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ON THE INSIDE by DAVE PARKER

The Pennine hamlet border town of Todmorden for so long regarded as a backwater town for Manchester overspill is to have its first ever Rugby League team. The organisers, who include Rochdale referee Philip Halstead and former Barrow amateur player Ray Dempsey have big plans for the new club. The Lancashire League cricket club get quite big gates for their matches, and the town's two soccer clubs are also well supported. One never knows but if some wealthy people become connected with the club in time we may see a professional club being formed for there is the population to support one. It is a most interesting breakthrough and the Rugby League should assist all they can.

Doncaster's transfer-listed loose forward Ian Halliwell, who has been on trial with Halifax is now stopping away. The same goes for the club's Oldham-based back row forward Dave Jackson and scrum half Sammy Sanderson, who is putting work before his rugby since the club turned down Oldham's bid for him. But the Halifax club have welcomed back their outstanding prop Terry Dewhurst now that he has got his pub running smoothly in Batley.

The Keighley club have brought out an unusually formulated benefit brochure for their Welsh utility player Terry O'Brien. Instead of the booklet size the printer, chairman Ken Riley, has had a newspaper style brochure turned out.

Former Great Britain prop forward Cliff Watson, who has just left Cronulla, is currently somewhere in the Pacific Ocean on his way back to St. Helens for a holiday. He returns to Australia in February to take up a two-year player-coaching contract with Wollongong. Tommy Bishop is leaving Australia on November 24 for a six week holiday.

Halifax winger Dave Rayner successfully took his club Wentworthville, who were formerly coached by Lewis Jones to the Sydney second division premiership. Dave will himself be coming home in the spring to resume with Halifax after talking things over with his wife who has been unable to settle. She has missed her side of the family in Heywood, Lancashire. Dave told me that the celebrations went on for three days and the beer flowed like water. He has never felt so great in his football career as he did the night they won . . . I bet!!

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POOLS NEWS — — — — —

Two Saturdays ago saw the start of the new £100 Holiday Competition on our weekly pool. The draw will take place every 4 weeks and it promises to be a spectacular success. It is being arranged in conjunction with Holts Travel of Union Street, Oldham, who will be ensuring that the lucky winners have a holiday of a lifetime.

Some measure of the pools success can be seen in the number of clubs Rugby and Soccer who have been sent by the printers to see how we do things. This success is due to the splendid efforts of our agents whose hard work and enthusiasm have made things tick.

With the added prize money we are now hoping to do even better. Your support will be much appreciated, why not help in a practical way by becoming an agent yourself? Call at the Pools Office after the game and let us tell you how easy it is.

JOHN PLAYER RUGBY LEAGUE YEARBOOK — On sale at the Secretary's Office
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This book provides more information than Rugby League followers have ever seen under one cover.

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Brian Batty of the Mail

The decision of the Rugby League Council to try and improve the game as a spectacle will be considered by many to be long overdue.

It is a move that should have been made several years ago when the television cameras first focused for their revealing close-up sequences and general coverage.

Not that these new moves have been inspired purely for the armchair followers, rather for the outnumbered cash customers.

The controversial play-the-ball is, quite deservedly, the prime target for the Council for it has become an ugly sore which has spread its infection throughout the game.

Until we find a cure we will continue to suffer those spells of deadlock when defences are able to dictate, throwing up walls of bodies to stifle the attacks of the opposition.

Certain teams have the players and the tactics to provide the answer but it is a pity we don't copy the Australians or the Kiwis in their approach to the play-the-ball.

They have been taught to rise quickly from a tackle, play-the-ball at speed and generally keep the game flowing at a far faster pace than we are used to in this country.

Unfortunately the present tourists are finding life very frustrating in this respect for referees are allowing the usual incidents to mar this aspect of play.

We have players who persist in lying across the man they have tackled, players who deliberately hold down a player as he tries to rise and others who niggle and try to steal the ball.

All these tactics are designed to 'spoil' and they generally succeed.

The typical attitude is presented by the player who will tell you: 'If the referee isn't going to do anything about it why should I bother.'

'We are instructed to make sure we don't concede a try and if it means stopping someone playing the ball quickly while the defence recovers then we do it.'

This is, of course, modern day professionalism but it is time it was wiped out and we got on with the game. Good luck to the Council and I hope they don't take long to announce their remedies for this ailment.

