

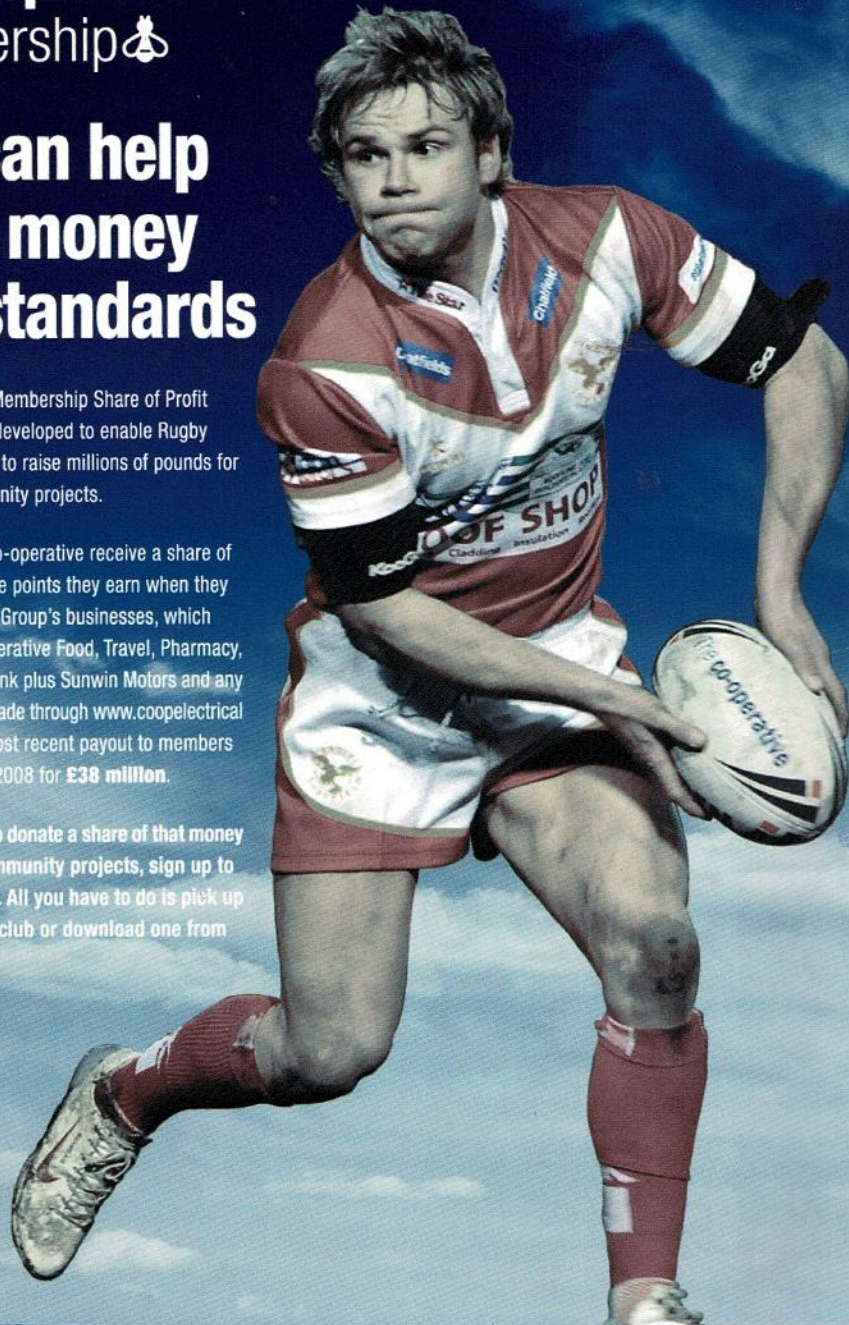
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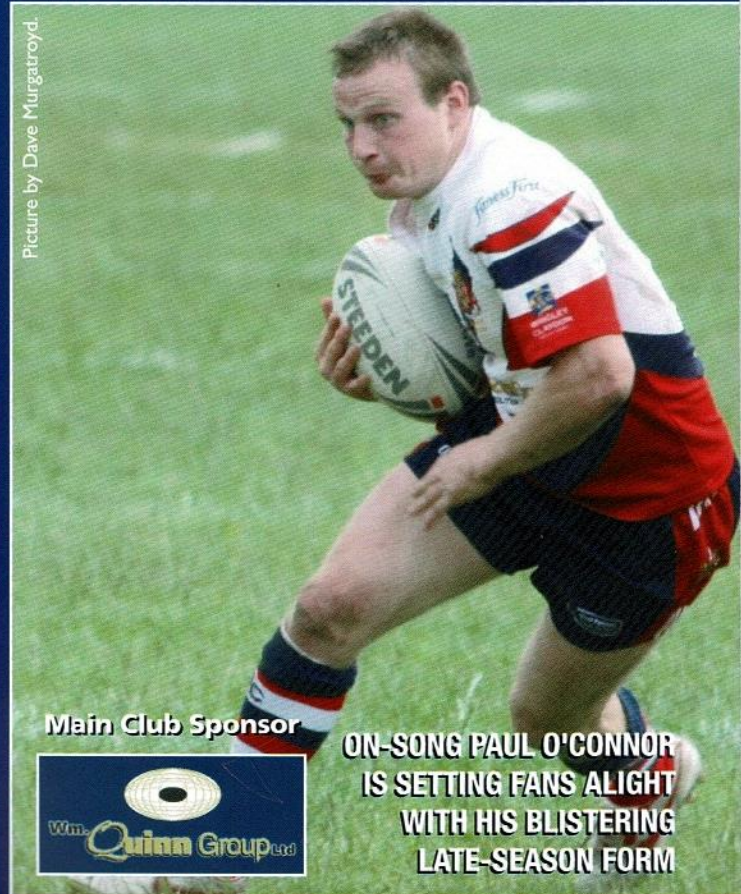
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From the Boardroom

With Chris Hamilton...



