ROCHDALE HORNETS R.L.F.C.



NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

ROCHDALE HORNETS v OLDHAM

Sunday, 29th June, 2003 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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Martin's Corner



Good afternoon and welcome to Spotland for this afternoon's National League One game with Oldham.

We went into our last home NL1 game on a high with an unbeaten record. Unfortunately we now have to pick ourselves up after two defeats on the trot. With that in mind we couldn't have asked for a better game. A local derby always stirs the emotions, although I hope we'll be sufficiently motivated by the need to get back to winning ways anyway.

We have played Oldham several times in recent years, but I suspect nobody associated with either side is complaining.

There is rarely much between the two sides and there have been some tremendous tussles. It's also fair to say that on their day both sides are capable of beating the other. However we go into this game with one thing in mind, a win and another two points.

The recent defeats were a setback particularly as they came on the back of a series or good performances. I was pretty pleased with the performance against Salford even though we lost. We more than matched them for long periods, the effort the lads put in was tremendous and it was only down to us gifting a couple of late tries that gave them the edge. Last weekends game at Featherstone was a different kettle of fish. We never really got going. It's never the easiest of places to go to at the best of times and we weren't helped by the fact that a number of decisions went against us putting us back under pressure just when we seemed to be getting onto a bit of a roll.

We must learn from both these defeats, and I'm sure we will.

There should, once again, be a great derby day atmosphere in the ground this afternoon and you can play your part by putting the disappointment of the last two losses behind you and getting behind the side.

Enjoy the game.

Martin

ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

P.O. Box 48, Rochdale OL16 1PE Tel: 01706 648004 Fax: 01706 344545

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Programme Contributors: David Ledsham, Gareth Walker, Mike Floyd, Jim Stringer

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS MAY NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

BOARDROOM BRIEF

Today we will be offering a warm welcome to the Officials, Players and Supporters of Oldham who have made the short journey for this afternoon's National League Division One game. We hope you enjoy your visit to Spotland Stadium.

We also want to welcome our sponsors and hope you have a wonderful day's entertainment.

If today's game is anything like as exciting as most of the recent encounters between us there will be few people leaving the ground this afternoon having not been richly entertained. We have already played each other three times this year in the Arriva Cup and NL1 and won two with one game being drawn. Having said that, the margin of victory has never been more than two scores, and last season was pretty much the same. Whilst we might feel we have had the upper hand in recent seasons in respect of the number of games won, Oldham will probably counter that by saying that they have prevailed in the most important games. Whichever way you look at it, the scene is set for another memorable derby fixture.

Hopefully the team will get back to winning ways and proving the last couple of defeats were just a hiccup. Most observers agreed that we gave a really good account of ourselves against Salford City Reds. It has been noticeable how they have pulled away from a few teams in the last quarter of their games, just like they did against us. Whether that is down to the inevitable superior fitness that comes from being full-time professionals is open to debate. What is obvious is that we proved we can compete with them and with a bit of luck might go one better when we meet again.

Unfortunately we didn't get the same quality of performance last weekend at Featherstone There were a number of reasons for that, some of which were probably within our own control, others clearly not. It is always unfortunate when the topic of conversation after the game is the officials, not the performance of the players.

On a positive front we have been successful in strengthening the squad with the acquisition of John Hamilton and Chris Irwin. Both players are experienced at this level and are welcome additions to what we are aware is a small squad. Everyone associated with Rochdale Hornets will be pleased if they have long and successful careers here at Spotland.

As most of you know we have also been trying to secure the services of Radney Bowker on a long-term basis for several weeks. However, Salford wish to keep their options open and we have had to settle for another month-long loan deal. Obviously we would like to bring him here for the rest of the season but that is not possible at the moment.

As well as another two points, the other key hope for this afternoon is that we see a good attendance. It is a continuing source of frustration that even with the success we've seen on the field in the last few seasons the townsfolk of Rochdale continue to stay away.

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OLDHAM

Gavin DODD A local youngster who is learning the ropes at Oldham. A wing or full-back, 21 year old Gavin played for the NFP under 21's at Widnes and is sure to be pushing for a regular place this season, either at full-back or as a lively winger who knows where the try (goal) line is.

