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GAMEON

February 7, 2010
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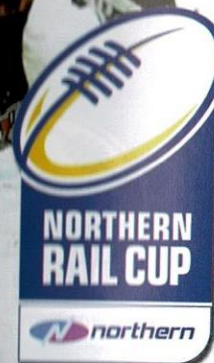
**Thorman: knight
in shining armour**

**Mack is back
in Cumbria**

**Shining Stars: 10
to watch out for**

**Robbie Paul on
life as 'part-timer'**

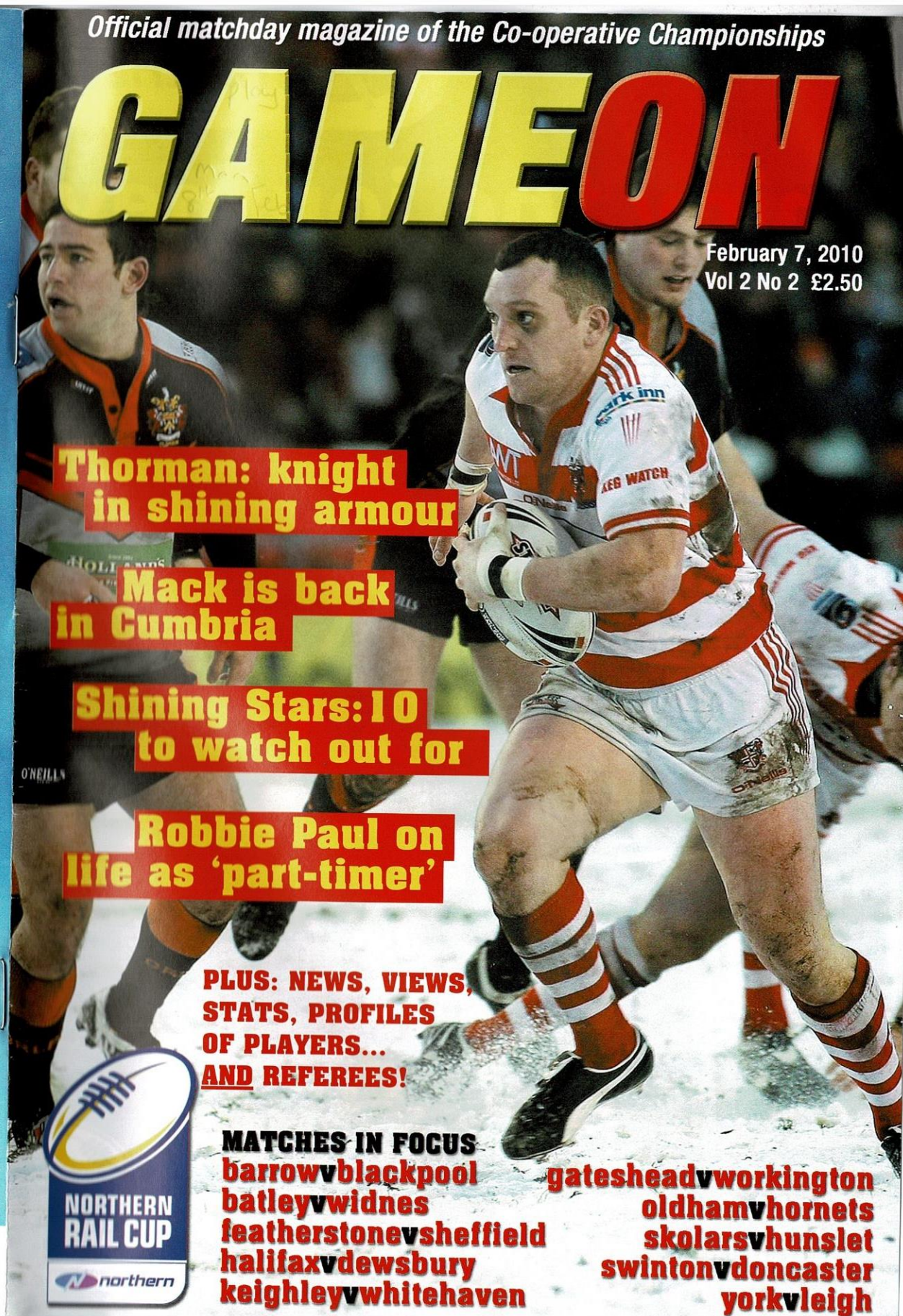
**PLUS: NEWS, VIEWS,
STATS, PROFILES
OF PLAYERS...
AND REFEREES!**



MATCHES IN FOCUS

**barrowvblackpool
batleyvwidnes
featherstonevsheffield
halifaxvdewsbury
keighleyvwhitehaven**

**gatesheadvworkington
oldhamvhornets
skolarsvhunslet
swintonvdoncaster
yorkvleigh**



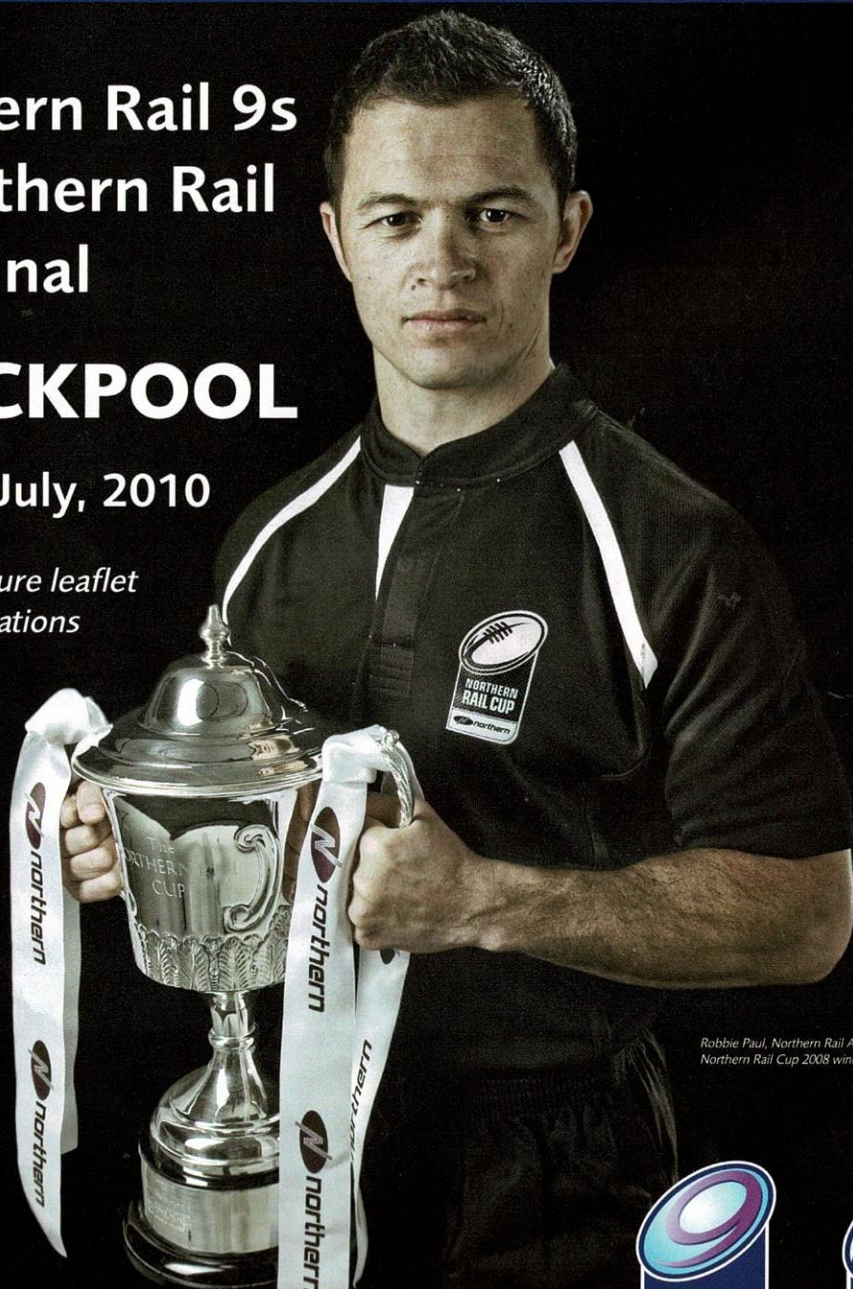
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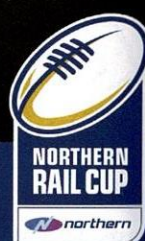
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This weather's snow joke...

Go on, admit it, how many of you managed not to mutter the famous phrase 'Summer rugby!' without shaking your heads last week? The days when everyone could stand on the terraces in shorts and T-shirts cheering their favourite team and berating the ref seemed light years away as the big freeze drove a wrecking ball through the opening round of the 2010 Northern Rail Cup.

Only three ties survived last weekend's cold snap with group stage games going ahead at Blackpool, Dewsbury and Leigh and the other seven scheduled matches being postponed.

Following on from a heavily disrupted pre-season I'm sure that the players and supporters of the 14 clubs who were forced to cool their heels again last weekend will now be desperate to get their respective campaigns underway.

One club who did manage to kick off their season were the free scoring Dewsbury Rams who started exactly where they left off last year with a 50-4 victory over London Skolars at the Tetley's Stadium.

Whilst Warren Jowitt's number one priority for 2010 clearly has to be to consolidate their position in The Co-operative Championship they will also be determined to put together a good run in the cup.

Despite the lopsided scoreline the Skolars, under new coach James Massara, showed great commitment in the second half and can take a number of positives out of their performance as they prepare for the visit of Hunslet Hawks.

The Northern Rail Cup also made an appearance at the Tetley's Stadium following a marathon journey which involved representatives from Northern setting off from York at 8.00am heading for Workington with the trophy.

Upon reaching Workington and learning that their clash with Swinton had been postponed along with the Whitehaven fixture an about-turn was executed and the trophy eventually made it to West Yorkshire via Rochdale whose game was also cancelled.

Credit to the Dewsbury ground staff who made sure that their game went ahead without the aid of undersoil heating by utilising what was described by one observer as a 'flame thrower style' machine to soften up the frozen pitch and ensure the match got underway.

Good luck to all the ground staff this weekend and hopefully we'll see a full round of fixtures played across the country. Just don't expect to be there in your shorts and T-shirts just yet!



Busy day - the Cup!

NICK BOOTHROYD
EDITOR

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.

RETURN OF THE MACK



For one of the most highly rated young English – or should that be Scottish? – coaches in the game, 2010 sees the return of Steve McCormack to Cumbria, this time in the south-west of the county, at Barrow. After two super seasons for the Raiders, he knows that a lot is expected as they set about defending their crown. He spoke to TOM COATES of Game On

The last two seasons will live long in the memory of Barrow supporters. Consecutive titles in two divisions in 2008 and 2009 have seen the Raiders evolve from lower-league also-rans to genuine contenders for a Super League place.

The driving force behind the transformation at Craven Park has been chairman Des Johnston, whose significant investment over the past 18 months has allowed the club to attract a fantastic calibre of player.

The man charged with ensuring the Cumbrians' recent success continues into 2010 is Steve McCormack, who is back in the region following spells with Widnes and Gateshead. McCormack began his coaching career with Salford, an appointment which made him the youngest coach in Super League history.

"I really enjoyed my time with Salford, I spent seven years there. Andy Gregory gave me my first opportunity in 1995 and I'll always be thankful for that," said McCormack.

"I had some really good times at the club. We finished sixth in our first year in Super League and I'm really proud of that" he added.

"I was disappointed with the way my time there ended but I learnt some harsh lessons and, when I look back, it's probably the best thing that could have happened to me," McCormack said of his departure.

He then moved onto Whitehaven, transforming the team from a solid mid-table outfit into a side that regularly challenged for divisional honours. McCormack came desperately close to tasting Grand Final victory with 'Haven, finishing runner-up to Leigh and Castleford in 2004 and 2005.

During his time at the Recreation Ground, McCormack picked up a Coach of the Year award and enhanced his reputation as one of the game's top young managers.

"Looking back, I think Whitehaven perhaps over-achieved given the resources we had up there" said McCormack. "But the team spirit we had and the closeness of the players, coaching staff and the directors was fantastic."

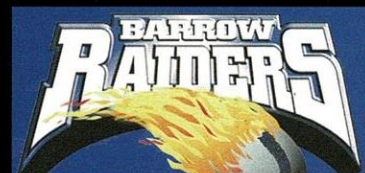
The frustration of losing two grand finals is something McCormack still reflects on to this day.

"Losing the final against Leigh was desperately disappointing," he admitted. "We won the league the season after, so the defeat against Castleford in the final that year was probably one of my low-points as a coach," he added.

"Having said that, I have nothing but fond memories of my time up at Whitehaven. Not just the club, but also the people up there who made me and my family feel so welcome."

Following their relegation from Super League, McCormack was appointed head coach at Widnes Vikings and again tasted defeat in the Grand Final, losing out this time to Hull KR at the end of the 2006 campaign.

Super League in Cumbria? We need it says new Barrow coach



But the Wigan-born coach finally got his first taste of silverware as a coach the season after, with an emphatic victory over former club Whitehaven in the Northern Rail Cup final.

"There aren't many trophies you can win as a rugby league coach, there's an awful lot of coaches and not many trophies!" he joked.

"So to be lucky enough to win the Northern Rail Cup is fantastic. Widnes wasn't the most stable of clubs at the time so I'm very proud of what we achieved, we finished 6th the season we went into administration, fielding a side made up predominantly of young kids."

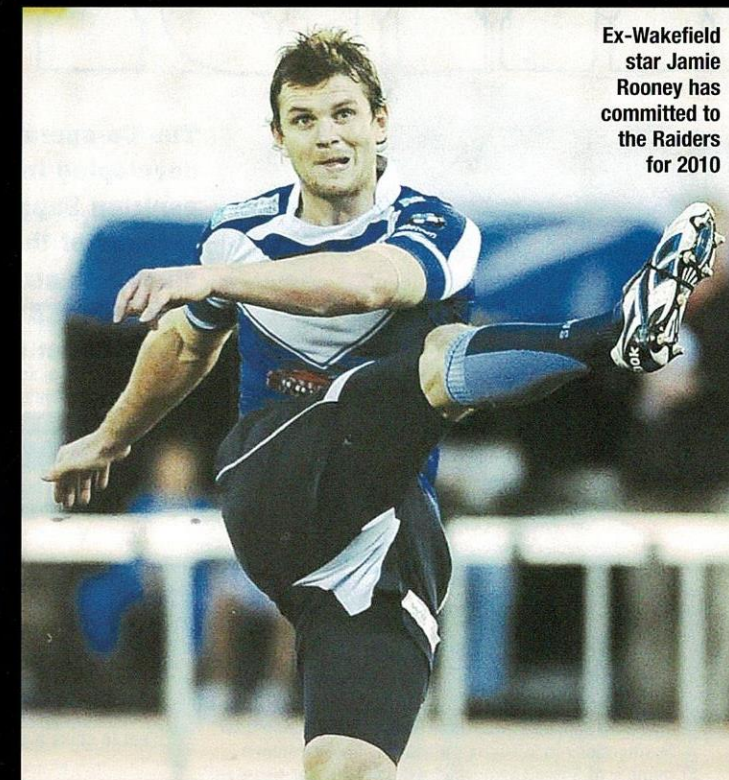
Since then, Steve's talents have attracted the attention of the Scottish Rugby League who appointed him as head coach in 2004. He was in charge of the side during the recent European Cup and travelled to Australia for the World Cup in 2008.

"That was the pinnacle for me, just to be given the chance to coach against world-class players."

"The media hype surrounding the tournament and the build-up to the games was something that coaches dream about really."

"I just feel very fortunate to have been involved," he added.

Steve still holds the position with Scotland, combining that role in 2009 with the top job at Gateshead.



Ex-Wakefield star Jamie Rooney has committed to the Raiders for 2010

"While I was at the club I got some great support from Rod Findlay and Stephen Garside."

"And Chris Hood was a tremendous assistant who gave me 100 per cent backing."

"We did a lot of work on the training regime and the response from the players was outstanding."

"The last seven or eight games when we started stringing wins together against the big sides was one of the most enjoyable times I've had as a coach."

McCormack is also eager to recognise the support afforded to him by "Thunder Army" up in the North-East.

"There's not many of them, but you won't find supporters like the ones at Gateshead anywhere else, they were unbelievable," said McCormack.

2010 sees a return to Cumbria with high-flying Barrow, after Gateshead hit the brick wall of financial impasse with their owners late last season. He's well aware of the pressure to deliver success on the pitch as the club prepares for a tilt at winning a Super League franchise for 2012.

"Super League does need a Cumbrian club. The amount of players and coaches the county produces is probably up there with any of the other rugby league heartlands."

Steve is quick to congratulate Dave Clark on the work he's done at Barrow over the last couple of seasons: "What he's achieved there over the last two seasons is unbelievable really."

"The challenge is just to improve that," he added.

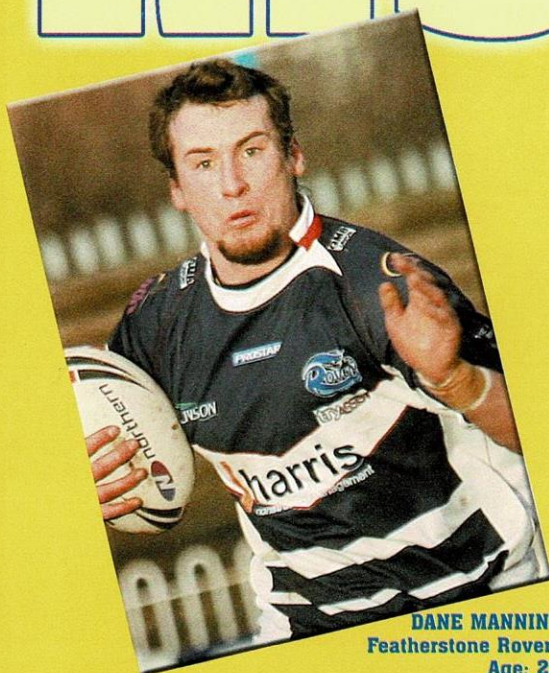
Steve Mack is confident that his Barrow side can build on the foundations laid by Johnston and assistant coach Clark over the last couple of seasons.

"We're confident, but not over-confident," he admitted.

"We're well aware that there are some fantastic players and teams in this division and there definitely won't be any lack of respect on our part," he said.

