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JULIE TAKES UP CHALLENGE TO QUIT SMOKING IN CLUB'S LINK WITH NHS

JULIE Cleave, the Roughyeds' commercial manager, faces the biggest challenge of her life ... with the help of our big-hearted full-back Paul O'Connor and the local NHS 'Stop Smoking' Service.

The Service, part of Oldham Community Health Services (which is part of NHS Oldham), has agreed to sponsor the tops worn by the Roughyeds players in their warm-up on the pitch before matches.

Hopefully, those tops will be worn for the first time before today's game against Dewsbury Rams.

And Julie (48), a heavy smoker for more than 30 years, has responded by going public with her promise to quit the habit.

"I could hardly carry on smoking 20 cigarettes a day," she said, "when, on behalf of the Roughyeds, I am involved with the club's link-up with the 'Stop Smoking' Service.

"I would have been embarrassed to carry on smoking - and now my challenge is out in the open I will be even more embarrassed if I don't succeed."

It was all due to start last Tuesday, so if anyone has seen her having a smoke since they can give her the yellow card for cheating.

Helping her to kick the habit will be two of the Service's advisers, Lorraine Greathead and our very own Paul O'Connor, last year's Spindles Town Square Shopping player of the year. More recently, he has just been named Spindles Town Square Shopping player of the month for March, 2009.

Said Paul: "I normally work with young people in schools and classrooms and places like that, but in this case I will be working alongside Lorraine in helping Julie to quit.

"We'll give her all the help and advice we can, but we know how hard it can be for people to kick the habit and in the end it will all depend on her will-power and determination. We can help and guide her, but in the end only Julie can make it work." Julie will help to launch the newly-branded 'Oldham Stop-Smoking Service' players' pre-match warm-up tops before our game against the Rams at Boundary Park today, one of our biggest matches of the season.

"We have teamed up with Roughyeds in the hope that we can encourage young people to give up smoking and lead a healthier lifestyle," said the manager of the 'Stop Smoking' Service, Liz Woodworth.

"As the club's commercial manager, Julie is keen to set a lead and we are delighted she is taking that initiative."

Will it be tough for Julie?

"It will be the biggest challenge of my life," she said. "I've been a smoker since I was 16. Kicking my addiction will be difficult enough, but I also know from past experience that I will have to go on a strict diet as well otherwise I will pile on weight if I can't rely on a cigarette and a cuppa at key times during the day. I used to weigh 18 stones, and I don't want to go back there.

"I'm determined to succeed in this, but I know I'll be pulling my hair out and I will certainly need all the counselling that Lorraine and Paul can give me.

"On the field, our gutsy full-back Paul has the heart of a lion -- and he'll need it if he is to help me come through this."

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v Dewsbury Rams

The Co-operative Championship 1
Sunday 19th April 2009 Kick-Off 3.00pm

Rams, Lions will test our title credentials

by ROGER HALSTEAD

ROUGHYEDS face two crucial home games in a row against opponents who will come to Boundary Park unbeaten in Co-operative Championship One.

Divisional pacesetters Dewsbury Rams and Swinton Lions have taken maximum league points so far, but it is fair to say that the Rams, today, and the Lions, next Sunday, will expect to be given their most thorough examination yet by Tony Benson's boys.

Having been beaten at Keighley last month, Oldham can't afford to slip up on home soil either today or next Sunday.

This championship challenge - for automatic

promotion and a £50,000 prize purse - looks likely to be a neck-and-neck race to the finishing post.

That's why Roughyeds issued an appeal this week, reported on the club website and published in the local press, for armchair supporters and stay-away fans to get down to Boundary Park today and next Sunday to help to cheer the team to victory.

The two home games in the Northern Rail Cup in February, against Rochdale and Sheffield, pulled in attendances of more than 1,000, but two home games since in Championship One and a home clash with French side Lezignan in the Carnegie Challenge Cup have failed to reach 900.

Blackpool (880), Workington (819) and Lezignan (863) were attendances that disappointed club officials, particularly in view of some record-breaking performances in recent outings.

And four-figure crowds at the Roughyeds' last two away games - 1,021 at Keighley and 1,249 at Rochdale on Good Friday - served only to place even more emphasis on the disappointing figures at Boundary Park.

"We have to see more people through the turnstiles," said chief executive Chris Hamilton, who pointed out that after the Hunslet Hawks game here on Sunday, May 17, Roughyeds will go two months without any income from Boundary Park league games because the ground will be closed for pitch repair work until mid-July.

There are three games to be played here before the shut-down - Dewsbury today, Swinton next Sunday and Hunslet Hawks on May 17 - and club officials will be hoping for greater backing for a side that has played some rip-roaring stuff in recent Boundary Park matches.

The agony... and the ecstasy!

Roughyeds went through the full range of emotions in a hard-fought derby clash at Rochdale on Good Friday before emerging victors by 26 points to 18 - the team's eighth win in ten games in all competitions so far this season.

It was **AGONY** when Marcus St Hilaire had a try disallowed for a forward pass; when Thomas Coyle was held up on the line; and when Luke Menzies (pictured) saw the ball shoot from his grasp as he went to touch down in a two-man tackle.

You can almost see Luke uttering 'Oh, bother' (or something like that . . .!) in this superb picture by our club photographer DAVID MURGATROYD which captures all the drama and excitement of a near-miss in a passionate derby battle.

It was 'so near, yet so far' for Luke, but later in the game agony turned to **ECSTASY** for Roughyeds when we triumphed with 16 unanswered points which included Stevie Gibbons's first try for the club; Andy Ballard's 11th of the season; and James Coyle's fourth in as many matches and his seventh overall this year.

It was the try that sealed victory . . . and put Tony Benson's boys in seventh heaven.



Pictures in this programme courtesy of Dave Murgatroyd.

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- **Monday** ~ the round-up and results from the weekend's games
- **Wednesday** ~ news and views from the Roughyeds
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More Rugby in your Chronicle

View from the inside...



Welcome back to Roughyed Stadium after a terrific win over our local rivals Hornets RL on Good Friday.

Whilst we certainly didn't play as well as we have done in other matches what we did do was to keep believing and having the determination and desire to keep going and come out on top in a match against opponents who were physical and fired up.

Those are the type of games we have lost in the past and the players can take a lot of credit for the way they refused to give up.

We made a lot of mistakes in the first half particularly but battled through and our opponents today, Dewsbury, will tell you how hard it is to win there having only made it themselves with a penalty in the last minute!

Another important factor in our win was the terrific support the team received from what was a large travelling support and it was almost like a home game.

The amount of vocal support the lads got made a difference and those of you present could see how much the team appreciated it by the reaction of the players after the final hooter.

With another set of games on Easter Monday the division has again shown how tough it will be in 2009 with some unexpected wins and everybody at the club knows that we must be focused in every match.

The visitors today will provide one of our toughest matches of the season with both sides being tipped to do well (although after the last two seasons the favourites tag means nothing as far as we are concerned!) and there is no doubt whatsoever that both teams will want to be coming away with the three points.

This game was re arranged due to the difficulties with using the ground on Easter Monday and it is only the first in a series of Plan Bs that the club has had to come up with as we approach the time when our pitch - and indeed those of other venues we would like to play at - are out of commission due to pitch renovation work.

The matches against Gateshead in the Carnegie Challenge Cup and Featherstone in the Quarter Final of the Northern Rail Cup being just two such examples.

The Reserves kicked off their season last Friday against Hunslet and we all wish them luck as we hope to unearth some more potential professional players.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and please spread the message to friends and colleagues about what they are missing by not watching THEIR team because we certainly are providing value for money with good entertaining rugby.

Keep up the noise and get behind the lads in today's match.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

Chief Executive

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Breaking new ground at Darlington Arena



OUR fifth round Carnegie Challenge Cup tie away to Gateshead Thunder will be

staged on Saturday, May 9 (3.00pm kick-off) in the 25,000 all-seat stadium at the Darlington Arena, home of Darlington Football Club.

Roughyeds have announced that the switch from the Gateshead International Stadium to Darlington had been agreed because Thunder's usual home was unavailable to them on the weekend of the fifth-round ties. Said chief executive Chris Hamilton: "A junior athletics meeting is taking place at the Gateshead International Stadium over that weekend so Thunder had to find an alternative venue.

"We offered them the possibility of a switch to Boundary Park, but that offer was politely refused.

"Gateshead have now been in touch with us to confirm that we'll be breaking new ground in taking part in the first rugby league game ever to be played at Darlington FC's 25,000-seat stadium."

The tie will take place on Saturday, May 9 (3.00pm kick off) and admission prices are fixed at £11 for adults and £5 for concessions.

ROUGHYEDS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE TIE WILL HAVE TO BE ALL-TICKET, DETAILS OF WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC BY NOW.

Added Mr Hamilton: "Like many modern stadiums, Darlington has no cash-turnstile facilities so entry has to be by ticket."

This will be Gateshead's first-ever appearance in the fifth round of the Challenge Cup and the tie will become the first professional rugby league game ever to be played in County Durham.

Thunder have explained to their fans that a football play-off final is provisionally booked for the Gateshead International Arena on the Friday night, with the stadium booked out for the athletics meeting on the Saturday and the Sunday.

Rod Findlay, Thunder's chief executive officer, said: "Gateshead Thunder has always been a rugby league club for the North-East, and not just for Tyneside. Our home is currently Gateshead and we have played matches in Newcastle.

"However, when it was clear that the Gateshead International Stadium would not be available it made sense to take the game on the road to Darlington."

Chris Hood, Thunder's head coach, added: "This fifth-round tie is a massive match for Thunder, with the quarter-finals beckoning if we beat Oldham.

"It is important that the venue for the tie is top quality for players and fans alike. I am really pleased that Darlington Arena and Darlington Football Club have agreed to help us out and I know the players will be looking forward to playing in such a great stadium."

WHERE AND WHEN WE PLAY



Date	Comp	Opponents	V	Time	Res	Score	Att
Fri, Feb 13	NRC	Widnes Vikings	A	7.30pm	W	22-20	2,783
Wed, Feb 18	NRC	Rochdale Hornets	H	7.30pm	W	54-4	1,028
Sun, Feb 22	NRC	Sheffield Eagles	H	3.00pm	L	22-34	1,173
Sun, Mar 1	NRC	Hunslet Hawks	A	2.00pm	W	32-14	582
Sun, Mar 8	CCC3	Sharlston Rovers	H	3.00pm	W	26-8	800
Sun, Mar 15	CC1	Blackpool Panthers	H	3.00pm	W	36-18	880
Sun, Mar 22	CC1	Keighley Cougars	A	3.00pm	L	26-34	1,021
Sun, Mar 29	CC1	Workington Town	H	3.00pm	W	66-14	819
Sun, April 5	CCC4	Lézignan	H	3.00pm	W	60-30	863
Fri, April 10	CC1	Rochdale Hornets	A	3.00pm	W	26-18	1,249
Sun, April 19	CC1	Dewsbury Rams	H	3.00pm			
Sun, April 26	CC1	Swinton Lions	H	3.00pm			
Sat, May 2	CC1	London Skolars	A	3.00pm			
Sat, May 9	CCC5	Gateshead Thunder	A	3.00pm			
Sun, May 17	CC1	Hunslet Hawks	H	3.00pm			
Sun, May 24	CC1	Swinton Lions	A	3.00pm			
Sun, May 31		Carnegie GC (Quarter-Final)					
Sun, June 7	NRCQF	Featherstone Rov.	H	3.00pm			
Sun, June 21		NRC (Semi-Final)					
Thurs, June 25	CC1	York City Knights	A	7.30pm			
Sun, July 5	CC1	Workington Town	A	3.00pm			
Sun, July 12		NRC Final (Bloomfield Road)					
Sun, July 19	CC1	Keighley Cougars	H	3.00pm			
Sun, July 26	CC1	Dewsbury Rams	A	3.00pm			
Sun, Aug 2	CC1	Rochdale Hornets	H	3.00pm			
Thurs, Aug 6	CC1	London Skolars	H	7.30pm			
Sun, Aug 16	CC1	Blackpool Panthers	A	3.00pm			
Sun, Aug 23	CC1	York City Knights	H	3.00pm			
Sun, Sep 6	CC1	Hunslet Hawks	A	3.00pm			

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Grand Finals Day Sunday, October 4

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PLAYER PROFILE

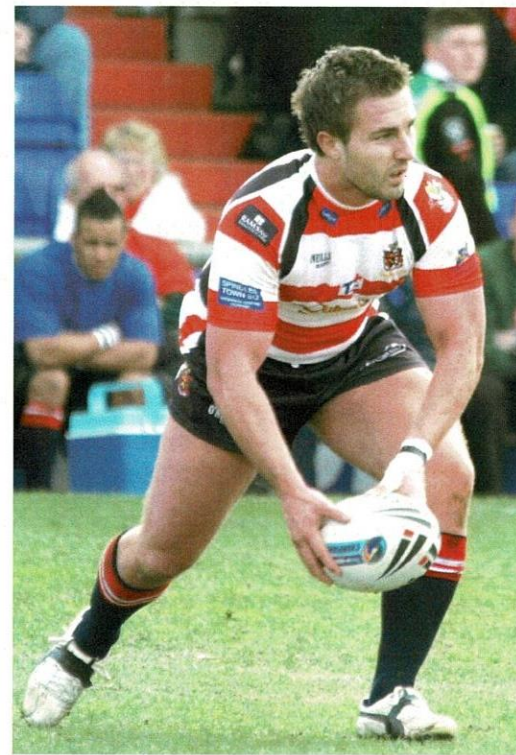
No 7 GARY SYKES

Roger Halstead talks to a Wiganer who was 'hooked' when he first played at No 9 and scored a hat-trick!

WHILE many of the more experienced Oldham players come from Yorkshire - Rob Roberts, Marcus St Hilaire, Paul Reilly, Richard Mervill and Lee

Greenwood, for example - the Roughyeds are making a habit of putting their faith in youngsters who carry the "made in Wigan" tradema

Andy Ballard (22), James Coyle (23), Thomas Coyle (20), Dave Allen (23) and Gary Sykes (22) were all raised and nurtured by Wigan Warriors and, with the



exception of Widnesian Allen, all were born and bred in arguably the most famous rugby league town in the world.

Across the last eight years or so nobody at Oldham has flown the flag for Wigan so proudly or so consistently well as Neil Roden and if the next generation of lads from that neck of the woods do half as well for the Roughyeds then supporters can settle back and look forward to the good times.

One who hopes to do just that is Gary Sykes, whose formative years in his chosen sport were spent with Ballard, the Coyle brothers and Allen in the Wigan academy of rugby league skills and sciences under the caring eyes of tutors like Shaun Wane, Denis Betts and Adrian Lam.


Gary was reared on Wigan. As a small boy his dad Terence would take him to Central Park to marvel at the feats of Offiah, Edwards, Lydon, Gregory, Hanley and company and if he wasn't hero-worshipping the greats of the game he would be learning how to pass and tackle at St Cuthbert's, where his uncle was chairman.

By the time he was ten he was at St Jude's, and after winning town-team honours at under-15 and under-16 his dream came true when he signed his first professional contract with the Warriors.


A young man in a hurry, and talented with it, Gary made his debut for Wigan under-18s when he was 15 and for the under-21s when he was 16.

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In those early days he played mainly in the second-row or at loose-forward, but it was his then coach David Lyon who decided, when Gary was 18 and in his third season with the Warriors, that he was never going to be tall enough for a back-row forward in the modern game.

"He said he wanted to try me at hooker," recalled Gary this week, "so he picked me there for an under-21s game against Widnes and in my first ever game at hooker I was chuffed to bits to score a hat-trick."

Thus a new, and decisive, chapter in the Sykes story was penned. Gary has regarded himself as a hooker first and foremost ever since, but not all his coaches have taken the same view. Of that, more later.

Gary was to leave Wigan and move down the road to Leigh in 2006 where his new boss was a certain Tony Benson, now his coach at Oldham. He had a good season at Hilton Park, but it coincided with the club going through the trauma of downgrading from full-time professionalism to part-time.

Gary takes up the story. "There was a lot of uncertainty," he said, "so I had to think long and hard about my future and what I was going to do outside rugby league. I started looking for a job, but I also went back to Wigan and spent the 2007 season there under Stuart Wilkinson."

Swinton Lions was the next port of call, in 2008, and for the first time in his sporting life Gary felt he was being indirectly penalised because he could run a bit.

"I've always been reasonably fast," he said, "and because of that a lot of people have tended to think of me as a player with wing or centre potential. It was annoying really, because hooker was my position, and I don't mind loose-forward, but I couldn't see anything down for me in the backs."

"Anyway, Paul Kidd (Swinton coach) saw I was fast and played me in a few different places, but my heart wasn't in it even though I played centre against Oldham and I must have done okay."

"When it came the time to be looking for a move I spoke to Coyley (James Coyle) and he strongly recommended Oldham as a good club to be at. Everything moved on from there and that's how I come to be with the Roughyeds now."

Gary, who has an older sister, Stephanie, is enjoying his rugby at Oldham and enjoying being back in the same squad as the lads he grew up with.