Welcome back to Boundary Park for our last home game of the regular season.

With results over the last couple of weeks

however it doesn't look like this will be our last home game of the season though.

One thing is for sure we can, in my opinion, safely say that the National League Two competition has far outweighed the other leagues in terms of excitement and evenness throughout this year with teams coming up with "shock" results and this is a product of the ever increasing standards of coaches and players in the game.

Our opponents today will come fired up in the knowledge that they have secured a place in the Play Offs and will be playing without any pressure in so much as they cannot go any higher but will be keen to take some form into the first round of the knockout stages. An added incentive for them will be to reverse the result up at Derwent Park when we picked their pocket and came away with three points.

For our part the goal is clear - three points today secures us third spot at least and will mean a home tie on 14th September for the

chance to go straight into the Grand Final (unless our near neighbours Swinton have done us a favour) and that in itself is a big motivation for the players.

We have reached the stage where character as much as anything else will play a part in proceedings and the players must step up to the plate in that respect - as they have done on numerous occasions this season.

Your support at Swinton was, once again, fantastic and I ask you to please replicate it this afternoon as we try to get the reward we all want for the club.

Please get behind the lads and make as much noise as possible!

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton



"No Junior I'm not holding hands."

Photo by Dave Murgatroyd

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

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CoachesComments

With Steve Deakin...



Welcome to Boundary Park for what is the last league game of the season and one that will determine where we will finish in the table.

It is rather ironic

that after all of the high points that we have had that we don't know if we are to go up automatically or not but we are judged by what we do over the year and not just the individual games. That said we are in good form and playing some good football. If we get all our players on board, get a bit of competition for places and some good preparation then I am sure, that if we have to go through the play off route, we are more than capable of doing so.

I was so proud of the players' efforts in our last two games where we did not even know what team we would put out until after the warm up, such has been the extent of our injuries. Special mention to our two loan signings, Brown and Martin who gave very accomplished performances and in the case of Brown scored tries in both games to really catch the eye.

At this stage of the year it would be remiss of me not to mention how grateful I am for all the support at the club – reserve team players, coaching staff, medical staff, kit men,

office staff and of course the supporters who have all helped to make this such a good year. I am not too sure if it is a record but should we get a win today we will have gone through the season unbeaten at home, not bad when you add a Challenge cup and Northern Rail quarter final spot. Today sees us welcome Workington coached by a good friend of mine in Dave Rotherham. After a shaky start they have secured a play off spot with some good performances and are building a bit of momentum, so we will have to be on top of our game to get the win. Although I would like them to do well for his sake, my thoughts and priorities are fairly and squarely focussed on us and our own future so, David, all the best AFTER today. Once again thank you for all of your support this year, cheer on the players and keep the faith.

Enjoy the game

Deaks

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With Mick Bradshaw...



Good afternoon all and welcome once again to Commercial Corner.

Once again our golf day will be held at Crompton & Royton Golf Club. Our golf day gives you a fantastic opportunity to network with other companies and a chance to reward those special employees and/or to entertain your clients and friends. There are only a few team places available.

Cost for a team of 4 is £325 + vat, you can also sponsor a hole for only £75 + vat.

If you'd like to enter a team or sponsor a hole please contact me on 0161 628 3677 or email mbradshaw.orldfc@hotmail.co.uk.

I'm pleased to announce the date for our eagerly anticipated "End of Season Player Awards Night", which will be held at Best Western HOTEL, Smokies Park on Thursday 18th September 2008. The night offers a delicious 4-course meal, stand up bingo, speeches, awards (1st Team & Reserves), grand auction and raffle. Event sponsorship is available for £750 and individual award sponsorship for £100. Individual award sponsors will present an award on the night. Individual tickets are priced at only £30 or corporate tables of 10 at £300 + vat.

If you'd like to attend our end of season awards night, please contact me on 0161 628 3677 or email mbradshaw.orldfc@hotmail.co.uk or call Janet on 0161 628 3677.

Onwards and upwards

MARKETING MATTERS



What a first campaign it's been for our beloved mascot Roary the Roughyed, who's made lots of new friends in his short time with us. Roary would like to



put on record how magnificent the supporters have been this season to him and also how noisy they've been in "ROARING" on the team week in and week out.

Last week our supporters were challenged to a tug of war from Swinton Lions fans and they didn't disappoint, winning 2-0.

Our team was "BIG" Paul Gough, "EVEN BIGGER", Adam Eyres, Paul "RENT A TASH" Eyres, Paul "TWO PINTS" Gibson, team capt Neil "THE HILL'S HAVE EYES" Dudley and "FAT" Tony "THE COACH DRIVER". Not forgetting the team mascot Rudi "WHAT YOU LOOKING AT WILLIS" Wilkes!!