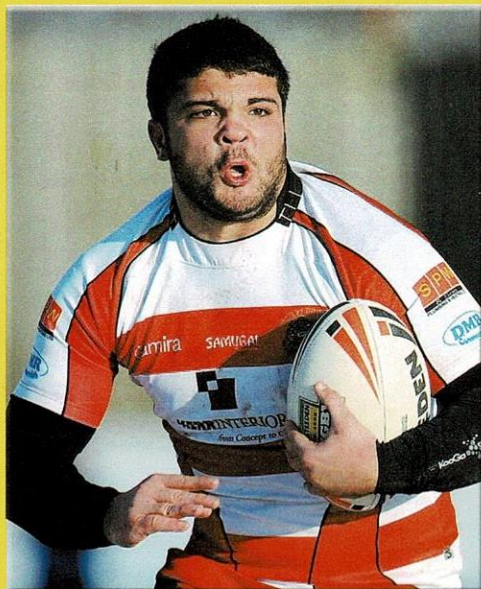
"We'll concentrate on ourselves though first and foremost. If we don't play well, we know we'll get beaten – but we're ready for what is a massive challenge to defend our title."

RISING



DANE MANNING
Featherstone Rovers
Age: 20

Towering second-rower Dane Manning will turn out for Featherstone in 2010 after attracting interest from a number of Super League clubs during the close-season. The former Shaw Cross amateur made one appearance off the bench for Leeds Rhinos in 2009 and will benefit immensely from a spell in the Championship.



JASON WALTON,
Batley Bulldogs
Age: 19

Walton has followed Bulldogs coach Karl Harrison from the Willows to Mount Pleasant in time for the 2010 campaign. The former Lancashire junior academy star usually operates in the second row and has made a big impression in the Bulldogs' pre-season matches.

Walton made 5 appearances off the bench for Salford in Super League XIV and will be desperate to make an impact in the Championship this season.

The Co-operative Championships are fast developing into the perfect place for aspiring Super League stars – or future legends of their own community-based clubs – to strut their stuff. Here Game On's **TOM COATES** takes a look at 10 of the best prospects set to light up 2010



MACGRAFF LEULUAI, Leigh Centurions
Age: 19

MacGriff is the latest member of the Leuluai family to carve out a career in Rugby League on British soil. He follows his father James, older brother Thomas, uncle Phil and cousin Kylie, all of whom have played at the highest level in this country. He is a product of the Newcastle Knights academy and, born in Wakefield, does not count on the overseas quota. He's found himself on the cusp of a first team place during 2009 but looks set to stake a genuine claim for a regular spot this time around.

SCOTT TURNER, Dewsbury Rams
Age: 21

Scott Turner joins the Rams after spending the early part of his career with Castleford Tigers. Turner, who can slot in at centre or on the wing, is one of many Super League academy startlets to fall the wrong side of the new age restrictions introduced for 2010. But the Tigers' loss is the Rams gain and Turner will be looking to prove a point with a regular spell at first team level.

SHANE GRADY, Widnes Vikings
Age: 20

By the end of 2009, Shane Grady had already established himself as a regular first team squad member for the Vikings – a remarkable feat considering his age and the competition for places at the Halton Stadium.

The versatile Grady usually operates in the centres but turned out for in the second-row last season and began his career at full-back. Big things are expected of local lad Shane, a product of West Bank Bears, and he'll be looking to play a big part in the club's Super League ambitions.

STARS

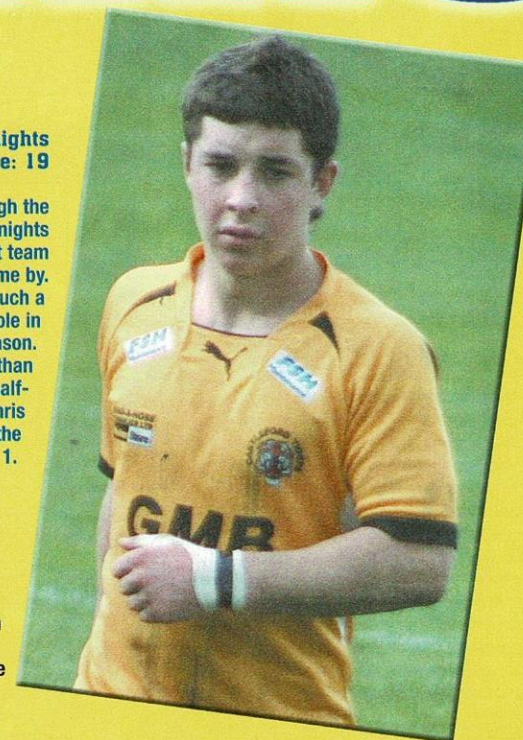


JONATHAN SCHOFIELD, York City Knights
Age: 19

Schofield, having come up through the Castleford Tigers system, arrived at the Knights towards the end of 2009 after finding first team opportunities at Hunslet hard to come by.

The young half-back is very much a 'work-in-progress' but could play a key role in York's title challenge this season.

Son of Great Britain legend Garry, Jonathan will be looking to forge a partnership at half-back alongside player/assistant coach Chris Thorman, a combination that could have the potential to run riot in Championship 1.



LAMONT BRYAN, London Skolars
Age: 21

The Skolars have pulled off a major coup in securing the services of powerful utility man Bryan. The Jamaican international spent the early stages of his career with South London Storm before progressing through the Harlequins academy and making five appearances during Super League XIV. He will be eager to show the Rugby League world that he is capable of playing at the highest level.

ALEX MCCLURG, Swinton Lions
Age: 20

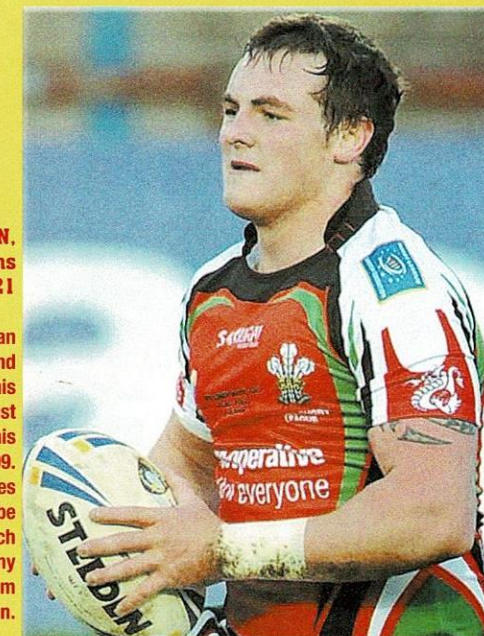
Hooker McClurg made a total of 14 appearances for the Lions in 2009 and will be looking to stake a claim for a regular spot in new coach Paul Smith's squad of 17 this time around. McClurg arrived at Sedgely Park from St. Helens academy and has the potential to go far in the game. A season under the tutelage of the likes of Graham Holroyd and Phil Joseph will do him the world of good.

COREY CHALLENGER,
Hunslet Hawks
Age: 19

Challenger was signed midway through 2009 after showcasing his try-scoring talents for the Hawks' summer conference feeder-side. The lightning-fast wingman plied his trade as an amateur with Milford Marlin's and West Leeds and, although yet to make his first debut, he'll be confident of causing a stir in 2010 if given the opportunity.

ASHLEY BATEMAN,
South Wales Scorpions
Age: 21

Despite his age, winger Bateman has experience at international and Super League level, representing his native Wales in the friendly against England last autumn and making his Crusaders debut at Castleford in 2009. Bateman has made three appearances for Wales in total and looks likely to be one of the players around which Scorpions' coach Anthony Seibold will look to build a team around this season.



KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR

Chris Thorman surprised a lot of people when he decided to step down from Super League with Hull FC to Championship 1 with the York City Knights. Now, with coaching duties as well, he's excited about the future - on and off the field

TWELVE months ago Chris Thorman was preparing for his first season with Hull FC and their opening Super League fixture at the KC stadium against Wigan.

Fast forward a year and Thorman, still only 29, is now part of the coaching team at York and preparing for tussles with the likes of Blackpool, Hunslet and Swinton in Co-operative Championship 1.

The former England international has dropped down two divisions and is now the driving force behind York's promotion bid in 2010. "I could have carried on playing at a higher level but York offered me an enticing package and an opportunity to coach, which is something I have a passion for," said Thorman. "Rugby League is all I've known really and it's a path I want to continue down."

by TOM COATES

"It's a decision I'd have had to have made sooner or later anyway so I was pleased to have been given this chance by the club."

Career highlights for Thorman include four prolific seasons with Huddersfield Giants and, prior to his spell at the Galpharm, a season in the NRL with Parramatta Eels. It's an experience Thorman says he will never forget.

"As a player over there, if you don't succeed then you only have yourself to blame," he said.

"Competition for places is extremely fierce. One poor game in the NRL and you're out straight away, such is the strength in depth. I played with players

like Nathan Hindmarsh, Jason Cayless and Mick Vella - It was a fantastic experience and I'll treasure the memories for the rest of my life."

Thorman endured a tough season with Hull in 2009 but has no plans to hang up his boots yet. He's joined York as a player and assistant to James Ratcliffe but, with the head coach suspended for disciplinary reasons, Thorman has been placed in temporary charge of the first team while Ratcliffe serves a two-month ban from the sport.

"As a player, I hope I can help bring some consistency to the side. If we can be consistent in our performances then the results will look after themselves."

"It's me that's been given the responsibility in James's absence but I don't feel as though it's solely my job," said Thorman on Ratcliffe's enforced absence from the club.

"There are more people who need to step up to the plate and my job as one of the coaches doesn't really change much. Senior players understand the situation and we're going to treat it as a challenge and a good character-building exercise."

Despite the shake-up, Thorman is confident that his side can make a strong challenge for promotion from Championship 1.

"Going back to that word consistency, I believe that if we can maintain a high level of performance week-in, week-out, then we can finish high up in the table," he said of his side's prospects.

"I feel that we've got the blend right, we have people with Super League experience and some enthusiastic youngsters - all of whom have a point to prove."

"Pre-season has gone really well

and we were all really disappointed that last week's game was cancelled. We're all just chomping at the bit to get started at the moment."

Stand-out performers for the Knights in 2009 included Mark Applegarth, Richard Blakeway and Danny Ratcliffe, who have all remained with the club for this season. Alex Benson joins from Doncaster, highly-rated hooker Joe McLocklan arrives from Featherstone and a host of young players from York's thriving amateur scene are also looking to make the step-up in 2010.

"The young lads in particular have been very impressive in training," said Thorman.

"Nathan Freer and Paul Stamp have been fantastic during the pre-season and will figure for us this year. Carl Barrow has joined us from the amateur ranks and I really can't speak highly enough of the guy," he added.

Another player tipped by many for a big future in the game is Jonathan Schofield, son of Garry, and Thorman is hoping to give the young half-back the benefit of his experience at the top level.

"I've worked quite closely with Jonathan and we're hoping the competition for places will bring out the best in him," he said of Schofield.

"There's an awful lot of potential there and we feel that, with some work, he'll have a big future in the game."

During their National League Two title winning season of 2006, the Knights were attracting crowds of over 2,000 and hopes are high at the Huntington Stadium of bringing the feel-good factor back to the club.

"We need the club to be successful on the playing field first and foremost and everything else will look after itself hopefully."

"I'm no marketing guru but a winning team on the pitch will bring more people through the turnstiles and help us shift more replica shirts and merchandise."

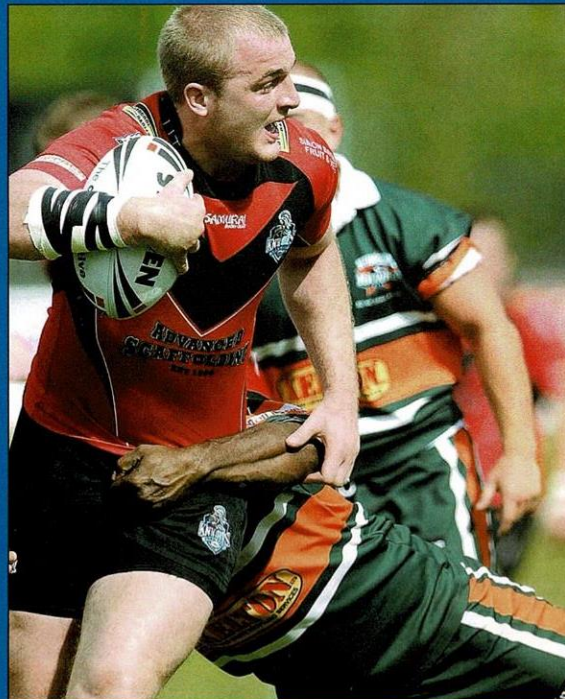
Thorman's decision to drop down to Championship 1 surprised many but it's one he hopes will pay dividends and secure a route into coaching for him once he does decide to retire.

"As a player, you want to be the best you can be and, as a coach, you're no different," admitted a man who is as ambitious as a coach as he was a player.

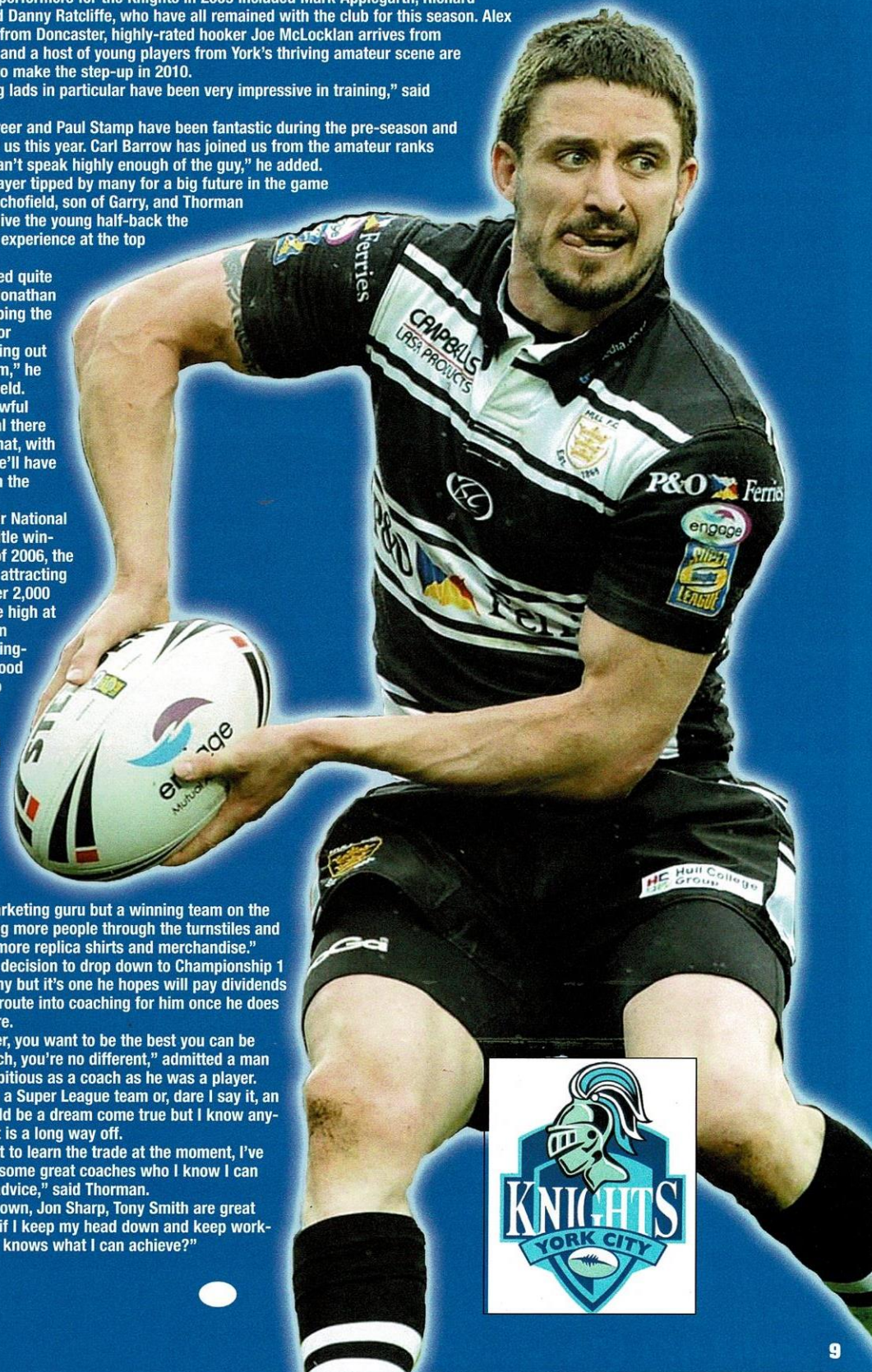
"Managing a Super League team or, dare I say it, an NRL side would be a dream come true but I know anything like that is a long way off."

"I just want to learn the trade at the moment, I've played under some great coaches who I know I can count on for advice," said Thorman.

"Nathan Brown, Jon Sharp, Tony Smith are great mentors and, if I keep my head down and keep working hard, who knows what I can achieve?"



Mark Applegarth will be a big player again in 2010 for the Knights



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all live this year.



Robbie

down
the
line

ROBBIE PAUL IS NORTHERN RAIL'S RUGBY LEAGUE AMBASSADOR

This is my second spell in the world of Rugby League outside the Super League in three years. Last time I was playing with Salford City Reds and we were a full-time professional team so in a way that isolated me from what was really happening in Championship Rugby League.

Now it's totally different. I'm at Leigh Centurions both training and working as a part-time professional and I can see things from a different perspective.

And do you know, I'm full of admiration for those players who have normal jobs during the day and then go to their clubs in the evening for some really intense training. It's tough and a big ask for most of the guys.

Also I've remembered what I thought last time I was playing at this level. There are so many good young players in the Championship clubs and I reckon that anything between 30 to 50 per cent of those guys could make it in Super League – if they were given a chance.

I mean it; there are loads of good quality players who if Super League clubs gave them an even break would become good professionals at that level.

I'd even go so far as to say that some of them could become

Super League stars. No kidding.

If that were to happen it would be so good for the game in this



country and many more players would have the incentive to reach for the stars as well as take their first steps in the professional game at their local clubs again.

Leigh were lucky last weekend because our Northern Rail Cup game against Oldham was played in spite of the bad weather that took so many other games out.

The funny thing was that I was watching the Crusaders v Leeds Rhinos match from Wrexham on television on Friday night that was played in a white out! I just thought: thank goodness I don't have to play in the snow!

And then it happened to me at the Leigh Sporting Village on Sunday! The snow that lay on the pitch spoiled the game but we ground out a win against a very solid Oldham team, although it was obvious that there were quite a few new faces on their side.

Mind you I don't suppose there's a club in the country that's properly prepared for this season, no matter at what level they play, because their pre-season training has been hit from having to cope with the snow and ice.

It's the same for everybody I know and I reckon every club in the game must be three weeks behind where they expected to be at this stage in the year.

Still that's part of the fun of being a professional sportsman in this country especially if your sport is played outside like Rugby League.

As part of my duties as Northern Rail Cup ambassador, I travelled to York for a photo shoot with Chris Thorman. He's taken over as player-coach with the City Knights and we had our pictures taken outside the famous Minster.

We're old mates from playing together at Huddersfield. Both our families are good friends so it was great to have a coffee with Chris and chat about the game this Sunday when we face one another in different circumstances – on the pitch at Huntington stadium!



