



TEAMS



OLDHAM DONCASTER

Coach: Steve MOLLOY Coach: St John ELLIS

- | | | |
|-------------------|----|------------------|
| Jon GODDARD | 1 | Scott GRIX |
| Will COWELL | 2 | Gareth LLOYD |
| Iain MARSH | 3 | Simon IRVING |
| Lee DORAN | 4 | PJ SOLOMON |
| Gavin DODD | 5 | Craig HORNE |
| Simon SVABIC | 6 | Paul MANSSON |
| Keith BRENNAN | 7 | Mark MOXON |
| Steve MOLLOY | 8 | James WALKER |
| John HOUGH | 9 | Gareth GREENWOOD |
| Dane MORGAN | 10 | Matt WALKER |
| Chris MORLEY | 11 | Peter GREEN |
| Darren SHAW | 12 | Craig LAWTON |
| Phil FARRELL | 13 | Peter EDWARDS |
| Paul ANDERSON | 14 | Gareth HANDFORD |
| Neil RODEN | 15 | Maea DAVID |
| Martin McLOUGHLIN | 16 | Anthony SEUSEU |
| Danny GUEST | 17 | Martin SYKES |

TODAY'S OFFICIALS
 REFEREE: S. NICHOLSON P. W. GRUNDILL
 B. J. ROBINSON R. SOUTHWARD



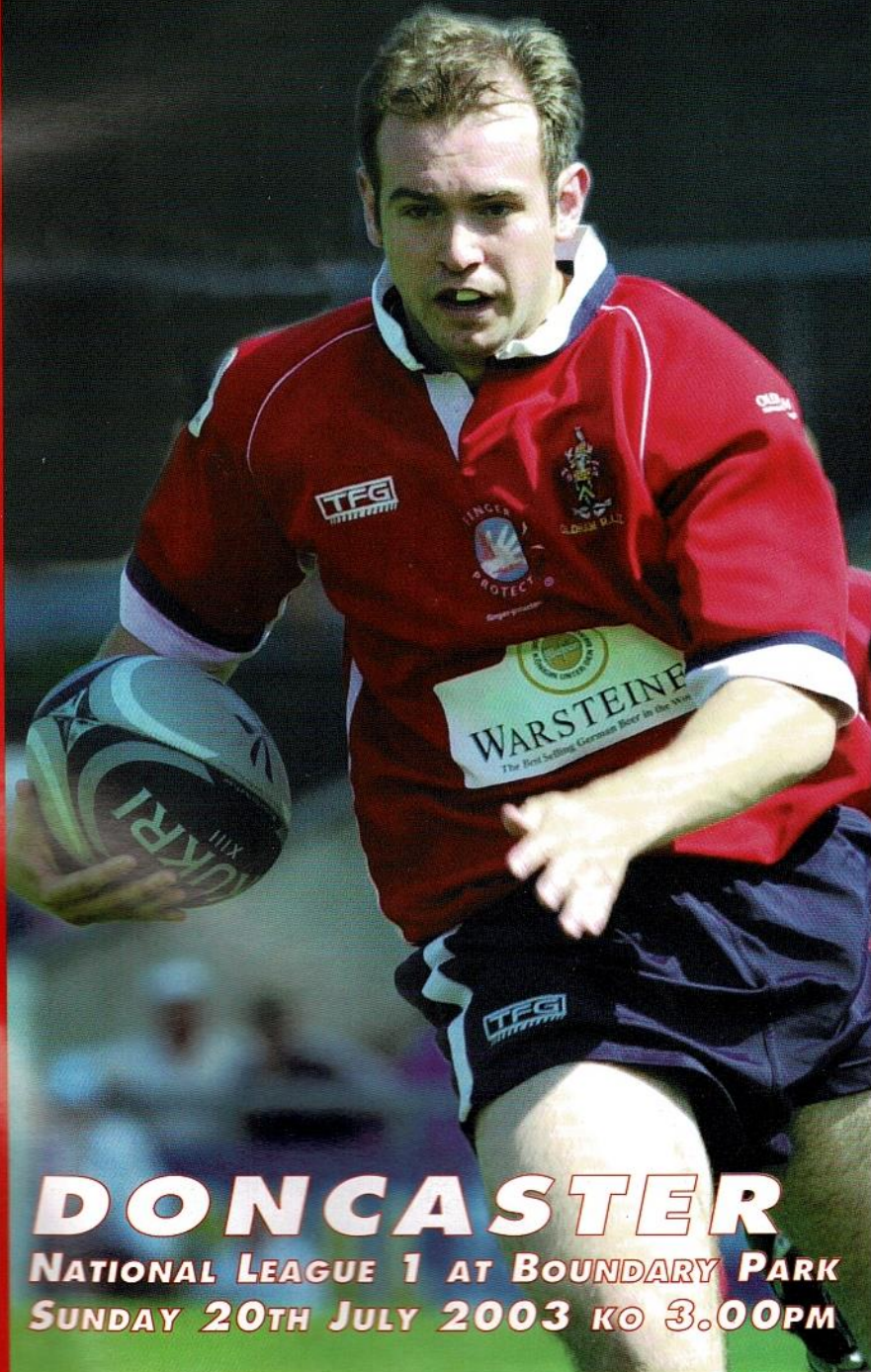
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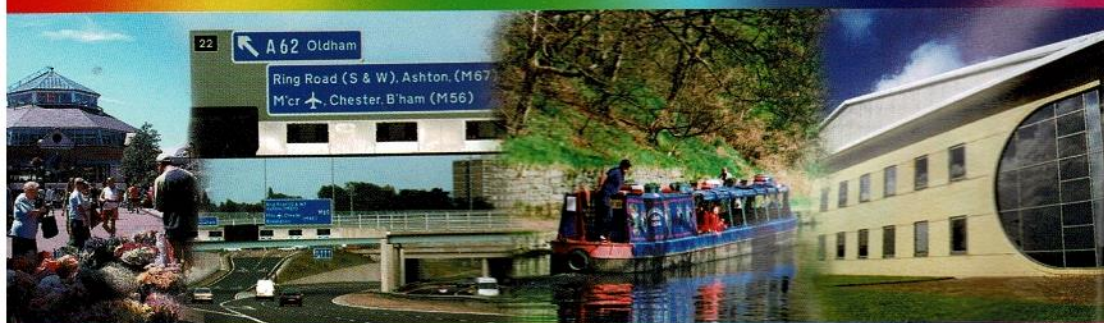
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Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

IN THE HOT SEAT

Christopher Hamilton

AFTER LAST weeks much needed win against Featherstone we need to back it up with another 2 points against a Doncaster side that gave us a real good hiding a few weeks ago.

That memory alone should be ample motivation to the lads but also the fact that we can climb above Doncaster with a win will be an added incentive.

Last week showed again that the players are capable of making a mark in this division and although we had to win the game twice the team showed a lot of character and determination to kick on after Featherstone took the lead. The next step is to get consistency as one of the features of the sides qualities and today is the next opportunity to implement that.