He went on: "Tony (Benson) is giving me the opportunity to play a lot at hooker and it's great to be playing alongside so many of the lads I was with at Wigan."

"In our early days with amateur clubs, James and Thomas Coyle were at St Pat's and Andy Ballard and I were at St Jude's, but we all came together at the Warriors and we went right through the system there, from scholarship to under-21s, as did Dave Allen."

"Hooker is not one of the easiest positions to play. You are charging about all over the field and you are working hard every single minute you are on the pitch. But its the position I enjoy playing most and it the one I want to challenge for."

"My personal goals for the season are to get a lot of game time at hooker and to play my part in helping the team to win automatic promotion."

Sport is never far away from Gary's routine. For when he isn't training or playing for Oldham, he is working in his full-time job as a personal trainer in Wigan for D W Fitness, a company owned by Dave Whelan.

He names Wane, Betts and Lam as the men who have had the biggest influence on his career so far, describing Wane as "more of a mate than a coach"; Betts as the man "who hardened you up and got you firing"; and Lam as "the rugby technician with all the skills, and a good teacher too."

He added: "All three gave me a good grounding and helped to shape me. They were excellent in their

different ways. Lam wasn't only a first-class player, he was a good teacher as well. The Coyles, as half-backs, learned a lot from him." Favourite modern-day player? "It's got to be Keiron Cunningham," he said. "He's the best -- forthright, direct, a player who rarely makes a mistake or misses a tackle and one who terrorises defences from dummy half."

Like all good Wiganers, the Challenge Cup still means a lot to Gary. He enjoyed the Lezignan tie and he is eagerly looking forward to Gateshead Thunder in the next round.

"The French were very strong," he said, "and were good with ball in hand, but they were not as good defensively as they might have been. They wanted to rush in all the time and do the big hits instead of laying off a little to see what we were doing with the ball, and that left them exposed."

"Gateshead is a good draw for the Oldham team and for the club because it gives us a good chance of progressing to the quarter-finals although I guess they will think the same. They are in a higher division and they have home advantage so we'll be going up there as outsiders and that should suit us fine."

"If we do make it through I would like a glamour club next ... Wigan would do nicely."



Gary will be 'hooked' himself next year -- he is engaged to be married to his fiancée Zoe Gregory on May 2, 2010.


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OLDHAM players and officials were united in their praise of Lezignan after the Roughyeds had beaten the French champions 60-30 at Boundary Park to set up a fifth-round Carnegie Challenge Cup tie against Gateshead Thunder on Saturday, May 9 (3.00pm) at the Darlington Arena, home of Darlington FC.

"Lezignan were the best team we have played this season," said Roughyeds chief executive Chris Hamilton in the boardroom presentations after the game.

"They are one of the best attacking sides I have ever played against," added Carnegie man-of-the-match winner Thomas Coyle.

"I can imagine that, for supporters, some of Lezignan's attacking stuff would have been a pleasure to watch," said Roughyeds full-back Paul O'Connor, the club's Spindles player of the month for March.

"They are a very, very good side - defensively and offensively - and I hope people appreciate how well we played to break them down and score 60 points," said Roughyeds coach Tony Benson.

It was an historic occasion for the new Oldham club, who played French opposition for the first time and who made it a civic occasion by inviting the mayor of Oldham, Councillor Shoab Akhtar.

On the field, the Roughyeds record breakers continued to keep the statisticians busy. By scoring 60 points only seven days after putting 66 past Workington, they set a new, all-time Oldham record as the first Roughyeds team ever to score 60 or more in two consecutive matches.

On a similar theme, Andy Ballard's 28 points to add to the 30 he scored against the Cumbrians meant that he became the first player in Oldham history to score as many as 58 points in any two back-to-back games.

Tony B added: "The whole team deserves recognition. I am really happy for the fans and for everyone at the club that we have reached the fifth round. It's a fantastic achievement and it was a great experience for everyone here to have played against French opposition.

"I am just proud to be at this fantastic club and to be with a great set of boys. Lezignan, quite rightly, had received a lot of very positive press pre-match and in view of the fact that we went into the tie without so many senior players - all genuinely injured - I thought the boys who came in did exceptionally well to rise to the challenge."

In the boardroom after the game Mr Hamilton had done a prepared speech for the first time in his 12 years at the club - and he had done it because he delivered the speech in French.

With the help of interpreters, both clubs exchanged souvenirs and the usual post-match courtesies.



Flanked by the Mayor, Councillor Shoab Akhtar, Mr Hamilton said the Oldham team had produced a fantastic effort to beat a good Lezignan side that was very difficult to play against."

Jacques Laguens, a president of Lezignan, congratulated Oldham on their victory and added: "You (Oldham) have the potential to move up to division one and we wish you well in that and also for the rest of the season."

Thomas Coyle received his official Carnegie man-of-the-match award from the Carnegie representative Isabell Hodgson.

The Oldham club's champagne-moment award was won by Luke Menzies for his all-round effort, while Paul O'Connor was presented with his Spindles player-of-the-month award for March by Mike Flanagan, the Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre manager.

Said Mike: "Paul has had a great season so far and he fully deserves this award. As for Lezignan, I thought they were great ambassadors for their club and for their town."



The French left for home having made new friends in Oldham and having shown that the game across the Channel is indeed growing in stature at all levels.

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'My win was a hollow one,' says disappointed champ

by ROGER HALSTEAD

THE 'Mighty' Quinn did it again! Living up to his top-of-the-bill rating, our boxing chairman Bill Quinn outpointed rugby league legend Garry Schofield over three rounds at Batley to follow up his win in Bolton last year against Kiwi tough guy Brad Hepi.

Around 600 fans were in the Batley Frontier Club to watch a night of boxing at a Steve Prescott Foundation promotion to raise funds for the Rugby League Benevolent Fund and cancer charities supported by the Foundation.

There was a sizeable Roughyeds contingent there - officials, staff, players and fans - to give their support to Bill and the two Oldham players who were also in action in the ring, Phil Joseph and Paul Reilly.

Joseph drew his fight with Andy Burland of Dewsbury, but the contest between Reilly and Billy Downes of Featherstone was stopped early and declared 'no contest' when Downes suffered a dislocated shoulder.

The top-of-the-bill fight brought Quinn and Schoey head to head amid growing anticipation.

One onlooker said: "Quinn totally outboxed his opponent over three rounds. Schoey went after him but couldn't get near him, while Bill kept scoring with jabs and combinations. I think he surprised a lot of people with the quality of his ring work."

At the end referee Steve Collins - the former boxer - raised Bill's arm in victory, just as he had done last year when Quinn outpointed Hepi at another Steve Prescott Foundation promotion.

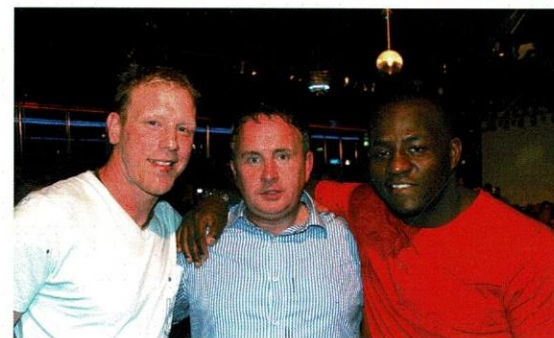
But the victor wasn't entirely satisfied with his night's work, revealing later that he had been told to treat his bout like an exhibition match rather than a genuine contest like the other bouts on the bill.

Said Bill: "There were some fantastic fights, all the lads got stuck in and the event was a credit to everyone who took part.

"On a personal note, though, I was disappointed even though I got the verdict. Steve Collins, the referee, had a word with me in my corner before the fight and said Schoey wanted an exhibition match so no heavy shots please.

"At the end of round one I was told to 'watch those heavy shots'. In round two I invited Schoey to come and hit me, and then in round three I was starting to go at him half way through the round and they rang the bell.

"When you do loads of training and take it seriously for the people who are paying to come and watch you expect a proper bout. In that respect I was definitely disappointed. I know I won, but I would have preferred a proper scrap."



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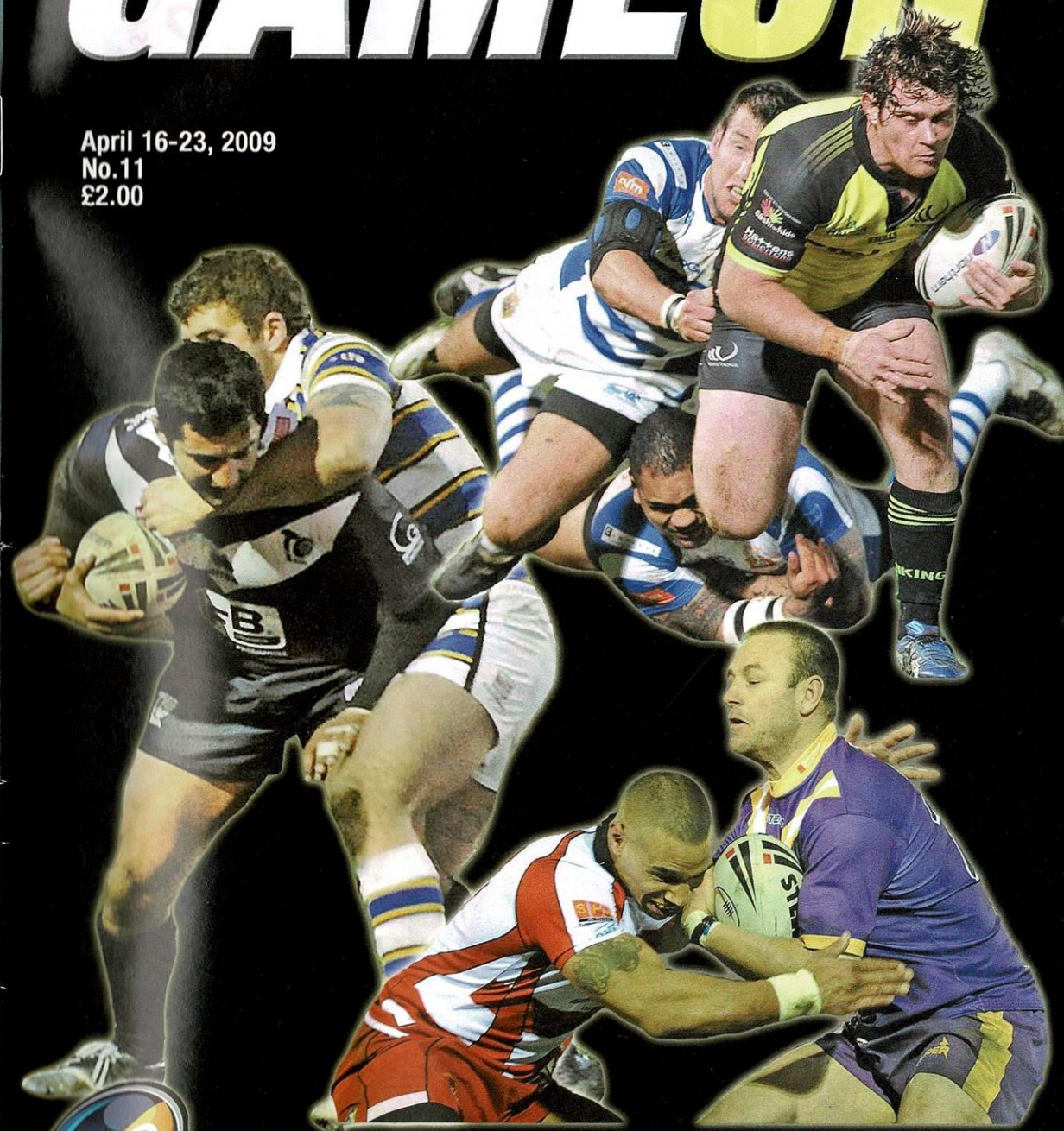
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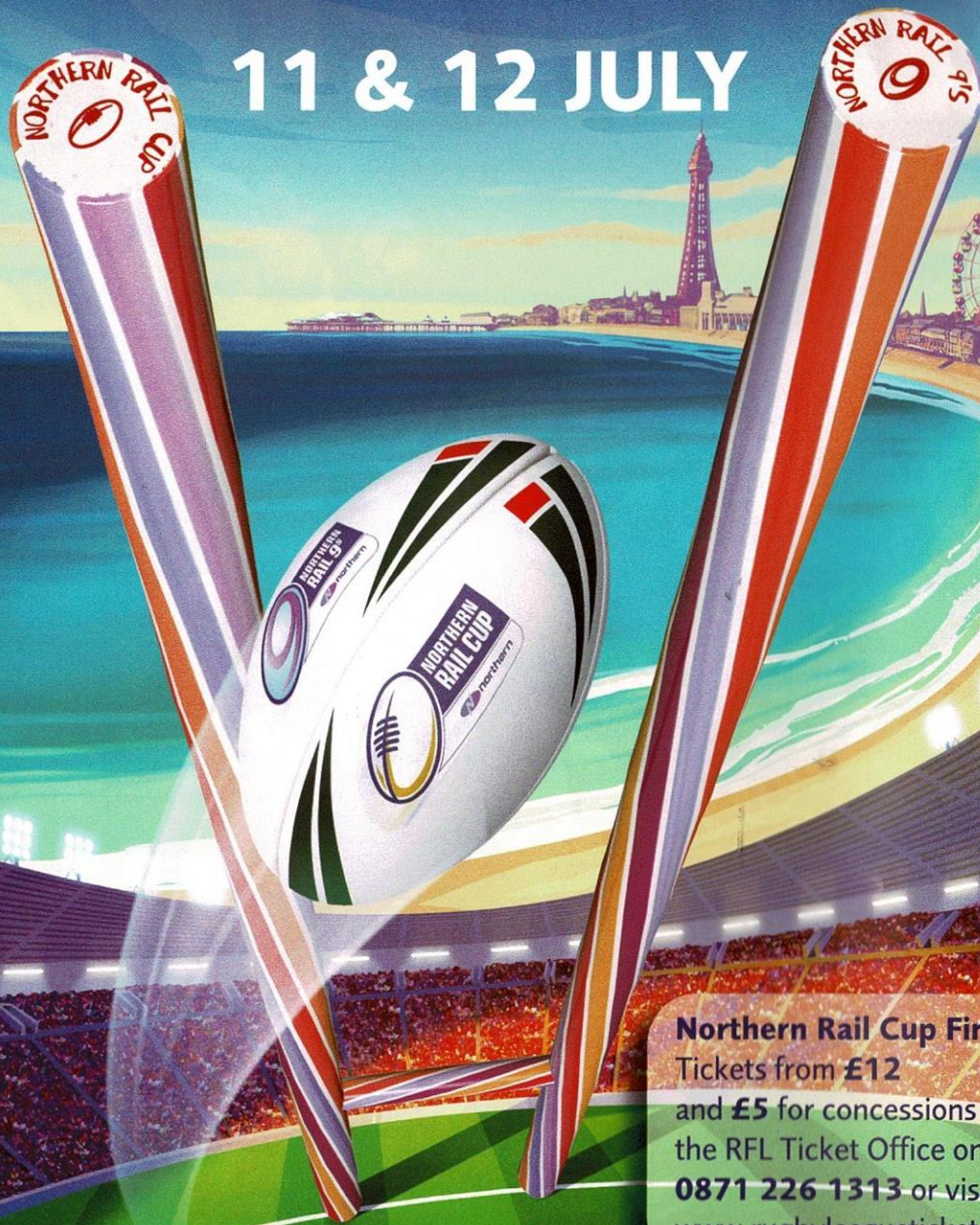


INSIDE: GATESHEAD IN FOCUS

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NEXT WEEK

SPREADING THE WORD...

*We look at the
work carried out
by Workington*

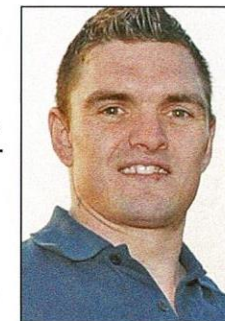


NEWSROUND-UP

WUNDERKID Gregg McNally continues to set the world of rugby league alight, notching all of Whitehaven's points – including a try hat-trick – despite the toppled leaders' home defeat by high flying Halifax.

With 18 tries already to his name this season and 34 successful goalkicks for good measure, coach Ged Stokes will be keeping his fingers crossed that Huddersfield Giants continue their own massive strides in the elite league.

McNally who is 'home on loan' from the Giants – as opposed to 'home alone' although he is barely old enough to go out without parental supervision! – couldn't prevent it being a disappointing weekend however for Haven.



Ex-Dewsbury and York star
Danny Brough

PROOF that the Co-operative Championships are a good place for players to cut their teeth before hitting the big time comes in Wakefield half-back Danny Brough.

Brough starred for both his hometown Dewsbury and York before being picked up by Hull, and arriving at Belle Vue via Castleford.

The talented Scotland international was in contrite mood last week however, presenting a signed ball to a young fan who ended up with a broken wrist while trying to field one of Brough's kicks during the game against Wigan!

