

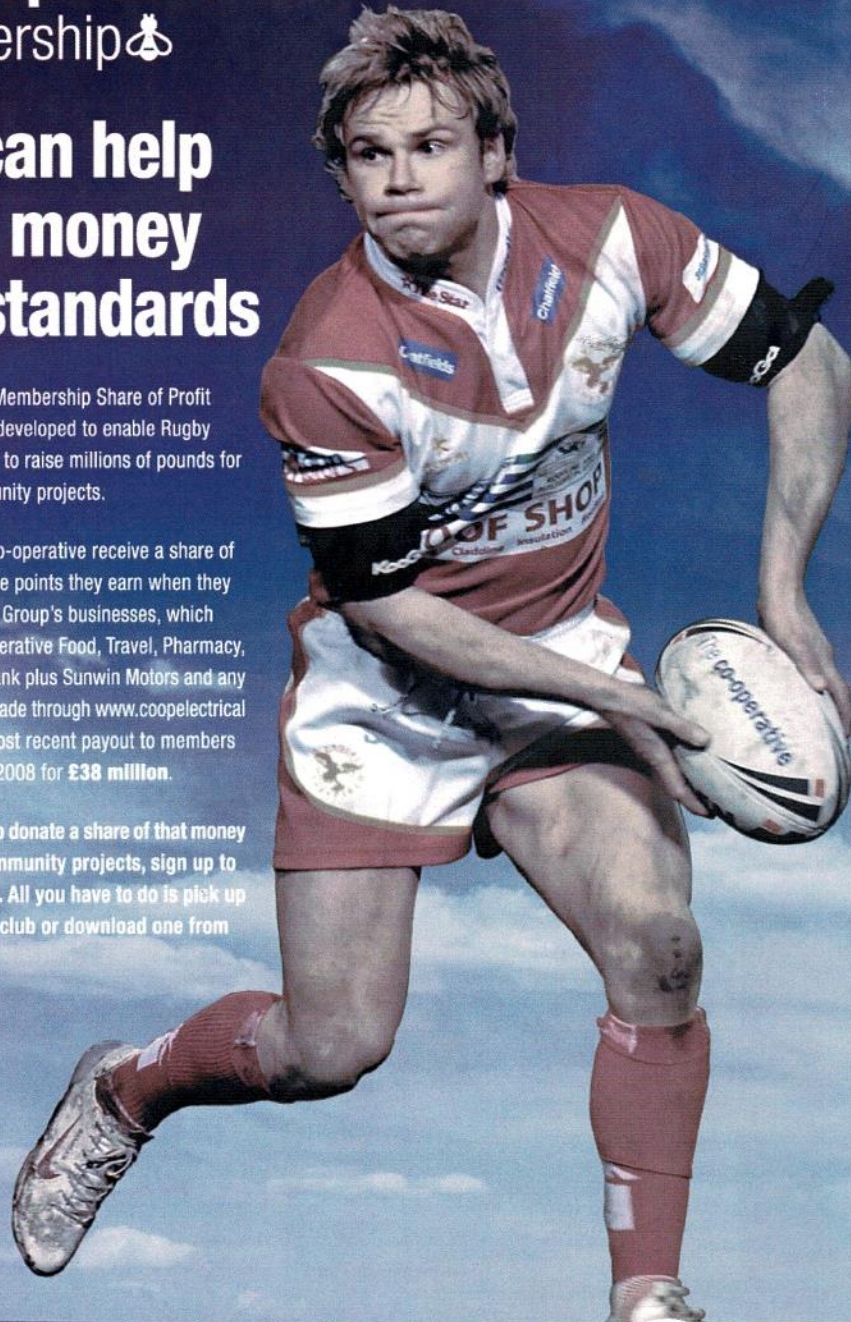
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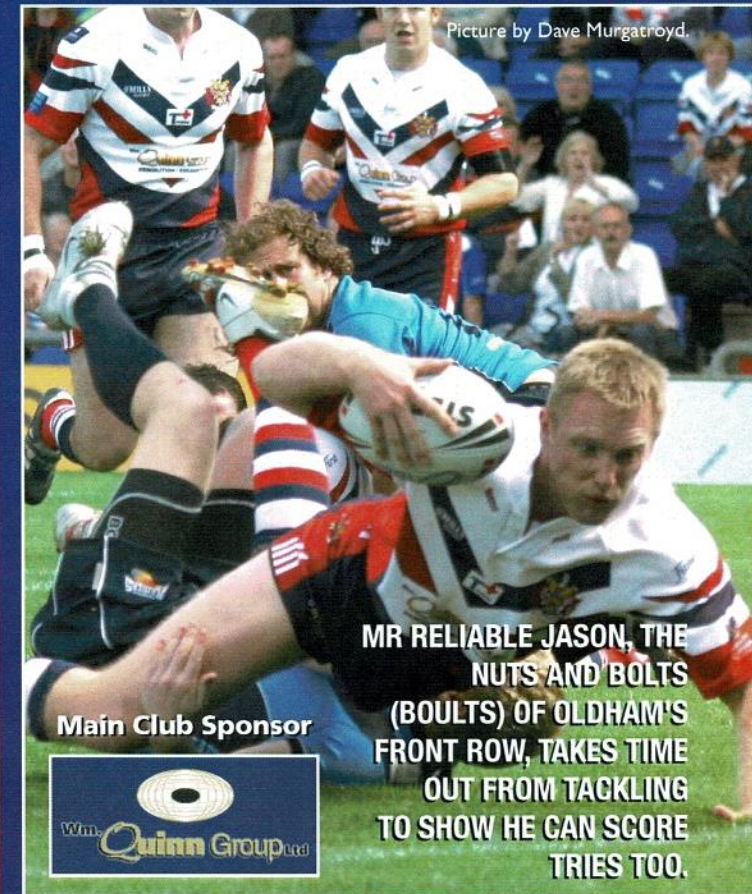


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From the Boardroom

With Chris Hamilton...