Watching had me in stitches and you can see the tug of war again on YOU TUBE, just type in Roughyeds tug of war.

"Believe in the Roughyeds"

Mick (Braddy) Bradshaw

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TownPenPics



TOM ARMSTRONG 25yrs
Wing / Centre. The outstanding player for Carlisle in NL3 joined Town on trial and impressed with his solid defence and ability to break the defensive line. Still learning the trade but one for the future.

ANDREW BEATTIE 25yrs

Centre / Fullback. Joined from French Elite Club, Carcassonne after stints with the North Bears and Manly Premier League in Australia and also with the New South Wales Waratahs squads and Gordon Rugby union. Elusive and skilful with a keen eye for scoring tries. CAPTAIN

JAMIE BEAUMONT 32yrs

Loose Forward. Bomber in his second spell with Town having rejoined in 1999 after a spell in the amateur game with Seaton. Also a member of Towns inaugural academy team Jamie and represented Cumbria in the game against the ANZACS. Steady in both attack and defence.

LIAM BRETHERTON 28yrs

Fullback: Signed from NL2 rivals Blackpool. Liam has recovered from injury over the last 12 months and is working his way back to full fitness. Have experience in Academy with both Wigan and Warrington and this experience will bring value to the club.

DEAN BURGESS 23yrs

Prop. Former Lancashire academy representative. Back from injury and working his way back into the form which saw him selected for Cumbria side that played the ANZACS.

LIAM CAMPBELL 21yrs

Half Back. Joined from Super League Club Wakefield in 2005. He played for Cumbria against Ireland in 2005, where he was picked as man of the match. A speedy playmaker with an eye for the gap.

RYAN CAMPBELL 25yrs.

Utility Player: Signed from Whitehaven. Has worked hard on his game since joining Town. His ability to play in both the forwards and in the back line makes him an integral part of the team make up. A big miss at present due to long term injury sustained in pre season friendly against Widnes.

MARK COX 29yrs

Prop. 2nd Row. Signed in 2006 from Whitehaven. Uncompromising in defence and a force to be reckoned with on attack when taking the ball up. Another coming back from injury and will be a big plus to the squad once fully fit.

STEPHEN DAWES 22yrs

Centre. Young player who joined Town After an impressive trial spell with Castleford. Back after a lengthy injury lay off. Troubles defences with his strong attacking running and ability to back up.

NEIL FRAZER 31yrs

Centre. Product of Seaton Rangers amateur club who is in his second spell with Town after spells with Whitehaven and Seaton. Strong player in both attack and defence, Gus was one of the form centres in NL2 last season.

CARL FORBAR 21yrs

Half Back: Signed from Leigh in the closed season. A big asset to the club bringing NL1 experience and this coupled with a superb kicking game adds huge value to the squad.

DARREN KING 24yrs

Hooker / 2ND Rower: Another local lad who plays well above his weight. Hard working and versatile with a never give in attitude. Has had stints with Warrington and Whitehaven Academy teams in the past.

STEPHEN KIRKBRIDE 24yrs.

Half: Former Kells, Whitehaven and Warrington half back. Good organiser with an excellent kicking game. Improves with every game.

FRANCO KMET 32yrs

Centre.: Recently arrived from Australia. Learnt his trade at Balmain Tigers, Belrose Eagles and Manly Sea Eagles. Comes with big plaudits and early indications suggest he will be a huge asset to the squad.

ROBERT LUNT 22yrs

Utility Back: Signed from Doncaster. Rob due to return after injury. Have great balance, footwork and speed which transfers to any position he plays in the back line. This makes him an important member of the squad. Has also turned out at loose forward.

SHAUN LUNT 24yrs

Hooker : Signed from Castleford. NL2 Young Player for 2006. Young player with a big future. Runs strongly out of dummy half. Good support player. Enthusiastic and committed.

TAANI LAVULAVU 31yrs

Prop. Recruited from NZ. Blockbusting prop forward. Explosive runner. Strong in the defensive line and will cause problems for most teams in the NL2 competition this season. Strong off loader of the ball who can break the line at will.

ALAN MCGUINNESS 25yrs

Prop. Ex Kells amateur and Whitehaven player. Uncompromising style in both attack and defence. Big and strong and takes some stopping. Still developing his game but has a bright future.

DEXTER MILLER 25yrs.

Back Rower: Ex Kells and BARLA International. Strong defender. Runs good lines. Works hard for the team. Another who is developing his game at professional level with great commitment. Another with a bright future ahead.

STEVE ORMESHER 29yrs

Utility Player; Another former Blackpool. Player recently recruited from Preston Grasshoppers RU Club. Steve has impressed in the two games so far with his strong running and impressive work rate on both attack and

defence. Unassuming off the field but uncompromising on it.

GARRY PURDHAM 29yrs.

Back Rower; Signed from Whitehaven. Good hard working back row forward. Can always be relied on to give 100% for 80 minutes.

JAMES ROBINSON 28yrs

Second Rower.: "Cotter" is a product of Wath Brow Hornets. A big favourite among the crowd for his exceptional work rate in attack and defence. A player who plays well above his weight.

JON ROPER 32yrs.

Second Rower: At the twilight of a very successful career. Brings an abundance of experience and professionalism to the squad. Ex GB International and Super League player. Leads by example both on and off the field.

WELDON SAAYMAN 33yrs

Back Rower/Centre: This big, robust South African is a crowd favourite. A no nonsense attitude coupled with a great go-forward game makes him a force to be reckoned with whenever he takes the field.