HALIFAX'S perfect start to the season has earned them a 5th round place in the Carnegie Challenge Cup among other things and their next opponents, Castleford, will not be taking

things for granted.

Tigers coach Terry Matterson, whose club are enjoying a rich vein of form of their own, said: "They may not be in Super league but they may as well be the way they are playing and the squad they have got."

"They will fancy their chances of causing an upset. They will come here with nothing to lose and that can be a dangerous frame of mind for a team to have."

Meanwhile Gateshead Thunder, delighted at earning their own first-ever place in a 5th round draw, will break even more new ground when they entertain Oldham.

Their Gateshead International Arena is not available for the weekend with a big athletics event in the diary, so the Tynesiders are taking the game on the road to neighbouring County Durham and the Darlington

Arena, home of the football league club.

Despite the change of venue, promoted Thunder will still be hopeful of topping their Co-operative Championship 1 opponents and booking an unprecedented quarter-final cup spot.

THE RFL has stepped in to try and get Keighley's Aussie packman Brendan Rawlins back in the country. He's been stranded in Oz despite having got paperwork clearance which just hasn't turned up.

AN EASY weekend for the Championship 1 clubs (Oldham and Dewsbury apart) who don't have a game? Not if you're a Workington Town player. Coach Dave Rotherham is packing the lads off for a army training at Catterick! Ouch...

RFL – official notes

RESPECT

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

ANTI-RACISM POLICY

The RFL's 'Tackle It' policy states it will not tolerate racism of any kind and will take specific action against spectators who engage in racist chanting, abuse or intimidation. Rugby League is a great

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

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PITCH

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

Gateshead hope for a perfect 10

It has been quite a ten-year journey for Gateshead, who started life in the top flight back in 1999. Fresh from promotion last year they are determined to work their way back into Super League. **GAME ON** reports

THIS year was always going to be a momentous one for Gateshead Thunder. It is the 10th anniversary of the club's foundation, with Gateshead being granted a Super League franchise for the 1999 season.

The Thunder ensured they would spend the year playing in the second tier after winning National League Two last season. But the reasons to celebrate just keep coming.

Gateshead beat Doncaster to reach the fifth round of the Challenge Cup for the first time in their history before being handed a home draw against Oldham for a place in the quarter-finals.

And with the Thunderdome (otherwise known as Gateshead International Stadium) being booked up for the second weekend of May, the club have had to find another venue for the tie.

The Oldham match will now be staged at Darlington Arena on May 9, making it the first professional rugby league match to be played in County Durham.

"We've always stressed that the club's for the North East, not just for Tyneside," said chief executive Rod Findlay.

"The last three years we've played games at Kingston Park, Newcastle Falcons' ground, and we didn't even think of asking them this time.

"It's a perfect opportunity to take our-

selves out to another area, to show we're a team for the North East, and hopefully help out another sporting club.

"Darlington football club have had a tough time of late and are still in administration so it'll be good if we can help them out."

Gateshead have had many financial problems of their own during their brief existence, being forced into an ill-fated merger with Hull Sharks and later going into administration.

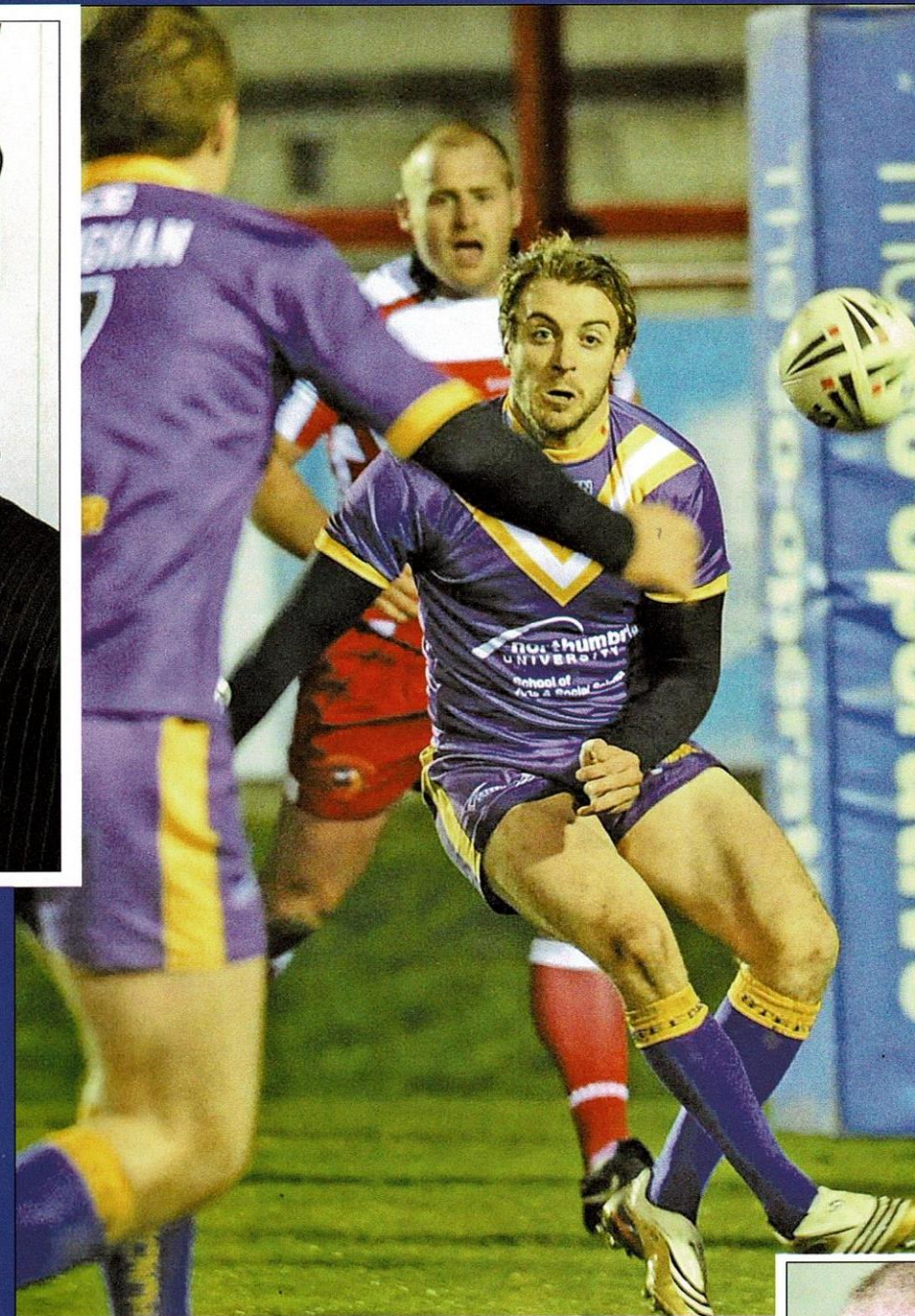
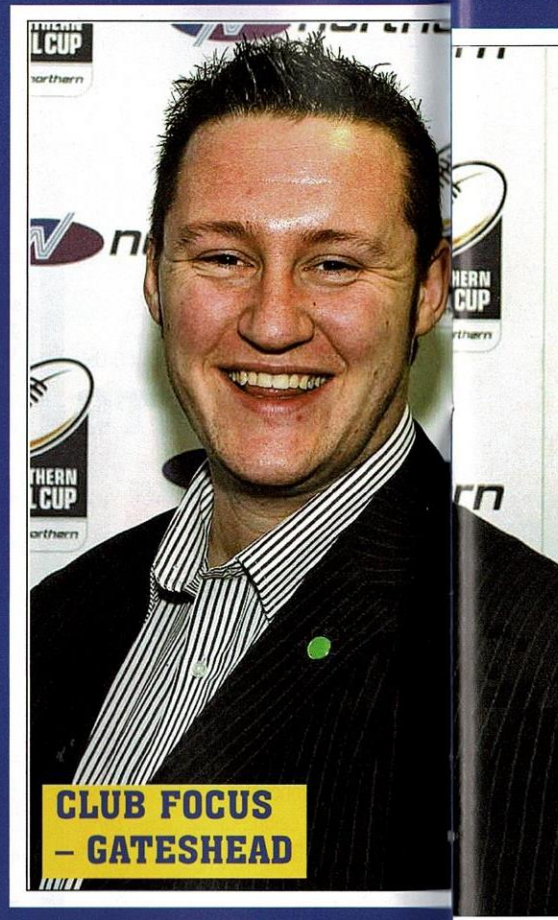
The arrival of Steve Garside as owner in 2005 stabilised the club and they have since progressed steadily in all departments.

While fellow Co-operative Championship newcomers Doncaster are struggling to get by after their backers pulled out, Findlay has assured local rugby league fans there is no such concerns at Gateshead.

"We've got a three to six-year plan to cement our place in the Co-operative Championship, increase the fan-base and eventually to return to Super League," he said.

"The owner started by investing in the playing and coaching staff, and we've seen the benefit of that with promotion last year.

"He's now investing off the field and I don't think he'd be doing that if his inten-



'Chris (Hood) was captain in that first match and our current captain, Neil Thorman, was a ballboy'
ROD FINDLAY, Thunder chief executive

FAR LEFT - coach Chris Hood, (left) Neil Thorman and Dave Woods (below)

tions weren't long-term.

"I was appointed last November, we've also appointed a Commercial Manager and we're looking to appoint a Community Development Manager so we're looking to replicate the success we've had on the pitch with success off the pitch as well, and we've already seen quite a few results.

"We've had sponsors renew and we've set up relationships that perhaps haven't previously existed, such as with the Regional Development Agency for the North East, Gateshead Council and local businesses.

"We have people on board that can go out and do the networking that's necessary, and it's not been hard work generating goodwill because a lot of people want to be associated with the club."

Gateshead are hoping the switch to Darlington will generate more interest in the club while also rewarding existing fans from the area.

"We do a lot of coaching in County Durham and there's a few amateur clubs, Peterlee Pumas are one of the closest and we've done some coaching with them," said Findlay.

"We also did some coaching in Teesside two weeks ago so we hope to tap into those areas.

"People from County Durham and

Teesside are no strangers to Gateshead stadium, they're happy to travel to us, so I guess it's time we travel to them and play in their back yard."

Findlay already feels the club has developed a strong local influence, though, and believes it represents a rugby league success story.

The local feel has been boosted by the promotion of Chris Hood to head coach after being assistant to Dave Woods last season, creating a nice piece of symmetry to the club's inaugural game against Leeds Rhinos back in 1999.

"Chris was captain in that first match and our current captain, Neil Thorman, was a ballboy," said Findlay.

"I think it shows that rugby league is really taking off in the North East and that if the RFL and rugby league in general invests in new areas, then with good management, it can work.

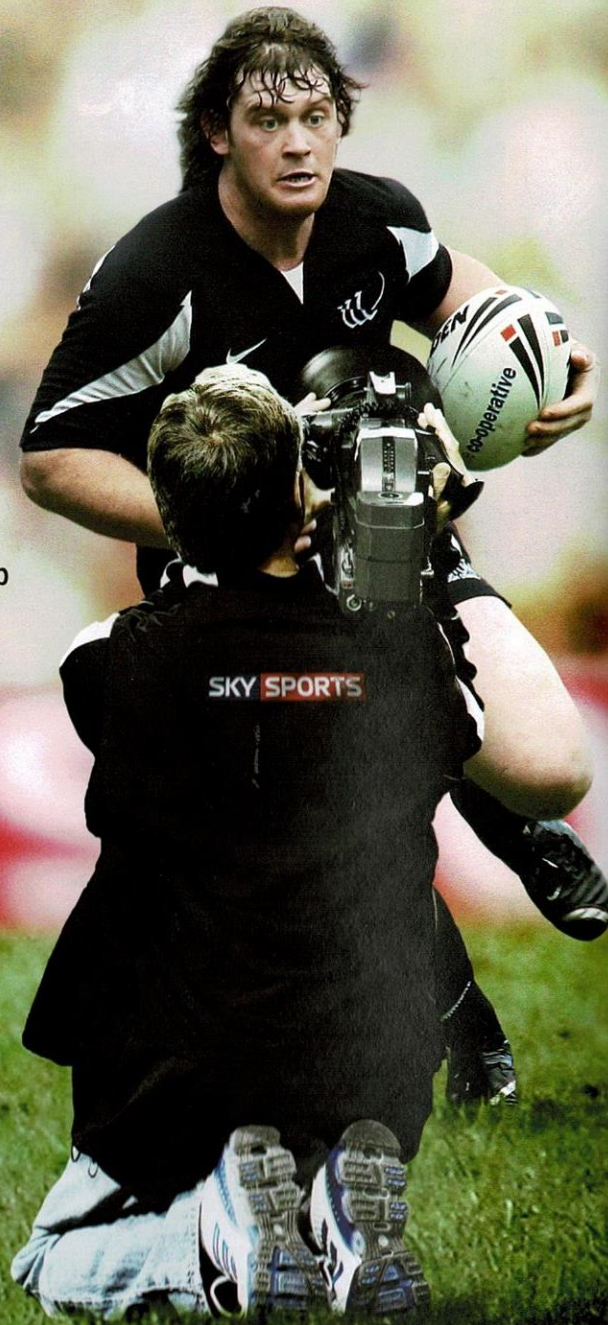
"We've got a steady stream of locally-born players with a locally-born coach and the Commercial Manager's from the North East so this is really a North East club run by people from the North East."

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the world according to **WILKO**

In this week's column read about the tough Easter schedule for clubs, the RFL's post World Cup investigation and Jon's brief stint playing at scrum-half for St Helens!

AS I SIT here now we have just come off the back of a very tight schedule over Easter for all the clubs. We are very pleased with the way we performed but there are one or two very tired, battered and bruised bodies around the club and I know that is true of clubs up and down the country.

It was a little ridiculous the amount of games we crammed into a short period but I understand from a financial and fan's point of view that it's beneficial to get the games played. All I would say is that due to the nature of the contact sport we all adore it takes time to recover from a match and playing another high intensity game so soon after the final whistle of the previous game just makes it more of a possibility that players will get injured.

We have had good results over the break though and with Castleford on Sunday we are looking to carry on our good form and build a lead at the top of the engage Super League table.

It was good though from the point of view of the growth of the game that we saw record attendances in Super League over the Easter weekend. It's great that so many fans came out to support.

Another development from last week is the announcement of the RFL's investigation into the poor performances in the recent World Cup. I am glad to see the RFL being pro-active, this definitely needed to be done; a reaction was definitely required.

The seven-point plan seems good on paper and will definitely widen the pool of talent to choose from so long as the plan is implemented in the correct way. My biggest worry is there will not be enough done to ensure that the plan is adhered to and followed.

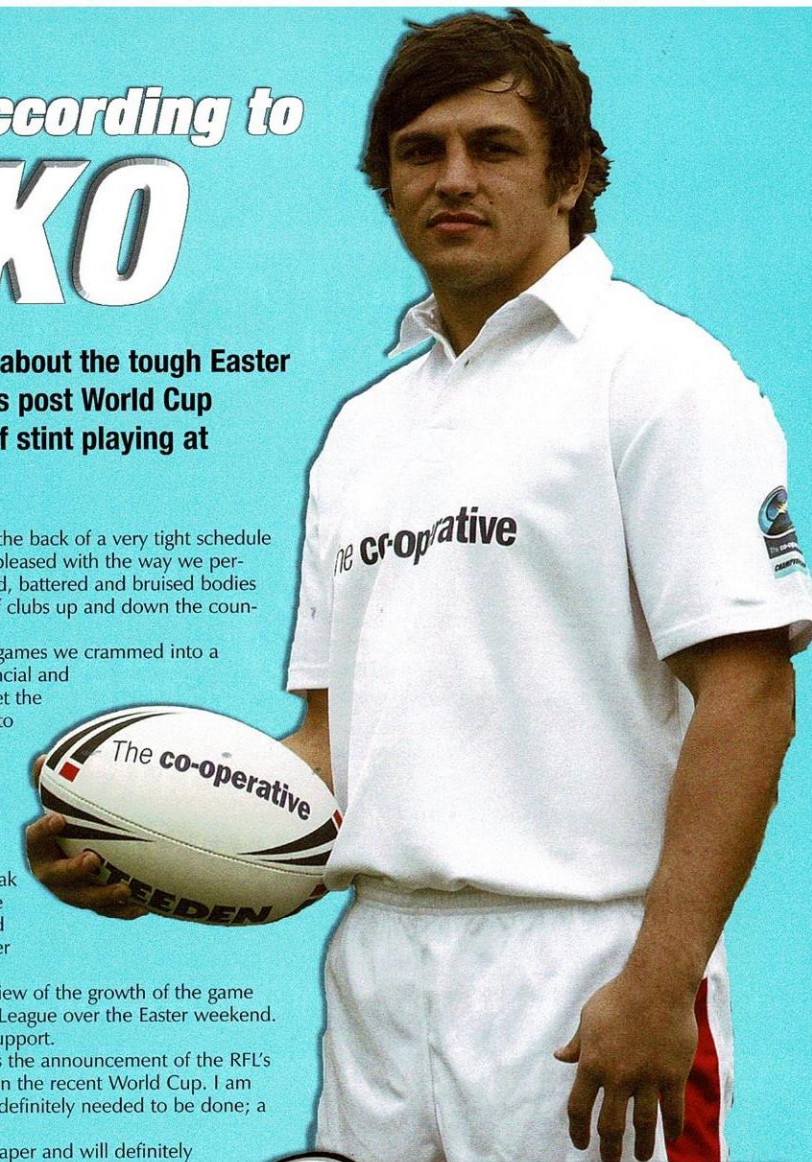
I was a little disappointed with one of the outcomes from the investigation. I feel that it was not really necessary to pinpoint the players again. It seems obvious to me the reason the investigation came about in the first place was because we underperformed on the pitch. Surely there would be no investigation if we had won the World Cup, so I felt that it was gratuitous to drag the reputation of the players, who train so hard and dedicate themselves to the sport, through the mud again.

