The Squads

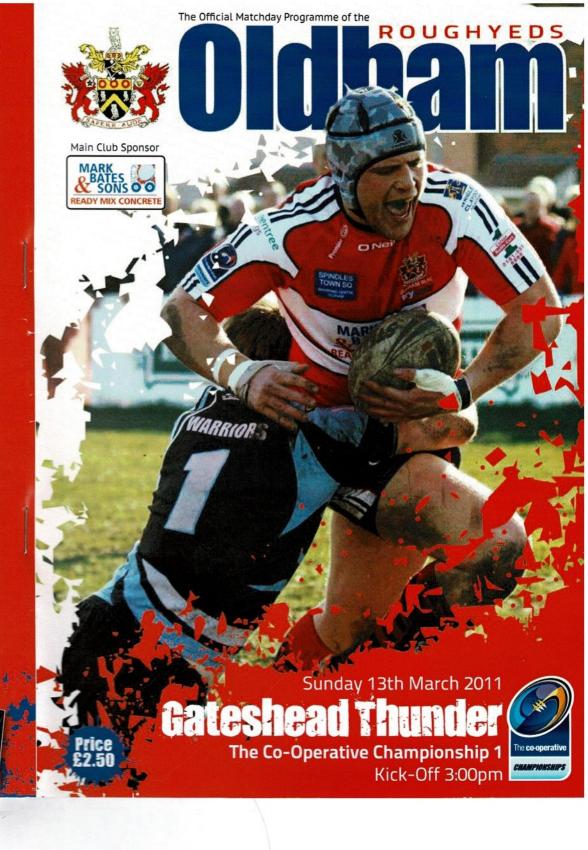
Oldham

Gateshead

Ben HEATON	1		1	Wayne GREEN
Lucas ONYANGO	2		2	Craig OLUGBODE
Marcus ST HILAIRE	3		4	Josh STOKER
Jack BRADBURY	4		5	Dan O'SULLIVAN
John GILLAM	5		6	James CLARKSON
Neil RODEN	6		7	Ryan CLARKE
Mick DIVENEY	7		8	Jason PAYNE
Jason BOULTS	8		9	Tom HODGSON
Danny WHITMORE	9		10	Stephen WELTON
Dave ELLISON	10		11	Gary SARGENT
Andy ISHERWOOD	11		12	Michael WARD
Ben WOOD	12	BB	13	Mike KELLY
Valu BENTLEY	13		14	Reece YOUNG
Chris CLARKE	14		15	Andy MORRIS
Luke SUTTON	15		16	Robin PEERS
Liam GILCHRIST	16		17	Joseph BROWN
John CLOUGH	17		19	Sam CROUTHER
Alistair WILLIAMS	18		20	Nick STAVELEY
Scott MANSFIELD	19		22	Chris PARKER
Johnny WALKER	20		23	Jamie LOVE
Mark BROCKLEHURST	21		24	Barry WALKER
Tom WOOD-HULME	22		25	Connor CONDRON
Matty ASHE	23		26	JAMES HALL
Paul NOONE	24		27	GARETH BARRON
Martin RODEN	25		28	DAVID CASH

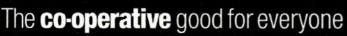
Referee: Jamie Leahy;

Touch Judges, S Mikalauskas, D Sharpe; Reserve Referee, S Johnson.





Good for every pass, every tackle, every feint, every grubber, every up and under, every play the ball, every restart, every dropout, every scrum, every turnover, every hooter, every player, every fan.



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Boardroom

with Chris Hamilton

The state of the s



Welcome back to the Whitebank Stadium for our third successive home game.

This week we kick off our co-operative Championship One season with the visit of Gateshead Thunder who will have been buoyed by their Carnegie Challenge Cup win at Milford Marlins last week.

Since they were re formed a couple of seasons ago Chris Hood and Keith Gillespie particularly have worked tirelessly to make sure that the professional game in the North East has continued and whilst they have not had their rewards on the field no one can question their dedication or hard work.

For our part we came through a difficult game against Hunslet Warriors with a win and they certainly did not roll over at any time in the match.

