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TODAY'S TEAMS

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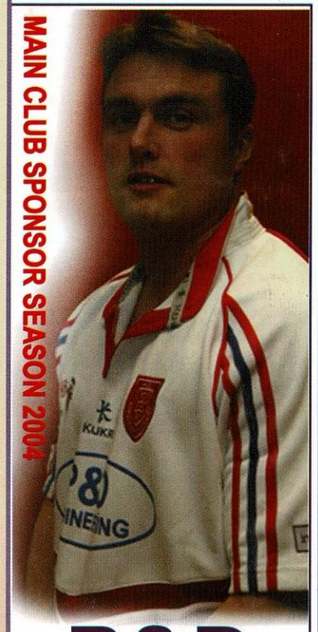
CRAIG FARRELL	2	WILL COWELL
NICK PINKNEY	3	LEE MARSH
MATT CALLAND	4	PAT RICH
ALASDAIR McCLARRON	5	NICK JOHNSON
PAUL MANSSON	6	SIMON SVABIC
PHIL HASTY	7	IAN WATSON
JAMIE BOVILL	8	STEVE MOLLOY
ANDY ELLIS	9	KEITH BRENNAN
JON ASTON	10	MARTIN McLOUGHLIN
DALE HOLDSTOCK	11	LEE DORAN
ANDY SMITH	12	DANE MORGAN
ANTHONY SEIBOLD	13	PHIL FARRELL
SUBSTITUTES:		
JIMMY WALKER	14	GARETH BARBER
PAUL PARKER	15	CRAIG FARRIMOND
DEAN ANDREWS	16	MARTIN ELSWOOD
FRANK WATENE	17	ADAM SHARPLES

HEAD COACH:
MARTIN HALL — STEVE MOLLOY

MATCH OFFICIALS:
REFEREE: BEN THALER (WAKEFIELD)
TOUCH JUDGES: WAYNE FRENCH & CHRIS TOBIN
RESERVE REFEREE: MATTHEW KIDD
MATCH COMMISSIONER: DAVE ASQUITH



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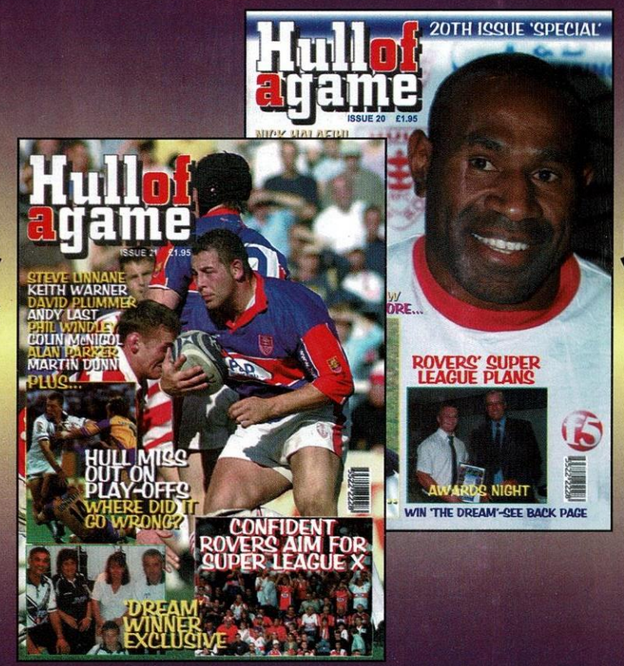

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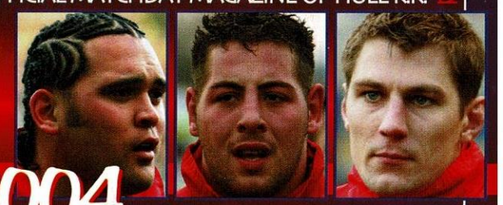
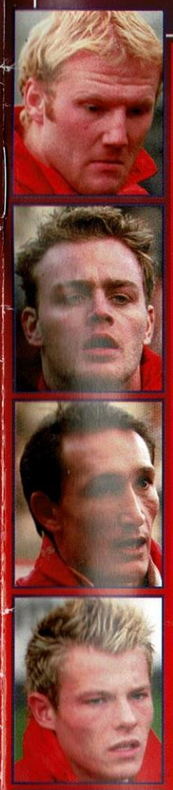
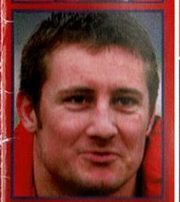
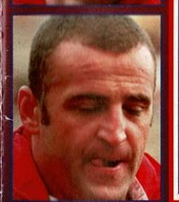
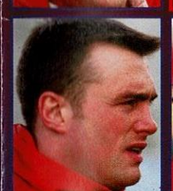


'PRIDE OF EAST HULL'



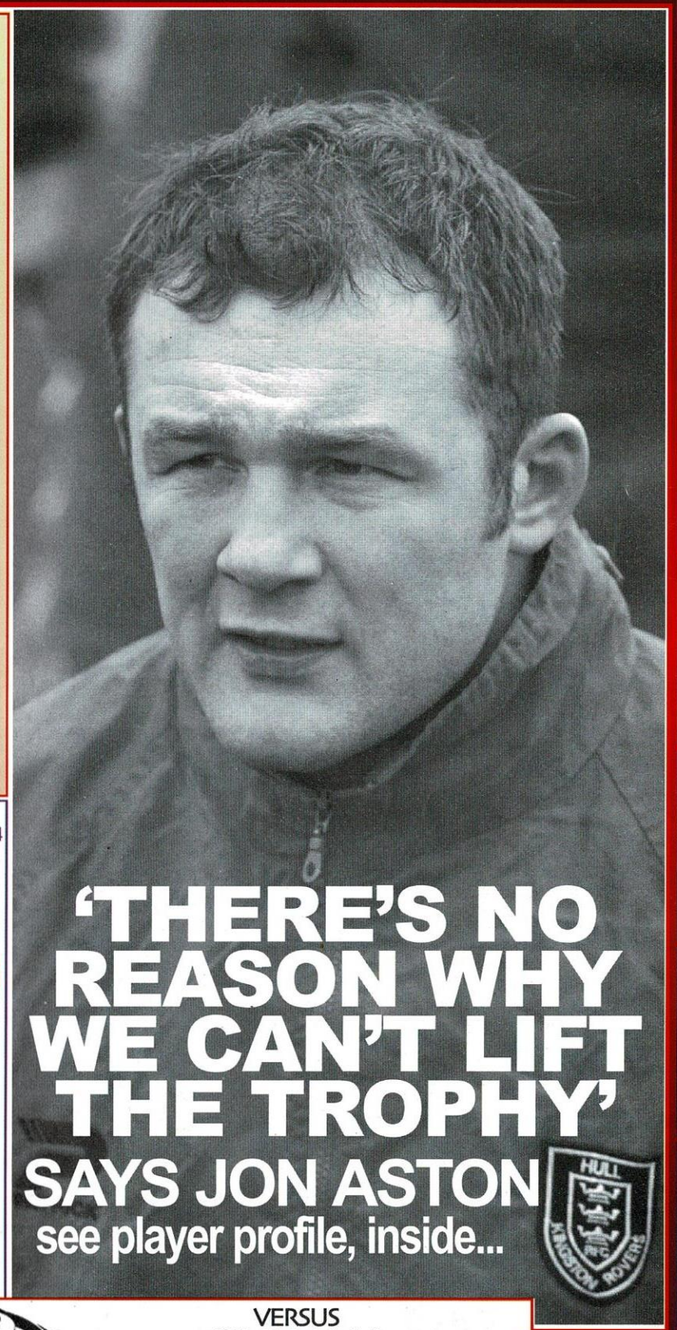






IN THIS ISSUE:

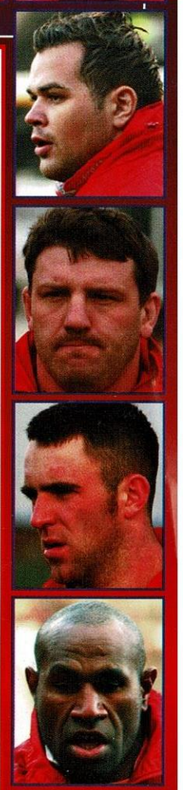
ROVERS' GREATS
HALF-TIME BRAINTEASER
COLIN McNICOL
MALCOLM REILLY
INTRODUCING OLDHAM
ON THE RADIO
FROM THE PRESS-BOX
IN-TOUCH
ON THIS DAY
GARETH WALKER WRITES...
SHOOTIN' STARS
CLUB NEWS
WIN NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE TICKETS IN TODAY'S 'LUCKY 13' DRAW
YOUR WINNING TICKET COULD BE INSIDE...

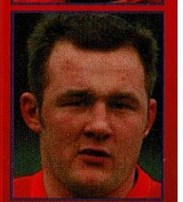


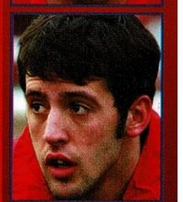
'THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T LIFT THE TROPHY'

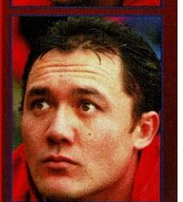
SAYS JON ASTON

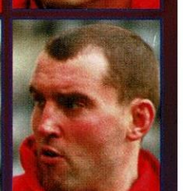
see player profile, inside...











