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Brian Batty of the Mail

Great Britain star Doug Laughten prepares for his first season in Sydney quite unconcerned that 'The Bear' may be waiting to get to grips with him.

Laughten has recently produced the finest displays of his career, touching the form which helped Britain win the Ashes in 1970.

Canterbury Bankstown will be congratulating themselves on having made a fine close-season capture if Laughten continues in his present vein.

Laughten's last taste of Australian football was in the Third Test at Warrington when he virtually fought a lone battle to save the Ashes.

The Widnes loose forward laid out Aussie prop Bob O'Reilly with an unorthodox shoulder charge, taking off like a pole vaulter at top speed.

It was a torrid moment that might have turned the Test Britain's way but O'Reilly refused to quit and Laughten's lightening breaks enjoyed scant response from his packmates.

Will there be a sequel when the pair clash in Sydney at club level?

Laughten claims, 'I am not bothered about O'Reilly. I'm too fast for that guy to catch me.'

'Okay, so it is going to be tough over there but those grounds should suit me fine. The reason I've been going so well lately is that our pitches here have dried out.'

'The only time they'll catch me is if the grounds get soft and they put the boot in. But I've never ducked a challenge.'

SOCIAL CLUB

Letter of thanks

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the committee and myself to express our appreciation to our supporters for the way they attend and support the Social Club, and hope that they will continue to do so during the close season.

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Fay Bowden.

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dates.

ON THE INSIDE—

DAVE PARKER

Four leading players have become fed up with their roles at their respective clubs. Bill Sheffield is staying away over a grievance at Rochdale; Bradford Northern's rangy second rower Phil Jackson is missing training, and that is also the case of Halifax's diminutive scrum half Sammy Sanderson, while Keighley's big second rower Alan Clarkson laid his cards on the table with the Lawkholme Lane board, and was duly listed at £2500

Before Wakefield Trinity surprisingly signed St. Helen's and former Bradford Northern back Steve Gobey last weekend, they made a move for Northern's banned former captain Bernard Watson. They offered £1,000 and Ian Elliss their goalkicking forward.

Halifax are interested in Leeds utility back John Hay, who lives in the Bradford area. They have watched him on a couple of occasions recently, and made their intentions known to the Leeds board, who in turn have an eye for Bruce Burton and young Steve Brown. If David Jeanes goes ahead with his threat to quit they may ask Halifax of the availability of a Thrum Hall stop away, Wakefield based giant prop Steve Booth.

The Dewsbury players after cup semi-final defeat went through four games in eight days, and this

week-end they play three in four days. Coach Tommy Smales in order to reduce aches and pains has ordered Sauna baths all round.

On thral at Dewsbury is Bradford Northern reserve second rower Mick Bastin. Ike Southward wants a 3 year contract off Workington Town, who are prepared to offer him one, but over the next 12 months. Southward says he will move if he doesn't get his wish.

More trouble for injury prone Rochdale Hornets centre, David Taylor. Taylor is seeing a specialist over a recurring knee thouble. In the meantime his former Halifax taem mate Terry Foegerty has taken over a soccer team at his public house on the Thrum Hall doorstep. It belonged to the local sweet firm of Nuttall Riley. They will play in the Halifax Sunday League and be called after Fogerty's pub, the Golden Lion.

Johnny Moore, the Hull Kingston Rovers loose forward, will receive a cheque for £3,000 on the 23rd April. Rovers Winger Mick Stephenson, who was mentioned in an exchange deal plus cash with Hull for Clive Sullivan, is not keen to move accross the city as he is in line for benefit himself next season.

