

# HOUGH REVEALS HIS CLASS OF 2009

by ROGER HALSTEAD

In year two of Roughyeds' reserve-team 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 pre-season 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

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-18s.

**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 pro ranks 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 everybody.

"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 April, Houghie expects to face a 16-match league campaign with home and away matches against Hunslet, Widnes, Leigh, Dewsbury, Barrow, Keighley, Whitehaven and York.

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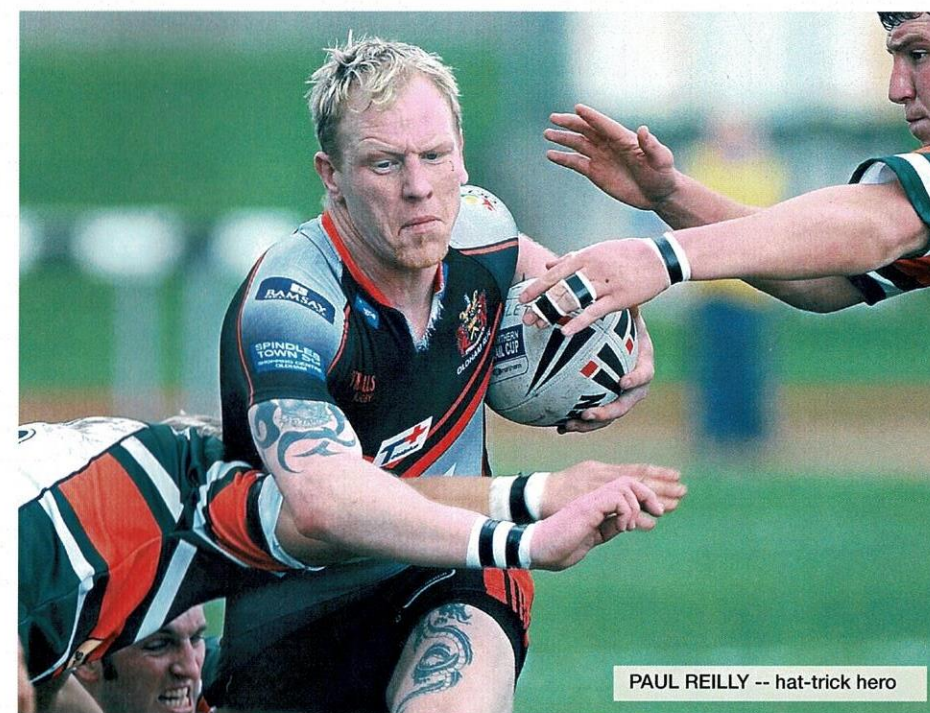
The official programme of Oldham Rugby League Football Club (1997) Ltd



v **Sharlston Rovers**

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

## FULL STEAM AHEAD ON THE BLACKPOOL LINE



PAUL REILLY -- hat-trick hero

Picture courtesy of www.rphotos.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 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.

By taking maximum points from games against 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.

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

with a glorious hat-trick.

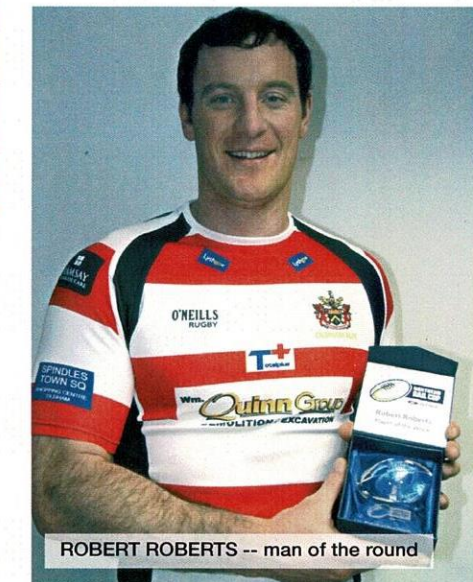
The next day's trade papers showed us on top of the pile in Pool One - and Paul was able to reflect on a job well done at the South Leeds Stadium.

"We can play better," he said, "but on a personal 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 scoring passes that counted.

"I would have liked to repay the compliment, but the opportunity never arose. Still, it was good for my own confidence to score three. I'm still building up my confidence after the serious neck injury I sustained at Wakefield last season.

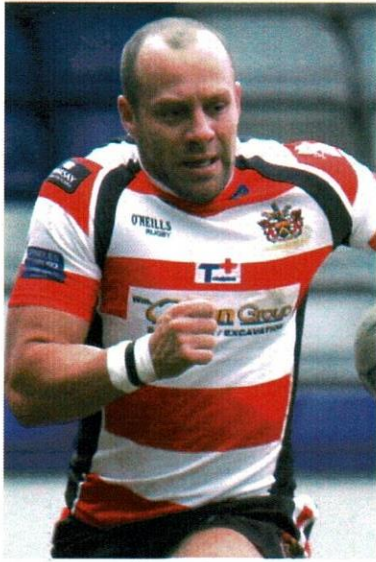
"Things are coming along for me nicely now and to score three in my first start of the season was just what the doctor ordered."



ROBERT ROBERTS -- man of the round



**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 Nany'n'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 Nany'n scored last year - 139."

Nany'n 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, Nany'n 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 Nany'n'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 Nany'n did in 2008.

Whatever happens, though, you can gamble that Ballard won't be losing any sleep. He's a laid-back 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-year-old Mark, is a loose-forward 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 on all-weather pitches."

"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 electrician.

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

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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 Iain 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 Roughyeds, 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."

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# 'FANTASTIC' DAY OUT FOR THE WINNER OF OUR SEASON-TICKET COMPETITION

STEPHEN Slater, the lucky winner of the draw that was open to all adult season-ticket 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 Graham 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 pre-match 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.

