

Oldham and Rochdale ex players with President Phil Woolas MP presented to crowd at Rochdale game

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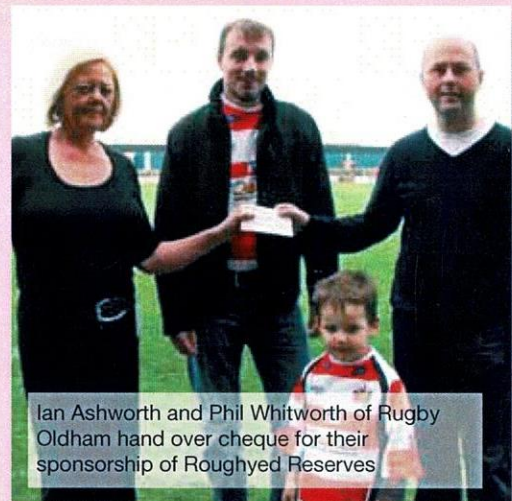
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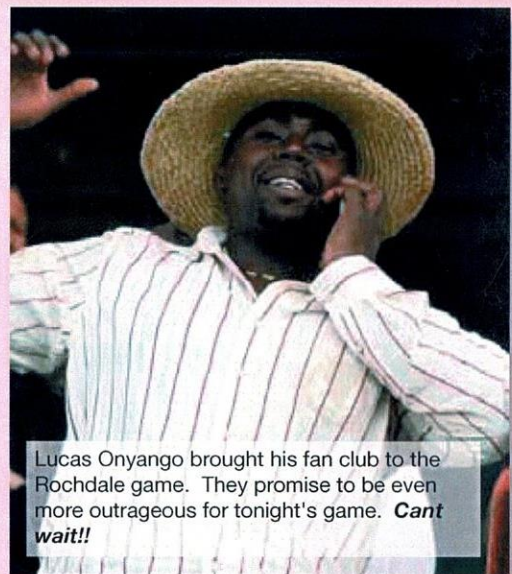
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Mike Flanagan manager of Spindles Town Square Shopping presents Ben Heaton with the inaugural Reserves Player of the Month award.



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UNITED WE STAND

Players back club in push for promotion

negativity behind us. The boys are together as one. Promotion has always been our aim, and it is still our aim. Let's go for it."

Added player-of-the-month Chris Baines: "We are united as one, all pushing forward. Promotion beckons, and we know we are capable of achieving it with the spirit we have in the camp now."

Martin Roden, the conditioner who has come out of retirement to help out, put it very much on the line. "All I ever wanted to do was to help Oldham to move up a division," he said. "That still stands, and I don't care whether I am helping out as a player, or as the conditioner. Tony (Benson) will decide that. For my part, I am here to perform whatever role is asked of me."



GET ME OUT OF HERE... NOW!

They've got to pay up first, of course --- just like the fans inside Boundary Park for tonight's charity fund-raiser against London Skolars.

Back (left to right): Brian Hurst (Dr Kershaw's), Roughyeds coach Tony Benson, Rita Bottomley (Link4Pink); Front: Roughyeds chief executive Chris Hamilton, Ian McIntosh (consultant breast surgeon, Royal Oldham Hospital).

by ROGER HALSTEAD

OLDHAM'S players are up for the fight - and they've got promotion via the play-offs in their sights.

A battling display in defeat at Dewsbury set the mood for that stunning, high-octane performance in a nine-try derby-day dazzler against Hornets RL at Boundary Park last Sunday.

Later the players and coach Tony Benson revealed how much the performance and the 48-28 victory meant to them in the aftermath of the troubles that have hit the

club hard in recent weeks.

Said Tony: "I'm beaming with pride. That was a performance for the whole club - Chris (Hamilton), the office staff, the volunteer workers, the players themselves, the fans who are continuing to get behind us.

"The club is a proud one, and the way it is handling adversity has made me personally very proud to be part of it."

The players spoke with similar pride and passion. Said man-of-the-match Phil Josenh: "We have not

Attention now switches to tonight's game against London Skolars.

And no matter which 17 players walk out in front of the television cameras tonight you can wager they will wear the jersey with heaps of pride and loads of passion.

Facing up to the end-of-season run-in and then the play-offs the message from the dressing room is this:

UNITED WE STAND!

View from the inside...



Welcome back to Roughyed Stadium after Sundays great performance and result against the Hornets.

I think everybody that was present was full of praise for the effort, determination and commitment of the players in what is usually described as a full blooded encounter!
The standard of rugby we played was also very good and tonight we will be looking to build on that in front of the SKY cameras.

We have been lucky over the past three seasons with the number of times we have played live on TV and as you will all know tonight is another special occasion as we make it our third "Charity Night" with tonight's game raising money for two very worthy charities in Link 4 Pink and Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

We always try to come up with something a little bit different to grab the medias attention and the novelty of effectively having to pay to get out is this years catch line!

With the players and staff all having their hair dyed pink we are aiming to send out a message to as many people as possible that breast cancer is an horrendous illness and that the work that both of these organisations do is of vital importance to so many local people.

I would like to thank the players for their support of the clubs efforts but underneath is a very important match for us as a club and I can assure everyone that, whilst we will be trying to create a special atmosphere, we will be very much tuned in to the match and the challenge that it brings.

Nobody at the club will be turning up and not prepared for the game and as this is London Skolars first appearance in front of the cameras we know just how determined they will be to cause an upset and to give a good account of themselves on live television.

We are still working on bringing in players to the club but it is not easy at present with other clubs keen to make sure they don't leave themselves short but, like in the case of Jamie Russo, you never know what can pop up.

The togetherness of the squad has been particularly

evident in the last three matches and that has been borne out not only in the performances in those games but in the way that people have put their hand up to assist us in a difficult situation. At Dewsbury it was The likes of Martin Roden, Andy Boothroyd, Luke Sutton, Ben Heaton and last Sunday it was Martin and Andy again, Jamie Russo and Craig Littler who stepped into the breach at very short notice.

The rest of the squad has also knuckled down and shown their true mettle and with 4 games to go prior to the Play Offs we are confident with a new found spirit and passion that we can make a very serious challenge for that second promotion spot. Last weekend was great in that the crowd and players both responded to each other and the support the team got was fantastic.

The reception the team got as they left the field in the first half was magnificent and really lifted the lads.

Lets make tonight another game to remember and please keep up your support.

The club have made a bold decision to make this another charity match and in return we ask that you are as generous as possible with your donations into the buckets for the 2 charities.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

Chief Executive



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NEW START FOR MIKE AND LUKE

ROUGHYEDS have signed two promising young players from the Wigan Warriors academy in centre or wing Mike Priest and forward Luke Rhoden, both of whom made their debuts for the Reserves against Widnes Vikings at Sedgley Park last Saturday.

Mike, aged 20, and Luke, who is 19, are both Academy internationals. They got their release from Wigan and they are now fully-fledged Oldham players, signed on initially to the end of the year.

Said chief executive Chris Hamilton: "They became disillusioned at Wigan because they felt they were never going to get near the first team. They had not played since last year prior to making their debuts for us last Saturday, but we hope we can rekindle their enthusiasm for the game and get them enjoying their rugby league again."

"Gary Sykes tipped us off initially about them, then Tony (Benson) approached them before I had a good chat with them."

"We are delighted to sign them and trust they will enjoy their stay with us, having signed initially to the end of the year."

The last time Roughyeds signed a couple of young players from Wigan in similar circumstances was back in the Mike Ford era when Phil Farrell and Neil Roden arrived. If Priest and Rhoden give Roughyeds half as much good service they will do well.

They certainly made a good start on Saturday when, despite going down 32-30, the Roughyeds youngsters put up a hugely spirited performance against a young, but talented, Widnes outfit.

Sparked by stand-off Danny Hulme - son of former star David and grandson of the great Frank Myler - Vikings raced into a 16-0 lead in as many minutes and at that stage looked capable of going out of sight.

Roughyeds, though, would have none of it. Rhoden, coming off the bench, opened their scoring with a try in the 25th minute and by half time the home side had drawn level with further tries by Dale Lowe and Jacob Kinney and two conversions by Chris Hough.

This was despite an early thigh injury to loose-forward Danny Heaton, who was forced to limp out of the game, never to return.

Vikings regained the lead with a try by hooker Lee Hudson early in the second half, but Roughyeds snatched the lead for the first time when winger Darrel Rowlands capitalised on a high kick from Hough to score a try which Hough duly converted.

Roughyeds were worthy of their 22-20 lead at that stage, but in a thrilling encounter Vikings added further tries by the dangerous Hulme and his half-back partner Luke Bradburne, both goaled by Scott Yates. That stretched the visitors' lead to 32-22, whereupon Oldham winger Sean Robinson went desperately close to scoring in the corner.

There was no denying centre Jamie Knight a try soon afterwards - 26-32 - and then the Vikings scrum-half, Bradburne, was sent to the sin bin for delaying an Oldham play-the-ball with his defence in disarray.

While he was off, Priest gobbed up Hough's wide pass to canter in - 30-32 - but while Hough received some treatment from the bench, Mark Smith took the angled conversion and his kick struck the near post and bounced out. It was as close as that.

Hough, the old stager in a young side, again did a superb job in providing the midfield experience and utilising his excellent kicking game, but each of the 17 players on duty worked hard and with great spirit.

Coach John Hough said: "It was an excellent performance. I was proud of all the boys. We were down to no subs with 25 minutes still to go but we dug in there and we could easily have won. The least we deserved was a draw."

The Reserves were at home again last night (Wednesday) against Keighley and on Saturday they go to Barrow.

Scorers: Oldham - Goals, Hough (3); **Tries,** Rhoden, Lowe, Kinney, Rowlands, J Knight, Priest; **Widnes - Goals,** Yates (4); tries, Briody, Hulme (2), Yates, Hudson, Bradburne.

Oldham: Coates; Rowlands, Priest, J Knight, Robinson; Smith, Hough; Eyres, O'Brien, Kinney, Ward, Clarke, Heston; Subs: Lowe, Rhoden, D Knight, Arrowsmith.

Widnes: Yates; Scott, Bowman, Grady, McPaul; Hulme, Bradburne; Houghton, Hudson, Wood-Hulme, Strong, Briody, White. Subs: Smith, Simm, Arrowsmith, Mullally.

Referee: R Cowling (Oldham)

WHERE AND WHEN WE PLAY



Date	Comp	Opponents	V	Time	Res	Score	Att
Fri, Feb 13	NRC	Widnes Vikings	A	7.30pm	W	22-20	2,783
Wed, Feb 18	NRC	Rochdale Hornets	H	7.30pm	W	54-4	1,028
Sun, Feb 22	NRC	Sheffield Eagles	H	3.00pm	L	22-34	1,173
Sun, Mar 1	NRC	Hunslet Hawks	A	2.00pm	W	32-14	582
Sun, Mar 8	CCC3	Sharlston Rovers	H	3.00pm	W	26-8	800
Sun, Mar 15	CC1	Blackpool Panthers	H	3.00pm	W	36-18	880
Sun, Mar 22	CC1	Keighley Cougars	A	3.00pm	L	26-34	1,021
Sun, Mar 29	CC1	Workington Town	H	3.00pm	W	66-14	819
Sun, April 5	CCC4	Lézignan	H	3.00pm	W	60-30	863
Fri, April 10	CC1	Rochdale Hornets	A	3.00pm	W	26-18	1,249
Sun, April 19	CC1	Dewsbury Rams	H	3.00pm	L	12-36	1,147
Sun, April 26	CC1	Swinton Lions	H	3.00pm	W	52-36	1,010
Sat, May 2	CC1	London Skolars	A	3.00pm	W	78-10	273
Sat, May 9	CCC5	Gateshead Thunder	A	3.00pm	L	16-34	929
Sun, May 17	CC1	Hunslet Hawks	H	3.00pm	W	22-16	1,136
Sun, May 24	CC1	Swinton Lions	A	3.00pm	W	44-26	705
Sun, June 7	NRC QF	Featherstone Rov.	H	3.00pm	L	18-32	853
Thurs, June 25	CC1	York City Knights	A	7.30pm	L	18-20	3,106
Sun, July 5	CC1	Workington Town	A	3.00pm	W	60-6	514
Sun, July 19	CC1	Keighley Cougars	H	3.00pm	L	22-24	848
Sun, July 26	CC1	Dewsbury Rams	A	3.00pm	L	8-38	1,080
Sun, Aug 2	CC1	Rochdale Hornets	H	3.00pm	W	48-28	951
Thurs, Aug 6	CC1	London Skolars	H	7.30pm			
Sun, Aug 16	CC1	Blackpool Panthers	A	3.00pm			
Sun, Aug 23	CC1	York City Knights	H	3.00pm			
Sun, Sep 6	CC1	Hunslet Hawks	A	3.00pm			

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FUN NIGHT WITH A SERIOUS MESSAGE -

Please donate generously!

PLEASE give generously, in these difficult credit-crunch times, to aid the two beneficiaries of tonight's big event --- Dr Kershaw's Hospice and the Link4Pink Appeal.

That was the principal theme of last Wednesday's media conference in Boundary Park's Corner Flag suite, called by Roughyeds to announce the details of this latest fund-raising initiative and to generate as much public awareness as

possible in the short time available. Many local and regional media outlets were represented, including TV, while others, like the sport's trade papers, asked the club to provide material for their publications last Monday. Roughyeds chief executive Christopher Hamilton chaired the event, flanked by Ian McIntosh, consultant breast surgeon at the Royal Oldham Hospital; Rita Bottomley, of the Link4Pink fund-raising committee; Tony Benson, Roughyeds' head coach; and Brian Hurst, Appeals

Manager, Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

Opening the proceedings, Mr Hamilton said this was the third year running that the club had instigated a charity fund-raiser built around a match at Boundary Park which would be televised live by Sky Sports.

In each of the previous two years the club had attempted to be innovatory and this year was no exception.

By billing and promoting the Oldham versus London Skolars game as "free to get IN, pay to get OUT" he felt the club had again discovered a unique concept and a different angle on which to hang its publicity drive. As far as Roughyeds knew, this would be the first time ever that a professional rugby league club had gone down this route.

In the previous two years there had been a significant increase in attendance compared to the league-match average and he hoped this would again be the case so that Link4Pink and Dr Kershaw's would benefit accordingly.


