

TEAMS

BARROW RAIDERS

OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

	PL	T	G	D
1 Andy Ballard				
2 Mike Backhouse				
3 Ryan Shaw				
4 Chris Larkin				
5 James Nixon				
6 Scott Kaighan				
7 Liam Campbell				
8 Bradley Brennan				
9 James Dandy				
10 Jamie Butler				
11 Liam Harrison				
12 Andy Bracek				
13 Dan Towl				
14 Liam Finch				
15 Andrew Dawson				
16 Ryan Duffy				
17 Martin Ostler				

D	G	T	PL	
				Miles Greenwood 1
				Rob Foxen 2
				David Cookson 3
				Mark McCully 4
				Chris Murphy 5
				Neil Roden 6
				Jamie Dallimore 7
				Jason Boults 8
				John Clough 9
				Liam Gilchrist 10
				Paul Noone 11
				Paul Smith 12
				Valu Bentley 13
				Martin Roden 14
				Chris Clarke 15
				Michael Ward 16
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BARROW
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Sunday 2nd September, Kick-off 3.00pm

Today's Officials

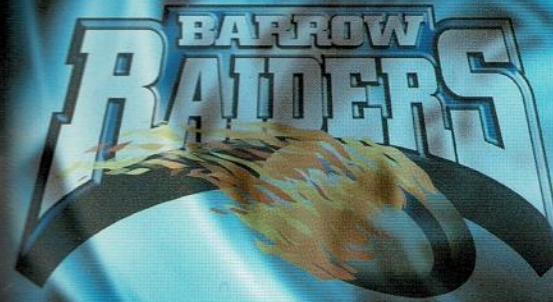
Referee: P Brooke
Touch Judges: A Gill & N Aspey

BARROW RAIDERS

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Issue 11



BARROW RAIDERS v OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

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Credits

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Writers: Darren Holt, Paddy McAteer, Al Goodings, Peter Wilson, Dave Wrennall, Keith Nutter and Dave Huitson

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Boardroom View

Today we offer a big welcome to the directors, coaches, players and supporters of our good friends Oldham for what promises to be an excellent match.

It was very much a case of mission accomplished in our last home game when Barrow secured their return to the Championship in 2013.

A superb display by the team meant that the 1,710 spectators at the ground plus the television audience witnessed a clinical, and thoroughly entertaining, performance by the Raiders which they deservedly won by 48-16. For achieving the season's main goal with some four matches still to go our fledgling coaches Darren and Phil have each been rewarded with new two year deals with the remit to continue to build a side which we can all be proud of; and I for one have little doubt that they will ultimately achieve this.

A couple of weeks ago I was chatting with Holty and telling him about the Barrow side which the great Frank Foster built in the mid to late 1970's; a team which, like the class of 2012, was also built largely around local talent. In the first two years of Frank's tenure that team had just five sides below them at the season's end but in 1975/76 they won the Division Two title. Ultimately that side was developed and strengthened to the extent that it was able to compete

at the top level, compete in a John Player Trophy Final and also win the Lancashire Cup.

The point of this history lesson is that at the beginning of its journey that team was often beaten but that didn't make them bad players; the simple fact was that many were still learning their trade so to speak.

To drive home my point it should be realised that in 1974/75 when the side finished 9th of 14 clubs in the old second division it contained four players (Phil Hogan, Eddie Szymala, John Cunningham and Derek Hadley) who now sit proudly in the club's hall of fame. Back then they were merely promising local lads!

The moral of the story is simply that a team cannot be built in one year; it takes time. We must now control our expectations and ambitions and allow the likes of Dan Toal and Andrew Dawson (to name just two) the time to develop and flourish. These are exciting times at Craven Park but if we continue to grow on and off the pitch there could be even greater glories ahead over the coming years.

Whilst the Olympics has obviously taken all the national headlines the battle for the Championship One league leaders' trophy has now developed into a three-way fight, with Doncaster's recent victory over Workington throwing the race wide

open.

As things stand our destiny is quite simply in our own hands, for if we can win our final four league fixtures then we will finish top of the pile for sure.

Today we entertain Oldham at Craven Park in a match that we really must win, and win well if we are to improve our points' difference which is currently the worst of the three title contenders. Our average home attendance this season has been around the 1,400 mark and with just two home league games remaining it would be nice if this could be maintained or bettered.

It is hard to imagine that Workington will come away from Gateshead this weekend with anything other than a huge win but Doncaster's trip to Whitehaven looks an interesting match and could well go either way, especially as Haven still need another couple of wins to secure promotion.

If our marras up the coast can turn Donny over and win this one (and Barrow can overcome Oldham) it will mean that the Workington v Barrow match on Sunday August 12th will become a virtual title decider.

The train service to Workington on a Sunday is non-existent but I still expect a huge contingent from Barrow to make the journey by car and coach. The club will of course be organising

coach travel to the game but this will be very much on a first come, first served basis so if you want to make the trip please book your seats at the Rugby Shop as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

I am sure most of you thoroughly enjoyed the opening ceremony of the Olympics at the weekend and (although it isn't really my thing) I too thought it was great viewing. However, I am at a loss to understand why we were "treated" to four Rugby Union tries as part of the occasion. I know it was intended to signify the four nations competing under the GB flag; but why Rugby Union, a sport which has not featured in the Olympics since 1924? The cynic in me would claim that its inclusion in the ceremony was purely to promote the 15-a-side code and was no doubt influenced by Sir Clive Woodward; but whatever the reason it was completely out of context for sure.

Geoff Worrall, one of my fellow directors, is one of the few people I know who applied for Olympic tickets and the lucky sod was rewarded with three tickets for the men's 100 metre sprint final. I suppose if you can only see one event at the Olympics that would be the one that most would choose. I'm just hoping that Geoff can speak to the winner of the race and get him signed up to play on the wing for the Raiders in 2013.

Coaches Take

Afternoon everybody,

We come to todays penultimate home league fixture finding ourselves 2 points clear at the top of the table....a position in which everybody involved with the club, including yourselves, should be extremely proud. That leaves us with 4 remaining games in which to mount a challenge for the title outright which is promising to culminate in a very closely fought run-in. Although every game is just as important as another, supporters will be looking to the Workington game as a key fixture but may I remind everyone that if we don't win today, and indeed our other two remaining fixtures, then that result will very suddenly become irrelevant to an extent.

Oldham have so far had mixed fortunes this year starting off very well beating both ourselves and Workington early doors at home only to fade in the middle part of the season but seem to be returning to a

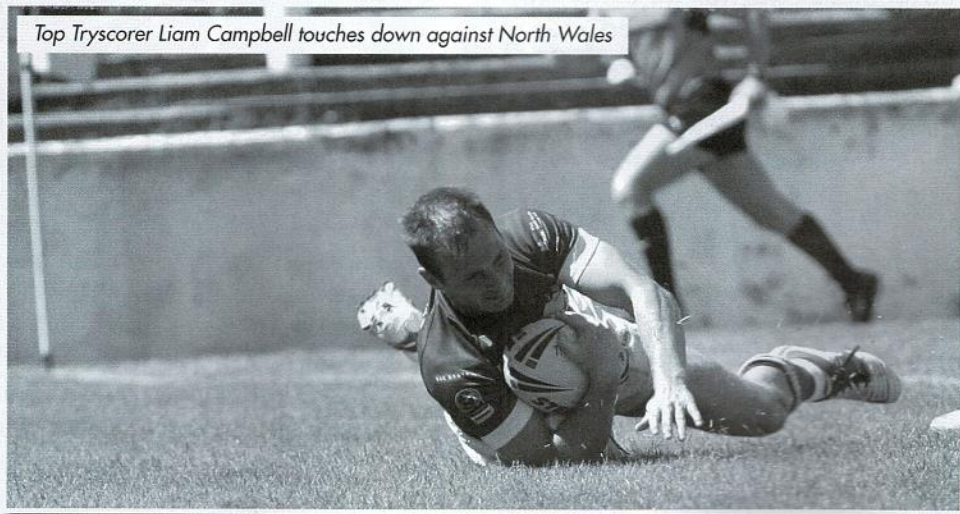
bit of form just at the wrong time if you are a raiders supporter. Although being confident, especially at home, this game today could be one of our most difficult to date and only a similar performance to the second half against Whitehaven will secure us a victory IMO. That should be the aim of all of the players in the build up to this game and all remaining games as we not only want to win this league..... we also all want to keep improving week on week and do ourselves justice by consolidating this years accomplishments by performing consistently well in the Championship next year.

