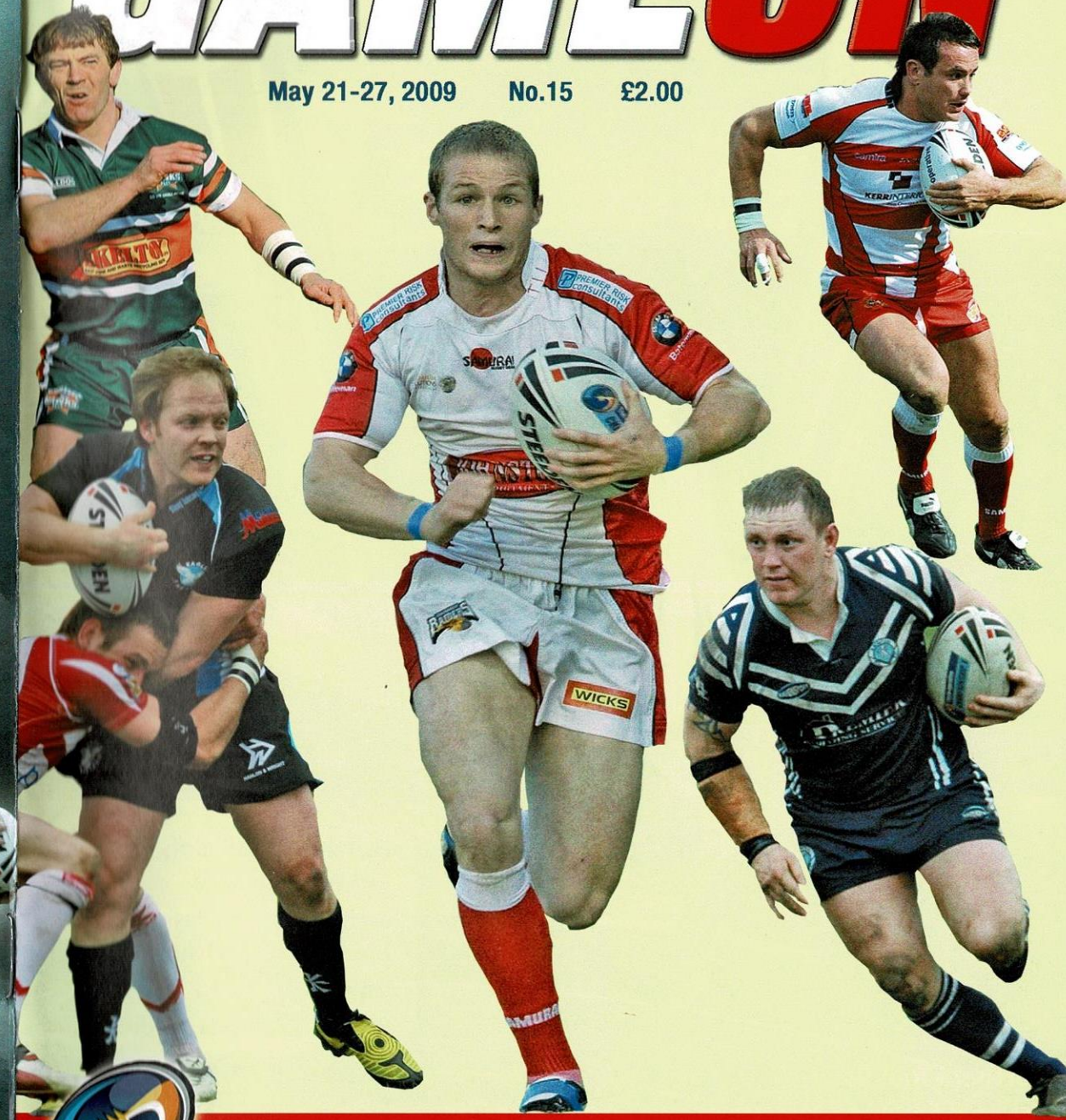


GAME ON

May 21-27, 2009 No.15 £2.00



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The whole Rugby League community is backing Dons

OFTEN in the history of rugby league clubs have found themselves in financial difficulty.

The game has been littered with its own version of the credit crunch many times over the years.

But whenever it happens that does not take away from the collective pain - although a few outfits have evaporated that not too many would have shed a tear for.

The latest to suffer from serious financial pain are Doncaster and heaven forbid it gets to the point of no return as they are one organisation everyone in the game would like to become safe and secure. From talking to various people that much is apparent.

We at Game On also like Doncaster a lot. They are great to deal with, very professional and have been very supportive.

On Sunday Featherstone were very generous in giving some of their gate receipts back to Doncaster. It is the kind of gesture that rugby league has become synonymous with.

It really is one big family.

Doncaster's situation is apparently grave and the squad have had to take a substantial pay cut while two of their better players have moved on - Paul Handforth to Batley and Kyle Briggs to Featherstone.

The South Yorkshire outfit have a grand stadium to play in, but it is not one they own so they do not take all the revenue it generates.

When they moved in there the hope was a state-of-the-art all seater arena would encourage a bounce in attendances.

It hasn't happened.

Despite a recent promotion the crowds have never come to the Keepmoat in sufficient numbers to match the ambitions of the board.

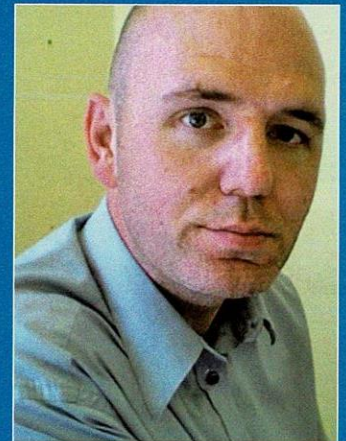
The club has struggled to attract four-figure gates while they barely managed half that for their Challenge Cup tie against Gateshead.

It is such a shame the Doncaster public have not supported the club over the years because they have some smashing people busting a gut to keep things going.

Good luck to Dave Marshall, Carl Hall and everyone else at Doncaster and I hope you find a long-term solution.

You might not have a big enough support from the people of the town but it is fair to say you do from the rugby league fraternity as a whole.

And hopefully that will make the difference.



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.

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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 **WILKO**

**This week Jon pulls no punches as he
talks about honesty in sport**

IT'S often very sad to me that sport has created a state of almost robotic repetition not only in terms of the skills and expectations on the field of play but I suppose it's more and more evident off the field.

As a professional you have a duty to answer questions posed to you in a 'certain' or 'correct' way to avoid popping your head out from the crowd. That concept alone baffles me. Is there a specific way in which you are required to respond to a question?

If you don't respond in the expected way then I often think people who are honest in sport are singled out as a minority when in reality many sports people and especially rugby league interviews are full of sentences which aim not to offend and to remain free from actual opinion while ruffling as few feathers as possible.

An example of this would be James Graham who recently, when asked about the 'Magic Weekend', responded by saying he was not fan of the concept and as a player it was an extra fixture and something he did not enjoy. It made me laugh when James's opinion was viewed as almost illicit? How could a rugby player, and prop forward at that, have an opinion!?

James told the truth and when asked his opinion he gave it. It infuriates me that all people could do is almost accuse James of being negative. I understand that as a professional sports person there is a responsibility to be a role model and send the right messages to the public from yourself, your team and the sport – but should this come at the expense of the truth?

Surely by feeding players lines to regurgitate or by teaching young players to switch the personality button off while being interviewed is just a negative thing and all it makes is for dull predictable answers in which the players' opinion is lost amidst an overwhelming mass of clichés. I am guilty of it myself and I very often fall into a trance like state and before you know it... 'It's a game of two halves', 'give credit to the other team' and several agreements on how 'excellent' everything is.

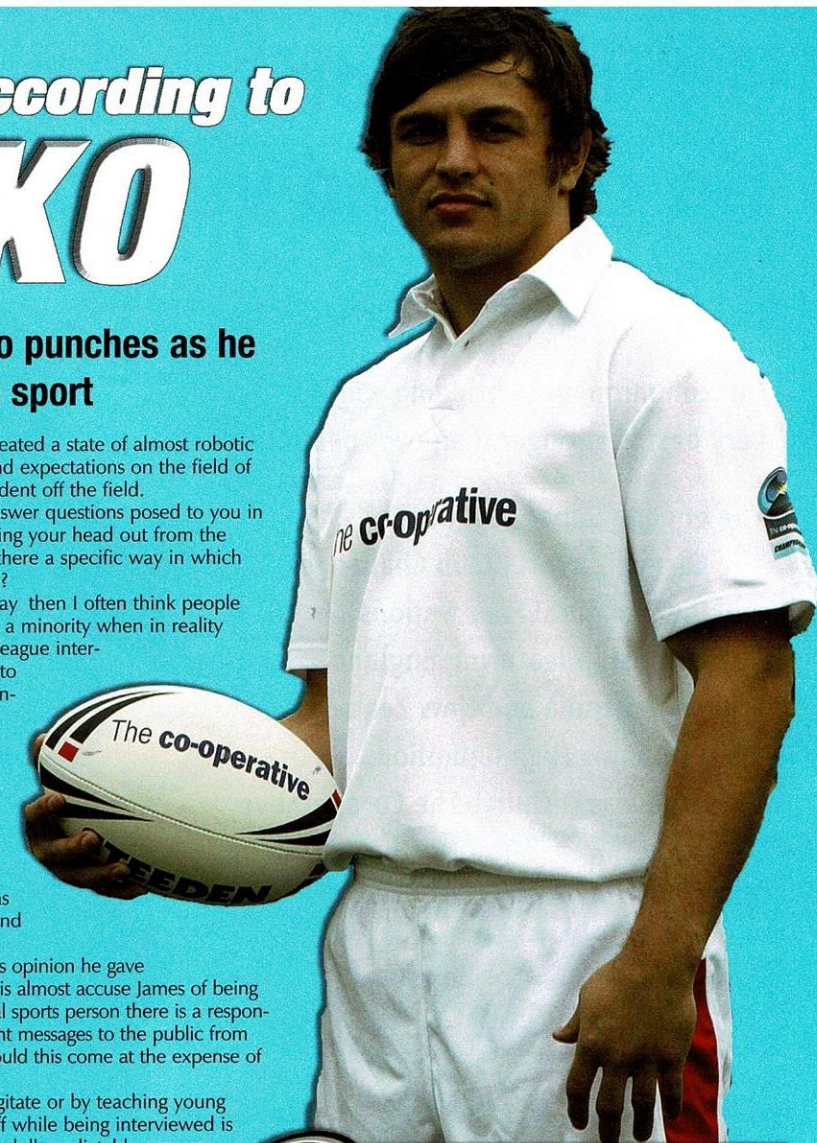
Then the interview is over and I am sat at home wishing I had said what I believe rather than what I should say. I would like for personality to be brought back into sports interviews before the dawn of semi autonomous sports people whose back-sides are raw from sitting on the fence.

And so; I think the concept of the Magic Weekend is a fantastic one for fans, for the media, for the economy of the area it's played and for people who have never watched a game of rugby league before.

I think it has been a success in that respect, without doubt. But it's not such a resounding success for the players in my view. It's a fixture which is very much a break in routine and a disruption I suppose. I would much rather, as a professional, it be a simple home or away fixture in the engage Super League. Going to a neutral venue to play one game for the benefit of sharing changing rooms and hotels is hardly a serious challenge but it's not ideal preparation for a game. As a professional you aspire to have an ideal preparation every week. I also think, in my opinion, that the atmosphere at the ground is pretty timid in comparison to a Super League fixture. A Saints and Wigan game alone could draw 20,000 plus people.

I wonder what happens now for example if a Scottish family went to watch the Magic fixtures and enjoyed themselves. They would face a hefty commute to watch live engage Super League matches and if their children wanted to play the game there is no way that can happen. That is the challenge for Rugby League as a sport. It's making a new fan base and renewed interest in the sport when in reality some of the areas where rugby league remains the number one choice for adults and children are struggling to uphold a professional team.

I hope that events like the Magic Weekend attract interest and that inspires the development of an infrastructure to uphold the sustainable future for the sport in the area.



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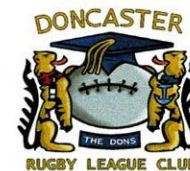
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SKY SPORTS

Dons confident of no mass exodus



DONCASTER hope Paul Handforth will be the last player to have to quit the club because of their financial crisis.

Half back Handforth requested to leave for Championship rivals Batley Bulldogs last week for greater financial security, with the Dons currently desperate for cash.

They had already had to release his half back partner Kyle Briggs to Featherstone on a free transfer the previous week.

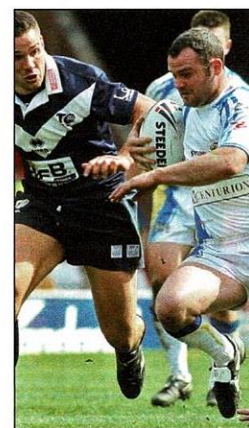
But Dons director of rugby Carl Hall reckons the playmaker could be the last to walk.

"At the moment, it doesn't look like any more players will be leaving," Hall told League Weekly.

"We've had a talk with all the lads about what's happening and they have all confirmed their commitment to the club. It's disappointing to lose Paul because he's been going well for us but it's purely down to financial reasons.

"He has a few personal issues at the moment and he has to put the security of his family first."

Handforth said that he "didn't make the decision



Paul Handforth, who has left Doncaster for Batley

lightly" but added: "I feel this is the best move for me long term."

