

# game line-up

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SWINTON LIONS

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ANDY GOREY		BRUCE JOHNSON
IAN HODSON		PHIL WOOD
JOHN HOUGH		ROB LINE
DREW HOUSTON		ROB DRAPER
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GARETH LANGLEY		LEE MARSH
CRAIG LITTLER		JAY DUFFY
RICHARD MERVILL		MATTY BRYERS
LUCAS ONYANGO		DAVE NEWTON
NEIL RODEN		GARETH HAYES
IAN SINFIELD		DEAN GORTON
KRIS SMITH		PAUL ALCOCK
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ADAM HUGHES		
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**MOST APPEARANCES:** John Hough, 228 - Jan 1998 - Sep 2006  
**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:** Neil Roden 77 - 2000-2004; 2007-?  
**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 Svabic 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.

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Alan Davies 1950-62  
Frank Stirrup 1950-62  
Bernard Ganley 1950-61  
Sid Little OBE 1951-59  
John Ety 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)

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# boardroom view

with Chris Hamilton



**Well, talk about chalk and cheese - after the Celtic game and all the hard work that went to organising and staging the match the preparations for this match have been distinctly low key by comparison despite the fact that the match is of great importance to both sides.**

Despite the scoreline last week everybody connected with the club could be proud of their efforts and i

think we put on a good show for both the people who turned up for the match but also for the SKY television viewers and lets hope its not another ten years before they come back!

Victory tonight is essential for us as we look to finish in third spot in the league. We need to win tonight and against Skolars at the weekend and hope that Fev can go to Barrow and win by more than twelve points if that is to be achieved.

Swinton are in a similar position knowing that they must pick up points if they are to make the Play Offs and we need to guard against any kind of a shock tonight as the Lions have shown us both in the Northern Rail Cup and the league that they are something of a bogey side for us.

Tonight is a great opportunity for us to put that to rest and gain some momentum going into the crucial final part of the year.

Knowing that we cannot finish lower than fourth means we will be going into the Play Offs and that nerve racking time when every decision and every tackle can make or break your season - great when it goes your way but awful when it doesnt.

The players have worked hard to get this far and we must make sure that we keep a winning mentality going into the Play Offs - just like the other teams will want to be doing.

We have, by virtue of still having a game in hand, a tough few days to come and we must make sure

that we firstly try to get the three points tonight and look no further than that or all the speculation about where we might finish and who we might play will be just that and teams have found that out to their cost in the past.

There will hopefully be a decent crowd at the game to watch this match as a key part of our marketing strategy for the Celtic game was to set up a foundation for a new Roughyeds fan base, of all ages, and so we are hoping that lapsed or new supporters will have returned following their experience at the Crusaders game.

There was no doubting the effort or commitment of the players in that match and had one or two decisions gone our way it would certainly have led to a very interesting finish to the match.

I thought that we finished the game the stronger of the two sides and that was a great pat on the back for our lads.

Events of the last weekend saw a few issues settled with Salford being relegated from Super League and Rochdales fall from the first division completed. The picture at the top of both NL 1 and 2 has gone down right to the last week and that in itself says something about the strength of the competitions.

Please make as much noise as possible to get behind the lads and hopefully another three points.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

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# deaks's coach approach

with Steve Deakin



**I DID something I don't usually do after that terrific game, and that superb rugby league occasion, at Boundary Park last Thursday night.**

Official post-match presentations usually take place either in the boardroom or in the hospitality suite, but with so many companies sponsoring our big game against Celtic Crusaders --- 11 in total --- it was decided to go through the customary formalities in the big concert room in the social club.

I was given the opportunity to say a few words and, with apologies to the Crusaders' party, headed by their operations manager Gerald McCarthy and their coach John Dixon, a good friend of mine, I said I wanted to speak first of all about my own players.

Normally, you wouldn't do that on occasions like this, but in this instance I felt it was right and proper to do so. Before I said anything else I wanted to tell my players publicly how proud I was of their efforts in the two games against the only full-time professional team in our division.

We won down at their place, of course, and although we didn't complete the double on what was, nevertheless, a truly memorable night here at Boundary Park last Thursday, we played well enough to make sure that Crusaders had to reach new heights of achievement in the second half in order to get the better of us.

On tape and on TV I have seen a lot of the Crusaders' games this year and I have never seen them play as well as they did here in the second half. Nor has any other team played so well against us -- it was, without doubt, the best 40 minutes that any opposing side has thrown at us all season.

Suffice to say that things didn't go our way in the second half, but it would be churlish of me to look for excuses. They were just a little bit too quick for us in the second half and they had a lot of skill on the edges. But we scored 18 points against them and made them fight every inch of the way.

For half the game we showed we could mix it with them. They are full-time professionals after all and this advantage

undoubtedly came into play in the second half. It was interesting to note that by midway through the second half they had made three changes: we had made eight.

Having said that, we held our heads high and we played a massive part in an outstanding game and an outstanding occasion in the history of the Oldham club. From this time last year the club has made massive strides on and off the field and I am quietly confident that 12 months from now we will be able to say the same again.

Sometimes the result of a game is not the be-all and end-all; of greater significance is the wider picture. Is the club moving forward? Is it heading in the right direction? I think we all know the answers to those questions.

On the night we played some outstanding football --- football that would probably have been good enough to beat any other team in the division.

We have to focus now on maintaining that level in the two remaining games against Swinton Lions tonight and London Skolars on Sunday, both here at Boundary Park. We currently stand on played 20, won 14, lost 6 and I think everyone would have taken that at the start of the season.

As I say, it's a fantastic turnaround from this time last year. We have to stay focused now on what our objective is, and that's to finish as high as possible. Third place is still attainable, even though it isn't in our own hands, so we have to aim for that and see what happens on Sunday when the final games of the regular season are played.

Tonight we welcome Swinton officials, coaches, players and supporters to Boundary Park in the knowledge that we lost 17-10 at their place in July and that they will be coming here tonight determined to pick up points in their quest to finish in the play-offs.

Once again, I expect our fans to give us good vocal support. The backing last Thursday really was exemplary and never has that sort of support been more important than at this crucial time of the season.

There are all sorts of 'ifs' and 'buts' about who will finish where in the table and who we might or might not come up against in the play-offs. That's great for the fans and it inevitably causes a lot of interest and a lot of speculation.

As players and coaches, however, we have to try and put all that out of our minds and concentrate on one thing at a time --- that's the Swinton game tonight and then the London Skolars match on Sunday.

Then, and only then, will we know where we stand and what the play-offs will throw at us.

Enjoy the game,

Deaks.



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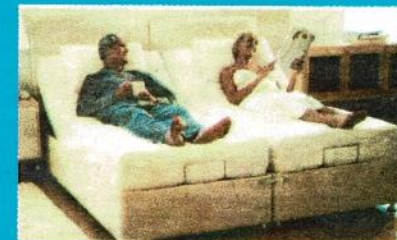
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# FOCUS ON THE OLDHAM SERVICE AREA

(all you need to know about local rugby league at grass-roots level)

## LEE TO COACH TOWN TEAM UNDER-18s IN BID FOR GB PLACES

by ROGER HALSTEAD

LEE Charlesworth has been named as coach of the Oldham Service Area town team under-18s squad which will compete in an inter-town Festival at Hopwood Hall, Middleton in October.

His No 2 and assistant coach will be Mike Tootill, and the squad's manager will be Harold Dawes, thus providing the town's under-18 representatives with an experienced and knowledgeable coaching and managerial team.

The squad will be named soon from the under-18s of Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead, who compete in the National Youth League, and from St Anne's, who are in the premier division of North-West Counties.

Oldham will compete in the Festival with Wigan/Leigh, Warrington, Widnes, Lancashire and St Helens and regional selectors will be present to eye up candidates for progression to the next stage of the selection process for the Great Britain squad.

A 24-strong under-16s Great Britain squad has already been selected from North-West town-team players who were chosen initially to go on regional camp at Rossall School, Fleetwood and from there on to Spink Hill, Sheffield where they were in competition with boys from Yorkshire and other parts of the country.

The Lancashire team at Spink Hill was coached by Oldham Service Area official Gary Highton, who prepared his side over a four-week period at Hopwood Hall for matches against Yorkshire, Cumbria and a combined regional side, comprising of players from the London area and from Wales.

Rugby League performance analysts were on hand to watch all the games before going away and subsequently naming the Great Britain squad.

Oldham boys Gareth Owen (Waterhead) and Danny Moran (St Anne's) went nearly all the way in the selection process only to miss out at the final hurdle --- tough luck on these extremely talented local youngsters who are sure to get more opportunities to showcase their skills on the bigger stage.

Garry Highton got 12 of his Lancashire players in the 24-man GB squad --- quite an achievement considering that Yorkshire had only eight representatives, Cumbria two, London one and Wales one.