Those of you who visited our new social club last week will hopefully have seen enough to want to go back for more today and those of you of haven't yet been will perhaps give it a try especially as we are having a barbecue after todays game. The club can be an important feature of our attempts to secure the future of ORLFC but that can only happen with your support. We already have over 650 members which is fantastic but we need those people to frequent the club.

I have to admit that I was disturbed at how quiet the crowd was last week and although it is one of my pet subjects I will not tire of stressing what a difference your vocal support can make - even when we don't have the ball.

The players and coaching tell me they can hear me from the stand so imagine what it will be like if you all join in with me. Not only that I'm sure they would like a rest from my voice!

Crowds on the whole have been disappointing this season but I more than anybody am aware that this is due, primarily, to team performances. Everybody at the club works hard all week, and we will get it right. So please keep making that effort to come along and if possible bring your friends along also.

The last month has seen us without a home game before last week which puts pressure on cash flow and as we rely heavily on gate income we need you to spread the word.

Enjoy the game,



Chris

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Molloy's Message



WELCOME to today's visitors from Doncaster, in what is a crucial fixture for both sides. A result today would hopefully see us climb into that hotly contested middle group and in striking distance of a play-off spot. But I'm sure the Dragons will have other views, and we all know what a competitive side they are from the away fixture.

Last week's Featherstone game was a breath taker on a number of fronts with the temperatures well into the 80's and the way the balance of the game was constantly swinging one way and then the other but there is no doubt our superior completion rate told at the back end of the game. It was good to see Neil Roden back to form and doing what he does best running at defenders and I feel it would be remiss of me if Phil Farrell didn't get a mention for a real captain's knock. Not only was he the only forward to do the full 80 minutes but his involvement was immense and I feel, if we can keep these key members of the team in that sort of form

it will do our play-off push no harm at all.

Congratulations to Lee Doran on his inclusion in the Ireland squad. Given the chance I'm sure he can make an impact on a bigger stage. It is good to see that National League 1 is well represented and speaks volumes for the competitiveness of our division.

After today's encounter all the players and staff are heading back to Oldham Rugby Social Club for a barbecue and all spectators are invited. Let's hope that we can emulate last week on two fronts - the weather and more importantly the result.

Enjoy the game.

Steve

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IN TOWN Today-Doncaster



Simon Irving

The experienced goal kicking Irving is a Hunslet lad once on the books at Leeds and with appearances also for Keighley. A reliable player with a sound defence, also the clubs assistant coach.



Maea David

Maea David

The big Somoan played for Illawarra in Australia, before representing Hull Sharks, Bramley and Featherstone. Maea's hard tackling and strong runs have made him a favourite with the fans.

Paul Mansson

Another New Zealander, the talented and versatile Mansson is one of the best in the NFP. Represented the league against Villeneuve in 1999 and formerly with Hunslet and Widnes. A true match winner.

Craig Lawton

A high work rate is what his work is all about. Expect him to be involved in a lot of play. Has matured from a talented youngster to a 1st team regular.

Tony Atter

Local lad started his rugby at Bentley Good Companions played with the Doncaster Academy. A very mobile second who has grasped his 1st team opportunity with both hands.

Peter Green

Another product of Toll Bar youth, signed for Castleford at 15 and represented Yorkshire Schools and Academy. Signed from Castleford in 2001.

Martin Ostler

Signed after previously having played with Hull, strong running/tackling second row forward, already a favourite with the fans.

Jason Lee

Welsh International winger who joined Doncaster after spells at Keighley and Super League Club Halifax. Scored 25 tries last season.

Marvin Golden

Centre, winger who came to Doncaster after successful spells with Leeds, Halifax, Salford and London Broncos. Versatile powerful back who is a big hit with the fans.

Johnny Woodcock

Started at Toll Bar at age 7, left there at 18 to play for Hull FC where he played Academy. Plays

mainly fullback/wing, excellent goal kicker, holds Doncaster records for goals/points in a season.

Dean Colton

Local lad, scrum half, lots expected from this exciting prospect.

Wayne Green

Brother of Peter product of Toll Bar Amateurs. Played with the clubs Academy and Alliance Team. Has any eye for a try and lots of pace.

Chris Ross

Signed from Hunslet, can play anywhere in the backs but usually operates at full back or scrum half, very versatile player who has an eye for the try line.

Tom Buckenham

Powerful young prop brought through from the Academy set up. Big things are expected from Tom in the future.

Matt Walker

Joined club from Huddersfield in the close season, big, strong & experienced prop/second row forward who has impressed since joining the club. Is also club captain.

Jimmy Walker

Brother of Matt, powerful prop who adds aggression to the pack, previous clubs include Huddersfield, Keighley, Hunslet.

Mark Moxon

Signed from Huddersfield during the summer. Very talented scrum half, big things are expected from Mark this season.

Craig Horne

Former Keighley player who signed for the Dragons last season, plays mainly full back can operate on the wing/centre.

Shaun Leaf

Student RL player, signed from Hull Academy. Pacey, versatile half back who looks to have a great future in the game.

Peter Edwards

Another Kiwi who has returned to the club after a spell at York last year. Peter always gives 100% every time he pulls on a Dragons shirt.

Scott Grix

Ex Halifax fullback, has made quite an impact since signing for the Dragons during mid season.

Gareth Greenwood

Hooker Gareth has joined the Dragons on loan for the rest of this season from Huddersfield Giants and made an impressive start.

P J Soloman

Another mid season signing, winger or centre P J has previously played for London Skolars, Gateshead Thunder and Chorley Lynx.

A Potted History of Doncaster by Don Yates

THE history of Doncaster Rugby League Club is one of almost constant struggle. The club was admitted into the league for the 1951-52 season and in the fifty-two seasons since then Doncaster have finished bottom of the pile on no fewer than 14 occasions. Their best season was, in fact, their first when they ended the campaign in eleventh position, higher in the table than Leeds and St.Helens incidentally.

Doncaster's most memorable season came in 1993-94 when the club ended the campaign as Division Two runners-up. Promotion to the First Division, the Super League of that time, was ample compensation for a disappointing defeat against London Crusaders in the Divisional Premiership competition.

There was an even more memorable start to their season in the top flight. They opened the campaign at St.Helens where they won 29-20 and the following Friday Doncaster beat Widnes 21-6 to top the First Division table. Little wonder that their next home match against Leeds attracted a crowd of 6,440 to Tattersfield, their biggest ever crowd at that venue. Alas the Dons were unable to maintain their high-flying position and at the end of that 1994-95 season they were bottom of Division One. Worst still the club went into liquidation. Doncaster were reformed later that summer but the newly formed club had to start the following season down in Division Two, National League Two in today's terms.

Despite their perennial struggle, Doncaster have appeared in one final. In 1965 the Rugby Football League staged a bottom-14 competition and Doncaster reached the final after beating Batley 24-9 and then Blackpool Borough 22-9. Their opponents in the

final were Huddersfield and the match attracted a crowd of 2,450 to Tattersfield. Oldham's Sam Shepherd refereed the match and, after a hard fought encounter, Huddersfield won 13-3.

