

Today's Teams

Workington Town

Coach: Dave Rotheram

- Jamie **Beauemont**
- Ryan **Benjafield**
- Neil **Blacklock**
- Ryan **Blair**
- Dean **Burgess**
- Scott **Burgess**
- Liam **Campbell**
- Ryan **Campbell**
- Kris **Coward**
- Stephen **Dawes**
- Peter **Dobson**
- Jay **Duffy**
- Carl **Forber**
- Neil **Frazer**
- Scott **Gorman**
- Franco **Kmet**
- Taani **Lavulavu**
- Robert **Lunt**
- Shaun **Lunt**
- Iain **Marsh**
- Jamie **Marshall**
- Mark **McCully**
- Dexter **Miller**
- Jason **Mossop**
- Bryce **Poisel**
- Garry **Purdham**
- James **Robinson**
- Mark **Routledge**
- Brett **Smith**
- Matthew **Tunstall**
- Martyn **Wilson**
- Chris **Young**

Oldham

Coach: Steve Deakin

- Paul **O'Connor**
- Gareth **Langley**
- Marcus **St. Hilaire**
- Mick **Nanyn**
- Lucas **Onyango**
- Neil **Roden**
- James **Coyle**
- Jason **Boults**
- Simeon **Hoyle**
- Richard **Mervill**
- Adam **Robinson**
- Danny **Halliwell**
- Ian **Hodson**
- Matty **Brooks**
- Chris **Baines**
- Phil **Joseph**
- Said **Tamghart**

Today's Match Officials

Referee: M. Dawber

Touch Judges:

J. Rigby, K. Povah

Reserve Referee: I. Redcliffe

Touch Judge Coach: B. Sharrock

MC: P. Gilmour



Match Stats Progressive Score

Home Scrums

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

Home Pens

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

Away Scrums

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

Away Pens

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



WORKINGTON

TOWN

THE CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO
SUNDAY 6TH JULY K.O. 3.00PM

v Oldham



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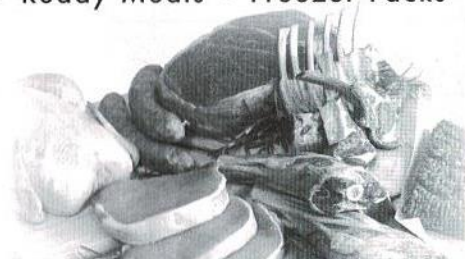
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THE CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO

Welcome to Derwent Park

Today promises to be a tough encounter as we entertain the early favourites for the NL2 title Oldham, who of course will be very keen not to lose any further ground to unbeaten pacesetters Barrow. We welcome players, officials and supporters alike to Derwent Park.

Today is our Ladies Day and part of the Gus Risman Bar has been reserved pre-match for them as they hopefully have an enjoyable time with us and raise money for charity. We welcome them all this afternoon.

There is no need to say that our last two games have been disappointing, but I know we are capable of turning over any team at home and raising our game against strong opposition. I fully expect that we will do that this afternoon and that we will be in for an entertaining game.

A warm welcome to all today's sponsors, all of whom have been stalwarts over the years.

Thanks to our executive sponsors, Neales Waste Management, who have been fantastic sponsors for some time now, as always we hope Tony Penn and guests have an enjoyable day.

Our Associate Match Sponsor and Man of the Match Sponsor is George Thomson accompanied by his guests. I can assure our bar staff they are in for a busy afternoon if past sponsorships are anything to go by.

The Match Ball is sponsored by David Eden from M and D Electrical. It's a pleasure to welcome David just a couple of months after welcoming Dad Bert who we entertained recently, along with other players, to mark the anniversary of our Cup Final appearance. We are very proud of our ongoing association with Bert and David.

Finally, to all fans and sponsors, please enjoy today's game, it will be toughie, but please get behind the players, it really does make a

Workington Town

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Derwent Park Stadium, Workington,
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THE CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO

Workington Town

Rotherham's Weekly Round-Up

After 2 very dissapointing defeats its time to get back on the bike. Today we have 2 choices - wallow in self pity or be men about it and do whatever it takes to dramatically improve our performance.

