

TRUST BACKS OUR RESERVES

RUGBY Oldham, the Supporters' Trust, will again back the Roughyeds Reserves in season 2009, as announced in the following press release from the Trust:

"RUGBY Oldham Supporters' Trust is proud to announce that, after its successful backing of Oldham RLFC's reserve team in season 2008, which culminated in five reserve-grade players signing professional forms, it will be renewing sponsorship for season 2009.



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"This season, as last, will see the reserve team in Rugby Oldham-branded run-out tops, as seen recently being sported by the first team.

"In addition, all reserve team players who have graduated through the local amateur scene will be individually sponsored by Rugby Oldham, leaving the players with professional contracts available for sponsorship by companies or individuals.

"Rugby Oldham believes that sponsorship in this form fulfils its mission statement to promote local talent throughout the town and to provide a pathway to the highest levels of achievement in the sport for local youth.

"Rugby Oldham wishes John Hough and Leo Casey every success in the quest to develop and nurture talent for the future in the context of a winning reserve-grade team."

Reserves opened their league campaign against Hunslet Hawks at Sedgley Park on the Friday night before the Dewsbury game and went down 30-50 after conceding 18 points in the first 20 minutes.

Said coach John Hough: "We rallied after that and I thought we were the better side in the second half, although we never really made up for that awful opening spell.

"It's something we will have to work on in time for our next match against Leigh Centurions, which will also be played at Sedgley Park."

Included in the Reserves team against Hunslet were Lucas Onyango, Wayne Kerr, Jamie l'Anson, Craig Littler and Luke Sutton.

Kerr scored three tries, Ben Heaton and Mark Smith also crossed and Smith landed five goals.

Team: Heaton; Onyango, Hinsley, Littler, Ward; J Knight, Bradley; l'Anson, O'Brien, Kerr, Clarke, Smith, Mansfield. Subs: Eyres, Sutton, D Knight, Orwell.

The Reserves next game is on Friday, May 1 against Leigh at Sedgley Park, kick-off 7.30pm.

Attendance at the first game was disappointing and club officials, coaches John and Leo and all the boys are hoping for better support when they take on the Centurions.

Oldham

ROUGHYEDS

RLFC



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



v Swnton Lions

The Co-operative Championship 1
Sunday 26th April 2009 Kick-Off 3.00pm

Benson boys lined up for lots of TV profile!

by ROGER HALSTEAD

OLDHAM'S players will be getting used to the TV treatment in the next few weeks with two of their games in June and a third in August to be televised live by Sky Sports.

SKY SPORTS selection of the Oldham v Featherstone quarter-final tie in the Northern Rail Cup for Sky's Thursday night live rugby league slot means that Roughyeds' matches will be beamed across the country three times in the space of nine weeks.

TAKE 1: First up will be the clash of the 2007 second division Grand Finalists in the last eight of the Northern Rail Cup at Leigh on Thursday, June 4 - a home draw for Oldham, but one which had to be switched from Boundary Park because the ground is closed for annual pitch repair work from mid-May to mid-July.

TAKE 2: Just three weeks later Oldham's Co-operative Championship One clash at York City Knights will also feature as a Sky Sports special on Thursday night, June 24.

TAKE 3: Sky cameras will be here at Boundary Park for the Oldham v London Skolars league game on Thursday, August 6, by which time the Roughyeds players will have had almost as much TV profile as some of the Super League boys.

As a club Roughyeds are keen to get as much television exposure as they can and that's why they pulled out all the stops to find a venue that matched Sky's requirements for live coverage when opportunity knocked.

Sedgley Park, regularly used in the past during Boundary Park's annual resting period, was not considered suitable for TV.

Club officials then found themselves with only 24 hours in which to find a stadium that would

accommodate the tie and also meet the TV criteria as required by the RFL and by Sky Sports.

Several venues were sounded out before Leigh Sports Village came up trumps, after which Roughyeds circulated the following press release: Oldham Rugby League Club's attractive home quarter-final against Featherstone Rovers in the Northern Rail Cup will be played at the new Leigh Sports Village Stadium on Thursday, June 4 (7.30pm kick off) and televised live by Sky Sports.

Roughyeds had provisionally lined up the tie to be played at Sedgley Park because Boundary Park is closed for pitch repair work from mid-May to mid-July. When it was chosen for Sky, however, a new venue had to be found because Sedgley Park's facilities are not suitable for Sky's live television requirements.

Explained Roughyeds' chief executive Chris Hamilton: "We are keen to get our matches screened on television in order to raise the profile of the club.

We didn't want to lose this opportunity because we couldn't play at Boundary Park, but we had 24 hours only in which to find a suitable venue and inform the RFL that we had acquired an acceptable stadium.

We spoke to various other venues, including Spotland (Rochdale) and Stalybridge Celtic, but venues where football is played were all keen to protect their pitches in June.

However, we agreed in principle with Leigh Sporting Village and later I had a three-hour meeting over there in order to tie up the loose ends."

Only the West Stand, which seats 3,600, will be open and Oldham's normal league match prices will apply, namely £14 for adults, £10 for concessions and £5 for juniors.

Full ticket details will be announced later, but they will all be for unreserved seating rather than for specific seats. This will give supporters more freedom of choice.

Added Mr Hamilton: "This will be another big occasion for the Oldham club and the first time one of our ties in the Northern Rail Cup will have been televised.

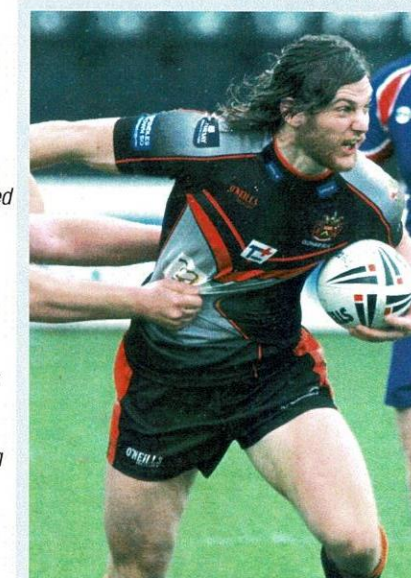
We will be pulling out all the stops to get as many supporters as we can over to Leigh that night."

STEVIE Gibbons, captured in this superb action shot by Roughyeds photographer DAVID MURGATROYD in the recent win at Rochdale, went desperately close to opening Oldham's account in the 36-12 defeat by

Dewsbury Rams at Boundary Park last Sunday.

Many fans situated near the Chaddy End roared as the Irishman stretched for the line in a two-man tackle, believing he had scored, and one supporter with a good vantage point from the hospitality box in that corner of the ground said: "It was a try all right... the ball was on the line."

Boasting the meanest defence in the division, Dewsbury became only the second side in 11 Roughyeds games this season to restrict Oldham to only two tries. The other was Widnes Vikings on the opening day of the season, February 13.



Pictures in this programme courtesy of Dave Murgatroyd.

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View from the inside...



Welcome back to Roughyed Stadium for a match that takes on even greater importance after the loss at home last week to Dewsbury.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the Lions will come here fancying their chances given their good start to the season and our failings to date which have seen us lose two games already in the league.

When the season consists of only 18 games to start with there is not much margin for error and

although nobody connected with the club - including fans - ever thought we were going to go through the season without losing a game, we have to make sure that any future losses mean the opposition have played out of their skins to beat us. We can only ask that the team gives its utmost in every match.

There is no doubt that the game is much easier to play up in the stands and we are all guilty of that at some point in the match, never mind in the season. The team understands, however, how much goes into this club on lots of different fronts, from directors to staff to sponsors to fans and they are the only ones who, come game day, can do anything about the result.

We are all desperate to see some success on the field and we are all pulling in the same direction to make sure we get it.

A playing season is never a straight road. It meanders and twists and turns every time you set out on it and this club does its utmost to ensure it performs to its level best every year.

As I said last week we are entering a busy and important time on the field of play and as well as league games coming up we also have to contend with a Carnegie Challenge Cup tie away at Gateshead, a team which ambushed us last year three days after we had put up a good fight against Super League opponents from Wakefield, which left us physically tired.

That will not be the case this time around and the lads who were here last season are keen to make sure we get some kind of retribution this season.

Gateshead have had to move the game away from their normal stadium because it is not available and we will be breaking new territory for rugby league if the match is given the green light by the RFL to be played at Darlington Football Club.

Our success in reaching the last eight of the Northern Rail Cup has seen us paired with another team who denied us promotion in Featherstone Rovers, who deservedly beat us in the 2007 Grand Final.

We are not bitter and twisted about any defeat, merely motivated by the desire to put things right whenever we lose a match and that should be another great game.

Our need to take the game over to Leigh Sporting Village was borne out of sheer necessity with Roughyed Stadium having its annual pitch work and all of the other grounds which we tried - and there were plenty! - being out

of commission for the same reasons.

We were going to take the game to Sedgley Park but the picking of the match for SKY TV meant that was out of the question.

I had a feeling when the draw was made that the match might be picked for broadcasting and that hunch was right but we only had just over 24 hours to find a ground to stage it once the RFL had confirmed it had been chosen.

We are keen to put the club into the spotlight whenever we can and we will be looking at a number of different ways in which we can make the match accessible to all of our usual supporters. We hope that you can appreciate the plight of the club and rest assured we will be doing our utmost to ensure there is a reasonable crowd at the game.

Please get behind the team today as we look for three valuable points.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

Chief Executive



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THUNDER ANNOUNCE CHALLENGE CUP TICKET PRICES

**5th Round Challenge Cup, 3pm
Saturday 9 May 2009,
Darlington Arena**



Gateshead Thunder has announced ticket prices for their home 5th Round Challenge Cup tie against Oldham to be held at

the Darlington Arena. The match will be played at 3pm on Saturday 9 May 2009.

Advance purchase tickets are now on sale at £10 for Adults and £5 for Children/Students/OAPs. Tickets can be bought direct from the Darlington Arena Ticket Office in person, by calling 0871 855 1833 or online at www.darlington-fc.net. Tickets are available on the day but adult tickets will cost £11.

Fans are advised to purchase tickets in advance. Not only are advance purchase tickets discounted, but pre-booking will ensure ease of entry on match day. The Darlington Arena does not operate any cash turnstiles and tickets are only available from the stadium ticket office.

Whilst tickets can be purchased on the day, Thunder are expecting a strong attendance for what promises to be a pulsating match and fans are advised to arrive early to avoid large queues. There will be two windows open for match day purchases and one window exclusively for ticket collection.

Gateshead Thunder made history beating Doncaster in the 4th Round of the Challenge Cup to make it to the 5th round for the first time in the club's history. Thunder now makes a little bit more history with the first professional rugby league match to be staged in County Durham.

Gateshead International Stadium, Thunder's usual home venue, is unavailable that weekend with the football playoff final provisionally booked for the Friday night and Saturday and Sunday booked out with an athletics meeting. Thunder therefore took the decision to take the match to another part of the region.

Rod Findlay, Chief Executive Officer at Gateshead Thunder, said:

"Gateshead Thunder are really looking forward to playing our 5th Round Challenge Cup tie at the Darlington Arena. We've been and looked around, seen the excellent facilities and can't wait to play our Cup tie there.

We have had a lot of positive feedback from current Thunder fans and the people of Darlington and we are expecting a strong turnout.

The staff at Darlington FC and the stadium are doing everything they can to make rugby league fans feel welcome and it promises to be a great day out for both sets of supporters."

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	L	12-36	1,147
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 CC (Quarter-Final)					
Thurs, June 4	NRCQF	Featherstone Rov.	H	7.30pm			
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			

Play-offs start Friday, Sept 11
Grand Finals Day Sunday, October 4



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PLAYER PROFILE

No 8 LUKE MENZIES

Roger Halstead talks to a young prop who says there is only one way to gain experience - by being thrown in at the deep end.

LUKE Menzies, the young Oldham prop, isn't 21 until later in the summer. He knows there is no substitute for experience and that, in that respect, he still has a lot to learn.

Having said that, this confident young Yorkshire lad doesn't want to be marking time in the sport he has played since he was eight and he believes he is ready to be thrown in at the deep end and to sink or swim on how well he plays.

"I think I've served my apprenticeship at Batley and at Hull KR," says Luke, "and my aim now is to become a 'big' player at Oldham as opposed to a 'bit' player. I think in the last couple of weeks I've gone some way towards achieving that.

"You can only gain experience



by playing and by seeing how you react when you are confronted with different situations.

"At Oldham we have some experienced players who are great when it comes to helping out the younger guys. Paul Highton's vast experience speaks for itself, while Junior (Marcus St Hilaire) is always willing to pass on the benefits of his experience."

Even in the modern game, which contradicts so many of the sport's traditional theories, prop-forwards are expected to be going through the learning process until they reach their mid-twenties.

Menzies is fully aware of that, even though he has already come up against a lot of those "different situations" he talks about.

He has had rugby league pumped into him since he was a boy... his dad, Alan, made sure of that.

Alan, whose uncle was former Halifax prop Steve Lawes, played for Birkenshaw and had trials with Wakefield Trinity. And it was Alan who was mainly responsible for seeing that his boy, Luke, was rolling up his sleeves for Batley Boys at the age of eight.

To this day, Alan closely monitors his son's career and he is never far away when Luke takes to the field.

"He watches every Oldham game home and away," says Luke. "He has been a massive influence on my career. He's my biggest fan. But he isn't one of those dads who thinks his boy can't do wrong."

"To hear him talk to me, I've never once had a decent game. But he means well. And he has been a huge influence."

Another to whom Luke always looked for guidance and advice

was the late Eddie McGuinness, the former Bradford Bulls and Salford City Reds conditioning coach, who tragically died in March after being involved in a road accident in Bradford. He was 43.

"I was very close to Eddie," revealed Luke. "He took me under his wing in my second season at Batley and I went on to work for him in his gym as a personal trainer."

"He helped me a lot as a rugby player and as a person, and he also had a big part to play in my decision to come to Oldham."

"Justin Morgan (Hull K coach) advised me that I would benefit from a move to Oldham under Steve Deakin and that view was endorsed by Eddie, who knew Steve well and who had also worked with Chris Hamilton at England level some years earlier."

"Eddie strongly recommended me to join Oldham and I have to thank him for that because I am happy here and I am enjoying my rugby."

"Shortly before he died, he sold his gym. I stayed on working there for a while, but I'm not there any longer. I'm looking out for a full-time job and I have spoken to Richard Mervill about possibly applying to join the Fire Service."

"They are going to be recruiting again in June or July and it is definitely something that appeals to me."

Luke lives in Liversedge, not far from Batley, with his mum, Susan, his sister, Leigh, and his three dogs --- two Rottweiler males, Ruben and Reef, and a Labrador female, Diva.

The dogs get on well and, despite the Rottweiler reputation, Luke insists there is only one boss... the Labrador lady.

Among his peers when he was a boy playing for the Dewsbury and Batley district side was Sam Burgess.

The young Luke fell out with the game when he was about 14, but some of his mates persuaded him to start playing again with Drighlington and by the time he was in the under-16s the pro clubs were starting to sit up and take notice.

Salford were first in, then Bradford. He was lined up to sign for Salford, but Bradford were very persuasive so he joined the Odsal outfit where he played for the academy side for one season, earning the princely sum of £30 a game, paid out only if he played.

