



Today's Teams

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Brendon O'MEARA

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Carl BRIGGS

Ian TONKS

Paul DARLEY

Stuart DICKENS

Steve DOOLER

Andy RICE

Danny SEAL

Oldham Coach

Steve MOLLOY

Jonathan GODDARD

Chris PERCIVAL

Iain MARSH

Lee DORAN

Nick JOHNSON

Simon SVABIC

Neil RODEN

Danny GUEST

John HOUGH

Dane MORGAN

Craig MCDOWELL

Lee MARSH

Phil FARRELL

Jonathon PRESLEY

Andrew JARRETT

James HOUSTON

Chris MOLYNEUX

14

Gareth BARBER

15

Lee BRENNAN

16

Martin MCCLOUGHLIN

17

Steve MOLLOY

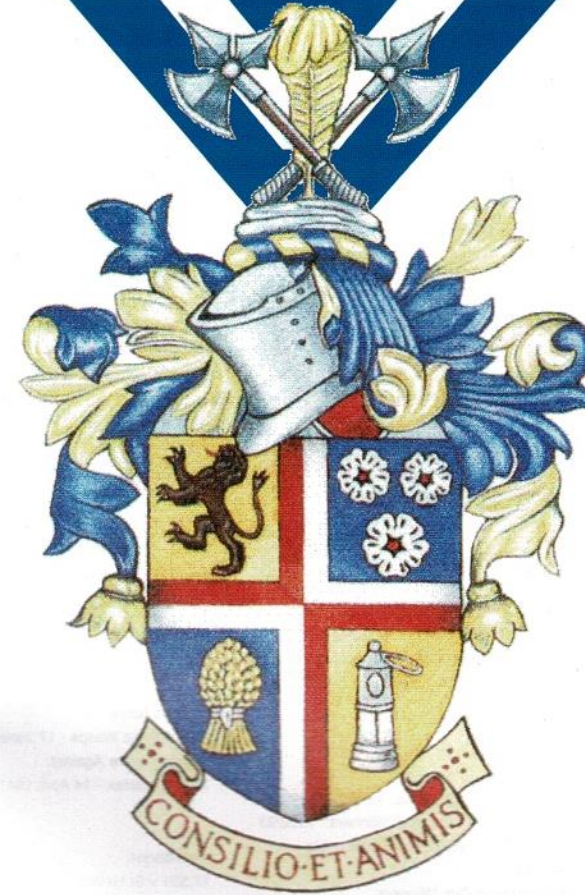
TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: P. TABERNER

D. Griffiths

R.J. Stokes

4th D. Merrick



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National League Division One Rovers v Oldham

Sunday 7th September 2003 K.O. 3.00pm



Featherstone Rovers RLFC

... Season 2003

Founded: 1902
Re-formed: 1908
Elected to NR FL: June 1921

Ground:
Lionheart Stadium,
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Football Director: S Lingard
Team Manager: Andy Kelly
1st Team Coach: Richard Agar
Academy Coach: Brian Kellett
Video Team: E Lorrinan, I Elliot
Timekeeper:

Medical Consultants:
Dr P G Gordon, MRCS, LRCP, DCH

Hon Dental Surgeon:
JG Milne, B.Ch. D

Club Photographers:
E Lorrinan, R Nunn

Scoreboard Operator: J Jefferson
Programme Editor: Glyn Robinson
Groundsman: F Lavine

Tannoy Announcer: Anna Thompson
Physiotherapist: Lee Robinson
R L Representative: G Robinson
Honorary Life Members: R Ashby,
R Bailey, K Everson, E Gardner,
D Hobbs, N Hodgson, D F Hunt,
A Morris, T M Mullaney, J Reed,
J Williams, T Jones, P Jones, M Ashby,
J A Jarvis, L Hawkins & S Wagner

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

Great Britain:

T Askin, J Bridges, T Clawson,
M Dixon, S Evans, Deryck Fox,
Don Fox, D Hobbs, G Gordon,
S Molloy, A Morgan, S Nash,
P Newlove, P Smith, J Thompson

Tourists:

T Askin, C Bibb, J Bridges, G Cooper,
C Dooler, S Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox,
D Hobbs, S Nash, P Newlove, I Smales,
J Thompson

World Cup Tourists:
A Morgan, P Smith, J Thompson

England:

J Bridges, I Butt, M Dixon, S Evans, V Farrar,
J Hirst, D Hobbs, A Morgan, J Mullaney,
P Newlove, P Smith, R Stone, J Thompson,
A Wood

Wales: P Banner, H Box

Ireland: L Casey, L Child

Scotland: N Lowe

France: D Divet, F Banquet

New Zealand: B Tuuta

Great Britain U21's:

C Bibb, P Bonson, Deryck Fox, P Lyman,
P Newlove, M Pearson, I Smales

Great Britain U24's:

K Bell, S Evans, D Fennell, V Farrar,
M Gibbins, J Gilbert, D Hobbs, T Ramshaw,
P Smith, V Thomas, J Thompson, L Tonks

Academy Tourist: Jamie Stokes

Academy Internationals: J Stokes, N Lowe,
K Pratt & S Dickens

U21/Academy Representative:

D Hunt

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Division Two Premiership Runners-Up:
1987/88