Our boys know they have got it in them to perform at a high level on a weekly basis. We need to start hitting form now we are at the buisness end of the season with play offs not far away. We are still hanging in there from the ammount of bonus points collected but we cannot rely on those - we need to start winning games. We will win games when we start to respect posession more and retain the ball. In simple terms if you've got the ball the opposition cannot score. In the game at Doncaster it took them 24 minutes to take the lead. Perversely, we defended very well in the first half. However the lack of ball told and spent too much time defending to have any hope of winning.

Today's opponents Oldham have had a good season in the league and both cup competitions. They have some good players in key positions with National Leagues' top points scorer Mick Nanyan an obvious threat.

They are well coached by Steve Deakin who has a great wealth of coaching experiences at all levels of the game. "Deaks" has been a great mentor and friend to me over the years and I have certainly benefited from his wisdom.

*Enjoy the game
Dave*

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Workington Town R.L.F.C fully supports the "Let's Tackle Racism in Rugby League" campaign, and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place within our game, and racist chants are totally unacceptable. Please allow EVERYONE to enjoy the game.

PRESS RELEASE STADIUM WATCH

Cumbrian Sporting Organisations are working together to ensure that watching sport in Cumbria becomes a pleasant family experience. Trouble makers will be banned from sports stadiums around Cumbria as part of this scheme as the aim is to stamp out anti-social behaviour at sporting events. We are launching **Stadium Watch** as a new initiative aimed at reducing violence, disorder and anti social behaviour incidents linked to sports events. Stadium Watch involves Clubs and Police working together to find solutions to problems relating to anti-social behaviour. Workington Town, Whitehaven, Barrow Rugby League Clubs, Workington Speedway, Carlisle United, Workington Reds, Barrow Football, Workington Zebra's Rugby Union and Carlisle Race Course have all signed up to the scheme and believe this is the best forward of deterring anti social behaviour in Cumbria. Individuals who take part in anti-social behaviour in a stadium will be banned from all the stadiums signed up to the scheme. We feel Stadium Watch is an important part of Respect campaigns that are being run in many Sporting organisations and Communities. It sends out a clear message that if you don't behave you won't be able to visit any of our stadiums. We hope to make sports events family friendly, families deserve to feel confident that they can attend events safely. Banning offenders will act as a significant deterrent to those determined to cause trouble.

- Behave or be banned



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THE CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO

In touch with the

Travellers

As ever I would like to extend a warm welcome to all players, officials and fans from Oldham who have made the journey to Derwent Park today.

The Travellers in the coming weeks – watch this space for more news.

We will of course be running coaches to all our remaining away games, anyone wishing to travel with us should contact any committee member

Keep the faith,
Allan Lamb

Our visitors today are currently lying in 3rd place in the division, and to have any chance of being the champions at the end of the season, have stated that they need to win all of their remaining games. We will have to be at our best today to stop them, but I have no doubt that if we play as we all know we can; we are capable of getting back to winning ways.

Our last fundraiser was our race night on Friday, the next function is likely to be a Fun Day, at