I was pleased to see that the report didn't look at divisions in the camp to explain the poor performances. It is true to say that each club has different internal mechanics and training regimes but as I've said before we all know that playing for your country is a totally different matter and we all know to put aside club rivalries to focus on our country. It would be good though to see more players from different clubs to the 'big two' making the grade so I am pleased this report is aimed at achieving this.

On a personal note it was good to have Sean Long back for our latest game yesterday against Hull. My stint at scrum-half was short and sweet and I'm back now to a position I feel comfortable in.

As ever I will be keeping my eye on The Co-operative Championship matches this week as Gateshead and Sheffield go head to head on Thursday, live on Sky, as we get the remaining matches in round six of The Co-operative Championships underway over the weekend.

To vote for your April player of the month email the name of your nominated player to playerofthemonth@generatesponsorship.com including your daytime contact details and favourite team. You will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win VIP Grand Final tickets!



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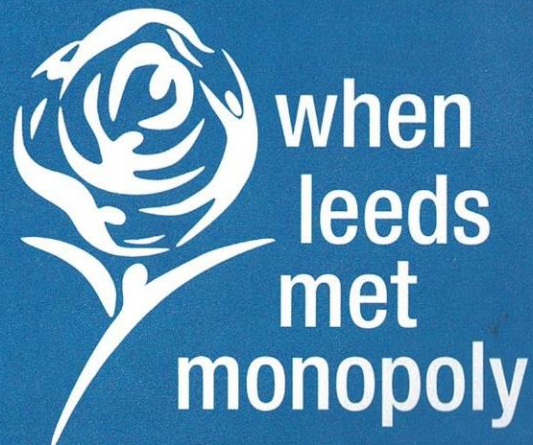
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OFFMESSAGE

Granada sports reporter CHRIS HALL would like to see a fundamental shift in attitude when it comes to signing overseas stars who he believes are mostly overhyped

Have a think for a minute and tell me who is your club's best player. Not the biggest name or the highest earner. Who, for you, is the most important player on your teamsheet. Is he from overseas? If the answer's yes, you're probably in the minority.

At the start of every season, we all get excited in anticipation of our new overseas import. He's played 72 times in the NRL and made a substitute appearance in the State of Origin five years ago. He was once labelled the new "Wally Lewis". And, most importantly of all, our coach says he's a "great addition to the squad."

But after these hordes of Aussies arrive through customs to be greeted by beaming chief executives and an inflated salary, how many actually live up to the expectations which they carry in their hand luggage?

A simple statistic sums up my disappointment. In the last 22 years, only two Man of Steel winners have been from Oz. Only two have matched the superstar status of their countrymen - Crowe, Jackman and Edna Everage.

I don't want to be ungrateful. We've had some outstanding NRL stars over here and long may that continue. But for far too long, our clubs have also been settling for average Aussies. You know the ones. They've been overpaid, overhyped and they've underperformed.

I'd love to believe the reason is that the British game has improved so much that it's actually a step up in class from the NRL. But, for the time being at least, that's less likely than getting St Helens and Leeds players to have a joint Christmas party this year.

Instead, what my sources tell me is that, in some cases at least, it's an attitude problem. And that's the most depressing thing. All over the UK, particularly the north of England, there are literally thousands of talented youngsters who would spill blood for their club - ANY club who'd be willing to give them a chance.

Now they're being held back. Disillusioned and questioning their future, many are forced to find careers outside of the game which simply don't make use of the talent they've been blessed with.

Thankfully, some still make it through. At Wigan, Sam Tomkins and Shaun Ainscough are two of the finds of the season. But we need more.

I'm not suggesting we scrap the overseas quota. I don't even want it reduced. The only way that our standard will catch up to our Antipodean cousins is to test ourselves regularly against their best players. But that's the distinction. Their BEST players.

Remember when British football clubs used to think that every Italian was Roberto Baggio? I seem to remember a guy called Andrea Silenzi - he played for Nottingham Forest in the mid-90s - being one of the biggest embarrassments. Now rugby league is falling down the same road.

Let's use some common sense. If they play for their country or are regulars in the State of Origin, then let's bring them over. If not, then please look at your youth team.

Do the players you're signing really bring more to the table than the kid who's been tearing up defences in the academy for years?

It's time for our clubs to get choosy over how they spend their money. We are in a recession after all.



ACTIONREPLAY

Lions keep roaring



SWINTON maintained their perfect start to the league season with a 42-28 win over WORKINGTON.

Andy Saywell claimed two of the Lions' seven tries and their season is really beginning to gain momentum, especially after their amazing victory over BLACKPOOL on Good Friday.

It looked almost all over for Paul Kidd's battling Lions with just four minutes left on the clock and the hosts leading 12-6.

But two tries in that breathtaking final spell, with the final one from Saywell coming 30 seconds from time, meant Swinton roared to a 16-12 success.

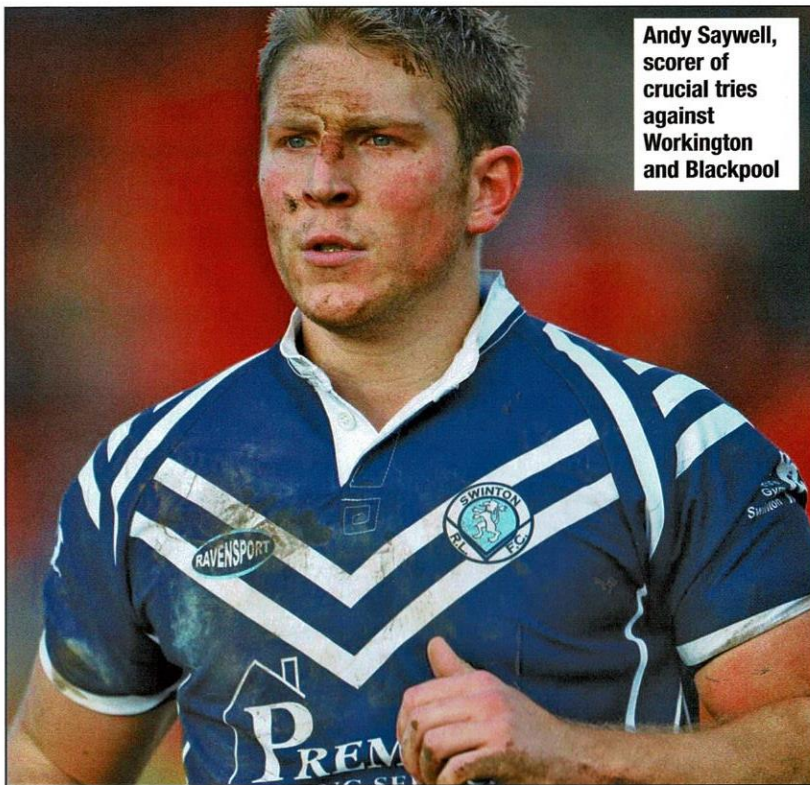
With DEWSBURY and OLDHAM playing this Sunday, Swinton are the surprise leaders while resurgent HUNSLET moved up to second after they edged out KEIGHLEY 21-18 on Monday.

The Hawks had a dreadful start to the campaign, losing all their Northern Rail Cup fixtures heavily and then going down 34-26 to Blackpool in their opening Championship One fixture.

But there has been gradual improvement and two wins in four days has turned things around.

On Friday they came away from Derwent Park with a thoroughly-deserved 24-16 victory over a Workington team that were simply out-muscled and out-thought by wily campaigners such as Chapman, Dooler and Robinson.

YORK were expected to be up there but at least got back to winning ways on Monday at the expense of HORNETS, Paul March's side



Andy Saywell, scorer of crucial tries against Workington and Blackpool

surging clear after the interval on their way to a 44-14 victory. The player-coach bagged two of the tries.

Three days earlier the Knights went down 13-12 to the Cougars while the Hornets lost the Pennine derby 26-18 to Oldham.

The win came at a cost for the Cougars as they added yet more players to the injury list.

Karl Gunney suffered a torn hamstring, Craig Brown has a suspected fracture in the foot, Carl Hughes has a suspected fractured ankle and Scott Law has a torn muscle in his neck.

The Cougars were behind for a lot of the game and at one point they defended six

repeat sets but York's indiscipline cost them when the Cougars capitalised and stole the match points.

Meanwhile Hornets could have – and many would say should have – beaten Oldham. They led 12-10 at the interval

"I can't fault the individual efforts of any of my players but I have told them that it is not enough to play tough – you've also got to play smart," Hornets coach Darren Shaw said.

"We don't make inconsequential errors – we make mistakes and concede penalties which lead directly to tries and that is frustrating.

"Having said that, we should have beaten the best

two sides in the division so it gives us something to work on in training."

In Monday's other game Blackpool heaped more misery on LONDON, returning from the capital with a 48-10 win in tow, Jonny Leather and John Clough each claiming two tries for the Panthers.

The Skolars have now conceded 255 points in their four league games.

Three days earlier it was Dewsbury feasting on the unfortunate strugglers as they won 70-0.

With six tries in each half, the home side scored at will as the lowly Londoners struggled to cope with their extra pace, power and skill, Chris Spurr claiming a hat-trick.

Away day delight for top two

THE top two emphasised their class with superb away victories on Bank Holiday Monday.

BARROW still lead the way thanks to a brilliant second-half display at LEIGH which earned them a 25-16 success while unbeaten HALIFAX held off a great WHITEHAVEN fightback to take the spoils 24-18.

The Raiders, fresh from a huge derby win against Haven on Good Friday, were staring down the barrel at half-time as they trailed 16-2 to the Centurions. The hosts forged ahead thanks to tries from trialist Anthony Rourke, Ian Mort and Nick Stanton.

But Barrow claimed victory with four-pointers from Andy Ellis, Liam Finch, flying winger James Nixon and new arrival Ned Catic.

Barrow remain a point clear of Fax, who blew away Whitehaven in the opening period, surging into a 24-0 lead with tries from Mark Gleeson, Dwayne Barker, Shad Royston and Ben Black.

Thereafter it was the Gregg McNally show. The brilliant teenager scored all his side's points in the second half – three tries and three goals – but his 18-point haul was not enough. He has now registered a staggering 18 tries this season.

There was a stunning first win of the campaign for French side TOULOUSE, who savaged injury ravaged BATLEY 60-22.

The Bulldogs have all kinds of injury problems and have now conceded 132 points in their last two games giving coach Gary Thornton a huge headache ahead of their trip to Widnes.

Thornton was shocked at his side's second half capitulation at The Shay last

Thursday and will have been similarly lost for words as the French visitors scored 38 points after the break with two tries apiece for Nathan Wynn, Bruno Ormeno, Damien Couturier and Antoni Maria.

FEATHERSTONE maintained their good start to the season with a comeback success against SHEFFIELD.

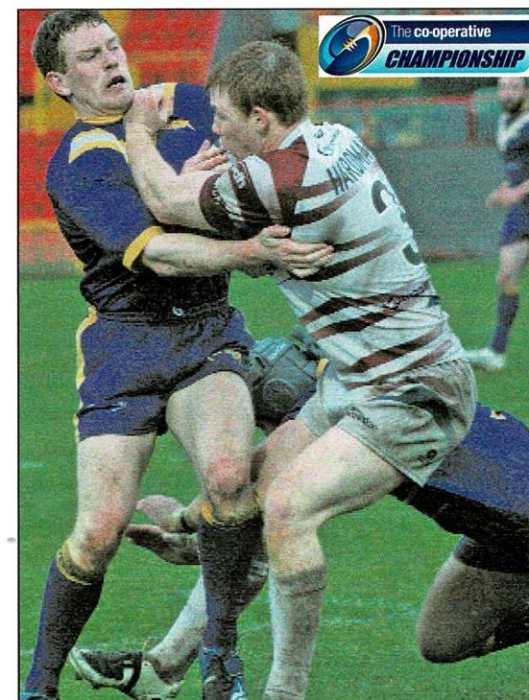
Daryl Powell's men trailed 10-4 at the break but claimed their third league victory with a strong second half showing to take the points 20-12.

In the late game on Monday night WIDNES held off a second half DONCASTER revival to win 24-18.

Vikings coach Paul Cullen said: "I thought our direction for the majority of the game was great and we worked hard to score 24 unanswered points. However for a ten minute period we were a little bit rash and have to learn not to do things we don't have to. We did it against Leigh and we did it tonight. We bombed a few chances and missed a couple of goalkicks which should have given us a more comfortable victory.

"I thought our senior players led the way tonight and I was pleased with the way our youngsters acquitted themselves. This is a tough competition and the youngsters tonight added value to the club. Doncaster had a good victory over Sheffield on Thursday and given the Easter fixture schedule tonight was never going to be easy."

The Vikings stormed into a 20-0 lead at the interval but Doncaster fought back well and with 15 minutes to go it was game on as Paul Handforth ran in their third after collecting his own high kick.



Gateshead's Robin Peers tackles Ian Hardman of Featherstone during the Good Friday game

Widnes finished the stronger to claim victory and move up to third.

On Friday there were two huge derbies with Barrow beating Whitehaven 18-12 in front nearly 3,000 at Craven Park while Leigh scored a try in the last minute through Mort to beat Widnes 10-8.

"I am pleased and proud and my players deserved something for their efforts and it was just like a Super League game," said Kelly afterwards on his first return to Widnes since being sacked by the Vikings in July 2004.

"Both sides put a lot into the game and because of the conditions they slugged it out up the middle like Super League rather than play the football that is normally played in this division."

Also that day Featherstone Rovers produced a professional performance in difficult conditions on Tyneside

as they restricted hosts Gateshead Thunder to just two points on their way to a routine victory.

Heavy rain before the game and during the first half left the Thunderdome saturated with one or two puddles forming due to the deluge.

A day earlier Fax ran in 12 tries in their 72-0 thrashing of Batley, who were only 18-0 down at the interval.

There was a fantastic contribution from 17-year-old Anthony Bowman, who claimed three of the tries.

Meanwhile Doncaster gained their first win in the Championship with a smash and grab raid over Sheffield Eagles in the South Yorkshire derby at Don Valley.

It wasn't a classic but there was nail-biting drama on offer with a drop goal five minutes from time by Paul Handforth snatching the 23-22 win in front of the Sky TV cameras.



Gateshead v Sheffield



Thursday April 16th, 2009. Kick off 7.30pm. GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

GATESHEAD THUNDER

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	2 Danny Wilson
	3 Kevin Neighbour
Lady Cross Quarries Schooner Inn	4 Dylan Nash
	5 Stewart Sanderson
	6 Neil Thorman
The Wheatsheaf Pub James & Matthew Wells	7 Luke Branighan
	8 Jason Payne
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	11 -
PCL Travel	12 Michael Knowles
	13 -
Thunder Storm	14 Ryan Clarke
	15 Matt Barron
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	19 -
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No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

No. PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 Jonny Woodcock	AMCO
2 Bolu Fagborun	Tolent
3 Menzie Yere	OSI
4 Mike Roby	Jim Haworth, Suzanne Atkin
5 Ashley Thackeray	Anne Collins
6 Brendan Lindsay	Pennine Business Forms
7 Gavin Brown	Sheaf Telecom
8 Jack Howieson	Hanlon & Wright
9 Grant Edwards	Barnsley Industrial Training College
10 Mitchell Stringer	Jayne Whaling
11 Alex Szostak	Jack Smith
12 Ged Corcoran	Hanlon & Wright
13 Dane McDonald	Bethany, Ian & Jackie Swain
14 Andrew Boothroyd	G4S Events
15 Sam Barlow	Redbrook Business Coaching
16 Trevor Exton	Albion Detection Systems Ltd
17 Tom Buckenham	Buckingham Insurance
18 Saqib Murtza	Zeenat Restaurant
19 Kyle Wood	OSI
20 Matty Brooks	Walkabout Sheffield
21 Aaron Groom	AMCO
22 Ryan Hepworth	Village Shop, Oughtibridge
23 Tangi Ropati	HAS Consultants Ltd
24 Matthew Whitaker	Jack & Laura London
25 James Morrow	Corus Infrastructure Services
26 Nick Turnbull	Hancock & Todd
27 Tommy Trayler	Modis
28 Damian Gibson	Richard & Andrea Brook
34 Eddie Battye	Jill Swire
35 Dan Haworth	Mr & Mrs Lee

COACH: MARK ASTON

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J.Child
Touch: G.Dolan, B.Armstrong
Video Referee: J.Leahy

BENNETT'S BET

"Eagles to respond to disappointing home defeat - Sheffield by 2"

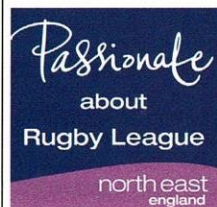
LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWLL

LAST SIX AWAY: L-LWLL

TRIES: Jonny Woodcock 5, Menzies Yere 4., Tangi Ropati 3, Matty Brooks 3, Damian Gibson 3, Brendon Lindsay 3.