RL Challenge Cup Winners:
1966/67, 1972/73, 1982/83

RL Challenge Cup Runners-Up:
1951/52, 1973/74

Yorkshire Cup Winners: 1939/40, 1959/60

Yorkshire Cup Runners-Up: 1928/29, 1963/64,
1966/67, 1969/70, 1970/71, 1976/77, 1977/78,
1989/90

Captain Morgan Trophy Runners-Up:

1973/74

Yorkshire League Runners-Up:

1928, 1962

1st Division Grand Finalists Runner-Up:

1998

RECORDS

In a Match:

Goals:

13 by Mark Knapper v Keighley

- 17 Sept 1989

Tries:

6 by Mike Smith v Doncaster

- 13 April 1968

6 by Chris Bibb v Keighley - 17 Sept 1989

Points:

40 by Martin Pearson v Whitehaven

- 26 Nov 1995

In a Season:

Goals:

165 by Jamie Rooney - Season 2002

Tries: 48 by Paul Newlove - 1992/93

Points:

429 by Jamie Rooney - Season 2002

Appearances: 46 by C Woolford - 1959/60

In a Career:

Goals: 1,210 by Steve Quinn - 1975/88

Tries: 162 by Don Fox - 1953/66

Points: 2,654 by Steve Quinn - 1975/88

Appearances:

440 by Jim Denton - 1921/34

Highest Score:

92-2 v Yorks Wasps - 17 June 2001

Highest Score Against:

70-2 at Halifax - 14 April 1941

Attendance:

17,531 v St Helens (RL Cup)

- 21 March 1959

Yorkshire Cup:

10,700 v Leeds - Sept 1959

League:

14,990 v Wakefield - January 1962

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Coach's Comments



... by Andy Kelly

Hello all,

Where to begin on such a day is difficult!
We play Oldham today, in a game that means so much to both teams. It's the unofficial play-off eliminator for the 5th or 7th place. That's how I see it, and with Dewsbury playing Whitehaven away, and a home win there on the cards, it can surely be seen in no other way by all concerned.

Oldham are packed with enthusiasm and pace, and recent recruits Nicky Johnson, Craig McDowell and Chris Percival have wasted no time settling in – featuring strongly in last week's victory over Batley. Add to those three, the half-backs Neil Roden and Simon Svabic, the hard-working Phil Farrell at loose forward, and the free-scoring Lee Doran, leadership on and off the field from Steve Malloy, you get the picture of a very good side.

We find ourselves in this position quite simply because we have failed to perform away from the Lionheart Stadium. Our away-form is that of a side that would be relegated.

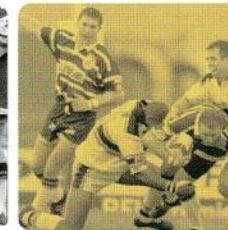
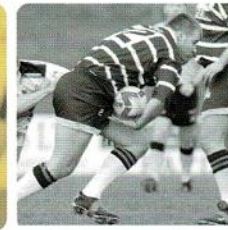
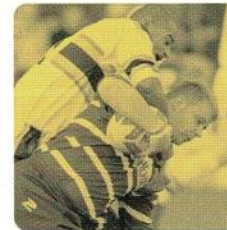
In the comfort of our own back yard, we have been as good as any side in the Division, only suffering one defeat at the hands of Leigh – form that would see you close to winning the Division.

We must show that home-form again today if we are to be a part of the play-offs, and keep the season alive.

Let's put every effort into this game and come away with something positive to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Enjoy the game!

Cheers, Andy Kelly



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FRISA



... Paul Cox

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS INDEPENDENT SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION www.frisa.f9.co.uk

The Frisa Stand Point

Unless a miracle has happened (I write before the Rochdale game), today's match with Oldham will be our last home fixture of the season. It's a game we're probably going to have to win to be sure of a play-off berth - and it'll no doubt be the usual precarious berth involving elimination away games all the way along the Yellow Brick Road to the Halton Stadium on October 5. It's an appropriate time and place for a post-mortem on a Rovers season that began with such high expectations. But my guess is every other contributor to today's programme will be pitching in with their two penn'orth on this topic, and since I've got no answers that don't require loadsamoney, I'll leave it until such time that I have and that don't. Just one or two comments about the season in general, and about our preparation for the next one.

The National League split has been a good move, on the whole. I'll not risk the patience of my two remaining readers by mounting my hobby-horse and bleating, again, about parachute payments and uneven pitches driving fans away. That's another argument. Suffice to say here that it's been tough. We knew before the start that it would be, that there would be no easy games in NL1, but too many poor Rovers performances have meant that it's been tougher for us than it should have been.

The positives for us have been the academy lads who have moved up to the first team. Whiting, Bailey, Houston and Ford in particular have been outstanding. They play with great maturity as well as skill, and they play, too, with pride and fire in their bellies. A little more confidence and self-belief and they will be unstoppable. A special mention, too, for four of the senior players who have never taken a backward step, or played with less than everything they've got, all season. They are Stuey Dickens, Nathan Graham, Brendan O'Meara, and Tonka Tank Tonks.

These last two (along with the mercurial, if inconsistent, Chappy) have been funded this season by FRISA. We'd like to be able to do more, bring more players of this quality to the club, but we haven't got the numbers: the same 120 or so members we've had almost since our formation three seasons ago generously giving their £5 per month; the same seven or eight committee members turning up to the monthly meetings, doing the work, licking the stamps, posting the leaflets, trying to think of fresh money-raising ideas that don't involve asking the same people to keep digging into their pockets. It's not easy.