The Dons received a helping hand from Featherstone at the weekend, with Rovers agreeing to let them have 50 per cent of the gate receipts at the away supporters' turnstile. "I'd personally like to thank (Rovers owner) Mark Campbell for an unbelievable gesture," said Hall, a former player with Rovers.

Meanwhile, the Dons are holding a Kiwi Masters versus Dons Legends two-

handed touch rugby game ahead of their televised home clash with Halifax on Thursday night. The game will start at 6pm and the Kiwis are set to include Hall himself, ex-Leeds favourite Willie Poching and former Dons half back and current Harlequins assistant Latham Tawhai. Ex-Dons players who want to get involved can call Carl Hall on 07917693274.

PENNY DROPS

Widnes Vikings, in a deal facilitated by fans' organisation VIQI, have signed Warrington duo Steve Pickersgill and Kevin Penney on a month's loan. Both will be in Paul Cullen's squad for this weekend.

Vikings' Sporting Director Terry O'Connor said: "There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes over the last few weeks and I'm pleased that it has finally come to fruition. Steve is an impressive young man who will add size to our pack whilst Kevin had shown he has the pace to be a threat to all defences."

Mills returns

WINGER Danny Mills has rejoined Sheffield Eagles on a month's loan from Widnes Vikings.

The 26-year-old moved to Widnes at the end of last season when he was the Eagles' top try scorer with 14.

His speed and power earned him a two-year contract at Widnes but he has not yet played in the Vikings first team.

Mills was signed by Steve McCormack but two months into the season he was replaced as coach by Paul Cullen and Mills hasn't figured in his first team plans.

Eagles' coach Mark Aston is delighted by the one-month loan signing.

He said: "It's great to have Danny back - he had a great season for us last year and is one of the best wingers outside of the Super League.

"He was feeling frustrated at Widnes and just wants to play in the first team. I'm delighted and I know the fans will be excited by Danny coming back."

Loan option

KEIGHLEY boss Barry Eaton is weighing up a loan swoop for Whitehaven forward Ryan McDonald.

League Weekly understands Haven coach Ged Stokes is keen for McDonald to prove his match fitness away from the Recreation Ground having recently returned from an ankle ligament injury.

The big prop played against Featherstone and Toulouse recently but was adjudged to be just short of the standard required for the Championship.

Cougars coach Eaton is looking for options in the forwards with Brendan Rawlins still awaiting visa clearance and was running the rule over tapes of those two matches to assess whether McDonald would make a handy addition.

The prop would be the second new signing this month should Eaton decide to make a move. He has already snapped up centre Damien Reid on a deal until the end of the season.

Roughyeds fans can travel free to quarter-final

OLDHAM are offering fans FREE travel to Leigh for their televised Northern Rail Cup quarter-final clash with Featherstone Rovers on Thursday, June 4 when U-16s accompanied by an adult will get in for only £1.

Free travel has been

arranged by the club in conjunction with Atlantic Executive Travel Ltd of Heywood.

Roughyeds chief executive Chris Hamilton said: "This is a fantastic gesture by Atlantic Executive Travel. It will be a big night for the club and we want to put on a good show in

front of the television cameras, both on and off the field."

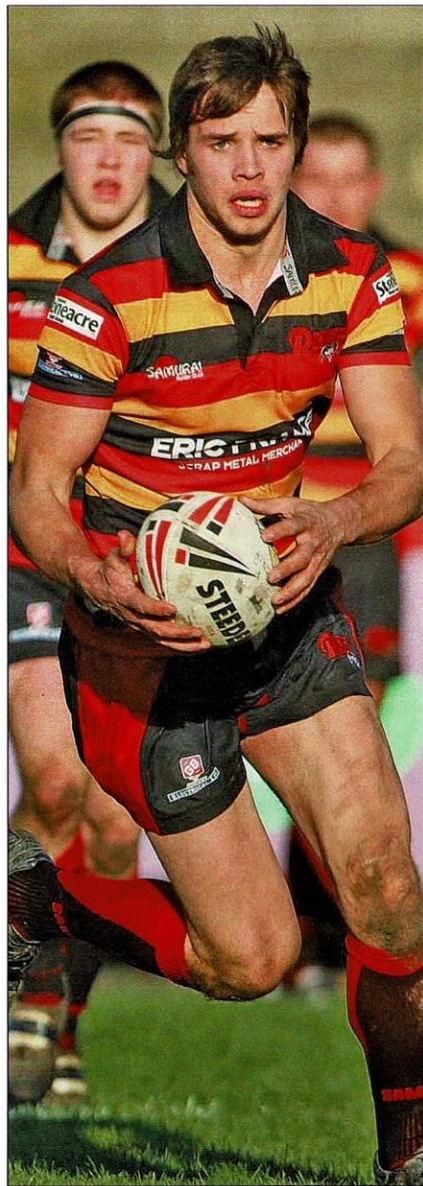
Coaches will leave at 6pm from five pick-up points and seats on the free coaches MUST be pre-booked and that needs to be done by buying a match ticket in advance and reserving a seat on the coach

at the same time. The match ticket will double-up as a travel voucher but ONLY if a reservation for the coach is made simultaneously.

Match tickets are available from the Roughyeds office in Lansdowne Road, Chadderton (tel: 0161 628 3677).

ACTION REPLAY

Hornets prove they are 'very good'



Dewsbury's Pat Walker, who kicked seven from seven against Blackpool Panthers

YORK fans probably still haven't worked out what hit them at Spotland after they threw away a huge lead to lose 36-30 against HORNETS.

After nine minutes their side were 18-0 ahead and the Yorkshiremen's taunts of "you're not very good" were rattling round Spotland.

They had a point as a Hornets side decimated by injuries – especially in the forwards – spilled the ball on the second drive of the game and didn't touch it again for nearly ten minutes.

However, they showed a lot of bottle and, led by Brett Robinson and Ian Sinfield, staged a tremendous fight-back to take the win which puts their points' tally into the positive for the season.

Good old-fashioned rugby league was the order of the day as DEWSBURY remained top of Championship One after completing an emphatic 42-16 victory over BLACKPOOL on a gluepot of a pitch.

Powerhouse second row Andy Bostock was the try-scoring hero with a hat-trick as the Rams made it a perfect seven wins from seven games.

And stand-off Patrick Walker chipped in with a perfect seven from seven conversions.

Dewsbury lead the way ahead of Oldham by two points, having played a game less.

Rams coach Warren Jowitt was satisfied with the overall display.

He said: "Blackpool are not the pushovers they used to be and showed they can play for 80 minutes although the score may not reflect that.

"We've had to be on our toes today and been made to work hard for that scoreline.

"The conditions were tough with the rain, mud and wind but those conditions seem to suit us.

"Bostock carried the ball well and is a very strong player. Walker has bags of skill but Taron Wildey and Rob Spicer were outstanding in the pack and ran Bostock close for man of the match."

Two tries by man-of-the-match

Marcus St Hilaire eased OLDHAM to a hard-fought 22-16 victory over an emerging HUNSLET side at rain-swept Boundary Park.

The advances made by the Hawks this year under Graeme Hallas were evident for all to see. They arrived at Boundary Park in third position in the table and they quickly made it clear that they had travelled to Oldham intent on ruffling a few feathers.

Unpredictable as ever, the Roughyeds missed a couple of gilt-edged scoring chances in the first few minutes, but then proceeded to frustrate their fans with careless handling and dodgy defending.

LONDON SKOLARS claimed a richly-deserved 24-18 victory against a WORKINGTON team that has quite simply hit rock bottom.

Low on confidence and already struggling to score points, Town turned in a performance lacking in endeavour and enthusiasm, qualities that the Skolars possessed in an abundance.

The game itself was a very poor affair, with both teams forcing passes that were simply not on and far too much ball going to ground.

KEIGHLEY recorded a workmanlike 32-16 home victory against the SWINTON, who suffered their third defeat in a row.

The game was a battle in the forwards and Andy Shickell produced a man-of-the-match performance for the Cougars, leading the way for the rest of the pack with lively back Jon Presley also a close contender, adding a couple of tries to his tally for the season.

A pleased Cougars coach Barry Eaton said: "The first half was really tight, nothing much between the sides.

"We talked about starting the second half in the right frame of mind, with the right rate of intensity and we did the exact opposite.

"We have got to make sure we do the right thing for longer periods."

Eaton went on to comment about debutant Damien Reid, saying: "He showed some really good touches and I thought defensively he was outstanding."



Leigh's Steve Maden makes a break

Eagles land first blow on leaders

Leaders HALIFAX suffered their first Co-operative defeat at the hands of a superb SHEFFIELD side who thoroughly deserved their 40-26 victory.

A disappointing afternoon for Matt Calland's side was compounded by Brendon Lindsay's late solo try which denied the hosts a bonus point.

Sheffield coach Mark Aston was predictably delighted, adding: "We're getting better week in week out.

"I thought our kicking game was outstanding today. We've got a lot of belief and a lot of confidence.

"We came here today and wanted to challenge an undoubted quality side.

"It takes a little time to start gelling and I believe we're really starting to gel now.

"I'm absolutely delighted because I think we've got a really special group of people at this club."

Halifax coach Matt Calland was disappointed with his side's performance. He said: "We looked a bit disjointed today, I don't think we deserved to win.

"We were still in the game late on but we never deserved to be. We got beaten in every department, we were out-enthusiased, out-muscled and out-smarted".

In the heat of a May evening TOULOUSE 'raided' the BARROW line two minutes from time to seal a 22-14 win against the second-placed team in the Championship.

Constant Villegas theatrically grounded the ball over the line for the winning try, Wynn again converting to secure the victory. So, on the hooter, Toulouse made it five from five with yet another win.



They had seen this as a test of their Championship credentials, after a poor start to the season, and came up trumps against a dedicated and tough Barrow outfit who battled to the last second.

After the game Toulouse coach Gilles Dumas was a happy man. Gilles doesn't say much, but the wry smile on his face spoke volumes.

WHITEHAVEN gained revenge for their last gasp Challenge Cup defeat at GATESHEAD when they edged home in another high scoring thriller 38-34.

There was little to separate two sides who shared 14 tries after a pulsating first half had ended 20-20.

Thunder should have been ahead at the interval but a ball steal on the hooter allowed Rob Jackson to scamper over and tie the scores.

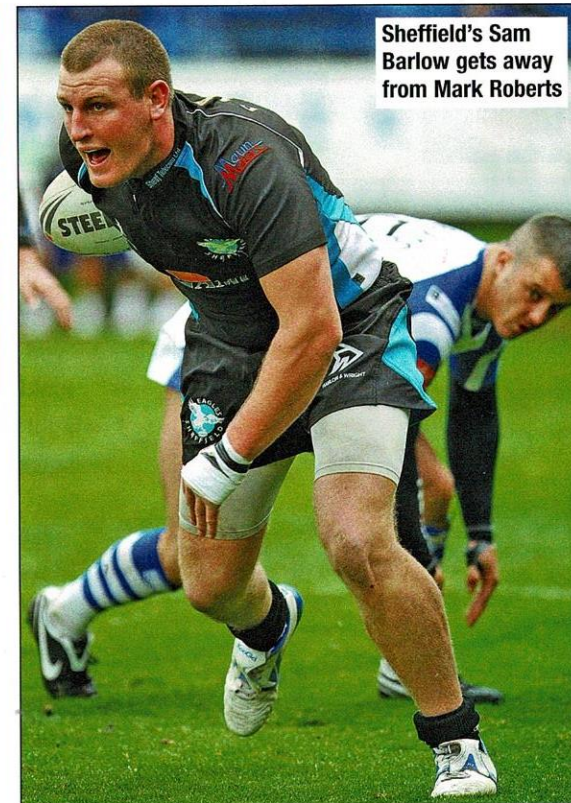
Neither side was more than eight points to the good in another entertaining arm wrestle which was finally settled early in the final quarter.

Playmaker Greg McNally burst into life to claim two long range tries in two minutes, tagging on the easy extras on both occasions.

It settled a tight game that saw Gateshead's three debutants from French club Pia, Nick Youngquest, Paul Franze and Kris Kahler, score five of the home side's seven tries.

FEATHERSTONE piled on the misery

Sheffield's Sam Barlow gets away from Mark Roberts



for cash-strapped DONCASTER with an impressive second-half performance to win 68-12.

Former Barrow centre Ian Bell grabbed three tries on his Rovers debut and Scotland winger Jon Steel and centre Tommy Saxton also collected hat-tricks as Rovers ran riot.

Joe McLocklan added seven goals from eight kicks as Featherstone bounced back in style from successive home defeats against Halifax and Warrington to climb to fourth in the table.

Rovers coach Daryl Powell was pleased with his side's second-half performance.

"I was a little bit disappointed at half-time because it took us a while to get going but I thought we were excellent in the second half and some of our play was of a high quality," he said. "I was able to have a look at Ian Bell who is obviously strong and has added a new dimension to us.

"All in all it was a pleasing effort across the board for about 50 minutes. We got it together eventually and that is the important thing.

"I think Tony Miller has done an excellent job at Doncaster and it's tough for them at the moment but I knew they would be full of spirit."

LEIGH completed the double over WIDNES and moved up into fourth place in the table with a 23-16 victory.

No quarter was given by either side as the Vikings raced into a 10-0 lead before the Centurions hit back to lead 14-10 with two tries from Dave Alstead six minutes before the break.