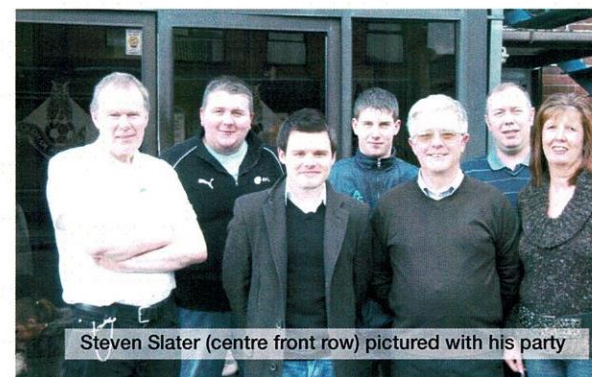
"I thought we could have won it. In the

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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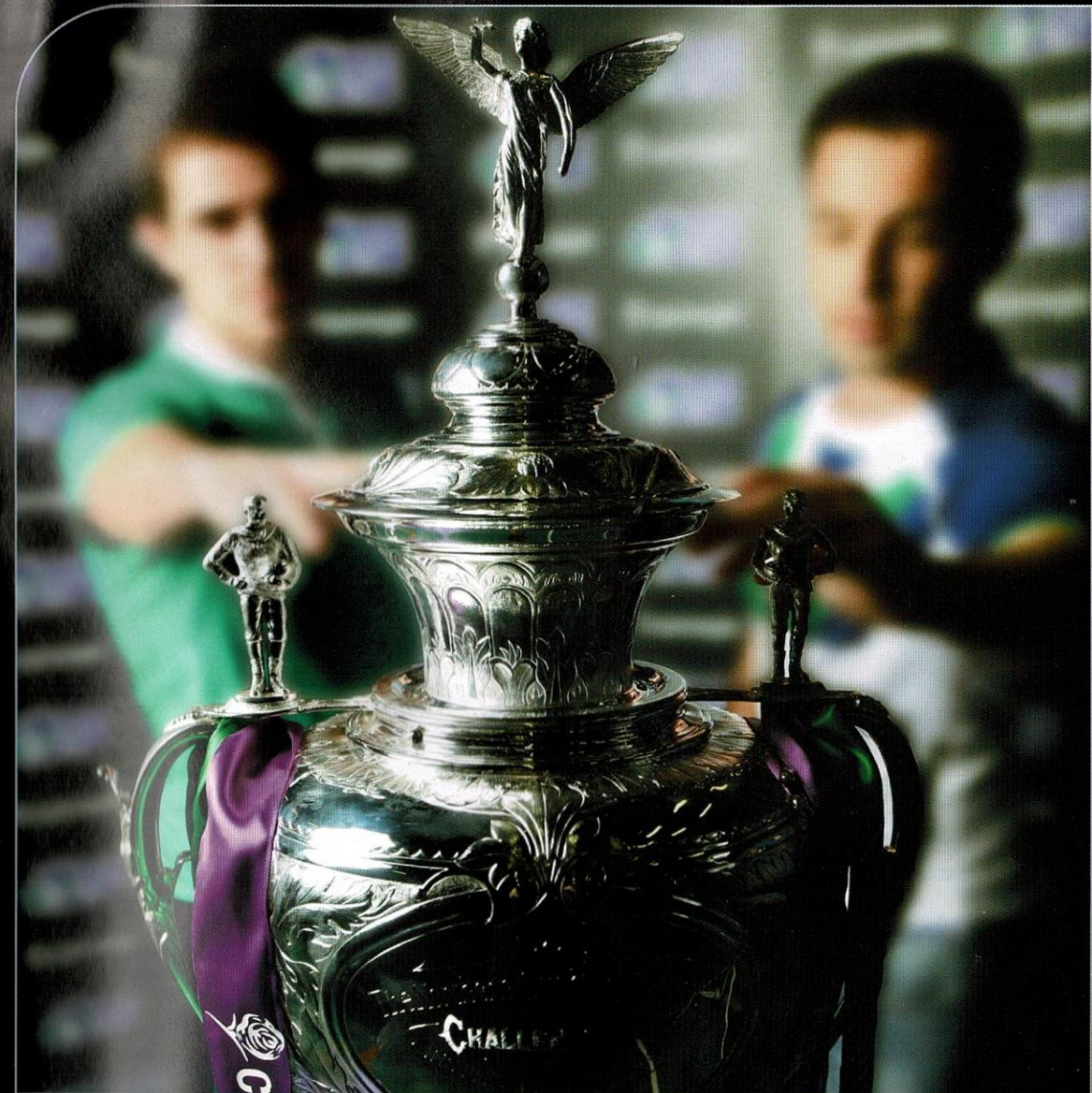
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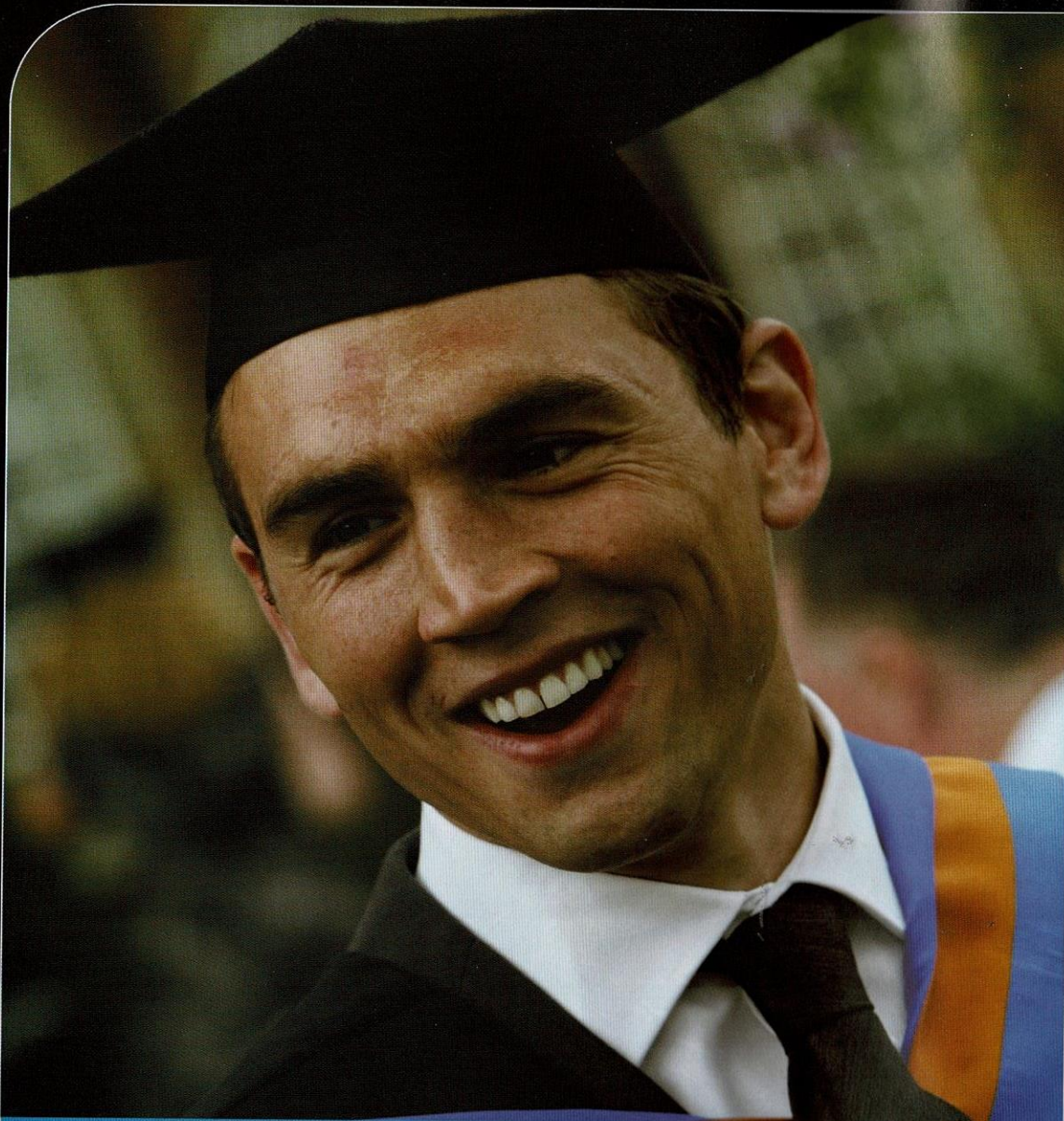


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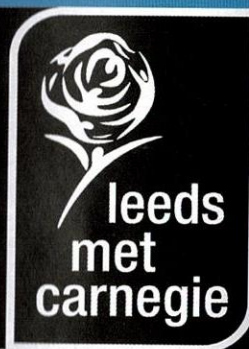
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## CONTENTS

Issue no.5  
 March 6-11, 2009

Great days for amateurs.....4/5  
 Ambassador Wilkin.....7  
 News round-up.....8  
 Action Replay .....10/11

### CHALLENGE CUP MATCHDAY

Barrow v Blackpool.....12/13  
 Dewsbury v Carcassone.....14/15  
 Featherstone v Army.....16/17  
 Gateshead v Whitehaven.....18/19  
 Halifax v Loughborough.....20/21  
 Keighley v Pia.....22/23  
 Leigh v Lokomotiv Moscow.....24/25  
 Oldham v Sharlston.....26/27  
 Sheffield v Toulouse.....28/29  
 Widnes v Saddleworth.....30/31  
 Workington v Lezignan.....32/33  
 York v Wigan St Pats.....34/35  
 Siddal v Swinton.....36/37  
 Queens v Doncaster.....38/39

The Bennett Column.....41  
 Stats/fixtures..... 42-45  
 The Quiz..... 46

## 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 intriguing 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.