"We might have a stampede before half-time," he joked, "but, hey, the whole idea is to raise as much money as we can for the two charities on a night which in reality provides us with a very important game in the run-up to the Co-operative Championship One play-offs.

"In the current economic climate it is hard to raise money so we hope the event will attract people from right across the borough, not just Roughyeds or general rugby league fans but the public at large and particularly those who have an affinity with Dr Kershaw's and with the breast-care unit at the Royal Oldham Hospital.

"We are asking everyone who will be attending to try to wear something pink and, subject to RFL approval, we will be asking our players, and those of the Skolars, to dye their hair pink.






"That will raise awareness of what is a very serious message in terms of raising funds for these two

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extremely worthwhile charities."

Link4Pink has pledged to raise £250,000 to improve and upgrade patient facilities at the Royal Oldham Hospital's Victoria Unit for breast-care patients and thus far it is running at about £70,000.

Earlier in the season, when Roughyeds played Featherstone Rovers in the Northern Rail Cup at Leigh Sports Village, Link4Pink was adopted officially as one of Oldham Rugby League's charities for the next 12 months.

Mr McIntosh said everyone at the unit was extremely grateful for all the fund-raising assistance they had received so far and he and all the team were delighted for Link4Pink to form this association with the Roughyeds.

He said it was important to point out that the unit did not merely provide care for patients from Oldham and districts but also from Rochdale and from an area which he described as "from Glossop to Bacup".

Rita Bottomley said: "We have and still are receiving fabulous and fantastic support. The people of Oldham have been amazing, but I think we need to get across the message that the unit cares for patients from a much wider area than Oldham alone. We cover the whole of Rochdale and we go out to places like Todmorden and Bacup.

"Every £1 helps. If we raise £10 it is £10 we wouldn't have had otherwise, and that is very important while recognising that the unit is there for everyone who might have cause to use it." Potential fund-raisers for Link4Pink can contact Rita on 0161 626 6935 or on mobile 07806609947 or online at ritabottomley@hotmail.co.uk

Speaking for Dr Kershaw's, Brian Hurst gave a big thank-you to Oldham RLFC and revealed that the club had raised more than £8,000 for the hospice in the last two years.

He said it cost £4,400 PER DAY just to keep Dr Kershaw's ticking over, and he explained that the credit crunch had hit them hard, as it had all charities.

"All charities are suffering right now," he added, "and at Dr Kershaw's we are just holding our head above water. Donations are down, but we are ticking along and we are extremely grateful for all the help we can get at a difficult time."

Tony Benson said he, the Roughyeds' backroom staff and the players, were proud to help in any way they could and he would ask the people of Oldham to rally round in support of the two charities and in support of the club and what it was attempting to achieve for the benefit of the local community as a whole.

Mr Hamilton, summing up, said the evening of the game would provide a carnival atmosphere with singers, face painters and other attractions.

He added: "Everyone at the club has bought into making this a huge success. We raised a lot of money in 2007 and 2008 and we hope this year will be even better than the previous two."

Logistically, it would work like this: fans would be asked to pay a £1 donation on the turnstile for which they would receive a voucher which would allow them to leave the ground at any time, as well as providing a

small memento of the occasion. There would also be collecting buckets available for people to make additional donations. Although these might carry the name of either Dr Kershaw's or Link4Pink it was important to recognise that ALL money taken on the night would be split equally between the two causes.

Answering a question, Mr Hamilton confirmed that he had joined Link4Pink's fund-raising committee. He said: "It is very hard to get across to people who have not been directly involved with breast cancer what affect it has not only on the patient but to all those people who are close to the patient


"I was inspired by my partner Gillian, in her fight against the disease. Raising money for causes like Link4Pink is close to my heart and I will continue to do as much as I can. This is one of the ways I can show my appreciation of the treatment Gillian has had."

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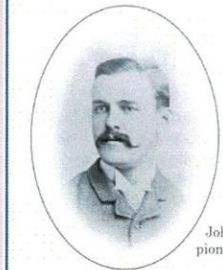



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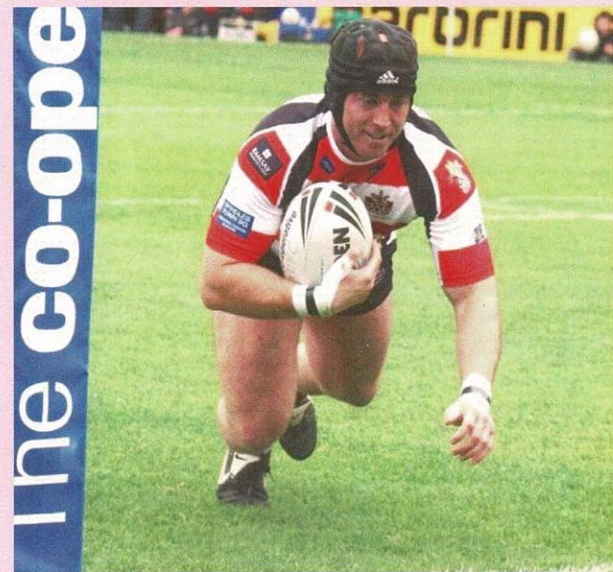
MARTIN RODEN - 'HOOKED' ON COMING TO THE RESCUE

by ROGER HALSTEAD

MARTIN Roden is ready to answer the call from coach Tony Benson and play out the season with the Roughyeds if he can be of assistance on the field.

The man who scored a fantastic solo try against Hornets on Sunday in only his second game for two seasons attempts to play down the magnitude of what he has done in twice coming to the club's rescue.

At Dewsbury, when Tony was toiling to put a full side on the field, he registered as a player and turned back the clock nearly two years to



fill a shirt on the bench. He had two spells as hooker and was so weary afterwards that he couldn't summon up the energy to eat his post-match meal!

He reverted to his normal role of club conditioner in the build-up to the Rochdale game, but again he answered the SOS when Gary Sykes withdrew only a couple of hours before kick-off.

This time he wasn't on the bench; he was in from the start at No 9. And what a fabulous job he did too, crowned when he scored THAT try with a bust from dummy half, a turn of pace and an outrageous double dummy that carried him through to score under the posts.

"I was looking for Tommy Goulden to my left," said Martin, "but I couldn't find him. I sold one dummy and then the full-back started to drift too early so I nipped inside him as well."

Martin, Neil's cousin, is 29. "ONLY 29", he stressed. "And I haven't been finished as a player for as long as some people seem to think."

"I played the last eight games of the 2007 season for Blackpool. I know that might seem a long time ago but it helps to be still working in a rugby environment, especially as a conditioner. There is no substitute for playing, but it has obviously helped to be reasonably fit."

Martin retired early as a player because of the demands of his job. He works full time in the fitness business and it was difficult to marry his day job with the commitment required as a part-time player.

When changes at work provided him with more time to return to rugby he opted to look for a job as a conditioner as an extension of what he was doing all day long.

"What Martin has done for the club in these last two games epitomises the spirit in the camp and is one of just many examples of what people are doing at a time when the club is going through a tough period," said chief executive Chris Hamilton.

So are we going to see more of the Roden dummy, or is he going to revert to his backroom role for the rest of the season?

"That's down to TB," he said. "I am just happy to do whatever this club wants me to do. When I came here as conditioner it was my intention to help Roughyeds to get promotion."

"Nothing has changed... we are going to be going flat out to win the play-offs and whatever role I have to play in that will be down to Tony."

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Tony Benson was praised by Chief Executive, Chris Hamilton in his post match speeches at both the Keighley and Rochdale games, in fact he gave Tony the Champagne Moment Award for the Keighley game. Tony too is full of praise for all at the club as the article below shows.

"Well what a couple of weeks it's been for Oldham RLFC. It just shows how volatile the Rugby environment is. One minute things are ticking along nicely, next minute your feet are kicked out from under you. Losing five top players and an assistant within hours of an important game is a severe thump for any team.

In saying that; no one guaranteed that it was going to be easy this season, and there were always going to be challenges. I honestly feel we are going to come out the other side of this a better team, and a better Club, simply because we are Oldham RLFC.

It isn't how you fall that's important its how quickly you get up again. With the hard working dedicated people at our club who have toiled to hold things together we are already back up and building fast. When it would have been easy to walk away Chris Hamilton, his loyal office staff and our ever present volunteers have put their hand up and worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure this Club remains as strong and professional as it always has.

The players have also stood tall all offering to help in anyway they can whether it be finding new players, organizing game day, or on the coaching front and of course brushing adversity aside playing their hearts out. And of course our loyal supporters, your positive response at the Dewsbury and Rochdale games meant the world to us. We really appreciate your support which has inspired all of us to dig deep and continue or push through the playoffs, to our ultimate goal of promotion.

I am very proud to be part of this group and humbled by all the people who make this Club great, and it's very clear to me now that together nothing can beat us.

Upward and onward for the mighty Oldham!"

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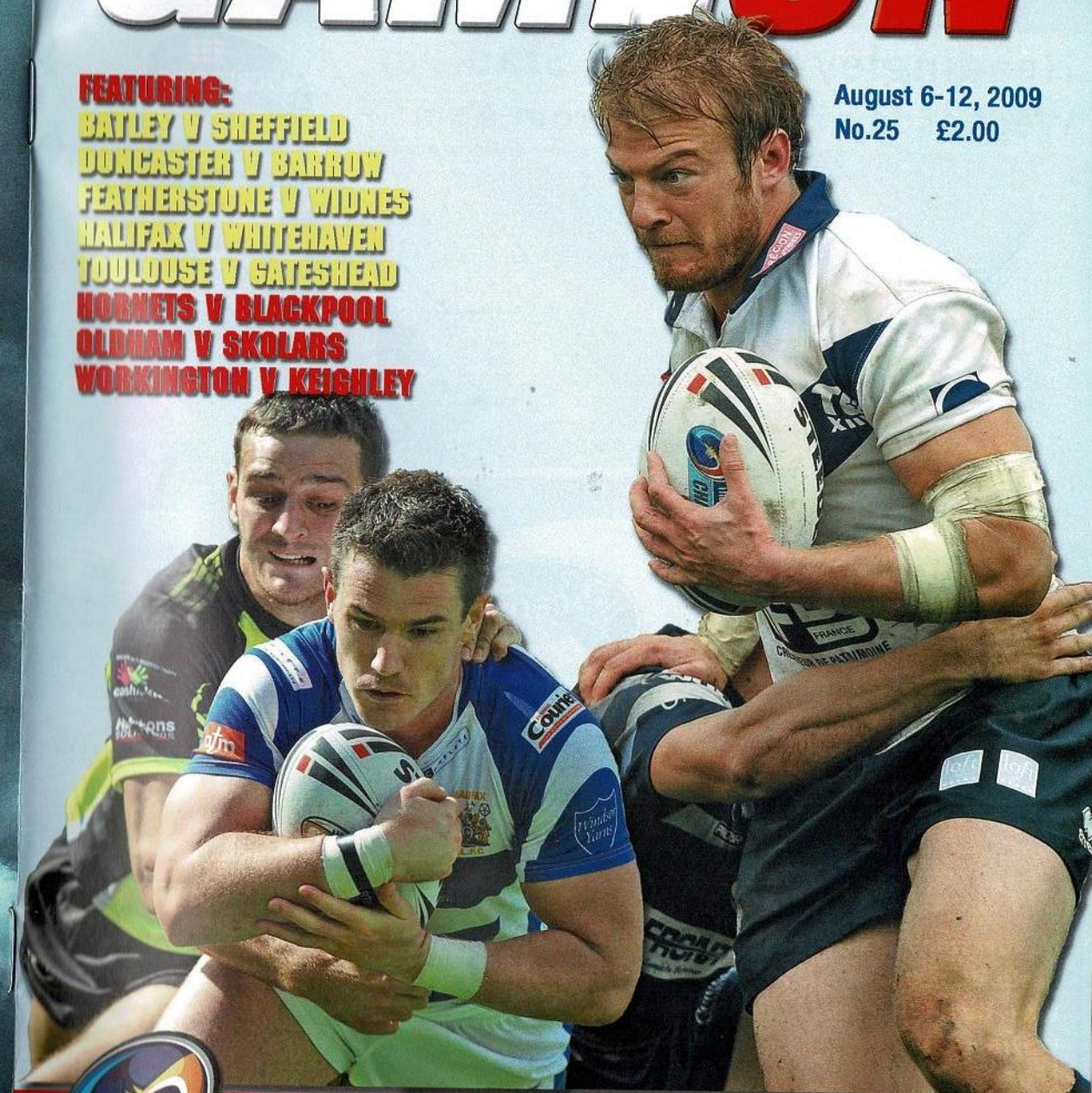


