

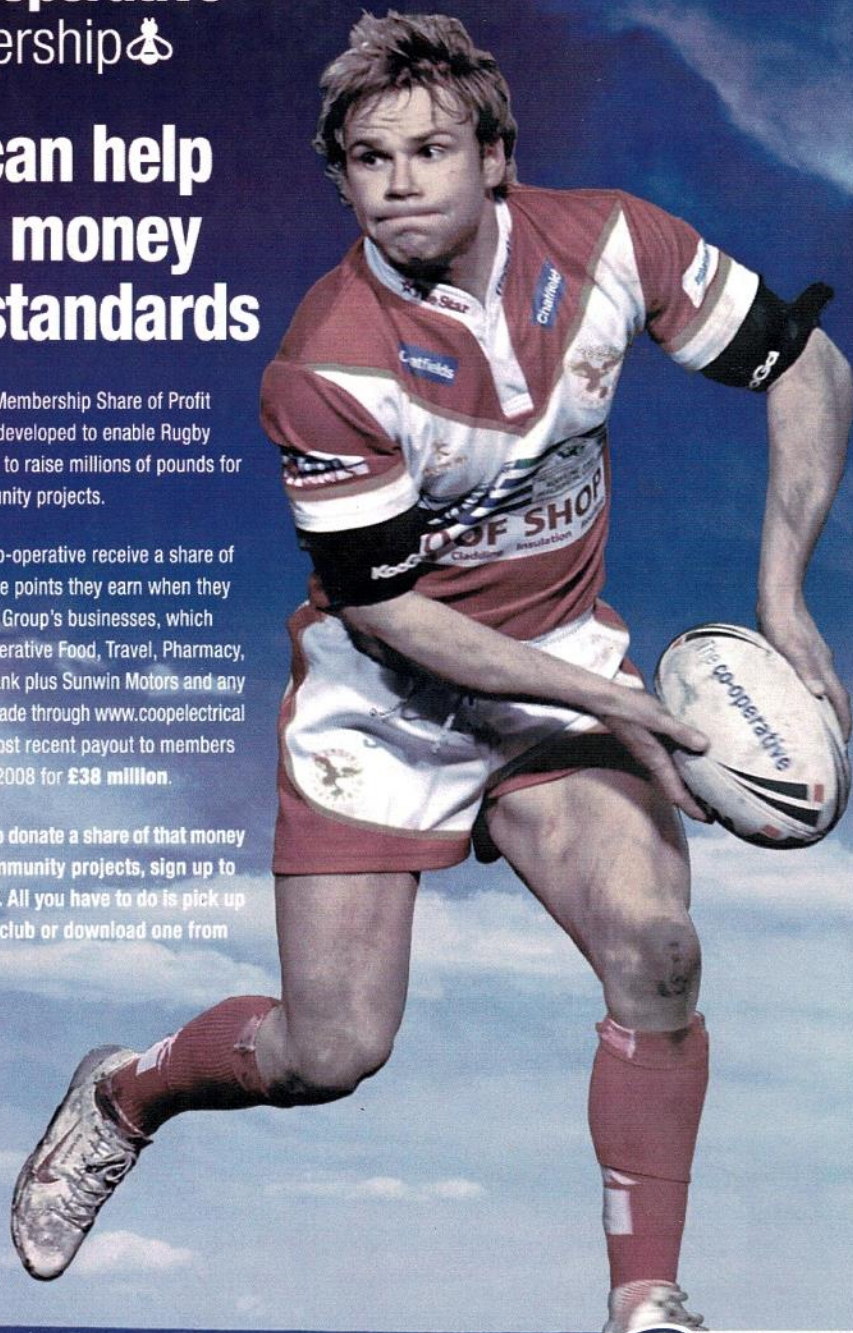
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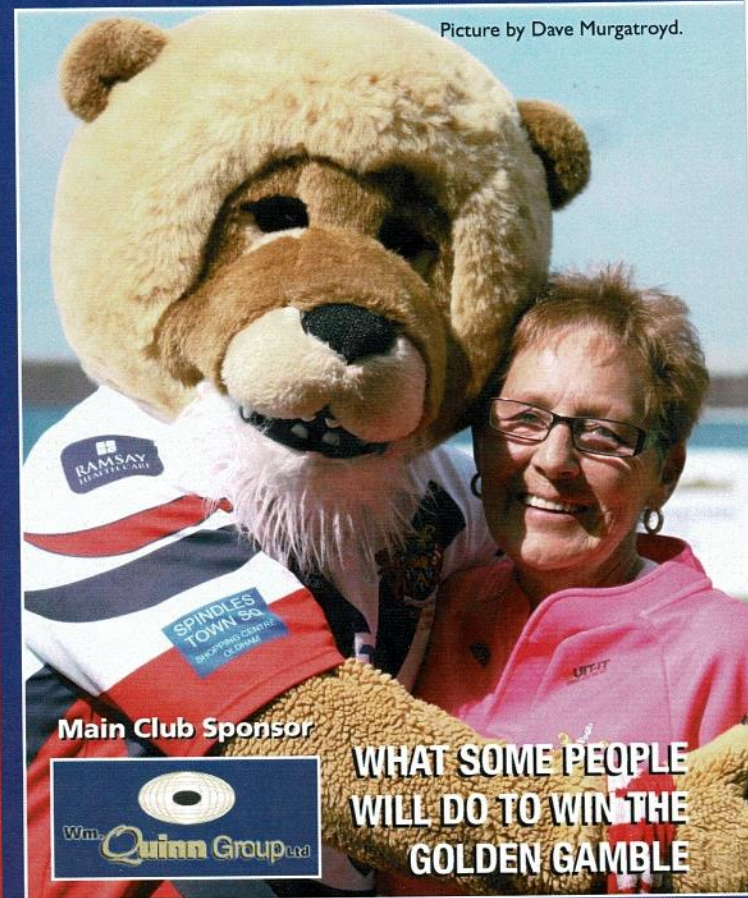
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# From the Boardroom

With Chris Hamilton...



**After the bitter disappointment of last week's game against Doncaster we must today pick ourselves up to face our arch rivals from down the road, Rochdale.**

With this being the last week of games before the Grand Final the position is now clear for both teams - win today and you are there.

We had the opportunity to give ourselves a week off last Sunday but were unable to take it and now we are in a pressure situation - whoever loses today ends their season as well.