MATTHEW TUNSTALL 30yrs

Prop.: "Tutty" is an ex Scottish international. A forward in the mould of the old Cumberland style injuries with a great off load game. Has struggled with injuries over the last couple of seasons but a big club man.

DEAN VAUGHAN 29yrs

Prop.: Recruited from Whitehaven having played the majority of their successful 2004 campaign. Tough, rugged competitor. Seen by Town as the finished product with the ability to be able to pass his knowledge and experience to the younger players in the squad.

CRAIG WALSH 29yrs.

Centre: Signed from Whitehaven. Very experienced. Leads by example at all times. His understanding of the game is exceptional. And has a huge influence on the squad as a whole. On his day will be one of the stand out players in NL2.

DAVID WHITWORTH 22yrs.

Wing/Centre: Signed from Ellenborough Rangers. David has exceptional pace and is a strong finisher. Will develop into a well rounded player within the next couple of years.

MARTYN WILSON 25yrs

Wing/Centre: BARLA under 23 international signed from Seaton as a winger but played most of last season as centre. Elusive and fast with a good side step and solid in defence. A member of the Cumbria Squad that faced the ANZACS.

MATT WOODCOCK 30yrs

Winger: Returns to the club after a stint at rugby union. Brings experience to the squad and will help the younger members develop. Strong running, hard working winger who never takes a backward step. The club are delighted to have him back on board.


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Oldham Fixtures '08



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Comp	Opp	V	KO	Res	Att
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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	36-26	1,049

April

NRC Sun 6th	WHITEHAVEN	H	3:00pm	16-6	966
NL Sun 13th	KEIGHLEY	A	3:00pm	26-12	1,276
CCC4 Sun 20th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	20-8	591
NL Sun 27th	ROCHDALE	H	3:00pm	24-14	1,107

May

NL Mon 5th	BLACKPOOL	H	3:00pm	38-26	1,115
CCC4 Sun 11th	DEWSBURY	A	3:00pm	58-12	1,103

NL Sun 18th	SWINTON	H	3:00pm	30-20	1,191
NRC Sun 25th	BATLEY	A	3:00pm	16-24	885

June

CCC6 Sun 1st	WAKEFIELD	A	3.30pm	4-46	2,966
NL Wed 4th	GATESHEAD	A	7.30pm	18-32	434
NL Sat 7th	LONDON	H	6:00pm	42-20	644
NL Sun 15th	HUNSLET	A	3:00pm	66-10	887
NL Wed 18th	LONDON	A	7:30pm	40-6	334
NL Sun 22nd	BLACKPOOL	A	3:00pm	44-10	640
NL Sun 29th	GATESHEAD	H	3:00pm	40-16	823

July

NL Sun 6th	WORKINGTON	A	3:00pm	16-14	647
NL Fri 11th	BARROW	A	7:30pm	12-32	1,799
NL Thur 17th	DONCASTER	H	7:30pm	36-16	2,806
NL Sun 27th	KEIGHLEY	H	3:00pm	30-28	1,032

August

NL Sun 3rd	YORK	A	3:00pm	24-40	1,139
NL Wed 6th	DONCASTER	A	8:00pm	10-18	759
NL Sun 10th	BARROW	H	3:00pm	34-22	1,033
NL Sun 17th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	38-20	650
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
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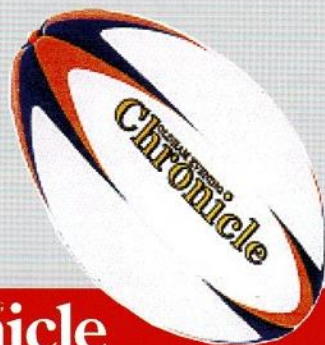
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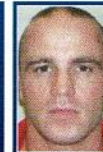





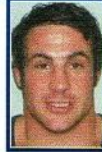
















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'JUNIOR' MARCUS IS A SENIOR OF HIS SPORT WITH A CV TO MATCH

Player Profile: **MARCUS ST HILAIRE**

by **ROGER HALSTEAD**



PICTURE BY DAVE MURCATROYD

WHATEVER challenges lie ahead for Oldham in the next few weeks Marcus St Hilaire is ready, willing and able to help the club to finish the job that he took on last autumn when he joined a Roughyeds outfit that had one burning desire for 2008 --- to win promotion to Co-operative National League One.

The 31-year-old former Huddersfield Giants, Leeds Rhinos and Bradford Bulls star, who can produce a CV to be proud of, stepped down a couple of divisions when he signed a two-year Roughyeds contract which is valid for 2009 only if Steve Deakin's men are going up in the world in readiness for next season.

Marcus, or 'Junior' as he is known throughout rugby league, has been talking this week of his life and times within the Roughyeds camp. And the man with a Challenge Cup final and more than 200 Super League appearances in his memory bank will tell you that playing at Oldham isn't as far removed from the glamour and glitter of Super League as one might expect.

"I joined Oldham," he said, "because I wanted to progress with the club to a higher level than NL2. I wanted to do my best to help Roughyeds to achieve whatever they wanted to achieve and, in my eyes, if I was to do my best it would be to help the club to get out of NL2.

"I wasn't quite sure what to expect in NL2, but I quickly discovered it was far more professional than I thought it would be, and certainly a lot more professional than many people in our game would give it credit for.