During Bradford's close season he played in the same Birkenshaw team as his dad and it was here that he attracted the attention of Batley Bulldogs, his hometown club.

He made his Bulldogs debut at the age of 17 against Doncaster and ended up battling with a Doncaster prop, Paul Handforth.

He doesn't recall much about the game, but he does remember having a "spot of fisticuffs" with a rival prop in what he describes as a "baptism of fire."

He made spasmodic appearances in the Batley first team, but he developed well under the wing of Eddie McGuinness and he began the following season "with all guns blazing."

Watched by Hull KR's Justin Morgan, he picked up a man-of-the-match award in an early-season game against Castleford Tigers and not long afterwards his agent, Ron Hill, phoned to tell him that Hull KR were interested.

"I was just 19," recalled Luke, "so I jumped at the chance of going into Super League. I made my Super League debut in the May, also against Castleford, and I also played against Workington Town in the Challenge Cup."

"It was good to get a couple of first-team games so early, but I didn't feel right over there. It was like going to a

new job, and quickly realising that things were not clicking.

"I asked to go out on loan. Justin Morgan had a word with Deaks and that's how I came to join Oldham, on loan initially and later on a permanent basis."

"My ultimate goal would be to get back into Super League, but it's hard to get back; all you can do is keep striving."

"Right now though I'm plying my trade with Oldham and I am very happy here, and if I continue to carry on enjoying my rugby with the Roughyeds there's no reason why I shouldn't stay here. It's a good club."

He had particular cause for celebration after the recent Carnegie Challenge Cup win against Lezignan when he was called into the boardroom after the match to receive recognition for his all-round performance against the huge French forwards in the shape of the club's champagne-moment award (see picture).

Naturally, he was disappointed to be on a losing Oldham side against Dewsbury, but he remains confident that Roughyeds under Tony B will still get promoted at the end of the season.

"It's a long season and we've got a good squad. Dewsbury's defence was terrific. They forced us away from doing what we do best and took us off our game plan, while sticking to theirs."

"But I'm confident we'll be there or thereabouts come the end of the year," summed up Luke, whose favourite players are Stuart Fielden, Jamie Peacock and Adrian Morley.

He will soon be making another big step, leaving the family home to set up home with his girl friend Stacey.

Her grandparents have started to watch Oldham regularly. Luke says they have quickly become Roughyeds fanatics and it won't be long before they are buying replica jerseys.

In the meantime, the young prop is proud to wear the real thing --- and he is out to keep hold of it despite intense competition.

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ON THE ROAD WITH ROUGHYEDS

IN conjunction with the Rugby Football League, Roughyeds are currently selling tickets for major forthcoming events on the sport's calendar and are also running club trips to the Northern Rail 9s and the Northern Rail Cup final at Blackpool, to the Carnegie Challenge Cup final at Wembley and to two games in the Four Nations tournament in the autumn.

Fans can help the club, either by travelling on Roughyeds trips or by travelling independently but purchasing their event tickets from the club.

Season-ticket holders have been circulated with full details of all the trips and the available tickets, or ticket vouchers, for the various events.

"We have tried to cater for everyone at prices we consider to be very reasonable," said the club's chief executive Chris Hamilton.

"If you were thinking of going to any of these major rugby league events we would like you to consider doing so with fellow Oldham supporters, thus helping to raise money for the club as well as getting a fun-filled trip at a bargain price."

BLACKPOOL WEEKEND



First up is the trip to Blackpool for the Nines and the Northern Rail Cup final over the weekend of July 11 and 12. The coach departs Oldham at 5.00pm on Friday, July 10 and returns on Sunday, July 12 at around 6.00pm after the cup final at Bloomfield Road.

Cost is £150 per person, which includes two nights bed and breakfast and evening meal at Blackpool's Elgin Hotel (based on two people sharing a room); evening entertainment at the hotel; use of the coach over the

weekend to and from The Woodlands Memorial Ground (Nines) and Bloomfield Road (Northern Rail Cup final); ticket to all the nine-a-side games over two days; and a Northern Rail Cup final ticket.

To book please send a non-refundable deposit of £50 per person - cheques made payable to Oldham RLFC - to the club offices at Lansdowne Road, Chadderton (tel: 0161 628 3677) as soon as possible.

WEMBLEY - DAY TRIP OR TWO NIGHTS



WEMBLEY STADIUM

DAY TRIP:

Experience the unique atmosphere of the 'new' Wembley at the Carnegie Challenge Cup final on Saturday,

August 29. Cost of £65 per person includes coach travel departing Oldham at 8.00am and returning after the game at around 4.30pm, plus cup final ticket of the value of £26 in an area of the stadium reserved for Oldham supporters.

TWO NIGHTS: Experience Wembley AND the sights of London for the bargain price of £185 per person. Coach departs Oldham for Wembley at 8.00am on Saturday, August 29 and returns on Monday, August 31 at noon.

Price includes two nights' bed and breakfast at a four-star Central London hotel (based on two sharing a room) plus Wembley ticket of the value of £26 in the section reserved for fellow Roughyeds' fans.

To reserve a place on either of these two trips a non-refundable deposit is required, £30 for the day trip and £50 for the two-night trip.

FOUR NATIONS



Soak up the atmosphere of two international games of rugby league of the highest calibre -- England v Australia at the JJB Stadium, Wigan on Saturday, October

31 and the Four Nations final at Elland Road, Leeds on Saturday, November 14.

The package includes £20 tickets (adult value) to both games; coach travel departing from and returning to Oldham for both games; and a new England replica jersey in the size of your choice.

Total cost is £100 for adults and £85 for concessions (aged 16 and under and 65 and over). A non-refundable deposit of £20 is required immediately and the balance by September 1. Please note that places are limited in this instance so early booking is recommended.

As part of the agreement with the RFL, Roughyeds will receive a £1,000 incentive if they can fully book a 53-seat bus for the Four Nations games on offer.

MATCH TICKETS ONLY

Fans wishing to travel independently to all these major events can, in most instances, purchase their tickets from the Roughyeds' offices in Lansdowne Road, Chadderton (tel: 0161 628 3677), which is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Tickets (match vouchers) are on sale at £9 for the Northern Rail Nines at Blackpool, with concessionary tickets at £5 for fans aged 16 or under or 65 and over. These cover both days of the Nines and you can upgrade them to include the Northern Rail Cup final at a later date.

Carnegie Challenge Cup final tickets valued at £26 are available from Roughyeds at a discounted £20.

Purchasing your Super League Grand Final tickets from the Roughyeds will also help the club to generate funds from the RFL.

For more details of all the above trips or of how to purchase big-match tickets from the Roughyeds - thus helping to support your favourite club financially - please contact the club on 0161 628 3677.

CHRIS HAMILTON

Chris, a founder-member of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd; a former chairman; current chief executive of the club; and 2009 Man of Oldham will be installed as president of the Rugby Football League on July 8.

Proudly representing the Oldham club, his first public duty will be at the Northern Rail Nines and the Northern Rail Cup final at Blackpool on July 11 and 12.

He will also have official duties to perform at Wembley at the Carnegie Challenge Cup final and at many other major Rugby League events over the next 12 months.

Oldham Picture Caption



Prize for best caption. Send entries to nigel.marland@ntlworld.com

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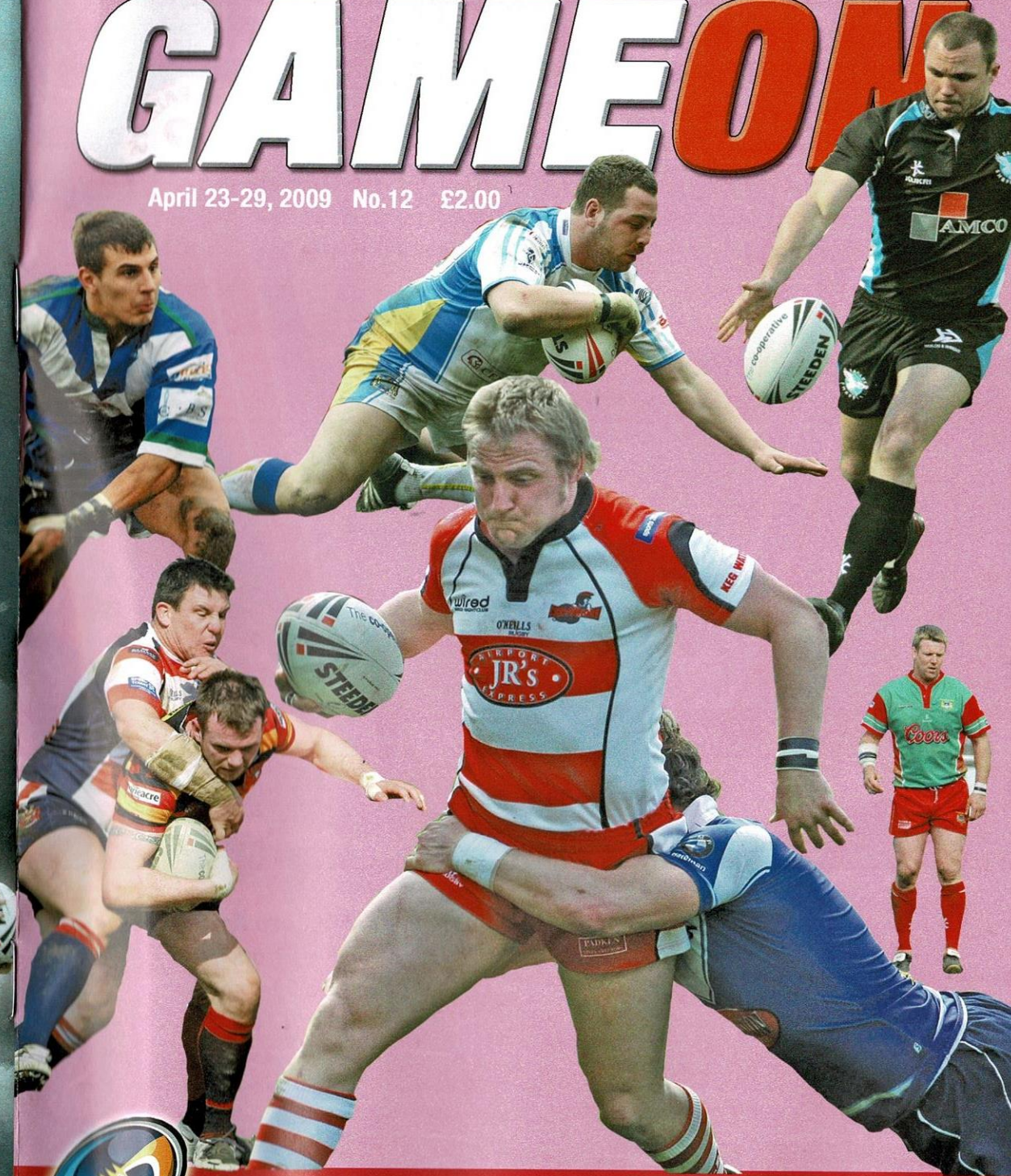
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GAME ON

April 23-29, 2009 No.12 £2.00



INSIDE: RAMS ARE MAD FOR IT!
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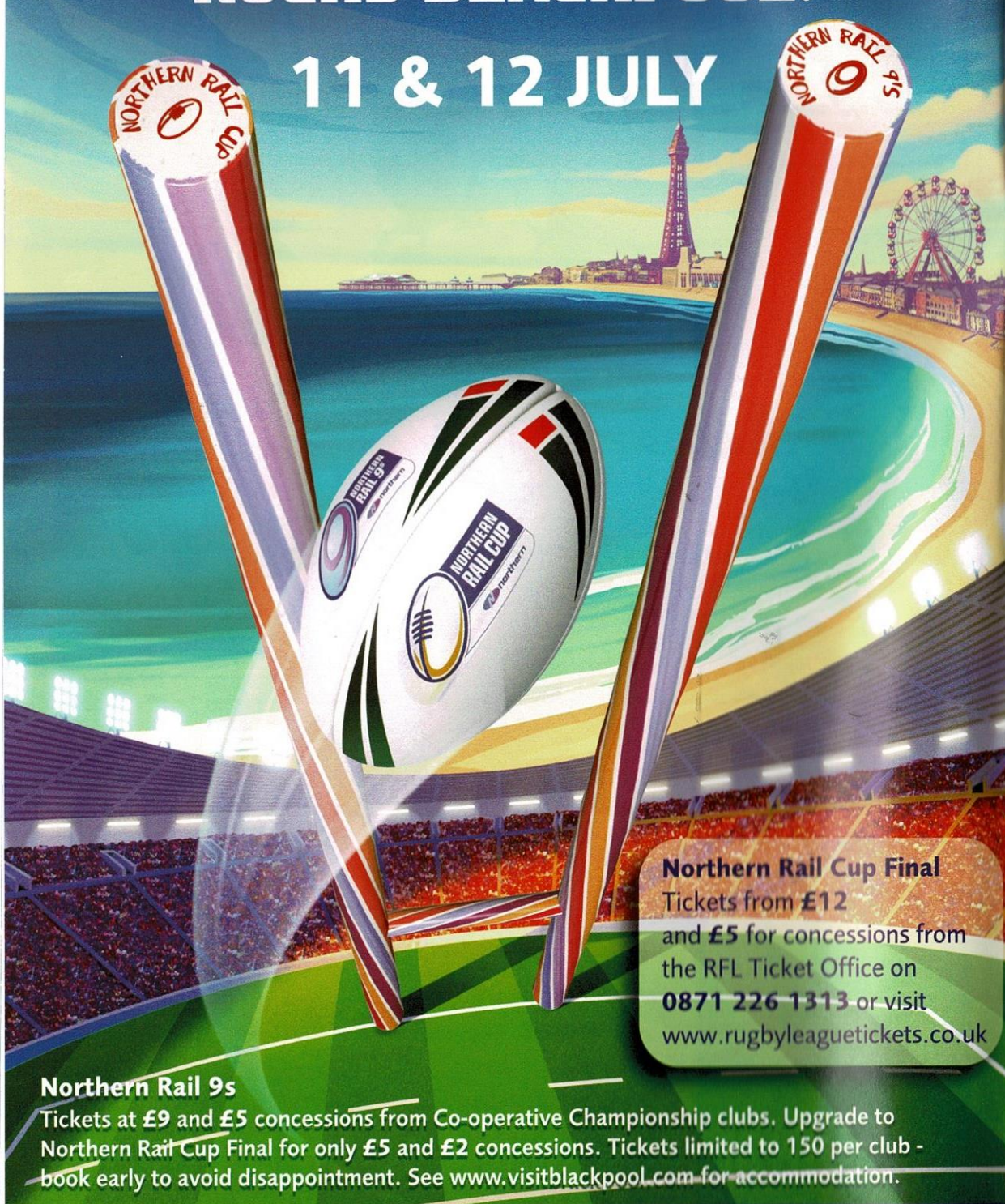


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Players need looking after and listening to

THERE is nothing like some sustained good weather to lift the spirits.

The bank account might be empty but at least the sun is shining. I hope by the time you are reading this the warm spell has lasted the course of the week. If it has apologies if my big head is causing too much glare.