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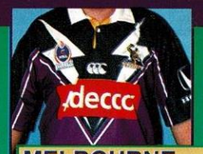

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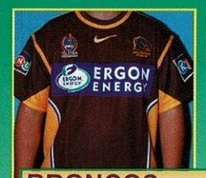
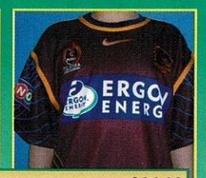

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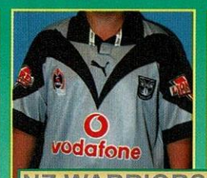
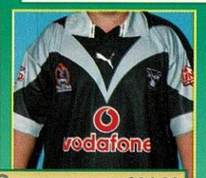

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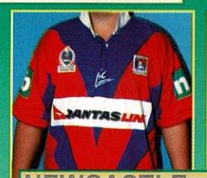
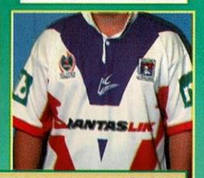

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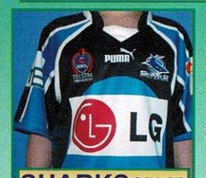

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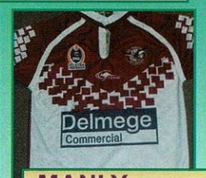
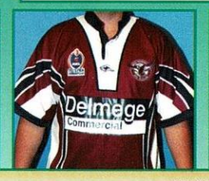

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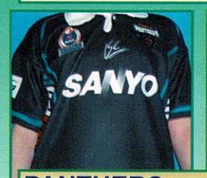

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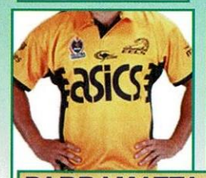
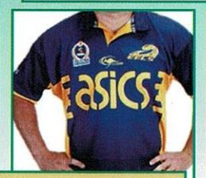

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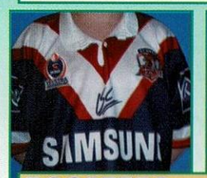

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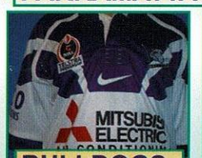

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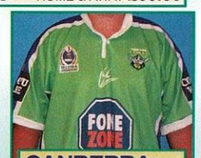

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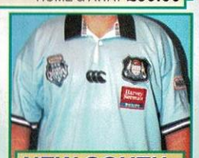

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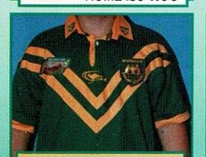

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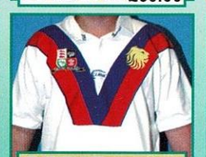

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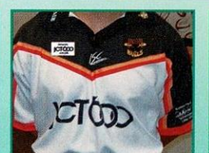
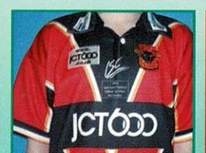

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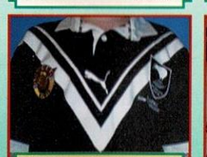

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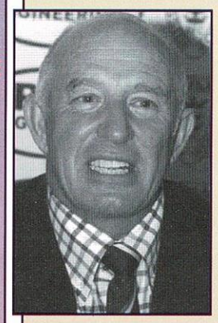
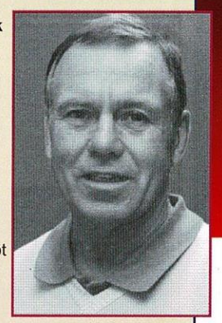
FROM the BOARDROOM



Today we welcome the Oldham 'Roughyeds' to Craven Park for our next fixture in the LHF Healthplan National League Division One Competition.
As with many of the fancied teams in this competition, they are taking a while to settle down in the early stages of the season but we cannot afford to take them lightly, as sooner or later they will click into gear. Last weeks thriller against Halifax, here at Craven Park showed once again that we are capable of winning, despite not playing particularly well in patches, which is a good sign for our forthcoming games.
This week also marks the start of our Match day Executive Club in Flanagan's Bar, a move that is intended to improve the Match Day Experience for our executive partners. The club receives a lot of valued support from the business community in Hull and in return we are determined to make sure that they enjoy a special day as our guests at Craven Park. I know that some of you who enjoyed your pint in Flanagan's will feel a little 'put out', but the popularity of the Match Day Experience has become so great that it has outgrown the confines of the restaurant and since it doesn't have elastic walls, something had to give, making the move necessary. We are re-thinking our entire match day programme to keep the 'buzz' going and to make sure that all of our patrons have a good day out with us. The Robin's Nest has been completely re-decorated thanks to the efforts of the Rovers Supporters Group. Members put in a lot of unseen hours into the refurbishment and it was well worth their efforts, because it looks fantastic. Members and guests are welcome to use the club and the RSG will be pleased to see you in there. We are also examining the possibility of creating a beer garden within the ground to provide another facility for our fans in what we hope will be a wonderful summer of rugby.
I have to say a big 'thank you' to Frank and Jean Morton for last week's bucket collection, which raised over £525 for the benefit of youth rugby at the club but sadly, we said farewell to another of our valued friends at Hull Kingston Rovers last week. It was good that so many of you came to pay your last respects to Chris Fallowfield, who, together with Maggie, worked tirelessly on behalf of the club in raising money through Tombolas and other fund raising initiatives. They and the many people like them are the genuine supporters of this club and prove once again it's not those who shout loudest that get noticed, it's those who do most.
Our thanks go to all of them and our thoughts are with Maggie and her family at this sad time.

Red and White Forever,
Colin McNicol
Chairman - Hull Kingston Rovers

TEAM Talk
VIEW FROM the BENCH



Talking of last weeks win, I think we had a fair bit of work to do to make up for the previous weeks loss and for the early period of the Halifax game we were going okay.
We then started making errors but it was nice to get a good result. I believe the reason the game started to go away from us was due to a lack of individual focus and some poor fundamental errors by players which put us under a bit of pressure. I think that if we'd kept playing like we had in the first twenty minutes it would have been comfortable at the end. 20 points to 8 at halftime was for me a fair reflection on the game up to then but we let a soft try in down our right side. In the second half we got a good early try made by a two versus one from Jamie Bovill and Jon Aston with Paul Mansson supporting. We then went to sleep for a little bit and turned some silly ball over.
This is something we cannot afford to do especially against the good sides and today will be a real test for us. They are all good sides in this years National League One and we cannot afford to be playing for just 20-25 minutes, we need to be performing well for the entire eighty.
I think the injuries to both Andy and Dale meant we had no back rowers and we had to put Nick Pinkney in the back row for the second half. I wouldn't have thought it would be a permanent move but it did get us out of trouble. Had Makali been able to play he would have given us a fair bit of go forward and we did miss him, but Fletch was able to play and he was strong. I think with Paul we have to work on his fitness as he has been off for a while and his fitness has slipped back a bit. But he is strong and does get good offloads away and the second phase play off him is good.
I was rather surprised Halifax, with all their Super league experienced players, didn't show more but they are going through a pretty mediocre time. I was pleased considering the experience they had, but instead of maintaining their Super League form they have dropped down a level.
It must be a difficult coaching scenario down there at the moment as Anthony Farrell is on the field and also directing the coaching tactics as well. At halftime he is looking at his own performance having had very little opportunity to look at anybody else.
Moving off for a minute and to the rugby league disciplinary decision. I must say I wasn't happy about the way Gareth Handford conducted himself when we met Doncaster and I cannot foresee the panel changing their decision at the appeal. They have viewed it as we saw it and it was a nasty, spiteful incident.
I don't feel there are too many high shots creeping into our game. With the quickness of the games you are going to get trailing arms but I do not think there is an upsurge in head high tackles. Some are reckless and unintentional but when they occur in the nature of his, premeditated and off the ball, they need stamping out.
The return trip to Doncaster for the quarter final tie doesn't daunt us at all as we know we played very poorly and we just want to make amends.

Malcolm Reilly - Team Manager

The views expressed in this matchday magazine are not necessarily those of the Hull Kingston Rovers' Board Of Directors and Staff.

CLUB HONOURS & RECORDS

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1979-80
Runners-up: 1904-05, 1924-25, 1963-64, 1980-81, 1985-86
Rugby League Champions: 1922-23, 1924-25, 1978-79, 1983-84, 1984-85
Runners-up: 1920-21, 1967-68, 1982-83
Second Division Champions: 1989-90, 1995-96, 1996
Premiership Trophy Winners: 1980-81, 1983-84
Premiership Trophy Runners-up: 1984-85
John Player Special Trophy Winners: 1984-85
Runners-up: 1981-82, 1985-86
Floodlit Trophy Winners: 1977- 78 Runners-up: 1979-80
Silk Cut Challenge Plate Winners: 1997
Yorkshire Cup Winners: 1920-21, 1929-1930, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1971-72, 1974-75, 1985-86
Yorkshire Cup Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1933-34, 1962-63, 1975-76, 1980-81, 1984-85
Yorkshire League Champions: 1924-25, 1925-26, 1966-67
Yorkshire League Runners-up: 1911-12, 1912-13, 1967-68
Eastern Division Champions: 1962-63
Ground Attendance: 22,282 v Hull F.C., 7th October 1922.
Postwar 16,084 v Hull F.C. on 20th April 1984, (27,670 watched Rovers' home league match v Hull F.C. on 3rd April 1953, but this was played at Boothferry Park).

Highest Win: 100-6 v Nottingham City 19th August 1990
Highest Defeat: 0-68 v Halifax (away) 3rd April 1956
Most Points in Career: 2,760 by Mike Fletcher
Most Points in Season: 450 by Mike Fletcher, 1989-90
Most Points in Match: 53 (11 tries, 10 goals) by George Henry West v Brooklands Rovers, 4th March 1905 (also a R.L. record)
Most Goals in Match: 14 (10 placed 4 drop) by Alfred Carmichael, Merthyr Tydfil, 8th Oct 1910, 14 by Mike Fletcher v Whitehaven, 18th March 1990, 14 by Colin Armstrong v Nottingham City, 19th August 1990
Most Tries in a Career: 207 by Roger Millward, 1966-1980
Most Tries in a Season: 45 by Gary Prohm, 1984-85
Most Tries in a Match: 11 by George Henry West v Brooklands Rovers, 4th March 1905
Most Career Appearances: 481+8 subs by Mike Smith (1974-91)
Longest Sequence of Consecutive Club Appearances: 190 by Gilbert Austin, 1918-19 to 1923-24
Most International Appearances: 45 plus 2 as sub by Roger Millward (including with Castleford) between 1966 and 78
Most internationai Tries: 20 by Roger Millward
Most Yorkshire County Appearances: 23 by Anthony Starks between 1897 and 1904

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JON GODDARD
Jon came to Oldham on loan in the 2002 season on the recommendation of Graham Steadman the former Castleford boss. He 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 team he played three times in Super League, against Wakefield, Bradford and London. Has developed into a competent full back or centre.

WILL COWELL
Cowell has played 18 times in Super League for Warrington Wolves, mostly as a substitute. The 22-year-old Cumbrian, a product of that prolific provider of rugby league players, Kells, he left Wilderspool permanently to join Oldham originally on a one-year contract which he has recently extended for another year. He plays full-back, wing or centre, preferring full-back his chances to impress the coach will probably be as a winger or centre. Former Warrington coach Daryl van de Velde, spoke well of Cowell before the youngster was invited to join the Roughyeds.

JAMES BUNYAN
Second row or centre James Bunyan was from local rivals Rochdale Hornets. He has been brought in particularly to stiffen up the defence on the fringes. He is one of those players who is a quiet achiever rather than a star performer, but in the same vein he is a player who is highly respected by his fellow professionals. He comes with a wealth of experience and is again somebody who is very keen to be playing at the highest possible level, which of course concurs with the clubs ambitions of reaching Super League. His previous clubs also include Huddersfield Giants and Doncaster Dragons.

PAT RICH
Pat Rich is no stranger to the Oldham ranks. He played in the successful 1991 Grand Final team and still holds the club points scoring record for his achievments during that season. Pat plays centre, and is renown for his copy book tackling and his prolific goal kicking which enabled him to gain the point scoring record.