Here we go again!

The roller coaster of emotions that is also known as the co-operative National League Play Offs begins for us this afternoon against Doncaster.

There is no doubt that the best way to gain promotion is to do it through the Play Offs and then a big day out at the Grand Final because of the sense of occasion and achievement you get (I presume!!) from winning that match in front of a big crowd and a live TV audience.

That doesn't mean that any of the clubs still left in the competition wouldn't gladly swap places with either Gateshead or Barrow because their position is guaranteed and the one thing that makes the Play Offs so emotional and exciting is the element of unpredictability.

Having suffered defeat twice in the last seven years in a Grand Final we know only too well that the flip side is an unbelievably sick feeling should your team get so near and yet so far away from promotion.

We are where we are, however, and this afternoon will provide a big test against Doncaster who have given us two tough games so far this season and who finished their regular season in fine form to secure that fourth place spot.

With both sides having had a decent spell of rest since they last played there will be relatively fresh bodies on the pitch today.

What we need to go with that, in this type of football, is fresh minds so that we deal

with today's match only and react to situations in the game accordingly.

This is where our experience from last year can pay dividends but we have to ensure we do not get wrapped up with what's on offer and only play today's game.

We have enough experience and skill in the side to deal with what will be thrown at us and there will be no complacency from either side given the intensity of the two games between the clubs so far this season.

Today is also the right time to thank everybody who has supported us, home and away, this season. With away support that is the envy of many clubs in the division, and indeed National League One, you have made our away games seem like home games on more than one occasion this season.

Please use today as an opportunity to raise the roof on what we hope will be our final game at home this season and help to cheer the lads on to a vital win. There will be times when we are under pressure in the game and need your help so please be the 18th man(or woman) and get behind the team.

Many thanks

Chris Hamilton



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CoachesComments

With Steve Deakin...



Welcome to Boundary Park for our play off game with Doncaster, the penultimate game of the season for one team and the need to play again next week for the

other.

Both teams will understand the benefits of the extra week preparation for a Grand Final performance and that will have no doubt been in the minds of all of the players for the last two weeks. Defeat, however, is not necessarily the end of the road for either team – just not the preferred option.

The pressure that brings manifests itself into errors that are the game breaking spectacle of play off football. Both teams come into today's game on the back of very similar seasons, with good cup runs, solid year's results in the league and a fair points difference, so it promises to be what every fan has looked forward to all year, a no quarter asked no quarter given game with the promise of a Grand Final appearance at the end awaiting the winner. This will also mean a great day out for the fans to watch their team hopefully get to NFPI in front of the Sky cameras at the Halliwell Stadium on 28th Sept.

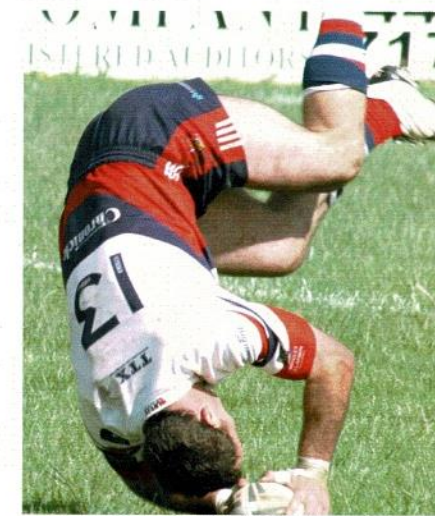
We know that our team has not been beaten all year at home and that is in no small way helped by the fact that the fans have played their part in giving support to

the players. Please go that extra step today and be as vocal as is humanly possible from minute one to the very last and help us to be the team that wins. I am sure that with your help we can do it, so let's cap a great season at home with one more win and with it the Grand Final showdown.

Enjoy the game

Deaks

PS Everybody's head over heels happy at news that Two Bobs, our inspirational captain has signed for another season. Almost as happy as Two Bobs was when scoring this try.



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With Mick Bradshaw...



As the season draws to a close I'd like to say a BIG thank you to all our sponsors,

whose support has been very rewarding to the Roughyeds and long may it continue. I view all sponsors as Commercial Partners and being Commercial Manager I'll be doing all I can in promoting all our commercial partners where and whenever possible.

Our Golf Day was held last Friday and I'd like to thank all our Teams & Sponsors, KLP Electrical, M Niell Builders, Lawrence Perrins & Sons, Northern Care Homes Ltd, Lansdowne Roofing Supplies Ltd, Wm Quinn Group, Medlock Interiors, Joseph Parr (ALCO) Ltd, Oldham Electrical Supplies, MA Roberts Construction, Klockner Pentaplast, Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC, 7L7L Lottery Systems, J & A Interiors Ltd, St Annes ARLFC, Springvale Pub, NTS (Northwest) Ltd, In Memory Of Dave Davenport, OHM Electrical Contractors Ltd, Logic Trading Ltd, Sporting Image Ltd, Hollinwood ARLFC, Gents Corner (Moorside), Old Original Pub, In Memory of Len Rowlands, Elaine Whittaker & Frank Aspin, Milnrow Cobras ARLFC, E & L Chambers (P & D Contractors) and Ashton Arms Pub.

Tickets are still available for our Player End of Season Awards Night (First Team & Reserve Team), Thurs 18th September at Smokies Hotel. Priced at £30 per head or £300 + VAT for a table of ten. To book your place please call me or Janet on 0161 628 3677.

Onwards and upwards

MARKETING MATTERS

Oldham R.L.F.C., Official Supporters Club & Junior Roughyeds Meeting

On Thursday 2nd October 2008 @ Waterhead Rugby Club, Peach Rd.

7.00pm arrival for a 7.30pm start.