Jon GODDARD A 20 year old and the youngest member of the squad, Cas. lad Jon has joined Oldham from Castleford thanks to the old pals act. Graham Steadman is a firm friend and former team mate of former coach Ford, and saw a loan spell with Oldham as the ideal way to bring Jon along. Already this is bearing fruit as Goddard's defence has been superb and as his confidence grows it is expected that the tries will soon be coming.

Joe McNICHOLAS One of the original 1997 Roughyeds, wingman Joe made a first team spot his own midway through last season and went on to score eight tries in 14 consecutive appearances. Fast off the mark, god on his feet and always gives 100%.

Will COWELL A 22 year old who played at Warrington, this Cumbrian utility back is equally at home at full-back, wing or centre. Played 18 Super League games for Warrington after signing from Kells, the Whitehaven amateur club. Recommended to Oldham by former Wolves boss Daryl van de Valde, Will has kick-started his career in the NFP with the Roughyeds.

Chris CAMPBELL 22 year old utility back, signed from Whitehaven after impressing in trials. Is the son of ex referee David Campbell. Signed for Warrington from Crossfields amateur club as a seventeen year old and was the top Alliance try scorer in his first season with 26 tries from full-back. Played 10 matches in Super League before following coach Paul Cullen to Whitehaven on a full-time contract. Unfortunately broke his jaw early in his Whitehaven career.

Gareth BARBER 21 year old Oldham born half-back or centre who was reared on rugby with his best pal, the Leeds and Great Britain loose forward, Kevin Sinfield. When Sinfield signed for Leeds Rhinos, Barber signed for Warrington, but returned home to Oldham before the start of the 2000-01 season. Played for the NFP under 21's at Widnes in the autumn.

Steve MOLLOY Player coach Steve had been playing for Batley on a short term contract after leaving Huddersfield at the end of 2000. A

strong prop forward and ex captain of England, Steve's other previous clubs are Featherstone and Sheffield.

John HOUGH The first player to sign for his home-town club when the new Roughyeds were formed by Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors in the autumn of 1997. Before the start of 2000 season, he had played 87 of the club's 90 matches and had scored 32 tries, a phenomenal record for a hooker. He didn't enjoy one of his better seasons in 2001, but a change of job, and less travelling, has seen him back at his best in 2002.

Jason CLEGG Second biggest forward at the club after Danny Guest. Is a former Bradford (Northern, not Bulls) forward, who has had four good seasons with Oldham. Powerful on the break, he is a favourite of the Oldham supporters and regularly picks up the Junior Roughyeds Player of the Year award.

Lee DORAN Another young player in whom Oldham have a lot of confidence. A Wiganer, Lee has worked his way through the Oldham Academy and Alliance sides and he has now broke through to the first team on a regular basis. Showed up well for the NFP under 21's last year as one of five Roughyed players in the squad.

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

Neil RODEN A clever half-back who joined Oldham from Wigan, with Farrell, two and a half seasons ago. Has only missed a couple of games since. Can play stand-off or scrum-half and was a key figure in Oldham's run through to the NFP Grand Final in 2001. He is sure to be a regular performer in the long and testing 2003 campaign.

Gavin JOHNSON A young centre or wing, or occasional back-row forward, Oldhamer, Gavin spent two seasons at Odsal in the Bradford Academy side and made the occasional appearance for the Bulls in the Alliance Championship. Spent almost a season earning his Oldham spurs in the Alliance team before signing a two year deal in September 2001.

Danny GUEST Another of the Roughyed 'originals' who returned to the club two seasons ago. A big prop, he is expected to be a force to be reckoned with in the NFP this season after signing a new one year deal.