Our lads had to dig deep and as ever in these games the pressure was on as we are in a no win situation. We showed character however to win the game and that's us in the next round.

As far as some of the off field events are concerned it was a disappointing day for the club as some of the "away fans" chose to behave in a manner that we have been fortunate enough not to have witnessed at any of our matches since the club was formed in 1997.

I am pleased to report however that as usual our fans behaviour was first class.

Like every other team today we are hoping to get the season off to a good start and to try and build some momentum from an early stage. All the clubs are level pegging at this point in the year and it is vital that we turn up mentally and physically today for what will be an arm wrestle.

With the length of the season there is not much room for error as we have found to our cost in previous years and we have to be striving to be one of the most consistent sides in the division.

The Northern Rail Cup was an up and down affair for us but now we have to focus on the league and up the ante in terms of the quality of our performance.

We certainly have the personnel to do that and the players all need to realise that they all have equal responsibilities in terms of what happens on the pitch. The synopsis is quite simple in this division don't turn up mentally and physically don't win.

I have no doubt that Tony and the players will actually be glad to see the start of the season and know what is in front of them for the next few months.

Today is the start of a seven month journey which we all want to enjoy so as always please show your support for the team and hopefully cheer us on to three points.

Enjoy the game

Christopher Hamilton Chief Executive

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TOMY'S TAIK





As quickly as it finishes the new Championship 1 season starts again.

There's no doubt we've done the work required in the preseason. We're fit enough and our skill base is ok for this time of year. Although we are tight as a group it's evident that we are not yet gelled as a team on the field. There could be lots of reasons but personally I think it comes down to the type of restricted training the weather has dictated we do.

In last week's game there were 9 new players in the squad who weren't there last season, 3 of those promoted from our reserves and 3 others from the academies who are experiencing their first taste of open age rugby. And two more

have virtually just joined us for differing reasons. I think this is great; we have assembled a squad with huge potential, we are all working hard, but forming a functioning team takes time. Time on a pitch. Time to get used to each other, new styles and plans and of course the most important communication under pressure. We are making progress but there are obvious signs that we are struggling at times. I will assure you that over the next few weeks as the pitch dries out and we get time training on it as a team, we will fast become a force to be reckoned with.

An important component in our development is your support. We really appreciate when you are behind us in numbers and voice, not just when things are good but most importantly in times like this when for various reasons we are doing it a bit tough.

Today is a good opportunity for us to get together and welcome our friends from Gateshead to what I'm sure will be a tasty encounter at the home of Rugby League.

Regards

Tony B

Oldham Rugby League Football Club

How to get in touch with us:

By phone: 0161 628 3677

By fax: 0161 628 5700

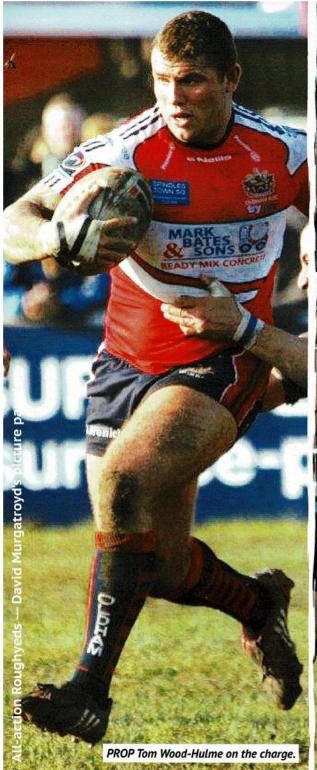
By skype: oldham.rlfc

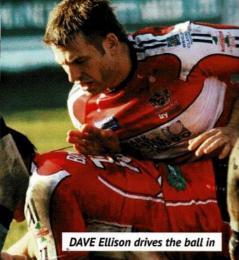
By email: rachaelorlfc@btconnect.com

By post: Lansdowne Road, Chadderton,

Oldham, OL9 9EF

HEAD COACH TONY BENSON, SPONSORED BY H MULLANEY & SON LTD (SKIP HIRE AND RECYCLING)







Reserves





GOOD afternoon and a warm welcome to Gateshead Thunder for this afternoon's opening game in Cooperative Championship One.