SEAN CASEY of Oldham St Anne's, son of our former prop Leo Casey, seen in action for the town-team under-14s in their 44-10 win against Lancashire. Picture by Oldham Evening Chronicle.

Said Garry: "I was chuffed for the Lancashire lads who made it because they had worked extremely hard. You will notice there are a couple of famous surnames in the squad --- a Hulme and a Karalius, both from Widnes."

The GB under-16s squad is as follows:

Danny Cowling (Yorkshire), Paul Davies (St Helens), James Donaldson (Cumbria), George Elliott (Yorkshire), Liam Hulme (Widnes), Ben Karalius (Widnes), Ryan King (Warrington), Olsi Krasniqi (London), Richard Laporte (Lancashire), Tom Lillycrop (Yorkshire), Tom Marren (St Helens), Adam Milner (Yorkshire), Carl Olstrum (Cumbria), Darren Reed (Wales), Matthew Sarsfield (Wigan), Jack Smith (Wigan), Cain Southernwood (Yorkshire), Adam Tate (Yorkshire), Jordan Thompson (Yorkshire), Liam Thompson (Leigh), Ian Thornley (Wigan), Logan Tompkins (Wigan), Danny Wakefield (St Helens), Lee Williams (Yorkshire).

Forthcoming events:

Skills sessions (existing and new players invited): Saturdays, September 15, October 13 and November 10, all for under-13s, 14s and 15s; Saturday, December 15, first session for under-12s.

Next coaches meeting: Monday, October 15 at Counthill School, 7pm to 9pm.

Schools' tag event: Saturday, November 24 at Counthill.

Level 2 coaching courses: at Counthill, September 22 and 23; October 6; October 28; November 25.

For application forms contact RFL Coach Education on 08444777113 or visit the RFL website at www.therfl.co.uk

(READ THIS PAGE IN FUTURE MATCH-DAY MAGAZINES FOR SERVICE AREA NEWS AND UPDATES)



with Geoff Cooke

# cooke-ability!

**With Oldham R.L.F.C. (1997) celebrating ten years of existence now is a good time to reflect on what might be the best team of players to represent the club in that time.**

Although two sides stand out in that time, namely Mike Ford's 2001 Grand Final team and the current squad, there have been from the outset some excellent players donning Roughyeds colours. Here are my thoughts:-

At fullback the outstanding candidates are Mark Sibson, Gavin Dodd (who continues to star at Widnes) and our current temporary absentee, Paul O'Connor. For all round reliability in both defence and attack my vote goes to Sibson.

Wing gives us some exciting finishers. Chris Eckersley had pace to burn, Joe McNicholas was a popular flyer and Joey Hayes a real livewire. Then we've had local lads Damien Munro and Nicky Johnson, both capable of long range scores. However, with only a few games on which to judge them, I have no doubt that the current pairing of Byron Ford and Lucas Onyango are the best to have represented the club.

In the centres we've had the volatility of Afi Luila contrasting with the solidity of Anthony Gibbons. Pat Rich was a particular favourite of mine and probably the best goalkicker to play for the club. Iain Marsh and current star Alex Wilkinson are worth a mention but I reckon the best pair are two players with Super League experience, namely Hull K.R.'s John Goddard and our current left centre Adam Hughes.

Halfback gives us less of a choice and, in my view points up where most of our problems over ten years have lain. Perhaps Neil Flanagan, Simon Svabic or Ian Watson have good claim to inclusion together with the ever dependable Keith Brennan. James Coyle is as good or better than any of these but I would have no hesitation in choosing Neil Roden at 6 with Mike Ford at 7, even though Ford was at the fag end of his glittering career.

By contact prop provides an abundance of riches emphasising how important this position is in modern day rugby. How do you choose from the following list :- Jason Clegg, Danny Guest, Mark McGloughlin, Andy Proctor, Paul Southern, Paul Norton, Micky Edwards, Richard Mervill, Leo Casey and Steve Molloy? For me international class tells and Casey and Molloy are my choices.

Hooker is no contest. John Hough monopolised the position in the first seven years and only current players Simeon Hoyle and Andy Crabtree come anywhere near.

There are plenty of worthy candidates in the second-row too. How about one of Oldham's favourite sons Paul Round? Or there's Graeme Shaw, Dane Morgan, Bryan Henare, Lee Doran, Mark Roberts and one of our best current players Ian Hodson. However, I think Shayne McMenemy was the best signing ever made by the current club and I would partner him with our current leader and captain Rob Roberts.

Loose-forward gives us the likes of Phil Farrell, Lee Marsh and Kevin Mannion but I have no hesitation in picking tough as teak David Gibbons for this position because he (as did brother Anthony) never gave less than 100%.

So, here's my team of the decade:- 1) Mark Sibson 2) Byron Ford 3) John Goddard 4) Adam Hughes 5) Lucas Onyango 6) Neil Roden 7) Mike Ford 8) Leo Casey 9) John Hough 10) Steve Molloy 11) Shayne McMenemy 12) Rob Roberts 13) Dave Gibbons. As substitutes I'd have 14) Anthony Gibbons 15) Jason Clegg 16) Paul Norton 17) Lee Doran. Hope that gets you talking!



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# halstead's choice

by ROGER HALSTEAD

RUGBY League and the Yorkshire family of Tonks are inseparable in that hotbed of the sport centred around Featherstone, Castleford, Normanton and Pontefract.

Some of us remember Les at Post Office Road years ago. Now, there's Ian ---- and at Oldham we have the pleasure of Tony's company. Common denominators --- they are all related, they all come from the same district, they are all prop-forwards.

They breed 'em tough, they breed 'em big, those Tonks. And they are proud of their heritage; like most families in that area it's a heritage built around coal and the mines, the local community, allotments, racing pigeons, cricket in the summer and rugby league in the winter.

Times are changing, though. The pits have gone, rugby league is a sport with seasons in the sun, Post Office Road is the Chris Moyles Stadium and a few miles away just across the M62 we don't have Wheldon Road any more, we have The Jungle.

One thing is constant --- the big lads of the Tonks family are still throwing their weight around and keeping the family name alive in rugby league circles.

"My grandad was Les Tonks's brother," Tony told me this week. "He loved his rugby and I was no more than five years old when he said it was time I got my boots on. I remember it well. He took me down to Normanton Knights and said he had got another Tonks for them . . . and, yes, another prop.

"I was always a big lad for my age, always one of the biggest in any of the teams I played for and I can't ever remember ever playing anywhere else but in the front-row -- if you're called Tonks that's what you do."

Tony entered this world on April 27, 1985 in Pontefract Hospital. Aged 22, he has four brothers and two sisters and one of those brothers, 12-year-old Bradley Foster, is breaking with family tradition because he is an up-and-coming centre or full-back, who played in last week's Wembley curtain-raiser for Freeston High School, Normanton against their close and deadly rivals, Castleford High.

It was the Year Seven final of the Carnegie Champion Schools' tournament and with young Bradley performing well, Freeston High became the first rugby league side to lift a trophy at the new Wembley --- quite a day, then, for Bradley and for big brother Tony, who was watching high up in the stands.

"I went down to Wembley to give him a cheer and he had a smashing game," said Tony, who still has vivid memories of the age when he was aged 12 and working his way through the age grades at Normanton Knights.

Among his peers were Jamie Langley (now of Bradford Bulls fame), Richard Blakeway (Featherstone) and Ben Cockayne (Hull KR) and they all played alongside Tony in the Knights' under-15s side which became BARLA national champions seven years ago.

About the same time Tony was taken under the wing of Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. They invited him to play for one of their junior sides and, leading on from that, he had a season with the Wildcats junior academy side before Bradford Bulls got wind of this promising young prop from

## ROUGH-AND-TOUGH 'TONKA' HAS A HERO IN BARRIE MAC

### Our big prop from Normanton is keeping up the family tradition

the Featherstone area with the perfect family pedigree.

Tony suspects Jamie Langley, who had signed for the Bulls a few months earlier, gave the Super League club the tip, but he never did find out conclusively.

He said: "However it happened I don't know for sure, but my name got marked down at Bradford. They sent out their scouts to watch me play and they must have liked what they saw because they offered me a full-time contract just after my 17th birthday, and I accepted it."

He had left Freeston High a few months earlier and had spent those months, in his words, "labouring and learning". When the full-time offer came in from Bradford he was ready to snap their hand off.

Tony takes up the story. "I had a very good time in my years at Bradford, first with the under-18s and then the under-21s. I had not been in the under-21s long when I had a shoulder reconstruction, but I just got back in time for the play-offs -- three matches -- and then the final against Leeds Rhinos at Headingley.

"That was some year for me because, in the space of a few weeks, I successfully made my comeback after the shoulder operation; I played in a winning Bulls side in the senior academy final; and to crown it all, Brian Noble awarded me my Super League squad number ---30 --- because he said he liked the way I had come back from a major shoulder operation.

