

# TODAYS TEAMS

14th August 2005 • KICK OFF 3.00PM

# Oldham RLFC

Try	Conversion	FD Goal						Try	Conversion	FD Goal
			C. Giles	1	FULL BACK	1	Gavin Dodd			
			D. Alstead	2	RIGHT WING	2	Damian Munro			
			M. McCully	3	RIGHT CENTRE	3	Alex Wilkinson			
			A. Gorski	4	LEFT CENTRE	4	Jon Goddard			
			C. Campbell	5	LEFT WING	5	Nick Johnson			
			R. Bowker	6	STAND OFF	6	Marty Turner			
			J. Durbin	7	SCRUM HALF	7	Chris Hough			
			J. Hill	8	OPEN SIDE PROP	8	Ricky Bibey			
			D. McConnell	9	HOOVER	9	Gareth Barber			
			R. Ball	10	BLIND SIDE PROP	10	Dana Wilson			
			R. Varkulis	11	OPENSIDE 2ND ROW	11	Tere Glassie			
			L. Doran	12	BLINDSIDE 2ND ROW	12	Ian Hodson			
			P. Farrell	13	LOOSE FORWARD	13	John Hough			
			D. Cunliffe	14	SUBSTITUTE ONE	14	Paul Norman			
			S. Butterworth	15	SUBSTITUTE TWO	15	Martin Elswood			
			K. Radcliffe	16	SUBSTITUTE THREE	16	Adam Sharples			
			P. Anderson	17	SUBSTITUTE FOUR	17	Carlos Mataora			

PROGRESSIVE SCORE					SCRUMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SCRUMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	PROGRESSIVE SCORE				
						9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16					
						17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
					9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16							
					17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24							

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**Club Secretary:** Mr K Oldham

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Mr K Oldham  
Mr D Vining  
Mrs A Manock  
Ms K Reynolds

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**Assistant Coach:** Darren Shaw  
Shaun Gartland

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Martin Ball,  
Mark Wynn,  
David Ledsham,  
Mike Floyd,  
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Why not visit the Hornets supporters' website on:

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Beaten Finalists	1912-13, 1919-20, 1965-66, 1990-91
Regal Trophy Beaten Finalists	1973-74
BBC2 Floodlight Trophy Beaten Finalists	1971-72

**CLUB RECORDS**

Debut Season	1895-96
Biggest Victory, 120-4 v Illingworth ARLFC	2005
Heaviest Defeat, 10-82 v Hull Sharks	1999-2000

**MOST TRIES**

In a career - 103, J. Williams	1931-37
In a season - 31, M Billy	2000-01
In a match - 5, J. Corsi, M. Billy J. Williams, N. Brelsford	1921-22 1933, 1972, 2001

**MOST GOALS**

In a career - 733, W. Gowers	1922-36
In a season - 150m M. Strett	1994-95
In a match - 18, L. Birdseye	2005

**MOST POINTS**

In a career - 1481, W. Gowers	1922-36
In a season - 350, M. Nanyn	2002-03
In a match - 44, L. Birdseye	2005

**MOST APPEARANCES**

455, W. Gowers	1922-36
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## WELCOME TO ROCHDALE HORNETS

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of Oldham.

Well after an outstanding performance against Halifax, the next week we come up with another Jeckell and Hyde performance with many players in form and others off it. If we are to achieve our goal of 4th spot this season we need to play with the consistency I know we are capable of and start hitting the straps together sooner.

Today once again we face Oldham whose fortunes have change dramatically since the beginning of the year. I said early on that Gary would turn their results around and with some recent good results he has cemented their position for next year.

Off the field there is a lot going and it's great to report that NARDI and Arien will continue to sponsor the club next year. This along with the summer school, the recent skills zone in the town and our other activities in the community demonstrates the clubs determination to succeed off the field.

enjoy the game.

*Bobbie*

Bobbie.

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## THE VIEW FROM ROW Z

Today's derby with Oldham sees the quite literal launch of Hornets Nest Egg's most ambitious fundraiser yet - our balloon race. This has taken months of planning and we'd like to thank everyone who's bought one of the 1,000 balloons that are being released today.

More importantly we'd like to express our thanks to the people who have made this possible. Firstly the Nest Egg's Dave Withington for shouldering most of the responsibility for this event - his energy, determination and diplomatic nagging skills have ensured that it's all gone smoothly; and he sold over 400 balloons too!

We'd also like to thank Stern Fencing of Rochdale for their kind sponsorship of the balloon race - their generous support helped us pay many of the up-front costs involved. Thanks too go to Gayle Chown of the Card House & Balloon Room of Dale St Milnrow for supplying us with some much needed professional advice - oh, and 1,000 balloons!

If you have bought a balloon, we wish you all the best - and hope that it's not yours that looks to be stuck in the floodlight pylon.

