

TEAM TALK

15th June 2008



HAWKS

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ROUGHYEDS

Paul O'Connor
Gareth Langley
Ricky Helliwell
Mick Nanyin
Lucas Onyango
Neil Roden
James Coyle
Jason Boults
Simeon Hoyle
Richard Mervill
Tommy Goulden
Adam Robinson
Rob Roberts
Matty Brooks
Warren Stevens
Simon Baldwin
Said Tanghart

Match Officials:

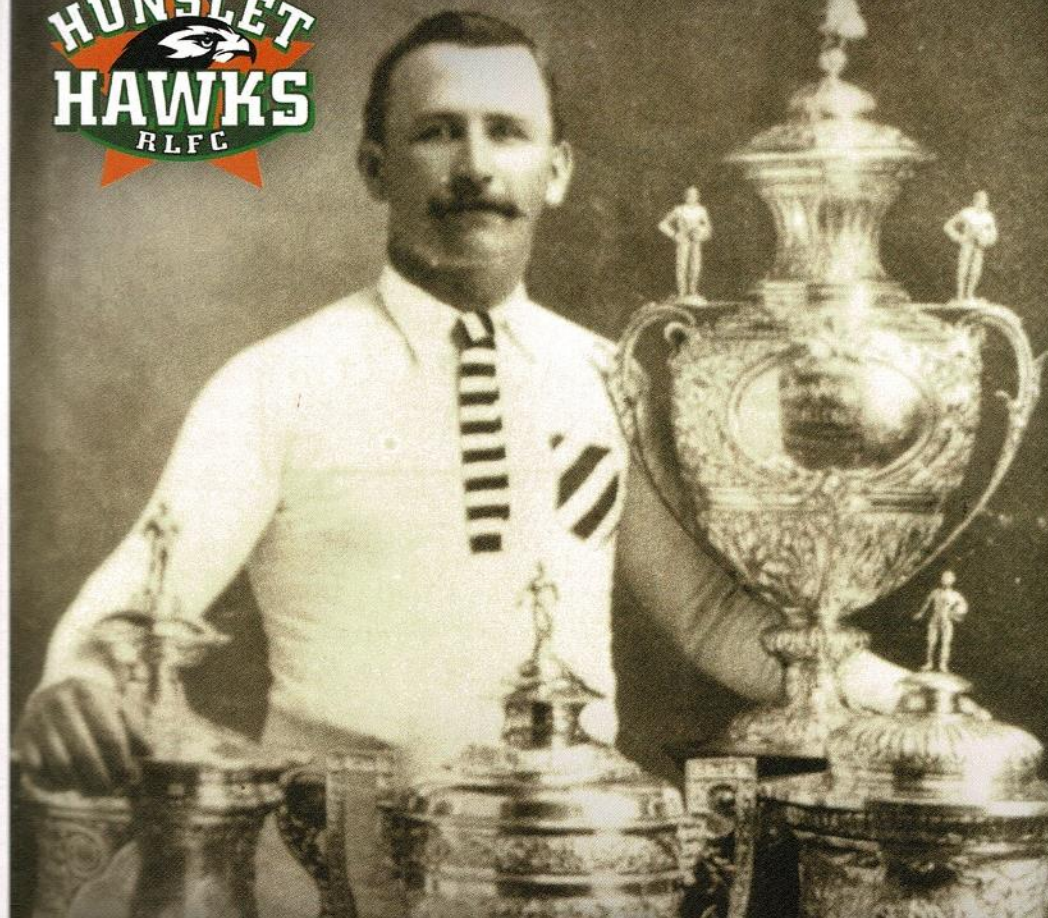
Referee: P Brooke **Touch Judges:** B Leze, P Meadows

Fourth official: G Evans

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FROM THE HEART

Straight talking from STEVE BALL



We always knew this season was going to be difficult, but our last three matches have been disappointing. The Hawks seem to play better against higher placed teams, subsequently our under achievement appears to be more pronounced. Let us hope we can play better against Oldham, who along with Barrow, are the best teams in the league. Oldham have suffered a fixture backlog, as a result of their cup successes and are not sure be centrally focused on achieving promotion. The team is well coached and drilled and the Hawks should be capable of raising their game to make it a competitive encounter.