"That final at Headingley was a great game. It was tight, hard and close -- just how I like my rugby. I can't remember the score, but I think we must have snatched it late on because they had already got the Leeds ribbons on the cup and they had to take them off to put our ribbons on.

"They were in the process of doing that when the floodlights went out . . . what a farce! Steve McNamara was in his first year as under-21s coach and to win the trophy was a great boost for him.

"I had another year under Steve's coaching and then I went out on loan to Doncaster for a year because I had reached that stage of my career at which I needed a new challenge and the opportunity to be playing first-team rugby somewhere against bigger and more experienced opponents.

"If I was ever going to do anything I needed to start playing against blokes who had been around the block a bit. I wanted and needed to be thrown in at the deep end. I needed to move up a level and to find some rugby where it would be tough and rough --- and I certainly found that at Doncaster, I can tell you.

"They were a great set of lads and there was a great team spirit and I enjoyed being part of the Doncaster dressing room.

"But there were things going on at the club off the field --- they have surfaced since with all the recent changes there --- and I didn't feel right about signing permanently once my year's loan with them was up.

"It was good to get to the semi-final of the Northern Rail Cup and I was really chuffed when I got the chance to play against two of my greatest rugby league role models in Barrie McDermott and Terry O'Connor, who were then in the same division with Widnes.

"Barrie Mac might not know it, but he has been a great influence on my career because he used to be my favourite player and I always took the opportunity to watch him when he was starring with Leeds and Great Britain.

"He was my sort of prop -- rough, tough and played like he loved every second of it. That's what I am trying to do."

Having decided Doncaster wasn't for him, it was back to Bradford for our hero 'Tonka'. In the meantime, Noble had moved out to join Wigan and Tony's former academy boss, McNamara, was now head coach.

He hadn't been back long when he was disappointed to learn that he didn't fit into the new Bulls boss's long-term plans.

Telling the story in his own straight-talking, matter-of-fact way, Tony went on: "I think Steve was under the impression I was going to sign permanently for Doncaster. Apparently, I didn't fit into his plans -- that happens sometimes, it's sport.

"He had coached me in the academy, though, and we were real good friends. I figured it was time to move on rather than fall out with him and perhaps lose a friend. I didn't want to do that. And it didn't happen. We are still good mates."

The decision having been made, Tony spoke to his agent, who set the wheels in motion. Dewsbury and York were interested initially and there was a chance to play in France, too.

"But I knew what I had to do as soon as I spoke to Deaks (Oldham coach Steve Deakin) and to Chris Hamilton and Bill Quinn. They had clearly-defined short term and long-term goals for the club and I liked that. I saw it, like they did, as a challenge.

"One of the short-term goals was to win promotion this season. I want to help the club to do that and then see what comes out of it for next year. We have a good chance of going up via the play-offs.

"Losing to Celtic Crusaders last week was a disappointment in some respects, but Deaks stressed to us afterwards that we hadn't played badly and that we had to move on with heads held high to the next two games against Swinton and London Skolars.

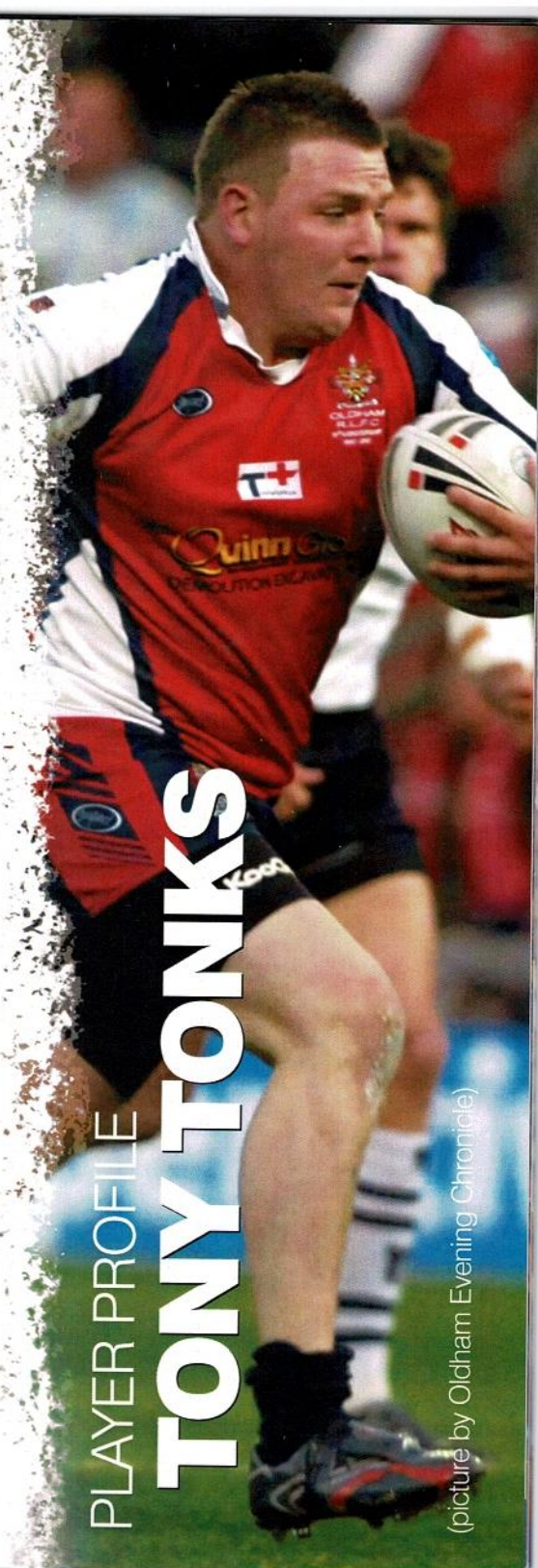
"We are all looking forward to those next two games. We mustn't look back. We've got to look forward, remain positive, make sure we all perform our various roles to the best of our ability and if we do all of those things I'm sure we will be all right.

"The team we have on paper is as good as anything in this division so long as the 17 players on duty for any given game go out and perform to the best of their ability."

Whatever lies in store over the next few weeks it's going to be an exciting -- perhaps scary --- time for everyone at the club.

But Tony has another big event coming up which is likely to change his life for ever just about the time the play-offs will be getting under way. His girl friend Gemma is expecting their child, due on September 10.

Will this latest little Tonks be a prop in the making? If it's a boy, he's got to be . . . surely.



PLAYER PROFILE  
**TONY TONKS**

(picture by Oldham Evening Chronicle)



# AROUND & ABOUT

with The Heritage Trust

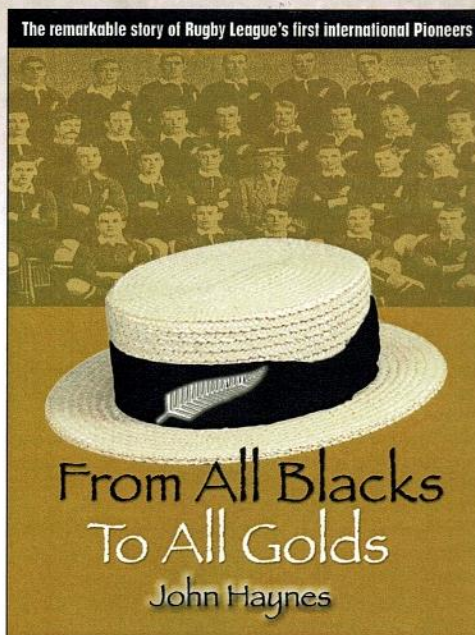
**Today's AROUND & ABOUT pages provide all the details of three recently released rugby books and more information on the DVD just marketed by the British Film Institute surrounding the sport footage from the Mitchell & Kenyon archive.**

**FROM ALL BLACKS TO ALL GOLDS.** This is a story of great national and personal triumph and of personal tragedy too. The first UK edition of John Haynes' remarkable work charting the history of the first ever tour to the UK - that of the 1907-08 trail-blazing New Zealanders - is a must for every rugby league enthusiast. A fascinating read for anyone else with an interest in the history of sport - rugby in particular. A rattling good tale.

The book will be published in October to coincide with the arrival of the touring New Zealanders who will play a centenary celebration re-enactment Test - The Gillette Fusion Centenary International - to be staged at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, Warrington on Saturday the 20th of October 2007.

Just 12 years after the birth of 'rugby league' the New Zealanders - pioneers ahead of their time - demanded that they received the kind of treatment already enjoyed by the professional cricketers of their day and which our present day rugby players of both codes take for granted.

To be published in October by League Publications priced at £12-99 (Includes postage within UK). Send a cheque made payable to League Publications Ltd. Address: Wellington Hs, Briggate, Brighouse, HD6 1 DN or order by phone 01484 401895. Visit [www.totalrl.com](http://www.totalrl.com) for offers.