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Thousands sign up for official SL Dream Team

Seven thousand Rugby League supporters have entered teams into the official Super League Dream Team competition, the only fully automated and free-to-enter fantasy team tournament based on the Opta statistics.

A huge number of mini-leagues have already been formed with supporters challenging each other to prove their Rugby League knowledge and coaching prowess over the course of the Engage Super League season, which kicks off in full this weekend.

As well as fans, Rugby League personalities including Sky TV commentator Eddie Hemmings and BBC correspondent George Riley have entered teams ahead of the big kick-off.

Phil Williams, the RFL's Marketing Manager, said: "We're delighted to see that so many Rugby League supporters have entered teams into the Super League Dream Team competition.

"It's a great opportunity for fans to prove how much they know about the sport, compete with their friends and colleagues to try and predict which players will be the top performers in 2010."

As the Super League Dream Team game runs entirely from official Opta stats this is the most realistic fantasy Rugby League competition out there and as the teams are administered online it's incredibly user friendly.

Within a budget of £1.65m entrants



The Northern Rail Cup was on show at the Tetleys Stadium last weekend, where the Rams managed to play their game with London Skolars. Skippers Adam Hayes and Paul Thorman are pictured along with some of the Rams cheerleaders

must pick a squad of 17 players who are awarded points for a range of criteria, including tries scored, goals kicked, try assists, metres gained and clean breaks.

Points are also deducted if a player makes an error or is shown a red or yellow card.

low card.

Details of how to enter the official Super League Dream Team for free and a full list of the competition's rules can be seen by visiting: www.sldreamteam.co.uk

Free ticket upgrades for Cup early birds

The RFL is offering a unique reward to fans who move quickly to secure their seat at Wembley in 2010 – a free upgrade for Carnegie Challenge Cup Final tickets.

From Monday January 11 to Friday March 26, complimentary upgrades are available on all ticket bands, with the exception of £76 tickets.

For example, anyone purchasing a £31 ticket will automatically be upgraded to a £41 ticket.

Phil Williams, the RFL's Marketing Manager, said: "This offer rewards the people who purchase their tickets early for one of the world's greatest sporting



occasions.

"For many fans the Carnegie Challenge Cup Final is an unmissable event and the not-to-be-repeated free upgrade is our way of saying thanks for your loyalty and support.

"Over 76,000 people attended last year's Final and demand for tickets is again expected to be huge so our advice

to supporters is to move quickly to take advantage of the free upgrade to make sure you secure your seat for the historic showpiece."

Current holders Warrington Wolves will be looking to retain a trophy which evaded them for 35 years prior to their 25-16 victory over Huddersfield Giants in the 2009 Carnegie Challenge Cup Final.

Ticket for the 2010 Carnegie Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday August 28 start from £21 and can be purchased from the RFL ticket office on 0844 856 1113 or by visiting: www.carnegiechallengecup.co.uk

Ratcliffe offers apology

YORK coach James Ratcliffe has made a wide-ranging apology following his RFL suspension for an incident during a students' game.

Ratcliffe was given the ban after being found to have racially abused a member of the public during a game between York College and Heckmondwike Grammar School in West Yorkshire last October.

Ratcliffe, who was teaching rugby league at York College at the time, has issued an apology following his suspension, and has also resigned from his RFL position as the North Yorkshire Service Area.

"I would just like to apologise to anyone who has taken offence as a result of my actions," he said. "I also apologise to all connected with York City Knights for any embarrassment caused. By resigning from my full time employment as North Yorkshire Service Area Co-ordinator I was hoping to avoid any further embarrassment to the club.

"Whilst I have no excuses for my actions in this matter I was hoping after four months and taking the above actions into account I would be able to put the

whole sorry incident behind me."

Ratcliffe was banned for six months but with four months suspended for a year. He will return to York on March 25.



HALIFAX have followed Wigan in scrapping the appointment of a single captain in favour of a leadership team. Hooker Sean Penkwyicz (pictured) has handed back the armband and it will be shared between five players.

Veterans David Wrench and David Larder, forward Bob Beswick and new signings Stanley Gene and Luke Branighan make up the five-man team which head coach Matt Calland allowed the squad to select themselves by secret ballot.

Calland said: "Because the players have picked it themselves, it's given them ownership of the decision, which can only be a good thing. It spreads the responsibility around the group and it means we are a lot more flexible with how we approach things."

WORK commitments look set to limit the impact newly-signed prop Joe McKenna will be able to make with Workington Town.

The 22-year-old has started a new job which will make it difficult for him to train with the squad for the next couple of months.

The former Barrow youngster joined Town for the 2010 season after impressing during a loan spell from the Raiders last year and Town coach Gary Charlton is hoping he will return later in the season.

"Joe started a new job and can't commit to us as much as we would like so he is taking a break," said Charlton.

"Hopefully he will come back to us once he settles in to the job."

Meanwhile the RFL have awarded a three-month testimonial to Workington's veteran three-quarter Neil 'Gus' Frazer, who is set to retire at the end of the season.

Frazer turns 34 next month and is currently playing his 13th season of professional RL, having made his debut with Whitehaven in January 1998.

DID YOU KNOW...?

POINT-SCORING RUN

DANNY JONES of Keighley Cougars has scored in 29 successive matches stretching back to the last two matches of 2008. He was the only player in any of the divisions to score in all of his club's matches throughout last season.

TRY-SCORING RUN

BRYN POWELL of Dewsbury Rams scored one try in each of his club's last six matches last season.

SHAD ROYSTON of Halifax scored tries in their last five matches of last season as follows: 2-2-2-1-1.

JAMIE MARSHALL of Workington Town has scored one try in each of his club's last five matches.

WINNING RUN

DEWSBURY RAMS have won 10 successive matches. Their last defeat was 20-18 at Barrow Raiders in the Northern Rail Cup quarter finals on 6 June.

KEIGHLEY COUGARS have won seven successive matches. Their last defeat was 14-54 at home to Dewsbury Rams on July 30, 2009.

LOSING RUN

DONCASTER lost their last 17 matches of last season. Their last win was 23-22 at Sheffield Eagles on 9 April 2009.

LONDON SKOLARS have lost their last 12 matches. Their last win was 24-18 at Workington Town on 17 May 2009.

February Holiday Club

With Knights STAR... Chris Thorman!

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Tuesday 16th £12 each day

Wednesday 17th

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£30 for all 3 days

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Wednesday	Wednesday
Thursday	Thursday

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www.yorkcityknights.co.uk

Barrow Raiders v Blackpool Panthers



Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 2pm. FURNESS HEATING COMPONENTS STADIUM

SPONSOR

PLAYER	No.
Gary Broadbent	1
Andy Ballard	2
	3
Liam Harrison	4
James Nixon	5
Jamie Rooney	6
James Coyle	7
Andy Bracek	8
Andy Henderson	9
Chris Young	10
Michael Knowles	11
Ned Catic	12
Zeb Luisi	13
Martin Ostler	14
Rob Roberts	15
Brett McDermott	16
Paul Noone	17
Liam Campbell	18
Danny Mossop	19
Danny Halliwell	20
Chris Larkin	21
Ruairi McGoff	22
Jamie Butler	23
Richard Fletcher	24

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

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: STEVE McCORMACK

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLLWW

LAST SIX HOME: WWWLW

TRIES: Nixon 31, Ballard 21, Ellis 18, Coyle 17, Harrison 14

GOALS: Ballard 103, Rooney 44

DROP GOALS: Rooney 3, Holt 2

MAN TO WATCH: Jamie Rooney

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G. Dolan

Touch: T. Crashley, G. Wallace

Reserve Referee: R. Dolan

THE INSIDE TRACK

"McCormack's Raiders to set a benchmark for the season ahead. Barrow by 20"

COACH: MARTIN CROMPTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WDWLL-L

LAST SIX AWAY: LLWLWW

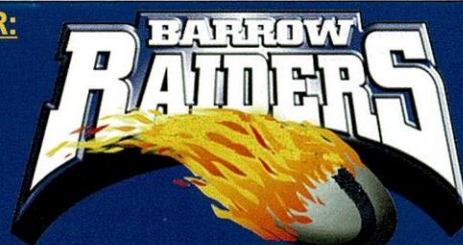
TRIES: Leather 15, Munroe 11, Woodcock 10

GOALS: Forber 46, Leather 45

DGs: McCully 1, Leather 1

MAN TO WATCH: Tom Hemingway

MATCH SPONSOR:
Snap On Tools



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- 2: TRELLEBORG ENGINEERING SYSTEMS
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- 4: ME SAUNDERS
- 5: JOHNSTON RECRUITMENT
- 6: TONY BAYLIFF
- 7: CAREFREE TRAVEL

CLUBCALL

Barrow v Blackpool

Welcome back Des ... let's have another great year!

Hello and a big welcome to one and all. How frustrating has this start to the season been? This weather we are having at the moment is not what summer rugby is all about.

Well then - wow what a season the players served up for us last year. To be involved in days like the Northern Rail Cup Final and the Grand Final is addictive.

The jubilation and feelgood factor makes all the silent hours work well worthwhile. I can still taste the Grand Final day as if it were yesterday.

As you will notice we have not rested during the close season and have made some impressive signings to complement an ever improving existing squad.

We hope you all enjoy your viewing and we also hope to introduce more fans to the greatest game in the land by producing the fast flowing moves that only Rugby League can offer.

Today is a welcome back for our Chairman Mr Des Johnston. After his operation I left it two weeks before I went



Jubilation after the Grand Final win and the feelgood factor won't go away for Barrow

to see him and to be honest I was not looking forward to it. I had this vision of a once strong man sitting in his chair fighting the road to recovery and being helpless.

How wrong was I? He was sat upright in his chair bold as brass and looked a million dollars. He was back to his wisecracking best and was very good company. I'm sure

you will all join me in welcoming him back today to guide us through the season from the front.

Today's game should be a corker. The Blackpool team is a very much improved side and ran Keighley close last weekend in a game they were allegedly unlucky to lose.

We usually are involved in a good tussle with Blackpool

and it will provide our squad with a very stern test. But beware Blackpool - we aim to go one better in this competition after being outclassed in the final last season.

Hope you all enjoy - see you in the bar!

Jon Livesey
Vice Chairman

Challenge to keep improving



Steve McCormack - great opportunity

WELCOME to Barrow for our Northern Rail Cup game against Blackpool.

Having had our previous game against Doncaster cancelled we are all really looking forward to our first competitive match at Craven Park. A welcome also to everyone from Blackpool.

Last week I took the opportunity to watch the Blackpool v Keighley game at Fylde RU. This only confirmed to me how much of a challenge this Northern Rail competition will be.

Both teams fought out a tense and exciting game and today's opponents have recruited really well over the close season.

Martin Crompton has built a good squad and I'm sure they will go well this year.

From my point of view I am delighted to

have been given the opportunity to coach at Barrow.

This club has come a long way in a short space of time and the challenge for everybody concerned is to improve on last season.

The one thing you can guarantee about Barrow is that the directors, coaching staff, players and supporters will create a tremendous atmosphere and work ethic.

This is the starting point for every successful team and I'm sure this year's competition will prove to be the best yet.

I have only been at the club for a short time but the enthusiasm shown by everyone involved is great to see and I'm sure we are in for an exciting season.

Enjoy the game
Steve Mack

Batley Bulldogs v Widnes Vikings



Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 2pm. MOUNT PLEASANT

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Hopkins Family.....	Jan Preece	21
Leyland Paints.....	Lee Greenwood	2
Batley Rock'n Roll.....	Mark Barlow	3
Stephen & Mandy Fletcher.....	Danny Maun	4
	Johnny Campbell	5
Brian Hooley.....	Paul Handforth	6
Batley Nash.....	Gareth Moore	7
	Byron Smith	8
Benson Family.....	Kris Lythe	9
Mick Lockton.....	Sean Hesketh	10
Eddie Toronczak & Family.....	Tommy Gallagher	11
	Mark Toohey	12
Amy Fletcher.....	Ash Lindsay	13
	John Gallagher	14
	Anthony Henderson	15
	John Simpson	16
Johnstone Paints.....	Craig Potter	17
Tracey Grundell & Katie Penn.....	Jack Watson	18
Tracey & Brian Winner.....	Eddie Kilroy	19
	Dave Toothill	20
	James Martin	21
	Josh Griffin	22
	Chris Buttery	23
	Alex Brown	24
	Kyle Wood	25
		26
	Jason Walton	27

Peter's Foods.....Waterboy

COACH: KARL HARRISON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WDLWW
LAST SIX HOME: WWWLW
TRIES (2009): McGilvary 21, Preece, 11, Mennell 10, Maun 10
GOALS: Mennell 52
DROP GOALS: Handforth 1
MAN TO WATCH: Paul Handforth

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
21	James Ford	
2	Dean Gaskell	
3	Richard Varkulis	
4	Toa Kohe Love	
5	Paddy Flynn	
6	Anthony Thackeray	
7	James Webster	
8	Steve Pickersgill	
9	Mark Smith	
10	Jim Gannon	
11	Lee Doran	
12	Dave Allen	
13	Chris Gerrard	
14	Thomas Coyle	
15	Shane Grady	
16	Gareth Haggerty	
17	Ben Kavanagh	
18	Scott Yates	
19	Matt Gardner	
20	Chris Dean	
21	Matt Strong	
22	Dean Thompson	
23	Dave Houghton	
24	Danny Hulme	
25	Anthony Mullally	

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWL-
LAST SIX AWAY: LWWWL
TRIES (2009): Flynn 20, Thackeray 14, Varkulis 14, Dodd 12
GOALS: Tim Hartley 56
DGs: Smith 1, Hall 1
MAN TO WATCH: Mark Smith

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G. Hewer
Touch: B. Armstrong, D. Tindall
Reserve Referee: S. Daniel

THE INSIDE TRACK

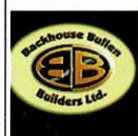
"Home advantage to give Bulldogs the edge.
Batley by 4"



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CLUBCALL

Batley v Widnes

'Slumdogs' are out to cause another upset

Everybody seemed to rave about the film "Slumdog Millionaire" which I did not see but I have got the DVD to watch this week and I am looking forward to it.

However I can honestly say that the start to this season has never been anticipated with as much enthusiasm at our club as long as I can remember and today we have our own premiere of Slumdogs v Millionaires.

We of course are the poor and lowly underdogs and Widnes the wealthy favourite but we seem to perform better as underdogs so that suits us. Widnes have strengthened from last year with some useful acquisitions with Super League experience and so have we, and so we await a tremendous game.

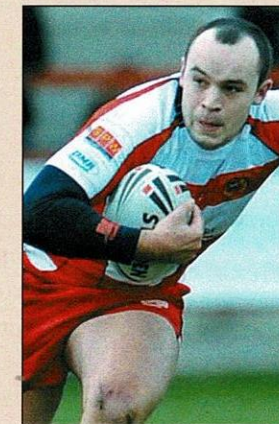
Widnes of course stabilised financially under Steve O'Connor who despite already having a quality stadium spent further money improving facilities there with

new seats, new gym and a players' area.

On a more modest budget in the close season we have improved our new gym, created a new players' eating area and installed new flooring in the away dressing area and launched the Kirkwood Hospice Community Stand.

So I think both clubs have done well with their respective budgets. As promised previously we expect the new players' eating room to be open today and eventually it will be named the 'Brian Cooney Suite' after the life-long supporter who sadly passed away recently and left a legacy to the club, so in a way that is his legacy and we again send our condolences to his wife and family.

In my view it is between Widnes and Halifax who are promoted to Super League or perhaps even both of them, as not much concrete seems to be happening on the stadium front at any Super League



James Martin in action for the Bulldogs

club. Plenty of talk of planning permission but little talk of money needed and no actual building work. Of course winning the Northern Rail Cup is a way of obtaining eligibility to apply for Super League but for us we are aiming to win the cup for a piece of silver-

ware in its own right so make no mistake both teams want to win today's game and let battle commence.

Finally in the close season lots of progress has been made at our club to reduce our debts thanks to a new share issue and other fund raising as well as using our own money we have paid over £60,000 to the Inland Revenue and £30,000 to clear other debts. We are not debt free yet but a big thank you to all concerned especially our shareholders and we will be having a shareholders meeting as promised in about a month's time to update people in more detail. We have had meetings with the Supporters Club and BISSA and hopefully we can all work together to make this a "Big" Season for us.

Enjoy the game.

Kevin Nicholas
Chairman

President's Special Appeal - 2010

Dear Supporter

The clubs new partnership with Kirkwood Hospice offers our supporters, and members of the local community, a unique opportunity to purchase a seat dedication in the Kirkwood Community Stand at Batley Bulldogs ground at the Mount.

The funds raised from these dedicated seats will be shared between the Bulldogs and Kirkwood Hospice.

The seats, which will not be reserved for home fixtures unless you are a season ticket holder, will cost £50 for the first year and then just £1 a week for subsequent years (paid by direct debit on a monthly agreement).

Your dedicated seat will display a plaque with wording of your choice. This would make a unique gift for someone on Mother's Day, Father's Day, a special birthday or anniver-

sary. Alternatively, your dedication could be in memory of someone you have loved and lost.

If we can dedicate all 1,000 seats in this stand you will have helped to raise in excess of £50,000 to be shared for the benefit of both the club and Kirkwood Hospice.

Please show your support for this community fundraising partnership by completing the attached application form and returning it to the club address shown on the slip below.

For more details contact:

Ron Earnshaw at the club on (01924) 470062 or Lesley O'Callaghan on 07901 566 711

Thanking you in anticipation of your much appreciated support

Ron Earnshaw
President
Batley Bulldogs RLFC

Name:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other.....

Address:.....

Tel:.....

Email:.....

Name of person plaque is to be dedicated to:.....

Cheques to be made payable to Batley Bulldogs
Kirkwood Hospice Account.