Official matchday magazine of the Co-operative Championships

GAMEON

August 6-12, 2009
No.25 £2.00

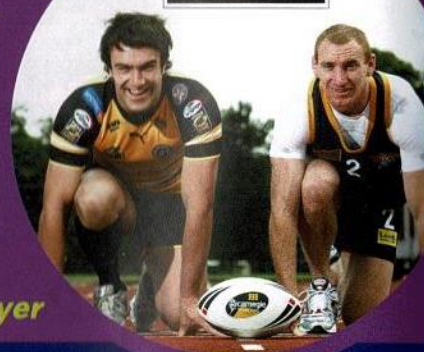
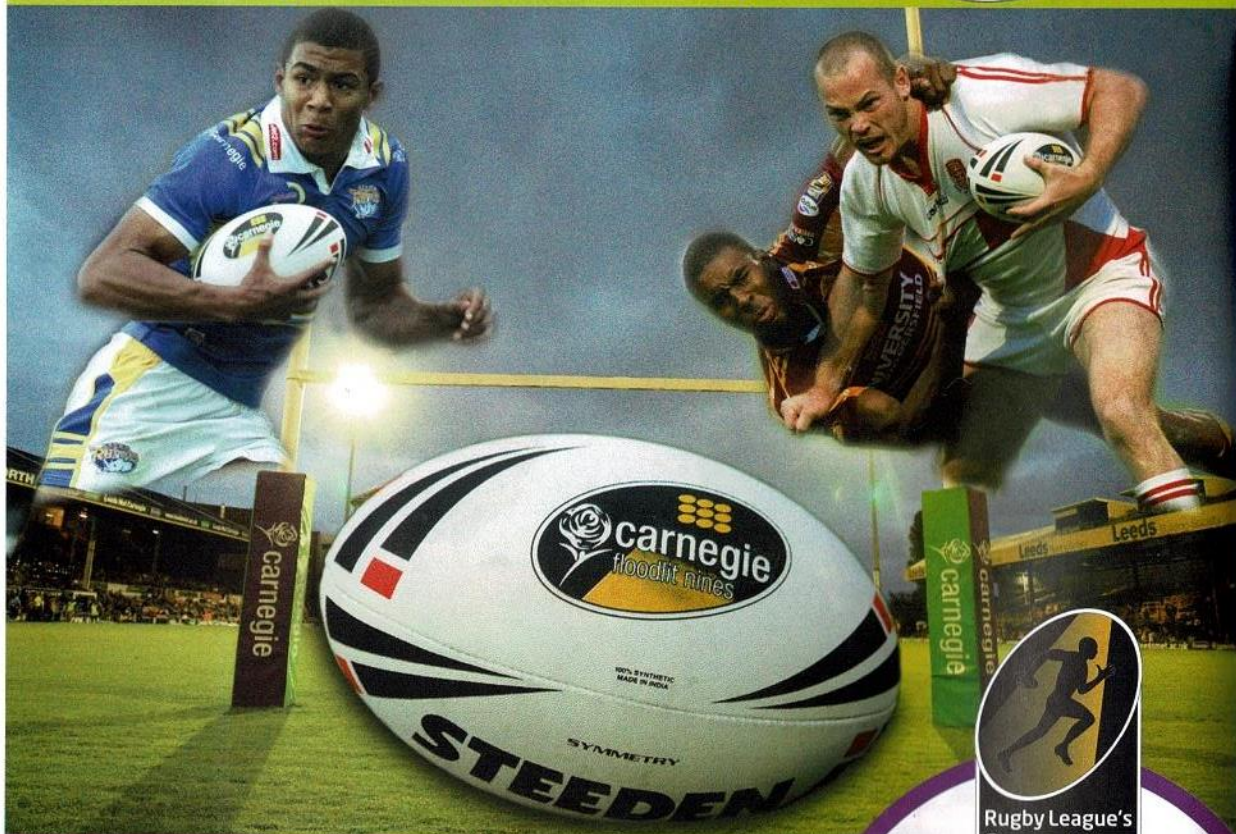
FEATURING:
BATLEY V SHEFFIELD
DONCASTER V BARROW
FEATHERSTONE V WIDNES
HALIFAX V WHITEHAVEN
TOULOUSE V GATESHEAD
HORNETS V BLACKPOOL
OLDHAM V SKOLARS
WORKINGTON V KEIGHLEY



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Ram-tastic stuff in 2009

CONGRATULATIONS must go first and foremost to Warren Jowitt and his Dewsbury Rams who have lit up the Co-operative Championship 1 this season with some tremendous, champagne-style rugby league.

In wrapping up the league title at the earliest possible opportunity on Thursday night at Cougar Park, the Rams fulfilled their promise of early spring.

They were a dominant force in their Northern Rail group matches, only bowing out at the Quarter Final stage by the narrowest of margins to eventual finalists Barrow.

And while the rest of the Championship 1 contenders have proven they can each beat the others on any given day, the Rams have stood head and shoulders above them all.

Remember that when they went to Keighley on Thursday, Barry Eaton's men were defending a proud unbeaten home record in the league, on a pitch where they gave the mighty Castleford Tigers something to think about in the Carnegie Challenge Cup. So for the Rams to run up a convincing 54-14 scoreline was some feat indeed.

Well done to Rams chairman Mark Sawyer and all involved at the Tetley's Stadium in Dewsbury.

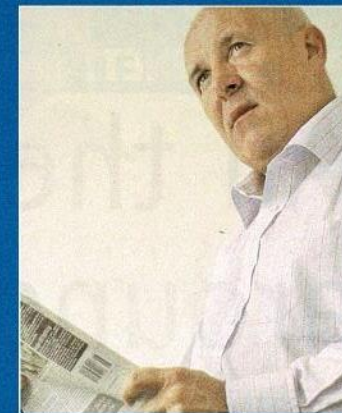
A look around the rest of the Co-operative Championships over last weekend belies that lopsided scoreline for the Rams however and pays testament to just how competitive both competitions are.

Featherstone, on the back of beating Toulouse in the south of France and Halifax on their own patch, found themselves suddenly on the back of a beating by the travelling Olympique side, suddenly back on track after their mid-season hiccup.

And how good was it for the hardy fans of Doncaster to see their resurgent heroes coming within just three points of Leigh, after the previous week's heroics at home to Whitehaven. Well done to Tony Miller, Carl Hall and the battling guys and gals down at the Keepmoat.

While previously imperious Halifax suddenly look vulnerable after their latest reversal at Widnes, what about the battle at the other end of the table? Gateshead and Batley, after being credited with the only previous draw in either division, served up another high scoring thriller that ended in deadlock as they, and Leigh fight to avoid joining the Dons in relegation for 2010.

As for who will join the triumphant Rams in the top shop however – well your guess is as good as anybody's, with all six clubs in the play-off spots capable of providing quality form on their day. It's making for a fantastic climax to the season.



Danny Lockwood, Publisher

RFL – official notes

RESPECT

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

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

ANTI-RACISM POLICY

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

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PITCH

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



AHEAD OF THE GAME

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

All the right noises around 2013 RLWC

GREAT news last week with the United Kingdom being told it will stage the next Rugby League World Cup in 2013.

After the tremendous financial success of last autumn, the Aussies seemed dead keen to host it again, but the Rugby League World Cup needs to build its credibility and the only way to do that is to hold it at regular intervals (it'll now be every four years) and alternate venues between the northern and southern hemispheres.

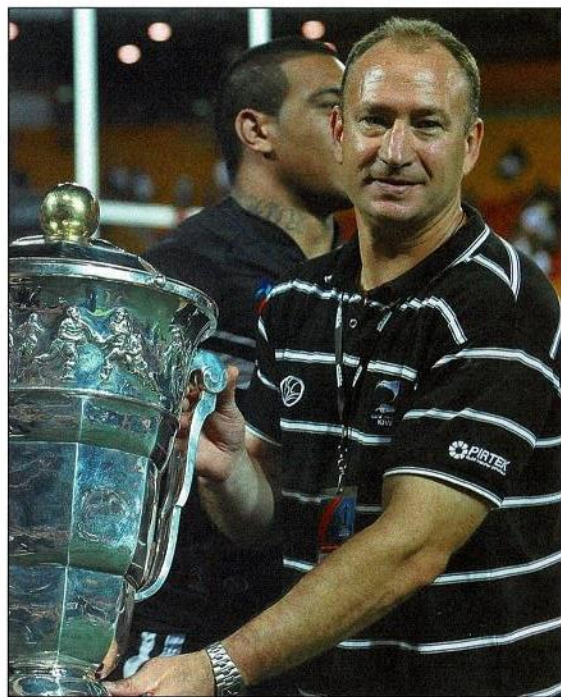
Ok, ok, that may as well just read England and Australia but maybe, just maybe, we could one day have the foundations in France to hold a tournament there ... who knows?

Anyway, the Rugby Football League now knows that it will stage the next World Cup and it has four whole years to plan it thoroughly, making sure the whole event isn't the massive cock up that it was in 2000.

It shouldn't be – not least because it seems valuable lessons have been learned from that disastrous tournament by the RFL hierarchy.

The format of the 2008 World Cup has come in for a little bit of stick, largely from people outside the sport who found the whole 'super pool' idea a little contrived.

Ok, maybe it was a little but it worked. We got close, interesting matches (unless



Kiwi and ex-Wiganer Dean Bell with the World Cup last year

England were playing Australia!) and crowds flocked to see them in decent numbers.

Compare that to some of the one-sided contests involving minnow nations back in 2000.

The RFL and the RLIF haven't confirmed that they'll follow that route again yet, but it does make sense at least commercially to do so and I

crowds in the Valleys, you'd be mad not to make room for them.

It's a sensible move by the RFL/RLIF to expand, and I think the RFL are also on the right track in terms of potential venues. Straight away they've come out and said that most games will be played right in rugby league's heartlands and that's very encouraging news.

I'm a big fan of expansion and I also think it's right that some World Cup matches are played in RL's genuine 'outposts' – London, Gateshead, South Wales, Cumbria (if you class that as an 'outpost').

But staging games in places like Reading and Gloucester in 2000 was simply a farce – an attempt at creating the image of a national game that came across all too falsely when only a handful of people turned up.

Let's not bother too much about what outsiders think of our World Cup. Instead, let's play to our strengths and make it an exciting tournament that people can't help be drawn to.

get the feeling that's what they'll do.

Equally, it makes sense not to dilute the competition with too many teams, although we know there'll be at least two more nations (i.e. 12) in 2013.

Add Wales and, say, the Cook Islands or the Lebanon to the 10 that were there in 2008 and you're probably just about right.

With the potential for big

Paul Bennett is deputy editor of League Weekly



the world according to SCULLY

In the latest update of the 'World According to Scully', Paul chats to us about the Challenge Cup semi-finals, the latest on his training for the Carnegie Challenge, his thoughts on the latest round of matches and how he was invited to tackle some journalists!

A few days ago I was invited to take part in a media training day which the guys at The co-operative had put on for some of the journalists to see what it is like to be a professional rugby league player.

This was of course a great opportunity for me to put them through their paces and really show them all the ins and outs of the game.

Jon Wilkin and I arrived at the GPW Recruitment Stadium to meet the waiting journalists. We took them through a typical warm-up before hitting some of the usual drills we do in training.

I have to say that it was amazing to see Ray French taking part at 70 years of age. He hadn't lost any of his legendary talent and he managed (almost!) to take a full part in the training.

Following on from the warm-up drills we took the group into shuttle-run drills. This involves running up and down the pitch backwards and forwards, each time you reach the goal line you have to lie on your front and do a push up.

The difficult aspect of this is that each time you run up and back you have to do it in 30 seconds which counts as one level; as a Super League player you have to reach 40 levels in pre-season to be considered fit for the season ahead!

The guys did really well - even if they did only reach seven levels! It is an amazing drill that really tests the exact muscles you need in a game. James Roby is usually the one in the team who does the best on the shuttle runs! Lastly we did the 'gauntlet' which was my opportunity to really have a go at the guys as they ran at me holding a tackle shield. I got a good few contacts in and a couple of the smaller guys certainly went backwards temporarily instead of pushing forwards!

The Challenge Cup is already at the semi-final stage and we have some big match-ups even without Leeds making up the quartet. Warrington are taking on Wigan in what will definitely be a bruising encounter. Wigan have had an up and down season so far and there are only two points separating them both in the league.

Saints come up against Huddersfield on Sunday, who are having a great season with many of their boys making England appearances. I'm not going to predict it, but I will say that it is going to be a great weekend with two quality matches on terrestrial TV.

It's also not long now until we leave for the Carnegie Challenge, transporting the Challenge Cup Final ball all the way from the South of France to Wembley by bike, boat and foot! We leave on 16th August and we are in the last few days of our preparation. Let's hope we make it on time!

You can sponsor me for a great cause at www.justgiving.co.uk/paulsculthorpe

Good luck to everyone taking part this weekend and see you all at Wembley on the 29th August!

To register your vote for August's Co-operative Championship player of the month please email your entry to playerofthemonth@generatesponsorship.com

Please include your name, contact details and favourite team.



The co-operative

CHAMPIONSHIP

Paul Sculthorpe is a Co-operative 'Good for Everyone' Ambassador
www.co-operative.coop

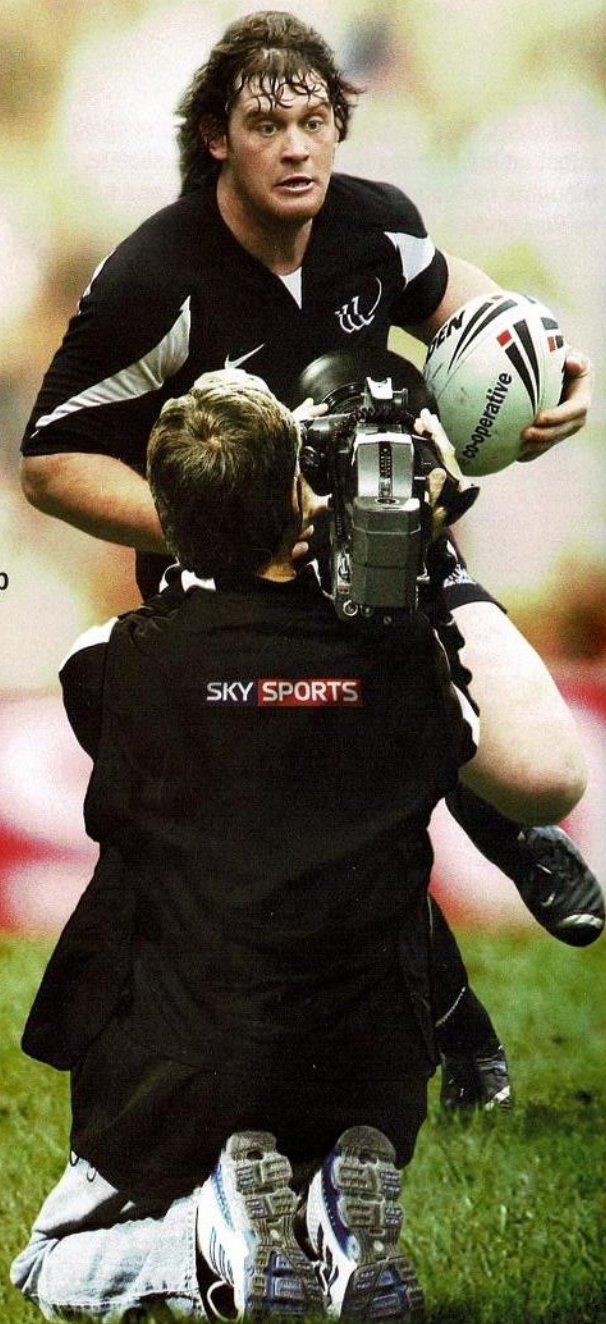
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Our commitment to bringing you the very best is stronger than ever before.

The engage Super League,
The Carnegie World Club Challenge
and the inaugural Four Nations
Championship featuring England,
France, Australia and New Zealand,
all in stunning High Definition.