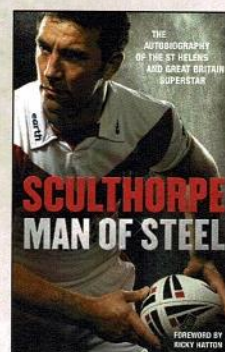
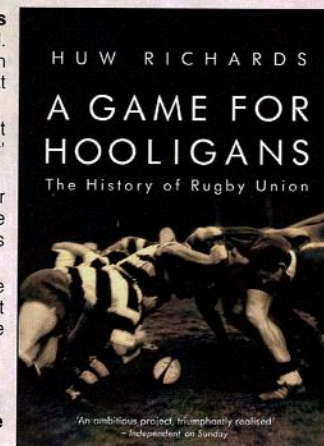
**A GAME FOR HOOLIGANS.** Huw Richard's first book **Dragons & All Blacks** was shortlisted for the William Hill 'Book of the Year' award. This could win it. And, I nearly missed out on this one, failing to pick up on the launch for the Christmas market last year. The good news is, though, that it will be available as a less costly paperback this autumn.

For those interested in the history of rugby this is a must-buy book. Whilst it tracks the evolution of union the two codes are so intertwined that 'their' history is ours. Indeed, our own club Oldham was once a union club.

Whilst Huw Richards has been the Financial Time's rugby correspondent for the last 12 years he's not a dyed-in-the-wool union traditionalist. He was the Fulham RLFC programme editor during the 1980's and regularly writes about league.

This is the first history of union since it went professional. If common sense had prevailed all those years ago and working class clubs like ours hadn't been persecuted Huw would have had only one code of rugby to write about!

Available in hardback from all good bookshops at £18-99. ISBN 1 84596 016 5. Or, wait until the 22nd of November, when it will be available in paperback for just £8-99.



**SCULTHORPE: MAN OF STEEL.** So good he won it twice! Paul Sculthorpe cost St Helens a world record fee for a forward - £375,000 - when they signed him from Warrington in 1998 and you won't get an argument from any Saints fan that this wedge was too thick. Naturally strong, creative, accurate with the boot, skilful with the hands, eye for the opening the Oldham born forward has paid back the fee over and over again. Along the way he's played in the winning side in three Grand Finals, two Challenge Cup finals and one World Club Championship as well as captaining his country. And, of course, those back-to-back Man of Steel awards!!

ISBN 9 781846051623 £18-99 from the bookshop chains but also Google - Sculthorpe Man of Steel book - there are lots of discount offers on the internet.

**EDWARDIAN SPORTS.** Over a century ago, film makers Sagar Mitchell and James Kenyon roamed the British Isles filming the everyday lives of people at work and play. For around 70 years, 800 rolls of this early nitrate film sat in sealed barrels in the basement of a shop in Blackburn. Now discovered and painstakingly restored by the British Film Institute, this ranks as probably the world's most exciting film discovery.

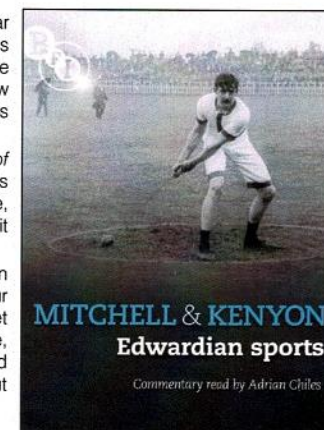
Following on from the hugely successful BBC TV series *The Lost World of Mitchell & Kenyon* this newly released DVD includes much of that sports footage. Taken between 1901 and 1907 it features the titans of rugby league, association football and cricket, as well as rediscovering the Corinthian spirit of amateur sport and leisure of Edwardian life.

Whilst it includes most of the big clubs in rugby league and association football alongside that footage sits scenes of a swimming gala in the harbour at North Shields, the AAA Championships of 1901, the Mold cricket controversy - an early 'chucking' storm with an Australian umpire at its centre, the Manchester to Blackpool road race plus a Trotting competition at Sprigfield Park, Wigan - do you remember Charlie McAlister making his Oldham debut there?

The 'voice-over' from Adrian Childs brings it all to life.

For Oldham fans there is footage of the 1901 Watersheddings clash between Oldham and Swinton, a match that had been ordered to be replayed because of fans invading the pitch. Oldham had lost the first game but the second ended in a 3-3 draw ensured that the Roughyeds topped the table at the end of that season with Swinton reluctantly having to accept the runners-up spot. Plus, there's Jimmy 'Jumbo' Lomas, for whom Oldham paid Salford a world record transfer fee, seen scoring a try.

RRP £19-99. Ring BFI Film Store on 0207 815 1350 to buy direct or via [www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk) Again, search the internet for a bargain price.





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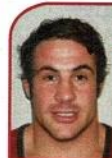
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# OH WHAT A NIGHT

## AND A RECORD CROWD TO MAKE IT SWING!

PICTURE PARADE COURTESY OF OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

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Yes, it WAS a night to remember at Boundary Park last Thursday. The boys put up a terrific show on the field despite going down 32-18 to the full-time professionals of Celtic Crusaders.

We smashed the previous co-operative NL2 record crowd with an attendance of 4,327 and we received many encouraging comments from supporters on the night that Boundary Park rocked to the singing of Martin Toal and to the dancing of The Roughyettes and the Street Dancers.

Our 11 big-match sponsors were presented with framed autographed Roughyeds jerseys and it was a great night, too, for the beneficiaries of our 'free-entry-subject-to-a-£1-donation-initiative', namely Dr Kershaw's Hospice and the RFL Benevolent Fund.

Thanks to everyone who made it go with a swing, and thanks to you, the fans, for your support on a fantastic night. Hope to see you again as we look ahead to the play-offs.

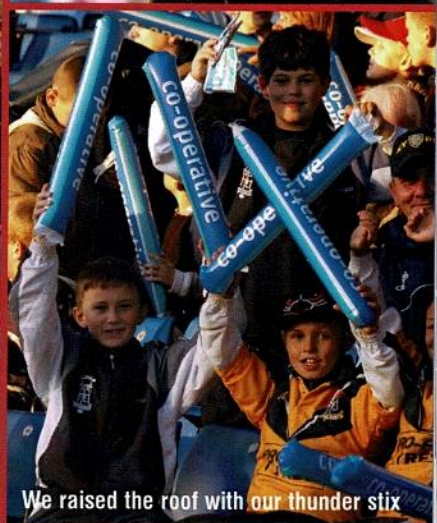
WE applauded Oldham-born stars Barrie McDermott, Kevin Sinfield and Paul Highton



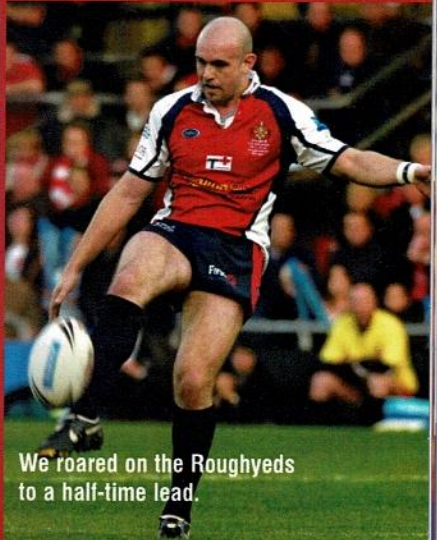
WE showed our appreciation to the big-match sponsors



We sang along with Martin Toal



We raised the roof with our thunder stix



We roared on the Roughyeds to a half-time lead.





with Ian Wilson

# roughyeds' roar!

**Now that we have had our first day out at the new Wembley stadium, it is perhaps time to have a look at the future of the Challenge Cup competition.**

I must first say that I personally very much enjoyed the visit to Wembley. Like lots of others, I took a park and ride option, and was really impressed with the ease of access via Wembley Stadium train station, and even more with the efficiency of the departure arrangements after the game. Good escalator systems, excellent views and even clean and plentiful toilets clearly differentiated the new Wembley from the old too! I had gone there willing to be persuaded that we should return to Cardiff as soon as we contractually can - and certainly the disadvantage of the borough of Brent as an overall location compared to the city centre one is very clear. However, I think I am now happy to settle for the Cup Final at Wembley, and a separate weekend out in Cardiff - see below.

As for the game itself, the Catalans' defence was superb, but they spoilt any chance of beating what was a slightly below par Saints side by very disappointing handling close to their opponents' line. The outcome was that, although the game was more competitive than Huddersfield were able to make it in '06, there was rarely any doubt, especially after Saints' try on the stroke of half-time, as to who would emerge as winners. A great pity, since the day deserved a nail-biter of a contest.

