HOUGH **REVEALS HIS CLASS OF 2009**

by ROGER HALSTEAD

In year two of Roughyeds' reserveteam rugby, which starts soon, coach John Hough and his assistant Leo Casey hope to build on their achievements in 2008 when they laid down foundations and

saw five young hopefuls sign professional forms for the club.

Ben Heaton, Mark Smith, Anthony Bingham, Chris Clarke and Scott Mansfield will continue their development in the reserves this year. although Bingham, Smith and Mansfield have already had a taste of senior action in preseason warm-up matches.

They will be joined in the reserve-team squad by 15 amateurs (there might be two more soon) who aspire to go down the professional path taken by Heaton, Smith, Bingham, Clarke and Mansfield.

Of those 15, five will be starting their second season with the Roughyeds; namely Dale Lowe, David Orwell, Phil Jagger, Alex Eyres

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and Michael Ward.

The ten new boys are as follows:

Todd O'Brien, ex-Rochdale Mayfield and Rochdale Hornets, for whom he has had a handful of first-team games.

Jamie Knight, a product of the Waterhead club, formerly with Rochdale Hornets and a player with Great Britain youth honours.

Anthony Morrison, son of former Oldham forward Tony Morrison, Oldham, Lancashire and Great Britain Community Lions under-18 honours, played at prop last week against France. Currently with Saddleworth under-

Matty Moores, second-row or centre, ex-Waterhead, Rochdale Hornets and Rochdale Mayfield.

Sean Robinson, 18-year-old winger from Saddleworth Rangers, already with senior experience at Shaw Hall Bank Road.

Danny Knight, elder brother of Jamie. formerly with Waterhead and Rochdale Hornets and, interestingly, works full time in rugby league as the Oldham borough's rugby league development officer.

Jacob Kinney, scrum-capped back-row forward from Leigh. Great Britain youth honours. Known popularly as 'Tank'.

Ben Hinsley, loose-forward and another out-of-towner, this time from Rishworth. A teenager who has sampled reserve-team rugby with Halifax.

Brett Durkin, similar background to Ben. Also from Rishworth and with Halifax experience behind him.

Dave Levinson, from the same Latchford Albion (Warrington) stable as Mark Smith and with hopes of following Smith into the proranks at Oldham.

Lowe, Orwell, Morrison, Ward and Robinson were all in the Oldham Service Area under-18s squad which went through their latest campaign with an unbeaten record.

Unlike last year, the youngsters expect to be strengthened in each match this time by members of the senior squad, as in their 28-6 pre-season win at Hunslet when Craig Littler, Neil Roden, Simeon Hoyle, Jason Boults and Luke Sutton all played.

Of the six tries Oldham scored two of the best were finished cleverly by Mansfield and spectacularly by Bingham.

Team: Heaton; J Knight, Moores, Littler, Bingham; Smith, Roden; Eyres, Hoyle, Boults, Levinson, Sutton, Mansfield, Subs. O'Brien, Kinney, D Knight, Hinsley, Jagger.

Said Hough: "Last year was the first for Leo and I in a pro coaching capacity, and we had a lot to learn. It was a learning curve for

"Hopefully, the five who turned pro will go on and enjoy careers in the first team. The plan is that within the next two or three years we will be so well structured that we will have a conveyor belt of young professionals coming through each year.

"That's our job --- to prepare the lads to move up to the next level and to pass them through as soon as we can."

Fixtures are not yet confirmed but, starting in

Dewsbury, Barrow, Keighley, Whitehaven and

April, Houghie expects to face a 16-match

league campaign with home and away

matches against Hunslet, Widnes, Leigh,

Pool One we topped the table early in the week, although that perhaps changed as a result of Wednesday's outstanding games, and we were guaranteed a safe passage into the last eight.

Price £2.50 Including 'Game On'

Widnes, Rochdale Hornets and Hunslet Hawks, and collecting a one-point bonus from the Sheffield Eagles game, we can look back with satisfaction on what has been achieved up to now. It's certainly a case of so far, so good.

round winner in our captain Robert Roberts, for leading us to victory at Widnes Vikings, and we cemented our place in the sudden-death quarterfinals with a 32-14 win at Hunslet last Sunday in which centre Paul Reilly celebrated his full debut

The official programme of Oldham Rugby League Football Club (1997) Ltd

ROUGHYEDS



v Sharlston Rovers

Carnegie Challenge Cup Round 3 Sunday 8th March 2009 Kick-Off 3.00pm

The next day's trade papers showed us on top of

the pile in Pool One - and Paul was able to reflect

"We can play better," he said, "but on a personal

on a job well done at the South Leeds Stadium.

note it was very satisfying to score three tries.

"Let me say, though, that I have to thank Andy

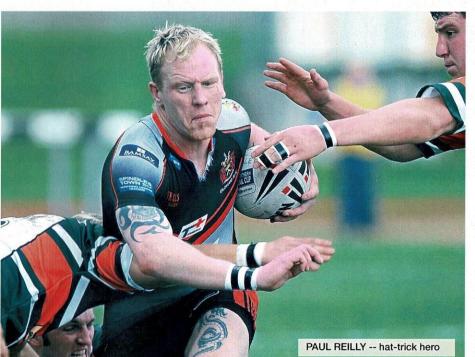
Ballard for putting me in for two of them. He's a

great winger and he very unselfishly gave me the

W. Outhin Gr

ROBERT ROBERTS -- man of the round

FULL STEAM AHEAD ON THE BLACKPOOL LINE



Picture courtesy of www.rlphotos.fotopic.net

AT the conclusion of the pool stages in the Northern Rail Cup it's full steam ahead for Oldham with the ultimate destination the final at Blackpool in July still in our sights.

Having picked up ten points from a possible 12 in

By taking maximum points from games against

We had the Northern Rail round two man-of-the-



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 Monday ~ the round-up and results from the weekend's games

 Wednesday ~ news and views from the Roughyeds

• Thursday ~ all the news from the amateur clubs

More Rugby in your Chronicle



View from the inside...



Hello and welcome to Roughyed Stadium for our Carnegie Challenge Cup third round tie.

Once again we say hello to our visitors from over hill Sharlston with this being our third game against them in the last 6 vears

At least we have a little prior knowledge of them as a result although both clubs will not have many survivors from those previous games.

The two previous matches were as tough as you would expect and there will be no quarter given or asked today.

There have been some fairly significant changes to the format this season with both Championship clubs and the amateur clubs reaching this stage being given a more attractive financial package.

There will still be one or two clubs (Saddleworth particularly) who would rather have had the old system of a shared gate but the changes were born

out of dialogue between clubs at all levels of the game and the RFL, with clubs stating that the reality of the situation is that a lot of the ties in the earlier rounds of the cup don't attract enough fans to make enough money for

I think the present solution whereby we all receive a fixed sum for this round of the competition is fairer and clubs can budget accordingly.

As I mentioned above there will always be one or two exceptions where clubs feel worse off but to take away the gamble of trying to make sufficient money on these matches should make the occasions more enjoyable for all concerned.

I have long been an advocate of the "big day out" aspect of the cup for amateur teams and hopefully this year's changes will strengthen that position.

The changes also once again reflect well on the game of rugby league which really does have a pro active nature in its executive.

Our game is clearly viewed from outside as being forward thinking in many ways and rightly so and although it is easy sometimes to focus on negatives we sometimes can't see the wood for the trees and should

appreciate the good things more.

Talking of good things, our achievement in reaching the last 8 of the Northern Rail Cup competition from a hard group of matches should not be underestimated.

The win at Hunslet secured that place and although it was not pretty last week we did what we needed to and before the start of the season we would have taken 10 points from 12 given the quality of the

The players and coaching staff have worked hard to achieve that and I thank them for their efforts and look forward to more success as the season progresses.

One of the pleasing things about our early form has been the fact that we have a lot of improvement in us and once our training patterns become more settled with better weather and light nights we will all see the benefit of that.

As a club we have been really pleased with the level of support so far both home and away and that is one of the reasons why we dropped admission prices for today's game - to show our appreciation and understanding of the current economic situation we all find ourselves in.

In these difficult times we all have to dig in and help each other and that is a strength we have in abundance at Oldham.

Enjoy the game this afternoon and let's hope we are in the hat for the next round draw on Monday when the Super League teams enter the competition.

Be vocal and get behind the lads.

Enjoy the game

Chris Hamilton

Chief Executive

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ROUGHYEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

By "Two Bobs"

As I've said in the past I'm really enjoying my time at the Roughveds. and not just leading the lads on the field of play.

I've got a role developing relationships in the community, especially through the Primary Schools. I visit two schools a day, five days a week and I think I've covered almost all of the primary schools in the Borough over the last twelve months. It's pleasant to walk around the town and hear kids shouting "Hi Two Bobs." Initially I tend to do basic rugby league and drill skills, but our community work is about a lot more than that. If some of the children were to get involved in rugby league that would be brilliant, but I go out there to try to introduce them to other things such as teamwork, team spirit, comradeship and how to have fun in sport. It's hard work but I enjoy every minute of it. It's fantastic to see the joy a child gets from mastering how to pass or catch. I try and ensure the sessions don't get over competitive, more of a fun thing. Often the children start off very shy, but as the weeks go by you can see them againing in confidence and starting to encourage each other. I've got to say I enjoy the sessions just as much as the children do, it's brilliant. I am hoping this will culminate in a mini tag tournament at the end of term.

I usually take the older primary pupils in Year 6 who are soon to progress into secondary education, but at one school I've been taking the five to six year olds who also were very keen.

I really enjoyed half term when I was working with the town's Asian community at the Greenhill Community Centre. Between 30 and 40 children turned up every day and they really enjoyed the sessions. We didn't confine it to rugby league but also played some soccer and cricket for a bit of variety.

We invited a lot of the children to the Sheffield Eagles game recently; they were introduced to the crowd at half time and then did a lap of honour. I intend to do a similar thing with other children at our opening league game against Blackpool. I'm pretty certain some of them will become hooked on rugby league either as players or supporters.

A ROUGHYEDS THANK-YOU!

Roughyeds office staff were pleasantly surprised at the Sheffield game when guests of Eagles player Tommy Trayler picked up complimentary tickets left for them from the allocation given to the visiting club's players.

In this instance Tommy's guests insisted on making a donation to the Oldham club in lieu of the tickets.

Roughyeds later sent the following message to Eagles coach Mark Aston: "It is pleasing to know that there are people around who appreciate that all clubs have to maximise income on match days and we would be grateful if you could pass on our thanks to the people concerned.

"Gestures like that are not made very often, as you will know, and we would like them to know that we at Oldham very much appreciated the thought.

WHERE AND WHEN **WE PLAY**





Date Comp Opponents V Time Res Score Att Fri, Feb 13 NRC Widnes Vikings A 7.30pm W 22-20 2,783 Wed, Feb 18NRC Rochdale Hornets H 7.30pm W 54-4 1,028 Sun, Feb 22 NRC Sheffield Eagles H 3.00pm L 22-34 1,173 Sun, Mar 1 NRC Hunslet Hawks A 2,00pm W 32-14 582 Sun, Mar 8 CCC3 Sharlston Rovers H 3.00pm Sun, Mar 15 CC1 Blackpool Panthers H 3.00pm Sun, Mar 22 CC1 Keighley Cougars A 3.00pm Sun, Mar 29 CC1 Workington Town H 3.00pm Sun, April 5 Carnegie CC (4) Fri, April 10 CC1 Rochdale Hornets A 3.00pm Mon, April 13 CC1 Dewsbury Rams H 8.00pm Sun, April 26 CC1 Swinton Lions H 3.00pm Mon, May 4 CC1 London Skolars A 3.00pm Sun, May 10 Carnegie CC (5) Sun, May 17 CC1 Hunslet Hawks H 3.00pm Sun, May 24 CC1 Swinton Lions A 3.00pm Sun, May 31 Carnegie CC (Quarter-Final) Sun, June 7 NRC (Quarter-Final) Sun. June 21 NRC (Semi-Final) Thurs, June 25 CC1 York City Knights A 7.30pm Sun, July 5 CC1 Workington Town A 3.00pm Sun, July 12 NRC Final (Bloomfield Road) Sun, July 19 CC1 Keighley Cougars H 3.00pm Sun, July 26 CC1 Dewsbury Rams A 3.00pm Sun, Aug 2 CC1 Rochdale Hornets H 3.00pm Thurs, Aug 6CC1 London Skolars H 7.30pm Sun, Aug 16 CC1 Blackpool Panthers A 3.00pm Sun, Aug 23 CC1 York City Knights H 3.00pm Sun, Sep 6 CC1 Hunslet Hawks A 3.00pm Play-offs start Friday, Sept 11

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PLAYER PROFILE No 3 ANDY BALLARD



Roger Halstead talks to the Oldham new boy who has been kicking goals all his life

BALLARD THE BOOT AIMS TO BEAT NANYN'S CLUB RECORD

ANDY Ballard loves a challenge . . . and when people tell him he has no chance of smashing Mick Nanyn's new-club Oldham record of 362 points in a season it's like waving a red rag to a bull.

"If there's anything to motivate me into going for it, it's that," said Andy this week during the build-up to the Roughyeds' third-round Carnegie Challenge Cup tie against proud Yorkshire amateurs Sharlston Rovers.

"I like to prove people wrong, so I've already nailed that down as my personal goal for the season.
"Obviously, you've got to keep fit and you've got to keep your place in the side, and you rely a lot on your team mates and the tries they score to provide conversion opportunities. But it will always be there in the back of my mind, as will the total number of goals Nanyn scored last year - 139."

Nanyn failed by eight to beat Pat Rich's goals tally in 2001, but while Rich added seven tries in the same year for a points total of 329, Nanyn went in for 21 tries to take his overall points tally to 362.

With four games played so far, Ballard is doing okay. He has kicked

> 21 goals and scored four tries for 58 points, or an average of 14 a match compared with Nanyn's average per match haul over a full season of between 11 and 12 points per game. So far so good, but there is a long way to go and Ballard may not have as many games this year as Nanyn did in 2008.

Whatever happens, though, you can gamble that Ballard won't be losing any sleep. He's a laidback guy who loves his rugby and has done ever since he started out at Ashton Bears when he was seven and his older brother Paul, now at Celtic Crusaders, was nine. Now aged 22, Andy is the middle one of three rugby-playing brothers. The youngest, 19-yearold Mark, is a looseforward at Leigh East.

Born in Wigan and with a mum and dad, Carol and Mike, who loved league, Andy and his brothers were destined to take up the game at an early age. Andy has fond memories of his days with Ashton Bears and then with Wigan St Jude's, and he recalls that he has

been kicking goals since he was knee high to a grasshopper.

"I think I was seven when I started banging them over with my left foot," he said, "and I've been doing it every since. But the best of my earliest memories was actually scoring a try at Twickenham of all places."

Twickers? Some will recall that back then, when the League-Union barriers were just starting to be dismantled, Wigan played Bath at Maine Road in a game of league and then had a return game of union at that sport's famous HQ.

As a curtain-raiser to that game Ashton Bears took on St Jude's and, playing for Ashton (that's Ashton of the Makerfield variety, near Wigan), the ten-year-old Ballard scored the winning try.

"I can always say I've scored the winning try at Twickenham," he mused, "and not so many people in rugby league can say that."

By the age of 16 he had joined his brother Paul on scholarship with Wigan, but whereas Paul moved on to Widnes, Leigh and then down to South Wales, Andy was snared by Salford scout Jim Reader and spent three successful seasons at The Willows.

Before he joined Wigan, Andy had enjoyed a trip of a lifetime with NW Counties under-15s and under-16s on a 2001 tour which took in Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. Also on tour were his current Roughyeds colleagues James Coyle and David Allen.

It was touch and go, though, whether he would make it. In the season leading up to the summer trip he broke his kicking leg in an accidental clash with team mate Harrison Hansen while playing for Lancashire under-15s against Yorkshire.

As the tour's media manager, I recall that the tour management, and particularly head coach Terry Byrne, was keen to give the young Ballard every possible chance of travelling, such was the regard in which he was held.

He made it, but it was some weeks into the schedule before he was able to play his first game and get on with the business of kicking goals.

He played fewer games than many of his fellow tourists - Coyle was a joint player-of-the-tour and Allen was named as one of three 'men of steel' - but what he did he did well and it was shortly after his return that he joined Wigan's famous academy.

There, he learned his trade alongside three Roughyeds colleagues in James Coyle (Thomas was a couple of years behind), David Allen and Gary Sykes - little wonder, then, that he describes being at Oldham now as "home from home".

By 2008 he had worked his way through the academy

system at Salford and into the first-team squad, but his progress at The Willows was hindered by a hernia operation and before the end of that season he was looking for pastures new.

Step in Oldham, and James Coyle - or, as Andy calls him, "Coyley".
Said Andy: "Coyley told me it was great at Oldham and I could do a lot worse than come here. I spoke to Deaks (Steve Deakin, last year's coach) and to Chris Hamilton (chief executive) and they convinced me

Oldham was the

place to be. I thought they were going to win promotion and that we would be in the higher division, so that's all the more reason why I am determined to do all I can this year in the hope that we can win the promotion that everybody at the club is striving for."

He pays no heed to suggestions that left-footed goalkickers are perhaps not as accurate and reliable as those who use their right foot and points out in his usual matter-of-fact manner that left-footed kickers of some repute, past and present, include the likes of Andy Farrell, Frano Botica and Jonny Wilkinson of the other code. "I don't practice much these days," he added, "because you don't get much time for that sort of thing when you are part time and just training at nights, often in gyms or

"But, as I say, I've been goalkicking since I was seven so I reckon I've put in a fair bit of practice over the years." The proud father of a three-year-old daughter, Grace, he lives in Ashton-in-Makerfield and, by trade, he is an electrican.

Needless to say, he aims to make the sparks fly up Oldham's right flank over the course of the next few months.

on all-weather pitches.

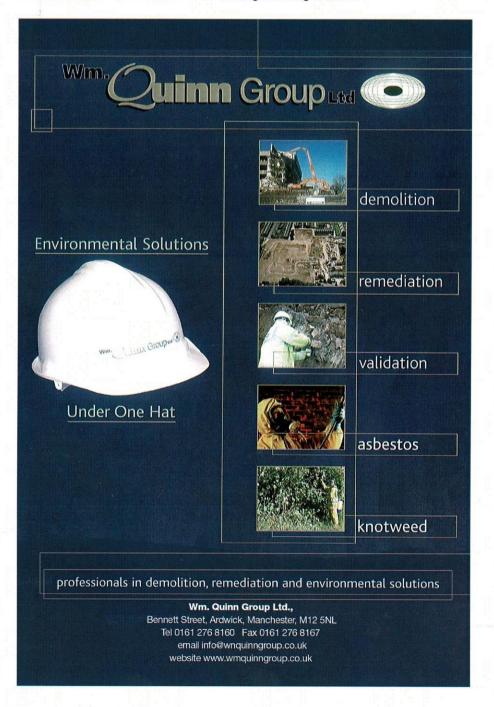
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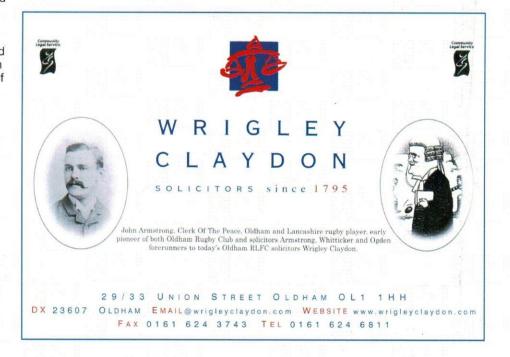
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THIRD TIME LUCKY?

Sharlston Rovers are hoping it will be third time lucky as they meet Oldham in the third round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup at Boundary Park today.

The draw has once again paired the two sides, who first clashed in the 2004 fourth round after Rovers took the scalp of Dewsbury Rams in the previous round. The match was finally played after a postponement due to bad weather on Wednesday March 4th.

The amateurs certainly put up a good show and were only 8-4 down at half time. The second half was a different matter, however, and Oldham pulled away with 3 unanswered tries and two goals to win 24-4.

The Oldham try scorers that day were lain Marsh 2. Lee Marsh.

Nick Johnson with Simon Svabic kicking 4 goals.

Oldham lined up as follows:-Gavin Dodd, Will Cowell, James Bunyan, Jon Goddard, Nick Johnson, Simon Svabic, Ian Watson, Steve Molloy, Keith Brennan, Dane Morgan, Lee Doran, Iain Marsh, Lee Marsh. Subs Gareth Barber, Neil Roden, Martin McLoughlin, Paul Southern.

The following season Sharlston made the round 3 stages and once again the luck of the draw paired them with Oldham, this time with Rovers gaining home advantage. The game was played at Featherstone and an improved Oldham side took its toll on the hosts despite an early bright spell being only 18-14 down with 30 minutes to go. In retrospect the game is remembered for probably the only bright spark in Simon Haughton's disappointing season with the Roughveds, as he scored 4 tries.

It also marked the first team debut of Andy Gorey who scored a try, the other 5 coming from Gavin Dodd, Will Cowell, Mark Roberts, Martin Elswood and Gareth Barber. Turner kicked one goal and Svabic 2 for

a convincing 46-14 victory for the Roughyeds.

Oldham lined up as follows:-Dodd, Cowell, Munro, Barber, Johnson, Svabic, Turner, Norman, Hough, Wilson, Haughton, Elswood, Roberts. Subs (all used): Mataora, Glassie, Kirkland, Gorey.

'RATTY' ONLY ONE LEFT

Interestingly Neil Roden is the only present member of the Oldham squad to have played in either of the previous games.

Despite Oldham's good run in the Northern Rail Cup Sharlston Player/Coach Lee Bettison remains optimistic saying "There could have been easier ties for us to face but at the end of the day its 80 minutes of rugby and anything can happen, and the Dewsbury victory is testimony to that. It will be a tough ask for us but I'm sure Oldham won't be counting their chickens just yet. It's a massive achievement that we are in this position and its testament to all the hard work the players have put in."