Barrow v Fev



Sunday May 24, 2009. Kick off 3pm. CRAVEN PARK

BARROW RAIDERS

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|---|------------------------|
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| Jimmy Redfern Associates | 27 Darren Holt |
| S & M Leisure (kit) | 28 Michael Darby |
| Nigel and Alison Atkinson | 32 Ruairi McGoff |
| Alastair McGregor | 35 Matt Storey |

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-----|----------------------|-----|
| | 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: DAVE CLARK

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWWWLW

LAST SIX HOME: WWLLWW

TRIES: James Nixon 12, Andrew Ellis 8, Liam Finch 7, Liam Campbell 6, Liam Harrison 6, Mike Backhouse 4, Chris Larkin 4. GOALS: Paul Noone 39, Darren Holt 18. DGs: Darren Holt 2.

MAN TO WATCH: Mike Backhouse

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M Thomason
Touch: C Waywell, B Armstrong
Fourth official: A Kirkbride

BENNETT'S BET

"Rovers to upset Raiders on home turf - Featherstone by 2"

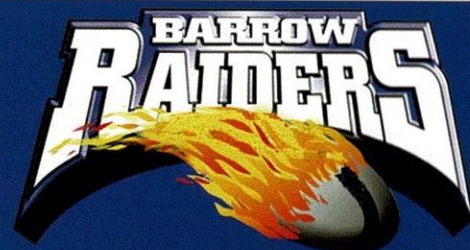
COACH: DARYL POWELL

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWLW

LAST SIX AWAY: WWWWWW

TRIES: Andy Kain 14, Jon Steel 10, Tommy Haughey 8, Ian Hardman 6. GOALS: Stuart Dickens 42, Iestyn Harris 19, Joe McLocklan 9. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Jon Steel



CLUBCALL

Barrow v Featherstone

Rovers will provide a huge test



FEATHERSTONE will provide a real challenge for the Barrow Raiders this weekend but there again that can be said of all of the teams in a very competitive Co-Operative Championship.

Any side that takes the opposition lightly will suffer the consequences and Rovers in particular are an outfit that must be given full respect.

The half back pairing of Iestyn Harris and Andy Kain is going well and they will look to dictate play on the back of a strong display from the pack.

We have to bounce back from a disappointing result away at Toulouse.

There was no lack of effort from the boys but a combination of the heat, the journey, a change in match-day routine and no game in the previous week meant that our performance dipped. It was probably just a combination of those fac-

tors that resulted in the team not being as sharp as they have been.

Our defence has been the stingiest in the competition but, although we matched the French side in the physical battle, on this occasion Toulouse were able to score from positions we have generally defended well against all season.

That will dent the pride of the Raiders players and they will be looking to make amends against Featherstone.

It was disappointing to have Lee Mossop move on to Huddersfield following his spell on loan from Wigan.

The club is fully aware that we need more strength in depth and we continue you to look to bolster our ranks with additional players be it on a loan or full-time basis.

Dave Clark, coach

BIG LOSS - Lee Mossop has left Barrow for Huddersfield via Wigan

Great to see our efforts recognised

It was pleasing to see three Barrow Raiders players included in the latest Co-Operative Championship team of the month.

Andy Brocklehurst represents the pack having been pencilled in at loose forward. James Nixon and Chris Larkin occupy the wing berths.

Of course if you have both wingers grabbing the headlines then the rest of the team must have done pretty well in order to give them the opportunity to show their skills.

Most pundits speak about our "big name" signings but it is the local talent represented by James and Chris which is the life-blood of the club.

Of the 17 players who turned out in the

BY DAVID SEAR VICE CHAIRMAN

win at Widnes Vikings 11 of them were local to the Furness area which is of great credit to the coaches in the amateur clubs who originally nurtured their rugby league development. What I found particularly galling about the victories against the Vikings, and subsequently the Batley Bulldogs, was that the pundits and opposition supporters concentrated more on finding fault with those teams rather than appreciating the efforts of the Raiders in two stand-out performances.

Featherstone have three players in the team of the month squad in forwards Tim Spears and Stuart Dickens along with

stand-off Iestyn Harris.

Hopefully the appearance of Harris will bring a few more through the turnstiles - as always we could do with the money!

In training coach Dave Clark and his assistants are working in to a fitness and stamina programme specially commissioned for the club.

Every training session from pre-season until the end of the campaign is scientifically designed to meet the needs of the players and the physical requirements that the game demands of them.

The way we have shown up fitness and stamina wise against other clubs indicates that the cost of the programme is money well spent.

Enjoy your day with us.



Batley v 'Haven



Sunday May 24th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. MOUNT PLEASANT

BATLEY BULLDOGS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
| Hopkins family | 1 Ian Preece |
| Mavis, Mac & Jack | 2 Ben Feehan |
| Wayne & Pauline Aston | 3 Dale Cardoza |
| Fletcher family | 4 Danny Maun |
| Laurie & Andrew Grailey | 5 Johnny Campbell |
| Batley Rock & Roll | 6 Mark Barlow |
| Batley Nash | 7 Paul Mennell |
| Key & Brian | 8 Byron Smith |
| The Benson family | 9 Kris Lythe |
| Leyland Paints | 10 Luke Stenchion |
| Brian Hooley | 11 Kevin Crouthers |
| George & Mary Gomersal | 12 Mark Toohy |
| Study Centre | 13 Ash Lindsay |
| | 14 John Gallagher |
| RSM Carriers | 15 Anthony Henderson |
| Benson family | 16 Jon Simpson |
| Protec Security | 17 Craig Potter |
| Gary Tingle & Lorraine | 18 Jermaine McGilvary |
| Richardson | |
| | 19 - |
| 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 - |
| | 25 Glen Reid |
| | 27 Jamie Aitchison |
| John Miller | 28 Darryl Cardiss |
| | 29 Gareth Greenwood |
| | 30 Paul Handforth |
| | 33 Danny Samuels |
| Mary Hughes | 35 Jack Watson |

COACH: KARL HARRISON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLLL
 LAST SIX HOME: LDWLLL
 TRIES: George Flanagan 7, Jermaine McGilvary 7, Darryl Cardiss 4, Jon Simpson 4, Ian Preece 4.
 GOALS: George Flanagan 22, Mark Barlow 9, Paul Mennell 6. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Paul Handforth

WHITEHAVEN

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

SCORERS

TRIES
 CONV
 PENS
 DGs

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLWW
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLWLLW
 TRIES: Gregg McNally 23, Ade Adebisi 6, John Patrick 5, Craig Calvert 5.
 GOALS: Gregg McNally 46, Carl Rudd 6, Marc Jackson 5.
 DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Ade Adebisi

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D Merrick
 Touch: M Beadle, J Roberts
 Fourth official: T Bell

BENNETT'S BET

"Dogs to put up a fight against Cumbrians - Whitehaven by 8"



KERRINTERIORS

from Concept to Completion



CLUBCALL

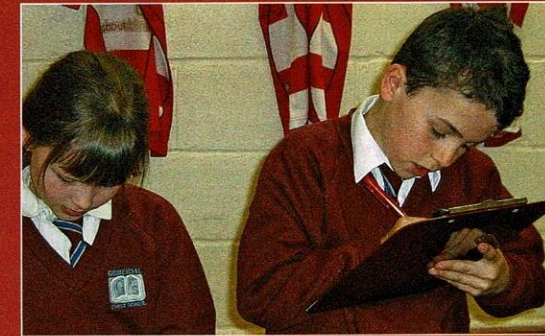
Batley v Whitehaven

Busy half term as kids thrive with Bulldogs

It's been a busy time in the study centre. This term we are working with Batley Business and Enterprise College, Carlinghow Princess Royal, Leaside Community Primary School and Batley Girls' High School.

Pupils attend sessions from 3-6pm (Monday-Thursday) for 10 weeks and concentrate on numeracy and literacy while improving their confidence and self-esteem.

All sessions this term have been rugby based with pupils designing rugby kits, going on stadium tours and creating 'Ugger Rugger' rugby players on the computers. Batley Bulldogs players are always on hand to help out, read with pupils and be interviewed - a



real credit to the study centre and Batley Bulldogs RLFC!

This year we have established a satellite centre for the Bulldogs in Cawley Lane Primary School where pupils attend a similar programme to what we deliver at the study centre and are invited

up to the Mount for a stadium tour with club captain Paul Mennell.

In addition to recruiting local schools, this year the study centre has recruited from a local madrasah to attend PFS sessions. This pioneering project highlights

the strength of our community cohesion.

In half term the study centre is working with Paul Mennell to run two days of sessions at the rugby club.

There will be craft activities in the study centre and rugby training skills with Paul. Sessions are open to Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils on the 27th and 28th May from 11-2pm with free entry. Contact the club for more details.

This week sees my last week at the study centre before I start my maternity leave but I will be returning in January!

Sarah Smith

Study Centre Teacher

Gossip gang should put money where mouths are - or shut up

I HOPE by the time of today's game, some of our injuries have improved and our new player Paul Handforth has settled in so that we can give a good account of ourselves today against a Whitehaven team who clocked up another win last week.

Everyone now knows Karl Harrison, assisted by Joe Berry, are our coaching team until the end of the season. We need to remember we are not yet halfway through the league season and so we have plenty of rugby to play and hopefully plenty to cheer about in the second half of the season.

I see plenty of negatives on the message board, which I can understand to some extent but I cannot understand anyone saying we are keeping supporters in the dark. The only reason I can think why there appears to be anti-Joe Berry talk is due to personal feelings, rather than knowledge of his attributes or otherwise.

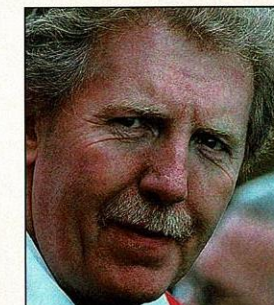
I think that is sad but nothing I can say will change individual views. However I do know Joe is hardworking, committed and looking to learn under Karl so that is certainly good enough for me.

On a personal note could I say that the club, and in particular my shares, are always up for sale. Just ring the club and ask to meet me and I will oblige and listen to offers.

By the way, to progress the club significantly, we would need a £200,000 injection of money each and every year and a repayment of my director's loan would see me pay off all club debts so that the club was debt free.

That financial input is a tall order but in reality that is what is needed. The payment to me would be £150,000 and when a previous 'cow-boy' tried to buy my shares that was my asking price, not £1.5 million which has been stated. The credit crunch has not altered the position.

Could supporters who are critical also remember myself,



Kevin - shares for sale

Andrew Winner and our wives have worked for the club for 12 years in November for no pay or financial reward of any kind and we are not claiming expenses like MPs either.

Ron and Nellie Earnshaw, Paul Hull, John Miller and others also continue to work for a club. The truth is that the club can only exist with everyone, including supporters, continuing to support it in any way they can.

To read the message board you would think we were a club which was broken, not a

small club going through a difficult time. There is nothing to report regarding our grant application for a function suite or a new players' eating area but these projects are still alive and once we have news we will let you know.

If you want to know anything come up and ask me face to face and I will try to answer any queries regarding anything but I will not be going on any message board.

Talking of function suites, anyone who went to the BISSA dinner could not possibly have failed to be impressed by the event itself and the Lakeside Restaurant at the Ponderosa in particular.

If we ever get a function suite as good as that, we would be delighted.

Finally, over the next two home games in particular can we all just get behind Karl, Joe and the team and see if we can turn the corner.

Enjoy the game.

Kevin Nicholas,
Chairman



Dons v Halifax



Thursday May 21st, 2009. Kick off 7.30pm. 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 |
| | 6 - |
| | 7 - |
| APS Toolhire | 8 Michael Haley |
| Praetorian Ltd | 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 Divorty |
| RTN Motor Spares | 18 Craig Holt |
| | 19 Ryan Steen |
| Jill Scarrow | 20 Michael Coady |
| FGH Systems | 21 Garry Ellery |
| Sue Walford | 22 Andy Speake |
| | 23 Scott Smith |
| | 24 Jake Bassinder |
| | 25 - |
| | 26 Gareth Carey |
| | 27 Albert Rounding |
| | 28 Jamie Bovill |
| Luffe (The Great Dane) | 29 Matthew Carbutt |
| | 30 Wayne Opie |

COACH: TONY MILLER

Sponsored by Custom Property Developments

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLLL

LAST SIX HOME: LWLLLL

TRIES: Craig Cook 6, Michael Coady 4, Ross Divorty 4, Gareth Carey 3, Ryan Steen 3.

GOALS: Kyle Briggs 17, Andy Speake 8, Josh Weeden 8. DGs: Paul Handforth

MAN TO WATCH: Ross Divorty

HALIFAX RLFC

| No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. | No. PLAYER | SPONSOR |
|-----|----------------------|-----|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Full back | | 1 Miles Greenwood | Halifax Independent Supporters Trust |
| | Right Wing | | 2 Lee Paterson | Laura Fairbank |
| | Right Centre | | 3 Jon Goddard | Duncan Mitchell |
| | Left Centre | | 4 Shad Royston | Chadwick Lawrence |
| | Left Wing | | 5 James Haley | Chadwick Lawrence |
| | Stand off | | 6 Dwayne Barker | Neil Lomas |
| | Scrum half | | 7 Ben Black | Roger & Sue Harvey |
| | Prop | | 8 Matt James | Megaman Energy Saving Lamps |
| | Hooker | | 9 Sean Penkywicz | Riley & Co Accountants |
| | Prop | | 10 Dana Wilson | Liz Smith (Matthew Walker) |
| | 2nd row | | 11 Dave Larder | Windsor Yarns |
| | 2nd row | | 12 Paul Smith | Halifax Past Players Association |
| | Loose forward | | 13 Bob Beswick | Complete Building Materials |
| | Interchange 1 | | 14 Mark Gleeson | David/Terry Kendall |
| | 2 | | 15 Mark Roberts | Steve Shurety - EMB Ltd |
| | 3 | | 16 Said Tamghart | Sue Illingworth |
| | 4 | | 17 Frank Watene | Complete Building Materials |
| | | | 18 Andy Bowman | Calderdale Service Area |
| | | | 19 Mick Govin | Chadwick Lawrence |
| | | | 20 - | |
| | | | 21 Neil Cherryholme | AA Moving Solutions, A Mogford |
| | | | 22 David Wrench | |
| | | | 23 Rob Worrincy | Elizabeth Posner |
| | | | 25 Anthony Bowman | Calderdale Service Area |

SCORERS

TRIES

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: MATT CALLAND

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R Hicks
Touch: J Farrell, J Cobb
Video Referee: J Child

BENNETT'S BET

"Wounded Fax to bounce back in style - Halifax by 32"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWWL

LAST SIX AWAY: W-WWWW

TRIES: Ben Black 13, Shad Royston 12, Miles Greenwood 12, Sean Penkywicz 10, Said Tamghart 8.