As you are reading, this the reserves will have already opened their league season with a game at York on Thursday night. I was expecting nothing short of a big improvement from the preseason loss at Keighley. We learnt a great deal from that defeat and we were able to analyse where we needed to 'tweak' areas and hopefully put the changes into practice against York.

Shaun Robinson and Terry Bridge, the two wingers, had 'eye-catching' performances against Keighley but our forwards lost the battle with their Keighley counterparts and they had a lot to work on in the build-up to the York game..

So to the season ahead,

We have set ourselves a target

as to where we want to be at the end of the season and it's my job to steer us in that direction.

This year we have 18 games, nine at home and nine away. The top six then have a play-off and the Grand Final is at the home ground of the team which has finished the higher in the league.

That's two more than last year and it puts everyone on an even keel, but it is interesting to note that there are only three clubs outside the championship who have a reserve teamourselves, Keighley and Whitehaven.

Thurs 10th DEWSBURY RAMS (F) H W 36-12 Weds 23rd HALIFAX (F) H W 28-10 2011 MARCH Thurs 3rd KEIGHLEY COUG (F) A L 28-22 Thurs 10th YORK CITY KNIGHTS A 8:00pm Sat 19th WIDNES VIKINGS H 2:30pm 26th KEIGHLEY COUGARS H 2:30pm Friday 1st DEWSBURY RAMS A 7:30pm 9th HALIFAX A 2:30pm 23rd YORK CITY KNIGHTS H 2:30pm 30th FEATHERSTONE ROV. A 2:30pm 2011 MAY 7th HALIFAX H 2:30pm Sat 21st LEIGH CENTURIONS H 2:30pm Sat 28th SHEFFIELD EAGLES H 2:30pm **2011 JUNE** 4th KEIGHLEY COUGARS A 2:30pm 2011 JULY 2nd WIDNES VIKINGS A 2:30pm 9th FEATHERSTONE ROV. H 2:30pm Sat 23rd WHITEHAVEN H 2:30pm 30th LEIGH CENTURIONS A 2:30pm 6th SHEFFIELD EAGLES H 2:30pm 13th DEWSBURY RAMS 20th WHITEHAVEN A 2:30pm

2011 FEBRUARY

In the preparation for the York game we looked to fine-tune the team and ensure the mistakes we made at Keighley were not replicated at York.

The York pitch is quite a small one in comparison to some so we worked on a game plan to accommodate those surroundings.

Next Saturday (19th March 2-30pm KO) is our first home game in the league against Widnes,

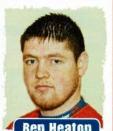
Widnes were the team that beat us in the play off at the end of last season so I am sure it will be another great game as we bid to get our home league programme off to a flying start.

It would be great if you could come down and support us, as I am sure we definitely get the biggest crowds in the Reserve Championship and your vocal support can certainly influence our Young Guns,

Thanks and enjoy the game,

Houghy.





Ben Heaton Sponsored by Willscaff



Lucas Onyango Sponsored by **Rob The Gardener**



Marcus St Hilaire Sponsored by **Mick Harron**



Jack Bradbury Sponsored by **K Bradbury Builders**



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Chris Clarke Sponsored by Paul Whalley & **Kyle Cook**



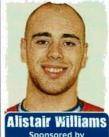
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Paul Noone Sponsored by Hillcrest Electrical Contracting



Martin Roden Sponsored by **OJT Communications**

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- The management reserves the right to refuse entry to the stadium for
- . Persons seeking entry to the stadium may be required to submit to a
- Alcohol, cans, bottles, klaxon horns, fireworks, dogs and dangerous articles must not be brought into the stadium.
- People with disabilities will be given special assistance were

IN THE STADIUM

- The management wishes to ensure that everyone in the stadium has an enjoyable and safe experience. Consequently, the following is prohibited:
- Invading the playing area
- . Use of racist, obscene, abusive, threatening or offensive language or conduct. Throwing of any missile, object or article onto the pitch or anywhere
- else within the stadium. Climbing onto or damaging any of the stadium fixtures is forbidder
- Behaviour in a manner likely to disrupt the comfort, enjoyment or safety of others.
- Smoking anywhere within the perimeter of the stadium.