Everybody at the club knows how important this game is, especially the players, and I think it is fair to say that there should be a great atmosphere in the ground as well.

Rochdale have done well in the Play Offs each week to give themselves a chance of a Grand Final so it is sure to be a game where nerves will play a part and after being so close last week hopefully we can go one better this time around and book a place in the final.

One thing is for sure there will be no easy passage for whoever ends up winning and if you were writing a script for the Play Off series then I am certain you would include a local derby, and all that it brings, as a game for a semi final.

The Hornets will come full of enthusiasm and fired up but if our lads are not the same for this game then there will be something amiss big time.

We are more than capable of winning this

game but must not fall into the trap of helping the opposition in any way shape or form. Add to that the undoubted quality in the squad and hopefully this will only be the penultimate game of the season.

The match last week will have got rid of any rustiness that may have been about having had three weeks off and there is no hiding place this time.

The backing the lads got last Sunday was again first class and we all hope we can give you something to cheer about this week.

Regardless of what is happening on the field at the moment this time of year is always a busy time with players coming and going as the annual merry-go-round starts to gain momentum.

Earlier this week the Annual Players Awards night will have taken place with this year seeing the awards being given out for the reserves first season as well.

I would also like to congratulate Scott Mansfield who earlier this week became the first of those reserve team players to be handed a professional contract. Scott has shown a great attitude throughout his time so far at the club and long may it continue.

He has definitely got the potential to make it in the game and anybody who watched the reserves last year will know he is one for the future.

We are hoping for more signings shortly as we not only focus on the first team but also on the development of the club as a whole.

Thanks once again for your support and please get behind the lads today in our final home game of the season.

**Enjoy the game**

*Chris Hamilton*



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...



**Writing this article it is difficult to imagine a bigger scenario than the one we are faced with, a play off game with our neighbours Rochdale Hornets and the carrot**

**for the winners being a grand final spot.**

After the mini mid season crisis that they had they have turned things around to such an extent that they are probably the form team in the comp at the moment. The momentum that they have makes them a very difficult team to beat. That said we have to believe that after the season we have had that we can be confident of getting a result and get to play Doncaster again and hopefully turn in a performance more convincing than last weeks when we were slow out of the blocks and in the end gave ourselves too much to do.

Today is a real test of character for both teams, sudden death play off football . Rochdale have shown they can handle it this year and the question for us now is will we handle the pressure? 4 30 today will give us the answer. My feelings are that we have shown, on more than one occasion, that the talent in this team is enough to win against any team outside of Super League, but we need to get our preparations and execution done to perfection, keep our discipline and out enthuse the opposition.

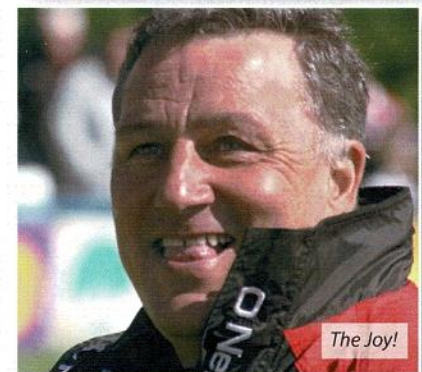
Easy when you put it down on paper but a bit more difficult in practice however it is a challenge that both the playing and coaching staff is excited about and we feel that we will be ready come 3 00 Sunday afternoon.

Last week was a real test for the fans too and I am sorry that we were not as good on the day as you were, make sure that you repeat your efforts and help the players to deliver the performance of the season for all of us.

**Enjoy the game**

*Deaks*

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# CommercialCorner

With Mick Bradshaw...



**Last Thursday we held our Player' End Of Season Awards Night at Best Western, Smokies Hotel.**

I'd like to thank everyone who attended. A special thankyou

must go to our award sponsors **Green Tree, Sedgely Park, Insurance Partnership & Spindles Town Square.**

Also a massive thank you to **Maureen Woodhead** who held a collection (last home match) in the memory of 'Double D' Dave Davenport. The money raised was used to purchase the Dave Davenport Supporters Player Of The Year Award. So thank you to all who contributed

As the season comes to an end I'd like to thank all our Commercial Partners. Your support has been immense and long may it continue.

Last but not least I'd like to thank **David Lord, Karen Marie & Maureen Woodhead** for all their help this season.

**Onwards and upwards**

## MARKETING MATTERS

Don't forget the meeting for all supporters at Waterhead ARLFC on Thurs 2nd October, 7.00pm arrival for a 7.30pm start. Top of the agenda will be launch and the running of an Official Supporters Club, Junior Roughyeds and Social Events planned for 2009. For more information please visit our website (news),

the forum or simply email me mbradshaw.orlfc@hotmail.co.uk and I'll email you an attachment with the details.

This meeting is for the benefit of all supporters young and old. Your support will be greatly received. I'll be there, our Reece and Ellis will be there. The question is who'll be joining us on the night. How about YOU!!!

**"Believe in the Roughyeds"**

*Mick (Braddy) Bradshaw*

## BREAKING NEWS

**Oldham have followed up the re-signing of skipper Rob Roberts for 2009 by announcing the capture of Salford City Reds' goalkicking winger Andy Ballard.**

The 22-year-old Wiganer, who has joined Roughyeds on a one-year deal, worked his way through Salford's Academy ranks and established himself in the first team after being voted Under-21s players' player of the year in 2007.

Pacy, and an accomplished goalkicker, he is said to be good defensively and a player who has what it takes to make a big impact at National League level.

"He will be a very good acquisition, and we are delighted to get him on board," said Oldham's chief executive Chris Hamilton.

Ballard was just one of several players who are now well-known names in the sport and who toured Australia, New Zealand and Fiji with the North-West Counties under-16s in 2001. The management team included three local men in Steve Bithell (tour manager), Gary Highton (team manager) and Roger Halstead (media manager).

Among the players from that tour who are now playing professional rugby league are Ballard, Adam Bibey, Wayne Corcoran, Carl Forber, Harrison Hansen, Tim Hartley, Gareth Hayes, Paul Prescott, James Roby, Danny Speakman, Ian Hardman and last but by no means least Oldham's very own James Coyle.