The issue of promotion and relegation is still undetermined. I believe 2 teams from League 1 will be promoted. My guess is that they will be Celtic Crusaders and Salford City Reds. That would probably result in 1 team being relegated to Division 2 and 3 teams being promoted to Division 1. Batley and Dewsbury would be favourites for relegation. Batley have managed to survive over recent years, but injuries to key players may take their toll. Dewsbury, 4 points behind Batley, have found some form, and more noticeable, have played some of their difficult fixtures at the start of the season.

Barrow particularly strong at home, are now odds on to win the league. Oldham remain second favourite. After Keighley's recent poor form, the third potential promotion space seems to be between big spenders Gateshead, and Doncaster. It could be a costly encounter for the team that misses out.

The Hawks have prioritised the inclusion of two overseas players to strengthen the squad for next year. The absence of two quality overseas players through injury has weakened our efforts. Their inclusion for next season would be a tremendous boost for the team and the club.

Views and opinions expressed in this magazine may not reflect the official policies of Hunslet Hawks RLFC

THUNDER ROLLING ON:

By GARETH WALKER of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

GATESHEAD Thunder's stunning rise to the top of Co-operative National League Two is finally starting to get the recognition it deserves - and don't be surprised to see Dave Woods' talented side maintaining their promotion push.

Thunder go into this weekend's round of fixtures four points clear at the NL2 summit, though undefeated Barrow Raiders do have two games in hand.

For a Gateshead side that finished second bottom of the entire professional game last season, with just six wins to their name, that is some achievement.

And Woods, the club's chairman Steve Garside and his board of directors all deserve credit for sticking to their long-term plans for the club.

Because this is not an out-post team purely packed with Australians.

While some of Thunder's key men are admittedly from Down Under, they have a significant local contingent that would shame more than a few rival National League clubs.

And they play an exciting, attacking brand of rugby that has brought them 428 points in their 11 league games to date.

I saw their recent win at Rochdale, and Thunder were hugely impressive, particularly during a first half in which they established a 34-0 lead.

Their key triangle of scrum half Dan Russell, loose forward Dean Jamieson and hooker Dan Smith are all excellent players that provide a tremendous creative base.

Stand-off Neil Thorman - one Geordie who has seen plenty of lean times at the club - is enjoying a new lease of life at present, as is local centre Kevin Neighbour, having returned from a year in Australia.

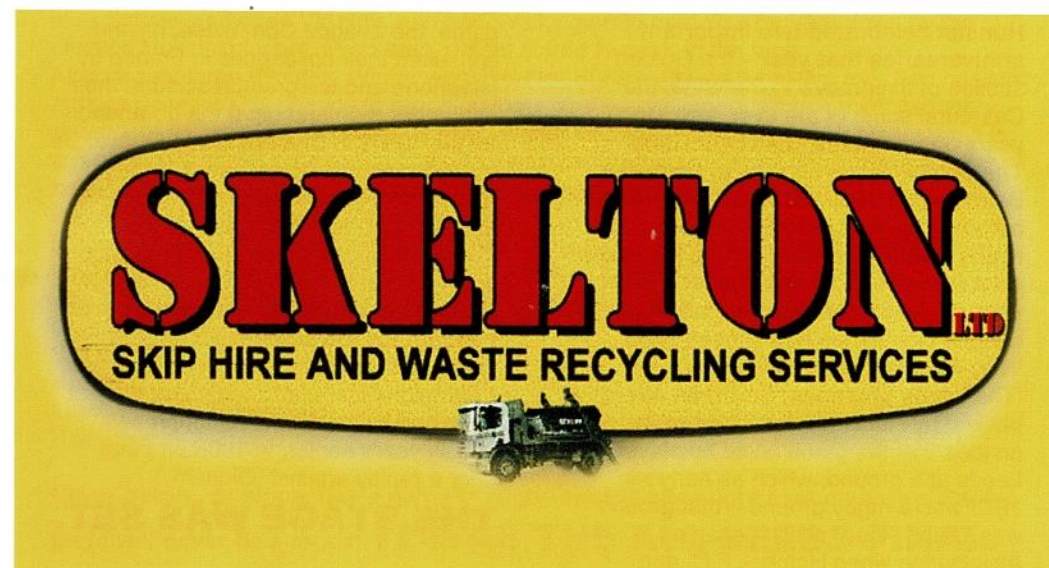
One aspect of Thunder's game that also stands out is the amount of pace that they have right across their team, especially in fullback Stuart Kain and wingers Robin Peers and the prolific Stewart Sanderson.