GOALS: Jonny Woodcock 33. DG:-
MAN TO WATCH: Menzies Yere

Getting behind Gateshead...



CLUBCALL

Gateshead v Sheffield

Working so hard to earn first victory

Gateshead Thunder met a strong Featherstone defence on Good Friday and unfortunately lost 23-2.

I know there have been mutterings about the number of fixtures over the Easter period and with today's home tie against Sheffield Eagles having been moved from Sunday to Thursday for Sky Sports coverage, Thunder can be pleased that we had a bye round on Monday.

Not that the players will have had their feet up eating Easter eggs!

I know all of the coaching staff and players are working hard. We have had some tremendous results in the cup

ROD FINDLAY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

competitions but we are yet to register our first Championship win.

However, as the league table begins to take shape, it's clear we have met some strong opposition so far.

The big news last week was the decision to take our fifth round home Challenge Cup tie to the Northern Echo Darlington Arena.

With Gateshead International Arena being booked out the weekend of May 9/10, this was a perfect opportunity to

show that Thunder is a club for the whole of the North East.

Darlington Arena and the football club have been excellent to work with and we are looking forward to taking the match there. We know Thunder fans will continue their excellent support and we have had a lot of positive feedback on the move so far.

But that's not until Saturday May 9 (KO 3pm) and today we welcome Sheffield again, having met them in February in the Northern Rail Cup.

We obviously hope for the same result but both sides will want a good game for the TV cameras.

Both teams will want to right some wrongs

GOOD evening to everyone and welcome to Sheffield Eagles for tonight's important The Co-operative Championship clash at The Thunderdome.

The Easter period hasn't been kind to both teams before tonight's clash so I'm sure both sets of players will be aiming to right some wrongs and get points on the board. Sheffield will feel very unlucky after losing by just one point last Thursday against Doncaster to add to the defeat against Featherstone Rovers. I'm sure Mark Aston will have his men fired up for tonight.

Our game against Featherstone was disappointing in so many ways - I felt that certain players didn't turn up on the night and this stifled our game plan from the start.

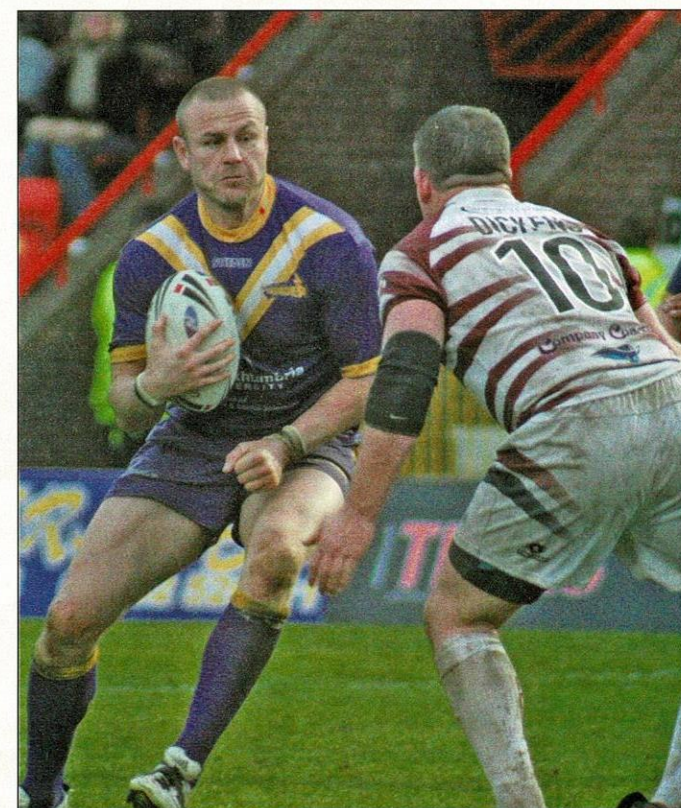
With the amount of errors we made and the fact we didn't set a platform for ourselves all night meant that it was going to be difficult against such a big Featherstone outfit.

I must give credit to players like Luke Branighan, Andrew Henderson and Neil Thorman who, when they did get the ball, gave it their all to get to the places we had spoken about. Tonight, we must set a platform and allow ourselves to play on the front foot - like we did the last time we played Sheffield - so we can get to the places we've highlighted during our preparations this week.

The players and staff will be all fired up for tonight's clash in front of the Sky cameras - the first time Sky have been back to Gateshead since 1999 - and we are more than keen to show everyone what this club is all about.

See you at the game.

Chris Hood, Head Coach



Jamie Russo takes the ball up for Gateshead against Featherstone



Halifax v Dons



Sunday April 19th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY STADIUM

HALIFAX RLFC

DONCASTER RLFC

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
Sue Illingworth	16 Said Tamghart
Complete Building Materials	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.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWWWW
 LAST SIX HOME: WWWWWW
 TRIES: Ben Black 8, Sean Penkywicz 8, Miles Greenwood 7, Said Tamghart 6.
 GOALS: Govin 24, Black 12, Patterson 12, James Haley 10. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Ben Black

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R. Hicks
 Touch: J. Page, J. Roberts
 Fourth official: L. Todd

BENNETT'S BET

"In-form Fax too powerful for the Dons
 - Halifax by 22"

No. PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 -	
2 Dean Colton	Green Energy Solutions
3 Andreas Bauer	Geffery Broadhead
4 Shaun Leaf	Pipers Car Sales
5 Wayne Reittie	DISC (Dons Supporters)
6 Kyle Briggs	Active Workwear
7 Paul Handforth	Needhams Bikes
8 Michael Haley	APS Toolhire
9 Craig Cook	Praetorian Elite Ltd
10 Alex Benson	Jane Speakman
11 Peter Green	Everlast Waterproofing
12 Craig Lawton	Everlast Waterproofing
13 Josh Weeden	Andy Booker
14 Scott Jones	Martins Famous Fish Market
15 Mark Castle	
16 Nathan Freer	
17 Ross Divorty	DISC Dons Supporters
18 Craig Holt	RTN Motor Spares
19 Ryan Steen	
20 Michael Coady	Jill Scarrow
21 Garry Ellery	
22 Andy Speake	Sue Walford
23 Scott Smith	
24 Jake Bassinder	
25 Kevin Eadie	
26 Gareth Carey	
27 Albert Rounding	
28 Jamie Bovill	
29 Matthew Corbett	
30 Luke May	

COACH: TONY MILLER

Sponsored by Custom Property Developments

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLLWL
 LAST SIX AWAY: W-WWWLW
 TRIES: Michael Coady 4, Craig Cook 4
 GOALS: Kyle Briggs 17, Andy Speake 7
 DGs: Handforth 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Paul Handforth

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COMPLETE
 building materials Ltd

BACKING THE FAX!

Windsor Yarns

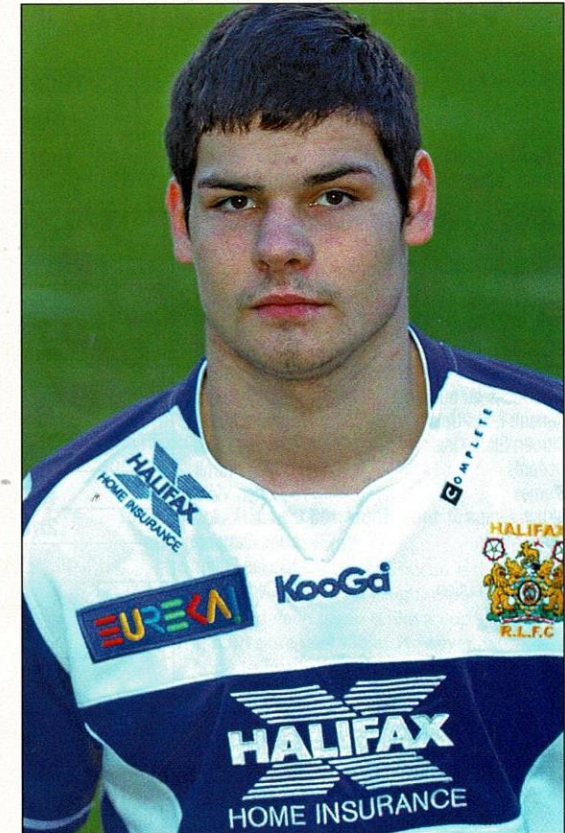
KooGa
 MADE FOR RUGBY

HALIFAX
 HALIFAX HOME INSURANCE

CLUBCALL

Halifax RLFC v Doncaster

Easter saw some fantastic stuff from us



GOOD afternoon everyone and welcome to the game.

I'd also like to welcome Doncaster to the Shay today.

They had a great 2008 season, winning the National League Two Grand Final, and I am sure they are enjoying the challenge of playing in the Championship.

They've had some notable results already this season, and pushed Widnes pretty close on Easter Monday, so we know we'll need to work hard if we want to have three more league points at the end of the game.

We had a pretty good Easter, winning comfortably against Batley on the Thursday and then finally getting the win we have been looking for at Whitehaven last Monday.

Our record up at the Recreation Ground has been well documented and to finally get a win there at long last was certainly very satisfying.

As I said in the press after both those games, we played some fantastic rugby league.

To score 54 points in one half, as we did in the second period against Batley, takes some doing at any level, whoever you are playing against.

Equally, we really had Whitehaven on the rack before half time and could probably have led by more than 24-0 at the break.

From a coaching point of view, the downside in both matches was our inconsistency across the 80 minutes.

Against Batley, we were always in control, but at Whitehaven we could have paid a high price for our second half performance.

We will certainly be looking for a more controlled display this afternoon.

The good thing is that we are still winning matches as we build towards our full potential.

That has to be a good sign for the rest of the season.

Enjoy the game.

Matt Calland, head coach

Teenager Anthony Bowman scored three tries during the rout of Batley

Easter fixtures showed all our best sides

WHAT an Easter!

We saw both sides of the Halifax team.

At The Shay on Thursday after a moderate first half, the team turned on the style with scintillating rugby to score 54 points without reply from Batley.

And with personnel changes at The Recreation Ground, the moves were similar as 24 unanswered points were scored in the first half. The second was a different story..... but we have come home from both Barrow and Whitehaven with three league points and as the season develops, points in Cumbria will be very scarce for others to come by.

From the board's point of view, we were buoyed by the attendance against Batley.

It is a long time since that fixture

Halifax chairman
MICHAEL STEELE



attracted 2,000 plus. On the back of two 3,000 plus attendances against Widnes dare we hope that, at last, the message of attractive, attacking, winning rugby has got through to the people of Halifax?

Perhaps, we can make proper use of the East stand next year. More to the

point, perhaps we can have some silverware to decorate the new trophy cabinet!

Today's visitors Doncaster had a difficult winter and share our need to stir the support they deserve, but their efforts on the field have been impressive.

A win at Sheffield, and honourable defeat to Widnes Vikings over Easter suggest that the win to take Halifax to the top of the Co-operative Championship league table will have to be earned.

Maintaining our 100% start to the season has that reward and we expect the team to earn it.

Thanks to you all for the support which is very much an 18th man, this season.



Toulouse v Leigh



Saturday April 18th, 2009. Kick off 7pm. STADE DES MINIMES

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE

LEIGH CENTURIONS

SPONSOR	No.	PLAYER
SN Diffusion	1	Rory Bromley
Dynadoc	2	Sebastien Payan
Ermes Prestations	3	Sebastien Planas
Demathieu et Bard	4	Damien Couturier
France Boissons	5	Joris Canton
Prosegur	6	Constant Villegas
Copy Sud	7	Nathan Wynn
Immodulair	8	Brendan Worth
Gentlemen du Déménagement	9	Martin Mitchell
Groupe Cailleau	10	Mathieu Griffi
Groupe Carrère	11	Timothy Wynn
SNC Latitudes - Golf de Seilh	12	Mathieu Almarcha
Aux Docks du bureau	13	Eric Anselme
Renault Etats-Unis	14	Antoni Maria
Citroën Etats-Unis	15	Jerome Gout
Océanis	16	Olivier Pramil
Siemex	18	Adrien Viala
Airbus Cimpa	20	Sylvain Houles
Leroy Merlin	21	Bruno Ormeno
IFB	22	Nicolas Faure
Force Distribution	23	Cedric Gay
IPS Publicité		Teli Pelo

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

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

Not allocated a number: Andy Ainscough, Danny Jackson, Danny Meekin, James Richies, Lee Marsh, Macgraff Leualai, Ryan Powell. Trialists: Brett Longstaffe, Jamie Durbin, Lee Wingfield

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: NEIL KELLY

COACH: GILLES DUMAS

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLW
LAST SIX HOME: L
TRIES: Nathan Wynn 3, Bruno Ormeno 3, Damian Couturier 2, Antoni Maria 2
GOALS: Nathan Wynn 7, Couturier 1
DGs:
MAN TO WATCH: Sylvain Houles

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M. Thomason
Touch: TBC
Fourth Official: TBC

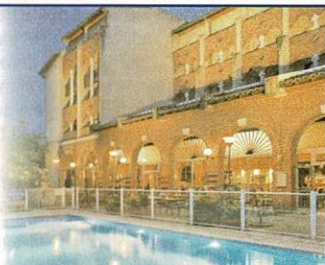
BENNETT'S BET

"A second win for the Frenchmen, who could end up being strong at home - Toulouse by 2"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWL
LAST SIX AWAY: W-LWWLW
TRIES: Jamie Durbin 6, Stuart Donlan 6, Martyn Ridyrd 4, Steve Maden 4, Sam Reay 4, Ian Watson 4.
GOALS: Ian Mort 35, Martyn Ridyrd 10. DGs: Martyn Ridyrd
MAN TO WATCH: Stuart Donlan



TOULOUSE CENTRE
COMPANS CAFFARELLI



CLUBCALL

Toulouse v Leigh

Cela prendra du temps de s'adapter

Eric Anselme, International et Capitaine du Toulouse Olympique XIII répond à nos questions...

Quel est ton sentiment après ce début de parcours avec le TO XIII en Championship ?

Eric Anselme: Comme nous nous en doutions, nous avons eu des débuts difficiles. Nous découvrons ce championnat professionnel et nous avons besoin d'un temps d'adaptation, comme les Dragons lors de leur première saison de Super League, pour trouver nos marques. Nous bénéficions néanmoins d'un bon soutien du Club, de la Ville et de la Région, ce qui nous aide à progresser.

Ton équipe, à la fin de la saison tu la situes où?

E.A: C'est assez difficile à dire car cette compétition est très relevée, particulièrement cette saison, et chaque match doit se jouer comme un match de coupe. Les rencontres sont très serrées même les favoris se font peur à domicile. Cependant, nous gardons notre objectif de début de saison, à savoir terminer dans les 6 premiers et se qualifier pour les play-offs.

Entre le premier match à Sheffield et celui de Whitehaven, quelle est l'évolution de l'équipe?

E.A: A chaque match, notre jeu est de mieux en mieux nous trouvons des automatismes (NDLR : l'effectif a été renouvelé à plus de 50%) et nous gagnons en rythme. Je suis convaincu que nous allons encore nous améliorer au fil des rencontres.

Selon toi, quelle est la force majeure de l'équipe du TO aujourd'hui?

E.A: C'est un nouveau challenge et nous avons un groupe jeune qui a une très grosse envie de relever le défi. Notre marge de progression est énorme.

A contrario, dans quel secteur en particulier ton équipe doit progresser pour atteindre son meilleur niveau?

E.A: Nous manquons encore de discipline et de rigueur. Nous avons besoin de temps pour nous adapter au professionnalisme de la compétition et de l'arbitrage.

Pour finir, quelle ambiance règne-t-il au sein du groupe?

E.A: Il y a une bonne ambiance et le groupe vit bien. Tout le monde joue le jeu et la communication avec le staff passe bien. Cela va payer...

We knew it would take a while to adapt

Eric Anselme, French International and Toulouse Olympique Captain answers some questions...

After these few games in the Championship, what are your feelings?

Eric Anselme: As expected, the start of the competition has been difficult for us. It's our first season in the championship and we need some time of adaptation, as was the case for the Catalans Dragons in Super League in 2006.

In which position do you think your team will end the Championship?

E.A: It's quite difficult to say because the level of the competition is very high, especially this season, and each game is like a cup game. The scores are very close. However, we hope to keep our pre season goal, which is to finish in the top six and reach the play-offs.