Post to: Batley Bulldogs RLFC, Mount Pleasant
Stadium, Heritage Way, Batley WF17 7NZ

WE WILL CONTACT YOU FOR THE WORDING
ON YOUR PLAQUE



Featherstone Rovers v Sheffield Eagles



Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm. BIGFELLAS STADIUM

SPONSOR

PLAYER	No.
Ian Hardman	1
Tommy Saxton	2
Sam Smeaton	3
Liam Welham	4
Jon Steel	5
Kyle Briggs	6
Andy Kain	7
Iain Morrison	8
Liam Finn	9
Stuart Dickens	10
Matty Dale	11
Jon Grayshon	12
Jamie Field	13
Danny Allan	14
Jessie Joe Nandye	15
Dane Manning	16
Tony Tonks	17
Tim Spears	18
Ross Divorty	19
Tommy Lynch	20
Michael Coady	21
Jack Lee	22
Jode Sheriffe	23
Larsen Marabe	24
Gareth Swift	25
Zak Hardaker	26
Aaron Dobek	27
Thomas Carr	28
Gareth Williamson	29

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

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: DARYL POWELL

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLWWL

LAST SIX HOME: WWLWLL

TRIES (2009): Kain 18, Hardman 17,
Steel 17, Haughey 16

GOALS: Dickens 87

DROP GOALS: -

MAN TO WATCH: Liam Finn

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R. Loughton

Touch: P. Ward, L. Fellows

Reserve Referee: L. Todd

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Aston's imports will need time to settle
back in. Fev by 10"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Johnny Woodcock	AMCO
2	Danny Mills	Edge Telecom
3	Menzie Yere	OSI Ltd
4	John Coleman	
5	Ashley Thackeray	Anne Collins
6	Brendon Lindsay	Pennine Business Forms
7	Aaron Groom	AMCO
8	Jack Howieson	Hanlon & Wright
9	Craig Cook	In Memory of Jack London
10	Mitch Stringer	OSI
11	Alex Szostak	Jack Smith
12	Ged Corcoran	Hanlon & Wright
13	Peter Green	Everlast Waterproofing
14	Kyle Kesik	
15	Sam Barlow	Redbrook Business Coaching
16	Trevor Exton	Airborne Eagles
17	Alex Rowe	
18	Michael Haley	
19	Joe Hirst	
20	Matty Brooks	Jayne Whaling
21	Dane McDonald	Bethany, Ian & Jackie Swain
22	Ryan Hepworth	
23	Tangi Ropati	Albion Detection Systems
24	Misi Tualapapa	Modis International
25	Jason Mossop	
26	Tim Bergin	
36	Eddie Battye	Jill Swire
37	Mark Penschaw-Smith	Insign Signage & Digital Imaging
38	Dan Hawksworth	Mr & Mrs Lee

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWWWWL

LAST SIX AWAY: WLWLLW

TRIES (2009): Yere 14, Gibson 13,
Ropati 12, Lindsay 12, Cook 12

GOALS: Johnny Woodcock 110

DGs: Cook 1

MAN TO WATCH: Aaron Groom

STAR MAN

Rovers fans will be expecting
lots from new recruit Liam
Finn, the Championship 1
player of the year



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Halifax RLFC v



Dewsbury Rams

Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Fax Supporters Trust.....	Miles Greenwood	21
Windsor Yarns.....	Lee Paterson	2
Vision Express.....	Jon Goddard	3
Chadwick Lawrence.....	Shad Royston	4
Chadwick Lawrence.....	James Haley	5
Chadwick Lawrence.....	Luke Branighan	6
Harvey's Department Store.....	Ben Black	7
Also Wines.....	Makali Aizue	8
Riley & Co Accountants.....	Sean Penkywicz	9
AA Moving Solutions.....	Neil Cherryholme	10
Windsor Yarns.....	Dave Larder	11
Howard Posner.....	Stanley Gene	12
Complete Building Materials.....	Bob Beswick	13
David/Terry Kendall.....	Mark Gleeson	14
	Mark Roberts	15
	Said Tamghart	16
	Frank Watene	17
	Dylan Nash	18
	Dom Maloney	19
	Paul White	20
	Anthony Bowman	21
	Dave Wrench	22
	Rob Worrincy	23
	Stephen Bannister	24

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

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLWLW
LAST SIX HOME: WWLLWW
TRIES (2009): Royston 28, Black 18, Worrincy 17, Penkywicz, Greenwood 16, Haley 15
GOALS: Lee Patterson 120
DROP GOALS: Bob Beswick 1
MAN TO WATCH: Stanley Gene

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M.Thomson
Touch: J.Callaghan, M.Mannifield
Reserve Referee: S.Johnson

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Fax will have too much star quality for young Rams. Halifax by 14"

COACH: WARREN JOWITT

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWW-W
LAST SIX AWAY: WLWWW
TRIES (2009): Bostock 22, Epati 21, Powell 16, Finn 15, Bretherton 14
GOALS: Walker 146
DGs: Finn 2
MAN TO WATCH: Dom Brambani



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CLUBCALL

Halifax RLFC v Dewsbury

Great to be playing as Rams provide test

Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to welcome the players and coaches of Dewsbury Rams, including my old Bradford teammate Warren Jowitt, to the Shay this afternoon.

Dewsbury had a tremendous season last year, winning the Championship One title without losing a game, a feat that takes some doing at any level and one that is a credit to the work put in by Warren and his players.

Having gone so long without tasting defeat, they will be full of confidence this afternoon and we will need to display the correct attitude if we want to come away with a win.

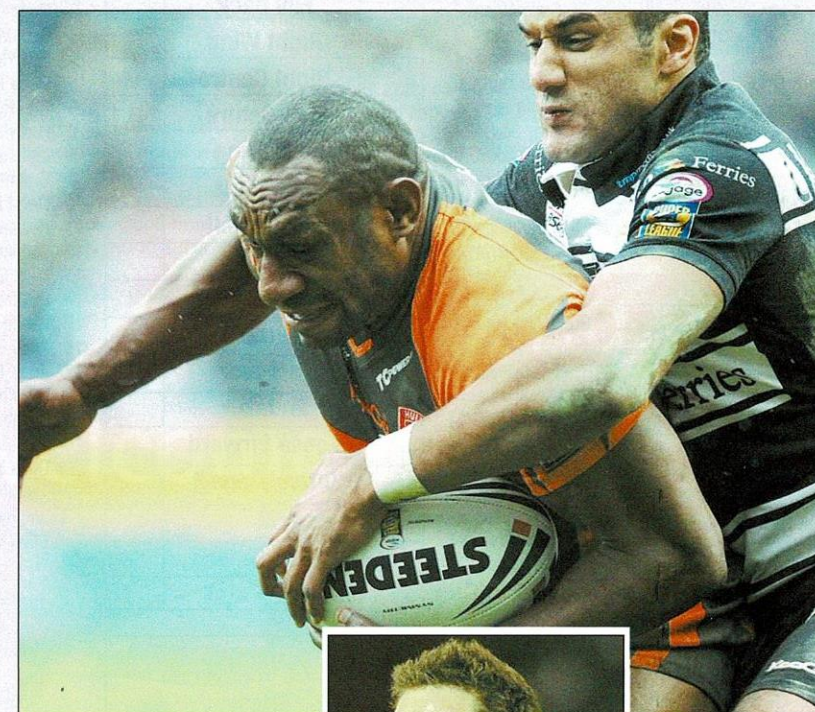
They will also have the advantage of having played a competitive game in the Northern Rail Cup, against London Skolars last weekend.

As you all know, the weather, which has hampered our progress on and off the field since before Christmas, put paid to last week's opening fixture at Sheffield, a game that will now be played on Wednesday, February 17.

To say that was frustrating would be an understatement, especially after seeing all our pre-season programme wiped out.

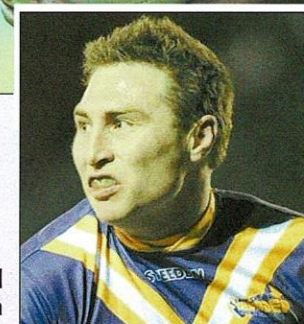
Providing the weather has relented, I know how much the players are looking forward to getting their season underway today.

We have brought in a lot of quality this winter, to add to what



was already a strong squad, and I know I am excited about seeing players like Stanley Gene and Luke Branighan in action today. I hope you are too. Enjoy the game,

Matt Calland
Head Coach



Into action for Halifax ... Stanley Gene (above) and Luke Branighan (inset left) will excite fans this season

Stand-ing 'apology' due yet again

WELCOME to the first home match of 2010, here at The Shay.

I'm sure that, like me, you are impatient for the talking and planning to be replaced by action on the field.

It is frustrating that we start with the 'annual' apology for the state of the ground. We were assured that the East Stand would be operational throughout this season. And, until shortly before Christmas, that still

appeared possible. In the event internal works continue, and until they are finished there is no safety certificate, and no-one can use, what I believe to be, the best viewing platform in Rugby League.

We remain hopeful that the Co-operative Championship match against Sheffield on 28 February will take place with, at least, the seating areas and changing rooms in use.

Meanwhile, on the field, we welcome Dewsbury Rams

fresh from an unbeaten League season in 2009, and one of only six teams able to play despite the frost last weekend. After the disruption our own players have experienced due to the weather, and only one practice match, there could not be a more difficult challenge.

You are going to witness a thoroughly competitive match. Matt Calland and his coaching team have a clear plan to win the Northern Rail Cup in the

heat of Blackpool in July.

But to achieve that we must start well in the February cold. With your support they can.

It is good to welcome Mark Sawyer and his fellow directors, staff and most of all the supporters of Dewsbury Rams back to The Shay.

Bring on the entertainment.

Michael Steele
Chairman



Keighley Cougars v Whitehaven RLFC



Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm. COUGAR PARK

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Frank Atkins.....	George Raynor	1
Mr & Mrs Bardgett.....	Craig Moss	2
Rob Weir Property Maintenance.....	Tom Burton	3
David Padans.....	Daley Williams	4
Mr & Mrs Fisher.....	Gavin Duffy	5
Joyce Barrett Mobile Hairdresser.....	Jonny Presley	6
Phoenix Trophies.....	Danny Jones	7
Frank Atkins.....	Andy Shickell	8
Mr & Mrs Procter.....	James Feather	9
Mr & Mrs Fisher.....	Scott Law	10
Mr & Mrs Rothera.....	Will Cartledge	11
Mr & Mrs Glover.....	Ollie Pursglove	12
Mr & Mrs Rothera.....	Carl Hughes	13
The Clarksons.....	Jamaine Wray	14
M Croft & T Pycroft.....	Greg Nicholson	15
Cougar Pride Centre.....	Brendon Rawlins	16
Owens Barbers.....	Ryan Benjafield	17
Go Colour.....	James Haythornthwaite	18
Phoenix Trophies.....	Sam Crowther	19
The Bayliss Family.....	Dan Belcher	20
Skipton Body Repair Centre.....	Richard Jones	21
Phil Lund Ltd.....	Ben Sagar	22
	Chris Baines	23
	Tom Hall	24
Collett International Transport.....	Jamie Shepherd	25

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

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: BARRY EATON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWWW-W
LAST SIX HOME: WWWLWW
TRIES (2009): Presley 25, Williams
12, Mapals 11
GOALS: Danny Jones 106
DROP GOALS: Jones 1, Presley 1
MAN TO WATCH: Jonny Presley

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: P.Brooke
Touch: K.Povah, W.Johnstone
Reserve Referee: P.Huck

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Baz's Cougars to set the benchmark for their survival ambitions. Keighley by 2"

No.	PLAYER
1	Craig Benson
2	Craig Calvert
3	Rob Jackson
4	Scott McAvoy
5	Derry Eilbeck
6	Carl Rudd
7	Leroy Joe
8	Marc Jackson
9	Graeme Mattinson
10	David Ford
11	Howard Hill
12	Spencer Miller
13	Mick Govin
14	Dylan Skee
15	Reece Fox
16	Andy Gorski
17	Andy Thornley
18	John Patrick
19	Dexter Miller
20	Soni Radovanovic
21	Chris Smith
22	Richard Farrer
23	Stephen Fox
24	Ryan MacDonald

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWLLL
LAST SIX AWAY: LWWLLL
TRIES (2009): McNally 25, Calvert 17,
Adebisi 10
GOALS: Gregg McNally 74
DGs: Rudd 2
MAN TO WATCH: Carl Rudd



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the Cougars...

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CLUBCALL

Keighley v Whitehaven

Club on the right course

GOOD afternoon and welcome to Cougar Park for today's Northern Rail Cup game against Whitehaven.

I would like to welcome Whitehaven's directors, players and fans today and I hope you enjoy your day with us and have a safe journey home.

The close season has been a tough one for us but I am positive that we are on the right course now to continue our plans for the future.

I would like to welcome to you all the new Board of

Directors they are Gary Fawcett, Graham Kemp, Neil Cullen and Andrew Phillips. They are all local men with business in either Keighley or Leeds and have a passion for the Cougars and rugby league.

We will have held the Q&A by now and I hope you will have had a good chance to meet with the new directors and hopefully are re-assured on the club's future.

Going to press we are still awaiting confirmation from the RFL on our points deduction

Helen Carter

Marketing Manager

and the acceptance of the club into the league but hopefully will have found this out before Sunday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the supporters and sponsors of the club for sticking with us during this time and staying true to the club and it's aspirations.

We have lots of new advertising boards around the ground and hopefully we will

have got them all up in time for this Sunday's game. The weather has hindered so much for all clubs and this has had an impact on us getting the ground up to scratch.

We have got lots in the pipeline for the coming season for matchdays so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events. I think that's it for now but once again many thanks for all your support and enjoy the day.

See you soon,

Helen

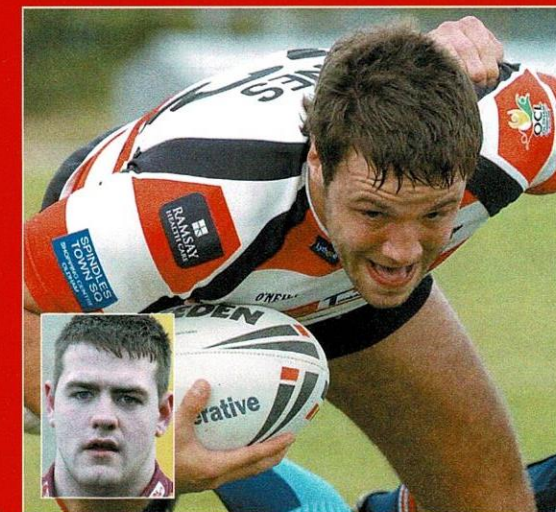
Coaching and playing given welcome boost

Welcome to everybody for our first competitive home game of 2010. We are all looking forward to the season ahead after our outstanding achievements of 2009.

On behalf of all the players and coaching staff I would like to thank all the people involved in making sure Rugby League is still here in the town and I am sure long term the club will continue to grow and prosper especially with the great support we have from our fans.

As with any professional club we do wish that we could get a bigger following each week and I would urge all of you fantastic fans reading these notes to firstly get right behind the club this year and secondly to try and encourage family and friends to come down and support the team.

On a personal level I learned a lot last year, certainly in terms of my own emotions on the side line, and though I will always remain vocal and passionate, the enforced touchline ban allowed me to view the game from above ground level which is something I wanted to do - but with only Glenn



New faces in the Cougars' pack: Second row Chris Baines and (inset) prop forward Sam Crowther

Barraclough assisting me on match days it was difficult for me to have that option.

Fortunately now we have recruited two very important coaches to the team I will be in a position to be able decide whether to be on the touchline or not!

On to the new players and staff and as I've mentioned we recruited two new coaches for

the 2010 season and I am delighted that Paul Royston agreed to join the club as strength and conditioning coach as his experience and knowledge in that area is vital as we aim to compete against quite a few virtually full-time teams this year.

Paul runs local fitness centres (Workouts) in Keighley and Shipley and has previous-

ly worked here and at Halifax so we welcome him into the fold.

Matt Bramald is another important member of the coaching staff and will be in charge of developing our reserve team players into hopefully first team regulars and will also be assisting on match days and with Glenn as my right hand man I believe we have a great coaching team.

Welcome to the new players, Chris Baines, Tom Burton, Richard Jones, Craig Moss, Sam Crowther, and Jamie Shepherd into the squad and I'm sure they will all soon become very familiar with the fans soon.

Finally welcome to Ged Stokes and his Whitehaven team for today's Northern Rail Cup game. Ged has been doing a fantastic job with Whitehaven over the last 18 months or so and today will be a great test for us against one of the top teams in the Championship.

Barry Eaton
Head Coach

Gateshead Thunder v Workington Town



MATCH SPONSOR: Hilton Newcastle Gateshead

Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm. GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Querido & Davidson Opticians.....	Kevin Neighbour	1
Lorne Campbell/MoreThan Mortgages.....	Robin Peers	2
Dean Taxis.....	Tom Wilson	3
The Schooner.....	Michael Brown	4
O'Briens (Team Valley).....	Joe Brown	5
Rob Gardener (Matthew Wells).....	Liam Duffy	6
The Schooner.....	Rod Attard	7
Brack Office Solutions.....	Jason Payne	8
The Wheatsheaf.....	Ryan Clarke	9
Rob Gardener (James Wells).....	Tabua Cakacaka Foe	10
Neil & Christine Hutchinson.....	Johnny Scott	11
CLA Risk Solutions.....	Rhys Clarke	12
Accent Magazine/North East Times.....	Matt Barron	13
	Will Bate	14
Sampson Hall Ltd.....	Dan O'Sullivan	15
Monitor Coatings.....	Mark Dack	16
John Bloomfield IFA.....	Chris Parker	17
Peters Pies.....	Stephen Welton	18
La Gabbia Restaurant.....	Crawford Matthews	19
	Phil Wall	20
	James Hall	21
	Rob Harvey	22
	Karl Brandt	23
IT Guide.....	Mark Walker	24
Back Group.....	Gareth Barron	25
St Wilfrid's School.....	David Cash	26
Go Beyond Training/Peterlee Pumas.....	Luke Watson	27
NHS.....	Jason Elliott	28
	Jimmy Atkinson	29
Jordan Engineering.....	Richie Humphries	30
	Matt Garside	31
	Ade Aderiye	32

MAN OF THE MATCH SPONSOR

Newcastle Gateshead Initiative

MATCH BALL SPONSOR

Gateshead College

COACH: CHRIS HOOD

LAST SIX RESULTS: LDWWWW

LAST SIX HOME: LLWWDW

TRIES (2009): Sanderson 22,

Branighan 19, McAlpine 17

GOALS: Knowles 102

DROP GOALS: Thorman 1, Clarke 1

MAN TO WATCH: Kevin Neighbour

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

COACHES: GARY CHARLTON
& MARTIN OGLANBY

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: T.Roby

Touch: M.Beadle, C.Hancock

Reserve Referee: C.Dean

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Very little to choose between these two
new-look sides. Thunder by 2"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLLLL

LAST SIX AWAY: LLLWLL

TRIES (2009): Dawes 9, Marshall 6,

Beattie 5

GOALS: Frodsham 7

DGs: Roper 1

MAN TO WATCH: Liam Finch



CLUBCALL

Gateshead v Workington

Great potential in North East

WELCOME to Workington players, coaches, staff, directors and fans.

Although we were occupied with our own dramas in the off season Workington as a town really suffered with the flooding.

It is great to see the town getting back on its feet and that sort of suffering places our drama into perspective.

We hope the club came through unscathed and we are

delighted to welcome them to Gateshead International Stadium in 2010.

2010 is a year of change. We have new directors and owners, three new community sports coaches, new sponsors and new season ticket holders. We have over 250 season ticket holders which is a 300 per cent increase on 2009.

Thunder has seen its fan base and partnership portfolio increase from the end of last

season despite our October drama and this shows the massive potential that rugby league and Gateshead Thunder has in the North East. We really are a club for the North East and we thank everyone for their support.

