

# game line-up

OLDHAM R.L.F.C

OLDHAM SQUAD	Played	WHITEHAVEN SQUAD
ANDY BAILEY		G BROADBENT
CHRIS BAINES		S MADEN
GARETH BARBER		D SEEDS
DAVID BEST		R JACKSON
MATTY BOTTOM		C CALVERT
GED CORCORAN		L JOE
WAYNE CORCORAN		J DUFFY
ANDY GOREY		N BAYNES
DEAN GORTON		C SICE
DANNY GUEST		S TRINDALL
ALAN HADCROFT		S MCAVOY
GARETH HAYES		H HILL
IAN HODSON		C RUDD
CHRIS HOUGH		D EILBECK
JOHN HOUGH		S TEARE
CARL JONES		R WRIGHT
TOM KILGANNON		C CHAMBERS
JAMES KIRKLAND		C MCKINNEY
CHRIS MAYE		
CHRIS PERCIVAL		
MICK REDFORD		
MARK ROBERTS		
SIMON SVABIC		
ALEX WILKINSON		
LEE WINGFIELD		

WHITEHAVEN

## match officials

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**4TH OFFICIAL:** J Derbyshire

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# THE ROUGHYEDS

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**V WHITEHAVEN**

K.O. 3.00pm

SUNDAY MAY 14TH 2006



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player profile

**ian hodson** p18

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Oldham RLFC v Whitehaven

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## Club Records - 1998-2005

**Trans-Penine Cup**  
Finalists - 1998

**Northern Ford Premiership**  
Club of the Year - 2000  
Grand Finalists - 2001

**MOST APPEARANCES:** John Hough, 209 - Jan 1998 - September 2005

**CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES:** Phil Farrel, 67 - \*April 2nd 2000 - March 15th 2002  
\*John Hough was on the team for every match February 1st 1999 - April 16th 2001 (82)

**TRIES IN A SEASON:** Nick Johnson, 25 - 2004

**GOALS IN A SEASON:** Pat Rich, 146 - 2000-2001

**POINTS IN A SEASON:** Pat Rich, 320 - 2000-2001

**DROP GOALS IN A SEASON:** Neil Roden, 7 - 2001-2002

**TRIES IN A CAREER:** Mark Sibson, 60 - 1999-2002

**GOALS IN A CAREER:** Pat Rich, 254 - 1999-2001

**POINTS IN A CAREER:** Pat Rich, 576 - 1999-2001

**DROP GOALS IN A CAREER:** Neil Roden, 18 - 2000-2003

**TRIES IN MATCH:** Mark Sibson v Wigan St. Judes, 4 - Feb 8th 2000 at Boundary Park  
Mark Sibson v Queensbury, 4 - Jan 28th 2001 at Boundary Park  
David Gibbons v Chorley Lynx, 4 - Jan 30th 2001 at Boundary Park  
James Bunyan v Featherstone Rovers, 4 - Apr 12th 2004 at Boundary Park

**GOALS IN A MATCH:** Simon Syabic v Swinton Lions, 10 - Apr 6th 2003 at Boundary Park

**POINTS IN A MATCH:** Gareth Barber v Dewsbury Rams, 26 - Apr 2nd 2002 at Hurst Cross  
(7 goals, 3 tries)

**DROP GOALS IN A MATCH:** Neil Roden v Workington Town, 2 - Dec 17th 2000 at Derwent Park  
John Braddish v Hull KR, 2 - Dec 16th 2001 at New Craven Park

**HIGHEST SCORE/WINNING MARGIN:** v Yorks Wasps, 70-6 - Apr 1st 2001 at Huntington Stadium  
v Queensbury (amt), 64-0 - Jan 28th 2001 RLCC 3rd Rnd at Boundary Park

The views expressed in this matchday magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the management and staff of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd.

# CLUB DIRECTORY

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## CHAIRMAN

Christopher Hamilton

## DIRECTORS

Christopher Hamilton

Sean Whitehead

## HEAD COACH

Steve Deakin

## ASSISTANT COACH

Keith Brennan

## PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Todd Williams

## TIMEKEEPER

David Lord

John Wynn

## KIT MAN

Paul Hulbert

## LOTTERY

John McAndrew

## PROGRAMME EDITOR

Nigel Marland

## HALL OF FAME MEMBERS (SPONSORED BY J. W. LEES, BREWERS)

Arthur Lees 1891-1907

Joe Ferguson 1899-1923

Herman Hilton 1913-26

Jack Read 1925-40

Fred Ashworth 1926-39

Alex Givvons 1933-42, 1949

Harry Ogden 1940-56

Alan Davies 1950-62

Frank Stirrup 1950-62

Bernard Ganley 1950-61

Sid Little OBE 1951-59

John Etty 1954-59

Derek Turner 1955-59

Kevin Taylor 1962-77

Mike Elliott 1962-79

Bob Irving 1964-74

Martin Murphy 1966-82

Terry Flanagan 1979-89

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

We would like to express our thanks to the Oldham Evening Chronicle, League Publications Ltd, Phil Burdge and all concerned for the use of photographs. ([www.digisport.co.uk](http://www.digisport.co.uk))

[www.roughyeds.co.uk](http://www.roughyeds.co.uk)



# in the chair

with Chris Hamilton

Welcome back to Boundary Park for what will be our last "home" game until 21 July due to pitch work needed on the surface here.

Given that we have yet to register our first points of the season we are all hoping that today will see a change in the clubs luck - hopefully for the better!! The current injury crisis (whats the word for something worse than a crisis?) is the worst we have ever known and has severely affected events on the field.

We should have a number of new players on the pitch today as we have been able to tie up deals for people we have been chasing for some time and this, together with the return of one or two of our existing players, will hopefully provide the inspiration for the lads to get their first points of the season.

Whilst we are obviously disappointed not to have won yet that is tempered by the fact that neither have Batley or York and everything is to play for.

We know we are in for a tough game today as there is nothing else in this division but it is always tough against a Whitehaven side who have enjoyed considerable success over the last couple of seasons.

I read earlier in the week that they had 9 players out last week - we dream of only having 9 players out!

There is no doubt that the side is capable of producing winning rugby and we all hope that today can be the day.

On behalf of everybody at the club i would like to wish all of our new players the very best of luck in their Oldham careers and hope that you will make them all feel at home.

At the time of writing we are finalising plans for the home games against York and Rochdale which need to be played elsewhere and as soon as we know we will pass on the details to you.

I hope that there is a bigger attendance at todays match because the gate revenue is vital and with a further payment due to the Revenue at the end of this month your support is desperately needed.

There have been some people suggesting that match day prices are too high and myself and Sean are aware of this but we are in a catch 22 situation - our main source of income is still from gate receipts and we are the only club in the game who every season have to move home matches away from our normal ground which again impacts on our income- we do not make any money from the bars or catering outlets at the ground- we have invested in a social club for the benefit of Oldham supporters and provide free transport to and from all home games but yet it is not used anything like it could be -we run a weekly lottery which is well supported but doesnt include all of our fans - we are nearly at the end of a gruelling repayment programme to the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise which arose primarily when we were kicked off Boundary Park with three weeks to go to the start of the 2002 season by Chris Moore.

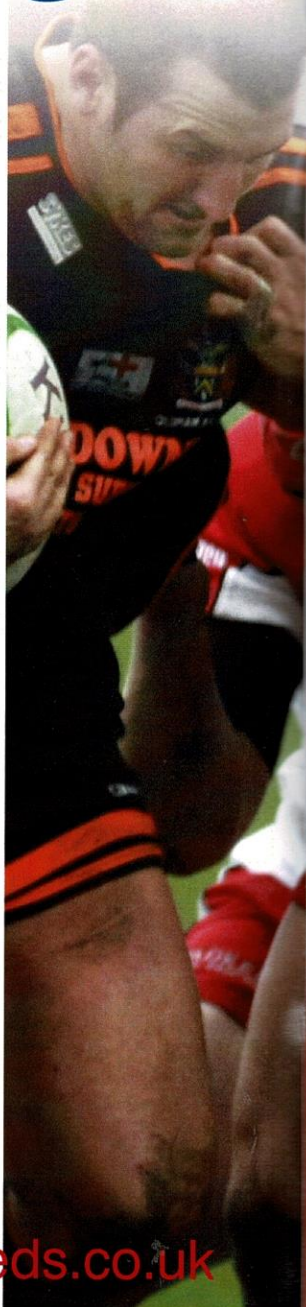
These are facts and myself and Sean have worked tirelessly to ensure that the club is still here.