Between the first match in Sheffield (in the Challenge Cup) and the one in Whitehaven, did you see any improvement in the team?

E.A: From one game to another, the team improves and we are learning to play together. We have to keep in mind that we had no friendly games to prepare for the season and I am sure that we can still improve a lot.

For you Eric, what is the main strength of your team this season?

E.A: It's a new challenge for us and we have a young squad that is eager to learn and to compete in a professional championship. I believe that this is going to make us improve very quickly.

On the other side, what does the team have to improve to reach its goal?

E.A: We need to improve our discipline, we give away too many penalties. As I said, it's a new competition for us and we need to adapt to the referees. We have to behave like true professionals.

Lastly, how is the atmosphere inside the team?

E.A: There is a very good atmosphere between the players. Everyone does his best and the communication with the coaching staff is good. I am sure this hard work will pay off at one point or another.



Tel: 00335 61 57 80 00

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Widnes v Batley



Friday April 17th, 2009. Kick off 7.30pm. STOBART STADIUM HALTON

WIDNES VIKINGS

BATLEY BULLDOGS

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
John Mather & his many sons!	1 Loz Wildbore
Barbara Spence	2 Dean Gaskell
Widnes Supporters Club	3 Richard Varkulls
Widnes Supporters Club	4 Toa Kohe Love
Kath Filkin	5 Danny Mills
VIQI	6 Anthony Thackeray
VIQI	7 James Webster
Museum Visitors	8 Iain Morrison
R J Lewis	9 Mark Smith
Widnes World	10 Jim Gannon
Swavesey Newsagents, Cambridge	11 Lee Doran
Widnes Supporters Club	12 Richard Fletcher
Robert Johnson	13 Lee Paterson
James Owen	14 John Duffy
Marcus Booth	15 Tim Hartley
The Dennett Family	16 Gavin Dodd
Uncle Jack	17 Ben Kavanagh
Fraser Family	18 Matt Strong
Halton Borough Council	19 Michael Ostick
Leam Fox	20 Sam Thompson
SDP Landscapes	21 Scott Yates
Reg & Lesley Warner	22 Paddy Flynn
West Bank Bears ARLFC	23 Shane Grady
Riverside College Sports Dept.	24 Josh Simm
Mullally's Barbers	25 Anthony Mullally
North West Contracts	26 Steve Bannister
SDP Landscapes	27 Brett Robinson

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS
Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

No. PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 Ian Preece	Hopkins family
2 Ben Feehan	Mavis, Mac & Jack
3 Dale Cardoza	Wayne & Pauline Aston
4 Danny Maun	Fletcher family
5 Johnny Campbell	Laurie & Andrew Grailey
6 Mark Barlow	Batley Rock & Roll
7 Paul Mennell	Batley Nash
8 Byron Smith	Kev & Brian
9 Kris Lythe	The Benson family
10 Luke Stencheon	Leyland Paints
11 Kevin Crouthers	Brian Hooley
12 Mark Toohey	George & Mary Gomersal
13 Ash Lindsay	Study Centre
14 John Gallagher	
15 Anthony Henderson	RSM Carriers
16 John Simpson	Benson family
17 Craig Potter	Protec Security
18 Jermaine McGilvary	Gary Tingle & Lorraine Richardson
	Norman Thewliss
19 George Flanagan	George & Alan Wainwright
20 Dave Tootill	Kirsty, Gemma,
21 Nathan Armitage	Nix, Laura & Karen
	Stanningley U-14s & U-17s
22 Nat Browne	Flanagan Transport
23 Chris Buttery	
24 James Archibald	
26 Jamie Aitcheson	
27 Darryl Cardiss	John Miller
28 Danny Samuels	Mary Hughes
29 Jack Watson	

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

(sponsored by CMS Intelligent Banking)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLLLW
LAST SIX HOME: W-LWWWL
TRIES: Paddy Flynn 8, Jim Gannon 5, Mark Smith 5, Loz Wildbore 5.
GOALS: Scott Yates 25, Tim Hartley 14, Gavin Dodd 10.
DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: Gavin Dodd

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J. Leahy
 Touch: G. Stokes, G. Towey
 Fourth Official: S. Barrie

BENNETT'S BET

"Bulldogs in for a hiding at hands of Cullen's men - Widnes by 32"

COACH: GARY THORNTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWDWLL
LAST SIX AWAY: L-LLWWL
TRIES: George Flanagan 7, Jermaine McGilvary 6, Darryl Cardiss 4, Jon Simpson 4, Ian Preece 4. GOALS: George Flanagan 22, Paul Mennell 3. DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: Paul Mennell.



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Hattons SOLICITORS



CLUBCALL

Widnes v Batley

The Bulldogs will be desperate to restore pride

Good evening and welcome back to the Stobart Stadium Halton for our second home fixture – and third in the league – within seven days.

I would also like to welcome the directors, players and fans of Batley who have had a tough Easter campaign and will be looking to get back to winning ways tonight.

It was a disappointing game against Leigh last Friday, not only for the fact that we dropped two league points but also because for the majority of the game we

Alex Bonney Chief Executive Officer

looked to be in control. At Doncaster we got off to a great start and played some of the best rugby I've seen all season.

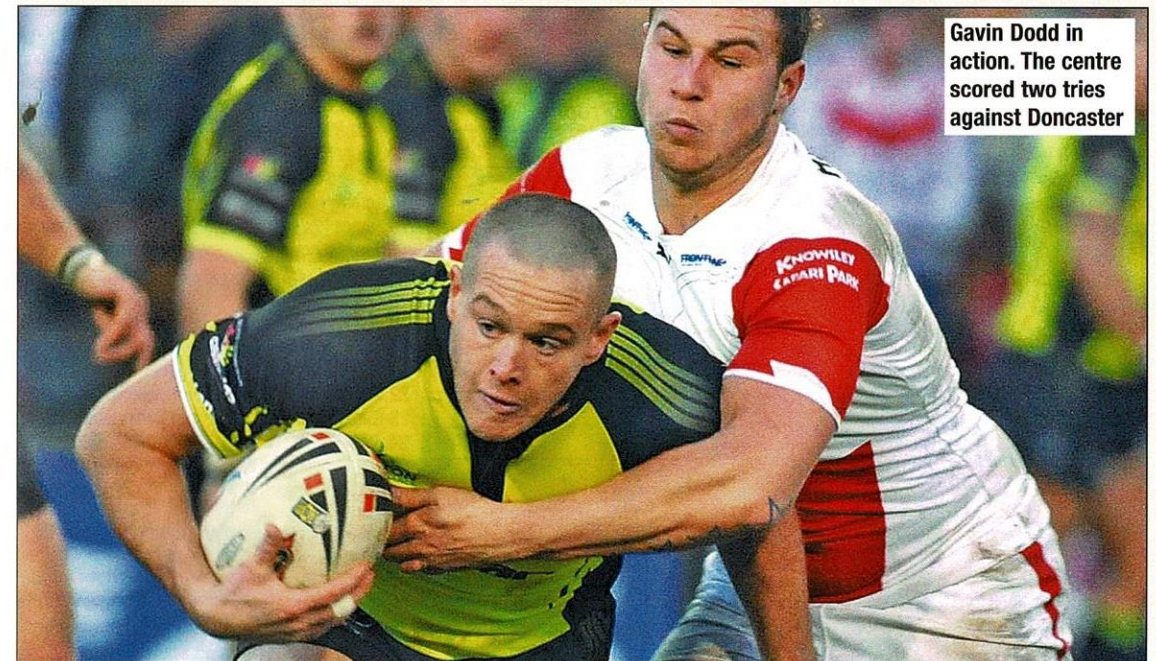
It got a bit nervous towards the end as they pulled back to within six points but we finished strongly and could have scored twice in the last five minutes.

Looking at the scores over the weekend it was interesting to see how once a

team gains momentum they are able to string two or three tries together.

In a similar manner to that at the Keepmoat, Whitehaven fought back from 24-0 down at home to Halifax to within six points while Leigh saw a 16-2 lead at home to Barrow turn into a 25-16 defeat.

What this goes to prove is that every team needs to compete for 80 minutes and from what I've witnessed in 2009 if we do this then we are more than a match for any team in the Co-operative Championship.



Gavin Dodd in action. The centre scored two tries against Doncaster

Important to bounce back well

Our focus was on defence against the Centurions and for the first hour or so we kept them scoreless which was very pleasing given the amount of possession Leigh had.

What was disappointing was that even when Leigh pulled four points back we had the opportunity to close the game out but then shot ourselves in the foot by trying to attack from our own half, losing the ball early in the tackle count and giving possession up and with it putting ourselves under needless pressure.

At Doncaster I thought once again for the first hour our defence was excellent and we also played some great attacking rugby. There was plenty of shape and the players were working hard for each other with the runners offering numerous options to our halfbacks.

We scored five tries, had three disallowed and 'bombed' numerous chances while also allowing Doncaster back into the game during the closing stages.

As against Leigh we had the opportunity to play our sets out and finish the game off but we chose to play some cavalier rugby in the final minutes and we have to learn that there is a right time and a wrong time to do this and if we choose the wrong time we put ourselves under unnecessary pressure.

Enjoy the game.

Paul Cullen, coach

THE Easter weekend fixtures are always a drain on players and it is to our credit that we were able to bounce back from a disappointing defeat against Leigh on Good Friday to pick up three valuable points at Doncaster on Easter Monday.



Whitehaven v Featherstone



Sunday April 19th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. RECREATION GROUND

WHITEHAVEN

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

SPONSOR

LLWR
 Tim Knowles
 Richard Woodhall
 Tuqiri-Kacey-Keelan
 Internet Support Group
 Alan Dixon
 Internet Support Group
 Haven Joinery
 L&G Taxis
 Barry Richardson
 B&H Motors
 Cameron Wood
 Dick Raaz
 GMB
 Internet Support Group
 Whitehaven RL Support Group

Shakers
 Finnigans Chip Shop
 Internet Support Group
 Paul & Dianne Lace
 Seascale Pharmacy
 Rob Collins
 Clive Hornsby
 Whitehaven RL Support Group

No. PLAYER

1 Craig Benson
 2 Ade Adebisi
 3 Rob Jackson
 4 Derry Eilbeck
 5 Craig Calvert
 6 Carl Rudd
 7 Leroy Joe
 8 Marc Jackson
 9 Greame Mattinson
 10 Karl Edmondson
 11 Howard Hill
 12 Spencer Miller
 13 Scot McAvoy
 14 Danny Barker
 15 Ryan McDonald
 16 Andy Gorski
 17 John Walker
 18 John Patrick
 19 Kyle Amor
 20 Marc Bainbridge
 21 Taani Lavu Lavu
 22 Matt Tunstall
 23 Marc Shackley
 24 Greg McNally
 25 Jamie Theoharous

No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

Full back	
Right Wing	
Right Centre	
Left Centre	
Left Wing	
Stand off	
Scrum half	
Prop	
Hooker	
Prop	
2nd row	
2nd row	
Loose forward	
Interchange 1	
2	
3	
4	

SCORERS

Tries
 Conv
 Pens
 DGs

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWWLL

LAST SIX HOME: W-WWWWL

TRIES: Gregg McNally 18, Derry

Eilbeck 4, Andy Gorski 4, Ade

Adebisi 4, John Patrick 4.

GOALS: Gregg McNally 34,

Carl Rudd 6, Marc Jackson 5. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Gregg McNally

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R.Laughton

Touch: C.Neilson, M.Craven

Fourth Official: B.Robinson

BENNETT'S BET

"Home comforts will see Haven home

- Whitehaven by 6"

No. PLAYER

1 Tom Saxton
 2 Waine Price
 3 Ian Hardman
 4 Andy Kirk
 5 Jon Steele
 6 Iestyn Harris

7 Andy Kain
 8 Tony Tonks
 9 Jack Lee

No. PLAYER

10 Stuart Dickens
 11 Matt Dale
 12 Jamie Field
 13 Richard Blakeway
 14 Tommy Haughey
 15 James Houston
 16 Joe McLocklan
 17 Joe Hirst
 18 Tim Spears
 19 Sean Hesketh
 20 Stuart Kain
 21 Steve Dooler
 22 Matt Handforth
 23 Gareth Swift
 24 John Fallon
 25 Scott Wilson

Chelsey, Charlie & Megan Large
Lorne Mosley

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 Blue Lagoon Bar
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 Gary Crompton
 Howard Lawton
 John Lycett
 Peter Smith Motorcycles
 Rovers Scholarship
 Hollie Bennett
 Charlie Watson
 James Evans
 Capro Contracts
 Chelsey, Charlie & Megan Large
 Lorne Mosley

COACH: DARYL POWELL

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWWW

LAST SIX AWAY: LW-WWWW

TRIES: Andy Kain 10, Jon Steel 6,

Waine Price 5, Tommy Haughey 5,

Hardman, Harris, Smeaton all 4.

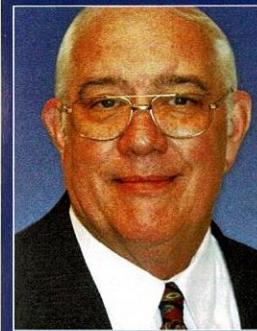
GOALS: Stuart Dickens 31,

Iestyn Harris 15. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Kain

CLUBCALL

Whitehaven v Featherstone



Dick Raaz, chairman

Proving to be so competitive

Welcome to the Recreation Ground. We are very pleased to host Featherstone Rovers. We are extremely grateful to all of our loyal fans who continue to support Whitehaven by turning out week after week to share this exciting family sport.

We would also like to thank our match sponsor, Tony

Ansell, and main club sponsor, Nuclear Management Partners, for their continued support.

This season has revealed what we all suspected - it is a competitive league and any team can prevail on most any match day - that's why it is important that our team stay on top of their game!

I'm happy with the way our side continues to mature. We

came very close to winning at Barrow last week and against Halifax on Easter Monday but bonus points offer little consolation.

We need to return to the win column - this will make those bonus points count for Whitehaven RLFC. We certainly plan to do that today and hope you enjoy the match. Thank you for being with us.

Don't expect a repeat of last Featherstone victory

WELCOME to today's visitors Featherstone Rovers. Our fans will recall that we won 52-26 at their place a few weeks ago, after going 32-0 up with just over 20 minutes on the clock.

But don't expect the same Featherstone today. They won't be the team we played last time, that's for sure.

They will be on a mission, just like Halifax were on Monday, after we beat them three times out of four last year and knocked them out of the play-off series.

To be 24-0 down at half-time against Halifax, I felt we presented the game to them on a plate. We were found wanting defensively in our middle channels, which was something we had prepared well for.

We didn't contain their fast play-the-ball as we couldn't get numbers in to the tackle. Only one of Halifax's four tries were scored around us. The rest went through us. I wasn't happy at that, but we made amends in the second half with 18 unanswered points.

We were far more aggressive after half-time and showed our intent from the start. We had said at half-time that we had to get something out of the match, to take in to the Featherstone game, even if it wasn't the win, which we did.

Kyle Amor started at prop for the first time and made a tremendous contribution. It's a different proposition when you're still learning your trade, to come off the bench for short spells. He played the entire second half, which is uncommon for a prop these days. It was great to see him make such a contribution.

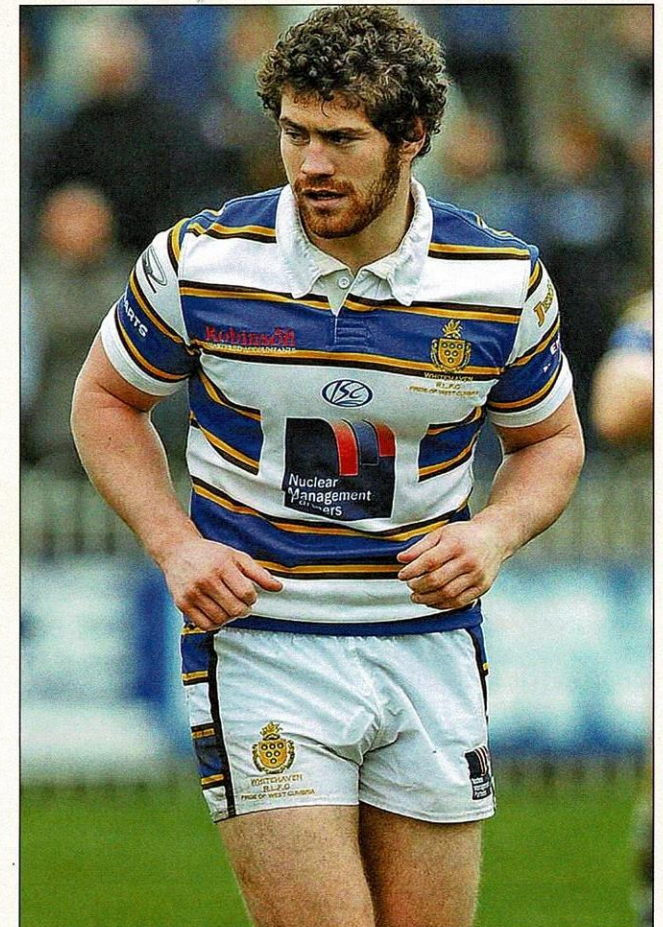
The same goes for Gregg McNally, who weighed in with another hat-trick. It's mind boggling.