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# HornetsPenPics

## Craig Robinson (Prop);

During the tough times of the 2007 season Craig always led from the front, never allowing his head to drop. His battling qualities and loyalty to the cause have been rightly rewarded with Craig named Vice Captain for the 2008 season, a fitting tribute to the former Wakefield man. All Craig's 15 appearances came from the bench scoring 4 tries. This year Craig's frequent appearances have been a mixture of starting and sub.

## Wayne Corcoran (Half Back/ Loose Forward);

Wayne was another player that showed loyalty beyond the cause during the 2007 season. Despite requiring a shoulder operation for the majority of the season Wayne bravely played on showing immense courage. Wayne came back into fitness and this year has made a telling impact playing in a variety of positions, the most recent being hooker.

## Eric Andrews (Wing);

The highlight of 2007 for Eric was the magnificent solo matching winning try he scored in the Challenge Cup versus Celtic Crusaders. That try gave everyone a glimpse of just what Eric is capable of given the space and a chance to run at the opposition. Eric has enjoyed his stay at Hornets and was only too willing to pen a deal for 2008. No-one made more appearances than Eric's 28 in 2007. He scored 10 tries in all competitions. This year Eric has again been consistent in both appearances and performance and has once again proved a valuable member of the squad.

## Danny Samuels (Loose Forward)

Danny successfully made the transition from U21 to First Team Grade during 2007. Danny was one of the mainstays of last year's successful U21's team making a significant contribution at that level despite suffering a number of injuries. This year Danny's appearances have been split between reserve grade and first team with the latter coming in the last few weeks when Hornets' fortunes have taken an encouraging step forward. Danny will be looking to continue the progress he is making with some big performances in the play offs.

## Sam Butterworth (Stand Off)

Had three great seasons with Hornets from 2004-06 before linking up with the now current Coach Darren Shaw at Leigh where Sam had an exceptional season and was instrumental in Hornets downfall on both occasions the sides met last term. Since returning Sam has proved his versatility with appearances across the three quarter line as well as at half back and as substitute.

## Paul Alcock (Second Row)

Paul started his career at Warrington Wolves and has had a number of clubs before joining Hornets at the beginning of the year. Despite suffering injury in the earlier stages of the campaign Paul's no nonsense approach has caught the eye with some strong performances throughout the year.

## Martin Ainscough (Standoff)

Product of the Widnes Academy Martin played for both the Junior and Senior academy at Widnes and was awarded junior academy Player of the year in 2002. A player who has played against Australia for Great Britain Students and also toured Australia in 2003. Martin also played for England Students in the World Cup that was held in Australia. With chances limited at Widnes Martin signed for Leigh for the 2007 season playing 18 times scoring 10 tries. Since joining Hornets Martin has become one of the team's major attacking forces with some very impressive displays, the most recent of which coming against Swinton where he scored four tries in one game. He is by far Hornets' top try scorer for the 2008 season having already scored 27 tries which leaves him requiring just 4 in the play offs to equal Marlon Billy's record of 31 tries in a season.

## David Newton (Prop)

Dave re joins Hornets after having a spell away from the club at Swinton and there is no doubt that that he has returned to the Club a better player for it indeed he was very highly regarded at Swinton and they were bitterly disappointed to lose him. Dave made a Grand Final appearance for the Lions in 2006. This year Dave has been a solid contributor to the Hornets pack in all 22 games.

## David Best (Prop)

Another player that is in his second spell at the Club having spells at Oldham and more recently Batley in-between. David has really matured as a player and his power and toughness upfront has been a major asset to Hornets this season. He has led from the front throughout the current campaign and will be looking for a big end to the season.

## Ian Sinfield (Second Row)

Ian left the Club in 2003 to join Keighley where he made the first of his two Grand Final appearances. Ian then had two highly successful seasons at Keighley before moving onto Swinton and then to his hometown team for a second time Oldham, where he was a Grand Finalist in 2007. His leadership qualities have proved invaluable and he was appointed Captain mid season upon the arrival of Darren Shaw. His performances have been consistent and to a high standard. This was emphasised with his inclusion in the Scotland initial World Cup Squad for the Autumn tour of Australia.

## Chris Hough (Half Back)

Although only in his mid twenties Chris can be best described as a much travelled seasoned pro. Along with a previous spell at Hornets Chris has played for Oldham, Swinton, Doncaster, Batley and also had a loan spell at Leigh last season. Chris has appeared both in first team and reserve team rugby this year where his on field leadership has been eye catching. He will be hoping to make a contribution to the end of season finale despite recently suffering an injury.

## Mark Brocklehurst (Centre)

An "Oldhamer" Mark played his junior rugby at Waterhead where he was picked up by Wigan. Mark played a couple of seasons in the junior ranks at Wigan before he joined Swinton at the start of the 2007 season. He scored four tries in 14 appearances last term for the Lions. Mark has recently shown his flexibility as a player where he has put in some great performances playing at loose forward. He is another player who will be looking to continue his good form as the season draws to a close.

## Alex Brown (Wing)

A powerful winger who joined Keighley at the start of the 2006 season from the amateur game he was playing for the Huddersfield Sharks club. He became soon became a crowd favourite at Keighley scoring a number of long range tries which earned him the "most improved player" award at the end of the 2007 season. Alex has put in some noticeable performances on the wing with his 14 tries. Despite having recently playing reserve level rugby, Alex will be determined to bounce back and finish the season on a high.

## Tom Wild (Prop)

A Scotland B International Tom was also a member of the NLC team of year last season and has graduated from the reserve grade this year. Without doubt as the season has progressed Tom's performances have improved and this was recognised this week on the International stage with his call up to the Scotland Squad for the World Cup.

## Chris Giles (Full Back/Wing)

A real stand out performer for Hornets during 2005 at either Full Back or on the Wing. In certain matches Chris's Super League experience proved invaluable and was a model of consistency. In the 2005 season Chris scored some vital tries and improved his tally in 2006 and scooped the supporters' player of the year award. In 2007 Chris moved onto pastures new only to return to the fold on loan. Since his return he has scored two tries in his seven appearances and will want to continue his consistency at full back throughout the play offs.