LEAVING THE STADIUM

All persons are requested on leaving the stadium to act in a responsible manner and not cause any nuisance or annoyance in the

GENERAL

- . All persons entering and in the stadium must follow the instructions given or displayed by the management (these may include The Police, Safety Stewards and Security Staff as well as Public
- Address announcements)

 All matches are played in accordance with the rules and regulations of the relevant sporting governing body.

 SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

No refunds can be made in respect of unused tickets. If a season ticket is lost or destroyed please inform the office immediately. Season ticket holders are advised to insure their tickets

as replacements will be charged at full price.

- **EJECTION FROM THE STADIUM** The management reserves the right to eject from the stadium, any person contravening these Ground Rules and will eject any person who is subject to a banning order from this stadium or any other
- sporting venue.

 Any person who is ejected is not entitled to any refund.





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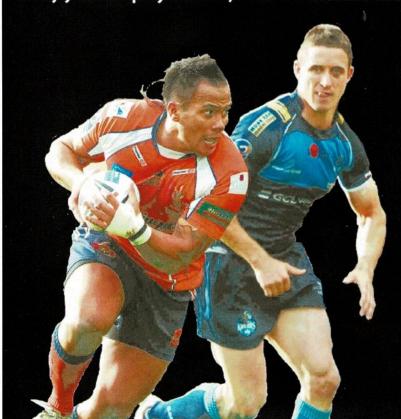
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Jack Bradbury



AS we set off today on another Cooperative Championship One campaign, it is perhaps appropriate to turn the spotlight on a young man

from Oldham who is also looking ahead and wondering where his future in rugby league will lay

That young man is Jack Bradbury, whom we signed last November to bring him "home" to Oldham after his four years' apprenticeship at St Helens.

He is one of several up-and-coming players from similar backgrounds who are now under contract to Roughyeds and in Jack's case his one-year Roughyeds contract was a belated birthday present because the former Saddleworth Rangers junior celebrated his 20th birthday just a few days before he put pen to paper.

He became Oldham's fifth new signing of the off-season and the third to arrive at Whitebank straight from a rugby league apprenticeship at the highest level.

Prop Liam Gilchrist (21) also came from St Helens; back-row man Ben Wood, also 21, signed from Salford City Reds; Bradbury followed Gilchrist from Saints, having spent four years learning his trade at one of the biggest clubs in the land.

Other players of 21 or under in a young first-team squad are Ben Heaton, Danny Whitmore, Chris Clarke, Scott Mansfield, Matthew Fogarty and Tom Wood-Hulme, although they have emerged from different backgrounds and not all have been with Super League clubs.

Bradbury was one of those who did take the Super League route, leaving Saddleworth at the age of 16 to join Saints on a three-year professional contract.

When that expired he was offered a new oneyear deal to go full time. It was a measure of the regard in which he was held at Knowsley Road that he was quickly promoted to the senior squad.

Ultimately, his dream of breaking through into the big time ended in disappointment, but he is determined to be back in Super League before he is much older and that remains his big ambition for the future. Wakefield Trinity Wildcats were interested, but instead of moving to Yorkshire he decided to put himself in the shop window with his hometown club.

Said Roughyeds team boss Tony Benson: "Before we signed Jack I had been monitoring him since the end of last season when I got a tip from Saints that he would be available.

"He was being courted by other Super League clubs, but at this stage of his development as a player he decided we could offer him the better pathway to where he wants to go.

"He harboured the dream at Saints, but sometimes matters are taken out of your hands. They have been going overseas for centres in recent times and that made it extremely tough for a young bloke like Jack to break through.

"He has already shown that he will be a great addition to the Oldham squad as we set out once more on our league campaign and I am absolutely certain that he has what it takes to eventually get back into Super League.

"In the meantime we will be doing all we can do at the Roughyeds to progress him as a player and to help him to fulfil his Super League ambitions."

Bradbury joined an ever-growing band of Oldham-born players at the Whitebank Stadium, many of whom have been connected to Super League clubs in the past such as Whitmore, Alistair Williams, Michael Diveney, Wood, Fogarty and Mark Brocklehurst.