James Freund - Chairman of the Sydney Branch of the Hornets Supporters Association - has now departed our shores for more exotic climes; and having seen three wins from three games, he became something of a lucky talisman for us.

Whilst he's been here, we've joined him on a bit of a Rugby League odyssey as we've trekked round looking for interesting games to see. Last weekend was one of extreme contrasts: Friday we went to Warrington v Saints; Saturday was Bramley v Gateshead Storm in NL3 - and Sunday was Hornets struggling to stay awake against some boring team from 'Yocksha'.

If anyone had any doubt about the blinkered arrogance of Super League clubs, an article in the Warrington programme should help reinforce your thinking. In a piece about statistics in RL, the

author made reference to a particular Warrington set-piece move that they call "74" - then went on to say "... which could also relate to some of the crowds outside Super League." Ha, bloody ha.

In contrast, the trip to Bramley was a delight. They have a fantastic set-up, a very tidy enclosed ground (they share with Stanningley ARLFC), and some of the most passionate RL folk you could ever meet. As 'outsiders' we were made very welcome and if Bramley are the template for a successful community club, then the sooner we open up promotion from NL3, the better.

Bramley were 50-nil up at half time to a very naive, inexperienced Gateshead side, but their fans were very generous with their applause when the Storm finally broke their duck after about an hour.

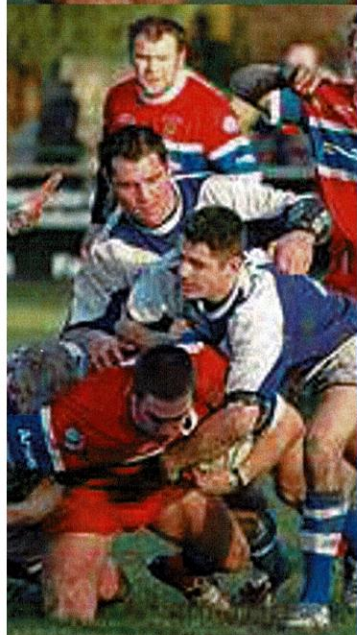
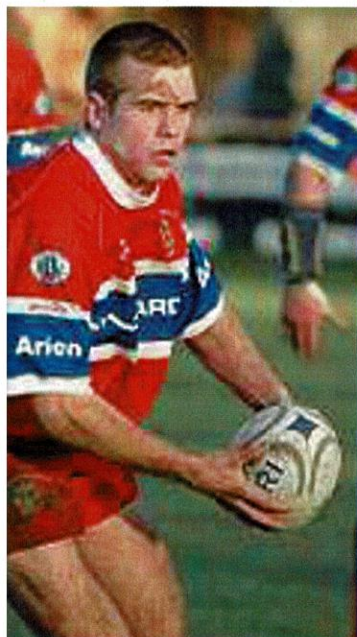
Today we welcome our nearest and dearest neighbours Oldham. As their battle to stave off the tax-man continues - and the next instalment of their payment imminent - chairman Chris Hamilton has been appealing in the press this week for Roughyed fans to dig deep for their club. Indeed, outside the 'promised land' of Super League, we all seem to have been left to scratch around for scraps as the 'chosen few' suck up millions of pounds every year.

Having been to the brink ourselves, we know only too well how fragile clubs outside SL can become without support from the game at large. And also how clubs are increasingly leaning on the generosity of their fans to survive.

Indeed, I wouldn't imagine Warrington had a balloon race to pay for Andrew Johns...

If you have any news, comments or opinions that you'd like to see in future programmes, please email [jim@rochdalehornets.com](mailto:jim@rochdalehornets.com) with your articles. Enjoy the game.





## Hornets 30 Featherstone 18 MINER IRRITATION

Hornets shake off niggling Rovers

The trouble with spoiling teams is that they drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience. Desperate for points, Featherstone came to do whatever was necessary to get something from this game - and, in the process, reduced this contest into a scrappy mess where cohesive football was at a premium.

Despite out-scoring Featherstone six tries to two, Hornets were repeatedly pegged back by a series of kickable penalties that kept David Hobbs' side in contention until the last minute.

Indeed, it was a penalty that gave Fev the lead after three minutes, but it was Hornets playing all the football in the opening exchanges.

Mark McCully's pass sent Dave Alstead away, but the Rovers defence scrambled back just in time; Chris Giles made the extra man in the line and he sent Andy Gorski on a run that was snuffed out by a good tackle from Moss. But after 7 minutes, Hornets pressure - primarily up the right flank - told, and Richard Varkulis bounced through some flapping tackles to score. McCully added the extras.

