Local. It's a word that pops up
often on Welsh menus.
In fact you've probably come
further than your food has.
Take our local lobster.
Out of the sea, into the kitchen,
onto the plate.
In Aberaeron that's a whopping
108 metre journey.
So close the lobsters could walk
it themselves.

visitwales.co.uk

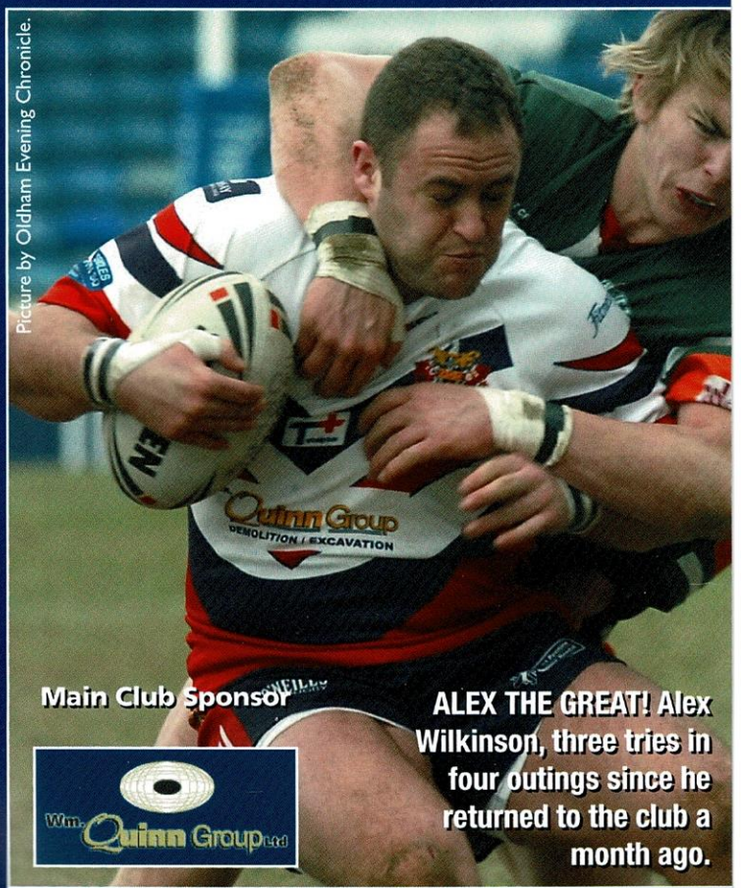
108m

Wales
Cymru

Oldham RLFC

The official Programme of
Oldham Rugby League
Football Club (1997) Ltd

Price £2.50



Picture by Oldham Evening Chronicle.

Main Club Sponsor

Wm. Quinn Group Ltd

ALEX THE GREAT! Alex Wilkinson, three tries in four outings since he returned to the club a month ago.

v York City Knights

National League 2

Sunday 30th March 2008

Kick-Off 3.00pm

The co-operative NATIONAL LEAGUE

Wm. Quinn Group Ltd

Environmental Solutions

Under One Hat

demolition

remediation

validation

asbestos

knotweed

professionals in demolition, remediation and environmental solutions

Wm. Quinn Group Ltd.,
Bennett Street, Ardwick, Manchester, M12 5NL
Tel 0161 276 8160 Fax 0161 276 8167
email info@wnquinngroup.co.uk
website www.wmquinngroup.co.uk

ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE

I have printed the Prediction League table here after the first two rounds and I have to say that generally we have had some very accurate predictions.

This surprises me a little as, usually at the start of the season it is much more difficult deciding the relative merits of all the teams. I am sure we shall have some surprises along the way. We have already seen massive changes in league positions between Rounds 1 and 2.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN IN THE FUN as I am allowing entries up to Wednesday 9 April. If you join late you will begin with the average number of points gained in the rounds that you have missed so it's not as if you are starting at a disadvantage. To prove that Jack and Gill entered after the first round and are now topping the table.

You can enter online by going to www.roughyeds.co.uk/prediction.htm and filling in the application form and you can choose between filling in all 22 rounds predictions, the first 11 rounds or do it on a round by round basis and send your £20 entry fee with your details to the club office. Or you can call in at the Lansdowne Rd office and pick up your forms there. We've already got more participants than ever before but it would be nice to get to the 50 mark and earn £1000 for the club.

1	**Jack & Gill**	**37**	**56**	**93**
2	Coldotcom	29	62	91
3=	Nobchance	43	45	88
3=	Wine Drinker me	44	44	88
3=	Chanimar	46	42	88
6=	Colonel Kitman	42	45	87
6=	Four Red Lions	48	39	87
8	Pie Eater	46	40	86
9=	Yorkshire Boys	39	46	85
9=	Ash on the Lash	40	45	85
9=	Batport	42	43	85
12	Back to Basics	33	50	83
13=	westwalesshark	25	56	81
13=	Excelsior	40	41	81
15=	Av-a-go	35	45	80
15=	Roger 1	44	36	80
17	Apothecary	20	57	77
18=	Brickie	30	44	74
18=	Cromwell	48	26	74
20	Yonner	44	29	73
21	John Cogger's Headband	31	40	71
22=	Owt Fresh	31	39	70
22=	Thanksforallyou'redoing	35	35	70
24	Immaculate Pasta	29	40	69
25=	JJ & MEGA	31	37	68
25=	WATERLOO	37	31	68
27	stillturningup	29	37	66
28=	Wastead	29	36	65
28=	rlexpert	38	27	65
30	Abates	35	28	63
31=	Steady Eddie	27	35	62
31=	Jane M	29	33	62
33	Johnny Mac	22	39	61
34	Fatbusgoughie	19	33	52
35	Pinche	20	28	48
36	Pumpkin Eater	20	22	42

Nigel

The **co-operative** membership

The card with a conscience

Enjoy a share of our profits
Help the community profit too
Have a say and be involved

Join us
visit www.co-operative.co.uk/members
or phone 0845 090 1456*

* Calls cost no more than 4p per minute for BT customers. Calls from any other networks may vary. Calls may be recorded for quality and training purposes. In addition, we regularly gather feedback from members who have used our service to ensure we provide the best possible service at all times.

The **co-operative** food bank pharmacy funeralcare travel insurance

From the **Boardroom**

With Chris Hamilton...

Mission accomplished. That most definitely is the message to come out of our first two league games over Easter.

With six points in the bag and no new injuries to speak of we have to be very satisfied with what has happened so far.

With over half the teams in the division having already lost at least one match we can be pleased (even if professional pride stops us from being completely satisfied) with our work so far.