GOALS: Paterson 48, Govin 24, Black 12. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Frank Watene

CLUBCALL

Doncaster v Halifax

Doing all we can in difficult times

I'd like to welcome everyone here today for our clash against table toppers Halifax. Firstly I'd like to thank officials at Halifax for arranging free travel to tonight's game as a way of boosting the crowd and helping the Dons bring in some much needed revenue.

Tonight's curtain raiser between the Dons Legends and Kiwi Masters will bring some familiar faces back to Doncaster playing on both teams. The game will be a great spectacle and congratulations to everyone who has been involved in putting the game on.

Over the last couple of weeks we've had a couple of high profile departures and there has been a lot written about the

club's financial struggle. Everything being done at the club is being done to give the club a chance of surviving.

Sport is not unaffected by the economic crisis and clubs such as the Dons who have no directors financially bankrolling or able to invest funds into the club are very exposed at the moment.

Our team is working extremely hard behind the scenes to keep things going. We're constantly looking at new ways to increase revenue and find new income streams. The appointment of Alick Jeffrey, working for the club bringing in sponsorship and hospitality, is one of these.

Alick has a successful history of being able to achieve this with Doncaster

Rovers and is confident he can help generate us some funds.

The newly formed advisory group are also working hard to find ways of stabilising the club and implementing a new business plan to move forward.

Now is the time for Dons fans to get behind us. The last thing the team needs is criticism, we've got a club of dedicated people all putting their hearts and souls into the job. Once again thank you to all those sticking by us, helping us out and continuing to support your beloved Dons.

Dave Marshall
Dons CEO

Time for us to muscle up again

A WARM welcome to all the Halifax players, coaching staff and directors. I hope you have had a safe journey here and a safe return.

Halifax are the form side this year and deservedly top the league. They have an exciting team with bags of pace across the side and can score from all over the park. They are very dangerous around the ruck and play behind quick play the balls through Gleeson, Penkywicz, Beswick and Black.

We need to muscle up and defend a lot better than we did at Featherstone.

This year has been difficult with the financial restraints that the club is under. That coupled with the mounting injuries we are picking up week by week is making it all the bit harder when it comes

to putting together a fully fit team at the end of the week.

However the players have given their all this year which is all I can ask. Against Featherstone in the second half this wasn't the case - I don't know if the situation at the club during the week had any impact. However, today gives the players the opportunity to get back to giving 100% which I am sure they will do and test themselves against a quality side with also the added factor of it being on Sky.

Halifax will be scathing after last week's loss to Sheffield but I am sure the boys will really be looking to restore some pride in themselves.

Good luck to all.

Tony Miller
Dons Coach



Action from the Dons' pre-season game with Featherstone - Rovers. John Fallon is halted. www.rlphotos.com

DONCASTER COLLEGE

Backing the Dons!

WARPAINT COSMETICS

DONS LAKESIDE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Dome
at Doncaster Lakeside
Serving for Healthier Communities

EVERLAST WATERPROOFING LTD

CENTURION

WARNERS FISH MERCHANTS LTD

keepmoat stadium

RINGWAYS MOTOR GROUP



Eagles v Toulouse



Saturday May 23rd, 2009. Kick off 6pm. DON VALLEY STADIUM

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE

| SPONSOR | No. | PLAYER |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| AMCO | 1 | Jonny Woodcock |
| Tolent | 2 | Bolu Fagborun |
| OSI | 3 | Menzie Yere |
| Jim Hawksworth, Suzanne Atkin | 4 | Mike Roby |
| Anne Collins | 5 | Ashley Thackeray |
| Pennine Business Forms | 6 | Brendan 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 | | |
| 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 |
| | 32 | Danny Mills |
| | 33 | Joe Walsh |
| Jill Swire | 34 | Eddie Battye |
| Mr & Mrs Lee | 35 | Dan Hawksworth |

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL

LAST SIX HOME: LWLWLL

TRIES: Jonny Woodcock 7, Tangi Ropati 6, Menzie Yere 5, Sam Barlow 5, Brendan Lindsay 5, Damian Gibson 5.

GOALS: Jonny Woodcock 51. DG:-

MAN TO WATCH: Menzie Yere

| 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 | Rory Bromley | SN Diffusion |
| 2 | Sebastien Payan | Dynadoc |
| 3 | Sebastien Planas | Ermes Prestations |
| 4 | Damien Couturier | Demathieu et Bard |
| 5 | Joris Canton | France Boissons |
| 6 | Constant Villegas | Prosegur |
| 7 | Nathan Wynn | Copy Sud |
| 8 | Brendan Worth | Immodulair |
| 9 | Martin Mitchell | Gentlemen du Déménagement |
| 10 | Mathieu Griffi | Groupe Cailleau |
| 11 | Timothy Wynn | Groupe Carrère |
| 12 | Mathieu Almarcha | SNC Latitudes - Golf de Seilh |
| 13 | Eric Anselme | Aux Docks du bureau |
| 14 | Antoni Maria | Transports Sarrazain |
| 15 | Jerome Gout | Renault Etats-Unis |
| 16 | Olivier Pramit | Citroën Etats-Unis |
| 17 | Yohan Barthau | Océanis |
| 18 | Adrien Viala | Siemex |
| 19 | Nicolas Delgal | Inovans |
| 20 | Sylvain Houles | Airbus Cimpa |
| 21 | Bruno Ormeno | Leroy Merlin |
| 22 | Nicolas Faure | IFB |
| 23 | Cedric Gay | Force Distribution |
| 24 | Clement Bienes | La Dépêche du Midi |
| 25 | Jean-Christophe Borlin | La Mutuelle du rempart |
| 26 | Teli Pelo | IPS Publicité |

COACH: GILLES DUMAS

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWWWWW

LAST SIX AWAY: LLWW

TRIES: Rory Bromley 5, Nathan Wynn 4, Damien Couturier 4, Constant Villegas 4, Bruno Ormeno 3.

GOALS: Nathan Wynn 43, Couturier 1

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Brendan Worth

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J Child

Touch: L Todd, T Bell

Fourth Official: M Hague

BENNETT'S BET

"Olympique to edge battle at the Don Valley - Toulouse by 4"

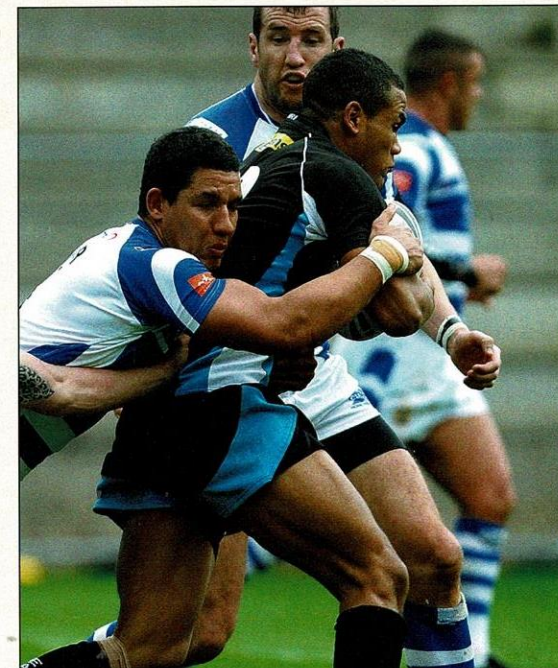
PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHEFFIELD EAGLES!



CLUBCALL

Sheffield v Toulouse Olympique

Win sealed great week for Eagles



The returning Danny Mills takes the attack to Halifax

IT'S NOT been a bad week...and I don't just mean the 40-26 win at Halifax.

The victory at The Shay was the icing on the cake after Sheffield Eagles celebrated 25 years as a professional rugby club.

I bet all those former players who were at the celebration dinner were delighted when they saw that we'd ended Halifax's unbeaten run in the Championship. Now we have to keep that going, starting with Toulouse Olympique tonight.

Halifax's coach was quoted before the game that his side was 'the best team in the league by a country mile'.

Well what does that make us?

That result has been coming - we may have lost seven games in the Co-operative Championship and the Challenge Cup before going to

Halifax but we've been running teams close.

At Hull KR the lads showed what they could do. They cut out the errors and controlled the game in the second half against a top Super League team. The lads proved something to themselves at Rovers and they took that into the game at Halifax.

A special mention for Damian Gibson, who got two tries against his old club - those kind of tries are special! At Halifax we also had Danny Mills back in the team and in a second loan deal added back rower Joe Walsh from Huddersfield Giants.

It's great to have Danny back - he's not been in the first team picture since his move to Widnes and wants the chance to remind a few people what a class winger he is. Joe's a real prospect and he'll do a great job for us.

Timely reminder of expansion difficulties

IT IS with great pleasure that I welcome the directors, players and fans of Toulouse. It is great to have a French club in the competition and if our previous two encounters are anything to go by it will be a close contest.

The arrival of Toulouse to Don Valley today and the recent celebration of Eagles' first 25 years has got me thinking about the expansion of the game beyond the historic heartland of rugby league.

While I wish Toulouse the best of good fortune in establishing themselves in this competition and going on to grace it for many years to come, the history of the game provides us with a stark warning as to how difficult it is to achieve a long term presence.

Ian Annis - Community Development Officer

In the 1980s there were several new clubs formed outside the heartland and the only one to survive is Sheffield Eagles and, at times, that has been a close run thing!

So, what has made the Eagles the exception?

For one, it was the vision and hard work of key people who were determined to make it succeed against all odds. There is also something special about the ethos of the club, which was so evident at the celebration dinner last week; it is like one big family.

However, above all, it is the commitment to put down sustainable roots in

Sheffield. I do not believe any club in the game has a better record, pound for pound, to community development and this is beginning to have a lasting impact.

Through our extensive schools programme and community clubs we have created a strong participation base on top of which we are building a pathway through the scholarship scheme and academy. This is beginning to bear fruit, with several local boys signed into the professional ranks in the last year and many more on the way.

As Gary Hetherington reminded us at the celebration dinner, we are still a young club in rugby league terms, but we have put down strong roots and the best is yet to come.

Now on sale: '25 years of Sheffield Eagles' a publication celebrating the history of the club. Price - £2.50

Match sponsor: Dream Ticket



Widnes v Gateshead



Saturday May 23 2009. Kick off 6pm. STOBART STADIUM HALTON

WIDNES VIKINGS

GATESHEAD THUNDER

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

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

SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

(sponsored by CMS Intelligent Banking)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWLLL
 LAST SIX HOME: WWWLWL
 TRIES: Paddy Flynn 8, Gavin Dodd 7, Jim Gannon 5, Mark Smith 5, Loz Wildbore 5.
 GOALS: Scott Yates 33, Tim Hartley 14, Gavin Dodd 10. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Gavin Dodd

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Halloran
 Touch: G Jones, K Povah
 Fourth Official: P Meadows

BENNETT'S BET

"Vikings should see off their old boss - Widnes by 8"

COACH: STEVE McCORMACK

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWWW
 LAST SIX AWAY: W-LLLDWL
 TRIES: Stewart Sanderson 15, Luke Branighan 12, Ben McAlpine 8, Dylan Nash 7.
 GOALS: Michael Knowles 43
 DGs: Neil Thorman, Rhys Clarke
 MAN TO WATCH: Luke Branighan

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| No. PLAYER | SPONSOR |
| 1 Ben McAlpine | |
| 2 Danny Wilson | |
| 3 Kevin Neighbour | Accent Magazine & North East Times |
| | Lady Cross Quarries |
| 4 Dylan Nash | Schooner Inn |
| 5 Stewart Sanderson | The Wheatshaf Pub |
| 6 Neil Thorman | James & Matthew Wells |
| 7 Luke Branighan | |
| 8 Jason Payne | Brack Office Solutions |
| 9 Andrew Henderson | Rob & Jackie Gardner |
| 10 Tabua Cakacaka | |
| 11 - | |
| 12 Michael Knowles | PCL Travel |
| 13 Russ Aitken | |
| 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 Nick Youngquest | |
| 20 Dave Vernon | |
| 21 Ryan McBride | O'Brien Sandwiches, Team Valley |
| | |
| 22 Jamie Russo | |
| 23 Jonny Scott | |
| 24 Paul Franze | La Gabbia Restaurant |
| 25 Kris Kahler | |
| 26 Crawford Matthews | Lesley Gosling PR |
| 27 Scott Woods | Dean Taxis 0191 444 4 444 |
| 28 Mark Dack | |
| 29 Rhys Clarke | CLA Risk Solutions |
| 30 Stephen Welton | |



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VIKINGS



HaTTons SOLICITORS



Stobart



CLUBCALL

Widnes v Gateshead

Bonus isn't quite the point of our efforts

Paul Cullen, Head Coach

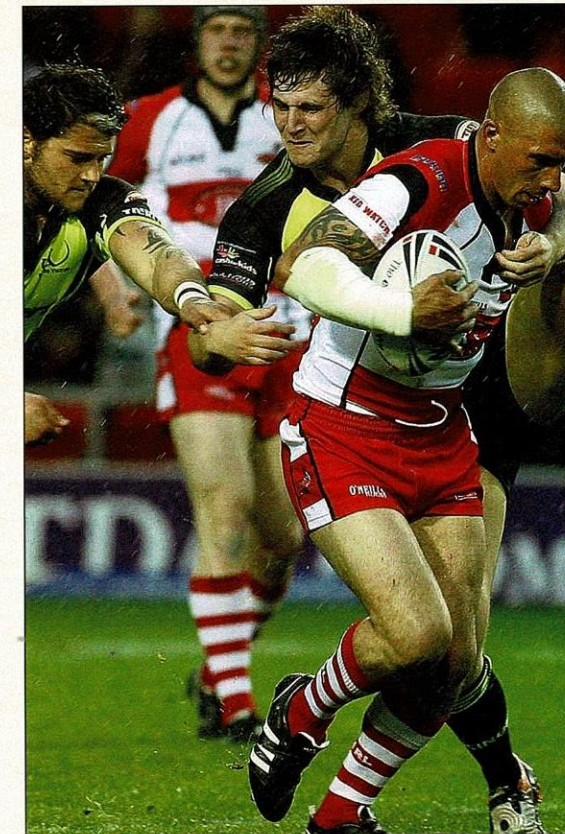
THIS evening's game against Gateshead is set to be a keenly contested match with both sides looking to get back to winning ways, having picked up bonus points last time out.