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2008 fixtures/results

03/02/08	15:00	NRC	H	Halifax	L	8-30	871
10/02/08	15:00	NRC	H	Whitehaven	L	18-26	1276
17/02/08	15:00	NRC	H	Keighley	L	18-22	873
24/02/08	15:00	NRC	A	Whitehaven	L	10-26	1685
02/03/08	15:00	NRC	A	Halifax	L	6-88	1323
08/03/08	14:30	Challenge Cup	H	Wigan St Pats	W	50-14	333
16/03/08	15:00	NRC	A	Keighley	L	22-26	896
21/03/08	15:00	NL2	H	Barrow	L	10-26	928
24/03/08	15:00	NL2	A	Gateshead	L	26-28	323
29/03/08	14:30	RES	A	Rochdale	L	16-36	-
30/03/08	15:00	NL2	H	Rochdale	L	28-30	677
05/04/08	14:30	RES	H	Salford	L	12-52	-
06/04/08	15:00	NL2	A	Blackpool	L	24-20	280
13/04/08	15:00	NL2	A	York	W	24-20	-
16/04/08	19:30	RES	H	Barrow	L	22-40	-
20/04/08	15.30	Challenge Cup Fourth Round	H	Hull KR	L		
12-68	1227						
27/04/08	15:00	NL2	H	Swinton	L	20-30	644
02/05/08	19:15	NL2	A	Barrow	L	66-6	1147
10/05/08	14:30	RES	H	Batley	L	18-30	-
16/05/08	20:00	NL2	H	Doncaster	W	32-10	626
17/05/08	14:30	RES	A	Salford	p	-	-
24/05/08	14:30	RES	A	Keighley	L	40-12	-
25/05/08	15:00	NL2	H	Keighley	L	6-18	718
28/05/08	19:30	RES	A	Barrow	L	54-0	-
31/05/08	15:00	NL2	A	London Skolars	L	38-45	419
07/06/08	14:30	RES	H	Oldham	w	38-14	-
08/06/08	15:00	NL2	A	Swinton	L	33-24	367
14/06/08	14:30	RES	H	Leigh	L	10-38	-
15/06/08	15:00	NL2	H	Blackpool	W	50-12	548
17/06/08	19:30	RES	H	Whitehaven	L	16-40	-
21/06/08	14:30	RES	P	Leigh	-	-	-
22/06/08	15:00	NL2	H	Hunslet	L	20-23	507
27/06/08	20:00	NL2	A	Doncaster	L	40-2	738
05/07/08	14:30	RES	A	Oldham	-	-	-
06/07/08	15:00	NL2	H	Oldham	-	-	-
12/07/08	14:30	RES	H	Rochdale	-	-	-
13/07/08	15:00	NL2	A	Rochdale	-	-	-
16/07/08	19:30	RES	A	Whitehaven	-	-	-
20/07/08	15:00	NL2	H	York	-	-	-
27/07/08	15:00	NL2	A	Hunslet	-	-	-
03/08/08	15:00	NL2	H	London Skolars	-	-	-
09/08/08	14:30	RES	H	Keighley	-	-	-
10/08/08	15:00	NL2	A	Keighley	-	-	-
16/08/08	14:30	RES	H	Batley	-	-	-
17/08/08	15:00	NL2	H	Gateshead	-	-	-
24/08/08	15:00	NL2	A	Oldham	-	-	-

NRC = Northern Rail Cup NL2 = National League 2 RES = Reserve Grade CC = Challenge Cup **Bold** = Home Fixtures

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Reserves

COACHES CORNER

The last fortnight has seen the Reserve Grade side have two free weekend periods, with no fixtures being played. This has given the players that have come straight in from playing back-to-back rugby a short break to recharge. I'm sure they were ready for it, but then again when you're young enough and keen enough you just cant get enough of playing league!

To give you a brief report on our last outing against our friends from down the road; I honestly thought that we went very well against a strong experience Haven outfit. We trained well leading up to the game and you could tell that the lads were gearing up for it even though it was quick turn - having played Leigh Centurions on the Saturday and doubling up on the Tuesday despite the injuries and niggles we had picked up. This was not the case for Whitehaven as they were coming into the game fresh from a free weekend and the return of several star players in the name or Rudd, Sice and Joe to name but a few and many others having experienced 1st division first team rugby.

The first half of the game was fairly even from both sides in which we looked comfortable and were managing to absorb what Whitehaven were throwing at us. This gave us a bit of confidence and I think the halftime score line which was 18 - 6 to Haven wasn't the expected score line in a few peoples eyes. I think some were under the impression that all they had to do was turn up and steam roll over us but this was not the case. We had a hand in lot of good rugby through out the game, which saw left-winger Jason McMullen scoring a lovely try in the corner and the return of former club captain Jamie Bomber

Beaumont returning from injury and going over for a solo try in his first game back for a number of weeks. Jamie Sharp managed to get on the score sheet also and with halfback Scott Burgess kicking two goals. A decent crowd turned out to what was good game for the majority of the time but for only the man in the middle to cause a bit of disarray with his decisions on numerous occasions. I say this after speaking to my team after the game and getting their feedback on some of the incidents that happened in the game, and to why the referee had to disallow three of our tries, in what looked particularly ok from where I was standing and also on DVD! However the result and score line stands but if on the day and the decisions went our way what a match it could have been right until the very end. Final score being 16 - 40 to Whitehaven.