My message to all supporters of our club.....stick with us, cheer us on and lets attempt to achieve what I believe we all deserve due to our efforts this year-The Title!!!

Enjoy the game guys,

Holty

Top Tryscorer Liam Campbell touches down against North Wales

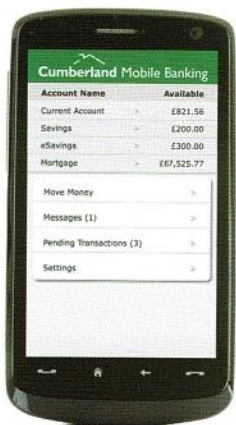


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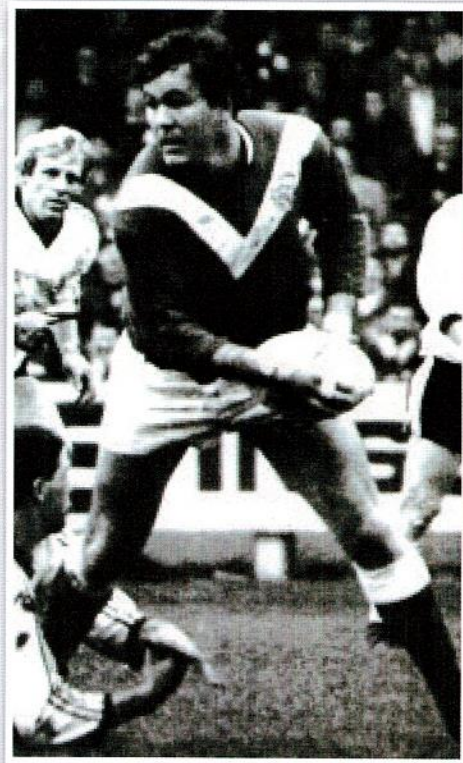
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Boys about Town

look back at two players from yesteryear who have played for both Barrow and Oldham.....

STEVE HERBERT

Though tough prop/2nd row Steve Herbert was born in Workington on December 3rd 1956, he was raised in Lancashire. He was signed by Oldham from Leigh Colts in 1974 and made his first team debut on April 6th 1975, ironically against Barrow, where his 2 tries helped the Roughyeds to a 21-19 triumph in an exciting game. The reason Steve was born in Cumberland, was due



to his father Norman Herbert starring for Town at this point in his own illustrious career which spanned the 1950's, started at the long defunct Belle Vue Rangers and was sprinkled with several GB appearances. Steve had shown huge potential for the game in his teens when he captained England Schoolboys against their Australian counterparts in 1972. After 6 successful seasons at the Watersheddings, Steve joined Barrow in November 1981 for a transfer fee of £10,000 (big money in those days!), where coach Frank Foster (a former Oldham player himself) immediately installed him in the first team where he was to remain for the rest of his Craven Park career. In 123 first team outings, Steve racked up an impressive 42 tries (not bad going for a prop forward in any era of the game), a total that included a remarkable 25 in the memorable 1983/4 season when not only was he the club's leading try scorer, he was also an integral part of the Lancashire Cup winning side. As with so many players before him, 4 years of travelling up and down the M6 had begun to take its toll, Steve joined Salford, a team much nearer his Leigh home. His move to the Willows saw the effervescent Stewart Williams head north as the two clubs agreed to a straight swap deal following an initial trial period. It is a mark of both player's ability and integrity

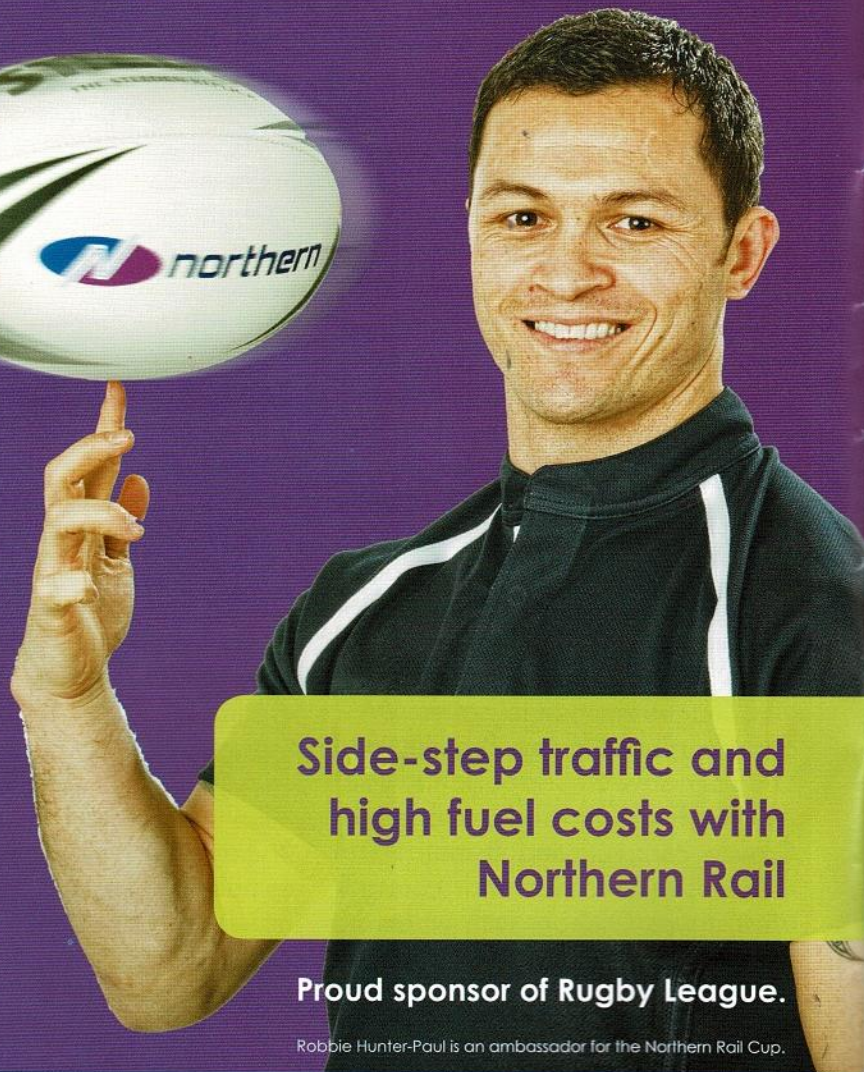
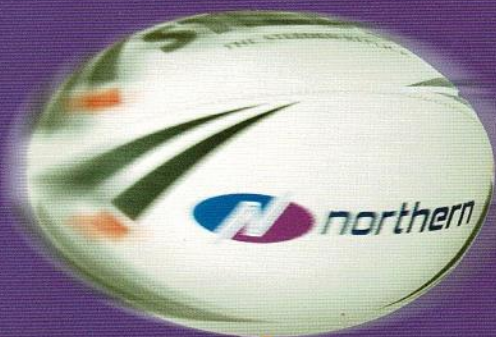
that Barrow and Salford enjoyed excellent service from their new recruits, with neither having cause to regret the wisdom of the deal they had brokered in the ensuing years. Steve stayed with the Reds for over 4 years before having a season with Trafford Borough and then ending his playing days with a brief final fling at Swinton. As at all his clubs, Steve gave his all at Barrow and will be remembered as a prop forward of well above average ability.