Five minutes later, it was Lee Doran prising open Fev's left centre channel. With the ball worked into centre field, John Hill's dying pass to Jamie Durbin looked to be knocked on, but Mr Morris celebrated his 500th game in charge by claiming temporary blindness and Varkulis capitalised by running in for his second. The Rovers fans were incensed - and

the Hornets faithful sucked on their teeth and looked skywards.

Featherstone tried desperately to stem the flow - lying on and slowing down the play at every opportunity. But on repeating the idea, Hornets' Chris Giles was dispatched for ten minutes. Undeterred, Hornets moved the ball around an, on 22 minutes, Chris Campbell ran a sublime angle onto a Radney Bowker pass and hit space in centre field; as he lined up the Rovers fullback, he launched a looping pass inside which found Alstead via a Rovers defender's hand and he steamed the ball in under the black dot.

McCully converted and, at 16-2, Featherstone were way off the pace of the game.

On the half hour, Rovers launched their one meaningful attack of the half and, to their credit, it came good - Finn's handy pass in traffic putting Batty in at the corner. Finn added the touchline conversion and accepted a string of penalties to bring his side to within four points at the break.

Hornets began the second half with a bang: on the first possession, Radney Bowker's raking pass found Andy Gorski at pace and he found space to squeeze in at the corner.

Just on the hour, Featherstone hooker Evans was sin-binned for dissent and Hornets took the ball close to the Rovers line. Sam Butterworth took the ball from acting half and skipped across the line; his pass hit a Rovers defender en-route to Dave Alstead and, while

the defenders were busy appealing for a knock-on, he planted the ball for his second try.

New Fev coach David Hobbs made his view of the try known to Colin Morris - and he too was sent off from the dug-out; his side a scrambling, spoiling mess.

But for a team bereft of shape, Rovers hit back with a 90 metre individual try from winger Powell, who hit open field and won the foot-race to the other end. Finn added the two and - amazingly - Rovers were within a score with ten minutes to go.

Hornets lifted for one last push - and it paid off in the 78th minute when Mark McCully teased the Fev defence with a moment of sparkling ball work and sent Alstead away for his hat-trick. McCully converted and the job was done - albeit with some difficulty.

Bobbie Goulding was circumspect: "We were poor today, but we got a win and, at this stage of the season, we're happy with that."

But it was an ugly, scrappy affair against the least attractive footballing side we've seen at Spotland thus far. There's no doubt that David Hobbs will iron the wrinkles out of this Fev side, but it looks like a long job.

Hornets, on the other hand, can be reasonably pleased. With a team unbalanced by injuries to key forwards, it looked a lightweight 13 at times. And in the face of some uncompromising attention from the Fev front row, the pack stood up well.

The only real black-spot on the afternoon was the antics of the Featherstone supporters at the end - spitting at the officials in the tunnel is disgusting and bestial. Perhaps, a sabbatical in NL2 is just what they need.

*Jim Stringer*

What the papers say!

### NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

## Hornets 30 Featherstone 18 By Mike Floyd

HORNETS continued their Jekyll and Hyde season as they made hard work of beating National League One strugglers Featherstone Rovers, at Spotland on Sunday.

And, the Spotland outfit couldn't breathe easily until Dave Alstead completed his hat-trick, with a try in the last minute, to secure a 30-18 victory.

Hornets started like a train, but the visitors were first on the board with a Liam Finn penalty after two minutes. The home team hit back and Richard Varkulis broke through some weak tackling to touch down near the sticks, McCully converted. Varkulis then scored a second courtesy of Lee Doran's pass.

Alstead cashed in on excellent work by Radney Bowker and Chris Campbell to score his first and McCully was again on target and a cricket score looked likely.

But for no apparent reason the home team ran out of steam and the visitors took advantage. Nathan Batty crossed for a try, which Finn converted, before tagging on two penalties, to put his team four points behind at the break.

Hornets started the second half strongly and it took Alstead just four minutes to find a hole in the Rovers' defence and touch down. But they were unable to rest on their Laurels as Bryn Powell raced the length of the field to score the try of the match. Finn added the extras.

Hornets pressed in the error-ridden closing stages, but they had to wait for Alstead's late try, converted by McCully, before they could finally relax.

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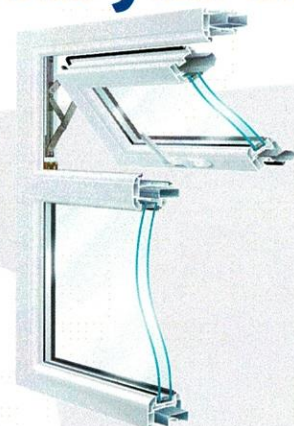
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## THE OPPOSITION OLDHAM RLFC

**GARETH BARBER:** Now one of the longer serving Oldham players, local lad Barber began his rugby league career at Warrington and joined the Roughyeds in the early days of the Mike Ford era.