I have always said from the very start of the campaign that the reserve grade does serve its purpose even if the results do not always go your way. Neil Blacklock and Peter Dobson have come on leaps and bounds over this period. Both young props have been showing good form and keep backing it up week by week. Neil got the 18th man slot for the first team against Hunslet because of his current form and Peter Dobson managed to work himself into the subs line up for the first team against Doncaster Lakers last week.

Looking at the reserve team fixtures this week, we only play Oldham out of the bottoms six teams in the league, that just shows how tough this league is when your facing a majority of NL 1 2nd string teams, I sometimes wonder who decides on the way fixtures should be played!!!!!!

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THE CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO
v HUNSLET HAWKS

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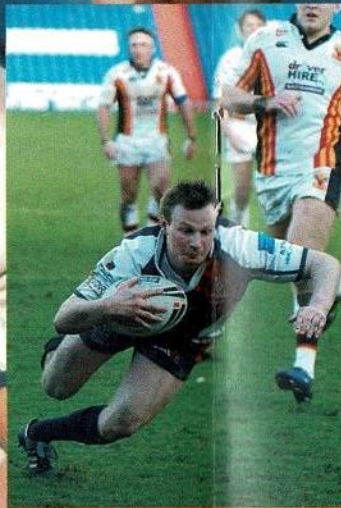
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SIMEON HOYLE



Ground:
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The Coach:
Steve Deakin
Captain:
Rob Roberts
One To Watch:
James Coyle

Oldham

by *Gary Mills*

The Coach: Steve Deakin

Steve Deakin has been in charge of Oldham for over two years now following the departure of John Pendlebury who resigned from the club just three games into the 2006 season. Deakin who is from Oldham is vastly experienced with over twenty years coaching to his name; he has seen service with Chorley, Halifax, Sheffield, Keighley, Rochdale, London Broncos and Huddersfield as well as with French clubs Cannes and Catalan Dragons. Last season Deakin was able to lead the Roughyeds to the National League Two Grand Final, where they were defeated 24-6 at Headingley by the Featherstone Rovers.

The Captain: Rob Roberts

Roughyeds captain Rob Roberts joined the club halfway through the 2007 season from the Leigh Centurions and made an instant impact, he was made captain of the club and was a major reason why the Roughyeds went to the NL2 Grand Final. Roberts who was born in Leeds has played in the Super League for Hull, Huddersfield and Halifax and has also played for Keighley and Leigh as well as having a stint in Australia. Roughyeds coach Steve Deakin has had previous experience coaching 'Two Bobs'; he had previously coached him at Keighley and Huddersfield. Sadly last season ended in double disappointment for Rob, having lost the chance of promotion at the final hurdle against Featherstone his international side Wales who he played for throughout the qualifiers failed to beat Scotland on aggregate losing 37-32, which meant they had to enter the repechage, and this also ended in devastating fashion, with Wales losing 50-26 to Lebanon meaning that they would not take part in the 2008 Rugby League World Cup, which was a huge blow for Welsh Rugby League and Rob himself, who would have more than likely made the trip to Australia.

One To Watch: James Coyle

James who is now 22 is without doubt one of the most talented scrumhalf's outside of Super League. He joined the Roughyeds last summer after Oldham were able to beat off offers from Whitehaven, Leigh and Batley, plus NL2 rivals Swinton Lions to sign the upcoming youngster, he recorded six tries to his name, but it was the number of tries that he created and set up which was impressive, he has the ability to send players through a gap which others may not spot and this worked deadily for the Roughyeds at the end of last season. In the 2006 season he was loaned out from Wigan to the Widnes Vikings and played every game for the Vikings apart from the NL1 Grand Final. Both his father & grandfather played for Wigan so it was no shock when he also joined Wigan, he was a product of that famous amateur club, Wigan St Pat's, and his quality was recognised in 2001 when he was picked for the North-West Counties under-16s tour of Fiji, New Zealand and Australia alongside several others who have also gone to play Super League and become stars such as James Roby, Ian Hardman and

Harrison Hansen.