Recent good results indicate that Doncaster are on course to reach another final, in this case the National League One Grand Final and, with it, an opportunity to gain Super League status. In order to gain promotion, however, Doncaster will have to perform much better in the play-off series than they have during the past four years. The Dons have qualified for the play-offs twice during that time. Last year they ended the regular season in sixth position but then were surprisingly beaten 27-14 by Batley at Belle Vue. Oldham followers will remember with relish the end of Doncaster's promotion challenge at the end of the 2000 campaign. Doncaster held strong ambitions of going up after finishing the season in third position. After finishing in such a lofty position, Doncaster could afford one slip-up. It came in the opening play-off match when Doncaster visited Keighley and were beaten 44-22. From then on it would be all sudden death starting with the visit of Oldham. The attendance at Belle Vue for the visit of the Roughyeds was a record 2,599. Oldham were enjoying a good run at that time and this looked like continuing when they jumped into a 14-0 lead. Doncaster came back strongly to equalise at 16-16 and force extra time. Viewers to the award winning Rugby League Raw television programme produced by Yorkshire Television saw plenty of raw emotion as the Roughyeds snatched a 24-17 victory after a compelling afternoon of superb rugby league action.

From The Pen Of

.Michael Turner



Of Roughyeds And ... The Dons

TODAY we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of the Doncaster club in what promises to be another close encounter in this ever so competitive NRL Division one.

Although Doncaster first entered the league for the 1951-52 season it would be another twelve years before our two clubs met in a second division match at Watersheddings on October 12th 1963. The Roughyeds won that match comfortably by 45 - 13 and three weeks later completed the double at Tattersfield in a much closer match (12-6). The Dons took their first

point off Oldham in a nine points each drawn game at Watersheddings on March 20th 1971. The first cup tie between the teams was in the first round of the Challenge Cup on February 26th 1978 with Oldham emerging victorious (21 - 7).

The Dons first victory over Oldham came on September 27th 1987 when the so far unbeaten Roughyeds fell to a last minute try and conversion to end up on the wrong side of a 20 - 18 scoreline. The return at Watersheddings was even closer with Oldham scraping home 18 - 17. The

next time Oldham visited Tattersfield there were reverse fortunes to their previous visit when this time Oldham snatched a last minute victory courtesy of a John Fairbank try.

A famous victory for Doncaster came in the Challenge cup 5th round of 1994, when a useful looking Oldham team were soundly beaten 20 - 0 again at Tattersfield.

Since then the matches between the two sides have usually been close affairs, notwithstanding this seasons thrashing at Belle Vue. However, that match will long be remembered by the Roughyeds fans for Chris Campbell's amazing try only seven seconds after the kick off!



Brian Lord dives over for a try in the very first match between Oldham and Doncaster on October 12th 1963.

I THOUGHT the Rugby League Express report on last Sunday's game against Featherstone Rovers summed up my feeling on the game exactly, "...it would have been good value if the entrance charge had been doubled." Whatever anybody does however make sure Chris Hamilton doesn't get to read this when he returns from holiday on Saturday or he might take it literally. It really was great entertainment value whether you were an Oldham or Featherstone fan or even a neutral. The final paragraph of the report was also a great compliment to both teams and the game in general. "Would someone like to send a video of this game to ITV Sport? If they did there might be a third player in the game's auction of TV rights?"

What a good result it was, even though we engineered it that we had to win the game twice, and in that searing heat. There is no doubt that our excellent completion rate gave us the upper hand in the exhaustion stakes late in the game. Other results also went our way, especially the Dewsbury - Whitehaven draw which means we are now only two points off the fourth spot - it's very close in the middle of the table and today's game and next week's away to Dewsbury are vital games for us. Mind you, I seem to have been saying that about every game this season, it's that competitive.

Now onto other good news - Oldham's second row forward/centre,

Lee Doran has been chosen in the 28 man Ireland squad for this autumn's European Championship. Lee has not had as good a season as many expected - but he has to learn how to cope with being a marked man - a compliment to his achievements last season. Personally I am pleased to see him playing in the centre and last week I think we saw the advantage of his great ball handling skills. Just one point that struck me after the game - it might not be important - but didn't he play most of his rugby last season on the right hand side? I just wondered if playing on the left hand side this season both in the back row and at centre might have had some significance? Anyway, that apart, congratulations are due to Lee on his selection, one of only six players from outside of Super League. Let's hope his season goes from strength to strength.

On a final optimistic note - it must be the good weather - wasn't it great to see over 1800 spectators at the York - Keighley game last Sunday? Not only that, York gained a victory over the league leaders - the change in fortune for the newly formed York club can only be good for the game as can Bramley's attempt to rejoin the league in National League 3.

Let's hope we have another good result today and we hope to see lots of you up at the Social Club after the game for a "Barbecue" - hopefully the sun will shine for us again.

NM

Walkerbout

with
Brian Walker

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



THE Oldham Roughyeds Golf Classic, 2002 at Crompton and Royton, raised a record £5,000 for the rugby league club - a 50 per cent increase on each of the previous four tournaments organised by the club.

"It was a magnificent success; the best we have had so far," said Brian Walker, a member of the organising committee.

Our picture shows club chairman Chris Hamilton positioning the balls

for Roughyeds players Gareth Barber and Gavin Dodd to tee off.

Winners of the four ball betterball team Stableford, over 18 holes, were Steve Slicker, Damian Harrison, Paul Finnigan and former Athletic player Steve Taylor, who accumulated 82 points with a ten under par performance.

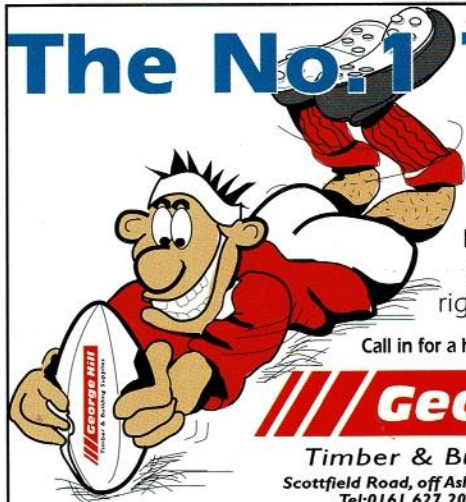
They represented Mike Neild Builders Ltd, chief sponsors of the tournament which was organised by a Roughyeds committee

comprising of John Barrett, John Battye, Robin Highfield, Brian Walker and club director Sean Whitehead.

There were 18 teams of four in competition and more than 80 sitting down to a post tournament four course dinner and prize presentation.

Said Mr Walker: "It was a superb day and we entertained many local businessmen who were keen to support the club and wish it well.

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Back On The Terraces

..... With Simon Winnard

WHAT AN EXCELLENT performance against Featherstone here at Boundary Park last week. We looked a completely different proposition to the side that was humiliated at Spotland a week earlier. In a similar situation to the Leigh game here, we backed up from a poor run of form to produce the goods and this led me to think about one or two of the possible reasons for our 'consistently inconsistent' season thus far. As a result, here I break with the traditions of this column and, whether you either agree or disagree with the following observations, as a fellow Roughyed supporter I'm just glad if you care enough to have an opinion and I make no apologies for mine.