**RICKY BIBBY:** Former Wigan and St Helens prop. Signed for Oldham just before the start of the 2005 season. He has also had a spell on loan at Leigh, for whom he played in a National League first division grand final.

**WILL COWELL:** Somewhat unlucky with injuries, yet this popular Cumbrian -- a native of Whitehaven and reared in rugby league at Kells -- has still played 60 senior competitive games for the Roughyeds after joining the club from Warrington at the start of the 2002 season.

**GAVIN DODD:** Favourite position, full-back, but also able to play centre and wing. Played mainly wing in the last two seasons because of the outstanding form at No 1 of Jon Goddard.

**MARTIN ELSWOOD:** Another local lad, and yet another who came 'home' via a Super League club. Only 20, he signed for Huddersfield Giants from Royton Tigers and is now starting his second season with the Oldham club that he and his family have supported all their lives.

**CRAIG FARRIMOND:** A Wiganer, he was snapped up by Warrington as a youngster and it was from the Warriors that he joined Oldham for the start of the 2004 season.

**TERE GLASSIE:** Auckland-born, he has lived in Australia for most of his life and has played at various levels in various competitions in New South Wales. Recommended to Oldham by ex-Kiwi Test star Kevin Iro after he helped Cook Islands to a Pacific Cup victory over NZ Maoris in the final of the 2004 competition.

**JON GODDARD:** Played in 32 of Oldham's 33 games that season and was man of the match in many of them. A Castleford lad, he signed originally for his hometown club, but he joined Oldham three seasons ago and he has never looked back after being switched from centre to his favourite No 1 job.

**ANDY GOREY:** A scrum-half who has also done well at full-back in under-21s rugby, he too has been unlucky with injuries.

**SIMON HAUGHTON:** Joined Oldham in mid-December, 2004 and was certainly Mercer's highest-profile capture. He played mainly in the backs with Orrell, but Mercer plans to use him as Wigan did --- as a wide-running second-row forward with a thirst for tries.

**JOHN HOUGH:** A hooker, John is unique in Roughyeds folklore. He made local rugby league history in early December, 1997 when he signed for the newly-formed club as a free agent from Warrington Wolves to become the Roughyeds' first ever signing.

**ANDY ISHERWOOD:** Andy signed for Wigan as a youngster before joining Leigh and then moving back to Super League with Widnes. He helped Leigh to qualify for Super League in 2004. He opted to stay part-time in 2005 so Leigh's loss was Oldham's gain. A rugged back-row forward.

**NICK JOHNSON:** An old-style winger who loves to hug the touchline, Oldham-born Nick played in all 33 Oldham games in 2004 and scored 26 tries to set a club record for most tries in a season.

**JAMES KIRKLAND:** Another 19 year old, James is a hooker who has worked his way up through Oldham's junior and senior academy teams of the past three years.

**CARLOS MATAORA:** Another Cook Islands international. Another Kevin Iro recommendation, this 21 year old can play hooker, loose-forward or half-back, a very versatile performer of whom exciting things are expected in 2005.

**DAMIAN MUNRO:** He has come 'home' to Oldham to play essentially in the centre and there are some who feel he could rival Johnson this year in the race to become the club's top try scorer.

**DANNY NANYN:** Younger brother of Whitehaven points machine Mick Nanyin, he is expected this year to give Oldham's more experienced

and established props a good run for their money when front-row places are up for grabs.

**PAUL NORMAN:** Back in his younger days, Paul used to play for the former Oldham club, mainly in the 'A' team in those formative days of his rugby league career. When that club went into liquidation in 1997, he moved on to Leigh where he had several good seasons and became one of the most reliable front-row forwards in the National Leagues.

**MARK ROBERTS:** Mark impressed at Oldham while on loan from Warrington at the end of the 2004 season. The management, and Mercer, had no hesitation in going for him again for 2005.

**ADAM SHARPLES:** Another young prop, Adam gave up a promising future in swimming to concentrate on rugby league. He toured Fiji, Auckland and Australia with NW Counties under-16s in 2001 and has come on in leaps and bounds since, already possessing more than ten senior outings.

**SIMON SVABIC:** Now in his third year with the club, he is a midfield tactician with good hands, a rugby brain and a kicking game.

**MARTY TURNER:** A 23-year-old New Zealander, Marty is the club's overseas quota player for 2005. He will operate at scrum-half and will have the additional responsibilities of goalkicker. It will be his job to take the team around the field.

**ALEX WILKINSON:** Another former Royton Tiger, Alex signed for Bradford as a youngster and he has a fair bit of Super League experience under his belt, having played out on loan for London Broncos and Hull FC, for whom he later signed permanently.