The Arrivals: Simon Baldwin (Whitehaven), Phil Joseph (Halifax), Mick Nanyn (Widnes), Marcus St Hilaire (Bradford), Tommy Goulden (Rochdale), Tommy Grundy (Leigh), Danny Halliwell (Salford), Matty Brooks (Hull KR), Daryl Cardiss (Widnes)

During the winter Oldham Roughyeds head coach Steve Deakin brought in a number of quality signings, the players that were brought in had been playing at a higher standard than National League Two so this is why they are one of the red-hot favourites to gain promotion this season. The players that were brought in included point scoring machine Mick Nanyn & centre Daryl Cardiss both from the Widnes Vikings, fullback Marcus St Hilaire who last season made twenty five Super League appearances scoring seven tries in the process for the Bradford Bulls, experienced winger Danny Halliwell from the Salford City Reds, second rower Tommy Grundy from the Leigh Centurions and loose forward Phil Joseph from Halifax.

The Departures: Tony Tonks (Featherstone), Andy Gorey (Rochdale), Ian Sinfield (Rochdale), Drew Houston (Released), Ian Hodson (Released), Geno Costin (Released), Kris Smith (Released), Wes Rogers (Released), Stuart Oldham (Released), Mike Stout (Rochdale), Craig Littler (Released)

The off season saw the Roughyeds loose eleven players from their 2007 squad, the majority of these were released from the club mainly to make way for the top quality players coming into the team for the new season, the players released included Drew Houston, Ian Hodson, Geno Costin, Kris Smith, Wes Rogers, Stuart Oldham and Craig Littler. The other players that left the club included prop Tony Tonks who joined the Featherstone Rovers, Andy Gorey second rower Ian Sinfield and centre Mike Stout who all joined the Rochdale Hornets.

Current Form: Oldham come into today's game here at Derwent Park currently sitting 3rd in National League Two with eleven wins from their thirteen games so far this season. In the Northern Rail Cup this year Oldham finished 2nd in Group 4 with four wins and one bonus point from their six group games, which meant they qualified through to the knockout stages where they defeat Whitehaven 16-6, but were eliminated from the competition losing 24-16 in the Quarter-Final's to the Batley Bulldogs. In this years Challenge Cup the Roughyeds made it all the way through to the last eight of the competition where they were finally eliminated losing 46-4 to the Wakefield Wildcats who will now play Hull FC for a place at the Wembley final in August. Last weekend Oldham were involved in a top of the table clash against 2nd place Gateshead Thunder, but Gateshead were no match for Oldham as the Roughyeds ran out 40-16 winners, Oldham scored seven tries in total with full back Paul O'Connor grabbing a hat trick.

Community

Foundation

Lucky Number
337



Hi all and welcome to today's fixture against Oldham!

As many of you longstanding fans will be aware there is a history between Town and Oldham which stems back to the days of the legendary Ike Southward. To mark this history Town will today be holding the annual Ike Southward Memorial the 'Flying Winger'. Amateur Clubs from across Cumbria have been invited to participate at under 8, 9, 11, 12 & 14 age groups to race for the title of the flying winger. We hope you will all lend a hand to cheer these kids on at half time.

Unfortunately at the last home game Heroes Cheerleaders were unable to attend due to Health & Safety Risks associated with the bad weather and strong winds and we would like to apologies for this, however (weather permitting) they will be back with us today and have compiled a melody of their winning routines.

Workington Scholarship presentation took place in the Derwent Lounge after the Hunslet game and Workington Town would like to congratulate all of the lads for their

achievements this season. Currently we are in the process of identifying gifted and talented young players for invitation onto the 2008/09 program. We are also looking for coaches to assist with the running of the program, anyone wishing to get involved please contact the club and leave your details for Garry Mounsey, Scholarship Manager.

Allerdale & Carlisle Service Area presentations took place on Wednesday 25th June at Hunday Manor, Bryce Poisel and Carl Forber were there to present the trophies to the players and coaches involved. We would like to congratulate all players on their achievements throughout the Service Area, and to those who have been selected to attend regional camp, we wish you all success.

Don't forget to check your lucky number at half time to win what's in the box, Barbara Hodgson had the lucky number against Hunslet but her envelope contained the wrong combination so the prizes roll over to today's fixture with extra prizes added.

We hope you enjoy today's game. UP THE TOWN!

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- U9 Keiran Mewes - Seaton.
- U11 Karl Hine - Maryport.
- U12 Luke Johnson - Broughton RR
- U14 Conner White - Salterbeck.