## Leroy Rivett (Wing)

Leroy entered the history books in 1999 when he collected the Lance Todd trophy as man of the match in the Challenge Cup final having scored four tries in Leeds Rhinos 52-16 win at Wembley. Since then Leroy has had a number of clubs including Warrington, Keighley, Chorley, Hull KR, Leigh before joining Hornets mid way through the season. His skills and professionalism have shown through in the recent upturn in fortunes for the club, on the pitch and a continuation of his form will certainly be a major benefit to Hornets in the play offs.

## Carl Sneyd (Centre/Full Back)

Carl is a product of the Hornets Reserves where he put in some outstanding displays. It was clear to see that Carl was a potential star in the making and he has successfully stepped up to become a first team regular and a points machine. In 21 games this season Carl has amassed 242 points and will be looking to continue to improve throughout the promotion push.

## Jonathan Muir (Second Row)

Jonathan, or Jono, as he is known has made a substantial impact since joining from local amateur club Rochdale Mayfield. Having joined the club mid way through the season, he has undoubtedly strengthened the pack and always makes good yards forward when the opportunity arises.

## Janan Billings (Hooker)

Janan rejoined Hornets mid way through the campaign after being surprisingly released by National League 1 Halifax. His low centre of gravity and good footwork makes him extremely difficult to stop when he is on a roll. He has played previously for a number of clubs including Gateshead Thunder, Blackpool Panthers and Rochdale Mayfield. His style of play could prove decisive in the play offs.

## Paul Rolls (Scrum Half)

Paul was somewhat thrown in at the deep end when joining Hornets mid season. It is no coincidence that since his arrival Hornets attack has taken on an extra dimension and his combination with Martin Ainscough has caused havoc in opposition defences in the latter part of the season. Both Paul and Hornets fans will be hoping this continues in the month that lies ahead.

## Dave Cunliffe (Prop/Second row)

Dave has returned to the Hornets fold this year and has proved a vital cog in the Hornets pack. His experience and leadership have guided Hornets in their revival throughout the year.



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## January

Sun 13th	LEEDS RHINOS	A	3:00pm	4-50	6,340
<b>Sun 20th</b>	<b>HULL KR</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	Postponed	
Sun 27th	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm	20-26	1,108

## February

<b>NRC Fri 1st</b>	<b>SWINTON</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	22-20	848
NRC Fri 8th	SALFORD	A	8:00pm	12-40	4,224
NRC Sun 17th	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm	Postponed	
<b>NRC Fri 22nd</b>	<b>SALFORD</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	18-14	1,350
<b>NRC Fri 29th</b>	<b>ROCHDALE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	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
<b>NL Mon 24th</b>	<b>HUNSLET</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	40-12	1,168
<b>NL Sun 30th</b>	<b>YORK</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	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
<b>NL Sun 27th</b>	<b>ROCHDALE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	24-14	1,107

## May

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

<b>NL Sun 18th</b>	<b>SWINTON</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	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
<b>NL Sat 7th</b>	<b>LONDON</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	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
<b>NL Sun 29th</b>	<b>GATESHEAD</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	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
<b>NL Thur 17th</b>	<b>DONCASTER</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	36-16	2,806
<b>NL Sun 27th</b>	<b>KEIGHLEY</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	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
<b>NL Sun 10th</b>	<b>BARROW</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	34-22	1,033
NL Sun 17th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	38-20	650
<b>NL Sun 24th</b>	<b>WORKINGTON</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	40-16	904

## September

<b>NLSF Sun 14th</b>	<b>DONCASTER</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	20-32	1,305
<b>NLFE Sun 21st</b>	<b>ROCHDALE</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>		
Sun 28th	N L GRAND FINAL				

## October

Sat 4th	S L GRAND FINAL				
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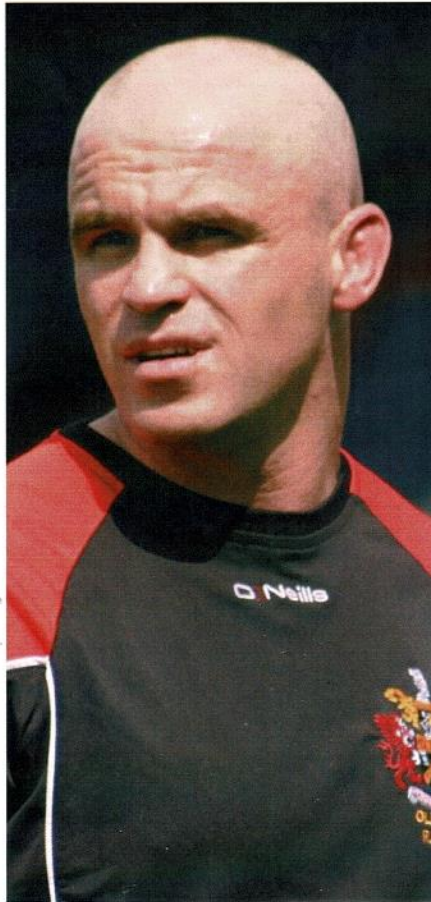
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### NEARLY 150 SUPER LEAGUE GAMES PUT DARYL IN THE TOP-CLASS BRACKET

#### Player Profile: **DARYL CARDISS**

by **ROGER HALSTEAD**



**WITH nearly 150 Super League appearances for Wigan, Halifax and Warrington on his CV, Daryl Cardiss can claim to be one of the most experienced players in the Roughyeds' camp.**

The 31-year-old Yorkshireman, born in Leeds on July 13, 1977, has started games for Oldham this year only on the wing, but for most of his career at the top level of English rugby league he made a name for himself - and a well-known name too - as an accomplished full-back with pace to burn.

His story begins with that prolific provider of young talent, the Hunslet Boys Club. Traditionally, the working-class area to the south side of the city of Leeds, as opposed to the 'posher' part to the north, has produced hundreds of young stars who have gone on to make it big in the professional game. We think, quite rightly, of the Oldham area as a hot-bed of junior talent but down the years there has been nothing to touch the sprawling suburbs and housing estates of Hunslet and neighbouring Middleton.

Albert Goldthorpe, in the news recently, was probably the first rugby league super star to emerge from that area in the late 1890s, and they have been coming ever since.

Recognising South Leeds as an unrivalled rugby league breeding ground, the Wigan club have, in more recent times, always been active over there and have signed many young boys from within a mile or two of the old Hunslet ground at Parkside, most famously Jason Robinson.