**DANA WILSON:** He made a big impression for the Cooks in the Pacific Cup and the Cooks manager, Kevin Iro, felt he was ready for the next stage of his development --- a trip to the UK to try his hand with Oldham in the National League.





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# AMATEUR SCENE

BY MARK WYNN



Rugby League is flourishing in the Armed forces. Here is how it is promoted within each branch of the services.

## ARMY RUGBY LEAGUE



Since recognition as an official Army Sport in 1994, Army Rugby League has become the fastest growing Army Sport. In addition to the male and female First XIs, there is an Under 23 Squad, an Under 18 Squad, major Corps and Regiments are represented and three Army players have been fortunate enough to play for Great Britain.

ROYAL NAVY



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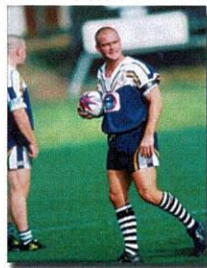
Rugby League

"To promote, develop and administer the sport of Rugby League at all levels throughout the Royal Navy & Royal Marines.



Royal Navy Rugby League has developed rapidly since its recognition by the Service in 1997 to become probably the fastest growing sport in the Navy today. This area of the RN website is aimed at giving all visitors a flavor of what the sport can offer the men and women who are involved in RNRL as well as keeping followers of the sport up to date with what is happening in the world of Royal Navy Rugby League.

Rugby League is a fast, exciting and spectacular game played by 13 powerful athletes who on average experience over 300 hard impact collisions during 80 minutes of play. Rugby League is a game that takes your breath away - literally! Combine the players' athleticism with ingenious strategies to crack the defenses, and you will see why Rugby League is a spectator sport that just cannot be beaten. Many famous names from Rugby Leagues' glorious past have pulled the RAF representative light blue jersey over their heads; Mick Sullivan and Alex Murphy both graced the hallowed turf of Twickenham playing the only code available to them at the time - Rugby Union. I wonder what they would think now if they could see the increasing popularity of Rugby League Football in the Royal Air Force today.



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## TODAYS MASCOT

NAME: JAMIE DUNNE



Jamie is 10 years of age, enjoys, climbing trees, riding bikes, watching rugby, swimming. Jamie and his family are big supporters of Rochdale Hornets.

He attends the Lower Darwen Primary School.

Stephen J Holt



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ROCHDALE HORNETS

# 2005 Roll Call

NAME	P	SUB	TRIES	DG	GOAL	PTS
Dave Alstead	11	2	13	0	0	52
Chris Giles	25	0	6	0	0	24
Mark McCully	24	0	12	0	58	164
Richard Varkulis	23	1	10	0	0	40
Chris Campbell	22	0	14	0	0	56
Lee Birdseye	7	2	2	0	34	76
John Braddish	14	0	11	0	16	76
Andy Leathem	2	1	0	0	0	0
Phil Cantillon	8	9	11	0	0	44
Gareth Price	20	1	3	0	0	12
Andy Gorski	25	0	13	0	0	52
Lee Doran	24	0	6	0	0	24
Phil Farrell	14	2	2	0	0	8
Radney Bowker	18	3	10	0	0	40
Sam Butterworth	5	14	8	0	0	32
Rob Ball	6	13	2	0	0	8
Lee Hansen	1	7	0	0	0	0
Kris Ratcliffe	1	5	0	0	0	0
Tommy Hodgekinson	7	4	1	0	0	4
Mick Grady	0	1	0	0	0	0
David Newton	4	11	0	0	0	0
Dave McConnell	17	3	6	0	0	24
Andy Saywell	13	0	12	0	0	48
David Cunliffe	7	11	6	0	0	24
Paul Owen	6	0	3	0	0	12
Paul Anderson	8	4	0	0	0	0
Bobbie Goulding	7	0	2	1	14	37
John Hill	6	5	0	0	0	0
Jamie Durbin	7	1	1	0	0	4



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# ROCHDALE HORNETS Playing Squad

<b>Dave Cunliffe</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Andy Gorski</b> SPONSORED BY Barbara Taylor	<b>Sam Butterworth</b> SPONSORED BY Recruitment Solutions North West LTD	<b>Phil Farrell</b> SPONSORED BY
<b>Lee Doran</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Andy Saywell</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Richard Varkulis</b> SPONSORED BY Rossendale Engineering Coatings LTD	<b>Chris Campbell</b> SPONSORED BY The 3 Bs
<b>Lee Birdseye</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Rob Ball</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Mark McCully</b> SPONSORED BY Colin Biddulph	<b>Jamie Durbin</b> SPONSORED BY Trevor North Builders
<b>Kris Ratcliffe</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Mark McCully</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Chris Giles</b> SPONSORED BY Rossendale Engineering Coatings LTD	<b>Radney Bowker</b> SPONSORED BY The Noise Machine
<b>Gareth Price</b> SPONSORED BY Stephen J Holt Ophthalmic Optician	<b>Dave Newton</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>John Braddish</b> SPONSORED BY Stephen J Holt Ophthalmic Optician	<b>Paul Anderson</b> SPONSORED BY
<b>Dave Alstead</b> SPONSORED BY	<b>Dave McConnell</b> SPONSORED BY Rossendale Engineering Ltd	<b>Phil Cantillon</b> SPONSORED BY SDI Greenstone	<b>Bobbie Goulding</b> SPONSORED BY North Builders