"I was disappointed in how it all ended for me at Saints," he said, "but I have to move on and I am looking forward to the experience of playing for my hometown team.

"I'm hoping to get back into Super League, but in the meantime I will be doing the very best I can for Oldham in the hope that I can help them to win promotion."

He represented England at under-15 and under-16 levels and those remain the highlights of his career so far, although at the age of 20 he can no doubt look forward to his future in rugby league taking a few twists and turns in the years ahead.

During the three years he was on part-time duties at St Helens he studied sport and leisure at college and, outside of rugby league, he would like to think that he has a future in those disciplins. He is sponsored by K Bradbury, Builders.

Jack has already made himself a strong contender for either of the centre positions with his performances in the pre-season friendlies and the Northern Rail Cup games, but he wouldn't be averse either to having a crack at stand-off, a spot he rather fancies if the truth were known.

13



ROUGHYEDS AT PLAY...NO PAIN, **NO GLORY!**

ROUGHYEDS players enjoyed a novel training session in their build-up to the new league season ... gunning for each other at Manchester Paintball Arena in Chadderton.

First-team squad and coaching staff swopped training kit for protective paintball gear at the Fields New Road arena to split into two teams and go into battle with paintguns at the ready.



"We wanted a brilliant team-bonding session -- and that's just what we got." said coach Tony Benson. "It was an exhilarating exercise at a fantastic facility and the lads enjoyed every minute of it.

"I think Dogger (Martin Roden) and Elly (Dave Ellison) copped the most paint, but a lot of the lads took big hits and there were a few screams of pain ringing around the arena.



"One team had to defend their flag while the other had to pull it down and raise their own. It made for a great tactical battle, and after a poor run of form on the rugby field it was perfect for lifting spirits and putting a smile back on the players' faces.

"I can't speak too highly about the facilities on offer at the Arena. The protective gear is brilliant and its a great way of getting the boys together for something different and for a change in routine while still being active and competitive. The people there are very safety conscious too."

You can ring the Manchester Paintball Arena on 0161 626 2642. You can find them at Lower Ground Floor, Nile Mill B, Fields New Road, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 8NH.

Our visit to the Arena is featured on the latest edition of Roughyeds TV, titled 'St David's Day Massacre, a fight for honour". To view, visit our website at www.roughyeds.co.uk and you will find Roughyeds TV on the Home Page.

2011 Fixtures

Oldham RLFC Results & Fixtures 2011

January		July				
IAW CUR Sun 2nd	ROCHDALE	H W 34-28	CC1	Sun 3rd		

WHITEHAVEN H 3:00pm Sat 15th FEATHERSTONE A L 36-10 CC1

SEATTROPHY Sun 23rd WHITEHAVEN H W 50-0 CC1 Sun 24th KEIGHLEY H 3:00pm

February

Sun 6th HUNSLET HAWKS H W 28-22 August

Sun 13th HALIFAX Sun 14th ROCHDALE Sun 20th SWINTON Sun 21st SOUTH WALES H 3:00pm A L 29-20 CC1 Sun 27th WHITEHAVEN H L 4-14 CC Sat 27th CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

March

CCC3 Sun 6th HUNSLET WARR. H W 28-16 CC1 Sun 4th WORKINGTON A 3:00pm

Sun 13th GATESHEAD CC1 H 3:00pm CC1 Sun 20th WORKINGTON A 3:00pm October Sun 27th SWINTON H 3:00pm

September

Sat 9th

LONDON

Sun 31st WORKINGTON H 3:00pm

Sun 2nd co-operative Championships finals day

April

CC1 Sun 3rd KEIGHLEY A 3:00pm Sun 17th LONDON SKOLARS H 3:00pm Fri 22nd ROCHDALE CC1 3:00pm Mon 25th WHITEHAVEN A 3:00pm CC1





A 5:00pm (The Stoop)

May

Sun 1st DONCASTER 3:00pm Sun 15th SOUTH WALES A 3:00pm

CC1 Fri 27th SWINTON A 8:00pm

June

CC1 Sun 5th DONCASTER 3:00pm

Sun 12th SOUTH WALES 3:00pm Sun 26th GATESHEAD A 3:00pm

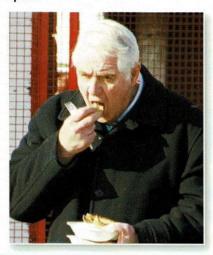
Official **Programme** designers for the Oldham Roughyeds

Call Richard on 07932 934 595 for a quote on your design requirements.