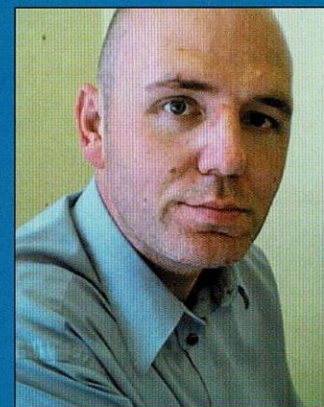
The likes of Kells, Pilkingtons and Queens may ply their trade outside the National Conference League but they have proved time and again they are among the best non-professional sides in the country.

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.

family sport and, with this in mind, action will also be taken against spectators who use foul and abusive language.

### 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

### 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 Thornhill 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.

Sharlston 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 Hornets will fancy their chances of making the Championship One side their next cup victim.

Wath Brow's Cumbrian neighbours



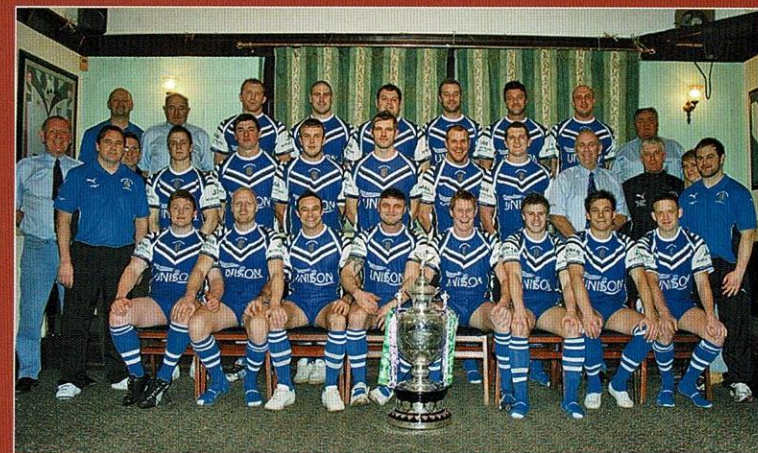
**THEN....** Sharlston celebrate their heroic victory over Dewsbury Rams in 2004

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.

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

**If you put just one name  
on your team sheet...**



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## *the world according to* **WILKO**

**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 also highlights a couple of players from the Championships to watch out for this season.**

**T**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 identity.

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 the horizon.

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 much to.

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.

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 into the 2009 season.

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.



**The co-operative  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Jon Wilkin is a Co-operative  
'Good for Everyone' Ambassador  
[www.co-operative.coop](http://www.co-operative.coop)**







**DOWN THE LINE** with  
**Andy Henderson**



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 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.

Bring on the Quarter Finals, let's go for it!

**Hendo**



## PLAYER OF THE ROUND WEEK 4

**Chris Hill –  
Leigh Centurions**

**C**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."



**D**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

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# ACTIONREPLAY

## Ominous signs from big two



### POOL ONE

The 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.

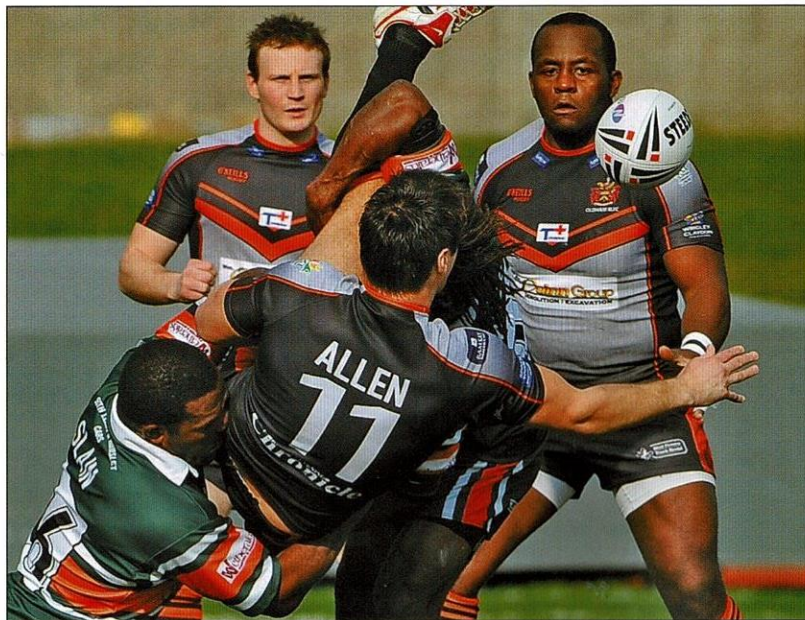
Eagles' boss Mark Aston admitted he was glad the league season is a couple of weeks away and said: "I was very disappointed – for 25 minutes we were in an arm wrestle and we competed – it was 6-6 but for the last 15 minutes we started giving penalties away, went sloppy and they scored the tries."

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 half-time 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 in 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

LEIGH 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, be 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 their 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.



# Barrow v Blackpool



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

## BARROW RAIDERS

## BLACKPOOL PANTHERS

SPONSOR	No.	PLAYER
Advance Roofing Supplies	1	Gary Broadbent
Johnston Recruitment	2	Mike Backhouse
BAE Global Combat Systems	3	Ian Bell
Premier Solutions	4	Liam Harrison
Furness Heating Components	5	James Nixon
Jimmy Redfern Associates	6	Liam Finch
The Infield Hotel	7	Liam Campbell
Saunders Transport	8	Brett McDermott
The Marine Travel Company	9	Andrew Ellis
Mike Sear	10	Lee Dutton
Estuary Electrical	11	Andrew Brocklehurst
E.P. Access	12	Martin Ostler
R.F. Miller Accountants	13	Andrew Bracek
Shaun Anderson Osteopath	14	Paul Noone
Abbey House Hotel	15	Chris Young
Larry Hunt, Cross Keys	16	Jamie Butler
Coniston Holidays	17	Scott Kaighan
Jimmy Redfern Associates	18	James Finch
Mike Hodgson	19	Chris Larkin
Paul Turner (NWEM)	20	Nicky Beach
Larry Hunt, Cross Keys	21	Joe McKenna
Optec Fibres	22	Ned Catic
BAE Global Combat Systems	23	Waisale Suka
SITA (UK) Ltd	24	Alipate Tani
E.P. Access	25	Sevania Koro
Jimmy Redfern Associates	27	Darren Holt
S & M Leisure (kit)	28	Michael Darby
Nigel and Alison Atkinson	32	Ruairi McGoff
Alastair McGregor	35	Matt Storey

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

No.	PLAYER
1	Johnny Leather
2	Damien Munroe
3	Tom Woodcock
4	Mark McCully
5	Chris Mugan
6	Simon Svabic
7	Chris Forster
8	Peter Fairhurst
9	John Clough
10	John Hill
11	Paul Alcock
12	Kris Ratcliffe
13	Rob Draper
14	Martin Keaveney
15	Mel Alker
16	Ian Hodson
17	David Llewellyn
18	John Boland
19	Liam McGovern
20	Tom Wild
21	Andy Marsh
22	Keiron Tucker
23	Daryll Kaye
24	Chris Campbell
25	Wes Lawton
26	Craig Tunstead

SPONSOR
Blackpool Supporters
Derek Way Roofing
Clover Tech of Wigan
Chorley Supporters
Morris and Oxley
S. Beilby and Family
Blackpool Supporters
ACM Scaffolding Services
Seabridge Freight Services
Robert Yates Design
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

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

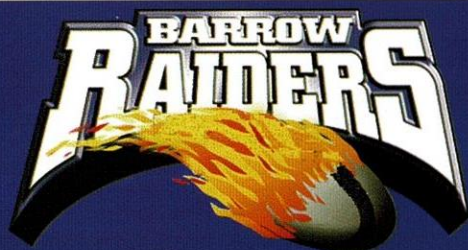
Referee: M Thomason  
 Touch: C Leatherbarrow, G Stokes  
 Fourth Official: J Callaghan