**SPONSOR YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYER FOR £250**  
**CONTACT THE CLUB OFFICE FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

# Summer Skills Camp



Pictured are some of the children who took part in the hugely successful Summer Skills Camp. The children enjoyed sessions taken by various Rugby League Coaches including our own Bobbie Goulding and Richard Varkulis.

Look out for the children at half time as they receive their medals and certificates on the pitch. They will be presented by members of the Rochdale Hornets Squad.





# MESSAGE BOARD AND FORTH COMING EVENTS

A very warm welcome today to all our supporters also to the players, directors and supporters of our local rivals the Oldham Roughyeds.

Rochdale Hornets are extremely lucky in having two match day sponsors for today's game, which is great news for the club. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our Match Day Sponsors Mark Wynn Fabrications – Mark and his family give Hornets great support behind the scenes – so we hope you all have a great day and also to Sean Clancy from PC Fabrications – again we hope you and your party enjoy the match day experience.

We are also delighted today to have two Match Ball Sponsors – Thank you and welcome for the first time to JD Homes – we hope John and his party have a great day. We also welcome back our great friends and Supporters Roy and Marjorie Hindle. This will be the third time this year that they have sponsored a match ball – we hope that they and their guests have something to celebrate at the end of the match!!

This level of sponsorship on Match Days demonstrates the commercial strides forward the club is making – thanks to all those people who are helping make it happen.

## SPONSORSHIP – THE NEWS WE WERE WAITING FOR!

The board of Rochdale Hornets and the team received the news that they were looking for at last Sunday's home match. Rafiq Arien and Signor Gianni Nardi gave the thumbs up to the renewal of their sponsorship for the 2006 season. This is excellent news for Bobbie and the lads and gives us that added zest to chase for Super League!

## FORTH COMING EVENTS

**TODAY – Balloon Race** – taking place at 2.40pm the event has been organised by Dave Withington and sponsored by Stern Fencing. Well done on making this the biggest Nest Egg fund raiser to date!

**29th August** – Bowls Competition to be held at the Church Inn Spotland. – places are limited so to book your place call Karen on 01706 712388.

**11th September** – Family Day at the Whitehaven match. We are looking for a small band who would like to provide pre-match entertainment. Contact Karen

**7th October** – Music Night with The Ambassadors at the Brickcroft. Tickets will do on sale very shortly. Places again will be limited please call Karen on 01706 712388.

**16th October** – Supporters Club Lunch. Contact Ray Myers via the club.

**November Tri Nations trip** – see the booking form in today's programme. The trip last year was a fantastic success. Book your place NOW!

*Karen*

Karen Reynolds Commercial Director

## MATCH DAY SPONSORS

**MARK WYNN FABRICATIONS  
AND PC FABRICATIONS LTD**

## MATCH BALL SPONSORS

**JD HOMES AND  
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FOLLOWING ON FROM OUR SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO THE CITY OF MANCHESTER STADIUM LAST YEAR WE ARE HOPING TO REPEAT THIS BY OFFERING SEATS TO THE FOLLOWING GAMES

**GB V AUSTRALIA at THE JJB WIGAN 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**GB V NEW ZEALAND at THE GALPHARM STADIUM 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**AND THE FINAL AT ELLAND ROAD STADIUM 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

THESE TRIPS CAN ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL IF WE HAVE FULL COACHES.  
THEREFORE WE WOULD LIKE ALL THOSE INTERESTED TO COMPLETE THE TEAR OFF  
SECTION BELOW TO BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE  
**NO LATER THAN 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005.**

IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST WE WILL CONTACT YOU FURTHER TO ARRANGE  
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TICKETS, EXCLUDING TRANSPORT, TO EACH EVENT ARE PRICED:

£40 (£20 CONS) £30 (£15 CONS) £20 (£10 CONS) £10 (£5 CONS)

**Hand the tear off slip in at the front office**

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### PREFERRED MATCH / MATCHES

### No. TKTS REQUIRED

GB V AUSTRALIA at THE JJB WIGAN 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

GB V NEW ZEALAND at THE GALPHARM STADIUM 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

AND THE FINAL AT ELLAND ROAD STADIUM 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER





## Rugby Talk

**Danny Lockwood**  
Publisher, League Weekly

**W**HAT'S that I hear at the back of the stand? If not quite a fat lady singing, it's certainly the croaking of a big lass with a touch of laryngitis. And she's warbling down the flue pipe that feeds straight into the Widnes changing room.

