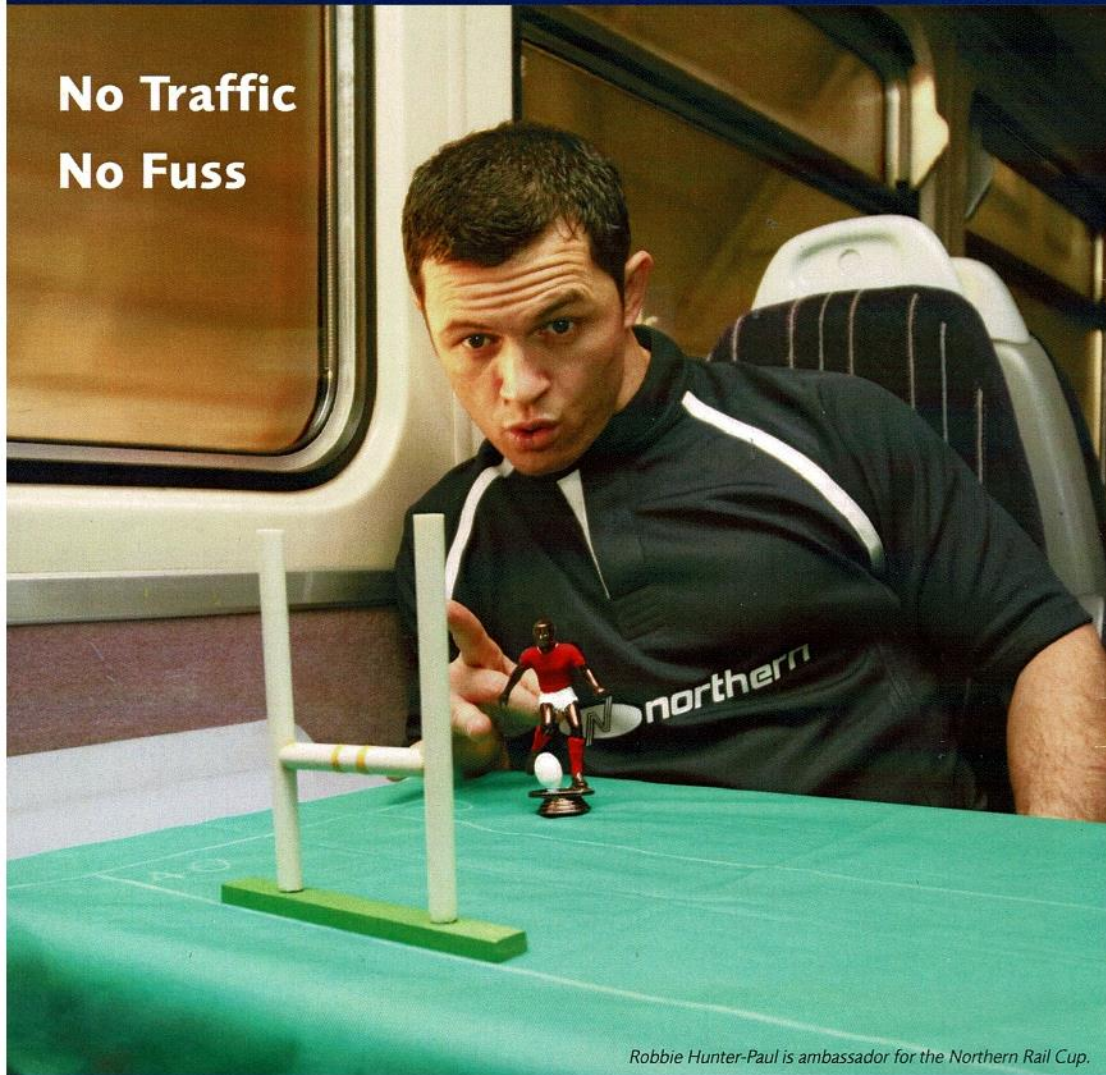


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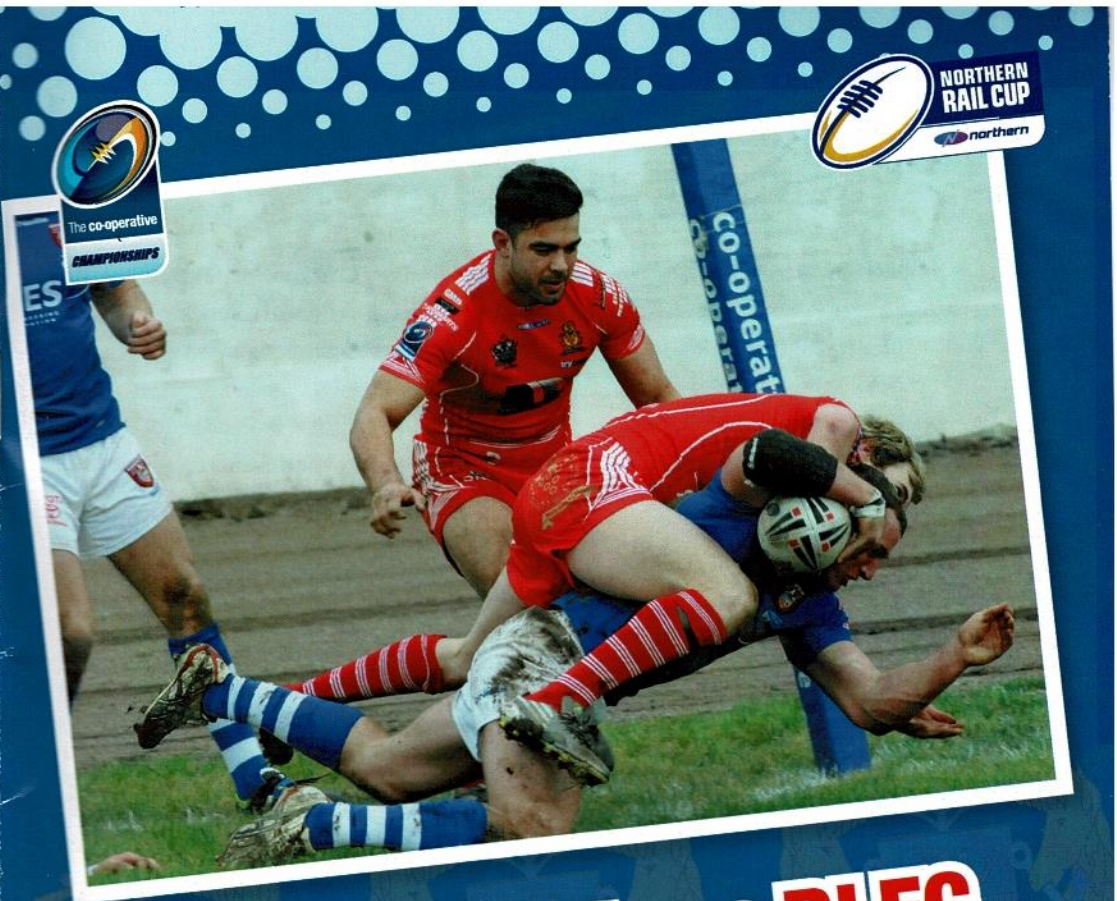


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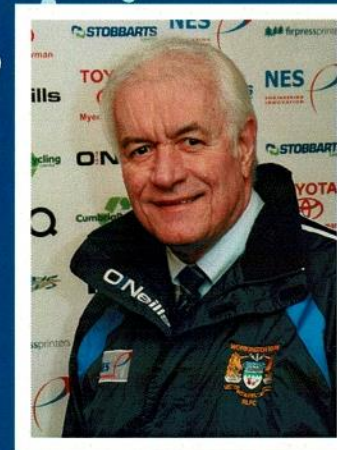
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| | |
|--|--|
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| Chairman: D Bowden | Conditioner: M Johnson |
| Vice Chairman: M Fryer | Physio: C Skillen |
| Directors: F Gilmour, M Allison | Doctor: Dr Shah & Dr Peddireddi |
| Associate Directors: T Boyd, S Canfield | Time Keeper: G Short |
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To use a boxing analogy the sparring of the Northern Rail Cup is over and the gloves are off for what is certain to be an intense and exiting Co-operative Championship One season.

I don't think there is much between any of the teams and today's visitors, Oldham, are certainly one of those teams who will expect to mount a strong challenge for one of the coveted Top 4 positions and are more than capable of pinching an away win from any team who are not completely focused. We welcome everyone from Oldham to Derwent Park this afternoon.