PAT HEWSON

Like so many amateur players of the 1940s and 50s, Pat "Tex" Hewson was forced to leave the Furness area in an attempt to make his name in professional Rugby League. The strength of the local junior league was such that not only did it provide the majority of the Barrow first team, other professional sides were quick to plunder its ranks to bolster their own sides. Rochdale Hornets signed a vast amount of players from the local league immediately after WW2 and Liverpool Stanley, Bramley and Oldham saw an opportunity too. Although Pat initially trialled at Craven Park, playing 8 matches in the clubs reserve side and scoring 9 tries, it was Oldham with whom he joined the pro ranks in 1947 from his amateur side Walney Central. After an encouraging start in South Lancashire where he played 8 times

in the first team in what remained of the 1947/8 season, crossing for a try, he thereafter struggled to escape the club's A team. Eventually, the demands of travel proved too much and he inevitably transferred to Barrow at the beginning of the 1950/1 season. If competition had been fierce at Oldham, Pat found it even tougher at Barrow where he found himself up against internationals Jim Lewthwaite and Frank Castle for a first team shirt. As if this wasn't tough enough, on the rare occasions this celebrated duo missed a game (and these were very few and far between) Pat had to compete with excellent utility backs such as Jim Trelore, John Ducie and Dave Johnson who were all also eager for a chance to impress. Under these circumstances it is little surprise that Pat played just 5 times in Barrow's first team but to emphasise his undoubted ability he scored 3 tries in those games. He was also a regular for the club's second team and once scored 7 tries in a league fixture against Leigh on October 6th 1951. Barrow won that game 32-13 (not the cricket score you might expect) with fellow Walneyites Hugh McGregor (try) and Eric Hebblethwaite (4 goals) completing Barrow's total. Now aged 86, Pat still lives locally, taking an interest in both the local amateur and professional scenes.

Try the train



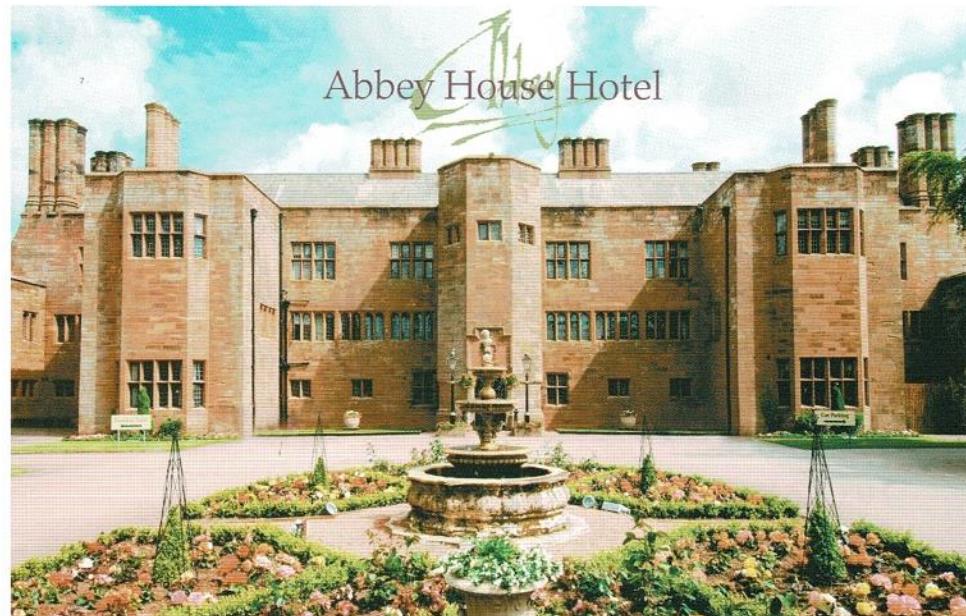
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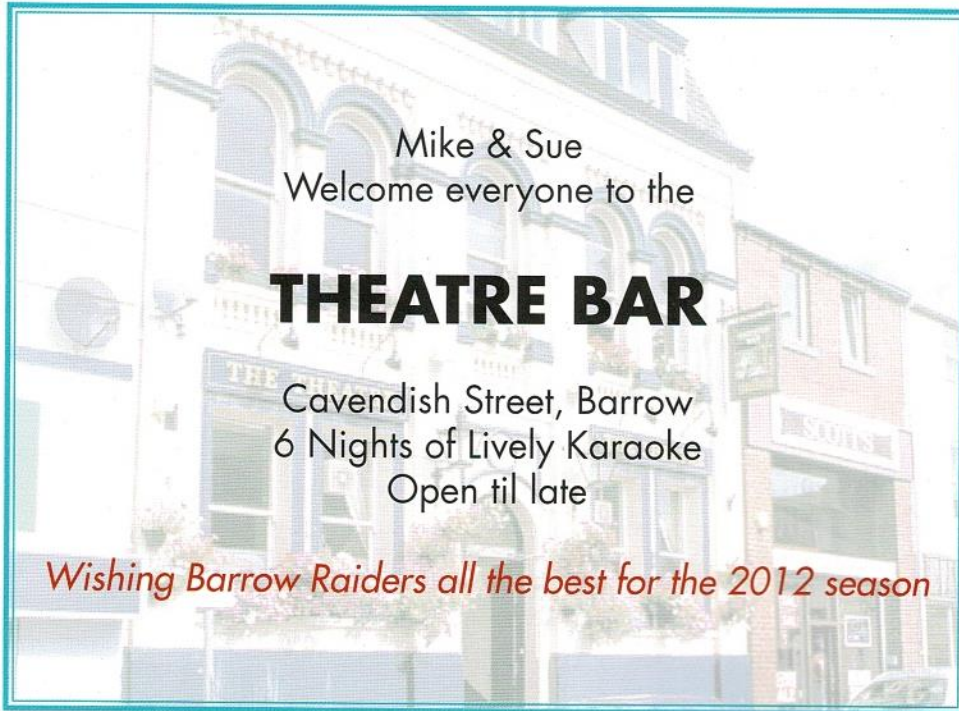
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Peter Wilson former Daily Star journalist

If you are not in the mood for a sob story this may be a good time to turn over the page because if there was ever a sadder sporting tale than the decline and fall of today's visitors I don't want to hear it.

It may have been more than half a lifetime ago but it seems like only yesterday that Oldham was a big name in Rugby League. The fact is, though, that a bit like ours, Oldham's golden age was the 1950s.

That was the decade in which they paraded such talents as record breaking Bernard Ganley, Rocky Turner, Don Vines and Alan Davies as well as picking up their fourth championship title.

After that Oldham's was a story like any other club, of ups and downs, occasional highs and a few lows – the things that keep fans turning up week after week.