But what of the future? I think there is no doubt that the competition has lost something of its lustre, partly because of the chasm which now exists between full-timers and part-timers, and partly because of the strength of the Super

League competition itself. However, no one could doubt either, observing the sun-drenched thousands strolling to last week's final, that there is a massive tradition involved, and a huge reservoir of goodwill, so that we need to be very careful not to destroy what we have in attempting to change it at the margin for the better.

In order to minimise the number of early-round mismatches, I would do two things. There should be more amateur-only knock-out rounds, so that only the very top amateur teams are left by the time the National League and overseas semi-pro sides come in. And there should also be more rounds before Super League sides enter, so that only the very best non-SL sides are left to draw their supposed betters.

In 2008, that would mean a non-SL competition right down to the last 4, to go with the 12 S-L sides, though after that it would need further rethinking, if Super League is to be expanded to 14, say.

As to how the crowds in the later stages of the competition can be boosted, how about the Millennium Magic weekend being the 4 cup quarter-finals? Two games per day over a weekend, with the prize for victory being cup semi-final places - and increase the financial incentives too - and I reckon the magic of the cup could be restored in a stroke, as well as the Cardiff stadium sold out and the Cardiff pubs drunk dry! Worth a try?

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# Carnegie Great Student Run

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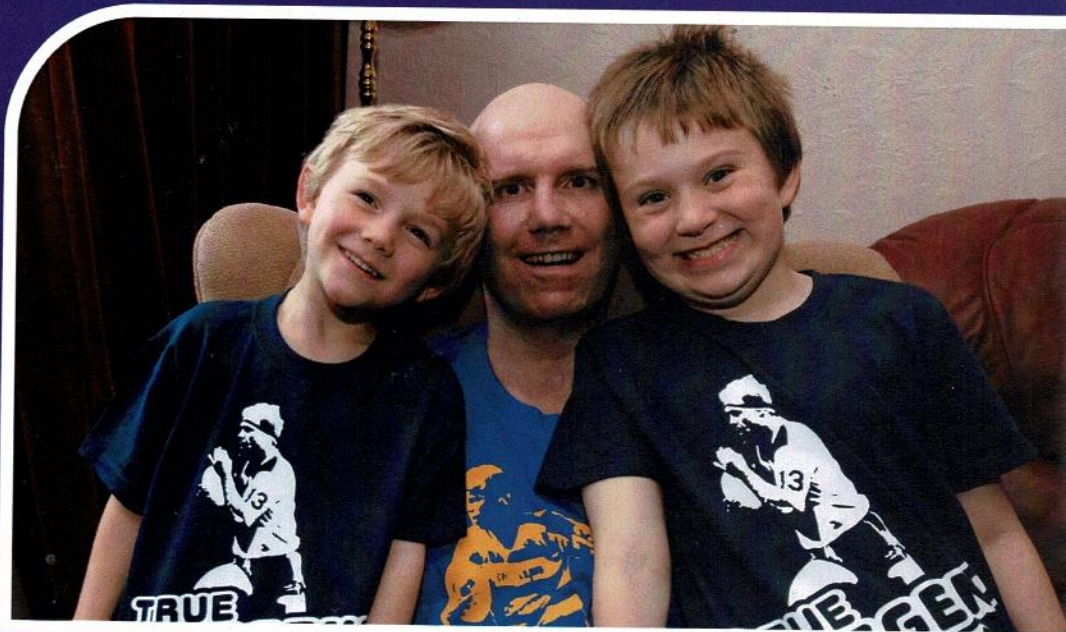
When Leeds Met launched the Carnegie Great Student Run 2007, leading the way was former Widnes, Wigan and GB star Joe Lydon. Joe declared his intention to run the 5km race to raise money for the Mike Gregory Trust Fund. Mike is one of rugby league's most popular, respected and courageous stars who captained Warrington and his country with such distinction.

The Mike Gregory Trust Fund was formed by friends and supporters from the rugby league community who knew

of Mike's battle against Motor Neurone Disease and felt compelled to do something to help.

It is Mike and his family's intention that the trust's funds will be used to cover his ongoing medical expenses and help raise awareness about the effects of Borreliosis/Lymes Disease.

Through the Carnegie Great Student Run and the Carnegie Challenge Cup, Leeds Met Carnegie provides a unique opportunity for the whole of the rugby league community to participate and support the Mike Gregory Trust Fund.



Entry forms and the Mike Gregory Trust Fund sponsorship forms are available from Leeds Met at [www.leedsmet.ac.uk/greatstudentrun](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/greatstudentrun) or by calling 0113 283 8686

For more information on the Mike Gregory Trust please visit [www.mikegregorytrust.co.uk](http://www.mikegregorytrust.co.uk)



leeds met carnegie

great run

BE PART OF IT - RUB SHOULDERS WITH CHAMPIONS - SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE

# the bootroom

THE MEN WHO CARRY ROUGHYEDS' HOPES AND AMBITIONS INTO 2007.

**ASHTON, Paul (half-back):** Aged 27, Paul learned his trade at Saddleworth before playing for Halifax, Rochdale, Keighley and Swinton. Got his big chance at Oldham in 2006, initially on a week-to-week basis, and did enough to earn a full contract for 2007. Can play at scrum-half or stand-off.

**BAINES, Chris (back-row):** A young forward who also did enough for coach Steve Deakin last year, while on loan from Warrington, to win a contract for the latter part of 2006 and then for 2007. Toured New Zealand with Great Britain Young Lions in 2003. Product of Chorley Panthers and Wigan St Pat's.

**BOULTS, Jason (prop):** One of many new boys in the Roughyeds squad for 2007, 23-year-old Jason arrived on the recommendation of two of his former Halifax team mates, Jamie Bloem and Alan Hadcroft. Spent four years as a young pro with Bradford and then had two seasons at The Shay, missing only a handful of games.

**COSTIN, Geno (prop or back-row):** A 22-year-old Aussie, Geno first established himself in the Queensland Cup with Wynnum-Manly, but last year played in the same comp for Logan Souths. A rugby workaholic, he puts in overtime on defence and, in possession, always runs strong and straight.

**CRABTREE, Andy (hooker):** Won Great Britain academy honours in his Wigan Warriors days. Came from Swinton this year. A tidy footballer with good hands and game awareness, he can also play loose-forward. Alert and alive at dummy half.

**FORD, Byron (winger):** Cook Island International signed on loan from Hull KR in mid-August to the end of the season. A prolific try scorer, he totalled six in his first four outings for Roughyeds and on the strength of that was named in the Rugby League World NL2 form team for August.

**GOREY, Andy (winger):** A scrum-half in his Royton Tigers days, Andy became a good full-back in the former Roughyeds academy side. It was as a winger, however, that he finished 2006 as the club's top try scorer with ten --- no mean feat in a losing side.

**HODSON, Ian (back-row):** Initially rejected new offer for 2007 due to work commitments, but the Roughyeds door remained open and he re-signed in March after playing the odd game or two for Tydesley RU Club. One of the club's better performers in 2006, he always gave maximum input, even when asked to play at stand-off.

**HOUSTON, Drew (second-row or centre):** Once a youngster linked with Melbourne Storm, Drew had two seasons in the Queensland Cup with Storm feeder club Brisbane Norths before heading south to join Dapto whom he helped to become champions of the Illawarra competition last year.

**HOYLE, Simeon (hooker):** Formerly with Keighley and Halifax, Simeon is a hooker of the old school ---tough in defence yet able to make things happen from dummy half. Helped Keighley to win promotion in 2003 in the same team as Paul Ashton, Richard Merrill and Ian Sinfield.

**HUGHES, Adam (centre):** The massively experienced 29-year-old boasts over 150 Super League appearances during spells with Leeds, Wakefield, Halifax, Widnes and Leigh. A powerful, pacy centre who knows where the try line is, he signed for Oldham in preference to several other clubs.

**LANGLEY, Gareth (winger):** Pacy, and a good finisher, 'Gaz' joined Roughyeds this year after five years at St Helens. He was Saints academy player of the year in 2005 and runner-up in 2006. Played at Salford as a teenager before joining his hometown club at Knowsley Road.

**LITTLER, Craig (centre):** Another Saints old boy, Craig was Langley's centre for four years at Knowsley Road. A year younger, he had the chance of another year with St Helens academy, but opted to sign for Roughyeds and continue his centre-wing partnership with Langley.

**MERVILL, Richard (prop):** Formerly with Halifax and Keighley, Richard joined Roughyeds for 2007 after playing Down Under in the same Dapto side as Drew Houston. Suffered a broken hand in one of his early games for Roughyeds, but goes into Co-Operative NL2 action in a good seam of form.

**MORTON, Gareth (centre):** Accomplished goalkicker, followed his Hull KR team mate Byron Ford to Oldham on loan in mid-August. Signed until September 16, when he leaves to play RU in Italy. Former Leeds Rhinos youngster and Borders (Scotland) RU player. Dual code international.