Salford and Leigh independent supporters associations each have three times the members we have. They've got the numbers to bring in sufficient money to attract more money - local authority money, grant money, sponsorship and advertising money. Via the simple means of getting sufficient fans to subscribe £5 per month they've reached critical mass, the point beyond which things start to happen. And things *have* been happening there. There's a dynamism about the two clubs that means they can attract the players and officials and staff; that means they're on the verge.

Do their fans want it more than we do? Do their fans love their clubs more than we love Featherstone Rovers? No? So how come they've got three times the membership of their ISAs we have? Do their independent supporters not buy their entry tickets and replica shirts and golden gambles as well? Do their independent supporters not drink in their club bars as well as subscribe to their ISA? Of course they do. Sacrifice something that's not good for you; spend the savings on what matters on a Sunday afternoon. Remember: you get what you pay for. Fill in the slip below, or call in the club shop on Station Lane, or phone 602602 and ask for a FRISA subscription form. Let's build for next season. Let's start now.

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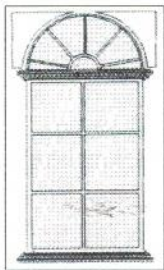
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2003 Season – A Message from the Chief Executive

Every player, coach, director and supporter will be disappointed with our not having achieved an away win throughout the season. The same people will be pleased with the way the team has conducted itself in the home games, with one exception.

Yes, we know it has not been the best of years off the field, but at least the Directors faced up to reality by making the decision to go into administration to secure the long-term future of the club. Whilst plenty of hard work has been done, it will require a lot more to take the club forward.

Plans are been made to improve the finances of the club, but until these are finalised no false promises will be made to fill the supporters with false hopes. What you read is the truth, and surely this is what you want to hear.

You will probably have noticed the telephone mast which has been erected on the training field. This project was undertaken by Steve Wagner, and will bring in £4,500 a year for the next 15 years. Funding has been applied for for the new frontage of the ground and, with the help of the Revival Fund, this will prove to be successful. Whilst more parallel funding is required, we are more than hopeful that it will be achieved.

Other clubs conduct their business as they feel is best for them. To take a player on loan from a SL Club at £2,000 plus a month is not considered good business by our club. One certain club chairman openly publicises that he puts in over £100K to keep the club going. What if something happens, and that chairman cannot put in his money any longer? Where does that club go? A group of business men are backing one club where 6 personnel receive wages totalling £200K. Is that viable in the NL, and what happens if it does not bring success and the money dries up? Yes, we can all speculate – but at the end of the day the books have to balance. O to win the Lotto!

Yes, there is another season to look forward to!
Yes, we need and value your support!
See you next season!

Alan Agar

Featherstone Rovers RLFC

are staging their annual
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LOCAL HEROES

This week's guest selector is the Rovers' Website Administrator, John Denton.

"I've been watching the Rovers since around 1976 – I was brought down by my Dad and my Grandad, and I have been coming ever since.

The last game was particularly special, as not only did we win – but I brought my son Matthew to watch his first game. He's six now, and joined his Grandad and me at the game. It's that continuity which draws me back, and I hope that it will get under the skin of my boys too.

For my favourite side, I have chosen players that have entertained me and ones that no longer play for the club. With so many options, I have mainly gone for entertainers, and players whose skills or endeavours have particularly stood out in my mind. I was tempted to just pick the 1983 cup side – but I guess that would have been a cop-out. Here is my final thirteen."

1	Steve Collins	10	Karl Harrison
2	Karl Pratt	11	David Hobbs
3	Steve Quinn	12	Neil Lowe
4	Paul Newlove	13	Peter Smith
5	John Marsden		
6	Graham Steadman		
7	Deryck Fox		
8	Mick Gibbins		
9	Trevor Clarke		

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Featherstone Rovers Rugby League Football Club Ltd. will take place on Wednesday 24th September 2003, in the Featherstone Rovers Clubhouse, commencing at 7.30pm.

There will be an Election by Postal Ballot for 3 'A' Share Directors, and 4 'B' Share Directors.

Anyone wishing to stand for the Board must have their Nomination signed by the Proposer, Secunder, and signed by themselves accepting the Nomination. All completed Nominations, quoting their Share Certificate Number must reach the Company Office by close of business on **Wednesday 10th September, 2003.**

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... by Steve Lancaster

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Welcome to Lionheart Stadium for the final time this season. Oldham bring the curtain down on another league campaign which has had its moments, but ultimately has to go down as a disappointment. All the young Academy lads that have stepped up to the first team have done well, which is a positive to come out of the season. But the fact is, Rovers have lost to every club in the Division. Nothing wrong with that if they're all good sides, but despite having good players, some of the sides that have beaten Rovers have been poor teams. Batley kept gifting Rovers possession in good field positions, but we couldn't do anything with it. We finished up losing the second half 6-4. All Batley's tries were well-taken, created tries with players going through gaps. Ours, on the other hand, required individual skills to cross the whitewash.