They also swooped on that area in 1994 to sign the then 17-year-old Daryl Cardiss, whose first taste of Super League was with Wigan in an accomplished career that has also seen him in the colours of Halifax and Warrington in Super League and representing Widnes and Oldham in Co-operative NLI and NL2 respectively. He has also had a short spell on loan with Batley Bulldogs in NLI.

The Roughyeds chased him in 2007, but failed to get him on loan from Widnes. This time, though, a one-year deal was completed to the huge satisfaction of the board and coach Steve Deakin. Widnes had loaned him out to Batley towards the end of last year and, unluckily, he broke a bone in a shoulder while at Mount Pleasant.

Widnes wanted to re-sign him for 2008 and so did Batley, but he opted to come to the Roughyeds and, despite a severe shoulder injury early in the season

and a long lay-off for a major reconstruction of the joint, Oldham fans have seen on numerous occasions exactly why Oldham were so keen to sign him.

He had a cracking game on the left wing in Oldham's 18-14 win against Salford City Reds at Boundary Park in the Northern Rail Cup on February 22, but near the end, with Oldham under intense pressure, he was left in agony after making a try-saving tackle in the corner.

He was to be out of the game for four months - a cruel blow not only for the player, but also for the Oldham club. Happily, he returned to action in the hugely satisfying 40-16 defeat of Gateshead at Sedgley Park on June 29 and he has played in nine of the last 11 games, all of them on the wing.

For most of his career, though, he has played in the full-back position, making 18 Super League appearances for Wigan; 99 for for Halifax and 25 for Warrington - 142 in total and 46 tries also in the elite competition.

He has represented Yorkshire in the Origin series and in 2001, when the Oldham club's current chief executive Chris Hamilton was manager of the England squad, Daryl was called up to the England party for the game against Wales at Wrexham.

Mr Hamilton was quoted thus at the time Roughyeds signed him: "Deaks (coach Steve Deakin) wanted him last year. We know his quality. He is vastly experienced and he can play equally well in a variety of positions."

Throughout his career Daryl has been a high-profile player for whom mentions in the national press were nothing out of the ordinary. Take this piece by David Burke in the Sunday Mirror of May 7, 2000.

Wrote David: "Wigan Warriors are lining up a move for old boy Daryl Cardiss, the six-try leading scorer for Halifax Blue Sox. Wigan, though, will face competition from Super League champions St Helens if Cardiss fails to agree a new contract at the end of the season. A snag for the derby rivals is that Halifax would be entitled to a transfer fee under RL rules because Cardiss is still under 24.

"Cardiss, 22 in July, was snapped up by Halifax from Wigan two years ago and his electrifying pace has made him a big hit with the fans at the New Shay."

Or what of this story by Ian Laybourn in The Independent on April 29, 2002. Wrote Ian: "Halifax's unsettled fullback Daryl Cardiss will be

in the shop window tonight when he turns out for the Blue Sox against high-flying Hull.

"The 24-year-old former Wigan utility player, who was Yorkshire's full-back in last year's Origin game, has been placed on the transfer list at £55,000 after asking to leave the club. The fleet-footed Cardiss, who signed a new three-year contract last season, believes a move will benefit his career -- and Blue Sox coach Steve Linnane is hoping a run of good form will be a help to both parties."

In his long stay at Halifax, Daryl played for both Linnane and his coaching successor Tony Anderson and he was at the Shay at the same time as his current Oldham team mate Danny Halliwell.

In August, 2003 it was time to move on, and Cardiss returned to this side of the Pennines when he signed for Warrington. Less than a year later, in June, 2004, he signed a two-year contract extension with the Wolves to see him through to the end of the 2006 campaign, but before that was up he went to Widnes on loan and ultimately signed for the Vikings on a permanent basis.

The Warrington Guardian, in its edition of July 1, 2004, featured Daryl in a piece in which the full-back expressed his concern because he wasn't scoring enough tries.

It was reported that he had crossed for 47 tries in 110 career games before joining Wolves from Halifax, but the writer went on to explain that "in primrose and blue the 26-year-old has placed the ball over the whitewash three times in 23 outings."

The writer explained that although Cardiss was Warrington's last line of defence the player considered try-scoring to be a huge part of his game and Daryl himself was quoted as saying that he was anxious to start scoring more freely.

He did exactly that at Widnes in NLI - 12 tries in 30 appearances - and there is no doubt at all that he would have figured prominently in Oldham's list of leading try scorers this season had it not been for that cruel twist of fate which saw him badly injured in only the third competitive game of the current season.

He was to be sidelined for the next 21 games, but he has since proved conclusively that his major shoulder surgery was a success. You can be sure of one thing --- Cardiss will be hunting tries as usual and eager to get his name on the scoresheet in today's hugely important play-off showdown with Rochdale Hornets.

*Roger Halstead*





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# GuestWriter..

## Matt Chambers WHO would have envisioned this scenario a couple of months ago?

A make or break one-off clash against Oldham's nearest and dearest for a place in the National League Two grand final.

When there is this much at stake, only one thing is certain: whatever the result, come Monday morning there will be plenty of ribbing among rugby league fans in workplaces around here.

As far as the Roughyeds are concerned, it is vital that the squad rids itself of all negative thoughts prior to this one.

No doubt the coaching team of Steve Deakin and Mark Cass will have worked hard during the week to engender a positive mindset, in the knowledge that Rochdale come here buzzing with confidence and, given the fact that so few expected them to arrive at this point, with little to lose.

Yes, automatic promotion was there for the taking for Oldham. Bonus points were thrown away late on in matches, some through poor discipline and others simply as a result of fatigue late on in closely fought matches. On the other hand, there were those games — Workington away springs to mind — when the team picked up three points that their performance barely merited. It is worth remembering, too, just how competitive a division this really is, with teams near the bottom regularly tripping up those at the top.

The Doncaster defeat last week was a frustrating experience primarily because the team didn't perform as everyone knows it can, other than for the spell prior to half-

time when the Roughyeds had their opponents rocking.

But it isn't all over — far from it. The bottom line is, Oldham still have a great chance to go up.

With a final at Warrington on the horizon for next week, I cast my mind back 12 months, to the press conference that followed last year's equivalent.

Triumphant then-Featherstone coach David Hobbs told the assembled media throng after his team's 24-6 win at Headingley that he much preferred to go up via a grand final — and all the big-day razzmatazz it brought along with it — compared to the automatic route.