ROUGHYED'S PREDICTION LEAGUE 2009

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN BEFORE THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON NEXT SUNDAY AGAINST BLACKPOOL. APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UP TO SATURDAY 14 MARCH.

The Roughyed's are again running their popular Prediction League for the 2009 League programme. The aim is to guess as accurately as possible all the results in Championship League 1. As well as great fun for those taking part and a friendly rivalry that gets quite fierce at times it is another valuable revenue stream for the

Entries cost £20. Full details can be found on our website www.roughyeds.co.uk, and going to the message board where the whole system is explained in the pinned thread at the top



'FANTASTIC' DAY OUT FOR THE WINNER OF OUR SEASONTICKET COMPETITION

STEPHEN Slater, the lucky winner of the draw that was open to all adult seasonticket holders, spent a "fantastic" day with six guests when Sheffield Eagles were here at Boundary Park for a Northern Rail Cup game a fortnight ago.

His party included his son Michael; his nephew Simon Slater, a local rugby league referee; Margaret and Grahame Worthington and their son Phillip; and another friend. John Clarke.

They were picked up at Stephen's home in Rydal Avenue, Chadderton by a Lady Jayne limousine and driven in style to Boundary Park, arriving around one hour before kick-off and with plenty of time to relax in the vice-presidents' bar under the main stand and chat to various people at the club as they moved to and fro going about their prematch business.

Those members of the party who were not season-ticket holders were guests of the club for the day.

After the game they reboarded the limo for the short journey to Mario's in Yorkshire Street where they dined and wined in style to make it a perfect end to a day that was nearly perfect and would undoubtedly have been so had Roughyeds managed to pull off a win.

"The result was the only slight downside to the day," said Stephen, "but we got a valuable bonus point at the end, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the game.

"I thought we could have won it. In the

second half our heads were up and Sheffield heads were down and I feel sure that if the Wayne Kerr 'try' had stood we would have gone on to win it

"Some refereeing decisions were a little bit of a

puzzle, but I guess its swings-and-roundabouts in these things.

"Despite the defeat, 'Two Bobs' led from the front and I was very impressed with the boys and the way they fought back in the second half.

"As far as I'm concerned this team of ours is of first division standard and I will be very surprised if we don't go up this time.

Steven Slater (centre front row) pictured with his party

"We were impressed with the limo and we had a terrific time at Mario's. They couldn't do enough for us and when we left for home around 8.30pm we all agreed that it had been a fantastic day.

"We are now working on my friend John Clarke to get him interested in watching the team on a regular basis. I think we are winning and I feel sure that by the time the season is over we will have him hooked."





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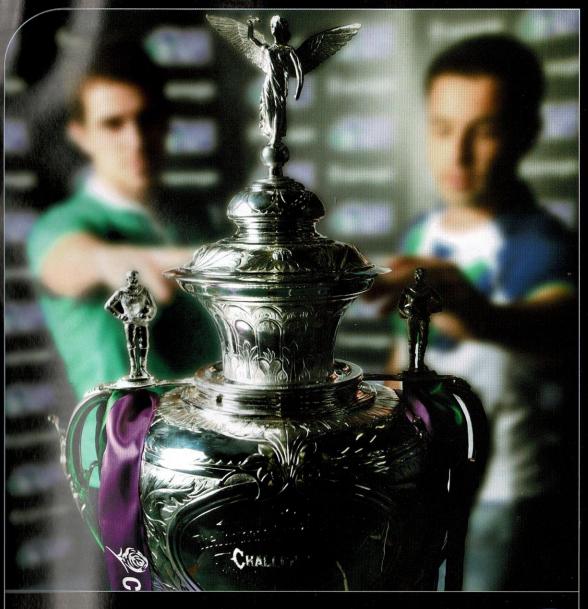






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Carnegie Challenge Cup 2009



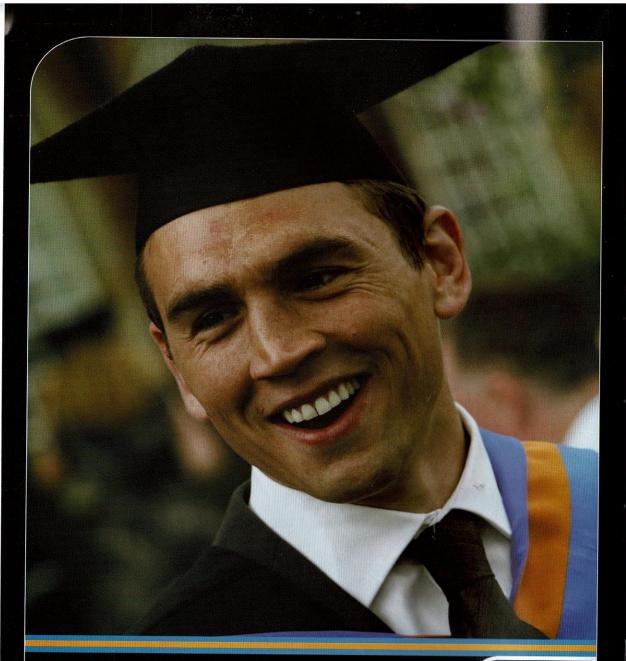
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CONTENTS

Issue no.5 March 6-11, 2009

| Great days for amateurs4/5 Ambassador Wilkin7 |
|---|
| News round-up8 |
| Action Replay10/11 |
| CHALLENGE CUP MATCHDAY |
| Barrow v Blackpool12/13 |
| Dewsbury v Carcassone14/15 |
| Featherstone v Army16/17 |
| Gateshead v Whitehaven18/19 |
| Holifov v Loughborough 20/01 |

Halifax v Loughborough..... Keighley v Pia.. Leigh v Lokomotiv Moscow..... ...24/25 Oldham v Sharlston. ..26/27 Sheffield v Toulouse... ..28/29 Widnes v Saddleworth.. .30/31 .32/33 Workington v Lezignan. ..34/35 York v Wigan St Pats. Siddal v Swinton... .36/37 ..38/39 Queens v Doncaster...

| The Bennett Column | 4 |
|--------------------|---|
| Stats/fixtures | |
| The Quiz | 4 |

NEXT WEEK

We preview the start of the league season





Fantastic weekend for rugby league

Rugby league is a sport that has been accused of getting many things wrong over the years. Take your pick from initiatives and decisions that didn't work.

We all make mistakes... that's life.

However praise where praise is due and the sport has really got it right with the Challenge Cup and the way the third round is arrived at.

Look at the draw for this year and you are faced with some mouthwatering but particularly intruiging ties.

There is a great sense of the unknown with visitors from France and Russia and some of the British amateur teams are packed with talent.

The likes of Kells, Pilkingtons and Queens may ply their trade outside the National Conference League but they have proved time and again they are among the best non-professional sides in the country.



Of course what may help some of the professional boys is familiarity. The Cumbrian duo of Kells and Wath Brow are using Whitehaven's Recreation ground so for their visitors – Hunslet and London Skolars – it will not be a complete shock to the system.

I know many seasoned watchers will be keeping their eyes on events in Cumbria for shocks with the Hawks and Skolars having started relatively poorly this season.

Pilkingtons are tackling Batley at Knowsley Road while Siddal are using The Shay for the visit of Swinton. Again these are examples of rugby league helping their own. Other sports must look at the co-operation shown in the sport with envious eyes.

A special word for The Army (pictured below) who face a daunting task against Featherstone. I say daunting but is it really because what these boys go through in just doing their job puts everything into perspective. Rovers and the rest... beware.

MARK FLANAGAN, EDITOR

The Army Squad that takes on Featherstone



RFL - official notes

RESPECT

Rugby League is passionate and prides itself on being a family game. Please behave responsibly at all times.

ANTI-RACISM POLICY

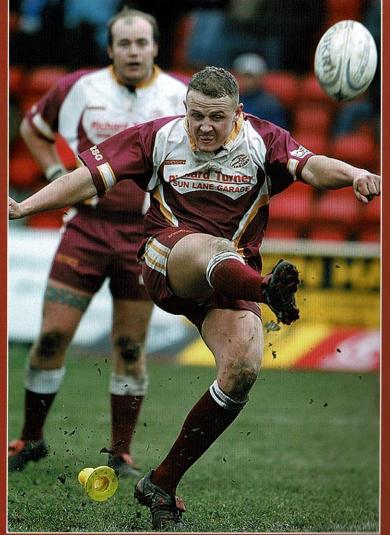
The RFL's 'Tackle It' policy states it will not tolerate racism of any kind and will take specific action against spectators who engage in racist chanting, abuse or intimidation. Rugby League is a great family sport and, with this in mind, action will also be taken against spectators who use foul and abusive language.

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PITCH

The RFL requests that spectators do not venture onto the pitch during or after the game. Such action is against ground safety regulations and the RFL reserves the right to take action against any person infringing these regulations.

Amateurs that rose to the Challenge

Shocks are rare in the third round of the Challenge Cup but there have been a few notable ones in recent years. GAME ON looks back through the record books to examine recent upsets and see whether there are any pointers to possible amateur victories this weekend



TROJAN EFFORT... Craig Holmes kicks the goal that secured Thornhill's victory over Workington in the Challenge Cup in 2006

Since the Challenge Cup was revamped in 1994, the third round has been the time for amateurs to grab their moment of glory.

It is their chance to get one over the professionals of the National League - now the Championships — and earn the opportunity of potentially facing Super League stars in the fourth round.

There have been many surprises along the way, and the amateur club with perhaps the best giantkilling pedigree is Thornbill Trojans

The Dewsbury-based side produced the main upset of recent years when they beat Workington 16-12 in 2006 before losing 66-0 against the Catalans Dragons in their first year in Super League.

Thornhill also pulled off the biggest third-round giantkilling in recent memory in 2000 when they claimed a 16-14 victory over Sheffield Eagles, who themselves had pulled off one of the biggest shocks in the competition's entire history just two years earlier by beating the mighty Wigan to win the 1998 final.

The upset of the round in 2001 saw Warrington-based Woolston Rovers take advantage of a wretched losing run by Chorley Lynx to win 22-4.

The 2004 competition saw East Hull enjoy a 26-12 victory over Swinton while Bradford Dudley Hill beat Keighley 16-14. There was also a 30-28 win for Sharlston Rovers over Dewsbury at Featherstone and of the 11 British amateur clubs to reach the third round of this year's competition, it is Sharlston and Wath Brow Hornets that have claimed recent scalps.

Sharkton will call on all the experience of that Dewsbury triumph as they visit Oldham this year and the Wakefield outfit will travel with high hopes as they are unbeaten in the Pennine League as well as being in the latter stages of the BARLA National Cup and the Pennine President's Cup.

Wath Brow heaped more cup misery on Dewsbury in 2005 with a 32-30 win in a game staged at Whitehaven's Recreation Ground, which is again the venue as the National Conference Division One leaders play host to London Skolars on Sunday.

With the Skolars pointless after three games in the Northern Rail Cup, the Homets will fancy their chances of making the Championship One side their next cup yields.

Wath Brow's Cumbrian neighbours



THEN.... Sharlston celebrate their heroic victory over Dewsbury Rams in 2004

Kells will also be playing at the Rec on Saturday and the unbeaten Cumberland League leaders will be optimistic of an upset against Hunslet – pointless after four Northern Rail Cup games.

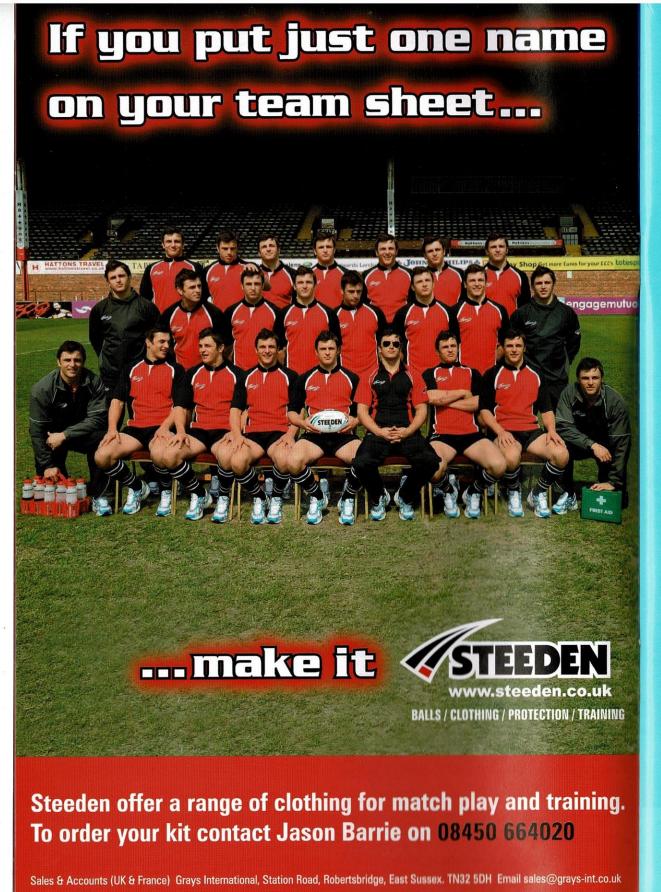
Northern Rail Cup games.
Swinton have lost their three games and may be wary of another defeat by amateur opposition after being dumped out by East Hull in 2004.

The Lions visit Siddal, joint leaders of the Conference Premier Division, with the tie played in Halifax at The Shay on Saturday, with the tenants hosting Loughborough University the following day.

Previous third-round victims Dewsbury, Keighley and Workington may be relieved to have avoided British amateurs but defeat at home to teams from the French championship will only highlight their unwanted place in the record books.



NOW... The Sharlston squad that travels to Oldham this weekend



the world according to

This week Jon looks at the launch of the new look Co-operative Championships, the added prize incentive and what The Co-operative means to rugby league. He ne cropative also highlights a couple of players from the Championships to watch out for this season.

his week saw the launch of the Co-operative Championship at Leigh Sporting Village. What a place that is by the way, it's been magnificently built and can hold up to 10,000 people.

It is great for sport in the wider Manchester area and for the club of Leigh. Furthermore it was a great setting to unveil the new-look 2009 Co-operative Championships which have new logos, a new trophy and a fresh dynamic

This year the Co-operative has put up a total prize fund of £200,000 for both leagues to compete for, which will serve as an added incentive for the clubs as they look to build for the future with the Super League franchises constantly on

Alongside the new look, the Co-operative Championship now has an international flavour with the arrival of Toulouse. The ambition of the teams competing in the league has been more than matched by the title sponsor, which is so great to see.

The Championships are a real breeding ground for young players to make their mark and develop their skills; historically as well it has been an environment where older players have finished their careers in the game they have given so

This year sees the introduction of names and shirt numbers in The Championship which will help make players stand out and gives the league an even more professional feel. With the Co-operative signing until 2012 this development can only increase exponentially.

With this dedicated Co-operative involvement guaranteed for the next few years the onus now is on the clubs to build up

the Championships from within. I mentioned some of the teams I expect to do well but there are a few players that I expect to do well individually this season.

The co-operative

Batley's Tim Spears is an exciting player, with GB junior experience and age on his side still.

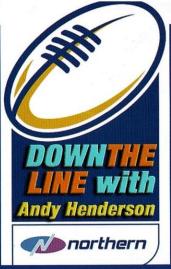
He is what I'd call a 'grafter' who's not afraid to get his hands dirty. Halifax's Bob Beswick is a great creative player who can always create opportunities for them. It's players like Bob that can help change games and create something out of nothing. Another Halifax player who has Super League experience is Sean Penkywicz, so again Halifax are looking strong going

So with the Championships looking more professional and with added incentives up for grabs as well as a brand new trophy, I'd urge everyone to get behind the sport this season.

It's up to the players to put in strong and skilled performances and it's up to you the fans in the communities to shout and scream your team on and show them as much support as possible.

CHAMPIONSHIP Jon Wilkin is a Co-operative 'Good for Everyone' Ambassador www.co-operative.coop

The **co-operative**



THERE'S been a levelling out of the talent available to Co-operative Championship clubs and that's made for a much more unpredictable Northern Rail Cup this year, which is great for the competition.

In fact, it's possible to make an argument that the Championship One clubs have shown the biggest improvement so far in 2009

Look at Oldham in Pool One. Tony Benson's men are sitting proud on top of the table and, while I expect Halifax to win the group – they've still got a game in hand, it doesn't take an anything away from what Oldham have achieved.

Who qualifies in fourth place depended upon Wednesday's clash between Barrow Raiders and Widnes at Craven Park.

Playing at home Barrow have a good chance against a Widnes team that has had its fair share of problems following the departure of coach Steve McCormack, but caretaker coach John Stankevitch looks to have steadied the Viking ship.

Widnes should start as favourites but I hope my old club Barrow can make it through but if they don't Keighley go through.

York City Knights have proved to be the surprise side in Pool Two. They're top of the qualifying table with ten points ahead of Championship teams Leigh Centurions and Featherstone Rovers.

That's no mean achievement for the Knights who have obviously been making real progress during the winter and signing the right kind of players to move forward. Dewsbury Rams could eventually win

the group because they've got nine points and a game in hand. Warren Jowitt's working wonders with the Rams and for them to top out the qualifying group would be a real feather in his coaching cap.





PLAYER OF WEEK 4 THE RUUNU

Chris Hill – Leigh Centurions

HRIS HILL has collected the
Northern Rail Cup Player of the
Week award for round four after
playing a central role in guiding his team
into the last eight of the competition.

The Centurions confirmed their place in the hat for the Northern Rail Cup quarter-final draw after beating Whitehaven 24-22 in front of a bumper crowd of 1,789 at Leigh Sporting Village Stadium on Sunday.

Chris Hill, pictured above in action against Whitehaven, said: "It was a great match against Whitehaven. They came down and played really well and I think we picked their pocket in the last minute.

"But if we can get a result even when we're not playing our best we have a good chance this year.

"I'm very pleased to have won the award, I just got on with my job and it was an excellent team performance which sealed the win for us – the most important thing is that we're through to the quarter-finals.

"From the start of the season we thought that we could make the semi finals at least and we want to make the Northern Rail Cup Final which would be a great day out for our supporters."



ewsbury forward Taron Wildey won the official player of the week award for round three following his man-of-the-match display in the Rams' 28-26 victory over Featherstone.

The forward played the second half with a broken bone in his hand to help Dewsbury come out on top.

Taron Wildey said: "We have had massive pre season preparation which is now showing through on the pitch. It's been very tough but we've come through it as a team and are getting stronger and stronger every week. It's an honour to receive an award like this but I would never have won it if it wasn't for the rest of the lads around me. Hopefully we will continue this season as we have started."

Newsround-Up

Replica tops available

OLDHAM'S new replica home jerseys in red and white hoops have arrived from the manufacturers and are now on sale at the club shop (tel: 0161 628 3677), priced at £45 for adults and £40 for children.

Other new Roughyeds merchandise is also available.

Meanwhile the club's John Hough and his No 2 Leo Casey have each signed new one-year deals to carry on the good work they started last year when running Oldham's reserve team. They opened up with a 28-6 pre-season friendly win at Hunslet.

The Roughyeds are also still negotiating to get a licence so they can use the Chadderton FC ground off Broadway as a base but they will not be playing first-team games there.

Steel eyes a return

FEATHERSTONE hope winger Jon Steel will be back in action by the end of the month.

It was last week discovered the former Hull KR flyer had played the previous two games with a broken foot – an injury sustained in training.

The Scotland international is now in plaster but hopes to be back in action within four weeks.

"He hasn't made it any worse by playing on it," Rovers boss Daryl Powell told League Weekly.

"He's in a cast at the moment and he just needs to give it time to rest. Hopefully he'll be available at the back end of the month."

Supporting SUCCESS

Proud sponsors of The Co-operative Championships



The **co-operative** good for everyone



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AGTIUMREPLAY

Ominous signs from big

two



POOL ONE

he big boys re-asserted their power as Halifax and Widnes enjoyed big wins. Last season HALIFAX went to the Don Valley and produced a display to forget—this time around it was SHEFFIELD who hit the buffers as the visitors won 50-18 to qualify for the quarter-finals with a game to spare.

Eagles' boss Mark Aston admitted he was glad the league season is a couple of weeks away and said: "I was very disappointed – for 25 minutes we were in an arm wrestle and we competed – it was 6-6 but for the last 15 minutes we started giving penalties away, went sloppy and they scored the tries."

Halifax's coach Matt
Calland was pleased with the
result but still feels his side
has room to improve.

"It was definitely a better performance than last time around. It was still a bit loose with ball in hand, we looked a bit disjointed but are going to be like that at this stage of the season." he said.

WIDNES, who were due to play at Barrow on Wednesday night, took a giant step towards qualification as they beat BLACKPOOL 46-16.

The co-operative Championship outfit led their opponents from the division below by 18-12 at the halftime hooter, and they had been in a game with the



Oldham's Dave Allen attempts to pass the ball out of the tackle at Hunslet

hosts, enjoying passages of good possession as the half wore on

But the Vikings scored 28 points in a seamless second half display at the Woodlands Memorial Ground.

The other team definitely through in Pool, One are OLDHAM as a hat-trick by centre Paul Reilly claimed the spoils for the visitors in a 32-14 victory at HUNSLET.

Twenty-two unanswered second half points settled this clash and coach Oldham coach Tony Benson was satisfied with the victory, but not the manner in which his side claimed the win.

He said: "I did not expect a performance of that level, particularly in the first half. I thought we would go a lot better. Credit to Hunslet though, they had a game plan and played well.

"We have trained for three months on a certain pattern

and our predicament was that we didn't stick to what we knew. The first 20 minutes of the second half was pretty good and we got close to our game.

"Rob Roberts led us well again. Gary Sykes picked out the right opportunities to use the ball or go himself. Paul Reilly finished well and, as ever, Paul O'Connor was instrumental in our comeback. O'Connor took us forward whenever we needed it."