Therefore our aim must be to ensure we are completely focused and disciplined and that we play intensely for the full 80 minutes. We certainly have the squad to do it but we could do without any more injuries that have affected us already. It is also critical that all our players recognise we will need the entire squad as the season progresses. Not everyone will play today, but everyone will play as the season unfolds. If as a club we all keep together, players sponsors and fans alike, there is no reason whatsoever that we can't achieve one of the promotion places on offer.

Finally on a very sad note indeed, everyone at the club was shocked to hear of the loss of James McKenzie who died in a tragic accident on Wednesday. Jimmy was our head gateman and manned the turnstiles for an incredible 41 years. He will be sorely missed by everyone at the club and our thoughts are with Jimmy's family at this very sad time.

David Bowden

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Well this is it; the start of a new league campaign has finally come around in what without doubt the most important 18 fixtures in the club's recent history.

Forget about the pre-season performances over Whitehaven, or the defeats at Barrow and Swinton, they mean nothing now, and we need to put all our efforts into making sure we are in the top four at the end of August.

The pre-season has seen us play some fantastic rugby, and we have taken a lot of positives from those displays, while tinkering with the line-up in order to find our best starting XIII.

The board have worked extremely hard over the close season to strengthen the squad, with Super League players Peter Lupton and Jamie Thackrey, to go alongside the top local amateurs Dan Rooney, Jon Dawes and Brett Philips who have all slotted very easily into the side, while the experience of Carl Forber has been essential having shouldered the half-back responsibility in the absence of Peter Lupton and Mark Bainbridge.

The board should also be applauded for their work in setting up the partnership with Super League giants Hull K.R., which has seen us sign three of their top prospects in giant prop James Green, Dave Peterson who made the Hull KR first team squad 2 weeks ago, and flying winger Mick Johnston.

These players will all add strength to the fantastic local squad we have already assembled at the club. We have shown in passages of our play pre-season, that if we respect the ball and retain possession, we have the quality to score tries and should fear no one in this league.

Tony Benson has put together a quality squad at Oldham, and rest assured, they will be well drilled and organised. Their close defeats against Keighley and Dewsbury from a league above have shown they will be formidable opponents this season.

NES have continued to back the club financially, and we are extremely grateful to them and all the other local companies who continue to back us in these turbulent times. With your support, we are determined to reward your backing with a promotion winning season.

We have seen an increase in support this season, the club have several schemes ongoing in a bid to pull in younger supporters, and hopefully a winning side will see our attendances break the 1,000 barrier very shortly. When on song, you are the best supporters in the league, so please make your voices heard today and get the lads off to a winning start!



Charles Oggy

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Good Luck to Town!

If you need to contact Tony Cunningham MP or make an appointment to meet him at one of his regular Friday surgeries you can:

Write to him at:
Moss Bay House, 40 Peart Road, Derwent Howe, Workington CA14 3YT

Tel: 01900 65815
Email: smithjmt@parliament.uk



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Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to Derwent Park for our first home league game of the season.

Now that the Northern Rail cup fixtures have been completed, it's down to business for what is the most important league season for a number of years. It's absolutely essential that we achieve a top 4 finish and gain promotion at the end of the season, and it's you, the fans, and of course all of our sponsors who will be the biggest factor in helping us do that, other than the players themselves. Hopefully the fantastic derby win a fortnight ago, along with the increased advertising of the fixture will increase the gate, not only for today's game, but for the rest of the season.

Our new online store is up and running and we've been sending merchandise all over the world with Australia and Germany just some of the destinations for our new ranges. We have also been on the market in town, although we unfortunately had to cancel last week on the advice of the manager of the market so apologies for any inconvenience caused, and we intend to continue doing that every couple of months as the new spring ranges come out.

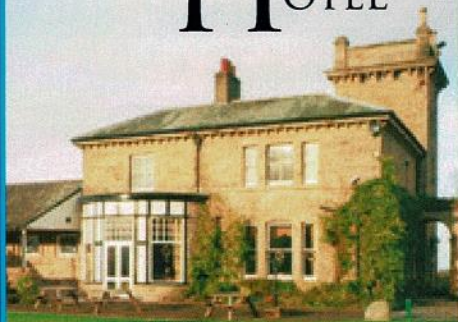
I'd also like to make a special mention of the contributors to our new squadbuilder initiative. This has been lead by Les Smallwood, and a number of supporters have come forward to make a monthly donation to be invested in the playing squad. This is a fantastic gesture and is very much appreciated by everyone at the club.