The Races will be run at half time,
please cheer the runners on.

Workington Town RLFC 2008 Presentation Night

held at the
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More information will be posted in
future programmes, and on the Town
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NATIONAL LEAGUES TALK

with Gareth Walker

in association with **NFL**

Loan rangers show game's strength

NOW that there has been confirmation that 14 teams will play in Super League from next year, a whole new debate has opened up – are there enough quality players to sustain two more teams?

There was talk around various press boxes earlier in the year that the majority of Super League coaches didn't think so. Word was that they felt that going to 14 teams would significantly dilute the standard of the top tier.

One coach not in that category is Wakefield's John Kear, a man who has built a large part of his current squad around players from NL1 and NL2. Of the Wildcats' current squad, Scott Grix, Jason Golden, Richard Moore, Rickey Bibbey, Oliver Wilkes, Sean Gleeson, Damien Blanch and Danny Brough were playing National League rugby when they were snapped up.

In Andrew Kirchin's excellent Rugby League World article on the subject this month, Kear rubbishes the thought that the players aren't there.

"I watch Rugby League at all levels and the National League is full of good young players," Kear said. "The problem for most clubs is that they don't get off their backsides and go to see what's available. It's nonsense to say the players aren't there for 14 teams, of course they are."

There's another element to this argument. Such is the quality of certain clubs' Super League squads, that a host of fine players currently find themselves on loan in NL1 or NL2, as they cannot secure a regular first team place at their clubs.

Widnes, Halifax and Doncaster are just three clubs that have capitalised on this, and the kind of players that have been loaned there are certain to become targets for whichever sides secure Super League licences in July.

You could even make up a talented team of young, English players currently making an impact in the National Leagues, even though they are registered Super League players.

I've had to use a touch of journalistic licence with a couple of positions, and some players have either now returned to their Super League clubs or have made permanent switches.

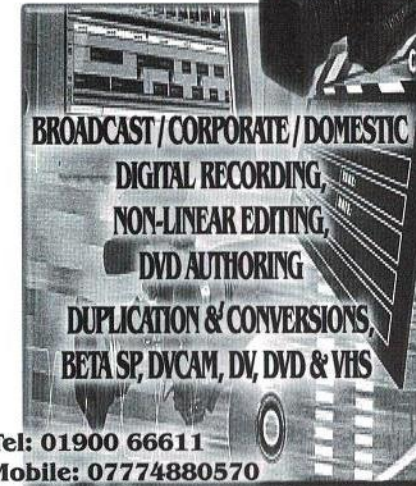
But the team below is made up completely of young top flight players who have spent some time on loan in NL1 or NL2 this season – players that could become fully fledged Super League stars in the future.

That in turn would give more opportunities at those Super League clubs with thriving development programmes – and anyone who saw Leeds Rhinos' win over Castleford last weekend could not deny that in certain places, there is a whole new crop of talent waiting to emerge.

National League loan rangers: Kyle Wood (Wakefield-Doncaster); Jason Crookes (Bradford-Widnes), Steve Tyrer (St Helens-Widnes), Chris Dean (St Helens-Widnes), Mike Ratu (Leeds-Halifax); Luke Gale (Leeds-Doncaster), Matty Smith (St Helens-Widnes); Luke Menzies (Hull KR-Oldham, now returned), Thomas Coyle (Wigan-Halifax), Michael Haley (Leeds-Doncaster, now returned), Craig Kopczak (Bradford-Halifax, now returned), Joe Walsh (Harlequins-Halifax), Mark Flanagan (Wigan-Halifax). Subs: Sam Reay (Wigan-Doncaster, now returned), Ryan Smith (Castleford-Dewsbury), Ben Kavanagh (Wigan-Widnes, now permanent), Kyle Bibb (Wakefield-Sheffield, now returned).

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FOR quite a while now I've applauded the decision of the Rugby Football League to scrap automatic relegation from Super League. Now let me plead with them to do away with it in National League One too.

Well, for this season at least.

Until the announcement on the 14 successful licences for engage Super League 2009 is made on Tuesday, July 22 (D-Day, as it's becoming known in rugby league circles), the future of the Co-operative National Leagues remains cloudy.

There hasn't been much word from Red Hall about what fans of clubs outside the top division can expect from next season on.