The niceties of statistical possibilities apart, if the Vikings lose this weekend's game at home to Wigan, entire choirs of roly-polys can break into relieved renditions of 'I Will Survive' upon the terraces of Salford, and to a lesser extent Wakefield. Five points behind with four to play, and Salford having Leigh on their schedule, would make the 'fait' pretty much 'accompli' for the genial Frank Endacott and Co.

I think it's fair to say that the engage Super League won't be quite the same without the grand old Widnes club - even if only for a season - and the biggest question for the board at the Halton Stadium will be whether or not to stay full time. As the seasons pass, and the gulf between the top flight and the rest inexorably widens, the best chance of a quick return depends greatly upon maintaining Super League attitudes and disciplines, if not quite budgets.

I recall writing that last year was a good one to be relegated. That might sound a bit Irish, but at least only one club would go down to take on the ambitious part-timers in the LHF National League. Next season will see two ex-Super League clubs scrapping it out with the tough NL boys. Bouncing back will be proportionately more difficult.

But those pesky little statistics don't lie, and Widnes, who finished 11th last year, have had a revolving door recruitment policy akin to Leigh's in the frantic scramble for survival. The grim reaper, however, is a tough hombre to shake off. The Halton Stadium, and a club of Widnes's stature and support, belong in Super League, but if a bright long term future is to be secured, there are lessons to be learned.

Everything ultimately feeds down from the boardroom and the management team. In recent seasons Salford and Huddersfield have put faith in relatively young, previously unproven coaches (and hasn't that boy Tony Smith done well?), but also to a large extent stuck with the hard core of players who brought them up, and built on them.

Leigh, after probably a three-day knees-up last October, basically threw their champions' contracts out of the window and sat down with a phone and a telephone book to try to put a squad together.

You can't imagine that that could work, so no surprise that it didn't. But it's a situation that Widnes may soon find themselves in - just going the other way. Once the painful death throes of Super League X have dimmed, and the fat lady has sung her song, it will be time for this grand club to start afresh. The men at the top have to start building from the ground up. Because as this season has shown us, there are no short cuts to success.

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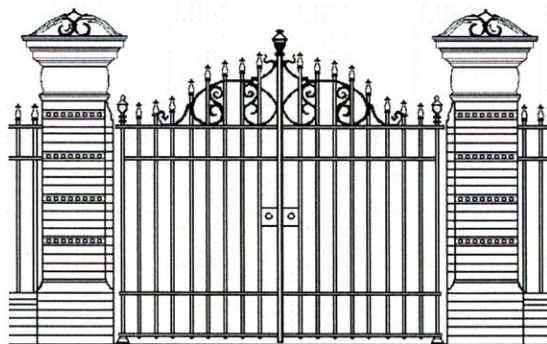


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## SUPPORT THE ROCHDALE HORNETS CHEERLEADERS – THE HORNETTES

Formed in July 2004 the dance troupe have been very popular with their half time match entertainment.

The troupe have been financed to date by two parents who have very kindly paid for uniforms and rooms to practice in – a very big thank you to you.

Moving forward and with one eye on the Super league the troupe is looking to be even bigger and better for 2006 – THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Passing amongst the crowd will be a bucket collection to raise the much needed funds – please give generously. Any amount is gratefully received.

Thank you from Maria, Natalie, Nichola, Emily, Olivia, Claire, Kate and Caroline – The Hornettes

## COME ON HORNETS!

# NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



## A GREAT BREEDING GROUND

IN the wake of recent Northern Rail Cup Final, there was plenty of talk about players, such as Hull Kingston Rovers' Andy Raleigh, who could make the step up to Super League.

One look at the teams in the top flight shows that it's a path that has been well trodden in recent years.

One of the outstanding performers in Super League over the past few weeks has been Wakefield's halfback or hooker Sam Obst, who made his name in this country at Whitehaven. Obst was the NL1 Player of the Year in 2004 after a sparkling campaign at the Recreation Ground.

The Wildcats also regularly field former Dewsbury and Hunslet winger Michael Wainwright, ex-Featherstone stand off Jamie Rooney, and Jason Demetriou, who started out with the now defunct Lancashire Lynx and then Rochdale.

Hull have been as successful as anyone in this field - just look at the impact that Richard Whiting (ex-Featherstone), Richie Barnett (Gateshead) and Danny Brough (York) are having on a weekly basis at the KC Stadium.

Similarly, St Helens' Ade Gardner, Jon Wilkin and Mick Higham were rising stars at Barrow, Hull KR and Leigh respectively before making the move to

Super League, while Wigan's Danny Sculthorpe was a stand-out at Rochdale.