Individually, a few performances stand out. Jon Goddard, easily our most consistent back all season, has been a revelation at full back - without doubt he is a natural number 1. His defensive positional play is outstanding and matched only by his appetite for attacking involvement.

As a result of Goddard reverting to full back, Dobby's move to the flank may have come as an initial disappointment to him. However, you wouldn't have noticed with his performances as he has produced some powerful displays from the wing, particularly from acting half when returning the ball early in the sets. Indeed, had the centres seen more of the football (and I'm coming to that) I'm sure that Dobby would have had even more opportunity to demonstrate the kind of devastating finishing that he showed at Batley.

Another knock on effect from Goddard's move to full back is the hole that his absence has left in the centres. Various options have been used to plug the gap ranging from the loan signing of Potter from Widnes to 'moving Doran out from the pack'. I stress this as he has already effectively been playing a centre's role when wearing the number 11 shirt.

Firstly, let me open up by saying that Lee has got exceptional ability and had a magnificent season last season when his work rate was phenomenal. It therefore came as no surprise that he was generating interest from certain Super League clubs. However, I'm sure that Lee himself would be the first to admit that he has not been reproducing that form this term. Personally I don't see him as 'a marked man' but do think that despite his pace he's simply not suited to playing down the flank, particularly defensively where he finds himself positionally vulnerable at times.

Similarly, on attack Lee has the great ability to turn in the tackle and release a pass but, when positioned out wide he rarely gets the chance to utilise that skill. As a result of this we are often playing with three 'go forwards' rather than four which can result in his work hungry coach taking two or even three drives in a set of six whilst Lee can be stood waiting out wide for a ball that never reaches him. Personally, I believe he is a prop/second rower in the Darren Shaw mould but obviously a few years younger and somewhat better looking. There's no doubting Lee's ability and let's hope the good news of his selection to the Ireland squad gives him the confidence boost that he needs. It will certainly be interesting to see where he is played should he be selected.

The key area where I believe that we have struggled all year is at halfback. Neil Roden's return to fitness and form is extremely welcome, not solely because of the extra attacking options he offers but

also his scrambling defence that perhaps goes unnoticed but is absolutely second to none throughout NL1. On entering the fray last Sunday, he combined magnificently with Simon Svabic to produce some of the best ball distribution that we have seen all season. Indeed, both have the ability to individually threaten the line as well as have the ball handling skills and timing to know when to link with the back line.

His faultless place kicking apart, Svabic delivers the ball with pinpoint accuracy and, together with Roden, constantly keeps the defence guessing as to their next move. In my opinion, this is by far our best halfback combination but needs some serious and continuous game time to develop. The success of any side is dependant on the halfback/hooker/loose forward combination and, injuries apart, I don't believe in chopping and changing? particularly not during games. Find out what works and stick with it is my motto so it will be interesting to see the team selection today after a good performance against Featherstone...and how many resulting key changes there are in the 80 minutes.

Like it or loathe it, the current 12 man interchange rule actively encourages change for changes sake. Yes, it allows us to spell the forwards in Summer rugby and that's all well and good but it's becoming increasingly difficult to work out who is playing where, and seemingly not just for us spectators! Interestingly, you may have noticed that during all the televised Sky games this season they have produced an interchange statistic at around about the 60 minute mark. Invariably the losing side has used either 9 or more changes whereas the dominant side has averaged just 6, make your own mind up.

Whilst we have struggled to produce the form that we are undoubtedly capable of, there are plenty of positives that we can build on as we approach the run in to the end of the season. It's been good to see Houghy's form improve gradually as the season has progressed, particularly defensively where his contribution is often underrated. However, it would be good to see more of his trademark runs from acting halfback. Molly's own performances have also been crucial in terms of making the hard yards and a little bit more game time wouldn't go amiss. Paul Anderson, for me remains the best centre we have on the books. Not the quickest, he is an excellent footballer and when in possession gives us extra options out wide. Dane Morgan's form has been transformed since he had his head shaved (other pack members, with the exception of Mr Shaw, please take note!) and Chris Morley's enthusiastic contribution over recent games should also not be ignored.

However, perhaps the one contribution that we should mention is that of inspirational skipper Phil Farrell. His leadership qualities were sorely missed in the early season and, despite Neil Roden's excellent display, Faz was my own personal man of the match against Featherstone last week. He was a constant threat on attack and defensively he continues to lead by example week in week out.

Let's hope that today we continue where we left off last week, tighten up defensively down the flanks and reproduce the attacking flair that had our last visitors at sixes and sevens. Lead the way Faz.

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Iva Slateloose



AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE

A player missed training. His coach asked him why: "My sister had a baby," replied the player. I don't know whether he helped with the delivery but I gave him the rest of the season off to look after it.

State of Origin II: Queensland were in the game right up to the National Anthem.

Lang Park: They'd boo Santa Claus, this mob!

Advice: Carry a clipboard - it'll always get you in the gate.

Results: If you lose you think, "let me get out of here, I might as well go home and have an argument with the wife, let's see if I can get a win there"....which is impossible.

He almost had a heart attack. His son asked for the keys to the garage and came out with the lawnmower.

Trying to get a club Chairman to agree to a detail is like trying to nail jelly to a tree.

Coach on his Chairman: He has all the intellectual powers of a walnut.

Coach on his latest prop forward recruit: "He's so big I'm thinking of entering him in a livestock show - he'd win a rosette, too."

Coach on a local journalist: "He never passes up an opportunity to expose his ignorance."

Coach on himself "I've a lifetime contract with this club but if they lose they might pronounce me dead."

Player after his medical: "If I drop dead tomorrow at least I'll know that I died in good health."

Loose forward: "I'm on a seafood diet, I eat everything I see."

Perceptive journalist: "This club has the chance to go all the way. So did the Titanic."

Coach on his highest paid player: "The money he's making he should be playing two positions."

Coach on success: "I feel like a rat in a cheese factory with the cat on vacation."

The rugby league hired an efficiency expert. he put unbreakable glass in all the fire alarms!

Angry? - you could have fried an egg on the back of his neck.

On a poor performance: "I could have put six eggs in his shorts before the game and he wouldn't have broken any."

The highlight of the game was the replacements coming on and the replaced players going off.

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Tracey's Tittle Tattle



We were in a giddy mood last night, thanks to the vodka, as we got ready to hit Yorkshire Street (before it hit us). She started,

"Chris Hamilton keeps asking us for our support for the lads! What would I be doing with a support? You'd think they'd buy their own! Ha ha! And see," she carried on, waving an old Chron about, "it says here, 'Brennan boost for Roughyeds.' THEY should give him one, 'cos he's only little!"

I said he doesn't have to be big 'cos he's a scrum half. "There you are," she replied, "half! The others are full size!" Except the threequarters!" I couldn't resist adding, getting as daft as her. "He's the brains anyway, not the

brawn. And, you know what? He's **VERSATILE!**" I giggled.