KEIGHLEY, before Wednesday night's games, were hanging onto fourth but needed Widnes to do them a favour against BARROW after the Cumbrians beat the Cougars 34-7.

The Cougars went in at the break with a one point lead at 7-6 and thoroughly deserved it. However, it was all Barrow in the second period running in 28 unanswered points.

The game at GATESHEAD was as a dead rubber – and it certainly lived up to its billing as Thunder beat HORNETS RL.

A last minute Andrew Henderson try gave Gateshead a slender 14-6 half-time lead as the unfancied Hornets gave as good as they got.

If the first half had been less than memorable the second gave greater value for money for a 452 crowd at the Thunderdome.

Casey Mayberry cut the gap to two points but after that National League Two champions Gateshead stepped on the gas.

The Hornets, however, contributed to their own downfall with some unforced errors to leave coach Darren Shaw frustrated.

"I was very happy with the first half when we executed a lot better," said Shaw. "But after that we dug a hole for ourselves with basic errors"



GAME, SET AND QUALIFICATION... Dave McConnell touches down for Leigh against Whitehaven to win the game

Whitehaven shattered by last-gasp Centurions try

EIGH claimed their place in the quarter-finals of the Northern Rail Cup with a narrow victory over WHITEHAVEN in the winner-takes-all-clash of Pool Two.

Down the years these two adversaries have played out some classic encounters and this tie can take pride of place alongside them.

Leigh were trailing 18-10 and then 22-18 but never gave in, Dave McConnell touching down with two minutes to go and Martin Ridyard adding the extras.

Victorious coach Neil Kelly: "It was a very hard-earned win, and it's nice to get a win, albeit by two points against such a tough side.

"It says a lot about our players' heart and team spirit that they toughed it out in the end."

From the moment Danny Ratcliffe sliced through the LONDON defence with just four minutes gone the writing was again on the wall for the Skolars as the pool leaders YORK qualified for the last eight.

The visitors were no match for a Knights side who ran in 11 tries and built up a lead by half-time of 28-0 with David March at the hub of most of their moves.

It was never going to be a classic from a Knights side who wanted to score off every play and a Skolars side who sometimes even failed to cope with the basics.

But despite scoring those 11 tries there was still no pleasing Knights Director of Rugby James Ratcliffe who can still, like any coach, is looking for further improvement from his side. The Knights would love to have kept the Skolars to nil but to their credit they did manage two converted tries.

Ratcliffe said: "I'm disappointed we didn't keep them from scoring, our defence was better but still not to the standards we are looking for this season.

"I think we were impatient with the ball in attack but that said we did score eleven tries, however the quality of our play has to improve."

York maybe top now but DEWSBURY are to take first spot.

The Rams' final qualifying game is at London on March 15 and they look set to make it four wins from four after beating BATLEY 34-14.

Their 100 per cent record looked under threat as Batley surged into a 10-0 lead.

But Dewsbury, led superbly by the inspirational Liam Finn never panicked and quickly gained near parity before surging clear in the second half.

DONCASTER are the team hoping for Skolars miracle as they currently sit fourth

The Dons fought back from 10-0

down after a pulsating first 20 minutes from SWINTON, who, if anything, should have been further ahead after the first quarter.

Full-back Richard Hawkyard was tearing the Doncaster defence apart and it seemed he was involved in just about everything that troubled the Dons.

Dons coach Tony Miller was also very impressed with the Lions, adding: "Big credit to Swinton. I am sure they are going to have a big say on who wins the second Division title this season. They we're outstanding in the first 20 minutes but credit to our lads for coming back, it could have been a lot worse"

"I thought we we're very lucky to go in at half time in the lead, but I knew we we're going to be in a battle today after watching them against Leigh last weekend. We were very patchy at times today, sometimes our defence was very good and at other times we just stood off them"

Meanwhile FEATHERSTONE and WORKINGTON once again renewed there rivalry with Rovers showing their higher division credentials in 38-6 success.

From the start of the game their excellent speed of line in defence ensured every yard made by Town was hard earned with Dickens and Tonks leading the charge for Rovers, making excellent metres.



Sunday March 8, 2009. Kick off 2pm. CRAVEN PARK

BARROW RAIDERS

BLACKPOOL PANTHERS

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Advance Roofing Supplies | 1 Gary Broadben |
| Johnston Recruitment | 2 Mike Backhouse |
| BAE Global Combat Systems | 3 lan Be |
| Premier Solutions | 4 Liam Harrison |
| Furness Heating Components | 5 James Nixo |
| Jimmy Redfern Associates | 6 Liam Fincl |
| The Infield Hotel | 7 Liam Campbe |
| Saunders Transport | 8 Brett McDermot |
| The Marine Travel Company | 9 Andrew Elli |
| Mike Sear | 10 Lee Dutto |
| Estuary Electrical 11 | Andrew Brocklehurs |
| E.P. Access | 12 Martin Ostle |
| R.F. Miller Accountants | 13 Andrew Brace |
| Shaun Anderson Osteopath | 14 Paul Noon |
| Abbey House Hotel | 15 Chris Young |
| Larry Hunt, Cross Keys | 16 Jamie Butle |
| Coniston Holidays | 17 Scott Kaigha |
| Jimmy Redfern Associates | 18 James Finc |
| Mike Hodgson | 19 Chris Larki |
| Paul Turner (NWEM) | 20 Nicky Beac |
| Larry Hunt, Cross Keys | 21 Joe McKenn |
| Optec Fibres | 22 Ned Cati |
| BAE Global Combat Systems | 23 Waisale Suk |
| SITA (UK) Ltd | 24 Alipate Tar |
| E.P. Access | 25 Sevania Kor |
| Jimmy Redfern Associates | 27 Darren Ho |
| S & M Leisure (kit) | 28 Michael Darb |
| Nigel and Alison Atkinson | 32 Ruairi McGo |
| Alastair McGregor | 35 Matt Store |
| | |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-------|---------------|-----|
| | Full back | |
| | Right Wing | |
| | Right Centre | |
| | Left Centre | |
| | Left Wing | |
| | Stand off | |
| | Scrum half | |
| | Prop | |
| HE ST | Hooker | |
| | Prop | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | Loose forward | |
| | Interchange | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | SCORERS | |
| | Tries | |

| ght Wing | 3 Tom Woodcock | | |
|------------|---|--|--|
| ght Centre | 4 Mark McCully | | |
| eft Centre | 5 Chris Mugan 6 Simon Syabic | | |
| eft Wing | 7 Chris Forster | | |
| stand off | 8 Peter Fairhurst | | |
| crum half | 9 John Clough 10 John Hill | | |
| Prop | 11 Paul Alcock | | |
| Hooker | 12 Kris Ratcliffe | | |
| Prop | 13 Rob Draper | | |
| 2nd row | 14 Martin Keaveney | | |
| 2nd row | 15 Mel Alker 16 Ian Hodson 17 David Llewellyn | | |
| se forward | | | |
| terchange | 18 John Boland | | |
| | 19 Liam McGovern 20 Tom Wild | | |
| | 21 Andy Marsh | | |
| | 22 Keiron Tucker | | |
| | 23 Daryll Kaye | | |
| CORERS | 24 Chris Campbell | | |
| CONENS | 25 Wes Lawton | | |
| Tries | 26 Craig Tunstead | | |
| Conv | | | |
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SPONSOR No. PLAYER 1 Johnny Leather Blackpool Supporters 2 Damien Munroe Derek Way Roofing odcock Clover Tech of Wigan Cully Chorley Supporters Morris and Oxley ugan vabic S. Beilby and Family **Blackpool Supporters** rster irhurst **ACM Scaffolding Services** Seabridge Freight Services ough Robert Yates Design cock tcliffe

Paul Wilson Clark Draper Family/ Sheperds Inn, Lowton **G&M Building Contractors**

> Rema Tip Top Morris Bakers

S. Beilby and Family

Morris and Oxley

Meyer Group Ltd Morris and Oxley

COACH: DAVE CLARK

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WLW LAST SIX HOME: WWWLW-W TRIES: Liam Finch 4. Mike Backhouse 3, Andrew Ellis 3 **GOALS: Paul Noone 15**

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Mike Backhouse

DGs **MATCH OFFICIALS**

Pens

Referee: M Thomason Touch: C Leatherbarrow, G Stokes Fourth Official: J Callaghan

BENNETT'S BET

"Raiders to edge battle of the Championship rivals - Barrow by 10"

COACH: MARTIN CROMPTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWL-WLL LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLW-L TRIES: Mark McCully 4, **Damian Munroe 2 GOALS: Johnny Leather 6** DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Mark McCully



CLUBCALL

Barrow v Blackpool

Dangerous Blackpool have stung us recently

BLACKPOOL Panthers cannot be underestimated and will prove a real challenge in today's game. They have had mixed results in the Northern Rail competition but have claimed the scalp of Championship side Gateshead Thunder.

They have become somewhat of a bogey team for Barrow and always seem to raise their game against the Raiders. An enthusiastic Blackpool team beat an underperforming Barrow outfit on the Fylde last year, a match which according to all the pundits we should have won but instead nearly cost the club automatic promo-

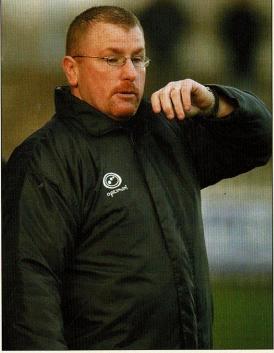
On paper Barrow will be the favourites to win this Challenge Cup tie but games are played out on the park not on paper, and we will need to give of our best to progress through to the next round.

The Panthers have recruited well during the off-season and under the guidance of coach Martin Crompton will be a team to be reckoned

Against the Cougars last Sunday we were once again slow to get into the game.

It was a superb Keighley effort particularly in the first half but our completion rate or should I say incompletion rate meant we had a lot of defending to do in the red zone. Our guys did exceptionally well in defence to restrict the Cougars to only one try in a first half which saw them acquire squatters rights on our try line.

But we simply cannot keep on putting in tackles as a result of turning the ball over or it will cost us in the end. That is something the team is all too well aware of and which I am trying to



Coach Dave Clark Martin Crompton - he's done a great job at Blackpool

Opening crowd was massively encouraging

crowd of just over 1,300 for our first home game last Sunday against Keighley in the Northern Rail was a pleasing start to the season.

The local soccer team had been at home on the Saturday - they are playing three games in a week - and the Carling Cup final on the box will all have impacted on the numbers through the turnstiles.

So all in all to get 1,300 into the ground was not a bad effort.

The first game last season was against today's opponents Blackpool. That saw an attendance of 825 so we are moving in the right direction.

Andrew Ellis once again put in a manof-the-match performance last week.

The stats show his tackle count and ball carries, as well as a couple of tries, justified that award.

But on this occasion the part of his game that most people have commented

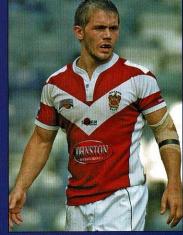
By Vice-chairman **DAVID SEAR**

to me about was his reaction when he was substituted to make way for debutante hooker Nathan Mossop.

As they passed on the pitch he stopped to issue a few words of advice to the newcomer. Everybody in the ground seemed to notice and appreciate that small gesture.

Blackpool had to visit Barrow twice in the league last season as the first game was called off due to a minor fire in the floodlight control panel. The last week has seen the lights repaired again as one set had turned round on the stanchion during the winter gales.

They are of considerable age and are OK for matches but not up to it for televised games. We are desperately trying to find the finances to replace them.



Great example... Andrew Ellis



Rams v Carcassonne



Sunday March 8 2009. Kick off 3pm. TETLEY'S STADIUM

DEWSBURY RAMS

CARCASSONNE

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Herbal Life | 1 Tom Colleran |
| | 2 Morgan Starkey |
| John Sawyer | 3 Lee Lingard |
| Joe G Fitness | 4 Craig Bower |
| | 5 Andrew Tillotson |
| Sue Walford | 6 Ryan Smith |
| | 7 Gareth Greenwood |
| Ken & Elizabeth Crabtre | |
| Rams Study Centre | 9 Mike Emmett |
| The Three Gs | 10 Luke Haigh |
| Subway | 11 Adam Robinson |
| | 12 Taron Wildey |
| Mount Tabor Church | 13 Pat Walker |
| | 14 lan Tonks |
| Peggy & Sam Hill | 15 Bryn Powell |
| The Buzz Room | 16 Austin Buchanan |
| Steve Johnson | 17 Alex Bretherton |
| The West Riding | 18 Chris Spurr |
| John Calvert | 19 Liam Finn |
| Jack Addy/Pat Heywood | 20 Rob Spicer |
| The Grayson Family | 21 Andy Bostock |
| Vivien Calvert | 22 Kane Epati |
| Peter Brooke/David Kirby | y 23 Keegan Hirst |
| Rams Cheerleaders | 24 Simon Cook |
| | 25 Gary North |
| | 26 Jake Wilson |
| | 27 Chris Grice |
| | 28 Liam Crawley |
| Lauren & Lucy Hall | 30 Chris Hall |
| KBSP Associates | 32 Martin Woodhead |
| Ken & Pat Humphrey | 33 James Walker |
| | 34 Josh Tonks |
| Elaine & Peter Holyoake | 35 Adam Hayes |
| | |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. | | | |
|-----|---------------|------|--|--|--|
| | Full back | | | | |
| | Right Wing | | | | |
| | Right Centre | | | | |
| | Left Centre | | | | |
| | Left Wing | | | | |
| | Stand off | | | | |
| | Scrum half | | | | |
| | Prop | | | | |
| | Hooker | | | | |
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| | 2nd row | Begi | | | |
| | 2nd row | | | | |
| | Loose forward | | | | |
| | Interchange | | | | |
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COACH: WARREN JOWITT

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLL-WWW LAST SIX HOME: LLWL-WW TRIES: Kane Epati 5, Austin **Buchanan 2, Alex Bretherton 2 GOALS: Pat Walker 18**

MAN TO WATCH: Pat Walker

MATCH OFFICIALS

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens DGs

Referee: R Hicks Touch: C Dean, C Hancock Fourth Official: P Huck

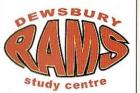
BENNETT'S BET

"In-form Rams to rise to French challenge -Dewsbury by 12"

Christophe Moly throws out a pass for France duing the last World Cup. He was one of two Carcassonne players who took part. The other was Terry Sadaoui

ERIC FRANCE

SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS



CLUBCALL

Dewsbury v Carcassonne

Great win but it came at a price

BONJOUR madames et monsieurs and welcome to the Tetley's Stadium for today's game which has the makings of a very exciting third round draw against our French neighbours Carcassonne.

It was great for us to get the result against our local arch rivals Batley Bulldogs last weekend. It was also very entertaining for

Unfortunately the local derby came at a price for us as we lost Adam Hayes with a fractured cheekbone. His leadership on the field will be missed. Adam Robinson put his body on the line and turned out for us to help us secure the win but unfortunately Adam's ankle is far too severe for him to play this week, also Taron Wildey's hand took a few knocks and stamps which has flared it up again. It would be nice to have all these three players on duty, but it's going to be a long season and I need these players to be ready for the league campaign.

The good news is that Rob Spicer is back in full training and is available for selection, James Walker is also available for selection after a stomach bug illness along with the rest of the squad.

Although it would be nice to have Hayesy, Robbo and Taz on the pitch, the players who are up for selection are quality players and can more than do a job for us. This just goes to show the strength in depth of our squad.

I want to congratulate Alex Bretherton on a big performance as he played a vital role in defence and attack and led from the front along with Adam and Taron.

Also nice to see Andrew Bostock show what he can do, moreso



Rob Spicer's set to return for the in-form Rams

in the second half. Chris Grice, who came off the bench, also put in a solid performance which will see him on duty today again.

Like I said last week, while ever the players are performing they will keep their shirt. Chris (Spud) is a product of the academy system here and has come up through the ranks and it's nice to see the young players developing at this club. There's also many more young players who aren't far off taking a first team spot.

One of these players who is pushing all the time is young Josh Tonks who will have a big future in this game. Hopefully if he carries on the way he is training and keep his positive attitude up, you may see him feature in the near future, along with Morgan Starkey who has impressed all pre season.

Finally, hope you all enjoy an entertaining afternoon and hope we can keep rolling forward with you, the fans, behind us. Your support is always appreciated and very important towards the team's success on the field, so get behind us and give us a lift.

Warren Jowitt, Head Coach

Need to get things motoring off pitch

fter three weeks of the Northern Rail Cup it's cup action of another kind Athis afternoon with the visit of Carcassone in the Carnegie Challenge Cup. It's only the second time we've had

Challenge Cup opponents from France.

The last time was when we entertained Villeneuve back in 2000. We won that game 35-10 and there were 1,326 here to watch the game, a figure we'd be more than happy with today.

For those of you with longer memories we did also play XIII Catalan back in 1994 a game which we also won 22-4 on a swamp of a pitch.

That game was in the Regal Trophy and was infamous for the fact that at one stage Catalan had 14 players on the pitch with our coaching team desperately trying to bring it to the attention of the referee!

This afternoon's game is a step into the unknown for us but it is important that we make cup progress.

There is a new prize money structure in place for this season and with season ticket holders also able to use their passes for these games the prize money becomes so much more important than what comes through the turnstile.

We're no different from any club at the moment in so far as the credit crunch has badly affected our sponsorship and we are extremely grateful to Carnegie for what they are putting into the game.

Our start to the season has been very good indeed and there seems to be plenty of interest in what we are trying to

Warren has one or two injuries to contend with following our excellent win over Batley last weekend but our strength in depth is looking a lot healthier this season and bearing in mind the budget the club

has to work to there is a lot of healthy competition for places.

The main areas we still need to address are off the field. The club needs more sponsorship which we've already touched on but also we need supporters to buy the replica shirts. We've quite a bit of money tied up in stock which is dead money unti

Most people have been affected one way or another by the recent financial problems but if you are thinking about buying a new shirt then there's no better

Equally if you also fancy winning money then we need more people enrolling into our lottery scheme and most season ticket holders will have received a letter from Warren asking for new members.

If you can't afford but know someone who can then please try and convince them that the Rams are a worthy cause!



Featherstone v The Army



Infantry

Infantry

Mechanical Engineer

Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE CHRIS MOYLES STADIUM

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

BRITISH ARMY

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Peter Smith Motorcycles | 1 Tom Saxton |
| Bev Coleman | 2 Waine Price |
| Patrick & Gemma McNeil | 3 Ian Hardman |
| The Buccaneers Club | 4 Andy Kirk |
| Mark Hutchinson | 5 Jon Steele |
| Maureen Tennant-King | 6 lestyn Harris |
| & Emily Harris | |
| Shindigz | 7 Andy Kain |
| Terry King | 8 Tony Tonks |
| Charlie Robinson & | 9 Jack Lee |
| Lynne Whitehouse | |
| Vic & Sue Johnson | 10 Stuart Dickens |
| Doug & Barbara Wilford | 11 Matt Dale |
| Blue Lagoon Bar | 12 Jamie Field |
| Susan Parker | 13 Richard Blakeway |
| Blue Lagoon Bar | 14 Tommy Haughey |
| Study Rovers | 15 James Houston |
| Gary Crompton | 16 Joe McLocklan |
| Howard Lawton | 17 Joe Hirst |
| John Lycett | 18 Tim Spears |
| Peter Smith Motorcycles | 19 Sean Hesketh |
| Rovers Scholarship | 20 Stuart Kain |
| Hollie Bennett | 21 Steve Dooler |
| Charlie Watson | 22 Matt Handforth |
| | 23 Gareth Swift |
| Capro Contracts | 24 John Fallon |
| Chelsey, Charlie & Megan Large | 25 Scott Wilson |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM No. | SQUAD (TO BE CONFIRMED) |
|---------|------------------|---|
| | Full back | Corporal Ceri Cummings |
| | Right Wing | Captain Tim Brewer |
| | Right Centre | Sapper Ryan Taylor |
| | Left Centre | Lance Corporal Tim Tamani |
| | Left Wing | Lance Corporal Sam Cataki |
| | Stand off | Sergeant Paul Riley |
| West of | Scrum half | Lance Corporal Stu Butters |
| | Prop | Sergeant Dave Goddard Corporal Rob Smart Ro |
| | Hooker | Lance Corporal Rushi Naisau |
| | Prop | Lance Corporal Dean Wildbo |
| | 2nd row | Corporal Ben Taylor |
| | 2nd row | Corporal Darrel Winn |
| | Loose forward | Gunner Carl Saville |
| | Interchange | Lance Corporal Inoke Veikun Private Max Vave |
| | | Corporal Dave Nunnerley |
| | | Sergeant Gary Debaughn |
| | | Corporal Neville Boyd |
| | | Corporal Andre Zwijnen |
| | | Lance Corporal Bruce Francis |

| SCOR | ERS |
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| TODAY'S TEAM No. | SQUAD (TO BE CONFIRMED) | |
|------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Full back | Corporal Ceri Cummings | Royal Electrical |
| Dight Wing | | Mechanical Engineer |
| Right Wing | Captain Tim Brewer | Royal Engineer |
| Right Centre | Sapper Ryan Taylor | Royal Engineer |
| Left Centre | Lance Corporal Tim Tamani | Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer |
| | Lance Corporal Sam Cataki | Royal Army |
| Left Wing | | Dental Corps |
| Stand off | Sergeant Paul Riley | Royal Artillery |
| Scrum half | Lance Corporal Stu Butters | Royal Engineer |
| | Sergeant Dave Goddard | Royal Engineer |
| Prop | | al Army Medical Corps |
| Hooker | Lance Corporal Rushi Naisau | Royal Electrical |
| | L O D Vagidh | Mechanical Engineer |
| Prop | Lance Corporal Dean Wildbore | |
| 2nd row | Corporal Ben Taylor | Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer |
| 2nd row | Corporal Darrel Winn | Royal Electrical |
| | | Mechanical Engineer |
| Loose forward | Gunner Carl Saville | Royal Artillery |
| Interchange | Lance Corporal Inoke Veikune | Royal Engineer |
| ge | Private Max Vave | Royal Logistic Corps |
| | Corporal Dave Nunnerley | PARA |
| | , , , | Royal Armoured Corps |
| | Corporal Neville Boyd | Royal Engineer |
| | Corporal Andre Zwijnen | Infantry |
| COOREDC | Lance Corporal Bruce Francis | |
| <u>SCORERS</u> | Lance Corporal Modje Matau | Medical Corps Royal Engineer |
| Tries | Craftsman Komaisavai | Royal Electrical |
| | Oranoman Nomaisavai | - Hoyar Licothical |

Kingsman Kaiwaidau

Kingsman Sioni Tunisau

COACH: DARYL POWELL

MASCOT Bluebeard

LAST SIX RESULTS: WL-WWLW LAST SIX HOME: WDLL-WL TRIES: Waine Price 3, Andy Kaine 2, Jon Steele 2, Sam Smeaton 2, Ian Hardman 2 **GOALS: lestyn Harris 7, Stuart** Dickens 7. DGs: -MAN TO WATCH: lestyn Harris

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: W Turley Touch: P Ward, S Matthews Fourth Official: T Crashley

BENNETT'S BET "Rovers have too much in their arsenal - Featherstone by 50"

THE ARMY

COACH: RICHARD NAIVALURUA

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR **Round Two:**

Featherstone Lions 12, The Army 30 **Round One:**

> The Army 72, North Univ 0 **Premlinary Round:**

W London Sharks 10, The Army 22



Lorne Mosley

















CLUBCALL

Featherstone v British Army

Honour to tackle team of great defenders

Rovers find themselves in the last eight and into the knock-out stages of the Northern Rail Cup.