For the best part of 20 years – throughout the 70s and 80s – I was one of those regular visitors to Watersheddings. Oldham were my "second" team. True, the old place had seen better days; the roofs leaked, parts of the ground were closed long before anybody had heard of elf n' safety; and reporters were supplied with special cloths to remove what the pigeons had left on the press seats.

But it was home. Those running the club were good devoted people. More than that, it was the heart and soul of the game in the town – there was even an amateur club called Watersheddings – and at least 4,000 supporters were happy with their lot.

Then along came Super League and with it Oldham Bears. The club were supposed to join up with Salford and become Manchester but the two couldn't agree on a name, team colours or a home ground so they decided to go it alone and the rest is history.

Their ground went the way of Swinton's Station Road, Rochdale's Athletic Grounds, Hull's Boulevard, Wigan's Central Park, and others but even after the sale the club were still skint and homeless so they pitched camp at Boundary Park, home of Oldham Athletic.

Founder members of Super League and part financed by the Murdoch empire after the TV war in Australia, the Bears lasted just two seasons. With ex-Kangaroo Bob Lindner at the helm, the club appeared to be little more than a holiday camp for some of its imports and ageing Brits and finishing below Paris St Germain (remember them?) relegation was inevitable. The whole thing went pear-shaped, chairman Jim Quinn suddenly upped sticks and one of the game's greatest bedrocks was crumbling.

A lot of this can be written off as guess work, sour grapes and opinion – after all I was the club's unpaid media manager at the time and so was kept in the dark about almost everything - but there's no hiding the fact that, for the last 15 years Oldham have lived a hand-to-mouth nomadic existence. They've played matches at Ashton United, Sedgley Park, Leigh, Stalybridge, Hyde United – just about everywhere except Oldham – and those 4,000-plus crowds are down to little more than ten per cent of that figure.

Craven Park may not be the game's most luxurious ground but it is ours and long may it remain so – I cannot think of one club that is better off after selling up.

It's true a lot of clubs have suffered heavily at the altar of Super League and some expensive hare-brained expansion ideas but Oldham's plight is far worse than most. They now occupy a council-owned ground called Whitebank that is only just fit for purpose, they are kept together by a one-man band in Chris Hamilton and their fans web site is cluttered with "never again" messages from disillusioned supporters.

These are hard times for today's visitors and while we are celebrating promotion to the Championship, spare a thought for the Roughyeds even if they have already beaten Barrow twice this season. I know I will even if a Raiders win today ends their hopes of joining us upstairs.

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Sun 12th	Lough Ceneruns (NRCC)	A	15:00	48-18(I)	1,860	Ballard	Honey	Larkin	Low	Nixon,	² Holt	Campbell	Butler	Dandy	Dowson	Harrison	Gordon	Tool	L'Finch	Ollier	McGoff	Ventier	
Sun 19th	Workington Town (NRCC)	H	14:00	31-24(W)	1,366	Honey	Dixon	Larkin	Usherland	Nixon	^{5,1} Kayton	Campbell	Dowson	Dandy	Butler	Harrison	Pugh,	Tool	Murwood	J'Finch	Ollier,	Ventier	
Sun 26th	Swinton Lions (NRCC)	H	14:00	32-14(W)	1,086	Ballard,	Nixon,	Larkin,	Low	Dixon	⁴ Holt	Campbell	Dowson	Dandy	Broeck	Harrison	Gordon,	Tool,	L'Finch	J'Finch	Butler	Ollier	
MARCH																							
Sun 4th	Whitehaven (NRCC)	A	15:00	10-18(W)	902	Ballard	Honey,	J'Finch	Larkin	Brockhouse	³ Kayton	Campbell	Broeck	L'Finch	McGoff	Harrison,	Pugh	Tool,	Murwood	Ventier	Dutton	Gordon	
Sun 11th	North Wales Crusaders (Champ)	A	14:30	24-28(W)	1,503	Ballard	Nixon	Larkin	Low	Dixon,	³ Holt	Campbell	Broeck	L'Finch	Dowson	Harrison	Gordon	Tool,	Ollier	Pugh	McGoff	Pedley	
Sun 18th	Dunston Dogras (Champ)	H	15:00	25-8(W)	1,325	Honey	Honey	Larkin,	Low,	Nixon	^{4,1} Holt	Campbell	Butler	Harrison	Harrison	Pugh	Tool	Tool	Pedley	Dowson	Gordon	Dutton	
Sun 25th	Leigham Collieries (RLCC)	H	15:00	32-22(W)	1,350	Ballard	Honey,	Larkin	J'Finch,	Nixon	⁶ Holt	Campbell	Broeck	L'Finch	McGoff	Harrison	Pugh	Tool	Pedley	Dowson	Gordon	Dutton	
APRIL																							
Sun 1st	Oldham Roughyeds (Champ)	A	15:00	32-28(I)	1,100	Ballard	Honey	Larkin	J'Finch,	Nixon,	³ Kayton	Campbell	Broeck	L'Finch	Dutton	Harrison	Pugh,	Tool	Pedley	Ollier,	Dowson	Gordon	
Fri 6th	Gaithhead Thunder (Champ)	H	15:00	40-12(W)	1,371	Ballard	Brockhouse	Larkin	Low,	Nixon	⁸ Holt	Campbell	Butler	Dandy	Dowson	Harrison	Gordon	Tool,	Pedley	Pugh	Broeck	Ventier	
Sun 15th	Oldham Roughyeds (RLCC R4)	A	15:00	14-26(I)	773	Ballard	Brockhouse	Larkin	Low	Nixon,	³ Holt	Campbell	Butler	Dandy	McGoff	Harrison	Gordon	Tool	L'Finch	Pugh	Broeck	Ventier	
Sun 22nd	Redcliffe Hornets (Champ)	H	15:00	44-18(W)	1,332	Ballard,	Brockhouse	Larkin,	Low,	Nixon,	⁶ Holt	Campbell	Broeck	Dandy	McGoff	Harrison	Ollier	Tool	L'Finch	Butler	Pugh	Dowson	
MAY																							
Sun 6th	South Wales Scorpions (Champ)	A	15:00	24-42(W)	307	Ballard,	Nixon,	Larkin	Low	Brockhouse	⁷ Holt	Campbell	Broeck	Dandy	McGoff	Harrison	Ollier,	Gordon,	L'Finch	Pedley	Butler	Dowson	
Sun 13th	Workington Town (Champ)	H	15:00	20-12(W)	1,808	Ballard	Brockhouse	Larkin	Larkin,	Nixon	⁶ Holt	Campbell	Broeck	L'Finch	McGoff	Harrison	Ollier	Tool,	Pedley	Pugh	Butler	Dowson	
Sun 20th	London Skolars (Champ)	H	15:00	42-12(W)	1,159	Ballard,	Brockhouse	Larkin	⁷ Show	Honey	Kayton	Campbell,	Broeck	L'Finch	McGoff	Harrison	Gordon	Tool,	Dandy	J'Finch,	Butler	Dowson	
Sun 27th	Whitehaven (Champ)	A	15:00	28-42(W)	1,124	Ballard	Brockhouse	Larkin	J'Finch,	Nixon	Kayton	Campbell,	Butler	Dandy	McGoff	Broeck	Gordon	Tool	Ollier	L'Finch	Ventier	Dowson	
JUNE																							
Sun 10th	Gaithhead Thunder (Champ)	A	15:00	18-40(W)	398	Honey,	Brockhouse	Larkin	J'Finch	Nixon	Kayton	Campbell	Butler,	Dandy	Ventier	Harrison	Broeck	Tool	L'Finch	Holt	Ollier	Dowson	
Jun 17th	Haltwhin (NRCC 1/4 Final)	A	15:00	34-24(I)	1,448	Honey	Nixon	Larkin	J'Finch	Brockhouse	Kayton	Campbell	McGoff	Dandy	Broeck	Harrison	Brennan	Tool,	Murwood	Dowson	Duffy,	L'Finch	
Sun 24th	North Wales Crusaders (Champ)	H	15:00	40-24(W)		Ballard,	Nixon	Larkin	⁵ Show	Brockhouse	Kayton,	Campbell,	Brennan	L'Finch	McGoff	Harrison,	Broeck	Tool	Pedley	Gordon	Duffy	Dowson	
JULY																							
Sun 1st	London Skolars (Champ)	A	15:00	17-30(W)	472	Ballard,	Brockhouse	Larkin	⁵ Show	Honey	Kayton	Campbell	Butler	L'Finch	Brennan	Harrison,	Gordon	Tool	Dandy	Duffy	McGoff	Ollier,	
Sun 15th	Dunston Dogras (Champ)	A	15:00	28-24(I)		Ballard	Brockhouse,	Larkin	Larkin	Nixon	Kayton	Campbell,	Brennan	Dandy	Broeck	Harrison	Gordon	Tool	L'Finch	Dowson	Duffy	Ollier	
Sun 17th	Whitehaven (Champ)	H	19:00	48-18(W)	1,710	Ballard,	Honey,	Larkin	Nixon	Kayton	Campbell,	Brennan	Dandy	Butler,	Harrison,	Broeck,	Tool	L'Finch	Dowson	Duffy	Ollier	Ollier	
AUGUST																							
Sun 5th	Oldham Roughyeds (Champ)	H																					
Sun 12th	Workington Town (Champ)	A																					
Sun 19th	Redcliffe Hornets (Champ)	A																					
SEPTEMBER																							
Sun 2nd	South Wales Scorpions (Champ)	H																					