NICKY JOHNSON
Nicky signed for Oldham towards the end of the 2003 season for the run in to the play offs on a loan deal from Bradford Bulls. Nick is the younger brother of Gavin. He has been on long term loan to London Broncos, where he played four full first team games for the Broncos, one of them being the Challenge Cup victory against Oldham. Nick is a winger and was a member of the Bradford Academy team which won the Super League Academy Championship. An Oldham lad he is keen to play for his own town team.

NEIL RODEN
Signed from his own town club Wigan, the son of Wigan's chief scout now has the scrum half jersey to himself, after winning the accolade of Players Player of the Year in 2002. He has shown improvement in the three seasons with the Roughyeds and is one of the best scrum-halfs outside Super League.

IAN WATSON
Scrum-half Ian Watson was signed from local rivals Rochdale Hornets. Ian has been a Welsh international since 1996 and is regarded to be a clever half back with a good kicking game, attributes with which he has tormented Oldham in the past. An experienced scrum half who has served Salford, Swinton, Widnes and Rochdale since his amateur days with Eccles.

PHIL FARRELL
Phil is in his fourth season at Oldham and is the club captain. Played a lot of his rugby with 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 phased by the responsibility.

DANE MORGAN
Dane is a leviathan of a man, standing at 6'5" and weighing around 17 and a half stone, the second row or prop forward has a brilliant pedigree. He has played for North Sydney and was a try scoring member of the World Club Championship winners Melbourne Storm who beat St Helens for the title.
Dane came to Britain with an ambition to play in Super League, hopefully he can achieve this ambition with the Roughyeds. Already he has shown he is not a forward you can take liberties with.

STEVE MOLLOY
The vastly experienced Steve Molloy hails from Oldham and is an ex England captain. Molloy who signed for his second spell at Oldham from Batley Bulldogs was the obvious choice as player coach when the previous coach left mid season 2002. A front row forward who has also played for Featherstone, Sheffield, Warrington, Huddersfield and Leeds.

KEITH BRENNAN
Keith is a product of Amateur Rugby League in the Oldham area, playing for both Higginshaw and Shaw Rhinos before signing for his home town club. Scrum half is his preferred position but he has filled in in many positions, most notably as hooker whilst deputising for John Hough.
Keith decided to hang up his boots at the end of the 2002 season, but after the start of the 2003 campaign the lure of Rugby League was too much to resist and Keith signed on again.

PAUL SOUTHERN
Experienced prop forward Paul Southern was also signed from local rivals Rochdale Hornets.
Paul who is 27 years old has been signed on a twelve month contract. He will be renewing acquaintances with Iain Marsh, Simon Svabic and Ian Watson who he has played with in his spells at Salford and Rochdale.
Paul showed great consistency playing for Hornets last season and this earned him a place in the NL1 form team of the year. From the Roughyeds point of view we hope he can continue that consistency. He has been brought to the club with a view that he will influence the younger players with his good training and playing habits.

GAVIN JOHNSON
A back row forward who can also fill in at centre or wing, Oldhamer, Gavin spent two seasons at Odsal in the Bradford Academy side and made the occasional appearance for the Bulls in the Alliance Championship. Spent almost a season earning his Oldham spurs in the Alliance team.

MARTIN MCCLOUGHLIN
Martin fits the Oldham ethos of big front row men, he can also play second row. Signed from Barrow at the end of the 2002 season, during the year with the Cumbrian club he twice managed to get his name into the NFP form team of the month.

MARTIN ELSWOOD
Local, 20 year old second row or centre Martin Elswood was signed from Super League club Huddersfield Giants. Martin who was on the verge of a first team call up last season when Steve Molloy first looked at him with regard to strengthening his squad for the run in to the play offs, but sadly injury dashed his chances, Steve opted instead for Craig McDowell. At around 6'4" and 16st Martin has power as well as pace. He is eager to further his career and for this reason wants to get some first team rugby under his belt. Martin was brought up on a strong rugby background at North Chadderton school and progressed through the Royton Tigers youth set up. Steve still has many contacts at Huddersfield from his playing days there, and he has had nothing but good reports of Martin from those sources.

SIMON SVABIC
Simon joined Oldham from the Leigh Centurions at the end of the 2002 campaign, although his career started in Oldham with the now defunkt Bears.
A stand off half of great guile, will be an important play maker in the Roughyeds armoury for this year.

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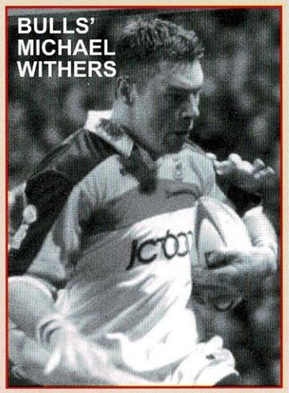
BULL POWER?

BY CHRIS PARK

Rovers' win over Halifax last Sunday came only days prior to the 50th Anniversary of the 1954 Challenge Cup Final Replay - the occasion upon which over 102,000 people descended upon 'a large hole in West Yorkshire' as Bradford's Odsal Stadium was once described.

Having only seen photographs of the event, together with a few minutes of flickering film footage, I can't help thinking that it must have been one very scary occasion! The well-known aerial photograph taken at the time, shows Odsal resembling nothing more than a gigantic ant-heap. One hundred and two thousand may have been the officially recorded attendance that evening, but it's well-documented that turnstile counters refused to work part way through the evening, and that the sheer weight of people caused fences to collapse and gates to strain away from their hinges - making an accurate recording of the attendance almost impossible.

Ground Safety Officers were still some thirty years in the future when Halifax were defeated 8-4 by Warrington, that damp May evening. Odsal's steep sides were little else than terraces in the most primitive sense of the word, back then. Railway sleepers, secured by wooden pegs, held back cinder steps. Crush barriers, from photographs of the era, appear to be conspicuous by their absence. Amazingly, but only in the light of the subsequent fifty years, that there seems to have been no record of any kind of crowd disturbances, surges or indeed any problems, save those caused by that gigantic mass of humanity coming together in that small space. Quite how many of that huge crowd managed to see the game - that's another matter.


BULLS' MICHAEL WITHERS

And at the final whistle? They must still have been trailing the streets of Bradford at midnight!

You won't find too many sparkling eulogies of that particular game, dominated as it was for long spells by the forwards, as had been the Final itself, at Wembley, which had ended in a tryless, 4-4 draw. A former Rovers player, hooker Alvin Ackerley, captained Halifax, as a member of one of the most notorious packs of forwards ever to play the game. But for Alvin, and for Halifax, the night was to end in bitter disappointment as Warrington scored two tries - an occasion marked out from the rest by little else than that tremendous, record-breaking attendance.

The northern-based Press had a field day, calling for all future Challenge Cup Finals to be held at Odsal, rather than at Wembley - the reality was that in order to hold a gathering of that magnitude, Bradford Northern's ground would require huge redevelopment; a task which has only just been successfully addressed, and which required financial assistance from quarters totally unknown back in the mid-fifties.

There was no economic sense in embarking upon wholesale development for a once a year event.

And so, Odsal was left to it's own devices, crumbling under the forces of gravity and slowly rotting in it's own microclimate, even as the Bradford Northern team had it's moments of glory, only to slip ever downwards as the fifties unfolded, to the degree that by 1963, the Club folded.

The joint regeneration of the Bulls to become the current World Club Champions, and Odsal to become a notable sporting venue once more, are feats ranking alongside any in the sporting world.

Love the Bulls or hate 'em, they certainly don't stand still!

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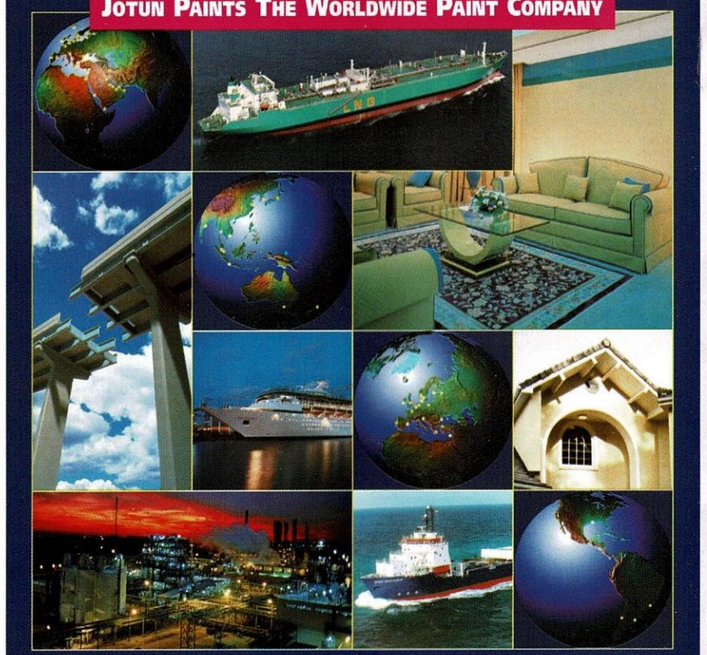

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ROVERS:
1 Craig Poucher
2 Lynton Stott
3 Paul Parker
4 Matt Calland
5 Alasdair McClarron
6 Paul Mansson
7 Phil Hasty
8 Jamie Bovill
9 Andy Ellis
10 Jon Aston
11 Dale Holdstock
12 Andy Smith
13 Anthony Seibold
Subs (all used)
14 Nick Pinkney
15 Adam Sullivan
16 Frank Watene
17 Paul Fletcher

Tries: Poucher (2), Hasty (9), Holdstock (28), Mansson (42)
Goals: Stott 6
Sin Bin: Seibold (interference 25)

HALIFAX
1 Danny Arnold
2 Chris Norman
3 Jamie Bloem
4 Simon Grix
5 Rikki Sheriffe
6 Jon Roper
7 Pat Weisner
8 Anthony Farrell
9 Phil Cantillon
10 Chris Burchill
11 Paul Davidson
12 Ged Corcoran
13 Wayne Corcoran
Subs (all used)
14 Mark Moxon
15 Jaymes Chapman
16 Ryan McDonald
17 David Bates

Tries: Grix (20), Arnold (54), Sheriffe (57)
Goals: Bloem 3

Men of the Match:
Rovers: Phil Hasty
Halifax: Pat Weisner

Penalty count: 8-8
Half-time: 20-8
Referee: Ronnie Laughton (Barnsley)
Attendance: 2,393

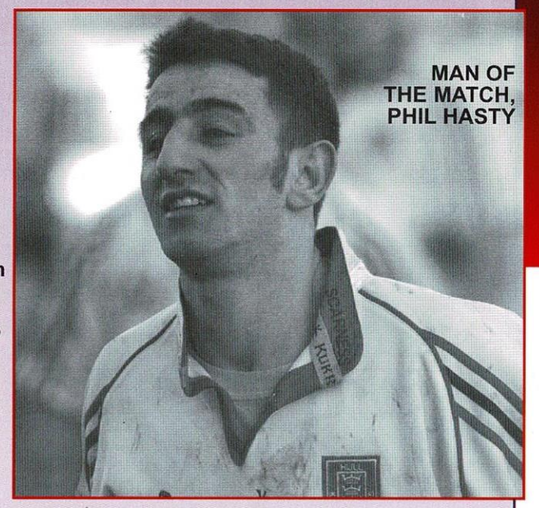
GAMESTAR:
Try scorer Phil Hasty provided an excellent half-back partnership with Paul Mansson.