With ex-Castleford duo Jason Payne and Michael Knowles helping provide the steel in the pack, and Dylan Nash making an impact from the second row, it's not difficult to see why Gateshead are doing so well.

It is also worth mentioning the amount of work that the club does in the community, with barely a week going by without a press release being issued on a visit to a local school, or a new sponsorship deal being announced.

It hasn't been an easy few years for the North East club since their rebirth as a National League outfit, but this season is starting to see their hard work and determination pay off.

On Sunday they travel to another promotion rival in Doncaster - and while the bookmakers continue to underestimate Thunder on an almost weekly basis in the handicap stakes, it would take a brave man to bet against them.



The Northern Rugby League Championship table for 1937-38

Contained such clubs as Liverpool Stanley, Broughton Rangers, St Helens Rec and Newcastle. Who said that Gateshead broke new ground?

The head of that table was to be

THE STUFF OF DREAMS –

with Hunslet on 53 pts and Leeds on 52. The third and fourth clubs were Barrow and Swinton.

Both Leeds clubs were packed with stars – Leeds had Aussie Eric Harris on one wing and Stan Smith on the other. Internationals Ken Jubb, Dai Prosser, Cliff Evans and Dai Jenkins wore the blue and amber that season. In the myrtle, white and flame corner was legend Jack Walkington, Cyril Morrell, a young Eric Batten, carrying on the family legend and mine host at The Moorhouse, Les White. The highlight of any cross-city battle was at Half Back, with Vic Hey, who some say was the greatest Stand Off of all, and Dai Jenkins for Leeds. The Parksiders had Oliver Morris and legend Billy Thornton. **Hunslet celebrated two important anniversaries that year** – the Golden Jubilee of their move to Parkside, the Cathedral south of the river, and twenty years on from winning All Four Cups. The Semi Final pairings were Hunslet v Barrow and Leeds v Swinton and, even before a ball was kicked, **the Leeds rugby public had their minds focussed on a Hunslet v Leeds Final, at a local venue.** The trouble was that the Rugby League Committee had chosen Belle Vue, Wakefield, for the Final.

The Leeds Chairman, Sir Edwin Airey, backed by Hunslet's Joe Lewthwaite, had an idea that the game could be played in Leeds at a ground, which as early as 1878 was a rugby ground – that ground was Elland Road, which became Association when Holbeck F.C. and

Hunslet F.C. merged, in 1904, to become Leeds City.

Sir Edwin knew that Elland Road could hold over 50,000 people and he saw it as a way of reducing travelling costs for fans and a great advertisement for the sport. He even considered Roundhay Park arena as another possibility.

It would be interesting to know how the clubs at Barrow and Swinton viewed Airey's intervention and certainly a Barrow v Swinton Final at Wakefield would not have been well received by the Craven Park club.

Still, Airey was pre-empting the result, which seems to be a Headingley trait, by meeting with the R.L. Committee BEFORE either Semi Final had been played. Airey said that it was sound planning to consider Elland Road, the League Committee insisted on Wakefield. The League's decision resulted in flood of letters to the local press, the rugby public were up in arms and the League Committee were hampered by the fact that three of their number were on tour in France.

Hunslet beat Barrow 13-7 and Leeds beat Swinton 5-2. Those results set the city alight. At Headingley, after the Swinton game, the League Committee, having consulted their colleagues in France by telephone and telegram, rescinded their earlier decision and gave the go-ahead for the 1937-38 Championship Final to be played at Elland Road, Leeds.

Not since 1892 had there been an 'All Leeds Final' and that was in the old Yorkshire Rugby Union Cup. That was small beer in the city, compared to this event. **The whole city was aflame with passion for the coming encounter.**

Leeds, although they had contested four Championship Finals, had never won once and Hunslet's only triumph was twenty years earlier, in 1908 and that after a replay against Oldham.