Easy to say after the event? Of course.

But if Oldham can get their game to fully function in these next two matches, the voices of discontent that the path of least resistance wasn't followed will definitely fade away.

Given a supporter the choice of going up to National League One through a Barrow defeat at Swinton, or after a rip-roaring day out on the ale at Warrington, and I know what they would plump for.

This play-off malarkey doesn't do much for the blood pressure of the club directors involved. It does make for some thrilling sporting contests, though, games you can sit back and reflect on with great fondness — as long as your team wins.

*Matt Chambers*

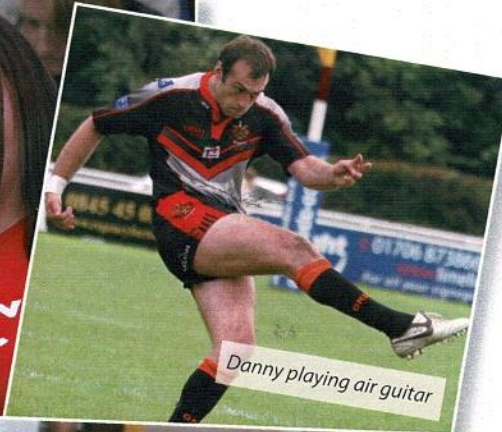
The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the management and staff of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd

# Dave's Pick of the Pics

The second half of the season's programmes and web page material has been greatly improved by Dave Murgatroyd becoming the club's official photographer. We thank Dave for all the effort and expertise he has put in and have asked him to provide his favourites for this our last programme of the season.