**O'CONNOR, Paul (full-back):** Signed for hometown Widnes after winning students' international honours for Ireland and for Great Britain. Looked good in three loan games for Roughyeds in 2006 and returned on a more permanent basis in 2007, although he will be away for 14 weeks on a pre-arranged trip Down Under.

**OLDHAM, Stuart (winger):** Formerly with St Helens and Swinton, Stuart played his first serious rugby with Sedgley Park and Liverpool St Helens RU clubs before switching codes to join Saints. Had two seasons with Swinton and became one of six Lions to sign for Roughyeds for 2007.

**ONYANGO, Lucas (winger):** A real flier, aged 25, Lucas grew up in rugby union in his native Kenya. Has played for Sale Sharks, Manchester and Leigh in Union, and also Widnes Vikings in League. Did well at Vikings before damaging a knee. Over that now and keen to make the most of his chance at Oldham.

**ROBINSON, Adam (second row):** A tough and uncompromising player who relishes his defensive duties, the 20 year-old Yorkshireman turned down Featherstone in order to sign for the Roughyeds from Doncaster. Formerly of the Stanley Rangers amateur club, he started his professional career at Wakefield.

**RODEN, Neil (half-back):** Neil rejoined Roughyeds from Leigh for 2007 after leaving the club initially to go to Batley in 2004. In his first stint here he scored 290 points (68 tries and 18 drop goals) in 142 games over four and a half seasons. Has overtaken Mark Sibson as the 'new' club's leading all-time try scorer.

**ROGERS, Wes (prop):** Aged 29, and club captain. Like Neil Roden and Ian Sinfield, has rejoined Roughyeds for a second spell. Signed for Widnes as a 15-year-old, then had three years at Swinton, one here, three at Rochdale and three more at Swinton before coming "home" for 2007.

**SANDERSON, Lee (halfback, hooker):** Signed in March after a difficult period with Barrow. Roughyeds paid an undisclosed transfer fee for the Leigh lad, whose uncle, Ian, was an accomplished Oldham hooker in Watersheddings days. Lee has previously played for Leigh, London Broncos, Rochdale and Barrow.

**SINFIELD, Ian (back-row):** Another experienced forward who has returned to his hometown club for a second stint. Brother of Leeds captain, Kevin Sinfield, Ian played in the first ever Roughyeds game at Rochdale on New Year's Day, 1998. Had four years here, then moved on to Rochdale, Keighley and Swinton.

**SMITH, Kris (back-row or centre):** Kris, aged 28, has been on the books of four Super League clubs, namely Leeds, Salford, London and Halifax. A product of the Eccles amateur club, he was snapped up by Leeds while still a teenager. Joined Roughyeds after four seasons at Swinton.

**STEVENS, Warren (prop):** A beat-the-deadline capture in August, he has made more than 100 Super League appearances, mainly with Warrington Wolves. Vastly experienced front-rower, who has also played in SL with Leigh and Salford. Signed until end of the season.

**STOUT, Michael (second-row or centre):** Signed from Swinton, Michael has a good turn of speed for a forward and likes to use it while breaking wide out. Played at academy level for both Warrington and Widnes. Chose to join Oldham after rejecting a Swinton offer for 2007.

**TAMGHART, Said (utility):** A French international, Said has represented his country at every level, including full Test matches against Australia and New Zealand. Came under Steve Deakin's influence when both were at UTC, better known now as Perpignan-based Catalans Dragons.

**TONKS, Tony (prop):** Roughyeds have high hopes of the 22-year-old Yorkshireman, signed from Bradford Bulls just prior to the start of the Co-Operative NL2 season. One year at Wakefield academy, then six at Bulls as a full-time pro, including last season on loan at Doncaster.

**WILKINSON, Alex (centre, wing):** Played his early rugby with Royton Tigers and toured with GB schoolboys to Australia in 1999 and with England academy to New Zealand and Australia in 2001. While a young pro at Bradford Bulls, he had loan spells with London Broncos, Huddersfield and Hull before going part-time with Roughyeds to continue his studies.



# WHEN MATE MEETS MATE IN CLASH OF THE OLD BOYS ...

by NIGEL MARLAND

## Pay-back time for Oldham after costly defeat in the Lions den

As we approach the last week of the season proper everything is up for grabs for the Roughyeds who hope to finish in third place and thus have a week off. To do this they must win the last two games and hope Featherstone beat Barrow next Sunday. Even then bonus points could come into play, it's that close. For the first of those games we welcome Swinton for this rearranged game. Swinton have been a bit of a banana skin to us and many quote the losses to Swinton and Keighley earlier in the season as the game that cost us the chance of automatic promotion.

One of the reasons our games against Swinton are so competitive may well be that so many players have played for both clubs. When looking at the Swinton squad to ascertain who these were I was surprised to see that overall this season Swinton's team has featured 11 recent Oldham players. For interest they are Craig Farrimond, Dean Gorton, Gareth Hayes, Chris Hough, Lee Marsh, Chris Morley, David Newton, Mark Ogden, Adam Sharples, Chris Campbell and Desi Williams.

Of those Craig Farrimond has again been hit by serious injury, Chris Hough has gone on loan to Leigh, Mark Ogden has returned to Australia, Adam Sharples only appeared as sub in the very early Cup games, Desi Williams has not played since May and Chris Campbell has not turned out at

all having work problems and playing amateur rugby in Warrington until signing for Rochdale late in the season when Shaun Gartland took over coaching responsibilities.

Gareth Hayes on the other hand has been an ever present.

Also very influential have been Lee Marsh and Chris Morley the

latter who has also played at Warrington, Salford, Sheffield, Leigh and Oldham, whilst Lee who first signed for Swinton in 2005 when he broke the clubs points in a season record,



Lee Marsh

breaking the number scored by Albert Blan 40 years ago. Moved onto Super League promotion contenders Widnes for 2006 but soon came back in a deal which took Ian Watson to Widnes.

Chris is in his second season of a two-year contact after signing from Halifax. Has a Super League title and Challenge Cup winner's medal from his days with St Helens. A Welsh international who played alongside Ian Watson in the Euro-Nations Cup Final.

Oldham reciprocated at the start of the season by signing six Swinton players, Ian Sinfield, Wes Rogers, Kris Smith, Andy Crabtree, Mike Stout and Stuart Oldham. Wes and Kris have been hit by serious injuries, Mike Stout went on loan to Blackpool early in the season and Stuart Oldham has had work difficulties and not been able to train since the very early part of the season.

All in all this should lead to a great game of rugby as Swinton are eager to gain a play off place after being docked 6 points earlier in the season.



Chris Morley



The Oldham club has teamed up with the RFL to offer one lucky person an opportunity to be part of Rugby League history.

This autumn Great Britain will play for the final time on home soil before the team switches to playing as England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland in time for next year's World Cup in Australia. As a result the three match Gillette Fusion Test Series against New Zealand will be a historic occasion.

The third of the three Tests will be staged at Wigan's JJB Stadium on Saturday, November 10. That is why the Oldham club, together with the RFL, is looking for a school child aged eight to 10 years to be one of the team mascots and walk out alongside the players of Great Britain and New Zealand just before the big match kicks off.

This superb prize also includes three tickets for each winner, one for the mascot and two for their parents or guardian.

As you would expect tickets for the final Great Britain games on home soil are in huge demand and can be purchased from the RFL Box Office on 0871 226 1313 or by visiting [www.rugbyleaguetickets.co.uk](http://www.rugbyleaguetickets.co.uk). Tickets prices start from just £15.

To be in with a chance of being a mascot simply answer the following question.

What is the Great Britain team's nickname?

1. The Panthers
2. The Tigers
3. The Lions

The child who answers correctly will be selected at random to be the mascot winners.

Send your completed entries to GB Mascot Comp, Oldham Rugby League Club, Lansdowne Road, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 9EF;

entries in by September 20, 2007.

Terms and conditions

- Neither the RFL nor the Oldham club can enter into correspondence about this competition
- The decision of the Oldham club is final.
- The winners will receive details of their prize from the RFL
- The winner can be a boy or girl aged between 8 and 10 years old.
- After mascot duty, each child will be escorted back to their seats to join their parents/guardian to enjoy the match
- Prizes cannot be exchanged, transferred or sold



## IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN BY ROGER HALSTEAD 4 CRUCIAL DAYS IN PLAY-OFF SHAKE-UP

The next four days will determine who finishes where in what has been a hugely competitive Co-operative National League Two. We at Oldham are assured of at least fourth place, but third is still mathematically possible if we pick up maximum points from our two remaining games and Featherstone win by more than 12 points at Barrow on Saturday night.

Rovers are assured of second spot, but they can't afford to go to Barrow on Saturday discounting the fact that Crusaders COULD, that being the operative word, slip up at Gateshead the next day. At the other end of the "seven" Swinton, London Skolars and Hunslet are all scrapping for the final play-off spot. It promises to be a nervous few days!