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 Fred Hall 33
 Martin Murphy 32 4 tries
 Tony Wainwright 30 14 tries and
 two goals.
 Chris O'Brien 28 7 tries
 Keith Ashcroft 27 try
 Tony Peters 24 3 tries
 Mike Elliot 24 5 tries
 Phil Larder 21 2 tries and 25 goals
 Geoff Munro 21 5 tries
 Terry Clawson 20 try and 41 goals
 David Treasure 18 7 tries and 7
 goals
 Mick McCone 17 6 tries
 Johnny Blair 16 2 tries and 10
 goals
 Brian Gregory 15 6 tries
 Bill McCracken 14 4 tries
 Ian Holland 11 4 tries and 16
 goals

Arthur Daley 11 try
 Brian Hughes 11
 Tommy Davies 10 try
 Jim Reynolds 9
 Johnny Farrell 9 try
 Bob Gaitley 7 try
 Terry Gorman 7
 Stuart Bottom 7
 Neil Goodwin 7
 Eddie Barton 6 try
 Bob Welding 5
 Peter Astbury 4
 Ken Wilson 4
 Andy Kavanagh 3
 Steve Whitmore 3
 Bob Irving 2
 Dickie Brown 1 try
 Norman Hodgkinson 1



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- 2—BARTON E.
- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A.
- 5—HOLLAND I. 2 goals
- 6—TREASURE D.
- 7—McCONE M.
- 8—ASHCROFT K.
- 9—BROWN R.
- 10—MAYE J.
- 11—GREGORY B.
- 12—WILDING R.
- 13—HALL F.
- 14—Elliot M
- 15—Farrell J

SALFORD

2

Red Jerseys
 White Shorts

- 1—CHARLTON P.
- 2—FIELDING K.
- 3—WATKINS, D. goal
- 4—HESKETH C.
- 5—RICHARDS M.
- 6—GILL K.
- 7—BANNER P.
- 8—MACKAY G. Coulman M
- 9—DEVLIN E. Walker P
- 10—GRICE R.
- 11—DIXON C.
- 12—DAVIES, D.
- 13—PRESCOTT E.
- 14—Devlin
- 15—Corcoran

Referee

G. F. LINDOP (Wakefield)
 R. Moore

Touchjudges

E. Leach (St. Helens) Red
 T. Clayton (Widnes) Orange

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OUR VISITORS - SALFORD

This afternoon Oldham stage their final Home Game of the Season and the opposition are the most attractive side in the game, Salford.

The Salford management have spent quite a few thousand pounds in building up their playing staff but this has been repaid by the success and consequent good gates attracted to the Willows. This Summer five Salford players will be touring Australia with the Great-Britain party which gives some indication of their strength. In all they have 11 players with representative recognition writes Don Yates.

Full-back Paul Charlton began his professional career with Workington Town whom he joined from Kells juniors. He was transferred for £13,000 to Salford in October 1969 and he has an impressive list of representative games behind him including appearances in both the 1970 and 1972 World Cup Competitions. In all he has played 21 times for Cumberland and 15 times for Great Britain. He is a fine attacking full-back who should impress on this summer's tour.

Charlton usually scores almost 20 tries each season and in 1968-69 he scored 4 tries and 7 goals in one game against Warrington. So far this season Charlton has scored 16 tries which is still a long way behind Keith Fielding's total of 43. Fielding is certain to beat the Salford record of 46 tries set in 1933-34 and he is having a tremendous first season in professional football.

He was signed from Leicester RUFC for £8,500 last May and

won his first league caps earlier this year in the matches against France. International football, however, is nothing new to Fielding who represented the English rugby union team against France 3 times Ireland 3 times, Scotland twice, Wales and South Africa. Salford's other winger, Maurice Richards, also has considerable rugby union experience. He has played 9 times for Wales including a tour of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji with Wales and South Africa with the British Isles. He joined Salford from Cardiff RUFC for £7,000 in Oct. 1969. Richards played once for Wales and one trial for Great Britain against Leeds and must be one of the most rated backs in the rugby league. Last season he scored 4 tries in the 62-10 defeat of Huyton. Tour Skipper Chris Hesketh has a wealth of experience accumulated from his two appearances for England under-24, 13 appearances for Lancashire, 3 appearances for England and 20 appearances for Great Britain. He toured in 1970 and also took part in the World Cup Competition of 1970 and 1972. The 'Wiggler' played with Orrell RUFC before joining Wigan in 1963 and being transferred to Salford in June 1967. There is no doubt that his reliable service to Salford has led to his selection as skipper on tour, an honour that is fully deserved. Hesketh's centre partner is David Watkin's, the prolific points scorer who has broken the Salford club points record during each of the past three seasons. Last season he broke the World goal kicking record with a total of 221. Before turning professional from Newport RUFC in October 1967, Watkins

had played 21 times for Wales well as touring Australia, New Zealand and Canada with the British Isles in 1966. He made his debut against Oldham when Salford won 12-6 and since then he has made numerous high scoring contributions to Salford's points tally. In 1971-72 he scored a try and 13 goals in the 65-3 defeat of Keighley and last season he scored 3 tries and 9 goals in the 51-10 defeat of Barrow whilst only last month he scored 2 tries and 11 goals when Leeds were beaten 61-13.