As the sun beats down rugby league grounds up and down the country will be drying out. Surfaces will be hardening up and fast, running rugby will no doubt be on show today.

It is undeniable that summer rugby has upped the pace all over the pitch – you also have another dimension in that surfaces are so much better than they were 20 years ago and more.

All those improvements do have a downside and at this point can I steer you in the direction of Allan Rowley's editorial on page 17.

The Leigh chief executive talks in detail about the issue of playing two games over Easter and makes reference to the type of injuries that are rife in the modern game.

Whereas once it was pulls and strains today collision injuries are blighting rugby league.

And that is undoubtedly down to the fact that, for the most part, players are running on much harder surfaces, allowing them to accelerate quicker and reach the tackler at speeds approaching their quickest.

The advent of the ten-metre rule has exacerbated the effects of that, and of course today's players are bigger and carrying more muscle.

Put it all together and it boils down to a matter of physics where force = mass x acceleration. And that massively increased force brings you to collision injuries.

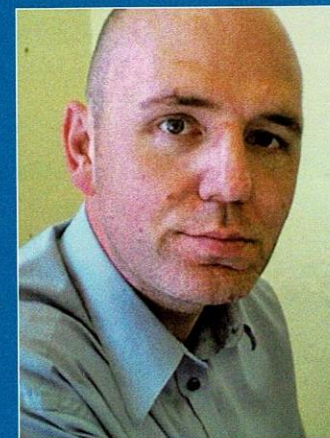
It has to be the most fundamental reason for scrapping the Easter double header. Of course in days gone by teams played twice in quick succession but the simple truth is they are not exposing themselves to the same punishment. Watch a modern game close up today and you are struck by the ferocity of the collisions.

Those that support the back-to-back holiday programme point to increased gates and therefore greater revenues.

Yes they are better but marginally so. Surely the welfare of the players long term outweighs a few quid here and there.

Rugby league has never been afraid to move on.

And on this issue it must do the same.



GAME ON EDITOR
MARK FLANAGAN

RFL – official notes

RESPECT

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

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

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.

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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

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the world according to **SCULLY**

This week Paul chats to us about testimonials, his ground-breaking triathlon ahead of the Challenge Cup final, the beauty of Magic Weekend and his thoughts on who will win this weekend's Co-operative Championship matches.

I've been fairly busy with training and preparing for Paul Wellens' testimonial, but last week we took some time out to play a round of golf, which was great. It's always good to have a break, especially for the guys who have played a lot of matches in a short space of time.

I've also have been doing quite a lot training for the 'extended triathlon' we are doing with the match ball for this year's Challenge Cup. Me and 20 ex-players will be running, biking, walking and rowing our way from the home of the Catalans in Perpignan all the way to Wembley over two weeks ahead of the final, carrying the match ball with us for company!

This is probably going to be one of the toughest things I've ever done as we'll be biking about 800 miles through to Calais, then rowing the 24 miles of the English Channel in a dragon boat to Dover before running to Uxbridge and then walking to Wembley with the match ball! Let's just hope we all make it in time for kick-off!

It's for a great charity – the Steve Prescott Foundation – set up by Prekkie himself following his diagnosis with stomach cancer in 2006. We need to raise as much money as possible for this great cause so I know myself and the boys are training hard.

The Magic Weekend has a really strong line-up this year! The weekend is a great opportunity for all fans to get together for the biggest two-day celebration of rugby league in the UK.

I'm looking forward to seeing St Helens playing Wigan on Saturday May 2 and Catalans versus Leeds 24 hours later. It's great that all the engage Super League teams take part; it is a real treat for fans.

On the community side of things it's also great to see that Keighley Cougars are helping to raise awareness of the benefits of rugby league in the wider community with their series of Street Academies in association with Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Incommunities. I'm lending my full support to the initiative as it sees a series of street academies and skills sessions held throughout the summer that will help encourage people to be as active and healthy as possible.

This weekend I will be watching the games as closely as ever. There is a long way to go in the season but Halifax are looking really strong and Barrow have proved that anything is possible.

I will be watching Halifax against Gateshead, which I think Halifax will edge, and Sheffield against Widnes; I'm sure the Vikings will win. There's a great weekend of rugby action ahead so why not join me to see if you can spot your player of the month for April.

**To register your vote for April's Co-operative Championship player of the month please email your entry to: playerofthemonth@generatesponsorship.com
Please include your name, contact details and favourite team.**



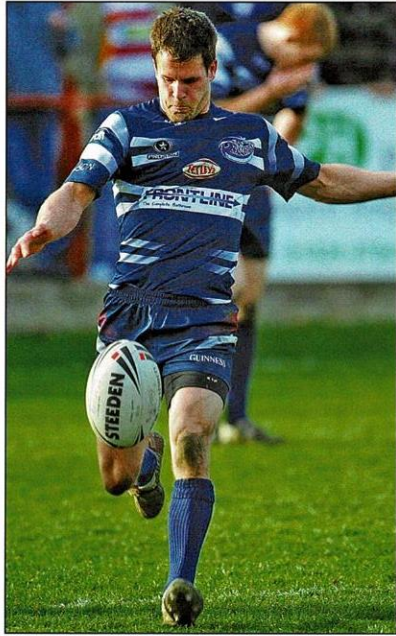
The co-operative

CHAMPIONSHIP

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ACTIONREPLAY

Kain and Harris give Haven runaround



Featherstone's Andy Kain, who helped lead his side to victory in Cumbria

Rams' land blow in race for title

JUBILANT Dewsbury Rams took a quantum leap towards the Co-operative Championship One title, automatic promotion and a £50,000 prize with a thoroughly-deserved 36-12 win in the Boundary Park sunshine.

Pre-season, the bookies couldn't split these two sides when offering odds on a championship triumph.

And although it is early days yet in the 18-game contest, Rams remain unbeaten while Oldham have now suffered two defeats out of five outings – and in this battle of the big two the home side didn't even pick up a bonus point.

Little wonder, then, that the Rams players punched the air in delight as they left the field to a standing ovation from their many and vocal fans gathered in two separate clusters high up in the main stand.

FEATHERSTONE gained revenge for their early season defeat against WHITEHAVEN with a surprisingly comfortable 44-16 victory at The Recreation Ground.

On a glorious, sunny day in Cumbria the visitors ran in eight tries to three and were in complete control for pretty much the entire game.

In Iestyn Harris and Andy Kain, Rovers have a half back pairing that would be a match for any in the division and they took control as the game wore on.

There were two tries apiece for Rovers' Joe McLoughlin and Matty Dale while Gregg McNally notched his 19th try of the season as Whitehaven failed to fire.

HALIFAX extended their winning run to 11 games with a hard-fought but scrappy 44-12 win against injury-hit DONCASTER at the Shay stadium.

Rob Worrincy and Lee Paterson scored a brace of tries apiece but it was the blockbusting performance of Matt James that inspired the side to victory and top spot.

Halifax coach Matt Calland wasn't too pleased with the performance and said: "I thought it was a very flat performance in the first half, we lacked enthusiasm, we were putting in good kicks and not chasing them.

"Doncaster were really enthusiastic and put a lot of pressure on us. Obviously we turned things around in the second half."

Fax replaced WIDNES, who gained three points from a 40-18 success at home to bottom side BATLEY.

But it was worth the admission money alone just to see how keen and eager Karl Harrison was about taking temporary control of Batley Bulldogs.

No matter how long his reign lasts his enthusiasm knows no bounds as he tries to steer his boyhood club back on the straight and narrow.

"I have been watching them for 35 years and I know what they are about," bellowed Harrison, who then apologised for shouting.

"I have been shouting at the ref, the touch judge, everyone – so you could say that the Rhino is back.

"My boys had a big dig and did them-

selves proud after a traumatic week when they took two hammerings. They showed spirit and I was pleased with them.

"I have only had two training sessions with them and changed quite a bit but we got caught on the fringes and Widnes thoroughly deserved their win."

TOULOUSE proved their thrashing of the Bulldogs was no fluke as they hammered LEIGH 46-10.

The French side ran in eight tries against a lacklustre Centurions side to record their first win at home in The Co-operative Championship.

And there was plenty in the French side's performance to suggest they could yet be a force in this division now they are getting used to the pace of the competition.

Organised superbly by scrum half Nathan Wynn and hooker Martin Mitchell, Olympique ripped the Leigh's defence to shreds time and again and were scoring almost at will.

The margin of defeat could have been more embarrassing for the English side had the French outfit not taken their foot off the gas in the second half, having built up a 22-0 lead by half time.

Although Leigh scored at the start of the second half to narrow the lead to 16 points, the home side took off again moments later and Leigh's second effort came just two minutes from full time to give the scoreline a more flattering tilt than it deserved.

On thursday night GATESHEAD moved off the bottom after they edged a 14-try thriller in front of the TV cameras at the Thunderdome on Thursday.

The home side dominated the first half to open up what should have been a commanding 31-12 lead until SHEFFIELD stormed back after the break.

The Eagles ran in four tries in the third quarter to cut the gap to just one point before a Michael Knowles touchdown eased the pressure and then Chris Parker's close range try stretched the lead.

Even then, Sheffield scored late on and it took a vital Neil Thorman tackle in the dying seconds to deny Tangi Ropati his hat trick and finally confirm a 41-36 victory.

NEWSROUND-UP



Town's high kicking fun

ALMOST 30 of Workington Town's Scholarship youngsters – from Under-12 to Under-15 level – were guests of the SKK judo club at Newton-le-Willows on Easter Monday.

"They went through tackling scenarios with the lads, and hopefully it will help them in the future with their defensive work," said Town scholarship boss Garry Mounsey.

"All the kids enjoyed it, and took something from it. They got a bit of a shock with the judo. They hadn't realised how much work they were doing."

The day was rounded off with a visit to Knowsley Road for the St Helens versus Hull clash in Super League.

Mounsey, who thanked the scholarship's voluntary coaches for their involvement in the scheme, is optimistic for its future.

"We are trying to emphasise that the future is here in Allerdale," he added. "The potential is brilliant, we just have to get these kids into the club and develop their skills."

Mounsey also praised a string of sponsors who supported the Easter trip.



The partners in Keighley Cougars' two community schemes

Scully gives Cougars lift

FORMER Great Britain captain Paul Sculthorpe will be helping Keighley Cougars launch two important new community initiatives on Monday (April 27).

"Scully" will be the guest of honour when the Cougars, together with two major community partners, Incommunities and Bradford Metropolitan District Council, announce the start of key initiatives in Keighley and district for 2009.

Since his retirement through injury Sculthorpe has been working with St Helens on their community programmes and is official ambassador of the Co-operative Championship.

Both initiatives will be running under the club's 'Street Academy'

banner and will use an introduction to playing rugby league as an aid to building bridges with different communities.

Helen Carter, Keighley Cougars' General Manager, said: "Both initiatives are being delivered by the Cougars Community Foundation and are key activities this year.

"We are delighted to be working both with Bradford Council and Incommunities because we believe that they share the same set of values as the Cougars of tackling obesity, exposing as many young people as possible to the benefits of sport, encouraging good citizenship and involving everybody to build resilience and strengthen community cohesion."

For whom the Bell tolls...

BARROW have cancelled the contract of Ian Bell after he refused to play in the reserves last week.

After a meeting between the player and chairman Des Johnston the club issued the following statement: "Due to numerous breaches of club discipline amount-

ing to gross misconduct both on and off the pitch Barrow Raiders RLFC are left with no alternative but to cancel the contract of Ian Bell with immediate effect."

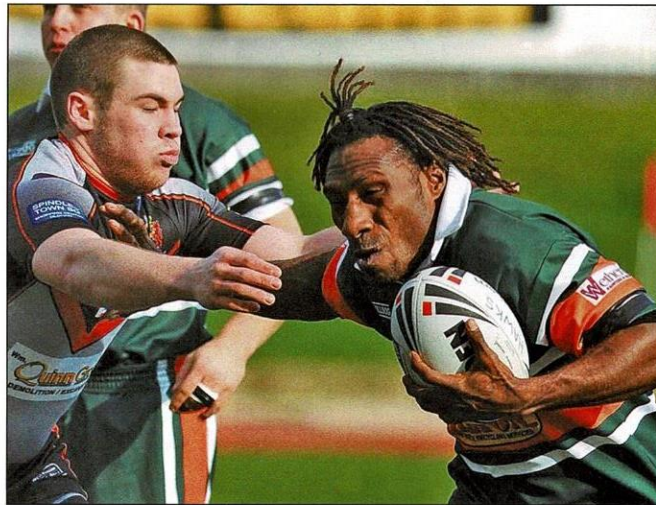
The centre, 26, is no stranger to controversy having been handed a 'life' ban in 2004 for violent conduct and allegedly threatening a match official while playing with amateur side Orchard Park.

The co-operative CHAMPIONSHIP		FRONTLINE FAIR PLAY INDEX			
Team	Pens Conceded (x1pt)	Sin Bins (x3pts)	Sending off sufficient (x4pts)	Match Bans (x5pts)	Fair Play Total
1 ▲ Featherstone	13	0	0	0	13
2 ▼ Halifax	15	0	0	0	15
3 ▲ Widnes	21	0	0	0	21
4 ▲ Doncaster	13	2	1	0	23
5 ▼ Toulouse	26	0	0	0	26
6= ▼ Sheffield	27	0	0	0	27
6= ▲ Whitehaven	27	0	0	0	27
8 ▲ Batley	25	1	0	0	28
9 ▼ Gateshead	29	0	0	0	29
10 Barrow	28	2	0	0	34
11 Leigh	35	2	0	0	41

Stats are correct after round 3 of The Co-operative Championship on 29/03/2009

ON THE MONEY!

Bookies are still playing catch up



With the likes of PNG international Charlie Wabo on board, Hunslet have made a strong start to the league campaign

ing game of the season. I rate them just behind Swinton; whereas other bookmakers might see them similar to Blackpool and Keighley.

In the next few weeks I would look at punting them on the handicaps before the other bookmakers catch on about their sudden improvement in form.

On this week's games I would back Daryl Powell's team to take the spoils in Thursday night's live Sky game.

Featherstone, with three victories on the bounce which included last weekend's demolition away to Whitehaven, will have too much class against an out-of-form Leigh side who apart from a local derby win against Widnes have not done much in recent weeks to warrant any confidence.

I still think that Leigh will be priced up as favourites and if so I would take the handicap start as well as punting Featherstone to win the match.

With Karl Harrison on board as the new coach of Batley, the theory, with all sports including rugby league, is that when a new coach is appointed, the team improves with all players playing for new contracts.

The problem with this current Bulldogs side is it is hard to see where the improvement is going to come from.

This weekend they are playing Barrow, who in recent weeks have showed how far they have progressed with a fantastic performance against Super League outfit Wigan.

At Craven Park Barrow are formidable and with Batley at an all time low in confidence, I can see Karl Harrison's outfit being in for a tough match this weekend.

The handicap I think will be around a 20+ start for Batley and may be even less with bookmakers adding in the new coach factor. I would take Barrow to cover at least a 20-point handicap quite comfortably and add further misery to Harrison's new team.

So good luck this week and remember – make a note of teams that are improving steadily below the radar of the bookies.