IS this YOU getting your gnashers stuck into a Holland's meat and spud?



If so the Spie-Catcher has gotcha. Yes, he's always out and about at Whitebank on match day and a 'victim' will appear in each subsequent edition of this match-day programme over the course of the season.

If it is YOU all you have to do is take this programme to the club office in Lansdowne Road, Chadderton (0161 628 3677) to claim your Holland's prize (office open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

At the end of the season every fan



who has appeared as a Spie-Catcher victim will go into a draw for another prize donated by Holland's, our pie suppliers.

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Sportsor's

THREE more companies who sponsored Oldham Rugby League Club last year have agreed new deals to stick with the Roughyeds for another 12 months.

Continuing to back the club commercially in 2011 are Wickes DIY; Premier Kia Motors of Rochdale and Dukinfield; and AMP Wire of Chadderton.

WICKES DIY, who are sponsoring the players' pre-match warm-up kits, will run an in-store competition for children in which winners will get the chance to be Roughyeds' match-day mascots.

Said Wickes manager Lee Ashworth: "Working alongside Roughyeds we can build community links, and we intend to go for that in a big way this year."

Premier



PREMIER KIA, shirt sponsors, provide Roughyeds with a customised car and offer

tickets to Oldham games at Whitebank as one of several benefits to customers with service-history loyalty cards.

"We did something similar last year," said Kia director Nigel Bird, "and we are happy to do it again in 2011. Free golf at Dukinfield GC is another sporting benefit on our loyalty card."

ampwire

AMP WIRE, who sponsor the Roughyeds' dug-

out at Whitebank, are hoping to support Tony Benson's men all the way to automatic promotion from Co-operative Championship One in the new league campaign that starts today. Said managing director Pam Pelham: "We don't want the play-offs again, that's for sure. We looked strong and fit in the SEAT Trophy win against Whitehaven and that's credit to everyone at the club. I've got my fingers crossed for a fantastic season."

BEN Wood is too big to get battered very often on the rugby field ... but he does like a piece of the 'battered' when he calls in at Levers Fish and Chip Restaurant in town to enjoy a meal and have a chat with his sponsor, Savvas Eleftheriou. He



had to miss out, though, on his latest visit because it was on a Saturday and, like all dedicated Roughyeds players, Ben has to watch his diet on the day before a game.

Said Savvas, long-time Oldham fan: "We are delighted to sponsor an Oldham boy. We think he's going to have a great season."



SOLICITORS Wrigley Claydon, shirt sponsors, have renewed their backing of Roughyeds for 2011. John Porter, a

partner in the firm, said: "We have been associated with Oldham RL Club, in all its various guises, for many years.

"We are proud and delighted to continue that relationship."



About Oldnam

Meet the Rev Tony Ford, presenting his first column as our club chaplain.

Hello and a special welcome to our quests from Gateshead for the first league game

As it's my first time of writing in the club programme I thought I should say something about my role as Chaplain to the Roughyeds and how God has a place in Oldham Rugby League

My first job on joining the club last May was to hold a short thanksgiving service for the new ground. Some may say it's not much to give thanks for but after 13 nomadic years since leaving Watersheddings and the hard graft of many staff and volunteers, we honestly do feel blessed to have a ground we can call home again and so it seemed right to give thanks to God for Whitebank

On my first meeting with the playing staff and coaches I described my role as 'being there when s"t happens' only that very day s"t had happened with the tragic murder of Gary Purdham in Cumbria, Gary was someone several of the lads had played alongside or against and we were reminded that we just don't know when tragedy might strike.

We somehow seem to think these lads are invincible as they drive the ball up and tackle each other with such ferocity but they too experience the anguish you and I face on a regular basis. That's why I don't see my role with the club as any different than that in the church.