### GAMES TO COME

- Tonight: Hunslet v Gateshead  
OLDHAM v Swinton
- Saturday: Barrow v Featherstone
- Sunday: Gateshead v Celtic Crusaders  
Hunslet v Keighley  
OLDHAM v London Skolars  
Swinton v Workington  
York City Knights v Blackpool

### PLAY-OFF STRUCTURE (TOP TEAM PROMOTED AUTOMATICALLY)

- Sunday, September 16th: elimination play-off A (4 v 7) and B (5 v 6).
- Sunday, September 23rd: qualifying semi-final (2 v 3) and elimination semi-final (winners of A v winners of B).
- Sunday, September 30th: final eliminator (losers of 2 v 3 vs winners of elimination semi-final).
- Sunday, October 7th: Grand Final (winners of 2 v 3 v winners of final eliminator)

### Co-Operative National League TWO

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bns	Pts
Celtic Crusaders	21	18	0	3	858	329	3	57
Featherstone	21	18	0	3	815	336	2	56
Barrow	21	16	0	5	739	383	4	52
Oldham	20	14	0	6	603	372	5	47
Workington	21	12	0	9	629	479	6	42
York	21	9	0	12	432	448	6	33
Swinton	20	10	0	10	547	593	5	29
London Skolars	21	8	1	12	422	582	3	29
Hunslet	20	7	0	13	343	565	7	28
Keighley	21	5	1	15	381	680	4	21
Gateshead	20	6	0	14	365	749	3	21
Blackpool	21	0	0	21	310	928	6	6



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# NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



## The final frontier

THIS weekend sees the final round of regular season fixtures, with a host of issues still to be decided in both Co-operative NL1 and NL2.

The midweek matches will also have a crucial role to play, particularly in NL2, where Swinton Lions and Hunslet Hawks are vying for the final play-off place along with London Skolars.

Swinton travel to Oldham and Hunslet host Gateshead on Wednesday night, with the Lions one point ahead going into those matches.

On Sunday, Swinton are at home to Workington, while the Hawks entertain Keighley.

Either the Lions or Hunslet are favourites to clinch seventh place at present, but any late season jitters could still see Skolars sneak in.

Above those teams, Celtic Crusaders are looking to clinch the NL2 title and automatic promotion by winning away at Gateshead Thunder.

The Welsh outfit are already being linked with a host of impressive potential signings should they achieve their aim, though Thunder are out to spoil the party.

If the Crusaders stumble at the final hurdle, Featherstone could nip in and steal top spot - though they face a difficult trip to Barrow.

The Raiders have issues of their own, as they are bidding to head off a late challenge from Oldham for third place.

In NL1, Castleford Tigers will seal first place and home advantage in their opening play-off game if they win at relegated Rochdale.

Widnes Vikings, their only remaining challengers for the Minor Premiership, have an away trip to Batley Bulldogs, who could still have an unlikely play-off place to play for.

That will depend on Thursday night's match between Sheffield and Whitehaven - if the Eagles win, Batley are out of the race.

Dewsbury Rams are also in contention for sixth at present, and they travel to Leigh - guaranteed to finish fifth - on Sunday.

Haven have to beat Sheffield to assure themselves of third place in NL1, with Halifax poised for any late slip-ups ahead of their home game with Doncaster.

The Dons, along with Rochdale, are already confirmed as dropping down to NL2 for next season in the one key issue that is already decided.

Both clubs will be keen to use relegation to rebuild in NL2, and are expected to be among the front runners in 2008.

This weekend, however, is all about 2007 - and there is still much to be settled ahead of the fascinating play-offs.

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FR Elswood	Brian Tranter	Mick Slicker
Eddie Luckraft	Thomas Joyce	Terry Flanagan
David Webster	Mick Harrop	Dave McGealy
JFS Mortgage Services (John Smith)	Terry Bailey	Noise Killer Acoustics (Steve Bithell)
Sean Whitehead	John Barrie Gallagher	B Giddens
Chris Broadbent	Terry Kelly	Jack Buckley
Dorothy M Johnston	Cheshire Telecom Ltd (Sean Lynch)	Ultan McGovern (Oldham Electrical Supplies)
Mortgage Solutions (Dave Bassett)	Robert Nixon	Mark Antony Kitchens (Mark Harrington)
Lansdowne Trading Services (Chris Stanley)	Derek King	Martin Hunter
Clifford Bardsley	Frank Taylor	David Macauley (Chartered Surveyors)
David Whitehead	Colin Pyke	David Foden
David Lord	I and C Kershaw	Matthew Chambers
Janet Yewdale	Personal Tyres and Exhausts (Pete Beswick)	Oldham Advertiser
Nigel Marland	Savvas Eleftheriou	Paul Robinson
Christopher Hamilton	Total Plus Communications	Mick Kilgannon
Jeffrey Bates	Total Plus Communications	Ray Broadbent
Iain Ashworth	Clarice Stevens	Iain Taylor
Roger Halstead	Sue and Mike Kivlin	Joseph Lawrence Perrins
Steve Deakin	William Hannen	Costin Electrical Services Ltd (Phil Costin)
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James Rochford	Tracey Bradley	Keith Egerton
Noel Brady	Michael Bradshaw	Karen Marrie
Gareth Owen	Shirley Mullaney	Bill Quinn
Roy Wood	Keith Mullaney	Suzanne Kettleton
Denise Buckley	John Barrett	
	Raymond Sankey	

ROB Nixon got home from holiday last Friday and, as a regular collector for the Club Cash lottery, he received through the post on Saturday morning his usual weekly envelope from Roughyeds, containing results sheets and other lottery collection material.

"I put it on one side and didn't open it until that night," he said, "but when I did open it what a fantastic surprise was in store. There was an extra envelope marked 'CONGRATULATIONS' and in it was news of my £500 win on Five Alive. I couldn't believe it. In effect, it will pay for my holiday in France. Brilliant!"

Rob, who is 51, lives in Middleton. Up to three years ago he was a soccer fan. Then he fell out with the game. "It's just money, money, money in football," he said, "and it's got to such a level that it just switched me off completely. I happened to stumble across a rugby league game on TV, I liked it, so I decided to get hooked on my local club and that was Oldham, I've been a fan ever since." And you know what they say about converts being the most passionate of all? True to form, Rob is a season-ticket holder; a Club Cash collector; and a member of Five Alive.

He goes to most home games, often with his seven year old daughter Sophie, and sometimes he gets to away matches, too.

He said: "I love following my local club and living the dream with them through their ups and their downs. That's what being a supporter is all about. I'm not interested in watching a team that's winning all the time, like one of the top Super League clubs.

"I want to do my best for my home club and whether I'm watching a match or knocking on doors collecting money for the Club Cash lottery I enjoy every minute of it because I know I'm doing my bit."

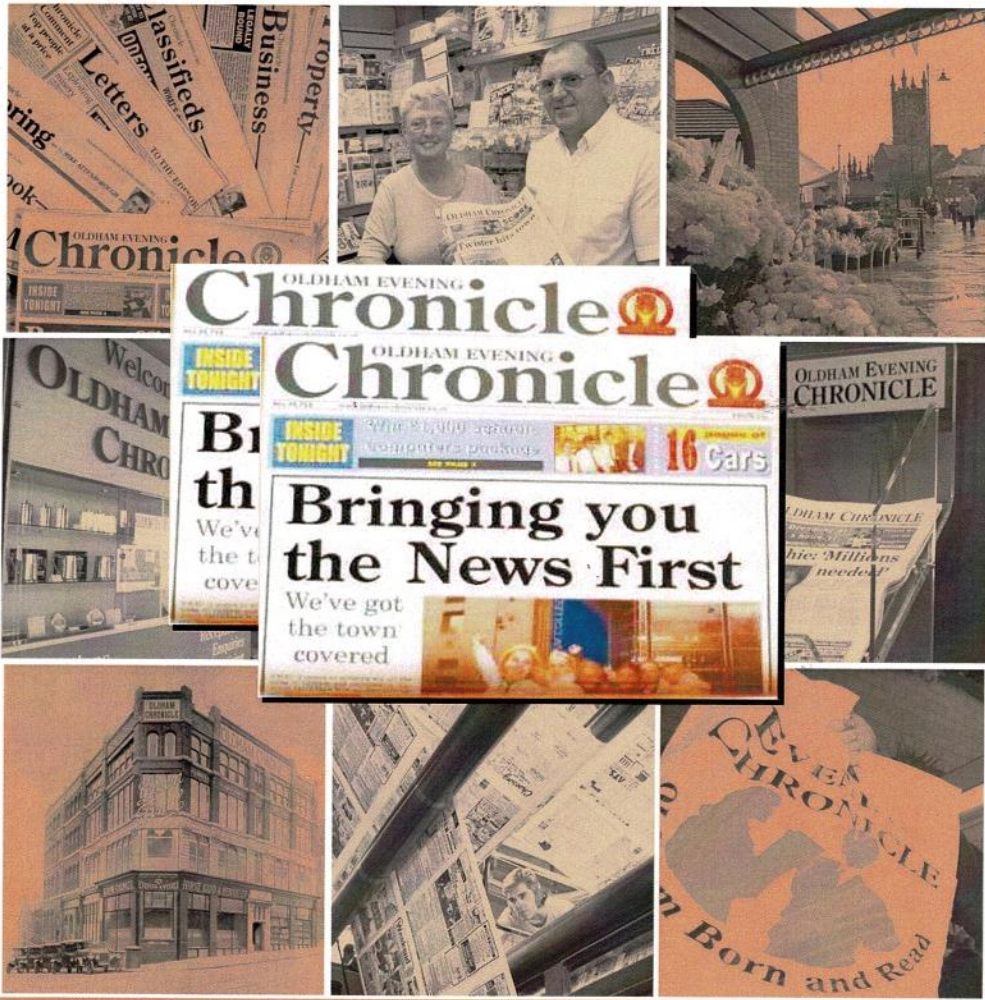
Second prize in the latest Five Alive monthly draw went to Colin Pike, who won two places in the Boundary Park hospitality suite at a forthcoming home game, and third prize (a £25 voucher for the club shop) was won by Michael Bradshaw.

