncompromising. However, although he talks a good game, he is not always effective and can be caught back pedalling.

11. SECOND ROW TOMMY WALSH

Will tackle anything with no job too big. Likes a level playing field and can deck any opposition. Slots things into place just right and totally trustworthy.

12. SECOND TOW PAULA RADCLIFFE

Wide runner with lots of stamina. Puts in some marathon stints and seems to be on nodding terms with the entire crowd. Always first to the post-match bath.

13. LOOSE FORWARD TONY BLAIR

Always leading from the front, so an ideal forward and definitely a bit loose in the definition of his play. Noted for darts to the left and then to the right with occasional breaks up the middle. Has a good kicking game having just kicked Saddam Hussein, Jacques Chirac and Clare Short into touch.

MANAGER GORDON BROWN

A safe pair of hands 'Prudence' Brown is the behind the scenes Mr Fix-it. Will keep the ship on an even keel and ensure no breaches of the salary cap by operating a tight budget. A bit wary of taking his team into Europe.

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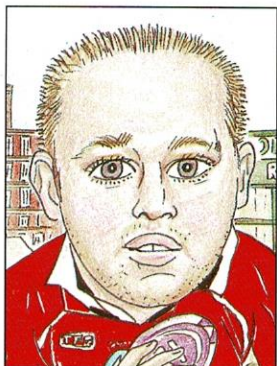
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Tracey's Tittle Tattle



WE WERE downstairs in Upsteps - bowlegged after a hard afternoon in Spindles "Time to wind Shaz up" I thought.




"Hey," I said,



"Doddy might not be related to Ken Dodd, but...." I looked round as if to make sure nobody was listening, then leaned over and whispered all secretive like, "he's got.....a Tickling Stick!" That galvanised her! Her eyes lit up and flashed like twin Portland Bill lighthouses! "What? How d'ye know?" she shrieked. Having got the attention of the whole pub with her outburst, I had to change tack. "He just makes me laugh - how he runs round under a high ball with his gob open like we used to,

catching Smarties!" "Oh, is that all?" she groaned, deflated as quick as a popped balloon, and everybody returned to their drinks. "Didn't he go to France once for a bit?" I asked her. "Yeh," she replied, "but he could have stayed here and got a lot more. The French players only wanted to fight anyway. You know that song by that old French bloke - Morris Cavalier or somebody - "How would you like to be, down by the Seine with me?" Well, Doddy used to sing "How would you like to be, sitting on Doddy's knee?" and the blokes got jealous and wanted to deck him." "He wouldn't think much of the Entente Cordiale then?" "Ugh, no!" she grimaced. "Hanging stuff, that! I bet he'd rather have the lager!"

A bientot!

Love & Kisses,
Trace & Shaz

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Profile of Gavin Dodd

Gavin Dodd



Former Royton Tigers junior who had a spell with Bradford Bulls academy.

Had made the full back position his own after the departure of Mark Sibson to Batley but recently coach Steve Molloy has played Jon Goddard in the number one shirt and moved pacy Gavin, the club's leading try scorer onto the wing.

Represented Great Britain students in Australia and New Zealand and selected for the Great Britain U21 squad. Played for the NFP U21 representative side that beat it's Super League counterparts at Widnes two seasons ago.

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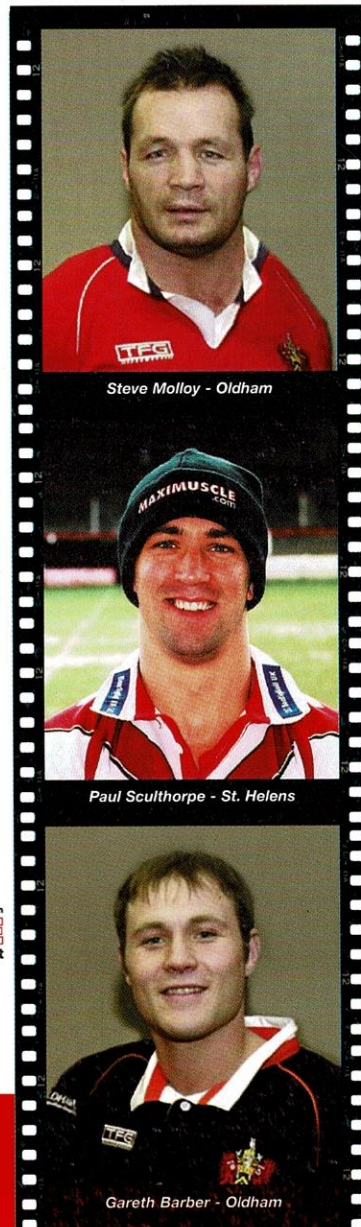
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Steve Molloy - Oldham