We ask for your support and patience as we work towards delivering a club virtually debt free that will have the opportunity to move forward from that position.

Enjoy the game

*Chris*

Christopher Hamilton



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# direct from the dug out

with Steve Deakin



At the time of writing these notes we should be in a position to announce several new arrivals at the club, which you should be aware of by the time of kick off against Whitehaven today.

We also hope to be in a position to welcome back some of our injured troops. I am fully confident that these new additions together with the return of our injured players can enable us to turn the corner, certainly in terms of results.

I would like to place officially on record the admiration and respect I have for our present squad of players, who, in adversity, have risen to the challenges that have been thrown against them in successive matches. Their enthusiasm and effort has never wavered.

When you consider that Leigh took on a full time team, in Widnes, and scored more than fifty points it speaks volumes for the efforts of the Oldham players against Leigh who made them fight every inch of the way for every single point they

scored which was substantially less than in the Widnes game.

I feel we are not far now from converting performances into results and with some good fortune and our fair share of fifty-fifty calls and plenty of vocal support from our supporters there is no reason why today should not see the start of a good run.

Enjoy the game,

Deaks



## QUESTION & ANSWERS

with Steve Deakin

**Matt asks:** Deaks, a few of the players have commented in the press about the one on one video sessions you have had with them. Is it something you have done in previous roles and have you seen any results of your discussions come to fruition on the pitch yet?

**Deaks answers:** Certainly Matt I have used this before coming to Oldham. Video analysis in all aspects of life is a very important educational tool. People learn from having situations explained to them but learn much quicker and more thoroughly from seeing examples. When we do these sessions we go through all aspects of a player's game both positive and negative and we then encourage discussion with the player involved and always encourage positive feed-back.

**Mindblower 41 asks:** As you know we are desperately short of quality at full back, half back and loose forward. If funds allow are you looking overseas?

**Deaks answers:** All clubs in all sports should always be looking to strengthen their squads be it from home or overseas. The criteria I follow when looking at players is quite simple:

- a) Are they better than the players we have already got?
- b) Do their demands fall within our salary structure and budget?

c) Are they available?

If all three of these are positive we start talking to them.

**George Hill Upper asks:** Where do you realistically see our first win coming from?

**Deaks answers:** One thing that is apparent is that in every single game that has been played this year under my coaching the boys have arrived for the game believing they can win. Unfortunately we can only control certain things and it is probably fair to say that a lot of factors out of our control have been instrumental in our not getting positive results. So I suppose the answer, in short, is, today.

**Crazy Sal asks:** You have worked with some of the best coaches and players in the game but who really stands out as the exceptional coach and player and what is it that makes them different from the others?

**Deaks answers:** This is a very difficult question to answer as all players and coaches have their strengths and weaknesses and some are better than others in some areas but not in others. But overall I have to say that I learned more about core skills and systems with Tony Smith and the player I choose because he is the most naturally gifted I have ever worked with, without a shadow of doubt was Jimmy Dimmock at London Broncos.

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# roger and out

by ROGER HALSTEAD

**THE fixture formula for clubs outside Super League is in urgent need of a rethink.**

Take the Northern Rail Cup. Last week's quarter-finals produced two of the most attractive games you could hope to get in this competition -- Hull KR v Whitehaven and Widnes v Leigh -- yet the average crowd for the four ties was still only 1,845.

And while Doncaster and Rochdale battled it out in front of 656 fans and Workington took on York City Knights, watched by 826 diehards, three National League One clubs were left kicking their heels on a Sunday afternoon at the height of the season -- AGAIN.

Again? Yes, again. Discounting early-season postponements caused by bad weather -- nobody can control that -- Oldham have already had blank Sundays on April 23 and May 7 and Roughyeds fans can look forward to more Sunday afternoon trips to the garden centre or the supermarket next Sunday, May 21 and again on June 18 and July 16.

That doesn't count July 23 or August 27 for very good and obvious reasons ---- the July 23 game against Batley here at Boundary Park has been brought forward to the Friday night, July 21, and nobody plays on August 27 because that is Powergen Challenge Cup final weekend.

Even without those two Sundays off, Roughyeds will have experienced five blank weekends by the time they start their unbroken run through to the end of the season with the visit of Batley on that Friday night.

Okay, so it would have been different if they had qualified for the sudden-death stages of the Northern Rail and if they hadn't blown it at Barrow in the fourth round of the Powergen Challenge Cup.

But for every winner there has to be a loser. If the Roughyeds had qualified in the Northern Rail somebody else would have missed out; if we had won at Barrow, the Raiders would have been without a game next Sunday and we would have been looking forward to a fifth-round Challenge Cup tie.

Problems across the board start when you throw together a competition like the Northern Rail ---- knock-out in part --- and a league tournament that includes only ten teams and 18 fixtures.

Those problems then gather momentum when, despite the best efforts of the RFL's public relations and marketing strategies, the Northern Rail group stages and one round of the Challenge Cup take up the first seven weeks of the season and the former is perceived by many as no more than a starter for the main meal to follow.

It isn't only the fans who take that view, either. A lot of coaches think the same, some being more prepared than others to admit to it while their clubs are doing their utmost to persuade their supporters that the Northern Rail is a real and viable competition.

This year, Northern Rail group-stage attendances across the board were awful. The fans voted with their feet --- and when clubs are guaranteed only 12 home games to sustain them for 12 months (three in the Rail and nine in the National League)

the financial implications of three-figure attendances at some of those games speak for themselves.

I don't pretend to know the answers, but I'm sure National League clubs must surely be coming round to conclude that the present system is flawed at best and, at worst, has proved conclusively that it is unable to attract and sustain the interest and the imagination of paying customers.

Last year's Northern Rail final was a superb game between Hull KR and Castleford and a superb advert for our sport beneath the top level. I have no doubt this year's final, looking like Hull KR and Leigh, will be of similar high standard.

But can you justify an entire competition that repeatedly fails to arouse public imagination on the back of one high-profile game, the final?

Is the entire concept faulty? Or is it the timing of it that's the main cause for concern?

From the PR and marketing aspect it is disastrous to try and launch a season TWICE, which is what happens now. We have the launch of the Northern Rail followed some weeks later by the launch of the LHF Healthplan National Leagues.

By that time, of course, the clubs that have struggled early season in the Northern Rail are already battling on the PR front at local level and any marketing impact to be gained from the launch of the National League is totally lost.

The season thus starts with a whimper rather than a bang and by the time the league campaign gets under way some clubs are already struggling behind the black ball and their fans have already concluded that a long, hard summer is in prospect.

Toss in a few blank Sundays along the way and it becomes a marketing nightmare -- made even more difficult because the media at large shows no interest whatsoever in what goes on beneath Super League.

They look at attendances and give us no more than results, if we are lucky! You can learn more about what is happening in Brisbane or Sydney on Teletext or Ceefax than what is happening rugby league wise in Barrow or Sheffield.

As for Sky, it's Super League and the NRL from Down Under and very little else, apart from the National League grand finals day once a year.

Thankfully, we now have in this area the Manchester-based Channel M, which concentrates entirely on the clubs in this region in its magazine show Code X111, devoting half an hour each week, plus repeats, to Salford City Reds, Swinton, Leigh, Rochdale Hornets and Oldham.

Clubs outside Super League can do a lot more to push and promote themselves. But to give themselves a fighting chance of breaking into mainstream media they need to get the turnstiles clicking.

Can they do that with the fixture formula as it exists? Or are they flogging a dead horse? It's surely time for change.

ROGER AND OUT

# 1947 Lancashire RL Team.



**THIS picture of the 1947 Lancashire side will revive heaps of memories for older supporters. How many of the old timers can you identify? There are two Oldham players in the side --- Ernie Large, who died last month, aged 89, and Tommy Ayres.**

They played Cumberland at Craven Park, Barrow in a "home" game (Barrow was still part of Lancashire in those days) and the match resulted in a 0-0 draw!