Our game at Leigh was both frustrating and disappointing as we established a great platform for ourselves with some disciplined rugby in the first quarter before inexplicably returning to our bad habits of giving away cheap penalties, which led to increased Leigh possession and three tries in the closing minutes of the first half.

Despite drawing level we were unable to maintain the momentum and once again all we had to show for our efforts was a bonus point.

However, the fact that in four of our five defeats this season we have picked up a bonus point demonstrates that we are a competitive side and I believe that with hard work we will be turning one point into three points.

This week is the first we have had with our new training schedule and it was good on Sunday to have the whole



Penalties cost Widnes dear in the televised loss to Leigh

squad available for a number of hours. With similar sessions planned during the week I am hoping that the benefit will be seen this evening.

Both myself and Terry O'Connor are constantly looking to add to our squad and if our hard work bears fruit then we may well see a new face or two in tonight's line-up.

'Free' initiative at a tough time for all clubs

Good evening and welcome to this evening's Co-operative Championship clash with Gateshead Thunder and a special welcome to Head Coach Steve McCormack on his return to the Stobart Stadium Halton.

I know that everybody at the Club wishes Steve well for his career in the North East, starting from about 7.30pm this evening!

Despite three successive defeats confidence is still high here and we hope to start our revival tonight with three points which will hopefully see us remain in the top three.

Results last weekend saw defeats for both Halifax and Barrow who are above us and showed that any team can beat

Alex Bonney Chief Executive Officer

any other on the day.

Last week's crowds saw just the games at Leigh and Toulouse break the 2,500 barrier and I would suggest that these are worrying times for all clubs.

Today's initiative for free admission is one which we hope will bear fruit on two fronts. In the first instance we are holding our £10,000 annual dream ticket draw and we hope that with free admission fans will have a gamble or two on our instant tickets with an additional chance to win five prizes of £100.

Secondly, in view of recent performances, this is an opportunity to thank all

fans for their continued support and hopefully welcome back some lapsed fans plus introduce some new fans.

Hopefully a good performance today will see fans return in two weeks time when we meet York City Knights with a place in the Northern Rail Cup semi-final at stake.

Whilst season ticket holders may not benefit immediately, they will receive an additional discount when they renew their 2010 season ticket during the 'early bird' period details of which will be announced in due course.

As Steve O'Connor said last week there is still a lot to play for this season and I am confident that Widnes will be 'in the mix' come the Northern Rail and Co-operative Championship finals.



Blackpool v Keighley



Sunday May 24th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. FYLDE RUFC

BLACKPOOL PANTHERS

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

SPONSOR

Blackpool Supporters
Derek Way Roofing
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Morris and Oxley
S. Beilby and Family
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Robert Yates Design
Interbake Ltd
Paul Wilson
Clark Draper Family/
Sheperds Inn, Lowton
G&M Building Contractors
S. Beilby and Family
Rema Tip Top
Morris Bakers

No. PLAYER

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

14 Martin Keaveney
15 Mel Alker
16 Ian Hodson
17 David Llewellyn
18 John Boland
19 Liam McGovern
20 Tom Wild
21 Andy Marsh
22 Keiron Tucker
23 Daryll Kayed
28 Gareth Langley
29 Scott Winstanley
30 Dean Hatton

S. Beilby and Family

Morris and Oxley

Morris and Oxley
John Chadwick Insurances
John Chadwick Insurances
John Chadwick Insurances

| 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 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

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

COACH: BARRY EATON

(sponsored by the Cox family)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWLW

LAST SIX AWAY: LLW-LLL

TRIES: Jon Presley 18, Lee Mapals 10, Gavin Duffy 4, George Raynor 4, Daley Williams 3, Oliver Pursglove 3.

GOALS: Danny Jones 47. **DGs:** Danny Jones, Jon Presley

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Shickell

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M Kidd
Touch: S Johnson, G Evans
Fourth Official: J Downham

BENNETT'S BET

"Cougars to enjoy day by the seaside
- Keighley by 4"

COACH: MARTIN CROMPTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWLWL

LAST SIX HOME: L-WLWLW

TRIES: Johnny Leather 9, Mark McCully 6, David Llewellyn 5, Gareth Langley 5, Dean Hatton 5.

GOALS: Johnny Leather 23, Gareth Langley 12. **DGs:** -

MAN TO WATCH: Johnny Leather

www.nmcreative.co.uk

northern monkey
creative media

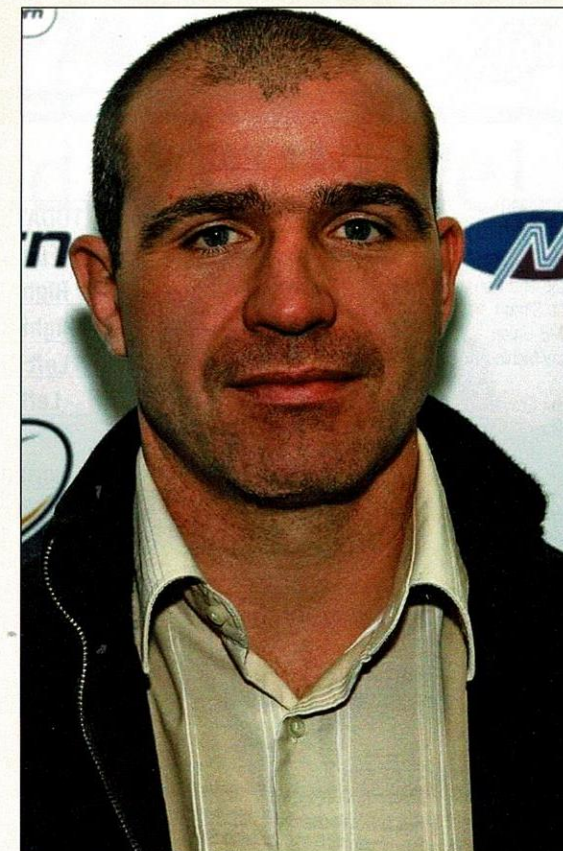
Proudly Supporting
Panthers in the Community

TRINITY
Trinity Community Services

CLUBCALL

Blackpool v Keighley

Cougars can serve up a tasty dish



Keighley coach Barry Eaton has assembled a well organised and effective side

TODAY it is a treat and a pleasure to welcome the officials, players and supporters of Keighley Cougars.

A special mention also to Neil Spencer (chairman) and Colin Farrar (chief executive), the latter who is renowned throughout the game for his culinary skills in the cooking of roast potatoes!

Keighley are riding high in the Championship Division One and will provide a stern test for ourselves.

Unfortunately, last week, we lost at league leaders Dewsbury but the score did not reflect the true manner of the loss.

The effort from all the players was first class. However we are continually looking to strengthen the squad and talks are on-going with one or two individuals.

Finally, congratulations are in order to our top local amateur club, the Blackpool Scorpions who have just completed the double!

Having first won the league title at North West Counties Division Two, they completed the season by winning the North Lancashire Shield last Saturday.

The players and their well earned trophies will be on show at our match today and we wish them well next season.

Chairman John Chadwick

9s tournament proves huge success

THE PANTHERS' first ever 9s competition was a great success with six further education colleges taking part.

There was Blackpool and The Fylde College, Blackpool Sixth Form and St Mary's Sixth Form representing the town while three colleges came from Furness, Skelmersdale and St Mary's (Blackburn).

The tournament was split into two pools and the top two teams went through to the semi-finals with the third placed teams playing each other for 5th and 6th place.

In the first semi, St



Blackpool Sixth Form's rugby league team with their 9s winners trophy

Mary's (Blackburn) beat Furness College 6-2 and in the other

Blackpool Sixth form saw off Blackpool and The Fylde College 6-1.

The losing teams then went to a Plate Cup and the winners

went through to the Grand Final.

In the Plate event Furness beat Blackpool and The Fylde 5-2 and in the 5th/6th team game, Skelmersdale College drew with St Mary's (Blackpool) 4-4.

In the Grand Final, Blackpool were crowned champions after winning 5-2 against the boys from Blackburn.

The Panthers would like to say a big "thanks" to Blackpool Rugby League Supporters Club for providing the winners shield and medals, and to all the colleges who took part.



Hunslet v Hornets



Sunday May 24th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. SOUTH LEEDS STADIUM

HUNSLET HAWKS

HORNETS RUGBY LEAGUE

| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Elliot and Ewan Boiston Green | 1 Nathan Larvin |
| | 2 Scott Childs |
| Adie and Ron Jinks | 3 Tom Sheldrake |
| Eric Simon | 4 Michael Brown |
| GMB Union | 5 John Richardson |
| Gary Martin-Selby Road Tyres | 6 Darren Robinson |
| | 7 Stuart Young |
| | 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 |
| | 14 Chris Redfeam |
| Skelton Skips | 15 Andy Robinson |
| | 16 Mark Moxon |
| Bob Tate | 17 Steve Brook |
| South Leeds & Hunslet Cars | 18 Ayden Faal |
| Geoff Gray | 19 Ben Walkin |
| Skelton Skips | 20 Antony Thewliss |
| | 21 Dan Cook |
| Wetheralds Ltd | 22 Scott Watson |
| | 23 Jonny Wainhouse |
| Dennis/Hannah Butterfield | 24 Charlie Wabo |
| Tates Solicitors | 25 Michael Mark |
| Phil Ogg | 26 Nico Slain |
| Paul Gray | 27 Gareth Firm |
| Wetheralds Ltd | 28 Steve Dooler |
| GMB Union | 29 Tony Williams |
| The Dirty Dozen | |

| 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 Chris Giles | Aztek Safety |
| 2 John Gillam | John & Julie Clarke |
| 3 Mick Fogerty | Ray Walton |
| 4 Casey Mayberry | Lion Springs |
| 5 - | |
| 6 Martin Ainscough | J Heaton & Son |
| 7 - | |
| 8 David Best | Interbake Ltd |
| 9 Janan Billings | Sue & Dave Butterworth |
| 10 Paul Raftery | Ian Coop |
| 11 David Cunliffe | Ray & Maureen of Heywood Market |
| 12 Ian Sinfield | Hartley Thomas Wright |
| 13 Wayne Corcoran | The Loyalists |
| 14 Adam Thomas | |
| 15 Martin McLoughlin | John Mac & Company |
| 16 Mark Brocklehurst | Claire Murgatoryd |
| 17 Andy Isherwood | Grant & Dougie |
| 18 - | |
| 19 Craig Johnson | Megan Tann |
| 20 Dale Cunliffe | Tin2net Ltd |
| 21 Tommy Gallagher | Ian Nield |
| 22 Paul Anderson | |
| 23 Liam Grundy | |
| 24 Chris Hough | |
| 25 Dayne Donaghue | Shaw Mitchell & Co Accountants |
| 26 Leroy Rivett | |

| |
|-------------------|
| 32 Liam McGovern |
| 33 Matt Strong |
| 34 Brett Robinson |
| 35 Dave Houghton |

COACH: GRAEME HALLAS

COACH: DARREN SHAW

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWL
 LAST SIX HOME: LL-LLWWW
 TRIES: Ayden Faal 6, Michael Brown 5,
 Scott Watson 4, Darren Robinson 4,
 Michael Mark 4. GOALS: Darren
 Robinson 24. DGs: Richard Chapman,
 Darren Robinson.
 MAN TO WATCH: Richard Chapman

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G Dolan
 Touch: S Moss, C Hancock
 Fourth Official: S Williams

BENNETT'S BET

"Improved Hornets could sting the Hawks
 - Hornets by 6"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWLLW

LAST SIX AWAY: LWLWLL
 TRIES: Martin Ainscough 9, John
 Gillam 5, Mick Fogerty 5, Chris Giles 4,
 Ian Sinfield 3, Casey Mayberry 3,
 Wayne Corcoran 3. GOALS: Chris Giles
 15, Liam McGovern 14. DGs: McGovern
 MAN TO WATCH: Ian Sinfield

THE HAWKS - IN ASSOCIATION WITH...