Our visitors in focus OLDHAM Club Honours

Rugby League Championship Winners: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57 Runners Up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1921-22, 1954-55 First Division Winners: 1904-05

Challenge Cup Winners: 1899, 1925, 1927 Runners Up: 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926

Lancashire Cup:

1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1956, 1957, 1958

Lancashire League:

1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58 Second Division: 1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88 Divisional Premiership: 1988,1992

10 Oldham Milestones

1895 First game in the Northern Union, a 16-8 defeat at Hunslet

1922 Reg Farrar sets a club record of 49 tries in a season

1924-27 Oldham reach four successive Challenge Cup Finals, winning in 1925 and 1927

1927 The first radio broadcast of a Challenge Cup Final takes place when Oldham play Swinton at Wigan

1950 Alan Davies makes his debut, he will go on to score a record 173 tries.

1958 Bernard Ganley becomes the first player to kick 200 goals in a season

1959 Oldham pay a world record £10,650 to Workington Town for Ike Southward

1981-82 Mike Parrish becomes the only Oldham player to score in every game in a season

1985 Andy Goodway captains Great Britain and joins James Lomas as the only Oldham Player to lead Britain in a Test Match

1997 Oldham beat Swinton 20-16 in their last game at Watersheddings on 19th January

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JOIN THE VICE-PRESIDENTS CLUB

Following the recent shareholders meeting, ex-player and Director Tony Pratt has launched a major new fund-raising scheme to help Hornets.

Anyone can join: for details see Tony Pratt or any board member.

Members so far (in alphabetical order) are:-

B & O Belfield

Peter Birchall

John Buckley

Brian Gillespie

J & V Grindrod

Norman Halsall

Cameron Heap

Alan Hindle

R & M Hindle

Stephen Holt

Beryl Lloyd

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Norman Taylor

R & B Taylor

D & D Vining

Mark Webster

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THIS WEEKEND'S OTHER NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 FIXTURES

Dewsbury Rams v Batley Bulldogs Leigh Centurions v Hull Kingston Rovers Doncaster Dragons v Featherstone Rovers (Fri) Salford City Reds v Whitehaven

National League One Table at 22nd June 2003

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Diff	PTS
Salford City Reds	8	6	1	1	310	120	190	13
Leigh Centurions	8	6	0	2	243	123	120	12
ROCHDALE HORNETS	7	5	0	2	241	158	83	10
Featherstone Rovers	8	5	0	3	178	202	-24	10
Whitehaven	7	3	2	2	177	107	70	8
Hull Kingston Rovers	8	4	0	4	166	151	15	8
Oldham	8	2	2	4	169	225	-56	6
Doncaster Dragons	8	3	0	5	198	274	-76	6
Batley Bulldogs	8	1	1	6	128	246	-118	3
Dewsbury Rams	8	1	0	7	103	307	-204	2





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Best Wishes to all at Hornets

National League in rallying TV call by **GARETH WALKER** of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

AS the speculation surrounding Rugby League's new television deal gathers pace, influential figures at National League clubs are starting to speak out for their cause. Those involved with clubs at National League level are keen that they are not found stranded in the same position as they were with the last TV deal - tied to Sky but with no financial compensation.

Oldham chairman Chris Hamilton was the first to speak up for the game at this level in Monday's "Rugby Leaguer & League Express".

"It will be a travesty and injustice if something is done that leaves National League clubs with no income from the TV deal, and no chance to gain exposure," lamented Hamilton.

"If BSkyB want the rights to the National Leagues, then they must have some value to them, and we should receive something financially. If not, then we should be cut free to try and get some coverage of our own."

"There are avenues that we could pursue that, whilst they may not bring in a great deal of money, would certainly give us exposure that would open up opportunities for increased sponsorship at each club."

"It could also help us gain title sponsorship for the National League competitions, which we haven't got at the moment."

Leigh coach Paul Terzis added his concerns in his latest column in the July edition of Rugby League World magazine.

Terzis does not believe the National leagues should pursue a separate deal, but should be given greater coverage by Sky.

Terzis wrote: "There is some quality Rugby League being played just underneath the top level, with teams aspiring to go up. At the moment they just show it at Grand Final level, which is not right."

"Sky haven't done right by Rugby League as a whole. People always say "have a look at what Sky has done for Rugby League" - what about what Rugby League has done for Sky?"

Terzis' column in this month's Rugby League World is one part of a 14page section dedicated to National Leagues One and Two.