At this stage of the season many of the bookies are one step behind the game as



MIKE OXLEY of Totesport explains

WE are a few weeks into the Co-operative League fixtures and it is at this point where I usually take a back seat and weigh up teams who I think are performing well but bookmakers still underrate.

One of the obvious success stories is the new French team Toulouse.

After the first game in which they failed to turn up against Widnes, they have gone from strength to strength and I reckon, on what I have seen in their last two games against Batley and Leigh, they will be a match for any team in the league home and away.

Obviously they will be even more of a betting proposition at home but as they showed against Batley they can mix it up away from France as well. On my current ratings I have them currently just behind Halifax and Widnes, and I am sure that other bookmakers will not rate them as highly.

Hunslet are the dark horses in Championship One.

With financial support from Stephen Ball, Graeme Hallas had recruited nine new faces for the start of the season and as we all know it takes time for all the players to gel.

Looking at their recent results they have gelled a lot quicker than they anticipated. Hunslet were 66/1 at the start of the campaign and are as low as 10/1 now which reflects what sort of start they have made.

They have played four and won three and could so easily be undefeated after a last-minute loss against Blackpool in the open-



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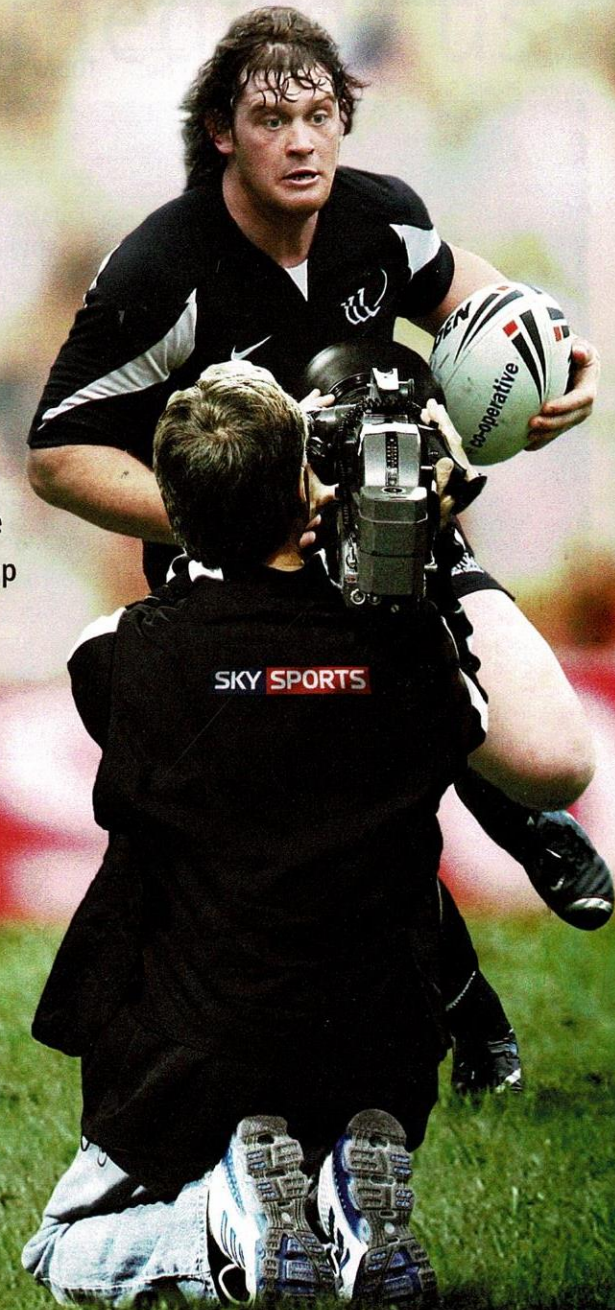
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BATLEY BULLDOGS

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Johnston Recruitment	2 Mike Backhouse
BAE Global Combat Systems	3 Ian Bell
Shorts - Becca Dodd;	4 Liam Harrison
Boots - Jacques O'Neill; Socks - Janet Dodd	
Furness Heating Components	5 James Nixon
Jimmy Redfern Associates	6 Liam Finch
The Infield Hotel	7 Liam Campbell
Saunders Transport	8 Brett McDermott
The Marine Travel Company	9 Andrew Ellis
Mike Sear	10 Lee Dutton
Estuary Electrical	11 Andrew Brocklehurst
E.P. Access	12 Martin Ostler
R.F. Miller Accountants	13 Andrew Bracek
Shaun Anderson Osteopath	14 Paul Noone
Abbey House Hotel	15 Chris Young
Larry Hunt, Cross Keys	16 Jamie Butler
Coniston Holidays	17 Scott Kaighan
Jimmy Redfern Associates	18 James Finch
Kevin Hodgson	19 Chris Larkin
Paul Turner (NWEM)	20 Nicky Beach
Larry Hunt, Cross Keys	21 Joe McKenna
Optec Fibres	22 Ned Catic
BAE Global Combat Systems	23 Waisale Suka
SITA (UK) Ltd	24 Alipate Tani
E.P. Access	25 Sevania Koro
Jimmy Redfern Associates	27 Darren Holt
S & M Leisure (kit)	28 Michael Darby
Nigel and Alison Atkinson	32 Ruairi McGoff
Alastair McGregor	35 Matt Storey

COACH: DAVE CLARK

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLLWW
 LAST SIX HOME: WWWLLW
 TRIES: James Nixon 8, Andrew Ellis 7, Liam Campbell 6, Liam Finch 6, Liam Harrison 5, Mike Backhouse 4.
 GOALS: Paul Noone 39.
 DGs: Darren Holt
 MAN TO WATCH: Ned Catic

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	Key & 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	
29 Jack Watson	Mary Hughes

COACH: KARL HARRISON

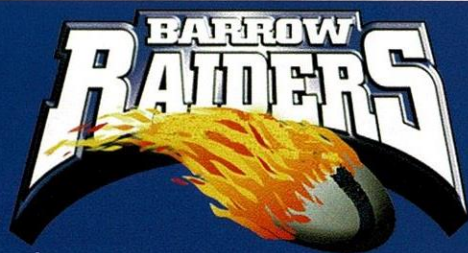
LAST SIX RESULTS: WDWLLL
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLWWLL
 TRIES: George Flanagan 7, Jermaine McGilvary 6, Darryl Cardiss 4, Jon Simpson 4, Ian Preece 4.
 GOALS: George Flanagan 22, Mark Barlow 7, Paul Mennell 6. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Paul Mennell

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M Thomason
 Touch: B Armstrong, G Wallace
 Fourth official: A Kirkbride

BENNETT'S BET

"Raiders should be too strong for sorry Bulldogs - Barrow by 18"



CLUBCALL

Barrow v Batley

Little break has been perfectly timed for us

THE break provided by the gap in the fixture list last weekend came at just the right time for the players. They had backed up an outstanding performance against Wigan in the cup with two hard fought league victories, against Whitehaven at home and on the road at Leigh.

The Wigan game was so intense that it took a lot out of the players both physically and mentally. Fortunately we had Cumbrian rivals Whitehaven up next so there was no problem in getting the team up for the challenge.

Liam Campbell dislocated his shoulder during the opening minutes of the game but it went back in and he played the full 80 minutes.

But by Monday it was causing him a problem and he couldn't play. I was able to call upon club stalwart Darren Holt to step in at Leigh. He once again showed what a good player he is and used his kicking game to good effect.

Ned Catic is improving game by game and had a strong influence on our second half performance at the LSV Stadium in particular.

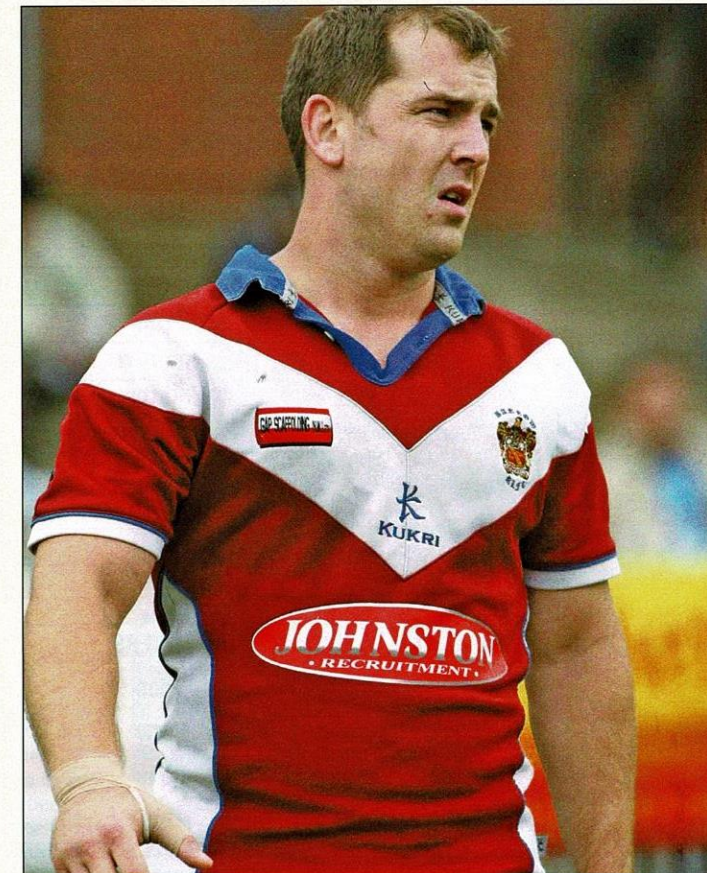
The week off will have helped the team recuperate from their exertions and give the many minor knocks time to heal.

Batley have not had the best of starts to the season but have the potential to beat any team on their day. Having appointed Karl Harrison as caretaker coach they will no doubt be experiencing the lift that you get when there is a new man at the helm.

You cannot be complacent against any team in the Co-Operative Championship and expect a good result.

I will be reinforcing the message that any win will have to be earned by the team putting in a performance that is worthy of the points.

Dave Clark, coach



The experienced Darren Holt stepped into the breach against Leigh

Big crowds will see through until next home game

Hopefully the weather will be kind and we will have a decent crowd inside the Mark Coward Stadium for the visit of the Batley Bulldogs.

The average attendances so far this season, excluding the Wigan game, has been more than 2,000 which is very pleasing and shows there is the appetite for rugby league in the Furness area.

It would appear (touch wood!) that our decision to speculate on players in the hope of accumulating through the turnstiles is paying dividends.

We still have the potential to spend more before we reach our salary cap limit

By Vice-chairman DAVID SEAR

and will continue to try and bring players in to strengthen the squad.

It was great to have more than 3,000 in for the Whitehaven game. Quite a few of those had been to the cup tie specifically to see Wigan but had seen enough in the Raiders team to want to come back.

Because of the fact the Gateshead game has been cancelled due to the Thunder still being involved in the Carnegie Challenge Cup it will be four weeks before we have another home fix-

ture. This plays havoc with our cash flow and it is fortunate the extra support we have had through the gates gives us a little leeway.

The litter on the terraces after the game is an indication as to how our cofers have benefited from the amount of refreshments sold particularly during the Wigan and Whitehaven matches.

As a club we could not manage without the many volunteers who prepare the ground for games, work for us on match days and also clear up afterwards. Each and every one of them is a vital part of Team Raiders and deserves our thanks.



Dons v Toulouse



Sunday April 26th, 2009. Kick off 2pm. KEEPMOAT STADIUM

DONCASTER

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
	1 -
Green Energy Solutions	2 Dean Colton
Geffery Broadhead	3 Andreas Bauer
Pipers Car Sales	4 Shaun Leaf
DISC (Dons Supporters)	5 Wayne Reittie
Active Workwear	6 Kyle Briggs
Needhams Bikes	7 Paul Handforth
APS Toolhire	8 Michael Haley
	9 Craig Cook
Jane Speakman	10 Alex Benson
Everlast Waterproofing	11 Peter Green
Everlast Waterproofing	12 Craig Lawton
Andy Booker	13 Josh Weeden
Martins Famous Fish Market	14 Scott Jones
Bentley Good Companions ARLFC	15 Mark Castle
Doncaster & District ARLFC	16 Nathan Freer
DISC (Dons Supporters)	17 Ross Divorly
RTN Motor Spares	18 Craig Holt
	19 Ryan Steen
Jill Scarrow	20 Michael Coady
FGH Systems	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
Luffe (The Great Dane)	29 Matthew Carbutt
	34 Luke May

COACH: TONY MILLER

Sponsored by Custom Property Developments

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWLL
LAST SIX HOME: W-LWLL
TRIES: Michael Coady 4, Craig Cook 4
GOALS: Kyle Briggs 17, Andy Speake 7
DGs: Paul Handforth
MAN TO WATCH: Paul Handforth

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE

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

SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

COACH: GILLES DUMAS

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J Child
 Touch: J Page, J Farrell
 Fourth Official: M Mannifield

BENNETT'S BET

"French are starting to find their feet - Toulouse by 10"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLWLW

LAST SIX AWAY: LLW
TRIES: Nathan Wynn 3, Bruno Ormeno 3, Damian Couturier 3, Antoni Maria 2, Sebastien Planas 3
GOALS: Nathan Wynn 23, Couturier 1
DGs:
MAN TO WATCH: Nathan Wynn

DONCASTER COLLEGE

Backing the Dons!

WARPAINT COSMETICS

DONS LAKESIDE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Dome
at Doncaster Lakeside
Striving for Healthier Communities

EVERLAST Waterproofing Ltd

CENTURION

WARNERS

keepmoat stadium

RINGWAYS
MOTOR GROUP

CLUBCALL

Doncaster v Toulouse

Encouraging signs on and off pitch

Today we welcome Toulouse to Doncaster for their first ever visit.

I'm very supportive of the RFL's efforts to expand our great game and think Toulouse's inclusion in the Championship will bring something different, plus a nice weekend away in the south of France!

To celebrate the occasion we've organised our first European Day, aimed at showcasing some of the different European cultures in Doncaster and encouraging new supporters to the club.

A warm welcome goes out to all visitors attending their first rugby league

CEO David Marshall

day, I hope you enjoy it. I'd also like to thank the Dons faithful for their continued support. The recent work of many individuals helping raise funds is vital if we are to stabilise the club. These efforts are massively appreciated by everyone here, please keep up the fantastic work.

On the pitch recent performances have been very encouraging after our disappointing exit from the Cup against Gateshead. Four points over the Easter

weekend was more than most had expected and against Halifax we did well against what I think is the best team we have played in this division.

Recently we've also seen the re-launch of the club's reserve side which includes many local players and products of the clubs scholarship programme.

One of those local lads, Gaz Carey has made the most of recent injuries and impressed at both wing and full back. Hopefully today will see the Dons notch their 2nd win and help push us up the table. Thanks for the continued support.

Euro flavour to today's enthralling match-up

A warm welcome to the players and officials of Toulouse. I hope your stay in Doncaster has been good so far and you all have safe travels home.

Also I would like to welcome everyone in attendance here for our European Day, I know you will enjoy the game and hope to see you again supporting the Dons in the near future.

Today's game promises to be a tight contest as form of late has shown. Toulouse come into the game on the back of two very good wins against Batley and Leigh which will give them confidence while we have shown great character in the last three games.