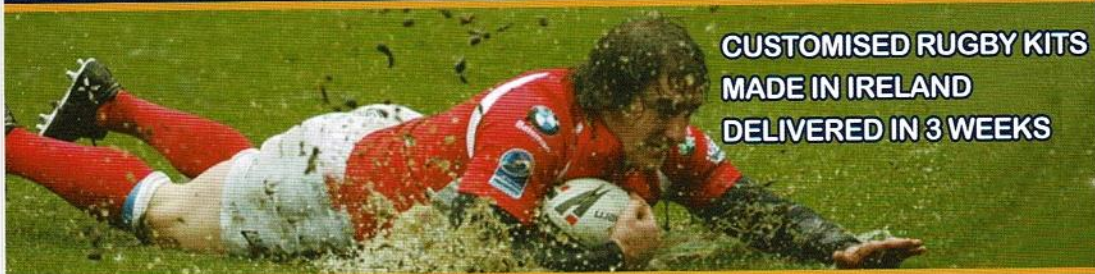
RAGING BULL..... Liam Harrison was outstanding yet again in the recent victory over Whitehaven





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	2012 SEASON						BARROW CAREER TOTALS						KIT SPONSORS				
	App	Sub	NPS	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts	Sub	Total	NPS	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts	Shirt	Shorts	Socks
Mike Backhouse	13	0	0	2	0	0	8	56	4	60	1	18	0	72	Paul & Helen Doughy		
Andy Ballard	18	0	0	10	0	0	40	78	1	79	0	58	21	274	Dong Energy		
Mike Botes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Plastic Man	Liam Harrison	
Andy Bracek	16	2	0	2	0	0	8	59	14	73	0	10	0	40	The Farmers Arms		
Jamie Butler	9	5	0	3	0	0	12	46	88	134	0	8	0	32	Terry Sharp		Amy White
Liam Campbell	21	0	0	19	0	0	76	54	15	69	0	42	0	168	Kaymas Electrical Engineering		
Jamie Dandy	12	2	0	3	0	0	12	12	2	14	0	3	0	12	Cavan & Matthew Brown	Ian Hollywell	Joanne Gaffney
Andy Dawson	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	5	13	18	0	0	0	0	Ross Mortgage Services		
Marc Dixon	3	0	0	1	0	0	4	9	4	13	2	1	0	4	Andy Gaffney		
Lee Dutton	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	37	51	88	0	9	2	40	Gunnar Bjork		
Liam Finch	9	10	0	2	0	0	8	89	27	116	0	43	1	174	Peter Wilson		
Jamie Finch	6	3	0	4	0	0	16	78	15	93	0	38	0	152	Peter Wilson		
James Gordon	10	5	0	2	0	0	8	12	9	21	2	2	0	8	Rita Tongue		
Lee Haney	11	0	0	4	0	0	16	11	0	11	0	4	0	16	Yvonne Sunderland	Lou Scarr	
Liam Harrison	20	0	0	9	0	0	36	197	0	197	0	94	0	376	Gunnar Bjork	Steve Hollywell	Lee Martin
Darren Holt	9	0	1	1	39	1	83	300	4	304	1	67	1036	63	The Neil Martin Group		
Scott Kalignan	12	0	0	4	15	1	47	19	9	28	2	7	16	1	Cavan & Matthew Brown	Plastic Man	Tom Davies
Chris Larkin	18	0	0	6	0	0	24	67	3	70	1	29	0	116	Plastic Man		
Andy Litherland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	Plastic Man		
Aaron Low	8	0	0	3	0	0	12	8	0	8	0	3	0	12	Kaymas Electrical Eng	Liam Harrison	
Brad Marwood	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	Brown & Murray		
Rauri McGoff	10	3	0	1	0	0	4	11	3	14	0	1	0	4	Terry Sharp		
Jamie Nixon	18	0	0	11	0	0	44	166	4	170	2	137	0	548	Josh Curtis		
Martin Ostler	3	10	0	4	0	0	16	95	39	134	0	31	0	124	Marsh Plant Hire		
Jack Pedley	0	8	0	1	0	0	4	2	10	12	1	1	0	4	Zac Martin		
Barry Pugh	5	5	0	2	0	0	8	34	12	46	0	4	2	20	Plastic Man	Liam Harrison	
Dan Toal	20	0	0	15	0	0	60	20	0	20	0	15	0	60	Terry Sharp		
Andries Venter	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	7	0	0	0	0	The Holt Family		
Ryan Shaw	9	0	0	3	47	0	106	9	0	9	0	3	47	106			
Bradley Brennan	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0			
Ryan Duffy	0	5	0	1	0	0	4	0	5	5	0	1	0	4			