GAMEBREAKER:
Rovers superb start gave them a fourteen point lead in as many minutes.

EARLY BLITZ GIVES ROVERS SECOND WIN...

BY MIKE STERRIKER

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS 28
HALIFAX 18


MAN OF THE MATCH, PHIL HASTY

An excellent first half hour gave Rovers their second league win from three starts and kept them in touch with the Division's early pace-setters. The victory also condemned much-fancied Halifax to their third league defeat in a row - and rooted to the foot of the table.

Two tries and a penalty by the Robins in the opening minutes gave them a comfortable 14-0 lead, a deficit the visitors never looked capable of closing against a ferocious Rovers' defence.

In only the second minute, Halifax winger Rikki Sheriffe allowed a Paul Mansson bomb to bounce in front of the visitors posts and Craig Poucher was the first to react for a simple touchdown.

Sheriffe who was targeted by the Rovers' attack was tackled over his line moments later and Halifax had to restart with a drop-out. And in the next set Alasdair McClarron went close in the left corner, before another Mansson kick caused more problems when Phil Hasty raced through to touch down. Lynton Stott added both conversions and kicked a fourteenth minute penalty when Halifax were pulled up for ball stealing, and Rovers were already 14-0 ahead.

'It was a pretty decent game, but I think we threw it away in parts giving away cheap possession.'said Halifax stand-in coach, Andy Farrell. 'The start was obviously not very good for us and we just didn't give ourselves a platform to get into the game. I don't really find things that different, you've just got a few more extra jobs to do. But at the end of the day I just want to get on the field playing. As players we've all got to take responsibility when you go onto the field, and I don't think all of our players are taking that responsibility. But it's only the first time I've done the job and I'm sure I'll get more astute at it.'

The visitors got on the scoresheet on quarter time when Simon Grix raced over in the left corner and Jamie Bloem added an excellent conversion from near the touchline.

And when Rovers' skipper Anthony Seibold was sin-binned for interference and Bloem added the penalty fifteen minutes from the break, there appeared to be a way back for the visitors.

But they couldn't take advantage and three minutes later, Dale Holdstock powered over to extend the Robins lead, Stott adding his fourth goal.

And Andy Ellis and substitute, Paul Fletcher were both stopped inches from of the line as Rovers finished the half on top.

They restarted where they'd left off with a superb break by Jamie Bovill putting Mansson clear and he shrugged off Sheriffe's tackle to crash over by the posts. Stott added the simple conversion and Rovers were virtually out of sight, 26-8 ahead.

Two tries in three minutes from the visitors suggested they might be able to produce a comeback but they proved too little too late.

Pat Weisner was the architect of both. First his neat off-load sent the supporting Danny Arnold through by the right post. Then a long cut-out pass to the left put Sheriffe over in the left corner. Bloem converted the first to leave his side only eight points behind and the whole of the last quarter remaining.

But Anthony Farrell's men couldn't break the Robins' defence again.

Stott landed his sixth success thirteen minutes from time, when Bloem was adjudged to have held on too long to Poucher, to complete the scoring.

Paul Davidson romped over ten minutes from time but was recalled for a forward pass. And moments later Bovill was brought back for the same offence.

'Twenty points to eight I think was a fair reflection of the first half, but we did make a few errors.' said Rovers' team Manager, Mal Reilly.

'If we hadn't made those errors that first half score could have been virtually anything. It was good that we came out and scored first in that second period but then we let them back into the game with a couple of soft tries.

It was a pleasing result in the end but it could have proved quite costly for us with injuries. Dale and Andy both picked up knee injuries which forced us to play Nick in the back-row, we were definitely short of running forwards in the end.'

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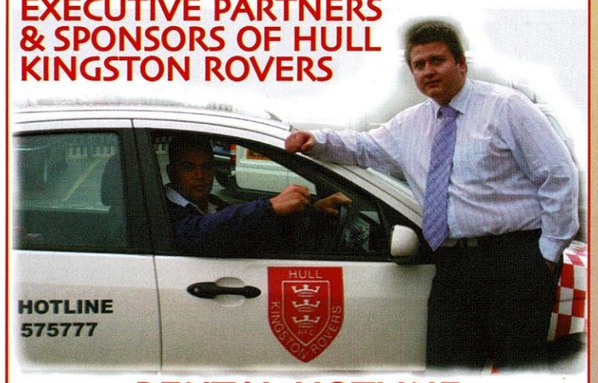

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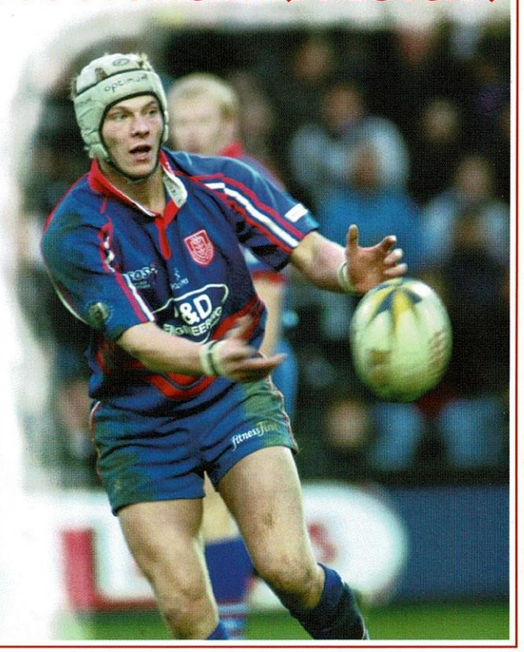
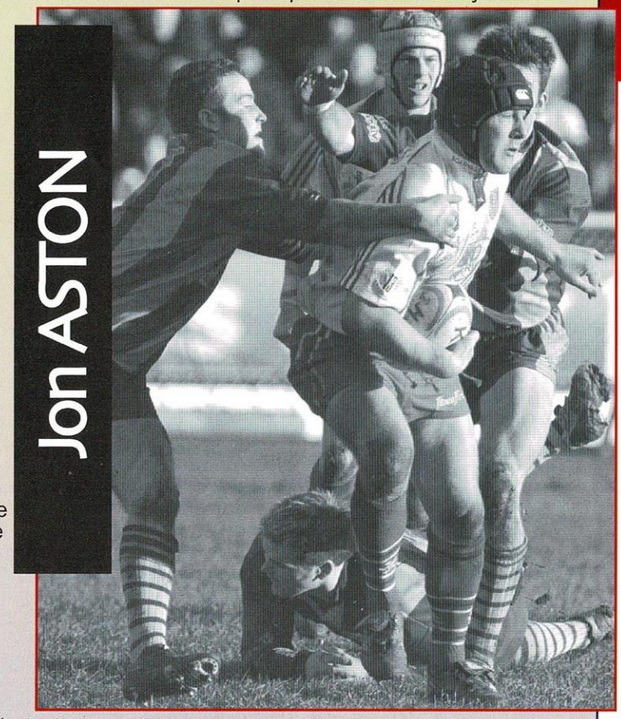


Jon ASTON



Rovers Welsh international Jon Aston has reverted back to prop for 2004 after a successful time in the second row last season - but doesn't seem to be happy with his early season form.

'Personally I do not think I have played as good as I can.' said Jon. 'I thought I did all right against Halifax last weekend but so far this year I don't think I have performed anywhere near what I am capable of. I am still making the side, which is a plus point, but I think the best from me is still to come without doubt. I suppose you have to be self critical as you cannot think you are the finished article. You have to realise what you are doing wrong and try to do it right. So in realising I am doing something wrong at least I know I have to change maybe my approach in order to put it right'.

So what seems to be the cause of it?

'It's early days in the season, a long hard season, and realistically I put it down to playing against some lesser teams, with all due respect, plus playing in a competition which is not what is the main aim. I want to win the Arriva Trains Cup but if we don't win it it's no skin off my nose'.

The main aim is to win the Grand Final but has the Arriva Trains Cup helped in any way to prepare the side for what is ahead?

'I think it has helped to get us to where we want to be and I think this is what this preliminary competition is for, so when the league comes round everybody is up for it and running at full pace. I believe this to be the case and although we had a bit of a stumbling block at Doncaster we can take that out of the equation for the minute and look to the Keighley result and the Halifax one.'

'Against Keighley we ran some points in but last weekend we came up with some silly errors and put them in a position where they had a sniff. But anyone who was at the game must have realised we were in full control of the game apart from the silly errors which let them in. I think our actual National League form is good. We are only three games into the season but we are doing well, yes there was Doncaster, but you are going to get one or two of 'them' in the season and it does mean we have room for only one more'.

Whitehaven and Batley top the table - has this come as much of a surprise?

'No not really as both places are difficult to go to and get a result. I am not one for stats and aren't sure where they have got their results from but what I do know is if you get a result at Whitehaven you know you have performed well. It doesn't mater who you are and I remember years ago when I was at Hull and going there in our first Super League season after making a lot of signings and just won 16-10'.

'Again with Batley we lost there last year and it doesn't surprise me and it just depends on the opposition they have faced. Then looking at Halifax, they have played against three good sides and they have lost each time, but I am sure they will turn the season round'.

You say you are not in the best form but has it been a bit of 'after the Lord Mayor's Show' from last season?

'No not really. After my injury it was my first season back and I was quite excited just to be playing and that was an inspiration in itself. This year I have got to look for something to inspire me and it is easy when you have been out of the game and are excited to be coming back. But the long season and the long training sessions start to take their toll so you have to look elsewhere for inspiration; hopefully it is just round the corner.

'Last year playing against Australia was good but we didn't win the Grand Final. So this is what I will be aiming to do this year. We have a big enough squad and are capable of doing it so if everything works out right there's no reason why we can't lift the trophy'.

'The mood in the camp is optimistic and initially when Malcolm and Martin came and took over it started a long transitional period between being part time to training like a full time team but on a part time basis'.

'A lot of the lads including me took a lot of time to get used to it but we are getting there now. You have to be up to speed and you have to be ready but it was a long period from training three nights a week for an hour at a time, then to go to four nights a week two hours at a time. I think everybody is up to speed now and hopefully we can build on what we have achieved so far. It may sound like a big ask but if you want to achieve anything you have to be prepared to make sacrifices. If the long term ambition at the club is to get Super League status, a lot of the young players at the club will find the benefits far outweigh the down side and they can go on and play in Super League but I'm not sure I will.'

