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• Todays Teams •

Whitehaven				v	Oldham			
T	G	DG		T	G	DG		
G Broadbent			1	J Goddard				
C Calvert			2	G Dodd				
W Wilson			3	D Gibbons				
M Nanyin			4	J Roper				
P O'Neil			5	N Johnson				
L Joe			6	N Roden				
S Obst			7	I Watson				
R Tandy			8	P Southern				
A Lester			9	J Hough				
D Fatialofa			10	M McLoughlin				
H Hill			11	L Doran				
S Miller			12	D Morgan				
C Walsh			13	P Farrell				
P Davidson			14	G Barber				
C Sice			15	C Farrimond				
D Vaughan			16	L Marsh				
M Jackson			17	S Molloy				
Steve McCormack			Coach	Steve Molloy				

Todays Officials

Referee: C Morris
 Touch Judges: R Fallon R Smithies
 Fourth Official: R Hicks
 Match Commissioner: C Hodgson

Scrum					Penalties				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20

Scrum					Penalties				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20

Progressive Scores	HAVEN										VISITORS										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	



WHITEHAVEN

Review 2004

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WHITEHAVEN

Rugby League Football Club



Welcome

Nice to be at home on a Bank Holiday weekend and not having to travel into Yorkshire!! Good afternoon and welcome to everyone to today's game against Oldham in the LHF Healthplan National League One. A very warm welcome to all those who have travelled up from Oldham for this afternoon's game. Last weeks game at Batley saw us produce an excellent first half of attacking rugby, probably more important the two points we won there has taken us to the top of the league thanks to Halifax's win over Leigh. That will all count for nothing unless we back it up with another two points today and in our remaining two games after this one. Today will be a tough game; Oldham moved up to third last weekend and will fancy their chances of completing a double over us after defeating us in their "home" game at Chorley. I am sure Steve and the guys will be prepared and totally focused on this game.

Our application for Super League status has been forwarded to the RFL this week should we progress to the Grand Final. That is still a long way off but applications had to be in before the 31st August 2004. We are all aware that the Recreation Ground as it is at the moment would not meet Super League criteria however after a

visit from the RFL we have now been told what they would require us to do to meet that criteria. I am delighted to say that nothing in their criteria is insurmountable and should we be in the position of winning the Grand Final we will be able to meet the stipulated criteria for the ground.

Congratulations to Mick Nanyan on breaking his second record of the season last week at Batley. After beating John McKeown's points in a season record last week Mick scored the most points in a game, 32, at Batley thanks to his four tries and eight goals. This was previously held by Lee Anderson who scored 30 against Highfield in 1995. Well done Mick, the hat trick inside twelve minutes was pretty good going too. I have mentioned in this column a number of times about the tremendous away support this season lets get as many as we can to Leigh next Sunday to roar the lads on. Your support really does make a difference.

Once again enjoy your afternoon and let everyone else enjoy theirs!!

Des Byrne



Whitehaven RLFC fully supports the "Let's Tackle Racism in Rugby League" campaign and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place within our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable - allow everyone to enjoy the game.

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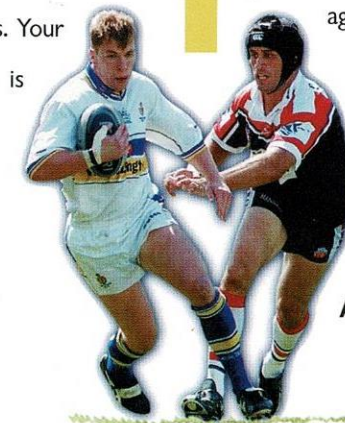
BOSS TALK STEVE MACK



Welcome to the Recreation ground for today's fixture with Oldham. With only 3 games left of the regular season, every team is fighting to finish as high up the table as possible. Over the last couple of weeks we have performed at a consistent level and have gained some valuable wins at a crucial part of the year. Our aim now is too continue to improve in all aspects of play, starting today. Today's opponents will prove to be one of our toughest challenges. Oldham have improved there form over the last couple weeks and at the moment occupy 3rd place in the National League table. We will have to be at our best to secure the points needed to keep us where we want to be. Finally, thank you to all the supporters who have followed the team over the last few weeks. Your support has been tremendous and is appreciated by everyone at the club

Enjoy The Game

Steve Mack



Aaron Lester

CAPTAINS LOG AARON LESTER



Last week's victory at Batley was a good one to get out of the way. It was our third visit to Mount Pleasant this year and to come away with three wins is a great achievement. We showed no complacency in our approach to that game and we made it very difficult for Batley. We probably produced our best first half performance so far this season. That victory and Leigh's defeat have put us top of the table with three games to go. Now that we have finally caught and passed Leigh, we are very determined to stay there. We're not getting carried away with ourselves, we still have a lot of work to do and have three very tough games against teams that have all beaten us this year. Oldham are a good side and have play-off ambitions of their own, so we will not be taking anything for granted.

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Our Platinum Match Sponsors today are **CAPE INDUSTRIAL SERVICES** who are a multi disciplined contracting firm on Sellafield. They are also great supporters of the club and have sponsored the club in a variety of ways this season. Thanks once again to Steve Mattinson for his support and we hope Steve and his guests enjoy their afternoon with us.

Today's Associate Match Sponsors are **G.T.S. (UK) LTD** and **BARMY ARMY**. **G.T.S. (UK) LTD** own Greengarth Business Park at Holmrook. Welcome to Tony Ansell and his guests this afternoon and we hope you enjoy your afternoon. Tony has already sponsored us on a number of occasions and it is great to see him back. **BARMY ARMY** are members of the Whitehaven RL Support Group who have clubbed together for this sponsorship. We thank them for their sponsorship and appreciate the efforts they go to help the club. We hope they enjoy their afternoon with us.

Our **JENNINGS SUITE** sponsor this afternoon is **G & E ENERGY SYSTEMS** and we welcome Mick Parr and his guests to the club this afternoon. Thank you for your sponsorship and we hope that you and your guests enjoy your afternoon with us.

The Match Ball Sponsor today is **MAGGIES SCHOOL OF MOTORING** from Gosforth We welcome them to the match today and as great supporters of the club hope you enjoy your afternoon with us.