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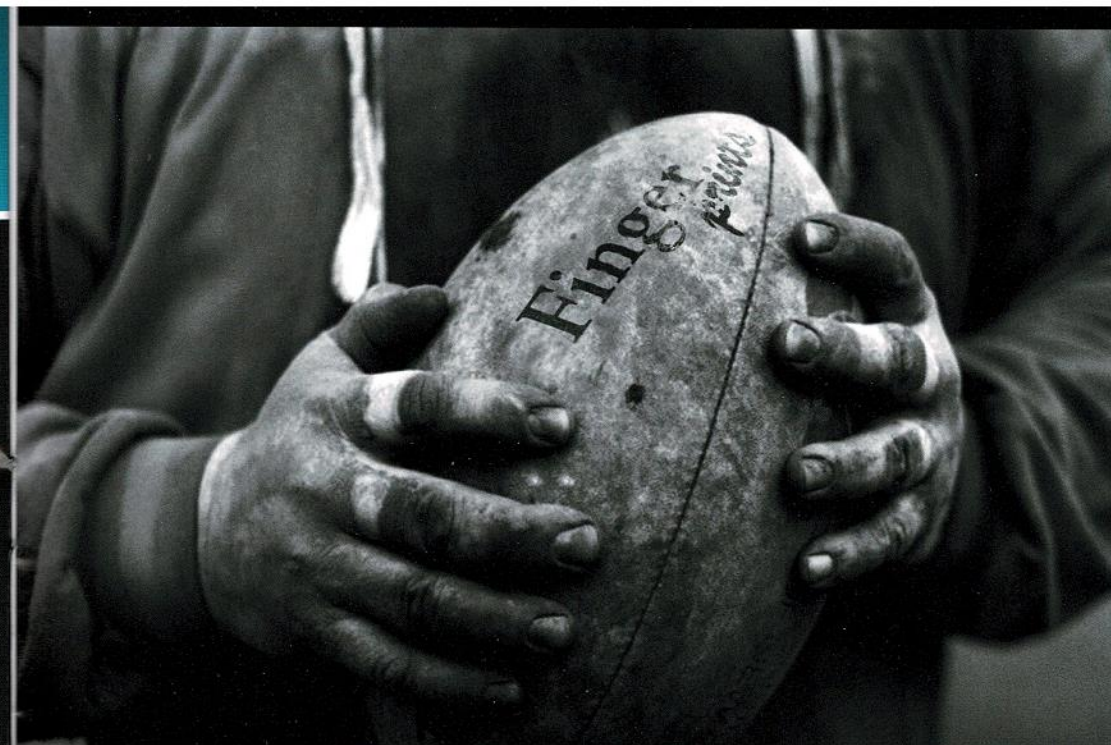
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History

Barrow A 1977/8 - Silverware at Last

The 1970's, a decade that, for the most part, the first team spent on the end of a piece of string going up and down (that's a yo-yo, folks). Whilst the first team were rising and falling between divisions the 'A' team were still at the time competing in the Lancashire Combination. Although by now Barrow (the town) had been relocated to Cumbria, the Cumbrian Combination doesn't quite have the same ring to it does it?, also competing in a league of 3 alongside our West Cumbrian neighbours would have been rather insular, so Lancastrian we remained as far as Rugby League reserve rugby was concerned.

As the first team took the second division title in 1975-6, success was also around the corner for the Reserves and 1977-8 would bring them their first piece of silverware since they had taken the league title, in some style, back in the 1955/6 season. The Lancashire County Combination Shield as well as being a helluva mouthful, was the only Cup competition the 'A' team played in and each round was contested over two legs. The draw had given them, probably, the easiest possible opener with a match up against Huyton. The Merseysiders often struggled to field a first team, never mind a second but Barrow showed no mercy and took out a 21-0 victory, the scoresheet having a slight Rugby Union feel to it as Barrow scored just three tries but fullback Geoff Worrall slotted over six goals. The home leg showcased a similarly dominant performance and saw them win 28-12

easing through into the quarter finals.

Fixtures for the next round were scheduled either side of Christmas and Barrow had drawn Swinton, a side they had already faced twice in the league losing in the season opener but scraping a one point victory in the return. The home leg saw them win 18-4 and again the Rugby Union touch was evident as this time it was stand off Dave Elliott hitting a hatful as his 6 goals and a try meant he contributed all but three of his sides points that day. In the return leg they lost by the odd point in 27 but their progress to the Semi's had been sealed by their home performance.

The semi final again saw a dominant victory at home, this time Workington were the victims, followed by a narrow away defeat but it was enough to guarantee them their first final appearance. The first leg in the final, away from home, saw an absolutely brilliant win 17-10 at Warrington setting them up nicely for the final game of the season where the Cheshire side were annihilated 29-3 (Worrall 7 goals and 3 drop goals) and the Shield belonged to Barrow, at least until they lost it the following season anyway.

The Barrow squad for the finals were Geoff Worrall, Phil Clegg, Keith Knight, Tony Wood, Ken Southward, Dave Elliott, Phil Gooding, Steve Hogan, Bob Chapples, Ray Cook, Jim Perry, Steve Kirby, Stan Gibson Subs Frank Jones and Alan Hughes - Neil Gibson replaced Alan Hughes for the second leg.

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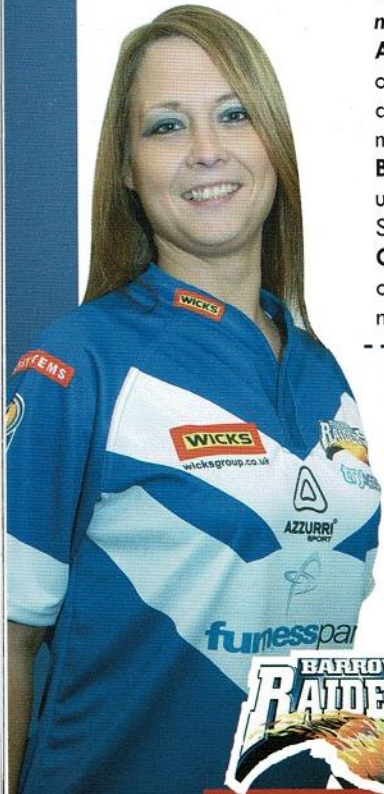
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BARROW RAIDERS 48 - 16 WHITEHAVEN RLFC

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A Barrow Club in turmoil less than 12 months ago, with no players on board, defied all the odds to become the first Championship One team to be promoted with this emphatic victory over West Cumbrian neighbours Whitehaven at Craven Park.

The home side were first with points on the board when a high kick to the corner from Scott Kaighan was palmed back by Lee Haney and on hand to register a rare touchdown was Andy Bracek, the conversion coming from the sure boot of Ryan Shaw 6-0 and the Raiders were up and running.

Haven did apply pressure and local boy Max Wiper would have strolled in at the corner if the pass from Jessie Joe Parker had been in the bread basket.

But they did level on 17 minutes when Lee Doran slipped a neat ball to debutant Tom Hemmingway who crossed out wide for Carl Rudd to convert 6-6.

Barrow gradually took control and regained the lead on 26 minutes when top try scorer Liam Campbell sliced through the cover to score, Shaw tagging on the goal 12-6.

Ryan Duffy was next to cross the line but his effort was ruled out with a knock on being adjudged against Liam Harrison. Haven then lost possession on their own 20 line and from the scrum, Finch, Kaighan and Campbell combined for Lee Haney to swoop in at the corner, a towering kick from Shaw going straight between the sticks for 18-6 at the break.

The second half was barely under way when a high ball bounced awkwardly which caused enough confusion for James Nixon to gather, and from a standing start weave his way through the cover to score, Shaw adding the extra two points for 24-6.

The Barrow pack was now well on top of the Haven six and swift handling along the line saw Andy Ballard stretch over on 47 minutes for Shaw to convert, and at 30-6 it was game over for the Marra's.