Last but by no means least, I'd like to thank today's sponsors. The revenue generated through match day sponsorship is the biggest income generator other than gate receipts, and without these sponsors we wouldn't have been able to bring in some of the fantastic talent that will be on show today. As always, anyone looking to book a package can email me at barry.scholey@townrlfc.co.uk or call 07739 461 383, and I'll be more than happy to tailor a package to meet your needs.

Enjoy this afternoon's game, and thank you again for your support.

Barry Scholey

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Blast from the Past!

Workington Town 34-12 Oldham
Stones Bitter Championship - 17 April 1995

by Richard de la Rivière

The glorious Peter Walsh era was drawing to a close 17 years ago, but for those of us lucky enough to witness what the Australian coach did for Workington Town, it seems like only yesterday that his talented side graced the Derwent Park field.

The final home game of his three-year tenure at the club came in April 1995 against today's visitors, Oldham, with Town closing in on an impressive mid-table spot in their first season back in rugby league's top flight.

Walsh became Town's coach in the summer of 1992, and led them to successive promotions with two Premiership Finals at Old Trafford thrown in for good measure. Now in the top flight, Town struggled at first, giving their critics - most notably the Whitehaven News columnist George Nicholson - plenty to scoff at. Going into the new year, Town had won only three matches from 15.

But after a 20-10 New Year's Day defeat at Oldham, Town turned their season around, and picked up the division's team-of-the-month award for their three wins in January against Halifax, Salford and Hull. They also saw off Bradford, Featherstone, Hull and Leigh (94-4!) in February, the latter two in the Challenge Cup. Town had at last found their feet.

By the time the Roughyeds came to Derwent Park on a Bank Holiday Monday in mid-April, the world of Rugby League had been turned on its head with the announcement of Super League. The Town v Oldham fixture would be no more - Cumbria v Manchester would be on the agenda instead after a series of bizarre mergers were unveiled. None of them went ahead, but the sport had firmly embedded itself in Rupert Murdoch's back pocket.

On the field, Town were improving with every outing and, having seen off Widnes and Wakefield in an impressive start to April, had Oldham's ninth spot in their sights as they took the field in their last home game of the season. With an air of celebration on the

terraces after such a superb season, each of Town's players kicked balls into the crowd to thank them for sticking by them during those tough winter months.

Town were without the Fijian colossus James Pickering and Great Britain legend Des Drummond but wasted no time in getting stuck into the Roughyeds building up a 16-0 half-time lead with Lee Smith, Mark Mulligan and Jonty Gorley scoring the tries. Gorley's effort, in particular, was a beauty with fullback Mulligan mesmerising the visitors' defence.

After tries from David Jones and Martin Crompton (two) for Oldham, veteran winger Kevin Pape sealed the win with a try in the left corner after Phil McKenzie, Rowland Phillips and Brad Hepi had prised open the Oldham defence. Fittingly it was the showman Hepi who had the last word, finishing beautifully with a right-foot step with four minutes left.

Town thrashed Doncaster 50-16 five days later, and finished ninth. They had confounded the naysayers in magnificent style, and booked themselves a place in the game's inaugural Super League in the process.

TOWN: Mark Mulligan; Leigh Smith, Paul Burns, Vince Fawcett, Kevin Pape; Kevin Ellis, Dean Marwood; Colin Armstrong, Phil McKenzie, Stephen Holgate; Brad Hepi, Billy McGinty, Darren Carter. Subs: Jonty Gorley & Rowland Phillips

OLDHAM: Wally Gibson; David Jones, Mike Neal, Darren Abram, Adrian Belle; Paul Topping, Martin Crompton; Craig Richards, David Stephenson, Chris Parr; Gary Lord, Joe Faimalo, Mike Kuiti. Subs: Steve Gartland & David Bradbury