Importantly we are re-engaging with our community teams and offering each a presence at one match this season.

We rely on Rugby League

North East and these community clubs to help develop future Thunder players.

Their hard work is evidenced by a number of players stepping up to the Thunder squad in 2010 and several will make their home debuts today.

I hope they enjoy their day and that you do too. Thanks for your support.

Rod Findlay
Chairman

Our club is stronger and in good health

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to our first home game of the new 2010 season. After an unbelievable off-season, we are back and ready to go.

It has been the most incredible time and without a doubt, the most enjoyable since I first joined Thunder.

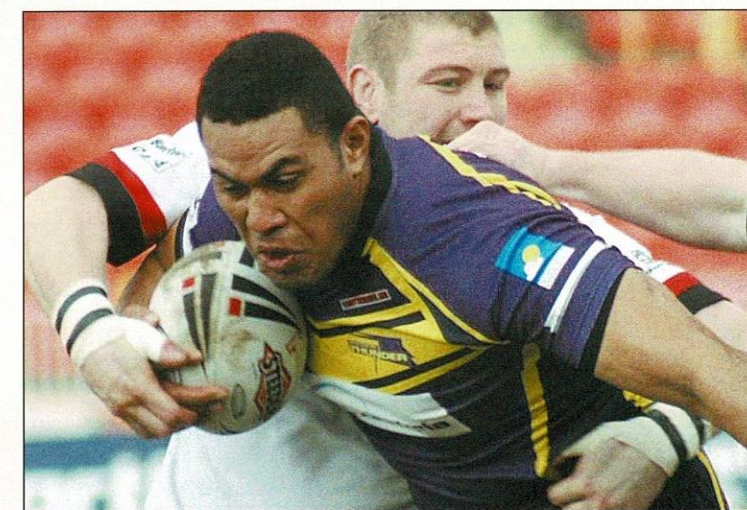
The adversity we have been through has completely changed our club for the better. We are a stronger, healthier club with a truly exciting future ahead of us.

As I have mentioned before, the club feels 'fresh' and is great place to be. All this, alongside the unbelievable dedication of our staff, players and fans and the support and friendship of our wonderful sponsors, puts us in a really strong position before the season has even started.

As I write this, we are preparing to play our re-arranged fixture with Widnes Vikings that was cancelled, and therefore I cannot comment on how the game went.

What I can say is that the Widnes game was all about us as a developing team preparing for the game against Workington Town, and the result was never something we were looking at and it is how we have progressed from the Castleford friendly that interests me and my players.

Workington are a wonderful club, steeped in history and always a tough proposition. Gary Charlton and Martin Oglanby have made some great signings before the season, and after watching



Prop Tabua Cakacaka has stayed for another season with the Thunder

their pre-season friendlies against Whitehaven and Barrow, they are just like us and a team that is coming together very well.

It is a real credit to both the coaches, players and club that they are in such a good position after the tough times that they have been through with the recent flooding in Cumbria. It is great news to see the whole area pulling together and, as after all adversity, they will be stronger for it.

We at Thunder wish the club and all

its fans all the best of luck on that front.

It is a big game for both clubs. Thunder because it is our home opener and Workington as it will be their first competitive fixture due to their first round game being cancelled too and it promises to be a cracker.

See you at the game, and make sure you say hello!

Chris Hood
Director of Rugby



Oldham RLFC v Hornets RL



played Monday 8th Feb

Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm.

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.	No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.	No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
Rob the Gardener	Paul O'Connor	1		Full back		1	Craig Johnson	Aztek Safety
	Lucas Onyango	2		Right Wing		2	Andy Saywell	
	Craig Little	3		Right Centre		3	Dean Gorton	Lion Springs
	Mick Fogerty	4		Left Centre		4	Adam Bowman	Waldorf Business Services
	John Gillam	5		Left Wing		5	Bolu Fagborun	SG Mortgage Solutions
Xpress recruitment	Neil Roden	6		Stand off		6	Dale Bloomfield	Brian & Irene Edwards
Peter & Maureen Woodhead	Matty Ashe	7		Scrum half		7	Steven Roper	Dave & Sue Butterworth
Clayton Green Brewers Fayre	Jason Boult	8		Prop		8	Gareth Hayes	Grant & Dougie McEndoo
	Martin Roden	9		Hooker		9	Phil Wood	
	Dave Ellison	10		Prop		10	Paul Raftery	
Paul Whalley & Kyle Cook	Saqib Murtza	11		2nd row		11	Mark Hobson	
John & Lynda McAndrew	Kashley Watkins	12		2nd row		12	Danny Smith	
	Joe Chandler	13		Loose forward		13	Craig Ashall	Heywood Magic Market
	Gary Sykes	14		Interchange 1		14	Liam Bostock	
	Craig Robinson	15		2		15	Dayne Donoghue	
	Wayne Kerr	16		3		16	Danny Samuels	
	Danny Whitmore	17		4		17	Michael Ostick	
	Chris Clarke	18				18	John Cookson	
	Ben Heaton	19				19	Ryan McPaul	
John Barrett	Mark Brocklehurst	20				20	Semisi Cocker	
Whittles Pub	Valu Bentley	21				21	Jay Duffy	
Pizza Hut, Oldham	Paul Reilly	22				22		
		23				23	Wayne Corcoran	
Levers Fish & Chip Restaurant	Marcus St Hilaire	24				24	Paul Crook	
	Scott Mansfield	25				25	Andy Hore	
						26	Andy Taylor	
						27	Craig Tunstead	
						28	Chris Hough	
						29	Ryan Powell	
						30	Dean Hatton	
						31	Adam Wayne	
						32	Wayne English	

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: TONY BENSON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWWWL-L
LAST SIX HOME: LWWLWW
TRIES (2009): Coyle 16, Onyango 14,
Greenwood 12
GOALS: Baines 33
DROP GOALS: Neil Roden 1
MAN TO WATCH: Neil Roden

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J. Leahy
Touch: J. Downham, C. Neilson
Reserve Referee: A. Sweet

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Roughyeds to build on encouraging
performance at Leigh. Oldham by 10"

COACH: JOHN STANKEVITCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLLLW
LAST SIX AWAY: LLLWLL
TRIES (2009): Ainscough 19, Gillam
10, Mayberry 9
GOALS: Liam McGovern 44
DGs: McGovern, Ainscough 1
MAN TO WATCH: Phil Wood



WRIGLEY
CLAYDON
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Supporting the Roughyeds!



CLUBCALL

Oldham v Hornets RL

It's great just to be here

Good afternoon and welcome. I would firstly like to thank Chris for all his efforts in firstly saving the club and then progressing faster than humanly possible to getting a squad together and dealing with everything else associated with pre-season preparations.

Unfortunately due to delays beyond his control the late start created difficulties with obtaining the preferred training facilities and when

we finally got on track the weather kicked in with a vengeance to further disrupt us.

In assembling the squad the emphasis was purposely focused on young talent with priority given to local lads. I am excited with the team and the potential within it which I feel has been evident in the trial games and the Northern Rail Fixtures to date.

With a young squad there is lots of work to do and I am

TONY BENSON COACH

lucky to be able to leverage the experience of players such as Paul Reilly, Marcus St Hilaire, Neil and Martin Roden all of whom have been great in passing on their knowledge.

Rochdale themselves will appreciate the difficulties as they have been in the same

boat in rebuilding a new club and squad in a very short space of time.

John Stankevich and Des Drummond have pulled together a strong competitive squad who are improving week by week.

This week will be no different as with all local derbies the passion and fire becomes more evident ... and that's just the supporters!

Enjoy the game,
TB

Score to settle in typical hard-fought derby game

Hello and welcome to everybody for this big local derby. No matter what the changes in staff or players the game never becomes anything less than fiercely fought out with local pride and bragging rights at stake.

Whilst attendances at these games may not be at the same levels as years gone by, they still stoke up the interest in those fans who still go and they have as much passion as any.

With Hornets having retained the Law Cup recently in a game which three times fell victim to the weather and as such saw both teams having to change their line-up, we are all keen to redress the balance in some way today by picking up three points in our attempt to qualify for the later stages of the Northern Rail Cup.

With a good opening performance we are obviously hoping that we will continue to see steady improvement in the team and one thing is for sure we have a group of lads who are keen to put the work in to become better players.

With that kind of attitude we are halfway there and I hope our fans will appreciate the effort and determination to succeed that has been shown so far.

Hornets with a new coach and a full pre-season to prepare this year will be full of enthusiasm as they always are and one



Action from Sunday's game in the snow at Leigh

thing is for sure nobody will be going away without getting value for money.

As always the club is very grateful for your support and please make plenty of noise as we get behind the

lads and hopefully cheer them on to victory. Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton
Chairman



London Skolars v Hunslet Hawks



Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm. NEW RIVER STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
	Joshua Welsh	1
	Dave Arnot	2
	Matt Thomas	3
Code XIII Sports Media.....	Jason Cook	4
Alan Greenwood.....	Austen Aggrey	5
	Jermaine Coleman	6
	Paul Thorman	7
Lanes Coaches.....	Liam Roach	8
	Gareth Honor	9
	Tony Williams	10
	Oliver Purslow	11
	Matthew Carter	12
	Stephen Ball	13
Code XIII Sports Media.....	Luke May	14
	Oliver Fountain	15
		16
One Personal Training.....	Chad Isles	17
	James Simon	18
	Liam Prescott	19
Woodlands Public House.....	David Williams	20
	Jamie O'Callaghan	21
Canavan Builders.....	Curtis Cunningham	22
	Olu Iwenofu	23
Stag Sports.....	Lamont Bryan	24
Optimal Life Fitness.....	Smokie Junor	25
		26
		27
Woodlands Public House.....	Ben Jones	28

COACH: JAMES MASSARA

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLL-L

LAST SIX HOME: LLLLLL

TRIES (2009): Thomas 11, Paxton, Iwenofu 6

GOALS: Paul Thorman 37

DROP GOALS:

MAN TO WATCH: Matt Thomas

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: W.Turley

Touch: J.Greenwood, T.Owen

Reserve Referee: T.Mather

THE INSIDE TRACK

"March's Hawks to pass improving Skolars test. Hunslet by 16"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Nathan Larvin.....	Mark Moore Ceramic Tilers
2	Michael Mark.....	Ron and Adie Jinks
3	Joe Howey	
4	David Clayton	
5	John Oakes.....	Rodney Gee
6	Danny Grimshaw	
7	Paul March.....	Delta Training & Consulting
8		
9	Richard Chapman	
10	Nicko Slain.....	Kenny Sykes & Big Al
11	Rob Kelly.....	Wet Dog & The Soggy Cat
12	Steve Dooler.....	Phil Ogg
13	David March.....	Delta Training & Consulting
14	Gareth Firm	
15	Adam Sullivan	
16	Neil Lowe	
17	Stuart Young	
18	Charlie Wabo.....	Eric Simon
19	Darren Robinson	
20	Joe Helme.....	Kath Ogg
21	Wayne McHugh	
22	Tom Sheldrake	
23	Jake Wilson	
24	Stephen Brook	
25	Danny Cook	
26	John Richardson	
27	Scott Childs	
28	Jason Hart	
29	Stuart Kain	
30	Richard Knight	
	Nathan West.....	TP Storey
	Louis Stead.....	Alcomet: JS Earthing Solutions

COACH: PAUL MARCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWWL

LAST SIX AWAY: LLWLWL

TRIES (2009): P. March 15, McHugh

14, Faal 10, Mark 10

GOALS: Darren Robinson 45

DGs: Robinson, Chapman, Weeden 1

MAN TO WATCH: David March



Get your name on this page!
Sponsor a player for £250 and help support the Skolars

Contact the Skolars' office on 0208 888 8488 for more details

CLUBCALL

Skolars v Hunslet

Raising club's profile vital

A WARM welcome to everyone today for our opening home game of 2010.

It was nearly our first game, as last week's game at Dewsbury came close to being a victim of the cold weather and their groundstaff did a great job to ensure we didn't have a wasted journey up the M1.

A disappointing journey back, as with any defeat, but there were some really encouraging signs that 2010 won't be a repeat of last season. James Massara as our new Head Coach has used his experience of the game in the

capital to sign some talented youngsters to add to our mix of youth and experience.

Off the field, I feel we are in better shape than this time twelve months ago. Like all clubs, it's hard bringing in revenue in tough economic conditions. An event like last month's Capital Challenge is vital for us, and we attracted record numbers for the pre-match hospitality.

Getting the sport a profile in the City of London is important as well, and together with the City Tag Rugby tournament that we ran for the first time last August, we are

starting to build a base towards that.

Helping bring in vital funding is new General Manager Howard Kramer, who joined us at the start of the year. Howard has a wealth of experience in sponsorship and sales within the sports industry, most recently with Watford FC and IMG and we welcome him aboard.

Working with him are Matt Bailey on the commercial side and club captain Paul Thorman, who is looking after community and development. The latter is an important area for us, both for funding

and for the junior game, with work going on in Enfield and Barnet, as well as in our home borough of Haringey.

Joe Mbu has also joined us as a Community Sports Coach, working alongside Graeme Spencer.

Joe's experience in moving through the Skolars junior ranks and into Super League should be an inspiration to the next generation of juniors.

Enjoy the game.

Terry Browne
Chairman

We will learn lessons from tough trip to Dewsbury

It's really exciting to be back at New River after a couple of years away and I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead. Whatever pre-season training any side does, it's always something else to actually get onto the field for the first competitive game of the season and try to put those training ground moves into action under pressure.

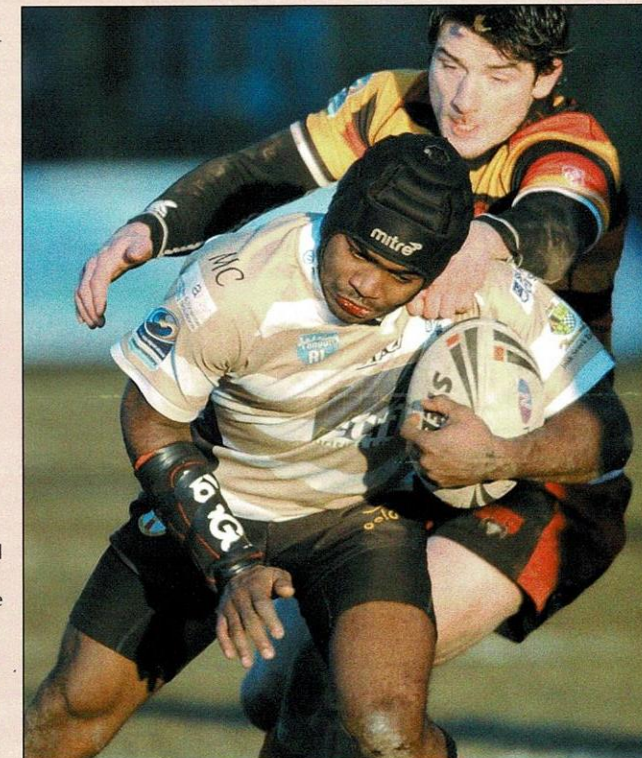
It was disappointing to come away from Dewsbury last week with a scoreline showing 50 points against us, but we've got to look at that in context. We're at the start of building for the season, Dewsbury won every game in Championship 1 last season and started where they left off.

We've got quite a few new players who are still learning about each other and that showed when we made a few mistakes in the first half, something Dewsbury were quick to capitalise on.

However, we showed in the second half that we could sort things out and demonstrated an ability to learn. I'm sure the understanding between players will develop quickly. It was also great to see Smokie Junor score his first try for the club at senior level.

Unfortunately we picked up another injury with Austen Aggrey looking like he may have broken his hand (although we'll all be hoping the early diagnosis will be proved wrong) to join fellow winger Corey Simms on the sidelines.

Hunslet have recruited well in the close season. Paul March's side are being tipped by many to be one of the main contenders for promotion from Championship 1. I'm sure they will provide a stern test for us today and we welcome all our visitors.

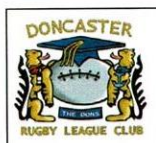


James Massara, Head Coach

Forward Lamont Bryan attempts a break in the game at Dewsbury Rams



Swinton Lions v Doncaster RLFC



Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm. SEDGLEY PARK

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Heatland M27	Richie Hawkyard	1
Brian Ellam Accountants	Darren Bamford	2
Premier Building Services	Sam Reay	3
Dave Roberts	Carl Sneyd	4
Mike Tyldesley	Dave Hull	5
Muscle & Fitness	Graham Holroyd	6
In Memory of Jim and Doris Gettins	Jan Watson	7
Burrow and Humphreys	Paul Southern	8
Sporting Image/Michael Bradshaw	Phil Joseph	9
O'Rourke Glass/Kevin O'Rourke	Danny Heaton	10
Lethbridge & Co	Tommy Grundy	11
Phil Walker (in Memory of Peter Walker)	Paul Smith	12
Geoff Hewitt USA	Arron Smith	13
Accrington Panthers RLFC	Gary Hulse	14
	Lee Wingfield	15
Joseph Ryan	Dana Wilson	16
Lethbridge & Co	Andy Isherwood	17
Premier Building Drainage Division	Bruce Johnson	18
Chris & Viv Tyldesley	Neil Rigby	19
Junior Lions	Chris Hull	20
Physio2	Chris Tyrer	21
John Spellman	Alex McClurg	22
Billy Ryan	Rob Foxen	23
Moorside Auto/John Hunt	Gavin Dodd	24
Peter Kidd	Barry Hamilton	25
KM Leasing	Dave Newton	26

COACH: PAUL SMITH

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLWLL
LAST SIX HOME: LWWLLW
TRIES (2009): Hull 14, Saywell 11,
Sneyd 10, Bamford 9
GOALS: Carl Sneyd 86
DROP GOALS: Holroyd 1
MAN TO WATCH: Ian Watson

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.Hicks
Touch: S.Barrie, J.Cross
Reserve Referee: N.Aspey

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Lions roar will be too much for plucky Dons.
Swinton by 26"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Tommy Griffiths	
2	Aaron Henry	
3	Lee Gomersall	Sue Wilford
4	Shaun Leaf	Dons Supporters Club
5	Ben Collins	
6	Simon Brown	Simon Davo
7	Craig Fawcett	
8	Scott Johnson	
9	Paul Brown	
10	David Bates	P. Bird, France
11	Liam Brown	
12	Ryan Steen	
13	Grant Edwards	
14	Jake Bassinder	
15	Danny Stanley	
16	Paul Shaw	
17	Jarryn Osborne	
18	Garry Ellery	
20	Jack Ely	
21	Scott Howlett	
22	Scott Wilson	
23	Craig Lawton	

COACH: TONY MILLER

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL
LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLLL
TRIES: Coady 5, Weeden 4, Divorty 4
GOALS: Josh Weeden 11, Andy
Speake 9
DGs: Jones 1, McKinley 1
MAN TO WATCH: Craig Lawton

We're with the Lions



**Brian Ellam & Co
Accountants**



CLUBCALL

Swinton v Doncaster

Quality squad targets good start in Cup

We welcome the supporters, players and directors, who have made the trip from Doncaster, along with our own supporters for this much anticipated first home game of the season!