"Is he?" The giggles got louder. "You can't tell!" "Yeh. He changes roles and plays at hooker!" Which prompted her reply, "What!? He dresses up and stands on street corners at night?"

We were getting hysterical by this time as the vodka was taking effect. "It's a wonder he doesn't keep getting done then for feet up in the scrum - he must have trouble getting 'em down. By the time he's got his arms around Molly and Knocker, you'd think he'd just dangle down!" "Not if he had our support, he wouldn't!" she yelled, and we fell about! Then I thought he might not be on a contract, but he'd have one on us if we weren't careful! We really love you, Keith!

See you soon,

*Love & Kisses,
Trace & Shaz*

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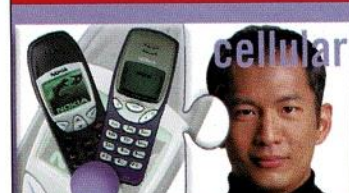
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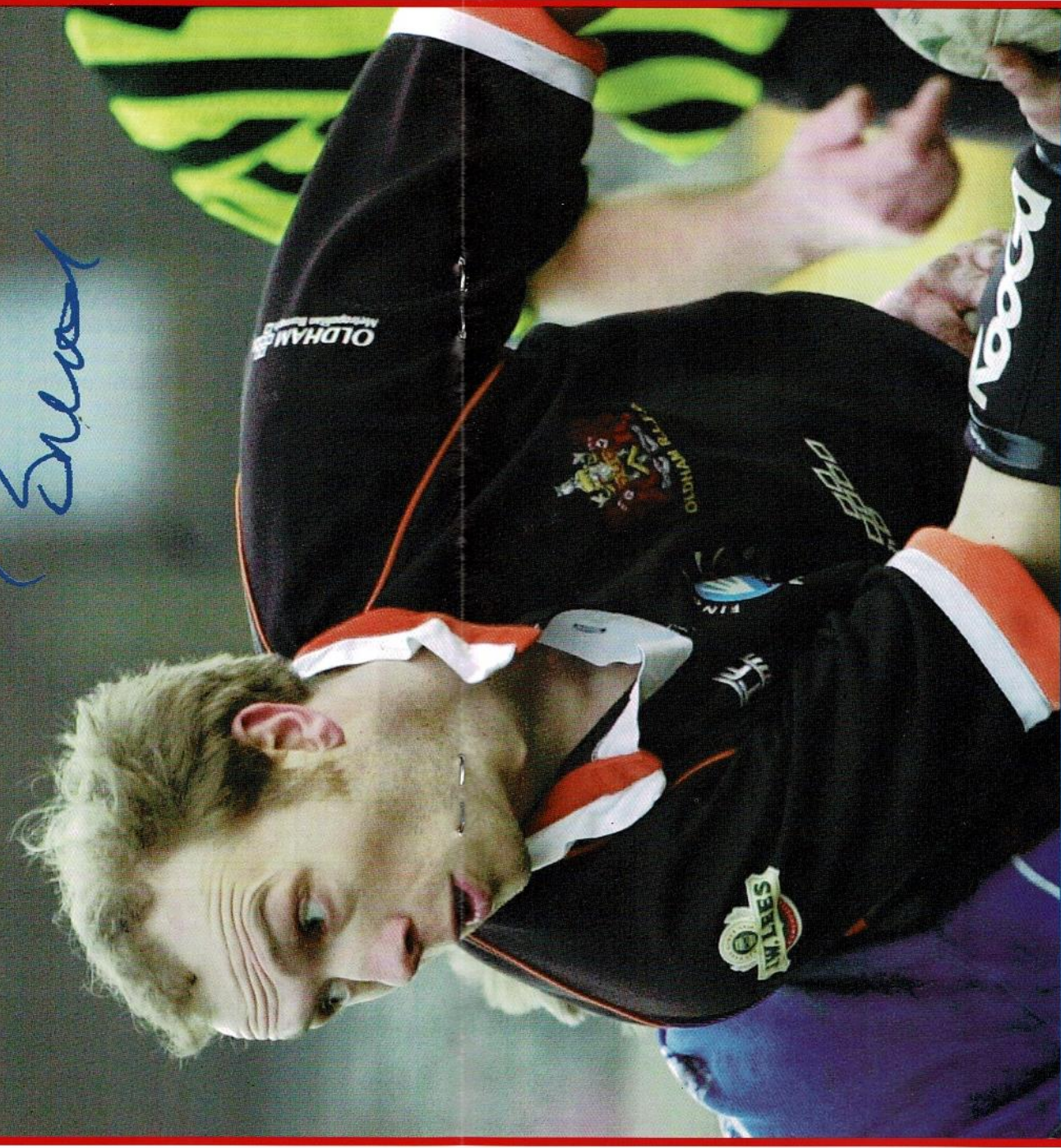
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Profile of . . . Keith Brennan

Keith Brennan



Hung up his boots last season but missed the action!!
Played for both Higginshaw and Shaw Rhinos amateur sides and won the Ben Powell Trophy for his man of the match performance in a Standard Cup Final before Shaw coach Iestyn Harris took him to Headingley for trials in the Leeds Rhinos 'A' team.
Signed for the Roughyeds at the end of the 1999 season and made his debut from the sub's bench against Hull KR at Spotland. Missed most of the 2000 season due to a knee injury.
Prefers the scrum half position but can also play out half and hooker. Played hooker in the Grand Final against Widnes.
Played 79 first team matches for the Roughyeds scoring 29 tries.

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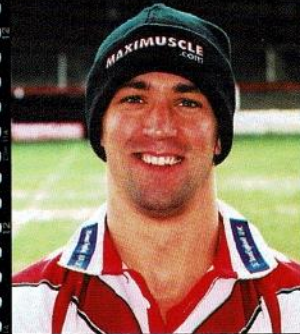
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Steve Molloy - Oldham



Paul Sculthorpe - St. Helens



Gareth Barber - Oldham

Does the kit fit?



Keith Brennan

I WORK six days a week so match day is my lie in day. I get up between 9.30 and 10.00am and make myself scrambled egg on toast with a nice cup of tea.

On the coach I will sit with whoever but I usually end up next to "The Rat" (Neil Roden).

My nicknames - Ivy and Frog, the Ivy nickname came from one of my friends but was overheard by a supporter who told other supporters. Frog came about because of my wide mouth and it is said I'm a good jumper!!

Best advice came from my mum - she told me no matter what - make sure you enjoy yourself.

Worst prep talk was the John Harbin tap dance quote, I still don't understand it.

Best was from Fordy just before the Grand Final against Widnes. I know it has been said before but it really did bring tears to the players eyes.