Before last weekend's matches Watkins had scored 114 tries and 792 goals, 1,926 points in a glittering career which surprisingly includes only 5 appearances for Great Britain and one for Wales. On the hard Australian grounds he is sure to be a big attraction on the forthcoming tour. Having the rather unenviable task of covering the Salford centre positions is Phil Ward, a 24-years old Rochdale lad who joined Salford from Loughborough College RUFC in September 1971. He was substitute in last season's Players' Trophy Final. Stand-off Kenny Gill is the brains behind many of Salford's attacking moves and has been an instant success since joining Salford from Pilkington Recreation in September 1970. He captained the England amateur side before turning professional and gained his first full international caps this year in both Anglo-French tests which enabled him to claim a ticket for the Australian tour. Gill's half-back partner is former Rochdale junior Peter Banner who last season played twice for Lancashire and is a most competent scrum-half.

Salford's hooker this afternoon is likely to be Ellis Devlin who has taken over from the injured Peter Walker. Devlin was signed from West Park RUFC whilst Walker is now with his fourth professional club having served Hull Kingston Rovers, York and Bradford Northern before being transferred to Salford for £3,750 in September, 1972. Prop forward Graham MacKay is a product of the Broughton Moor Club who made two appearances for Cumberland whilst with Swinton. He moved across to Salford in September 1972 in an exchange deal involving Paul Jackson. Widnes-born Doug Davies joined Salford from Huyton in November 1971 for £1,500 and he is a very hard working prop. Former Blackbrook junior Alan Grice has appeared in every position in the Salford pack and because of this he is an ideal substitute. In an effort to stiffen up the front row Salford signed Paul Grimes from Leigh for £3,000 last November but unfortunately he has been missing through injury.

Grimes joined Leigh from Newcastle RUFC in September 1968 and although he has yet to win representative recognition he has won Lancashire, Challenge and Floodlit Cup winners medals whilst with Leigh.

Another former England rugby union star is Mike Coulman who turned professional from Moseley RUFC for £7,000 in September 1968. He has played 3 times for Great Britain and is very fast as Oldham saw when he scored a try in the Challenge Cup. The fifth Salford member of the tour squad is Colin Dixon—another expensive signing who cost Salford £12,000

in December 1968, when he was signed from Halifax. He is a former member of the Cardiff International Athletic Club who joined Halifax in June 1961. He has played 5 times for Wales and 9 times for Great Britain. Dixon played in the 1972 World Cup in France but this will be his first tour although he did tour Ireland with the Welsh under-15 rugby union team.

Recently Salford have been giving Paul Giedzium a run out in the second row. He was signed from Halifax after spending trials with Dewsbury. Twenty-four years old loose forward Eric Prescott has recently returned to the Salford line-up following injury and he will be keen to show supporters that he is worth every penny of the £13,500 which Salford paid to St. Helen's for his services in September 1972. Saints signed him from Widnes ICI RUFC and he has played 5 times for Lancashire. The return of Prescott has meant the switching of John Knighton to the second row but this former Heaton Moor RUFC player, who Salford signed in December 1971, is a versatile player who can also operate effectively out on the wing.

Salford have led the league for most of this season but they have faltered a little in recent weeks and it looks now as if the persistent St. Helens will become First Division

Champions although the issue is far from being over. Salford have won 20 and drawn one of their 26 fixtures to date with impressive wins at Wakefield Trinity 32-13, Hull Kingston Rovers 24-2, Widnes 23-10, Whitehaven 15-3, Castleford 16-11 and Rochdale Hornets 8-3 plus that thrilling 19-19 draw at St. Helens. On the cup front Salford have also promised much, only to finish up empty-handed. They reached the final of the Lancashire Cup but then surprisingly lost 19-9 to Wigan whilst Leeds knocked them out of both the John Player and Challenge Cups. In the Captain Morgan Trophy, Second Division Workington Town defeated the Reds and Widnes pulled off a shock win at the Willows in the quarter-final of the Floodlit Trophy. After heading the league for so long it could be that Salford will end the season without a major trophy.