What the games have demonstrated also is that even teams who are expected to struggle this season such as Hunslet (by their own admission) will not roll over and let teams walk their way to three points.

I personally thought that Hunslet, for a mainly young team, played with an abundance of enthusiasm and commitment and whilst you undoubtedly need more than that to win most games is again demonstrates how tough this division can be.

On top of the good news about new injuries comes the prospect that Lucas Onyango and Lee Wingfield will both hopefully be back soon, possibly via the reserves, to further bolster the First Team squad.

As with any team you need some good luck with the injuries you get during the course of a season and we are certainly due some good fortune and this can make or break your season.

Our visitors today, York City Knights , are themselves going through something of a re building process and again have lots of younger players amongst their ranks. One thing is guaranteed though, with the involvement of the March brothers in both a playing and coaching front, is that they will also be well organised and very competitive and there will certainly be no room for error in our own game today.

We were relatively pleased with the attendance for our first home league game against Hunslet, which also produced the largest gate of the day in National League two and we very much hope that people maybe trying Oldham RLFC for the first time will be back again today to give us another try.

With this being the second of a three match home run we will again be looking to put down a marker as far as our season goes and so far, without always being as convincing as we would like , we have managed to win all of our home matches in 2008. If we can continue along the same lines for the best part of the season and pick up points away from home as well we will not be a million miles off come the end of the season.

We are, however, taking nothing for granted, and everybody connected with the club knows that we must work hard all of the time to try and achieve our goals.

Keep up your support for the team and try to help the lads to another three points today.

Enjoy the game

Chris Hamilton

O'NEILLS®
FULLY PERSONALISED
RUGBY KITS

LEIGH MINERS RANGERS ARLFC

OLDHAM R.L.F.C.

BLACKBROOK ARLFC

CLUB DETAILS AND SPONSORS

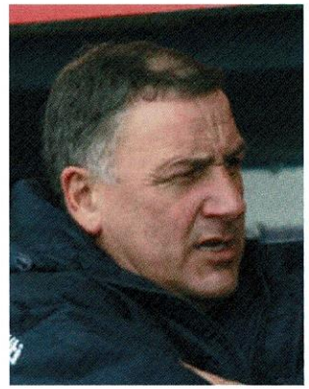
FULL COLOUR BROCHURE AVAILABLE SOON. TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY PLEASE CONTACT OUR SALES REPRESENTATIVE. DETAILS BELOW.

CONTACT
NEIL WILLIAMS
EMAIL: NEILWILLIAMS@ONEILLSUK.COM
PH: 07872 839177

www.oneills.com
SALES@ONEILLSUK.COM

CoachesComments

With Steve Deakin...



Welcome again to Boundary Park for today's game against the York City Knights, a team that is coached by my mate Paul March and one that I am sure will have a big say in the end of season shake up come play off time.

We go into the game on the back of two good results against firstly Rochdale and then Hunslet at home on Easter Monday which not only gave us maximum points but also meant the opposition failed to gain bonus points against us, a factor that may well bear some consequence come the end of the regular season. At the time of writing the other positive to come out of the Easter period was the fact that we didn't get any injuries to speak of, so we are still in pretty good health, playing some good stuff – 35 tries in our last 4 games – and feeling confident about the future with the imminent return of Lucas and Lee Wingfield to the squad and the reserve team playing too ; things are on the up and it is a good time to be involved at Oldham RLFC.

Looking to the future we have a tough game to negotiate today and then we have the last 16 game against Whitehaven to come so you are getting plenty of opportunities to see a good side play rugby league as it should be played and at the same time be part of the re- emergence of Oldham as a major player on the national scene, something we have all wanted for a long time. What an occasion it would be for us to do it on the back of cup runs in both the Northern Rail and Challenge Cups as well as in the league. Where do you come in? EASY! Bring a mate along, shout it out as loud as you can that the Roughyeds are on a roll and need more support - in a positive way - Get behind the team and make as much noise as possible, intimidate the opposition with your vocal presence and I am sure that together we can and indeed will make this " the start of something special " and truly a year for us all to remember.

Enjoy the game

Deaks

HEAD OFFICE
Lansdowne Road
Chadderton, Oldham OL9 9EF
Tel: 0161 628 3677
Fax: 0161 627 5700
HOME GROUND
Boundary Park
Furtherwood Road
Oldham OL1 2PA

QUIT-IT
0800 432 03 03

YorkCityKnights**PenPics**

Captain: Scott Rhodes — **Half-back**
Date of birth: 21/6/80
Now in his sixth season with his home-town club, the Scotland international was made club captain by new boss Paul March. Pacy and dangerous when taking on the line, and regarded as one of the best half-backs outside Super League on his day.

Player-coach: Paul March — **Scrum-half**
Date of birth: 25/7/79
Played most of his ten-year career in Super League with Wakefield and Huddersfield, having helped both sides to win promotion from NL1, before being released by the Wildcats last year. Has always planned to move into coaching and to that end has two years' coaching experience with leading amateurs Thornhill Trojans. This opportunity at National League level has nevertheless come early at the age of 28, and the dual role of player-coach adds more pressure, but he is well regarded in the game and comes with high recommendations. Should be a key player on the field.

Mark Applegarth — **Prop/second-row**
Date of birth: 10/12/84
Released by Super League side Wakefield, where he was a first-team squad player but suffered an injury-hit last season, this hard-working, super-fit forward followed player-coach Paul March to York. Could be a key man.

Andy Bailey — **Prop**
Date of birth: 15/10/82
Only 25 but an experienced head up front. Played in Super League for Hull, and helped Castleford win NL1 in 2005. Joins York after leaving Rochdale, then an NL1 club.

Sam Blaney — **Centre**
Date of birth: 4/12/89
Heworth U16s Player of the Year in 2005 and a North Yorkshire junior, before joining Hull's youth system. Was formerly on the Knights scholarship scheme and is now on York College's rugby league course.

Dave Buckley — **Second-row/prop**
Date of birth: 14/10/81
Big-hitting Aussie, with Irish ancestors, is a firm favourite with the Knights faithful. Rarely makes mistakes and is looking for another good season to force his way into Ireland's World Cup squad. Knights vice-captain.

Matt Danville — **Centre**
Date of birth: 31/3/82
BARLA Great Britain international and a top player with leading amateurs Skirlaugh. Paul March hopes he will "take NL2 by storm".

Ross Divorty — **Second-row/prop**
Date of birth: 27/11/88
Impressed for Hull's academy but now needs first-team action. Highly-rated and many experts reckon he could go far in the game.