Roughyeds Commercial Manager Mick (Braddy) Bradshaw will be hosting an open invitation to all O.R.L.F.C. supporters regarding the launch and the running of an Official Supporters Club. Other topics to be discussed on the night will be the formation of the Official Supporters Club Committee Here's a list of some of the social events the club would like to put in place for 2009. **Oldham Roughyeds Open Day (season launch).** Meet the Players, Coaching Staff, Roary and Board Members. Roughyeds Merchandise Stall, Refreshments, Grand Draw, Competitions, Games and much more.

Roughyeds Fans Forum. Open to Season Ticket Holders & Supporters Club Members ONLY.

Q&A with the Board, Coach & Players, Quiz & Raffle, Potato Pie Supper.

Roughyeds Family Fun-Day. Schools Tag Rugby Festival, Roary & Players in attendance, Roughyeds Merchandise Stall, Rugby Skills, Tug o War, Music, BBQ, Face Painting, Stocks, Tombola, Bouncy Castle, Grand Raffle etc.

Race Night Races, Raffle & Potato Pie Supper. Official Supporters Club & Junior Roughyeds Player Of The Year Awards. Players, Roary & Board Members in attendance. Awards Presentation, Buffet, Auction, Raffle, Disco. Dress Code - Replica jerseys, Jeans, Trainers.

Junior Roughyeds Monthly Meetings.

Selected Players and Roary to attend, Competitions, Games, Giveaways, Child Mascot draw etc.

Oldham Roughyeds would like the newly formed Official Supporters Club to have a BIG say in the organising and running of the above events.

Hope to see you all there!!

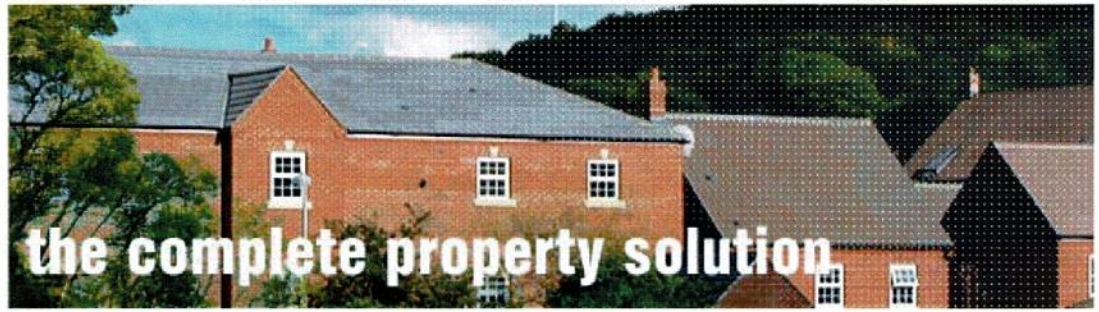
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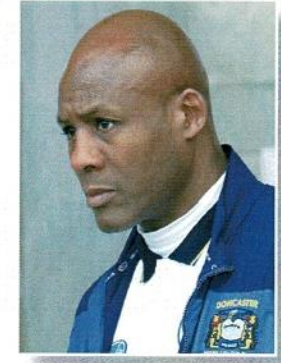
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Ellery Hanley



Probably the biggest news in National League at the start of the season was the appointment of Ellery Hanley as Head coach of Doncaster. It could only be good news for the National Leagues that

the person voted the previous year as the Greatest British Rugby League Player of all time had chosen to come back into rugby league in National League 2. It is only when you look into the great man's history in the game that you realise just how much he achieved.

Born on the 27 March 1961 in Leeds, he played most of his games at stand-off and loose forward. Over a period of nineteen years, he played for Bradford Northern, Wigan, Balmain, Western Suburbs and Leeds. He was capped 34 times by Great Britain and honoured by the Queen in January 1990 for his services to the game by being honoured with the MBE. In 2007, he was voted as the greatest British rugby league player of all time.

In 1978 Ellery Hanley signed for Bradford Northern from the junior club Corpus Christi. In 1984-85, his final season with the club, he became the first man to score more than 50 tries in a season since Billy Boston and the first non-winger to reach this figure for 70 years. He scored a remarkable 55 tries in only 37 appearances.

In 1985 he signed for Wigan for a fee of £150,000 and he finished his first season for the club with 35 tries. During his second season at Wigan he scored an unbelievable 63 tries playing at centre, stand-off and loose forward, an all-time record for a non-winger.

In the 1987 season, Hanley was awarded the Man of Steel award for the second time. 1989 was the year in which Hanley was awarded the Adidas Golden Boot, which was awarded to the world's most outstanding player. In total he spent around five years with the club, making 202 appearances and scoring 189 tries..

At the age of 30, he joined Leeds in September 1991 for £250,000 as a player and coach. In the 1994-95 season, Hanley set a new world record for a forward, scoring an incredible 41 tries in a season.

He made his Great Britain debut as a substitute, whilst still a Bradford Northern player, in January 1984. In 1988, he became a regular member of the Great Britain squad and was also appointed as the captain of the Great Britain squad. In the 1988 Ashes series, he led his side to victory over Australia for the first time in 10 seasons. Along the way he also scored eight tries. In total he was capped 34 times by Great Britain.

In 1994, Hanley was appointed coach of the Great Britain national rugby league team becoming the first black person to coach or manage a major national team in Great Britain.

In 1999, he was appointed as the coach of St Helens Rugby League Football Club as the successor to Shaun McRae. In his first season as coach, he managed to lead his side to the Super League Grand Final.

He switched to rugby union coaching and took up posts with Bristol Rugby and in the England national set-up. He also got involved in the sport of squash before returning to rugby league as a coaching consultant with Castleford Tigers in 2004. He worked with the Tigers for just two months before leaving and had no further contact with the game until being appointed to his present post with Doncaster.