And that's the bottom line: it's all about getting there.

We have yet to reach our full potential on the field.

Our performance against a spirited **Dewsbury Rams was an aberration but** we moved on from it.

Anyone who saw the clinical, professional way Rovers dealt with Workington in a fine team effort last week will attest to that. The knock-out stage looks like being absolutely fascinating with some big games in prospect.

We now have our feet on the first rung (for us at any rate) of the Challenge Cup ladder. Our opponents - the Army - command huge respect. They are our defenders and they are a big, physical team.

STEVE EVANS Chairman

They won the Combined Services World Cup, beating their hosts in their own back vard. It's the kind of thing they do in their day job! It will be an honour to welcome these men to the Chris Moyles Stadium.

The army has already played in Featherstone in the Challenge Cup: against our amateur neighbours and partners Featherstone Lions. I was there.

These boys can defend. The pitch was heavy that day. A drier track might see them use their outside backs more on Sunday

The chances of a non Super League side getting to Wembley get slimmer every year.

However, and we know more about this than most at Featherstone, the Challenge

Cup is a dramatic arena for a sporting

We've prevailed in the Challenge Cup as underdogs. It's part of our history.

We have to be very careful not to let today's underdogs prevail ... because doing so is part of their history as well: although not on the rugby field.

We want to make the game a special occasion. We have reduced ticket prices the most you can pay is a fiver - and children will be allowed in free.

The Army will be bringing their recruitment squad and will be putting on their

Of course we want to be in the draw for the next round, but what is also very important in this game is that it is yet another significant development in the history and growth of defence services

Consistency will come but we've shown promise

IT'S been a whirlwind couple of weeks recently with three games in a week in the Northern Rail Cup, today a Challenge Cup tie and next week the start of our championship campaign.

The first four games of the new season has given me a great insight into the playing staff and the capabilities of the group as a whole. I have been impressed with the durability of the players and the defensive elements of our game have really started to grow. To have competed in four tough games and to concede one try in three of those games augurs well for the season as rugby league games are built from the basement that is defence.

We have also worked really hard on the attacking side of our game to create a balance of defensive solidity and creativity and options with the ball. This will take time to come together as we develop consistency through performing on a weekly basis, but last week against Workington the signs were clear that big steps forward had been made.

I am looking for a strong display to provide consistency today, this is the start of a new competition but just as important we have the opportunity to further develop as a group, and in particular our fluency and togetherness in the way we play the game.

Today will be a step into the unknown for us as we are challenged by the Army rugby league team; they will also be taking their second visit to Featherstone as they played Featherstone Lions in the last round. There is no doubt they will compete fiercely in every department as they are trained to do in every aspect of their lives.

I have enjoyed playing against the Army veterans team in charity games over the last four years and know how much rugby league means to the people in our armed forces. Our game is certainly strengthened by their participation in the Challenge Cup.

It was great to see the Leigh ground earlier in the week where the launch of the championship took place. I was very impressed



Brian Sutton takes the ball forward for Featherstone Lions against The Army in the second round this year

with the quality of the set up, there is no doubt that the stadium and developments like Leigh and at Widnes add massively to rugby league's credibility as a sport and its value to the local community.

The plans for a new ground at our club look fantastic and will provide a centrepiece for the local community in Featherstone that everyone could feel a part of. There is a strong will and drive at the club to provide a top quality sporting environment that would be a pleasure to be a part of, I hope the hard work being done by so many people will come to fruition.

There is plenty to see today at the ground with the Army's recruitment people delivering all sorts of activities for fans to get stuck into, enjoy the pre match activities and hopefully a strong consistent effort from the team.

Coach Daryl Powell



Gateshead v Whitehaven



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

GATESHEAD THUNDER

WHITEHAVEN

Craig Benson

Craig Calvert

Rob Jackson

Derry Eilbeck

Ade Adebisi

Carl Rudd

Leroy Joe

Marc Jackson

Graeme Mattinson

Karl Edmondson

Howard Hill Spencer Miller Scott McAvoy

Danny Barker Ryan McDonald Andy Gorski John Walker John Patrick

Kyle Amor Marc Bainbridge Taani Lavulavu Matt Tunstall Marc Shackley

Gregg McNally

Jamie Theoharous

13

19

24

PLAYER

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| | 1 Ben McAlpine |
| | 2 Danny Wilson |
| Accent Magazine | 3 Kevin Neighbour |
| & North East Times | |
| Lady Cross Quarries | 4 Dylan Nash |
| | 5 Stewart Sanderson |
| The Wheatsheaf Pub | 6 Neil Thorman |
| James & Matthew Wells | 7 Luke Branighan |
| | 8 Jason Payne |
| Brack Office Solutions | 9 Andrew Henderson |
| Rob & Jackie Gardner | 10 Tabua Cakacaka |
| | 11 - |
| PCL Travel | 12 Michael Knowles |
| | 13 - |
| | 14 Ryan Clarke |
| | 15 Matt Barron |
| The Schooner Inn | 16 Puna Rasaubale |
| | 17 Chris Parker |
| | 18 Robin Peers |
| | 19 - |
| | 20 Dave Vernon |
| O'Brien Sandwiches, | 21 Ryan McBride |
| Team Valley | |
| | 22 Jamie Russo |
| | 22 Johny Scott |

| | 14 Hyan Clarke | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| | 15 Matt Barron | |
| The Schooner Inn | 16 Puna Rasaubale | |
| | 17 Chris Parker | |
| | 18 Robin Peers | |
| | 19 - | |
| | 20 Dave Vernon | |
| O'Brien Sandwiches, | 21 Ryan McBride | |
| Team Valley | 21 Hydri Weblide | |
| | 22 Jamie Russo | |
| | 23 Jonny Scott | |
| | 24 - | |
| | 25 - | |
| 2 | 26 Crawford Matthews | |
| Dean Taxis 0191 444 4 44 | | |
| Dodn'i dalo o i o i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i | 28 Mark Dack | |
| | | |

29 Rhys Clarke

30 Stephen Welton

| TODAY'S | TEAM | No. |
|-----------|--|---|
| Full ba | ick | |
| Right W | /ing | |
| Right Ce | entre | |
| Left Ce | ntre | |
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| 2nd ro |)W | |
| 2nd ro |)W | |
| Loose for | rward | |
| Intercha | ange | |
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| | | |
| | Full ba Right W Right Ce Left Ce Left W Stand Scrum Prop Hook Prop 2nd ro 2nd ro Loose for | Full back Right Wing Right Centre Left Centre Left Wing Stand off Scrum half Prop Hooker Prop 2nd row 2nd row Loose forward Interchange |

| SCORERS | |
|---------|--|
| Tries | |
| Conv | |
| Pens | |
| DGs | |

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: WW-LWLW LAST SIX HOME: WWWW-WW TRIES: Stewart Sanderson 6, Dylan Nash 4, Joe Arundel 4 **GOALS: Luke Branighan 8**

COACH: CHRIS HOOD

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andrew Henderson

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D Merrick Touch: N Darbyshire, S Moss Fourth Official: D Griffiths

BENNETT'S BET

"Haven to secure passage to the fourth round Whitehaven by 4"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WL-WLWW LAST SIX AWAY: WWL-LL

TRIES: Gregg McNally 4, Andy Gorski 3 GOALS: Carl Rudd 6, Gregg McNally 6

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Gorski

Getting behind Gateshead...













CLUBCALL

Gateshead v Whitehaven

Need to take home form onto the road

nfortunately, despite tremendous displays at home to Sheffield and Rochdale, we were knocked out of the Northern Rail Cup last weekend.

Ultimately disappointing losses away to Keighley and Widnes were Thunder's downfall and we will need to ensure we pack our home form on the team coach when we go away for league matches.

The Co-operative Championship is a tough competition and we won't just be able to rely on our home form. Our first league match is away to Whitehaven on

Coincidentally that's our next home game – today in the Challenge Cup. This is the opportunity for the club to dream of

ROD FINDLAY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Wembley. While there were times I thought the stadium was never going to be built, anyone who has been there will agree that it is a tremendous stadium.

It is at its best for the Challenge Cup Final in August when fans of all amateur and professional clubs come together to celebrate rugby league's showpiece event

- the competition has been played since
1897 and at Wembley since 1929.

It would be great if Thunder took a contingent down to the final. I'd like to welcome to Whitehaven for

the first time this season. We were nearly facing one of our old boys, Dan Russell, but all clubs were affected by the change in policy by the Home Office, and Dan wasn't able to join Whitehaven and is now back in Australia

It might seem like old news now, but Puna Rasaubale is also now in Australia applying for his Visa, the club having been granted a Certificate of Sponsorship.

It seems odd that he wasn't allowed to apply from the UK when he is entitled to be in the country but hopefully he'll be back at training and his home at the Schooner Inn, today's match ball sponsors.

Enjoy the game and thanks for your

With season in full flow we are ready for battle

GOOD afternoon and welcome everyone for today's Challenge Cup clash with Whitehaven.

The Challenge Cup is always special for any club and carries the glamour of the unknown and the possibility of drawing a Super League club.

However, to progress in this competition it's important to forget about all that and focus on the here and now, and that is exactly what we've discussed all week.

We are now at the business end of the season and we are ready for the weekly

It's an extremely exciting time for everyone knowing that we are playing against the best opposition outside the Super League and that every game is a huge one.

We all at Gateshead Thunder believe this is where we deserve to be and embrace the task of staying here and, more importantly, winning here.

I'm extremely proud of the players and everyone associated with the club for getting us into this position, and thank them for their dedication.

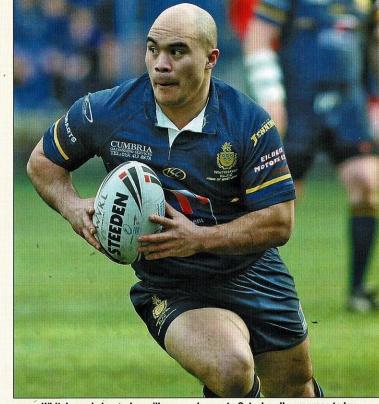
They are proof that great things can happen to good people if they work hard and never give up.

We've had a cracking pre-season, addressed our frailties and shifted our focus when required.

We've had a great build up this week and we're already to perform.

See you at the game.

Chris Hood, Head Coach



Whitehaven's Leroy Joe will pose a danger to Gateshead's progress today



Halifax v Loughborough



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY STADIUM

HALIFAX RLFC

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

SQUAD

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| | 1 Miles Greenwood |
| | 2 Lee Paterson |
| Vision Express Halifax Ltd | 3 Jon Goddard |
| Chadwick Lawrence | 4 Shad Royston |
| Chadwick Lawrence | 5 James Haley |
| | 6 Dwayne Barker |
| Roger & Sue Harvey | 7 Ben Black |
| | 8 Matt James |
| Riley & Co Accountants | 9 Sean Penkywicz |
| Matthew Walker | 10 Dana Wilson |
| Windsor Yarns | 11 Dave Larder |
| | 12 Paul Smith |
| Complete Building Materials | 13 Bob Beswick |
| | 14 Mark Gleeson |
| | 15 Mark Roberts |
| | 16 Said Tamghart |
| Complete Building Materials | 17 Frank Watene |
| | 18 Andy Bowman |
| | 19 Mick Govin |
| Chadwick Lawrence 20 G | raham Charlesworth |
| | 21 Neil Cherryholme |
| | 22 David Wrench |
| Howard Posner | 23 Rob Worrincy |
| | 24 Gareth Moore |
| | |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| | Full back | |
| | Right Wing | |
| | Right Centre | |
| | Left Centre | |
| | Left Wing | |
| | Stand off | |
| | Scrum half | |
| | Prop | |
| | Hooker | |
| | Prop | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | Loose forward | |
| | Interchange | |
| | and the second second | |
| | | |
| 16/30 | | |

| uke Dexter |
|----------------------|
| onny Farmer |
| on Riley |
| lartin Edwards |
| hys Wynn Morgan |
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| imon Perry |
| mmy Davis |
| n Keevil |
| om Howley (c) |
| teve Hall |
| iden Pritchard |
| an Ljazouli |
| imon Greenwood-Haigh |
| d Branch |
| amish Locke |
| ick Van Burren |
| im Thompson Essex |
| arry Mostyn |
| |
| |

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWW-WWW LAST SIX HOME: DLLWL-W TRIES: Sean Penkywicz 4, Said Tamghart 3 **GOALS: James Haley 10**

MAN TO WATCH: Sean Penkywicz

Pens DGs

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: T Roby Touch: S Johnson, R Jones Fourth Official: M Kidd

BENNETT'S BET

"Fax to teach these students a big lesson - Halifax by 68"

COACH: JAMES LEWIS

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIV

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Loughborough Univ 20, Navy 18

Round One:

Loughborough Univ 26, Nottingham Outlaws 16.













Halifax v Loughborough University

Loughborough will be highly motivated



GOOD afternoon everyone.

I'd like to start by welcoming the players and supporters of Loughborough Students to the Shay. It will be a big day for them - their cup final if you like - and we're expecting to face an extremely motivated and enthusiastic team.

I hope they enjoy their day with us. At the same time, the Challenge Cup is the biggest knockout competition in rugby league and I know it's a tournament our players want to do well

They thoroughly enjoyed the chance to play Super League opposition, in the form of Huddersfield, last season and would relish the chance to do something similar this time round.

As far as we are concerned, Loughborough are a bit of an unknown quantity. Everyone will be expecting us to win convincingly and probably run a few points in in the process, but we can't afford to get caught up in that.

We need to keep concentrating on our own performance and getting that right. If we do that, the results - not just today but for the rest of the season - will look after themselves.

We are at the end of a busy week, with the Northern Rail Cup games against Sheffield and Blackpool already under our

We scored a lot of points at Sheffield, and it was certainly a much more encouraging performance than the one we produced last time we were there, but we still made too many errors.

It's a learning curve for us at the moment though, we are still working on our combinations in a few areas of the team, but we are definitely heading in the right direction.

As I write, the Blackpool game has not been played, but I would expect us to have taken another step forward.

I am not naive enough to think that those two matches will not have taken something out of us going into today's game and I don't think it is realistic to think we will be at our absolute best today.

But with the Championship opener against Widnes less than two weeks away, I know everyone will be focused on producing a strong team performance. Enjoy the game,

Matt Calland



Halifax coach Matt Calland

No-one is thinking about favourites tag

t is pleasing to write this piece after three Northern Rail Cup Games with qualification for the knock-out stages already assured.

By the time this edition of 'Game On' reaches you, the postponed fixture with **Blackpool Raiders will have completed** the group stage.

I have seen various comments, including those of my predecessor, Howard Posner, indicating that we are bookies' favourites for that competition.

Fortunately the coaching staff and players will not take that too seriously.

Whichever of the other seven qualifiers we draw in the quarter-final will deserve, and receive full respect from all at Halifax.

And the same applies to Loughborough Students, our visitors this afternoon. Their University is well known for the quality of its sportsmen and

Halifax chairman Michael Steele

women. Their record in Student Rugby League is second only to Leeds Mat Carnegie. They will have much the same approach to this game as we would expect to have drawn away to Leeds **Rhinos or Bradford Bulls**

It is the season's biggest game to date, their 'Cup Final' and we can expect them to rise to the occasion.

Add that to the fact that they are used to winning, and we will need to be on our mettle to take a place in the 4th round draw, whichever Thursday that finally takes place on.

Mention of Carnegie is well merited, with their continued and welcome sponsorship of the Challenge Cup. Everyone in the game is grateful for it.

The three NRC matches to date have seen a progressive improvement in the team's performance. Defence was a problem last season,

but at this early stage it is much improved. And certainly from my place in the

stand, the attacking play has been exhilarating, if at times a little over ambitious. Last season Halifax gained a reputa-

tion as the National Leagues entertainers. The class of 2009 seem determined to maintain that accolade.

All it needs to complete the effect is the support of the people of Calderdale. Please encourage your friends to give the Club a chance.

Get them down to the Shay for the league opener against Widnes on Thursday March19.

It's sure to be a thriller. **Enjoy the Game.**



Keighley v SM Pia

Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 7pm. COUGAR PARK

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

SALANOUE MÉDITERRANÉE PIA

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Frank Atkins | 1 George Raynor |
| Dolphin Stairlifts | 2 Sam Gardner |
| The Clarksons | 3 Dan Potter |
| Mr & Mrs Glover | 4 Oliver Pursglove |
| J&M Fisher | 5 Gavin Duffy |
| Joyce Barret Hairdressers | 6 Jon Presley |
| Phoenix Trophies | 7 Danny Jones |
| Mr & Mrs Philips | 8 Andy Shickell |
| D & M Procter | 9 James Feather |
| Swaggs Hair Studio | 10 Simon Bissell |
| Mr & Mrs Rothera | 11 Will Cartledge |
| Phil Lund Motor Engineers | 12 Neil Lowe |
| Mr & Mrs Rothera | 13 Carl Hughes |
| Oddities Giftware | 14 Jermaine Wray |
| Mr & Mrs Bardgett | 15 Craig Brown |
| Cougar Pride Centre | 16 Brendon Rawlins |
| J&M Fisher | 17 Scott Law |
| M Croft & T Pycroft | 18 Greg Nicholson |
| R Weir Property | 19 Craig Fawcett |
| Maintenance | |
| Rex Procter & Partners | 20 Daley Williams |
| Frank Atkins | 21 Ryan Smith |

Emily & Flynn Walker

Mike Aitchison

Fresh Radio

Cougar Cubs

The Cox family

s Feather non Bissell Cartledge **Neil Lowe** arl Hughes aine Wrav aig Brown on Rawlins Scott Law Nicholson ig Fawcett v Williams Ryan Smith 22 Lee Mapals 23 James Hutchinson 24 Luke Sutcliffe 25 Wayne Sutcliffe Non-numbered: Dan Belcher. James Havthornthwaite Tim Bibby. Tom Hall Ben Saga **Jack Copperwaite** Karl Gunney

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-----|---------------|-----|
| | Full back | |
| | Right Wing | |
| | Right Centre | |
| | Left Centre | |
| | Left Wing | |
| | Stand off | |
| | Scrum half | |
| | Prop | |
| | Hooker | |
| | Prop | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | Loose forward | |
| | Interchange | |
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| | SCORERS | |

Tries Conv Pens DGs



Pia comes unstuck against Wigan in the fourth round of the Challenge Cup last season. The French side beat Gateshead 26-24 in the third round before losing to the Warriors 74-4

COACH: BARRY EATON

(sponsored by the Cox family)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WLWL LAST SIX HOME: WWWW-WW TRIES: Jon Presley 7, Lee Mapals 2, **Gavin Duffy 2, Oliver Pursglove 2 GOALS: Danny Jones 12 DGs: Danny Jones** MAN TO WATCH: Simon Bissell

MATCH OFFICIALS Referee: G Hewer Touch: B Armstrong, B Leze Fourth Official: S Barrie

BENNETT'S BET "Pia to prove they're no Donkeys in defeat - Keighley by 4"



CLUBCALL

Warm welcome to Pia, Freddie and Gary

come to Cougar Park for tonight's Carnegie Challenge Cup round three tie against Pia. I would like to welcome Pia's players, Directors and staff and I hope you enjoy your stay in Keighley.

It will be interesting to see how playing the game on a Saturday affects our normal match day events and crowd attendances and I would like to apologise to all our fans who couldn't make the game tonight due to the game having to be played on a Saturday.

Today's game is sponsored by Carnegie and we thank them for their support. We have with us today Link Telecom who are today's Man of the Match Sponsor and Gary is enjoying the day's match hospitality.

We have had a busy couple of weeks since my last piece none more so important than Freddie reaching his target weight and has managed to keep his job as the club mascot. Freddie embarked on a healthy eating plan that was supported by his army of fans sending him great healthy eating tips and to keep eating his 5 a day plus a gruelling fitness regime at Fitness First.

He also measured his stamina by pulling my sponsored Sunwin Nissan Quashqia, a Joda freight wagon and a Northern Rail train so he really has put himself through the paces. Last week saw the new lean and muscular Freddie unveiled and not only did he get to keep the job he loved but Head Coach Barry Eaton rewarded Freddie with his very own squad number, so really is a part of the team.

As i mentioned last time Gary Fawcett has joined Neil & Colin on the board of Directors and since then we have developed a workable strategy that will really see the club build on the work we



Freddie's fighting fit and raring to go

have done over the last two years and make a realistic assault on the promotional ladder as well as putting the Pride back into Keighley.