THE STAGE WAS SET.

The report in the Leeds Mercury said:

HUNSLET THE CHAMPIONS Leeds Blunders – and injury blows A Triumph for Walkington

Hunslet 8 Leeds 2

Hunslet: Walkington; Batten, Morrell, Winter, O'Sullivan; Morris, Thornton: White, Tolson, Bennett; Newbound, Stansfield; Plenderlieth.

Leeds: Eaton; Harris, Williams, Brogden, Smith, S; Hey, Jenkins; Murphy, Satterthwaite, Prosser; Tattersfield, Dyer; Duffy.

PREVIEW:

It was generally agreed by all the Leeds newspapers that the defining duel between the Half Backs would be the most exciting part of the game' and the Mercury praised Walkington, as a Hunslet inspiration.

The pitch had to be changed and the soccer markings erased. The posts came from Parkside, being nearer than Headingley. The changeover happened on the Friday before the game. For the first time since 1904, Elland Road was a rugby ground.

REPORT:

The match was not a great game but there were flashes of football brilliance, said reporter A.L.Drewery. many spectators were simply 'locked out', as the ground was considered full. On the day, Hunslet were considered to be the better side with *'a balance of solidarity and teamwork'* whereas Leeds had *'skill and fighting spirit', it was said'.*

The first blood went to Leeds, after seven minutes, when Tattersfield put the Loiners ahead with a penalty goal. With Tolson injured, Leeds threw everything they had at Hunslet *'but their finishing let them down.* They tore holes in the Hunslet defence, only to miss passes and even Vic Hey, with only Walkington to beat was brought down by the chasing Hunslet players. Even then, defeat stared Hunslet in the face.

After twenty-three minutes, Winter went over for Hunslet. It was a brilliant try. *'Two hesitant tackles gave him his chance to run; a 'dummy' and a simultaneous swerve left two more defenders floundering.'* Six minutes later, Winter was mesmerising the Loiners again. *'He ran strongly and held the ball until the last possible second to force Harris inside so that he could make the vital pass and send the winger scuttling over in the corner'* Thus, O'Sullivan got his name on the score sheet.

In the Second Half, Leeds were hampered by injuries to Hey and to Smith. Indeed, Jack Walkington's kicking exploited poor Smith's lack of mobility (he had sprained an ankle). It was Walkington who 'iced the cake' with a Second Half goal. It was Hunslet's Championship.

SCORERS:

Hunslet: Tries: Winter, O'Sullivan. Goal: Walkington

Leeds: Goal: Tattersfield

Half Time: 6-2

Attendance: 54,112.

Never before, or since, has a game of rugby set the city alight in such a way. Sadly, there will never be a repeat. **IT WAS THE ALL LEEDS FINAL.**

ARTHUR ROWE:

WORLD CHAMPION CABER TOSSER, RUGBY LEAGUE FAILURE.

By Christopher Westwood

Surprise surprise, Dwayne Chambers didn't make the grade as a Rugby League player.

Was the exercise worthwhile? Many mocked the Tigers for getting involved with Chambers, and ridiculed the idea that he could switch sports at 30. But I disagree. Chambers had been banned from athletics for using performance enhancing drugs. He didn't try to deny the fact-he made a full confession. He took his punishment, and as far as we know changed his ways. The record should have been set straight, but as far as the authorities was concerned it wasn't. They were adamant that no matter how well he performed there was no way he was going to represent Great Britain in the Olympics. Justice? I don't think so.

One of the great aspects of Rugby League culture is its power to redeem. People have been prevented from taking the wrong decisions in life and kept out of trouble by channelling their energies into the sport. People who have already gone down that road have turned their lives around by becoming rugby league players. Some have even become legends in the sport-we know who they are.

Chambers whilst being assessed by the Tigers spent a great deal of time in schools taking part in drug awareness education. By all accounts he trained well and learned fast. And he pulled on a jersey and played Rugby League, anyone who does that deserves respect in my book

Chambers was a one off. But it wasn't always the case. There was a time when athletes switching to Rugby League was all the rage.