Nigel Marland



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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	40-16	904

September

NLSF Sun 14th	DONCASTER	H	3:00pm		
Sun 21st	FINAL ELIMINATOR				
Sun 28th	N L GRAND FINAL				

October

Sat 4th	S L GRAND FINAL				
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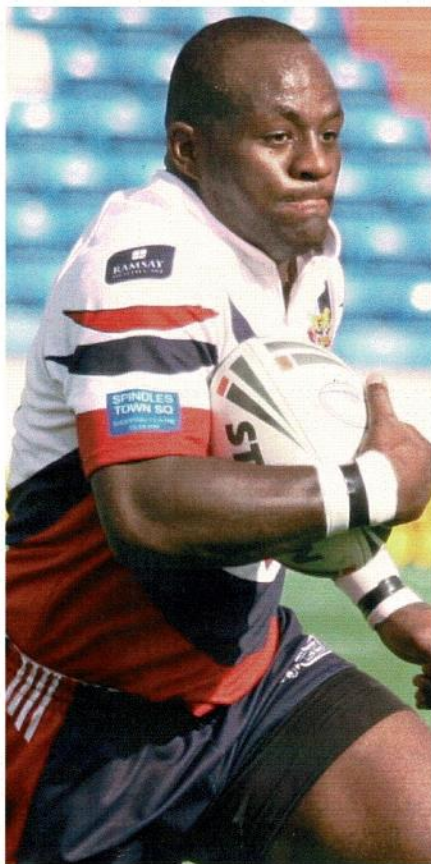
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'MUM'S THE WORD - AND PHIL JUMPS TO THE BOSS'S COMMAND TO TAKE UP RUGBY LEAGUE SERIOUSLY

Player Profile: **PHIL JOSEPH**

by **ROGER HALSTEAD**



Phil Joseph has a lot of things for which to thank his Mum, not least her decision to push him on the road to a career in rugby league when his preferred option was to go for soccer.

Growing up in Huddersfield, with a Dad who was mad on football and Leeds United, the young Phil would have chosen soccer had it not been for Mum's intervention.

It was Maureen's maternal instincts and intuition that led her to believe that her boy would be better suited to the rough and tumble of rugby league than to football --- and when Mum felt strongly about something she usually got her way.

"I wanted to play football, but Mum was the boss," Phil recalled, in a voice that couldn't disguise affection and admiration. And so it came to pass that, at the age of 13, he picked up the ball and ran for the first time with his local amateur rugby league club Newsome Panthers.

Two years later, and still at the tender age of 15, he had signed pro forms for Leeds Rhinos. He had made a blistering start in the sport chosen for him by his Mum.

He had been in a crack under-16s side at Panthers and eight of his team mates were to sign pro forms for their hometown team, Huddersfield Giants. Two years down the track Phil was to join them, and it was with Tony Smith's Giants that his career was to really take off.

In his third year there, and still only 19, he made his Super League debut in Huddersfield colours and he went on to play 13 times in the elite competition in 2004, seven starts and six sub appearances.

From then on he was a young man in a hurry with a lot of the rugby league world to see and experience. He has led a

somewhat nomadic existence in recent years, playing for Swinton Lions in 2005, Hull KR in 2006, Halifax in 2007 and Oldham in 2008 on a two-year contract subject to Roughyeds gaining promotion this time.

Having moved down from Super League to NL2 with the Lions he was expected to shine. He didn't disappoint. Playing mainly at hooker, he scored 11 tries in 29 games; carried off the NL2 Player of the Year award; and was named in the mythical NL2 Team of the Year.

His performances caught the attention of Hull KR and it was with Rovers in 2006 that he played a major role in helping them to win promotion to Super League with 19 appearances and a string of quality performances.

Martin Hall's Halifax was the next port of call and, in NLI, he scored nine tries in 28 games for Fax and showed some of the form that had previously earned him Welsh international honours.

Oldham came next, and the Roughyeds had to beat off competition from Widnes and Leigh to secure the services of a versatile, play-anywhere operator, who had demonstrated earlier in his career that he was not averse to playing in NL2. He had other clubs chasing him, but he has never had regrets about his decision to come to Oldham.

"I've really enjoyed 2008," he said. "They are a great set of lads here and although we narrowly missed out on automatic promotion I, for one, can't wait for the play-offs and the chance to appear in a Grand Final. It's going to be a very exciting and intense end to the season as we chase our goal of promotion.

"We are certainly capable of doing it. We beat Doncaster here in the league and they turned the tables at the Keepmoat on

a night when we were carrying lots of injuries. We were physically busted. Hopefully, with a fresher team that has had some rest in the past three weeks, we will be able to get a different result this time."

From the early days when he signed for Leeds as a 15-year-old prop, Joseph has always carried the "utility" trademark. Throughout his career with several clubs he has operated fairly frequently in a variety of positions, including hooker, loose-forward, stand-off, second-row, occasionally scrum-half and even, on one occasion at Oldham, in the centre.

Hooker and stand-off are his favourite spots, but coach Steve Deakin and the player have a pact, a sort of unwritten agreement that Joseph will play anywhere the side needs shoring up. In Phil's own words: "When there are a lot of injuries and the team is busted I'm happy to scratch wherever it itches!"

There has been a lot of "itching" and a lot of "scatching" across the Oldham squad as injuries have had a massive impact on team selection in recent weeks, but wherever he has been asked to play his part Joseph has always stood up to the challenge.

He lives between Halifax and Huddersfield with his girl friend Danielle and his four-year-old daughter Tanaya. They watch him play in nearly every game.

"Tanaya loves our sport," said Phil, "and she is always telling me, even at four years old, that she wants to play rugby league when she grows up. I'm not so sure about that. It's a rough game. I think it will be a case of 'no chance'."

Now if Phil were tell his daughter to go for soccer instead, the sporting wheel of the Josephs would have turned full circle.

Roger Halstead



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GuestWriter...

Brian Walker

The Barclays' Premier League fixture Hull vs. Wigan attracted a crowd of 25,000 despite the hordes who journeyed down to the new Wembley to watch Hull FC in this season's Challenge Cup final.

Not too long ago this would have been a pipe-dream on Humberside - professional sport in the city being in disarray.