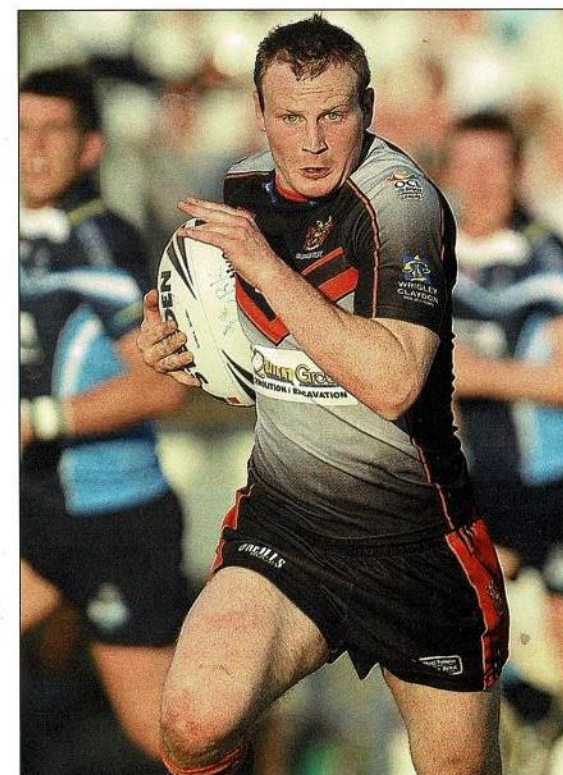
Coverage also includes The Co-operative
Championship and The Northern Rail Cup
all live this year.



ON THE MONEY!

Strange choice could pay off for punters

In something of a Sky mismatch, look for value on 'anytime' try scorers says our expert MIKE OXLEY



Oldham's Paul O'Connor could be worth a punt

I hope some of you took my advice and got on Widnes at 3/1 for the Grand Final. After last weekend's hammering of Halifax, they are now as low as 6/4 to pick up the trophy.

This week's Thursday night live game sees an unusual game picked by Sky. Oldham v London Skolars is a total mismatch and one where the handicap will be over 50 points.

Sky usually try and pick a game that is going to be exciting and entertaining as a game and this usually keeps the bookmakers smiling when they have to do extra markets on the back of a game being televised.

One market where there might be a bit of value this week is 'anytime try scorer' and a player to score a hat-trick.

You do not have to be Einstein to work out that with the handicap being around 50 points+, some of Oldham's players especially the backs are going to help themselves to at least one try.

The bookmakers usually price up the first try scorer at around 9/1 for a game and 4/6 anytime for the same player, but as I previously mentioned that is in a competitive game where both sets of players have more or less an equal chance of scoring.

But in this game I reckon that the price of the first try scorer should be around the 9/2 mark and anytime should start at around 2/7 for the same player.

In recent weeks Oldham have lost five of their best players, but I can still see value in backing players who have scored in recent weeks. Paul O'Connor and Chris Baines both were on the scoresheet last week against Rochdale and could be great value to score anytime this week against the unsuspecting bookmakers.

I make them both about a 4/7 to score anytime so if you see a price better than that I would say it is worth an investment and it might be worth trying doubles and trebles on anytime try scorers if the bookmaker will take them.

Even though I have mentioned Widnes frequently in recent weeks, I have not put them up for a game.

This week they travel to Post Office road against a Featherstone team which has found it hard to be consistent.

After coming back from the dead to beat Halifax two weeks ago, they then put a poor performance in against Toulouse last weekend at home going down 18-34.

In round 13 Widnes ran out convincing winners 46-22 at home and I can see them going from strength to strength now and that includes beating Featherstone at the weekend.

I think the handicap should be around Widnes -6 especially on the back of the performance against Halifax, but something tells me that the bookmakers will be around scratch for this game, mainly due to the fact that they seem to perform better at home.

Apart from the defeat against Toulouse, they have managed to win their previous four home games, but none of the teams were of Widnes's calibre. So, take Widnes giving up a small start to carry on with their impressive form. Good luck this week and remember to look in the peripheral markets (first try scorer, anytime) for the value that the bookmakers seem to not notice.

Contact Mike at michaeloxley@msn.com

CALL 08442 411 014 OR VISIT skysports.com

SKY SPORTS

TEAM OF THE MONTH

Every week the performances of players in the co-operative Championships are rated by the match reporters of LEAGUE WEEKLY. Fans cast their votes, coaches of the clubs involved are involved in the final choices – and at the end of the most exhaustive selection process, the competition's stars are announced EXCLUSIVELY in League Weekly. And here are the winners for July!

2 James Nixon (Barrow)	1 Nick Youngquest (Gateshead)	5 Kevin Penny (Widnes)
3 Rob Jackson (Whitehaven)	4 Richard Varkulis (Widnes)	7 Jamie Rooney (Barrow)
6 Brendon Lindsay (Sheffield)	13 Zeb Luisi (Barrow)	12 Jon Grayshon (Widnes)
11 Richard Fletcher (Widnes)	9 Andy Ellis (Barrow)	10 Mitchell Stringer (Sheffield)
8 Dominic Maloney (Halifax)		

EAGLE BRENDON FLIES

BRENDON LINDSAY is the co-operative Championship player of the month for July. The Sheffield Eagles stand off's controlled display against Batley on July 5 got the Eagles off to a winning start, with Mark Aston's men running out 30-4 victors. He then played his part in guiding the South Yorkshire side to the final of the inaugural Northern Rail 9s tournament, although the Eagles were beaten by Blackpool Panthers.

Back in the league Lindsay couldn't prevent Sheffield slipping to a 32-24 defeat at Leigh on July 19, but the Aussie was back on song as the Eagles saw off Gateshead in a high-scoring televised contest.

Lindsay became the first player this season to receive two separate nominations for the player of the month award.

He was the winner of the fans' vote and was also picked out by former Great Britain captain and co-operative

'Good For Everyone' ambassador Paul Sculthorpe. League Weekly staff selected Featherstone's Kyle Briggs as their choice, but the co-operative Championship coaches sided with the fans and Scully.

AND CULLEN'S ON TOP TOO

WIDNES VIKINGS head coach Paul Cullen has been named the co-operative Championship coach of the month for July. The former Warrington and England coach guided the Vikings to Northern Rail Cup glory last month, which entitles the club to apply for a Super League licence from 2012.

Although tripping up at Gateshead the following week, the Vikings had a good away win at Toulouse.

BLACKPOOL ROCKS!

THE Blackpool Panthers pair of Martin Crompton and Johnny Leather picked up the coach and player awards in

Championship 1, with four Panthers players making the Team of the Month!

League Weekly/co-Operative Teams of the Month, July CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Nick Youngquest (Gateshead), 2. James Nixon (Barrow), 3. Richard Varkulis (Widnes), 4. Rob Jackson (Whitehaven), 5. Kevin Penny (Widnes), 6. Brendon Lindsay (Sheffield), 7. Jamie Rooney (Barrow), 8. Dominic Maloney (Halifax), 9. Andy Ellis (Barrow), 10. Mitchell Stringer (Sheffield), 11. Richard Fletcher (Widnes), 12. Jon Grayshon (Widnes), 13. Zeb Luisi (Barrow)

CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Jonny Leather (Blackpool), 2. Damian Munroe (Blackpool), 3. Casey Mayberry (Hornets), 4. Kane Epati (Dewsbury), 5. Nick Royle (Blackpool), 6. Pat Walker (Dewsbury), 7. Liam Finn (Dewsbury), 8. Adam Robinson (Dewsbury), 9. Richard Chapman (Hunslet), 10. Kris Ratcliffe (Blackpool), 11. Rob Spicer (Dewsbury), 12. Andy Bostock (Dewsbury), 13. Adam Hayes (Dewsbury).

All hail Rams boss Jowitt

IT PROBABLY would not be premature to hand Warren Jowitt the co-operative Championship 1 coach of the year award already, after his Dewsbury Ram team wrapped up automatic promotion and the league trophy at Keighley last week.

Following a competitive first 40, the Rams turned on the style to roar away 54-14 winners over a side previously unbeaten at home in the league.

Pat Walker, the Rams stand-off or loose forward reportedly being monitored by Salford, kicked nine goals to take him to the top of the overall points scoring charts for the 2009 campaign.

Warren Jowitt said afterwards: "I am stuck for words. We knew Keighley would come at us in the first half and ask questions of us. We have had our heads down every single game this year, we have never gobbed off, but Keighley came out saying that they were going to win – but we gave them a lesson in the second half.

"We have just been talking in the changing rooms and said we have got to keep at 100 per cent with the last three games to go."

A disappointed Cougars coach Barry Eaton commented: "Fifty minutes into the game I thought we should have been in front as we had some glorious opportunities, but were not clinical enough to take them.

"But Dewsbury were patient and bided their time and were clinical in the last part of the game."

The Cougars made an announcement after the game that they have signed a new lease for a further 60 years at Cougar Park.

BLACKPOOL'S wonder-run



came to an end at resurgent HUNSLET, never recovering from having winger Damien Munroe sent off midway through the first half for tripping his opposite number Michael Marks.

Hawks coach Paul March wasn't quite jumping for joy. "It was a very important result as we have to beat the teams around us. I was happy with the win but disappointed how we let them back into the game late on," he said.

SKOLARS look certain to finish bottom of the pile after they went down 24-18 at home to fellow strugglers WORKINGTON.

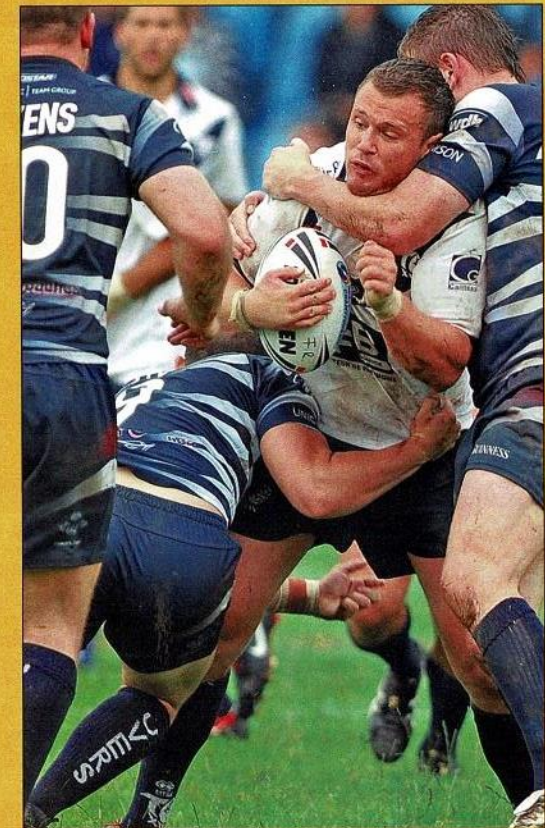
In the race for best play-off spots, OLDHAM continued their 'bounce' after losing several players with a 48-28 win over hit and miss HORNETS RL, while YORK got their promotion drive back on track with a hard fought 30-26 win at SWINTON.



AFTER successive away wins at Halifax and in France, FEATHERSTONE came back to earth with a bump, losing comfortably 34-18 at home to TOULOUSE who had the inspirational Nathan Wynn back in harness.

Wynn was back to his man of the match ways, while Rovers coach Daryl Powell was scathing about his team, who also lost influential Iestyn Harris with a broken nose.

"The whole of the game we were poor. We never got to grips or a foothold in the game," said Powell.



Toulouse's Tim Wynn is wrapped up by the Rovers defence

"Iestyn broke his nose pretty badly which didn't help, but we never got any kind of continuity in our game. It was as bad as we've played all season. They wanted to win the game more than us."

The closing pack continue to see HALIFAX come back to them after WIDNES gave the Shaymen a 42-16 hiding.

"There will be a lot of hard truths said this week and I must apologise to the fans who have come all this was to watch that rubbish," said coach Matt Calland. "But I can guarantee that we will be bouncing back next week."

Calland was still bullish however. "Although it is two on the trot for them and they have joined us on top I don't think they have got the edge on us – it was just a bad day at the office and we still have games in hand."

The rest of the Co-opera-

tion Championship was characterised by real thrillers with only five points separating the entire three games.

There's room for encouragement at DONCASTER after they pushed LEIGH all the way before succumbing by 31-28, while WHITEHAVEN just edged out the tenacious SHEFFIELD EAGLES 36-34 as the play-off race tightens.

But for the second time this year GATESHEAD and BATLEY shared the spoils, 34-34.

Bulldogs assistant Joe Berry said: "We did enough to win the game though it was probably a better draw for us than for Gateshead," adding that they need to hang tough while coach Karl Harrison is absent.

Rhino is currently cruising on a motorbike down USA Route 66 on a friend's 50th birthday bash – a commitment he made before taking the Batley job mid-season.



Batley v Sheffield



Sunday August 9th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. MOUNT PLEASANT

BATLEY BULLDOGS

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

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
Kev & Brian	8 Byron Smith
The Benson family	9 Kris Lythe
Leyland Paints	10 Luke Stenclion
Brian Hooley	11 Kevin Crouthers
George & Mary Gomersal	12 Mark Toohey
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 Richardson	18 Jermaine McGilvary
	19 -
George & Alan Wainwright	20 Dave Tootill
Kirsty, Gemma, Nix, Laura & Karen	21 Nathan Armitage
Stanningley U-14s & U-17s	22 Nat Browne
Flanagan Transport	23 Chris Buttery
	25 Glen Reid
	27 Jamie Aitcheson
John Miller	28 Darryl Cardiss
	29 Gareth Greenwood
Bruce Thewliss	30 Paul Handforth
	33 Danny Samuels
Mary Hughes	35 Jack Watson

COACH: KARL HARRISON

Sponsored by Norman Thewliss

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWLD
LAST SIX HOME: LLWWWW
TRIES: Jermaine McGilvary 19, Ian Preece 9, Danny Maun 8, Jon Simpson 7.
GOALS: Paul Mennell 41, Paul Handforth 13. DGs: Paul Handforth
MAN TO WATCH: Jermaine McGilvary

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

SCORERS

TRIES
Conv
Pens
DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J. Leahy
 Touch: G. Hodgson, M. Hawkes
 Fourth official: M. Beadle

BENNETT'S BET

"Bulldogs spirit will see off unpredictable Eagles - Batley by 6"

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

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWLD
LAST SIX AWAY: WLWLL
TRIES: Damian Gibson 13, Menzie Yere 12, Tangi Ropati 11, Brendon Lindsay 9, Sam Barlow 9, Jonny Woodcock 8.
GOALS: Jonny Woodcock 87. DG:-
MAN TO WATCH: Brendon Lindsay

CLUBCALL

Batley v Sheffield

Dragons roar at Bulldogs' super summer camp...