The players and the Coach are always easy targets, but hard, searching questions should be asked as to how clubs with attendances less than Rovers can keep quality players and put out good sides on the field? Rochdale have quality in every position, but have less than one thousand attendances. Rovers are good at moaning about other clubs 'bending' the rules; signing players with money they haven't got, spending above the salary cap, having sugar daddies to keep dipping into his own pockets. We need to stop moaning about 'historical debt' and get off our butts to fetch new money in. Rovers' hard core band of supporters is dwindling, and asking the same few to keep dipping into their pockets won't be enough. Of course the existing debt is holding us back, but Hull KR are in administration and getting on with it. More money coming in allows the club to spend above the salary cap, gets grants, better players. More wins equals more spectators, equals more money. Rovers have never embraced Summer Rugby. The debates about if it works or not are academic - it's here to stay, so we have to make it work. The Unison Day and the Family Day were a start, and must be expanded on. It's five years too late, but given time the Rovers Committee will get there!!

Should Rovers avoid a defeat this afternoon, we'll make the play-offs - with an away trip to Hull KR. The Supporters' Club will take a bus, and bookings can be made in the Hut or by ringing the above numbers. A big thank you to everyone who has travelled in support of the Rovers. A

big thank you also to our Mascots. Hope you all had enjoyable days, even when Rovers have been beaten.

Latest Mascots have been Adrian Carr at Salford who was nine on the day. Richard Whiting and Adrian Flynn are his favourite players. Football and swimming, as well as rugby, are Adrian's hobbies. The Mascot for Leigh at home was eight-year-old Kieran Shaw. PlayStation and Ti Quando are his hobbies, and Kieran is another Chappie fan. Chappie fan Kristian Danielson, aged 11, was Mascot at Hull KR. He plays rugby for Knottingley Rockware, and enjoys the Scouts. Another Chappie fan, Chelsea Hare, aged 8, is a dancer with the Normanton Knightingales. Chelsea was Mascot for the Whitehaven home fixture. Scott Fleming, aged 6, was Mascot at Batley. All Rovers players get Scott's vote. Horse riding, Karate, football and playing for Lock Lane are what Scott enjoys. Daniel Cording, aged 10, was the Rochdale match Mascot. Football and swimming are his hobbies. Chappie and Danny Seal are Daniel's favourite players. Emily Jane Grace Carter, aged 4, is today's Mascot. She likes all Rovers players, and does gymnastics. Emily dislikes her Cas Tigers lunchbox. Quite right too! Here's a tip, Emily - get Mum to buy a new lunchbox and stick a photo of Rovers on it.

Enjoy the match, and all of you cheer your heads off for your favourites. Have a safe journey home, and see you all next season! Why not bring a friend next year? Tell them all how good it is at Rovers!

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Oldham

... A Rough Guide

GARETH BARBER: A 21-year-old Oldham-born half-back, who was reared on rugby with his best pal, Leeds and GB ace Kevin Sinfield. Barber was with Warrington before signing for Oldham for the start of the 2000/1 season.

LEE DORAN: Another young player in whom Oldham have a lot of confidence. A Wiganer, Lee has worked his way through the Academy and Alliance teams at Oldham, and is now probably one of the first names on the Oldham team sheet each week. Good pace and robust defence give him all the assets required to make a top class second-row forward. Showed up well in the NFP Under 21s in 2001. One of five Oldham players in that squad.

PHIL FARRELL: Phil, starting his fourth season with the Roughyeds, has just been appointed Club Captain. Phil played most of his rugby at Oldham at second-row, but it looks like he will fit into the loose-forward role this season – a position his older brother, Andy, fills for Wigan. One of the youngest captains in the League, he will not be fazed by the responsibility.

JON GODDARD: Aged 20. Jon came to Oldham for the 2002 season on a high recommendation from Graham Steadman – the Castleford boss. Goddard was reared in Castleford youth and schools rugby before going to 'The Jungle' to play for the Academy side. During his two seasons in their Alliance side, he played three times in their first team in Super League. He has recently signed a contract that will keep him at Oldham for the entire 2003 season. Although a young novice when first thrown into the first team, he has developed well and made the transition from full-back to a very competent centre.

DANNY GUEST: One of the Roughyeds originals. Danny returned to the club three seasons ago. He is still a juggernaut, weighing in at around the 18-stone mark after shedding somewhere around 2 stone during the close season. Still young by Prop standards, he has pots of potential. Used from the bench as an impact player most of last season, he could play a similar role in a formidable front-row this year.

JOHN HOUGH: The first player to sign for his hometown club when Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors formed the new Roughyeds in 1997. He has just signed a new contract to take him to the end of the 2004 season. On his day, one of the best hookers in the National League – a danger to any defence from acting full-back. By the end of the 2002 season, he had

made 152 appearances for Oldham, 37 of them in the 2002 season alone. Last season saw him cross the whitewash on 10 occasions – second only to Lee Doran in the Forward try-scoring charts.

GAVIN JOHNSON: A back-row forward who can also fill in at centre or wing. Oldham-lad Gavin spent two seasons with Bradford in the Academy side, and made the occasional appearance in the Alliance championship side. Spent almost a season earning his spurs in the Oldham Alliance side, before signing a two-year deal in 2001. Gavin has recently broken into the first team as a second-row and scored his first senior points with a try against Keighley.

IAIN MARSH: The 22-year-old goal-kicking centre or winger signed from Barrow Border Raiders. Iain, a St Helens lad, played for Salford for 5 years, including some Super League appearances, before signing for St Helens. He was Cameron Bell's first signing at Barrow last season, and mainly played as a centre – alongside Kiwi Cliff Beverley. He has scored 12 tries in 32 appearances. A solid defender and a very strong finisher.

MARTIN McMLOUGHLIN: A big, front-row man who can also play second-row. He was signed from Barrow at the end of the 2002 season. During last season he was twice named in the NFP form team of the month.