Those of you curious enough to have visited the RFL's official National League website, though, may have noticed three potential scenarios drawn up by the governing body – all depending on who makes the cut for the elite league.

Scenario Two caters for Super League having two French teams, with Toulouse thrown in alongside the Catalans Dragons. Scenario Three sees Super League without any French team at all – although, given the overwhelming success story in Perpignan, one can only surmise this is very much a 'token gesture' scenario designed to please the rabid anti-expansionists among us.

Scenario One is the much more likely, if you ask me. One French team in Super League, with Toulouse missing out and the likelihood of two current National League One clubs joining the 12 current top flight clubs in the competition.

So what's the plan for the remaining 20 English (or – again

for the rabid anti-expansionists – Welsh) clubs who don't hold a Super League licence? Well, 20 is a very convenient number, isn't it? And the boffins at Red Hall have responded with two sensible leagues of 10.

There, though, 'sensible' ends.

Because the RFL proposes to still relegate one team from National League One and promote three from NL2 – two clubs automatically and one via a play-off involving clubs from third place all the way down to eighth.

Why?

Wasn't the whole idea of the licence system to improve stability in the game? So what stability is there in losing three clubs (including two of the strongest) from NL1 in one go, and introducing three clubs from an inferior, if ever-improving, competition?

Surely, isn't it a better idea to offer Dewsbury – or whoever finishes bottom of League One this season – a reprieve, and promote just two teams from NL2 to make up the numbers?

The top team would go up automatically and the clubs from second to seventh would compete in the play-off series – as in previous years.

That would mean two fewer clubs having to dramatically alter their squads to come to terms with the new division; whether that be recruiting better players when you've been promoted or whether it be unable to hang on to your best men when you've been relegated.

As ever, though, we have to over-complicate things. But there's still time. So come on, RFL, before July 22, see some sense and keep things simple.


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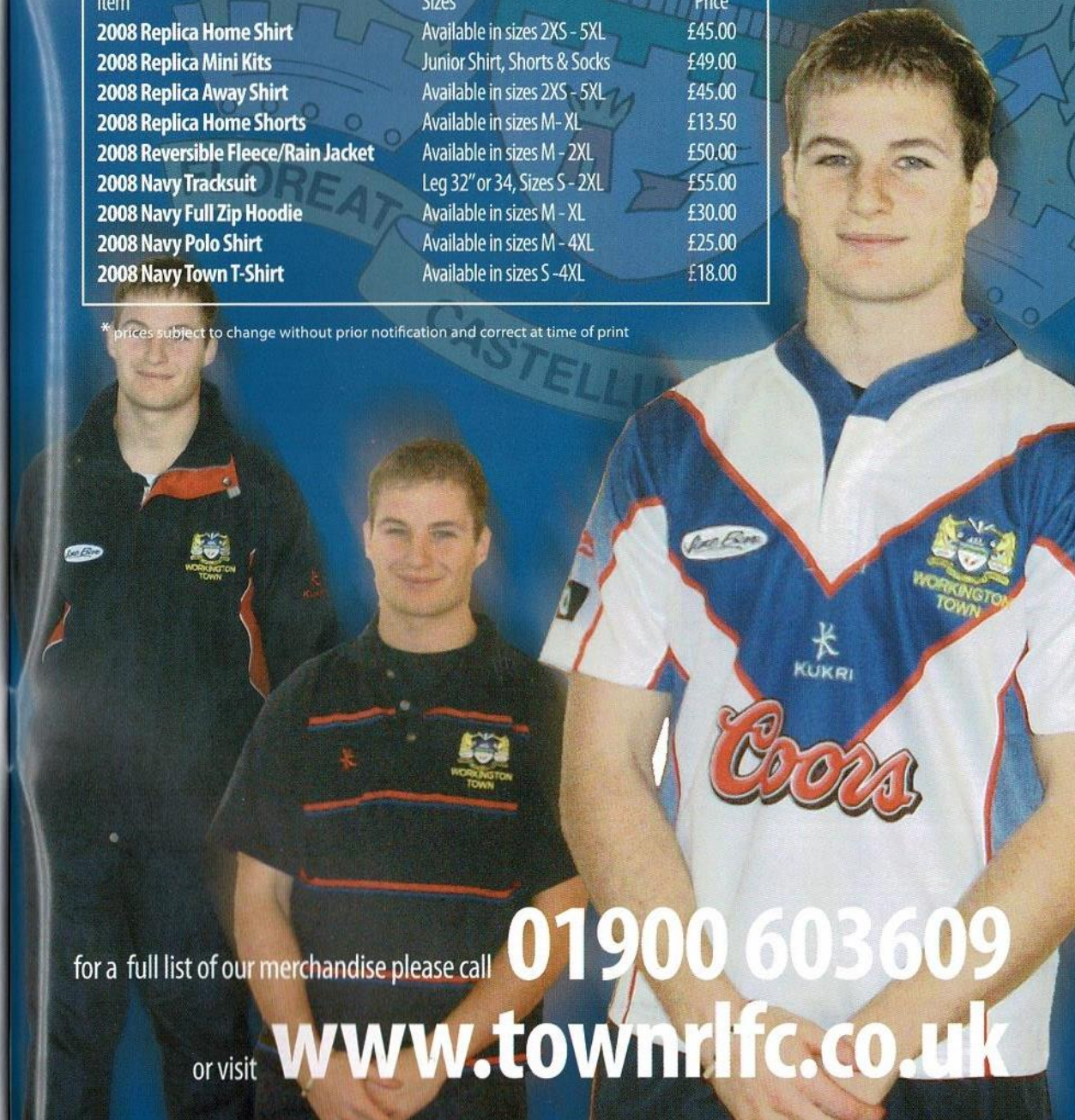
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Squad Statistics '08