Today's **SEAT CUPRA** Man of the Match will be selected by our Platinum Sponsors **JENNINGS** who will present the player with his **SEAT CUPRA WATCH** in the boardroom after the match.

Craig Walsh receives his **SEAT CUPRA MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD** from Mark Hodgson of **JENNINGS** for his performance in the game against Hull KR.



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Whitehaven RLFC would like to thank all those Companies and Individuals who are helping the club in 2004 by taking out sponsorship packages, programme or perimeter advertisements, player sponsorships or helping the club in any way. We would ask our supporters to support the people who are helping this club to survive.

Whitehaven RLFC would also like to thank the following who took part in the draw for their name to appear on the club jerseys:

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A Ladies section has recently been set up in the club and they are holding a Ladies evening in the J.J. McKeown bar on Friday the 10th September 2004. This will include sales of Anne Summers products, Virgin Vie and candles and there will be cocktails available. Come on down girls and give your support. If you are interested in helping out see Heidi Seeds, Lucy Kinsella or Jan Batty for details. Next week sees us travel to Leigh for our final league away game. If you want to travel on a club bus then please contact the office as soon as possible. Seats must be booked before Thursday. If travelling by car directions are: Exit M6 at Junction 23 (Haydock) then take A580 towards Manchester. Go over roundabout and through two sets of lights, follow signs for A579. At junction turn left, signposted Leigh A572, Bolton and Pennington Flash. Travel down this road passing Pennington Flash and Golf course on your left. Go over bridge and straight on at roundabout. Asda is on your left and Hilton Park on your right. Turn right at traffic lights onto Kirkhall Lane then right into Glebe Street and right into Chadwick Street. Parking available at the ground and in surrounding streets.

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TODAYS VISITORS

Oldham

Welcome to our visitors from Oldham for what promises to be a competitive and close contest as we have come expect between our two clubs in recent seasons.

The Roughyeds have a long and proud tradition dating back to the 1895 and beyond, they have at various eras been THE dominant force in the game. Their last great team was in the late 1950s when players such as Bernard Ganley, Derek Turner and Alan Davies drew big crowds and won all the honours the game had to offer, though surprisingly not the challenge cup. Oldham being one of the few clubs never to have played at Wembley all their Challenge cup Triumphs coming in the pre Wembley era.

Founder members of the Super league as Oldham Bears, the pressure of trying to maintain that status, as with other clubs, proved too great and after finishing botto of Super league in 1997 the club folded only to be reformed as Oldham RLFC 1997, under the leadership of current chairman Chris Hamilton.

Since then the club has made steady progress though the sale of the Watersheddings ground to cover the old clubs debts has been a major stumbling block to the club. Since its reformation the club has had no fewer than 4 different home grounds, while their current ground sharing arrangement with Oldham Athletic has and continues to be fraught with problems. Nonetheless in 1991 the Roughyeds came ever so close to regaining their Super League place losing narrowly to Widnes Vikings in arguably one of the best ever APC grand finals.

The departure of Coach Mick Ford shortly after that final has heralded what can only be described as a frustrating period. Current coach Steve Malloy has strove to manfully to keep the club among the front runners in NL 1, playoff contenders for the last few seasons but not really threatening to make the big time. A big winter recruitment campaign raised hopes that this might just be there season, early season form was inconsistent but a win over Haven in June has started a run which sees then third in LHF NL 1 and looking at the play offs with confidence.

Players to watch

Will Cowell
 Cowell has played 18 times in Super League for Warrington Wolves, mostly as a substitute. The 23-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 extended for another year on two occasions. He plays full-back, wing or centre, Although he prefers full-back he has shown great form in the early part of 2004 as a winger.

Gareth Barber A local born player, who started his professional career with Super League club Warrington Wolves before Oldham brought him back to his hometown. Primarily a stand off Gareth can fill most positions in the back line. He has been used effectively as an impact player coming off the bench to exploit tiring defences. Barber represented the National League under 21 side that defeated the Super League counterparts in 2001.

Simon Svabic Began his career with the former Oldham Bears club Academy side, where is half back partner was Bradford's Paul Deacon. Since those days he has played Super League with Salford and also at the top in the National League with Leigh Centurions. He signed for the Roughyeds to begin the 2003 campaign. His preferred position is stand off, where he can demonstrate his silky smooth ball skills, but he is also at home in the full back position.

Jon Roper Recently signed, in a swap deal involving James Bunyan going to Halifax. Jon has vast experience in the game. His preferred position is Centre but can also play in various roles. He has the accolade as the Oldham player with the most

Super League appearances under his belt, most achieved whilst serving Warrington Wolves. He is a Cumbrian with a robust style of play and will cause most defences trouble with his strong running, and should produce a lot of chances for his winger with his ability with the ball. Jon has already shown he is an astute goal kicker if required to take on these duties.

Ian Watson 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. An integral piece in the Oldham jigsaw, he provides the direction around the field that the team needs.

Paul Southern A Prop who has been signed on a twelve month contract. He has renewed 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 fictitious 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.

John Hough The first player to sign for his home town club when the new Roughyeds were formed by Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors in the autumn of 1997. 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 NFP a danger to any defence form acting half back.

Dane Morgan Standing at 6'5" and weighing around 17 and a half stone, the 24 year old 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 has come to Britain with an ambition to play in Super League, hopefully he can achieve this ambition with the Roughyeds. Already in games this season he has shown he is not a forward you can take liberty's with.

Phil Farrell One of the youngest captains in the league he will not be phased by the responsibility. Phil starting his fourth season at Oldham has just been appointed as 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.

Lee Marsh Signed from Salford City Reds, 21 year old Lee Marsh is wise beyond his years on a Rugby field. He came to Oldham with a utility tag and has indeed served the club at second row, centre and would not be at a loss at centre. But the early season absence of Phil Farrell allowed him to make a claim for the loose forward jersey and it is this position he has stamped his authority on, with his astute ball play and forfull runs and rugged tackling. Lee is also available as a goalkicker if needed.