We have however been crippled with injuries of late and as I write this I am

not sure on what side will be playing against Toulouse. All I ask is whatever player pulls on the Dons shirt give their all and never give up trying, which they have been doing week in week out.

I think every game is vital for us to try pick up points even if it's a bonus point as it will all count in the end for us. I am under no illusions of how hard it is going to be this season, we need a bit more luck with injuries, once we start getting more players available we will be in a much stronger position.

It was great to hear the supporters' voices against Widnes and away at Halifax, I know it does inspire the players and gives them an extra lift.

Tony Miller, Head Coach



Toulouse winger Joris Canton - the French team have found their feet in the Championship and are on a winning streak



Halifax v Gateshead



Sunday April 26th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY STADIUM

HALIFAX RLFC

GATESHEAD THUNDER

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Halifax Independent Supporters Trust	1 Miles Greenwood
Laura Fairbank	2 Lee Paterson
Duncan Mitchell	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
Liz Smith (Matthew Walker)	10 Dana Wilson
Ian Croad	11 Dave Larder
Halifax Past Players Association	12 Paul Smith
Complete Building Materials	13 Bob Beswick
David/Terry Kendall	14 Mark Gleeson
	15 Mark Roberts
Sue Illingworth	16 Said Tamghart
Complete Building Materials	17 Frank Watene
Calderdale Service Area	18 Andy Bowman
Chadwick Lawrence	19 Mick Govin
	21 Neil Cherryholme
	22 David Wrench
Elizabeth Posner	23 Rob Worrincy
	25 Anthony Bowman

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 Ben McAlpine	
2 Danny Wilson	
3 Kevin Neighbour	Accent Magazine & North East Times
	Lady Cross Quarries
	Schooner Inn
4 Dylan Nash	The Wheatsheaf Pub
5 Stewart Sanderson	James & Matthew Wells
6 Neil Thorman	
7 Luke Branighan	
8 Jason Payne	
9 Andrew Henderson	Brack Office Solutions
10 Tabua Cakacaka	Rob & Jackie Gardner
11 -	
12 Michael Knowles	PCL Travel
13 -	
14 Ryan Clarke	Thunder Storm
15 Matt Barron	
16 Puna Rasaubale	
17 Chris Parker	The National Blood Service
18 Robin Peers	Peters Super League Pies
19 -	
20 Dave Vernon	
21 Ryan McBride	O'Brien Sandwiches
	Team Valley
22 Jamie Russo	
23 Jonny Scott	
24 -	
25 -	
26 Crawford Matthews	
27 Scott Woods	Dean Taxis 0191 444 4 444
28 Mark Dack	
29 Rhys Clarke	CLA Risk Solutions
30 Stephen Welton	

COACH: CHRIS HOOD

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWWWW
 LAST SIX HOME: WWWWWW
 TRIES: Ben Black 10, Sean Penkywicz 8, Miles Greenwood 7, Said Tamghart 6.
 GOALS: Govin 24, Patterson 19, Ben Black 12, James Haley 10. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Matt James

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Halloran
 Touch: C Dean, S Moss
 Fourth official: T Crashley

BENNETT'S BET

"Fax to fire on all cylinders for comfortable win - Halifax by 24"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLDWLW
 LAST SIX AWAY: W-LLLDW
 TRIES: Stewart Sanderson 12, Luke Branighan 9, Dylan Nash 7
 GOALS: Michael Knowles 22.
 DGs: Neil Thorman
 MAN TO WATCH: Luke Branighan



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CLUBCALL

Halifax RLFC v Gateshead

We'll keep focus on game at a time...

Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to welcome the players and staff from Gateshead Thunder to The Shay. They have certainly enjoyed some success since we last played them, in the Northern Rail Cup in 2007, winning the National League Two title last season.

They like to play an open brand of attacking rugby, as anyone who watched them in action against Sheffield on TV last week will have seen, and will be full of confidence this afternoon. They are a dangerous proposition, and we cannot afford to underestimate them.

As I write, we are sitting top of the Co-operative Championship table after beating Doncaster last weekend, which is good for you, the supporters, and the profile of the club.

As I said in the Press though, that is not a big deal for the coaching staff and the players, especially so early in the season. It might be a cliché, but if we take each game as it comes, and try to maintain the momentum we have at the moment, then the table will look after itself.

We need to focus on doing the things that have got us to that position in the first place, not the outcome itself. And that means we will be looking for an improved performance again this afternoon.

We did a lot of good things against Doncaster, and scored some great tries, but overall it was pretty flat.

That was probably inevitable given the schedule we have had, but we will be looking for more energy today.

On the plus side, Matt James was sensational for us last week in the front row and showed just what a quality player he is.

Enjoy the game, Matt

Matt Calland, head coach



Rob Worrincy - two tries against the Dons

A tough programme, but we're smiling

April is a gruelling month for both club and supporters.

The visit of Gateshead Thunder to The Shay is, by my count, our 5th match this month, and we still have the pleasure of a visit to Featherstone on the 30th April.

Because all the matches to date have been won, there is a smile on everyone's face.

But every one of our opponents have provided a real challenge for parts or the whole of the game, and there is no complacency.

I believe this is Gateshead Thunder's first League visit to The Shay, although as an NL2 side they have played here in the Northern Rail Cup.

Now they arrive as the reigning NL2 Champions and fully fledged participants in a very competitive Co-operative Championship.

Halifax chairman
MICHAEL STEELE



The match will provide an interesting comparison with Doncaster last week, who were NL2 play-off winners last season.

A warm welcome is extended to the board, staff and players from Gateshead.

Have you secured your ticket for the cup-tie at Castleford?

If not they'll be on sale again at today's match.

And recycling a phrase from the late Stephen Pearson, are you 'joining the fight in blue and white'?

The club shop and Harvey's store have a stock of replica shirts and leisure wear.

We want to see both stands at The Shay, for home matches, and The Jungle for the cup tie, a solid mass of blue and white so that the team can see your support before they hear it!

The longer the unbeaten run continues the more the feeling develops - 2009 is our year!



Leigh v Featherstone



Thursday April 23rd, 2009. Kick off 7.30pm. LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE

LEIGH CENTURIIONS

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

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

COACH: NEIL KELLY

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWLL
 LAST SIX HOME: WL-WWWLL
 TRIES: Jamie Durbin 7, Stuart Donlan 7, Ian Mort 7
 GOALS: Ian Mort 36, Martyn Ridyard 10.
 DGs: Martyn Ridyard, Jamie Smith
 MAN TO WATCH: Ian Mort

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
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: DARYL POWELL

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWWW
 LAST SIX AWAY: W-WWWWWW
 TRIES: Andy Kain 11, Jon Steel 6, Waine Price 5, Tommy Haughey 5, Matt Dale 5.
 GOALS: Stuart Dickens 35, Iestyn Harris 17. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Iestyn Harris

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G Hewer
 Touch: P Meadows, C Leatherbarrow
 Fourth Official: P Brooke

BENNETT'S BET

"Rovers beginning to look a bit of a handful - Featherstone by 4"

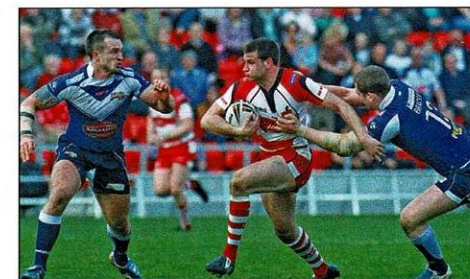
We're supporting Leigh!



CLUBCALL

Leigh v Featherstone

Memories of a belter



Action from the Leigh v Barrow clash, which took place on Easter Monday

GOOD evening and welcome to tonight's Co-operative televised encounter against Featherstone. If today's clash is anywhere near as good as our opening fixture, played at the Chris Moyles Stadium, we and the Sky viewers are in for a treat.

That evening Rovers came away with the spoils but it could have gone either way and although it was a great effort by us we came away with just the bonus point. However if the same commitment, effort and desire is shown tonight by us it is certainly not beyond our capabilities to take three points.

I am writing these notes before we travel to France and having just witnessed our two Easter games I went from elation on Good Friday with our win at Widnes to deflation following our loss against Barrow on Easter Monday. I looked at some of the fixtures over the weekend and firmly believe two games in three days is a thing of the past. Don't get me wrong - I am not using that as an excuse for our loss because it is the same for all teams and at the end of 80 minutes on Monday we were second best.

Going back to the good old days when we were in the same division as Wigan, Warrington, St Helens, Widnes etc you actually played two derby games - one home and one away - which guaranteed a good pay day for all clubs and it was not far to travel for fans. But because of the geographical split these days Widnes had to travel to Doncaster and Barrow had to come here and last season we had to travel to Whitehaven. Who on earth, spectator or player, wants to spend bank holiday Monday on a motorway?

There are a number of other issues that concern me. First and foremost is the players' welfare. Is two games in one weekend good for the development of young players? Is it fair to ask people to put their bodies on the line twice in the same weekend?

And before I hear cries of 'it never bothered us in our day', and 'there have always been two games over Easter', my answer is I know and they used to fight with bow and arrows once as well.

In those days clubs trained Tuesday/Thursday and played at weekends, these days our players for instance have trained Mon/Weds/Fri and Saturday morning with a game on Sunday.

More importantly the game has changed with the physical size of players because of better training conditions, nutritional advice and the fact that a lot are full time.

If anyone prepared a dossier of injuries when we were playing there would be loads of hamstrings, groin strains, cartilages and that type of injury but these days they are collision injuries and the ferocity that these big guys go at each other is definitely not conducive to two quality games over a weekend. The second game turns into a fatigue-affected game played with plenty of errors because of tiredness.

My idea would be to look at the situation in terms of a three-year period. Because of the franchise system we are all on that cycle now. Why not play one game over the holiday period that would guarantee you a derby at home one year and away the next with perhaps a Co-operative Championship draw taking place in the third season with the first out the bag gaining home advantage.

These are just my personal thoughts on the matter but whatever, I am sure, we will all continue to support the greatest game of all.

Enjoy the game.

Allan Rowley, chief executive

Epic contests and unfortunate ending

Neil Kelly's thoughts on Leigh's Easter campaign



Impressed - Dave Armitstead

WIDNES AWAY:

"I'm really pleased and obviously very proud. I thought the players deserved the win for their efforts. I think it was like a Super League game. Both sides put a lot into the fixture and it would have been a tragedy if we'd come out of it with nothing. To come out of it with a victory - well the feeling is great!

"It wasn't as expansive as a normal game in this division. There is more football played generally in this division but with the rain and the conditions this wasn't a day for that. They weren't conducive to throwing the ball around and I think both teams slugged it out up the middle a bit and only went to the fringes when they had the opportunity.

"I didn't have a great view of Ian Mort's try from the dugout but I'm just thankful that he got it down. I always thought it

tle and we had to win it twice in this match.

"We broke them after about 20 minutes and, but for a couple of poor outcomes at the end of our sets, I think we gave them a leg up into the game. Fortunately we won the arm-wrestle again in the second part of the first half and that was when we racked up a few points.

"I just think we went offload crazy in the first 10 to 15 minutes of the second half. We gave them a platform. They started collecting ball around the halfway line when we threw the ball in to touch.

"This was instead of where they'd been picking up possession before, deep in their own 20-metre area and all credit to Barrow, they capitalised on it and that's where the two games in four days plays a part - if you ask yourself to defend too much, as a result of trying to offload too many times. Now I've nothing against positive offloads, but not all of them were, if you are doing that well it sucks the petrol from the tank."

BARROW AT HOME:

"You hear coaches talk about the arm wres-



Eagles v Widnes



Sunday April 26th, 2009. Kick off 4pm. DON VALLEY STADIUM

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

WIDNES VIKINGS

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

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWLL
 LAST SIX HOME: WLWLW
 TRIES: Jonny Woodcock 5, Tangi Ropati 5, Menzies Yere 4, Ryan Hepworth 4.
 GOALS: Jonny Woodcock 37.
 DG:-
 MAN TO WATCH: Tangi Ropati

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

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R Laughton
 Touch: M Beadle, L Todd
 Fourth Official: S Williams

BENNETT'S BET

"Eagles look a little out of sorts
 - Widnes by 8"

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

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

(sponsored by CMS Intelligent Banking)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWW
 LAST SIX AWAY: L-WLLLW
 TRIES: Paddy Flynn 8, Gavin Dodd 6, Jim Gannon 5, Mark Smith 5, Loz Wildbore 5.
 GOALS: Scott Yates 30, Tim Hartley 14, Gavin Dodd 10. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Scott Yates

PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHEFFIELD EAGLES!

CLUBCALL

Sheffield v Widnes

Tough lessons need to be learned to get back on track

HERE'S no escaping it, in recent games things have not gone the way we planned. This is a time to face facts and three defeats in a week isn't good enough.

I know they were all by margins of less than 12 points so we took losing 'bonus' points but we had targeted wins.

No putting our head in the sand we have to improve, stop making mistakes and learn. Most of all we need to start winning a few games.

At Gateshead we shot ourselves in the foot - no escaping that. We started well with a nice try from Aaron Groom but then we stopped playing.

In the first half Gateshead had a completion rate of 88 per cent, we managed 50 per cent - not good enough by a long way.

We were trying to force the game - the lads started to take the wrong options and when you do that mistakes start to mount up and you're sliding. Credit to Gateshead, they took advantage and were 31-6 up at half-time.

The second half we did improve and came back into the game but it was a long way to come back.

We have lost three games over Easter but we didn't get hammered. We might be giving the opposition a helping hand at times by some dumb play but we're scoring tries.

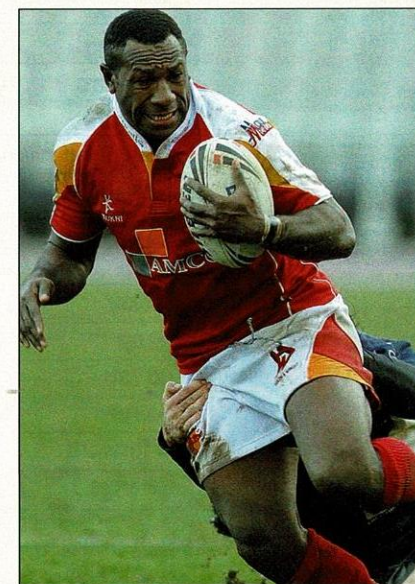
When you start giving control of the ball to the opposition you build up the pressure on yourself, you are back defending and when that happens you start to feel the fatigue and you make mistakes.

Add in a few refereeing decisions going against you and you're on the back foot.

The coaching staff know that, the players know that and we're working to change things.

This is a good squad - there have been quite a few changes this season and maybe the squad is taking time to settle but they will.

This team isn't that far away - the corner will



Menzie Yere ... part of an exciting new squad

be turned. We need a win and the boost that will bring. Get the win and...

We'll have to earn that win the hard way this afternoon when we face one of the best in the division - Widnes Vikings. Last month we went to Widnes and lost 28-20 but remember at half-time we were 16-8 ahead. We have to put what has happened in the last week behind us - it's time to start winning.

Mark Aston was interviewed by Jim Collins and is sponsored by Nick Firth Tiles.

Eagles dinner

Next month Sheffield Eagles celebrate their Silver Anniversary with a special dinner at Baldwin's Omega.