"If that applies generally within this division, it certainly applies also to the Oldham club. Deaks (coach Steve Deakin) always tries to do things the right way and he is very thorough in his attention to detail. We also have a lot of experience within the senior members of the squad and I think that is a big help as well.

"We need to beat Workington in our final league game, and if it is then to be the play-offs we must stay focused and go into every game determined to play for the duration of the match and not for only part of it as we have tended to do at various times over the season.

"We've lost a few games on our travels but I thought

the two defeats that hurt us most were Keighley away early in the season and then Gateshead away just a few days after we had lost at Wakefield in the Carnegie Challenge Cup

"For 90 per cent of the year we've been as good as anything in this division, though, and I have to say the overall standard of NL2 is significantly higher than I would have imagined.

"It's slower than Super League, but it lacks nothing in skill, intensity and physicality and you definitely get a lot more penalties and a lot more high shots! Referees in Super League tend to do a lot more talking to players on the go during the game, whereas in NL2 referees seem to give a lot more penalties and this can produce a stop-start sort of match which is good for neither players nor supporters.

"On a personal note I am sometimes asked whether I prefer full-back or wing. Full-back would be my first choice because you can see what's in front of you and you can weigh up your options. I do like playing on the wing as well though. Deaks has asked me to play at centre once or twice this year. Now that's a different proposition, but I always think you can cope with anything so long as you communicate with your team mates and do some talking on the field.

"Talking of full-back, Paul O'Connor is going great guns there just now. He's had the benefit of some good advice and he has taken it on board."

Reared at the well-known Moldgreen amateur club in Huddersfield, Marcus signed for his home-town team when he was 16 and eventually moved on to Leeds, then back to Huddersfield and then on to Bradford. What isn't widely known is that, sandwiched between his various moves on the rugby league circuit, he played rugby union for a few months and ended up in the England sevens squad at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester; there to come across the Kenyan squad and a certain Lucas Onyango. Little did he know then that a few years on they would be team mates. Funny old world, isn't it?

Known as 'Junior' because his Dad is also called Marcus, he names Ellery Hanley as his favourite all-time player, but points out that the man who most influenced him in rugby league was his elder brother, Lee, ten years his senior and a highly revered member of the Bradford Bulls coaching staff.

"Lee was always there to guide me along," recalled Marcus. "He was my mentor, and he was definitely the biggest and best influence on my career."

Interestingly, Roughyeds chief executive Chris Hamilton had this to say when Marcus put pen to paper on his Oldham deal last autumn: "On behalf of the Roughyeds I would like to publicly thank Marcus's brother Lee for all he has done in helping us to steer things through. As an assistant coach at Bradford, Lee has been a great help. Marcus doesn't have an agent, but Lee advises him and looks after him."

Born in Huddersfield, St Hilaire signed initially for the Giants and then moved on to Leeds as a 19-year-old, scoring 39 tries in 111 senior appearances for Rhinos before he moved back to Huddersfield in 2003, adding another 37 tries in 74 outings. Then in two seasons at Bradford he ran in 14 tries in 39 games.

At Headingley, he was an integral part of Graham Murray's squad and in 1998 he was voted the club's Shooting Star Of The Year. A year later he was a try scorer at Wembley in the 1999 Challenge Cup final when he came off the bench to play at full-back, thus allowing lestin Harris to move to stand-off in the second half.

Midway through the 2000 season he was released from the final year of his Leeds contract to join Huddersfield where he helped the Giants to surge into Super League by finishing top of the Northern Ford Premiership with a ten-point lead over Leigh and a record that saw them go through the season unbeaten in league competition.

He remained with Huddersfield in Super League in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and then transferred to Bradford where he was a prominent member of the Bulls Super League squad in 2006 and 2007.

He played 24 times for the Bulls last year, 19 of them on the right wing, one as a sub and four at full-back where he deputised for Michael Platt. Most of his Super League appearances, though, were on the wing where was first choice to play mainly outside Ben Harris.

At 31 and as a part-time pro in the early evening of his long career, he works full time as a plasterer in Huddersfield where he lives with his girl friend Laura, his ten-year-old daughter Christiana and his eight-months-old baby boy Micah.

Roger Halstead



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GuestWriter..

Ian Wilson

I am inclined to ask the question what the fuss was all about. I am referring, of course, to the recent announcements about Super League licences for the next three years.

The crucial decision was one which was taken behind closed doors, and out of the limelight, and which appears to have generated little challenge. This was that Super League in 2009 should consist of 14 teams. Given this, though, surely it was a virtual certainty that a side from the city of Manchester / Salford would get a franchise? Even though the long-promised new Salford stadium is still something less than a building site - and how ironic that the company behind the development should declare itself bankrupt on the day after the licences announcement - it was always very unlikely that Salford would be told to come back once it was actually built. And, of course, Salford are currently top of National League One, and favourites for the NLI Grand Final, so provided they do go on to win it, maybe they are genuinely worthy of their 'promotion'.

And equally there was every likelihood that Celtic Crusaders would be given the chance to show they have the ability to produce a Super League club. On facilities, they clearly do not anything like meet the criteria - but neither do Wakefield, for example. And I have to admit that, given the objective of expanding our game wherever this is genuinely feasible, I would be strongly in favour - though personally I would be much more in favour if they had been promoted after reaching this season's NLI Grand Final too.