Roughyeds Form guide

Halifax	11 Jul H	24-14
Leigh Centurions	25 Jul A	12-36
Hull K. R.	1 Aug H	29-24
Rochdale Hornets	8 Aug A	24-30
Batley Bulldogs	15 Aug A	34-18
Keighley Cougars	22 Aug H	31-20

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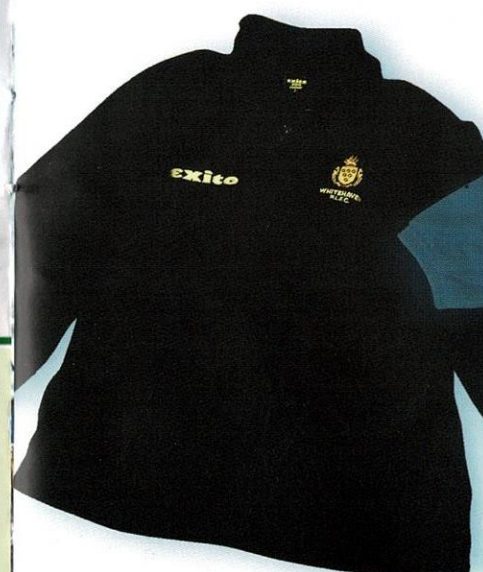
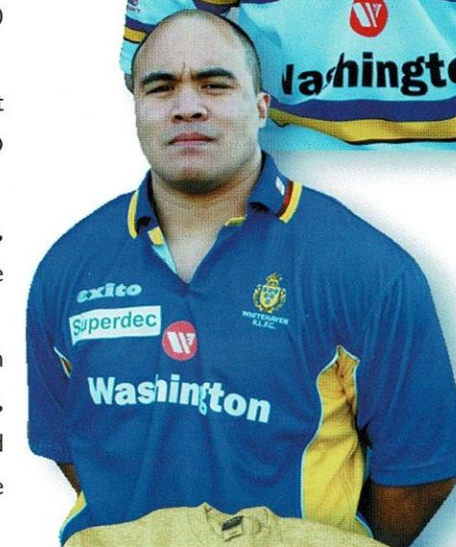
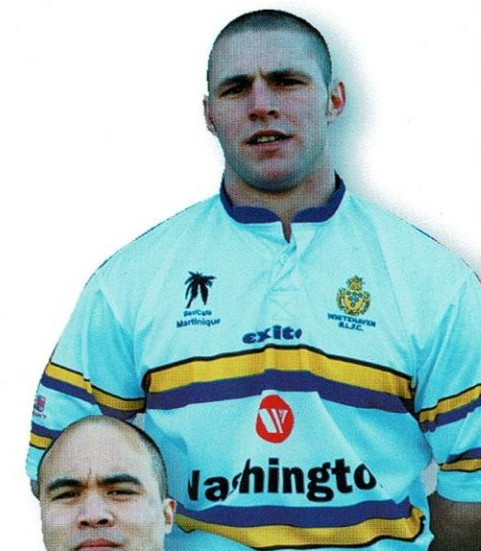
A new supply of replica shirts are on order and should be with us by the end of the month, there are still some sizes left but if your size is not there then why not order one at the shop, office or at B & M. The shop is open on match days and there is someone in the office between 1-0 pm and 3-0 pm most days.

The shop has a range of polo shirts, fleeces, and other stock so check it out. A video of Haven's 2003 tries is available and can be bought in DVD format as well, again place your order at the shop or office.

The J.J. McKeown bar is available for hire free of charge, ideal for parties, christenings or any celebration. Speak to Betty behind the bar or enquire at the office for details.

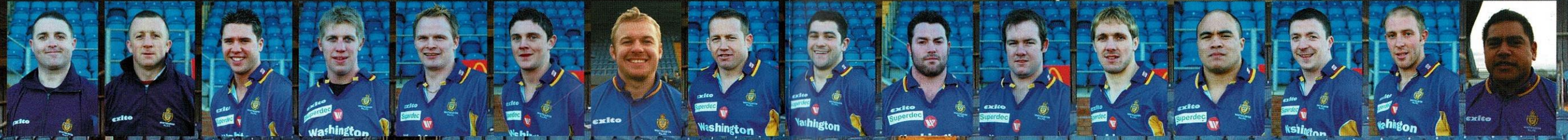
If you are stuck for a gift for a Haven fan then how about treating them to a package that includes a three course meal with wine, match ticket, drinks, after match buffet and a chance to meet coaches, players and Directors. There are limited places available for most games just enquire at the office for details.

We now have some new stock in available at the shop or B and M. A new supply of replica jerseys are also available in all sizes.



WHITEHAVEN PLAYER SPONSORSHIP 2004

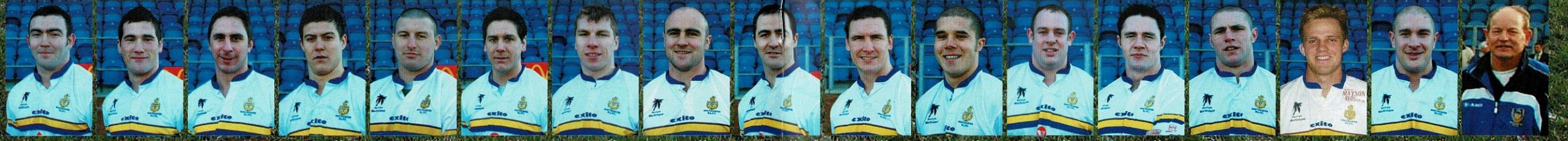
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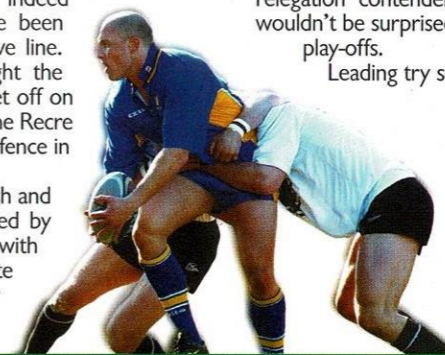
NATIONAL LEAGUE review

Back in April a top four finish was probably seen as a realistic target for most Haven fans but how things have changed! Steve McCormack quite rightly considers the league will look after itself but following Leigh's unexpected defeat at Halifax last weekend, Haven have moved two points clear in the race for the coveted 1st place in NL1 and the all important home game in the end of season play-offs.