Workington Town

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| BRETT CARTER |
| GRAEME MATTINSON |
| CARL FOBER |
| KARL OLSTROM |
| JAMIE THACKRAY |
| DANIEL ROONEY |
| ELLIOTT MILLER |
| DARREN KING |
| JAMES ROBINSON |
| JARRAD STACK |
| JASON MOSSOP |
| PETER LUPTON |
| JOHN PATRICK |
| KRIS COWARD |
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| MARC SHACKLEY |
| MATTHEW TUNSTALL |
| MIKE WHITEHEAD |
| RICHARD FARRER |
| STEPHEN DAWES |
| BRETT PHILLIPS |
| JACK GASKELL |
| RYAN MCDONALD |
| JONATHAN DAWES |
| JAMES GREEN |
| DAVE PETERSEN |
| NICK JOHNSON |

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TOWN
 OLDHAM

Oldham RLFC

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| ALEX THOMPSON |
| BRUCE JOHNSON |
| CHRIS CLARKE |
| CHRIS MURPHY |
| DANNY HEATON |
| DANNY LANGTREE |
| DANNY WHITMORE |
| DAVE ELLISON |
| DAVID COOKSON |
| JACK REID |
| JAMIE DALLIMORE |
| JASON BOULTS |
| JOHN CLOUGH |
| JOHN GILLAM |
| LIAM GILCHRIST |
| LUCAS ONYANGO |
| LUKE STENCHION |
| MARK BROCKLEHURST |
| MARK MCCULLEY |
| MATTHEW FOGARTY |
| MICHAEL WARD |
| MILES GREENWOOD |
| NEIL RIGBY |
| NEIL RODEN |
| PAUL BALLARD |
| PAUL NOONE |
| PAUL SMITH |
| SHAUN ROBINSON |

Scrum

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Penalties

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Ref: W Turley • TJ: B Armstrong • TJ: M Laing • RR: B Logan • MC: P Gilmour

TODAYS VISITORS

Oldham RLFC

Today sees the dawn of probably the most crucial season in the recent games history. Traditional clubs with a trail of major cup honours behind them will be striving for a top four finish in a league where past glories count for nothing!

Oldham have had a disappointing Northern Rail Cup campaign, and like ourselves, finished near the bottom of the Merit Table with just 3 points coming from a bonus point v Dewsbury and a draw against South Wales.

Oldham Coach Tony Benson knows what is needed to get out of this division and he will have been delighted to snap up prop Matty Syron (20) on loan from Leeds Rhinos. The youngster trained with Roughyeds for the first time this week, having signed to the end of the season. Standing 5ft 10in and weighing 15st 10lbs, he joined Rhinos in 2010 from local amateurs Queens and went on to win junior representative honours for England and Great Britain.

Chairman Chris Hamilton: "If Matty is anything like Casey and Bravo he will do well here. "As with all youngsters from Leeds, he will come with good habits and a desire to be the best he can possibly be. "That's the Leeds way, and we are grateful to Barrie McDermott and Leeds for allowing him to come.

Roughyeds have moved to bolster their front-row because Luke Stenchion will be out for several weeks with a broken thumb and new recruit Danny Heaton is no longer training at the club.

Pre-Syron, coach Tony Benson could call on only four recognised props — Jason Boults, Bruce Johnson, Dave Ellison and Liam Gilchrist.

Like Workington, Oldham have also been victims of



the RFL Disciplinary panel this week with Alex Thompson, the club's promising young loose-forward, out of the Roughyeds' opening Championship One game today having pleaded guilty to a charge of striking an opponent in the Northern Rail Cup defeat by Dewsbury Rams at Whitebank. The former Warrington Wolves junior, who has been in excellent form in his first year of senior rugby, admitted his guilt and picked up an automatic one-match ban. The incident, off the ball, was placed on report by referee Jamie Bloem. It was then studied on DVD by the RFL disciplinary people, who later charged 21-year-old Thompson with the offence.

Oldham will be looking to build on the spirited display in the defeat at Keighley last week, and will have a much stronger team out this afternoon. Matthew Fogarty, Mark McCully, Valu Bentley, Luke Stenchion, Lucas Onyango and Paul Ballard didn't play at Keighley because of injury, while Neil Roden, Danny Whitmore and Michael Ward were left out as part of Benson's rotation policy.

In this league, all teams are capable of taking points off each other, and it is essential that we get off to a flier today. Today's game promises to be a cracker, so please give the team your full backing!