Talking of the Pride of Keighley you may have all noticed the new logo and branding, this is part of a new aggressive marketing campaign we are launching in order to get the brand back into the town. You will start to see over the next few months the Cougar logo everywhere you look, as always i am happy to have your feedback on it and if any of you have any ideas of how we can market the club even more than please let me

Watch out Sir Alan Sugar you have a rival as 'Sir' Freddie Cougar replaces the electronics tycoon for Keighley Cougars' own version of the BBC TV series 'The Apprentice'.

Students attending the club's 'Cougar Pride' Study Support Centre in recent weeks have been taking part in a project based on the popular TV programme featuring Sir Alan. It will see them take part in various tasks during the eight weeks when they attend the Centre developing their marketing, research and teamwork skills.

The 13 and 14-year-olds from Oakbank and Beckfoot Schools will, as a finale to their time at the Centre, be invited to set up shop and sell to supporters a new range of Cougar promotional items that they have designed and produced themselves at the Cougars' 'Family Fun Day' before the opening Co-operative Championship One fixture against Oldham on March

Among their early tasks the students formed their own 'companies' giving themselves an opportunity to reflect on their own personal skills and create an identity for their group, through logo and slogan design.

As most of the students were unfamiliar with the Rugby League club, they have also used differing information sources such as the Cougars' website, match day programme and displays around Cougar Park to learn more about the team and its players.

As the weeks progress, the students' tasks will include costing, design and production of their chosen products, market research, advertising and promotion, with Cougar Pride Centre staff being joined by the club's Sales and Marketing team to provide some expert advice along with Cougars' prop forward Brendon Rawlins, who is employed as a Centre Mentor.

With an overall aim of increasing students ability's in the Centre's core subjects of numeracy, literacy and ICT skills, as well as developing personal skills such as confidence, self esteem and motivation to learn, each group is given personal feedback straight from the boardroom at the beginning of each week from 'Sir' Freddie. He highlights their successes in the previous week's task, with one team being crowned 'The Cougar Apprentices' for their overall performance at the end of the eight-week course.

With final production looming of their articles, our budding Apprentices are looking to be selling Cougar calendars , key rings , baby grows and fridge magnets on the 22nd with any profit made split between Manorlands and a charity nominated by themselves. Please if you are at the game, support them and pick up some unique Cougar merchandise at the same time!

Our home form has been great so far this season so i am hoping tonight's game will stay true to form and i am looking forward to hearing that cougar rooaarrr cheer our boys onto victory.

See you soon.

Helen Carter General manager



Leigh v Lokomotiv 🥦



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE

LEIGH CENTURIONS

LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW

Evgeny Bozhukov Denis Meshkov Andrey Medvedev

Georgy Vinogradov Andrey Koltykhov Roman Ovchinnikov Nikolay Zagoskin Andrey Zdobnikov Mikhail Nisiforov Sergey Sidorov Fedor Komov Oleg Smirnov

Denis Korolev Sergey Dobrynin Alexander Lysenkov Valentin Baskakov

Alexander Klebanov Sergey Matveev

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|--|--------------------|
| | |
| LISA | 1 Stuart Donlan |
| Professor & Mrs Dale | 2 Dave Alstead |
| | 3 Steve Maden |
| | 4 Tony Stewart |
| Hattons Solicitors | 5 Nick Stanton |
| | 6- |
| CS Tyres | 7 Ian Watson |
| | 8 Andy Hobson |
| | 9 Dave McConnell |
| O'Neils | 10 Mike Morrison |
| Ask Platt | 11 Dave Armitstead |
| Brick Design | 12 James Taylor |
| The state of the s | 13 Aaron Smith |
| Professor & Mrs Dale | 14 lan Mort |
| Leythers Messageboard | 15 Adam Higson |
| Civil Solution | 16 Chris Hill |
| | 17 - |
| | 18 Sam Reay |
| | 19 Adam Rudd |
| | 20 John Cookson |
| | 21 Dale Cunniffe |
| | 22 Jamie Smith |
| JR Taxis | 23 Martyn Ridyard |
| JN IANIS | 24 Dean Hatton |
| | 25 Adam Thomas |
| | 25 Audin momas |

| Not allocated a number: Andy Ainscough, |
|---|
| Danny Jackson, Danny Meekin, James Richies, |
| Lee Marsh, Macgraff Leualai, Ryan Powell. |
| Triallists: Brett Longstaffe, |
| Jamie Durbin, Lee Wingfield |
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| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
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| | Full back | |
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| SCORERS |
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COACH: NEIL KELLY

LAST SIX RESULTS: WL-WLWW LAST SIX HOME: LWWL-WW TRIES: Jamie Durbin 5, Martyn Ridyard 3, Steve Maden 3 GOALS: Martyn Ridyard 10, Ian Mort 9 DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Aaron Smith

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J Child Touch: D Sharpe, J Farrell Fourth Official: B Logan

BENNETT'S BET

"Centurions should keep their cup ambitions on track - Leigh by 36"

CUP PEDIGREE.... Lokomotiv Moscow tackle the then **National Two Celtic** Crusaders in the third of the Challenge Cup in 2006

We're supporting Leigh!























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Play Monopoly with Leeds Met and you could win a fabulous holiday in St Lucia...

Leeds Metropolitan University has launched the Leeds Met Monopoly Challenge, and is attempting to break a world record in support of local and international volunteering initiatives.

Take part in this Monopoly tournament and have a chance to win a £6000 holiday for four at the Coconut Bay Resort & Spa in St Lucia!

Heats begin on 28 February 2009, and we want as many people to register as possible...

Register a team of 5 and you'll receive a limited edition Leeds Monopoly board.

Register as an individual and you'll get a limited edition 'When Leeds Met Monopoly' t-shirt.

There are hundreds of prizes to be won... so what are you waiting for?

Visit www.leedsmet.ac.uk/monopoly to sign up now!



Oldham v Sharlston



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. BOUNDARY PARK

OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

SHARLSTON ROVERS

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sporting Image | 1 Paul O'Connor |
| Premier Signs UK | 2 Andy Ballard |
| Totalplus Communications | 3 Danny Halliwell |
| Totalplus Communications | 4 Paul Reilly |
| Tech Doors | 5 Lee Greenwood |
| Office Supplies Now | 6 James Coyle |
| Nigel Marland | 7 Thomas Coyle |
| John Barrett | 8 Paul Highton |
| | 9 Gary Sykes |
| Rudy Wilkes and Bev Mayall | 10 Jamie l'Anson |
| | 11 Dave Allen |
| | 12 Tommy Goulden |
| John and Lynda McAndrew | 13 Rob Roberts |
| 0 | 14 Richard Mervill |
| Clayton Green Brewers Fayre | |
| Karen and Paul Gough | 16 Wayne Kerr |
| | 17 Craig Robinson 18 Neil Roden |
| | |
| Cognou and Lagou | 19 Craig Littler 20 Simeon Hoyle |
| Cagney and Lacey | 21 Lucas Onyango |
| Maureen and Peter Woodhe | THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE |
| Maureen and Feler Wooding | 23 Chris Baines |
| Totalplus Communications | 24 Marcus St Hilaire |
| Totalpius confiniumcations | LT MILITUU OLI IIIIAITO |

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| Geoff Hick |
|-----------------|
| Chris Hill |
| Gareth Davies |
| Dale Potter |
| Thomas Wandless |
| _ee Bettison |
| Andy Booth |
| Carl Saville |
| Tommy Crowther |
| Chris Bingham |
| Jonathan Waddle |
| Craig Miles |
| Carl Spencer |
| Sean Emblem |
| James Lockwood |
| Bart Thompsen |
| Brad Chatfield |
| |

SQUAD

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

25 Luke Menzies

26 Luke Sutton

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WWLW LAST SIX HOME: WWLL-WL TRIES: Andy Ballard 4, Danny Halliwell 3, Paul Reilly 3 **GOALS: Andy Ballard 18** DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Ballard

COACH: TONY BENSON

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: B Robinson Touch: A Sweet, S Williams Fourth Official: M Mannifield

BENNETT'S BET

"Roughyeds ought to power to victory on home turf - Oldham by 30"

COACHES: LEE BETTISON AND GORDON LONG

SHARLSTON ROVERS - CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Sharlston Rovers 20 Leigh East 10

Round One:

Crosfields 10, Sharlston Rovers 36

SUPPORTING OLDHAM















CLUBCALL

Oldham v Sharlston

Good cup run would be no distraction

TODAY we welcome Sharslton Rovers to Boundary Park for what will probably be the biggest game of the season for them. From what we know about them they will be up for giving us a real

Once again we are on the Challenge Cup trail - on the road to Wembley. After our exploits last year in reaching the quarter final stages we will be looking for a good run although many people thought our cup runs last season affected our league campaign.

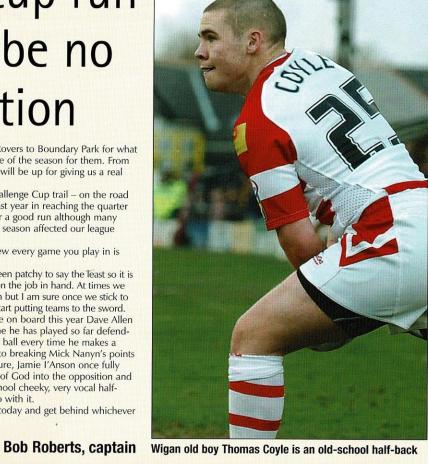
But from a players point of view every game you play in is one you want to win.

Our form so far this year has been patchy to say the least so it is important today we concentrate on the job in hand. At times we have deviated from our game plan but I am sure once we stick to this for a full 80 minutes we will start putting teams to the sword.

On the players that have come on board this year Dave Allen has been very good in every game he has played so far defending very strongly and offering the ball every time he makes a carry. Andy Ballard will go close to breaking Mick Nanyn's points scoring record this season I am sure, Jamie l'Anson once fully match fit will be putting the fear of God into the opposition and Thomas Coyle is just your old school cheeky, very vocal halfback but with all the skills that go with it.

Hope you all enjoy the game today and get behind whichever team you are supporting.

See you soon.



Spying mission also proved entertaining

rst of all a big welcome to the Sharlston team, directors and their supporters to Boundary Park for what will be a fantastic occasion.

Challenge Cup fixtures are always special and in the do-or-die situation these games present anything can happen, and it usually does.

Mark Cass and I went over to watch Sharlston last weekend in their match against Drighlington.

Although I was working, and there on a spying mission, I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, it was a very tough physical game played in a fantastic atmosphere created by two groups of very passionate supporters.

Down by a few points at half time Sharlston's tenacity, superior skills and strength came through for them and they finished up winning convincingly.

I know they will be bringing that plus some to Boundary Park today so we're in



Paul O'Connor tears into Hunslet

for a big and entertaining game.

Last week's win against Hunslet taught us a lot about ourselves in particular how we reacted under pressure.

The Hawks played particularly well in the first half and we allowed them far too much time and room and forgot what our response as a team should have been.

I felt our second half was much closer to the mark, and obviously got us the result we needed. On behalf of the team I must thank our loyal support; once again you were brilliant and really lifted us in that second half.

Considering the quality of the group we are in for the Northern Rail Cup we are very happy to have qualified for the quarter finals on June 7.

Although we are excited about making the Quarters we know that 10 points from a possible 12 tells us that if we continue to improve, we should be a chance of going all the way. Personally I don't have a preference for who we draw but personally I wouldn't complain if we got another crack at Leigh Centurions.

Once again thanks for your support, please get very vocal and enjoy what should be a very entertaining game.

TONY BENSON, COACH



Eagles v Toulouse



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. DON VALLEY STADIUM

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|----------------------------------|--|
| AMCO | 1 Jonny Woodcock |
| Tolent | 2 Bolu Fagborun |
| OSI | 3 Menzie Yere |
| Jim Hawksworth, Suzanne | Atkin 4 Mike Roby |
| Anne Collins | 5 Ashley Thackeray |
| Pennine Business Forms | 6 Brendon Lindsay |
| Sheaf Telecom | 7 Gavin Brown |
| Hanlon & Wright | 8 Jack Howieson |
| Bamsley Industrial Training Coll | |
| Jayne Whaling | 10 Mitchell Stringer |
| Jack Smith | 11 Alex Szostak |
| Hanlon & Wright | 12 Ged Corcoran |
| Bethany, Ian & Jackie Swai | |
| G4S Events | 14 Andrew Boothroyd |
| Albion Detection Systems I | |
| Buckingham Insurance | 17 Tom Buckenham |
| Zeenat Restaurant | 18 Saqib Murtza |
| OSI | 19 Kyle Wood |
| Walkabout Sheffield | 20 Matty Brooks 21 Aaron Groom |
| AMCO | |
| Village Shop, Oughtibridge | 22 Ryan Hepworth |
| HAS Consultants Ltd | 23 Tangi Ropati 24 Matthew Whitaker |
| Jack & Laura London | 25 James Morrow |
| Hannak & Todd | 26 Nick Turnbull |
| Hancock & Todd | 27 Tommy Trayler |
| Modis Richard & Andrea Brook | 28 Damian Gibson |
| nicitatu & Anutea Brook | 31 Sam Barlow |
| Jill Swire | 34 Eddie Battve |
| Mr & Mrs Lee | 35 Dan Hawksworth |
| IVII Q IVII S Lee | oo Dan Hawkoworun |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
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| | SCORERS | |
| | Tries | |
| | Conv | |
| | Pens | |
| | DGs | |

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLW-WLWL LAST SIX HOME: WLWLW-WL **TRIES: Matty Brooks 3, Andrew** Boothroyd 2, Ryan Hepworth 2, Grant Edwards 2, Jonny Woodcock 2 **GOALS: Jonny Woodcock 16**

MAN TO WATCH: Ryan Hepworth

Referee: J Leahy Touch: J Greenwood, L Todd Fourth Official: T Bell

MATCH OFFICIALS

BENNETT'S BET

"Eagles are usually strong at home, and should be battle hardened - Sheffield by 18"

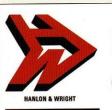
7 No. PLAYER

- Rory Bromley
- Sebastien Pavan Sebastien Planas
- Damian Couturier
- Joris Canton
- Constant Villegas
- Nathan Wynn
- Brendan Worth Martin Mitchell
- Mathieu Griffi
- Timothy Wynn
- 12 Mathieu Almarcha
- 13 Eric Anselme
- 14 Antoni Maria
- Jerome Gout
- 16 Olivier Pramil
- Adrien Viala
- Sylvain Houles
- Bruno Ormeno
- 22 Nicolas Faure

COACH: GILLES DUMAS



Adel Fellous is tackled by Glenn Morrison of Bradford in last year's fourth round tie. The Bulls won 98-6. The French side won through from the third round by beating Keighley 17-14



KUKRI



mōdis.

PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED

Burdens







CLUBCALL

Sheffield v Toulouse Olympique

Clash that neither team wanted

CARDS on the table and no disrespect to our guests from across the channel but this isn't the draw I wanted.

And I'll bet the guys in Toulouse weren't too happy that they were on their way to Sheffield.

On the afternoon of the third round draw we were talking in the office and saying just let's hope that it isn't a French club

Maybe there's something about the Eagles and French sides. We were the first club to face Paris Saint-Germain when the Super League began in 1996. Well it's like buses for ages you don't see one they come together.

Last season we faced Lezignan at this stage and got beat 37-22 - I don't want a repeat of that today.

But it's not about 1996 or last season it's about today. This is a tough game - for both sides. I know very little about Toulouse or how they will play.

But then again I doubt if Toulouse have had spies at Oldham or Gateshead in recent weeks just to watch the Eagles in the Northern Rail Cup!

Toulouse is a club with a great tradition and has been a successful side in France and it says a lot about the competition in the UK that they are joining the Co-operative Championship this season.

Like us all they have their sights set on a place in the Super League.

In 2005 Toulouse made a big impact on the Challenge Cup before going out to Leeds in the semi-final

So we're warned - Toulouse will be coming here determined. But it's really about us. How we perform not the way Toulouse performs.

For the last few weeks in the Northern Rail Cup group games we have been making progress.

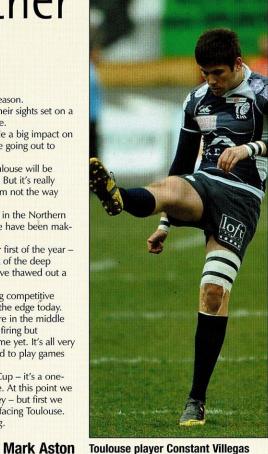
Those games were our first of the year it was bit like coming out of the deep freeze. Each game we have thawed out a

Being out there playing competitive games could just give us the edge today.

Last year Lezignan were in the middle of their season and were firing but Toulouse hasn't had a game yet. It's all very well training but you need to play games to get that sharpness.

This is the Challenge Cup - it's a oneoff, winner takes all game. At this point we can all dream of Wembley - but first we have the reality which is facing Toulouse. It's going to be interesting.

Enjoy the game



We are used to these French firsts

would like to extend a warm welcome to all the directors, officials, players and supporters from today's visitors Toulouse.

This will be Toulouse's first competitive game against **English opposition since their** inclusion in the Co-operative Championship and completes a double for us because we were also the first team to play Paris when they were handed a place in the Super League.

And we will complete a treble in a few weeks time when we become the first team to play Toulouse in France in the Championship.

We have had a mixed season so far and it is not surprising with 12 new additions to the side this season.

JOHN WHALING DIRECTOR

We are also still waiting for two players to arrive in the UK they are Trevor Exton and Aaron Groom.

Trevor has had some problems with his visa but we hoping that these will be soon resolved, Aaron's paperwork should be completed imminently.

I am confident that Mark has recruited well and once these new players get to know each other we will be a formidable team in the league campaign.

The current economic climate is not helping any sporting club therefore it was good to see over 400 people attend-

ing an evening with boxing star Ricky Hatton last week which was part of our fundraising calendar for this season.

Our next event is a luncheon with Stevo at Baldwin's Omega on March 27. This is followed by our Silver **Anniversary Dinner at the** same location on May 14.

We also have three golf days organised for April 27, July 6 and September 14. It is events like this that help keep rugby league alive in Sheffield.

We are hoping for a good crowd for today's game because, with the kind permission of Toulouse and the RFL, we have opened the gates to all supporters free of

We are collecting email addresses from all fans who attend and these will be used to keep them informed about activities at Sheffield Eagles and hopefully, help to increase our fan base.

We will also be having a bucket collection for the **Sheffield Regional Rugby League Development Trust** who carry out community work in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, they are working with the Eagles to help spread the game to a wider audience.

Finally I would like to congratulate everyone involved with the Game On matchday magazine, which is well put together and very informative.

Enjoy the game.



Widnes v Saddleworth



Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 6pm. STOBART STADIUM

WIDNES VIKINGS

SADDLEWORTH RANGERS

SQUAD

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| John Mather & his many sons! | 1 Loz Wildbore |
| Barbara Spence | 2 Dean Gaskell |
| Widnes Supporters Club | 3 Richard Varkulis |
| Widnes Supporters Club | 4 Toa Kohe Love |
| Kath Filkin | 5 Danny Mills |
| | 6 Anthony Thackeray |
| VIQI | 7 James Webster |
| Museum Visitors | 8 Iain Morrison |
| R J Lewis | 9 Mark Smith |
| Widnes World | 10 Jim Gannon |
| Swavesey Newsagents, Cambridge | |
| Widnes Supporters Club | 12 Richard Fletcher |
| Robert Johnson | 13 Lee Paterson |
| James Owen | 14 John Duffy |
| Marcus Booth | 15 Tim Hartley |
| The Dennett Family | 16 Gavin Dodd |
| Uncle Jack | 17 Ben Kavanagh |
| Fraser Family | 18 Matt Strong |
| Halton Borough Council | 19 Michael Ostick |
| Leam Fox | 20 Sam Thompson |
| SDP Landscapes | 21 Scott Yates |
| Lesley & Reg Warner | 22 Paddy Flynn |
| West Bank Bears ARLFC | 23 Shane Grady |
| Riverside College Sports Dept. | |
| Mullally's Barbers | 25 Anthony Mullally |
| North West Contracts | 26 Steve Bannister |
| SDP Landscapes | 27 Brett Robinson |
| | |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
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SCORERS

Tries

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Pens

DGs

COACH: JOHN STANKEVITCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLL-LWW LAST SIX HOME: LWWWW-L TRIES: Toa Kohe-Love 3, Jim Gannon 3 **GOALS: Scott Yates 13**

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Mark Smith

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Leatherbarrow Touch: G Phillips, S Kilpatrick Fourth Official: T Mahar

BENNETT'S BET

"Vikings should ease to victory on home turf -Widnes by 48"

COACH: KEITH BRENNAN

SADDLEWORTH

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR Round Two:

Saddleworth 20, Ca Lock Lane 16 **Round One:**

Hull Isberg A 12, Saddleworth 36 **Preliminary Round** Eccles & Salford 6, Saddleworth 22

Ha++ons SOLICITORS cashforkids



Stobart

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VIKINGS





CLUBCALL

Widnes v Saddleworth Rangers

Players are responding to feedback

The last three weeks have been both eventful and enjoyable in my role as caretaker coach here at Widnes Vikings.

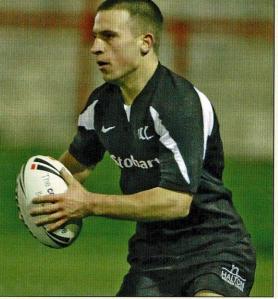
The first week involved sitting down with the players individually and discussing where they felt we were underperforming and how best to change things. The feedback I had from the players was positive and this was replicated on the training pitch as I noticed an upturn in effort and enthusiasm.

The visit of Gateshead was one I really looked forward to and whilst not getting carried away with the win it was certainly a step in the right direction. I was pleased to see the performances from Scott Yates and Paddy Flynn, who combined well for what was the try of the game and as individuals gave the team a lift when in possession.