Paul Sculthorpe - St. Helens

Gareth Barber - Oldham

Does the kit fit?



Gavin Dodd

Doddy springs out of bed with the alacrity of a gazelle at 9am to a light breakfast of cereal and toast. For away games there's only one person he sits next to and that's Barbs (Gareth Barber). According to Doddy he helps to boost Barbs' fragile ego. Although Doddy says he is prettier than Barbs he tells him the opposite is true.

He wears the same vest under his training top plus a spare pair of underpants, but always a different colour. When asked why that was, Doddy refused to comment. Superstition wise he always likes to be the second person out of the changing room just behind Faz.

Best advice from a coach came via Mick Potter (Bradford), which was - the most important person to be satisfied with your game is yourself. The worst came at school when Ian McCorquada ranted on about you only have to score to win. He also is Doddy's choice of worst pre-match talk - he just told them a joke.

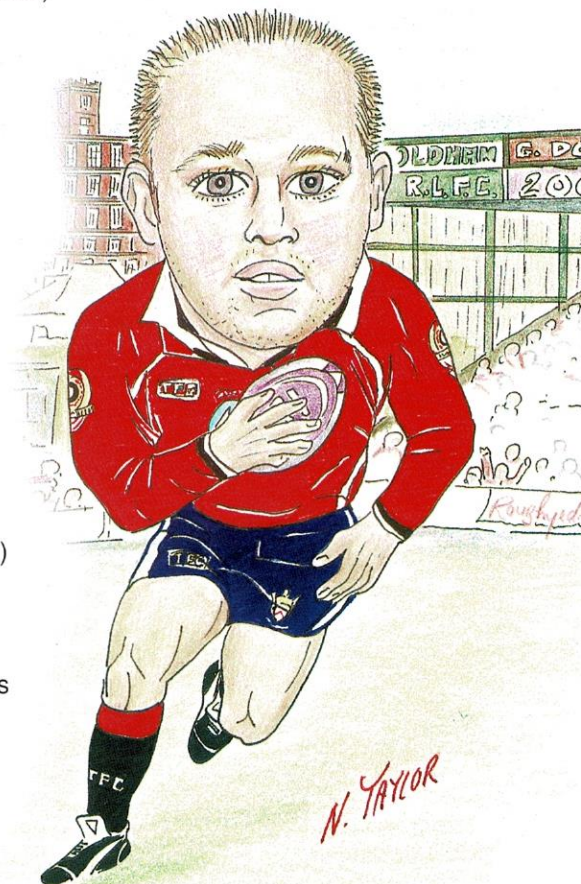
Best/Worst Changing Room
Best - Boundary Park
Worst - Whitehaven (too small)
Best/Worst Playing Surface
Best - Boundary Park
Worst - Batley
Best/Worst Food
Best - Barrow (It's those pizzas again)
Worst - First game at Hurst Cross (food served out of a bucket)
Doddy thinks he looks like a butch Michael Owen and it has also been mentioned

that he resembles a lion called Clarence on an old TV programme called Dakari. Could anyone explain? He couldn't remember the McCorquada joke so this will have to do.