This week we have been doing a Dragons' Den theme at the summer school.

All the children have been developing products such as: mouse mats, key rings in the shape of a shirt, note pads, cards and bookmarks.

We've been making these to sell at this afternoon's game and all proceeds will go to charity.

We haven't discussed which charities will benefit yet, so look out for our posters for more details or come and see us on our stall.

We hope the weather stays fine for us and then we can have an outdoor stall behind the Glen Tomlinson Stand, near the Bulldog Bar and food area.

Each uniquely designed product had to go before a panel of three people making up the 'dragons'.

Each team has been up against the dragons to show a presentation about their prod-

uct and show them their prototype. The products have been designed as unique rugby memorabilia such as player pictures and cards for all occasions.

All the children were split into four different design teams in the event and these were Lightning, Cool Crocs, Fan-tastic and Rugby Wugy.

We designed new company logos which will be used to promote our products and our team work was put to the test with indoor and outdoor challenges throughout the week.

Please come and support us and the charities we have chosen.

Last week some of us attended another week of summer school based around healthy lifestyles.

We had our lunchboxes inspected on the first day and thought about how we could improve them.

At the end of the week we compared them again and



Rocking at the Bulldogs Summer Camp!

there were some amazing changes and everyone was so much healthier.

We also made smoothies - and even though some of us didn't like fruit individually - when they were blended together the smoothies were fantastic and extremely tasty.

Another day we made soup with lots of different vegetables. The results were quite awesome and even vegetables

we didn't like, or had never heard of before, became delicious in the soup.

We sowed some herbs to grow at home, as well as designing healthy plates, and to top it all off we did lots of outdoor activities like rugby skills, dodgeball, tennis and games which used up lots of energy.

Batley Bulldogs Summer School Rocks!

Everything still to play for in 2009

Welcoming our friends from Sheffield for what is a vital game for both clubs. The Eagles are looking to seal a play-off place and regrettably we are still not clear of relegation.

I thought we might be safe by now but the competition is so intense, it could go to the last game. Anyone who went to Gateshead was entertained and we took quite a few supporters from Batley.

Again, at half time I was confident of a win but in the end we had to fight back to achieve a draw, which was probably a fair result overall.

Leigh then squeezed a win against Doncaster to keep the pressure on. We are playing much better than a relegation candidate but then so are Gateshead and others and our performances since May are ones to be proud of.

A big well done to Joe for taking over last week and good luck to him for today and next week as we battle on. Joe

keeps continuity at the club and is a rock upon whom we rely so no one underestimate him as he will quietly get on with the job at hand with no fuss.

A player approached me this week to ask if I was leaving so I do not know where that came from. I have said the club is always available for sale but we have no takers and I've no desire to go.

I, along with the board and others at the club, wish to work to keep us in the Championship and to stabilise our finances for 2010 so that we can continue to improve as a club. Karl Harrison is within our plans and he knows it, but our priority until he gets back is to keep our Championship status. Four games to seal our fate and we need as much vocal support as we can muster.

For the last two weeks we have offered a summer school at the club which has been a great success thanks to hard work from Sue and Dan Winner, Paul and Becky Harrison, Paul Mennell

and Helen Littlewood from the Study Centre.

This was a pilot scheme and we are looking at running similar schemes in all school holidays. It ran from 8:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday and was first class childcare for everyone who attended. If you are interested for the future, contact the club and make an enquiry as I think places will be scarce. It is good for something like this to work at the club so well done to everyone involved.

Finally we have replica shirts left in various sizes which we are looking to sell at £30 each, so can we sell up in the next couple of weeks before the Halifax game in order that we have a crowd full of replica shirts and are not swamped by Halifax replica shirts.

Enjoy the game.

Kevin Nicholas,
Chairman



KERRINTERIORS

from Concept to Completion





Dons v Barrow



Sunday August 9th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. KEEPMOAT STADIUM

DONCASTER

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Green Energy Solutions	1 Lisiate Tafa
	2 Dean Colton
Pipers Car Sales	4 Shaun Leaf
	5 Chris McNamara
	6 Matt Handforth
	8 Steve Hall
Jane Speakman	10 Alex Benson
Everlast Waterproofing	12 Craig Lawton
Andy Booker	13 Josh Weeden
Martins Famous Fish Market	14 Scott Jones
	15 Mark McKinley
	16 Craig Jones
	17 Danny Flintoff
RTN Motor Spares	18 Craig Holt
	19 Ryan Steen
Jill Scarrow	20 Michael Coady
FGH Systems	21 Garry Ellery
	22 Andy Speake
Sue Walford	23 Scott Smith
	24 Jake Bassinder
	25 Alex Palmer
	26 Gareth Carey
	27 Albert Rounding
	28 Jamie Bovill
Luffe (The Great Dane)	29 Matthew Carbutt
	30 Wayne Opie
	33 David Bates
	35 Carlos Sanchez
	Kyle Keswick
	Danny Stanley

COACH: TONY MILLER

Sponsored by Custom Property Developments

BARROW

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.	No. PLAYER	SPONSOR
	Full back		1 Gary Broadbent	Advance Roofing Supplies
	Right Wing		2 Mike Backhouse	Johnston Recruitment
	Right Centre		3 -	
	Left Centre		4 Liam Harrison	Premium Solutions
	Left Wing		5 James Nixon	Furness Heating Components
	Stand off		6 Liam Finch	Jimmy Redfern Associates
	Scrum half		7 Liam Campbell	The Infield Hotel
	Prop		8 Brett McDermott	Saunders Transport
	Hooker		9 Andrew Ellis	The Marine Travel Company
	Prop		10 Lee Dutton	Mike Sear
	2nd row		11 Andrew Brocklehurst	Estuary Electrical
	2nd row		12 Martin Ostler	E.P. Access
	Loose forward		13 Andrew Bracek	R.F. Miller Accountants
	Interchange 1		14 Paul Noone	Shaun Anderson Osteopath
	2		15 Chris Young	Abbey House Hotel
	3		16 Jamie Butler	Larry Hunt, Cross Keys
	4		17 Scott Kalghan	Coniston Holidays
			18 James Finch	Jimmy Redfern Associates
			19 Chris Larkin	Kevin Hodgson
			20 Nicky Beach	Paul Turner (NWEM)
			21 Joe McKenna	Larry Hunt, Cross Keys
			22 Ned Catic	Optec Fibres
			23 Waisale Suka	BAE Global Combat Systems
			24 Alipate Tani	SITA (UK) Ltd
			25 Sevania Koro	E.P. Access
			27 Darren Holt	Jimmy Redfern Associates
			28 Michael Darby	S & M Leisure (Kit)
			32 Ruairi McGoff	Nigel and Alison Atkinson
			35 Matt Storey	Alastair McGregor
			Andy Ballard	
			Robert Roberts	
			James Coyle (loan)	
			David Allen (loan)	
			Danny Halliwell (loan)	

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: STEVE DEAKIN

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL

LAST SIX HOME: LLLLLL

TRIES: Michael Coady 5, Josh Weeden 4, Gareth Carey 3, Ryan Steen 3.

GOALS: Josh Weeden 11, Andy Speake

8. DGs:

MAN TO WATCH: Josh Weeden

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C. Halloran

Touch: P. Stockman, B. Robinson

Fourth Official: L. Fellows

BENNETT'S BET

"Raiders have re-found some scoring form - Barrow by 42"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLLLL

LAST SIX AWAY: WLLLLL

TRIES: James Nixon 24, Andrew Ellis 16, Liam Harrison 9, Chris Larkin 8, Liam Finch 7, Liam Campbell 7, Ned Catic 7. GOALS: Paul Noone 45, Darren Holt 40. DGs: Darren Holt 2.

MAN TO WATCH: James Nixon

CLUBCALL

Doncaster v Barrow

Hellos and goodbyes to some good friends

First of all would like to welcome my pal Des Johnston and Barrow to the Keepmoat Stadium today. I would also like to welcome two of our promotion winning boys back in Zeb and Andreas - take it easy my brothers.

To our lads, what a great performance last week at Leigh you deserve a lot of credit and should have come away with the win.

All we ask is that you give your all and last week we feel you did that and more, so keep it up.

Credit must also go to Tony, Tat and all the back-room staff. Through all the adversity you guys have stuck together and stayed strong. Things like that don't go unnoticed and I would like to thank you all for that.

I'm sure everyone is aware we have been given some lottery funding by the Lottery Heritage Fund, the sum of £37,200 to focus on the history of Tattersfield over a 12 month period which I am really looking forward to as we all have great memories of the old ground.

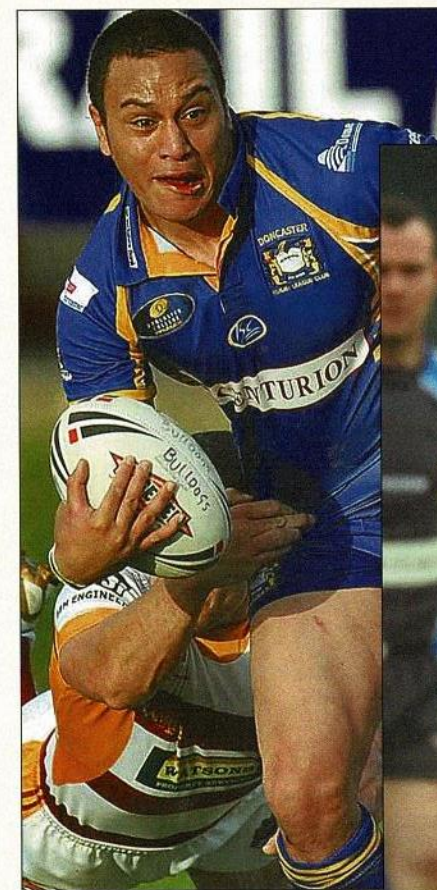
So start digging all your photos, memorabilia and memories of Tattersfield for whomever we employ to do this project.

We would like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund for this and Dave Marshall for putting all the hard work in to secure the funding.

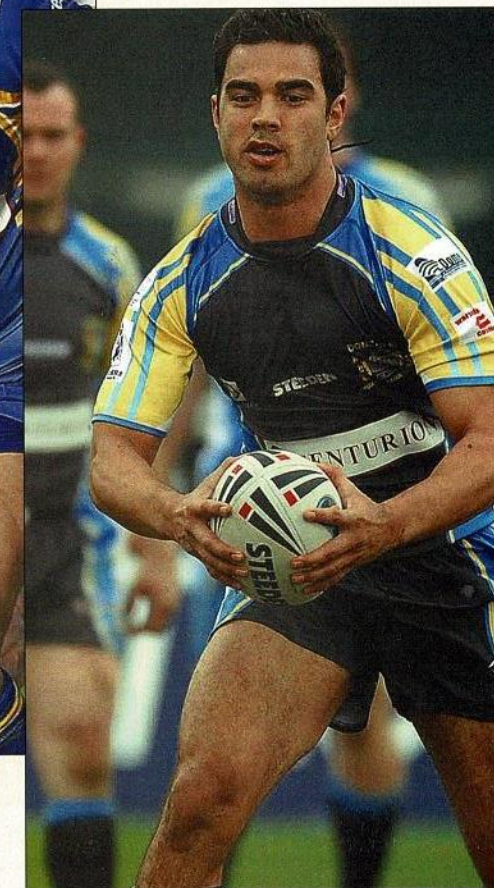
We'd also like to thank Alick Jeffery for putting on his first sportsman's dinner for the Dons last Thursday night and thank all that attended.

For those of you who missed it, it was a great success and was very well organized.

I feel with Alick now on



Old friends coming back to the Keepmoat: Zeb Luisi (left) ...



.. and Andreas Bauer, both now with Barrow

www.rphotos.com

board we can only go from strength to strength - he is the master at putting on events so watch out for his next one and let's all support him and the Dons.

Finally, it is with sad regret that Dave Marshall leaves us this week to move onto another job within British gymnastics.

I for one will certainly

miss him and literally begged him to stay as I feel there was no man better to run the Community Foundation than Mr Marshall.

Dave has given his all to Doncaster Rugby League over the last few years and I can't speak highly enough of him and would like to wish him, Laura and the kids all

the very best for the future and we hope to see you around the place.

You will always be very welcome Dave, take care my man - it's been a pleasure. You will always be a brother.

Carl Hall
Director of Rugby





Featherstone v Widnes



Sunday August 9th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE CHRIS MOYLES STADIUM

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

WIDNES VIKINGS

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

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	
2 Dean Gaskell	Barbara Spence
3 Richard Varkulis	Widnes Supporters Club
4 Toa Kohe Love	Widnes Supporters Club
5 Danny Mills	Kath Filkin
6 Anthony Thackeray	VIQI
7 James Webster	VIQI
8 Iain Morrison	Museum Visitors
9 Mark Smith	R J Lewis
10 Jim Gannon	Widnes World
11 Lee Doran	Swavesey Newsagents, Cambridge
12 Richard Fletcher	Widnes Supporters Club
13 Lee Paterson	Robert Johnson
14 John Duffy	James Owen
15 Tim Hartley	Marcus Booth
16 Gavin Dodd	The Dennett Family
17 Ben Kavanagh	Uncle Jack
18 Matt Strong	Fraser Family
19 Michael Ostick	Halton Borough Council
20 Sam Thompson	Learn Fox
21 Scott Yates	SDP Landscapes
22 Paddy Flynn	Reg & Lesley Warner
23 Shane Grady	West Bank Bears ARLFC
24 Josh Simm	Riverside College Sports Dept.
25 Anthony Mullally	Mullally's Barbers
26 Steve Bannister	North West Contracts
27 Brett Robinson	SDP Landscapes
Kevin Penny (loan)	
Jon Grayshon (loan)	

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

(sponsored by CMS Intelligent Banking)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWWLW

LAST SIX AWAY: WLWWLW

TRIES: Paddy Flynn 16, Richard Varkulis 11, Kevin Penny 11, Dodd, Thackeray, Kohe Love all 10.