The 1950s had already provided a taster-if you can call it that. Trinidadian E McDonald Bailey had won bronze in the 100 metres at the Helsinki Olympics. He signed for Leigh and played one game.

The 1960s was when it really got going. The culmination being the signing by Wakefield Trinity of Welsh sprinter Berwyn Jones in 1964. It was a leap of faith for Jones as much as it was for Trinity since he was in line for the Great Britain team for the Tokyo Olympics. He was a sensation and went on to gain international honours and had a second career with Bradford Northern

He was a shining star in a firmament of black holes. His team mate in the British relay team, Alf Meakin signed for Blackpool Borough. The stick thin Meakin never stood a chance.

Then there was Arthur Rowe. Rowe was a maverick in British athletics. He was the bright hope of British shot putting for the 1960 Rome Olympics. He was a bit of a lad He would fail to turn up to major meetings, instead competing in smaller events where he would be paid a back hander. In typical British sporting style, the hype came to nothing. He didn't like the heat and he had an upset stomach. He came home without a medal.

Rowe was a blacksmith from Barnsley. He looked the part, and in 1961 he signed for Oldham. He didn't make the grade. Instead he became a specialist highland game caber tosser, becoming world champion in 1970.

Rowe died in 2003.

It will be a long time before another top athlete gives rugby league a go. Which all things considered is in everyone's interests.

Berwyn Jones, from Olympic athlete to Rugby League legend. Arthur Rowe had somewhat less success.



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INTRODUCING **THE ROUGHYEDS**



Chris Baines: 2nd row. 23 year old Chris has signed up for another year. He was previously with Warrington but learned his rugby at Wigan St Pats. He has toured with the GB Young Lions

Matty Brooks: half back/hooker. Matty joined the Roughyeds initially on loan, from Hull Kingston Rovers having previously been with Bradford Bulls.

Tommy Goulden: 2nd row. Tommy, 26 signed this year from Rochdale Hornets. He is a former BARLA international.

Simeon Hoyle: hooker. Simeon is 28. He joined the Roughyeds last year after previously playing for Keighley and Halifax.

Richard Mervill: prop. Another player with experience at Keighley and Halifax, Richard has also played for Australian club Dapto.

Lucas Onyango: wing. Lucas started out playing Rugby Union in Kenya. He joined the Roughyeds last year from Widnes Vikings

Neil Roden: half back. Neil is a graduate of the Wigan Academy. He has also played for Batley and Leigh. Neil is 27 years old.

Marcus St Hilaire: utility. 30 year old Marcus has had Super League experience with Bradford, Leeds, and Huddersfield.

Simon Baldwin: forward. Simon's long career brings him to Oldham via Leigh, Halifax, Sheffield, Salford and Rochdale.

Daryl Cardiss: utility. 30 year old Daryl turned professional with Wigan, before moving to Halifax, Warrington and Widnes.

Tommy Grundy: 2nd row. Tommy is 22 and has had previous experience with Warrington, Leigh and Blackpool.

Phil Joseph: forward. Phil comes to the Roughyeds via Huddersfield, Swinton, Hull KR and Halifax. He's 22.

Mick Nanyin: centre. Mick is the record points scorer at all his previous clubs: Whitehaven, Widnes, Swinton and Rochdale.

Rob Roberts: forward. The much travelled 'Two Bobs' has played previously for Leigh, Hull FC, Huddersfield, Halifax, Keighley, York....and the Hawks.

Lee Sanderson: half back. Leigh returns to the Roughyeds after a long layoff with injury. He was previously with Barrow.

Said Tamghart: forward. 27 year old French International, joined the Roughyeds last year. He was previously with Carpentras, Avignon and UTC-the predecessors of Catalan Dragons.

Alex Wilkinson: utility. Ales learned his rugby at Royton Tigers. He achieved rep honours with England Academy. He turned pro with Bradford and had loan period with London Broncos and Hull FC. He is a new signing for 2008.

Jason Boults: prop. Jason is 24 and comes to the Roughyeds via Bradford and Halifax.

James Coyle: half back. James played amateur rugby with Wigan St Pats before joining Wigan Warriors. He also spent time on loan at Widnes.