So what chance the other applicants, Widnes, Leigh, Featherstone, Halifax and Toulouse? Given the 14 teams decision, it was always going to be virtually zero, given that they were never going to throw out an existing club at this stage. Castleford? They were only promoted last year, and are well advanced on their new stadium proposal, as well as very strong on player development. Hull KR? Only in year 2, and excellent crowd, performance

and stadium development so far. Wakefield? Ground not up to it, and player development thin - but how stupid would the game have looked if it were to announce the 'relegation' of a club at a time when it was challenging for a play-off place and about to play in a Challenge Cup semi-final?

This illustrates well in my mind the artificiality of the whole concept. To me, results-based promotion / relegation is an integral part of the whole philosophy of sport in Britain, and so the make up of Super League should be based essentially on performance on the field. I fully acknowledge the weaknesses brought to the game by the existence of yoyo clubs and by financial mismanagement and excessive overseas recruitment caused by the dream of chasing promotion. So there does need to be allowance built into the system to reduce these weaknesses - but it is not beyond the wit of man to do this. For example, a three-year guarantee against relegation for newly-promoted sides, and reinforcement of salary caps and restrictions on non-British-developed players, with minimum standards, and relegation based on more than more than one year's finishing position, perhaps. Crucially, for this to work - and I am convinced it could - the number of clubs in the league in any one year would need to be variable, but this is perfectly manageable within the play-off system to determine the champions.

What about the future? With regard to Widnes, Halifax, etc., they should be entitled to go up in 2009, and not forced to wait until 2011, if they win the 2009 Grand Final, and can meet established minimum standards. And what about us? Exactly the same should apply; imaginative management to give us a chance of achieving minimum standards, and then promotion to, and then from, NLI. It sounds easy, doesn't it!

Ian Wilson

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

SEAN WHITEHEAD - "The club is in good hands"

SEAN STEPS DOWN AFTER 11 YEARS ON THE BOARD

by ROGER HALSTEAD



SEAN Whitehead, the man who battled side by side with Chris Hamilton to guide Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd through its darkest hours, days,

weeks and months, has decided to stand down from the three-man board of directors.

His decision means the club is now in the hands of only two directors and shareholders - chairman and majority shareholder Bill Quinn, who took over in early 2007, and Chris Hamilton, the full-time chief executive and former chairman from the launch of the club in 1997 until Bill's arrival last year.

Sean, one of the four founder members of the club, said he was "taking a step back" because of increasing pressures and commitments concerning mainly his business and family. Bill and Chris, and the club, would continue to have his full support and his loyal backing as a sponsor and friend.

He said: "This has been coming for the past

12 months. It's certainly not a decision made on impulse and it is absolutely nothing to do with the team or events on the field. The club is about a whole lot more than team and dressing room as I have come to learn over the past 11 years.

"No, I am stepping down only because I am finding it increasingly difficult to commit myself to the club, as I feel a director should, due to the demands of my business, my family and one or two other commitments I also have. The situation was becoming impossible to manage and it reached the stage where something had to give.

"The time was right for me to step down after 11 years because the club is in good hands with Bill as chairman and majority shareholder and Chris there on a day-to-day basis as chief executive.

"My decision won't come as a surprise to people close to the club because they will have seen that in the past year or so I've not been getting to every game and I've sometimes missed the odd function.

"Here, I would like to pre-empt the rumour-mongers and story-seekers by stating categorically that those are the ONLY reasons I am stepping down and that Bill and Chris will continue to have my full support, as they know only too well.

"I have seen plenty of toil and sweat over the past 11 years at this club and I know the massive commitment Bill and Chris have to make to take this club forward.

"Bill is a hugely enthusiastic chairman who has invested heavily in the club and I know he will do all he possibly can to drive the club upwards and onwards. In reality, though, he will need the help of more and more supporters through the turnstiles and

joining the lotteries and things like that if he is to fulfil the hopes and ambitions that we all have for our club.

"He needs and deserves the backing of the people of Oldham for what he is trying to do and for what he has already done in advancing the club over the past 12 months.

"As for Chris, what can I say of a guy who is a close personal friend and one with whom I have worked side by side for the past decade on behalf of the Oldham club? As a fighter for the club there is no one better. I've never known anyone with the guts and bottle of this man when battling for a cause he believes in, and he needed all of that, and a lot more, when we were scrapping to keep the club alive two or three years ago.

"So the club is in very good hands and now it's time for me to take a backward step. I will still be supporting, sponsoring and helping out wherever and whenever I can and I will be giving Bill and Chris my total backing and support because I know what they will be going through.

"I would also like to pay tribute and say a big thank-you to the club's small, but dedicated, staff. They are like diamonds. So too are the band of volunteers and club helpers. They are too numerous to name individually. Together, staff and volunteers keep the club going, and the club is indeed fortunate to have these gems around the place. Only those close to the club know how dedicated are the staff and the volunteers.

"As for me I will continue to do my bit, but I couldn't possibly commit to continuing to sit on the board for the reasons I have outlined above."

Bill Quinn, who has known Sean through business for 17 years, said he was speaking on behalf of Chris and everyone else at the

club when he wished Sean well in the future.

He went on: "Chris and Sean did fantastically well to get the club to where it is now. It's sad that Sean is leaving the board, but family and business commitments can be a heavy load, as I know only too well. We will all move forward now. Sean will go with all our best wishes and I know he will be the first to wish us well and congratulate us if we continue to make significant progress, which is indeed what we intend to do. Nothing has changed in that respect.