Danny Ekis — **Prop**
Date of birth: 17/1/82
A star player for Hunslet, he plays in big stints and was a pack leader, despite not being the biggest prop, always doing well against York. Won promotion from NL2 with Keighley in 2003.

Adam Endersby — **Prop**
Date of birth: 7/1/82
Non-stop former York Acorn amateur will look to break into the team having spent all of last season in the academy ranks.

Ryan Esders — **Second-row/loose-forward**
Date of birth: 20/10/86
Youngster proved to be one of the finds of the season last term after making step up from Hull Dockers ARLC. Powerful for his age and feisty too, with no little ability.

Dale Ferris — **Winger**
Date of birth: 26/8/78
A big and strong three-quarter, he will look to build on solid academy season last year.

Andy Gargan — **Half-back/hooker/loose-forward**
Date of birth: 21/3/84
Former York Acorn and Great Britain amateur had a hit-and-miss first season but will look to build on that and improve further under fellow half-back Paul March, who may also look to use him at loose-forward.

Danny Grimshaw — **Half-back**
Date of birth: 25/2/86
Debut season last year was hampered by injuries but the former Castleford academy player has shown promise and has impressed for amateurs Sharlston over the winter.

Steve Grundy — **Second-row/loose-forward**
Date of birth: 2/12/85
Not the biggest of back-rowers but hard-working with good footwork in attack, deceptive pace and an excellent attitude in defence.

Tom Hodgson — **Hooker**
Date of birth: 12/5/88
A star player for New Earswick All Blacks ARLC, he joined the Knights academy last year and is looking to push for first-team recognition this term.

Rugby Oldham
A RUGBY LEAGUE COMMUNITY TRUST

SUPPORT ROUGHYED**RESERVES**

Paul Hughes — **Hooker**
Date of birth: 28/12/84
Feisty and hard-working dummy-half signed from Featherstone. Younger brother of Carl, who had a spell at York in 2003 and is also now with Featherstone.

Rob Kelly — **Second-row**
Date of birth: 1/3/86
Youngster became a regular in Dewsbury's NL1 team last season under his dad, Andy Kelly, having been their academy Player of the Year the season before. Former junior at Thornhill, where Paul March and James Ratcliffe hail from.

David Leeke — **Winger**
Date of birth: 14/2/90
Club have high hopes for this teenage former York Acorn ARLC junior, who has joined from Leeds Rhinos academy. Young but quick and could be one to watch, and is certainly one for the future.

Steve Lewis — **Centre**
Date of birth: 22/10/86
Followed player-coach Paul March in moving from Wakefield where he was part of the first-team squad albeit without breaking into the team. Good academy grounding and could go well at NL2 level.

Lee Mapal — **Winger/full-back**
Date of birth: 17/7/85
Fleet-footed former New Earswick amateur scored two tries in two games at end of 2006 and enjoyed exciting debut season last year, finishing as club's top try-scorer with 19 and being nominated for NL2 Young Player of Year award.

David March — **Hooker**
Date of birth: 25/7/79
Followed his twin, player-coach Paul, from Wakefield having spent almost all of his career in Super League. Played 203 times for Wakefield after making his debut in 1997. Will be a key man for York. Is also an adept goal-kicker.

John Oakes — **Centre**
Date of birth: 12/2/88
One of Dewsbury Rams' top academy starlets, who was coached by the Knights' new assistant-boss, James Ratcliffe, at Tetley's Stadium last year.

Kyle Palmer — **Prop**
Date of birth: 7/1/85
Signed from York Acorn ARLC as a centre, the big youngster played most of last year in the U21s until ex-boss Mick Cook threw him in at the deep end as a prop due to an injury crisis. Quickly looked the part – only to dislocate shoulder in pre-season.

Danny Ratcliffe — **Full-back/half-back**
Date of birth: 14/3/87
Dewsbury Rams' academy Player of the Year last season and arguably the best youngster at top amateurs Thornhill Trojans. Nephew of new assistant coach James Ratcliffe. Good support player, quick, and can kick goals.

Rob Spicer — **Loose-forward**
Date of birth: 22/9/84
Double Player of the Year last season, despite missing the end of the campaign after a knee op. It was a big boost when he re-signed, even though that surgery means he misses start of this term. Superb in defence and usually error-free with ball.

Jack Stearman — **Prop**
Date of birth: 30/1/88
A product of New Earswick All Blacks ARLC, he is learning the semi-professional ropes in the academy and will look to take his first-team chance if and when it comes.

Johnny Waldron — **Winger**
Date of birth: 22/10/82
Debut season was ruined by injury as he was limited to just one appearance. Pre-season this term has also been hit by injury but he will hope to prove his worth in NL2 after record-breaking try-scoring exploits with amateurs York Acorn.

Luke Watling — **Loose-forward**
Date of birth: 18/4/91
Star in the making. Joined in first-team training last year at the tender age of 16 and was a regular in the under-21s. Now on the rugby league course at York College, which is linked into the Knights' youth system.

Oliver Wilcox-Harrison — **Second-row**
Date of birth: 10/10/89
Voted the Knights' academy Player of the Year last season – aged only 17 – and signed a two-and-a-half-year deal last July. Has a job to break into the first team this year but is certainly one for the future.

Tom Wilcox-Harrison — **Centre**
Date of birth: 10/10/89
Former York Acorn ARLC junior did not play much for the academy last year due to injury but is full of promise. Identical twin of Oliver.

Scott Woodcock — **Prop**
Date of birth: 15/11/83
Signed from leading amateurs Thornhill, where he was coached by Paul March. Has gained all the Great Britain honours in the amateur game and is looking to make an impact at semi-professional level.