GROUND Safety

GRASS EMBANKMENTS

We are required by the Safety Authorities to remind Supporters that the grass embankments around the Stadium are not designated as spectator accommodation areas, please do not use these banks for that purpose.
Thank you for your co-operation.

GANGWAY AREAS

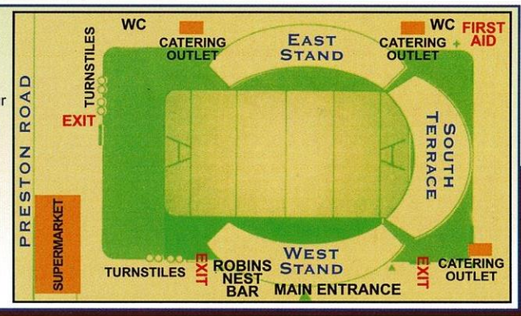
We would ask all spectators to co-operate with our Stadium Stewards and Staff by not standing in the gangway areas, which are clearly marked in hatched, yellow paint. This applies to the East Stand Gangways and the front gangway area of the West Stand along with any other parts of the Stadium displaying the yellow hatched markings.

LANGUAGE

Craven Park Stadium is a designated community facility with the theme of events targeted at families and children as well as individuals. Please refrain from using foul and abusive language as it is offensive and in protection to our cusomers, offenders risk being ejected from the Stadium and possibly being permanently banned from events.

MAP

We hope your visit to Craven Park is a pleasant and enjoyable experience. The map is there to assist you in finding our various facilities, if however, you are experiencing difficulties please ask a Steward or a member of the Craven Park Staff who will gladly assist you.
Thank you for visiting Craven Park and we hope you enjoy your time here.



NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF RUGBY LEAGUE...

It looks as though Bradford Bulls Head Coach Brian Noble will be the new part time Head Coach of Great Britain for the Tri-Nations series to be played towards the end of the year.

A British Coach for Great Britain and if 'Nobby' experiments with the Great British talent with the likes of Danny McGuire, Sean O'Loughlin, Gareth Ellis and Chris Feather then we will have a team to be proud of in years to come.

The RFL had said in recent weeks they maybe wouldn't look at London for a venue for the series but have hinted this week that Loftus Road, home of Queens Park rangers could well be utilised for the Australia - New Zealand game.

After last weekend's results the question of teams in Super League has to be asked. Not about established sides like Wigan, Saints, Bradford, Hull or even Castleford but the so called yo-yo teams, of which Salford might well be categorised, if they suffer many more defeats this season like they did at the KC last weekend.

If the RFL are looking at teams from other areas i.e. France, they have to get it absolutely spot on that they are ready, willing and able to hold a place in the top flight of the game in this country. If these areas are to develop then the Super League clubs, as some are, should be looking to places like Wales for their talent rather than jumping in with allowing them into the league.

For more than fifteen years the name of Brad Fittler has graced teamsheets across the world but at the end of this season he will hang up his boots for the final time as he revealed at a Press Conference this week. He has played in nearly 40 Test matches, 29 State of Origin games and over 300 club games - another great player will be lost from the game - but all credit to him for his achievements along the way.

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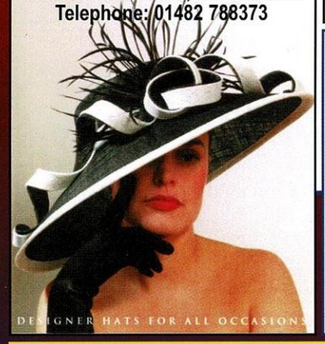

40 YEARS AGO TODAY
MAY 9TH 1964

ROVERS FIRST WEMBLEY...

May 9th. 1964 was a truly historic date for Hull Kingston Rovers.

After many years in the rugby league 'wilderness' it was a major landmark for the club - the first time they'd reached a major final for nearly forty years and their first ever appearance at Wembley.

Rovers actually went into the final as favourites. But even before the game had kicked off, circumstances seemed to be conspiring against them.

Prop forward John Taylor, one of their most experienced forwards, was handed a one match ban on the eve of the final, a decision that at the time was unprecedented. Inexperienced youngster, Brian Mennell was brought in to replace him. But the Rovers' pack was never able to match their Widnes' counterparts, for whom loose-forward Vince Karalius and man-of-the-match Frank Collier were hugely influential figures.

The Robins' six just couldn't win enough of the ball and as a result their backs were never allowed to show their paces.

Alan Burwell became the first Robin to score a try at Wembley but he was one of the few successes in a disappointing performance.

Still the breakthrough had been made. And the name of Hull Kingston Rovers would be seen in the rugby league record books at regular intervals from that day on...

The Rovers' team that made history that day was: 1. Cyril Kellett, 2. Graham Paul, 3. Terry Major, 4. Dave Elliott, 5. Mike Blackmore, 6. Alan Burwell, 7. Arthur Bunting, 8. Brian Tyson, 9. Peter Flanagan, 10. Brian Mennell, 11. Eric Palmer, 12. Len Clark, 13. Harry Poole.

Score: 13-5 Half-time: 2-0

Try: Burwell Goal: Kellett

FIXTURES/STATS SCORERS/RESULTS

							POUCHER	FARRELL	PARKER	CALLAND	McCLARRON	MANSSON	HASTY	BOVILL	PICKERING	ASTON	HOLDSTOCK	SMITH	SEIBOLD	MAYBERRY	WATENE	SULLIVAN	FLETCHER	STOTT	WALKER	WILSON	THORBURN	AIZUE	ELLIS	ANDREWS	PINKNEY
FEBRUARY		VENUE	COMP	RES	SCORE	ATTEND.																									
1st	**SHEFFIELD EAGLES**	**H**	**ATC**	**W**	**24-2**	**2,391**	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17								
8th	**UTC - CHALLENGE CUP**	**H**	**RD3**	**L**	**22-23**	**2,066**	3	2		4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13	14	16		17	1	9	15					
15th	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	A	ATC	W	16-22	1,929	1	5	4			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3	16		17	2			14	15			
22nd	**DONCASTER DRAGONS**	**H**	**ATC**	**W**	**28-12**	**2,043**	1	2	3		5	6	14	8	9	11		12	13		10		17	4		15	7	16			
MARCH																															
7th	**LONDON SKOLARS**	**H**	**ATC**	**W**	**58-6**	**1,677**	1		3	4	2	6		8		10	12		13	5	17				14	15	7	16	9	11	
19th	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	A	ATC	W	18-22	1,049	1	2	3	4	5	6	14	8	9	15	11		13		10		17				7	16		12	
28th	**FEATHERSTONE ROVERS**	**H**	**ATC**	**L**	**16-18**	**1,755**		2	3	4	5	6	14	8		12	11		13	1	17				16	7	10	9	15	
APRIL																															
3rd	LONDON SKOLARS	A	ATC	W	8-50	656	1		3	4	5	6	14	8	9	15	11	12	13	2	17				10	7	16				
9th	DONCASTER DRAGONS	A	ATC	W	8-38	914		2	3		5	6	7	10	17	11		12	13			16		1	14		15	8	9		4
12th	**KEIGHLEY COUGARS**	**H**	**NL1**	**W**	**56-6**	**2,383**		2		4	5	6	14	8	9	10	11	12	13			17		1	15		7	16			3
18th	DONCASTER DRAGONS	A	NL1	L	27-14	1,302		2		4	5	6	14	8	9	10	11	12	13		17	15					7	16			3
MAY																															
2nd	**HALIFAX**	**H**	**NL1**	**W**	**28-18**	**2,393**	1		3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13		16	15	17	2					9		14
9th	**OLDHAM**	**H**	**NL1**																												
23rd	BATLEY BULLDOGS	A	NL1																												
30th	**WHITEHAVEN**	**H**	**NL1**																												
JUNE																															
6th	DONCASTER	A	ATC																												
13th	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	A	NL1																												
20th	**LEIGH CENTURIONS**	**H**	**NL1**																												
27th	SEMI FINALS		ATC																												
JULY																															
4th	ROCHDALE HORNETS	A	NL1																												
11th	**DONCASTER DRAGONS**	**H**	**NL1**																												
18th	FINAL		ATC																												
25th	HALIFAX	A	NL1																												
AUGUST																															
1st	OLDHAM	A	NL1																												
8th	**BATLEY BULLDOGS**	**H**	**NL1**																												
15th	WHITEHAVEN	A	NL1																												
22nd	**FEATHERSTONE ROVERS**	**H**	**NL1**																												
29th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	A	NL1																												
SEPTEMBER																															
5th	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	A	NL1																												
12th	**ROCHDALE HORNETS**	**H**	**NL1**																												
19th	PLAY-OFFS		NL1																												
26th	PLAY-OFFS		NL1																												
OCTOBER																															
3rd	PLAY-OFFS		NL1																												
10th	GRAND FINAL		NL1																												

2004 TOP TRY SCORERS:
McClarron 12, Hasty 7, Parker 6, Thorburn 5, Mansson 5, Calland 4, Farrell 4, Stott 4, Holdstock 3, Poucher 3, Mayberry 2, Seibold 2, Bovill 2, Aizue 2, Ellis, Andrews, Pickering, Aston, Walker, Smith

TOP GOAL KICKERS:
Stott 34, Thorburn 19, Hasty & Poucher 1

Tries: Farrell, Holdstock, Mansson, McClarron, Mayberry. Goals: Hasty, Poucher
Tries: Bovill, Seibold, McClarron, Hasty
Goals: Stott (3)
Tries: Hasty, Poucher, Parker
Goals: Stott (5)
Tries: McClarron (3) Stott (2)
Goals: Stott (4)

Tries: Mansson, Ellis, Calland (3) Seibold, Mayberry, Andrews, Holdstock, Thorburn, Parker. Goals: Thorburn (7)
Tries: Bovill, Thorburn, Hasty, McClarron
Goals: Thorburn (3)
Tries: Parker (2) Mansson
Goals: Thorburn (2)

Tries: Poucher, McClarron (2) Pickering, Parker, Mansson, Aston, Calland, Thorburn Goals:Thorburn (7)
Tries: Aizue, Farrell, Parker, Stott, Hasty, Walker, Thorburn Goals: Stott (5)
Tries: McClarron (4) Farrell, Thorburn, Stott, Hasty (2) Smith Goals: Stott (8)
Tries: Farrell, Aizue
Goals: Stott (3)

Tries: Poucher, Hasty, Holdstock, Mansson
Goals: Stott (6)

INTERNET DONATIONS

THE CLUB WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS VIA THE INTERNET:

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The players we have now sponsored are -
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TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

DONCASTER DRAGONS v WHITEHAVEN
HALIFAX v BATLEY BULLDOGS
KEIGHLEY COUGARS v FEATHERSTONE ROVERS
ROCHDALE HORNETS v LEIGH CENTURIONS

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ROVERS' NEXT HOME MATCH

The next home game is in three weeks' time, **Sunday, 30th May when Whitehaven will be the visitors - kick-off is 3 pm.**

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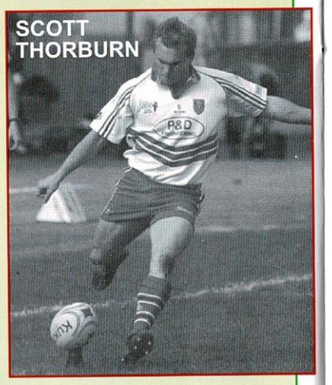
HAVING two home matches on the trot almost caught me by surprise. It was only a phone call as I prepared to have a lazy Bank Holiday that brought me back down to earth with a bump.
Anyway here we are and a visit from Oldham is perhaps the first test Rovers will have of the sort of opposition they can expect from over the Pennines.
Last Sunday the Robins showed some character to dig in when Halifax looked like staging a mini-revival during the second half. Let's hope this determination and team spirit is not now going to be undermined by injuries. At the time of writing Scott Thorburn will be out for several more weeks, Andy Smith has picked up some knee damage, hopefully Dale Holdstock's knee problem is only a minor one, and young Andy Ellis was also under par. And that's the last thing you want with some big matches coming up in the very near future.
On the good news front Craig Farrell should be cleared for a come-back after being concussed against Doncaster, while Paul Pickering is making steady progress after his neck injury against the Dragons. And having served his one-match ban Makali Aizue should be back on duty this weekend.