The owner of the soccer club's Boothferry Park ground and once owner of the club itself - tennis star David Lloyd - had, in the spring of 2000, called in the bailiffs, resulting in Hull City being locked out of the stadium. The Tigers, a Football League basement side which had been just two places away from becoming a non-league outfit were allowed back into the ground to commence preparations for the 2000-01 campaign but it wasn't long before Lloyd sent in the bailiffs for a second time resulting in the club being placed into administration.

Neighbours Hull FC or Hull Sharks as they then preferred to be known had ended the 1999 season next to bottom of Super League. David Lloyd had also owned the rugby club but withdrawn his financial support there too. Gateshead Thunder, Super League's newest club, whilst ending the season in sixth place, had lost £700,000 and was all but dead in the water. A proposal to 'amalgamate' the cash-strapped Hull Sharks with the north-east outfit was approved by the chairmen of the other Super League clubs mainly because without the funding that went with the amalgamation Hull FC would probably have ceased to exist too.

The catalyst to a brighter future for both clubs was without doubt the opening in 2002 of the £44 million state-of-the-art 25,000 seater Kingston Communications Stadium paid for from funds raised by the flotation of Kingston Communications the city's own telecommunications company. It was one of the most momentous events in the history of a proud sporting city.

Ironically, here in Oldham, Sports Park 2000 - a brand new home planned for the town's two

professional clubs - a beacon to light up the incoming millennium only succeeded in sparking a civic centre row due to a huge gap in funding. If only the town's fathers had chucked the borough's historic silver into the pot!

Due to lack of glitz, glamour and success both Oldham clubs have since lost a proportion of their fan-base.

Neither the rugby nor the football club is in financial disarray but nevertheless neither is fully paying its way. Both club chairmen, quite rightly, are appealing for more support. The Latics sit snugly at the top of their division whilst the Roughyeds kick-off this afternoon's match having gained pole position in the play-offs. Both Oldham clubs have invested heavily in players, and dished out some crowd-pleasing football yet the numbers passing through the turnstiles have been a lot lower than anticipated.

Roughyeds' chairman, Bill Quinn recently interviewed on Oldham Community Radio begged the question - should the club be in a position to build its own stand-alone rugby stadium should the design be for an atmospheric 3,000 capacity or should it plump for 12,000 which we could all end up rattling around in? The question was also asked if Oldham is still a strong rugby league town. And, if so, why do only 1,000 fans or so turn out to support the Roughyeds?

Despite the economic downturn Athletic have made a start on a major Boundary Park revamp. It will bring the ground bang-up-to-date. There has recently been an upturn in the fortunes of the Roughyeds and without fear of argument once this is turned up a notch or two crowds will be on the increase. The upgrading of Boundary Park will also have a positive effect so might it be prudent to leave the ground question unanswered and placed on the backburner for a season or two?

In the meantime let's look for somewhere local for the Reserves to play their matches.

Brian Walker

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

THE BILL QUINN INTERVIEW - PART ONE



The main message from Bill Quinn's recent interview on Oldham Community Radio (99.7FM) was that if the people of Oldham really do want to see a first-class rugby league side in the town it is up to each and every individual who loves the game to back the Roughyeds and to offer their support.

In a fascinating interview with Dave McGealy lasting nearly an hour, these are the main things the chairman he had to say:

"I see myself only as a caretaker of the club. The club ultimately should be the town's club, the fans' club. It should be able to stand alone. If anything happened to Bill Quinn, God forbid, this club should be strong enough to stand on its own feet and go on for ever, and that's what we are striving for - that's why we need more support and why we are urging the town to get behind us.

"The quality of rugby in NL2 is rising year on year. We have had some fantastic games. Sometimes you can only play as well as you are allowed by the opposition, but we do urge people to come and see what we have to offer.

"You hear people say Boundary Park is on the wrong side of town - rubbish! It is a very good facility. You hear them say it has no atmosphere, so let's get another 1,000 fans in and make some more atmosphere.

"We recruited very well in the last off-season and signed some high-profile players. We have done everything we could possibly do to give the people of Oldham a good side to watch and no one can say they have seen terrible games.

"Myself, Chris Hamilton and everyone else at the club

feels very privileged and very grateful to be able to acknowledge the fans and sponsors who are there every match. They have done us proud and they have been the 18th man at Boundary Park on several occasions this season.

"We are really, really grateful for their support, but the financial facts are that the club cannot run on the income from 1,000 fans once every two weeks. To balance the books we need sponsors, income from the lotteries and from other off-field activities.

"We are putting on an Awards Night at Smokies at £30 a head including four-course dinner. It's the only event we've put on this season and all we are trying to do is balance the books. It isn't all profit - there is a cost to the club, obviously - but we have to balance the books and that means looking at producing income apart from match days.

"People tell us Hunslet's end-of-season function is free. Well, with due respect to Hunslet, they are bottom of the league. If supporters want us to buy players of the quality we have in our squad; if they want us to send Rob Roberts out into the schools on development work; or to field a reserve side; or to appoint full-time people like community development manager Sean Mellor and commercial manager Michael Bradshaw, they must realise there is a cost to all this.

"I don't want the club to have to rely in future on Bill Quinn, or another Bill Quinn. This club does not belong to me. It belongs to the fans and it belongs to the town.

"This town is supposed to be a rugby town. Last season we averaged 918 fans per game and this season it's gone up by 100 a game to 1,018, an increase for which we are very grateful. But an increase of 100, to just over 1,000 per game, bearing in mind the sort of players we have brought in, is not very encouraging.

"I FEEL I'M FAILING THIS CLUB BECAUSE IT MAKES ME THINK WE ARE NOT DOING SOMETHING RIGHT IF WE CAN ONLY GET CROWDS OF THAT SIZE.

"We can't be classed a rugby town with only 1,000 fans. If people in Oldham want the club to move forward and go for a franchise for Super League then we have to get more support than that.