Also in the July edition are features on where the Arriva Trains Cup should go from here (including a preview of this year's Final between Salford and Leigh), new Workington coach Billy McGinty, London Skolars and Barrow's Paul Salmon. And as usual, there are the exclusive monthly player ratings for both competitions.

If only the television coverage of the National Leagues was so comprehensive! Let's hope the coming weeks go some way to redressing the balance.

FIXTURES and RESULTS 2003

			H/A	Score	Att.
Jan	SUN 19	WORKINGTON (AC)	Н	32-8	778
	Sun 26	Oldham St. Annes (CC3)	Α	18-62	861
Feb	Sun 2	Oldham (AC)	Α	22-22	2,050
	SUN 9	HULL KR (CC4)	Н	20-27	1,092
	Sun 23	Salford (AC)	Α	16-58	2,346
Mar	SUN 9	LEIGH (AC)	Н	32-34	1,251
	Sun 16	Workington (AC)	Α	44-10	336
	Wed 19	SWINTON (AC) Kick-off 7.30 p.m	n. H	24-14	727
	SUN 23	OLDHAM (AC)	Н	34-25	1,314
	Sun 30	Swinton (AC)	Α	22-26	391
Apr	SUN 6	SALFORD (AC)	Н	16-44	1,067
	Sun 13	Leigh (AC)	Α	30-58	1,365
	Thur 17	Oldham Kick-off 7.45 p.m.	Α	33-28	1,754
	MON 21	HULL KR	Н	29-18	1,097
May	Sun 4	Doncaster	Α	44-28	805
	Sun 25	Dewsbury	Α	60-6	668
June	Sun 1	Batley	Α	43-16	728
	SUN 15	SALFORD	Н	16-32	1,571
	Sun 22	Featherstone	Α	16-30	1,359
	SUN 29	OLDHAM	Н		
July	SAT 5	WHITEHAVEN	Н		
	SUN 13	LEIGH	Н		
	Sun 20	Hull KR	Α		
	SUN 27	DONCASTER	Н		
Aug	Sun 3	Whitehaven	Α		
	SUN 10	DEWSBURY	Н		
	SUN 17	BATLEY	Н		
	Sun 24	Salford	Α		
	SUN 31	FEATHERSTONE	Н		
Sept	Sun 7	Leigh	Α		

AC - ARRIVA CUP

CC - POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP

ROLL CALL 2003

	Р	Sub 7	Γries	Dg	Goal	Pts	Sponsor
Warren Ayres	6	7	1			4	
Damian Ball	15	2	5			20	
Matt Bateman						0	
Marlon Billy	12		5			20	Interbake Limited
Radney Bowker	6		3			12	20
James Bunyan	18	1	5			20	The Three B's
Sean Cooper	7	2	1			4	Tanners Arms
Stephen Doherty	4	2				0	
Andy Grundy	9	8				0	
Martin Hall						0	Ray Taylor
Dave Larder	16	1	6			24	Tommy Cooper Appreciation Soc.
John Hamilton		1	1			4	
Chris Irwin		1				0	
Matt Leigh	7	6	3			12	
Matt Long		17	5			20	
Casey Mayberry	10		2			8	Barbara Taylor
Wayne McHugh	1					0	
Mick Nanyn	15	4	13		57	166	Ray & Ena Myers
Paul Owen	17		13			52	Albany Hotel
Richard Pachniuk	18		7			28	Eric & Rita Armitage
Gareth Price	4	15	3			12	Timeware
Wes Rogers	1	1				0	
Jon Roper	17		12			48	
Paul Smith	18		13			52	North Builders
Paul Southern	14	2	2			8	
David Stephenson	11					0	Spot. League of Gentlemen
Andy Wallace	1	2	1.			4	
Ian Watson	19		3	3	21	69	Cravens Chemist
Lee Wilson	1		1			4	Richard Farnell
Danny Wood		2	1			4	

There are still a number of player sponsorship opportunities available. Cost £200.00. Contact the club office for more details.

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Have Your Say

You can send any letters or articles you wish to have considered for inclusion in the matchday programme to the Club Offices.