Danny Halliwell: centre. Danny turned pro with Leigh before playing Super League with Halifax. He has also played for Salford, Warrington and Wakefield.

Gareth Langley: Gareth is 23 and was the club's top points scorer in 2007. He was previously with Blackbrook ARLFC, Salford and St Helens.

Adam Robinson: forward. 21 year old Adam was previously with Wakefield and Doncaster.

Warren Stevens: prop. 29 year old Warren was formerly with Warrington, Salford and Leigh.

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FROM THE DUG OUT

The Graeme Hallas Column



Winning games certainly puts the smiles back on faces, and well done Matt Bmal's boys for their efforts against York, lets hope they added to their tally against the Roughyeds on Thursday. The same principle applies to the first team of course, especially for you the fans. But again I must stress that we are building on performance, and I believe we are getting somewhere and that your loyalty will be rewarded.

The effort was there last week against York, but I am the first to acknowledge that lovers of the club want to see results on all fronts not just the progress we are making off the field. There is a lot of hard work going all throughout the club and we are all determined and of a certainty of mind that it will be rewarded-keep the faith.

Some of the stats from last week's game tell a very significant story. There were some good performances from the players, and we had consequent to Phil Hasty being sin binned, one half back covering three positions. We gave ourselves too much to do in the last fifteen minutes, but this is hardly surprising when you consider that: we had possession for 30 sets of tackles, whereas the knights had 44-almost fifty per cent more than us, on top of which we completed 15 of those sets. If you give yourself that much defending to do, then the outcome is inevitable.

Oldham are a strong outfit from one to seventeen. We will have our work cut out, but we are capable of competing with them if we play to our potential-this is the line of thinking we will have been taking in the lead up to the game.





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RESERVE GRADE

with MATT BRAMALD

Our win against the City Knights last week was just the tonic the troops needed. Let's hope we managed to build on that last Thursday against Oldham.

26-24 and the game was as close as it looks.

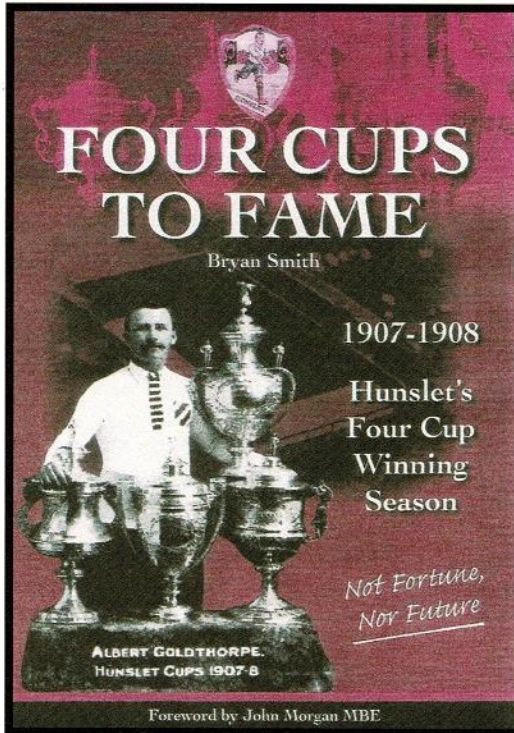
A last minute try gave us the result, but we were good for it anyway. We played some good stuff, but dropped off a bit and went 20-10 down.

But we showed that we can battle and came back to snatch the win.

Our game against Oldham will have been at Sedgely park the home of Swinton Lions. I know the effort and commitment will have been there. However I feel that another vital ingredient will work for us, one that has been missing this year.

I'm talking about continuity. We'll have had to make fewer changes. We'll have had a squad that is growing used to playing together, and we'll have that vital spark of confidence that a victory brings. It's easier than you think to turn one win into two or three-here's hoping.