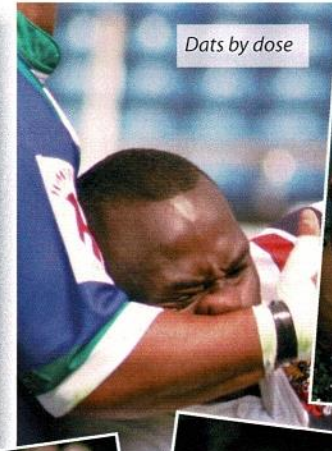
A Fine pair of supporters



Danny playing air guitar



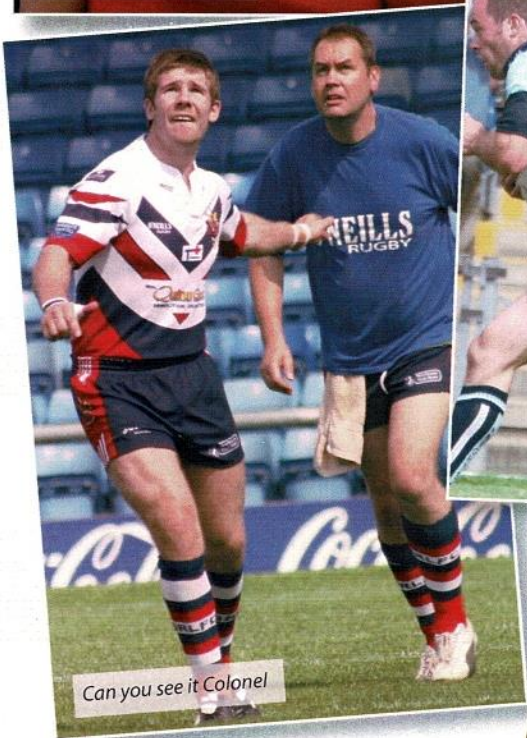
Get 'em young



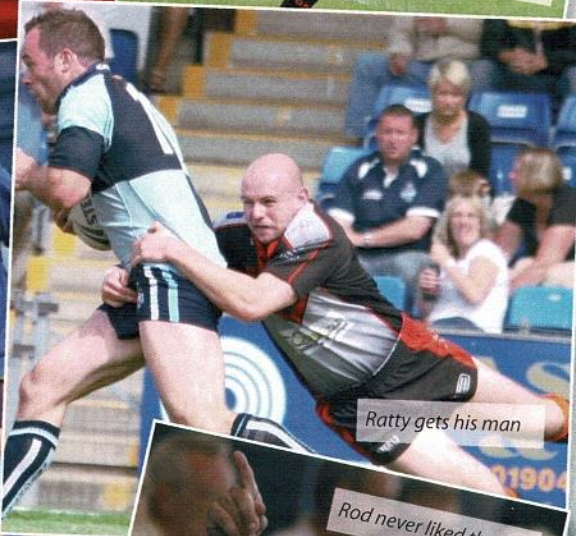
Dats by dose



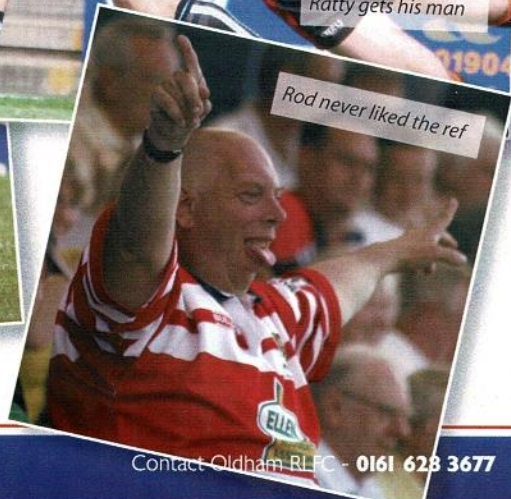
The workmens' comments amuse Junior



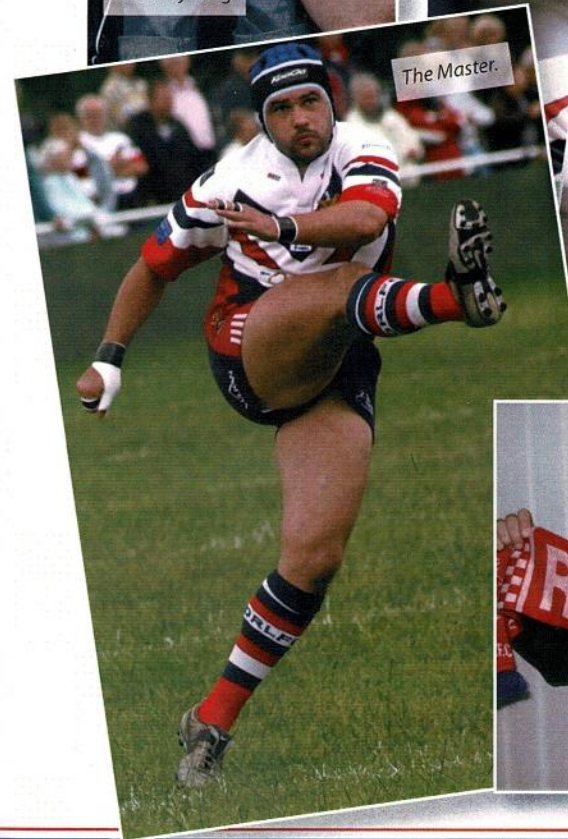
Can you see it Colonel



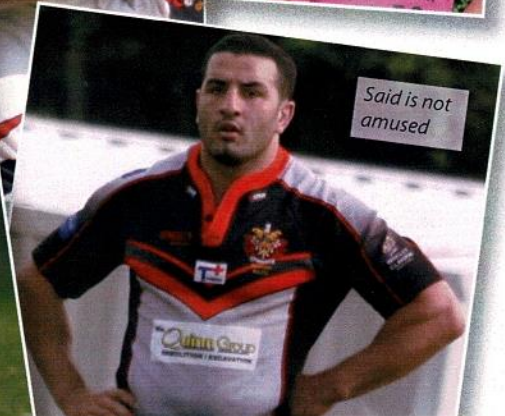
Ratty gets his man



Rod never liked the ref



The Master.



Said is not amused



Yes Braddy we did print it

# ROUGHYEDSNL2 PREDICTIONLEAGUE

With the final result in from Doncaster game on the 31st September we came to the end of what has proved to be an enjoyable pastime over the season.

36 keen fans joined the Prediction League and raised £720 towards club funds. As you will see from the table below the overall winner with 802 points was Chanimar who wins a season ticket for next season and a meal for two at today's game in the Sponsor's lounge. Second prize with 776 was Pie Eater who won vouchers for £75 to spend in the club shop and third place went to Nobchance who won vouchers to the value of £50. The prize for the highest score from a person who didn't enter on a weekly basis but sent in their predictions for either the full season or two half seasons went to Coldotcom with 716 points who finished in 7th place, and won two places in the sponsors lounge for a meal at last Sunday's game. The booby prize went to Jane M with 533 who won a voucher to the value of £20 for the club shop.

The stage 3 winner, the person who scored most points between the end of Round 14 and the end of the season was Chanimar with 362; Maxonian was second with 350 and Excelsior third with 339. Chanimar wins two places in the Sponsors lounge for a game next season. Embarrassingly Chanimar also won the August table and won two places in the Directors box for the Doncaster game.

Thanks to all who took part and hopefully we will have an even bigger response next season for what we all hope will be called

## THE ROUGHYEDS DIVISION I PREDICTION LEAGUE OVERALL PREDICTION LEAGUE TABLE

Team	Total
1 Chanimar	802
2 Pie Eater	776
3 Nobchance	771
4 JJ & Mega	752
5 Maxonian	739
6 Excelsior	724
7 Coldotcom	716
8 Jack & Gill	707
9 Wine Drinker me	704
10 Back to Basics	703
11 Four Red Lions	701
12 Thanksforallyou'redoing	699
13 Owt Fresh	692
14 Batport	690
15 Colonel Kitman	686
16 Yorkshire Boys	680
17 Ash on the Lash	677
18 John Cogger's Headband	661
19 Immaculate Pasta	659
20 WATERLOO	647
21 Apothecary	643
22 Stillturningup	641
23 Av-a-go	628
24 Pumpkin Eater	624
25 Wastead	620
26 Pinche	614
27 westwalesshark	614
28 5minute4ward	613
29 Brickie	609
30 Steady Eddie	600
31 Yonner	598
32 Johnny Mac	562
33 Roger I	558
34 Cromwell	550
35 Jane M	533
36 Fatbusgoughie	290

*Nigel*

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

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## The Co-Operative National League Two – Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B	Pt
Gateshead	22	19	0	3	767	415	352	2	59
Barrow	22	16	0	6	703	375	328	4	52
Oldham	22	17	0	5	716	456	260	1	52
Doncaster	22	15	0	7	672	426	246	3	48
Keighley	22	15	0	7	611	519	92	3	48
York	22	11	1	10	740	540	200	7	42
Rochdale	22	10	1	11	715	610	105	4	36
Workington	22	6	0	16	512	628	-116	10	28
Blackpool	22	7	1	14	472	828	-356	2	25
Swinton	22	6	0	16	482	777	-295	4	22
London Sko.	22	4	1	17	449	823	-374	6	20
Hunslet	22	4	0	18	336	778	-442	5	17

If Roughyeds win today's game, Grand Final tickets will be on sale for 1 hour at Boundary Park Reception after today's game. The club assume they will be the same tickets as those that would have been available if we had been successful last Sunday.

# OldhamNews



## NO COMMENT - JUST THE FACTS OF THE MATTER

(Roger Halstead takes a longer-than-usual look at the final Co-operative NL2 table add on page 22)

SPARE more than a passing glance at the Co-operative NL2's final table and it provides any amount of talking points based on some fascinating statistics.

Consider these:

- \*Only Gateshead had more wins than Oldham, yet the Roughyeds finished third.
- \*Only Gateshead had fewer defeats than Oldham, yet the Roughyeds finished third.
- \*Oldham had one more win than Barrow, yet finished beneath them.
- \*Oldham lost one game fewer than Barrow, yet finished beneath them.
- \*Prior to the introduction of the bonus point, Roughyeds would have finished second.
- \*Oldham lost only five games out of 22, but scored only one bonus point -- perhaps the most significant statistic of the lot.
- \*Oldham finished with four more points than Doncaster, who are already through to the Grand Final.
- \*Only York (740) and Gateshead (767) scored more points than Oldham's 716.
- \*The bonus point Oldham 'lost' at Gateshead due to a controversial conversion retake would have given them automatic promotion.
- \*Of the top four teams Oldham had the poorest defensive record and that also cost them heavily in the race for the top two.
- \*Rochdale Hornets, finishing seventh, rattled up 715 points -- 12 more than promoted Barrow and only one fewer than third-placed Oldham.
- \*Hornets are 80 minutes from the

Grand Final despite losing more league games (11) than they won (10).