2012 Fixture List

| Date | Opponent | Venue | K.O. | Comp. |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 12th February 2012 | Sheffield Eagles | 14-28 | L | NRC |
| 19th February 2012 | Barrow Raiders | 31-24 | L | NRC |
| 26th February 2012 | Whitehaven | 44-16 | W | NRC |
| 4th March 2012 | Swinton Lions | 30-12 | L | NRC |
| 11th March 2012 | Oldham RLFC | Home | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 18th March 2012 | South Wales Scorpions | Away | 13.00 | CC1 |
| 25th March 2012 | Challenge Cup Round 3 | | | CC |
| 1st April 2012 | London Skolars | Home | 14.00 | CC1 |
| 6th April 2012 | Whitehaven RLFC | Away | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 15th April 2012 | Challenge Cup Round 4 | | | CC |
| 22nd April 2012 | North Wales Crusaders | Home | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 29th April 2012 | Challenge Cup Round 5 | | | CC |
| 6th May 2012 | Gateshead Thunder | Home | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 13th May 2012 | Barrow Raiders | Away | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 20th May 2012 | Doncaster | Home | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 3rd June 2012 | Rochdale Hornets | Away | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 10th June 2012 | London Skolars | Away | 14.00 | CC1 |
| 17th June 2012 | Northern Rail Cup Quarter Final | | | NRC |
| 24th June 2012 | Whitehaven | Home | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 1st July 2012 | North Wales Crusaders | Away | 14.30 | CC1 |
| 8th July 2012 | Northern Rail Cup Semi Final | | | NRC |
| 15th July 2012 | South Wales Scorpions | Home | 13.00 | CC1 |
| 22nd July 2012 | Doncaster | Away | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 29th July 2012 | Northern Rail Cup Final | | | NRC |
| 5th August 2012 | Gateshead Thunder | Away | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 12th August 2012 | Barrow Raiders | Home | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 19th August 2012 | Oldham | Away | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 25th August 2012 | Challenge Cup Final | | | CC |
| 2nd September 2012 | Rochdale Hornets | Home | 15.00 | CC1 |
| 30th September 2012 | Grand Final Day | | | CC1 |

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Bring It On!

LEAGUE
WEEKLY

With the group stages of the Northern Rail Cup over with, it is time to bring on the main course of the Co-operative Championships.

And what a year it promises to be!

The quality of personnel in the game outside of Super League was clear to see at the pre-season photocall and press conference held in a Manchester hotel last week. It certainly seems there are more players and coaches with Super League experience than ever plying their trade now in the part-time divisions.

John Kear - a columnist with our own League Weekly - has swapped the full-time luxuries of the elite league for Batley Bulldogs this year of course and I know from speaking to him just how his eyes have been opened by the dedication and commitment given by players away from the glamour of Super League. His predecessor Karl Harrison, who has moved on to Halifax, Featherstone's Daryl Powell and Swinton's Steve McCormack, have all been in charge of top flight clubs before too. If it wasn't for their English accents they might all still have jobs in Super League too.

But the top clubs' obsession with antipodeans is the Championships gain. Player-wise, Keighley have brought in a raft of ex Super League faces, Semi

Tadulala, Michael Korkidas and Sam Obst amongst them, South Wales Scorpions had Wigan's Paul Prescott in their line up last weekend thanks to their links with the Challenge Cup holders, and it will be fascinating to see how Paul Cooke's arrival at Doncaster plays out. A Challenge Cup winner with Hull FC in 2005, he has been out of the game more than a year after needing time to look after his terminally ill mum and cope with her loss. Such a tragedy could prove a huge inspiration to a player of undoubted talent who admits to have gone off the rails while at the height of his fame. His presence at the Keepmoat Stadium gives the Dons great hope of being among the four cubs who will be promoted from Championship One.

With the Championships set for a major overhaul next year, getting out of Championship One is a bigger deal than ever for clubs who would rather be playing the likes of Leigh and Dewsbury next year than Hemel Stags and Northampton.

All the ingredients are there for a great year and rugby league rarely disappoints so bring it on.

Courtesy of League Weekly

**Welcome back to Derwent Park for the start of the 2012
Championship 1 league season!**

We are currently in the process of organising the Mayor of Allerdale Trophy which will take place on Saturday 24th March at Derwent Park, we will be inviting all amateur club youth teams to enter the festival which will be used as a friendly fixture for the under 8's 9's and 11's before their season starts Easter weekend.