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HUNSLET HAWKS FIXTURE PLANNER 2008

			Day	K.O.	
Jan.20th.	v.Doncaster	H	Sun.	3.00pm	18 v 4
Feb.3rd.	v.Batley	H	Sun.	3.00pm	12 v 62
Feb.10th	v.Gateshead	A	Sun.	3.00pm	6 v 58
Feb.17th	v.Dewsbury	H	Sun.	3.00pm	16 v 30
Feb.24th	v.Gateshead	H	Sun.	3.00pm	22 v 30
Mar.2nd	v.Batley	A	Sun.	3.00pm	14 v 32
Mar.9th	v.Bank Quay Bulls	A	Sun.	3.00pm	36 v 6
Mar.16th	v.Dewsbury	A	Sun.	3.00pm	18 v 16
Mar.21st	v.Keighley	H	Frid.	7.30pm	00 v 26
Mar.24th	v.Oldham	A	Mon.	3.00pm	12 v 40
Mar.30th	v.Gateshead	A	Sun.	3.00pm	08 v 48
Apr.6th	v.London	H	Sun.	3.00pm	Postponed
Apr.13th	v.Doncaster	H	Sun.	3.00pm	16 v 24
Apr.20th	v.Barrow(ChallCup)	A	Sun.	3.00pm	16 v 48
Apr.26th	v.London	A	Sat.	3.00pm	24 v 31
May.5th	v.Rochdale	A	Mon.	3.00pm	35 v 28
May.11th	v.Gateshead	H	Sun.	3.00pm	28 v 44
May.18th	v.Blackpool	H	Sun.	6.00pm	24 v 36
May.23rd	v.Barrow	A	Frid.	7.30pm	10 v 46
Jun.1st	v.Swinton	H	Sun.	3.00pm	
Jun.8th	v.York	A	Sun.	3.00pm	
Jun.15th	v.Oldham	H	Sun.	3.00pm	
Jun.22nd	v.Workington	A	Sun.	3.00pm	
Jun.29th	v.Rochdale	H	Sun.	3.00pm	
July.6th	v.Barrow	H	Sun.	3.00pm	
July.27th	v.Workington	H	Sun.	3.00pm	
Aug.3rd	v.Swinton	A	Sun.	3.00pm	
Aug.10th	v.York	H	Sun.	3.00pm	
Aug.17th	v.Blackpool	A	Sun.	3.00pm	
Aug.24th	v.Keighley	A	Sun.	3.00pm	

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PLAYER

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'MORE CLUBS THAN TIGER WOODS'.

By Christopher Westwood

If you check the Roughyeds' pen pics, you'll see that Rob 'Two Bobs' Roberts has played for quite a few clubs in his time.

These days, whilst of interest to Rob himself and people who like to follow a player's career stats-and there are plenty of such people, it's no big deal. Player's move around clubs far more than they used to back in the day. Season by season a club would have at least one 'beneficiary' on its books. Remember when club officials would walk around the pitch before kick off with an outstretched blanket for grateful fans to throw coins into as their contribution to a long serving player's benefit season. There would be pie and pea suppers-in fact you'd have a pie and pea supper for just about everything and a damn fine thing too. The world would be a better place with more pie and pea suppers. Put one on at the UN security council, and the conflicts of the world would be sorted before closing time. The Tokyo agreement would have gone through on the nod with everyone agreeing to save the planet if they'd have put pie and peas on. But no, they have to have those bottles of water that nobody sips and the world goes down the gurgler.

Anyway, more players having benefits, more pie and pea suppers-and don't forget the beetle drives and we seemed to live in a more secure world.

But there were exceptions. Geoff Clarkson played for more clubs(some of them more than once) than any other player in the game in a three decade career.

Then of course there was the inimitable Terry Clawson.

Clawson started out at Featherstone Rovers in 1957. He was classy but hard goal kicking loose forward at first, but he soon moved to the front row.

After 191 games for Fev he moved to Bradford Northern, where he made 111 appearances, followed by 62 games at Leeds between '71 and '73.

Clawson's next move was to today's visitors...the Roughyeds.

Terry lived next door to my best mate's mam at the time. I was up at their house one afternoon when she came into the house spitting feathers:

'That Terry Clawson's a big headed bugger', she spluttered, he's gone to play for Oldham and bought a new car with the money and had his initials put on it. Me and my mate went out to look at Clawson's latest act of needless flamboyance to see a Rover 2000(think of 'The Sweeney') 'TC' parked outside his house. My mate's mam remained unconvinced when we explained that the 'TC' stood for 'Twin Carburettor'.