I am here to offer help and support both pastorally and spiritually to all who require it. Rugby League is now taking the role of chaplains seriously and most Super league clubs and a growing number of Championship sides are seeing the benefit of having folk with the training most Church ministers have. One of the unusual aspects to the chaplaincy here at Oldham is that I am available to Fans as well as staff members and have already had the huge honour of officiating at the funerals of a couple of supporters and been allowed to serve those families at a real

The big question I am always asked is are you hoping to convert them all to Jesus'? The honest answer is ves of course I am, If I believe as I do that Jesus is the way to everlasting life with the Father of all creation, isn't that a good thing to do? But I hope I don't rub that in anyone's face but only answer when asked about my faith in Christ. My main aim is to support the club and it's supporters in times of sadness and hopefully times of celebration as we strive towards automatic promotion the Championship this season after our recent exploits in the play

The Rev

REPLICA Roughyeds jerseys and other leisure wear are now in stock and they can be puchased on line or from the office in Lansdowne Road, Chadderton, open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. To buy on line go to our website at www.roughyeds.co.uk, click on 'shop' and

Replica shirts cost £45 (adults) and £40 (children) and we also have polo shirts at £23 and hoodies at £28 (children) and £40 (adults)

NEIL Roden needs just one more try to reach his century of Roughyeds' touchdowns in cup and league. When it happens let's raise the roof for Roden, who will become the first player to reach that milestone since the new club was formed in 1997.

MARTIN Murphy, an Oldham RL legend who made 462 appearances for the club (a post-war record), is still supporting Roughyeds via the Club Cash lottery, and he'll tell you it pays to be in it. He won £100 last Christmas and last week he scooped the top weekly prize of £300. Congrats, Murph! To join Club Cash ring the Roughyeds office on 0161 628 3677.

Ring the same number too if you fancy becoming a lottery agent. We need them in all areas.

DID anyone spot Hughie Waddell standing at the bar after the Whitehaven game? What a story Hughie can tell. From Blackpool Borough, via Watersheddings, to a Great Britain triumph against the Aussies in Sydney -

Waddell, a wow with Oldham fans back then, dropped in to renew acquaintance, and get his first glimpse of Whitebank, while driving from Yorkshire to his home in Carlisle. It was great to see him again.

THE Players' Association was represented in the hospitality suite at the Whitehaven game by Martin Murphy, Mike Elliott, Lou Laverty, Dave Kenway and Lyn Morgan, Rumour has it that Roger Halstead was so pleased to see the old warriors that when he came to reading out the Oldham team to the assembled company he began: "Murphy, Elliott, Larder ...".

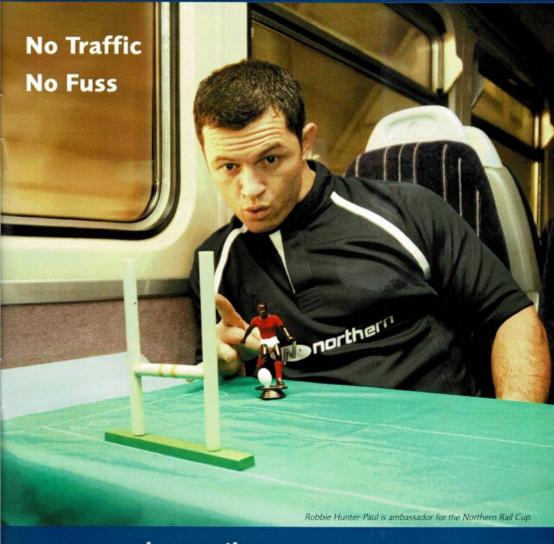
Needless to say, the Whitehaven directors thought he

NIGEL Marland is chairman of an interim management committee which will look after the affairs of the Oldham Roughyeds Supporters Association (ORSA) until the AGM. Also on it are Paul Whalley, Maureen Woodhead and John Davies.

To have a chance of winning a £20 club shop voucher answer this: In what year were Mike Ford and Hugh Waddell picked for the tour Down Under?

Send you answer to ORSA comp, 38, Trajan House, St Mary's Estate, Oldham OL1 3BZ or email it to PW4856@aol.com (entries close March 31).

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