"Look at the stadium issue. If we go for a stadium with 3,000 seats it wouldn't be good enough for Super League. If we went for one with 12,000 seats it would be nearly empty, so where do we go from here?

"I ask the people of Oldham - do you want a rugby club in this town? This isn't about Bill Quinn or about Chris Hamilton, who has put his heart and soul into it for the

past ten years, it's about the CLUB and how much better it would be for the club if we had an extra 1,000 fans behind us.

"We want to deliver; we want to give the people of Oldham a top-quality team that can go for top honours, but we do need more people behind us.

"We sat down last week and discussed the prospects of going up and of staying where we are, but not so much about where we are because a three-week lay-off will have done the lads good and all is geared up for the play-offs. It should be a fantastic game against Doncaster and I would like to look around before kick-off, see the size of the crowd, and say: WOW!

"We need our 18th man on that day and, ideally, we will go straight through to the final.

"On season tickets we have frozen prices for the past two seasons, this year it worked out there were three free matches. People say Huddersfield have slashed theirs - that's fine. But if anyone is thinking of going to Huddersfield they have to take the petrol factor into account and also the fact that for an Oldhamer, the Roughyeds is their hometown team.

"Also, if I could rely on 2,000 through the gate at every match I could also reduce prices. Nevertheless, we are going to try to come up with something but at the end of the day everything comes at a cost. The club is going forward. Please back us, please support us, please try to get the rugby supporters of the town coming down to Boundary Park.

"Everything in life has a cost, but we are striving to give you a good product for that cost. There will be some new signings in the close season as well as some other interesting announcements, so please do your best to get behind us.

"We want players to be proud to play for this club. They want as much money as they can get, but it's not just about money. We make them understand that we have a very proud club here and that there is pride in wearing the jersey.

"We were very proud to get to the Grand Final last year. Featherstone had three weeks rest and we had three tough games to get to the final, and then we lost Byron Ford, Tony Tonks and Geno Costin, all with injury and all in the first half.

"It proved, in the end, a challenge too far but we were very proud to be there. Both last season and this season the work ethic of the players has been terrific. For the first time in 19 years we've gone unbeaten at home all season, beating NL1 teams Salford and Whitehaven in the process. You don't do that without a lot of honesty, determination, dedication and strength of character.

"Also, we beat a very good Keighley side with 12 men

and that again was down to mental toughness and strength of character.

"At reserve team level three or four of the lads have been offered professional contracts and we are now looking at developing that side of things to take in younger age groups and announcements on that will be made in the close season.

"Several issues at the club are being addressed and although I can't announce anything today there will be announcements made as and when they come to fruition."

Bringing the interview to a close, Dave McGealy said: "I think I would get lynched by Oldham fans if I didn't ask you this: is Bill Quinn sticking around?"

Answer: "Bill Quinn IS sticking around, Bill Quinn would like more people sticking around with him. Chris Hamilton has proved his long-term commitment. I've still a lot of proving to do, but my ambition long term is to take the club to a position of strength so that I can happily say: 'The job's done... you don't need Bill Quinn now. The club can stand alone. That would give me the greatest satisfaction of all.'"

THE BILL QUINN INTERVIEW - PART TWO

ROUGHYEDS chairman Bill Quinn has made an impassioned plea for more Oldham people to get behind the club and to attend matches at Boundary Park to see what's on offer.

Speaking on Oldham Community Radio (99.7FM), he referred to his "biggest disappointment" since taking over the club and said that it was the fact that home attendances are limited to the 1,000 or so hardcore supporters.

He said: "The 1,000 diehard supporters we have offer fantastic support and on behalf of everyone at the club I would like to take this opportunity of giving them all a massive thank-you.

"But my biggest disappointment is that we don't get more. We have a good product that is going to get better and better. The lads on the pitch deserve more support and we would love to see the stay-aways and the people who used to support the club, but don't any more, coming down to have a look at us.

"If I could double our attendances I really think this club could go forward."

Bill was a studio guest of Oldham Community Radio's Dave McGealy on the station's regular "A Chance To Meet..." programme in which local personalities talk about their lives and choose pieces of music along the way.

Asked about the turnover of his group of companies, The Wm. Quinn Group Ltd, and how successful he was in business, Bill said the turnover last year ran into "many millions."

Bill Quinn Interview

Having left school at the age of 16 to start work selling ice cream for Savori's in and around Manchester, 42-year-old Bill now heads one of the biggest companies of its kind in the North of England, specialising in demolition, remediation, land purchasing and environmental solutions.

He said he was attracted to the Roughyeds by the achievements of Sean Whitehead and Chris Hamilton and their single-minded determination to keep the club alive.

"Sean is a very good friend of mine," he added, "and I really admired what he and Chris had done at the club. Chris likes to do everything in a professional manner and he is a very determined person as well. He and Sean never gave up. We had to keep it going and take it forward. It's a challenge, but it's just another wall."

He had explained earlier that, having spent a large part of his life knocking down walls, he saw every "wall" in life as something to be conquered and knocked down, certainly not anything to be afraid of.

Listeners heard a fascinating story of a man who was brought up in the Gorton and Longsight areas of Manchester, whose Mum died when she was only 53, but whose attitudes to life and work were influenced greatly by his Irish-born father Michael, still alive today and now a keen Roughyeds fan.

"Work ethic" was, and still is, a great driving force for Bill, who worked part time for Savori's while still at school. Leaving school, he worked full time for them on the ice-cream vans, in their production plant and "on the fridges". He had always fancied getting into the building industry, however, and driving heavy machinery to follow in the footsteps of his father.

It was around this time of his life, growing up in Longsight, that he joined the West Gorton amateur boxing club where he trained several times a week.

Said Bill: "Boxing teaches discipline, self control and anger management. I can't speak too highly of my stable family environment and the respect that most of us teenagers had at that time around Gorton and Longsight for parents, authority and the community. There was a great community spirit. And if one of us stepped just a little bit out of line two or three streets away from home you knew for a fact that your parents would soon know and then you would be in hot water."