Best/Worst Changing Room

Best - Boundary Park
Worst - Whitehaven

(too small)
Best/Worst Playing Surface

Best - Boundary Park
Worst - Hurst Cross when wet

Best/Worst Food
Best - Leigh's famous Sunday lunch

Worst - Hurst Cross - first match out of a bucket

People always mistake me for Kermit the Frog. In the film Austin Powers there is a character

called Mini Me, we have a similar person here only he's called Bigga Me, actually it's Cleggy he thinks he's my twin, but the most obvious difference is I've got more hair than him (just).

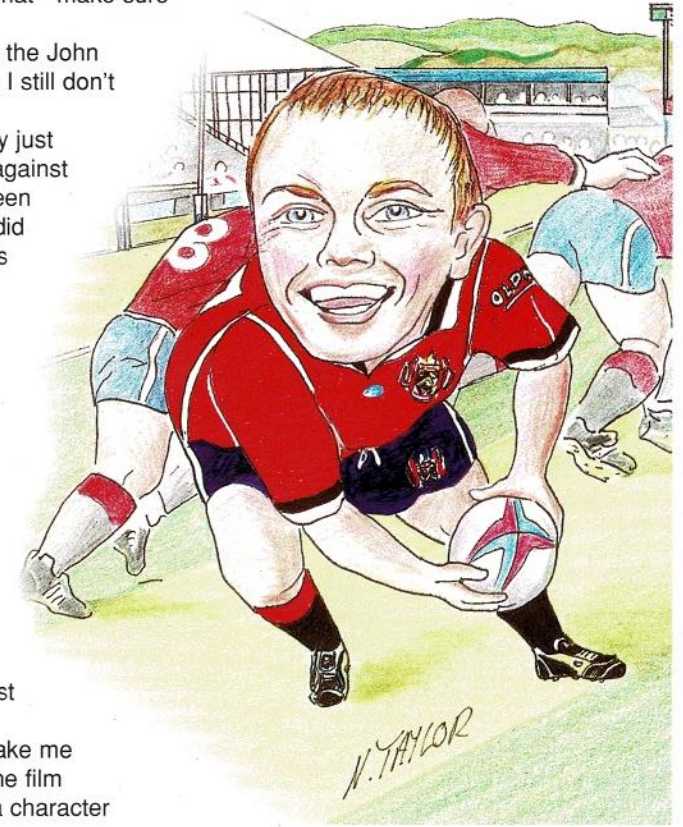
Best player this season has got to be Jon Goddard, he's totally committed to being the best he can and he's not a bad lad to get on with.

Joke

Q. What do you call a singer with a biscuit on his head?

A. Lionel Ritchie.

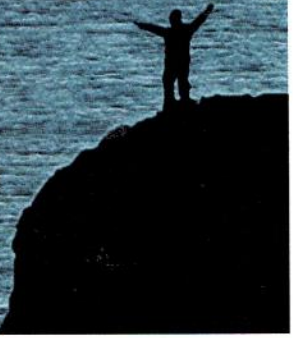
Mitch



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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 66-4
28 BARROW RAIDERS A 54-14

JULY 2003

12 SHEFFIELD EAGLES H 26-30
19 DONCASTER DRAGONS A 2-30

(THORNENSIANS)

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
OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS	9	6	0	393	173	12
DONCASTER DRAGONS	8	6	0	303	183	12
SHEFFIELD EAGLES	8	4	0	217	280	8
BARROW RAIDERS	7	0	0	105	382	0

(AS AT 14TH JULY 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.*



As an important cog in his quest to increase fitness Jason Clegg played in an exciting match against Sheffield Eagles scoring a try and was the most go ahead forward on view. Kirkland, Bennett and Clayton scored the other tries and Lancashire kicked five goals.

Words of Wilson

... by Ian Wilson

HOW ON earth can you explain why so many teams - and not just in Rugby League - perform so differently at home and away? The question came to mind, very obviously, at Boundary Park last Sunday. To take just this season so far, Featherstone have a 100% record at Post Office Road, including a superb victory over Salford, but have yet to pick up a point away from home - and that sequence includes a defeat at Dewsbury, to give Andy Fisher's side its only victory in the League so far. At the same time, we produce superb performances at 'home' - I suppose we should now call it that - to beat Leigh and Featherstone, yet concede over fifty points at both Doncaster and Rochdale, and have yet to win away.

It is more understandable in some sports than others, I suppose. In cricket, for example, wickets vary considerably from ground to ground, and so the home side has the advantage both of greater familiarity with its own wicket, and of being able to prepare it itself, to fit it's own side's strengths. In recent times, the Nottinghamshire side which starred Hadley and Rice is probably the best known illustration of this, it was virtually unbeaten at Trent Bridge, on wickets nearly as green as the outfield, but very much less successful on flatter pitches elsewhere.

On similar grounds, you can understand Batley's familiarity with the Mount Pleasant slope being worth a few points start each match; and Featherstone similarly at Post Office Road. But such explanations are clearly not sufficient, since they only apply in a very limited number of cases.

What about psychological aspects giving home advantage, then? In soccer, the famous "This is Anfield" sign above players' heads as they troop down the tunnel was reckoned to be a major intimidatory factor, helping the successful Liverpool FC side under Bill Shankley and Bob Paisley to fantastic home records. And visiting sides' players have admitted to being beaten before a ball has been kicked when visiting Old Trafford over the past ten years or so. In Rugby League, Halifax were never easy to beat at Thrum Hall in the days when players had to brave a walk through howling home spectators to get to the pitch; and when the Watersheddings walk from the Pavilion was reputedly not entirely popular amongst our visiting players in years gone by!

But how do you explain the exceptions? The case of London Broncos this season - at least, until they fell apart at Wilderspool last Sunday - stands out as a reasonable example.

They have yet to win at 'home', but have recorded seven out of ten victories on opponents grounds, as well as one at a neutral Aberavon. Surely this demonstrates that it must be a function of the mind - set of players and coaching staff? If we had played with anything like the commitment and organisation at Doncaster and Batley that we displayed at Boundary Park last Sunday, for example, we would surely now have three more league points than we now have, and therefore be challenging for a top four place rather than a relegation fight. Maybe Steve Molloy could best use his time before we go to Dewsbury next week going down to have a long talk to Tony Rael!

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Age is no barrier

Express

By GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

AS the National Leagues continue to provide top-drawer entertainment every weekend, there are a group of elder statesmen playing their full part.

While players in the twilight of their careers in Super League often hog the limelight - note the attention surrounding the imminent retirement of James Lowes - those at a lower level can see their efforts go relatively unheralded.

But there are undoubtedly a wealth of players over 30 consistently putting in superb performances at this level. And that promoted an interesting discussion in the League Publications offices this week that led to the naming of a National League Veterans side, the qualification being that the player must be over 30 years old.

At fullback, and playing slightly out of position due to the lack of a regular number one, is York's Graeme Hallas (32), whose career has taken in stops at Halifax, Hull KR, Keighley and Huddersfield and a Great Britain Tour Down Under.

On the wings, Salford's Alan Hunte (33) - formerly of Wakefield, St Helens and Hull - lines up with Cumbrian stalwart Graeme Lewthwaite (31), a favourite on the terraces at both Workington and Whitehaven over the past decade.