The team are very busy at the moment working with all 15 schools in the Workington district providing every child with the opportunity to test the activities which will take place on Tuesday 12th June 2012 when Derwent Park will host the Workington Schools Olympics, this event will see Derwent Park filled with 2,600 school children participating in Olympic activities, not only sporting but singing, dancing, banners, and torch design. The steering group have been working tirelessly to find funding for this day and would like to thank Amcor, Iggesund, ISS, ASDA and Workington Town Council for their support however we do require further funding and anything anyone would be able to give would be much appreciated this is going to be an excellent day and the largest event being organised for school children in the county.

Follow us on twitter @WTRLFCcommunity where you will be able to find out where we are out delivering on a daily basis as well as information about events taking place.

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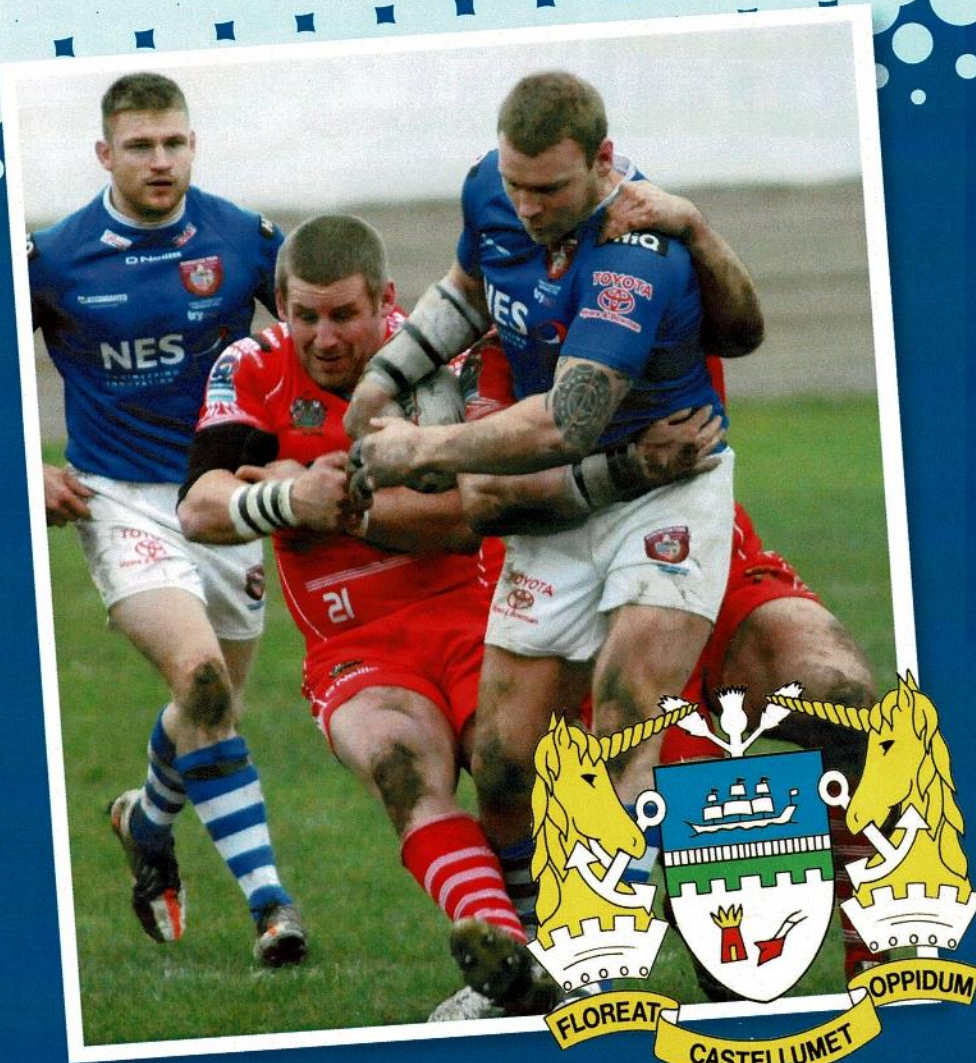
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RFL - Official Notes

RESPECT

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

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

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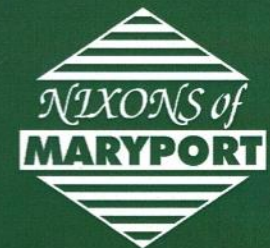
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