Two of his tries came from support work, and another from a tremendous little dribble from dummy half through the line, which is a real tribute to him.

We played two hard games over Easter and had the potential to win both, rather than pick up two bonus points. It just didn't happen for us, but those two extra points will be very valuable in the end-of-season shake up.

Enjoy the match.

Ged Stokes, head coach



Kyle Amor, who played the whole second half against Halifax



We're supporting Whitehaven RLFC





Oldham v Rams



Sunday April 19th 2009. Kick off 3pm. BOUNDARY PARK

OLDHAM RLFC

DEWSBURY RAMS

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Sporting Image 07894 122315	1 Paul O'Connor
Premier Signs UK 01706 649267	2 Andy Ballard
Totalplus Communications	3 Danny Halliwell
Totalplus Comms 0161 3438181	4 Paul Reilly
Tech Doors 0161 6265049	5 Lee Greenwood
Office Supplies Now 0845 8333001	6 James Coyle
Nigel Marland	7 Thomas Coyle
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	18 Neil Roden
	19 Craig Littler
Cagney and Lacey	20 Simeon Hoyle
Rob The Gardener	21 Lucas Onyango
Maureen & Peter Woodhead	22 Phil Joseph
	23 Chris Baines
Totalplus Communications	24 Marcus St Hilaire
	25 Luke Menzies
	26 Luke Sutton
H.Mullaney & Sons 01457 832870	Goalkeeper

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

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

COACH: WARREN JOWITT

COACH: TONY BENSON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWWW
 LAST SIX HOME: L-WLWWW
 TRIES: Andy Ballard 11, James Coyle 7, Thomas Coyle 6, Lucas Onyango 6
 GOALS: Andy Ballard 50, Danny Halliwell 3.
 DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Andy Ballard

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C.Halloran
 Touch: A.Smith, T.Selby
 Fourth Official: S.Moss

BENNETT'S BET

"Jowitt's Rams to secure vital three points - Dewsbury by 2"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWLW
 LAST SIX AWAY: LL-WWWL
 TRIES: Kane Epati 9, Alex Bretherton 6, Liam Finn 5, Andy Bostock 5, Lee Lingard 4.
 GOALS: Pat Walker 47, Liam Finn 11
 DGs: Liam Finn 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Liam Finn

Wm. Quinn Group Ltd.

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People caring for people

CLUBCALL

Oldham v Dewsbury

Next two are big ones

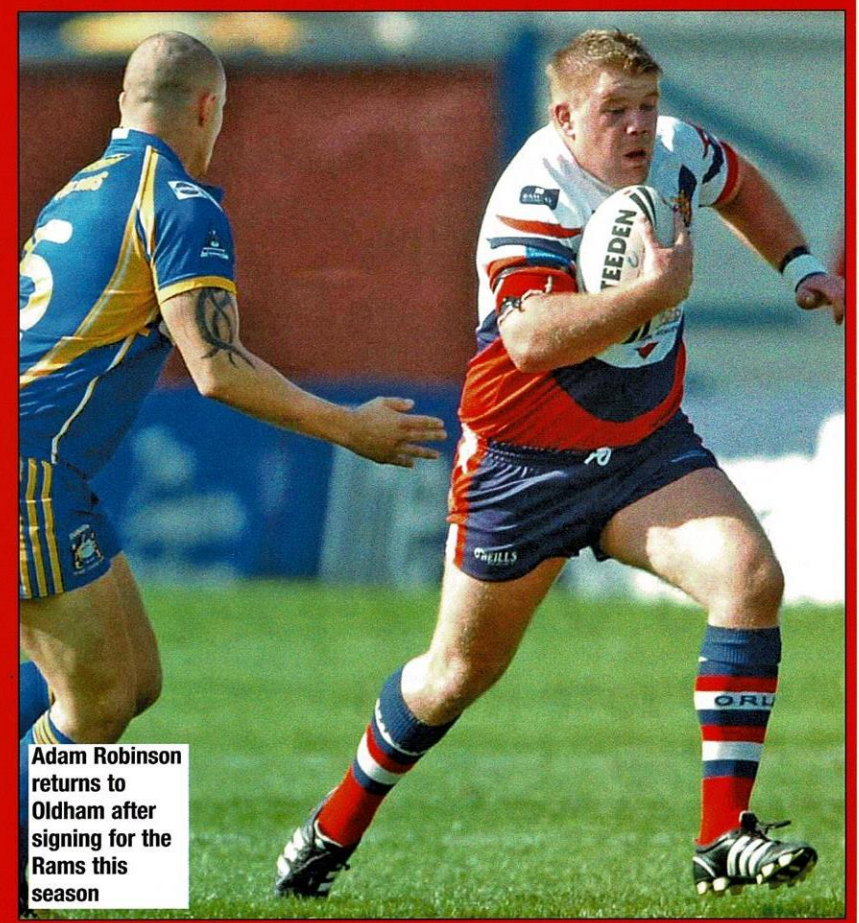
ISN'T the season flying along - already six games played.
 Pre-season already seems so long ago, a distant memory.
 We are now at a point where the points table starts to take on some significance and the pressure builds for a continuation of the roll you've been having, or worse still the need to start a run of success.
 Apart from a couple of points missing from the Keighley game we are relatively happy with where we are sitting at the moment, both on the ladder and in our

on-field progress.
 Don't get me wrong we'd all like to be a couple of wins away from our nearest rival on the points table and playing perfect rugby week in week out but when planning the season we set an ultimate season goal and a series of mini goals for measurement at different points along the way.
 And right now I would describe us as pretty close to where we need to be with lots of room and enthusiasm for improvement.
 The next two games are vital.

We need to continue our improvement and perform well in both to keep progressing our season.
 May I offer a warm Oldham welcome today to our visitors from Dewsbury although we don't like to look ahead more than one game but as a team we have looked forward to this one.
 With a typical dry, hot Oldham summer's day and a referee who appreciates a nice open and flowing game, it should be a cracker!
 Enjoy the day
Tony Benson, coach

Hard to watch the action from sidelines

Good afternoon and welcome to Boundary Park for our clash with the bookies' joint favourites for the league title this season, the Rams from Dewsbury.
 Both teams will be looking to take the three points and avoid giving away that precious bonus point given how tight this league campaign is this season. Good Friday saw us come away with three points from our local derby game with the Hornets.
 It was your typical derby with plenty of fire from both sets of forwards. Just what you would expect from local rivals.
 On a personal front it was disappointing to have to miss the last couple of games with the rib injury I picked up three weeks ago against Keighley.
 It is taking its time to heal but an x-ray this week should clear up what the extent of the damage actually is.
 Hopefully I can be back on the park within the next couple of weeks as I am not the best spectator!
 Home games seem to be coming round thick and fast with next week seeing us play host to Swinton Lions who at the time these notes were written actually sit at the top of table having won four out of four games.
 Nothing is certain in this league and that is just another game we will have to be on top form for to pick up maxi-



Adam Robinson returns to Oldham after signing for the Rams this season

mum points.
 Sibling rivalry will be the order of the day today with both Robinson brothers going

head to head. We will make sure that my good friend Adam gets a warm welcome! Enjoy the game.

Enjoy the game.

BOB ROBERTS
CLUB CAPTAIN

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ON THE MONEY!

Get the bookies running scared



MIKE OXLEY of Totesport explains how punters can gain an edge by placing their bets after the match has started



In-form winger Paddy Flynn could have a field day when Widnes entertain struggling Batley

home by Gateshead and also average points scored away by Sheffield so he can get an insight to the points spread etc. He will also look where, on average, they score the most points – the first or second half. All this research is key for the punter to find an edge and make money from in running betting. If, for example, Gateshead score more points first half than Sheffield but are a lot lower on the average of points scored in the second half, the punter will not punt the pre handicap but will play in running. If Gateshead scores the first try of the game the handicap will change from Gateshead +4 to Sheffield +2 due to the score change.

HOW we bet on sporting events in recent years has changed since bookmakers started offering prices on 'in running'. In running sporting events provide a large percentage of the bookmakers' income and the margin is lower than the pre event mainly due to the shrewd punter finding an edge over the unsuspecting bookmaker.

In running works like this: Once an event has kicked off or started then a bookmaker offers odds on both teams up to say the 65th minute on a rugby league game or up to the final whistle of a football match.

In rugby league most bookmakers offer the handicap, 80 minute and total points betting in running. I mentioned earlier about the punter having an edge, this is sometimes due to the fact the pictures shown by television broadcasters are seven seconds behind the live action a punter sees if he is at the game.

With today's technology there are several gadgets which means he can punt as he watches it. Seven seconds is a long time in rugby league if a penalty is awarded, or an interception pass is taken etc.

The main edge though comes from the punter doing his homework and taking a view on the match as it happens. Let's take for example this week's live match of Gateshead v Sheffield which will be live on Sky Sports on Thursday night.

The handicap will probably see Gateshead getting a 4 start at home to Sheffield. The pro punter will, pre game, be doing his homework in terms of what is the average points scored at

So if the punter fancies Sheffield to win but thinks they will make a slow start, it would be more advantageous to back them 20 minutes or so into the game with a better handicap knowing that they are going to finish the stronger. For the novice punters out there who have never tried 'in running' before it is just food for thought.

Right, on to this week's matches, the first match that I think we can pick up a couple of quid on is backing Widnes at home to Batley. I think that in recent weeks Gary Thornton's side have been poor to say the least with big defeats by Halifax and also a home humiliation by new boys Toulouse.

Paul Cullen's team have not been in much better form but from what I have seen from both teams recently I just think there is a massive gulf in class that the bookies underestimate.

And if anybody handicaps the match less than a 30 start to Batley, I think it is time for another raid of our ISA account to pile the money on Widnes.

Of the other games, I would have a small interest in Toulouse at home to Leigh. I think that the French outfit are finding their feet in the division and will be hard to beat at home.

I think most bookmakers will give Toulouse about a 6 start at home to Leigh. I would punt the 6 start as well as a small wager on the 80 minutes price of around 7/4.

So good luck this week and remember if you miss the start of a live game you can always punt in running.



bet online
totesport.com



bet by phone
0800 221 221

IN P R O F I L E

KARL EDMONDSON WHITEHAVEN Squad Number: 10



BACKGROUND

NAME: Karl Edmondson.

AGE: 26 (09/02/1983).

POSITION: Prop forward.

HEIGHT: 6'0". WEIGHT: 17st.

MARITAL STATUS: Married, with two children, Aidan, 8, and Madison, 4.

BORN: Carlisle, grew up in Silloth, then moved to New Zealand aged 5.

AMATEUR CLUB: Glenora Bears (West Auckland).

SIGNED PRO: New Zealand Warriors (2000).

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Waitakere Rangers.

FAVOURITES

CLUB SUPPORTED AS A KID: Brisbane Broncos.

SOCCER TEAM: My son supports Liverpool so I support Manchester United!

OTHER SPORT: Golf, and growing up I played softball and touch rugby.

HOBBIES: Spend a lot of time with my two kids.

FOOD: Hangi, it's a Maori method of cooking meat in the ground, in a pit oven. It gives it a different taste.

DRINK: Orange juice.

HOLIDAY: Gold Coast, Australia.

MUSIC: Anything really with a good sound to it. My favourite band is probably a New Zealand band called Catch A Fire.

FILM: Bad Boys I & II.

TV: CSI.

SUPERSTITIONS: If I get badly injured the boots I was wearing are gone!

CAREER

BEST TEAMMATE: Gavin Bailey, was stand-off and captain of the New Zealand A team that toured in 2003.

BEST OPPONENT: Iafeta Palea'aesina. I played with him in rep teams growing up back home but against him in the Challenge Cup last year (106-8 defeat). The less said about that the better!

BEST PLAYER IN THE WORLD: As a prop, I'd say Steve Price. He can play 80 minutes and keeps going, and he also has a lot of time for the young lads.

BEST COACH I'VE PLAYED FOR: Ged Stokes, who also coached me with the New Zealand A side. Also Bernie Perenara, who coached me for two seasons at Waitakere.

COACH I'D LIKE TO PLAY FOR: Being a big Broncos fans as a kid I'd say Wayne Bennett.

MY STRENGTHS: My go-forward, getting the yards for the team.

MY WEAKNESSES: I'm always looking to get more match fitness.

HIGHLIGHT: Earning my first New Zealand jersey playing for U-16s against Australia.

LOWLIGHT: I broke the scaphoid bone in my wrist at 15 and needed a bone graft. That meant I missed playing for the local rep side.

ULTIMATE WISH: To make the Grand Final with Whitehaven – we were just one game away last year.

AFTER FINISHED PLAYING: I was a police officer back in Auckland and I've taken two years leave so I'd carry on with that.

KNOW YOUR STUFF?

AROUND THE CLUBS

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS WEEK-END'S 12 PLAYING CLUBS?

GATESHEAD – Thunder forward Tabua Cakacaka represents which country at international level?

SHEFFIELD – Against which team did the Eagles record their record victory; a 98-4 win in August 2003?

WIDNES – Who is Paul Cullen's assistant coach at the Stobart Stadium?

BATLEY – With which chocolate manufacturer have the Bulldogs recently established a link-up?

TOULOUSE – In what season did the Frenchmen reach the semi final of the Challenge Cup?

LEIGH – In what year did the club adopt its Centurions nickname?

HALIFAX – From which club did Fax sign powerful prop Frank Watene?

DONCASTER – In what year were the Dons founded; 1951, 1953 or 1955?

WHITEHAVEN – Against which club did teenage sensation Gregg McNally make his Haven debut in 2008?

FEATHERSTONE – Who coached Rovers to Challenge Cup glory in 1983?

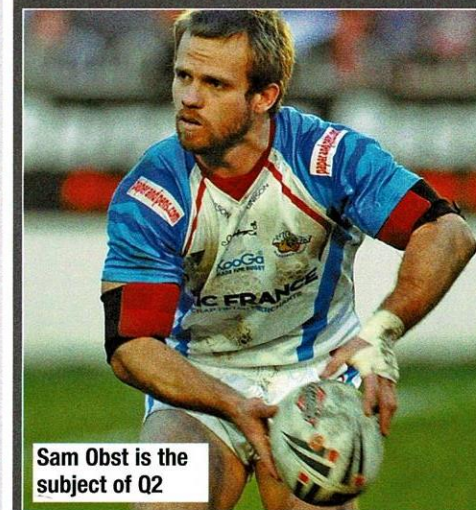
OLDHAM – The Roughyeds moved to which ground in 1889?

DEWSBURY – Which current Super League team did Dewsbury beat to win the Yorkshire Challenge Cup for the first time back in 1881?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

DO YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR RL? HERE ARE SIX TOUGHIES TO TEST ALL RUGBY LEAGUE FANS

1. In what year did Stuart Reardon win the Harry Sunderland Award as man of the match in the Super League Grand Final?
2. From which Championship club did Wakefield Wildcats sign Sam Obst?
3. Which two St Helens players are currently on loan at Celtic Crusaders?
4. Who is the current captain of Hull FC?
5. From which NRL club did Wigan sign Tim Smith?



Sam Obst is the subject of Q2

ANAGRAMS

REARRANGE THE FOLLOWING PHRASES TO FORM THE NAMES OF THREE CHAMPIONSHIP CENTRES.

1. BENIGN KIEV HOUR

2. YAK DRINK

3. HEAVE TOOL, OK

ANSWERS-AROUND THE CLUBS: 1. Fiji; 2. London Skolars; 3. John Stankevitch; 4. Thornton's; 5. 2003; 6. 1993; 7. Dewsbury Rams; 8. 1991; 9. Salford City
 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: 1. 2003; 2. Whitehaven; 3. Maty Smith and Ste Tye; 4. Lee Radford; 5. Parramatta Eels
 ANAGRAMS: 1. Kevin Heighour; 2. Andy Kirk; 3. Toa Koha Love

GET YOUR FIX...