In our last home game played on 15th August we completed the double over Martin Hall's Hull KR, running out convincing winners by 38-8. By the 10th minute, Haven had established an early lead courtesy of two tries from Howard Hill and Craig Walsh, one of which was converted by Mick Nanyin. The game then went through a bit of a stale period as Rovers, who had captain and influential prop Jamie Bovill missing through injury, managed to keep Haven's potent attacking force at bay. Any attacks that Rovers did muster almost inevitably ended with a handling error that must have left coach Hall tearing his hair out, and it was through another unforced error that Haven claimed their third try of the afternoon. During a rare forage into the Haven 22 metre zone, loose forward Damian Ball knocked-on a Frank Watene offload which was seized on by Sam Obst. With the Rovers defence caught napping, Sam raced away to score an almost identical try to the one against Doncaster in round 12 of the competition. The Robins finally got themselves on the scoreboard late in the first half as Haven failed to deal with a Paul Mansson kick under pressure from Andy Smith. Mansson and Smith then combined to send Paul Parker in at the corner of the Kells End.

A 16-4 interval lead seemed scant reward for Haven's territorial dominance but things moved up a gear in the second-half. After an early Rovers flourish in which scrum-half Phil Hasty went half the length of the field only to be stopped in his tracks by an excellent Craig Walsh cover tackle, Haven took a stranglehold on the game. A Mick Nanyin penalty, after Rovers were penalised for offside, extended the lead to 18-6 before Craig Calvert scored one of the finest individual tries ever seen on the Recreation Ground. Fielding the ball outside the in-goal area Craig's momentum then took him back over the line where he turned to avoid the advancing Rovers defence. Most supporters, and indeed Steve McCormack, would probably have been pleased just to see him clear his defensive line. However, after seeing a chink of daylight the official second fastest man in British RL set off on an amazing 100 metre solo run that had the Recre crowd on their feet and left the Rovers defence in tatters.

Further tries by Spencer Miller, Craig Walsh and Ryan Tandy, two of which were converted by Mick Nanyin, completed the Haven scoring with winger Nick Pinkney adding a 72nd minute consolation try for the Robins. Other



games in round 12 of NL1 resulted in wins for today's visitors Oldham over Batley, Featherstone, Leigh and Rochdale. Last weekend we travelled to Batley for the third time this season and came away with our fourth win against the Bulldogs this season. Batley started the season in inspired form but, despite being contenders for a top 4 finish at one time have fell away badly in recent weeks and are now in danger of finishing in the

bottom two places in the league for the second consecutive season.

The game was effectively over after the first thirteen minutes by which time Haven had amassed a formidable 22-0 lead. Mick Nanyin, who looks to be on course to break most of Haven's scoring records this season, blazed in for a hat-trick to go along side a 6th minute try from Craig Walsh. Further first-half tries from Craig Calvert and Spencer Miller, along with six Nanyin goals, gave Haven a remarkable 36-0 half-time lead. Whether it was playing up the notorious Mount Pleasant slope in the second-half that had an effect or just simply easing off the gas, Haven failed to make the same impact and were restricted to two further tries from Mick Nanyin and Craig Walsh. With Mick kicking a further two goals he took his points tally for the match to 32 points, which broke the previous points in a game record of 30 points for the club, set by Lee Anderson in 1995. Four second half tries for the Bulldogs may have seemed scant consolation to coach Gary Thornton, who signalled out substitute Craig Wright as one of the few who produced the goods on the day. Steve McCormack as usual felt that there was still room for improvement and was disappointed at the 22 second half points that we conceded.

The result of last weekend was undoubtedly Halifax's 58-30 defeat of Leigh at the Shay. In a result that has put Haven two points clear at the top of the league, Leigh were reportedly awful and the four tries they scored in the last ten minutes flattered the score-line. Veteran playmaker Tommy Martyn left the game with a suspected broken arm, which may now bring a premature end to his playing career. One other result of note from round 15 was form club Rochdale's 52-18 victory over Doncaster. In a few weeks the Hornets have gone from relegation contenders to top six hopefuls and I for one wouldn't be surprised if they make a significant impact on the play-offs.

Leading try scorer's for Haven in 2004:-

- Mick Nanyin 29
- Craig Walsh 22
- Sam Obst 15
- Lee Kiddie 11
- David Seeds 9
- Howard Hill 9
- Mick Nanyin is top goal kicker with 121 goals.

Bob Sewell

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The next Vice Presidents Evening will be next Friday the 3rd September 2004 in the J.J. McKeown bar with guest speaker Stuart Cummings the RFL Controller of Referees. There will be a Cumberland Sausage and Chips supper and entertainment as well all for only £5. Call at the office and book your place so we can order the food. Everyone is welcome. The Vice Presidents will also be asked to vote for their next inductee into the Hall of Fame. This will take place at a dinner in the club in November. There will be a Gentlemen's evening in aid of the David Seeds/Lee Kiddie/Graeme Morton on Friday 1st October 2004 at 7-0 pm at The Club, Cleator Moor. Guest speaker will be former West Ham and Celtic striker Frank McAvennie and the evening will be compared by England Bowling coach and former star John Bell. Top Irish comedian Mike Cash will be providing the entertainment and there will be a roast beef dinner, raffle and auction. Tickets are priced £25 or £250 for a table of ten. See any of the testimonial committee for details or enquire at the office

CAMRA are having their annual real ale festival on October 2nd this year and the Loweswater Brewery are producing a special Haven ale which will be on sale exclusively at the festival. They are looking for a suitable name for this beer and are offering two free tickets for the festival to the person suggesting the name that will be used. Send your suggestions with your name and address to Mrs. Chris de Cordova, 35 Thornton Road, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 6UW or leave them with John Cox in the office.