GOALS: Tim Hartley 34, Scott Yates

33. DGs: Craig Hall 1

MAN TO WATCH: Paddy Flynn

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M. Thomason
Touch: C. Neilson, S. Moss
Fourth official: N. Darbyshire

BENNETT'S BET

"Confidence should see Vikings home - Widnes by 2"

COACH: DARYL POWELL

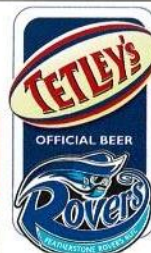
LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWWL

LAST SIX HOME: LWWWWL

TRIES: Andy Kain 17, Jon Steel 14, Tommy Haughey 13, Ian Hardman 9, Tommy Saxton 8, Matt Dale 8.

GOALS: Stuart Dickens 70, Iestyn Harris 19. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Jon Steel



CLUBCALL

Featherstone v Widnes

Need to deliver top standards consistently as play-offs near

We were disappointed to lose against a very committed Toulouse team last week who avenged our win in France of a month ago.

The difference between the teams was probably their scrum half Nathan Wynn who kicked and probed superbly.

We were down on the standards we have set ourselves after our four previous games and in particular the execution of our attacking game.

Sometimes for whatever reason things do not go your way in a game and even your most consistent performers have a bad day together. The important thing for us now is to refocus our efforts and get the team working together and back on track.

Last week was a poor one from a weather point of view and our summer has not taken off yet, as a result we are playing in conditions more akin to our time in winter; this puts more pressure on the skill level of players particularly when defenders are up in their faces.

Hopefully the barbeque season will start soon and the pitches will dry up a little. If this doesn't happen our focus on our basic skills will be absolutely crucial.

We are faced with the toughest of challenges today with the visit of Widnes, there is no doubt that Paul Cullen has improved the collective efforts of his team since his arrival and their win against Barrow in the Northern Rail final has given them an ideal platform to build on in their search for a Super League spot when the next licence application comes around.

Widnes have a raft of quality players at their disposal and the addition of loan players from Super League has given them a lift at this crucial stage of the league season.

One thing that may go against Widnes in the fullness of time is the amount of time they have without a game at the end of the regular season leading into the play-offs.

I can't understand why the RFL has gone about the fixtures in the way they have, with so many discrepancies and long periods of time either between fixtures or home games - for instance



Heads down ... Waine Pryce is wrapped up by the Toulouse defence in last week's game at the Chris Moyle's Stadium

we played against Toulouse home and away within a month but Batley on the first and last fixture. Curious.

We now have five games left before the play-offs and each game is massive. We could not have dreamed of a more competitive league and now with Halifax having a tough patch the whole comp is fighting for something.

We are focusing on one game at a time at the moment with this one giving us an opportunity for us to get back to winning ways in front of our home supporters. As I have said before the sweetest wins are the biggest challenges you face.

Enjoy the game,

Daryl Powell
Head Coach

MARK SPELLS OUT HIS VISION FOR FUTURE

MARK CAMPBELL has been part of the force which has added dynamism to the Featherstone Rovers operation, as a business, a sporting organization, and as a community focus.

This week he took over from Paul Coventry, another member of that driving force, as chair. Here's what he has to say about his intentions and about what he sees as Rovers' future direction.

"Honours don't get much more meaningful, than being made Chair of Featherstone Rovers. I said 'meaningful' and not 'great' because there are of course greater things that you can have bestowed upon you in life.

"But being part of Featherstone Rovers has meaning for us. It's special for us and we all know the reasons why - just look at our history and achievements in both the distant and recent past, the present and of course the future.

"This brings a great responsibility to anyone who is chair at this club: to maintain and develop what we do and believe in, but also to stand alongside the great people who have had this honour in the past and brought our club to greatness.

"Most recent amongst those of course is Paul Coventry. Paul deserves a massive amount of credit for his work and the inspirational effect he's had on others in getting Rovers on the right path.

"Paul was instrumental in bringing me back to Rovers. He's a persuasive guy and I'm glad he persuaded me. Steve Evans also deserves a vote of thanks for stepping into Paul's shoes at short notice and for his input into giving us direction and professionalism. I know Steve and Paul will still be associated with Rovers behind the scenes and I find that reassuring.

"So what are my goals? I want to us to be the best team in whatever competition we find ourselves playing in. It's obvious, but if you don't strive to be the best at what you do in the environment that you are in, then you might as pack in and go home.

"I want us to grow as a business, something that's happening already and I want that growth to continue.

"I want us to increase our attendances on match days. An afternoon or evening at a Rovers game is a convivial, exciting and rewarding experience. OK so we lose one week, but you can turn up next week knowing that the team is capable of victory. We need more of the local and not so local public to take that on board and to come and enjoy themselves with us.

"To make all this work, we need the right people working for us and with us. We want people with the same ambitions and values: people who will work hard and as part of a team, as part of the Featherstone Rovers family."



Halifax v Whitehaven



Sunday August 9th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY STADIUM

HALIFAX RLFC

WHITEHAVEN RLFC

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

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

SCORERS

- Tries
- Conv
- Pens
- DGs

No. PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 Craig Benson	LLWR
2 Ade Adebisi	Tim Knowles
3 Rob Jackson	Richard Woodhall
4 Dery Eilbeck	Tuqiri-Kacey-Keelan
5 Craig Calvert	Internet Support Group
6 Carl Rudd	Alan Dixon
7 Leroy Joe	Internet Support Group
8 Marc Jackson	Haven Joinery
9 Greame Mattinson	L&G Taxis
10 Karl Edmondson	Barry Richardson
11 Howard Hill	B&H Motors
12 Spencer Miller	Cameron Wood
13 Scot McAvooy	Dick Raaz
14 Danny Barker	GMB
15 Ryan McDonald	Internet Support Group
16 Andy Gorski	Whitehaven RL Support Group
17 -	
18 John Patrick	Shakers
19 Kyle Amor	Finnigans Chip Shop
20 Marc Bainbridge	Internet Support Group
21 -	
22 Matt Tunstall	Seascale Pharmacy
23 Marc Shackley	
24 Greg McNally	Clive Hornsby
25 Jamie Theoharous	Whitehaven RL Support Group
28 Chris Smith	
31 Dexter Miller	
32 Paul Ballard (loan)	
33 Soni Radovanovic	Stobarts
34 Tane Manihera	

COACH: GED STOKES

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWLL
 LAST SIX HOME: WWWLWL
 TRIES: Shad Royston 20, Ben Black 17, Miles Greenwood 16, Sean Penkywicz 14, Rob Worrincy 12.
 GOALS: Paterson 96, Govin 24, Black 12. DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Ben Black

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: P. Brooke
 Touch: M. Craven, A.T. Smith
 Fourth official: S. Williams

BENNETT'S BET

"Fax will be fired up after humbling Vikings defeat - Halifax by 8"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWWWW
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLWLLW
 TRIES: Gregg McNally 25, Craig Calvert 13, Ade Adebisi 10, Andy Gorski 7.
 GOALS: Gregg McNally 72, Carl Rudd 13, Marc Jackson 5.
 DGs: Carl Rudd 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Carl Rudd

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CLUBCALL

Halifax RLFC v Whitehaven

We need to be at our best today

Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to start by welcoming the players and staff from Whitehaven to The Shay for today's co-operative Championship game.

There have been some great battles between the two clubs over the last few years and I am sure that today's will be just as closely contested.

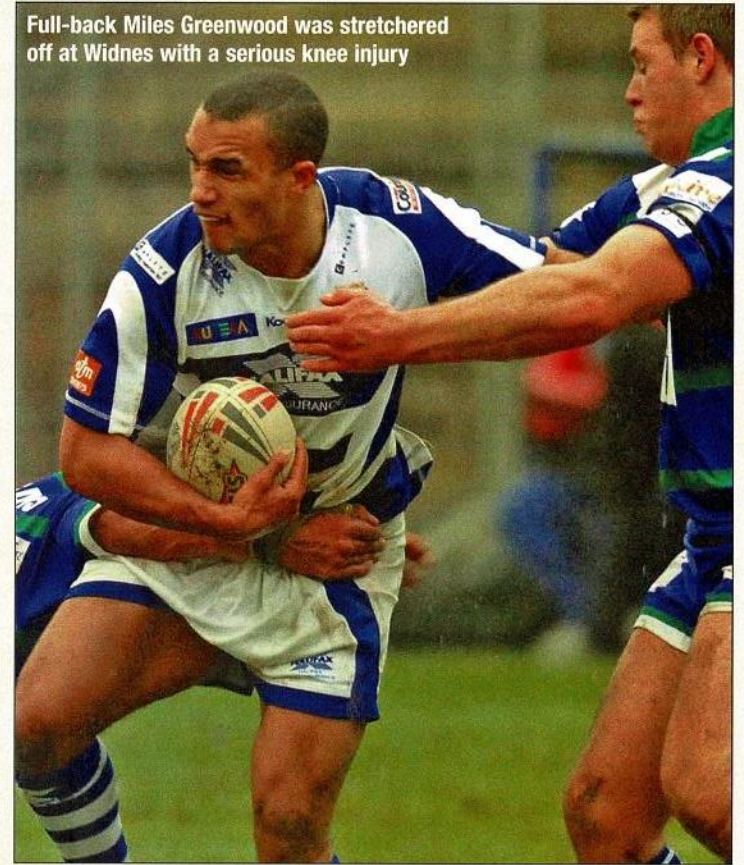
Whitehaven are finding some form at the moment and had a good win over Sheffield last weekend to move up to fourth in the table.

There is no doubt they have good memories of playing at The Shay after beating us in the play-offs down here last year and we will need to be at our best if we want to win today.

The last couple of weeks haven't been great for us in terms of results or performances. After letting what should have been a decisive lead slip against Featherstone a fortnight ago, I was confident we could turn things round at Widnes last Friday.

In that context, it was massively disappointing to see us turn in the kind of

Full-back Miles Greenwood was stretchered off at Widnes with a serious knee injury



performance that we produced.

It simply wasn't good enough and I would like to apologise to all the spectators who made the journey over to the Stobart Stadium.

The only positive is that we still have time to get things right before the start of the play offs.

A bad night was made worse by the injury to Miles Greenwood. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Miles a speedy recovery.

Enjoy the game,

Matt Calland,
 Head Coach

Getting tight at the top

This is very much the business end of the season. The Carnegie Cup Final looms (and the club can still secure discounted tickets for Wembley) and in the co-operative Championship only five points separate the top six.

What is apparent is that in this league any side can lose to any other.

After two disappointing results, we have been drawn back into the scramble for advantage in the play-offs.

The good news is that the players still have it in their own hands to ensure the Minor Premiership, but the margin of error has been reduced, and a win today is imperative.

However, it was Whitehaven who ultimately spoiled last season, so the team will have to be at its best to secure the win, and that will require a massive improvement on last week's display!

The support for the team

this season has been fantastic, and you are all encouraged to keep it up for the remaining five league matches, starting today.

But rugby league is a family game, and unruly behaviour will not be tolerated. Please treat fans of other teams and match officials with respect.

The stadium authorities know that the club will support them in taking any steps necessary to prevent disorderly behaviour within The Shay.

As we approach the end of

the regular season, look out for the Ladies Dinner on 27th August, Star Man Dinner on 11th September and Christmas Dinner on 5th December all at Bowers Mill.

And very soon we'll be announcing season ticket offers for the first season in a completed Shay Stadium. There's much to look forward to.

Michael Steele
 Chairman

Man of the match sponsor: Groupe CAILLEAU
Programme sponsor: Mutuelle du Rempart



Toulouse v Gateshead



Saturday August 8th, 2009. Kick off 8pm. STADE ARNAUNE

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE

GATESHEAD THUNDER

SPONSOR	No.	PLAYER
SN Diffusion	1	Rory Bromley
Dynadoc	2	Sebastien Payan
Ermes Prestations	3	Sebastien Planas
Demathieu et Bard	4	Damien Couturier
France Boissons	5	Joris Canton
Prosegur	6	Constant Villegas
Copy Sud	7	Nathan Wynn
Immodulair	8	Brendan Worth
André Raynal-Déménagements	9	Martin Mitchell
Groupe Cailleau	10	Mathieu Griffi
Groupe Carrère	11	Timothy Wynn
SNC Latitudes - Golf de Seilh	12	Mathieu Almarcha
Aux Docks du bureau	13	Eric Anselme
Transports Sarrazain	14	Antoni Maria
Renault Etats-Unis	15	Jerome Gout
Citroën Etats-Unis	16	Olivier Pramil
Océanis	17	Yohan Barthau
Siemex	18	Adrien Viala
Inovans	19	Nicolas Delgal
Airbus Cimpa	20	Sylvain Houles
Leroy Merlin	21	Bruno Ormeno
IFB	22	Nicolas Faure
Force Distribution	23	Cedric Gay
La Mutuelle du rempart	24	Jean-Christophe Borlin
IPS Publicité	25	Tell Pelo
La Dépêche du Midi		Clement Bienes
Tout31.com		Yohan Gigord
Bourdarios		Benjamin Gulral
Clear Channel		Kevin Larroyer
ICA Patrimoine		Carlos Mendes Varela
Compass Group		Andreï Olari
Sporting Form		Yoan Tisseyre

COACH: GILLES DUMAS

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLLL
LAST SIX HOME: WWWLL
TRIES: Rory Bromley 11, Damian Couturier 11, Constant Villegas 6, Sebastien Planas 5, Martin Mitchell 5, Nathan Wynn 4.
GOALS: Nathan Wynn 13
MAN TO WATCH: Nathan Wynn

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

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R. Laughton
Touch: P. Milan, C. Vergnes
Fourth official: F. Nicaud

BENNETT'S BET

"French should have confidence from Featherstone win - Toulouse by 18"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Ben McAlpine	
2	Danny Wilson	
3	Kevin Neighbour	Accent Magazine & North East Times
4	Dylan Nash	Lady Cross Quarries
5	Stewart Sanderson	Schooner Inn
6	Neil Thorman	The Wheatsheaf Pub
7	Luke Branighan	James & Matthew Wells
8	Jason Payne	
9	Andrew Henderson	Brack Office Solutions
10	Tabua Cakacaka	Rob & Jackie Gardner
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	
32	Jamie Cording (loan)	
33	Liam Watts (loan)	
34	Nathan Massey (loan)	
35	Anthony England (loan)	

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWL
LAST SIX AWAY: WLLWL
TRIES: Stewart Sanderson 18, Luke Branighan 18, Ben McAlpine 14, Dylan Nash 12, Nick Youngquest 12.
GOALS: Michael Knowles 80
DGs: Neil Thorman, Rhys Clarke
MAN TO WATCH: Nick Youngquest

CLUBCALL

La course pour les finales est ici

L'édito du Président - Carlos ZALDUENDO

Sans préjuger de la valeur et du mental des poulains de Gilles Dumas, et à l'heure d'écrire cet édito, on ne connaît pas encore le résultat du voyage de Featherstone. Espérons que le sort aura été favorable à nos poulains qui ont démontré lors du match aller de Blagnac qu'ils étaient au niveau de leurs adversaires.