Salford, therefore, will be keen to win today in what will be their ham's win last Sunday at Castleford gave them renewed hope of First Division football again at Watersheddings next term but to be sure they must win again either today or on Monday at Rochdale and hope that Bramley keep on slipping. The incentive for victory today is sky high for both clubs and only one thing is certain, we are in for a most exciting afternoon with which to finish 1973-74.

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		F	A
Aug. 13—Leeds	.....	A	2—46
25—Dewsbury	.....	H	9—34
Sept. 1—Wigan, Lancs. Cup	...	H	12—20
8—Bramley	.....	H	17—30
15—Player's Competition			
Warrington	.....		14—31
22—Wakefield	.....	A	0—22
26—Castleford	.....	H	14—13
29—Wigan	.....	A	0—18
Oct. 6—Whitehaven	.....	H	12—9
14—Dewsbury	.....	A	13—19
19—AUSTRALIA	.....	H	10—41
27—Featherstone	.....	H	14—12
Nov. 2—St. Helens	.....	A	—
11—Widnes	.....	H	14—13
25—Wigan	.....	H	19—12
Dec. 1—Featherstone	.....	A	19—10
8—St. Helens	.....	H	12—11
16—Warrington	.....	A	—
23—Leigh	.....	H	30—20
26—Rochdale H.	.....	H	11—15
30—Whitehaven	.....	A	19—12
1974			
Jan. 1—Salford	.....	A	12—15
6—Hull K.R.	.....	H	5—6
13—Leigh	.....	A	7—15
Feb. 2—Challenge Cup (1)			
10—Bramley	.....	A	7—10
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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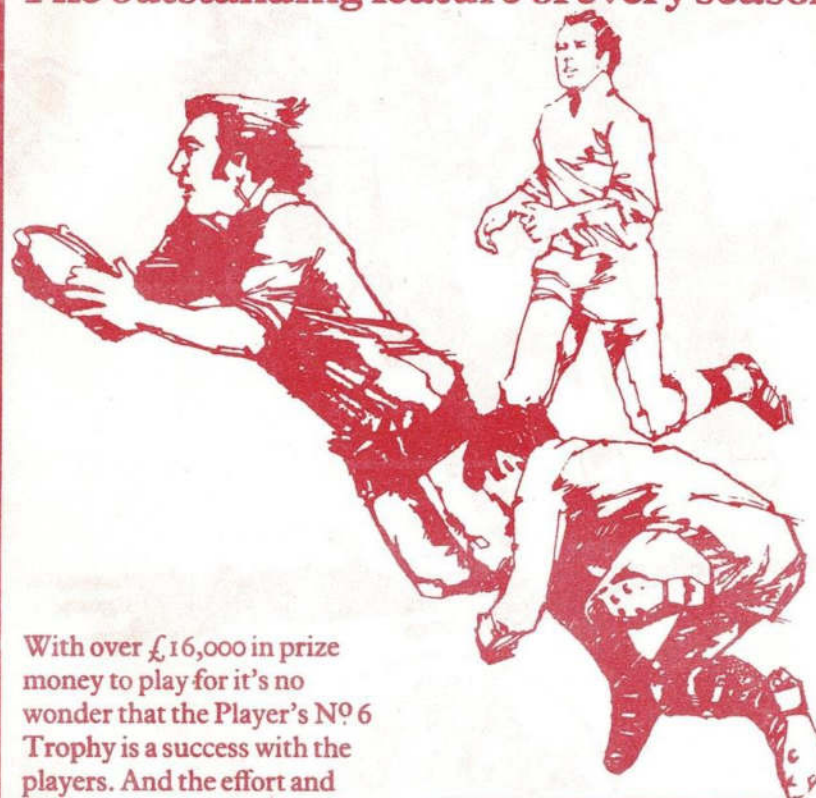
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