**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 promotion.

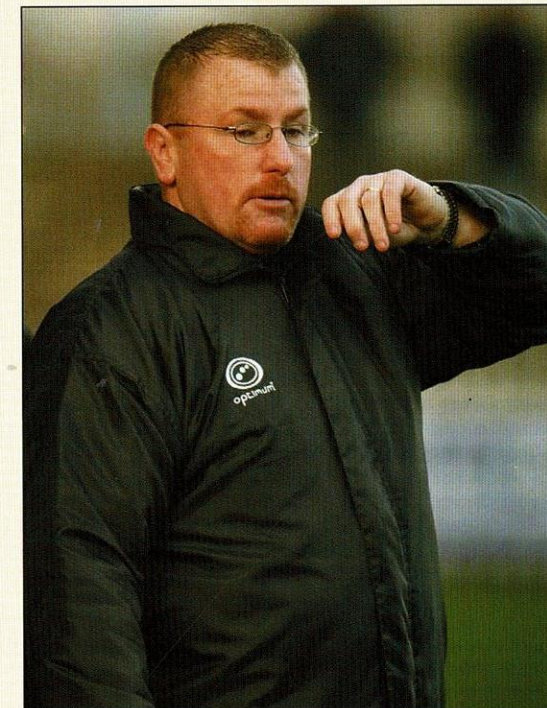
On paper Barrow will be the favourites to win this Challenge Cup tie but games are played out on the park not on paper, and we will need to give of our best to progress through to the next round.

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

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 address.



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

## Opening crowd was massively encouraging

A 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 man-of-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

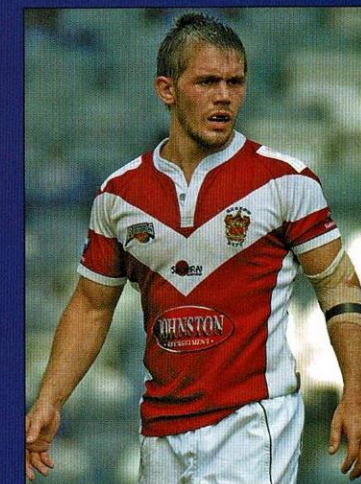
**By Vice-chairman DAVID SEAR**

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





# Featherstone v The Army



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

## FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

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 Iestyn 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
Lorne Mosley	MASCOT Bluebeard

COACH: DARYL POWELL

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: Iestyn Harris 7, Stuart  
 Dickens 7. DGs: -  
 MAN TO WATCH: Iestyn Harris

## BRITISH ARMY

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.	SQUAD (TO BE CONFIRMED)
	<b>Full back</b>		Corporal Ceri Cummings Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer
	<b>Right Wing</b>		Captain Tim Brewer Royal Engineer
	<b>Right Centre</b>		Sapper Ryan Taylor Royal Engineer
	<b>Left Centre</b>		Lance Corporal Tim Tamani Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer
	<b>Left Wing</b>		Lance Corporal Sam Catak Royal Army Dental Corps
	<b>Stand off</b>		Sergeant Paul Riley Royal Artillery
	<b>Stand off</b>		Lance Corporal Stu Butters Royal Engineer
	<b>Stand off</b>		Sergeant Dave Goddard Royal Engineer
	<b>Scrum half</b>		Corporal Rob Smart Royal Army Medical Corps
	<b>Prop</b>		Lance Corporal Rushi Naisau Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer
	<b>Hooker</b>		Lance Corporal Dean Wildbore Royal Engineer
	<b>Prop</b>		Corporal Ben Taylor Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer
	<b>2nd row</b>		Corporal Darrel Winn Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer
	<b>2nd row</b>		Gunner Carl Saville Royal Artillery
	<b>Loose forward</b>		Lance Corporal Inoke Veikune Royal Engineer
	<b>Interchange</b>		Private Max Vave Royal Logistic Corps PARA
			Corporal Dave Nunnerley PARA
			Sergeant Gary Debaughn Royal Armoured Corps
			Corporal Neville Boyd Royal Engineer
			Corporal Andre Zwijnen Infantry
			Lance Corporal Bruce Francis Royal Army Medical Corps
			Lance Corporal Modje Matau Royal Engineer
			Craftsman Komaisavai Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineer
			Kingsman Kaiwaidau Infantry
			Kingsman Sioni Tunisau Infantry

### SCORERS

Tries  
 Conv  
 Pens  
 DGs

COACH: RICHARD NAIVALURUA

### 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

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR  
 Round Two:  
 Featherstone Lions 12, The Army 30  
 Round One:  
 The Army 72, North Univ 0  
 Preliminary Round:  
 W London Sharks 10, The Army 22

## 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 yard. 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 battle.

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 own entertainment.

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 rugby league.

# 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



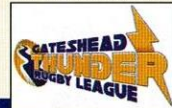
Brian Sutton takes the ball forward for Featherstone Lions against The Army in the second round this year

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

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
	1 Ben McAlpine
Accent Magazine & North East Times	2 Danny Wilson
Lady Cross Quarries	3 Kevin Neighbour
	4 Dylan Nash
The Wheatsheaf Pub	5 Stewart Sanderson
James & Matthew Wells	6 Neil Thorman
	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 -
O'Brien Sandwiches, Team Valley	20 Dave Vernon
	21 Ryan McBride
	22 Jamie Russo
	23 Jonny Scott
	24 -
	25 -
	26 Crawford Matthews
Dean Taxis 0191 444 4 444	27 Scott Woods
	28 Mark Dack
	29 Rhys Clarke
	30 Stephen Welton

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	<b>Full back</b>	
	<b>Right Wing</b>	
	<b>Right Centre</b>	
	<b>Left Centre</b>	
	<b>Left Wing</b>	
	<b>Stand off</b>	
	<b>Scrum half</b>	
	<b>Prop</b>	
	<b>Hooker</b>	
	<b>Prop</b>	
	<b>2nd row</b>	
	<b>2nd row</b>	
	<b>Loose forward</b>	
	<b>Interchange</b>	

No. PLAYER
1 Craig Benson
2 Craig Calvert
3 Rob Jackson
4 Derry Eilbeck
5 Ade Adebisi
6 Carl Rudd
7 Leroy Joe
8 Marc Jackson
9 Graeme Mattinson
10 Karl Edmondson
11 Howard Hill
12 Spencer Miller
13 Scott McAvoy
14 Danny Barker
15 Ryan McDonald
16 Andy Gorski
17 John Walker
18 John Patrick
19 Kyle Amor
20 Marc Bainbridge
21 Taani Lavulavu
22 Matt Tunstall
23 Marc Shackley
24 Gregg McNally
25 Jamie Theoharous

### SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: CHRIS HOOD

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: WW-LWL  
 LAST SIX HOME: WWWW-WW  
 TRIES: Stewart Sanderson 6, Dylan Nash 4, Joe Arundel 4  
 GOALS: Luke Branighan 8  
 DGs: -  
 MAN TO WATCH: Andrew Henderson

### MATCH OFFICIALS

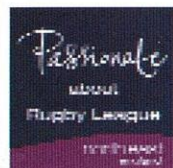
Referee: D Merrick  
 Touch: N Darbyshire, S Moss  
 Fourth Official: D Griffiths

### 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

Unfortunately, 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 March 15.

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 support

# 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 battles.

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.