The Lancashire line-up reads, back row, left to right: Bill Riley (Liverpool Stanley), Ernie Large (OLDHAM), George Curran (Salford), Joe Egan (Wigan), Harold Palin (Swinton), Billy Horne (Barrow), Ken Gee (Wigan).

Front: Martin Ryan (Wigan), Tommy Ayres (OLDHAM), Jim Stott (St Helens), Johnny Lawrenson (Wigan), Albert Johnson (Warrington), Tommy Bradshaw (Wigan), Peter Lyons, trainer (Widnes).

# in yer face

with Geoff Cooke

**If Wigan finish bottom of Super League do you think they'll feature in NL1 next season?**

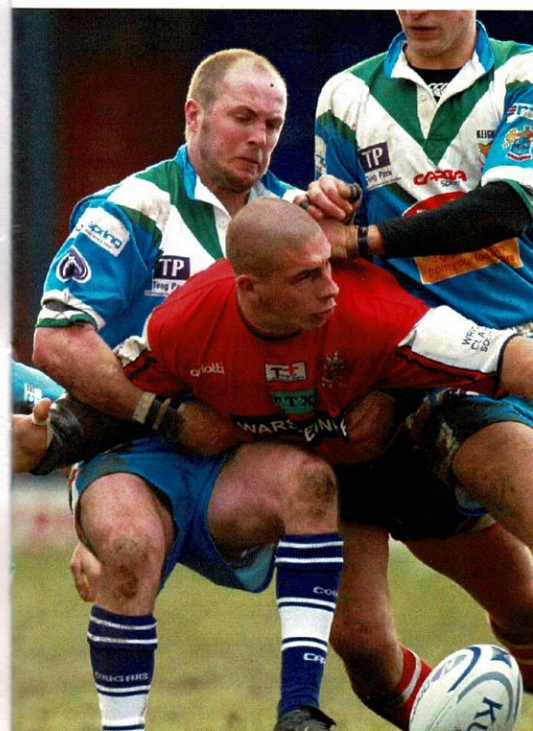
And do you think Trent Barrett will fit under their reduced salary cap or even be willing to play at NL1 level? Or, do you think Super League 2007 might suddenly become a league of 14 rather than 12 clubs? To be fair a 14 team league is what it should be but timing is crucial if the cynical among us are not to be heard saying that the goalposts have been moved yet again to suit the rich and powerful.

At the time of writing I know the punishment for spitting is a sending off and a £100 fine. However, I scour the pages of the rugby press in vain to discover the penalty for fouling a player off the pitch with concussion or for fracturing a player's eye socket. I despair of rugby league's inability to make the punishment fit the crime and of the game's inability to keep spectators informed. "On report" can have its merits where a general melee occurs but a clear foul by one player against another - especially one unable to take any further part in the match - a foul seen by every spectator in the ground but not, apparently, by four officials at ground level and an assessor sat in the stand beggars belief and is not a satisfactory outcome. Even if the offender is subsequently found guilty and suspended that does not benefit the team offended against, indeed it can actually intensify the problem by weakening the offender's side in



a future match the outcome of which could be critical to a club's promotion or relegation prospects. It's time for a serious rethink.

Brian Noble has the best record of any Coach in Super League. He is clearly the outstanding Coach of his generation. But I would like him to explain just what Lee Briers and Malcolm Alker have done wrong not to be considered for Great Britain selection. These two players are their respective clubs most influential leaders and playmakers. How can they be overlooked but the likes of Gareth Hock (who has not played for 14 months) and Sean O'Loughlin be part of a train-on squad? And one or two others are there more by reputation than current form, Kevin Sinfield and Iestyn Harris among them. It's not as though we have a brilliant international record, so are the same old faces going to get the same old results or will one or two of the better choices like Kirk Yeaman, Jon Wilkin or Paul Wood be given their chance? And not one player from in-form Salford with only one from Huddersfield, two from Warrington and none from Wakefield, Castleford and Harlequins. Super League might be becoming a more even competition but not when it comes to selection for Great Britain.



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# club corner

with Nigel Marland

Having had the opportunity to read this programme before it goes out, can I say how much I agree with Roger Halstead's column on the fixture set up in our division. Although it has helped us recently because of the horrendous injury crisis generally the spasmodic irregularity of games does nothing to help gates.

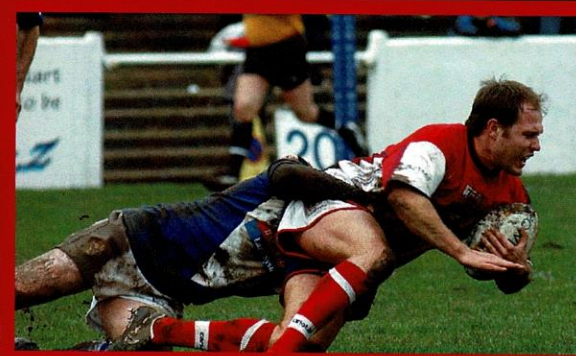
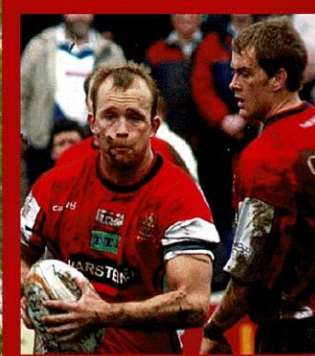
There is no doubt in my mind that 'habit' is essential in attendance at sport's matches and if spectators don't get into a regular habit then attendances will fall, especially if a team is not doing too well.

Talking of which this is our last match at Boundary Park until the Friday game against Batley on 21st July. The home games against Rochdale and York will be rearranged and we will let you know in the press as soon as details are finalised.

As I try and keep this column to the last minute I can update you on the player situation, which almost certainly will affect today's Oldham team. Because of work commitments it appears that Mike Callan and Danny Nanyin are unlikely to play for us in the near future but we are hopeful that Gareth Barber and Mark Roberts will be back. Mick Redford has had his operation on his fractured eye socket and all has gone well but that will be at least a month. (it will be interesting to see how long Tere Glassie is out of the game.) Mick's brother Karl, who injured his shoulder at Leigh whilst on trial will continue to

receive treatment at Oldham and come to training sessions.

By today's game we will have signed David Best 'til the end of the season, David has done us proud in the trial games he has played and deserves another go at the 'pro' game. Also signed will be Matty Bottom who was signed by Leigh this season on full time terms but was injured whilst on loan at Barrow. Matty who is only 19 is a prop who has signed on loan for a month from Leigh. Joining Matty and David is Tom Kilgannon from Saddleworth who was with our Academy for a time and was offered full time terms which at the time he had to turn down. He is now raring to go, having had a professional contract previously with Warrington. Signed on trial until after the Hull K R game when further talks will take place is 23-year-old utility back, Carl Jones, from Wigan St Pats. Carl is a Barla International and like Lee Wingfield before him eager to show he can make the step up to professional football. Finally the club are pleased to extend the loan term of Chris Baines from Warrington for another month.



## ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE

In the Prediction League it was a high scoring week with some significant movement up and down the table with Michael Ackroyd getting back to last year's form after a slow start with a top score of 25, which was equalled by newcomer to the league, Steve Baldwin (Roughyeds himself). Last round's leading scorer David Webster had a poor week and has slumped down to 25th place, and after a bright start Wayne Halstead has had two bad rounds and slumped well below Dad to 19th place. The month winner for April, however, rightly goes to the most consistent players so far, Colin and Dorothy Johnston, who will receive their signed ball at today's game. Apologies to Peter Buckley who I inadvertently missed out of last round's league table.