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Rugby Quiz

1. Five Featherstone players have landed goals for the Rovers this season. Who are they?
2. Which Featherstone players have won the Lance Todd Trophy?
3. Who captained Featherstone at Wembley in 1952?
4. What is the Featherstone record for goals in one match?
5. Who did Featherstone defeat to win the Challenge Cup last season?

ANSWERS

1. Harold Box, Cyril Kelllett, Steve Nash, Mel Mason and Les Tonks.
2. Carl Dooler in 1967 and Steve Nash in 1973.
3. E. Batten.
4. Don Fox kicked 12 goals in the 60-4 defeat of Stanningley in 1964.
5. Salford 18-11, Rochdale Hornets 30-19, Warrington 18-14, Castleford 17-3 and Bradford Northern 33-14.



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- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A. 2 tries
- 5—O'BRIEN C.
- 6—BLAIR J. goal
- 7—~~McCONE M.~~ GORMAN T. 3 goals
- 8—CLAWSON T.
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—HUGHES B.
- 11—McCRACKEN W.
- 12—HALL F.
- 13—PETERS A.
- 14—~~ELLIOTT M.~~ BRADY J.
- 15—REYNOLDS J.

FEATHERSTONE 12

Blue and White hooped jerseys
Blue Shorts

- 1—BOX H.
- 2—COVENTRY P.
- 3—TOOHEY K.
- 4—HARTLEY D.
- 5—BRAY G.
- 6—NEWLOVE J.
- 7—NASH S.
- 8—TONKS L.
- 9—BRIDGE K.
- 10—FARRAR V.
- 11—RHODES A.
- 12—OLLIS B.
- 13—STONE R.

- 14—
- 15—

Touch Judges

E. Leach (St Helens) Orange
B. Baker (Wigan) Red

Referee:

H. MASON (Halifax)

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Action Replay



Our Visitors

This evening's welcome visitors to Watersheddings are the Challenge Cup holders Featherstone Rovers. The Featherstone club is noted for its shrewd signings from other clubs or its highly successful recruits from junior football. A typical example of these type of signings exists at full-back with Cyril Kellett and Harold Box. Cyril Kellett is now drawing to the end of a most distinguished career which began in September, 1956 when he joined Hull Kingston Rovers from the Featherstone based Willow Park junior club. Whilst with the Robins, Kellett played seven times for Yorkshire as well as assisting Rovers in two Yorkshire Cup Finals as well as at Wembley. Both Kellett's Yorkshire Cup finals ended in victory against Featherstone 25—12 in 1966 and Hull 8—7 in 1967. Against Featherstone he was awarded the White Rose Trophy as 'Man-of-the-Match' but probably Kellett's most disappointing afternoon was at Wembley in 1964 when Widnes lifted the Challenge Cup with a 13—5 victory against favourites Hull Kingston Rovers. When Kellett moved to Featherstone for £350 in January, 1968, he had amassed 2,489 points for the Robins and it looked as if his career was virtually over. But Kellett had different ideas and in 1969 he again appeared in the Yorkshire Cup final only this time his side lost 12—9 to Hull. Three seasons ago in Featherstone's 65—5 victory over Whitehaven Kellett was responsible for 26 points with 2 tries and 10 goals whilst last season he kicked 11 goals in the 42—15 defeat of Hull. Kellett's crowning glory last season came in the Challenge Cup Final when he kicked 8 goals in the 33—14 defeat of Bradford Northern which gave him a total of 139 goals for the season. Cyril Kellett is now aged 37 years and, of course, he cannot go on playing for ever. Featherstone are fortunate in having Harold Box who has been in and out of the side for several seasons now. Like Kellett, Box is an excellent goal kicker who last season landed 9 goals in the 50—8 defeat of Halifax and, to date has landed 23 this season. On the wings Featherstone have Paul Coventry or Dave Dyas whilst Dave Hartley is equally at home whether on the wing or in the centre. Originally, Hartley was with Leeds but he was transferred to Featherstone in 1966. His try scoring feats for Featherstone include four against Whitehaven in 1971 and he was a try scorer last May at Wembley when he was Rover's substitute back. Featherstone Rovers skipper, and last season's leading try scorer with 21 tries, is John Newlove who was signed in September, 1966, from the Ackworth junior club. In his first season as a professional he narrowly missed selection for the 1967 Challenge Cup final but more than made up for that disappointment by leading Rovers to last season's Wembley triumph and scoring two tries in the final. Two season ago he scored 4 tries in the 54—0 defeat of Batley and earlier this season he made his county debut by helping Yorkshire to defeat Cumbria 37—12. Former England amateur star Mick Smith joined Featherstone from Rossington juniors and he represented Rovers at Wembley both in 1967 and again last season when he scored a try. In 1968 Smith scored 6 tries in one match against Doncaster. He was originally a stand-off but he has moved over to centre with equal success. Twenty three years old Peter Toohey's first professional club was Bradford Northern from where Batley signed him in October, 1969. Toohey's best season was season 1970-71 when he scored 15 tries and 126 goals including 7 goals against Huyton. Last season he scored a try and 6 goals in the 22—15 defeat of Hull and it was displays such as these which led to his transfer to Post Office Road last September in an exchange deal which took Keith Cotton to Batley. On his debut, Toohey scored a try when Wigan were beaten 14—13. The star attraction in the Featherstone backs is undoubtedly Steve Nash, the 24 years old drop-goal expert. Last Saturday he made his ninth international match appearance for Great Britain and he has also made four appearances for Yorkshire. Last season, after playing an important part in Britain's winning of the World Cup he was awarded the Lance Todd Trophy as Wembley's 'Man-of-the-Match'. Naturally enough he dropped a goal at Wembley but he failed to score on his last appearance at Watersheddings . . . when Oldham defeated Great Britain 18—15. Nash's half-back partner is Mel Mason, a tricky and speedy attacker, who last season crossed for 5 tries in the 44—7 defeat of Bramley. In the forwards, Featherstone have introduced some of their young junior signings this season, one of which is 19 years old Keith Bell who is a most promising hooker. Featherstone's regular hooker last season