Mais aujourd'hui et quelque soit l'issue de ce dernier combat, il faudra prendre les trois points. D'ailleurs sur les 4 matches restant, dont 2 en déplacement à Leigh et à Halifax, les co-équipiers d'Eric Anselme doivent engranger le maximum de victoires. Car la lutte pour la 6ème place s'est beaucoup resserrée. Sheffield a eu un sursaut qui lui permet de compter sur une petite avance au tableau du classement de ce Championship 2009.

Dans les poursuivants immédiats des Eagles, on compte le TO, Batley, Leigh et... Gateshead. Dans quelle disposition d'esprit seront nos visiteurs après leur duel à 6 points contre Batley ? Mystère !

En tout cas, ils ne viendront surtout pas faire de la figuration, surtout qu'ils voudront laver l'affront du match aller début juin qui avait vu les toulousains s'imposer 52-16 dans la banlieue de Newcastle. Le net regain de forme du Thunder ces dernières semaines (lors de leurs 5 dernières sorties, ils comptent 3 victoires contre Leigh, Halifax et Widnes, pour seulement 2 défaites face à Featherstone et Sheffield) nous promet une lutte engagée, mais aussi du spectacle avec une équipe qui ne se prive pas d'écarper les ballons sur les ailes.

Du suspens, du spectacle, on en redemande !
A toutes et à tous bonne soirée !

Toulouse v Gateshead

The race for the play-offs is upon us

The word of the President

With the win in Featherstone, our players have shown great mental strength and have collected three very important points.

Tonight, Gateshead are coming to Toulouse. With four matches remaining, from which two are away games in Leigh and in Halifax, Eric Anselme and his teammates have to collect a maximum number of points, because the battle for the 6th position of the table is very tight.

Sheffield and Whitehaven have created a small gap in the table of this Championship '09, but the race to reach the play-offs is on and Batley, Leigh, Toulouse and even Gateshead are still alive.

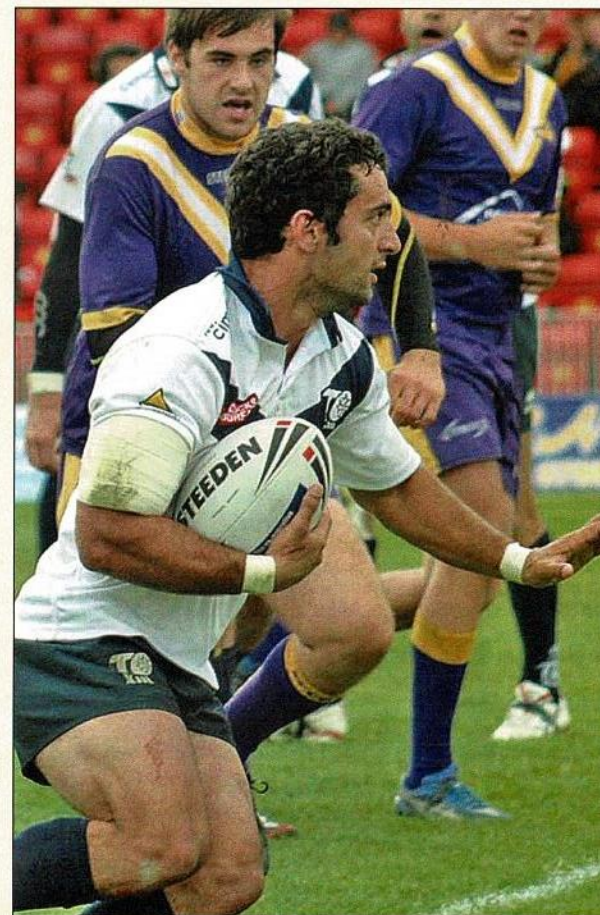
How will the Thunder react after the draw against Batley? Who knows!

Gateshead will want to leave Toulouse with some points and to level the counter after the win of Gilles Dumas' boys in the suburbs of Newcastle about two months ago.

Over the last month and a half, the Thunder have played well and won three times (against Leigh, Halifax and Widnes) for only two defeats (against Leigh and Sheffield), which will surely give us a great battle tonight.

This Gateshead side is not afraid to give the ball to the backs which will ensure the entertainment.

A tight game, a great show, we love it...



Adrien VIALA on the attack against Gateshead
www.rlphotos.com

Enjoy the game !

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Hornets v Blackpool



Sunday August 9th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. SPOTLAND

HORNETS RUGBY LEAGUE

BLACKPOOL PANTHERS

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Aztek Safety	1 Chris Giles
John & Julie Clarke	2 John Gillam
Ray Walton	3 Mick Fogerty
Lion Springs	4 Casey Mayberry
	5 -
J Heaton & Son	6 Martin Ainscough
	7 -
Interbake Ltd	8 David Best
Sue & Dave Butterworth	9 Janan Billings
Ian Coop	10 Paul Raftery
Ray & Maureen of Heywood Market	11 David Cunliffe
Hartley Thomas Wright	12 Ian Sinfield
The Loyalists	13 Wayne Corcoran
	14 Adam Thomas
John Mac & Company	15 Martin McLoughlin
Claire Murgatoryd	16 Mark Brocklehurst
Grant & Dougie	17 Andy Isherwood
	18 -
Megan Tann	19 Craig Johnson
Tin2net Ltd	20 Dale Cunliffe
Ian Nield	21 Tommy Gallagher
	22 Paul Anderson
	23 Liam Grundy
	24 Chris Hough
Shaw Mitchell & Co	25 Dayne Donaghue
Accountants	
	26 Leroy Rivett
	32 Liam McGovern
	33 Matt Strong
	34 Brett Robinson
	35 Dave Houghton

COACH: DARREN SHAW

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWWL
 LAST SIX HOME: LLWWWW
 TRIES: Martin Ainscough 14, Casey Mayberry 9, John Gillam 8, Mick Fogerty 6.
 GOALS: Liam McGovern 42.
 DGs: McGovern, Ainscough 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Martin Ainscough

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

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G. Dolan
 Touch: D. Butler, J. Roberts
 Fourth Official: A. Gill

BENNETT'S BET

"Panthers to bounce back from Hunslet defeat - Blackpool by 6"

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Blackpool Supporters	1 Johnny Leather
Derek Way Roofing	2 Damien Munroe
Clover Tech of Wigan	3 Tom Woodcock
Chorley Supporters	4 Mark McCully
Morris and Oxley	5 Chris Muga
S. Beilby and Family	6 Simon Svabic
Blackpool Supporters	7 Chris Forster
ACM Scaffolding Services	8 Peter Fairhurst
Seabridge Freight Services	9 John Clough
Robert Yates Design	10 John Hill
Interbake Ltd	11 Paul Alcock
Paul Wilson	12 Kris Ratcliffe
Clark Draper Family/	13 Rob Draper
Sheperds Inn, Lowton	
G&M Building Contractors	14 Martin Keaveney
Rema Tip Top	16 Ian Hodson
Morris Bakers	17 David Llewellyn
S. Beilby and Family	18 John Boland
	20 Tom Wild
Morris and Oxley	21 Andy Marsh
	22 Keiron Tucker
John Chadwick Insurances	28 Gareth Langley
John Chadwick Insurances	29 Scott Winstanley
S. Beilby and Family	30 Carl Forber
Meyer Group Ltd	31 Simon Bissell
Morris and Oxley	33 Dean Thompson
John Chadwick Insurances	34 Nick Royle
John Chadwick Insurances	37 Jay Duffy
	Sam Reay (loan)

COACH: MARTIN CROMPTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWWWL
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLWLWL
 TRIES: Johnny Leather 15, Damien Munroe 11, Mark McCully 6, Llewellyn, Langley, Hutton, Keaveney all 5. GOALS: Johnny Leather 40.
 DGs: Leather, McCully 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Jay Duffy

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CLUBCALL

Hornets RL v Blackpool

A busy time at the club as we look to the future

Chairman
Mark Wynn



Hello and welcome to the directors, players, supporters and officials from today's visitors Blackpool. Hopefully we will all enjoy another close and exciting game, similar to the last time the Seaside's visited earlier on this season.

It's been a busy time here at Hornets RL with the first ever elections to a co-operative board now in full swing. I won't say too much as I'm one of the candidates, other than good luck to all those who are standing.

For those of you arriving early enough today you will have witnessed the curtain raiser between the British Asian Rugby League team versus the Northern Command Police side.

It is a great honour to welcome both teams to Spotland today and an extra warm welcome to my friend and Rochdale Swarm player Ziggy Ahmed who is in the squad for the British Asian team.

This fixture is a cracking advertisement for rugby league as well as Hornets and it is something we hope we can build on in the very near future.

Although there are still several weeks of the season to go we have to make plans for next year, so at our next home game against Keighley we will be launching next year's season tickets etc. This is a vital part of the club's finances and we hope all loyal supporters will back the club and purchase one.

On a related note the end of season presentation is in October and tickets for the event will be on sale shortly. It's a cracking event every year and we hope to make this year's bigger and better than ever.

To continue the sales pitch, the Balloon Race for the last match of the season is in full swing and balloons are available for just £2 each. We hope to run several promotions for the Workington game to celebrate our first season as a fan-owned co-operative.

Finally, our revamped lottery continues to go from strength to strength, especially with the new dedicated Rochdale draw.

Income from the lottery has rocketed for the club since

the revamp and it really is the lifeblood for Hornets. So, for just £1 a week you have the chance to win £500 a day along with an extra £100 Rochdale bonus draw.

Please call in at the office to sign up.

Finally, a big thank you for your support to our sponsors Lakeside Glass, today's game sponsor Rochdale Grammar 66, the Associate sponsor Elite Telecom and our ball sponsor for the day Interbake Ltd.

And again to all at today's game here's hoping for another exciting match - rugby league really is "The Greatest Game".

Pride and professions still to play for

SUNDAY'S performance against Oldham was disappointing to say the least.

After winning three games on the bounce our spirits were high but then to lose in the first half like we did was frustrating.

We did improve in the second half and matched Oldham but it was too little, too late.

Today we take on Blackpool Panthers who are in good form themselves at the

Darren Shaw
 Head Coach

moment with four wins out of their last five matches.

We need to go into the game with the right attitude and we need to keep our focus for the four games we have remaining.

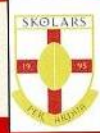
You may think that the players have "nothing to play for" as such but they not only have you, our supporters and their pride, they also have their future to play for.

We are now looking at contracts for next season so whether they stay at Hornets or move on, they need to put in 100% performances in all our remaining matches.

Thanks for your continued support!



Oldham v Skolars



Thursday August 6th, 2009. Kick off 7.30pm. BOUNDARY PARK

OLDHAM RLFC

LONDON SKOLARS

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Sporting Image 07894 122315	1 Paul O'Connor
Totalplus Comms 0161 3438181	4 Paul Reilly
Tech Doors 0161 6265049	5 Lee Greenwood
Nigel Marland	7 Thomas Coyle
John Barrett	8 Paul Highton
Totalplus Comms 0161 3438181	9 Gary Sykes
Rudy Wilkes and Bev Mayall	10 Jamie I'Anson
Mack Video Services	12 Tommy Goulden
John & Lynda McAndrew	14 Richard Mervill
Clayton Green Brewers Fayre	15 Jason Boults
Karen & Paul Gough	16 Wayne Kerr
Premier Signs UK Ltd	17 Craig Robinson
Xpress Solutions UK Ltd 0161 4843800	18 Neil Roden
Office Supplies Now	19 Craig Littler
Cagney and Lacey	20 Simeon Hoyle
Rob The Gardener	21 Lucas Onyango
Maureen & Peter Woodhead	22 Phil Joseph
Lush Nightclub 07716 188 993	23 Chris Baines
Totalplus Communications	24 Marcus St Hilaire
	25 Luke Menzies
	26 Luke Sutton
Greentree Oldham Ltd	Andy Boothroyd
Totalplus Communications	Matty Ash
	Jamie Russo
H. Mullaney & Son 01457 832870	Goalkicker

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

COACHES: JERMAINE COLEMAN & ROSS ANTONIOLLI

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLLL
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLLL
 TRIES: Matt Thomas 10, John Paxton 4, Olu Iwenofu 4, Austen Aggrey 3, Oilly Fountain 3.
 GOALS: Paul Thorman 30
 DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Matt Thomas

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G. Dolan. Video: J. Leahy
 Touch: R. Jones, D. Sharpe
 Fourth Official: T. Selby

BENNETT'S BET

"New-look Roughyeds seemed to have settled - Oldham by 52"

COACH: TONY BENSON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWLLW
 LAST SIX HOME: LWLLW
 TRIES: Andy Ballard 17, Lee Greenwood 10, James Coyle 10, Thomas Coyle 9, Marcus St Hilaire 9.
 GOALS: Andy Ballard 93.
 DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Lee Greenwood

People caring for people

CLUBCALL

Oldham v Skolars

Raise the roof (and cash!)