The two pre-season friendly games against Salford City Reds and Featherstone Rovers, proved to be of great benefit to our coaching team, with virtually all our 26-man squad featuring in those games.

The Swinton Lions squad certainly has a quality look about it, there were many excellent performances in those two games. Which must have given the coaching team plenty to think about ahead of selecting a team for last week's away trip to Workington.

However an early morning phone call from Cumbria last Sunday gave us the unfortunate news that the game was off due to a frozen pitch. Much to the disappointment of all the directors, players and coaching staff, who were all sat on the team bus at Sedgley Park ready to depart on our journey north!

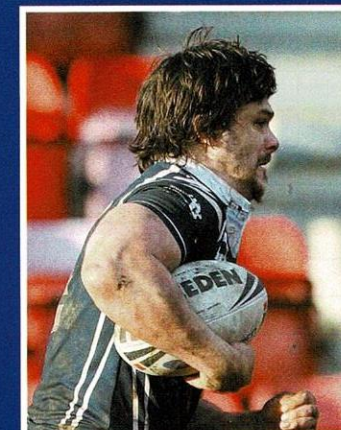
The game is being rescheduled for either Wednesday the 10th or the 17th of February.

Hopefully we can put in a good performance today against Doncaster, then Swinton Lions will be a little bit closer to achieving our ambition of progressing in the Northern Rail Cup!

We are very pleased to have our association with our new main shirt sponsor, Christies Hospital - their work with cancer patients is renowned throughout the country.

We are planning a number of joint functions with their charity section, of which both the Christie and our club, Swinton Lions will benefit! We hope that these events will be well supported by our own supporters as well as the greater Manchester community. You can help support both organisations now, by purchasing a replica playing shirt, which are already proving to be very popular! To place your order please contact the club Tel: 08712312111.

Email: swintonlions@hotmail.co.uk
We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our other shirt sponsors: Premier Building Services, Brian Ellam Accountants and Physio2.

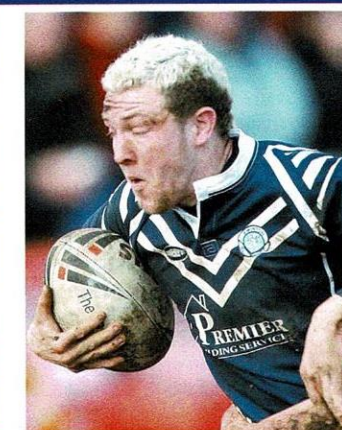


Danny Heaton (left) and Richie Hawkyard had extra time to get fit

HOPEFULLY today we can open our Northern Rail Cup campaign against Doncaster after the disappointment of last week's postponement.

The recent friendlies have provided us the chance to have a look at different combinations and personnel.

I was particularly pleased in how we finished both games, as improving our



players fitness levels is something we have worked hard upon.

The extra week off will hopefully give Danny Heaton and Richie Hawkyard the chance to recover from recent injuries and increase the competition for places.

Paul Smith
Head Coach

During the course of the 2010 season Swinton Lions are planning to hold a series of theme days at some of our home games at Sedgley Park.

The first of which will be a 'Casino' which will be held after the home match against Widnes Vikings on the 21st February between 6pm and 8pm.

This will be FREE entry for all sponsors and supporters who have attended our pre-match 'Lunch & Crunch'.

For supporters wishing to meet the players, and participate in the 'Casino', tickets will be available at a cost of £5. Ticket numbers will be limited to 50 and will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis. The 50 people + all the 'lunch & crunch' attendees, will each receive £10,000 worth of Casino chips!

Tickets are available today! Please see Colin Gettins and the turnstile staff to purchase your tickets. Tickets are also available through the club office (see above for contact details). Why not consider treating yourself to 'Lunch &

'Crunch' at £40 per-head, and just £35 per-head for teamcard members!

Some of the other events being planned are for a Magician, Wild West day, Race day, Family fun day, and Questions and Answers with a Rugby League legend!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our executive match sponsor Hatton's Travel, Champagne moment - Premier building, Man of the Match sponsor Caspro entertainment, as well as our regular 'Lunch & Crunch' diners.

Our pre-match 'Lunch & Crunch' event that we hold in the restaurant at every home match is vital in raising the profile of the club, and gives the opportunity for our business partners to do the same! Why not consider a days corporate hospitality for your business here at Sedgley Park?

Enjoy the game!

Andy Wilkinson
General Manager



York City Knights v Leigh Centurions



Sunday February 7, 2010. Kick off 3pm. HUNTINGTON STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
The Raylor Centre.....	Danny Ratcliffe	1
Smith Wilson.....	Wayne Reittie	2
Marica Watson.....	Mike Mitchell	3
Ken Walker & Co Accounting.....	Lee Waterman	4
	Tom Lineham	5
R U Sure Referee R U Sure.....	Chris Thorman	6
Brian Watson.....	Jonathan Schofield	7
Millers Famous Fish & Chips.....	Mark Applegarth	8
The Insurance Partnership.....	Joe McLocklan	9
	Alex Benson	10
ASL Specialist Garage Equipment.....	Jordan Ross	11
Michaela Harper & Daniel Peace.....	Chris Clough	12
Chris Hearld.....	Richard Blakeway	13
	Ian Bell	14
	Luke Hardbottle	15
	Carl Barrow	16
Monk Bar Model Shop.....	Nathan Freer	17
	Matthew Duckworth	18
	Kris Peacock	19
Clare & Steve Harbron.....	Chris Williams	20
	Aidie Hampshire	21
	Tom Stancliffe	22
	Luke Helliwell	23
	Dan Walton	24
Hull Resin Floors.....	Brett Waller	25
Not allocated numbers		
Balls'n All.....	Casey Bromilow	
Pam & Martin Calvert.....	Jon Fallon	
John Barron Plastering.....	Joe Dey	
Novotel York Centre.....	Danny Wilson	
Simon Gill.....	Eddie Smith	
Stabler International.....	Paul Stamp	
	Danny Hill, Danny Bell, Jymel Coleman,	
	Chris Clarke, Steve Lewis, Mark Falkingham	

ACTING COACH: CHRIS THORMAN

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWLL
LAST SIX HOME: WWLWL
TRIES (2009): Ratcliffe 18, Hughes
15, oakes 14, Haberecht 12
GOALS: Adam Mitchell 65
DROP GOALS: Wildbore 1
MAN TO WATCH: Danny Ratcliffe

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	Stuart Donlan.....	L.I.S.A
2	Steve Maden.....	Corlett Electrical Engineers
3	Dave Alstead.....	Prof & Mrs Dale
4	Mick Nanyin.....	C&S Tyres UK Ltd
5	Nicky Stanton.....	Hamilton Fabrications
6	Tim Hartley.....	Ken Bates Associates
7	Robbie Paul.....	Corporate Club
8	Chris Hill.....	Civil Solutions Ltd
9	John Duffy.....	Hattons Solicitors
10	Ricky Bibey.....	Corporate Club
11	James Taylor.....	Brick Design
12	Macgraff Leului.....	TWS Removals
13	Dave Armitstead.....	Ask Platt Office Supplies
14	Tommy Goulden.....	Dr Doublet-Stewart
15	Dave McConnell.....	Mr John Lawton
16	Mike Morrison.....	O'Neills Sportswear
17	Stephen Nash.....	Padken
18	Adam Higson.....	Message Board
19	Danny Meekin.....	Ask Platt Office Supplies
20	Ian Mort.....	Prof & Mrs Dale
21	Jamie Durbin.....	Ask Platt Office Supplies
22	Martin Ridyard.....	Integrated Control Solutions
23	Dale Cuniffe.....	Wilmar Engineering Ltd
24	Andy Ainscough.....	SuperLeigh Lottery

COACH: IAN MILLWARD

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLLW-W
LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLLL
TRIES (2009): Durbin 13, Mort 11,
Donlan 10
GOALS: Ian Mort 75
DGs: Ridyard, Watson, Hemingway 1
MAN TO WATCH: Robbie Paul

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D.Merrick
Touch: G.Hodgson, S.Moss
Reserve Referee: D.Butler

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Leigh to survive Knights' fright.
Centurions by 8"

AUTOCOOL
RADIATORS

MONK BAR
model shop

We're with
the Knights!



GCL Construction

YORK PULLMAN

CLUBCALL

York v Leigh

Thanks to all our first class sponsors

PLEASE allow me to extend a very warm welcome to all attending this afternoon's fixture, and an especially warm welcome to today's match sponsors Northern Rail.

It is a real honour for the club to welcome the competition sponsors to Huntington Stadium for our first competitive fixture of the season, and I hope they are treated to a feast of fast flowing, high tempo, tough tackling rugby league, and a Knights win!

Many thanks also go out to the loyal band of club sponsors who again have backed the club for the coming year, a special mention must go to two long

term supporters of rugby league in York, K Walker & Co Accountants and Monk Bar Model Shop, who are making their debut on the Knights shirts for the first time in 2010. The feedback from supporters and sponsors regarding the shirts has been first class with the traditional Knights blue home shirt, and the welcome return of a strip featuring the traditional York amber and black proving hugely popular.

Another landmark for the club is a partnership that has been forged with a true Blue Chip company in the name of Accor Hotels - this has seen two of Accor's brands, Novotel and Ibis appear

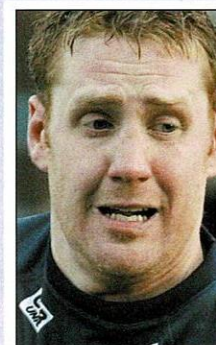
on the playing shirts as well as in backing Danny Wilson in a player sponsorship.

For the Knights to attract a company with a global profile and magnificent reputation is a real coup for the club.

Once again many thanks to club sponsors old and new, without your support and that of our terrific fan's there simply would be no club to cheer on.

Have a great afternoon.

Simon Moat,
Commercial Manager



Richard Blakeway

We need to make a good start

Preparations have gone well with some good results in the pre-season games, but more importantly some good performances. With the squad not having many players from previous campaigns, it is important that we hit the ground running in our first competitive game.

Although we have trained well and have looked like we have forged some decent combinations on the training field, there is nothing like a game to give you a true indication of what areas we need to work on.

I feel we have a good mix of youth and

experience and I am very happy with our leadership group and in particular our newly appointed captain Richard Blakeway.

Players like Nathan Freer, Brett Waller, Lee Waterman and Paul Stamp have also shown up really well so far and I feel have very bright futures in the game.

All the boys are really looking forward to the first game and we are all very optimistic about having a successful year.

Chris Thorman,
Acting Coach

Don't miss your chance to see Super League Champions Leeds

GOOD afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's Northern Rail Cup match against the Leigh Centurions and on behalf of everyone at the Knights we would like to welcome their players, coaching staff, directors and supporters. We are delighted to welcome a club with such great tradition and I'm sure that this afternoon's match will be a fantastic spectacle.

After a busy pre-season everyone at the club is looking forward to the new season and I know that the players and coaching staff are all aiming for promotion to the Championship this season. We urge the people of York to get behind the team help the players achieve their goal.

Supporters are reminded that the Knights take on Super League Champions the Leeds Rhinos this coming Wednesday (10 February) and we hope that a big crowd will be in

attendance for what will be a very entertaining game. Entry is free for U16s with special tickets that are available inside the ground and in Bar 13 today.

Season ticket holder and supporters with match tickets can access Bar 13 from 12:30pm for all league and Northern Rail Cup matches this season and take advantage of a Happy Hour with Carlsberg, Tetleys and Olde English Cider only £1.50 a pint! Entry is via the stairs inside Courtney's reception. Please note from 1:30pm entry to the ground is via the turnstiles. Supporters can also book a two course pre-match meal for just £9.95 or with a match ticket for just £20. To book call the Knight office on 01904 641724.

Enjoy the match

Ian Wilson
General Manager

A Champion Knight...

Wednesday 10th Feb - 8pm K.O

Huntington Stadium
Monks Cross



VS



York City Knights take on Superleague Champions Leeds Rhinos!

FREE ENTRY FOR UNDER 16's

Just fill in the slip below and hand over at the turnstiles on the day!

Name

Age

Email

Next Home Games...

Knights v Hunslet - Sun 10th Jan, 3pm K.O

Knights v Hull K.R. - Fri 15th Jan, 8pm K.O

Knights v Castleford - Sun 17th Jan, 3pm K.O

Knights v Leigh - Sun 7th Feb, 3pm K.O

Knights v London Skolars - Sun 21st Feb, 3pm K.O

U16's season tickets only £25!! Call 01904 641724

www.yorkcityknights.co.uk



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KEEP AN EYE ON THE BALL



Danny Lockwood

WELL, at least it wasn't as depressingly bad as the much-anticipated big kick off for the 2009 season.

We did manage to get three games on last Sunday with Dewsbury, Blackpool and Oldham easing the 2010 door officially open for our Championship clubs.

That would have been a relief for the travelling London Skolars party at least, despite getting 50 stuck past them at the Tetley's Stadium. That's a long way to trail, not to get a game. And with diesel about five or six quid a gallon, that's a hefty expense for a small club trying to make ends meet, without having to do it all over again.

Full credit to the Dewsbury club however. Despite the Siberian winter many of us have experienced, playing havoc with the best intentions of the pre-season plans, the Rams managed to put on their annual Boxing Day extravaganza and were duly rewarded with a crowd close to 2,500 to watch the old foes Batley cross the valley. How the Dewsbury directors must wish they could get half a dozen gates like that in a season!

Yes, there was ice on the pathways around the ground, parts of the car park resembled a skating rink, and I'm sure if some mischievous visitor wanted to throw themselves full length on the ground and file a 'no blame no claim' writ, then someone might possibly have been lumbered with a payout.

But we're not really that kind of a sport are we? Maybe. Times are a-changing.

It was enough of a threat anyway to convince a lot of our clubs to call their midwinter matches off, despite the fact they had managed to get their pitches playable. It's a real shame and I'm still not convinced some organisations take an 'old fashioned' enough position with regards to some of these issues.

I can just imagine a Health and Safety officer trying to tell some of our legendary chairmen of yore that the game had to be off because Mrs Bloomingheck didn't have any grit laid spread at the bottom of her road ... halfway on the other side of town.

This time last year the bad weather struck late and wiped out the entire first weekend of the Northern Rail Cup programme, with just two clubs – Keighley and Sheffield – managing to get their games played in the following midweek and everyone else playing catch-up over the next five weeks, which rather hindered the efforts of trying to work out what was what in the group stages of the NR Cup.

I usually defer to my colleagues Ray French and Maurice Bamford when it comes to misty-eyed memories of bales of straw spread along the ground, speccies shovelling snow off the terraces, sand being put down for touchlines, and international prop forwards having a crafty drag on a Woodbine or Capstan Full Strength and accepting a nip of sherry from the coach before wandering out to do battle on a muddy paddock frozen hard into a rugged moonscape.

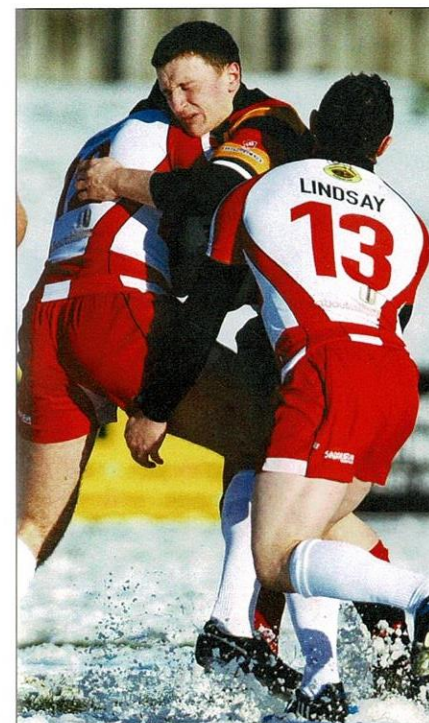
"Does it take a stud Stan?" "Aye, about as much as the Co-op car park takes a stud. But it'll be reet..."

Ah, those were the days, when men were men and the women were glad of it!

Hopefully last week's frosty return to winter conditions was little more than a blip and we can – please, please, please – start dreaming about watching shirt-sleeved rugby. The dark nights of the off-season seem to have dragged inexorably onwards this year.

The left knee's playing up and I can't find my Fiery Jack, and I'm sick and tired of spreading Vicks Vapor Rub on my chest.

You don't think that it could be my age, do you...?



Action from a snowy Tetleys Stadium on Boxing Day

Leeds Met Open Days

Friday 2 July, Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 October

experience.leedsmet.ac.uk



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for careers
for life



man in the middle

Ronnie Laughton

They are in the game every minute - fans rarely agree with their decisions but they have the final word - it's the Man in the Middle. Each week Game On will be putting the referee in the spotlight and seeking answers

BACKGROUND

NAME: Ronnie Laughton
AGE: 36
BORN: Barnsley
OCCUPATION: Police officer

FAVOURITES

HOBBIES: Walking gun dogs - don't really have time for anything else!

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID: I wasn't brought up in a rugby league area so didn't have one.

FAVOURITE SOCCER TEAM: Not really a soccer fan either to be honest!

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Boxing

REFEREEING CAREER

PLAYING EXPERIENCE: As a junior with the local amateur side

TOOK UP REFEREEING: 1996

FIRST EVER MATCH: An amateur match, I can't remember the teams!