They continued this good form at Blackpool last Sunday and although I thought the performance was good, we will always expect better. We have some very exciting players who know their way to the try-line but the game is not all about scoring tries. We need to be smarter in defence, more ruthless with possession and show patience with and without the ball.

Wednesday night's trip to Barrow was set to be a tough encounter, especially as a victory for the home side would put them into the knock-out stages while victory or a defeat by less than 21 points would see us into the last eight as well. By the time you're reading this then the outcome will be known but I will be very disappointed if we're not in next Thursday's draw.

The Carnegie Challenge Cup is, in my opinion, the best knock out competition the sport has to offer and one that brings back some bitter sweet memories for me both as fan and a player.



Scott Yates, showed up well against Gateshead

In 1993, I was one of the thousands of Widnes fans who travelled to Wembley for the game against Wigan.

Seven years later I was back in London but this time as a player with Saints as we took on Bradford at Twickenham. Having played in every round up to the final I was devastated to be 18th man for the game we won, especially as I was reinstated to the team for the remainder of the season.

Twelve months later I was in the Saints team at Murrayfield but that day we lost to a Wigan side that included a young Mark Smith in its line-up!

The Challenge Cup is a tremendously exciting competition and one which every team can win due to its knockout format. Everybody will be expecting us to fall by the wayside before the final, but we will Dare To Dream, and will be doing everything in our power to progress as far as possible in the competition.

John Stankevitch

Cup evokes great Saturday afternoon memories

n behalf of all the board, players and staff I would like to welcome the players and officials from
Saddleworth Rangers for this afternoon's
Carnegie Challenge Cup third round tie.
Following the recent off-the-field activ-

ity it was good to get back to the business on the pitch and with it the improved performances against Gateshead, Blackpool and hopefully Barrow last Wednesday evening!

As a relative newcomer to the sport, my initial exposure, like most outside the game's heartland, was via BBC TV and the Saturday afternoon Grandstand programme with its regular rugby league coverage and unique commentary style of **Eddie Waring.**

It seemed to me that Widnes were always on TV with names like Mills, Dutton, Bowden, Adams and Hughes followed in later years by Myler, Gregory,

Alex Bonney Chief Executive Officer

Lydon, Davies and Offiah. The Challenge Cup final at Wembley was one of the sporting events of the year and probably the only time the sport got the national coverage it deserved

One of the positive aspects of the Carnegie Challenge Cup is the role of the community clubs within the sport. Starting in December they battle it through the early stages for their chance of a crack at a professional side.

Unlike their association football counterparts there is seldom an upset at this stage but in general the amateur side gives their professional counterparts a good game for the best part of an hour before the professional's superior fitness sees them through - at least that's what

I'm hoping for this evening! It's been a busy time for our playing, coaching and medical staff with this being our third game since last Sunday and the opening Co-operative Championship game against Toulouse taking place this Thursday evening at the Stobart Stadium, Halton.

I have to pay credit to all involved behind the scenes on the playing side for the professional way they have gone about preparing the side for such a hectic

It would be remiss of me not to give fans an update on the coaching situation. The closing date for applications was yesterday and now it is time for us to sit down and discuss the applications before short-listing and beginning the interview process.

However, we must ensure we select the right candidate for this role and fans can rest assured that it is not a decision we will rush into.



Workington v Lezignan



Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 4.30pm. DERWENT PARK

WORKINGTON TOWN

FC Lezignan-Corbieres

| No. PLAYER | POSITION SPONSOR | No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|
| 1 Jay Duffy | Myers & Bowman | | Full back | |
| 2 Neil Frazer 3 Andrew Beattie | Appletree Inn | | Right Wing | |
| Jason Mossop | Jemcare | | Right Centre | |
| Jamie Marshall Carl Forber | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | Left Centre | |
| Steve Roper | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | Left Wing | |
| Ryan Benjafield Jack Pedley | Myers & Bowman | | Stand off | |
| Dean Burgess | Myers & Bowman | | Scrum half | |
| Mike Whitehead Craig Hodgson | lan Barnes Plumbing & Heating | | Prop | |
| Mark Hobson | Hare & Hounds | | Hooker | |
| Brett Smith James Robinson | Bradley Cass | | Prop | |
| Thomas Brindle | Beach Croft Sports | | 2nd row | ABUT. |
| Peter Dobsob Kris Coward | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | 2nd row | |
| Scott Burgess | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | Loose forward | |
| O Stephen Dawes Mark Routledge | The Ship Inn | | - Interchange | Agg. |
| 2 Patrick Coupar | Unblock Cumbria | | | |

To sponsor call 01900 603609

To sponsor call 01900 603609

| STIUN SPUNSUR | NO. TUDAY'S TEAM NO | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| Myers & Bowman | Full back | 1 Jarred Taylor 2 Grégory Mazard |
| Appletree Inn | Right Wing | 3 Luke Hession |
| Jemcare | Right Centre | 4 Cédric Bringuier 7 James Wynne (c) |
| call 01900 603609 | Left Centre | 8 Christopher Beattie |
| call 01900 603609 | Left Wing | 10 Adel Fellous 11 Philippe Laurent |
| Myers & Bowman | Stand off | 13 Aurélien Cologni 14 Nicolas Manessi |
| Myers & Bowman | Scrum half | 19 Yoan Tisseyre |
| umbing & Heating | Prop | 21 Franck Rovira 23 Alaster Brown |
| Hare & Hounds | Hooker | 25 Cédric Lacans |
| Bradley Cass | Prop | 26 Thibault Ancely 27 Aurélien Bourrel |
| each Croft Sports | 2nd row | 30 Charly Clottes |
| call 01900 603609 | 2nd row | 34 Benoît Bienvenu |
| call 01900 603609 | Loose forward | |

COACH: DAVE ROTHERAM

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLL-LLL LAST SIX HOME: LLWL-LL TRIES: Jarrad Stack, Stephen Dawes, Jack Pedley, Neil Frazer, **Andrew Beattie** GOALS: Carl Forber 4. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Carl Forber

23 Martyn Wilson

25 Harry Kaufman

24 Jarrad Stack

MATCH OFFICIALS

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

Referee: C Halloran Touch: G Wallace, C Neilson Fourth Official: A Kirkbride

BENNETT'S BET

"Frenchmen could well spring a surprise -Lezignan by 2"

Lezignan captain James Wynn also played for France in the last **World Cup**



CLUBCALL

Workington v FC Lezignan

World Cup experience in a dangerous team



Lezignan celebrate winning the French Championship

By Dave Bowden Workington chairman

WELCOME to today's international fixture against Lezignan in the third round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup. We extend a very warm welcome to all players and officials from Lezignan Corbieres

I'm sure that when the draw was made some of our fans, not well up on French Rugby League, and would have little idea of the background of the club.

The club switched codes in 1939 and have won the French Championship four times, most recently last year where they achieved a

famous victory over Pia in the Elite Finale de Championnat de France de Rugby a XIII.

Currently lying fourth in the league, the club have been in tremendous form lately with their last game resulting in a 112-4 victory over Lyon, although it seems against an under strength Lyon side.

The side contains players who played in the World Cup against Scotland so Dave will have some knowledge of their quality.

Make no mistake this is a very tough draw and we will have to be at our best for the full 80 minutes. We have competed well against our NL1 opposition for the first half, if we can do that for the full game I'm sure we are in for a tremendous game today.

History suggests French will be ultra tough

he Challenge Cup is probably the best known rugby competition in the world. Growing up it was always everyone's dream to

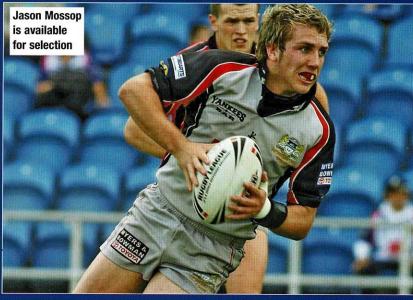
play at Wembley. Our Challenge Cup journey begins this afternoon against our french rivals Lezignan. How times have changed not too long ago I can remember the cup being restricted to 30 professional teams and just two amateur clubs.

Now we have a Europe wide competition that includes all of the wider rugby league community.

It is often talked about that in round three pro teams bag an amateur team. How wrong that is and we face one of our toughest games of the season to date. Lezignan are enjoying great form at the moment and are rapidly climbing the French elite league.

They are well led by captain/coach James Wynne who is well supported by fellow World Cup stars Jared Taylor and Adel Fellous. Chris Beattie also makes up quite a formidable front row.

In this round last year all three French elite league teams advanced at the



expense of National League clubs. First and foremost we are playing for ourselves and our club but also we have the reputation of our league to think about too!

This week we hope to welcome back Tommy Brindle from an eye injury, Jason Mossop (exams) and Paddy Coupar (moving house). Paddy

has now relocated himself to Lockerbie and has applied for a position at a gym in Carlisle. This will enable him to be obviously closer to us and this reflects his commitment and desire to push on his professional career.

Although disappointed with the final result last week some aspects of the perform-

ance I was pleased with. Jamie Marshall's try saving tackle on lestyn Harris summed up the good attitude

throughout the season so far. If we can play with that commitment each time then we will enjoy a good season.

of our players have shown

DAVE ROTHERAM



York v Wigan St Pats



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. HUNTINGTON STADIUM

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

WIGAN ST PATRICK'S

No DI AVED

| SPONSOR |
|-----------------------------|
| The Raylor Centre |
| Jinnah Group |
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| James Dixon |
| Smith Wilson |
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| Millers Famous Fish & Chips |
| Stabler International |
| Ken Walker & Co Accounting |
| Pam & Martin Calvert |
| Cue Ball Snooker Club |
| Sheard Packaging |
| Chris Hearld |
| British Thornton |
| |

Evolution Tattoo Studio Yorkshire Building Society Claire & Steve Harbron D & M Building & Paving Julie's Bakery

Balfour Beatty

Acupuncture For Health Brian Watson HC Engineering Monk Bar Model Shop Laura Dixon Mrs Watson

| No. PLAYER |
|-------------------|
| 1 Danny Ratcliffe |
| 2 Steve Lewis |
| 3 John Oakes |
| 4 Dave Clayton |
| 5 Johnny Waldron |
| 6 Adam Mitchell |
| 7 Paul March |
| 8 Danny Ekis |
| 9 Paul Hughes |
| 10 Adam Sullivan |
| 11 Rob Kelly |
| 12 Tom Haberecht |
| 13 Richard Knight |
| 14 Tom Hodgson |
| 15 Chris Clough |
| 16 Jordan Ross |
| 17 Scott Woodcock |
| 18 Steve Grundy |
| 19 Kris Peacock |
| 20 Adam Jones |
| 21 Dave March |
| 22 Tom Stancliffe |
| 23 Adam Endersby |
| 24 David Leeke |
| 25 Garry Green |
| 26 Danny Grimshaw |
| 27 Luke Watling |
| 28 Wayne McHugh |

29 Mark Applegarth

30 Mike Mitchell

| No. | TODAY' | S TEAM | N |
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| No. PLAYER |
|---------------------|
| 1 Steven Simm |
| 2 Ian Schofield |
| 3 Damian Charnock |
| 4 Steven Bennett |
| 5 Sean O'Neill |
| 6 Ryan Baxter |
| 7 Anthony Atherton |
| 8 Anthony Gallear |
| 9 Gary Phillips |
| 10 Lee Peacock |
| 11 Tony Suffolk |
| 12 Richard Owen (c) |
| 13 Mick Daniels |
| 14 Reece Sedgewick |
| 15 Andy Rasburn |
| 16 David Hales |
| 17 Shaun Selby |
| 18 Mike Alker |
| 19 Jim Brown |
| |
| 20 Gary Rourke |
| 21 Steven Smith |
| 22 Rick Wilcock |
| 23 Chris Newton |
| |

SCORERS
Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACHES: DAVE RUDDY AND DARREN FLETCHER

COACH: PAUL MARCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWL-WWLW
LAST SIX HOME: WWWL-WW
TRIES: Tom Haberecht 4, John Oakes
4, Danny Ratcliffe 4, Paul Hughes 4
GOALS: Richard Kinght 10, Adam
Mitchell 9

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Tom Haberecht

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: T Mahar Touch: M Craven, C Waywell Fourth Official: M Hague

BENNETT'S BET

"In-form Knights should prove too powerful for Pats – York by 28"

WIGAN ST PATS

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR Round Two:

Wigan St Pats 24, West Hull 12 Round One:

Wigan St Pats 24, Skirlaugh 18
Preliminary Round

Ellenborough 4, Wigan St Pats 20

Getting behind the Knights...

It's Your Life
TAKE CONTROL

Get A Trade
Ask About Funding





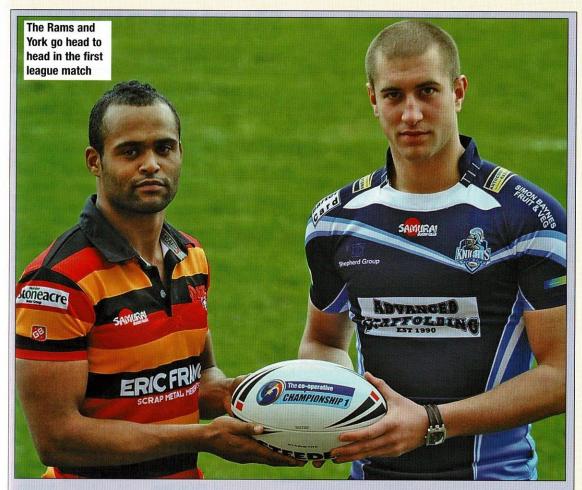




Shepherd Group

Jinnah Group

York v Wigan St Patricks



It's important we maintain good start

ood afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's Carnegie Challenge Cup, third round match against Wigan St Pats.

CLUBCALL

May I start by welcoming the players, coaching staff, committee members and supporters from Wigan St Pats.

We hope you enjoy your afternoon in York and I'm sure your team will be thoroughly looking forward to the match.

The Carnegie Challenge Cup is world famous and over the years has provided many shock results.

Let's hope this afternoon the Knights can make sure that we are not added to

General Manager

lan Wilson

that list. Following last weekend's victory against London the Knights qualified for the quarter-finals of the Northern Rail

We are very pleased with the way the season has started and after today's match we will all be looking forward to the first league game of the season at Dewsbury two weeks today.

The Rams have also started the season in great form and with a number of

former Knights in their ranks, will prove to be a stern test. It is important that we start the season well as we expect Championship One to be extremely competitive.

Prior to this afternoon's game will see the finals of the Selby Primary Schools tag rugby league competition, kindly sponsored by Drax Power Limited.

Ten schools will take part and for the vast majority this afternoon will be there first Knights game.

We hope the players can put on a good performance and you thoroughly enjoy your day.



Siddal v Swinton

Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 1pm. THE SHAY

SIDDAL ARLFC

SWINTON LIONS

Redsentinal

Northline Business Consultants

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Denholt Fabrications | 1 Brad Attwood |
| for Siddal Under-11s | |
| John Farley | 2 Shaun Blackburn |
| Johnny Whittam | 3 Scott Caley |
| 'Siddal Ladies' | 4 Chris Marsh |
| Clifford Challoner | 5 Gareth Blackburn |
| Graham Bradley | 6 Shaun Garrod |
| Billy Phillips | 7 Lee Gudor |
| Arnie Thorpe | 8 Jamie Wrigley |
| Eddie Golding-Smith | 9 Gavin Sanderson |
| Steve & Sheila Donkersley | 10 Gary Lewis |
| Mick Scott | 11 Nick Smith (c) |
| Truarc | 12 James Simeunovic |
| 'Siddal Masters' | 13 Luke Simeunovic |
| Gregg Robinson | 14 George Ambler |
| Johnny Connell | 15 Mark Boothroyd |
| Mark Dear | 16 John Birt |
| Dean Taylor | 17 Luke Garnett |
| | |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-----|---------------|-----|
| | Full back | |
| | Right Wing | |
| | Right Centre | |
| | Left Centre | |
| | Left Wing | |
| | Stand off | |
| | Scrum half | |
| | Prop | |
| | Hooker | |
| | Prop | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | 2nd row | |
| | Loose forward | |
| | Interchange | |
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| SCORERS |
|---------|
| Tries |
| Conv |
| Pens |
| DGs |

| No. PLAYER | SPONSOR |
|--|--|
| 1 Wayne English E | lizabeth Taylor (Grandma English) |
| 2 Barry Hamilton | Daniel Croston |
| 3 Dave Hull | Premier Building Ltd |
| 4 Dean Gorton | Dave Roberts |
| 5 Marlon Billy | Mike & Kath Tyldesley |
| 6 Graham Holroyd | Muscle & Fitness Gym |
| 7 Richard Hawkyard | Junior Lions |
| 8 Paul Southern | Heartland M27 – Rob Dunford |
| 9 Phil Wood | Junior Lions |
| 10 Bruce Johnson | Egan Contractors Ltd |
| 11 Mike Wainwright | Bill Sheppard & Warren |
| | Mottram |
| 12 Danny Heaton | Chris & Viv Tyldesley |
| 13 Marty Moana | Geoff Hewitt USA |
| 14 Craig Ashall | In Memory of Peter Walker |
| 15 Gary Hulse | Lethbridge & Co |
| 16 Alex McLurg | John Spellman |
| 17 Tommy Grundy | MS Lottery Services |
| 18 Gareth Hayes | Ray Bowdler |
| 19 Neil Rigby | Burrow & Humphries |
| 20 Adam Bibey | Physi02 |
| 21 Rob Line | In Memory of Graham Berry Moorside Autos |
| 22 Darren Bamford | |
| 23 Ben Williamson | Lethbridge & Co. Premier Building Ltd |
| 24 Paul Crook 25 Matt Ashe | |
| 25 Matt Ashe 36 Chris Frodsham | Phil, Ann & Josh Walker |
| THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE | Barbara & Emma Cathcart, |
| 27 Chris Tyrer | Sue Buckley & Joyce Shannon |
| 28 Dave Newton | In Memory of Frank Scanlon |
| 20 Dayo Nowton | Dede-atical |

COACH: LEE GREENWOOD

Sponsored by Philip Maguire

SIDDAL

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR **Round Two:**

Siddal 34, West Bowling 10 **Round One:**

Siddal 36. Thatto Heath 12 **Preliminary Round** Siddal 30, Normanton Knights 12

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Sharrad Touch: W Johnstone, T Selby Fourth Official: D Tindall

BENNETT'S BET

"Lions should prove too strong - Swinton by 18"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLL-LLL LAST SIX AWAY: LLLL-LL **TRIES: Marty Moana 2 GOALS: Carl Sneyd 7**

COACH: PAUL KIDD

DGs: -

29 Carl Sneyd

30 Andy Saywell

MAN TO WATCH: Phil Wood







ELLAND BED & SUITE CENTRE

I will rouse the players for Lions

IT'S certainly an interesting weekend for me. Today I'll be busy trying to convince my Siddal players that they can go out and do the 'impossible' and beat Swinton.

Tomorrow I'll be on the other side of the fence, hoping to ensure that myself and Oldham aren't on the wrong end of a giant-killing against Sharlston. I'd like to think my personal interest in this year's Carnegie Challenge Cup will not be ended this weekend, with two chances to progress.

As for Siddal, it's the first time in my coaching career that we have got this far in this competition and I'm looking forward to the challenge of attempting to compete with the professionals.

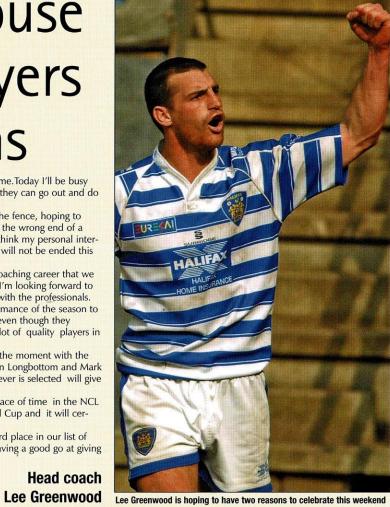
We will need to put in our best performance of the season to even come close against Swinton, who, even though they haven't started their season well, have a lot of quality players in

Team wise we are struggling slightly at the moment with the loss of Duane Tetley, Craig Pearson, Simon Longbottom and Mark Greenwood for various reasons, but whoever is selected will give it their all I'm sure.

We have many games left in a short space of time in the NCL Premier Division and the BARLA National Cup and it will certainly test the strength of our squad.

Even though this competition is in third place in our list of priorities, it doesn't mean we won't be having a good go at giving Swinton a fright.

Head coach



Sums up fantastic progress of first team

elcome to everybody for today's Carnegie Challenge Cup tie at The Shay, especially all those who have travelled over from Swinton.

I would like to thank both Halifax RLFC and Calderdale Council for their assistance and co-operation in making it possible for us to host the game here and in particular Sarah Morgan for all her advice. Of course we would have preferred to

stage the game on our own home ground but on reflection there are a few improvements we need to make and we are determined to do this over the Summer.

It is a few years since the club reached this stage of the Challenge Cup and naturally we are delighted with the progress of the first team. It is fantastic that we are once again playing against the professionals in what is our centenary season.

President **Eddie Golding-Smith**

All the playing squad and the head Coach, former Halifax winger Lee Greenwood, deserve huge credit. Many of our older supporters speculate regularly about whether this side is among the best we have had at Siddal.

In fact all our open age teams are enjoying great success on the field at the moment. Our junior sides always perform strongly and this season is no exception.

Last Summer we launched both 'Siddal Ladies' and 'Siddal Masters' teams and as President it makes me very proud to be at the helm of a club that is certainly thriving at the moment.

It's probably fair to say the catalyst for

the present mood within the whole club is the fantastic new facility we opened at Chevinedge last April.

Built by Graham Bradley and his team of contractors in record time, there is no doubt it has re-energised us all. I invite everyone to join us at our clubhouse after the game and sample the excellent atmosphere for the post match presentations and refreshments.

Sadly, I heard at the beginning of the week of the sudden death of one of our former players, David (Dickie) Dawson.