		Week 4	Overall
1	Colin & Dorothy Johnston	24	68
2	Nigel Marland	20	63
3=	Four Red Lions	15	60
3=	Tim Boycott	6	40
3=	Harry Whitehouse	18	60
6	Ashley Baxter	19	58
7=	Chris Hamilton	19	57
7=	Paul Hulbert	17	57
9	Ian Wilson	17	56
10=	Michael Ackroyd	25	55
10=	Peter Buckley	20	55
10=	Steve Baldwin	25	55
10=	Peter Bailey	20	55
14	Nick Henry	15	52
15=	Roger Halstead	13	51
15=	Geoff Cooke	17	51
17=	Paul Gough	16	50
17=	Sara Jackson	19	50
19=	Wayne Halstead	8	49
19=	Terry Bailey	9	49
19=	Brian Walker	18	49
22	Iain Ashworth	15	48
23	J Holmes	16	47
24	Jeff Bates	10	46
25	David Webster	10	45
26	David Stephens	18	44
27	Matthew Chambers	8	43
28	Roger Ivens	14	41
29=	John McAndrew	12	40
29=	Val Webster	10	40
31	David Lord	12	39
32	Frank Pullen	14	37
33	Janet Yewdale	8	28
34	Peter Illing	8	24

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# AROUND & ABOUT

with The Heritage Trust

## 'HAVEN HEAVEN

Long before rugby was invented Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels, lived in a cliffside cottage that overlooked Whitehaven harbour. Many years later, when rugby league nicknames were being dished out Colliers, Warriors and now 'Haven have been tagged onto the Whitehaven club but Giants would have suited just as well.



'Haven Action 2006

On the edge of the Western Lake District this former shipbuilding, iron-ore and coalmining town which boasted one of the greatest ports in England has, like most other towns and villages

in West Cumbria, adapted itself to more modern industries, but as you would expect with such an heritage they churn out some of the toughest, grittiest and talented rugby players in the game.

Latecomers to the professional ring Whitehaven entered the league in 1948 playing Oldham for the first time during their second season. Tough nuts to crack, especially on their own ground, the Roughyeds didn't win at the Rec' until 1956 the season that the club went on to both top the league and win the championship.

These days whenever we play up in Cumbria my wife and I stay over in Whitehaven but back in the 50's even watching an away match in any of the sport's outposts was - for most - no more than a pipe dream. But, it is from that period that I hold one of my fondest rugby league memories.

It was back in season 1957-58 and Oldham were short odds to compete the double - lift the Challenge Cup and retain the championship - but were unceremoniously dumped out of the cup at Watersheddings by unfancied Wigan, a side that Oldham (believe it, or believe it not) had beaten on the previous 13 consecutive occasions. To compound matters the Roughyeds a couple of weeks earlier had also lost a vital league game at St Helens, who, in turn, were breathing down Oldham's neck up at the top of the league. Licking their wounds and minus injured stars Alan Davies, Charlie Winslade, Don Vines and Frank Daley the Roughyeds faced a tough trip to Whitehaven the Saturday following the cup debacle. The Oldham supporters were down in the dumps and both the club and press attached a must-win label to the game.

My mate and I lived close to the ground but neither of us had been further than Blackpool and had parents with no spare brass. We hustled anybody and everybody who might get us to the game. At the eleventh hour, and with the help of the then Oldham secretary, we got two free seats on a coach departing Watersheddings early Saturday morning!

There wasn't a yard of motorways in those days, so it was over Belmont, up the A6 and through the winding lanes of the Lake District. I remember it as though it was yesterday. Wonderful stuff. We

won 13-11 and went on to win the last next nine league matches to clinch top spot, three points ahead of Saints who were runners-up. We were then odds-on to beat Hull in the championship semi-final at Watersheddings, especially as we had just hammered them 43-9 in a league match, but in front of a 21,000 crowd we lost 8-20. There wasn't a trophy for being top of the league so Oldham's supporters had to be content with winning both the Lancashire Cup and Lancashire League trophy. Life's tough!

Featured on the Whitehaven club's website ([www.maras.co.uk](http://www.maras.co.uk)) was an 'Haven Immortals 13 and I was pleased to see that it included four players who turned out for that Whitehaven side all those years ago - full-back John McKeown,

winger Bill Smith and both props John Tembey and Bill McAlone as well as Dick Huddart and Syd Lowden who were also stars of the era.

The late 50's Whitehaven pack was raided by the big Lancashire clubs, Jack McGuinness, Huddart and Tembey joined Saints for

instance whilst Oldham paid a then world record transfer fee for a forward when they shelled out £9,000 for Geoff Robinson.

In later years Whitehaven's ball-handling loose-forward Alan Burns (1966), craggy foragers Charlie McCourt (1968) and Bill McCracken (1974) took the journey south to join Oldham whilst Cumberland county prop Alf Mumberson (1967) went in the other direction. Threequarter Phil Larder (1981) rounded off his career at the Recreation Ground whilst Ike Southward, Frank Foster and Eric Fitzsimmons, who all coached Whitehaven, played for the Roughyeds. In more recent times forwards Howard Hill, Chris McKinney and Paul Davidson have also represented both clubs.

I for one would have loved 'Haven to have beaten the Tigers in last season's Grand Final although the saving grace is that I can enjoy another weekend up there on the coast.

Brian Walker



Whitehaven vs Oldham 1958

# visiting today

## WHITEHAVEN

**Gary Broadbent** A product of the Barrow based Walney team, he signed for the Widnes Academy side as a 16-year-old, before progressing through the ranks to 1st team. As the outstanding fullback in NL1 last season Gary was named in the NL1 team-of-the-year and was short-listed for the prestigious player-of-the-year award.

**Craig Calvert** A prolific scorer in the amateur game. As well as being named the National League's young-player-of-the-year in 2004, Craig became the official second fastest man in British Rugby League, when he finished second behind St Helens winger Darren Albert.

**Steve Madden** Signed from Leigh in the close season. Renowned for his defensive strength, Steve's formidable pace will ensure Haven have two of the fastest wingers in the National League for 2006.

**David Seeds** The clubs all time top try scorer who joined Haven in 1993 from the Kells amateur club. Earlier in his career David had the chance to play Super League with Halifax but elected instead to stay with his hometown club. David achieved a remarkable double in 2005 when he scored his 200th try for the club

and became only the fourth player in Haven's history to play 300 games.

**Rob Jackson** A close season signing from Leigh Centurions. Rob is no stranger to Whitehaven having spent a loan period with the club in 2002 and where his sensational last minute try against Oldham will long be remembered by the Recreation Ground faithful.

**Derrie Eilbeck** Along with team-mate Carl Rudd Derrie signed for Haven at the end of the 2004 season from Wath Brow Hornets. A former BARLA GB Young Lion he helped Hornets win the 2004 GMB National Cup final prior to turning professional.

**Leroy Joe** The 2003 season was his most successful season to date when he scored 26 tries in his 30 appearances. Leroy represented former Haven coach Stan Martin's Cook Island's in the 2000 world cup.

**John Duffy** Much is expected of John at the Recreation Ground this season. The former Wigan St Pats junior was the fulcrum of Leigh Centurions Super League attack in 2005 and there are few more hard working halfbacks in National League One.

**Steve Trindall** Steve, nicknamed "Bull", is a vastly experienced player with over 170 NRL appearances, with spells prior to Wests at Canberra, North Sydney and Northern Eagles. With a more than useful turn of speed for a big man, Steve was be a big asset to the London pack and in three seasons for the Broncos he played 60 games in Super League.

**Neil Baynes** Neil came to the Recreation Ground in 2005 after signing from Salford, where he has played over two hundred games at Super League with the City Reds and his hometown club Wigan.

**Chris McKinney** In 2001 Chris signed for Widnes and was a member of the Widnes team that clinched its place in Super League, when they beat his old club Oldham in the 2001 grand final. Chris declined the invitation to go full-time with Widnes and instead opted join ex Oldham and Hensingham teammate Howard Hill at his hometown club for the 2001/02 season.

**Craig Chambers** A former BARLA U19 International Craig is the younger brother of Cumbrian Coach Gary Chambers. Now in his second spell at Haven after initially following

team-mates Graeme Morton, David Seeds and Lee Kiddie to the Recreation Ground from the Kells amateur club in 1993.

**Carl Sice** In his third season at the Recreation Ground after signing from neighbours Workington Town in 2003. Seen, as a long-term replacement for Aaron Lester Carl is a former Kells amateur who former coach Steve McCormack tended to use as an impact player with great effect off the bench.

**Howard Hill** One of the first names on Dave Rotherham's team sheet, Howard's biggest threat to opposition defences is when he runs out wide with the ball. Represented Cumbria in 2003 and 2004.