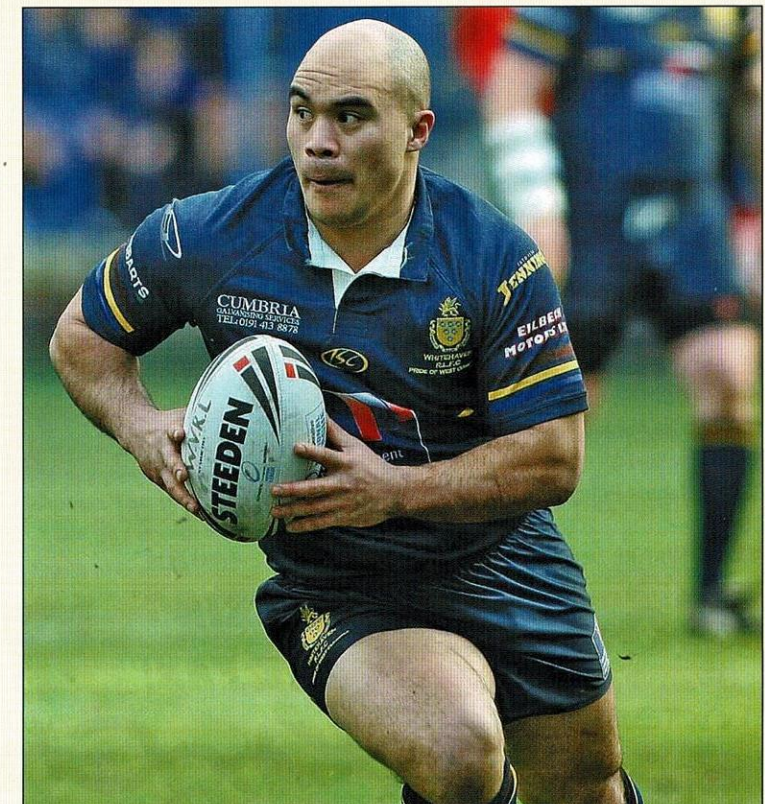
They are proof that great things can happen to good people if they work hard and never give up.

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

### 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
Complete Building Materials	16 Said Tamghart
	17 Frank Watene
	18 Andy Bowman
	19 Mick Govin
Chadwick Lawrence	20 Graham Charlesworth
	21 Neil Cherryholme
	22 David Wrench
Howard Posner	23 Rob Worrincy
	24 Gareth Moore

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	<b>Full back</b>	
	<b>Right Wing</b>	
	<b>Right Centre</b>	
	<b>Left Centre</b>	
	<b>Left Wing</b>	
	<b>Stand off</b>	
	<b>Scrum half</b>	
	<b>Prop</b>	
	<b>Hooker</b>	
	<b>Prop</b>	
	<b>2nd row</b>	
	<b>2nd row</b>	
	<b>Loose forward</b>	
	<b>Interchange</b>	

### SQUAD

Luke Dexter  
Jonny Farmer  
Jon Riley  
Martin Edwards  
Rhys Wynn Morgan  
Dan Kerr  
Andrew Killerby  
Simon Perry  
Jimmy Davis  
Ian Keevil  
Tom Howley (c)  
Steve Hall  
Aiden Pritchard  
Dan Ljazouli  
Simon Greenwood-Haigh  
Ed Branch  
Hamish Locke  
Nick Van Burren  
Tim Thompson Essex  
Harry Mostyn

### SCORERS

Tries  
Conv  
Pens  
DGs

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWW-WWW

LAST SIX HOME: DLLWL-W

TRIES: Sean Penkywicz 4,

Said Tamghart 3

GOALS: James Haley 10

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Sean Penkywicz

### 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.

**EVENING Courier**  
THE VOICE OF CALDERDALE

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linktelecom.co.uk

**COMPLETE**  
building materials Ltd

**BACKING THE FAX!**

Windsor Yarns

**KooGa**  
MADE FOR RUGBY

**HALIFAX**  
HALIFAX HOME INSURANCE

## CLUBCALL 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 in too.

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 belts.

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.

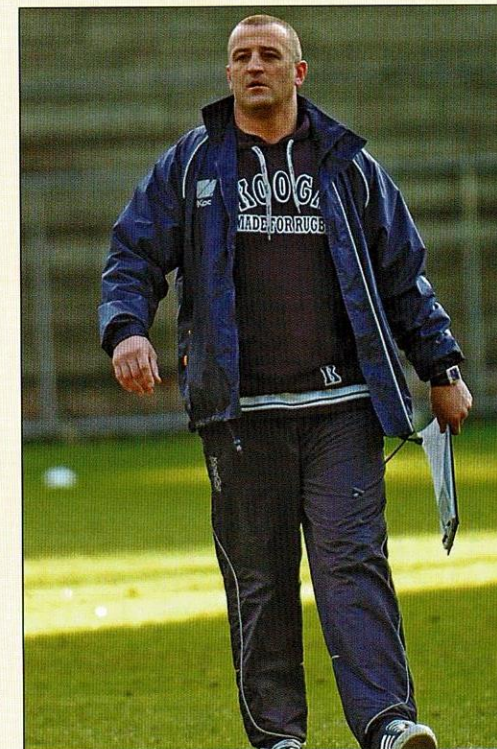
It's a learning curve for us at the moment though, we are still working on our combinations in a few areas of the team, but we are definitely heading in the right direction.

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

It 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 reputation 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 March 19.

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

## SALANQUE MÉDITERRANÉE PIA

### SPONSOR

Frank Atkins  
Dolphin Stairlifts  
The Clarksons  
Mr & Mrs Glover  
J&M Fisher  
Joyce Barret Hairdressers  
Phoenix Trophies  
Mr & Mrs Philips  
D & M Procter  
Swaggs Hair Studio  
Mr & Mrs Rothera  
Phil Lund Motor Engineers  
Mr & Mrs Rothera  
Oddities Giftware  
Mr & Mrs Bardgett  
Cougar Pride Centre  
J&M Fisher  
M Croft & T Pycroft  
R Weir Property  
Maintenance  
Rex Procter & Partners  
Frank Atkins  
Emily & Flynn Walker  
The Cox family

### No. PLAYER

1 George Raynor  
2 Sam Gardner  
3 Dan Potter  
4 Oliver Pursglove  
5 Gavin Duffy  
6 Jon Presley  
7 Danny Jones  
8 Andy Shickell  
9 James Feather  
10 Simon Bissell  
11 Will Cartledge  
12 Neil Lowe  
13 Carl Hughes  
14 Jermaine Wray  
15 Craig Brown  
16 Brendon Rawlins  
17 Scott Law  
18 Greg Nicholson  
19 Craig Fawcett  
Non-numbered:  
Dan Belcher,  
James Haythornthwaite  
Tom Bibby,  
Tom Hall  
Ben Saga  
Jack Copperwaite  
Karl Gunney

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
<b>Full back</b>		
<b>Right Wing</b>		
<b>Right Centre</b>		
<b>Left Centre</b>		
<b>Left Wing</b>		
<b>Stand off</b>		
<b>Scrum half</b>		
<b>Prop</b>		
<b>Hooker</b>		
<b>Prop</b>		
<b>2nd row</b>		
<b>2nd row</b>		
<b>Loose forward</b>		
<b>Interchange</b>		

### SCORERS

Tries  
Conv  
Pens  
DGs

### COACH: BARRY EATON

(sponsored by the Cox family)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WLWL

LAST SIX HOME: WWW-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

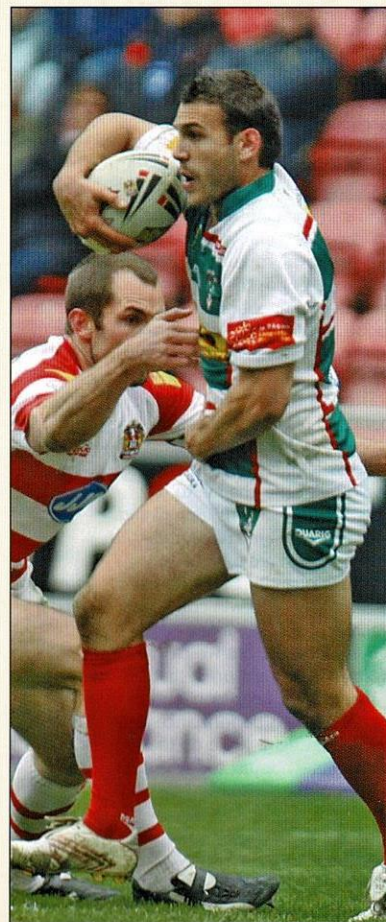
Referee: G Hewer

Touch: B Armstrong, B Leze

Fourth Official: S Barrie

### BENNETT'S BET

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



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

## CLUBCALL

## Keighley v SM Pia

# Warm welcome to Pia, Freddie and Gary



GOOD afternoon and welcome 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 know.