He was without doubt one of the most talented players to turn out for our club, before and after a spell with Halifax RLFC I'm sure we will mark his passing with the usual respect at today's game and all at Siddal ARLFC send our sincere condolences to his family.

Queens v Dons



SPONSOR

APS Toolhire

Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. KEEPMOAT STADIUM

QUEENS ARLFC

SQUAD **Aaron Henry** Omar Al'rawi Chris Munden Steve Morton Jonathan Winter Jonathan Milner Ryan Robinson Scott Houston Carl Luke James Brown Richard Hulme Craig Wright Robin Wilks Craig Boot Andrew Ali Matthew Stockdale Martin Slack Tom Priim Richard Russell Dean Townsend

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-----|---------------|-----|
| | Full back | |
| | Right Wing | |
| | Right Centre | |
| | Left Centre | |
| | Left Wing | |
| | Stand off | |
| | Scrum half | |
| | Prop | |
| | Hooker | |
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| | 2nd row | |
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| SCORERS | 3 |
|---------|---|
| Tries | |
| Conv | |
| Pens | |
| DGs | |

DONCASTER

No. PLAYER

8 Michael Haley

10 Alex Benson

11 Peter Green

12 Craig Lawton

13 Josh Weeden

14 Scott Jones

15 Mark Castle

16 Nathan Freer

17 Ross Divorty

18 Craig Holt

19 Ryan Steen

21 Garry Ellery

23 Scott Smith

28 Jamie Bovill
TRIALISTS
Albert Rounding
Phil Crosby

22 Andy Speake

24 Jake Bassinder

20 Michael Coady

9 Craig Cook

1 2 Dean Colton Green Energy Solutions
3 Andreas Bauer Geffery Broadhead
4 Shaun Leaf Pipers Car Sales
5 Wayne Reittie DISC (Dons Supporters)
6 Kyle Briggs Active Workwear
7 Paul Handforth Needhams Bikes

Jane Speakman Everlast Waterproofing Everlast Waterproofing Andy Booker Martins Famous Fish Market

> DISC Dons Supporters RTN Motor Spares

> > Jill Scarrow

Sue Walford

COACH: RICHARD MILNER

QUEENS

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR Round Two:

Widnes St Maries 8, Queens 15
Round One:

Queens 13, Halton Simms Cross 0
Preliminary Round
Bank Quay 6, Queens 19

CENTURION

EVERLAST Waterproofing Ltd

DONCASTER

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: B Everitt Touch: P Huck, M Mannifield Fourth Official: J Asquith

BENNETT'S BET

"Dons have shown good form in Northern Rail Cup – Doncaster by 22"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WW-LWWW LAST SIX HOME: WWWWL-W

COACH: TONY MILLER

Sponsored by Custom Property Developments

TRIES: Michael Coady 4 GOALS: Kyle Briggs 8, Andy Speake 7 DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Kyle Briggs

Backing the Dons!

WARPAINT COSMETICS











CLUBCALL

Queens v Doncaster

These matches are great for grassroots

elcome to the Keepmoat Stadium, home of the Dons. A very warm welcome goes to our visitors from Queens. It's great the Carnegie Challenge Cup provides amateur clubs the chance to show their skills against Championship League opposition as amateur grassroots rugby is the foundation of every club.

From what I have been told Queens are a quality outfit. Just last week they came up against our local amateur club champions Thorne Moorends Marauders and proved too strong for them. I know the Moorends side are supporting in the crowd today so will be rueing their loss and backing the Dons all the way.

Let's hope we can continue with our

winning form through the Carnegie
Challenge Cup and have a good run to the
later rounds. It's always great for the profile of a club to make it to the Super
League club stages so a win today will certainly be the first step towards that goal.

Last week's win against Swinton was our third successive win from four games in the Northern Rail Cup.

Disappointingly we weren't able to qualify for the later stages of the cup, which seemed quite bizarre to me, but I guess that's just how rugby league works sometimes.

It was good to see players back last week as well as Albert Rounding having an impressive trial which has led us to offering him a contract with the Dons for the season. This week also gives star signing Paul Handforth the opportunity to return to playing and I'm sure every Dons supporter will be on the edge of their seat just like me.

A great show of appreciation has to go out to all the fans that supported the club in last weeks Poker Night and Race Night. As well as every one that watched the World Club Challenge at last weeks match sponsors Reds Bar.

All these events and your support really benefit the club, so keep your ears pinned for upcoming events.

Good luck to the boys today.

David Marshall, Dons CEO.

We are improving every game

A WARM welcome to Queens ARLFC for today's Carnegie Challenge Cup match.

Queens are an excellent amateur team who are in a rich vein of form and would fancy causing an upset today. We need to start well and match their enthusiasm, be professional and keep disciplined. If we do this then we should progress in this famous competition.

We have started the season reasonably well but must improve on our consistency. The boys were made to work hard for their win last week against Swinton.

Full credit to Swinton but I believe the boys must be more clinical at times.

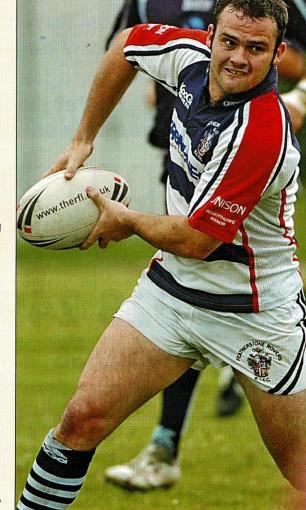
We have shown that we

have the ability to play some class rugby but like I said before consitency is key. With our wins we are definitely on the right path and improving each week. Today Paul Handforth will be making his debut in the Doncaster colours. He is an outstanding player with a lot of experience and his presence on the field will definitely be noticed by the players, the opposition and the supporters too.

I would like to thank our coaching team of Pete Bell (conditioner), Nick Cope (physio), assistant coaches lan Tattersall and Pete Green along with Kev Jones and Pat Howdle who coach the U-21s. They all have worked extremely hard during the off season to get the players in top condition. They contribute a great deal to the team.

I wish everyone the best of luck for todays game and Queen's ARLFC players and fans safe travels.

Tony Miller Cons Head Coach



Paul Handforth makes his debut having moved from Featherstone

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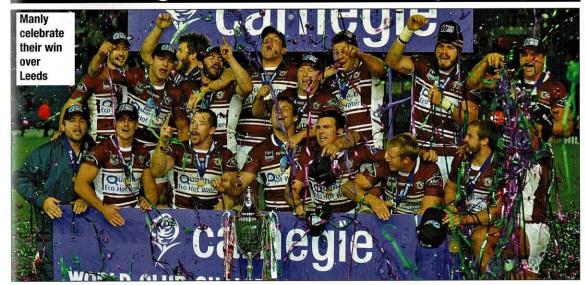




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PAUL BENNETT gives his slant on life in 'the greatest game'



Big effort required

A LITTLE over 12 months ago, Leeds Rhinos chief exec Gary Hetherington addressed the assembled British and Australian media corps at Elland Road; smugly proclaiming Super League to be the undisputed king of leagues following five consecutive World Club Challenge victories for English sides over their NRL rivals.

Gary's proclamation was, admittedly, a little tongue-in-cheek and no doubt designed chiefly to whip up enthusiasm for the annual cross-hemisphere contest Down Under. Still, we all enjoyed it.

Fast forward a year and now we're not so smug. If Gary's plan was, indeed, to motivate the Aussies then, well, it worked – a plan no doubt helped by the Kangaroos' failure to retain the World Cup.

Which all means that not only have we now been absolutely humiliated in the World Cup, but we've also lost the World Club Challenge straw we were clasping at in our efforts to convince ourselves we're anywhere near as good as the Australians.

See, you mess with the Aussies' pride and you get hurt. Beating them is enjoyable at the time – but they inevitably suck it up, knuckle down, and come back bigger, stronger and meaner.

Think back to England's Ashes win in the cricket. We revelled in that for a good 18 months – then our boys jetted Down Under and got their comeuppance for daring to mess with Australia; a humiliating 5-0 series defeat, no less.

You can bet your bottom Aussie dollar that they're currently plotting how to steal the show in London 2012 after we crushed them in the Olympic medal table in Beijing. The Australians absolutely despise losing and losers and that fear of underachievement brings out the best in them.

If only we could say the same of ourselves, eh? When we win a major trophy (ashes, RL or footy World Cup), usually it takes us a good few decades to win it again.

But, as mentioned, the World Club Challenge was one trophy we really had made our own. Sydney's 38-0 thrashing of St Helens in 2003 was the last occasion the NRL side had come out on top until Manly's impressive win at Elland Road last Sunday.

So we should make sure we make a real effort of winning it back in 2010.

But let's not just stack the odds in our favour by hosting it over here again. Let's absolutely insist that the game be played in the Australians' own back yard.

No excuses this time.

Even if we're only setting ourselves up for a fall, victory over in Australia (no matter how seriously they say they've been taking the games over here) is the only way we'll ever legitimately earn some very enjoyable bragging rights.

Let's be brave and make it happen ... Or will we just be content with looking to sneak back into our delusional little shell?

Paul Bennett is deputy editor of League Weekly



UR FIX...

Your guide to all the league and cup

RAIL CUP



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 Keighley Cougars 40, Gateshead Thunder 20 SDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Sheffield Eagles 38, Hunslet Hawks 16

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Widnes Vikings 20, Oldham 22

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Doncaster RLFC 6, Featherstone Rovers 32 **Gateshead Thunder 44, Sheffield Eagles 18** Leigh Centurions 74, London Skolars 6 Whitehaven 52, Batley Bulldogs 30 Blackpool Panthers 16, Keighley Cougars 14 **Dewsbury Rams 50 Swinton Lions 0** Hunslet Hawks 10, Halifax RLFC 38 Hornets RL 12, Barrow Raiders 54 Workington Town 10 York City Knights 34

Batley Bulldogs 18, Doncaster RLFC 22 Featherstone Rovers 10, Leigh Centurions 6 York City Knights 36, Whitehaven 6 Oldham 54, Hornets RL 4

RDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Widnes Vikings 40, Gateshead Thunder 18 DAY, FEBRUARY 22

Batley Bulldogs 40, York City Knights 28 Featherstone Rovers 26, Dewsbury Rams 28 Halifax RLFC 40, Barrow Raiders 10 Whitehaven 26, Workington Town 12 Keighley Cougars 44, Hunslet Hawks 6 London Skolars 12, Doncaster RLFC 40 Oldham 22, Sheffield Eagles 34 Hornets RL 28, Blackpool Panthers 26 Swinton Lions 26, Leigh Centurions 34

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 Barrow Raiders 34, Keighley Cougars 7 Gateshead Thunder 46, Hornets RL 22 Leigh Centurions 24, Whitehaven 22 Sheffield Eagles 18, Halifax RLFC 50 Blackpool Panthers 16, Widnes Vikings 46 Dewsbury Rams 34, Batley Bulldogs 14 Workington Town 6, Featherstone Rovers 38 Doncaster RLFC 36, Swinton Lions 28 Hunslet Hawks 14, Oldham 32 York City Knights 58 London Skolars 12

20:00

(elegente de Challen) Challen

15:00

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

15:00 FRIDAY, APRIL 10

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Doncaster RLFC

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 **Barrow Raiders v Widnes Vikings** Halifax RLFC v Blackpool Panthers

CARNEGIE **CHALLENGE CUP**

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 THIRD ROUND

Keighley Cougars v Pia Kells v Hunslet Hawks 19:00 18:00 **Oueens v Doncaster RL** 15:00 Siddal v Swinton Lions 13:00 **Widnes Vikiings v Saddleworth Rangers** 18:00 **Workington v FC Lezignan-Corbieres** 16:30 SUNDAY, MARCH 8 THIRD ROUND **Barrow Raiders v Blackpool Panthers Dewsbury Rams v Carcassonne Featherstone Rovers v British Army** Gateshead Thunder v Whitehaven Halifax v Loughborough Univ 15:00 Leeds Met v Hornets RL **Leigh Centurions v Lokomotiv Moscow**

Oldham Roughyeds v Sharlston Rovers Pilkingtons v Batley Bulldogs

Sheffield Eagles v Toulouse Wath Brow Hornets v London Skolars 14:00 York City Knights v Wigan St Patricks 15:00

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 Swinton Lions v Workington Town 19:30 SUNDAY, MARCH 15 **London Skolars v Dewsbury Rams** TBC



CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP THURSDAY, MARCH 12 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Widnes Vikings v Toulouse Olympique 19:30 SATURDAY, MARCH 14 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Doncaster RLFC 18.30 SUNDAY, MARCH 15 CHAMPIONSHIP Batley Bulldogs v Featherstone Rovers Sheffield Eagles v Leigh Centurions Whitehaven v Gateshead Thunder 15:00 15:00 **CHAMPIONSHIP ONE** 15:00 **Oldham v Blackpool Panthers** THURSDAY, MARCH 19 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)
Halifax RLFC v Widnes Vikings 19:30 SATURDAY, MARCH 21 CHAMPIONSHIP **Toulouse Olympique v Sheffield Eagles** 19:00 SUNDAY, MARCH 22 CHAMPIONSHIP Featherstone Rovers v Whitehaven Gateshead Thunder v Barrow Raiders Leigh Centurions v Batley Bulldogs 15:00 15:00 15:00 CHAMPIONSHIP ONE **Workington Town v Hornets RL** 15:00 **Blackpool Panthers v Hunslet Hawks** 15:00 **Dewsbury Rams v York City Knights** 15:00 **Keighley Cougars v Oldham** 15:00 **London Skolars v Swinton Lions** 15:00 THURSDAY, MARCH 26 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)
Batley Bulldogs v Gateshead Thunder 19:30 SATURDAY, MARCH 28 CHAMPIONSHIP Whitehaven v Toulouse Olympique Barrow Raiders v Halifax RLFC Widnes Vikings v Sheffield Eagles 18:00 18:30 18:00 SUNDAY, MARCH 29 15:00 **Doncaster RLFC v Leigh Centurions CHAMPIONSHIP ONE** Hornets RL v Dewsbury Rams
Swinton Lions v Keighley Cougars
York City Knights v Blackpool Panthers
Hunslet Hawks v London Skolars 15:00 15:00 15:00 15:00 **Oldham v Workington Town** 15:00

| fixtures for 2009 | 2 |
|---|---|
| CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Batley Bulldogs Gateshead Thunder v Featherstone Rovers Barrow Raiders v Whitehaven Sheffield Eagles v Doncaster RLFC Widnes Vikings v Leigh Centurions | 20:00 18:00 15:00 15:00 15:00 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Hornets RL v Oldham Workington Town v Hunslet Hawks Blackpool Panthers v Swinton Lions Dewsbury Rams v London Skolars Keighley Cougars v York City Knights | 15:00 15:00 15:00 15:30 19:30 |
| MONDAY, APRIL 13 CHAMPIONSHIP Featherstone Rovers v Sheffield Eagles Leigh Centurions v Barrow Raiders Batley Bulldogs v Toulouse Olympique Doncaster RLFC v Widnes Vikings Whitehaven v Hallfax RLFC | 15:00 13:00 15:00 15:00 15:00 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Swinton Llons v Workington Town York City Knights v Rochdale Hornet Hunslet Hawks v Keighley Cougars London Skolars v Blackpool Panthers Oldham v Dewsbury Rams | 15:00 15:00 15:00 15:00 20:00 |
| THURSDAY, APRIL 16 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Gateshead Thunder v Sheffield Eagles FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | 19:30 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP Widnes Vikings v Batley Bulldogs | 19:30 |
| SATURDAY, APRIL 18 CHAMPIONSHIP Toulouse Olympique v Leigh Centurions | 19:00 |
| SUNDAY, APRIL 19 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Doncaster RLFC Whitehaven v Featherstone Rovers | 15:00 15:00 |
| THURSDAY, APRIL 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Leigh Centurions v Featherstone Rovers | 19:30 |
| SATURDAY, APRIL 25 CHAMPIONSHIP | 18:30 |
| Barrow Raiders v Batley Buildogs SUNDAY, APRIL 26 CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| Halifax RLFC v Gateshead Thunder Doncaster RLFC v Toulouse Olympique Sheffield Eagles v Widnes Vikings | 15:00 14:00 16:00 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Hornets RL v London Skolars Workington Town v York City Knights Dewsbury Rams v Hunslet Hawks Keighley Cougars v Blackpool Panthers Oldham v Swinton Lions | 15:00 15:00 15:00 15:00 15:00 |
| THURSDAY, APRIL 30 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Featherstone Rovers v Halifax RLFC | 19:30 |
| FRIDAY, MAY 1 CHAMPIONSHIP Widnes Vikings v Barrow Raiders Gateshead Thunder v Doncaster RLFC | 20:00 19:30 |
| SUNDAY, MAY 3 CHAMPIONSHIP Toulouse Olympique v Whitehaven | 19:00 |
| MONDAY, MAY 4 CHAMPIONSHIP Batley Bulldogs v Leigh Centurions | 15:00 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP ONE | 15:00 |
| Swinton Lions v Dewsbury Rams York City Knights v Keighley Cougars Blackpool Panthers v Hornets RL Hunslet Hawks v Workington Town London Skolars v Oldham | 15:00 15:00 15:00 15:00 |
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| | CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Whitehaven v Widnes Vikings |
|---|---|
| | FRIDAY, MAY 8 CHAMPIONSHIP Sheffield Eagles v Featherstone Rovers |
| | SATURDAY, MAY 9 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Gateshead Thunder |
| | SUNDAY, MAY 10 CHAMPIONSHIP Doncaster RLFC v Batley Buildogs |
| | Leigh Centurions v Halifax RLFC THURSDAY, MAY 14 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) |
| | Leigh Centurions v Widnes Vikings SATURDAY, MAY 16 CHAMPIONSHIP |
| | Toulouse Olympique v Barrow Raiders SUNDAY, MAY 17 CHAMPIONSHIP |
| | Featherstone Rovers v Doncaster RLFC Gateshead Thunder v Whitehaven Halifax RLFC v Sheffield Eagles |
| | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Hornets RL v York City Knights Dewsbury Rams v Blackpool Panthers Keighley Cougars v Swinton Lions Workington Town v London Skolars |
| | Oldham v Hunslet Hawks Thursday, May 21 Championship (TV) Doncaster RLFC v Halifax RLFC |
| | SATURDAY, MAY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP Sheffield Eagles v Toulouse Olympique Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers |
| | Widnes Vikings v Gateshead Thunder SUNDAY, MAY, 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Batley Bulldogs v Whitehaven |
| | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Swinton Lions v Oldham Workington Town v Dewsbury Rams Blackpool Panthers v Keighley Cougars Hunslet Hawks v Hornets RL |
| | London Skolars v York City Knights THURSDAY, MAY 28 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Featherstone Rovers v Leigh Centurions |
| | SATURDAY, MAY 30 CHAMPIONSHIP Gateshead Thunder v Toulouse Olympique Barrow Raiders v Sheffield Eagles |
| | SUNDAY, MAY 31 CHAMPIONSHIP Batley Bulldogs v Widnes Vikings Whitehaven v Doncaster RLFC |
| | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Swinton Lions v Hornets RL York City Knights v Dewsbury Rams Keighley Cougars v Workington Town London Skolars v Hunslet Hawks |
| | SATURDAY, JUNE 6 NORTHERN RAIL CUP QUARTER-FINALS |
| N | SUNDAY, JUNE 7 NORTHERN RAIL CUP QUARTER-FINALS |
| | THURSDAY, JUNE 11 CHAMPIONSHIP ONE (TV) Dewsbury Rams v Keighley Cougars |
| | SATURDAY, JUNE 13 CHAMPIONSHIP Widnes Vikings v Featherstone Rovers Toulouse Olympique v Batley Bulldogs |
| | SUNDAY, JUNE 14 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Barrow Ralders Leigh Centurions v Gateshoad Thunder |
| | Sheffield Eagles v Whitehaven CHAMPIONSHIP ONE |
| | Hornets RL v Blackpool Panthers |