Keep up-to-date with all your favourite players and their statistics for 2008.

Name	Start App	Sub App	Tries	Goals	Drop Goals	Points
Andy Todd	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brett Smith	5	0	3	0	0	12
Bryce Piosel	4	0	1	0	0	4
Carl Forber	22	0	4	74	1	165
Chris Young	7	3	3	0	0	12
Darren King	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dean Burgess	17	2	2	0	0	8
Dexter Miller	18	1	2	0	0	8
Franco Kmet	9	7	5	0	0	20
Garry Purdham	1	1	0	0	0	0
Iain Marsh	15	3	1	0	0	4
James Robinson	2	9	0	0	0	0
Jamie Beauemont	11	0	1	0	0	4
Jamie Marshall	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jason Mossop	21	0	6	0	0	24
Jay Duffy	13	1	1	0	0	4
Kris Coward	0	2	0	0	0	0
Liam Campbell	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mark McCully	19	0	5	0	0	20
Mark Routledge	16	0	5	0	0	20
Martin Keavney	3	0	1	0	0	4
Martyn Wilson	14	0	2	0	0	8
Matthew Tunstall	4	17	2	0	0	8
Neil Blacklock	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neil Frazer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peter Dobson	0	2	0	0	0	0
Robert Lunt	14	0	4	0	0	16
Ryan Benjafield	11	8	3	0	0	12
Ryan Blair	12	0	3	0	0	12
Ryan Campbell	11	6	1	0	0	4
Scott Burgess	5	3	0	0	0	0
Scott Gorman	0	5	0	0	0	0
Shaun Lunt	15	0	14	0	0	56
Stephen Dawes	12	0	6	0	0	24
Taani Lavulavu	0	15	1	0	0	4
Tyrone Dalton	2	3	0	0	0	0

National League Two

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	BP	Pts
Barrow	13	13	0	0	511	152			39
Gateshead	14	12	0	2	499	261			37
Oldham	13	11	0	2	476	250			33
Keighley	13	8	0	5	363	330			26
Doncaster	11	8	0	3	330	172			25
York	14	5	1	8	392	374			23
Workington	14	4	0	10	313	398			19
Rochdale	13	4	1	8	385	398			18
Swinton	14	5	0	9	332	461			18
Blackpool	14	3	1	10	278	522			13
Hunslet	14	3	0	11	229	478			13
London Skolars	13	2	1	10	245	557			10

Top Scorers

Name	Points
Carl Forber	165
Shaun Lunt	56
Stephen Dawes	24
Jason Mossop	24
Mark McCully	20
Franco Kmet	20
Mark Routledge	20

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