FIRST MATCH IN THE

CHAMPIONSHIPS: Bramley vs. Prescot Panthers in 1996

HARDEST PART ABOUT BEING A

REF: Maintaining fitness

HEROES AND VILLAINS

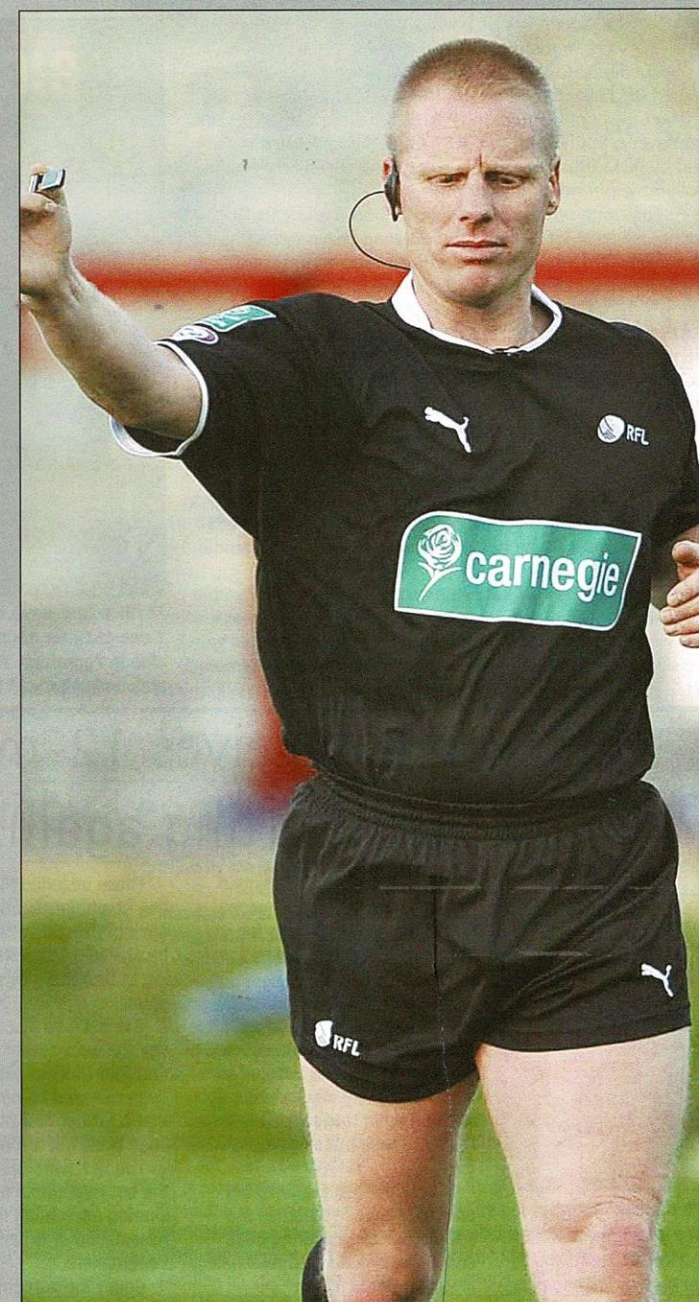
PRE-MATCH SUPERSTITIONS: None at all, I don't believe in them. I just try to prepare as best I can.

FAVOURITE GROUND TO REF AT: KC Stadium. It's a nice stadium and the atmosphere's great.

LEAST FAVOURITE GROUND TO REF AT: Better not say!

DREAM MATCH: Hard for me to say at my age! A grand final would be pretty special I guess.

REFEREEING HERO: A touch judge called Tony Martin - he's an old fella but he's very good and still going.



Rovers are the BEST for helping jobless

FEATHERSTONE Rovers have clinched a major award for their work in the community by giving valuable work experience to the long-term unemployed at their newly-named Big Fellas Stadium.

The Co-operative Championship club were named Small Employer of the Year at the BEST Celebration Awards organised by BEST (Business Employment Services Training Ltd), a Government-funded training provider.

Featherstone offer work experience and training to 12-strong groups of job seekers and the long-term unemployed under the BEST New Deal Programme and were recognised at the award ceremony in Leeds this week as "an organisation which has made a real difference to the lives of others."

The volunteers have helped undertake major improvements in and around Rovers' ground on Post Office Road, including landscaping and work on the terracing, and have made a big impression on all the staff at Featherstone.

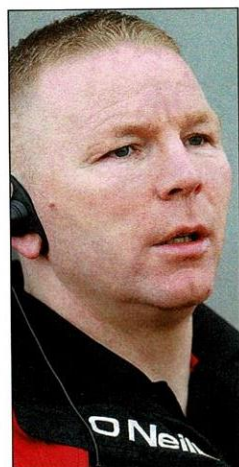
"The people we've had here from BEST have been a credit to themselves and we feel privileged to have been given the chance to give them work experience," said Featherstone's Chief Executive Andy Prout.

"We were taken aback at just being nominated for a BEST award so to actually be named Small Employer of the Year is overwhelming," he said.

"The award shows what Featherstone Rovers is all about: we're a club which touches every aspect of the community and we are looking forward to continuing to help people gain the skills and expertise needed to get back into the job market."



Featherstone have swopped one big fella – Chris Moyles the Radio 1 dee-jay – for another, Tony Lumb owner of the Big Fellas night-club in Pontefract. Rovers Chief Executive Andy Prout is pictured welcoming Tony to the newly named Big Fellas Stadium.



Mark Cass - the former Batley and Hunslet player bet against the Oldham team he was helping coach

Cass receives 12-month suspension after betting against his own team

An RFL Tribunal has suspended former Oldham assistant coach Mark Cass for 12 months for breaching the sport's operational rules on betting.

Rule D1.10 (c) states that "No person shall be involved in any manner or capacity whatsoever, whether for his own account or on behalf of any other person, in any betting in respect of any Rugby League match or competition."

Cass was found to have bet on Rugby League matches on several occasions during 2008 and 2009, including 10 matches involving Oldham.

These included the Co-operative Championship One fixture against Dewsbury last July when he staked £400 on Oldham losing to Dewsbury by more than 18 points.

The bet was placed the same day the public were informed that four Oldham players had been released to join Barrow and that a further four players had been ruled out through injury.

The RFL were made aware of the bet through its information sharing agreement with the Association of British Bookmakers.

Under the agreement signed

in 2007, the RFL, with the assistance of the Gambling Commission, shares intelligence and information with Britain's major bookmakers to ensure the fairness and integrity of the sport.

At the tribunal Cass admitted he had been betting on matches but claimed his bet on July 24, 2009 had been "for a friend," who he declined to identify.

The Tribunal suspended Cass for 12 months and fined him £100. The start of the suspension is dated back to July 29, 2009, the date Cass was dismissed by Oldham.

Community clubs get fantastic Gillette WCC free kit offer



All this could be yours ... and the World Club Challenge too!

WORLD Club Challenge title sponsor Gillette are offering community clubs a Gillette Champions Kit Bag when making a group booking to the Gillette World Club Challenge on Sunday 28 February.

The Gillette Champions Kit Bag includes 5 rugby balls, 30 drinks bottles and 20 training bibs, which is a great asset for any club.

To be eligible for this offer all you need to do is make a group booking of 25 tickets* or more for this exciting game.

This is an excellent opportunity for your club to earn some much needed equipment whilst enjoying a night of top class rugby league.

This year's fixture against Melbourne Storm will be a repeat of the 2008 decider that saw Leeds complete a thrilling 11-4 victory.

The match also gives the Rhinos an opportunity to overcome

the disappointment of losing the title to Manly Sea Eagles last March. Ticket prices for the Gillette World Club Challenge start from £20 or £10 concessions.

To make sure your group is there to see this unforgettable event and to get something back for your club simply call 0844 856 1113 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) and quote 'Community Kit Bag' and the name of the community club you are booking on behalf of.

* Subject to availability. Terms and Conditions apply please contact the RFL Ticketing for more information.

Terms and Conditions

Limited numbers of the Gillette Champions Kit bags available.

Subject to availability issued on a first come first served basis

Offer is only applicable on sales of 25 or more tickets which must be purchased together. For further information please contact RFL Ticketing.

Jamaicans play Rugby League fast and furious

Rugby League had a great day out in Jamaica last weekend with the inaugural GC FOSTER invitational 9s tournament proving a resounding success with 10 teams on display.

There was speed, power and skills in abundance as the crowd was treated to a hugely exciting afternoon.

In the University Division: GC Foster College won the title, beating University of West Indies 14-10 in sudden death overtime. It was heartbreak for the UWI team who had gone undefeated throughout the day.

In the St Catherine Division,



the GC Foster Angels community-based team scraped a 4-0 victory over the Portmore Eliminators in the final, who had also gone through the day unbeaten up until then.

The Kingston Division was

lifted by the Duhaney Park Sharks who defeated JDF Warriors 24-20. The powerful army team matched skills with their cross-town rivals in a game that produced some massive tackles and exhilarating sprinting from both teams.

To add a touch of even more fun to the day, the players joined in a Fastest Man Race, which was won by Utech flying winger Manning Marsh. Usain Bolt eat your heart out!

Jamaican Rugby League Association Development Officer Romeo Monteith said: "This tournament will hopefully become an annual event with

invitations going out to UK and US-based teams."

"As Rugby League gets more popular, more Jamaicans want to play, it's the excitement that draws the fans and players, the explosive nature of the game keeps everyone on edge."

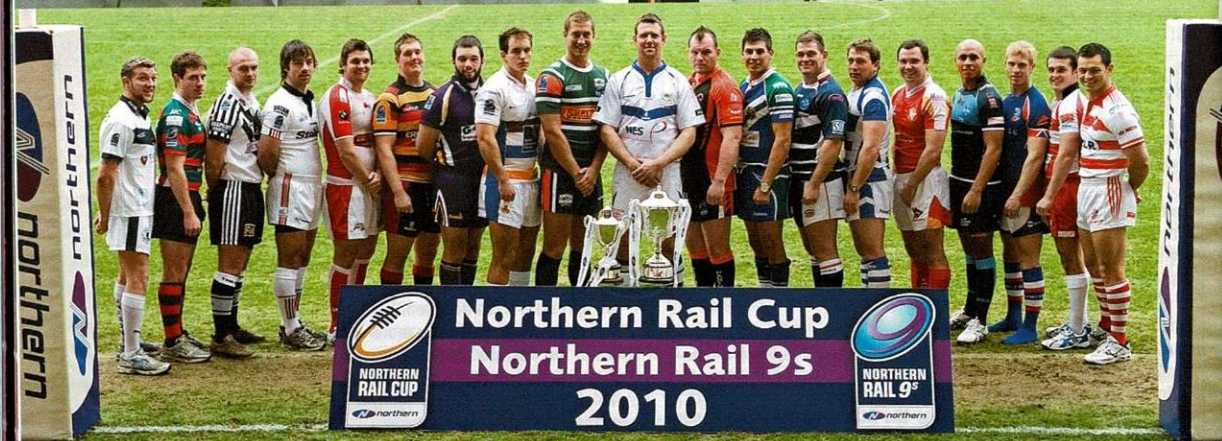
"It is great and affordable entertainment for families to experience."

"There were approximately 150 players in one venue going at it; we even had players from St Vincent and Barbados in the University teams, adding a multicultural element to the tournament."

Pride Passion Performance

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Northern Rail 9s & Northern Rail Cup Final 17/18 July, Blackpool



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inprofile

Ian Watson
Swinton Lions
Squad number: 7

BACKGROUND

DATE OF BIRTH: 27/10/76

POSITION: Scrum-half

HEIGHT: 5' 7"

WEIGHT: 80kg (12 stone 6lbs)

MARITAL STATUS: Married to Samantha with 2 girls, Phoebe and Scarlett

HOMETOWN: Salford

AMATEUR CLUBS: Eccles

SIGNED PRO: In 1994 with Salford

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Salford, Widnes, Halifax, Swinton, Rochdale, Oldham, Workington

FAVOURITES

CLUB SUPPORTED AS A KID: Swinton, I used to ball-boy at Station Road

SOCCER TEAM: Manchester United, I went with my dad to every home match until I was too big to sneak under the turnstile

OTHER SPORT: American Football, I love all the bravado and razzamatazz of the NFL

HOBBIES: Any spare time I get is spent with my family

FOOD: Italian

DRINK: Wine, must be an age thing!

Holiday: Mallorca with the wife and kids

MUSIC: I only get to hear Hannah Montana these days!

FILM: Action/Comedy. One of my all-favourites is Stir Crazy

TV: Lie to Me

SUPERSTITIONS: Don't believe in them

CAREER

BEST TEAMMATE EVER: Wouldn't like to single anyone out. Have to say though, Wes Rogers has played against me and with me since u11s and has never ever beaten me!

BEST OPPONENT EVER: Brad Fittler in the World Cup semi-final. He ghosted past me to score!

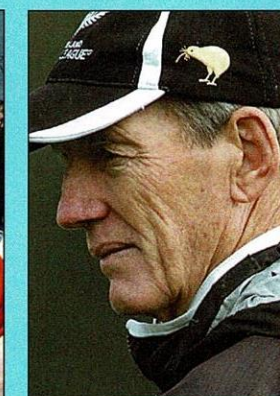
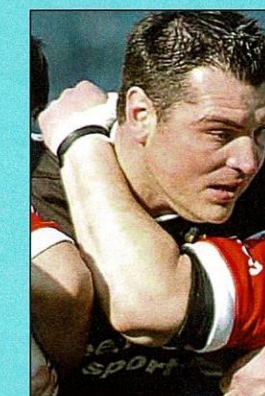
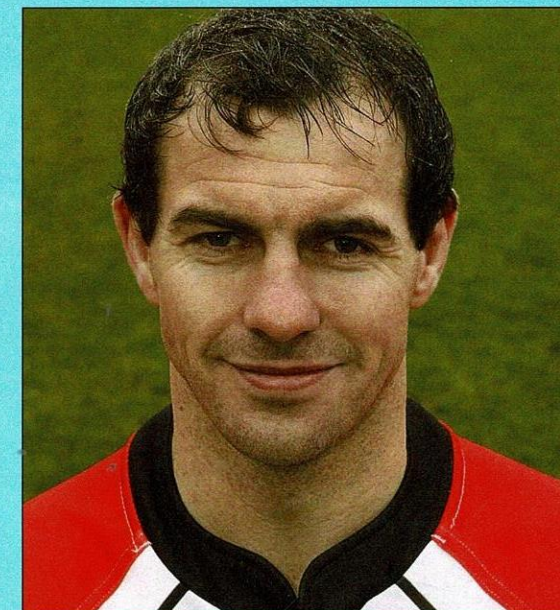
BEST PLAYER IN THE WORLD: At the moment I'd say Darren Lockyer. He's a complete footballer

BEST COACH PLAYED FOR: I have played under some great coaches like David Waite and Tony Smith but I really enjoyed playing under Iestyn Harris for Wales last year. I think he'll make a top coach.

COACH I'D MOST LIKE TO PLAY FOR: Wayne Bennett, just to see how he does things and what he does to get the best out of you

STRENGTHS: My ability to get out of paying for a pint!

WEAKNESSES: If you ask the Swinton lads, it's agility but



Ian Watson has come 'home' to Swinton, the club he supported as a boy. Above, old rival Wes Rogers and hero coach Wayne Bennett

I'm sure they fixed the test we took because they were sick of me winning at everything!

HIGHS AND LOWS

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Playing for Wales against the Aussies and New Zealand and winning cups with Wales and Salford

LOWLIGHTS: Relegation with Salford

ULTIMATE WISH: To win as many cups as I can

PLANS AFTER RUGBY: Just to enjoy time with my family and see what life brings

Every Monday one newspaper brings you the best news, the best views, the best writing and the biggest names...



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ANDY WILSON
SHAUN BRISCOE
RAY FRENCH
DAVE 'NOSEY' PARKER
DANNY LOCKWOOD
MAURICE BAMFORD

WE HAVE THE CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS COVERED - ALL THE NEWS, ALL THE MATCH REPORTS, EVERY WEEK - PLUS THE OFFICIAL PLAYER AND TEAM OF THE MONTH!

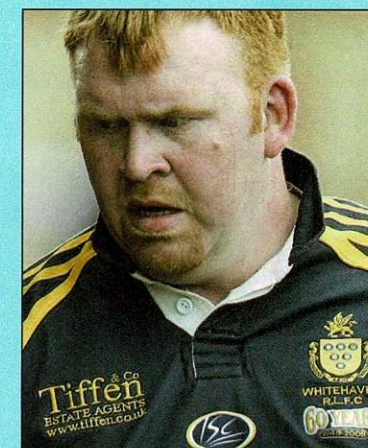
XIII



Do you know your stuff?

QUESTIONS

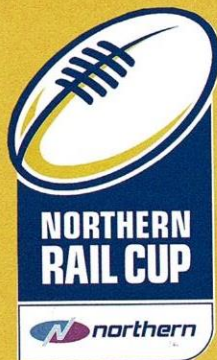
- Which soft drinks company sponsored the National League Cup during the early '00s?
- Which 2009 Barrow squad member played for Carlisle Border Raiders before the two clubs merged?
- Which Sheffield Eagles player is currently enjoying a testimonial year with the club?
- Stanley Gene will be the oldest player in the Championship this season, who is the second oldest?
- Which current Championship 1 coach is a former Irish international?
- New Rams signing Dominic Brambani played for which team in Australia during 2009?
- Which current Toulouse player has spent time in the Super League with Wakefield, London and Huddersfield?
- Whitehaven prop Ryan McDonald began his career at which Super League academy?
- What is the nickname of the USA rugby league team?
- Which former Swinton, Doncaster and Rochdale winger retired at the end of last season?
- Which current Championship 1 player has played in the Challenge Cup final for Leeds?
- Where will the 2013 Rugby League World Cup be held?
- In what year did Mark Aston make his last appearance as a player for Sheffield Eagles?



q8

1) Buddies. 2) Darren Holt. 3) Jack Howieson. 4) Leroy Joe. 5) Martin Crompton. 6) Hinterland Storm. 7) Sylvain Houles. 8) Leeds Rhinos. 9) The Tomahawks. 10) Marlon Billy. 11) Graham Holroyd. 12) England. 13) 2004.

Cougars pounce



ROUND 1 REVIEW

With the sudden big freeze last week-end resulting in all but three of the opening round's matches of the Northern Rail Cup being postponed, attention turned to the Woodlands and what was expected to be a closely-fought match between Championship 1 title contenders Blackpool and newly-promoted Keighley.

Many had tipped Blackpool to edge this encounter, with Martin Crompton adding some real quality to his side during the close-season, and, with the home side 18-2 up early in the second-half, it looked as though the Cougars were staring down the barrel of a defeat to lower-league opposition.

Tom Woodcock and Damien Munro had laid the foundations for the Panthers with scores in the first half and Martin Ainscough's try after the break left Barry Eaton's side with a mountain to climb.

However, a blistering 20-minute period which saw the Cougars notch up four tries to the Panthers' one turned the game on its head. Brendan Rawlins, Dan Belcher, James Haythornthwaite and Gavin Duffy crossed for the visitors with Kris Ratcliffe's try for the Panthers on the hour mark doing little to halt the visitors' momentum.

Danny Jones' accuracy with the boot ultimately proved the difference between the two sides, kicking four from four to ensure the points returned to West Yorkshire - the shell-shocked Panthers had to settle for a bonus point.

Elsewhere, Leigh and Dewsbury were expected to register straight-forward wins over lower-league opposition but, whilst Dewsbury romped to a 10-try victory over London, Leigh were given a stern test by a resurgent Oldham side.

The Roughyeds, who've retained only a handful of members of the squad that reached the 2009 Championship 1 play-off final, came back from 18-0 down in the second half and it wasn't until Dale Cunniffe's try in the 66th minute that the victory was secured for the Centurions.