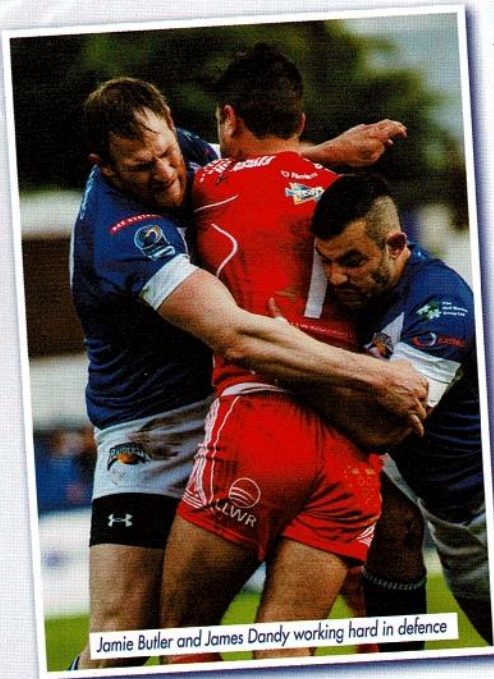
Skipper Liam Harrison was next on the score sheet but this time Shaw's kick was too high and the swirling wind saw the ball drift wide of the target 34-6.

A rare try for prop Jamie Butler followed but all credit goes to provider Bradley Brennan whose forceful run brushed off several would be tacklers, Shaw tagging on the goal 40-6 and 19 minutes remaining.

A rare threat came from Jesse Joe Parker but Shaw got back with a timely tackle, however the re-introduction of Carl Sice injected life into Haven and a high ball to the corner from Jamie Rooney was gathered by Craig Calvert and he touched down 40-10.

Another try followed by former Raider Rooney who also tagged on the goal 40-16.

Shaw replied with a penalty goal before Liam Finch hacked on a loose ball forty yards out and was first to get the vital touch, Shaw rounding off the scoring with the conversion.



OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

Today's opponents Oldham have had a disappointing season in 2012. They had high hopes of finishing in the top four and many pundits expected them to be serious contenders for the league leaders' trophy. After a bright start to the campaign a series of injuries to key players has meant that Oldham's form has been ropey at times but they certainly cannot be taken lightly having already deservedly defeated us twice earlier in the campaign. Within a two week period back in April they inflicted a rare league defeat upon on us and also despatched us from the Challenge Cup. Revenge would be the wrong word to use but no doubt the Barrow players will be keen to set the record straight this afternoon.

A quick look at the league table would suggest a comfortable home win but whilst to the outsider their chances of gaining promotion have all but gone Oldham cannot be ignored in any match. No side coached by Tony Benson can ever be taken lightly and they have enough class in their squad to trouble anybody in Championship One and they will be keen to take the three points today to maintain their challenge for a play off spot at the end of the season.

Tony Benson has certainly not given up hope of promotion and knows full well that if his side can win today they will be right back in the hunt for a top four spot. They travel to Craven Park this afternoon on the back of two league wins

– a narrow 25-24 home success against London Skolars and a comprehensive 44-12 victory at South Wales in their last outing. In the rugby league press just last week Tony Benson summed up the mood in his camp: "Our next game at Barrow is massive and we should have everybody fully fit. We have got our confidence back and we are ready for anything. Promotion is definitely a possibility and are ready for anything. We showed earlier this season what we can do and if we can recapture that form we have a good chance of taking the promotion battle right down to the wire".

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1 BARROW	14	12	0	2	38	229	34
2 Doncaster	14	12	0	2	36	194	32
3 Workington	14	11	0	3	35	250	30
4 Whitehaven	14	9	0	5	28	270	25
5 Rochdale	14	7	0	7	22	291	19
6 Oldham	14	5	1	8	22	331	16
7 London	14	5	1	8	20	363	13
8 North Wales	14	5	0	9	18	414	12
9 South Wales	14	3	0	11	11	400	11
10 Gateshead	14	0	0	14	2	484	2

Players to look out for today in the Oldham side are Paul Noone (a star in Barrow's all-conquering 2009 campaign), wingers Dave Cookson (a recent amateur recruit) and Rob Foxon, half-backs Neil Roden and Jamie Dallimore, and Jason Boults (who recently made his 150th appearance for the club). Another member of the Oldham squad is Paul Ballard (brother of Barrow's Andy).

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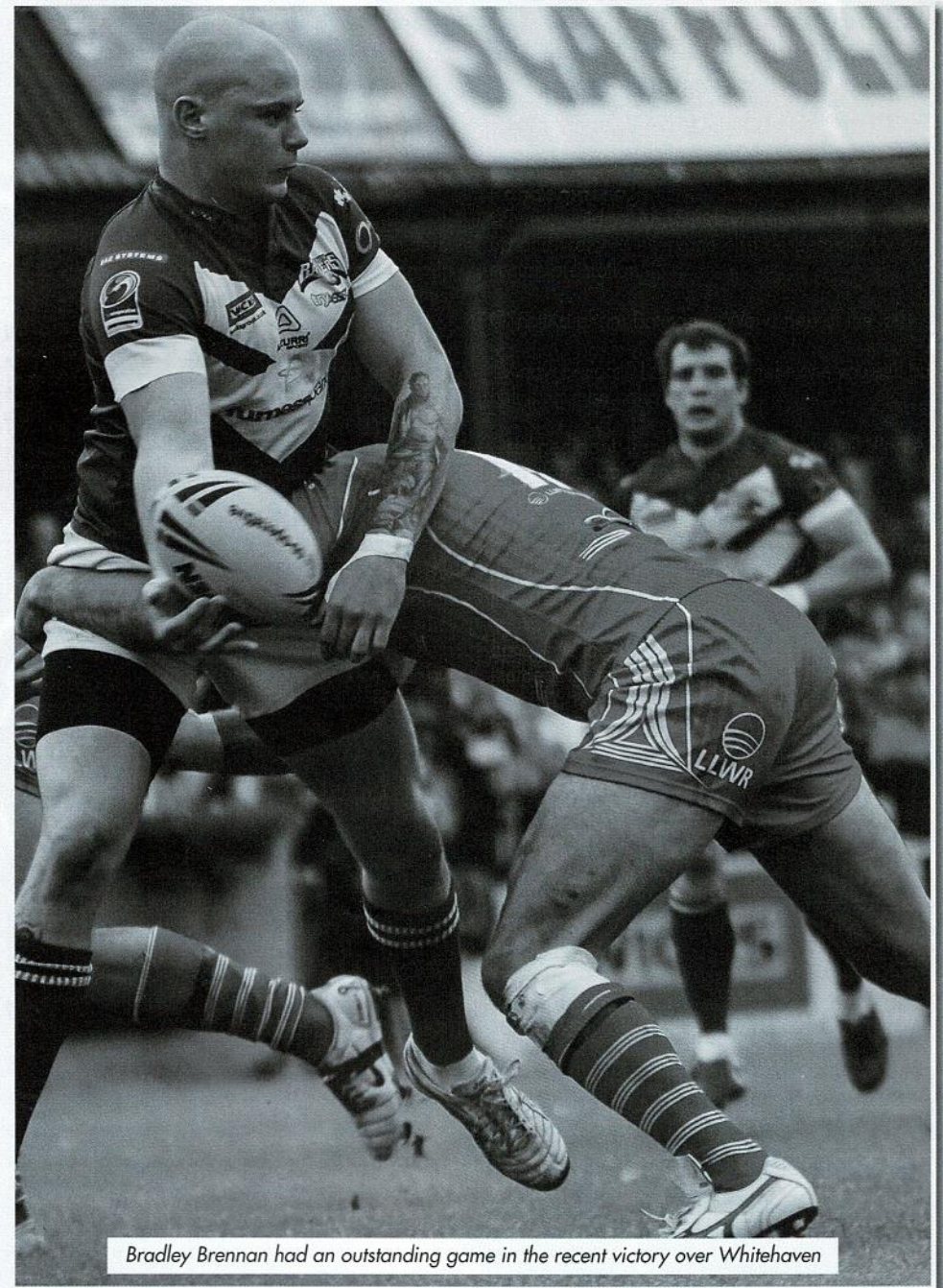
Take the plunge and raise money to help disadvantaged young people. The zip-wire will feature at our community carnival where there will be lots of activities throughout the day for the whole family.