For example you might want to write about your favourite player or match from the past. Perhaps you want to share your memories of the first time you watched Hornets or some other experiences of supporting Hornets. All contributions will be welcome.

The club is also interested in anyone who is interested in becoming a regular contributor to the matchday programme. If you fancy expressing any literacy tendencies, contact the club offices.

Agents Needed

Income from the Saturday Yankee Lottery is part of the lifeblood of the Rochdale Hornets and we need people who are willing to volunteer to become Lottery Agents in all areas of the Town.

As well as directly helping the club you will receive a commission and bonus payments based on your client's winnings. If you are interested in helping the club and earning some money along the way contact Eric Armitage in the Club Offices on (01706) 648004 for details.

Pontefract Races

Hornets are running a trip to Pontefract Races on the evening of 18 July. The package includes a reception and buffet at Spotland, coach travel, admission to the course, and competitions en route. It costs £30. Bookings can be made with the club on 01706 648004

NEXT UP

The next scheduled match here at Spotland Stadium will be in the National League One fixture against Whitehaven Warriors on Saturday 5th July 2003, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

This is the rearranged date for a game postponed earlier in the season to allow repair work to take place on the Spotland pitch. Whitehaven have started the season in good style, including drawing with Salford. They will be smarting after last weekends surprise home defeat to Doncaster Dragons and will be going all out to keep their push for a top 6 play-off place alive. From Hornets' perspective the match represents the start of the second half of the season and a win would keep us firmly in the hunt for a top three spot.

A great game is in prospect, so come on down to Spotland and bring a friend, or two. To coin a phrase, "It's your Town, it's your team".

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LOOKING BACK

27 May 2002 Oldham 24 v 28 Rochdale Hornets Attendance 1,050

In a season when Rochdale Hornets and Oldham met 5 times, this was the only fixture to be played on Oldham's home ground. The key period was a six minute spell early in the second half when Hornets scored three tries through Paul Owen (two) and Matt Calland.

It was Oldham who dominated the first half, controlling possession and backing it up with sound defensive work but they could only amass a 10-6 lead at the break. Hornets blistering start to the second half had Oldham Coach, John Harbin, fuming after the game about his players attitude. Not that Hornets were complaining. Their other scorers were Warren Ayres and Iain Higgins with Danny Wood kicking 4 goals.

At one time Hornets appeared to be coasting but late tries from Brennan and David Gibbons set up a grandstand finale. Oldham's other scores came from Barber and Campbell (two), Brennan kicked two goals. Biggest disappointment was that a crowd of only 1,050 witnessed the mid week game.

Oldham: Dodd, Campbell (2T), Gibbons A., Goddard, McNicholas, Barber (T), Brennan (T, 2G), Molloy, Hough, Norton, Doran, Henare Gibbons D. (T). Subs: Sibson, Staziker, Braddish, Clegg. Hornets: Owen (2T), Cooper, Calland (T), Wood (4G), Higgins (T), Ayres (T), Tawhai, Rogers, Pachniuk, Stephenson, Bunyan, Davidson, Smith. Subs: O'Meara, Bunce, Sinfield, Long.

17 April 2003 Oldham 28 v 33 Rochdale Hornets Attendance 1,754

Another competition, another mid-week fixture, another fiercely contested derby, another nail-biting finish and another Hornets away win in Oldham. The match was remarkably similar to the previous season's encounter. Again Oldham held the advantage at half-time only for Hornets to stretch away during the second half and then successfully hold off a late Oldham surge.

Hornets took the game to Oldham in the early stages and scored tries through Bunyan and Roper. A couple of Svabic penaties and a Norton score saw the teams on level points midway through the first half. With debutant Bowker pulling the strings alongside Watson, Bunyan then scored the best worked try of the night to set Hornets on their way to a winning lead.

Larder, Long and Roper, with his second score, stretched the margin before Oldham's spirited fightback and Doran's try on 74 minutes set up the grandstand finish. However Hornets held on and maintained their record of not having been beaten on Oldham soil in this millennium.