SCOTT THORBURN

Looking back to the Halifax match I thought there were far too many decent players in the West Yorkshire side for them to remain without a win for too long.
They have some physical players in their line up, but there is also a fair sprinkling of talent and flair in there too. Perhaps it was as well for Rovers Pat Weisner did not force his way in to the game a little earlier because he caused problems for a large chunk of the second half.
From a Rovers' point of view it was interesting to see Phil Hasty modify his approach to the game. I thought he did more organising in the initial stages than normal and then went looking for gaps more as the game went on. He said afterwards this was something he'd been working on with Mal Reilly and Martin Hall.
Although it is only May I know my thoughts are already turning towards a little break and I will miss the match at Batley.
And while I will be itching to know how the lads have fared I am also looking forward to being able to relax for a few days.
Which brings me to the point about Rovers' coaching team giving the boys a week off from training after this match.
They will all be given a programme of work to do during their break but they have put in an awful lot of time and effort since M and M took over.
Sometimes there have been five sessions a week, usually four and piled on top of work and home life that is some commitment.
Mal Reilly said it will be good for the players to get away from the strict training environment to unwind and recharge their batteries and I guess he's right.
From a personal point of view I was a little disappointed there was no formal one-minute silence for Chris Fallowfield on Sunday.
I don't think that would have set a precedent for the club to be swamped by applications, nor would it lead to protracted silences if more than one person was involved.
I noticed even on a Sky game on Saturday, Castleford managed to organise a tribute to a cheerleader and a former player with one silence.
These are only small things to the outside world but to the people concerned whose loved ones have put in so much time and effort on behalf of their club they are important - and I think in some ways it is a little niggardly to deny them one last minute of thanks.

CHRIS LEAK - HULL DAILY MAIL SPORTS REPORTER

Hi Kids,
It was a good win on Sunday against Halifax. Did you see the 'Smart Car' that Sally drove me round in? I really enjoyed myself. I could see you all waving to me (lot's of mams and dads too). Sally said she may bring it to other games this season.
Big hello to Glen from Asda Bilton who has come on board at Craven Park to help with the community work along side Asda Kingswood. Thanks Glen.
Big cheers and waves today for the team when they come out, watch out for the goodies. No Rockie today she's away spying on the other teams in our league (MI5 + 007 I think she hinted at)
See you at kick off, Love, Rufus xxxxxxxxx

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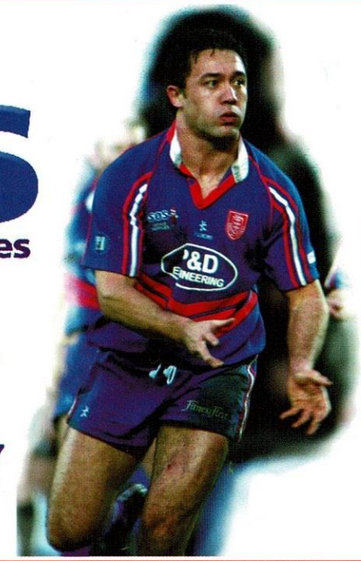

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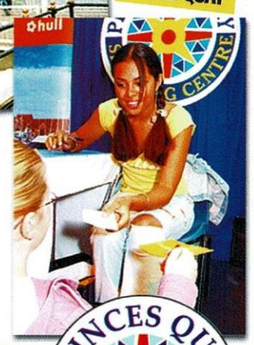

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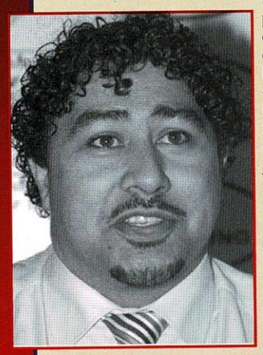
In a recent meeting with Hull City Council to look at our Super League application we came away very positive and we are continuing to foster a great working relationship with them.
The work out in the Community is paramount to what we are to achieve long term and the more sponsors and supporters we can get on board, the more fruitful our end product will be.
I would like to take this opportunity even though it is very early in the season to thank our supporters who have again shown they are the best in the country by travelling home and away and we are getting bigger crowds by the week.
Both the Board of Directors and myself are trying every avenue possible to encourage people down to Craven Park. I realise not everyone is a big business and cannot be the Executive Match Sponsor but just by coming through the turnstiles and supporting the club is another way of us taking steps forward and for that I wholeheartedly thank you.



Talking of supporters it would be extremely remiss of me not to mention a lifelong supporter, Chris Fallowfield who sadly passed away in the week leading up to the Halifax game. Chris and his wife Maggie epitomise the club - having supported it through thick and thin and raised many thousands of pounds along the way. Our deepest sympathies go to Maggie and her family at this sad time and our thoughts are with them.

We have also had other meetings in recent weeks with the Health and Safety Advisory Panel and Hull City Council for alcohol to be allowed to be served within sight of the green field. Once again it is a step forward for supporters and by using the right kind of glass the consumption of alcohol could be allowed in the East Stand by way of a beer garden or something along those lines.
We have to go to court to get the license amended but we are hopeful, especially with the games being played on a Sunday afternoon during the summer, we can see this through and make it an even more enjoyable place to come.
Finally for this week we are also looking to a meeting with the speedway regarding the long term future of Hull Kingston Rovers and Speedway here at Craven Park. It is another integral part of the long term future of the club and we intend to talk to all parties for as long as is necessary to help us achieve our goal of Super League at the club.

he newly decorated Robins Nest got off to an excellent start last week.
By 12.15pm almost 40 supporters were enjoying the happy hour and watching a DVD showing the highlights of the 1984/85 season. We intend showing when possible the previous weeks away match starting at the Whitehaven game with the match against Batley.
The Robins Nest is the bar for Hull K. R. supporters and we hope to see many more of you in the coming weeks.

We recently received 12 shirts from the former landlord of the Bridges Public House on Sutton Road and over the next few weeks are hoping to have these framed and put on display. We are still however on the search for items of interest concerning this great Club of ours, anyone who has any memorabilia and would like to loan it to the RSG is asked to contact Keith Lyon on 825833.

As we stated in the last programme the work done in the Robins Nest has been carried out by volunteers of the RSG. While we do not like to single out any one person, special thanks go to Andy Marriott for giving up a lot of his spare time to help sort out the electrics. Over the coming weeks we hope to install an aerial system that will allow us to watch other sporting events like the European Championship and also provide a teletext service.

The raffle held in the Robins Nest was another great success and we would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket. Only one winning ticket holder came forward and claimed his prize. Supporters who have blue ticket 102 and pink ticket 151 can still claim their prize by seeing Keith or Adge in the Robins Nest either before or after today's game.

Finally the words spoken after the match by our chairman Colin McNicol regarding our friend Chris Fallowfied and the silence observed by everyone was a fitting tribute to a man who will be sadly missed.

The attendances are on the up and it is great to see so many under 16's back at Craven Park supporting Hull KR.
What has been noticed by a lot of people are the amount of Hull KR shirts being worn around the city again which is great.
We held a stall on Pelican playing fields last Saturday giving out membership forms and raising a bit of money at the same time. Seibs, Scott Thorburn, Dale, Jamie Bovill and Makali came along to sign autographs and talk to people. It was a successful day and Seibs commented on the amount of Rovers shirts on display, we reckon they outnumbered the Hull shirts by about 20 to 1.
Let's hope today's match is as good as last weeks. After 15 minutes I think we were all wondering if we were on for a record-breaking afternoon. Halifax seemed to find their feet though and made a game of it, it was certainly entertaining. What was surprising was the clouds of dust that came off the pitch each time a player hit the ground. For those of you that came along to the meet the players night on the Thursday before the Halifax game you will be able to tell others that the pitch at that time was actually waterlogged!!! I suppose that is British weather for you though.
But back to today, make the Oldham supporters welcome as always and shout for the red and whites. With Oldham on the same points as us in the league table it should be an interesting game, although they come today on the back of a rather heavy defeat to Leigh last week.

FLAMINGO LAND

This trip will take place on Saturday 21 August, it is the day before our home match against Featherstone.
I expect we will be leaving Hull at around 8am and will be returning at around 6 to 7pm. Cost will be only £8 for Junior Robins, £5 for under 3 year olds, £17.50 adults and £10 senior citizens.
These prices include travel AND admission. Normal prices for Flamingo Land are £15.50 entry so you can see that we have got a great deal as well as using some of our lottery grant money.
Please book early to avoid disappointment, first comes first served.

FUTURE EVENTS

If anybody has any ideas about day trips and visits and would like to help organise them please get in touch. We can book the coach and pay for tickets and collect the money in, a helper on the day to actually run the trip would be greatly appreciated. All ideas would be welcome, I am running out of theme parks to visit!!

MEET THE PLAYERS NIGHT

Unfortunately we were beaten by the weather and the decision was made late in the day to move training to the gym due to the waterlogged pitch. It was nice to see so many of you there and I am sorry that organisation seemed to be lacking. Thankfully everybody got to go into the gym to have a look and watch the players training at some stage and autographs were there to be had. Thanks to the players for taking the time and also thank you to Malcolm Reilly and Martin Hall for agreeing to let the Junior Robins go along.
John McLane has very kindly offered to set up the dressing rooms as they would be for a match day at some stage later in the summer and will gladly show members around the 'out of bounds' areas. I will let you know when a date has been agreed.