SITE 46
 KNOWSTHORPE WAY
 CROSS GREEN,
 LEEDS LS9 0SW

TEL: 0113 249 3950
 FAX: 0113 235 0459



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 HUNSLET, LEEDS LS10 1BX
 TEL: LEEDS 0113 2649955, FAX: 0113 2429943
 MOBILE: 07865 336415
 EMAIL: wetheralds@btinternet.com

CLUBCALL

Hunslet v Hornets RL

Well done Hornets - but that's after today's game!

WE welcome to South Leeds Stadium our visitors Rochdale Hornets today. Rochdale's recent results have clearly shown that they will have a profound say on the outcome of the Championship One promotion race.

Their nine-point deduction for going into administration all but rules them out of automatic promotion contention themselves but, as their result against York last week showed, they are capable of beating the top sides either at home or away.

The Hawks will certainly not be taking today's match lightly and expect a tough encounter. A win would be a very good result for us.

Last season, despite finishing bottom of the league, we did the double over Rochdale and so we hope to remain their bogey team and hope to produce a better all round display in the process.

The Hornets' financial experiences of recent times are not lost on us. They have battled hard to stay in the game and have reduced their costs accordingly.

It is extremely difficult to find a "white knight" coming over the horizon, who is prepared to put their personal fortune into any club. Russian billionaires are not in plentiful supply across the North of England!

A role for a Supporters' Trust is one that appears to be serving Rochdale well and we wish them well. The Hunslet club is actively looking at all options for the future and is likely to consider the role of a Supporters' Trust themselves.

Well done to the supporters of the Hornets for keeping professional rugby league alive in Rochdale. Your col-



Charlotte Ball - Supporters Trust a good idea

lective enthusiasm and commitment is much admired by those who know the problems.

We hope to remain your bogey team on the pitch, but hope you win as many matches as possible during the remainder of the season.

Charlotte Ball, PR Officer

Sights are firmly set on top three

As the division begins to unravel itself, the Hawks have set their target on a top three finish.

The top side automatically achieves promotion, with clubs two to seven in the play-off positions.

Clubs two and three have the first play-off weekend free, with the winner of their match the following weekend going through to the play-off final.

Oldham, Keighley, York, Swinton and ourselves appear to lead a clutch of clubs behind leaders Dewsbury.

Last week's results show that there is very little between all five of these clubs.

Alan Stephenson
 Chief Executive



Hunslet have already announced that they are cutting back on their wage bill for next season and the Hawks must prove themselves in sea-

son 2009. Anything less than a top three finish will see the Hawks struggle to achieve promotion.

With everything to play for in the coming weeks against the top sides, the combinations of a variety of results leaves the competition wide open.

Rochdale's improving performances have made it even harder to predict the order at the top of the table.

Let us hope we can achieve our goals this season and enjoy the experience, as we commit ourselves to having a go, in the quest for a top three finish.

Get your name on this page! Sponsor a player for £250 and help support the Skolars. Contact the Skolars office on 0208 888 8488 for more details



Skolars v York



Sunday May 24th, 2009. Kick off 2pm. NEW RIVER STADIUM

LONDON SKOLARS

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

COACH: CALLUM IRVING

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL
 LAST SIX HOME: L-LLLLL
 TRIES: Matt Thomas 6, Austen Aggrey 3, Olu Iwenofu 3, John Paxton 3, Oily Fountain 3.
 GOALS: Paul Thorman 16
 DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Paul Thorman

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| No. TODAY'S TEAM No. | No. PLAYER | SPONSOR |
| | 1 Danny Ratcliffe | The Raylor Centre |
| Full back | 2 Steve Lewis | Jinnah Group |
| Right Wing | 3 John Oakes | Rodney Gee |
| Right Centre | 4 Dave Clayton | Team Electric Services |
| Left Centre | 5 Johnny Waldron | James Dixon |
| Left Wing | 6 Adam Mitchell | Smith Wilson |
| Stand off | 7 Paul March | Delta Training & Consulting |
| Scrum half | 8 Danny Ekis | Millers Famous Fish & Chips |
| Prop | 9 Paul Hughes | Stabler International |
| Hooker | 10 Adam Sullivan | Ken Walker & Co Accounting |
| Prop | 11 Rob Kelly | Pam & Martin Calvert |
| 2nd row | 12 Tom Haberecht | Cue Ball Snooker Club |
| 2nd row | 13 Richard Knight | Sheard Packaging |
| Loose forward | 14 Tom Hodgson | Chris Hearld |
| Interchange 1 | 15 Chris Clough | British Thornton |
| 2 | 16 Jordan Ross | |
| 3 | 17 Scott Woodcock | Evolution Tattoo Studio |
| 4 | 18 Steve Grundy | Yorkshire Building Society |
| SCORERS | 19 Kris Peacock | Claire & Steve Harbron |
| Tries | 20 Adam Jones | D&M Building & Paving |
| Conv | 21 Dave March | Julie's Bakery |
| Pens | 22 Tom Stancliffe | |
| DGs | 23 Adam Endersby | Balfour Beatty |
| | 25 Garry Green | Acupuncture For Health |
| | 26 Luke Watling | HC Engineering |
| | 27 Danny Grimshaw | Brian Watson |
| | 28 Mike Mitchell | Mrs Watson |
| | 29 Mark Applegarth | Laura Dixon |
| | 30 Carl Barrow | |
| | 34 Wayne McHugh | Monk Bar Model Shop |

COACH: PAUL MARCH

MATCH OFFICIALS
 Referee: C Leatherbarrow
 Touch: R Jones, S Matthews
 Fourth Official: J Greenwood

BENNETT'S BET
 "Knights will condemn Skolars to another home defeat - York by 20"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWWWL
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLWL
 TRIES: John Oakes 9, Paul March 9, Paul Hughes 8, Danny Ratcliffe 6, Tom Haberecht 6.
 GOALS: Adam Mitchell 23, Wayne McHugh 13, Richard Knight 11. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Paul March

Our Community Sponsors



CLUBCALL

Skolars v York

Building new links with touch tournament

RUGBY League will break new ground in the capital's financial square mile this summer with the HAC Artillery Ground hosting a Rugby League Touch tournament on Thursday August 13.

In a joint venture between Skolars and Quins RL, each team entered in the ETF Securities Rugby League Touch Tournament will have a professional player assisting them with coaching as Rugby

By Andrew Jackson
Media manager

League continues to build on the successful City Challenge to develop links in the City of London.

Ady Spencer, the RFL's London Business Development Manager and former Skolars player, said: "Rugby League has enjoyed a

blossoming relationship with the square mile over the last five years through our unique "Capital Challenge" match involving Harlequins RL and London Skolars.

"The inaugural City Touch Rugby League tournament in August will allow us to further cement this link.

"The last 20 years have seen many graduates of the Student Rugby League system move into influential posi-

tions within business and this tournament gives them the chance to dust off their boots and take to the field once again.

"There is also a fantastic opportunity for sports fans to enjoy sun-soaked hospitality at the event which is staged at an historic location."

The cost for spectators will be £5, and all the proceeds will go to a selected charity. Kick off is at 4pm.

Fantastic to finally get off the mark

THE longest journey in Championship One felt a lot shorter on Sunday as a result of our first victory of the season.

That's a real monkey off all our backs. From a personal perspective, it was pleasing for me to record my first win as head coach in my home county.

We won't be resting on laurels and now we have two successive home games to build upon that victory before a four-week break at the end of this month.

Having said that, those two games will be tough, and we've already played and lost to York and Hunslet. However, we know that we didn't perform as we might have done in both games and I'll be looking for very different performances to those.

First up are York City Knights and on behalf of the club I offer a warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of the Minster city club.

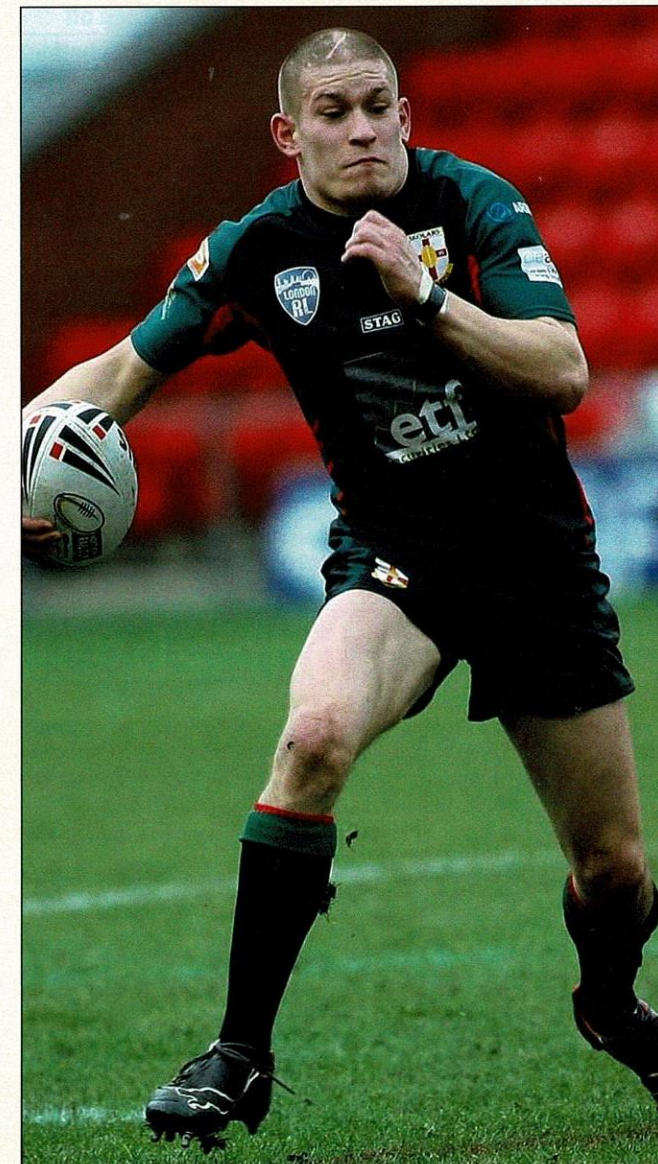
What made last weekend all the more satisfying were the performances of many of our youngsters.

The journey to Cumbria can be daunting to many clubs and we also needed to put aside some bad memories of our trip up there in the Challenge Cup.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Graham from Lanes' coaches and our physio Jon Cree for their ingenuity in working to fix our coach when it broke down on our return trip. Few of the side would have got home before 4am on Monday morning. Jon also had to work on a few injuries on Sunday, but hopefully everyone will be fit for today's game.

Enjoy the game.

Callum Irving



Oliver Fountain, who scored two tries in the victory over Workington



Swinton v Oldham



Sunday May 24th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. SEDGLEY PARK

SWINTON LIONS

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| SPONSOR | No. PLAYER |
| Elizabeth Taylor (Grandma English) | 1 Wayne English |
| Daniel Croston | 2 Barry Hamilton |
| Premier Building | 3 Dave Hull |
| Dave Roberts | 4 Dean Gorton |
| Mike & Kath Tyldesley | 5 Marton Billy |
| Muscle & Fitness Gym | 6 Graham Holroyd |
| Junior Lions | 7 Richard Hawkyard |
| Heartland M27 - Rob Dunford | 8 Paul Southern |
| Junior Lions | 9 Phil Wood |
| Egan Contractors Ltd | 10 Bruce Johnson |
| Bill Shepherd & Warren Mottram | 11 Mike Wainwright |
| 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 Stanton | 28 Dave Newton |
| Redsentinel | 29 Carl Sneyd |
| Northline Business Consultants | 30 Andy Saywell |

COACH: PAUL KIDD

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWLL
 LAST SIX HOME: LLWWLW
 TRIES: Dave Hull 10, Andy Saywell 5, Tommy Grundy 4, Carl Sneyd 4
 GOALS: Carl Sneyd 38, Graham Holroyd 10.
 DGs: Craig Ashall
 MAN TO WATCH: Graham Holroyd

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|
| 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

OLDHAM RLFC

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| No. PLAYER | SPONSOR |
| 1 Paul O'Connor | Sporting Image 07894 122315 |
| 2 Andy Ballard | Premier Signs UK 01706 649267 |
| 3 Danny Halliwell | Totalplus Communications |
| 4 Paul Reilly | Totalplus Comms 0161 3438181 |
| 5 Lee Greenwood | Tech Doors 0161 6265049 |
| 6 James Coyle | Office Supplies Now 0845 8333001 |
| 7 Thomas Coyle | Nigel Marland |
| 8 Paul Highton | John Barrett |
| 9 Gary Sykes | |
| 10 Jamie l'Anson | Rudy Wilkes and Bev Mayall |
| 11 Dave Allen | Greentree (Oldham) Ltd |
| 12 Tommy Goulden | Mack Video Services |
| 13 Rob Roberts | John and Lynda McAndrew |
| 14 Richard Mervill | |
| 15 Jason Boults | Clayton Green Brewers Fayre |
| 16 Wayne Kerr | Karen & Paul Gough |
| 17 Craig Robinson | |
| 18 Neil Roden | |
| 19 Craig Littler | |
| 20 Simeon Hoyle | Cagney and Lacey |
| 21 Lucas Onyango | Rob The Gardener |
| 22 Phil Joseph | Maureen & Peter Woodhead |
| 23 Chris Baines | |
| 24 Marcus St Hilaire | Totalplus Communications |
| 25 Luke Menzies | |
| 26 Luke Sutton | |
| Goalkicker | H Mullaney & Sons 01457 832870 |

COACH: WARREN JOWITT

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWWL
 LAST SIX AWAY: LW-WWLW
 TRIES: Andy Ballard 13, James Coyle 9, Thomas Coyle 9, Lucas Onyango 7, Lee Greenwood 6, Danny Halliwell 6.
 GOALS: Andy Ballard 75, Danny Halliwell 3. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Andy Ballard

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R Laughton
 Touch: T Mather, P Ward
 Fourth Official: D Yeomans

BENNETT'S BET

"Home advantage could swing game to the Lions
 - Swinton by 4"

CLUBCALL

Swinton v Oldham

Call to fans for support to get Lions back into our M27 home

Good afternoon and welcome to Park Lane for this afternoon's derby match with Oldham.