Having played over 100 first-grade games in Australia, Brendan O'Meara (31) is an automatic selection in the centres, especially considering his outstanding performances for Dewsbury, Rochdale and Featherstone in England. He is joined by - as far as we know - the oldest player regularly operating in the National Leagues, Doncaster's 36 year old Simin Irving, formerly with Leeds and Keighley.

At halfback, Doncaster's Paul Mansson (31) is joined by Sheffield player-coach Mark Aston (35). Mansson began his English career with Salford before stops at Hunslet and Widnes, while Aston is a Sheffield legend who also turned out briefly for Featherstone. Aston also gained a Great Britain cap in France in 1991.

In the front row, hooker Lee Jackson (34) would pack down between Harvey Howard (34) and Paul Broadbent (35) - with the trio's combined age being 103! All three have played at the very highest level for most of their careers, and all earned Great Britain caps.

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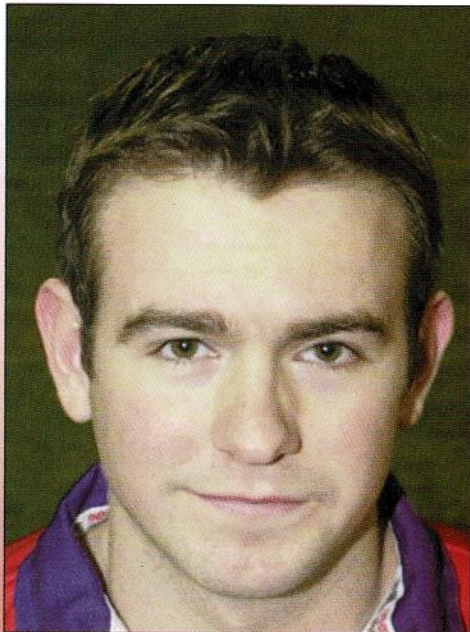
As did the first second-rower, former St Helens, Sheffield, Bradford and Hunslet veteran Sonny Nickle (34), who is now impressing for Leigh. His partner in the back row is one of the game's one-club servants - Hunslet's immensely loyal Mick Coyle (32), still turning out for the Hawks having made his debut for the club in the 1990-91 season.

At loose forward is Jason Ramshaw (33) - another long-serving star having recently enjoyed a deserved testimonial at Keighley Cougars. Ramshaw, who started his career at Halifax, is the subject of this month's Rugby League World National League Profile in the August edition of the magazine, out on Friday July 25.

On the bench we had Hull KR duo Latham Tawhai (31) and Paul Fletcher (33), Workington prop Hitro Okesene (31) and Oldham player-coach Steve Molloy (34) - all still putting in the effort on a weekly basis.

And there are honourable mentions too for Doncaster's Jason Lee and Maea David, and Dewsbury's (occasional player) coaches Andy Fisher and Richard Slater.

Are there other players you would include?



**Neil Roden- League Express
Man of the Match v Featherstone**

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In Yer Face

OLDHAM TURNED in a magnificent, battling performance last week against Featherstone Rovers, once again bouncing back from a dreadful defeat the previous fortnight against Rochdale Hornets. If only the team could find some consistency then there is no doubt that they have sufficient talent to challenge for honours. There has been little sign of consistency this season, however, and it is to be hoped that a familiar pattern does not repeat itself today against Doncaster Dragons. In Oldham's favour today is the memory of the drubbing they took at Belle Vue and the unusual - for Oldham fans - reception the players got as they were booed off the field. Avoiding a repetition of that should galvanise any true professional but even so the Dragons should not be underestimated as they have produced some excellent performances and results.

Last week Oldham executed a well constructed game plan for 75% of the match but in the third quarter of the game things went awry as the side's ball control was poor, unnecessary penalties were conceded and the sin-binning (harsh, I thought) of Lee Doran combined to give Featherstone the edge. In Doran's absence the Rovers scored twice and nudged into a one point lead. At that stage the toll of tackling in the tremendous heat looked like it might prove vital to the outcome but from somewhere Oldham found the spirit and resilience to bounce back. Every man in the team gave his all but the view from the sideline was that Danny Guest was inspirational, that Phil Farrell came up trumps when most needed, that Neil Roden scored two beauties and that Simon Svabic's kicking was immaculate. Oh!, and that second try was a gem of team inter-passing as good as the Roughyeds have produced all season. Let us hope that as we get to the business end of the season and the play-offs loom Oldham can find the form that has produced such vital and exciting play-off performances in past years. In such a tight division it's still all to play for and in sport you never know

what lies around the corner. Come on the Roughyeds!



I never cease to be amazed by the profligacy of the managers of sporting clubs. For a club of St. Helens stature and success to announce a loss of £800,000 for the season is ludicrous. Our champion club with better gates than all bar two other clubs and playing more high profile and, therefore, attractive to sponsors and advertisers, fixtures cannot make a profit. It beggars belief and echoes the situation which forced Wigan to sell Central Park. Unfortunately there is not always a sugar daddy waiting to bale out a club in difficulties and the sugar daddy is not always the long term answer anyway as events at a club not a million inches from where you are sitting prove. The statement made by St. Helens Chairman Eamon McManus on the situation is revealing. "In the past few years the club has achieved great success but at a cost that it could clearly not afford to sustain. **The pursuit of this short term success has severely threatened the club's continued existence.** Our objective now is to continue to achieve a high level of sporting success and entertainment for the fans, but within the framework of financial performance and affordability". Well, if I were Mr McManus I would note that some of those fans are so supportive that at the first sign of a few poor performances they send back their season tickets demanding refunds. Further, part of the restructuring package depends on "a successful outcome to the current TV rights negotiations." Don't hold your breath Mr McManus. Meanwhile there is to be "a major overhaul of senior and middle management positions in order to ensure an improved business performance in 2003 and beyond while the board continues to support the club financially". It is to be hoped the board can afford it! British management, eh?

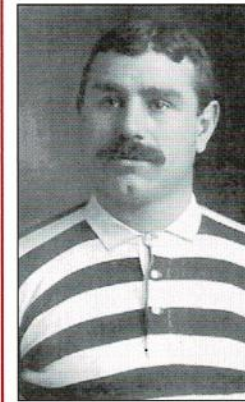
G.C.

ON THIS DAY

... with Don Yates



NINETY-THREE years ago Great Britain undertook their first ever tour of Australasia. The skipper of those original British Lions was James Lomas of Salford who joined Oldham six months later for



James Lomas

what was then a World record transfer fee of £300. On Wednesday 20th July 1910 the Lions met a Maori XIII in Auckland. The Lions won that match 29-0 with Lomas scoring a try and four goals. Also included in the British line-up that day was Bert Sloser Avery, a powerful and speedy forward

who, although he did not score against the Maoris, crossed for seven tries in eleven tour appearances including three touchdowns against New Zealand in the test match. Another member of that tour party, Oldham prop Tommy Helm, did not play in a single match on tour after suffering injury on the journey down under.