LHF Healthplan National League One Fixtures for today:

Featherstone Rovers v Batley Bulldogs
Keighley Cougars v Doncaster Dragons
Leigh Centurions v Hull KR
Rochdale Hornets v Halifax
Whitehaven v Oldham

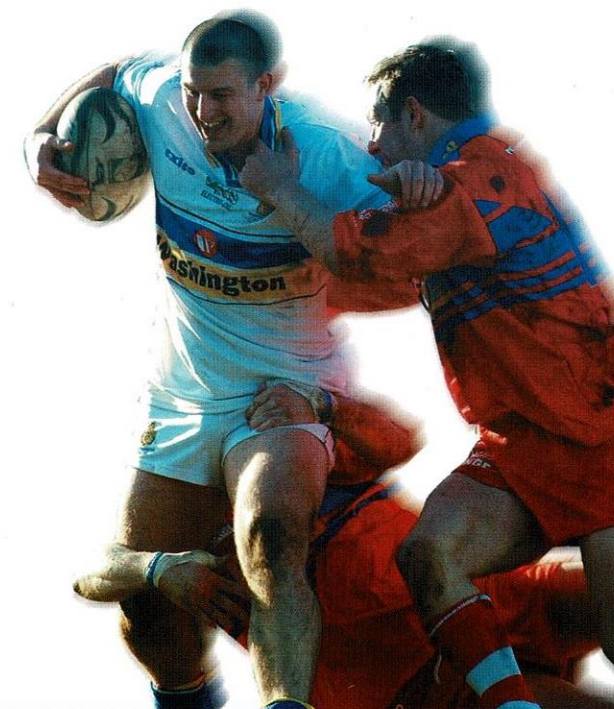
All things rugby

LHF Healthplan National League One

As of 27th August 2004

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	PTS
1 Whitehaven	15	12	0	3	482	259	24
2 Leigh	15	11	0	4	610	349	22
3 Oldham	15	9	0	6	411	410	18
4 Featherstone	15	8	1	6	431	413	17
5 Hull KR	15	8	0	7	350	362	16
6 Doncaster	15	8	0	7	404	441	16
7 Rochdale	15	6	1	8	396	489	13
8 Batley	15	6	0	9	396	398	12
9 Halifax	15	5	0	10	328	402	10
10 Keighley	15	1	0	14	302	587	2

Today's pre match entertainment kicks off at 2-20pm with a terrific vocalist from Mac Attack who will also be singing in the J.J. McKeown bar after the game. At half time the Joanne Dougan Step by Step dancers will be dancing on the pitch. There will also be a charity sprint at half time between former Whitehaven winger Norman Lofthouse and Lee Skelton with all monies raised going to charity.



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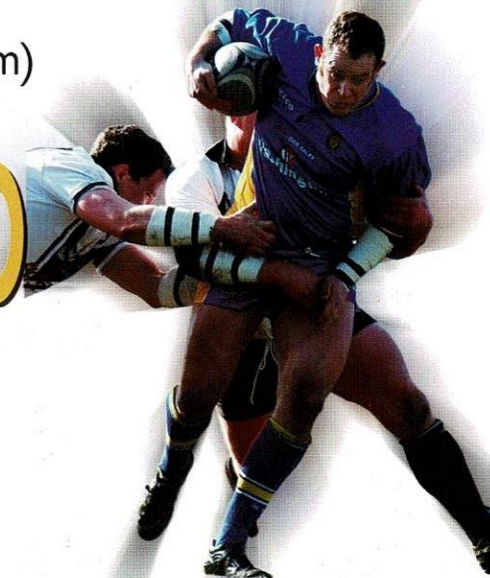
J.J. McKeown, Bill McAlone, Dick Huddart, Bill Holliday, Phil Kitchin, Tommy Keen

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Ryan Tandy (Haven) & Steve Malloy (Oldham)

HEAD TO HEAD



This weekend we focus on the front-row as Haven's new Australian import Ryan Tandy goes 'Head to Head' with Oldham's vastly experienced player coach Steve Molloy.

22-yr-old Ryan was born on Australia's Central Coast and started playing rugby league for the local junior team Kincumber Colts at the age of 5. He continued to play through the age groups with Kincumber before signing for the North Sydney Bears as a 16-yr-old. Other players of note in the same age group were Australian and State of Origin players Mark Gasnier and Jamie Lyon.

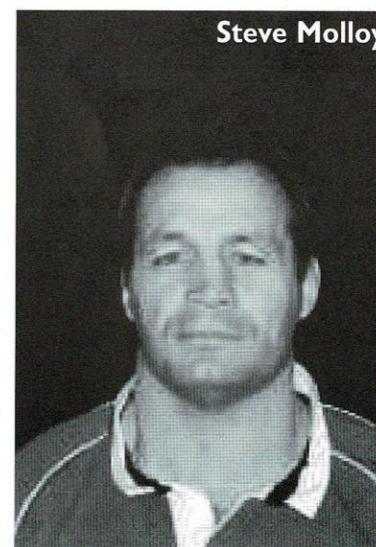
Ryan represented the Junior Kangaroo's against the Junior Kiwi's, and also played for New South Wales U19 team that played Queensland in 2000. After the demise of North Sydney he joined St George Illawarra Dragons for the 2002 season where he played 12 times in the NRL, which is recognised as the toughest league in the world. With Australian test players Jason Ryles and Luke Bailey occupying the prop positions, 1st grade opportunities at St George were limited and Ryan left to join South Sydney mid way through the 2003 season, where he played 6 first grade games for the Rabbitohs.

Ryan wasn't enjoying his rugby with South's and was keen to try his luck in Super League and at the start of this season he was attracting the interest of Wigan. With that move failing to materialise Ryan's agent in Australia, Sam Abe, suggested talking to Haven who are widely recognised as one of the strongest teams outside Super League. This led him to join us for the remainder of the season.

35-yr-old Steve was born in Manchester but moved to the Oldham area when he was a youngster. He started playing rugby league at the age of 9 for his school team Fitton Hill before joining the Oldham St Ann's amateur side as a teenager. At the age of 17 Steve captained the GB U19 side against France in 1986, and on his 18th birthday he signed professional forms for Warrington. He played a total of 50 games for the Wire between August 1998 and April 1999, which included a Lancashire Cup final win over his present club Oldham in October 1989. Despite playing in the semi-final of the Challenge cup the following year; Steve disappointingly failed to make the Warrington team that lost to Wigan in the 1990 Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

The following season Steve joined Leeds where he played over 60 games for the Loiners and where he gained his first GB cap in 1993. In 1996 he joined Featherstone Rovers where, as well as captaining England, he went on to tour the South Pacific with Great Britain. In 1998 he joined Sheffield Eagles where he once again missed out on a challenge cup appearance when the Eagles defeated Wigan, although this time he was cup-tied.