Oldham Fixtures '08

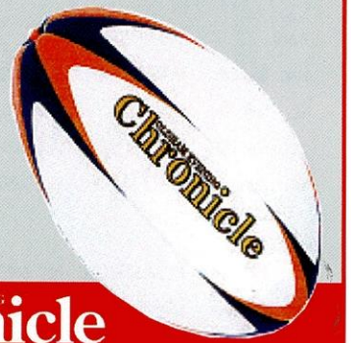
Oldham's score always appears first

Comp		Opp	V	KO	Res	Att
January						
	Sun 13th	LEEDS RHINOS	A	3:00pm	4-50	6,340
	Sun 20th	**HULL KR**	**H**	**3.00pm**	Postponed	
	Sun 27th	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm	20-26	1,108
February						
NRC	**Fri 1st**	**SWINTON**	**H**	**8:00pm**	22-20	848
NRC	Fri 8th	SALFORD	A	8:00pm	12-40	4,224
NRC	Sun 17th	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm	Postponed	
NRC	**Fri 22nd**	**SALFORD**	**H**	**8:00pm**	18-14	1,350
NRC	**Fri 29th**	**ROCHDALE**	**H**	**8:00pm**	38-8	1,350
March						
CCC3	Sun 9th	BRITISH ARMY	A	1.30pm	56-10	500
NRC	Sun 16th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	52-10	549
NL	Fri 21st	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm	46-32	1,003
NL	**Mon 24th**	**HUNSLET**	**H**	**3:00pm**	40-12	1,168
NL	**Sun 30th**	**YORK**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
April						
NRC	Sun 6th	**WHITEHAVEN**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
NL	Sun 13th	KEIGHLEY	A	3:00pm		
CCC4	Sun 20th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm		
NL	**Sun 27th**	**ROCHDALE**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
May						
NL	**Mon 5th**	**BLACKPOOL**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
NL	Sat 10th	LONDON	A	3:00pm		
	Sun 11th	CHALL CUP 5th ROUND				
NL	**Sun 18th**	**SWINTON**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
NL	Sat 24th	GATESHEAD	A	6:30pm		
	Sun 25th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP QF				
NL	Fri 30th	DONCASTER	A	8:00pm		
June						
	Sun 1st	CHALL CUP QF				
NL	**Sun 8th**	**LONDON**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
NL	Sun 15th	HUNSLET	A	3:00pm		
	Sun 15th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP SF				
NL	Suny 22nd	BLACKPOOL	A	3:00pm		
NL	**Sun 29th**	**GATESHEAD**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
July						
NL	Sun 6th	WORKINGTON	A	3:00pm		
	Sun 6th	NORTH RAIL CUP FINAL				
NL	Fri 11th	BARROW	A	7:30pm		
NL	**Thur 17th**	**DONCASTER**	**H**	**7:30pm**		
NL	**Sun 27th**	**KEIGHLEY**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
	Sun 27th	CHALLENGE CUP SF				
August						
NL	Sun 3rd	YORK	A	3:00pm		
NL	**Sun 10th**	**BARROW**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
NL	Sun 17th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm		
NL	**Sun 24th**	**WORKINGTON**	**H**	**3:00pm**		
	Sat 30th	CHALLENGE CUP FINAL				
September						
	Sun 7th	ELIMINATION PLAY OFFS				
	Sun 14th	QUALIFYING/ ELIMINATION SEMI-FINALS				
	Sun 21st	FINAL ELIMINATOR				
	Sun 28th	N L GRAND FINAL				
October						
	Sat 4th	S L GRAND FINAL				

All the **Weekend Sport** every Monday
Get in the **Front Row** every Wednesday
Be on the **Touchline** every Thursday

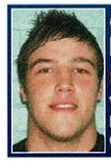
Results, news, teams and much more every week . . . the Chronicle is essential for keeping up-to-date with your team

- **Monday** ~ the round-up and results from the weekend's games
- **Wednesday** ~ news and views from the Roughyeds
- **Thursday** ~ all the news from the amateur clubs

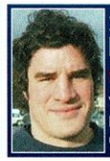


More Rugby in your OLDHAM EVENING **Chronicle**

Player**Sponsors**



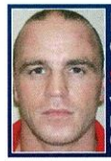
Chris **BAINES**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160



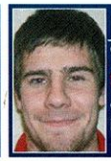
Simon **BALDWIN**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Jason **BOULTS**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Matty **BROOKS**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

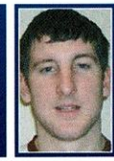


Daryl **CARDISS**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160



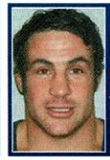
James **COYLE**
Sponsored by
Chris and Alex Hamer

Tommy **GOULDEN**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160



Tommy **GRUNDY**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Danny **HALLIWELL**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160



Simeon **HOYLE**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Phil **JOSEPH**
Sponsored by
Red Eye Design Limited
01777 861262

Gareth **LANGLEY**
Sponsored by
F R Elswood Ltd Ceilings & Partitions
0161 678 6306

Craig **LITTLER**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Richard **MERVILL**
Sponsored by
F R Elswood Ltd Ceilings & Partitions
0161 678 6306

Mick **NANYN**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Paul **O'CONNOR**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Lucas **ONYANGO**
Sponsored by
Maureen & Karen

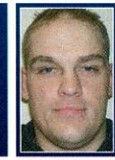
Robert **ROBERTS**
Sponsored by
John Barrett

Adam **ROBINSON**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Neil **RODEN**
Sponsored by
Nigel Marland

Marcus **ST HILAIRE**
Sponsored by
Integrated Information Techniques Ltd 01274 889 080

Lee **SANDERSON**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160



Warren **STEVENS**
Sponsored by
Totalplus Communications Ltd 0161 763 0321

Said **TAMGHART**
Sponsored by
John & Lynda McAndrew

Alex **WILKINSON**
Sponsored by
WM Quinn Group Limited
0161 278 8160

Lee **WINGFIELD**
Sponsored by
ORISA

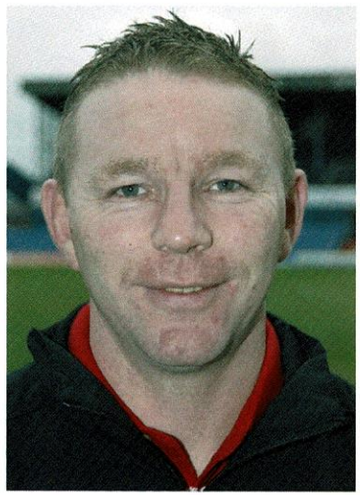
GOALKICKER
Sponsored by
H Mullaney & Son Ltd (Skip Hire)
01457 832 870

CASS MAKES HIS MARK BEHIND THE SCENES

...Deaks's No 2 says he is 'learning lots in a professional set-up'

Staff Profile: MARK CASS

by ROGER HALSTEAD



PICTURE COURTESY OF THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

MARK Cass believes you are never too old to learn - and that's exactly why he jumped at the chance of joining Oldham as coach Steve Deakin's assistant when he saw the post advertised in the sport's trade press.

Now some may think that the 36-year-old former Hull, Batley and Hunslet half-back or hooker was taking a backward step, given that he had been head coach of his local club, the Hawks, for the previous 18 months.

In a long playing career he had almost become part of the furniture at Batley, where he spent 12 years, chalked up most of his 400 or so career games and played under numerous coaches on the notoriously sloping Mount Pleasant pitch, including David Ward (two spells), Mike Kuiti and Paul Storey.