The Great Britain World Cup squad of 1957 called off in South Africa on their way back from Australia in order to play a series of missionary matches against France. The first of those matches was staged at Willowmore Park, Benoni on Saturday 20th July. The match turned out to be more of an exhibition fixture with little tackling. As a result there were 22 tries scored to entertain a crowd of 13,000. French winger Maurice Voron scored five of those tries although they did not prevent Britain from winning 61-41. Two Oldham players appeared in that match, prop Sid Little and loose-forward Derek Turner, but neither managed to get on the scoresheet.

On Saturday 20th July 1946 Great Britain defeated Australia by twenty points to seven in the third test match at Sydney Cricket Ground. The only Oldham representative on that tour was second-row forward Doug Phillips who appeared in all three tests against the Kangaroos.

Twenty-eight years later the same two nations met at the same venue in another third test match. Unfortunately the result was different. Australia beat Great Britain 22-18 on Saturday 20th July 1974 although the Lions were somewhat unlucky in that encounter. They led 16-10 at half time before falling off late in the match. At prop for the Lions that afternoon was Terry Clawson, a player who enjoyed a nomadic career. He made only 19 appearances for Oldham but, during his spell at Watersheddings, he also appeared in no fewer than eighteen representative matches, this test being one of them.

It was on this day in 1994, Wednesday 20th July, that Oldham signed the former St. Annes half-back Steve Gartland from Rochdale Hornets for £25,000. Gartland was a record point scorer for Hornets but he had difficulty settling in with his hometown club. He returned to Rochdale on loan in February 1997 and then, on the demise of the original Oldham club, had a spell with Swinton before returning to Rochdale for a third time. He made only 30 appearances for Oldham during his three-year stint at Boundary Park, scoring three tries, 24 goals and two dropped goals.

Six years ago a BARLA under-18 squad toured Australia and on Sunday 20th July 1997 they met the Adelaide Rams academy team. The Australian youngsters proved too good for the tourists and won this match 24-14. Playing in the second-row for BARLA that day was David Best, the Saddleworth Rangers junior who has since moved across town and who is currently attached to St. Annes.

STATS AND FACTS

APPEARANCES & SCORERS SEASON 2003

POSSIBLE MATCHES PLAYED 21 (SIMON SVABIC'S SUBSTITUTE TOTAL INCLUDING ONE NOT USED)

PLAYER	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Gavin Dodd	21	0	12	0	0	48
Iain Marsh	16	1	3	0	0	12
Jon Goddard	16	1	4	0	0	16
Paul Anderson	15	5	8	0	0	32
Joe McNicholas	7	1	2	0	0	8
Simon Svabic	11	11	2	50	1	101
Neil Roden	16	3	4	0	3	19
Steve Molloy	19	2	2	0	0	8
John Hough	18	2	4	0	0	16
Martin McLoughlin	5	7	0	0	0	0
Lee Doran	22	0	7	0	0	28
Chris Morley	16	4	2	0	0	8
Phil Farrell	16	0	5	0	0	20
Gareth Barber	11	7	10	31	0	102
Gavin Johnson	0	3	0	0	0	0
Ryan Stazicker	12	4	4	0	0	16
Danny Guest	1	11	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	6	0	0	0	0	0
Darren Shaw	6	3	0	0	0	0
Keith Brennan	6	10	4	0	0	16
Dane Morgan	8	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	4	0	2	0	0	8

Roughyeds Kids



HI KIDS,

Well weren't we busy last weekend, what with swimming and walking we should all be really fit now, (and all the mums and dads are fit to drop). Then to round it off the Lads did us proud on the pitch. (They must have heard you all shouting).

All of you who took part in the sponsored walk should be really proud of yourselves you were all brilliant. The only downer was not being able to get into our box in time for kick-off. Never mind we got

there in the end. We know that Chris is really grateful for all your fund-raising efforts and hopes that you are all enjoying yourselves at the events we're trying to organise.

Don't forget our next meeting on the 24th July, it may be your name picked out of the mascot draw.

Once again thanks to our sponsors for this season, Saddleworth Sports, F R Ellswood Ltd, Third Axis Ltd & A1 Upholstery.

A big thank you also to Warburtons bakery who helped provide the grub for after the sponsored walk.

Today's mascot is six year old **Cameron Clare** whose favourite player is Steve Molloy, have a great day Cameron and the rest of you kids enjoy the game, don't forget shout as loud as you can.

See you soon.

Janet and Carole



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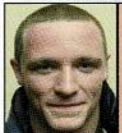


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	Jason Clegg Gaskell's		Will Cowell Mike Neild Builders		Gavin Dodd Revolution Radio
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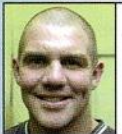
	Lee Doran Tymbuktu Health & Beauty Clinic		Phil Farrell Lansdowne Roofing		Jon Goddard W. J. Lewis (Builders Merchants)
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	Danny Guest John Barrett		John Hough Fred Laughton		Dane Morgan Aspul Catering Equipment Co. (via Monarch Metals)
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	Gavin Johnson Mason Group		Daryl Lacey Nautilus Health & Fitness		Martin McLoughlin Computer Kingdom
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	Iain Marsh West Pennine Truck Rental (via Monarch Metals)		Joe McNicholas Ian Taylor		Steve Molloy Harry Long Plumbers
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	Chris Morley Dronsfelds Mercedes		Keith Brennan Computer Kingdom		Paul Norton John Battye
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Fixtures

DATE	OPPONENT	RLST	ATT
DECEMBER 2002			
28	ROCHDALE HORNETS	LAW C	W 28-22 2,141
JANUARY 2003			
19	LEIGH CENTURIONS	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 CENTURIONS	NL C	L 26-31 1,945
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 CENTURIONS	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	D 22-22 1,096
22	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1	D 20-20 821
29	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1	L 14-58 1,425
JULY			
06		NL C FINAL	
13	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1	W 35-24 1235
20	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1	H
27	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1	A
AUGUST			
03	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1	H
10	LEIGH CENTURIONS	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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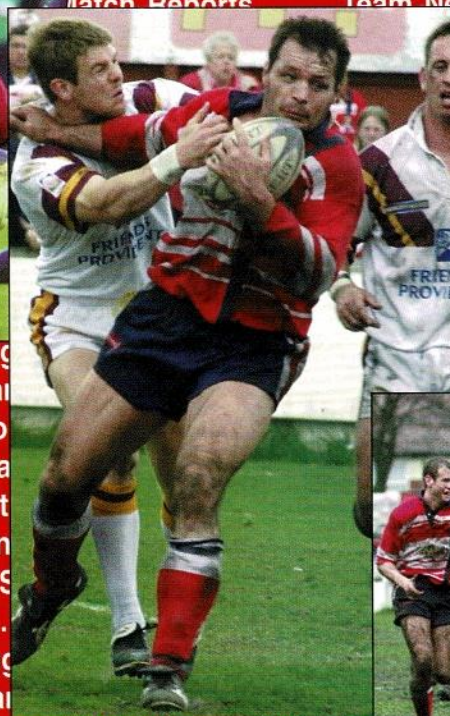
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