For the 2002 season Steve joined Batley where he made just eleven appearances before moving to his current club Oldham as a player. The 2003 season saw Oldham player-coach Mike Ford leave the club to take up a coaching position with the Irish national team. Shortly afterwards his successor John Harbin also left to take up a fitness coaching role with Oldham Athletic FC. Following Harbin's departure Steve was appointed player coach for the remainder of the 2003 season from where he guided the Roughyeds to a position just outside the playoffs.



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NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



LOAN RANGERS!

AS the LHF National League season reaches boiling point, a cluster of players on loan at various clubs have crucial roles to play.

With some squads in the Nationals Leagues seemingly stretched from day one, several clubs have sought to "borrow" players from elsewhere.

There are obvious positive and negatives to this scenario - but in many cases it's been a case of "needs must", and there are certainly a host of quality players on loan who can have a major say in the rest of the season.

Hull Kingston Rovers have moved for several loan players all season to cover a small squad. Leeds duo Jason Netherton and Dwayne Barker look set to remain at the club for the rest of the campaign as the Robins look to push up the table.

Rochdale Hornets are another side to have borrowed extensively from elsewhere. Three members of their three quarter line against Doncaster last weekend are on loan - Richard Varkulis from Warrington, and Leigh duo Dave Alstead and Mark McCully - with all of them having made a major contribution. But there is the possibility that the Centurions could call Alstead and McCully back before this weekend - which could impact on both clubs' campaigns.

Leigh have allowed a number of their large squad to go out on loan all year - another is Mick Coates at NL2 side Swinton, while Dale Cardoza has been to both Featherstone and York.

Few themselves have Castleford youngster Dean Ripley on a temporary basis, while Halifax's flying winger Rikki Sheriffe is on a season-long loan from Super League side Huddersfield Giants. Batley Bulldogs have Bryn Powell from Salford and Halifax's David Bates, while their own Andy Rice is spending time at Sheffield. Chorley Lynx have Halifax's Danny Arnold.

And Barrow Raiders coach Peter Roe has been as prominent in the transfer market as anyone in recent weeks. He moved to quell an injury crisis at the club by bringing in Whitehaven duo Ryan Campbell and Tony Cunningham, as well as flying Leeds winger Matt Gardner, who had an immediate impact with two tries on his debut at Chorley.

We've seen a similar scenario in Super League - no less than seven of Leeds Rhinos' first team squad has been out on loan at some stage this year.

And no doubt there will have been a few more movements ahead of Friday's transfer deadline day.

Some observers will criticise loan signings and say they are not aiding the long-term future of a club.

But these players undoubtedly have massive roles to play between now and the end of the campaign - and could score the try or kick the goals that shape's your club's season.

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

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LOCAL PRESS BOX

While Whitehaven were going top of the LHF Healthplan National League One last Sunday I was in the Workington Town pressbox covering what by their standards was a wonderful 80-8 victory over Gateshead Thunder.

I nearly got thrown out, however, when I suggested that we play a different game at Whitehaven. Being used to watching Sam Obst's neat little kicks to the line for someone to run in and score, I was a little bemused when Town's eventual man of the match Tane Manihera tried to execute a kick through and nearly put a window in at Tesco's!

Seriously though, I wish Town all the best as they strive to either join us in National League One or replace us as we step up to Super League.

While many of their fans agree that they will need strengthening if they do go up, they mischievously believe Whitehaven can give them them that strength.

There is much talk around jam-eaters land that if we do attain our goal and have go full time professional to maintain status, the question is posed as to whether present players in good jobs at the likes of Sellafield could afford to give them up to risk the insecurity of Super League, which may last only one season. What then?

There is a trend of thought that the truly part-timers among our ranks would seek a game 'down the road', giving the Derwent Park folk quite a useful side in what they hope would be the First Division. As I posed the last time I penned these notes, are we ready for the climb? Certainly not with the ground as it stands, although Chief Executive John Cox informs me plans are in hand to meet all the Super League criteria, including a close season quick built 550 seat stand at the Railway End.

If that did not materialise, my guess is that we could finish up ground sharing with Town, where facilities would not need as much up dating as at the Recreation Ground or even Barrow, who have a smarter set-up than both of us.

But I don't think our fans would relish a bus trip to Craven Park for each home game and judging by our enthusiasm and present gates, we would need quite a few buses and it would be a different story from the buses that did not run from Carlisle when Barrow merged with Raiders.