**Scott McAvoy** Scott, who played most of his amateur rugby at centre turned out for the Wigan U21 team on a couple of occasions before electing to sign for his home town club at the start of the 2006 season.

**Carl Rudd** Signed for Haven at the end of the 2004 season after a highly successful career with Wath Brow Hornets. As a measure of Carl's progress in the game he was named in April 2005's Rugby League World National League One team-of-the-month after just 10 matches as a professional.

# journalistic license

by Matthew Chambers

While flicking through the rugby trade papers earlier this week, I was reminded of a scene from the (pretty awful) eighties comedy *Crocodile Dundee*.

In it, Aussie bushman Mick Dundee comes across a knife-wielding mugger in New York, and his girlfriend pleads with him to give up the cash.

"You call that a knife? THIS is a knife," Mick calmly replies, before whipping out a huge, croc-taming blade and frightening the mugger half to death.

What, you may ask, has this got to do with rugby? Well, apparently Widnes Vikings had a few injury worries before they faced Leigh in the Northern Rail Cup quarter-finals.

After Vikings had lost 54-12 at home, Leigh coach Tony Benson was even moved to say: "I feel a bit for (Widnes coach) Steve McCormack because they had a few players drop out late and they were a bit disorganised."

You could forgive Steve Deakin for reading those words and (if he's in a polite mood) having a little chuckle to himself.

Poor old full-time Widnes - you have to feel for them with their injury worries, don't you? Or maybe not...

If anything, Vikings' second 50-plus thrashing of the season at the hands of Centurions indicates that Oldham's gritty performance two weeks ago was an even better effort than the players were given credit for at the time.

The Roughyeds may be rooted to the foot of the league table, but other statistics don't lie either.

Oldham have played against three of the four Northern Rail Cup semi-

finalists - and every one of the league's current top three - with anything up to two-thirds of the players Deaks had under his command when he originally joined the club out of commission.

Every full-time team in rugby league would struggle under those circumstances.

But as those with medium-term injuries start gradually drifting back into the first-team picture, it will become far more apparent as to what Oldham's realistic expectations are this season.

The first goal must be to preserve National League One status, and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realise that the remaining games against Batley, York and Doncaster are particularly vital as far as that goes.

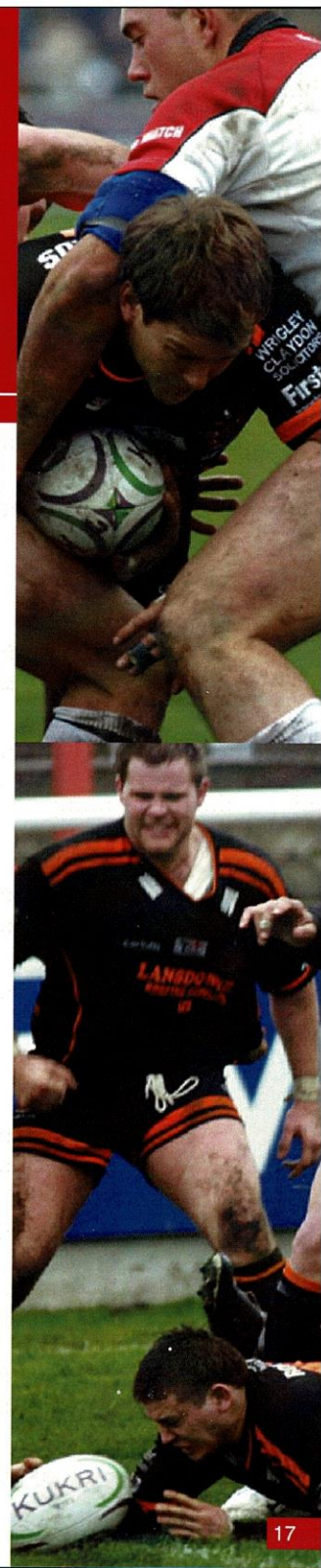
But then again, with players of the calibre of Wayne Corcoran, Chris Percival and Andy Bailey hoping to come into the picture sooner rather than later, perhaps that's even slightly conservative?

Who knows. Anyway, a dose of optimism over the injury situation, not to mention gritty determination of the sort shown at Leigh, won't go amiss between now and mid-September.

"Legend has it a crocodile bit half your leg off," it was put to Mick Dundee in the 1986 film.

"More of a love bite, actually," came the reply. That's the spirit.

Matthew



# halstead's choice

by Roger Halstead

IAN Hodson might have been a professional soccer player if a twist of sporting fate --- and the influence of his mates at school -- had not intervened.

That's what happens when you are born and brought up in a town like Leigh.

Burnden Park, former home of Bolton Wanderers, was just down the road, but despite its close proximity and the fact that Man U and Man C were not much further away, most of Ian's schoolboy peers were rugby league lads.

You can probably count on one hand the number of soccer stars to come out of Leigh --- and Hodson's experience as a boy footballer perhaps goes part way towards explaining why.

The Roughyeds and former Leigh, Chorley and Swinton player turned his back on rugby league at the age of 14 to pursue his keen interest in soccer with Westhoughton Rangers, a club which picked up most of its junior players from the Bolton side of its catchment area rather than the Leigh end.

He loved both sports, but most kids of his age in Leigh played rugby league and so it was that he played under-9s and under-10s at Leigh East and then under-11s, under-12s, under-13s and under-14s at Leigh Miners.

Aged 14, he made the biggest decision of his young life - he said goodbye to all his friends at the Miners, put his scrum cap and his rugby boots in the garden shed and signed on to play soccer for Westhoughton.

It was to be two years before he next handled a rugby ball in earnest.

"I loved football," recalled Ian this week, "and though I say it myself I was pretty good. I liked it a lot at Westhoughton and to be honest I didn't really think I would ever go back to rugby league once I had decided to take up football.

"It was all down to influences at school. The junior soccer season always seemed to finish early, either in late February or early March, but I went to a school that was steeped in rugby league, St Mary's at Astley, and as we invariably got into schoolboy semi-finals, finals or play-offs we would be playing long after my out-of-school soccer at Westhoughton had come to an end.

"I still liked football, but I was 16 by now; it was nice to be winning things in the school rugby team; and I was surrounded all day every day at school by rugby lads who were all good mates.

"A few of them played at Miners and they talked me into

ian  
Hodson

PLAYER PROFILE



ian  
hodson

Continued...

going back there instead of playing football. So rugby league got me in the end, although for the two years I enjoyed soccer at Westhoughton I thought I had finished with rugby for good."

His decision turned out okay. He was only in his second season back at Miners when, aged 17, he was invited to join the newly-formed Rochdale Hornets academy side. Head coach of Hornets at that time was former Featherstone, Bradford and Great Britain scrum-half Deryck Fox, while others in the academy squad included Chris Hough and David Best.

After ten games he was invited to stay with Hornets, but he and Miners had received a tip that if he stayed as an amateur there was every chance he would win a Great Britain (BARLA) under-18s cap.

He gambled on playing for his country --- and it was a gamble that paid off because soon afterwards he was picked as vice-captain in an under-18s Great Britain squad to play two games in France.

Playing at loose-forward, he and another Leigh lad, Mick Redford, helped the British boys to win their first game against a French representative side, but they lost their other game against France in an under-18s international staged in Perpignan.

On returning from across the Channel, hometown Leigh were waiting to sign him. Darren Abram was on the coaching staff and the current Rochdale boss and former Watersheddings player was to play a significant role in Hodson's future as his career unfolded.

He had three years at Leigh, playing mainly in the academy side, the 'A' team and then the under-21s following the introduction of age limits into reserve team rugby.

His apprenticeship at Hilton Park also included half a dozen first-team games as a substitute.

Abram was ultimately to leave Leigh to become head coach at Chorley and one of his first signings for the Victory Park outfit was Hodson, who was to make his mark at loose-forward in a season that was good for Chorley, good for Abram --- and good for Hodson.

The lad who had once dreamed of being a soccer star was picked for the National League under-21s rep side to play in France, coached by Steve McCormack and managed by the Roughyeds chairman, Chris Hamilton.

Hodson was also named in the National League second division rep squad to play New Zealand 'A'.

Come the end of that season Abram moved back to Leigh as head coach, the team broke up and Hodson moved on to Swinton.