He was a 'Bulldog' for so long that Mount Pleasant became almost a second home for Mark, his rugby-mad wife Pauline and their daughters Jessica, now aged 18, and Sophie, aged 13. The youngest, two-year-old Chelsea, arrived on the scene too late to get caught up in all things Batley, but she's a regular at Boundary Park now as fans witnessed when she shared mascot duties at the Hunslet game last week with our regular mascot, the chairman's little boy, Harry, a real Roughyeds fanatic, if ever you saw one.

Harry, an old hand now at this mascot lark, took the opportunity to chaperone little Chelsea on the pitch in what was a special moment for the Cass family, given that Hunslet were in town and Mark finished his playing career at the South Leeds Stadium before taking up the positions of assistant coach to Roy Sampson and later of head coach.

He was also born and bred in the Hunslet district of south Leeds - a hugely productive breeding ground for rugby league talent - and by finishing his playing career at his local club, situated just around the corner from the family home, he managed to fulfil a lifetime ambition.

"Being a Hunslet lad, it was something I always wanted to do," recalled Mark this week, "and I'm glad I was able to make it happen. In coaching terms I probably got thrown in at the deep end when Roy Sampson left. It was a good grounding and I enjoyed every minute of it, but some people did express the view that by applying for an assistant's post I was taking a backward step.

"I didn't see it that way. To me, it was a sideways move. Sometimes you have to move sideways before you can move forwards. By joining Oldham I was coming to a club that was miles more professional than Hunslet -that's not to be disrespectful to them, but it is a fact - and I wanted to be part of what was happening here.

"Oldham is a very professional set-up and we get treated right. That's all you can ask for from any club. Also, on a personal note, I am learning a lot as well. Steve (Deakin) is a clever coach and a very knowledgeable one. As a consequence I am learning all the time .

"My ambition is to become a head coach again. At my age, 36, there is no point in doing the job if you don't have ambition. If you are happy to stand still that's what you will do. I want to move forward eventually with more experience and more knowledge behind me and here at Oldham, alongside Deaks, I am getting that experience and learning more all the time in a very professional environment."

But back to the beginning. Mark was nine when he first started playing rugby league at the Middleton amateur club in downtown south Leeds -- birthplace of a 'who's who' of rugby league stars as long as your arm. Gary Schofield was reared in the district. So was Jason Robinson. And scores and scores of others.

Scouts from the big clubs used to rub shoulders on packed touchlines. The young Mark played for Hunslet Boys and Yorkshire Boys - at scrum-half - and at 16 both he and his half-back partner at town and county level, Lee Hanlon, took the path that Schoey had taken when they signed for Hull FC, then under the command of Aussie coach Brian Smith.

"We were raised in a good breeding ground," said Mark. "The year Lee and I signed for Hull we were two of about 16 lads who turned pro for various clubs from Middleton alone.

"It was about the same time that Steve McNamara signed for Hull from off their doorstep. But we were all kids together at the Boulevard. They were great times and I loved it there. Under Brian Smith I was included in squads from a very young age, but things change at clubs when coaches move on - that's life - and it wasn't quite the same for me when Smithy left and Noel 'Crusher' Cleal took over. Different coaches have different ideas.

"So I signed for Batley at the age of 21. David Ward was coach at the time, and it was David who turned me from a half-back into a hooker. I always thought of myself as a scrum-half in my younger days, but I was happy at hooker, too, and of my 400 or so games, most of them for Batley, I probably played around 350 with a No 9 on my back.

"They are very similar roles in the modern game. The only big difference is that you have more tackling to do at hooker."

The Bulldogs were promoted twice during Mark's long tenure at Mount Pleasant and another highlight was victory over Oldham in the Trans-Pennine Cup final of 1998.

Wherever Mark has played he has enjoyed his rugby - on the playing fields of South Leeds, then at Hull, Batley and Hunslet. "Rugby league players are a breed of their own," he said. "Nobody would play this game if they didn't enjoy it. To be honest, Hunslet didn't mean all that much to me as a boy because I was more interested in playing than watching. The town team used to get tickets and I used to go occasionally down to Elland Road when they played there.

"But it was when I got older that the 'hometown team' thing started to kick in. I was really made up when I got the opportunity to end my playing career there in the district where I had started all those years earlier and where I still lived.

"Pauline has always been there for me wherever I have played. I couldn't keep her away. Jessica and Sophie used to watch me play at Batley, but then Jessica became a Leeds Rhinos fan and she's 18 now with other interests as well. Sophie still comes with us to the Oldham games and little Chelsea, of course."

Mark was quick to point out that any similarity between the name of his youngest daughter and a certain soccer team of some repute was merely coincidental. "Soccer? Not for me. I'm a rugby league man and proud of it."

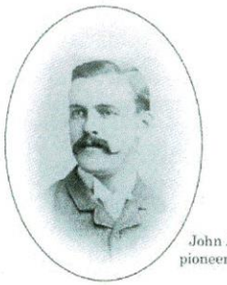
He said it with such passion that you had to believe him, too.

Roger Halstead

Community Legal Service

WRIGLEY CLAYDON

SOLICITORS since 1795



John Armstrong, Clerk Of The Peace, Oldham and Lancashire rugby player, early pioneer of both Oldham Rugby Club and solicitors Armstrong, Whitticker and Ogden forerunners to today's Oldham RLFC solicitors Wrigley Claydon.

29/33 UNION STREET OLDHAM OL1 1HH
DX 23607 OLDHAM EMAIL@wrigleyclaydon.com WEBSITE www.wrigleyclaydon.com
FAX 0161 624 3743 TEL 0161 624 6811

Totalplus

Totalplus Communications Ltd specialise in the design, installation and management of structured cabling systems for all types of environments, ranging from single outlets to full site cabling and roll out programmes. We place a strong emphasis on designing clients specific systems to meet both existing and future needs.

for further information or quotations contact

Totalplus

Suite 226 Warth Business Centre,
Warth Road, Bury, BL9 9NB.
Telephone **0161 763 0321** Fax **0161 763 0421**
alternatively call **Bob Thompson** on **07973 684 299** or **Paul Gough** on **07973 764 938**

Guest**Writer...**

No 5: GEOFF COOKE

Former editor of our match-day programme

It was right that Swinton should mark the deaths of three former players, Jim Hope, Vinnie Smith and the great Alan Buckley.