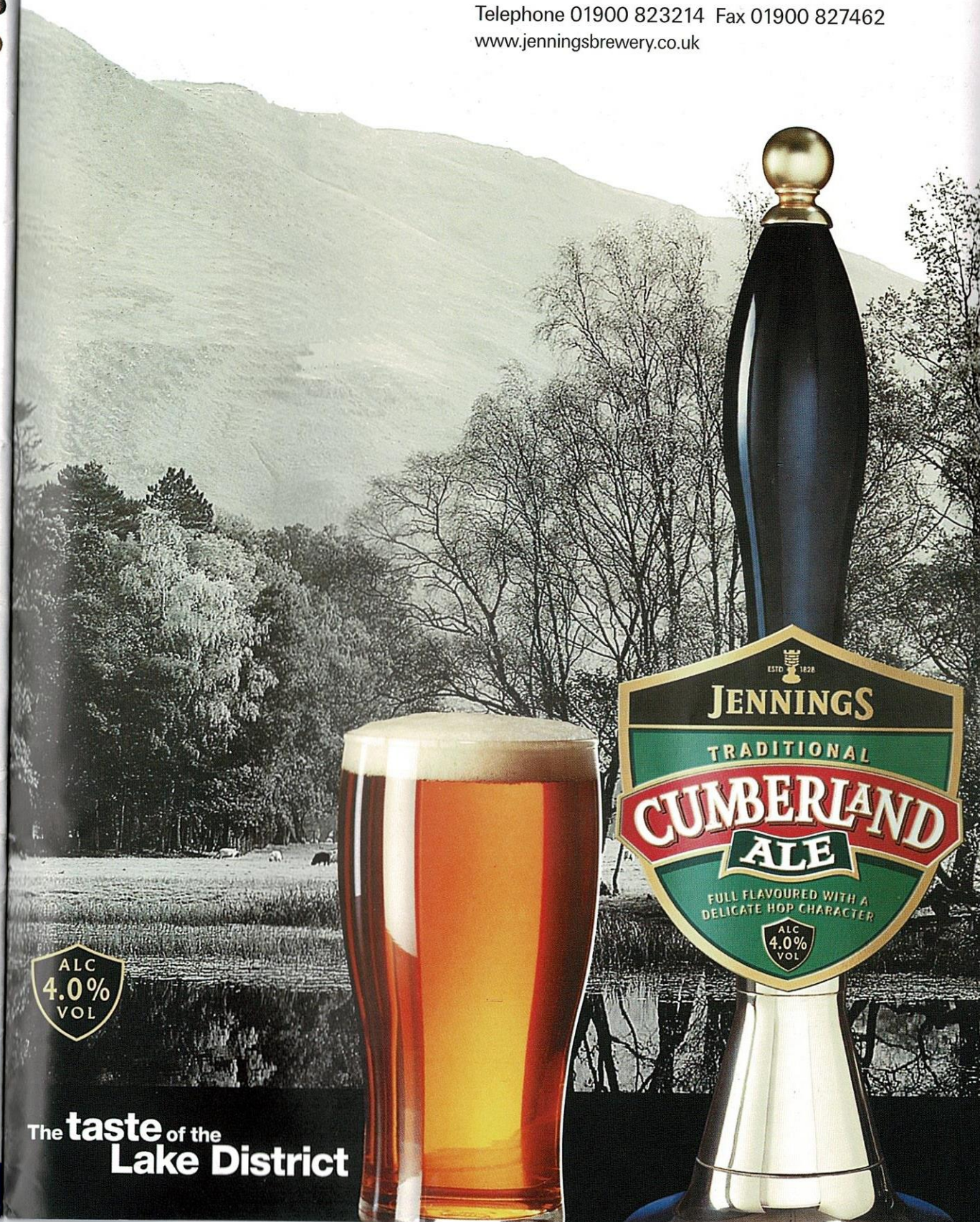
It all needs carefully thinking out. Our Chairman Barry says "we have got to go for it". Let us remember the age old proverb that 'only fools rush in. Let us go in sensibly, responsibly and at the right time. But that does not hide the fact that I, too, would love to be reporting on Super League at Whitehaven instead of the LHF Healthplan National League One.

When I put the idea of ground sharing at the 10,000 capacity Derwent Park to Town Chairman Dave Bowden, his immediate reply was that he although it could be a matter for consideration, he could not contemplate Whitehaven fans wanting to ground share with his club, such is the rivalry.

So as our Chief Executive puts our Super League application in the post, let us hope the Railway End stand can be put up in time and the controversy that the ground share suggestion would create is eliminated. But we have to win the Grand Final first!