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 12, Widnes Vikings 4
Halifax RLFC 50, Blackpool Panthers 28

CHALLENGE CUP

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

THIRD ROUND

Keighley Cougars 30, Pia 24
Queens 12, Doncaster RL 16
Siddal 6, Swinton Lions 10
Widnes Vikings 88, Saddleworth Rangers 0
Workington 6, FC Lezignan-Corbieres 18

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

THIRD ROUND

Barrow Raiders 44, Blackpool Panthers 12
Dewsbury Rams 18, Carcassonne 6
Featherstone Rovers 94, British Army 2
Gateshead Thunder 42, Whitehaven 38
Halifax 80, Loughborough Univ 16
Leeds Met 24, Hornets RL 38
Leigh Centurions 82, Lokomotiv Moscow 6
Oldham Roughyeds 26, Sharlston Rovers 8
Pilkingtons 24, Batley Bulldogs 34
Sheffield Eagles 22, Toulouse 6
Wath Brow Hornets 14, London Skolars 12
York City Knights 50, Wigan St Patricks 10

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Kells 12, Hunslet Hawks 22

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Swinton Lions 31, Workington Town 24

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

London Skolars 14, Dewsbury Rams 42

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

CHAMPIONSHIP

Widnes Vikings 70 Toulouse Olympique 0

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders 34, Doncaster RLFC 14

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs 8, Featherstone Rovers 34
Sheffield Eagles 22, Leigh Centurions 23
Whitehaven 42, Gateshead Thunder 18

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Oldham 36, Blackpool Panthers 18

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Halifax RLFC 24, Widnes Vikings 14

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique 12, Sheffield Eagles 18

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers 26, Whitehaven 52
Gateshead Thunder 14, Barrow Raiders 38
Leigh Centurions 28, Batley Bulldogs 34

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Workington Town 21, Hornets RL 14

Blackpool Panthers 34, Hunslet Hawks 26

Dewsbury Rams 28, York City Knights 2

Keighley Cougars 34 Oldham 26

London Skolars 16, Swinton Lions 66

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Batley Bulldogs 20, Gateshead Thunder 20

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

CHAMPIONSHIP

Whitehaven 40, Toulouse Olympique 26

Barrow Raiders 24, Halifax RLFC 26

Widnes Vikings 28, Sheffield Eagles 20

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

CHAMPIONSHIP

Doncaster RLFC 18, Leigh Centurions 24

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL 31 Dewsbury Rams 33

Swinton Lions 36, Keighley Cougars 28

York City Knights 22, Blackpool Panthers 20

Hunslet Hawks 71, London Skolars 0

Oldham 66, Workington Town 14

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

Halifax 20, Widnes Vikings 16

Sheffield Eagles 28, Dewsbury Rams 18

Swinton Lions 22, Hornets RL 28

Wakefield Trin Wildcats 54 Leigh Centurions 0

Hull KR 32, Celtic Crusaders 6

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

Warrington Wolves 56 York City Knights 10

Harlequins RL16, Huddersfield 42

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

Batley Bulldogs 28, Hunslet Hawks 24

Oldham 60, Lezignan 30

Featherstone 54, Wath Brow Hornets 16

Catalans Dragons 40, Bradford Bulls 28

Barrow Raiders 20, Wigan Warriors 32

Keighley Cougars 20, Castleford Tigers 64

Doncaster 18, Gateshead Thunder 32

Hull FC 18, Salford City Reds 22

Leeds Rhinos 18, St Helens 22

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sheffield Eagles 22, Doncaster RLFC 23

Halifax RLFC 72, Batley Bulldogs 0

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Gateshead Thunder 2, Featherstone Rovers 23

Barrow Raiders 18, Whitehaven 12

Widnes Vikings 8, Leigh Centurions 10

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL 18, Oldham 26

Workington Town 16, Hunslet Hawks 24

Blackpool Panthers 12, Swinton Lions 16

Dewsbury Rams 70, London Skolars 0

Keighley Cougars 13, York City Knights 12

MONDAY, APRIL 13

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers 20, Sheffield Eagles 12

Leigh Centurions 16, Barrow Raiders 25

Batley Bulldogs 22, Toulouse Olympique 60

Doncaster RLFC 18, Widnes Vikings 24

Whitehaven 18, Halifax RLFC 24

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions 42, Workington Town 28

York City Knights 44, Hornets RL 14

Hunslet Hawks 21, Keighley Cougars 18

London Skolars 10, Blackpool Panthers 48

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

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Oldham v Dewsbury Rams 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 20:00

Gateshead Thunder v Doncaster RLFC 19:30

SUNDAY, MAY 3

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique v Whitehaven 19:00

MONDAY, MAY 4

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs v Leigh Centurions 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Dewsbury Rams 15:00

York City Knights v Keighley Cougars 15:00

Blackpool Panthers v Hornets RL 15:00

Hunslet Hawks v Workington Town 15:00

London Skolars v Oldham 15:00

THURSDAY, MAY 7

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Whitehaven v Widnes Vikings 15:00

SATURDAY, MAY 9

CHALLENGE CUP, FIFTH ROUND

Castleford v Halifax 18:00

SUNDAY, MAY 10

CHALLENGE CUP, FIFTH ROUND

Sheffield Eagles v Hull KR 15:00

Batley Bulldogs v Salford City Reds TBC

Gateshead v Oldham TBC

Huddersfield v Rochdale TBC

Featherstone v Warrington TBC

THURSDAY, MAY 14

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Leigh Centurions v Widnes Vikings 19:30

SATURDAY, MAY 16

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique v Barrow Raiders 19:00

SUNDAY, MAY 17

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers v Doncaster RLFC 15:00

Gateshead Thunder v Whitehaven 15:00

Halifax RLFC v Sheffield Eagles 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v York City Knights 15:00

Dewsbury Rams v Blackpool Panthers 15:00

Keighley Cougars v Swinton Lions 15:00

Workington Town v London Skolars 14:00

Oldham v Hunslet Hawks 15:00

THURSDAY, MAY 21

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Doncaster RLFC v Halifax RLFC 19:30

SATURDAY, MAY 23

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sheffield Eagles v Toulouse Olympique 18:00

Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers 18:30

Widnes Vikings v Gateshead Thunder 18:00

SUNDAY, MAY 24

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs v Whitehaven 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Oldham 15:00

Workington Town v Dewsbury Rams 15:00

Blackpool Panthers v Keighley Cougars 15:00

Hunslet Hawks v Hornets RL 15:00

London Skolars v York City Knights 15:00

THURSDAY, MAY 28

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Featherstone Rovers v Leigh Centurions 19:30

SATURDAY, MAY 30

CHAMPIONSHIP

Gateshead Thunder v Toulouse Olympique 18:00

Barrow Raiders v Sheffield Eagles 18:30

SUNDAY, MAY 31

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs v Widnes Vikings 15:00

Whitehaven v Doncaster RLFC 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Hornets RL 15:00

WHAT A RESULT!



CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY APRIL 9th
Halifax 72
 Tries: James 2, Gleeson, Greenwood, Worrincy, Penkywicz 2, A Bowman 3, Royston, Black
 Goals: Patterson 12
Batley 0
 Half-time: 18-0
 Attendance: 2,184

Sheffield 22
 Carey, Handforth, Castle. Goals: Woodcock 3
Doncaster 23
 Tries: Groom, Yere 3. Goals: Briggs 5
 Drop Goals: Handforth
 Half-time: 10-14
 Attendance: 1,209

THURSDAY APRIL 9th
Barrow 18
 Tries: L Mossop, Butler, Brocklehurst. Goals: Noone 2, Brocklehurst
Whitehaven 12
 Tries: Joe, McNally. Goals: McNally 2
 Half-time: 18-6
 Attendance: 2,910

Gateshead 2
 Goals: Knowles
Featherstone 23
 Tries: Lee, Harris, Field
 Goals: Dickens 5. Drop Goals: Harris
 Half-time 2-8
 Attendance: 651

Widnes 8
 Tries: Wildbore. Goals: Dodd 2
Leigh 10
 Tries: Donlan, Mort
 Goals: Mort
 Half-time: 6-0
 Attendance: 4,354

MONDAY APRIL 13th
Batley 22
 Tries: Preece, Young, Lindsay, McGilvary. Goals: Mennell 3
Toulouse 60
 Tries: Almarcha, Couturier 2, Ormeno 2, Houles, N Wynn 2, Maria 2, Payan
 Goals: Couturier, N Wynn 7
 Half-time: 10-22
 Attendance: 662

Featherstone 20
 Tries: Kirk, A Kain, Steel.
 Goals: Dickens 4
Sheffield 12
 Tries: Thackeray, Hepworth
 Goals: Woodcock 2.
 Half-time: 4-10
 Att: 1,612



Doncaster had a great win at the Don Valley

Leigh 16
 Tries: Rourke, Mort, Stanton
 Goals: Mort 2
Barrow 25
 Tries: Ellis, L Finch, Nixon, Catic
 Goals: Holt 4. Drop Goals: Holt
 Half-time: 16-2
 Attendance: 2,177

Whitehaven 18
 Tries: McNally 3
 Goals: McNally 3
Halifax 24
 Tries: Gleeson, Barker, Royston, Black
 Goals: Govin 4
 Half-time: 0-24
 Attendance: 2,005

Doncaster 18
 Tries: Handforth, May, Weeden
 Goals: Handforth 3
Widnes 24
 Tries: Dodd 2, Doran, Thompson, Thackeray. Goals: Yates, Flynn
 Half-time 0-20
 Attendance: 831

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP 1
FRIDAY APRIL 10th
Blackpool 12
 Tries: Ratcliffe, Leather
 Goals: G Langley 2
Swinton 16
 Tries: Rigby, Hulse, Saywell
 Goals: Holroyd, Sneyd
 Half-time: 8-6
 Attendance: 400

Dewsbury 70
 Tries: Bostock 2, Spurr 3, Bretherton 2, Lingard, Epati 2, Finn, Buchanan
 Goals: Finn 11
London Skolars 0
 Half-time: 34-0
 Attendance: 1,002

Keighley 13
 Tries: Lowe, Mapals
 Goals: Jones 2. Drop Goals: Presley
York 12
 Tries: Ratcliffe, Clayton
 Goals: A Mitchell 2
 Half-time: 8-8
 Attendance: 845

Rochdale 18
 Tries: McGovern, Cuncliffe, Corcoran
 Goals: McGovern 3
Oldham 26
 Tries: Greenwood, Gibbons, Ballard, J Coyle, Baines
 Goals: Ballard 3
 Half-time: 12-10
 Attendance: 1,249

Workington 16
 Tries: Dawes 3
 Goals: Forber 2
Hunslet 24
 Tries: A Faal, Dooler, Mark, Wabo
 Goals: D Robinson 4
 Half-time: 12-10
 Attendance: 543

MONDAY APRIL 13th
Hunslet 21
 Tries: Chapman, M Brown 2

Goals: Sheldrake 4.
 Drop Goals: Chapman
Keighley 18
 Tries: Wray, Mapals, Presley
 Goals: Jones 3
 Half-time: 10-14
 Attendance: 697

London Skolars 10
 Tries: Thomas, Paxton
 Goals: Thorman
Blackpool 48
 Tries: Clough 2, Keavney, Forster, Leather 2, G Langley, Llewellyn, Tucker
 Goals: G Langley, Leather 5
 Half-time: 0-18. Attendance: 215

Swinton 42
 Tries: Wainwright, Grundy, McClurg, Saywell 2, Sneyd, Ashe
 Goals: Holroyd 3, Sneyd 4
Workington 28
 Tries: Benjafield, Forber 2, Whitehead, Dawes
 Goals: Forber 4
 Half-time: 16-12.
 Attendance: 404

York 44
 Tries: Hodgson, Grimshaw, Hughes, P March 2, M Mitchell, Oakes, Applegarth
 Goals: McHugh 6
Rochdale 14
 Tries: Giles, Ainscough, Fogerty
 Goals: McGovern
 Half-time: 16-8
 Attendance: 923

STATS SERVICE



Leading points scorers

PLAYER/CLUB	T	G	DG	Ps
Andy Ballard (Oldham)	11	50	144	
Gregg McNally (White)	18	34	140	
Pat Walker (Dewsbury)	1	47	98	
Ian Mort (Leigh)	7	35	98	
Carl Sneyd (Swinton)	4	35	86	
Jonny Woodcock (Sheff)	5	33	86	
Paul Noone (Barrow)	1	39	82	
George Flanagan (Batley)	7	22	72	
Danny Jones (Keighley)		33	1	67
Stuart Dickens (Feath)		31		62
Scott Yates (Widnes)	3	24	60	
Jon Presley (Keighley)	14		1	57
Ben Black (Halifax)	8	12	56	
Mick Govin (Halifax)	1	24	52	
Darren Robinson (Hunslet)	3	19	1	51
Luke Branighan (G'head)	8	8	48	
Michael Knowles (G'head)	1	22	48	
Iestyn Harris (Feath)	4	15	46	
Nathan Wynn (Toulouse)	3	16	44	
Johnny Leather (Black)	5	12	44	
Stuart Dickens (Feath)		22		44
Carl Forber (Workington)	2	18	44	
Liam Finn (Dewsbury)	5	11	1	43
Adam Mitchell (York)	2	16	40	
Stuart Sanderson (G'head)	10			40
Andy Kain (Feath)	10	1	42	
Gavin Dodd (Widnes)	5	10	40	
Lee Patterson (Halifax)	3	13	38	
Gareth Langley (Blackpool)	4	11	38	
Martin Ridyard (Leigh)	4	10	1	37
Dave Hull (Swinton)	9			36
Tim Hartley (Widnes)	2	14	36	
Kane Epati (Dewsbury)	9			36
Adam Mitchell (York)		18		36
Kyle Briggs (Doncaster)		17		34
Sean Penkywicz (Halifax)	8			32
James Haley (Halifax)	3	10	32	
Paddy Flynn (Widnes)	8			32
James Nixon (Barrow)	8			32
John Oakes (York)	8			32
Chris Giles (Hornets RL)	4	7	30	
Dylan Nash (Gateshead)	7			28
Andy Ellis (Barrow)	7			28



Darren Robinson - rising the chart

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Ps
Barrow	5	4	0	1	1	139	82	57	13
Halifax	4	4	0	0	0	146	56	90	12
Widnes	5	3	0	2	2	144	72	72	11
Whitehaven	5	3	0	2	1	162	112	50	11
Leigh	5	3	0	2	1	101	107	-6	11
Featherstone	4	3	0	1	1	103	74	29	9
Sheffield	5	1	0	4	4	94	106	-12	7
Doncaster	4	1	0	3	2	73	104	-31	5
Batley	5	1	1	3	2	84	214	-130	5
Toulouse	4	1	0	3	1	98	150	-52	4
Gateshead	4	0	1	3	2	54	121	-67	2

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Ps
Swinton	4	4	0	0	0	160	84	76	12
Hunslet	4	3	0	1	1	142	68	74	10
Oldham	4	3	0	1	1	154	84	70	10
Dewsbury	3	3	0	0	0	131	33	98	9
Blackpool	5	2	0	3	2	132	110	22	8
Keighley	4	2	0	2	2	93	95	-2	8
York	4	2	0	2	1	80	75	5	7
Workington	4	1	0	3	1	79	146	-67	4
London Skolars	4	0	0	4	0	26	255	-229	0
Hornets*	4	0	0	4	3	77	124	-47	-6

*Hornets deducted nine points for entering administration

NORTHERN RAIL CUP 2009 TABLES

POOL ONE

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Ps
Halifax (Q)	4	4	0	0	0	178	66	112	12
Oldham (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	130	72	58	10
Barrow Raiders (Q)	4	3	0	1	0	110	63	47	9
Widnes Vikings (Q)	4	2	0	2	2	110	68	42	8
Keighley Cougars	4	2	0	2	1	105	76	29	7
Gatesh'd Thunder	4	2	0	2	0	128	120	8	6
Sheffield Eagles	4	2	0	2	0	108	132	-24	6
B'pool Panthers	4	1	0	3	1	86	138	-52	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	Ps
Dewsbury Rams (Q)	4	4	0	0	0	156	52	104	12
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
Doncaster	4	3	0	1	0	104	90	14	9
Whitehaven	4	2	0	2	1	106	102	4	7
Swinton Lions*	4	1	0	3	2	85	144	-59	5
Batley Bulldogs	4	1	0	3	1	102	146	-44	4
Workington*	4	0	0	4	1	52	129	-77	0
London Skolars	4	0	0	4	0	44	216	-172	0

*Across both the Northern Rail Cup and league campaign, teams will receive three points for a win, two for a draw and one bonus point for losing by 12 points or less

LEADING TRY SCORERS

18	Gregg McNally (Whitehaven)
14	Jon Presley (Keighley)
11	Andy Ballard (Oldham)
10	Stuart Sanderson (Gateshead) Andy Kain (Featherstone)
9	Dave Hull (Swinton) Kane Epati (Dewsbury)
8	Luke Branighan (Gateshead) Paddy Flynn (Widnes) James Nixon (Barrow) Jonny Leather (Blackpool) Ben Black (Halifax) John Oakes (York) Sean Penkywicz (Halifax)
7	James Coyle (Oldham) Ian Mort (Swinton) Lee Mapals (Keighley) Dylan Nash (Gateshead) George Flanagan (Batley) Liam Campbell (Barrow) Andy Ellis (Barrow) Miles Greenwood (Halifax) Stephen Dawes (Workington)
6	Said Tamghart (Halifax) Shad Royston (Halifax) Ayden Faal (Hunslet) Liam Campbell (Barrow) Liam Finch (Barrow) Jermain McGilvary (Batley) Alex Bretherton (Dewsbury) Jon Steel (Featherstone) Stuart Donlan (Leigh) Jamie Durbin (Leigh) Lucas Onyango (Oldham) Thomas Coyle (Oldham) Paul Hughes (York) Danny Ratcliffe (York)



SuperMac - Gregg's riding high