STEVE MOLLOY: Ex England Captain, Steve signed for his second spell at Oldham from Batley Bulldogs. He was the obvious choice as player/coach when the previous coach left mid-season. A front-row forward, who has played for Featherstone, Sheffield, Warrington and Leeds, Molloy is a local lad. He made a big contribution to Roughyeds' excellent end-of-season run – in which a place in National League One was secured.

DANE MORGAN: This young Australian came over on a one-year contract. He is 24 years old, and previously played for Melbourne Storm, West Tigers and North Sydney. He plays prop or second-row.

NEIL RODEN: Neil signed from home-town club Wigan. The son of Wigan's chief scout, he has the scrum-half jersey all to himself, after winning the accolade of Oldham players' 'Player of the Year' in 2002. One of the best scrum-halves outside of Super League.

SIMON SVABIC: Signed from Leigh at the end of the 2002 campaign, Simon started his career in Oldham, with the now-defunct Bears. A stand-off with great guile, he is an important playmaker in the Roughyeds squad.

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Appearances & Scores



	SEASON 2003						TOTAL SENIOR RECORD					
	Apps	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts	Apps	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts
RICHARD AGAR	10	2	2	-	2	10	18	5	4	1	2	20
BEN ARCHIBALD	1	5	1	-	-	4	1	5	1	-	-	4
ANDY BAILEY	6	19	1	-	-	4	6	19	1	-	-	4
CARL BRIGGS	29	-	5	30	8	88	29	-	5	30	8	88
IAN BROWN	24	1	14	-	-	56	24	1	14	-	-	56
RICHARD CHAPMAN	23	6	10	-	-	40	171	48	101	128	3	663
PAUL DARLEY	6	9	1	-	-	4	36	37	5	-	-	20
STUART DICKENS	30	1	1	79	-	162	141	39	17	128	2	326
STEVE DOOLER	29	-	8	-	-	32	108	34	28	-	-	112
ADRIAN FLYNN	31	-	15	-	-	60	31	-	15	-	-	60
JAMES FORD	3	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
NATHAN GRAHAM	30	-	8	-	-	32	66	-	21	-	1	85
JAMES HOUSTON	1	7	1	-	-	4	1	7	1	-	-	4
ANDREW JARRETT	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
ROBIN JOWETT	1	11	-	-	-	-	1	20	1	-	-	4
CHRIS LANGLEY	8	2	3	-	-	12	13	3	6	-	-	24
ANDY McNALLY	4	6	-	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	-
CHRIS MOLYNEAUX	7	23	1	-	-	4	7	23	1	-	-	4
BRENDAN O'MEARA	30	-	8	-	-	32	30	-	8	-	-	32
DANNY PATRICKSON	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
JONATHON PRESLEY	5	7	3	-	-	12	5	7	3	-	-	12
ANDY RICE	26	5	2	-	-	8	26	5	2	-	-	8
DANNY SEAL	31	-	17	-	-	68	66	2	31	-	-	124
KEVIN SPINK	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
JAMIE STOKES	31	-	22	-	-	88	161	7	101	-	-	404
JAMIE TENNANT	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
IAN TONKS	25	4	3	-	-	12	53	5	5	-	-	20
RICHARD WHITING	10	8	2	6	-	20	10	8	2	6	-	20
LEE WILLIAMSON	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	18	-	-	-	-

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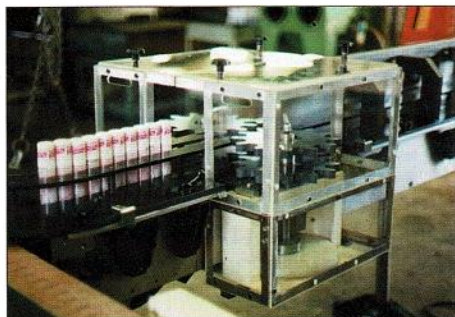


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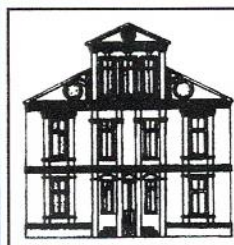
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View from the Lagoon

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'THE EPITAPH'

Get out your old 'Rothmans Year Book' folks, and please tell me it isn't true that this present Rovers side is the only one to go through an entire League programme without an away win. But I suspect that it's true! The last chance was blown in spectacular style at Rochdale last week. Now, Rochdale are a very competent outfit, but are Rovers 30 points worse than them? The facts tell you "Yes", as we drew a blank for the 9th time of asking. Unbelievable!

We keep getting told 'the players are up for it', and 'we're capable of winning here', blah-blah. And it never happens! There's a lot of soul searching to be done after the last ball is kicked - by players, coaching staff and the Directors alike. They all shoulder the responsibility collectively - some more than others. Forget the home record! It's the away games where our loyal and patient followers dig deep to follow their heroes. And quite frankly, we've been shortchanged.

Apart from Salford, where we were unlucky and competed well, all the other away games have been either unexpectedly lost or, in some cases, literally thrown away. The fans have stuck in there, hoping that the next game will be 'the one'. But it

never came, and never looked like coming. And today, we find ourselves in a self-inflicted 'pressure-cooker' situation where only a win will do - and it could have been avoided. Oldham will be fired up, and they chase the same goal. It should be interesting to say the least. And with Hull KR awaiting the victors; it's no wonder that even the 'rose-tinted specs' brigade (and there are some) are fearing the worst. What with the demise of the U21s, and the other age groups struggling, there seems to be a large black cloud over Post Office Road at the moment. I feel that we have taken a step backwards, and this must be addressed. The taunts of "we can play you every week" from Whitehaven fans still ring in our ears.