We have had a very frustrating three weeks resulting in zero points on the league table.

There have been positives to take from all three games, however we must learn to be a little smarter with our offensive play, a little more patient and learn to convert some of our possession into points.

Today with our game against Oldham, who are going well at the moment sitting second in the table, will be another tough challenge to us.

Tony Benson is doing a fine job and has at his disposal a fine squad of players.

It is very important to us that we get back to winning ways as quickly as possible, and if we are to achieve that goal today we

must be at our very best level of performance for the full 80 minutes.

The club have a very important meeting coming up next Tuesday at the Pendlebury Legion 8pm start.

This meeting is of course regarding the progress with the Agecroft site and possible stadium.

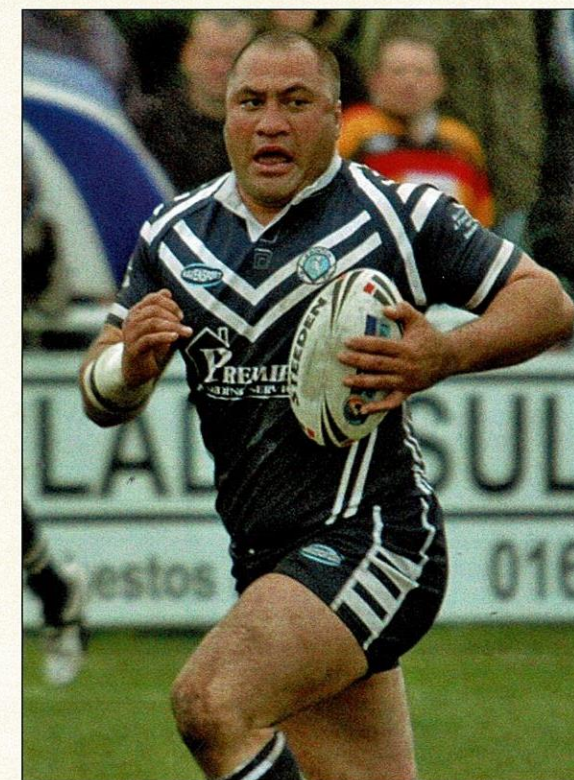
As a club we view this as a must for the long term future of Swinton RLFC.

We are encouraging all Swinton supporters with a genuine passion to see the Lions back in the M27 to attend this meeting and help us achieve our ambition.

Hopefully with your help we can achieve our goal.

Enjoy the game.

Paul Kidd
 Head Coach



Martin Moana couldn't help lift Lions to victory over Keighley

Welcome to friends and sponsors

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to this afternoon's Co-operative Championship 1 clash with our friends and close neighbours from Oldham.

As always a local derby adds a little more spice to a match than usual, with bragging rights up for stake as well as league points.

Hopefully today we can reverse the recent run of narrow defeats with a win and start to climb the table and compete for those play-off places at the end of the season.

Our thanks today go to our sponsors: Tenon Group, our Executive Match Sponsor, Donovan's, our Associate Match sponsor, Waring's,

BY GENERAL MANAGER MARK SULLIVAN

our Man of the Match sponsor, and Premier Building Services, our Champagne Moment sponsor.

We hope you and your guests enjoy your day with us.

There is an open meeting at Pendlebury Royal British Legion on Tuesday 26th May at 8pm to update everyone on the Stadium application.

Please come along and show your support in getting the Lions back in the M27 area.

Plans for our forthcoming events are well under way with the first being the charity day on June 28.

There are still a few places left and these can be booked at £500 for a table of 10 or £55 for individual places. Please contact the office on 0871 231 2111 for further information.

Vinny the Lion's reappearance at the last home fixture caused quite a stir and was welcomed by everyone, especially the hordes of fans having their picture taken with him.

It's always nice to see an old friend again and we should be seeing a lot more of him this season.

Enjoy today's game



We're backing the Lions!





Workington v Rams



Sunday May 24th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. DERWENT PARK

WORKINGTON TOWN

| No. | PLAYER | POSITION SPONSOR | No. | TODAY'S TEAM | No. |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| 1 | Jay Duffy | Myers & Bowman | | Full back | |
| 2 | Nell Frazer | Appletree Inn | | Right Wing | |
| 3 | Andrew Beattie | Jemcare | | Right Centre | |
| 4 | Jason Mossop | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | Left Centre | |
| 5 | Jamie Marshall | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | Left Wing | |
| 6 | Carl Forber | Myers & Bowman | | Stand off | |
| 7 | Steve Roper | Myers & Bowman | | Scrum half | |
| 8 | Ryan Benjaffield | lan Barnes Plumbing & Heating | | Prop | |
| 9 | Jack Pedley | Hare & Hounds | | Hooker | |
| 10 | Dean Burgess | Bradley Cass | | Prop | |
| 11 | Mike Whitehead | Beach Croft Sports | | 2nd row | |
| 12 | Craig Hodgson | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | 2nd row | |
| 13 | Mark Hobson | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | Loose forward | |
| 14 | Brett Smith | The Ship Inn | | Interchange 1 | |
| 15 | James Robinson | Unblock Cumbria | | 2 | |
| 16 | Thomas Brindle | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | 3 | |
| 17 | Peter Dobson | To sponsor call 01900 603609 | | 4 | |
| 18 | Kris Coward | | | | |
| 19 | Scott Burgess | | | | |
| 20 | Stephen Dawes | | | | |
| 21 | Mark Routledge | | | | |
| 22 | Patrick Coupar | | | | |
| 23 | Martyn Wilson | | | | |
| 24 | Jarrad Stack | | | | |
| 25 | Harry Kaufman | | | | |

SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

COACH: DAVE ROTHERAM

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL
 LAST SIX HOME: LLWLLL
 TRIES: Stephen Dawes 7, Thomas Brindle 3, four players on two tries each. GOALS: Carl Forber 22, Steve Roper 2. DGs: Steve Roper
 MAN TO WATCH: Martyn Wilson

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: W Turley
 Touch: T Smith, G Wallace
 Fourth Official: T Mahar

BENNETT'S BET

"Woeful Worky to be put to the sword - Dewsbury by 18"

DEWSBURY RAMS

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

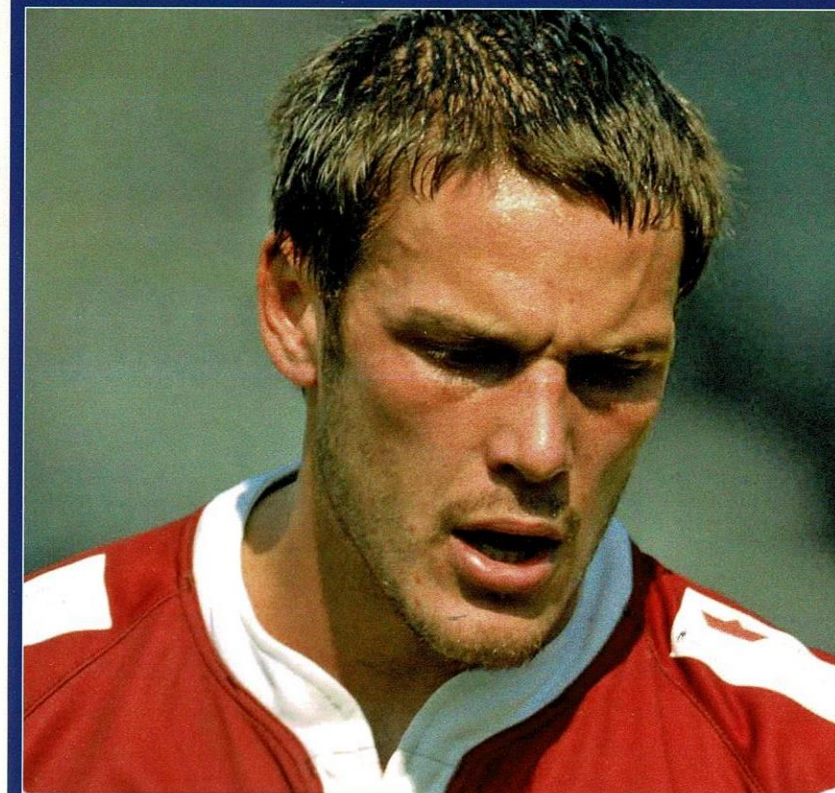
COACH: WARREN JOWITT

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWWWWW
 LAST SIX AWAY: WWWLWW
 TRIES: Kane Epati 12, Andy Bostock 11, Alex Bretherton 7, Liam Finn 7, Bryn Powell 7.
 GOALS: Pat Walker 67, Liam Finn 14
 DGs: Liam Finn 2.
 MAN TO WATCH: Andy Bostock



CLUBCALL

Workington v Dewsbury



McKenna bolsters forwards

WORKINGTON have bolstered their squad with the signing of Joe McKenna on loan from Cumbrian rivals Barrow.

The young Raiders prop or second row forward (left) joins on an initial month-long deal and provides cover in the pack, particularly with Craig Hodgson set for back surgery today (Monday).

Town won't know how long Hodgson will be out of action until the operation is carried out.

Coach Dave Rotheram told League Weekly: "Joe's a good kid. He's played some first team at Barrow and this is a chance for him to get more experience."

Time for some honesty at this club



By Dave Bowden Workington chairman

WELL everyone at the club was pretty devastated at last week's performance against a London side that showed more enthusiasm for the challenge.

The word 'frustration' seemed to crop up everywhere from players, fans and coaching staff.

Needless to say we've got to rejuvenate and I would like to replace the word "frustration" with another word - "honesty".

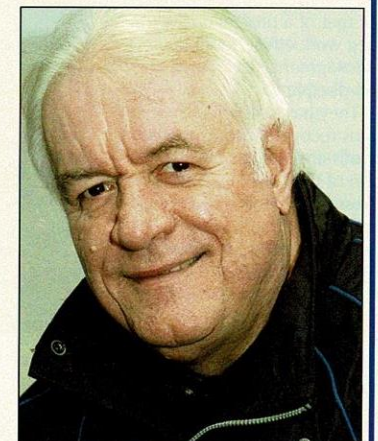
I anticipate that we will organise a get together where we can talk about the pressures of running our club, and I suspect, many clubs in today's environment in an honest and open manner and discuss the way forward.

On the field if players are unhappy then they should put their hand up and we can avoid any situation where we

have some players only putting in a half hearted performance. And we have to be honest about the direction we need to take as what we put in place at the start of the season is simply not working. I will be working on all these points.

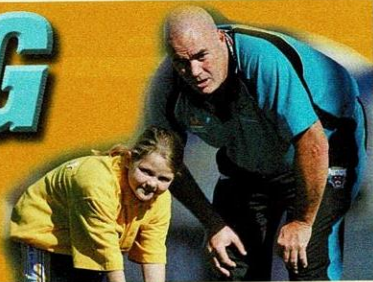
Thanks to the fans who made their views known after last week's game in a constructive manner. You were all very fair. I will always be there after the game, whatever the result, to discuss and please make your protests to me.

More than ever we need your support. Please encourage the lads on the pitch. It really can make the difference as we are sure face a very difficult few weeks and months ahead.



Dave Bowden

SPREADING THE WORD



Turning on a light in South Yorkshire

THE community development department at Doncaster RLFC continues to thrive after landing the community club of the year award last season.

Adam Lloyd, a keen rugby league player himself, has been in charge of the section for the last ten months since Dave Marshall took on the reins of chief executive.

The Dons have supported Doncaster Toll Bar ARLFC in continuing the development of their strong junior section by providing their professional players to attend school assemblies in the north Doncaster area.