WEBSITE

Don't forget to log on to www.hullkr.co.uk to find out all of the latest Hull KR news. The Junior Robins have their own section on the site and news is updated regularly. Don't miss out on what is going on.

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL -

THIS TRIP IS NOW COMPLETELY SOLD OUT. The coach will be leaving from outside of Debenhams on Ferensway at 7am Saturday 15 May 2004.

JOIN US

It is never too late to join the Junior Robins, we now have a membership of over 440. Simply pick up an application form from the club shop, download one online at www.hullkr.co.uk or contact Mark or Drew.
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FLYING AWAY WITH THE ROBINS...

Rovers next away trip is on Sunday 23rd May 2004 to face Batley Bulldogs at Mount Pleasant. For anyone wishing to travel the directions are as follows. Leave the M62 at Junction 28 (Tingley), take the road to Dewsbury (A653) approx 2 miles to the 'Babes in the Wood' pub and traffic lights, turn right at the lights into Soothill Lane. Travel the full length of the lane turning right at the T-junction, straight through the lights towards Batley Town Centre, along Wellington Street take the 3rd left into Victoria Avenue, Mount Pleasant is at the top of the hill.

HULL DAILY Mail SPORTSMAIL EAST RIDING MAIL

BY GARETH WALKER OF RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

FLYING STARTS

WHO would have thought that after three rounds of National League football, the only remaining undefeated sides would be Whitehaven, Batley, Swinton and Barrow?

All four clubs have made the perfect start with three wins from three games, with Whitehaven and Swinton sitting top of LHF Healthplan NL1 and NL2 respectively.

'Haven kicked off their season with a superb home win to title favourites Leigh Centurions, and look to have a genuine chance of making the top three this season. They have already chalked up an all important away win, at Rochdale, and look a formidable side at home.

Batley have also started in eye-catching fashion, particularly as they lost one of their key players, stand off Dean Lawford, for a lengthy spell with a serious facial injury. Barry Eaton has been as influential as ever, but two genuine unsung heroes have been winger Adrian Flynn and prop David Rourke.

NL2's table-toppers Swinton also have a real Mr Consistency in forward Peter Cannon, the Rugby League World Player of the Month for April.

Rookie coach Paul Kidd, the youngest boss in the game, has made an impressive start to life at the helm, though bigger challenges undoubtedly lie ahead, starting with Hunslet away this weekend.

Barrow have also made a bright start under a new coach, the experienced Peter Roe. They are another side that will be tough to beat at home, and they have a mouth-watering clash with title-favourites York City Knights at Craven Park today.

The Knights are one of a host of teams chasing those top sides, along with Hunslet and Sheffield.

The bookmakers feared that NL2 would be totally one-sided, with the Knights streets ahead of everyone else.

But they have already lost to Hunslet, and been tested at home by both Chorley and Sheffield.

It should be a much tighter competition.

Similarly, the bookies' tip for NL1, Leigh Centurions, have also been beaten already, but their form since has been ominously impressive in taking apart Featherstone and 11-man Oldham.

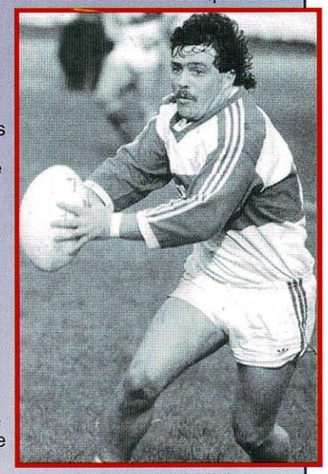
Hull Kingston Rovers and Doncaster Dragons both have reasons to be optimistic about their starts to the campaigns.

But arguably the biggest surprise has been the fact that Halifax have lost all their three league games so far. They will be looking to bounce back against Batley today.

READ THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUES AND ALL LEVELS OF THE GAME IN RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS - OUT EVERY MONDAY

ROBINS EDGE 'GAME OF TWO HALVES'

As we are entertaining our friends from Oldham today our "flashback" will recall the Robins first ever visit to Oldham's current ground, Boundary Park.
It took place on Sunday the 16th March 1986 and was in the Slalom Lager Championship. Both teams went into the match a little rusty, as Rovers had not played for three weeks and Oldham two weeks. The match proved to be a remarkable fixture and was definitely a game of two halves. The home side were on top in the first half taking an early six-point lead with three successful penalties from prop, David Hobbs.
The first try came when Mick Worrall and Ian Sanderson put Des Foy over. Ray Ashton then scored a second Oldham try after George Fairbairn, the Robins fullback, had fumbled a kick, this time Hobbs converted to increase Oldham's lead to a healthy 16 points to 0, which was the score at halftime.



PAUL HARKIN

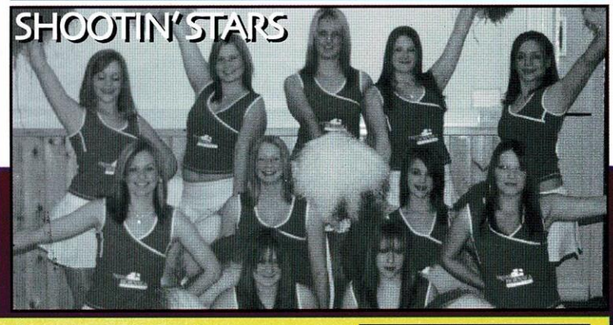
The fightback started early in the second half with John Dorahy converting an early penalty after Wally Jones was adjudged to have fouled David Watkinson in the tackle. However with just 20 minutes remaining Oldham still led by 14 points. Paul Harkin was the man who gave Rovers hope with a superb dummy and run to the line from 15 metres out which, with John Dorahy's goal made it 16 points to 8.
Mike Smith then made easily the best try of the match initiating the move with a dummy inside his own quarter, passing the ball to Phil Hogan who made more yards before sending a return pass to Mike Smith, who put namesake Gordon over for the try, a wonderful 80 metre effort. Dorahy kicked a superb touchline conversion and the gap was only 2 points.
Then with just 3 minutes left on the clock Gary Prohm put Gavin Miller over after concerted Rovers' pressure down their left-hand side, Dorahy's goal giving the Robins a tremendous 20 points to 16 victory.
The two sides were Oldham: M'Barki, Parish, Foy, Warneke, Taylor, Liddiard (G), Ashton, Jones, Sanderson, Hobbs, Worrall, Graham and Flanagan. Subs. Lowdes and Morgan.
Hull Kingston Rovers:
Fairbairn, Clark, Smith (M), Prohm, Laws; Dorahy, Harkin, Johnston (P), Watkinson, Ema, Hogan, Kelly
and Miller. Subs: Lydiat and Smith (G).
The referee was Mr. K. Allatt of Southport, the attendance 5,500 and the Robins' Man of the Match was considered to be Gary Prohm. The victory left the Robins 7 points behind leaders Widnes with three games in hand, in their bid to win a third consecutive title.

BY DAVE SHERWOOD
LOCAL HISTORY UNIT, HULL COLLEGE

TODAY'S MASCOTS

Today we have two mascots. The first is Casey Mansson (far left) who is aged 4. Her favourite players are 'Big Frank' and Anthony Seibold (isn't there someone missing) and she enjoys skipping and is a budding artist. She is joined by seven year old Lauren Stott (near left) who enjoys dancing. Her favourite player is her dad, Lynton.

SHOOTIN' STARS

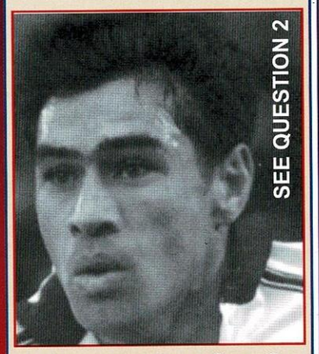


EAST RIDING MAIL SPORTSMAIL HULL DAILY Mail

Brainteaser

ON THE DOUBLE!

Which teams would you be watching if the following 'doubles' were playing?



1. Wayne and Peter Green?
2. Richie and Richie Barnett?
3. Ged and Wayne Corcoran?
4. Glenn and Joel Osborn
5. Paul and Neil Thorman
6. Gavin and Craig Brown
7. Matt and Dave Foster
8. Nathan and Paul Wood
9. Craig and Mark Smith
10. Martin and Craig Stalker
11. Byron and Michael Smith
12. Wayne and Glen Freeman
13. Julian and Julian O'Neill

Answers below:

JUST A THOUGHT

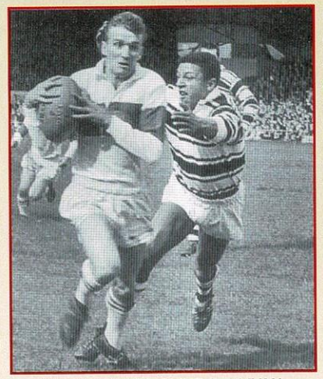
BY CHRIS LEAK

What about this for 'positive thinking'? If we want a publicist for this sport, and if you believe there is no such thing as bad publicity - why not give Richard Lewis's job to Ian Millward?
After all he's the only man to have got Rugby League massive coverage in the 'Daily Mail' and other national newspapers. He seems quite good at finding new interpretations of the bye-laws. He can winge with the best of 'em and yet his side manage to end up winners (for most of the time).
I know he is paid to do a job and does it very well. But there are times when I think the Rugby League should just hand him a very large fine, a guide book on how not to lead senior players into temptation and a sock to bite on the next time he comes up with another plan to cheat the fans.
And I'll bet there are a few Saints fans who would...
What do you think?