Things didn't work out as he had hoped at Swinton. He found it hard to convince coach Paul Kidd that he was worthy of a regular first-team spot and his frustration led to the talks that were eventually to lead him to Oldham.

Said Ian: "I came initially for a month. At the end of that month Gary Mercer wanted to look at me for another month, but when that was up he said he was happy I could do a job for him and the club so I signed for the rest of last season."

"Then, last October, I was happy to sign another contract for 2006."

"Despite our difficult start this season, I know I made the right decision. I love it with the Roughyeds. They are a great set of lads and I am sure that things will soon start to come right for us on the field."



"We have been hit by the biggest injury crisis I have ever come across --- a full team out at one stage --- and we also had to adjust when John Pendlebury went and Steve Deakin came in."

"On top of that the fixture list did us no favours with games against Hull KR, Rochdale and Leigh among our first four matches in the league."

"We are now quietly confident that our fortunes will improve, given that some of the injured are starting to come back again and given that we produced a real battling performance in defeat at Leigh last time out."

Hodson, signed essentially as a utility forward who could go in at prop, second-row or loose, has been playing at outside-half in recent games, to the surprise of some fans who see him exclusively as a back-row forward.

He revealed, however, that most of his junior and academy rugby was played at No 6 and that he is no stranger to that position.

"It's not my true position these days," he said, "but when I was younger, and before I put on weight, I played a lot at outside half."

"In recent weeks we've been short on numbers, so Hodson got the nod to wear No 6. I prefer back-row, but I'm happy to play anywhere I'm picked and I will always do my best. I was delighted, too, to captain the side on a couple of occasions."

"Now, I'm just looking forward to the rest of the season and hoping, like everyone else at the club, that we can start to pull things round."

Ian has a few important matches coming up... but none more so than that on August 12 in Leigh when he marries his childhood sweetheart Hayley prior to a fortnight's honeymoon in St Lucia.

It will mean he will miss two games, maybe three, towards the end of the season.

Aged 24, he and Hayley have been friends since they were 14.

The girl next door? "Not exactly," grinned Ian, "... but she lived in the next street!"

The best wishes of everyone at the Roughyeds will go with them.

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# on this day

Don Yates looks back to May 14th yesteryear

This afternoon's visit from Whitehaven falls exactly six years after the Roughyeds made the same journey in the opposite direction to take on the Cumbrians up at the Recreation Ground.

Whitehaven began that match, played on Sunday 14th May 2000, like a house on fire. Loose-forward Gary Purdham scored a try in the first minute, centre Howard Hill and full-back David Seeds added others within the next fifteen minutes and Oldham found themselves 18-2 in arrears. The Roughyeds recovered somewhat from that disastrous start and only allowed Whitehaven to score one more try although it was the home side who went on to win by 26 points to eighteen. Substitute David Currie scored the fourth Whitehaven try and centre Kevin Hetherington landed five goals. Full-back Mark Sibson scored two tries for Oldham and second-row forward Shayne McMenemy ended the afternoon with a try and three goals.

It was on this day in 1955, Saturday 14th May, that Oldham contested the League Championship Final when they met Warrington at Maine Road, Manchester. Despite torrential rain, which fell throughout the day, there was a crowd of 49,434 in attendance to watch a match which, eventually, was decided on goal kicks. Winger Brian Bevan opened the scoring with an early try for Warrington but by half-time Oldham had equalised with a try from Frank Pitchford. The second half was tough and uncompromising and the only scores came from the boot of second-row forward Harry Bath whose two penalties gave victory to Warrington by seven points to three. The Oldham team which battled so gallantly that day was: Frank Stirrup; Roland Barrow, Dick Cracknell, Alan Davies, Terry O'Grady; Frank Daley, Frank Pitchford; Harry Ogden, Jack Keith, Ken Jackson, Charlie Winslade, Sid Little, Bryn Goldswain. That was the third meeting between Oldham and Warrington during that 1954-55

campaign and the third time that the Roughyeds had lost. The Australian duo of Brian Bevan and Harry Bath had played significant roles in all three defeats. Bath was a huge, tough guy whose accurate goal kicking augmented his fearsome ability as a forward. Bevan was just the opposite. He was the most unlikely looking rugby league player of all time. He was bald and skinny but just about the best finisher of his era. Bevan scored two tries when Warrington won at Watersheddings and three when Warrington beat Oldham at Wilderspool. Bath landed three goals in each match.

One of the great players in the history of the Whitehaven club is full-back John McKeown. He was one of Whitehaven's first signings when the club was founded in 1948 and played until 1962. McKeown made a club record 417 appearances and established other club records by landing 1,050 goals and scoring 2,133 points. He also made 15 appearances for the Cumbrian County team. One of those appearances came on Monday 14th May 1951 when Cumberland played Lancashire at Craven Park, Barrow. A win for Cumberland would have given them the County Championship but Lancashire scraped home 13-12 and so the title was shared by all three counties, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumberland. McKeown landed three goals in that match. There were no Oldham players included in the Lancashire team but another Whitehaven player, winger Sanny Fearon, turned out for the Cumbrians. The attendance at that county match was a healthy 11,452.

# the bootroom

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# Roughyed

## Kids & Co

### Hi Kids

Hope there are plenty of you at the game today making lots of noise; the lads need to hear you giving them support. Who knows you might even cheer them on to a win.

Again today we have two mascots who are on the pitch for the very first time, so we need a big round of applause for Sarah and Joseph Logan. Sarah is seven years old whilst Joseph is five and a keen footballer. Both mascots attend St Joseph's Primary school in Mossley.

Don't forget we are having our annual bar-b-q at the social Club after today's game so come along and enjoy tasty grub. (Carole and myself will try not to burn the burgers).

See you all soon,

Carole and Janet

### Today's Mascot

#### **Sarah Logan**

**Age:**

*7-year-old*

**School:**

*St Joseph's Primary School*

#### **Joseph Logan**

**Age:**

*5-year-old*

**School:**

*St Joseph's Primary School*

## SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

We have had a successful run of Quiz evenings, enthusiastically supported by a keen group of Club stalwarts and friends. My thanks to Richard, Sandy and Andy for compiling their own quizzes to alternate with my own. This has given a different and refreshing slant to the monthly event and kept everyone on their toes. Whilst we are raising valuable funds an enjoyable time is had by all and we do have some laughs - especially with my dingbats!! The next quiz is the last before we take a break for the summer

**QUIZ NIGHT - TUESDAY 6 JUNE  
8.30 PM IN THE SOCIAL CLUB LOUNGE**

Well done to the lads who played at Leigh. There was plenty of passion and effort, contributing to a very committed performance. The few people who did travel to support the team, were proud to have done so.

*Sheila*

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# chit chat

from around the club

with Roger Halstead



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Fred Laughton, one of our keenest fans, who has been labelled Greater Manchester sport's "unsung hero" for his work in rugby league at schoolboy level in Oldham.

A diabetic, the 57-year-old schoolteacher came to Oldham from his native Workop in 1972 and thus began a remarkable story of service and dedication to schoolboy rugby league spanning nearly 35 years.

Despite health problems, Fred is chairman of the Oldham Schools' Rugby League and chairman of the Federation of Oldham Schools' Sports Association (FOSSA) and when he retires this summer he has offered to help the Roughyeds voluntarily in whatever capacity he and the club may feel is appropriate.

For years he did the match commentaries on the Roughyeds' official videos and he is now one of the club's match-day statisticians who provide coach Steve Deakin with vital facts and figures about team and individual performances.

But his greatest contribution to local rugby league was, without doubt, his work as coach and mentor to generations of Oldham schoolboys at school, town-team and county levels.

He estimates that more than 30 of "my boys" have turned pro over the years and some of them, like Barrie McDermott, Des Foy, Leo Casey, Iestyn Harris, Kevin Sinfield, Paul Highton, Paul Sculthorpe and Danny Sculthorpe have won international honours at one level or another.

Recalls Fred: "I was Leo Casey's form teacher at first year and fifth year, but Leo was just one of scores of boys who graduated in rugby league via the Oldham schools' system."

Another was the current Roughyeds player Gareth Barber, for whom Fred has the utmost respect and regard both as a player and a person.