At the event on May 14, Gary Hetherington, the club's founder, will be the guest of honour and there will be a host of past players spanning the last 25 years.

Each of the tables will be allocated a year, with hopefully a player who represented Sheffield in that year hosting a table.

For further details on all these events call the club on 0114 2610326.

Meanwhile there is a coach being organised for the trip to Hull KR on May 10.

Leaving the Coked Hat at 12 noon, prices are £10 adult and £7 for children. A none refundable deposit is required.

Please phone Denise at the club on 0114 2610326 asap to reserve your seats. It is strictly on a first-come first-serve basis!

The buzz is there, results will follow

Good afternoon everyone, and I'd like to start by welcoming the fans, directors and players from Widnes Vikings.

I'm sure today we will see a game full of quality at Don Valley Stadium similar to our earlier encounter at the Stobart Stadium were the Vikings narrowly won a hard fought game 28-20.

Our players have had a well

PAUL CLARKE Boar Director

deserved break for a few days in preparation for this encounter after a crazy fixture list of three games in a week!

We play today on the back of three straight losses in the Championship, three games we were very disappointed to have lost. Although we took a

bonus point from each game, the coaching staff and the players know a win is just around the corner.

We have many new faces in what we believe to be our best squad for many a season - a squad that needs time to bed in and get used to each other.

On training evenings and match days there is a great

buzz around Don Valley Stadium, a buzz of enthusiasm, a buzz caused by a great attitude and a buzz that only comes from a squad full of confidence and belief.

The players look forward to your continued support as the Championship takes shape. With it, a top four finish in 2009 is their chosen goal - enjoy the game.



Rams v Hunslet



Sunday April 26th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. TETLEY'S STADIUM

DEWSBURY RAMS

HUNSLET HAWKS

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Herbal Life	1 Tom Colleran
	2 Morgan Starkey
John Sawyer	3 Lee Lingard
Joe G Fitness	4 Craig Bower
	5 Andrew Tillotson
	6 Ryan Smith
Sue Walford	7 Gareth Greenwood
Elsie Fryer	8 Jimmy Elston
Ken & Elizabeth Crabtree	9 Mike Emmett
Rams Study Centre	10 Luke Haigh
The Three Gs	11 Adam Robinson
Subway	12 Taron Wildey
The Three Gs	13 Pat Walker
Mount Tabor Church	14 Ian Tonks
	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
Vivien Calvert	23 Keegan Hirst
Peter Brooke/David Kirby	24 Simon Cook
Rams Cheerleaders	25 Gary North
	26 Jake Wilson
	27 Chris Grice
J. Addy Talent Scout	28 Liam Crawley
Rams Travel Club	29 Allister McAllister
Rams Squadbuilder	30 Chris Hall
Lauren & Lucy Hall	31 Chris Green
Rams Squadbuilder	32 Martin Woodhead
KBSP Associates	33 James Walker
Ken & Pat Humphrey	34 Josh Tonks
Eric France Scrap Metal	35 Adam Hayes
Elaine & Peter Holyoake	

COACH: WARREN JOWITT

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWLWW
 LAST SIX HOME: L-WWWW
 TRIES: Kane Epati 11, Alex Bretherton 6, Andy Bostock 6, Liam Finn 5, Lee Lingard 4, Chris Spurr 4.
 GOALS: Pat Walker 50, Liam Finn 14
 DGs: Liam Finn 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Kane Epati

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

MATCH OFFICIALS
 Referee: D Merrick
 Touch: C Hancock, T Bell
 Fourth Official: M Hague

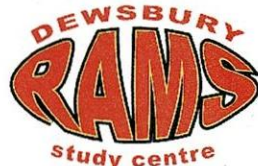
BENNETT'S BET
"In-form Rams to rise to Hawks challenge - Rams by 16"

No. PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 Nathan Larvin	Elliot and Ewan Boiston Green
2 Scott Childs	
3 Tom Sheldrake	
4 Michael Brown	Eric Simon
5 John Richardson	
6 Darren Robinson	Gary Martin-Selby Road Tyres
7 Stuart Young	Adie & Ron Jinks
8 Joe Helme	Paul Gray
9 Richard Chapman	Kenny Sykes
10 Ben Lawton	Phil Ogg
11 Joe Howey	South Leeds & Hunslet Cars
12 Jason Hart	Eric Simon
13 Mark McKinley	Dennis/Hannah Butterfield
14 Chris Redfean	
15 Andy Robinson	
16 Mark Moxon	Bob Tate
17 Steve Brook	
18 Ayden Faal	Geoff Gray
19 Ben Walkin	Skelton Skips
20 Antony Thewliss	
21 Dan Cook	
22 Scott Watson	
23 Jonny Wainhouse	
24 Charlie Wabo	Tates Solicitors
25 Michael Mark	Phil Ogg
26 Nico Stain	Paul Gray
27 Gareth Firm	Wetheralds
Tony Williams	

COACH: CALLUM IRVING

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWLWW
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLWLLW
 TRIES: Ayden Faal 6, Michael Brown 4, Tony Williams 3, Steve Brook 3, Scott Watson 3, Darren Robinson 3.
 GOALS: Darren Robinson 19.
 DGs: Chapman, Robinson.
 MAN TO WATCH: Michael Brown

ERIC FRANCE
 SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS



CLUBCALL

Dewsbury v Hunslet

The old boys will want to prove point



Austin Buchanan attempts to get away from the Oldham defence

HELLO and welcome to the Tetley's Stadium for another top-of-the-table clash.

Hunslet have been doing very well of late and have been getting some good results, so they will pose a tough challenge for us today.

We must be at the races and compete with the Hawks if we want the result to go our way.

Hunslet boast a young squad, many of whom have come through the ranks of Super League academies so they will be a well-coached side.

They also have four ex-Dewsbury players who will all be out to prove a point today, no more so than the old leather-faced Richard Chapman, an old crowd favourite who has bags of experience and ability.

Last weekend we went to Oldham and put in a huge performance to come away with the result we were aiming for.

It was always going to be a tough place to visit but we knew as a team that if we got our defence right we would come up with the spoils.

We showed once again defence wins games. Oldham had four back-to-back sets followed by four alternate sets on our own tryline in the first 20 minutes.

As time went on you could see the Roughyeds getting more and more frustrated. In attack Liam Finn had an outstanding game with his kicking and organising, which was enabled by the dominance of our pack.

It was also contributed to by Austin Buchanan and Bryn Powell who repeatedly punished Oldham around the ruck.

It was great to see players from 1 to 17 all turn up and put solid performances in. It was a top team effort that we need to build on and keep improving every week.

We go into today's game with all 33 players fit which causes me one big selection headache but this is a good headache to have and I hope it stays with me for the rest of the season.

I would also like to mention that Mike Emmett had a massive performance last week in both departments. He is getting better week after week and he is a big bonus to have in our side as his efforts in defence are unquestionable.

Also I'm pleased to say that Mike has committed to the club for next season which is a massive boost as he is a quality player.

I hope you enjoy today's game as you all did last week and we could do with you keeping up the vocal support as you did last week as it helps raise the team.

Warren Jowitt, Head Coach

Fans can make a difference in big games

HELLO and welcome to the Tetley's Stadium this afternoon for our fixture with near-neighbours the Hunslet Hawks.

It was a fantastic result for us last weekend over at Oldham and one which sees us now sat at the top of the league.

However every team raises their game against the top club and there will be no easy games this season, no more so than against today's opponents.

Mark Sawyer, chairman

Hunslet have also had a great start to their season and they will be full of confidence today which should make for a very entertaining game for both sets of fans.

I feel our supporters should be applauded for their efforts this season.

It was a great achievement for us to attract an attendance of 1,002 spectators

for our match against London Skolars.

I was also very pleased that several hundred supporters made the journey over to Oldham last week to cheer us on, and very vocal they were too!

Everything points towards there being another great atmosphere at the Tetley's Stadium this afternoon and I hope our fans continue their singing and cheering as they have been doing so far this season and give the players a boost.



Hornets v Skolars



Sunday April 26th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. SPOTLAND

HORNETS RUGBY LEAGUE

LONDON SKOLARS

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Aztek Safety	1 Chris Giles
John & Julie Clarke	2 John Gillam
Ray Walton	3 Mick Fogerty
Lion Springs	4 Casey Mayberry
Peter Rush	5 Andy Smith
J Heaton & Son	6 Martin Ainscough
	7 -
Interbake Ltd	8 David Best
Sue & Dave Butterworth	9 Janan Billings
Ian Coop	10 Paul Raftery
Ray & Maureen of Heywood Market	11 David Cunliffe
Hartley Thomas Wright	12 Ian Sinfield
The Loyalists	13 Wayne Corcoran
Victor Mills	14 Sam Butterworth
John Mac & Company	15 Martin McLoughlin
Claire Murgatoryd	16 Mark Brocklehurst
Grant & Dougie	17 Andy Isherwood
The Loyalists	18 John Walker
Megan Tann	19 Craig Johnson
Tin2net Ltd	20 Liam Bretherton
Ian Nield	21 Tommy Gallagher
	22 Martin Gambles
	23 Liam Grundy
	25 Dayne Donahue
	33 Dale Cunliffe

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: DARREN SHAW

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWLL
 LAST SIX HOME: WL-LWLL
 TRIES: Martin Ainscough 5, Chris Giles 4, John Gillam 3, Ian Sinfield 3, Mick Fogerty 4.
 GOALS: Chris Giles 7, Wayne Corcoran 4. DGs: McGovern
 MAN TO WATCH: Chris Giles

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G Dolan
 Touch: D Sharpe, M Craven
 Fourth Official: D McNeice

BENNETT'S BET

"Hornets to claim battle of the basement strugglers - Hornets by 32"

No. PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 Frank Reid	Lanes Coaches
2 Corey Simms	
3 Olly Fountain	
4 Oliver Bloom	Alan Greenwood
5 Austen Aggrey	
6 Jermaine Coleman	
7 Paul Thorman	No.1 City Road Bar & Grill
8 Dave Ellison	Code13 Sports Media
9 Gareth Honor	Code13 Sports Media
10 Glenn Osborn	
11 Matt Thomas	
12 Dene Miller	
13 Jaymes Chapman	Craig Ackroyd
14 Graeme Spencer	OnePersonalTraining
15 Bobby Wallis	
16 Tony Williams	
17 Chad Isles	Vibe Teaching
18 Orriesso Agbareh	
19 Leigh Nissen	
20 Paul Hyder	
21 Ben Joyce	
22 Danny Burke	
23 Andre Vine	The Gladys Aylward School
24 Smokie Junor	
25 Jaroslaw Obuchowski	OnePersonalTraining
26 Olu Iwenofu	
Keir Bell	
Bernard Rule	
Jy-Mej Coleman	

Assistant Coach: Kevin Reith Sportstraders

COACH: CALLUM IRVING

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL
 LAST SIX AWAY: LL-LLLL
 TRIES: Austen Aggrey 3, Olu Iwenofu 3, Matt Thomas 3
 GOALS: Paul Thorman 9
 DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Paul Thorman

**TODAY'S
 MATCH SPONSOR
 Chase Engineering**

HORNETS MAIN SPONSOR 2009



Call Free: 0808 100 1915

CLUBCALL

Hornets RL v London Skolars

Delighted Liam's extended stay

IT IS great to be able to report we have extended the loan period of Liam McGovern.

He been very good for us and we're looking to have him around for the next month at least.

Indeed Blackpool coach Martin Crompton has said he expects Liam's loan to extend into a season-long deal but we will see.

With Liam being on loan, he can't play against Blackpool and he will be cup-tied against Huddersfield too. But I expect him to feature today.

I have also been running the rule over a host

of injuries picked up during the gruelling Easter programme.

On the treatment table this week have been Janan Billings (hamstring), Wayne Corcoran and Leroy Rivett (both ankle), Casey Mayberry and Martin McLoughlin (both groin) and Craig Johnson (shoulder).

We didn't play last weekend so the break probably came at a good time for us.

I hope everyone enjoys the game and we will strive to secure the victory.

Coach Darren Shaw



Blackpool's Liam McGovern is staying with the Hornets for at least another month

Early kick off was the best solution

Welcome to today's game against London Skolars and welcome to everyone associated with the capital's second club.

As everyone now knows, Hornets have been drawn away at Huddersfield Giants in the next round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup.

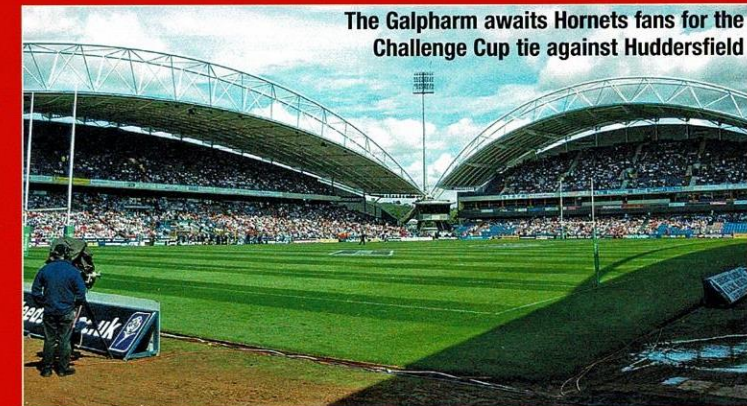
While we appreciate that 11.30am is a peculiar time to kick off, the decision to do that was taken in consultation with our counterparts at Huddersfield.

With a televised game that day, we took their advice on what time was most likely to maximise the crowd and, ultimately, the amount we make from the game.

As part of the negotiations we were able to secure a reduction on the Giants' usual £17.50 admission, agreeing on £12.50 for adults, £7 concessions and accompanied juniors go free of charge.

However, Hornets have been given an advance allocation that saves you money on admission for the game. We have tickets for the Antich Stand (which is opposite the main stand) and, if bought in advance, tickets cost £10 for adults, £5 for concessions and £5 for students.

The Galpharm awaits Hornets fans for the Challenge Cup tie against Huddersfield



Our entertainment today is provided by the inaugural Tony Pratt Trophy event as Hornets hunt for Rochdale's fastest rugby player!

Generously sponsored by club ambassador and former Powderhall sprinter Tony Pratt, the competitors will be running for the "Tony Pratt Trophy", a selection of the new Hornets RL merchandise - and the crown of Rochdale's fastest rugby player.

All the local amateur teams, both league and union - plus the Rochdale Fijian Association - were invited to send along players to race off for the title, which is set to become an annual event.

Coming up in the next few weeks we have our Fan-Tastic Family Funday - when the York City Knights come to visit - and we now have tickets available for the Northern Rail 9s competition which takes place in Blackpool on the weekend of July 11-12.

To find out more about these events and all the other things that are happening at Hornets, visit us online at www.hornetsrugbyleague.com.