Quiz Answers:
1. Doncaster Dragons 2. Hull 3. Halifax 4. London Skolars 5. Gateshead Thunder 6. Sheffield Eagles 7. Keighley Cougars 8. Warrington Wolves 9. Wigan Warriors 10. Workington Town 11. Castleford Tigers 12. Hunslet Hawks 13. Widnes Vikings

HULL KR HEROES

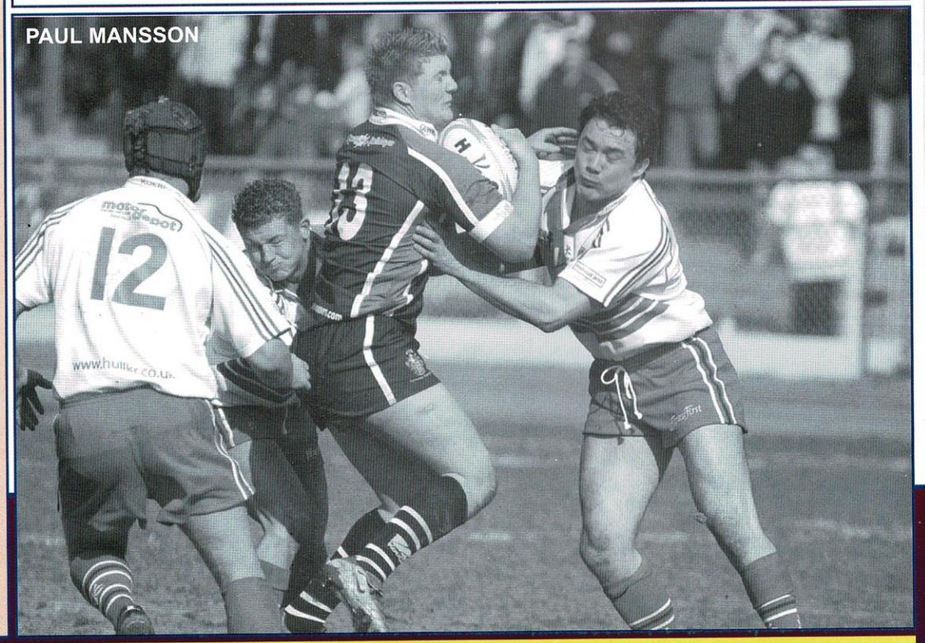
NUMBER 8 CHRIS YOUNG

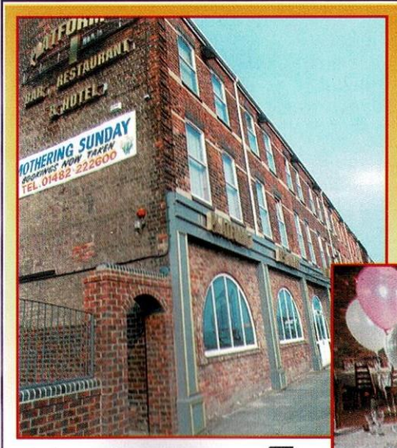


CHRIS EVADES CLIVE SULLIVAN DURING A YORKSHIRE CUP-TIE AT THE BOULEVARD IN 1966

When Chris Young ran out for his first team debut nobody could have imagined he would become one of the most successful wingers in Rovers' history...

Chris had been an off-half as a schoolboy. He even arrived at Craven Park and played for the 'A' as a halfback. But from that fateful day, Monday May 18th 1964 when Chris made his first team debut on the right wing at Widnes, his career was transformed. From that day on he was known as a winger. And in a record-breaking career a very successful and prolific-scoring one at that.
Chris was only 5' 9" tall and 11 stones in weight but his natural turn of speed and excellent swerve made him a superb finisher.
During the 1964-65 season he made only six first team starts, learning his trade in the shadow of Rovers' 'Cornish Express' regular number 2, Graham Paul.
That all changed in the 1965-66 campaign, when Chris made the right wing position his own, playing in 41 matches and running in 18 tries, second only to opposite winger, Mike Blackmore with 22. In the same season, Paul announced his retirement.
The next two seasons Chris was at his peak. In the 1966-67 he was Rugby League's top try-scorer, with 34, which also equalled Graham Paul's post war club try-scoring record. And with centre partner, Alan Burwell crossed for over 50 tries, to be recognised as one of the best right wing pairings in rugby league.
In all Chris went on to make 164 appearances for the Robins scoring an amazing 85 tries. One of an elite band of Rovers' players who could boast a strike rate of more than a try in every two starts.
Young scored a try as Rovers beat Featherstone in the Yorkshire Cup Final.
Rovers finished second in the league, their highest for over forty years. And along with Frank Fox, Chris was an ever-present for the Robins.
The 1967-68 season was undoubtedly Chris' most successful. Another Yorkshire Cup win, this time against Hull and selection for the Great Britain team. Chris played in all three home tests against the Aussies, France twice - and was also chosen for the World Championship party to tour Australia and New Zealand, along with fellow Robins, Peter Flanagan, Roger Millward and Alan Burwell. He also played for Yorkshire against both the Australian tourists and Lancashire.
And he was still running in the tries for Rovers, finishing second with 25, behind Roger Millward's 32.
Chris' Rovers' career came to an end the following year however, when he was transferred to York. And with Alan Burwell's move to Australian club, Canterbury Bankstown, one of the Robins' most lethal scoring partnerships came to an end.





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IN Touch

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF RUGBY LEAGUE...

The 'who is going to get the Castleford job' question rolls on with some twenty applicants having put their hands up for the post, many from the other side of the world.

Two former Hull FC coaches, Phil Sigsworth and Tony 'Tank' Gordon, are muted to be among the applicants with former Wigan supremo Graham Lowe also known to be interested.

The Tigers have brought in French rugby union assistant coach Dave Ellis to help Gary Mercer and who is to say that between the two of them they cannot turn round the fortunes of this once great club to it's former glories.

The LHF Healthplan National League season is now well under way with Whitehaven the leaders of Division One. Along with Batley Bulldogs, they are the only unbeaten sides in the division. Both will be tested in the weeks to come when other Grand Final hopefuls Hull Kingston Rovers visit Batley on 22nd May and Whitehaven travel to Craven Park the weekend after.

Leigh Centurions have recovered from a bumpy start to thrash Oldham last weekend with inevitably Neil Turley in the points with a try and ten goals. Hull KR's defeat of the still winless Halifax sees them in fourth place on the same points as Doncaster Dragons and Oldham, the Dragons going down to their first league defeat at Batley, 28-20.

The bottom four is Halifax, Featherstone, who got their first win of the season over bottom club Rochdale Hornets and Keighley Cougars so some names in strange places in Division One to say the least.

In Division Two Swinton were regarded as a team stuck in mid table for this season but have won three from three to sit joint top with Barrow Raiders. Hunslet Hawks and York, two pre-season favourites are hot on their heels in third and fourth place along with Sheffield.

Maybe surprisingly Workington are bottom after their 64-26 defeat by Swinton but the fortunes of London Skolars see them off the bottom having won one game from three with Dewsbury Rams and Gateshead Thunder occupying the other two lower positions.

ACADEMY and SCHOLARSHIP News

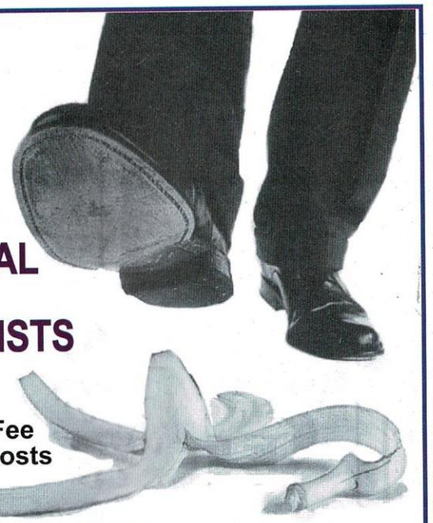
PREMIER DIVISION?

Hi everyone,
By the time you read these notes we should know if we have managed to get into the Premier Division of the Junior Academy.
If we have it will have been a fantastic effort by all the boys in the squad.
We should have played Bradford a week last Friday but unfortunately the weather got to us and we were not able to do so. However we managed to get the game played last Tuesday and we went down to defeat at the hands of the Bulls by 13 points to 6. The lads tried very hard and led for 50 minutes of the game but I think the Super League experience of Karl Pryce was the difference. But all credit to our lads for their efforts on a wet and cold night.
It was also great that Shaun Painter was able to make his debut out on the wing and he didn't disappoint in any way - which we knew he wouldn't. He is a player who has come through our Scholarship Scheme from under 13 and he is a real exciting prospect as are many of our youngsters.
Yours,
Wayne, Dave, Mike and Tony

SCHOLARSHIP

Frank Morton - Support for our Scholarship Scheme:
Our grateful thanks to those supporters who donated £527-41 to our very enthusiastic lads who are in our Scholarship Scheme, at last weeks match with Halifax. You could win an old black and white tie!! - But that's only the 'booby prize' amongst a host of excellent prizes, when Jean and Frank Morton hold another tombola in aid of our Scholarship Scheme at our next home game v Whitehaven on 30th May.
Come and get your tickets in the Harry Poole Suite.

Hi everybody and welcome to our guests Oldham this afternoon.
It was the Service Area's first games last weekend against Leeds and unfortunately we were beaten at under 15, 14 ad 13 and could only manage a draw at under 12 so not really a good day for the Hull area.
Hopefully and with a bit of luck they can turn things round this weekend when the opposition will be Wakefield. The Scholarship lads at under 12 and 13 trained on Bank Holiday Monday night and put in a good session.
Also at last week's game with Halifax the under 12s did a bucket collection with the help of Jean and Frank Morton and who helped us raise the great sum of £527-41 so a big 'Well Done' to everyone concerned.
Yours
Tony Elvin - Scholarship Manager



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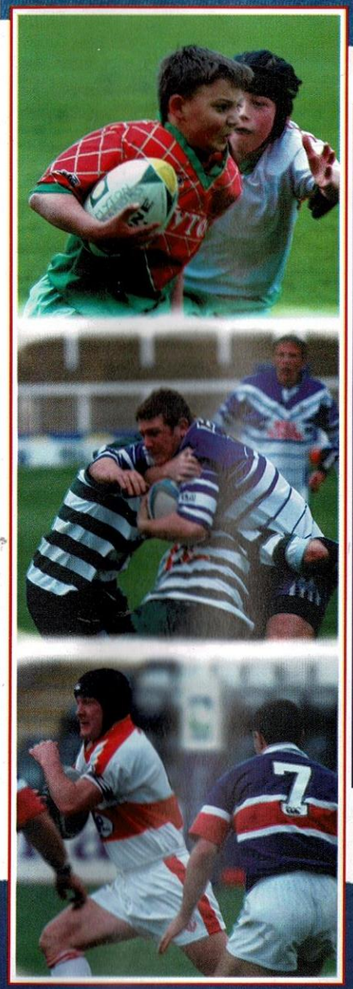

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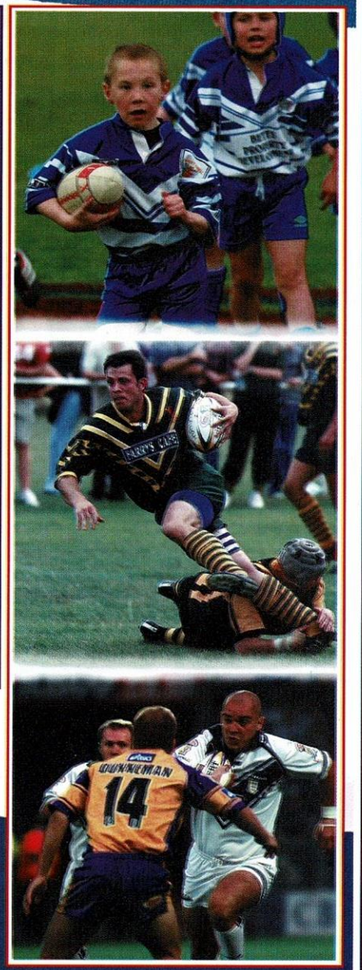

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