Gordon Brown
Journalist

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WHITEHAVEN RLFC STATS 2004

Date	Opposition	Comp	F-A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1 Feb	Barrow Raiders	NLC A	32 - 18	G Broadbent	J Marshall	D Seeds	M Naylor 21 7G	P ONeil	C Wash	L Kiddle	C McKiney	Cie	D Fabela 11	S Miller	G Horton	H Hill	S Wood	W Wilson	R Campbell	A Lester
8 Feb	Thattoo Heath	CC3 A	26 - 12	G Broadbent	M Wallace	D Seeds 11	M Naylor 3G	J Leeson 11	C Wash 11	L Kiddle 11	C McKiney	Cie	D Fabela 6	G Horton	H Hill	S Wood	W Wilson	D Vaughan	B McDermott	
15 Feb	Swinton Lions	NLC H	38 - 10	W Wilson	J Marshall 21	B McDermott 11	M Naylor 11 7G	P ONeil 11	C Wash 11	L Kiddle	M Jackson	A Lester	D Vaughan	C Chambers	G Purdum	H Hill 11	S Wood 11	S Miller	G Broadbent 11	G
22 Feb	Gateshead Thunder	NLC A	54 - 14	G Broadbent	J Marshall	D Seeds	M Naylor 21 7G	M Wallace	C Wash 31	L Kiddle 11	M Jackson	Cie	C McKiney	S Miller 11	G Horton 21	H Hill 11	S Wood	R Campbell	G Smith	B McDermott
29 Feb	East Hull	CC4 A	14 - 4	G Broadbent	J Marshall	D Seeds	M Naylor 11 3G	P ONeil	C Wash	L Kiddle	M Jackson	Cie	C McKiney	C Chambers	G Horton	H Hill	Lee	G Smith	S Miller	B McDermott 11
7 March	Workington Town	NLC H	54 - 12	G Broadbent 31	J Marshall	W Wilson 21	M Naylor 11 7G	P ONeil	Lee 11	L Kiddle 21	D Fabela 6	A Lester	B McDermott	S Miller 11	G Purdum	Cie	S Wood	D Vaughan	C McKiney	
14 March	Batley	CC5 A	29 - 6	G Broadbent	S Wood	W Wilson 11	M Naylor 11 4G	P ONeil 11	Lee 11 4G	L Kiddle	M Jackson	A Lester	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill 21	C Wash	Cie	S Miller	C Chambers	
21 March	Barrow Raiders	NLC H	14 - 10	W Wilson	M Wallace	D Seeds 11	M Naylor 3G	J Leeson 11	C Wash	S Wood	D Vaughan	Cie	G Smith	R Campbell	S Miller	G Purdum	P ONeil	T Cunningham	C Chambers	
28 March	Warrington	CC6 H	10 - 42	G Broadbent	W Wilson	D Seeds	M Naylor 11 1G	P ONeil	Lee	L Kiddle 11	M Jackson	A Lester	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	G Horton	H Hill	C Wash	C Chambers	S Obit	
30 March	Swinton Lions	NLC A	34 - 6	S Wood 5G	J Marshall	W Wilson	C Wash 21	J Leeson	Lee	S Obit	G Smith	Cie 21	D Vaughan	R Campbell	B McDermott 11	G Purdum	G Broadbent	M Wallace	S Miller	Cie
4 April	Gateshead Thunder	NLC H	74 - 16	G Broadbent 11	J Marshall	D Seeds	M Naylor 11 1G	W Wilson 11	L Kiddle 31	S Obit 21	D Vaughan	A Lester 11	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	C Wash 11	Cie	M Jackson 11	G Purdum	C McKiney 11
9 April	Workington Town	NLC A	26 - 10	S Wood	J Marshall	C Wash 21	M Naylor 3G	P ONeil	L Kiddle	S Obit 11	D Vaughan	A Lester 11	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	C Wash 11	Cie	G Smith	C Chambers	T Cunningham
12 April	Leigh Cougars	NLC H	31 - 24	G Broadbent	W Wilson	D Seeds	M Naylor 5G	P ONeil 21	L Kiddle	S Obit	D Vaughan	A Lester	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	S Miller	G Purdum	Cie 11	C Chambers	C McKiney	T Cunningham
18 April	Rochdale Hornets	NLC A	46 - 12	G Broadbent	M Wallace	D Seeds 11	M Naylor 21 5G	P ONeil 11	L Kiddle 11 4G	S Obit 21	D Vaughan	A Lester 11	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill 11	C Wash 11	Cie 11	C Chambers	C McKiney	
2 May	Keighley Cougars	NLC H	38 - 6	W Wilson	J Marshall	D Seeds 11	M Naylor 7G	H Hill	L Kiddle	S Obit 11	D Vaughan	A Lester 11	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	C Chambers	C Wash 21	Cie 11	G Horton 11	S Miller	C McKiney
9 May	Doncaster Dragons	NLC A	24 - 31	W Wilson	J Marshall 11	D Seeds 11	M Naylor 11 3G	P ONeil	L Kiddle	S Obit 11	D Vaughan	A Lester 11	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	C Wash 21	Cie	Lee	C Chambers	G Horton
23 May	Halifax	NLC H	34 - 8	W Wilson	J Marshall 11	D Seeds 11	M Naylor 11 3G	P ONeil	Lee	S Obit 11	D Vaughan	A Lester 11	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	G Horton	C Wash 21	Cie	S Miller	M Jackson	T Cunningham
30 May	Hull Kingston Rovers	NLC A	26 - 12	G Broadbent	W Wilson	D Seeds	M Naylor 5G	P ONeil	Lee 11 4G	S Obit 21 4G	D Vaughan	A Lester 11	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	C Wash 11	Cie	S Miller	M Jackson	T Cunningham
6 June	Batley Bulldogs QF -	NLC A	22 - 16	G Broadbent	J Marshall	D Seeds 21	M Naylor 3G	P ONeil 11	Lee	S Obit	D Vaughan	A Lester	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	C Wash 11	Cie	M Jackson	G Horton	C McKiney
13 June	Batley Bulldogs	NLC H	28 - 17	G Broadbent 11	J Marshall	W Wilson	M Naylor 21 4G	P ONeil 11	Lee	S Obit	D Vaughan	A Lester	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill 11	C Wash 11	Cie	G Horton	M Jackson	C McKiney
20 June	Oldham	NLC A	22 - 31	G Broadbent	S Wood 11	W Wilson	M Naylor 11 3G	P ONeil	Lee	S Obit	D Vaughan	A Lester	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	C Wash 11	Cie	G Horton	M Jackson	C McKiney
27 June	Leigh	Semi-Final - NLC	30 - 34	G Broadbent	J Marshall 21	W Wilson 11	M Naylor 7G	P ONeil	Lee	S Obit 11	D Vaughan	A Lester	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	C Wash	Cie	G Horton	M Jackson	C McKiney
4 July	Featherstone Rovers	NLC A	12 - 26	G Broadbent	J Marshall	D Seeds	W Wilson	P ONeil 2G	L Kiddle 11	S Obit	D Vaughan	Lee	D Fabela 6	B McDermott	H Hill	A Lester	G Purdum	Cie	T Cunningham	C
11 July	Rochdale Hornets	NLC H	30 - 14	W Wilson	C Garner 21	D Seeds	R Campbell	P ONeil 11 3G	Lee	S Obit 11	C McKiney	A Lester	D Fabela 6	S Miller	H Hill	C Wash 11	G Purdum	Cie	G Horton 11	T Cunningham
25 July	Keighley Cougars	NLC A	29 - 16	G Broadbent	C Garner	D Seeds	M Naylor 11 6G	W Wilson	Lee 11	S Obit 11 4G	C McKiney	Cie 11	D Fabela 6	S Miller	H Hill	C Wash	G Purdum	Cie	M Jackson	D Vaughan
1 August	Doncaster Dragons	NLC H	42 - 18	G Broadbent	C Garner 11	D Seeds 11	M Naylor 31 7G	W Wilson	Lee	S Obit 11	C McKiney	A Lester	D Fabela 6	S Miller 11	H Hill	C Wash	Cie	G Purdum	M Jackson	D Vaughan
8 August	Halifax	NLC A	34 - 14	G Broadbent	C Garner 21	D Seeds	M Naylor 11 3G	P ONeil	Lee	S Obit 11	C McKiney	A Lester	D Fabela 6	S Miller	H Hill 21	C Wash	D Vaughan	Cie	M Jackson	D Vaughan
15 August	Hull Kingston Rovers	NLC H	38 - 8	G Broadbent	C Garner 11	D Seeds	M Naylor 5G	P ONeil	Lee	S Obit 11	R Tandy 11	A Lester	D Fabela 6	S Miller 11	H Hill 11	C Wash 21	Cie	M Jackson	C McKiney	P Davidson
22 August	Batley Bulldogs	NLC A	48 - 22	G Broadbent	C Garner 11	D Seeds	M Naylor 41 6G	P ONeil	Lee	S Obit	R Tandy	A Lester	D Fabela 6	S Miller 11	H Hill	C Wash 21	P Davidson	Cie	D Vaughan	M Jackson
29 August	Oldham	NLC H																		
5 Sept	Leigh Centurions	NLC A																		