That respect is mutual. Gareth works for Oldham Sport Development and it was largely he and Lorna Phillip, director of physical education at Hathershaw College of Technology and Sport, who were instrumental in recommending Fred for the local "unsung hero" award.

As the winner of the local award, he went forward automatically to the Greater Manchester event and the rest, as they say, is history.

Well done, Fred, and congratulations from everyone at the Roughyeds. By the way, if you see him around the ground today give him the thumbs-up. He deserves it.

\*\*\*\*  
\*\*ROB the Roughyed, our club mascot for four years, is running in the Great Manchester 10k Run next Sunday, May 21, as part of the British Red Cross team.

A devoted Roughyeds supporter, 42-year-old Robert Goodinson, who lives on Alt, is so attached to the club that he has images of 'Roughyed' tattooed on his arm and chest.

He suffered a heart attack in 2004, but he insists he is fit enough to do this run, as he did last year. Like last year, his 12-year-old son Kristian will go round with him, while his wife Elaine and daughter Charlotte (8) will wait anxiously at home.

Says Rob: "Elaine isn't keen on me doing the run, really, but she is happy for Kristian to run alongside me. He will mop my brow, spray me with water from time to time and generally keep an eye on me.

"Since I came out of hospital in 2004 I've been fine. I haven't even had

cause to use my medicinal sprays --- and last year I also played rugby for the Roughyeds' supporters' team.

"I'm hoping to get sponsorship worth £2,000 and I will split it four ways - -- the Red Cross; the Roughyeds' fighting fund (Club 180); the club's adopted charity, Breakthrough (breast cancer); and the Kirsty Howard Appeal.

"We have no game next Sunday and that will be a big help. Last year, we played at Batley on the day of the run and by the time I got to Mount Pleasant I was absolutely shattered!"

-----  
\*\*THE Roughyeds' Supporters team is up and running again and is always on the look-out for new recruits. The first training session of the new season was held last Monday evening at Clayton Playing Fields and organisers hope to have a few matches before the end of the year.

They already have pencilled in a curtain-raiser against the York City Knights supporters' team when the Roughyeds play at York on Sunday, June 25.

But they are also hoping to play a match or two against other clubs who are in the Internet Message Board Rugby League (IMBRL) and against any other team -- possibly from local amateur clubs --- who offer them a challenge.

Point of contact with the Oldham supporters team is Mike Teinert. A keen Roughyeds fan, Mike (23) has been watching since Watersheddings days when he was a pupil at Saddleworth School.

Although a trainee solicitor these days, and living in Warrington, he rarely misses a Roughyeds fixture and that applies also to most of the young and not-so-young fans who play in the supporters' team.

Watch out for more news on the team in this programme, on our official website and in the local press. Anyone wanting to be put in touch with Mike can contact me, Roger Halstead, via the club on 0161 628 3677.

-----  
DENIS Whittle covered Knowsley Road affairs for the St Helens Star for more years than I reported on Oldham for the Chronicle ... and we are indebted to Denis for informing us of the death, aged 89, of Ernie Large, whom older fans will remember as a Watersheddings winger of some repute in the 1940s.

"He was wing to Norman Harris (Iestyn's grandad) in the halcyon days of Oldham at dear old Watersheddings," wrote Denis.

A St Helens man, Ernie signed for St Helens Recs as a teenager in 1932 and when that club folded on the outbreak of war the speedy Large joined Oldham following service with the army in India.

Norman was his centre for most of Ernie's time at Watersheddings and the partnership proved so successful that the free-scoring Large was capped for Lancashire in a period when it was almost as tough to get into the county squad as it was to play for England.

Ernie, who also played for Workington, Saints and Liverpool Stanley, died in Whiston Hospital after being ill for several weeks.

  
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Why not join us for a BBQ after  
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## Thursday 15 June Sportspersons Dinner

Guest Speaker Barry McDermott 7.00 for 7.30,

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Contact Janet to book on 01616283677.

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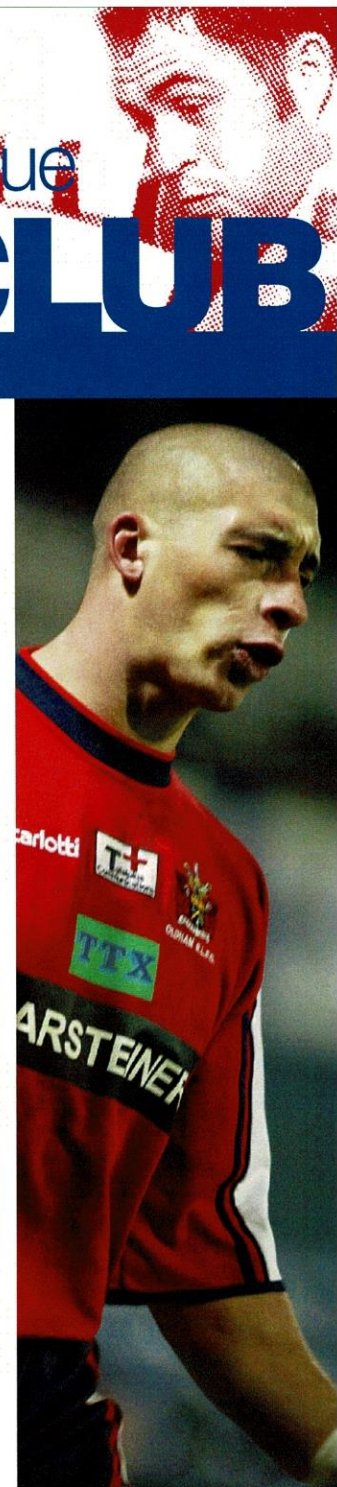
**Games night snooker** - every Thursday

**Bingo** - Friday, Saturdays and Sundays

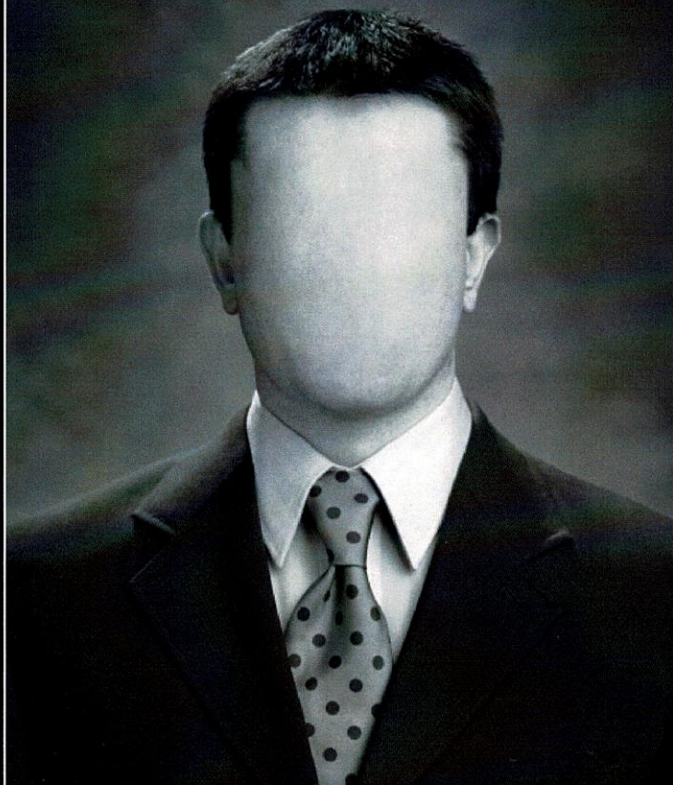
**Live entertainment** - see notice board

**Ladies darts** - every Monday

All enquires to THE CLUB STEWARD on 0161 627 2128



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**Thursday 15 June**

# Sportspersons Dinner

At the Social Club, Alfred Street, Oldham

**Guest Speaker**  
**Barry McDermott**

7.00 for 7.30,

**£25** a head corporate tables **£250** plus vat.

Contact Janet to book on 0161 628 3677

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# NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



## DREAM TEAM HEADACHES

THE announcement of representative squads can be a terrific talking point in any sport.

Just look at the furore created in Rugby League by Brian Noble's initial 36-man squad earlier this month. The media, internet message boards and pubs were all rife with questions and discussions.

The same happened on an even bigger scale on Tuesday when Sven-Goran Eriksson named his England squad for the up-coming World Cup.