But I was not happy with the idea of a minute's applause. The tradition in Rugby League has always been a minute's silence and Rugby League fans invariably mark this immaculately. The passing of the incomparable Eric Ashton was marked by much bigger crowds than Swinton can manage and the power of silence is much more respectful than any amount of applause, no matter how well intended. One minute's applause was introduced by soccer because football fans could not be relied upon to show respect, although Manchester United and Manchester City fans contradicted that with an impressive display to mark the anniversary of the Munich air crash. I'm sorry to criticise in a sensitive matter like this but in my view a minute's silence is a tradition Rugby League clubs should not abandon.

The Directors of Oldham R.L.F.C. keep trying to attract better crowds with a series of initiatives all of which deserve praise. Wonderful opera singing, season tickets for town team juniors, cheap parent and child tickets, free entry with a donation to charity or an experiment with Friday night football all have merit. Unfortunately, nearly all have coincided with some bitterly cold, windy weather which in an era of 'Summer' rugby acts as a real disincentive. Oldham's Directors must not lose heart and should persist. Hopefully a fine squad of players offering up quality football and a winning streak can slowly build confidence in the town's all too many 'floating voters'. I would hope that within a month and with improved weather a good few more hundred spectators can be added to current levels. And, maybe, for the future the RFL could look at how soon the season starts and how it is composed because you can't sell 'shirt sleeved' football in conditions more suited to Arctic clothing.

As I understand it this season the Touch Judges are policing offside and communicating on microphone to the Referee. If this is intended to eliminate inconsistency my observation is that it's not working. But I'm no more bothered about that than if it were the Referee's sole responsibility because inconsistency is inevitable whenever human judgement is involved. However, I'm not happy with the kind of extended advantage to the attacking side which allows numerous passes and, maybe a kick, to occur, to say nothing of a lengthy passage of time, only for the defenders then to be penalised for offside. It's confusing for spectators and if the offside pulled has not directly interfered with the attack it's unnecessary. It may be the current law but, once again, the law's an ass.

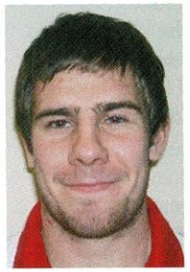
Geoff Cooke

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

MAKING A POINT OR TWO AS THE SEASON UNFOLDS

Coyle, Nanyn set the pace in chase to bust records

With nine games gone in all competitions this season, scrum-half James Coyle and centre Mick Nanyn are already looking capable of writing their names in the record books of the 'new' Oldham club before the season ends in September.



James Coyle

James has already done something no other player has done in the ten years Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd has existed - he has scored at least one try in the last SEVEN games. His total to date stands at 11, and he is already well on the way to beating the club record 26 which winger Nick Johnson totalled in 2004.

Mick Nanyn

Pat Rich landed 146 goals in 2001 to establish the club's goals-in-a-season record and Mick currently has 37 to his name - still a long way to go but he is on target. In the same season Rich scored seven tries to establish the points-in-a-season record at 320 - and, would you believe, Mick has already matched Pat's total of tries with most of the season still to go.ssional rugby league is still alive and kicking in Oldham.

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Nine games played to date)

	P	T	G	Pts
Chris Baines	7	-	-	-
Simon Baldwin	3	-	-	-
Jason Boults	9	3	-	12
Matty Brooks	4	-	-	-
Daryl Cardiss	3	-	-	-
James Coyle	9	11	-	44
Tommy Grundy	6	-	-	-
Tommy Goulden	7	-	-	-
Danny Halliwell	8	2	-	8
Simeon Hoyle	3	-	-	-
Phil Joseph	9	6	-	24
Gareth Langley	5	1	6	16
Craig Littler	7	6	-	24
Richard Mervill	8	-	-	-
Mick Nanyn	8	7	37	102
Paul O'Connor	8	3	-	12
Rob Roberts	8	2	-	8
Adam Robinson	6	1	-	4
Neil Roden	9	4	-	16
Warren Stevens	6	-	-	-
Marcus St Hilaire	9	6	-	24
Said Tamghart	7	-	-	-
Alex Wilkinson	4	3	-	12

Thank You Letter from Wigan based Roughyed fan.

Dear Roughyeds Fans,

On the 23rd Feb. 2008 I organised a fundraiser for Shevington Community Association, which took the form of a "Sixties Revival Night". A band of "local" lads including Roughyeds supporter, Richard Bostock and local DJ Barrie Pulford provided the entertainment, giving their services and time for free. The Orrell St. James' Social Club was the venue for the event which again was provided free of charge.

The aim of the evening was to raise monies, which would go to help provide "matched funding" for a Community Centre Re-development project, with extended sports facilities for people of all ages. Many local people are still members of the excellent Oldham RFLC Lottery. Shevington, like all communities, has a small but significant number of youngsters on the streets and the Youth Club project was seen as an opportunity to re-direct some of their attention. Some active youth members had already secured a £10,000 grant to install new toilets and kitchen. We older members decided to help support their excellent achievement.

We held auctions, raffles, Tombola etc. with over 150 "gifts" from friends, relatives and local businesses. Three North West Legendary Rugby Clubs came to our assistance and provided their own mini "Sport Relief". The Wigan Warriors donated a signed ball, signed photographs and a pair of complimentary tickets for any home game. Sale Sharks provided a signed World Cup rugby ball. Chris and his excellent team of Roughyeds sent us a fabulous new home jersey that had been signed by the whole of the current squad. A wonderful four-day, three nights self drive holiday was also donated for auction by the local Shearings Holiday Company.

Two weeks before the event took place, disaster struck and the centre was broken into and vandalised by six youths believed to be from another specific area in the Borough. The success of the evening was even more important. I am glad to say that £2,038.11 was raised to provide a new portable sound system and much needed refurbishment of the main hall and meetings room.

I would like to sincerely thank Bill, Chris, Sean and all at the club for their generous donation which is yet another indication of the club's commitment to not only youth in the local Service Area through its own newly formed Reserve Grade team, but also to youth and youngsters in general.

Best wishes,

Tony Bostock.

"TWO BOBS" proves difficult to put down.

HAVE A FLUTTER - AND HELP US TO TAKE THE CLUB FORWARD

Oldham R.L.F.C.

CLUB CASH

FOR £1 A WEEK YOU CAN WIN

£300 Every Week Guaranteed

£100 Every Week Guaranteed

£10x5 Every Week Guaranteed

Plus

Jackpot last Friday Monthly

European Holiday Mini-Break (courtesy of Travelcare, Henshaw Street)

Meal for two at Clayton Green

Plus

In June... £500 in vouchers for Mann's Furniture, Yorkshire Street

In July..Dream Holiday (courtesy of Travecare, Henshaw Street)

In December...£500 in vouchers for Mann's Bed Store, Union Street

Automatic Payout - No need to claim

Ring John on 0161 628 3677

Oldham R.L.F.C.