Yes, we have had our moments (Leigh, Villeneuve, and Salford - but all at home), but they have been few and far between. It's time for everyone to stand up and be counted. And if we do make the play-offs, a bit of that 1998 spirit wouldn't go amiss - and Andy Kelly, especially, knows all about that, don't you Andy?

Let battle commence, then let's start searching those souls in the coming months.

UP THE ROVERS !!!

Rovers Reachout

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Our main sponsor, UNISON, is looking to continue what has become an excellent partnership throughout 2004. We look forward to cementing our relationship.

We also offer our thanks to Shirt Sponsors, ROSS TRAVEL, EGO STITCH, GUINNESS, FIVE-O and CODE FARM, whose contributions have all been enormous.

To all our Matchday Sponsors, we thank you for your contributions, and hope that we will see you all next year. We value your support, and hope that you have enjoyed your afternoons at the Lionheart Stadium.

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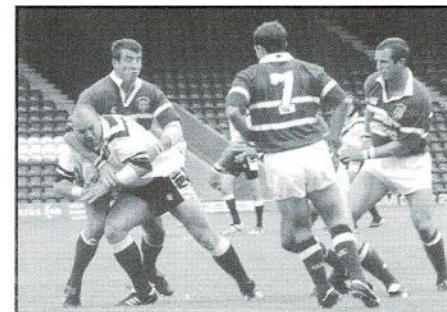
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v
Rochdale Hornets
Sunday 31st August 2003



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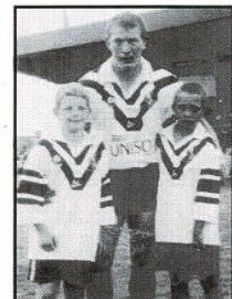
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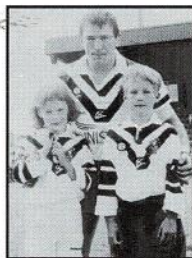
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Jodie Thorpe - Batley (H)



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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