Unfortunately, such talking points in the National Leagues are a rarity because of the lack of representative rugby played at this level. Apart from a few rare occasions in the past (a National League under-21s team has played sporadically, both against their Super League counterparts and in France), there has been little rep' rugby for players outside the top flight to realistically aim for.

Some are picked for the European Nations of course, but it is still an issue that needs to be discussed further at higher levels than this.

For now, we will have to speculate instead – who would be picked in an NL1 or NL2 "Dream Team" to take on, for example, a team made up of the French domestic league.

To get the ball rolling, I've selected my own NL1 and NL2 teams below. There is one rule to this mythical game – one that obviously wouldn't apply if such teams were to exist. In

an attempt to steer everyone away from total bias towards their own club, you must select at least one player from each club in the respective competitions.

That makes it a little more difficult than you might imagine at first – but picking four substitutes can help. Who will you select?

**LHF HEALTHPLAN NL1 TEAM:** 1 David Peachey (Widnes), 2 Peter Fox (York), 3 Adam Hughes (Leigh), 4 Andy Kirk (Halifax), 5 Craig Calvert (Whitehaven), 6 Carl Rudd (Whitehaven), 7 James Webster (Hull KR), 8 Ryan Tandy (Widnes), 9 Paul Rowley (Leigh), 10 David Tangata-Toa (Hull KR), 11 Peter Green (Doncaster), 12 Michael Smith (Hull KR), 13 Tommy Goulden (Rochdale). Substitutes: 14 Mark Toohey (Batley), 15 Wayne Corcoran (Oldham), 16 Matt Sturm (Rochdale), 17 Richard Moore (Leigh)

**LHF HEALTHPLAN NL2 TEAM:** 1 Wayne English (Swinton), 2 George Rayner (Hunslet), 3 Nathan Batty (Featherstone), 4 Liam Harrison (Barrow), 5 James Nixon (Barrow), 6 Francis Maloney (Dewsbury), 7 Barry Eaton (Keighley), 8 Taani Lavulavu (Workington), 9 Richard Chapman (Dewsbury), 10 Stuart Dickens (Featherstone), 11 John Tuimaualuga (Workington), 12 Matt Pittman (London Skolars), 13 Andy Smith (Sheffield). Substitutes: 14 Liam Bretherton (Blackpool), 15 Tony Duggan (Celtic Crusaders), 16 Martin Moana (Swinton), 17 Rob Line (Gateshead)

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# 2006 fixtures

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
22/1/06	Rochdale Hornets	Law Cup	A	14:00	42-8	L	1,114
27/1/06	Leeds Rhino's	Friendly	H	20:00	16-8	W	3,191
15/2/06	Rochdale Hornets	NR Cup	A	19:45	18-16	L	920
19/2/06	Halifax RLFC	NR Cup	H	15:00	26-42	L	1268
26/2/06	Keighley Cougars	NR Cup	H	15:00	25-24	W	764
8/3/06	Halifax RLFC	NR Cup	A	19:30	66-8	L	897
12/3/06	Saddleworth Rangers	POWERGEN CC 3RD RD	H	15:00	32-10	W	804
19/3/06	Rochdale Hornets	NR Cup	H	15:00	10-22	L	783
26/3/06	Keighley Cougars	NR Cup	A	15:00	32-28	W	946
2/4/06	Barrow Raiders	POWERGEN CC 4TH RD	A	15:00	8-40	L	975
9/4/06	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL1	H	15:00	8-48	L	1658
14/4/06	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	A	15:00			
17/4/06	Doncaster Lakers	NL1	H	15:00	10-56	L	820
30/4/06	Leigh Centurions	NL1	A	15:00	44-22	L	2215
14/5/06	Whitehaven	NL1	H	15:00			
21/5/06		POWERGEN CC 5TH RD					
28/5/06	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL1	A	15:00			
4/6/06	Halifax RLFC	NL1	A	15:00			
	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINALS	POWERGEN CC					
11/6/06	York City Knights	NL1	H	15:00			
25/6/06	York City Knights	NL1	A	15:00			
2/7/06	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	H	15:00			
9/7/06	Widnes Vikings	NL1	A	15:00			
21/7/06	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	H	19:45			
30/7/06	Doncaster Lakers	NL1	A	15:00			
	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP SEMI FINALS	POWERGEN CC					
6/8/06	Halifax RLFC	NL1	H	15:00			
13/8/06	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	A	15:00			
20/8/06	Widnes Vikings	NL1	H	15:00			
26/8/06	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP FINALS	POWERGEN CC					
3/9/06	Leigh Centurions	NL1	H	15:00			
10/9/06	Whitehaven	NL1	A	15:00			
17/9/06	LHF Healthplan Play Offs						
24/9/06	LHF Healthplan Play Offs						
1/10/06	LHF Healthplan Play Offs						
8/10/06	LHF Healthplan Grand Final & Play Off Final						

## Key

NR Cup - Northern Rail Cup  
Powergen CC - Powergen Challenge Cup  
NL1 - National League Division 1

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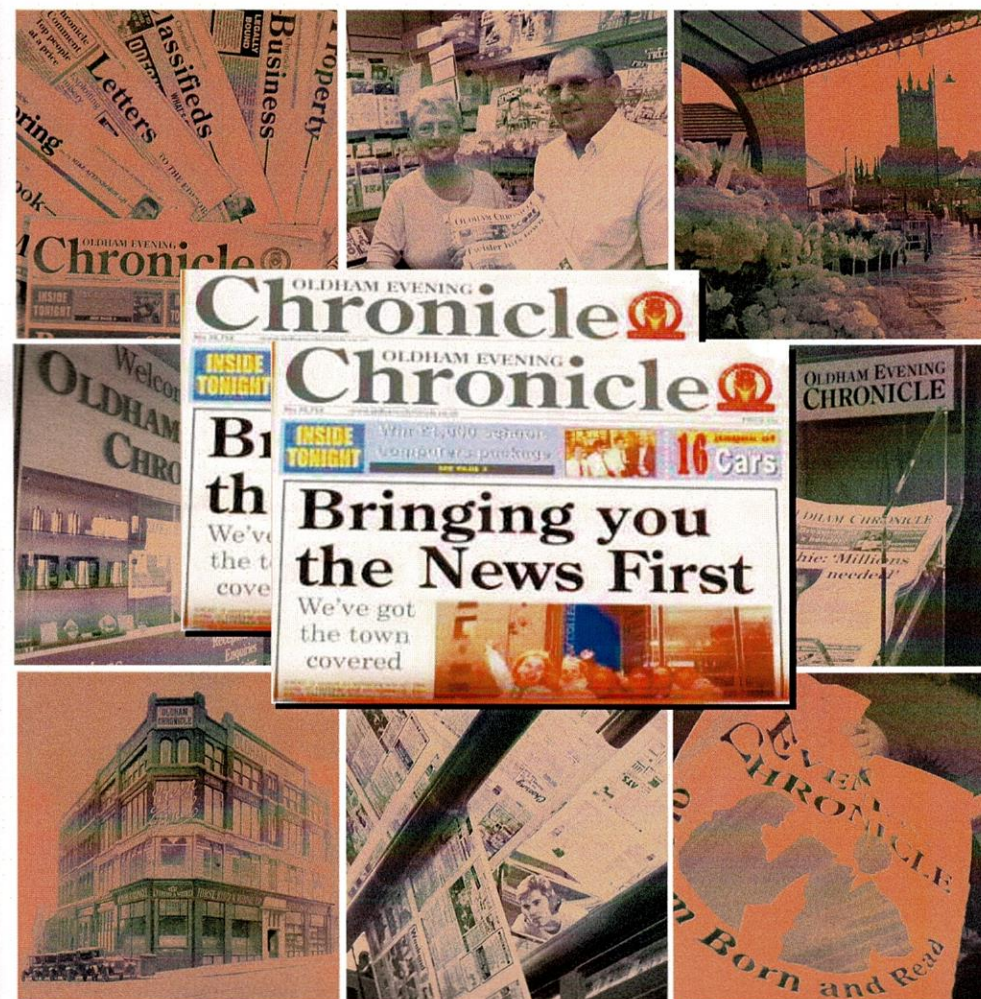
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