FIVE ALIVE

FOR £5 A WEEK YOU CAN WIN

£500 A Month Guaranteed

2 Match-Day Sponsors Suite Places

£25 Voucher for Club Shop

Plus

Built in Benefits as follows:

Season's Car Park Pass

Club Tie for the Men

Tymbuktu Voucher for the Ladies

Mention in the programme

Lunches with Speaker

Use of BP Lounge and Bar

10% Sponsorship Discount

Subs paid by cheque (Quarterly in advance) or by Standing Order

Automatic Payout - No need to claim

Ring John on 0161 628 3677

FiveAliveMembers

Name

John McAndrew
Saddleworth Sports
FR Elswood
Eddie Luckraft
David Webster
Ians Car Sales (Ian Croxon)
Chris Broadbent
Dorothy M Johnston
Dane Bassett (Mortgage Solutions)
Lansdowne Trading Services
Suzanne Kettleton
Clifford Bardsley
David Whitehead
David Lord
Janet Yewdale
Nigel Marland
Christopher Hamilton
Jeffrey Bates
Iain Ashworth
Roger Halstead
Steve Deakin
Nick Henry
Interior Door Systems (Joe Collins)
James Rochford
Noel Brady
Gareth Owen
Roy Wood
Denise Buckley
Neil Houghton
Valerie Wynn
Brian Tranter
Thomas Joyce
Mick Harrop
Terry Bailey
John Barrie Gallagher
Robert Nixon
Derek King
Frank Taylor
Colin Pike
Bill Quinn
I & C Kershaw
Personal Tyres & Exhausts
Savvas Eleftheriou
Totalplus Communications (P Gough)
Clarice Stevens
William Hannen
The Bs
Tracey Bradley
Promotional Print (T Bradley)
Braddy
Shirley Mullaney
Keith Mullaney
John Barrett
Raymond Sankey
Cyril Farnworth
John Heap
Terry Flanagan
Dave McGealy
Noise Killer Accoustics (S Bithell)
B Giddens
Sean Whitehead
Jack Buckley
Ultan McGovern
Mark Antony Kitchens (Mark Harrington)
Martin Hunter
David Macauley Chartered Surveyors
David Foden
Matthew Chambers
Totalplus Communications (Bob)
Paul Robinson
Mick Kilgannon
Joseph Lawrence Perrins
Costin Electrical Services Ltd (Phil Costin)
Iain Taylor
Ray Broadbent
Terry Kelly
Sean Lynch
Hans Bateson
John Kettleton
Keith Egerton
Karen Marrie
Sue and Mike Kivlin
John Davies
Michael Quinn

LEVER'S
FISH & CHIP
RESTAURANT

UNITS 2 & 3

MARKET HALL

OLDHAM

MON - SAT 10.30-5.30

0161 633 0074

Match Sponsor

Totalplus

Tel 0161 763 0321

Man of the Match Sponsor

H MULLANEY & SON LTD
SKIP HIRE
Tel 01457 832 870

Physiotherapy

• Sports injuries • General body pain • Quit smoking

Oaklands Hospital is a leading private hospital offering a range of treatments for pain relief, physiotherapy and sports injuries.

Our physiotherapy team are all Chartered Physiotherapists and offer treatment to address a wide range of sports injuries, lower back pain, arthritic pain, women's health problems and 'fit for work' assessments.

We also offer acupuncture for pain relief as well as to help people who want to give up smoking.

- Private treatment room
- Fully equipped gymnasium
- Access to hydrotherapy pool

To learn more about our physiotherapy services and how we can help you with a variety of conditions call:

0161 787 3461

www.oaklands-hospital.co.uk
19 Lancaster Road, Salford, Manchester M6 8AQ

OAKLANDS HOSPITAL

Rugby Oldham
A RUGBY LEAGUE COMMUNITY TRUST

SUPPORT ROUGHYEDRESERVES

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE FIXTURE LIST 2008

March				
NL	Monday 24th	SALFORD CITY REDS	A	12:30pm
April				
NLR	Wednesday 2nd	LEIGH CENTURIONS	A	7:30pm
NLR	**Saturday 12th**	**ROCHDALE HORNETS**	**H**	**2:30pm**
NLR	Thursday 24th	ROCHDALE HORNETS	A	7:30pm
May				
NLR	**Saturday 10th**	**SALFORD CITY REDS**	**H**	**2:30pm**
NLR	**Saturday 17th**	**LEIGH CENTURIONS**	**H**	**2:30pm**
NLR	Thursday 29th	WIDNES VIKINGS	A	7:30pm
June				
NLR	Saturday 7th	WORKINGTON TOWN	A	2:30pm
NLR	**Saturday 14th**	**HUNSLET HAWKS**	**H**	**2:30pm**
NLR	**Saturday 21st**	**FEATHERSTONE ROVERS**	**H**	**2:30pm**
NLR	Friday 27th	HUNSLET HAWKS	A	7:30pm
July				
NLR	**Saturday 5th**	**WORKINGTON TOWN**	**H**	**2:30pm**
NLR	**Saturday 12th**	**BARROW RAIDERS**	**H**	**2:30pm**
NLR	Thursday 17th	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	A	7:30pm
NLR	**Saturday 26th**	**WIDNES VIKINGS**	**H**	**2:30pm**
August				
NLR	Saturday 9th	BARROW RAIDERS	A	2:30pm
	Saturday 23rd	PLAY-OFF WEEK 1		
	Saturday 30th	CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL		
September				
	Saturday 6th	PLAY-OFF WEEK 2		
	Saturday 13th	PLAY-OFF WEEK 3		
	Saturday 20th	FIRST DIVISION RESERVE GRAND FINAL		

TTX

www.ttexpress.co.uk

WAREHOUSING

AND

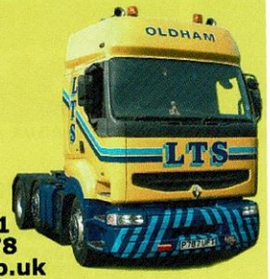
DISTRIBUTION

TT EXPRESS (Oldham) Ltd
Ward Street
Chadderton
Oldham
OL9 9EX

0161 628 5584

LTS
Lansdowne Road
Chadderton
Oldham
OL9 9EF

Tel: 0161 626 1141
Fax: 0161 628 7078
www.ltshaulage.co.uk



LOW LOADER HIRE

EXTENDABLE TRAILERS

ESCORTED LOADS

LTS

Oldham Sport & Sexual Health Project

Chlamydia Screening Here Today!