Clawson played 22 games for Oldham. Clawson's arrival put a few noses out of joint. He was appointed goal kicker and skipper, deposing the incumbents Martin Murphy and Phil Larder. The effect was clear to Terry, as he said;

'I played my first few games but I felt lonely. Whenever I took the ball I seemed to be left high and dry...I was more than a little pissed off.'

Clawson lasted 22 games. But he did what he attended to do-attract the attention of the Great Britain selectors who were putting together the squad to take on the Australian tourists. He played in all three tests, but his days at the Watersheddings were numbered and he moved to York in 74, then back to Bradford in 77, back to Fev for a season in 78 to shore up the former champions who's side was being dismantled to pay off the club's debts.

But there was more. Clawson moved to Huddersfield in 79 playing a grand total of three games, then to Hull where he turned out twice.

Clawson had a spell in Australia alongside, almost inevitably the even more well travelled Geoff Clarkson at South Newcastle.

Two Bobs is a lightweight when it comes to switching clubs, compared to Clawson, but as Terry himself says;

'I was lucky to be able to play with and against some of the finest players to grace the game', and that's what really counts.

AROUND THE CLUB

With BIG AL

- **Sunday 1st v.Swinton Lions K.O. 3.00pm**
- **Friday 6th v.York C.K. U21s. K.O. 7.30pm**
- **Saturday 7th Service Area Rugby 10.30am**
- **Sunday 8th Private Function**
- **Saturday 14th Service Area Rugby 10.30am**
- **Saturday 14th Private Function**
- **Sunday 15th v.Oldham K.O. 3.00pm**
- **Tuesday 17th Dominos Competition in Phoenix Bar**
- **Saturday 21st Private Function**
- **Friday 27th v.Oldham U21s K.O. 7.30pm**



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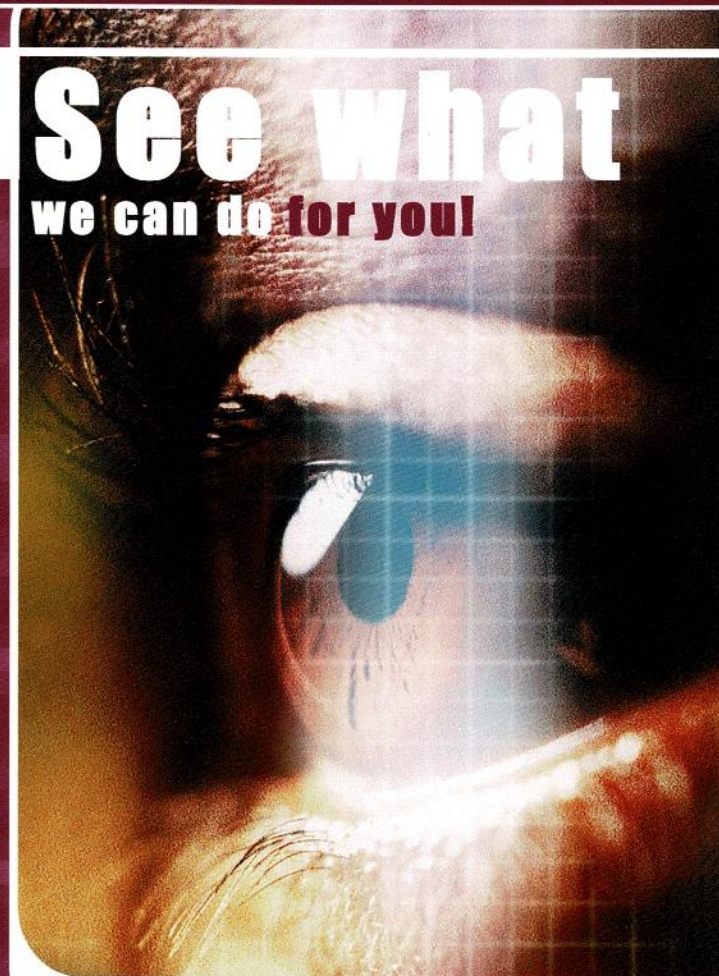
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