- Zip-wire across the Headingley Carnegie Stadium
- Help break two Guinness World Records
- Assail the climbing wall
- Play target archery
- Enjoy the community carnival
- Win tickets, rugby memorabilia and much more

For further information please see www.leedsmet.ac.uk/giving



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Bradley Brennan had an outstanding game in the recent victory over Whitehaven

Nobody can deny that over the last couple of years the facilities at Craven Park have been improved enormously.

OK we are hardly the new Wembley or Old Trafford, but Craven Park has a homely feel to it that cannot be replicated in new all-seater stadiums.

Since 2010 the Development Fund has financed the rebuilding of the Clive Street wall which collapsed quite simply due to old age, the erection of a new refreshments bar and souvenir shop on the grandstand side of the ground, and most notably the building of an outside drinks bar, burger bar and new toilet block on the popular side, the latter being perhaps the most needed of all the works.

And so we move on to future projects. There is much to do and everybody has their own ideas on what is required as a priority – and to be honest there is no right or wrong way to move forward.

However, the next phase to be looked at is the installation of a new floodlighting system and the replacement of the pitch perimeter wall with a safer version than the current concrete structure.

The need for a safe perimeter fence was highlighted last season when Gary Broadbent was fortunate to escape serious injury in a game against Halifax, whilst everybody knows the short-comings of our lights.

Heavily involved in all the feasibility work is Neil Martin, whose company has done much of the work already undertaken. Neil

issued the following statement on the fans forum last week:

Work has finally started on the next part of the upgrade of the Craven Park ground. Following the success and positive feed back from the supporters and visitors on the vital works that was carried out during 2011 both myself and Keith Nutter have commenced the feasibility on grants available and further funding required to carry out the renewal of the floodlights and replacement of the existing concrete barrier that surrounds the pitch with a modern tubular design to bring Craven Park up to the modern stadium standards. Specifications and safety standards have already been received and various lighting designs and quotations are currently being received. The existing power supply to the ground has been surveyed and a report will follow which will hopefully meet the requirements for the new lights. As per phase 1 we aim to bring regular updates to the forum to keep all supporters in the loop. As Keith would say "The future's bright the future's new lights" sorry Keith ha ha.

As Neil says (and the truth is that he is doing the feasibility work himself on this one), we are hoping to get grant funding to cover much of the costs involved but there will still be some reliance on the Development Fund.

If you feel you can help by making a regular contribution to the fund, please call in the Rugby Shop where John Spoor will be happy to give you further details. Remember all the works mentioned above have been funded by you the Supporters and that is no mean achievement in this day and age. Well done to everybody who has contributed in any way.

TweetRaider

Compiled by @BarrowRaiders

A sideways look at the Rugby League Twittersphere: Carefully dipping a toe into Rugby League's Twitter cyber-stream so you don't have to.

The views and opinions expressed hereon do not necessarily reflect the views of Barrow Raiders RLFC, its board of directors, coaching staff, playing staff or anyone else associated with the club directly or indirectly. So there.

Rugby League Headlines:

There's only one hot topic worth bothering about this week! No apologies.

Promotion Secured:

Barrow Raiders 48 Whitehaven 16

@TheBayOfficial: Barrow Raiders have been promoted back to the Championship after a 48-16 win over Whitehaven tonight. Well done lads!

@Optimism86: Barrow Raiders hammer Whitehaven 48-16 to win promotion back to the Championship. Quickly assembled team of locals have done the town proud.

@dannywright011: Amazing atmosphere tonight. Best team by far this year! Same again in Championship with 2,000's every game! #Raiders

@Barrowviandobby: Well done Barrow Raiders. Great game and now back to the Championship where we belong. From the start of the year to this, does it get better?

@leewaddy72: Congrats Barrow Raiders on getting promotion; be nice to finish top of the pile now instead of the Worky boys. #wesaluteyou Darrenholt

@RJDubU: Back to the Championship for Barrow Raiders - well played lads. @blazinshaw still banging 'em over, too.

@barrowpolice: Congratulations Barrow Raiders. Great result; a well-deserved promotion #jobwelldone

@Loubie_87: Cracking night!! Well done Barrow Raiders. This time 9 months ago, clubs were writing us off! #biggerbetterstronger #uptheraiders

@Sicey13 (Carl Sice): Congrats to Barrow Raiders on promotion. Fully deserved after tonight's performance! Week off to lick our wounds and regroup for next match!

@Liamcampbell07: Best feeling tonight. Still buzzing about the big derby win and getting promoted, chuffed for the club and the supporters. Pride of Cumbria!!

@Shaun_Lunt: Congrats to Barrow Raiders securing promotion.

@jo__123: I have supported @BarrowRaiders through the good times and the bad. Tonight was one of those good times I'll never forget. We showed 'em!

@Lisewilson7: Very proud supporter tonight! Well done @BarrowRaiders on getting promoted! Back where we belong!

@LondonSkolarsRL: Congratulations to Barrow Raiders on gaining promotion to the Championship.

@BLivesey95: Salt and pepper chicken wings after a few bevies with the boys, watching the mighty Barrow Raiders win! What more could I want!?

Randomness

@Tweet_Raider: Ah, Sunday! *Sits back, puts feet up and watches everyone else desperately try and secure promotion*

@ScottKaighan: Batman... Wow! Best of the lot!!

@Andy_ballard01: You could make one yourself but call it rat man haha

@sickpediabot: If someone asks you to spell "Part A" backwards, don't do it. It's a trap.....

@MrMichaelSpicer: Today the Bananas in Pyjamas couldn't convince their pals they saw a talking bird. Anthropomorphic fruit should fare better in this area.

Jump into the Tweetstream: Follow the action, join the debate, enjoy the craic.

Follow @BarrowRaiders on Twitter.com

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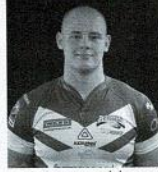
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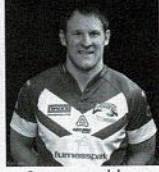
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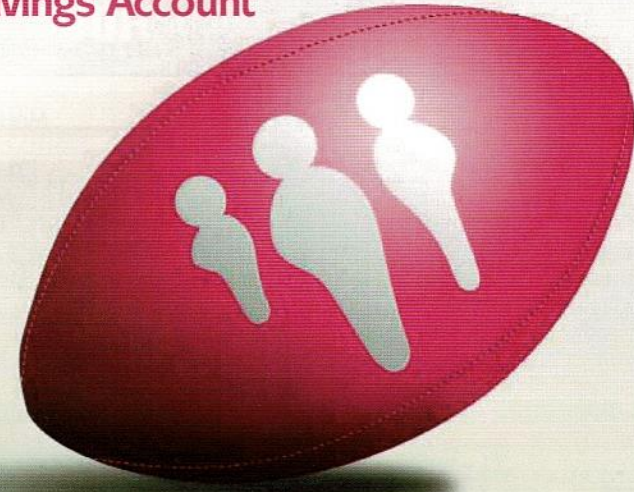
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