Q. What's a shiitzu?

A. A zoo with no animals.

Mitch



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Senior Academy

with Sean Gartland



Senior Academy Under 21 First Division

APRIL 2003 F - A

21 SHEFFIELD EAGLES 69 - 6

MAY 2003

3 DONCASTER DRAGONS H 16-28

10 BARROW RAIDERS A 48-23

17 Barrow Raiders H 48-12

24 DONCASTER DRAGONS A 28-26

31 SHEFFIELD EAGLES H 38-28

JUNE 2003

14 BARROW RAIDERS H 2.30

28 BARROW RAIDERS A 2.30

JULY 2003

12 SHEFFIELD EAGLES H 2.30

19 DONCASTER DRAGONS A 2.30

(THORNENSIAANS)

26 PLAY OFF RND ONE

AUGUST 2003

2 PLAY OFF RND TWO

9 SNR ACADEMY FIRST DIV GRAND FINAL

23 PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY OFF 1

30 PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY OFF 2

	P	W	D	F	A	P
DONCASTER DRAGONS	5	5	0	189	86	10
OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS	6	4	0	245	125	8
SHEFFIELD EAGLES	5	1	0	104	214	2
BARROW RAIDERS	4	0	0	73	186	0

(AS AT 9TH JUNE 2003)

THE PLAY OFF WILL TAKE THE
FOLLOWING FORMAT:

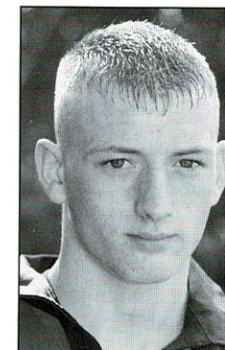
1st v 2nd
with the winner through to the
Grand Final

3rd v 4th
with the loser eliminated

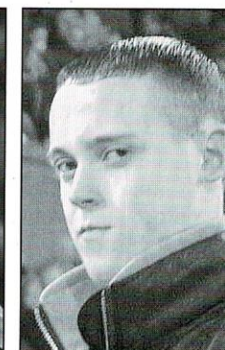
**Loser game one v
winners game two**
with the winner through to the
Grand Final

The relegation/promotion issue will feature a similar play off format between the bottom three sides in the Senior Academy U21 Championship and the winner of the Grand Final of the Senior Academy U21 First Division with the Grand Final winner taking the top ranking in the placings. The intention is also to reduce the Senior Academy U21 Championship to 12 teams for season 2004.

*All of Oldham's home matches will be played at
Oldham Rugby Union's Manor Park Ground at
Bardsley.*



Andy Gorey a full
back in great form
who scored a
tremendous 'kick and
catch' try at Doncaster



Adam Clayton
coaches man of the
match v Sheffield
Eagles.

Words of Wilson

... by Ian Wilson

I CANNOT comment on the wonderful victory over Leigh, nor the defeat at Hull KR, since I was away for both. I could comment on the performance at Doncaster, but would prefer not to – except to say that it has joined, by a distance, my book of atrocious efforts – certainly well within the bottom ten over my almost fifty years of supporting the club, in terms of lack of commitment, I am afraid. Let us hope that 2003 sees no more similar debacles to join it!

The RFL – not unusually, of course – seems to be taking some flak at the moment, over the standard of refereeing and the salary cap in particular. In both cases I have to say that my sympathy tends to be with the ruling body.

"The standard of rugby league on the field is fantastic. The number of quality young players coming through is the most promising for years. The level of competition in Super League is the greatest yet. But refereeing standards are at an all time low." This seems to be the essence of the argument, week after week in the published mail bags of the game's trade press, as well as among some of the paid RL pundits who should know better, it seems to me.

Don't get me wrong, I am not saying that the general standard of refereeing is impeccable. They make mistakes. Sometimes they seem to have no feel for the game – for example, an experienced watcher can often detect a genuine forward pass from some distance away, irrespective of any so-called 'momentum rule', which ref and touch judge together seem to miss. And in matches below Super League level, we often get some very strange decisions indeed. But an all time low? Don't make me laugh.