Oldham: Dodd, Irwin, Anderson, Marsh, Campbell (T), Svabic (4G), Roden, Molloy, Hough, Norton (T), Doran (T), Staziker (T), Morley. Subs: Brennan, Barber (2G), Guest, Morgan. Hornets: Owen, Nanyn (4G), Bunyan (2T), Roper (2T), Billy, Bowker, Watson (Dg), Southern, Pachniuk, Grundy, Larder (T), Smith, Ball. Subs: Cooper, Leigh, Price, Long (T).



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VIEWED FROM AFAR (WELL A BIT FURTHER AWAY THAN THE REF) A personal view

For many seasons Hornets fans have bemoaned their bad luck. Perhaps that's one of the reasons why we keep coming back, in the knowledge that one day it will all change. If we ever got a fair crack of the whip we would be world-beaters. In any case it's good character building stuff.

I know it seems to be the flavour of the month to criticise match officials and don't really want to jump on the bandwagon. I know there have been a number of very high profile "disagreements over decisions" in recent months, made worse by the fact that they were under the glare of TV cameras and big National audiences. I am also prepared to admit that the officials job is very difficult, a point proven over and over again when you look at some of the slow motion replays that video refs have to adjudicate upon. Even with three or four views sometimes things are still not conclusive or are open to subjectivity

So you are left with the maxim that ultimately things even themselves out. If only that were true. Just look at the evidence.

In 19 games this season Hornets have only been on the right end of the penalty count twice. Once away (6-9 at Doncaster) and once at home (8-7 to Hull KR). In our seven NL1 games we have conceded 72 penalties and been awarded a paltry 42.

If that were not bad enough, just look at the last three games. 13 penalties for, 37 against. That's' almost a ratio of 3:1. I don't care what your view is of Hornets discipline, there is no way we are three times worse than Featherstone, Batley and Salford. It's a testament to how well we must have played at Batley to overcome a 7-2 penalty count and no wonder that we lost the games against Salford and Featherstone.

Think about it. The penalty count against Salford was 5-12. That means they had a few cheap two points and 7 more sets of six, not counting the yardage gained. The 18-6 penalty count against Featherstone was, I'm afraid to say it, little more than a joke. When you consider one penalty was given next to the posts for offside when Damian Ball stepped forward to remove a second ball on the field and another was given against us when we collected the ball after it had travelled the required 10 metres from a short restart move! And why was James Bunyan penalised (again in a kickable position), for tackling too vigorously? It says something when even partisan Featherstone fans were acknowledging the referee was being somewhat helpful to there cause.

All fans will bemoan their club's plight at the hands of officialdom but I would wager a lot of money that no team has a worse record than Hornets. Perhaps we are the worst disciplined team, employing the most spoiling tactics in the League and deserve everything we get. I don't think so. We have a pack of ball-playing forwards and have been playing attractive winning rugby league, not the usual recipe for a team of desperate transgressors. Perhaps our small fan base means that we don't influence the referee's and touch judges in the way that better supported teams seemingly do when they are confronted by those subjective decisions. I am at a loss to explain it.

One things for certain, it won't even itself out this year, in exactly the same way as it didn't last year or the year before.

We will just have to get used to the fact that we will always be up against it. We won't have the benefit of a 13-6 penalty count in a play-off semi-final giving us the platform to win a game where the oppositior scores more tries. But that's a different story!

HORNETS OLDHAM Blue, Red & White 1. Paul OWEN Jon GODDARD Mick NANYN Will COWELL lain MARSH James BUNYAN Dan POTTER Jon ROPER Gavin DODD Marlon BILLY Radney BOWKER Gareth BARBER Keith BRENNAN 7. Ian WATSON 8. Steve MOLLOY Paul SOUTHERN Richard PACHNIUK 9. John HOUGH 10. Dane MORGAN Gareth PRICE 11. Lee DORAN 11. David LARDER 12. Paul SMITH 12. Darren SHAW Damian BALL 13. Phil FARRELL 14. Simon SVABIC John HAMILTON 15. Neil RODEN Andy GRUNDY 16. Danny GUEST Chris IRWIN 17. Matty LONG 17. Gavin JOHNSON

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Mr. M. Dawber

Touch Judges: Mr. K. Leyland, Mr. P. Smith



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