**Jim Stringer, Rochdale
 Hornets RL Society trustee**



Keighley v Blackpool



Sunday April 26th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. COUGAR PARK

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

BLACKPOOL PANTHERS

SPONSOR

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

Mike Aitchison

Fresh Radio
Cougar Cubs

The Cox family

No. PLAYER
1 George Raynor
2 Sam Gardner
3 Dan Potter
4 Oliver Pursglove
5 Gavin Duffy
6 Jon Presley
7 Danny Jones
8 Andy Shickell
9 James Feather
10 Simon Bissell
11 Will Cartledge
12 Neil Lowe
13 Carl Hughes
14 Jermaine Wray
15 Craig Brown
16 Brendon Rawlins
17 Scott Law
18 Greg Nicholson
19 Craig Fawcett

20 Daley Williams
21 Ryan Smith
22 Lee Mapals
23 James Hutchinson
24 Luke Sutcliffe
25 Wayne Sutcliffe

Non-numbered:
Dan Belcher,
James Haythornthwaite
Tim Bibby,
Tom Hall
Ben Saga
Jack Copperwaite
Karl Gunney

COACH: BARRY EATON
(sponsored by the Cox family)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLLWL
LAST SIX HOME: WWWWLW
TRIES: Jon Presley 14, Lee Mapals 7
Gavin Duffy 3, seven other players
on two tries each.
GOALS: Danny Jones 33
DGs: Danny Jones, Jon Presley
MAN TO WATCH: Jon Presley

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 Johnny Leather
2 Damien Munroe
3 Tom Woodcock
4 Mark McCully
5 Chris Mugan
6 Simon Svabic
7 Chris Forster
8 Peter Fairhurst
9 John Clough
10 John Hill
11 Paul Alcock
12 Kris Ratcliffe
13 Rob Draper

14 Martin Keaveney
15 Mel Alker
16 Ian Hodson
17 David Llewellyn
18 John Boland
19 Liam McGovern
20 Tom Wild
21 Andy Marsh
22 Keiron Tucker
23 Danyll Kaye
24 Chris Campbell
25 Wes Lawton
26 Craig Tunstead
Dean Hatton
Gareth Langley

SPONSOR

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

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

Rema Tip Top
Morris Bakers

S. Beilby and Family

Morris and Oxley

Meyer Group Ltd
Morris and Oxley

COACH: PAUL KIDD

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLW
LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLLW
TRIES: Johnny Leather 8, Mark McCully 5, Gareth Langley 4, David Llewellyn 4.
GOALS: Johnny Leather 17, Gareth Langley 11. DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: Johnny Leather

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: W Turley
Touch: K Povah, D Yeomans
Fourth Official: A Gill

BENNETT'S BET

"Cougars to gain revenge for Northern Rail Cup defeat - Keighley by 2"



CLUBCALL

Keighley v Blackpool

Incommunities sharing our youth vision

HELEN CARTER
GENERAL MANAGER



Good afternoon and welcome to today's game in the Co-operative Championship 1 against our friends from the Blackpool Panthers. I would like to welcome to Cougar Park the directors, players and fans and hope you enjoy your day.

Today's game is being sponsored by Incommunities who are the area's largest provider for social housing. We are enjoying a great working relationship with Incommunities who as part of their package with us have sponsored the new fit Freddie along with the street academies we are holding.

The street academies will

feature 3 sessions in each location and there are flyers being handed out today with all the times and dates so please make sure you grab one. The sessions will be to give our youngsters the opportunity to try rugby league but in their own environment, thus reducing any travel costs for the families by taking the sessions to them.

Freddie Cougar will be there to spur the kids on after his incredibly successful fitness campaign and the children will be taught the values of healthy living and lifestyles.

Incommunities have been running a competition in their newsletter and the winners

are all enjoying the Cougars Matchday experience upstairs today. A massive thank you to Incommunities for all their sponsorship and for sharing the same values and beliefs for our youth communities.

As well as working with Incommunities on the street academies we are also working with Bradford Council aiming the street sessions at Keighley's large Asian community and will be run as part of the Building Capacity for Cohesion in the Community programme. This will feature our very own scholarship player, Wasim Shabir, as a role model to the young Asian community and again taking

the sport into their community parks along with Freddie Cougar to provide some fun.

I am delighted that we have secured ex-GB captain Paul Sculthorpe, Co-operative Championship Ambassador, as a figurehead to both these street academies as a further role model to the youth community to show them that whether it is playing, watching or working in the game, every child has a sporting chance.

Paul will launch the academies and has committed to present the trophies at the festivals at the end of the sessions. So Paul from all at Cougar Park a massive thank you for all your help with this.

Rest was needed, but three game schedule is still madness

Good afternoon to everyone from Blackpool for today's game. Last week we had a much-needed break from playing after our three games in eight days versus Castleford, York and Hunslet.

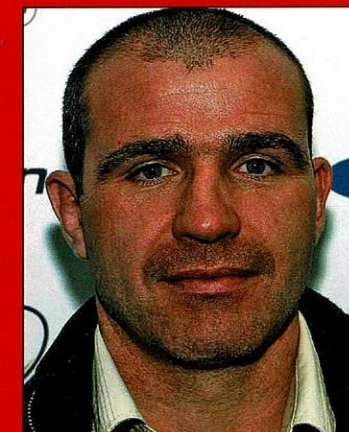
Hopefully there will be some sensible discussion between the clubs and the RFL in the not too distant future about the fixture schedule for next season as it does not make sense to play three games in such a short space of time then have a week off.

Though we certainly were in need of the break I would much rather have not played on Bank Holiday Monday and instead played the Hunslet game last Sunday as Oldham and Dewsbury did.

I am pretty certain we would not have had as big a depleted squad as we were forced into at Hunslet.

If you take the likes of Rawlins, Shickell, Brown, Law, Gunney and Hughes, all vital players for us and all forwards out of a team, then it is going to prove almost impossible to perform to the standard you set yourselves.

And though we have coped without Brendon Rawlins, Andy Shickell, Craig Brown and Carl Hughes for much of the year so far, adding Scott Law and Karl



Barry Eaton, Head Coach

Gunney to the list was always going to be a big ask especially only a couple of days after the York game.

Although the players that were fit and the players that came in battled hard we just fell short, though we could have snatched a great win at the death but failed to execute play well enough to snatch a win.

Ben Sagar made his debut at Hunslet

after only two reserve team games following a knee reconstruction last August and did himself proud and he is another local Scholarship and Academy product who will go on to have many more first team games here at the club, I am sure.

His attitude and commitment is outstanding and credit must go to him for the way he has worked tirelessly during the winter to battle back to fitness himself. Though his debut came because of other injuries, because of the way he conducts himself both on and off the pitch he will no doubt be a regular around the 1st team regardless of the injury situation in the future.

Finally I am not sure whether we will have any of the above mentioned players back today but we have been trying everything to speed up recovery by sending some players to Swinton to be treated in the oxygen chamber which hopefully speeds up rehabilitation in certain injuries. So with a bit of luck, if not today, we will be able to select from a full strength squad soon and not pick up any other injuries. We need a fit squad to be able to meet our standards week in week out.

Enjoy the game,
Baz



Oldham v Swinton



Sunday April 26th 2009. Kick off 3pm. BOUNDARY PARK

OLDHAM RLFC

SWINTON LIONS

SPONSOR

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
John Barrett	8 Paul Highton
	9 Gary Sykes
Rudy Wilkes and Bev Mayall	10 Jamie l'Anson
Greentree (Oldham) Ltd	11 Dave Allen
Mack Video Services	12 Tommy Goulden
John and Lynda McAndrew	13 Rob Roberts
	14 Richard Mervill
Clayton Green Brewers Fayre	15 Jason Boultis
Karen & Paul Gough	16 Wayne Kerr
	17 Craig Robinson
	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 Wayne English	Elizabeth Taylor (Grandma English)
2 Barry Hamilton	Daniel Croston
3 Dave Hull	Premier Building Ltd
4 Dean Gordon	Dave Roberts
5 Marlon Billy	Mike & Kath Tyldesley
6 Graham Holroyd	Muscle & Fitness Gym
7 Richard Hawkyard	Junior Lions
8 Paul Southern	Heartland M27 – Rob Dunford
9 Phil Wood	Junior Lions
10 Bruce Johnson	Egan Contractors Ltd
11 Mike Wainwright	Bill Shepherd & Warren Mottram
	Chris & Viv Tyldesley
12 Danny Heaton	Geoff Hewitt USA
13 Marty Moana	In Memory of Peter Walker
14 Craig Ashall	Lethbridge & Co
15 Gary Hulse	John Spellman
16 Alex McLurg	MS Lottery Services
17 Tommy Grundy	Ray Bowdler
18 Gareth Hayes	Burrow & Humphries
19 Neil Rigby	PhysiO2
20 Adam Bibey	In Memory of Graham Berry
21 Rob Line	Moorside Autos
22 Darren Bamford	Lethbridge & Co.
23 Ben Williamson	Premier Building Ltd
24 Paul Crook	Mike & Sarah Dagnan
25 Matt Ashe	Phil, Ann & Josh Walker
26 Chris Frodsham	Barbara & Emma Cathcart,
27 Chris Tyrer	Sue Buckley & Joyce Shannon
	In Memory of Frank Scanlon
28 Dave Newton	Redsentinal
29 Carl Sneyd	In Memory of Frank Scanlon
30 Andy Saywell	Northline Business Consultants

COACH: PAUL KIDD

COACH: TONY BENSON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWL

LAST SIX HOME: WLWWL

TRIES: Andy Ballard 11, James Coyle 7, Thomas Coyle 6, Lucas Onyango 6

GOALS: Andy Ballard 52, Danny Halliwell 3.

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Ballard

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: P Brooke
Touch: S Barrie, B Robinson
Fourth Official: J Callaghan

BENNETT'S BET

"Roughyeds to bounce back with a win
– Oldham by 4"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWLWW

LAST SIX AWAY: L-LLWWW

TRIES: Dave Hull 9, Marty Moana 3, Tommy Grundy 4, Carl Sneyd 4, Andy Saywell 4

GOALS: Carl Sneyd 35, Graham Holroyd 4. DGs: Craig Ashall

MAN TO WATCH: Dave Hull

SUPPORTING OLDHAM



People caring for people



CLUBCALL

Oldham v Swinton

Lions will test us for full 80 minutes

A BIG Boundary Park welcome to all the players, directors and fans of Swinton Lions.

They are one of the in-form teams of the moment. We will have to be fully awake against them this afternoon if we want to avoid a repeat of last week's performance against Dewsbury.

To say the loss of three points last week was disappointing is an understatement and we will have to get back on track starting today if we are to stand any chance of automatic promotion.

Swinton will be no pushover and we are going to have to battle for a full 80 minutes if we want to avoid another disappointment.

Personally I have struggled the last few weeks with a niggling injury. It is one of

those that only time will cure. I sometimes think the frustration of not being able to play is worse than the injury itself. Patience is not one of my strong points.

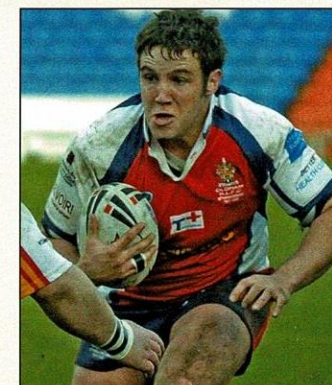
Following a two-week break for the Easter Holidays things are once more starting to get busy in schools, so busy in fact that Chris Baines is now on board doing some of the secondary schools.

We are trying to get more and more of the kids in town interested in the club and hopefully by giving them a taste of what the sport is all about we might get a few more of them to a game.

Please get behind the lads today as they try to gain a valuable three points.

Enjoy the game.

Rob Roberts, captain



Chris Baines – helping with schools

Pain of Dewsbury loss will take time to fade



Oldham coach Tony Benson

Are we over the result of last week's Dewsbury game? No chance. Even after a week's blood sweat and tears on the training paddock we still feel the pain of an important loss. Unfortunately for us every game is important if we are to reach our ultimate goal.

Last week was a missed opportunity to seal our place at the top of the table. To be honest Dewsbury turned up the better team and deserved their win. They dominated us in most areas with size and power and our response wasn't tough enough but judging by the team's response, we will be better for it.

I know we will get our chances to get there again, and we'll take them.

Although it's really tough that our lesion has cost us three points but we will respond positively and our challenge now is to be up to the mark next time around in Dewsbury at the end of July. Enough said; the hard work continues!

I'd like to welcome John and Paul Kidd and the Swinton team to Boundary Park. Today is a great opportunity to show how good we are with another top-of-the-table clash against an in-form Swinton. They are four from four in the Championship 1 and by all accounts at the top of their game which sets the scene for an epic encounter.

Enjoy the game.

Tony Benson, head coach



Workington v York



Sunday April 26th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. DERWENT PARK

WORKINGTON TOWN

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

No. PLAYER

- 1 Jay Duffy
- 2 Neil Frazer
- 3 Andrew Beattie
- 4 Jason Mossop
- 5 Jamie Marshall
- 6 Carl Forber
- 7 Steve Roper
- 8 Ryan Benjafield
- 9 Jack Pedley
- 10 Dean Burgess
- 11 Mike Whitehead
- 12 Craig Hodgson
- 13 Mark Hobson
- 14 Brett Smith
- 15 James Robinson
- 16 Thomas Brindle
- 17 Peter Dobson
- 18 Kris Coward
- 19 Scott Burgess
- 20 Stephen Dawes
- 21 Mark Routledge
- 22 Patrick Coupar
- 23 Martyn Wilson
- 24 Jarrad Stack
- 25 Harry Kaufman

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Jemcare	Right Centre
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To sponsor call 01900 603609	Left Wing
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SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

COACH: DAVE ROTHERAM

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWLLL

LAST SIX HOME: L-LLLWL

TRIES: Stephen Dawes 7, Thomas Brindle 3, five players on two tries each. GOALS: Carl Forber 18.

DGs: Steve Roper

MAN TO WATCH: Stephen Dawes

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R Hicks
Touch: S Johnson, C Waywell
Fourth Official: J Dixon

BENNETT'S BET

"Knights will leave Town with the points
- York by 16"

No. PLAYER

- 1 Danny Ratcliffe
- 2 Steve Lewis
- 3 John Oakes
- 4 Dave Clayton
- 5 Johnny Waldron
- 6 Adam Mitchell
- 7 Paul March
- 8 Danny Ekis
- 9 Paul Hughes
- 10 Adam Sullivan
- 11 Rob Kelly
- 12 Tom Haberecht
- 13 Richard Knight
- 14 Tom Hodgson
- 15 Chris Clough
- 16 Jordan Ross
- 17 Scott Woodcock
- 18 Steve Grundy
- 19 Kris Peacock
- 20 Adam Jones
- 21 Dave March
- 22 Tom Stancliffe
- 23 Adam Endersby
- 25 Garry Green
- 26 Luke Watling
- 27 Danny Grimshaw
- 28 Mike Mitchell
- 29 Mark Applegarth
- 30 Carl Barrow
- 34 Wayne McHugh

SPONSOR

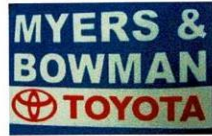
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- Evolution Tattoo Studio
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- D&M Building & Paving
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- Balfour Beatty
- Acupuncture For Health
- HC Engineering
- Brian Watson
- Mrs Watson
- Laura Dixon
- Monk Bar Model Shop

COACH: PAUL MARCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWLLW

LAST SIX AWAY: L-WLLLL

TRIES: John Oakes 8, Danny Ratcliffe 6, Paul Hughes 6, Paul March 5, Tom Haberecht 5. GOALS: Adam Mitchell 18, Richard Knight 11, Wayne McHugh 6. DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: John Oakes



CLUBCALL

Workington v York

Squad gets taste of the army life

SINCE the last time of writing it has been a busy time at the Town with the Easter fixtures and our weekend away at the army camp.