Food for thought, indeed, and now to the play-offs in which Whitehaven (NL1) and Rochdale (NL2) have been the surprise packets so far, though bear in mind the copy deadlines for this programme were ahead of Whitehaven's final eliminator at Salford City Reds on Thursday evening.

The Cumbrians earned a crack at Salford in a televised tie thanks to outstanding wins at Leigh and at Halifax, while today's Boundary Park visitors, Rochdale, raised eyebrows throughout the National League with their superb triumphs on their travels at York City Knights and Keighley Cougars.

Interestingly, and at the time of writing, there had been four play-off clashes in NL1 and four in NL2 and in each case there had been three away wins.

In NL1 Celtic Crusaders won brilliantly 44-18 at Salford to book their place in next Sunday's Grand Final at Warrington, followed by Whitehaven's wins at Leigh and Halifax.

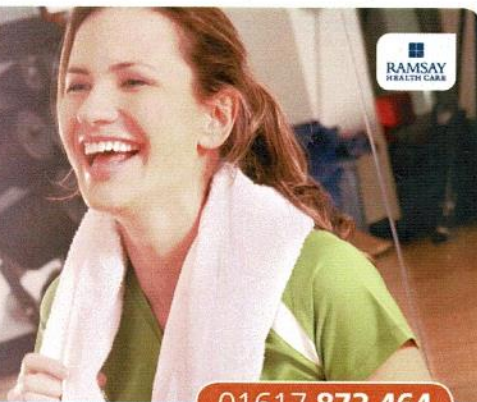
In NL2, Doncaster emulated the Crusaders by winning here at Boundary Park, while Rochdale matched Whitehaven with their wins at York and Keighley.

The pattern in Super League contrasted starkly in the early rounds. The outcome of the Saints-Leeds game on Friday night and the Catalans-Wigan match on Saturday were not known at the time of going to press, but in the elimination play-offs the home sides won comfortably, the Frenchmen hammering Warrington 46-8 and Wigan defeating Bradford 30-14.

It is all building up to a couple of superb Grand Final occasions, first at the Halliwell Jones Stadium next Sunday, September 28, and then at Old Trafford on Saturday, October 4.

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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.

**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 07970100606.

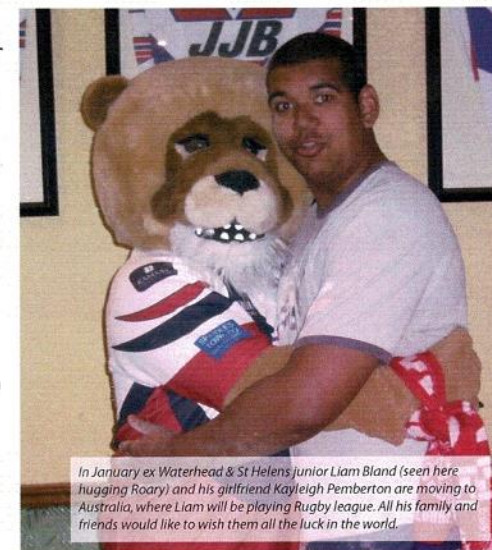
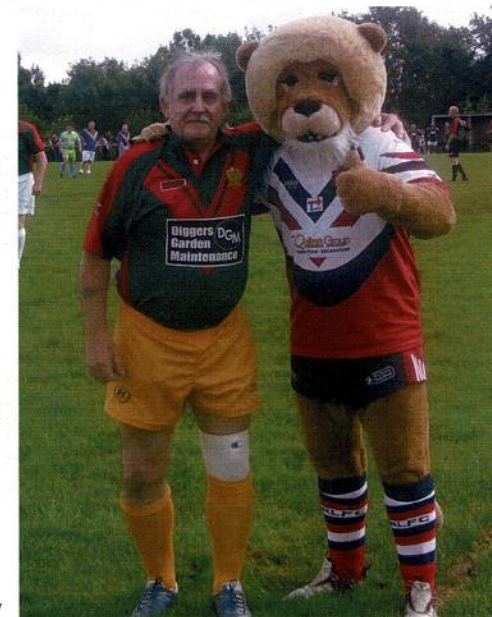
A big rap has to go to the committee of Higginshaw ARLFC who've worked ever so hard in gaining the club charity status. The club are trying to raise as much money as possible to purchase their club house. One great way of contributing is joining their newly formed 100 club, the cost is £100 and gives you life membership. I've joined. So why don't you!!

Last week Waterhead ARLFC hosted the masters of league and Roary the Roughyed had the pleasure of bumping into a past master, Cliff Lamb. The picture shows Cliff with Roary the Roughyed and not to cause any confusion Cliff is on the left, with Tommy Howe moping around in the background!!

By the time next season comes around the Roughyeds will have forged close links with the amateur clubs which is great news for the town. Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best for the season.

Enjoy the game

*Braddy*



In January ex Waterhead & St Helens junior Liam Bland (seen here hugging Roary) and his girlfriend Kayleigh Pemberton are moving to Australia, where Liam will be playing Rugby league. All his family and friends would like to wish them all the luck in the world.

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# Today's Squads



## Oldham

- Chris **BAINES**
- Jason **BOULTS**
- Matty **BROOKS**
- Daryl **CARDISS**
- James **COYLE**
- Tommy **GOULDEN**
- 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**
- 
- 



## Rochdale Hornets

- Martin **AINSCOUGH**
- Paul **ALCOCK**
- Eric **ANDREWS**
- David **BEST**
- Janan **BILLINGS**
- Mark **BROCKLEHURST**
- Alex **BROWN**
- Sam **BUTTERWORTH**
- Wayne **CORCORAN**
- Dave **CUNLIFFE**
- Chris **GILES**
- Chris **HOUGH**
- Jonathan **MUIR**
- David **NEWTON**
- Leroy **RIVETT**
- Craig **ROBINSON**
- Paul **ROLLS**
- Danny **SAMUELS**
- Ian **SINFIELD**
- Carl **SNEYD**
- Tom **WILD**
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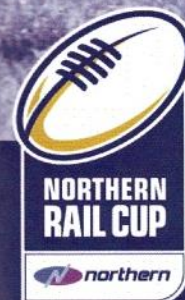
Referee: B Thaler Touch Judges: P Grundill MWilson

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