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 pop-

ular 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 team-work 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 22nd.

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 rooaarr cheer our boys onto victory.

See you soon.

**Helen Carter**  
General manager

Park Lane  
College Keighley

Sue Ryder Care  
Manorlands Hospice

We're with the Cougars!





# Leigh v Lokomotiv



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

## LEIGH CENTURIONS

## LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW

### SPONSOR

LISA  
Professor & Mrs Dale

Hattons Solicitors

CS Tyres

O'Neils  
Ask Platt  
Brick Design

Professor & Mrs Dale  
Leythers Messageboard  
Civil Solution

JR Taxis

### No. PLAYER

- 1 Stuart Donlan
- 2 Dave Alstead
- 3 Steve Maden
- 4 Tony Stewart
- 5 Nick Stanton
- 6 -
- 7 Ian Watson
- 8 Andy Hobson
- 9 Dave McConnell
- 10 Mike Morrison
- 11 Dave Armitstead
- 12 James Taylor
- 13 Aaron Smith
- 14 Ian Mort
- 15 Adam Higson
- 16 Chris Hill
- 17 -
- 18 Sam Reay
- 19 Adam Rudd
- 20 John Cookson
- 21 Dale Cunniffe
- 22 Jamie Smith
- 23 Martyn Ridyard
- 24 Dean Hatton
- 25 Adam Thomas

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

**COACH: NEIL KELLY**

**LAST SIX RESULTS: WL-WLWW**  
**LAST SIX HOME: LWLW-WW**  
**TRIES: Jamie Durbin 5, Martyn Ridyard 3, Steve Maden 3**  
**GOALS: Martyn Ridyard 10, Ian Mort 9**  
**DGs: -**  
**MAN TO WATCH: Aaron Smith**

### No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

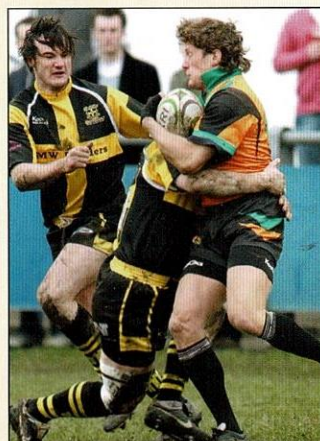
<b>Full back</b>	
<b>Right Wing</b>	
<b>Right Centre</b>	
<b>Left Centre</b>	
<b>Left Wing</b>	
<b>Stand off</b>	
<b>Scrum half</b>	
<b>Prop</b>	
<b>Hooker</b>	
<b>Prop</b>	
<b>2nd row</b>	
<b>2nd row</b>	
<b>Loose forward</b>	
<b>Interchange</b>	

### SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

### SQUAD

- Evgeny Bozhukov
- Denis Meshkov
- Andrey Medvedev
- Georgy Vinogradov
- Andrey Koltykhov
- Roman Ovchinnikov
- Nikolay Zagoskin
- Andrey Zdobnikov
- Mikhail Nisiforov
- Sergey Sidorov
- Fedor Komov
- Oleg Smimov
- Denis Korolev
- Sergey Dobrynin
- Alexander Lysenkov
- Valentin Baskakov
- Alexander Klebanov
- Sergey Matveev



**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"

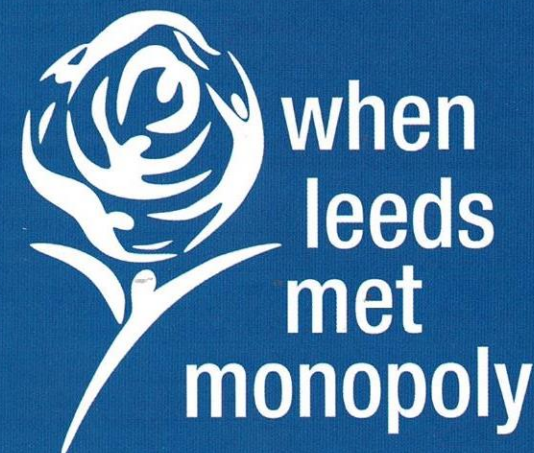
**CUP PEDIGREE....** Lokomotiv Moscow tackle the then National Two Celtic Crusaders in the third of the Challenge Cup in 2006

**We're supporting Leigh!**




# MONOPOLY

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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.

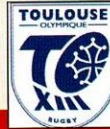
**There are hundreds of prizes to be won... so what are you waiting for?**

**Visit [www.leedsmet.ac.uk/monopoly](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/monopoly) to sign up now!**





# 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 Haworth, 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
Barnsley Industrial Training College	9 Grant Edwards
Jayne Whaling	10 Mitchell Stringer
Jack Smith	11 Alex Szostak
Hanlon & Wright	12 Ged Corcoran
Bethany, Ian & Jackie Swain	13 Dane McDonald
G4S Events	14 Andrew Boothroyd
Albion Detection Systems Ltd	16 Trevor Exton
Buckingham Insurance	17 Tom Buckenham
Zeenat Restaurant	18 Saqib Murtza
OSI	19 Kyle Wood
Walkabout Sheffield	20 Matty Brooks
AMCO	21 Aaron Groom
Village Shop, Oughtibridge	22 Ryan Hepworth
HAS Consultants Ltd	23 Tangi Ropati
Jack & Laura London	24 Matthew Whitaker
	25 James Morrow
Hancock & Todd	26 Nick Turnbull
Modis	27 Tommy Trayler
Richard & Andrea Brook	28 Damian Gibson
	31 Sam Barlow
Jill Swire	34 Eddie Battye
Mr & Mrs Lee	35 Dan Hawksworth

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  
 DGs: -  
 MAN TO WATCH: Ryan Hepworth

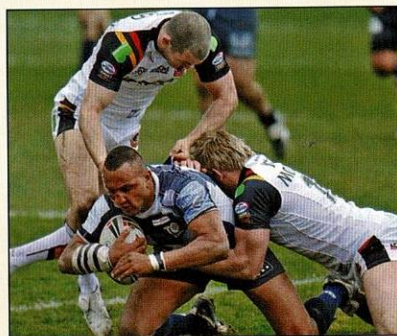
No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	<b>Full back</b>	
	<b>Right Wing</b>	
	<b>Right Centre</b>	
	<b>Left Centre</b>	
	<b>Left Wing</b>	
	<b>Stand off</b>	
	<b>Scrum half</b>	
	<b>Prop</b>	
	<b>Hooker</b>	
	<b>Prop</b>	
	<b>2nd row</b>	
	<b>2nd row</b>	
	<b>Loose forward</b>	
	<b>Interchange</b>	

### SCORERS

Tries  
 Conv  
 Pens  
 DGs

No. PLAYER
1 Rory Bromley
2 Sebastien Payan
3 Sebastien Planas
4 Damian Couturier
5 Joris Canton
6 Constant Villegas
7 Nathan Wynn
8 Brendan Worth
9 Martin Mitchell
10 Mathieu Griffi
11 Timothy Wynn
12 Mathieu Almarcha
13 Eric Anselme
14 Antoni Maria
15 Jerome Gout
16 Olivier Pramil
18 Adrien Viala
20 Sylvain Houles
21 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

### MATCH OFFICIALS

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

### BENNETT'S BET

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

PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHEFFIELD EAGLES!