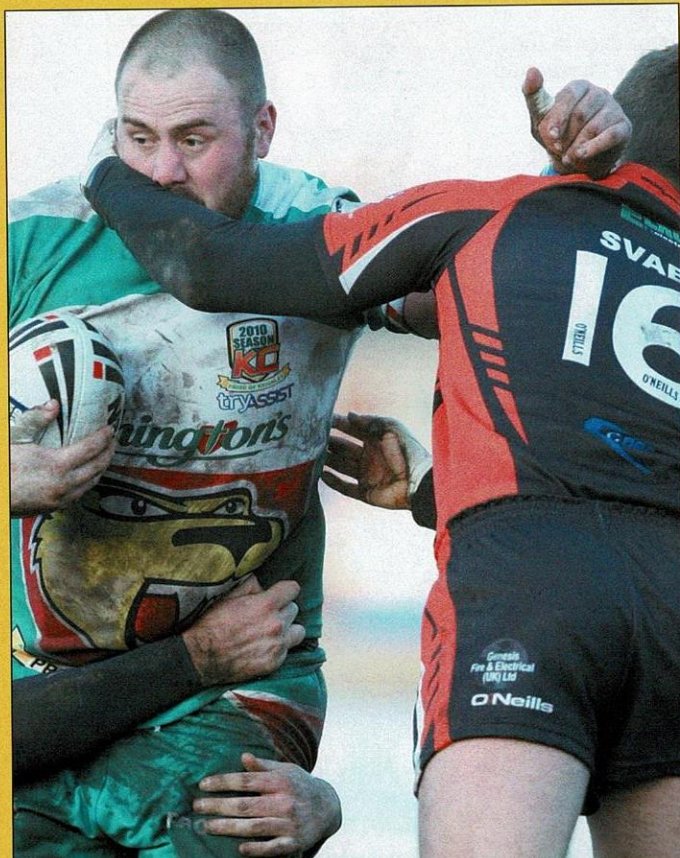
A brace from Steve Maden and tries to Dave McConnell and former Oldham man Tommy Goulden had given the home side a commanding lead by half-time. Craig Littler and John Gillam got the visitors back in it before Cunniffe's decisive score, with Mick Fogerty's try two minutes from time earning Tony Benson's side a deserved bonus point.

The Rams notched up a half-century against the Skolars despite a determined effort by the men from the capital. Tries from Rob Spicer, Rob Lunt, Mike Emmett, Bryn Powell, Stewart Sanderson, Scott Watson and Adam Robinson meant the game was over as a contest by half-time. However, following a stern team-talk from new coach James Massara, the rejuvenated Skolars restricted the home side to just three further scores after the break.

James Haynes, Andy Bostock and Lunt, with his second, went over for the Rams in the second-half with Smokie Junor crossing for a well-earned consolation for the visitors.

The game ended in an unsavoury manner following an incident just before the final-hoot-er after an alleged gouging incident.

Rams prop Anthony England took the law into his own hands by retaliating with a flurry of punches, and after a melee the Skolars' Matt Carter and Liam Prescott were sent off with him by referee Tim Roby, who showed no hesitation in giving all three men their marching orders.



Andy Shickell gets up close and personal with Simon Svabic in the Blackpool-Keighley game on Sunday

POOL A

Keighley Cougars	11	0	0	0	24	22	2	3
Blackpool Panth	1	0	0	1	22	24	-2	1
Barrow Raiders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Batley Bulldogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gateshead Thunder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swinton Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitehaven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Widnes Vikings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Workington Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

POOL B

Dewsbury Rams	11	0	0	0	50	4	46	3
Leigh Centurions	11	0	0	0	24	12	12	3
Oldham	1	0	0	1	12	24	-12	1
Featherstone Rvrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halifax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hornets RL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunslet Hawks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheffield Eagles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
York City Knights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London Skolars	1	0	0	1	4	50	-46	0



Chin up lad! ... The Rams' Andy Robinson is brought to ground

RESULTS ROUND-UP

Dewsbury (34) 50

Tries: Turner, Lunt 2, Robinson, Emmett, Watson, Powell, Haynes, Bostock, Spicer.

Goals: Turner 2, Walker, Brambani 2

London Skolars 4

Tries: Junor

Half-time 34-0. Att: 887

Blackpool 22

Tries: Ratcliffe, Woodcock, Ainscough, Munroe

Goals: Hemingway 3

Keighley 24

Tries: Duffy, Haythornthwaite, Rawlins, Belcher

Goals: Jones 4

Half-time: 12-22. Att: -

Leigh 24

Tries: Maden 2, Goulden, McConnell, Cunniffe

Goals: Nanyan 2

Oldham 12

Tries: Littler, Fogerty, Gillam

Half-time: 14-0. Att: 1,627

All other games postponed

How they finished last year. After Gateshead Thunder went into administration, they were relegated and Leigh Centurions reprieved

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	PTS
Barrow	20	13	0	7	5	632	361	271	44
Halifax	20	13	0	7	4	714	476	238	43
Sheffield	20	11	0	9	9	635	447	188	42
Widnes	20	11	0	9	6	649	438	211	39
Whitehaven	20	12	0	8	3	565	567	-2	39
Featherstone	20	12	0	8	1	619	524	95	37
Gateshead	20	9	2	9	1	610	657	-47	32
Batley	20	8	2	10	4	536	620	-84	32
R. Leigh	20	9	0	11	5	426	572	-146	32
Toulouse**	20	9	0	11	3	556	582	-26	30
R Doncaster *	20	1	0	19	5	257	955	-698	-1

*Deducted 9 points: going into administration ** Toulouse exempt from relegation

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	PTS
Dewsbury (C)	18	18	0	0	0	760	223	537	54
Keighley (P)	18	13	0	5	3	539	415	124	42
York	18	12	0	6	4	589	360	229	40
Oldham	18	10	1	7	3	618	449	168	35
Blackpool	18	9	1	8	4	532	456	76	33
Hunslet	18	10	0	8	3	472	411	61	33
Swinton	18	8	0	10	3	513	516	-3	27
Rochdale*	18	6	0	12	6	500	557	-57	15
Workington	18	2	0	16	5	281	700	-419	11
London Skol's	18	1	0	19	2	210	927	-717	5

*Deducted 9 points for going into administration

LEADING POINTS SCORERS 2009

PLAYER/CLUB	T	G	DG	Ps
Pat Walker (Dewsbury)	6	146	314	
Andy Ballard (Old/Barrow)	21	103	290	
Lee Patterson (Halifax)	10	120	280	
Gregg McNally (White)	25	74	248	
Jonny Woodcock (Sheff)	8	110	252	
Danny Jones (Keighley)	7	106	241	
Michael Knowles (G'head)	8	102	236	
Carl Sneyd (Swinton)	10	86	214	
Ian Mort (Leigh)	11	75	194	
Stuart Dickens (Feath)	3	87	186	
Nathan Wynn (Toulouse)	5	74	168	
Jonny Leather (Blackpool)	15	45	151	
Paul Mennell (Batley)	10	52	144	
Adam Mitchell (York)	3	65	142	
Tim Hartley (Widnes)	5	56	132	
James Nixon (Barrow)	31		124	
Shad Royston (Halifax)	28		112	
Darren Robinson (Hunslet)	5	45	111	
Liam McGovern (Hornets)	5	44	109	
Carl Forber (Black/ Work)	4	46	108	
Jon Presley (Keighley)	25		101	
Jamie Rooney (Barrow)	2	44	99	
Paul Noone (Barrow)	2	45	98	
Ben Black (Halifax)	18	12	96	
Liam Finn (Dewsbury)	15	15	92	
Luke Branighan (G'head)	19	8	92	
Andy Bostock (Dewsbury)	22		88	
Stuart Sanderson (G'head)	22		88	
Kyle Briggs (Feath/Don)	11	22	88	
Jermaine McGilvary (Bat)	21	1	86	
Darren Holt (Barrow)	1	40	86	
Kane Epati (Dewsbury)	21		84	

DIARY 2010

KEY TO DIARY: NORTHERN RAIL CUP CHAMPIONSHIP CHAMPIONSHIP 1 CHALLENGE CUP

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

SUNDAY JANUARY 31 - ROUND 1

Dewsbury Rams 50, London Skolars 4	
Leigh Centurions 24, Oldham 12	
Blackpool Panthers 22, Keighley Cougars 24	
Sheffield Eagles v Halifax RLFC	postponed...tbc
Whitehaven v Batley Bulldogs	pp...tbc
Doncaster RLFC v Barrow Raiders	pp...tbc
Hunslet Hawks v Featherstone Rovers	pp...tbc
Workington Town v Swinton Lions	pp...tbc

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2 - ROUND 1

Widnes Vikings v Gateshead Thunder	8.00
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - ROUND 2

Barrow Raiders v Blackpool Panthers	2.00
Batley Bulldogs v Widnes Vikings	2.00
Featherstone Rovers v Sheffield Eagles	3.00
Halifax RLFC v Dewsbury Rams	3.00
Keighley Cougars v Whitehaven	3.00
Gateshead Thunder v Workington Town	3.00
London Skolars v Hunslet Hawks	2.00
Oldham v Rochdale Hornets	3.00
Swinton Lions v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
York City Knights v Leigh Centurions	3.00

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - ROUND 3

Batley Bulldogs v Swinton Lions	2.00
Keighley Cougars v Workington Town	3.00
Leigh Centurions v Featherstone Rovers	3.00
Sheffield Eagles v York City Knights	3.00
Whitehaven v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
Widnes Vikings v Barrow Raiders	3.00
Blackpool Panthers v Gateshead Thunder	3.00
Hunslet Hawk v Oldham	3.00
London Skolars v Halifax RLFC	3.00
Rochdale Hornets v Dewsbury Rams	3.00

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - ROUND 1

Rochdale Hornets v York City Knights	8.00
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - ROUND 4

Barrow Raiders v Keighley Cougars	2.00
Dewsbury Rams v Leigh Centurions	3.00
Featherstone Rovers v Rochdale Hornets	3.00
Halifax RLFC v Hunslet Hawks	3.00
Doncaster RLFC v Blackpool Panthers	3.00
Gateshead Thunder v Batley Bulldogs	3.00
Oldham v Sheffield Eagles	3.00
Swinton Lions v Widnes Vikings	3.00
Workington Town v Whitehaven	3.00
York City Knights v London Skolars	3.00

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

Leigh Centurions v Barrow Raiders	7.30
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SATURDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

Toulouse Olympique v Dewsbury Rams	7.00
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SUNDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

Featherstone Rovers v Batley Bulldogs	3.00
Halifax RLFC v Sheffield Eagles	3.00
Widnes Vikings v Keighley Cougars	3.00
Hunslet Hawks v Gateshead Thunder	3.00
Rochdale Hornets v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
Swinton Lions v Oldham	3.00
South Wales RLFC v Workington Town	2.00
York City Knights v London Skolars	3.00

THURSDAY, 11 MARCH

Batley Bulldogs v Halifax RLFC	7.30
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SATURDAY, 13 MARCH

Whitehaven v Toulouse Olympique	6.00
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SUNDAY, 14 MARCH

Dewsbury Rams v Featherstone Rovers	3.00
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Keighley Cougars v Leigh Centurions	3.00
Sheffield Eagles v Widnes Vikings	3.00
Blackpool Panthers v Rochdale Hornets	3.00
Doncaster RLFC v South Wales RLFC	3.00
London Skolars v Swinton Lions	3.00
Oldham v Hunslet Hawks	3.00
Workington Town v York City Knights	3.00

THURSDAY, 18 MARCH

Widnes Vikings v Halifax RLFC	7.30
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SATURDAY, 20 MARCH

Toulouse Olympique v Keighley Cougars	7.00
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Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers	6.30
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SUNDAY, 21 MARCH

Leigh Centurions v Whitehaven	3.00
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Gateshead Thunder v London Skolars	2.00
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Oldham v Blackpool Panthers	3.00
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Rochdale Hornets v Workington Town	3.00
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Swinton Lions v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
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York City Knights v South Wales RLFC	3.00
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THURSDAY, 25 MARCH

Keighley Cougars v Batley Bulldogs	7.30
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SATURDAY, 27 MARCH

Barrow Raiders v Toulouse Olympique	6.30
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SUNDAY, 28 MARCH

Dewsbury Rams v Widnes Vikings	3.00
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Featherstone Rovers v Whitehaven	3.00
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Halifax RLFC v Leigh Centurions	3.00
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Blackpool Panthers v Swinton Lions	3.00
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Doncaster RLFC v York City Knights	3.00
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Hunslet Hawks v Rochdale Hornets	3.00
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South Wales RLFC v London Skolars	2.00
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Workington Town v Gateshead Thunder	3.00
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THURSDAY, 1 APRIL

Whitehaven v Barrow Raiders	SKY
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FRIDAY, 2 APRIL

Featherstone Rovers v Halifax RLFC	7.30
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Keighley Cougars v Sheffield Eagles	7.30
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Toulouse Olympique v Leigh Centurions	8.00
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Batley Bulldogs v Dewsbury Rams	6.30
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Hunslet Hawks v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
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London Skolars v Blackpool Panthers	3.00
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Rochdale Hornets v Oldham	3.00
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Swinton Lions v Workington Town	3.00
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York City Knights v Gateshead Thunder	3.00
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MONDAY, 5 APRIL

Dewsbury Rams v Keighley Cougars	3.00
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Halifax RLFC v Toulouse Olympique	SKY
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Leigh Centurions v Batley Bulldogs	6.00
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Sheffield Eagles v Barrow Raiders	7.00
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Widnes Vikings v Whitehaven	3.00
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Blackpool Panthers v York City Knights	3.00
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Doncaster RLFC v London Skolars	3.00
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Gateshead Thunder v Swinton Lions	TBC
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South Wales RLFC v Hunslet Hawks	2.00
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Oldham v Workington Town	3.00
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THURSDAY, 8 APRIL

Halifax RLFC v Keighley Cougars	7.30
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SATURDAY, 10 APRIL

Widnes Vikings v Toulouse Olympique	6.00
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Barrow Raiders v Batley Bulldogs	6.30
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SUNDAY, 11 APRIL

Dewsbury Rams v Whitehaven	3.00
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Sheffield Eagles v Featherstone Rovers	3.00
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Gateshead Thunder v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
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Hunslet Hawks v Swinton Lions	3.00
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South Wales RLFC v Oldham	2.00
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Rochdale Hornets v London Skolars	3.00
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Workington Town v Blackpool Panthers	3.00
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SATURDAY-SUNDAY 17-18 APRIL

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP 4th ROUND

THURSDAY, 22 APRIL

Featherstone v Toulouse Olympique	7.30
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SATURDAY, 24 APRIL

Barrow Raiders v Dewsbury Rams	6.30
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SUNDAY, 25 APRIL

Leigh Centurions v Sheffield Eagles	3.00
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Whitehaven v Halifax RLFC	3.00
Batley Bulldogs v Widnes Vikings	3.00
Blackpool Panthers v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
London Skolars v Hunslet Hawks	2.00
Oldham v Gateshead Thunder	3.00
Swinton Lions v South Wales RLFC	3.00
York City Knights v Rochdale Hornets	3.00

THURSDAY, 29 APRIL

Dewsbury Rams v Leigh Centurions	7.30
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FRIDAY, 30 APRIL

Widnes Vikings v Featherstone Rovers	8.00
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SATURDAY, 1 MAY

Toulouse Olympique v Batley Bulldogs	7.00
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SUNDAY, 2 MAY

South Wales RLFC v Blackpool Panthers	2.00
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MONDAY, 3 MAY

Keighley Cougars v Barrow Raiders	3.00
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Sheffield Eagles v Whitehaven	3.00
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Doncaster RLFC v Oldham	3.00
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Rochdale Hornets v Gateshead Thunder	3.00
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May Workington Town v Hunslet Hawks	3.00
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York City Knights v Swinton Lions	3.00
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SATURDAY-SUNDAY 8-9 MAY

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP 5th ROUND

THURSDAY, 6 MAY (SUBJECT TO CC CUP)

Barrow Raiders v Widnes Vikings	7.30
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SATURDAY, 8 MAY

Gateshead Thunder v South Wales RLFC	7.00
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SUNDAY, 9 MAY

Halifax RLFC v Dewsbury Rams	3.00
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Leigh Centurions v Featherstone Rovers	3.00
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Whitehaven v Keighley Cougars	3.00
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Sheffield Eagles v Batley Bulldogs	3.00
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Hunslet Hawks v Blackpool Panthers	3.00
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London Skolars v Workington Town	2.00
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Oldham v York City Knights	3.00
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Swinton Lions v Rochdale Hornets	3.00
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THURSDAY, 13 MAY

Leigh Centurions v Widnes Vikings	7.30
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SATURDAY, 15 MAY

Sheffield Eagles v Toulouse Olympique	6.00
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Blackpool Panthers v Gateshead Thunder	3.00
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SUNDAY, 16 MAY

Featherstone Rovers v Keighley Cougars	3.00
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Halifax RLFC v Barrow Raiders	3.00
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Batley Bulldogs v Whitehaven	3.00
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Oldham v London Skolars	3.00
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South Wales RLFC v Rochdale Hornets	2.00
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Workington Town v Doncaster RLFC	3.00
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York City Knights v Hunslet Hawks	3.00
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THURSDAY, 20 MAY

Dewsbury Rams v Sheffield Eagles	7.30
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SATURDAY, 22 MAY

Toulouse Olympique v Featherstone Rovers	7.00
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SUNDAY, 23 MAY

Keighley Cougars v Halifax RLFC	3.00
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Whitehaven v Leigh Centurions	3.00
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Widnes Vikings v Batley Bulldogs	3.00
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Doncaster RLFC v Swinton Lions	3.00
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Gateshead Thunder v Workington Town	3.00
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Hunslet Hawks v Oldham	3.00
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London Skolars v South Wales RLFC	3.00
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Rochdale Hornets v York City Knights	3.00
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SATURDAY-SUNDAY 29-30 JUNE

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINALS

THURSDAY, 27 MAY (SUBJECT TO CC CUP)

Sheffield Eagles v Keighley Cougars	7.30
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SATURDAY, 29 MAY

Barrow Raiders v Whitehaven	6.30
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Batley Bulldogs v Toulouse Olympique	6.00
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SUNDAY, 30 MAY

Featherstone Rovers v Dewsbury Rams	3.00
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Leigh Centurions v Halifax RLFC	3.00
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Doncaster RLFC v Hunslet Hawks	3.00
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Gateshead Thunder v Rochdale Hornets	3.00
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Swinton Lions v London Skolars	3.00
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Workington Town v Oldham	3.00
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York City Knights v Blackpool Panthers	3.00
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Macgraff Leuluaui bursts upfield on a snowy Leigh pitch as the Centurions managed to beat the freeze

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, 6-9 JUNE

NORTHERN RAIL CUP QUARTER-FINALS

SATURDAY, 12 JUNE

London Skolars v York City Knights	2.30 (Stoop)
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SUNDAY, 13 JUNE

Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers	3.00
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Keighley Cougars v Dewsbury Rams	3.00
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Whitehaven v Sheffield Eagles	3.00
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Widnes Vikings v Barrow Raiders	3.00
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Batley Bulldogs v Leigh Centurions	3.00
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