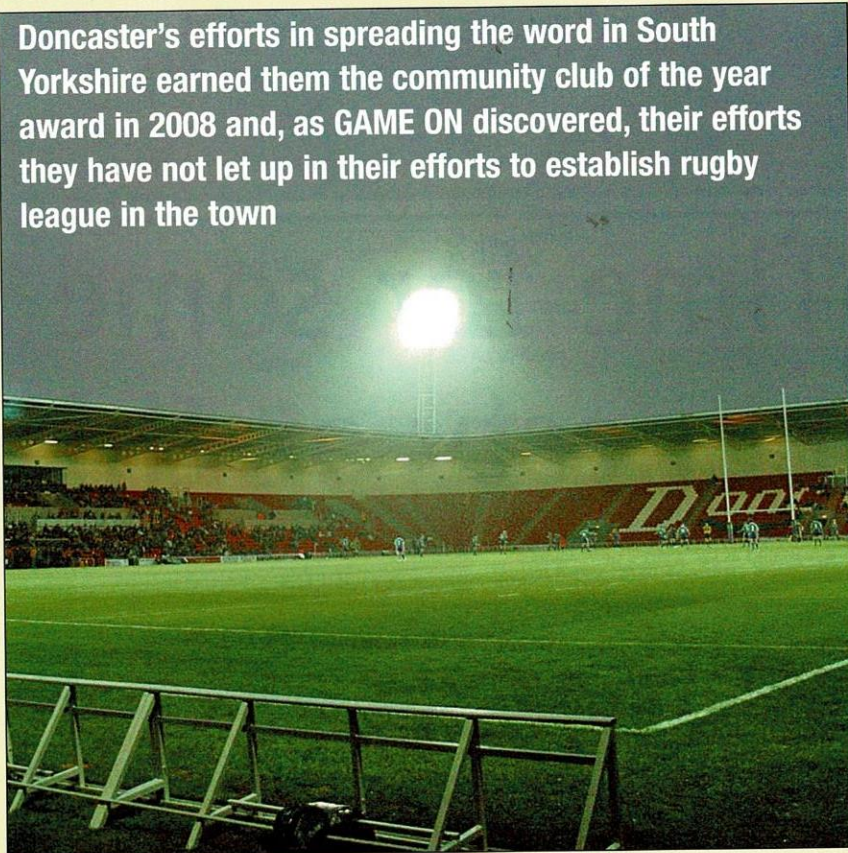
The focus on these assemblies is to encourage children to join their local club and to show how school values mirror that of a professional club – eg work ethic, continual development, team work and self discipline.

They have shown a tremendous recovery from the 2007 floods and the hardworking duo of Gary Warner and Jason Cross have done a superb job at the club.

As a result Toll Bar now have a team from the U-8s to the U-18s age range.

The club has been active in the north east of the town helping Moorends-Thorne Marauders to achieve their ambitious plans of creating a thriving junior section to complement their summer championship winning squad.

Doncaster's efforts in spreading the word in South Yorkshire earned them the community club of the year award in 2008 and, as GAME ON discovered, their efforts they have not let up in their efforts to establish rugby league in the town



The club previously ran an U-13s team and in the last 12 months the Dons have helped their dedicated staff of Dean Wright, Wayne Green and Jimmy Welbourn develop a

larger squad base for the U-13s as well as a 30-plus squad of U-11 players.

Work has already been put in place to launch an U-10s side next year with around 10

players already training.

In the past 12 months the Dons have worked hard in the west of Doncaster to create a brand new club – West Doncaster Warriors. The club



Youngsters show off their skills at one of Doncaster's many junior events

identified that there was a gap in the market for rugby league in the west of the town and jumped at the chance to create a new outfit.

Development officers delivered coaching sessions in the local primary schools and at a local secondary school to promote both the sport and the new club. There are two squads up and running now (U-11s and U-12s) with around 30 new children playing the game of rugby league for the first time.

Doncaster has established fantastic links with Hexthorpe Primary School with 10 of their pupils regularly playing club rugby where previously they had none.

The club has also developed a new partnership with Balby Carr Community Sports College who have agreed to

'The club identified that there was a gap in the market for rugby league in the west of the town and jumped at the chance to create a new outfit'

give the club free use of the school's excellent facilities.

In master of rugby, Wayne Pickersgill, there is a real driving force in the school and a local community second to none.

The Rossington area in the east of the town has always had a strong rugby league community but sadly this has started to dwindle in recent times.

The Dons showed a desire to reinvigorate the club and

set about recruiting for Rossington Sharks' first ever junior squad.

They hit the Rossington area with the professional players and the club's community staff did the hard work to get the kids involved in the game.

The drive was expanded into the Harworth and Bircotes areas on the outskirts of Doncaster and the club dis-

covered a niche market out in the traditional football area.

There are now links with five primary schools in that area and also the secondary school.

All this culminated in Rossington Sharks U-11s being established with 29 players on the books in just one age group.

Over the next few months the club plans to assist Moorends-Thorne Marauders, West Doncaster and Rossington recruit new players at all ages.

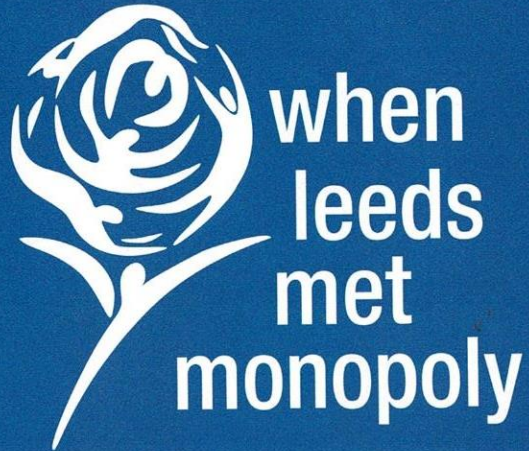
Furthermore, the Dons are hopefully going to target the outpost of Mexborough and developing league areas in that area. They will also continue to maintain and develop the excellent links they have with Doncaster Toll Bar and help them grow.



MONOPOLY

BRAND

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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!



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

Is this start of a real Crusade for Celtic?

IS THIS the real beginning for the Celtic Crusaders franchise? It was one hell of a long wait for that historic first Super League win but it finally came last Sunday at Odsal when the boys from Bridgend stunned Bradford Bulls 30-24.

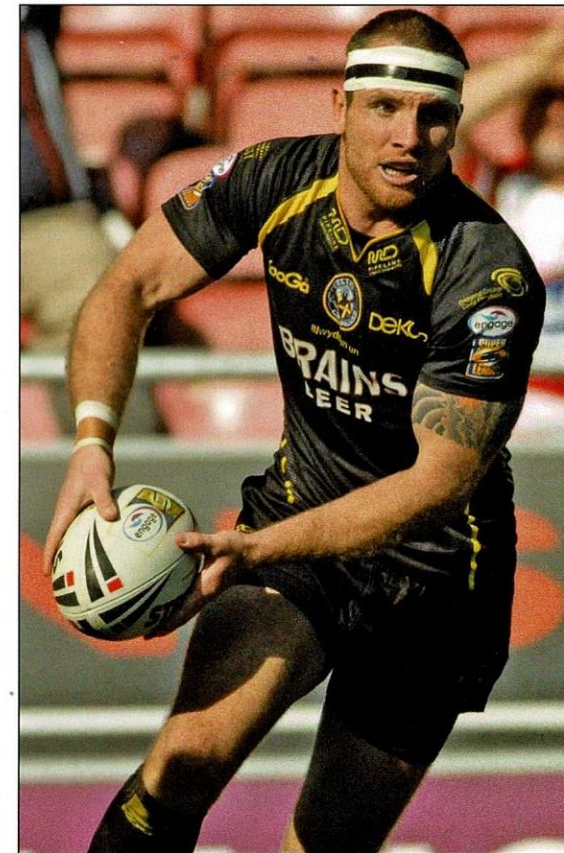
For all the talk of 2009 being a 'bedding-in' year for the top flight newbies, results inevitably DO matter and there must have been a few worried faces down at the Brewery Field – not to mention Red Hall – fearing that the Welsh might not even get a win all season.

Thankfully that hasn't turned out to be the case and congratulations to everyone involved at the Crusaders for getting off the mark. It's taken a lot of hard work but hopefully now they'll start to see the fruit of their labours.

Winning, as they say, becomes a habit and so does losing. With their duck finally broken, you'd imagine that they might just have that bit of confidence and self belief needed to get some more in the bag.

That confidence booster couldn't have come at a better time really because now the Crusaders go on a run that sees them play seven of their next 10 matches at home. And, let's face it, it's home form that will make or break the new venture.

Crowds haven't been disastrous in Bridgend. Some may



Luke Dyer scored two tries as Celtic beat Bradford

mock crowd figures as low as 3,000 but then Harlequins struggle for that many and they've been going much longer – and Salford don't get too many more and they've been

going a hell of a lot longer.

Maybe attendances haven't hit the kind of Catalans-like levels that we'd have hoped, but they'll only start to grow towards that with a few wins

for the Crusaders in their own back yard.

It's a shame that so few Crusaders fans will have witnessed the club's first ever Super League win – only the hardcore handful will have been at Bradford.

Now, beginning with this weekend's visit of the Catalans Dragons, Celtic have to prove their abilities to a local audience which is keen to see a Welsh club side become one to be really proud of.

Only so long will people turn up each fortnight to see a losing team and, whilst we can't expect first-year miracles, it'll take a few more wins before the end of the campaign to keep the public down there interested and hopeful of a bigger and brighter future.

These next seven home games could just define whether the Crusaders franchise explodes in the way we'd all love to see, or simply plod along as a mediocre out-post for rugby league.

The first win is encouraging. Now let's see some more and see RL really take off in the Valleys.

Paul Bennett is deputy editor of League Weekly



ON THE MONEY!

Crippled Dons are in big trouble

MIKE OXLEY explains why matches with big handicaps are ones to focus on and picks out two examples in this round of games



I HOPE some of you made a nice profit last week from my tips as well as noticing that the unusual scores predicted did happen.

We had London Skolars' first victory of the year as they overcame lowly Workington but Halifax's first loss of the year by Mark Aston's Sheffield Eagles was the real shock of the round. We did tip them up on handicap but I must admit I never expected them to win the game as well.

Usually around this stage of the season the form has settled down, and the value is limited unless you factor in the behind the scenes interruptions that have a knock-on effect to the players on the field.

Doncaster are in this unenviable position at this moment in time.

Having already released key first team players Paul Handforth and Kyle Briggs in recent weeks, the spirit in the Doncaster dressing room must be on the floor with the rumours that the club is in financial ruin and if I was a player you would be questioning whether your next wage packet will have any money in it.

With all that happening Doncaster could be facing another heavy defeat especially as their next opponents are leaders Halifax, who have just suffered their first league loss of the season so will be desperate to get back on track.

The game is live on television on Thursday night and I make the handicap around Doncaster getting a 28 start



Miles Greenwood is halted as Halifax lose their first league game of the season on Sunday. Next they play Doncaster although there is an argument that it should be more with the off-the-pitch factors.

With this game, as well as looking at the handicap with bookmakers, it will be worth studying the winning margins market.

Looking at the handicap, the prices for Matt Calland's side to win by between 40 and 60 points will be about 7/1 combined and that is not bad value for this sort of game where you expect Halifax to put plenty of points on Doncaster.

Another obvious points fest will be at Derwent Park where Dewsbury Rams are the visitors.

I worry for Workington who have only one win out of seven games – and that was against Hornets more than two months ago who at the time were in dire straits themselves.

It cannot get any worse for Town than last week's home defeat by Championship One whipping boys London Skolars but with a home tie against unbeaten league leaders Dewsbury, who have been averaging 40 points against the decent teams in the division, you can see this being a landslide victory.

It is hard for bookmakers to handicap these sort of games and they generally make a loss on them. Their bigger profits come from the games that are handicapped less than 10 points between the two sides, where they lay both sides and have a better chance of winning.

Anyway back to the Workington v Dewsbury game and I see the handicap being around a 40-point start to Workington. I do not think this will be enough and any bookmaker offering less than this should be punted.

I have been contacted in recent weeks about giving more tips out and providing more up to date information on games etc. I am going to provide my email address for people to contact me (see below).

If you have any questions on betting or handicaps etc feel free to email me and I will try to answer every email.

Contact Mike at michaeloxley@msn.com

KNOW YOUR STUFF?

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP QUIZ

1 From which club is winger Danny Mills currently on loan at Sheffield Eagles from?

2 Which three current Championship coaches have led clubs to the Super League play-offs?

3 Who recently became the first Serbian to sign for a Co-operative Championship club?

4 From which French club are Gateshead Thunder signing Australian half back Russell Aitken?

5 Who preceded Ellery Hanley as coach of Doncaster RLFC?

6 Who is club captain of Featherstone Rovers?



7 Which current co-operative Championship club has previously finished highest in Super League?

8 Championship referee Ronnie Laughton (pictured) hails from which South Yorkshire town?

9 Against whom did Toulouse claim their first ever Championship victory?

10 For which three sides in the Co-operative Championships has Harlequins centre Mick Nanyan previously played?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

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

1 Who were the last winners of the Regal Trophy?

2 Paul Deacon first started a Grand Final for Bradford Bulls in what year?

3 Who scored St Helens's famous 'Wide to West' try?

4 By what score did New Zealand beat Australia to win the 2008 World Cup final?

5 Cameron Phelps joined Wigan Warriors from which NRL club?

6 Leeds Rhinos have lost the Challenge Cup final twice in the past decade – in which years?

7 Steele Retchless made his name in the UK with which club?

ANAGRAMS

Rearrange the following three phrases to form the names of three Championship stars (clubs given in brackets).

1 BARNYARD WEEK (HALIFAX)

2 ME BAN PENCIL (GATESHEAD)

3 DANGER BUSES (WORKINGTON)

ANSWERS - CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Widnes, 2. Paul Cullen, Karl Harrison and Daryl Powell, 3. Soti Radovanovic, 4. Carcassonne, 5. John and Daryl Powell, 6. Stuart Dickens, 7. Halifax (3rd, 1998), 8. Barnsley, 9. Batley Bulldogs, 10. Whitehaven, Widnes and Oldham.
 ANAGRAMS: 1. Dwayne Barker, 2. Ben McAlpine, 3. Dean Burgess, 4. Daryl Powell, 5. John and Daryl Powell, 6. Stuart Dickens, 7. Halifax (3rd, 1998), 8. Barnsley, 9. Batley Bulldogs, 10. Whitehaven, Widnes and Oldham.
 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: 1. Wigan, 2. 2002, 3. Chris Joynt, 4. 34-20, 5. Bulldogs, 6. 2003 and 2005, 7. London Broncos (now Harlequins).