I, and I am sure lots of other too, can

recall feelings that were expressed at the time about some of the top referees of the 1950s and 1960s – messrs. Clay, Coates, Davies, Gelder etc. Spectators were not very complimentary. Similarly, were some of the gentlemen who now seem to be earning their crust locked away in a darkened room as video-refs paragons of virtue when they were controlling games on the pitch? I think not.

Let's face it, refs do their best at each game, and are not biased, but they do make mistakes, being human beings as they are, despite what some spectators think. They are fitter than ever before, too. Those who make fewest mistakes are the top referees in every generation, and should get the top games; the rest should be trained – and I suggest we now do better than ever before too. Most should improve with training and with experience; those who do not should be eased out, and replaced by new trainees. And the pundits should concentrate their attention on something more interesting.

Turning to the new salary cap debate. I cannot really see the problem. The Super League clubs all agreed the rules, and the RFL is simply applying them, to the best of their ability, surely? At least one of the clubs involved seems to be complaining on the grounds that, if they had presented their accounts in a different format, they would have been within the rules! So, who is at fault?

Everyone seems to be in agreement about the desirability of having a salary cap – and, anyway, that is a different debate. We have one, and if clubs have breached it, they have to be punished, in a manner which is set down in advance. For the future, if we can improve the rules, good, and if we can speed up the process of analysis and punishment, even better. But, for the time being, those involved should stop whimpering and get on with it.

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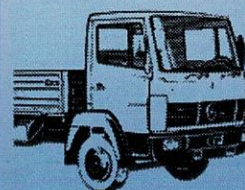
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Youngsters can hold heads up high . . .

Express

By GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

THE National League under-21s side may have failed to emulate the class of 2001 in beating their Super League counterparts at Leigh on Tuesday night, but they can still be proud of their efforts in a 52-12 defeat.

Steve McCormack's young charges recovered from a horror start that saw them concede two tries inside the opening five minutes to level the scores at 12-all just before half-time.

Featherstone's Richard Whiting, playing in the centre, scored a terrific individual effort when he raced through and outjumped the Super League fullback Steve Rowlands to collect his own bomb and score.

And not long after, Gateshead's promising centre Damian Reed intercepted a pass near his own line and raced 90-metres to cross by the posts.

Two goals from Rochdale's Mick Nanyin - who ran strongly all night - drew the National League side level, and such was the level of their performance at that stage then another shock looked quite possible.

Halfbacks Lee Marsh (Salford) and Lee Sanderson (Leigh) had looked inventive throughout the opening half, while Salford prop Gareth Haggerty provided some terrific impetus off the bench.

But McCormack's side conceded a somewhat unfortunate try just before half-time to trail 18-12 at the break, and two quick scores soon after took the game away from the gallant National League outfit.

Four more tries gave the scoreline a somewhat unfairly one-sided look, but no-one could deny that the excellent Super League side deserved their victory.

There was much to be positive about for McCormack though, with other notable

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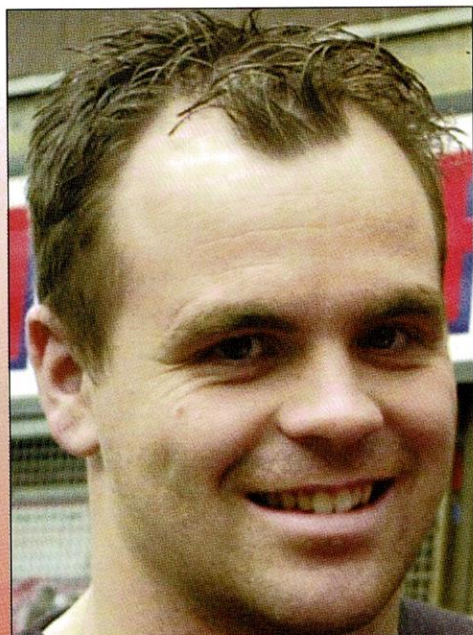
performances coming from tough Keighley prop Danny Ekis, hard-working Hull KR hooker Paul Pickering and Dewsbury fullback Nathan Batty.