The games over Easter gave us painful lessons in that we took 12-0 leads in both but couldn't finish the job. It was extremely frustrating for players, coach and supporters. There was plenty of effort from all but effort doesn't necessarily win you games.

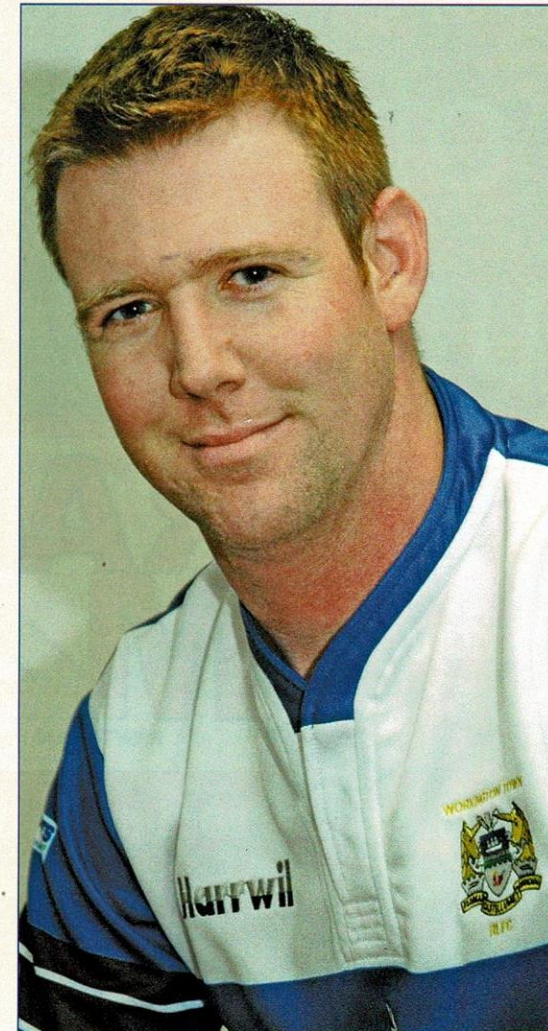
Notable performances came from Stephen Dawes (four tries over the two games), Mike Whitehead, who clocked up 80 tackles, and Carl Forber, who put in a great running and kicking display in the Swinton game.

Unfortunately for us we lost Stephen Dawes and Neil Frazer both sustaining similar shoulder injuries both in the act of scoring! The extent of the damage is not known at the time of writing.

Not wanting to make excuses for our losses, we must remember we have a very young team, many of whom are new to this level of competition in 2009. There is some great talent in the squad and we must look at this as a long-term, sustainable work in progress to safeguard the future of this club, particularly in the current economic climate.

Today we entertain York who sit just one place above us in the table. They come into today's game on the back of a great Easter Monday win over Rochdale. Their recent visits to Derwent Park have been very productive. Let's not be so charitable today.

A gap in the fixture list gave us an opportunity to take up an invitation from the



Mike Whitehead has been tackling his heart out

Duke of Lancaster regiment to spend a weekend at Catterick Garrison for some old-fashioned army training.

We arrived on Saturday morning and immediately into the gym for a lung-busting circuit training session under the PTIs. After lunch we did some rugby training alongside some members of the regiment team. This was followed by what is known as the log run where our team was split in

two and had to carry certain heavy military items around a two-mile course. This required not only determination but also an ability to work as a team and help each other in very testing physical and mental circumstances.

After a good night's sleep it was off into the hills for an eight-mile run punctuated by several hill sprints. This was yet another test for the players which they passed with flying colours, again showing a determination to complete a physical activity they are not used to.

Some called it "Boot Camp" others "Bad Lads' Army" but what it did was teach our players to value hard work and what that brings to team efforts. I hope the positive experiences gained last weekend shine through on the rugby field. It was also good for our players to meet and work alongside some of the servicemen, many of which hail from West Cumbria. One of the soldiers was a 20-year-old from Crosby near Maryport, younger than most of our players. He talked of a seven-month tour of Iraq and was off to Canada this week for another two-month tour.

It certainly put life in perspective for many of us.

Our sincere thanks go to Sergeant Andy Prest (a native of Camerton), Corporal Gilmour (Maryport) and their men for making it an enjoyable and memorable weekend for us all. Many happy returns to Sgt Prest, who turns 30 today. He and some of his men will be here today to cheer on the Town!

Dave Rotheram,
Head Coach

SPREADING THE WORD



Mentoring stars of the future

DEWSBURY Rams and Shaw Cross Sharks have launched a brand new initiative to develop local junior rugby league.

The Mentoring And Development (MAD) scheme is based on professional players becoming personally involved with junior player development at their local clubs.

The aim is to expand the thinking and stimulus of our young players in an environment that hopefully will heighten their awareness through the involvement of professional players.

The MAD scheme will incorporate individual positional coaching by professionals who play in a particular position the majority of the time whose knowledge of that position can be passed on to the junior players.

For example Kane Epati may coach a session specifically on playing as a winger; Pat Walker may take a session focussing on kicking etc.

Dewsbury Rams coach

Dewsbury's link up with local amateur club Shaw Cross is the way forward according to the Rams. GAME ON explains how it works

Warren Jowitt said: "It's a really good idea for professional clubs to link up with amateur clubs outside of the professional environment as that's where the future of the sport lies.

"Having our players at Dewsbury mentoring the Shaw Cross youngsters gives us the chance to watch the kids grow and develop into mature rugby league players.



"It's also very good for the juniors to have the players they aspire to be like, helping them develop their skills and giving them advice on how they play.

"For the game to go forward it is really important that all clubs have strong links with their local junior teams. This will help the professional game to continue to grow."

Shaw Cross U-9s coach James Stephenson, the creator of the idea, added: "Being a junior rugby league coach with the Shaw Cross Sharks and the Kirklees Service Area I have been pondering for the last 12 months on how to improve on rugby league skills additional to the normal UKCC and RFL coaching program.

"After some time studying



The Dewsbury Rams squad and some of the Shaw Cross juniors they are helping to develop as rugby league players

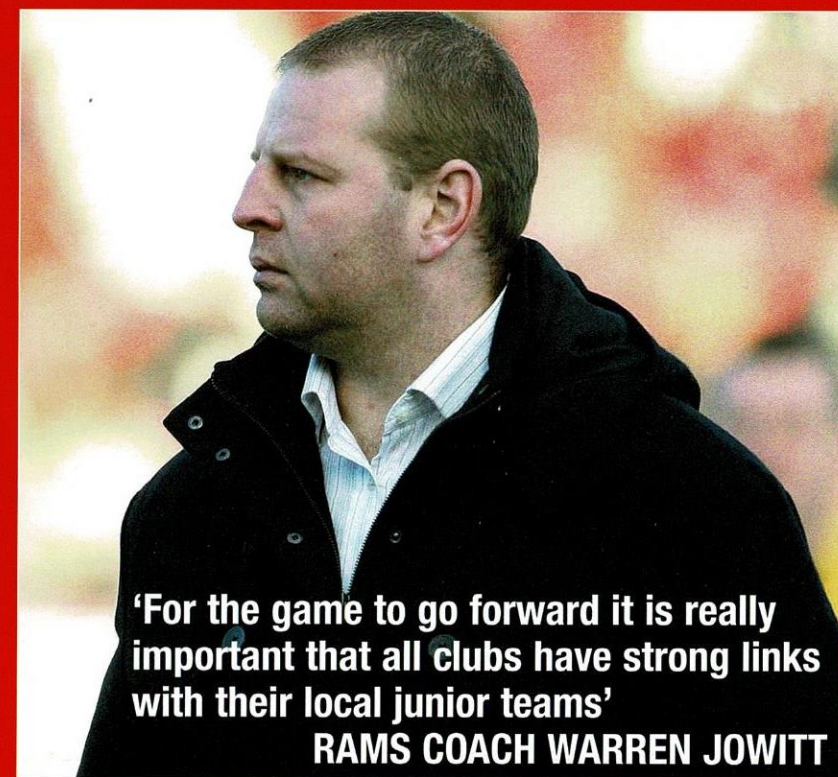
the game at all levels up to elite players I thought of a mentoring and development scheme that could be coached by professional players themselves.

"I approached the Dewsbury Rams and presented the idea and was taken back on how receptive and positive the club was. It was then that the MAD Scheme was born.

"The involvement of professionals will give junior players a different perspective of coaching and gives them a break from standard training sessions which can sometimes become slightly monotonous for young players."

"Hopefully, over time the scheme can be developed and expanded for other junior teams to be included."

"We also want other professional teams to take on the commitment, like the Dewsbury Rams, to expand the development of grass roots rugby league throughout the country."



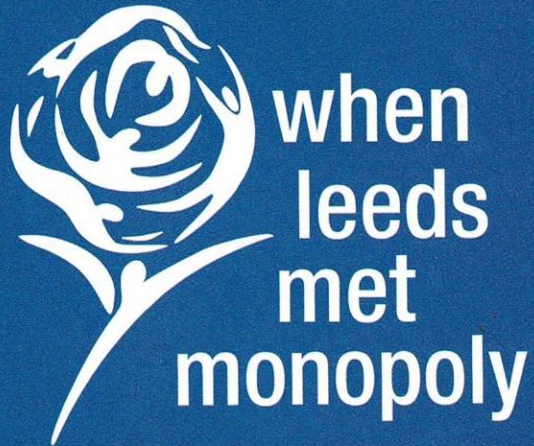
'For the game to go forward it is really important that all clubs have strong links with their local junior teams'

RAMS COACH WARREN JOWITT



MONOPOLY

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when
Leeds
Met
Monopoly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



AHEAD OF THE GAME

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

Wow! What's your next revelation guys?

WORTH the wait wasn't it? For the RFL report on England's World Cup, I mean. Five months it took to get to the root of why we did so ridiculously badly over in Australia – and the conclusion? Well, the players just didn't perform.

Hmm. Wonder which genius they got to unearth THAT golden nugget?

You could have enlisted the services of Sigmund Freud for the debrief and, after careful psychoanalysis of each squad member under controlled conditions, he'd have turned and said 'Ja, zey ver just rubbish... but zen I figured zat from watching ze bloody game in ze first place!'

That's an Austrian accent if you hadn't worked it out. Scarily accurate, I can assure you! Anyway, Sigi wouldn't tell you anything that an irate Joe Bloggs from Pontefract couldn't have slurred to you down the pub in the direct aftermath of any one of England's four woeful World Cup 'efforts'.

So what exactly was the point of this drawn-out inquest? At first glance, it seems like the whole thing was just an exercise in making everybody connected with England feel a tad better about the whole sorry mess.

Nobody can be happier with the outcome of this whitewash than the England coach Tony Smith, who seems



England coach Tony Smith... it wasn't his fault either?

to have escaped scot free of any blame.

I have a lot of time for Tony, who – despite a couple of hairy moments when things aren't quite going his way – is generally a very agreeable and personable chap.

One of the most agreeable and personable in the game, actually. But it's fair to say (and he even admits this) that the World Cup was hardly his finest hour.

No mention in the RFL report of the selection of only

four front line props in a 23-man squad. No mention in the report either of the selection of the error-prone Paul Sykes, or the absence in the game plan of any kicking game. In fact, was there a game plan? It really was hard to tell.

But all that is swept under the rug in the report, which altogether has the feel of one of those 'Everything is fine' public TV broadcasts reserved in the event of a cold war nuclear holocaust.

'Don't worry – half of us have melted and the other half have grown a second head, but we can repopulate and prosper ... what with our seven-point plan of action!'

And forgive me if I'm not overly-enthused by said RFL plan; the major point of which is the creation of an 'Elite Training Squad', maybe the most 'New Labour' creation since that famous Keighley fan Alastair Campbell hung up his best spinning boots.

I agree, England looked to lack any cohesion Down Under and a lack of preparation time before the tournament was a major hindrance. But England's players need time together on the pitch in competitive action, not just on the training ground.

Any coach worth his salt will tell you there is no substitute for playing a match together. Partnerships and systems grow over time in the heat of battle.

Kid ourselves all we want, but unless we improve that aspect of international rugby league – i.e. the quantity – then we're stuffed.

Paul Bennett is deputy editor of League Weekly



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KNOW YOUR STUFF?

AROUND THE CLUBS

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS WEEKEND'S HOME CHAMPIONSHIP CLUBS?

LEIGH – What is the name of the club's mascot?

BARROW – Raiders half back Liam Campbell formerly played with which Super League club?

HALIFAX – Who holds the Fax club record for points in a season, with 362 in the 1994-95 season?

DONCASTER – By which two official nicknames have the Dons been known in the summer era?

SHEFFIELD – Who did the Eagles beat at Old Trafford in 1989 to earn promotion to the top flight?

HORNETS RL – Which former Great Britain player coached Hornets from May 1998 to June 1999?

WORKINGTON – In which year were Town formed – 1935, 1945 or 1955?

DEWSBURY – How many times have Dewsbury won the Challenge Cup?

KEIGHLEY – From which club did the Cougars sign loose forward Karl Gunney?

OLDHAM – Luke Menzies previously played with which Super League club?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

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

1 In what position did St Helens coach Mick Potter mainly play during his playing career?

2 From which town does West Yorkshire Super League referee Richard Silverwood (pictured) hail?

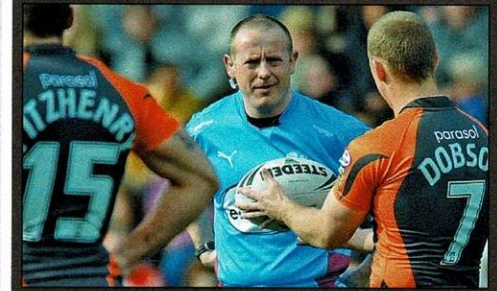
3 In which two seasons did Aussie great Alfie Langer play for Warrington Wolves?

4 Catalans coach Kevin Walters made 241 first grade appearances for which Australian club?

5 Ivan Cleary is the current coach of which NRL side?

6 In what year did Widnes last win the Challenge Cup?

7 Against whom did Hull FC suffer their club record defeat in 2005?



ANAGRAMS

Rearrange the phrases below to form the name of three Championship or Championship One back rowers.

1 HECK, I'M A SWOLLEN

2 GRIME WITH A WINK

3 RADAR DELVE

ANSWERS - AROUND THE CLUBS: 1. Arty the Centurion, 2. Wakefield Wildcats, 3. John Schuster, 4. Dragons and Lakers, 5. Swinton, 6. Deryck Fox, 7. 1945, 8. Two (1911/12, 1942/43), 9. Hunslet Hawks, 10. Hull KR.
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: 1. Full back, 2. Mifflefield, 3. 2000-2001, 4. Brisbane Broncos, 5. New Zealand Warriors, 6. 1984, 7. Bradford Bulls (71-0), ANAGRAMS: 1. Michael Knowles, 2. Mike Wainwright, 3. Dave Larder.