was Keith Bridges, a consistent forward who has scored 5 tries so far this term. Vince Farrar is the iron man of the Rovers line-up and he is a very versatile forward who has had experience at prop, hooker and loose forward. Farrar joined Rovers from the local junior league in 1965 and his first representative honour came in 1968-69 when he was substitute for the England U-24 side which thrashed France 42—2 at Castleford. Two seasons ago he was substitute forward for Great Britain in the first test against New Zealand and he was also substitute for Yorkshire against Lancashire. He scored a try against Lancashire and was then selected in the team proper against Cumberland. Last season he scored a try at Wembley. Another two up and coming forwards are Mick Gibbins and 22 years old Billy Harris. Alan Rhodes is a speedy forward who has used his speed to score 5 tries so far this season. Earlier this season Dick Stone made his county debut when he represented Yorkshire against both Cumbria and Lancashire and with Rhodes forms a dangerous attacking duo. One of the hardest working forwards in the league is Jimmy Thompson, who will be 25 next month. He joined Featherstone in June, 1966, after representing Yorkshire at U-17 level and was an instant success for he played in the 1967 Challenge Cup Final as well as in last season's final. He was also a member of Featherstone's Yorkshire Cup Final side in 1969. Thompson's international career has been interrupted by injury but despite missing most of last season he has represented England U-24 on two occasions, England once and Great Britain 10 times including the 1970 Tour and the World Cup the following autumn. During the 1970 Tour Thompson played in 18 matches and scored 4 tries. This season he has played in both Yorkshire's matches which took his total of county appearances to four. Another hard tackling forward is the giant Les Tonks who, like Thompson, has played in both the 1967 and 1973 Cup Finals and the 1969 Yorkshire Cup Final. Tonks has represented England at amateur level and also twice at U-24 level. As can be seen, if Rovers are free from injury and are allowed to field a full side then they will form extremely formidable opposition.