They will meet their full-time opponents again on the first weekend of July, at a time and venue still to be decided.

Hopefully more than the 690 people who turned up and enjoyed Tuesday's clash will be present to see some of the country's most talented young players compete in a fixture that certainly lacked nothing in the passion stakes.

Great Britain coach David Waite was one interested observer, along with a handful of the country's leading coaches.

So get along to the next clash, when the details have been finalised, and support players from your local club, or just the team itself. You won't be disappointed.



John Hough- League Express
Man of the Match v Hull K R

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In Yer Face

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD magazine has pulled off a great coup in signing up Barry McDermott for a regular column. I had thought the mag. was getting a bit bland since Harry Edgar sold it on, but with Barry Mac we have a contributor whose opinions are just like his play - forthright, committed and difficult to ignore.

In this month's R.L. World Barry makes a plea for the return of proper Australian tours and how I agree with him. I know we can never have the same kind of itinerary as used to be the case, if only because of the harmonisation of seasons between the northern and southern hemispheres. And I know that we have to convince the Australians that we have made sufficient progress in our playing standards to be competitive with their club sides, let alone their state or national teams. But if we have confidence in our own product and are prepared to look after the bodies of our young, emerging talent - together with a few not so young - then there are grounds for some hard talking to restore the international game to its rightful place at the pinnacle of the sport. A good start would be a series win against Australia this Autumn achieved with sufficient quality to take the gloss off the 'kick and clap' World Cup, which will no doubt dominate the column inches of our national press even when these giants of the game Italy and Romania are involved.

In 1992 I, like many other R.L. fans in this country sat enthralled as the last Great Britain tourists played their way across Australia. And it was a proud moment to see thousands of British fans cheering the team to a famous victory in Melbourne. We, there and then, my wife and I, made up our minds that we wanted to be there next time. The following week our savings scheme was put into operation and by 1995 tentative enquires

had already been made with various travel companies. And then, bang! Super League war and summer rugby. And no tours since. Our disappointment was intense.

And since then? Well, we found a more than adequate substitute having become regular followers of England cricket tours abroad. So far we have taken in the West Indies, South Africa twice, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, opportunities we might never have had if rugby league had not turned away our money. And these trips are fantastic: you not only get to see England play at a fraction of the cost of entry to a game in this country, but you get a genuine holiday with a chance to see the country, go on safari, laze on the beach, play golf - whatever is your particular fancy. And you get ex-international players as tour guides together with dinners and cocktail parties at which you can meet some of the current stars. At the same time you travel with people of all ages who have a similar interest, so you are never short of company or conversation. In our case we have even managed to convert some southerners to rugby league and they will be coming to a Test Match against Australia in November just as they did two years ago.

Sounds great doesn't it? And it is. But the ultimate sporting trip for a rugby league fan is Great Britain in Australia, not for a one off match like last year, but for a proper, month long (or more) tour. I envy those of you who managed to follow Oldham Bears on their trip to Adelaide and Queensland but I live in hope that one day I can watch Great Britain defeat Australia in Sydney. And, do you know? there are thousands of us out there who would love to do the same. Well said Barry Mac!

G.C.

ON THIS DAY

... with Don Yates

JUNE
15



SIX YEARS AGO, on Sunday 15th June 1997, Whitehaven pulled off a superb victory when they won a First Division match at Widnes by ten points to eight. The victory took Whitehaven up to third place in the table and was achieved after centre Gus Malietoa-Brown had scored the only try of the afternoon. Former Oldham player Jamie Bloem scored all the Widnes points with four penalties. His first half efforts gave Widnes a 6-3 interval lead but Whitehaven always looked dangerous and, once in front, they never looked like surrendering their lead. Loose-forward Kevin Hetherington landed a goal and dropped goal for the Cumbrians, substitute Wayne Kitchen landed a goal and scrum-half Leroy Joe completed the scoring with a dropped goal.