## 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 again!

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-opera-

tive 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.

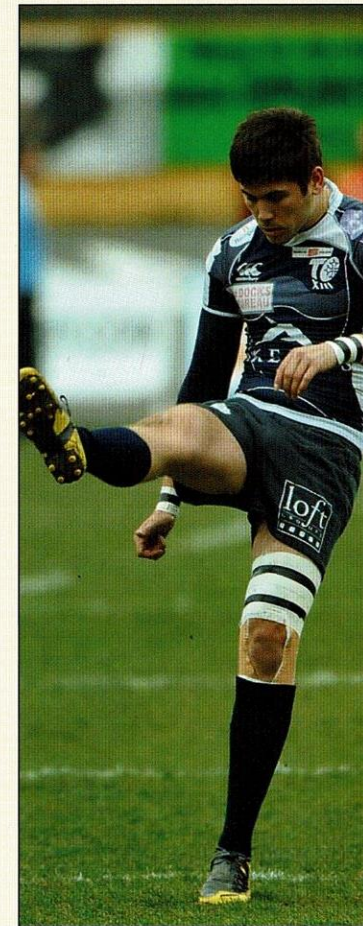
Those games were our first of the year - it was bit like coming out of the deep freeze. Each game we have thawed out a bit more.

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 one-off, 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



Mark Aston Toulouse player Constant Villegas

## We are used to these French firsts

I 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 charge.

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.





# Workington v Lezignan



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

## WORKINGTON TOWN

## FC Lezignan-Corbieres

- No. PLAYER
- 1 Jay Duffy
- 2 Neil Frazer
- 3 Andrew Beattie
- 4 Jason Mossop
- 5 Jamie Marshall
- 6 Carl Forber
- 7 Steve Roper
- 8 Ryan Benjafield
- 9 Jack Pedley
- 10 Dean Burgess
- 11 Mike Whitehead
- 12 Craig Hodgson
- 13 Mark Hobson
- 14 Brett Smith
- 15 James Robinson
- 16 Thomas Brindle
- 17 Peter Dobsob
- 18 Kris Coward
- 19 Scott Burgess
- 20 Stephen Dawes
- 21 Mark Routledge
- 22 Patrick Coupar
- 23 Martyn Wilson
- 24 Jarrad Stack
- 25 Harry Kaufman

POSITION SPONSOR	No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
Myers & Bowman		<b>Full back</b>	
Appletree Inn		<b>Right Wing</b>	
Jemcare		<b>Right Centre</b>	
To sponsor call 01900 603609		<b>Left Centre</b>	
To sponsor call 01900 603609		<b>Left Wing</b>	
Myers & Bowman		<b>Stand off</b>	
Myers & Bowman		<b>Scrum half</b>	
Ian Barnes Plumbing & Heating		<b>Prop</b>	
Hare & Hounds		<b>Hooker</b>	
Bradley Cass		<b>Prop</b>	
Beach Croft Sports		<b>2nd row</b>	
To sponsor call 01900 603609		<b>2nd row</b>	
To sponsor call 01900 603609		<b>Loose forward</b>	
The Ship Inn		<b>Interchange</b>	
Unblock Cumbria			
To sponsor call 01900 603609			
To sponsor call 01900 603609			

- No. PLAYER
- 1 Jarred Taylor
- 2 Grégory Mazard
- 3 Luke Hession
- 4 Cédric Bringuier
- 7 James Wynne (c)
- 8 Christopher Beattie
- 10 Adel Fellous
- 11 Philippe Laurent
- 13 Aurélien Cologni
- 14 Nicolas Manessi
- 19 Yoan Tisseyre
- 21 Franck Rovira
- 23 Alaster Brown
- 25 Cédric Lacans
- 26 Thibault Ancely
- 27 Aurélien Bourrel
- 30 Charly Clottes
- 34 Benoît Bienvenu

### SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

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: -

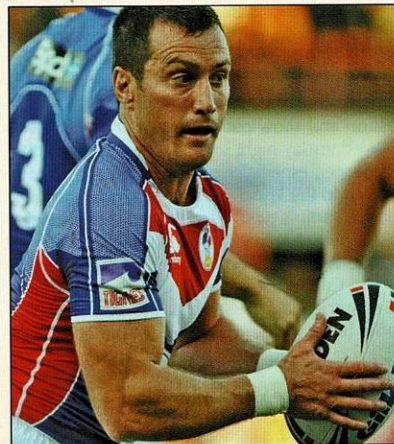
MAN TO WATCH: Carl Forber

### MATCH OFFICIALS

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

### BENNETT'S BET

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



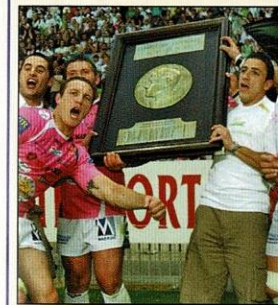
Lezignan captain James Wynn also played for France in the last World Cup

## CLUBCALL

## Workington v FC Lezignan

# World Cup experience in a dangerous team

By Dave Bowden  
Workington chairman



Lezignan celebrate winning the French Championship

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

The 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.

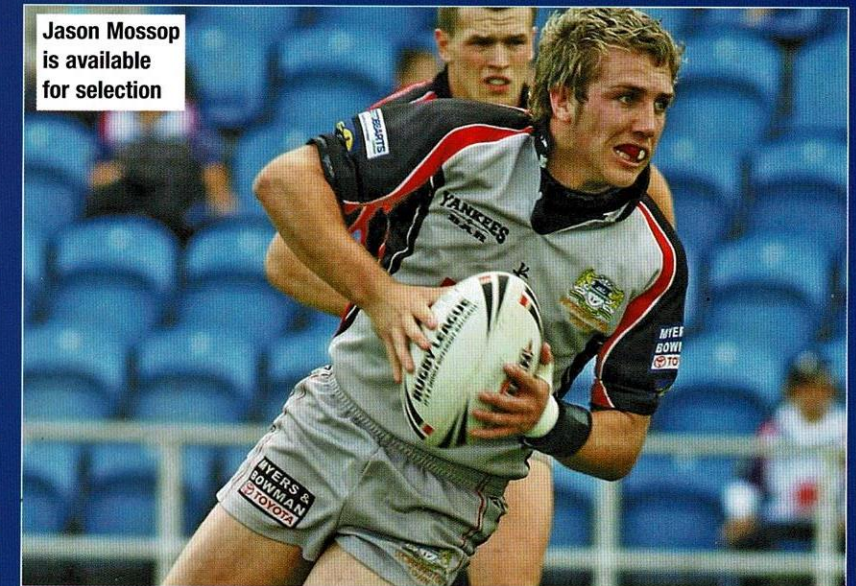
Now we have a Europe wide competition that includes all of the wider rugby league community.

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

Jason Mossop is available for selection



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

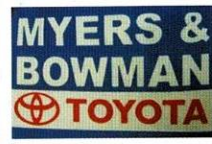
has now relocated himself to Lockerbie and has applied for a position at a gym in Carlisle. This will enable him to be obviously closer to us and this reflects his commitment and desire to push on his professional career.

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 Iestyn Harris summed up the good attitude of our players have shown throughout the season so far.