Good evening and welcome to all the directors, players and supporters of London Skolars who have made the lengthy journey up North for what is the third of our Sky TV appearances this season. The guys are hoping to repeat the performance from last Sunday's game against our local derby rivals Rochdale. I think the players enjoyed the game as much as the fans and probably no-one more so

than our conditioner Martin Roden who looked like he had won the lottery when he went over for his try. (We are all going to have to be on our toes as Martin is now looking for a regular spot in the team). Although we broke a few records when we played the Skolars on their home turf we cannot afford to be complacent about the game tonight as that road often leads to slipping on the proverbial banana skin, we have to stick



Tommy Goulden

to our game plan and hopefully get the three points that

will put us back in second spot. Tonight is obviously a big night for the two charities that the club have adopted this year and hopefully we will have a bumper crowd so that we can raise as much money as possible. Please give generously. As well as raising money please raise your voices to cheer the team on, we really do appreciate the support. The louder the better. Enjoy the game

Tommy G

It's all about the 'team' as we head towards our goal

A big Oldham welcome to the directors, players and supporters from London Skolars, and thank you for travelling so far to help us support our two very important charities in Dr Kershaw's Hospice and link 4 Pink.

They both represent an illness that affects most families at some stage. You've come in to enjoy an exciting evening of Rugby League for now so I hope you support these wonderful organisations in difficult economic times and donate generously to the charities' collectors on your way out tonight.

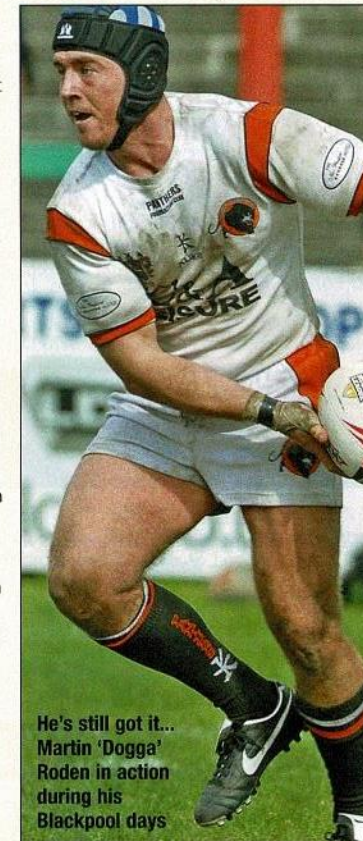
Things are on the up here at the mighty Oldham club and the mood generally appears very positive as we go into tonight's big encounter against the ever-improving London Skolars.

We realise that we need a big improvement on last Sunday's game if we are to achieve our short term goal of the top spot in the play-offs come September.

As a team we are much happier with our game but are under no illusions as to the hard work required to continually improve in each showing.

Personally I am in no doubt that we have the right personnel and attitude to kick on. Sunday gave us a much needed confidence boost as belief in ourselves is crucial if we are to be successful in the business end of the season.

It's probably timely to introduce our best kept secret and advantage we have over the others; it's our team behind the team, the people who contribute so much but you



He's still got it... Martin 'Dogga' Roden in action during his Blackpool days

never see, like our equipment technician Paul 'the Colonel' Hulbert, amongst a thousand other tasks he carts all the equipment to the game and sets up the changing room hours before the players arrive. The room is always immaculately laid out with nothing left to chance and every player's quirky needs covered. Paul is supported by Mark Canning who also doubles up with Paul on the sideline as runners.

Rachael Johnson, our tireless physio, works 24/7 to ensure we can put out a team regardless of a mounting injury toll. Rachael's job starts before the game and finishes just as we start the next one. Without her we would have missed fielding a team on several occasions.

Rach is assisted by Paul Brown who supplies all the players' massage treatment for games and training as a volunteer. And finally our old mate Martin 'Dogga' Roden; trainer, now player, and most recently assistant coach.

Dogga contributes admirably in all these areas although his primary role is using his sports science degree to ensure the players are in peak fitness throughout the season, and I reckon he's done all right in all departments. What a team and what an advantage.

Anyway thanks for your support, enjoy the game and give generously!

Tony Benson
Head Coach



Workington v Keighley



Sunday August 9th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. DERWENT PARK

WORKINGTON TOWN

- No. PLAYER
 1 -
 2 Neil Frazer
 3 Andrew Beattie
 4 Jason Mossop
 5 Jamie Marshall
 6 -
 7 Steve Roper
 8 -
 9 Jack Pedley
 10 Dean Burgess
 11 Mike Whitehead
 12 Craig Hodgson
 13 -
 14 -
 15 James Robinson
 16 -
 17 Peter Dobson
 18 Kris Coward
 19 Scott Burgess
 20 Stephen Dawes
 21 Mark Routledge
 22 Patrick Coupar
 23 Martyn Wilson
 24 Jarrad Stack
 25 Harry Kaufman
 Chris Frodsham
 Brett Carter (loan)
 Marc Shackley (loan)
 Marc Bainbridge (loan)
 Joe McKenna (loan)
 TRIALISTS:
 Keith Campbell
 Alex Daprille
 Adam Ramsden

COACHES: GARY CHARLTON & MARTIN OGLANBY

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL
LAST SIX HOME: LLLLLL
TRIES: Stephen Dawes 8, Tommy Brindle 3, Jack Pedley 3, Jamike Marshall 3.
GOALS: Chris Frodsham 6, Marc Bainbridge 5. DGs: Steve Roper
MAN TO WATCH: Jack Pedley

POSITION SPONSOR

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

SCORERS

- TRIES**
- Conv**
- Pens**
- DGs**

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D. Merrick
 Touch: P. Wharton, J. Downham
 Fourth official: B. Armstrong

BENNETT'S BET

"Cougars determined to make amends for Rams loss - Keighley by 26"

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

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 -
 13 Carl Hughes
 14 Jamaine Brown
 15 Craig Brown
 16 Brendon Rawlins
 17 Scott Law
 18 Greg Nicholson
 19 -
 20 Daley Williams
 21 Ryan Smith
 22 Lee Mapals
 23 James Hutchinson
 24 Luke Sutcliffe
 25 Wayne Sutcliffe
 Non-numbered:
 Ryan Benjafield
 Damien Reid
 Dan Belcher
 James Haythornthwaite
 Tim Bibby
 Tom Hall
 Ben Sagar
 Jack Copperwaite
 Karl Gunney

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 Mr & Mrs Rothera
 Oddities Giftware
 Mr & Mrs Bardgett
 Cougar Pride Centre
 J&M Fisher
 M Croft & T Pycroft
 Rex Procter & Partners
 Cutting Jungle Hairdressers
 Emily & Flynn Walker

- The Cox family
 Mike Aitchison
 Fresh Radio
 Cougar Cubs
 The Cox family

COACH: BARRY EATON

Sponsored by the Cox family

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWW-

LAST SIX AWAY: LLLWLW

TRIES: Jon Presley 23, Lee Mapals 11, Daley Williams 8, Gavin Duffy 7, Carl Hughes 7, Dan Potter 7.

GOALS: Danny Jones 85.

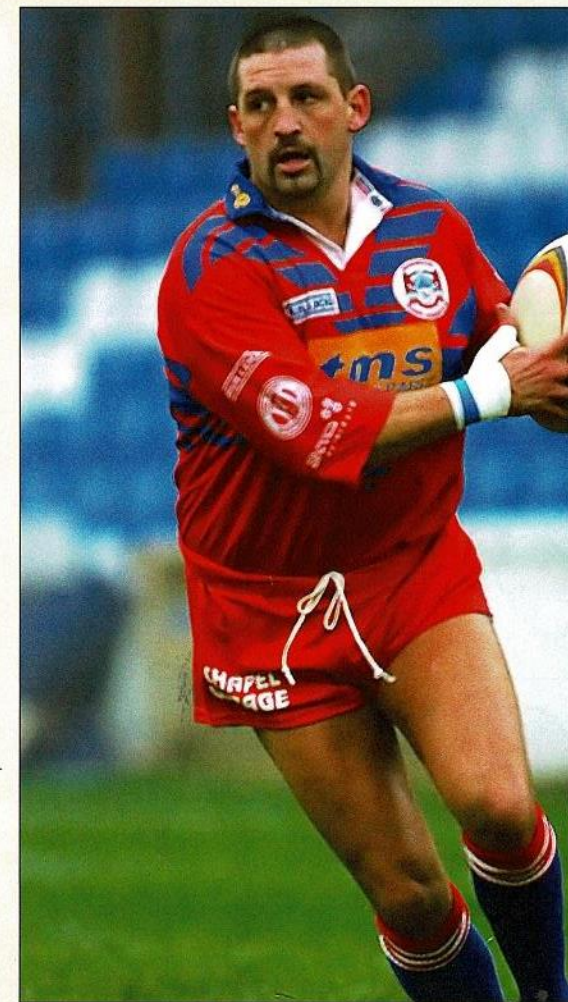
DGs: Danny Jones, Jon Presley.

MAN TO WATCH: Jon Presley

CLUBCALL

Workington v Keighley

Good to win, but future starts right now



Gary Charlton back in his playing days - circa 2001!

Well it was nice, at long last, to record a victory last weekend in London.

A well done to all the lads who worked so hard in the last two weeks to ensure we came away from the capital with a victory against a very determined Skolars side.

Congratulations also to Gary and Martin (in alphabetical order!) in recording their first win, and in their first game, as coaches.

As we approach the last four games of the season we still have plenty to do and to play for.

All our squad have the opportunity to impress the new coaches.

It would also be great to reward our loyal home fans with a victory before the end of the season, they certainly deserve it.

We also have to turn our thoughts to backing Gary and Martin to ensure we build a squad capable of challenging next season.

Our youth development structures are steadily being constructed and driven by Malcolm Allison and an enthusiastic group of coaches, including new recruit Jonty Gorley, who will head up our expanded U15s scholarship programme.

With a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the creation of stadium and sporting facilities, following a

major u-turn by the local authority, we will need to consider where we move to next to ensure we create the facilities required for the future of the sport in general and the club in particular.

And of course we have to create the business models off the field to enable us to build the finances to achieve all of this.

So, it really doesn't seem that we are coming to the end of a season, more the start of something new!

It was a massive eye-opener to see the facilities at Leigh last week as we broke the journey to London for a training session.

I must pass on a big thank you to everyone at Leigh East for their help and co-operation.

Surrounding the new stadium was a marvellous clubhouse which is in constant use, all weather 3G pitches capable of staging league games, floodlit all weather pitches and brand new turf floodlit pitches which are almost ready for use.

There was a vibrancy about the whole set up which left us all envious, especially when you saw the numbers of youngsters using them.

It really is an absolute disgrace that the citizens of Allerdale have to work with the facilities we have.

Today's fixture against Keighley will be a tough proposition. As I predicted at the start of the season they are riding high, and will be expecting to continue that progress this afternoon.

After coming out of last week's game relatively injury free we hope to continue our own progress and I know our fans can look forward to a good game and importantly a committed performance.

Dave Bowden
Chairman



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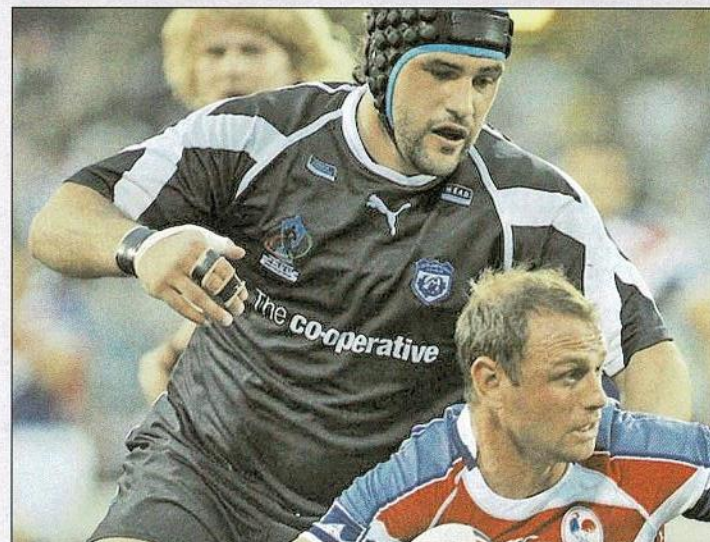
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KNOW YOUR STUFF?

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP QUIZ

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF?
HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE TEAMS PLAYING TODAY.
ANSWERS BELOW...



1 Doncaster centre Michael Coady was recently signed by, and loaned back from, which engage Super League club?

2 Which full back was named the official co-operative Championship One Player of the Month for July?

3 Leigh centre Mick Nanyin briefly signed for which Super League club before returning to the Championship?

4 Which Championship coach did Mick Potter succeed as Catalans Dragons coach?

5 Who did Blackpool Panthers beat in the final of the inaugural Northern Rail 9s tournament in July?

6 Who is assistant coach to Karl Harrison at Batley Bulldogs?

Mick Nanyin in action for Scotland – but which SL club was he at?

7 Which former Gateshead coach has served on the backroom staff at Sheffield Eagles and Salford?

9 Which Gateshead Thunder player featured in the 2008 NRL Grand Final?

8 In what year did Featherstone boss Daryl Powell reach the Challenge Cup final as coach of Leeds Rhinos?

10 In what year did the Widnes Vikings last compete in Super League?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1 From which NRL club have Wakefield Wildcats signed forward Shane Tronc for next season?

League?

clubs did retired Australian scrum half Dennis Moran play?

6 By what score did Australia beat England to win the 1995 World Cup final?

2 For which three teams did former full back Steve Prescott play Super

4 For which four British

5 Which two players have Bradford Bulls signed from Manly Sea Eagles for 2009?

7 Rangī Chase signed for Castleford Tigers from which NRL club?

3 Who won the 1971 Lance Todd Trophy in Leigh's 24-7 Challenge Cup final win over Leeds?

ANAGRAMS

Rearrange the following phrases to form the names of three Championship / Championship One players

1 WHY CAN ME HUG (Hunslet)

2 GRILL THEM CRETINS (Sheffield)

3 JAM CORN SACK (Whitehaven)

CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Leeds Rhinos, 2. Johnny Leather, 3. Hartequins RL, 4. Steve Deakin, 5. Sheffield Eagles, 6. Joe Vikings and Leigh Centurions, 5. Glenn Hall and Health Wakefield, 3. Alex Murphy, 4. London Broncos, Wigan, Widnes Lestrage, 6. 16-8, 7. St George-Illawara, ANAGRAMS: 1. Wayne McHugh, 2. Mitchell Stringer, 3. Marc Jackson, GENERAL: 1. N. Queensland Cowboys, 2. St Helens, Hull FC, Berry, 7. Dean Thomas, 8. 2003, 9. Russ Atkera, 10. 2005.