Match Analysis 2003

January 2003	Score	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
19 SHEFFIELD EAG	W30-12	1595	Graham T	Stokes T	O'Meara T	Brown T	Flynn T	McNally	Briggs	Molyneux	Seal 2T	Dickens 3G	Dooler	Tonks	Rice	Patrickson	Archibald T	Bailey	Jowitt	
26 VILLENEUVE LEOP	W26-22	1441	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown T	Flynn T	McNally	Briggs 2DG	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens 6G	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Patrickson	Archibald	Bailey	Molyneux T	
February																				
2 HULL KR	L20-0	1540	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	McNally	Briggs	Molyneux	Chapman	Dickens	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Patrickson	Archibald	Bailey	Jowitt	
9 LEIGH CEN	W28-22	2257	Graham	Stokes T	O'Meara	Brown T	Flynn	Agar	Briggs 2DG	Molyneux	Chapman	Dickens 5G	Dooler	Rice	Seal 2T	McNally	Bailey	Tonks	Jowitt	
16 YORK CITY	W36-22	1728	Graham	Stokes 2T	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	Agar T	Briggs 1T3G	Molyneux	Chapman 2T	Dickens 1G	Dooler	Rice	Seal 1T	McNally	Tonks	Bailey	Jowitt	
23 DONCASTER D	L37-24	2075	Graham	Stokes T	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn T	Agar	Briggs T	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens 3G	Bailey	Rice	Seal 2T	McNally	Archibald	Molyneux	Jowitt	
March																				
2 Swinton Lions	L32-10	1092	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara T	McNally	Flynn	Agar	Briggs	Molyneux	Chapman	Jowitt	Brown T	Rice	Seal	Whiting	Bailey	Dickens G	Tonks	
9 Hunslet Hawks	W42-4	793	Graham	Stokes 3T	O'Meara	Brown 2T	Flynn 2T	Agar 1DG	Briggs 1G, 1DG	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens 3G	Dooler 1T	Rice	Seal	McNally	Bailey	Molyneux	Jowitt	
16 HULL K.R.	W44-20	1712	Graham T	Stokes 3T	O'Meara	Brown T	Flynn T	Agar	Briggs 1T3G	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens G	Dooler	Rice	Seal 1T	Presley	McNally	Bailey	Molyneux	
21 Sheffield Eag	W27-8	856	Graham	Stokes T	O'Meara	Brown 2T	Flynn	Agar 1DG	Briggs 1G	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens 4G	Dooler	Rice	Seal 1T	Presley	Whiting	Bailey	Molyneux	
30 HUNSLET HAWKS	W50-10	1242	Graham T	Stokes 2T	O'Meara 2T	Brown T	Flynn	Briggs 1G	Presley	Tonks 2T	Seal	Dickens 6G	Dooler 1T	Bailey	Rice	Spink	Chapman	Whiting	Molyneux	
April																				
6 Doncaster D	L26-24	1291	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown T	Flynn 2T	Briggs 1G	Presley	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens 3G	Dooler 1T	Rice	Seal	McNally	Whiting	Bailey	Molyneux	
13 York City Knights	W32-14	1415	Graham 2T	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown T	Flynn	Agar 1T	Briggs 2G	Tonks	Chapman T	Dickens 2G	Dooler	Rice	Seal 2T	Whiting	Bailey	Jowitt	Molyneux	
18 DONCASTER D	W44-18	1540	Graham T	Stokes	O'Meara T	Brown	Flynn 2T	Agar	Briggs 3G	Tonks 1T	Chapman	Dickens 3G	Dooler	Rice	Seal 2T	Whiting	Bailey	Jowitt	Molyneux	
Dewsbury Rams	L26-20	1247	Graham T	Stokes T	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	Agar	Briggs 1T2G	Tonks	Chapman T	Dickens	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Whiting	Darley	Bailey	Jowitt	
May																				
4 SALFORD CR	W18-16	1616	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	Lanley T	Briggs 1G	Tonks	Chapman T	Dickens 4G	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Darley	bailey	Jowitt	Molyneux	
11 Leigh Cen	L50-12	2073	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	O'Meara	Briggs 2G	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens	Dooler T	Rice	Seal	Darley	Bailey	Jowitt	Molyneux	
18 Leigh Cen	L26-6	1688	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn T	O'Meara	Briggs	Tonks	Darley	Dickens 1G	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Whiting	Jarrett	Bailey	Molyneux	
25 HULL KR	W14-12	1301	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn T	O'Meara	Briggs	Tonks	Darley	Dickens 3G	Dooler 1T	Rice	Seal	Agar	Chapman	Bailey	Molyneux	
June																				
1 Whitehaven	L46-6	1698	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown T	Flynn	O'Meara	Briggs 1G	Tonks	Darley	Dickens	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Agar	Chapman	Bailey	Molyneux	
15 BATLEY BULLDOGS	W34-18	1182	Archibald	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown T	Flynn T	Whiting T	Briggs	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens 4P	Dooler T	Rice	Seal T	Presley T	Langley	Darley	Molyneux	
22 R'DALE HORNETS	W30-19	1359	Graham	Stokes 2T	O'Meara	Bailey	Flynn	Whiting	Briggs	Molyneux	Chapman T	Dickens 8G	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Archibald	Langley	Darley	Houston	
29 Doncaster D	L30-19	1008	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	Whiting	Briggs 1T1G	Molyneux	Chapman	Dickens 3G	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Presley	Houston	Darley	Tonks	
July																				
13 Oldham	L35-24	1239	Graham	Stokes T	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	Whiting 2G	Briggs 1T	Tonks	Chapman T	Dickens 2G	Bailey	Dooler	Seal 1T	Langley	Rice	Jarret	Molyneux	
20 DEWSBURY RAMS	W26-13	1536	Graham	Stokes 1T	O'Meara	O'Meara	Flynn	Whiting	Presley 1T	Tonks	Chapman 2T	Dickens 5G	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Ford	Houston	Rice	Molyneux	
27 Salford City Reds	L38-20	2025	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn T	Whiting	Presley 1T	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens 1T4G	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Darley	Houston	Rice	Molyneux	
August																				
3 LEIGH CENTURIONS	L58-32	1747	Graham	Stokes	Whiting 1T4G	O'Meara	Flynn	Briggs	Presley	Tonks	Chapman 1T	Dickens	Dooler 1T	Rice	Seal 1T	Brown T	Darley	Houston T	Molyneux	
10 Hull KR	L13-0	1200	Graham	Stokes	O'Meara	Brown	Flynn	Whiting	Briggs	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens	Dooler	Rice	Seal	Darley	Houston	Bailey	Molyneux	
17 WHITEHAVEN	W82-12	1116	Graham 2T	Stokes 2T	O'Meara 2T	Flynn T	Ford	Whiting	Briggs 6G	Tonks	Darley 1T	Dickens 2G	Houston	Rice	Seal 1T	Chapman	Rice	Houston	Molyneux	
24 Bailey Bulldogs	L18-10	1156	Graham	Stokes 1T	O'Meara	Flynn	Ford	Patrickson	Briggs	Tonks	Darley	Dickens 1G	Dooler 1T	Rice	Seal	Presley	Chapman	Houston	Molyneux	
31 Rochdale Hornets	L42-12	948	raham	Stokes	O'Meara T	Flynn T	Ford	Whiting	Briggs 1G	Tonks	Darley	Dickens 1G	Dooler	Jarrett	Seal	Presley	Chapman	Rice	Houston	

Note: (.) denotes subs not used

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The Flat Capper

by Colin Smith

Well, as expected, we lost at Rochdale. It seems that the whole season has been one of stagnation. We don't seem to be moving forward. It may be just how I feel, but I would like to have something to enthuse about. We seem to be in a rut. What the answer is I don't know, but I would like to see one or two new faces (or even one or two old faces?), around next season. There doesn't seem to be anything to look forward to. On our away form, even if we finish in the top six, we don't seem to have a cat in hell's chance of progressing – as we will be playing away. I know I sound despondent, but when everything looks so predictable it takes the gloss off. There are already people reading this saying: 'Support the Rovers through thick and thin'. I do. But don't you think we have had enough thin times, like twenty years of them?

As we go into the last league game of the season, I wonder why we fail to sign anybody on loan. Today's opponents Oldham have signed a couple

of SL players on loan – and one of them was a big contributory factor in beating Batley last week. Donny have offered Holroyd a five year contract. Just where do these clubs with worse gates than us get their money from?