Derek Turner

Oldham had no match that afternoon, having played the previous evening at Townsville, North Queensland in the World Club Championship competition. Another three Oldham players were in Australia 46 years ago assisting Great Britain in the 1957 World Cup competition. Great Britain defeated France by 23 points to five on Saturday 15th June 1957 and all three Oldham players appeared in that match. At centre was Alan Davies, Sid Little played prop and Derek Turner was at loose forward.

Oldham's first tourist was Bert Sloser Avery who accompanied the 1910 Lions. On Wednesday 15th June 1910 those tourists took on the Metropolis in Sydney. Loose-forward Avery was a try scorer for Great Britain that day as the home team were beaten 34-25.

On Saturday 15th June 1946 the British Lions came unstuck when they lost 18-13 at Newcastle. The Lions recovered to win the test series and the only Oldham representative on that tour, second-row forward Doug Phillips, played in all three tests as well as that defeat in Newcastle.

In 1966 no Oldham players were included in the Great Britain touring team although Jack Errock was tour manager and a product of Oldham junior rugby, Terry Fogarty of Halifax, was chosen to tour. On Wednesday 15th June 1966 Fogarty was in the second-row of the British team which defeated the New South Wales North Coast by 52 points to twenty up at Kempsey.

The first test of the 1974 tour of Australasia was staged at Lang Park, Brisbane on Saturday 15th June. The Kangaroos won 12-6, scoring the only try of the match. Oldham prop Terry Clawson landed two penalties for the Lions whilst included in the Australian line-up was Cronulla winger David Waite, now coach of the Great Britain team.

Sadly, it was on this day two years ago, Friday 15th June, that international referee Dickie Thomas died in a Failsforth nursing home, aged 81 years. Dickie was an outstanding official who, despite his fame, always made himself available to give advice to young, less experienced referees. When his whistling days were over, Dickie became head groundsman up at Watersheddings. During its final years that famous old stadium became rather dilapidated but the playing surface was superb, testament to the care and attention paid to it by Dickie Thomas. A trophy in Dickie's name perpetuates his memory and is presented to the official who is voted referee-of-the-year at the annual Oldham Referees Society presentation evening. This year's event takes place next Friday, 20th June, at the Transport Social Club, Mumps Bridge, commencing at 8pm. All rugby league fans are invited to attend what is always a great evening of entertainment.

STATS AND FACTS

APPEARANCES & SCORERS SEASON 2003

PLAYER	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Gavin Dodd	17	0	10	0	0	40
Iain Marsh	12	1	3	0	0	12
Jon Goddard	12	1	3	0	0	12
Paul Anderson	14	3	6	0	0	24
Joe McNicholas	7	1	2	0	0	8
Simon Svabic	10	8	2	43	0	94
Neil Roden	16	0	2	0	3	11
Steve Molloy	16	1	1	0	0	4
John Hough	14	2	4	0	0	16
Martin McLoughlin	4	5	0	0	0	0
Lee Doran	18	0	6	0	0	24
Chris Morley	14	3	2	0	0	8
Phil Farrell	12	0	5	0	0	20
Gareth Barber	8	7	7	25	0	78
Gavin Johnson	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ryan Stazicker	12	3	4	0	0	16
Danny Guest	1	9	0	0	0	0
Chris Campbell	9	0	5	0	0	20
Anthony Murray	4	1	1	0	0	4
Chris Irwin	12	0	4	0	0	16
Will Cowell	3	0	0	0	0	0
Darren Shaw	2	3	0	0	0	0
Keith Brennan	2	10	2	0	0	8
Dane Morgan	4	8	4	0	0	16
Adam Sharples	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jason Clegg	0	2	0	0	0	0
Paul Norton	9	1	1	0	0	4
Dan Potter	2	0	0	0	0	0

Roughyeds Kids



Hi to all you Roughyed Kids. Hope you are all out there today shouting at the tops of your voices and getting behind our team.

Thanks to all you Kids who helped with the "bucket collection" and to all the supporters who contributed. We managed to raise £140 on the day.