So far this season Featherstone have not enjoyed the tremendous success of last season although they have played only four home matches all season (and won them all) whilst tonight's match will be their eighth this season on their opponent's ground. In the First Division, Rovers lie in 8th position with four wins from seven matches. They have beaten Hull Kingston Rovers, Warrington and Wigan at Post Office Road whilst their only away league win was at Whitehaven. In the Yorkshire Cup, the 'Yorkshire Colliers' visited Bramley in the first round where they won 19—4 but their reward for that victory was a trip to Bradford when Northern avenged their Wembley defeat with a 27—14 win. In the John Player Trophy Featherstone had an even more difficult task when they were drawn to visit St. Helens. As expected Saints were too strong for Rovers and they won 34—16 but not before Rovers had put up a tremendous fight. At half time Rovers only trailed 8—6. A week last Sunday Featherstone seemed to have discovered another future star when Graham Bray turned in an outstanding display as Rovers coasted to a 27—8 victory over Keighley in the Captain Morgan Trophy. This victory gives Rovers a home tie against Wakefield Trinity in the quarter-final.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	18—Leeds	A
	25—Dewsbury	H
Sept.	1—Wigan, Lancs. Cup	H
	8—Bramley	H
	15—Player's Competition	
	22—Wakefield	A
	26—Castleford	H
Oct.	29—Wigan	A
	6—Whitehaven	H
	14—Dewsbury	A
	19—AUSTRALIA	H
	27—Featherstone	H
Nov.	2—St. Helens	A
	11—Widnes	H
	25—Wigan	H
Dec.	1—Featherstone	A
	8—St. Helens	H
	16—Warrington	A
	23—Leigh	H
	26—Rochdale H.	H
	30—Whitehaven	A
1974		
Jan.	1—Salford	A
	6—Hull K.R.	H
	13—Leigh	A
	20—Warrington	H
Feb.	2—Challenge Cup (1)	
	10—Bramley	A
	16—Wakefield	H
	23—Challenge Cup (2)	
Mar.	2—Leeds	H
	9—Challenge Cup (3)	
	17—Widnes	A
	23—Chal. Cup (Semi-final)	
	31—Hull K.R.	A
Apr.	7—Castleford	A
	13—Salford	H
	15—Rochdale H.	A

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	11—Rochdale	H
	18—Barrow	H
	25—Workington	A
	29—Rochdale	
	(1st leg Shield)	H
Sept.	8—Rochdale	
	(2nd leg Shield)	A
	22—Barrow	A
	29—Wigan	H
Oct.	13—Swinton	H
	20—Swinton	A
	27—Workington	A
Nov.	3—St. Helens	H
	9—Widnes	A
	17—Huyton	A
	24—Wigan	A
Dec.	1—Barrow	H
	7—St. Helens	A
	16—Warrington	H
	22—Leigh	A
Jan.	4—Salford	A
	12—Workington	H
	18—Warrington	A
	23—Salford	H
	26—Swinton	H
Feb.	9—Huyton	A
	23—Huyton	H
Mar.	2—Barrow	A
	9—Huyton	H
	13—Leigh	H
	16—Widnes	H
	23—Rochdale	A
	29—Swinton	A
Apr.	6—Workington	H

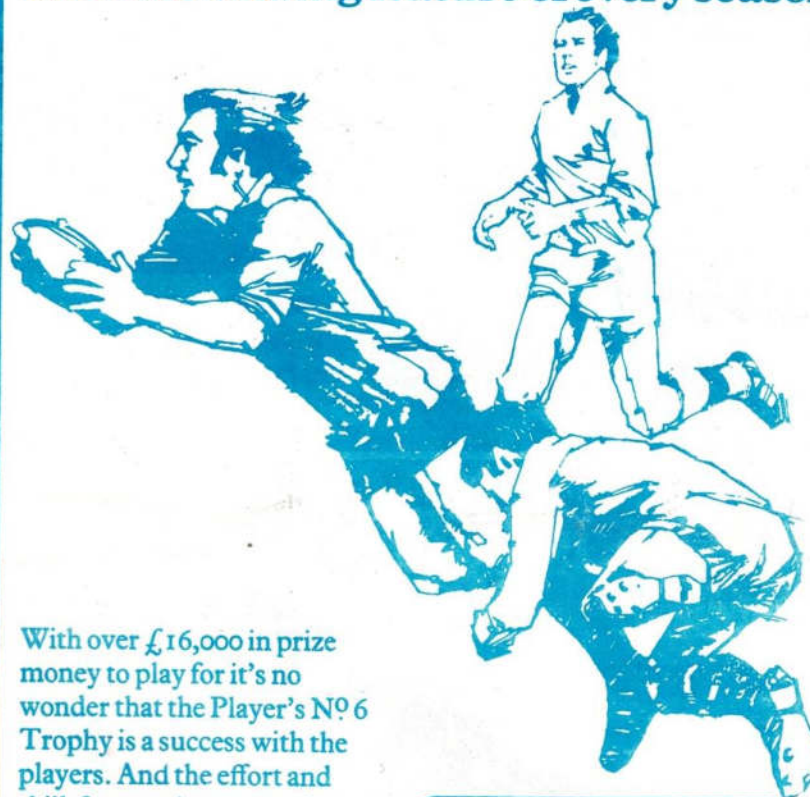
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