"As for the club, I can vouch for what Sean says; there are not enough hours in the day to do what we would like to do at the speed we would like to do it.

"In the past 12 months we have made a lot of progress on and off the field, moving forward on a variety of fronts as seen by the appointments of first Sean Mellor as community development manager and, more recently, of Michael Bradshaw as commercial manager. In today's general financial climate it is becoming increasingly difficult in sport, as in life generally, to get where you want to be.

"We needed men at the club like Sean Mellor and Michael Bradshaw, but the more people you have and the bigger the operation becomes the more input and overseeing needs to be performed by the board and Sean (Whitehead) had been finding it difficult to meet those commitments for the reasons he has given.

"Suffice to say that I've known him for 17 years, both as a friend and through business. He will always be welcome at this club, as Chris and I do all in our power to take it forward. As I say, nothing has changed in that respect."

Oldham R.L.F.C.

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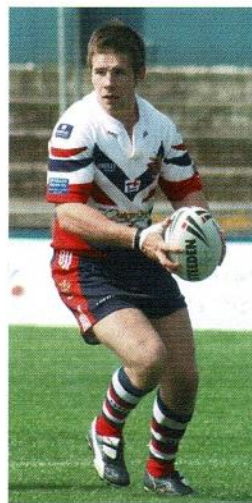


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OldhamNews



JAMES COYLE - played in every game

COYLE LAST OF EVER-PRESENTS

With 33 games played in all competitions this season, scrum-half James Coyle remains the only member of the squad to have turned out in each and every one.

Facts and stats can sometimes tell only part of the story, but they certainly don't lie... and to see so many "engine room" men, such as props and half-backs, so high in the table of individual appearances is a true indication of the staying power and stamina of players such as Coyle and the two heroes of the front-row, James Boults and Richard Mervill.

For Boults and Mervill to have dropped only one and two matches respectively all year is a tremendous achievement for two prop-forwards, and especially so when considering the high levels of consistency that both displayed last season as well.

As for Coyle, how do you quantify the contribution of a decision-making midfield pivot who has played in all 33 games, has been on the field for 80 minutes in the vast majority of those games, is joint top try scorer with 20, and is sure to have handled the ball, kicked it and decided what to do with it more than any other member of the squad?

Mick Nanyin has already smashed the new club's points-in-a-season record, but he is still 13 short of equalling Pat Rich's 2001 record of 146 goals in a season --- a target he would surely have reached had he not suffered a broken thumb in the defeat at Doncaster two games ago.

Interestingly, Roughyeds smashed through the 1,000 points in a season barrier against Swinton last Sunday. They started the game on 972 points, but hit the four-figure mark when Marcus St Hilaire plucked Coyle's inch-perfect cross-kick out of the air to score the sixth of seven tries in a 38-20 win.

The total points tally in all competitions now stands at 1,010 -- an average of fractionally more than 30 points a game -- comprised of 177 tries (five a match) and 151 goals.

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS (33 games played to date)

	P	T	G	PTS
James Coyle	33	20	3	86
Jason Boults	32	4	-	16
Richard Mervill	31	2	-	8
Paul O'Connor	31	16	-	64
Danny Halliwell	30	16	7	78
Mick Nanyin	30	20	133	346
Neil Roden	30	12	-	48
Said Tamghart	30	3	-	12
Phil Joseph	29	10	-	40
Marcus St Hilaire	28	14	-	56
Tommy Goulden	27	13	-	52
Robert Roberts	27	6	-	24
Chris Baines	23	1	-	4
Andy Robinson	21	2	-	8
Simeon Hoyle	20	4	-	16
Gareth Langley	19	3	8	28
Matty Brooks	17	1	-	4
Lucas Onyango	16	10	-	40
Craig Littler	15	7	-	28
Tommy Grundy	13	1	-	4
Ian Hodson	12	4	-	16
Daryl Cardiss	10	1	-	4
Simon Baldwin	8	-	-	-
Luke Menzies	8	1	-	4
Warren Stevens	6	-	-	-
Luke Sutton	5	1	-	4
Alex Wilkinson	5	3	-	12
Michael Brown	2	2	-	8
James Martin	2	-	-	-
Ben Seru	1	-	-	-

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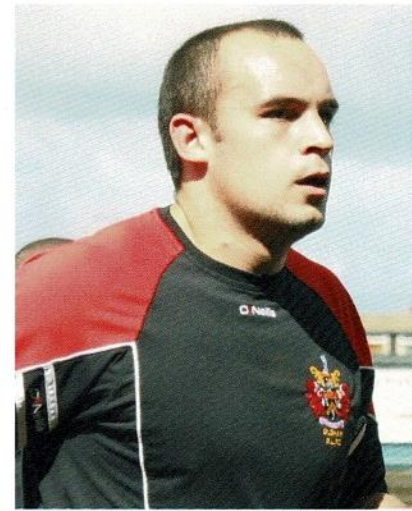
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OldhamNews



JAMES MARTIN

Impressive loan signing James Martin who made an successful debut for Oldham against Barrow, was also involved from the start when Roughyeds kept up their promotion push against Swinton Lions at Sedgley Park last Sunday.