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| Hunslet Hawks v York City Knights | 15:00 | CHA |
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| SATURDAY, JUNE 20 NORTHERN RAIL CUP SEMI-FINAL | | Keig FRII |
| SUNDAY, JUNE 21 NORTHERN RAIL CUP SEMI-FINAL | | CHA Wid |
| THURSDAY, JUNE 25 CHAMPIONSHIP ONE (TV) | | SAT |
| York City Knights v Oldham SATURDAY, JUNE 27 | 19:30 | Feat Gate SUN |
| CHAMPIONSHIP Toulouse Olympique v Featherstone Rovers SUNDAY, JUNE 28 | 20:00 | CHA Leig |
| CHAMPIONSHIP Batley Bulldogs v Barrow Raiders | 15:00 | Whi |
| Doncaster RLFC v Sheffield Eagles Gateshead Thunder v Halifax RLFC Whitehaven v Leigh Centurions | 15:00 15:00 15:00 | Swi Hun Lon |
| CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Swinton Lions v Hunslet Hawks | 15:00 | Old! |
| Blackpool Panthers v Workington Town Keighley Cougars v Hornets RL London Skolars v Dewsbury Rams | 15:00 15:00 15:00 | CHA Oldi SAT |
| THURSDAY, JULY 2 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Barrow Raiders v Toulouse Olympique | 19:30 | Toul |
| FRIDAY, JULY 3 CHAMPIONSHIP | | CHA Hali Bat |
| Sheffield Eagles v Batley Bulldogs Halifax RLFC v Leigh Centurions SATURDAY, JULY 4 | 20:00 20:00 | Don Fea |
| CHAMPIONSHIP Widnes Vikings v Doncaster RLFC | 18:00 | FRII CHA She |
| SUNDAY, JULY 5 CHAMPIONSHIP Featherstone Rovers v Gateshead Thunder | 15:00 | SAT |
| CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Hornets RL v Hunslet Hawks | 15:00 | Leig Ban |
| Workington Town v Oldham Blackpool Panthers v York City Knights | 15:00 15:00 | SUN |
| Dewsbury Rams v Swinton Lions Keighley Cougars v London Skolars | 15:00 15:00 | Don Whi |
| SUNDAY, JULY 12 NORTHERN RAIL CUP FINAL (at Blackpool) | | CHA Hori Blac |
| THURSDAY, JULY 16 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Whitehaven v Barrow Raiders | 19:30 | Dev Hun |
| SATURDAY, JULY 18 CHAMPIONSHIP Toulouse Olympique v Halifax RLFC | 20:00 | Yorl SAT CHA |
| SUNDAY, JULY 19 CHAMPIONSHIP | 20.00 | Wid Toul |
| Batley Bulldogs v Doncaster RLFC Gateshead Thunder v Widnes Vikings | 15:00 15:00 | SUN |
| Leigh Centurions v Sheffield Eagles CHAMPIONSHIP ONE | 15:00 | Bati Fea Gati |
| Swinton Lions v Blackpool Panthers York City Knights v Workington Town | 15:00 15:00 | CHA |
| Hunslet Hawks v Dewsbury Rams London Skolars v Hornets RL | 15:00 | Swi Wor |
| London Skolars v nornets nl | 15:00 | Dev |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars | 15:00 | Keig |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder | 19:30 | Keig Oldi FRII |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP | | Keig Oldl FRII CHA Lon SAT |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers SATURDAY, JULY 25 CHAMPIONSHIP | 19:30 20:00 | Keig Oldi FRII CHA Lon SAT CHA Hali |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers SATURDAY, JULY 25 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Leigh Centurions Toulouse Olympique v Widnes Vikings | 19:30 | Keig Oldi FRII CHA Lon SAT CHA Hali CHA York |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TU) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers SATURDAY, JULY 25 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Leigh Centurions Toulouse Olympique v Widnes Vikings CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Blackpool Panthers v London Skolars | 19:30 20:00 18:30 | Keig Oldi FRII CHA Lon SAT CHA Hali CHA York SUN CHA Don |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers SATURDAY, JULY 25 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Leigh Centurions Toulouse Olympique v Widnes Vikings CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Blackpool Panthers v London Skolars SUNDAY, JULY 26 CHAMPIONSHIP Doncaster RLFC v Whitehaven | 19:30 20:00 18:30 20:00 | Keig Oldi FRII CHA Lon SAT CHA Hali CHA York SUN CHA Don Feat Leig |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TU) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers SATURDAY, JULY 25 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Leigh Centurions Toulouse Olympique v Widnes Vikings CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Blackpool Panthers v London Skolars SUNDAY, JULY 26 CHAMPIONSHIP Doncaster RLFC v Whitehaven CHAMPIONSHIP | 19:30 20:00 18:30 20:00 15:00 | Keig Oldi FRII CHA Lon SAT CHA Hali CHA York SUN CHA Don Feat Leig She CHA |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers SATURDAY, JULY 25 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Leigh Centurions Toulouse Olympique v Widnes Vikings CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Blackpool Panthers v London Skolars SUNDAY, JULY 26 CHAMPIONSHIP Doncaster RLFC v Whitehaven CHAMPIONSHIP ONE HOrnets RL v Swinton Lions Workington Town v Keighley Cougars | 19:30 20:00 18:30 20:00 15:00 15:00 | Keigoldi FRIII CHA Lone SATT CHA Hali CHA York SUN CHA Don Feat Leigo She CHA Horrib Blace Blace |
| Oldham v Keighley Cougars THURSDAY, JULY 23 CHAMPIONSHIP (TV) Sheffield Eagles v Gateshead Thunder FRIDAY, JULY 24 CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers SATURDAY, JULY 25 CHAMPIONSHIP Barrow Raiders v Leigh Centurions Toulouse Olympique v Widnes Vikings CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Blackpool Panthers v London Skolars SUNDAY, JULY 26 CHAMPIONSHIP Doncaster RLFC v Whitehaven CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Hornets RL V Swinton Lions | 19:30 20:00 18:30 20:00 15:00 | Keig Oldl FRII CHA Lon SAT CHA Hali CHA SUN CHA Don Fea Leig She CHA |

| | Keighley Cougars v Dewsbury Rams | 19 |
|----------|---|----------|
| | FRIDAY, JULY 31 CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| | Widnes Vikings v Halifax RLFC | 19 |
| | SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 Championship | |
| 30 | Featherstone Rovers v Toulouse Olympique Gateshead Thunder v Batley Bulldogs | 18 |
| | SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 Championship | |
| :00 | Leigh Centurions v Doncaster RLFC Whitehaven v Sheffield Eagles | 15 15 |
| 00 00 | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE Swinton Lions v York City Knights | 15 |
| 00 | Hunslet Hawks v Blackpool Panthers | 15 |
| 00 | London Skolars v Workington Town Oldham v Hornets RL | 15 15 |
| 00 | THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 CHAMPIONSHIP ONE (TV) | |
| 00 00 | Oldham v London Skolars | 19 |
| 00 | SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 CHAMPIONSHIP Toulouse Olympique v Gateshead Thunder | 20 |
| 30 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 | |
| | CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Whitehaven | 15 |
| 00 | Battey Bulldogs v Sheffield Eagles Doncaster RLFC v Barrow Raiders | 15 15 |
| 00 | Featherstone Rovers v Widnes Vikings | 15 |
| 00 | FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| 00 | Sheffield Eagles v Halifax RLFC | 20 |
| 00 | SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| 00 | Leigh Centurions v Toulouse Olympique | 18 |
| 00 00 | Barrow Raiders v Widnes Vikings SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 | 18 |
| 00 | CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| 00 00 | Doncaster RLFC v Featherstone Rovers Whitehaven v Batley Bulldogs | 15 15 |
| | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE | |
| | Hornets RL v Keighley Cougars Blackpool Panthers v Oldham | 15 15 |
| | Dewsbury Rams v Workington Town | 15 |
| 30 | Hunslet Hawks v Swinton Lions York City Knights v London Skolars SATURDAY AUGUST 22 | 15 14 |
| 00 | SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 CHAMPIONSHIP Widnes Vikings v Whitehaven | |
| | Toulouse Olympique v Doncaster RLFC | 18 20 |
| 00 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 | |
| 00 00 | CHAMPIONSHIP Batley Bulldogs v Halifax RLFC | 15 |
| | Featherstone Rovers v Barrow Raiders Gateshead Thunder v Leigh Centurions | 15 15 |
| 00 00 | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE | |
| 00 | Swinton Lions v London Skolars Workington Town v Blackpool Panthers | 15 15 |
| 00 00 | Dewsbury Rams v Hornets RL | 15 |
| | Keighley Cougars v Hunslet Hawks Oldham v York City Knights | 15 15 |
| 30 | FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 | |
| | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE London Skolars v Keighley Cougars | 18 |
| 00 | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| | CHAMPIONSHIP Halifax RLFC v Toulouse Olympique | 18 |
| 30 | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE | |
| 00 | York City Knights v Swinton Lions SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 | 18 |
| 00 | CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| | Doncaster RLFC v Gateshead Thunder Featherstone Rovers v Batley Buildogs | 15 15 |
| 00 | Featherstone Rovers v Batley Bulldogs Leigh Centurions v Whitehaven Sheffield Eagles v Barrow Raiders | 15 15 |
| 00 | CHAMPIONSHIP ONE | ľ |
| 00 00 | Hornets RL v Workington Town | 15 15 |
| 00 00 | Blackpool Panthers v Dewsbury Rams Hunslet Hawks v Oldham | 15 |
| 30 | ALL KICK-OFFS SUBJECT TO | CHAI |
| | | 1 |

MPIONSHIP ONE (TV)

WHAT A RESULT!







NORTHERN RAIL CUP 2009

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 POOL ONE 34 **Barrow Raiders** Tries: Ellis 2, Campbell, L Finch, Brocklehurst, J

Finch. Goals: Noone 5. **Keighley Cougars** 7 Tries: Presley. Goals: Jones. Drop Goals: Jones. Half Time: 6-7.

Attendance: 1,311.

Blackpool Panthers 16 Tries: Munro, Alker, Forster. Goals: Leather 2.

Widnes Vikings 46 Tries: Kohe-Love 2, Doran,

Hartley, Fletcher, Flynn, Duffy, Yates. Goals: Yates 7. Half Time: 12-18. Attendance: 864.

Gateshead Thunder 46

Tries: Sanderson 3. Hendeson, Peers, Arundel, Parker, Neighbour, Nash. Goals: Knowles 4. Branighan.

Hornets RL

22 Tries: Johnson, Cunliffe, Mayberry, Bretherton, Ainscough. Goals: Giles. Half Time: 14-8. Attendance: 452.

Hunslet Hawks 14

Tries: Faal, Larvin. Goals: Robinson 2, Chapman.

32 Oldham Tries: Onyango, Reilly 3, O'Connor, Halliwell. Goals:

Ballard. Half Time: 14-10. Attendance: 581.

Sheffield Eagles



Paul Reilly's on the charge for Oldham. The experienced centre scored three tries against Hunslet

Tries: Woodcock, Gibson, Barlow, Goals: Woodcock, Halifax 50 Tries: Penkywicz 2, Tamghart 2, Worrincy, Beswick, Royston, Haley 2, Patterson. Goals: Haley 4, Govin. Half Time: 6-28. Attendance: 1,065.

POOL TWO **Dewsbury Rams** Tries: Epati, Bretherton 2, Wildey, Finn 2. Goals: Walker 5. **Batley Bulldogs** 14 Tries: Preece, Stenchion, Armitage. Goals: Flanagan.

Half Time: 8-14

18 Attendance: 1,512.

Doncaster Tries: Green, Weeden 2, Jones, Reittie, Rounding.

Goals: Briggs 5. **Swinton Lions** Tries: Rigby, Billy, Hayes, Newton, Hulse, Goals: Sneyd 4. Half Time: 12-10.

Attendance: 645.

Leigh Centurions Tries: Ridyard, Haggerty, Durbin, McConnell. Goals: Ridvard 4. Whitehaven Tries: Eilbeck, McNally 2, Lavulavu.

Goals: M Jackson 3.

Half Time: 12-10.

Attendance: 1,789.

Workington Town Tries: Beattie. Goals: Forber. Featherstone Rovers 38 Tries: Smeaton, Pryce 2, Harris, Hardman, Tonks, Blakeway. Goals: Dickens 3, Harris 2. Half Time: 6-8. Attendance: 650.

York City Knights 58 Tries: Ratcliffe 2. Clayton. Hughes, Mitchell, Haberecht 2, Oakes, P March, D March, Grimshaw. Goals: Knight 7. London Skolars 12 Tries: Burke, Thomas, Goals: Thorman 2. Half Time: 28-0. Attendance: 1,003.

STATS SERVICE







| NORTHERN RAIL CUP 2009 TABLE | S |
|------------------------------|---|
| DOOL OUT | |

| POOL ONE | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| P | W | D | L | В | F | A | PD | Pts |
| 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 130 | 72 | 58 | 10 |
| 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 128 | 38 | 90 | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 106 | 56 | 50 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 105 | 76 | 29 | 7 |
| 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 98 | 59 | 39 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 128 | 120 | 8 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 108 | 132 | -24 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 58 | 88 | -30 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 66 | 180 | -114 | 3 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 46 | 152 | -106 | 0 |
| F | 00 | LI | W | | | | | |
| P | W | D | L | В | F | A | PD | Pts |
| 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 156 | 68 | 88 | 10 |
| 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 138 | 64 | 74 | 10 |
| 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 106 | 46 | 60 | 10 |
| 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 112 | 40 | 72 | 9 |
| | P 4 3 3 4 4 3 4 4 F P 4 4 4 | P W 4 3 3 3 2 4 2 3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 | P W D 4 3 0 3 3 0 0 3 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 3 1 0 0 4 1 0 0 0 POOL T POOL T 4 3 0 4 3 0 4 3 0 0 | P W D L 4 3 0 1 3 3 0 0 3 2 0 1 4 2 0 2 3 2 0 1 4 2 0 2 4 2 0 2 4 1 0 3 4 0 0 4 POOL TWO POOL TWO 4 3 0 1 4 3 0 1 4 3 0 1 | P W D L B 4 3 0 1 1 3 3 0 0 0 3 2 0 1 1 4 2 0 2 1 3 2 0 1 0 4 2 0 2 0 4 2 0 2 0 4 1 0 3 0 4 0 0 4 0 POOL TWO POOL TWO 4 3 0 1 1 4 3 0 1 1 4 3 0 1 1 | P W D L B F 4 3 0 1 1 130 3 3 0 0 0 128 3 2 0 1 1 106 4 2 0 2 1 105 3 2 0 1 0 98 4 2 0 2 0 108 3 1 0 2 158 4 1 0 3 0 66 4 0 0 4 0 46 POOL TWO B F 4 3 0 1 1 156 4 3 0 1 1 158 4 3 0 1 1 106 | P W D L B F A 4 3 0 1 1 130 72 3 3 0 0 0 128 38 3 2 0 1 1 106 56 4 2 0 2 1 105 76 3 2 0 1 0 98 59 4 2 0 2 0 128 120 4 2 0 2 0 128 120 4 2 0 2 0 108 132 3 1 0 2 1 58 88 4 1 0 3 0 66 180 4 0 0 4 0 46 152 POOL TWO POOL TWO B F A 4 3 0 1 1 156 68 4 3 0 1 1 156 68 4 3 0 1 1 156 646 | P W D L B F A PD 4 3 0 1 1 130 72 58 3 3 0 0 0 128 38 90 3 2 0 1 1 106 56 50 4 2 0 2 1 105 76 29 3 2 0 1 0 98 59 39 4 2 0 2 0 128 120 8 4 2 0 2 0 128 120 8 4 2 0 2 0 108 132 -24 3 1 0 2 1 58 88 -30 4 1 0 3 0 66 180-114 4 0 0 4 0 46 152-106 POOL TWO POOL TWO 4 3 0 1 1 156 68 88 4 3 0 1 1 156 68 88 4 3 0 1 1 138 64 74 4 3 0 1 1 106 46 60 |

Workington Town 3 0 0 3 0 London Skolars 3 0 0 3 0 30 172-142 0

*Does not include Wednesday night's games 3 pts for win, 2 for draw, 1 for a bonus point for losing by 12pts or less

Leading points scorers

| | Points set | 711 | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----|----|------|
| | PLAYER/CLUB | T | G | DG T |
| | Andy Ballard (Oldham) | 4 | 18 | 52 |
| | Jonny Woodcock (Eagles) | 2 | 16 | 40 |
| | George Flanagan (Batley) | 3 | 13 | 38 |
| | Pat Walker (Dewsbury) | | 18 | 36 |
| | Martin Ridyard (Leigh) | 3 | 10 | 32 |
| | Paul Noone (Barrow) | | 15 | 30 |
| | Scott Yates (Widnes) | 1 | 13 | 30 |
| | Jon Presley (Keighley) | 7 | | 28 |
| | James Haley (Halifax) | 2 | 10 | 28 |
| | Gregg McNally (White) | 4 | 6 | 28 |
| | Danny Jones (Keighley) | | 12 | 1 25 |
| i | Stuart Sanderson (Gates) | 6 | | 24 |
| | lestyn Harris (Feath) | 2 | 7 | 22 |
| | lan Mort (Leigh) | 1 | 9 | 22 |
| | Kane Epati (Dewsbury) | 5 | | 20 |
| | Jamie Durbin (Leigh) | 5 | | 20 |
| | Luke Branighan (Gates) | 1 | 8 | 20 |
| | Richard Knight (York) | | 10 | 20 |
| ı | Andy Speak (Dons) | 1 | 7 | 18 |
| | Luke Branighan (G'head) | 1 | 7 | 18 |
| | Adam Mitchell (York) | | 9 | 18 |

Leading try coorers

| <u>ury scorers</u> | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Jon Presley (Keighley) | 7 |
| Stuart Sanderson (Gateshead) | 6 |
| Kane Epati (Dewsbury) | 5 |
| Jamie Durbin (Leigh) | 5 |
| Gregg McNally (Whitehaven) | 4 |
| Sean Penkywicz (Halifax) | 4 |
| Mark McCully (Blackpool) | 4 |
| Andy Ballard (Oldham) | 4 |
| Mike Cody (Doncaster) | 4 |
| Liam Finch (Barrow) | 4 |
| Dylan Nash (Gateshead) | 4 |
| Joe Arundel (Gateshead) | 4 |
| Paul Hughes (York) | 4 |
| John Oakes (York) | 4 |
| Danny Ratcliffe (York) | 4 |
| Tom Haberecht (York) | 4 |
| | |

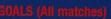
NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE 2008

| | P | W | D | L | F | A Dif Pts |
|----------------------------|---------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|
| Salford City Reds | 18 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 614 | 302 312 45 |
| Celtic Crusaders | 18 | 12 | 0 | 6 | 511 | 391 120 40 |
| Halifax RLFC | 18 | 11 | 1 | 6 | 634 | 514 120 38 |
| Leigh Centurions | 18 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 448 | 448 0 34 |
| Whitehaven | 18 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 420 | 399 21 32 |
| Widnes Vikings* | 18 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 453 | 410 43 30 |
| Sheffield Eagles | 18 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 425 | 530 -105 29 |
| Featherstone R | 18 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 452 | 515 -63 26 |
| Batley Bulldogs | 18 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 387 | 538-151 23 |
| Dewsbury Rams (R) | 18 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 315 | 612 -297 13 |
| *Widnes deducted nine poin | nts for | goin | g in | to a | dminis | tration |

NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO 2008

| | | | | | | 200 | • | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----|---|----|-----|-----|------|-----|--|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Dif | Pts | |
| Gateshead Thunder | (P)22 | 19 | 0 | 3 | 767 | 415 | 352 | 59 | |
| Barrow Raiders (P) | 22 | 16 | 0 | 6 | 703 | 375 | 328 | 52 | |
| Oldham | 22 | 17 | 0 | 5 | 716 | 456 | 260 | 52 | |
| Doncaster (P) | 22 | 15 | 0 | 7 | 672 | 426 | 246 | 48 | |
| Keighley Cougars | 22 | 15 | 0 | 7 | 611 | 519 | 92 | 48 | |
| York City Knights | 22 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 740 | 540 | 200 | 42 | |
| Rochdale Hornets | 22 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 715 | 610 | 105 | 36 | |
| Workington Town | 22 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 512 | 628 | -116 | 28 | |
| Blackpool Panthers | 22 | 7 | 1 | 14 | 472 | 828 | -356 | 25 | |
| Swinton Lions | 22 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 482 | 777 | -295 | 22 | |
| London Skolars | 22 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 449 | 823 | -374 | 20 | |
| Hunslet Hawks | 22 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 336 | 778 | -442 | 17 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

| James Nixon (Barrow – pictured) | 35 |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Paul White (Salford) | 28 |
| Martin Ainscough (Rochdale) | 28 |
| Luke Gale (Doncaster) | 27 |



Richard Myler (Salford)

| Graham Holroyd (Halifax – | pictured) 156 |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Mick Nanyn (Oldham) | 139 |
| Dan Russell (Gateshead) | 129 (1) |
| Carl Sneyd (Rochdale) | 110 |
| | |

| Mick Nanyn (Oldham) | 362 |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Graham Holroyd (Halifax) | 340 |
| Dan Russell (Gateshead) | 293 |
| Carl Sneyd (Rochdale) | 268 |
| John Wilshere (Salford) | 252 |
| Carl Forber (Workington) | 243 |





KIJUVYVUURSTUFF?

CHALLENGE CUP SPECIAL

- 1, In what year did Hull KR beat Hull FC 10-5 in the final of the Challenge Cup?
- 2, Who contested the first ever Wembley final in 1929?
- 3, How many times have Leeds won the Challenge Cup 8, 10 or 12?
- 4, For how many consecutive years did Wigan win the Challenge Cup in the late 1980s and early 90s?
- 5, Which two teams contested both the 1996 and 1997 finals?
- 6, Broughton Rangers hold the lowest winning score for a Challenge Cup final, beating Wigan at Salford in 1911 by what score?
- 7, Which club holds the record for biggest winning score in a Challenge Cup final?
- 8, By what score did Sheffield Eagles beat Wigan to win the Challenge Cup in 1998?
- 9, Which player holds the record for most appearances in a Challenge Cup final?



- 10, Billy Stott was the first winner of the Lance Todd Trophy back in 1946 for which club did he play?
- 11, Which New Zealander holds the record for most tries in Challenge Cup finals, having scored a brace in three separate finals?
- 12, Who did Halifax beat at Wembley to win the Challenge Cup in 1987?
- 13, Which current Super League club holds the record for highest ever score in a Challenge Cup match, beating Swinton Park 119-2 in 1914?
- 14, The three winners of the Lance Todd Trophy in 1947, 1948 and 1949 all played for which club?
- 15, The last Challenge Cup final to be replayed was in 1982 when Hull beat Widnes 18-9 but at which ground?

ANAGRAMS

Rearrange the following phrases to form the names of five former Lance Todd Trophy winners (year won in brackets)

HURL MY APEX (1971)

I HEAR DAMAGE (1987)

HEY, LEARN YELL (1989)

TYRANT MOMMY (1997)

ONLY A LONG CRY (2003)

ANAGRAMS: 1, Alex Murphy; 2, Graham Eadie; 3, Ellery Hanley; 4, Tommy Marytn; 5, Gary Connolly.

12, St Helens; 13, Huddersfield; 14, Bradford; 15, Elland Road, Leeds.

CHALLENGE CUP QUIZ SPECIAL: 1, 1980; 2, Wigan and Dewsbury; 3, 12; 4, Eigh 6, 5, 14 Heiter Cup Quiz SPECIAL: 1, 1980; 2, Wigan and Dewsbury; 3, 12; 4, Eigh 1990; 8, 17-8; 9, Shaun Edwards (11): 10, Wakefield Thinly: 11, Kevin Iro: carnegie

carnegie champion schools www.leedsmet.ac.uk/carnegie