His first job as a labourer with a building company lasted only a year before he was laid off. He then worked on the machines at two demolition companies.

"I did seven days a week, and loved it," he said. But the thought of working for himself appealed to him greatly so he eventually gave his employers a week's notice - and started out on his own with just £200 to his name.

He got the chance to demolish a mill in Stalybridge, but he needed a machine to do it. It would have cost him all his life-

savings of £200 to hire a machine for just one week, and then he faced the costs of running it.

"The bloke took me at my word and let me take the machine for £100 down with the promise of £300 to come in the following week. That was it, I was on my way.

"I didn't have the know-how to win demolition contracts so I went to the firms who had got the contracts, bought some of their work off them, did the demolishing and then reclaimed the bricks and sold them on."

Fate was to take a hand when Bill was seriously injured in a road accident near Chester. He suffered six broken ribs, a collapsed lung and severe head wounds. He was told he would be in hospital for up to a month, but that was on a Friday and he had promised a client in Stalybridge that he would have a building demolished and the land cleared by the Monday.

Bill takes up the story. "I couldn't let him down so I signed myself out of hospital, got to the site in Stalybridge, strapped myself into the machine and got to work. Mum and Dad were told by the hospital that I had signed myself out. They hunted me down to Stalybridge where Dad gave me a right roasting . . . and then put on his overalls to give me a hand.

"Together we got the job finished in time and the man we were doing the job for was so impressed that he gave me loads more work in and around Stalybridge, and that set me up to really move forward and to lay down the foundations for what the Wm. Quinn Group of Companies is today."

One of the pieces of music chosen by Bill was called "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" - and it was to the strains of that song that he went out, dressed fully in pink, to box former New Zealand RL international and well-known toughie Brad Hepi in the Legends of League fund-raiser at the Reebok Stadium earlier this summer.

Against all the odds, Bill won the contest despite conceding weight, strength and years.

"Nobody expected me to win," recalled Bill, "but I looked upon Hepi as another wall. This was one wall I couldn't knock down or walk through so I had to walk round him. He used his strength; I used my boxing brain and experience, and I got the verdict.

"People said I had drawn the short straw. But I don't believe in shorts straws. Like walls, they are there to be overcome. Faced with any challenge you go to it and do your best."

That is exactly what Bill Quinn is doing now when faced with the wall that has to be beaten to enable the Roughyeds to move upwards and onwards. He is more than happy to tackle that challenge head on - he just wants another few hundred rugby league lovers to give him and his fellow director Chris Hamilton a lift by backing the team at Boundary Park on match days.

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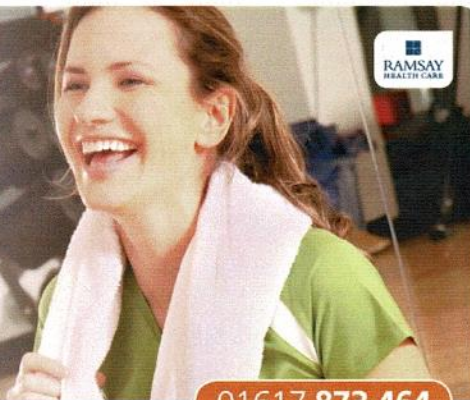
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TICKETS FOR FINAL

If Roughyeds beat Doncaster at Boundary Park today in the NL2 play-off semi-final qualifier - and thus book their passage to the Grand Final - tickets for the Grand Finals at the Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington on Sunday, September 28 will be on sale from the Boundary Park ticket office after the game **FOR ONE HOUR only.**

Seats are placed in the North Stand and are priced as follows:

Centre Section, Adults £20, Concessions £10; moving out towards the posts, Adults £16, Concessions £8. Standing Tickets, Adults £15, Concessions £8.

Concessionary prices also apply to students under the age of 18 who are in full-time education, but they must produce a valid students' under-18 identification card - no ID, no ticket.

The winners of today's big game at Boundary Park go straight through to the final, while the losers will be at home again next Sunday, September 21, to the winners of the Keighley Cougars v Rochdale Hornets play-off.

Kick off times for the Grand Finals are as follows:

The Co-operative Rugby League Conference GRAND FINAL at 11-00am.

The Co-operative National League Two GRAND FINAL at 1-30pm

The Co-operative National League One GRAND FINAL at 4-00pm

PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS NIGHT

Fans can vote for their Roughyeds player of the year via the message board on the club's official website at www.roughyeds.co.uk or by picking up a form at the club's office in Lansdowne Road, Chadderton (Tel: 0161 628 3677).

Deadline for receipt of entries is 5pm on Tuesday, September 16, in readiness for the club's end-of-season Awards Night (first team and reserve team) at the Best Western Smokies Hotel on Thursday, September 18 (7pm for 7.30pm).

Tickets priced at £30 a head or £300 plus vat for a table of ten include four-course dinner. There will also be stand-up bingo, speeches, awards, auction and a raffle.

Event sponsorship is available at £750 plus vat (including a table of ten and wine) while anyone taking up individual player-award sponsorship at £100 plus vat will have the option of presenting an award to the player concerned if that is applicable.

To book, sponsor or seek more information ring the Roughyeds office on 0161 628 3677 and speak to Janet Yewdale or to Commercial Manager Michael Bradshaw.

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LTS

Oldham Amateur League Scene

with Mick (Braddy) Bradshaw

This page is dedicated to all our Local Amateur Rugby League Clubs. Please support them where and whenever possible.

First of all I'd like to say a BIG thankyou to Hollinwood, Milnrow Cobras, Saddleworth Rangers and Oldham St Annes for sponsoring a hole at our annual Golf Day.

Milnrow Cobras ARLFC under 12's (Year 7) are on the urgent lookout for new players to ply their trade in the North West Counties League this season. If you'd like to try your hand at Rugby League then please call Paul Mellors on 07795667395.