Martin, a 20-year-old back-row forward, who has signed for one month on loan from Super League club Huddersfield Giants is a Huddersfield lad, reared at Newsome Panthers - the club that produced Phil Joseph - before joining the Giants and working his way through that club's academy and reserve-team set-up.

He surpassed expectations in Oldham's win against Barrow, where he came on as a substitute and started the Swinton game. He worked solidly in both games for nearly an hour in what was his first taste of senior rugby.

He was only contacted on Friday morning by the Giants to ask if he wanted to go to Oldham on loan.

Talking to Matthew Chambers of the Oldham Evening Chronicle after his debut he said "I got a phone call from my coach at Huddersfield on Friday morning. He asked me if I wanted to join Oldham on loan. He was keen to do so as he felt it was a good opportunity to get some experience under his belt. Then he was asked if he could get over to the club right away to sign the papers, he got that done at the Galpharm, where he met Chris Hamilton and Steve Deakin for the first time, and then went training that same night. "It was really fast as it all happened in one day," he said.

Martin, who combines his Giants training with studies at Huddersfield University, got his first taste of senior rugby and coped with it admirably. He was praised by Deaks in his post-match interviews.

Said Martin: "I was a little nervous beforehand, but that is not unusual - it's how my game preparation works. Once I had my first hit-up it was fine. The moves Oldham use are similar to the ones we use in the Huddersfield reserve team, so it is just a case of getting used to the new calls."

"I felt I got through the game okay and hopefully I will make progress from here on in"

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Oldham Amateur League Scene

with Mick (Braddy) Bradshaw

This page is dedicated to all the amateur clubs. enjoy the read!!

Fancy playing Rugby league or training first to see how much you'll enjoy it? If the answer is YES then simply pick up the phone and contact one of the amateur clubs who'll be more than willing to help.

Fitton Hill Bulldogs (u6's to u14 year olds)

Call Dave Hughes on 0161 626 3954 or 07786555639.

Higginshaw Eagles (u13 14 & 1 open-age team).

Call Paul Deakin on 07506725310 or John Mellor on 07970100606 .

Hollinwood (are looking to start a youth section soon and currently have 1 open-age team)

Call Fred Halliwell on 0161 624 3524 or 07786468833.

Milnrow Cobras (u8's, u11's and u12 year olds)

Call Paul Mellors on 07795667395.

Oldham St Annes (u7's to u18's & 2 open-age teams)

Call Dave Charlesworth on 07986761556.

Saddleworth Rangers (u7's to u18's , 2 open-age teams & girls teams from u12's to u16's)

Call Alan Bolton on 07786062106 or Mick Healy on 07802200947.

Shaw Rhinos(u9's 10's and 15's)

Call Andy White on 07900951803.

Waterhead (u8's 9 10 12 13 15 16 18 & 2 open-age teams)

Call Andy Dean on 07764183129.

On Sunday 7th Sept 2008 Waterhead ARLFC are holding a Rugby League Masters Tournament on Waterhead Park. Teams are taking part from West Yorkshire and Oldham. There will be Super league and National League stars in attendance along with Roary the Roughyed!! SKY presenters Barrie McDermott and Terry O'Connor will be dusting off their boots. For more details please phone the club on 0161 624 9312



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FRANK WILLIAMSON KEVIN PARKER RAY CLARE ALAN WEBB DAVID WHISTAKER
Front row STEVE COOKE STEVE VINGO RAY (LINES) NAVESY ALS ROCHFORD JOHN SEDGWICK
STEVE HIGHTON DENNIS SMITH

Ferranti & Chadderton ARLFC's are holding a reunion at the the Pennine Lounge, Mumps Bridge on Friday 12th September. anyone wishing to attend please email Alan Gill agill41@msn.com

Enjoy the game

Braddy

Today's Squads



Oldham

- Chris **BAINES**
- Jason **BOULTS**
- Matty **BROOKS**
- Daryl **CARDISS**
- James **COYLE**
- Tommy **GOULDEN**
- Tommy **GRUNDY**
- Danny **HALLIWELL**
- Ian **HODSON**
- Simeon **HOYLE**
- Phil **JOSEPH**
- Gareth **LANGLEY**
- Craig **LITTLER**
- James **MARTIN**
- Richard **MERVILL**
- Luke **MENZIES**
- Mick **NANYN**
- Paul **O'CONNOR**
- Lucas **ONYANGO**
- Rob **ROBERTS**
- Adam **ROBINSON**
- Neil **RODEN**
- Marcus **ST HILAIRE**
- Luke **SUTTON**
- Said **TAMGHART**
-



Workington Town

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- Ryan **BENJAFIELD**
- Neil **BLACKLOCK**
- Ryan **BLAIR**
- Scott **BURGESS**
- Liam **CAMPBELL**
- Ryan **CAMPELL**
- Kris **COWARD**
- Tyrone **DALTON**
- Stephen **DAWES**
- Peter **DOBSON**
- Carl **FORBER**
- Neil **FRAZER**
- Scott **GORMAN**
- Darren **KING**
- Franco **KMET**
- Taani **LAVULAVU**
- Robert **LUNT**
- Shaun **LUNT**
- Iain **MARSH**
- Mark **McCULLY**
- Dexter **MILLER**
- Jason **MOSSOP**
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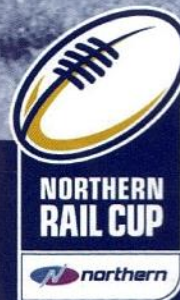
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