Thanks also to our sponsors for this season, **Saddleworth Sports**,

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Today's mascot is **Kristian Constantinou**, Kristian is nine years old and his favourite player is "Doddy". Hope you enjoy your day Kristian and that Gavin makes it extra special by scoring.

Don't forget our next Kids meeting is on Thursday 19th June at our new HQ. Hope to see some of you that we have not yet met.

Enjoy the game and lets cheer the team to a win (they love it when you make loads of noise).

See you soon.

Janet and Carole



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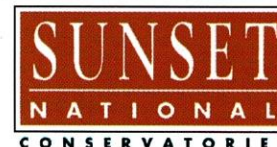
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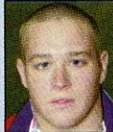





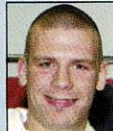



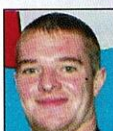
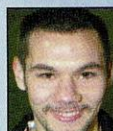






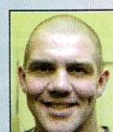


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DATE	OPPONENT	RSLT	ATT
DECEMBER 2002			
28	ROCHDALE HORNETS	LAW C W	28-22 2,141
JANUARY 2003			
19	LEIGH CENTURIANS	NL C L	14-22 3,070
26	EAST HULL	CC R3 W	32-6 1,270
FEBRUARY			
02	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL C D	22-22 2,050
09	LONDON BRONCOS	CC R4 L	12-42 1,014
23	SWINTON LIONS	NL C W	24-16 923
MARCH			
02	BARROW RAIDERS	NL C W	50-11 1,280
09	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C L	4-62 2,839
16	LEIGH CENTURIANS	NL C L	26-31 1,945
		CC QF	
23	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL C L	25-34 1,314
30	BARROW RAIDERS	NL C W	23-16 781
APRIL			
06	SWINTON LIONS	NL C W	68-14 1,032
13	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C L	12-54 2,162
17	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1 L	28-33 1,754
MAY			
04	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 W	41-21 1,198
10	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 L	12-44 1,657
18	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 L	24-52 880
25	LEIGH CENTURIANS	NL 1 W	12-10 1,691
JUNE			
01	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	NL 1 L	10-23 1,300
08		NL C SF	
15	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 H	
22	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 A	
29	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1 A	
JULY			
06		NL C FINAL	
13	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 H	
20	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 H	
27	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 A	
AUGUST			
03	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 H	
10	LEIGH CENTURIANS	NL 1 A	
17	HULL KR	NL 1 H	
24	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 A	
31	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 H	
SEPTEMBER			
07	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 A	

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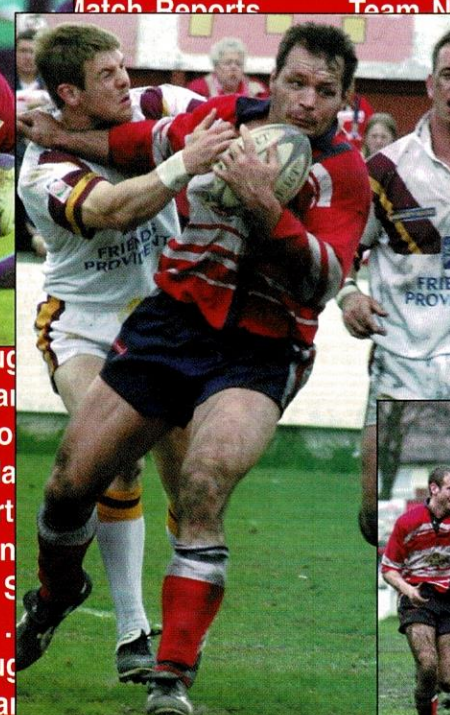
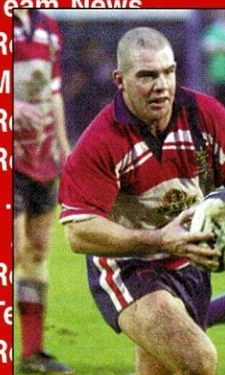
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