Mrs E Gregg of High Crompton won the £300 first prize in last week's Club Cash draw; the second prize of £100 went to Mr Flynn of Chadderton; and there were two monthly jackpot prizes, namely a mini-European break courtesy of Travelcare won by Mrs Dronsfield of Chadderton and a meal for two at Clayton Green won by Joe Finnerty, c/o the Boltmakers, Rock Street, Oldham.

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# journalistic license

by Matthew Chambers

**IT has to be hoped that many among the 4,327 crowd that saw Oldham put up a strong fight against Celtic Crusaders will make a swift return to Boundary Park this evening.**

Yes, it only cost £1 to get in. But, even though the game was being shown live on Sky, the fact that the game attracted a record-breaking live audience shows that there is still real support for the professional game in the town.

The trick is, of course, to persuade the people passing through the turnstiles to do so again when paying full price — or, should they be armed with a voucher for the London Skolars game this Sunday, at half the normal cost.

The entertainment on offer was certainly of the sort of standard that should entice many to return. Up against highly-talented full-time opponents - easily the division's outstanding side - the Roughyeds battled away bravely and took a deserved lead into the half-time interval.

At that stage, the only negative mark was that the gap wasn't larger. With the class and speed of the Crusaders, there was always the sense that they were waiting for the chance to be let off the leash. So it proved, especially through that magnificent darting effort from Tony Duggan.

Roughyeds supporters may have gone away disappointed, but in truth the result could work in the club's favour.

At least now, the Crusaders appear to be home and hosed as far as the title is concerned. Few could be overly confident were the two teams to be paired up in the grand final.

A third-placed finish would be handy, though, and for that Oldham will need to take maximum points from their next two games and hope that Featherstone win at Barrow on the last day.

That would set up a mouth-watering clash at Post Office Road two weeks on Sunday for the right to get straight through to the final. What a prospect that is.

However, today's opponents are certainly capable of swiftly surtaling such talk.

Having already beaten the Roughyeds in two of the three games the teams have lined up against each other this season, Paul Kidd's men are a capable lot.

They have shown as much in clambering back into a play-off spot, despite being deducted six points earlier in the campaign.

By all accounts the Lions weren't overly impressive in beating Hunslet on Sunday. But as a team who know how to raise their game against the bigger names, they deserve plenty of respect.

*Matthew*



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# players statistics

[up to and including August 30]

NAME	PLAYED	TRIES	GOALS	POINTS
P Ashton	11	3	27	66
C Baines	22	2		8
J Boults	24			
M Brooks	11	1		4
G Costin	20	6		24
J Coyle	8	3		12
A Crabtree	23	1		4
B Ford	4	6		24
I Gordon	4			
A Gorey	10	2		8
I Hodson	17	4		16
J Hough	2			
D Houston	24	6		24
S Hoyle	23	1		4
A Hughes	12	15	9	78
G Langley	24	9	27	90
C Littler	22	5		20
R Mervill	25	3		12
G Morton	4	3	18	48
P O'Connor	14	4		16
M Ogden	5	1	10	24
S Oldham	1			
L Onyango	18	15		60
R Roberts	6	3	1dg	13
A Robinson	10	3		12
N Roden	28	10	2dg	42
W Rogers	10			
L Sanderson	8	1	20	44
I Sinfield	19	2		8
K Smith	10	5		20
W Stevens	3			
M Stout	4	1		4
S Tamghart	23	4		16
T Tonks	15	3		12
A Wilkinson	25	12		48
L Wingfield	4	1		4

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# 2007 fixtures

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
31/01/07	Warrington Wolves	Friendly	Home	7.45pm	42-6	W	789
11/02/07	Rochdale Hornets	NRC	Home	3.00pm	8-24	L	1,145
18/02/07	Swinton Lions	NRC	Home	3.00pm	18-28	L	1,017
25/02/07	Dewsbury Rams	NRC	Away	3.00pm	22-32	L	819
04/03/07	Rochdale Hornets	NRC	Away	3.00pm	6-16	L	816
10/03/07	East Hull	CCC 3	Away	2.00pm	26-10	W	214
18/03/07	Dewsbury Rams	NRC	Home	3.00pm	8-32	L	622
25/03/07	Swinton Lions	NRC	Away	3.00pm	42-18	W	555
01/04/07	Keighley Cougars	CCC4	Away	3.00pm	26-16	W	1039
04/04/07	Featherstone Rovers	NL2	Home	7.45pm	12-23	L	1,162
09/04/07	Hunslet Hawks	NL2	Away	3.30pm	NEW DATE BELOW		
15/04/07	Blackpool Panthers	NL2	Away	3.00pm	40-20	W	501
29/04/07	Keighley Cougars	NL2	Home	3.00pm	32-20	W	847
04/05/07	Celtic Crusaders	NL2	Away	7.35pm	34-26	W	3441
13/05/07	Harlequins	CCC5	Home	12.30pm	6-66	L	559
20/05/07	Barrow Raiders	NL2	Home	3.00pm	50-18	W	848
26/05/07	London Skolars	NL2	Away	3.00pm	34-6	W	636
03/06/07	Workington Town	NL2	Away	3.00pm	27-18	W	1,231
10/06/07	York City Knights	NL2	Home	3.00pm	21-10	W	1,024
17/06/07	Featherstone Rovers	NL2	Away	3.00pm	18-24	L	1,587
24/06/07	Keighley Cougars	NL2	Away	3.00pm	18-26	L	969
01/07/07	Gateshead Thunder	NL2	Home	3.00pm	36-12	W	847
08/07/07	Swinton Lions	NL2	Away	3.00pm	10-17	L	956
15/07/07	Barrow Raiders	NL2	Away	3.00pm	34-26	L	1,348
22/07/07	Hunslet Hawks	NL2	Home	3.00pm	52-22	W	1,024
29/07/07	York City Knights	NL2	Away	3.00pm	15-14	W	1,064
05/08/07	Blackpool Panthers	NL2	Home	3.00pm	46-12	W	858
12/08/07	Workington Town	NL2	Home	3.00pm	44-18	W	1,034
19/08/07	Gateshead Thunder	NL2	Away	3.00pm	28-14	W	407
22/08/07	Hunslet Hawks	NL2	Away	7.30pm	42-6	W	587
30/08/07	Celtic Crusaders	NL2	Home	7.35pm	18-32	L	4,327
05/09/07	Swinton Lions	NL2	Home	7.45pm			
09/09/07	London Skolars	NL2	Home	3.00pm			

Play offs will take place on Sundays, September 16, 23 and 30 with the Grand Final on Sunday 7th October.  
Home\* venue to be arranged.

**Key**  
NRC - Northern Rail Cup  
NL2 - National League Division 2  
CCC - Carnegie Challenge Cup

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# MERCHANDISE on offer

RLFC



AWAY KIT



HOODY



ORANGE T-SHIRT



RED POLO



WHITE T-SHIRT



BASEBALL CAP



CUSHION



LADIES BAG

## SHOP PRICES 2007

Sizes for tee shirts and polos are small to xxl; sizes for pink tees are small to xl

Hoodies	£22	Gym Bag	£4.99	Red/White Striped Polos	£14.99
Tracksuits	£35	Caps	£8.99	Pink Caps	£8.99
Shirts	£43	Mugs	£5.99	Pink Ts	£12.99
Teddies	£7.99	Pennants	£5.99	Pink Scarves	£8.99
T shirts (red/white, orange/black)	£12.99	Beanies	£8.99	Pink bags	£17.99
Ties	£15	Polos	£12.99	Cushions	£5.00