Visit the RU Clear? stands around the ground

Pee in a pot & you could win a signed ball

- Chlamydia is the fastest growing Sexually Spread Infection in the UK
- 1 in 9 young people in Oldham screened through this programme test positive
- 50% of men and 80% of women have no symptoms
- Left untreated Chlamydia can cause infertility and chronic arthritis

---

- Test involves a urine (pee) sample & is completely confidential
- Test screens for both Chlamydia & Gonorrhoea
- Results usually back in under a week

Today's **Squads**

Oldham

- Chris **BAINES**
- Simon **BALDWIN**
- Jason **BOULTS**
- Matty **BROOKS**
- Daryl **CARDISS**
- James **COYLE**
- Tommy **GOULDEN**
- Tommy **GRUNDY**
- Danny **HALLIWELL**
- Simeon **HOYLE**
- Phil **JOSEPH**
- Gareth **LANGLEY**
- Craig **LITTLER**
- Richard **MERVILL**
- Mick **NANYN**
- Paul **O'CONNOR**
- Lucas **ONYANGO**
- Rob **ROBERTS**
- Adam **ROBINSON**
- Neil **RODEN**
- Lee **SANDERSON**
- Warren **STEVENS**
- Marcus **ST HILAIRE**
- Said **TAMGHART**
- Lee **WINGFIELD**

York City Knights

- Mark **APPLEGARTH**
- Andy **BAILEY**
- Sam **BLANEY**
- Dave **BUCKLEY**
- Matt **DANVILLE**
- Ross **DIVORTY**
- Tom **DUNMORE**
- Adam **ENDERSBY**
- Danny **EKIS**
- Ryan **ESDERS**
- Dale **FERRIS**
- Andy **GARGAN**
- Danny **GRIMSHAW**
- Stephen **GRUNDY**
- Tom **HODGSON**
- Paul **HUGHES**
- Rob **KELLY**
- David **LEEKE**
- Steve **LEWIS**
- Lee **MAPALS**
- David **MARCH**
- Paul **MARCH**
- John **OAKES**
- Kyle **PALMER**
- Danny **RATCLIFFE**
- Scott **RHODES**
- Rob **SPICER**
- Jack **STEARMAN**
- Johnny **WALDRON**
- Luke **WATLING**
- Oliver **WILCOX-HARRISON**
- Tom **WILCOX-HARRISON**
- Toby **WILLIAMS**
- Scott **WOODCOCK**

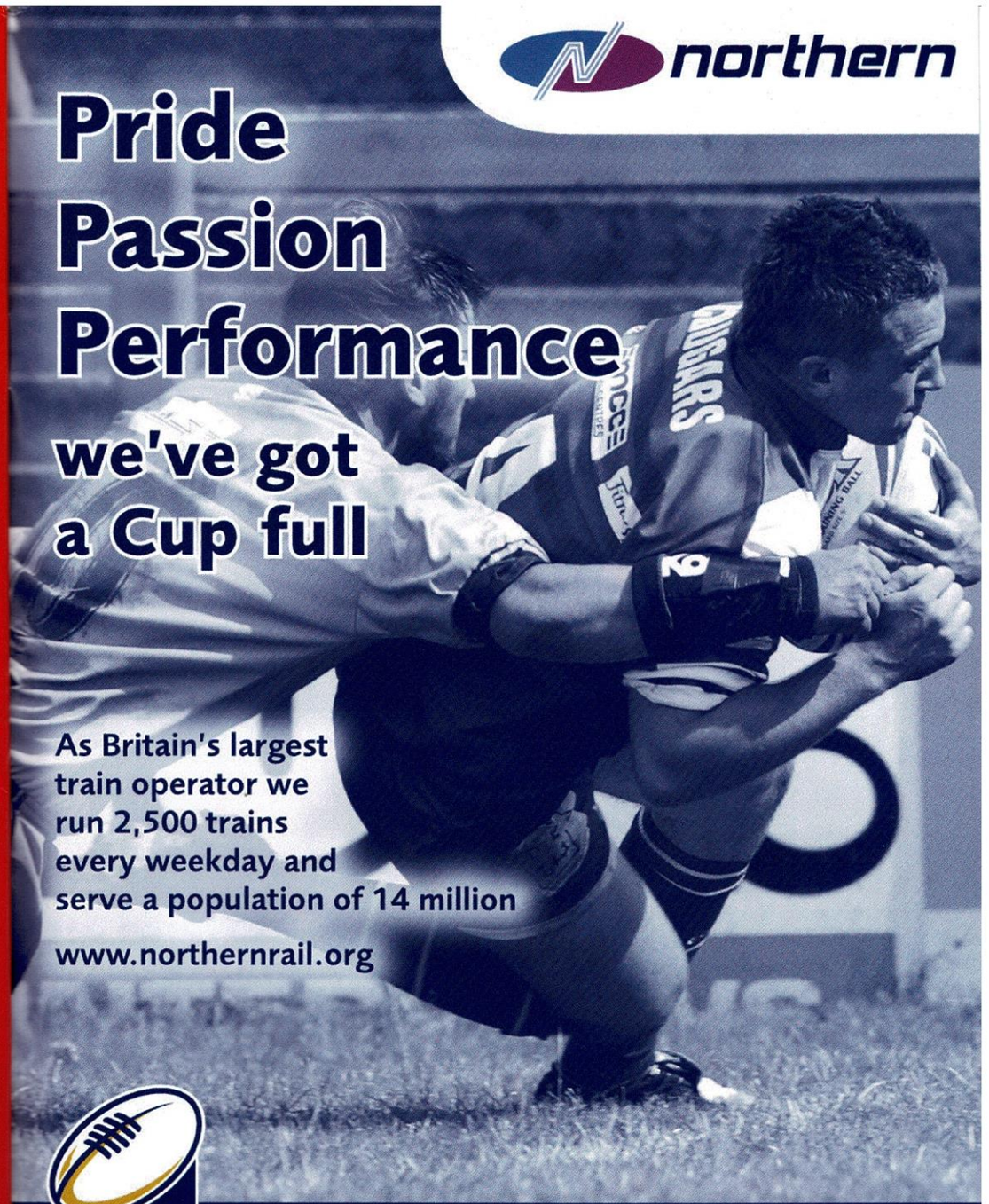
OFFICIALS

Referee: M Kidd **Touch Judges:** S Johnson S Barrie

northern

Pride
Passion
Performance

we've got
a Cup full



As Britain's largest train operator we run 2,500 trains every weekday and serve a population of 14 million

www.northernrail.org

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

northern

Proud sponsor of Rugby League