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

DAVE ROTHERAM











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# AHEAD OF THE GAME

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

Manly  
celebrate  
their win  
over  
Leeds



## 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 jettied 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**



# GET YOUR FIX...

Your guide to all the league and cup fixtures for 2009

## NORTHERN RAIL CUP



### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Keighley Cougars 40, Gateshead Thunder 20

### WEDNESDAY, 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

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Batley Bulldogs 18, Doncaster RLFC 22

Featherstone Rovers 10, Leigh Centurions 6

York City Knights 36, Whitehaven 6

Oldham 54, Hornets RL 4

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Widnes Vikings 40, Gateshead Thunder 18

### SUNDAY, 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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Barrow Raiders v Widnes Vikings

19:30

Halifax RLFC v Blackpool Panthers

20:00

## CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP



### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

#### THIRD ROUND

Keighley Cougars v Pia

19:00

Kells v Hunslet Hawks

18:00

Queens v Doncaster RL

15:00

Siddal v Swinton Lions

13:00

Widnes Vikings v Saddleworth Rangers

18:00

Workington v FC Lezignan-Corbieres

16:30

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

#### THIRD ROUND

Barrow Raiders v Blackpool Panthers

14:00

Dewsbury Rams v Carcassonne

15:00

Featherstone Rovers v British Army

15:00

Gateshead Thunder v Whitehaven

15:00

Halifax v Loughborough Univ

15:00

Leeds Met v Hornets RL

14:00

Leigh Centurions v Lokomotiv Moscow

15:00

Oldham Roughyeds v Sharlston Rovers

15:00

Pilkingtons v Batley Bulldogs

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

15:00

Sheffield Eagles v Leigh Centurions

15:00

Whitehaven v Gateshead Thunder

15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Oldham v Blackpool Panthers

15:00

### THURSDAY, MARCH 19

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

15:00

Gateshead Thunder v Barrow Raiders

15:00

Leigh Centurions v Batley Bulldogs

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

18:00

Barrow Raiders v Halifax RLFC

18:30

Widnes Vikings v Sheffield Eagles

18:00

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

CHAMPIONSHIP

Doncaster RLFC v Leigh Centurions

15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v Dewsbury Rams

15:00

Swinton Lions v Keighley Cougars

15:00

York City Knights v Blackpool Panthers

15:00

Hunslet Hawks v London Skolars

15:00

Oldham v Workington Town

15:00

### SUNDAY, APRIL 4

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

### THURSDAY, APRIL 9

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Sheffield Eagles v Doncaster RLFC

TBC

### FRIDAY, APRIL 10

CHAMPIONSHIP

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax RLFC v Batley Bulldogs

20:00

Gateshead Thunder v Featherstone Rovers

18:00

Barrow Raiders v Whitehaven

15:00

Sheffield Eagles v Doncaster RLFC

15:00

Widnes Vikings v Leigh Centurions

15:00

### CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v Oldham

15:00

Workington Town v Hunslet Hawks

15:00

Blackpool Panthers v Swinton Lions

15:00

Dewsbury Rams v London Skolars

15:30

Keighley Cougars v York City Knights

19:30

### MONDAY, APRIL 13

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers v Sheffield Eagles

15:00

Leigh Centurions v Barrow Raiders

13:00

Batley Bulldogs v Toulouse Olympique

15:00

Doncaster RLFC v Widnes Vikings

15:00

Whitehaven v Halifax RLFC

15:00

#### CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Workington Town

15:00

York City Knights v Rochdale Hornet

15:00

Hunslet Hawks v Keighley Cougars

15:00

London Skolars v Blackpool Panthers

15:00

Oldham v Dewsbury Rams

20:00

### THURSDAY, APRIL 16

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Gateshead Thunder v Sheffield Eagles

19:30

### FRIDAY, APRIL 17

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

15:00

Whitehaven v Featherstone Rovers

15:00

### THURSDAY, APRIL 23

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Leigh Centurions v Featherstone Rovers

19:30

### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders v Batley Bulldogs

18:30

### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax RLFC v Gateshead Thunder

15:00

Doncaster RLFC v Toulouse Olympique

14:00

Sheffield Eagles v Widnes Vikings

16:00

#### CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v London Skolars

15:00

Workington Town v York City Knights

15:00

Dewsbury Rams v Hunslet Hawks

15:00

Keighley Cougars v Blackpool Panthers

15:00

Oldham v Swinton Lions

15:00

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Featherstone Rovers v Halifax RLFC

19:30

### FRIDAY, MAY 1

CHAMPIONSHIP

Widnes Vikings v Barrow Raiders

2

# WHAT A RESULT!



## NORTHERN RAIL CUP 2009

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

POOL ONE

**Barrow Raiders 34**

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, Hendsen, 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. **Oldham 32**

Tries: Onyango, Reilly 3, O'Connor, Halliwell. Goals: Ballard. Half Time: 14-10. Attendance: 581.

**Sheffield Eagles 18**



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 34**

Tries: Epati, Bretherton 2, Wildey, Finn 2. Goals: Walker 5.

**Batley Bulldogs 14**

Tries: Preece, Stencheon, Armitage. Goals: Flanagan. Half Time: 8-14

Attendance: 1,512.

**Doncaster 36**

Tries: Green, Weeden 2, Jones, Reittie, Rounding. Goals: Briggs 5.

**Swinton Lions 28**

Tries: Rigby, Billy, Hayes, Newton, Hulse. Goals: Sneyd 4.

Half Time: 12-10.

Attendance: 645.

**Leigh Centurions 24**

Tries: Ridyard, Haggerty, Durbin, McConnell. Goals: Ridyard 4.

**Whitehaven 22**

Tries: Eilbeck, McNally 2, Lavulavu. Goals: M Jackson 3.

Half Time: 12-10.

Attendance: 1,789.

**Workington Town 6**

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 TABLES

	POOL ONE									
	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Pts	
Oldham (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	130	72	58	10	
Halifax (Q)*	3	3	0	0	0	128	38	90	9	
Widnes Vikings*	3	2	0	1	1	106	56	50	7	
Keighley Cougars	4	2	0	2	1	105	76	29	7	
Barrow Raiders*	3	2	0	1	0	98	59	39	6	
Gateshead Thunder	4	2	0	2	0	128	120	8	6	
Sheffield Eagles	4	2	0	2	0	108	132	-24	6	
B'pool Panthers*	3	1	0	2	1	58	88	-30	4	
Hornets RL	4	1	0	3	0	66	180	-114	3	
Hunslet Hawks	4	0	0	4	0	46	152	-106	0	

	POOL TWO									
	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Pts	
York C Knights (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	156	68	88	10	
Leigh Cent'ns (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	138	64	74	10	
Featherstone (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	106	46	60	10	
Dewsbury Rams	3	3	0	0	0	112	40	72	9	
Doncaster	4	3	0	1	0	104	90	14	9	
Whitehaven	4	2	0	2	1	106	102	4	7	
Batley Bulldogs	4	1	0	3	1	102	146	-44	4	
Swinton Lions	3	0	0	3	2	54	120	-66	2	
Workington Town	3	0	0	3	0	28	98	-70	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

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
Stuart Sanderson (Gates)	6		24	
Iestyn Harris (Feath)	2	7	22	
Ian 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	
Andy Speak (Dons)	1	7	18	
Luke Branighan (G'head)	1	7	18	
Adam Mitchell (York)	9	18		

## Leading try scorers

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 points for going into administration

## NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO 2008

	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

## NL TOP SCORERS 2008

### TRIES (All matches)

James Nixon (Barrow - pictured)	35
Paul White (Salford)	28
Martin Ainscough (Rochdale)	28
Luke Gale (Doncaster)	27
Richard Myler (Salford)	25

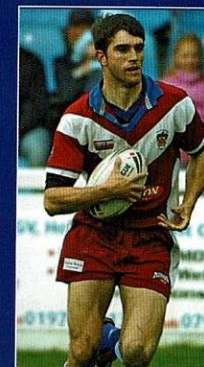
### GOALS (All matches)

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

(1) Drop goals included in total

### POINTS (All matches)

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



# KNOW YOUR STUFF?

## 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)

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

6, St Helens; 7, Huddersfield; 8, Bradford; 9, Eiland Road, Leeds. 10, Wigan and Dewsbury; 11, Kevin Iro; 12, Wigan; 13, Wigan; 14, Wigan; 15, Wigan.



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