All the news we read about our team is negative – so and so might be going to SL, X has an injury, Y is under treatment, we are still in the hands of the administrators. Other clubs' news always seems to have a more positive tone to it. Further, I feel detached from the club as we never get any news about plans for the future. Are we still trying to sell the land we own? Are we hoping to contract any players? Are we interested in Vowles? How is our marketing going. Do we now have a free hand in our own future. Is Agar going to play again? I don't like saying this, but with one or two exceptions the players we have signed are no better than the players we let go. Ah well, there is always another season – we hope. Cheers!

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Rovers Reflections

... with Bob Fowler



To say that this season promised so much and yet failed to deliver is, perhaps, an understatement. We who travel to away games have been left frustrated time after time, and on only a couple of occasions have we, the supporters, been happy that our team has performed with credit. Certainly the club's website/forum has been in overdrive, with calls for the resignation of everyone except Fred, our grounds man. I've even been contacted at home by some kind fellow and berated for my beliefs and thoughts. Fine! To the person who rang to shout and abuse me, I have only one thing to say: you are a coward; you hide behind a withheld number, and don't even wait for me to answer your accusations. My crime? I have supported the team through thick and thin; I have never castigated a player or players; I've publicly backed our coaching staff 110%, and I will continue to do so. I always sign any posting made on our forum with my name; I do not hide behind a pseudonym or guest tag. Perhaps you do have a valid point – I can't be perfect all the time, but at least have the decency to face up to me and debate your point.

I stand accused of supporting Featherstone Rovers unequivocally; I plead GUILTY.

Strange that as this season draws to its close, it only seems two minutes since we took on Wakefield Trinity Wildcats in a pre-season match. Where has the time gone? There have been highlights for me this season – beating Villeneuve was especially sweet; bringing Salford and Leigh to earth with a bump. Good times, sometimes forgotten in the rush to be critical. Also the emergence of many young

players from our own academy set-up. All have played with skill and enthusiasm. I have been lucky enough to see these youngsters develop, and I get a real buzz when I see them walk out with the first team.

Today's game will see the final piece in the jigsaw for all who have entered the raffle for the 1983 Wembley Final shirt. Tickets are on sale prior to this game and at half time, the draw being made after the game.

Looking to the future, F.R.I.S.A. have a scheme in action where you get a free jar of marmalade and after you have eaten the contents you use the jar to save your spare change – bringing the jar back full at the start of next season.

On Thursday of this week the joint supporters club are holding the Player Of The Year awards night (the 11th) at the clubhouse. Admission is by ticket, priced at £5, and includes supper and entertainment. It's a don't-miss evening, so get your tickets from the club office or the Shop.

In the close season there are various activities, such as the Christmas dinner, but the next main event will be the marvellous bonfire evening on, of course, November 5th. Admission is around £2.50, but many feel that this is a real good value event. Proceedings start at 6.30 with fireworks at around 7.30.

It only leaves me to say a big thank you to all who have taken the trouble to read my efforts over the last few seasons, also to the club for allowing me the privilege to write it. A thank you to all the players of all our teams, for the pleasure and heartache you have given me. Good luck to you all in the future, and one last bit of advice goes to one of our players: Brendan, please don't retire!



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FEATHERSTONE ROVERS RLFC OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



All to play for!

NATIONAL Leagues One and Two draw to their conclusion this Sunday with several issues remaining to be settled.

In National League One, the top three are all but mathematically assured and Hull Kingston Rovers are certain to finish fourth.

But below them there are three teams still scrambling for the remaining two play-off places.

Crucially, two of them meet each other when Featherstone Rovers entertain Oldham in a mouth-watering clash at the Lionheart Stadium.

The winners are certain to be in the play-offs, with the losers virtually assured to miss out.

That's because seventh-placed Whitehaven are red hot favourites to win their last match of the season - at home to the already-relegated Dewsbury Rams, who have conceded almost 200 points in their last three games.

If Haven win, they are guaranteed a place in the six.

But that's not all in NL1. Eighth placed Batley take on ninth placed Doncaster at Mount Pleasant knowing that the two sides will clash again in the criticised relegation play-off. The winner of Sunday's clash will have home advantage later this month.

In National League Two, the play-off places are all assured, but the six teams involved are all still jostling for places.

Sheffield currently top the pile, and barring one of the shock results of the season at home to Workington on Saturday, should take out the Minor Premiership on points difference.

But should they slip up, both Chorley (who

travel to London Skolars) and Keighley (away at Gateshead) are waiting to pounce. All three teams are currently on 24 points.

Below them, York, Hunslet and Barrow can all interchange positions, which could be crucial in the all-important first weekend of the play-offs.

York face Hunslet at home on Friday and must be favourites to hang on to fourth place, while Barrow are guaranteed to move up a spot if they manage to win at Swinton. All the weekend's fixtures are listed below.

When all that has been decided, there is the play-offs to come. What a prospect!

FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2003

National League Two: York City Knights v Hunslet Hawks

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2003

National League One: Batley Bulldogs v Doncaster Dragons

National League Two: Sheffield Eagles v Workington Town

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2003

National League One: Featherstone Rovers v Oldham; Hull Kingston Rovers v Salford City Reds; Leigh Centurions v Rochdale Hornets; Whitehaven v Dewsbury Rams

National League Two: Gateshead Thunderers v Keighley Cougars; London Skolars v Chorley Lynx; Swinton Lions v Barrow Raiders

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