Higginshaw ARLFC are holding their annual Sportman's Dinner at Shaw Rd Con Club on Friday 3rd October. MC for the evening is ME Mick (Braddy) Bradshaw. Guest Speaker is ex Oldham & St Helens Stand-off Tommy Martyn and providing the laughs is comedian Kurtis King. There will also be a delicious 3-course meal, Raffle and Auction.

If you would like to sponsor a table or purchase tickets @ £25 per head, please call John Mellor on 0797 0100606.

Higginshaw ARLFC are also trying to raise as much money as possible to purchase their club house. One great way of contributing is joining their newly formed 100 club, the cost is £100 and gives you life membership. I've joined. So why don't you!!

Last but not least **Higginshaw ARLFC** have recently gained charity status. Well done!!!!

Last week **Waterhead ARLFC** hosted the masters of league and a great day was had by all. Masters Rugby League is a tournament for the over 35's. This gives the Golden Oldies a chance to dust off their boots and prolong their playing days.

Enjoy the game

Braddy



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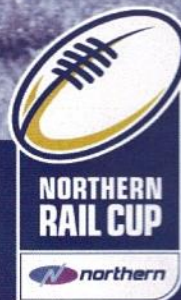


Pride Passion Performance

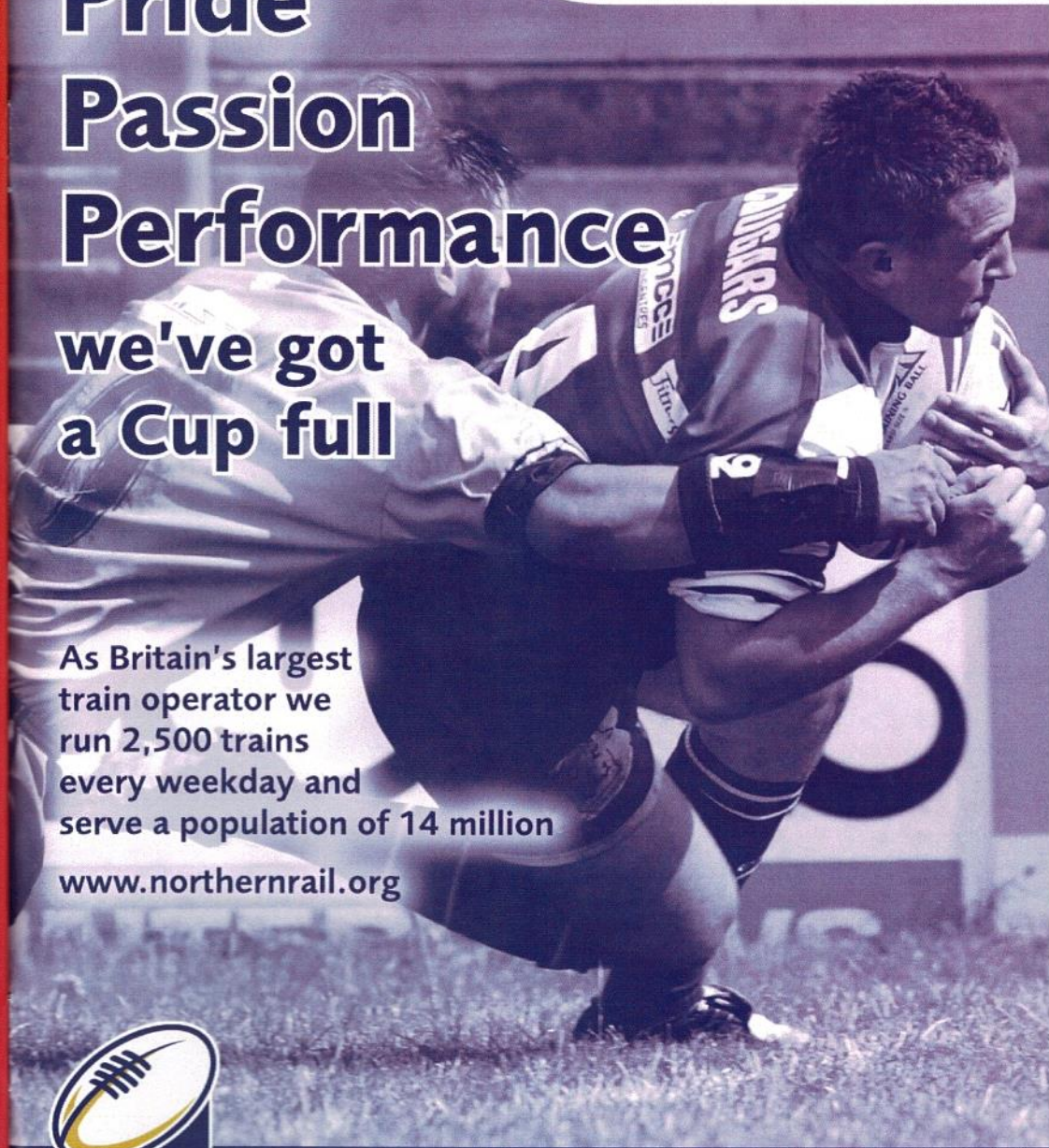
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Daryl Cardiss	(2)	Dean Colton.
Marcus St Hilaire .	(3)	Andreas Bauer
Danny Halliwell	(4)	Shawn heaf
Lucas Onyango	(5)	Wayne Rieltie .
Neil Roden	(6)	Kyle Wood
James Coyle .	(7)	Luke Gale.
Jason Boult	(8)	Nathan Freer
Simeon Hoyle	(9)	Corey Hawrie .
Richard Mervill	(10)	Alex Benson.
Tommy Goulden	(11)	Peter Green .
Adam Robinson	(12)	Craig Hawton
Rob Roberts	(13)	Josh Weeden.

Phil Joseph	(14)	Kyle Briggs .
luke Menzies	(15)	Chris Buttery .
Matty Brooks	(16)	Mick Hayley
Said Tanghart	(17)	Jason Hart .