Huddersfield Giants spotted the potential of Sculthorpe's Hornets team-mate Paul Smith, and Salford of Hull KR's Chris Charles. Both are now Super League regulars.

Leigh Centurions obviously have a host of players who started off at the lower levels, with just one example being second rower Oliver Wilkes, who first caught the eye at Keighley Cougars.

London Broncos have shown a constant willingness to look at all levels of the sport for new signings, and ex-Whitehaven loose forward Rob Purdham has been one of a number of shrewd captures.

So who will be the next to be cherry picked? As mentioned above, Raleigh is not short of admirers, though the Robins are understandably keen to hang onto him.

You can go almost every team in the National Leagues and spot players with the potential to become full-time professionals.

Don't be surprised to see a Super League coach at one of your team's matches in the future.

Read the best match reports from all today's National League games in Monday's Rugby Leaguer & League Express

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# ROCHDALE HORNETS fixture list

NORTHERN RAIL CUP, POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP & LHF HEALTHPLAN NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE 2005

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP/LEAGUE	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
09/01/05	Oldham	Law Cup	Home	15.00	24-8	W	1,404
30/01/05	Keighley	Friendly	Away	15.00	18-50	W	518
13/02/05	Swinton Lions	Northern Rail Cup	Away	15.00	20-14	L	685
27/02/05	Blackpool Panthers	Northern Rail Cup	Away	15.00	26-36	W	230
06/03/05	Blackpool Panthers	Northern Rail Cup	Home	15.00	62-16	W	732
13/03/05	Illingworth	Powergen Challenge Cup 3rd Rd	Home	15.00	120-4	W	651
16/03/05	Oldham	Northern Rail Cup	Home	19.30	68-26	W	1161
20/03/05	Swinton Lions	Northern Rail Cup	Home	15.00	54-20	W	697
25/03/05	Oldham	Northern Rail Cup	Away	15.00	10-54	W	1544
29/03/05	Batley Bulldogs	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	19.30	26-25	W	687
03/04/05	Salford City Reds	Powergen Challenge Cup 4th Rd	Home	15.00	22-36	L	1971
10/04/05	Castleford Tigers	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	15.30	36-22	L	4776
17/04/05	Barrow Raiders	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	15.00	24-20	L	814
24/04/05	Halifax R.L.F.C	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00	22-19	W	1201
05/05/05	Northern Rail Cup Play Offs	Northern Rail Cup	TBA	TBA			
08/05/05	Powergen Cup 5th Rd	Powergen Challenge Cup	TBA	TBA			
15/05/05	Featherstone Rovers	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	15.00	30-30	D	1250
22/05/05	Doncaster Dragons	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00	24-34	L	806
29/05/05	Whitehaven Quarter Finals	Northern Rail Cup	Away	15.00	28-22	L	1748
05/06/05	Oldham	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	15.00	25-24	L	827
12/06/05	Hull Kingston Rovers	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00	12-45	L	2121
19/06/05	Northern Rail Cup Semi Finals	Northern Rail Cup	TBA	TBA			
26/06/05	Powergen Cup Quarter Finals	Powergen Challenge Cup	TBA	TBA			
26/06/05	Whitehaven	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	18.00	32-16	L	1661
03/07/05	Batley Bulldogs	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	15.00	28-40	W	587
10/07/05	Castleford Tigers	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00	17-16	W	1728
17/07/05	Northern Rail Cup Final	Northern Rail Cup	TBA	TBA			
24/07/05	Barrow Raiders	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00	36-22	W	732
31/07/05	Powergen Cup Semi Finals	Powergen Challenge Cup	TBA	TBA			
31/07/05	Halifax R.L.F.C	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	15.00	30-25	W	1594
07/08/05	Featherstone Rovers	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00	30-18	W	663
14/08/05	Oldham	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00			
21/08/05	Doncaster Dragons	LHF Healthplan National League One	Away	15.00			
27/08/05	Powergen Cup Final	Powergen Challenge Cup	TBA	TBA			
04/09/05	Hull Kingston Rovers	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00			
11/09/05	Whitehaven	LHF Healthplan National League One	Home	15.00			
18/09/05	LHF HEALTHPLAN NL1 & 2 Play Offs	LHF Healthplan National League One & Two	TBA	15.00			
25/09/05	LHF HEALTHPLAN NL1 & 2 Play Offs	LHF Healthplan National League One & Two	TBA	15.00			
02/10/05	LHF HEALTHPLAN NL1 & 2 Play Offs	LHF Healthplan National League One & Two	TBA	15.00			
08/10/05	LHF HEALTHPLAN NL1 & 2 Grand Final	LHF Healthplan National League One & Two	TBA	15.00			

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