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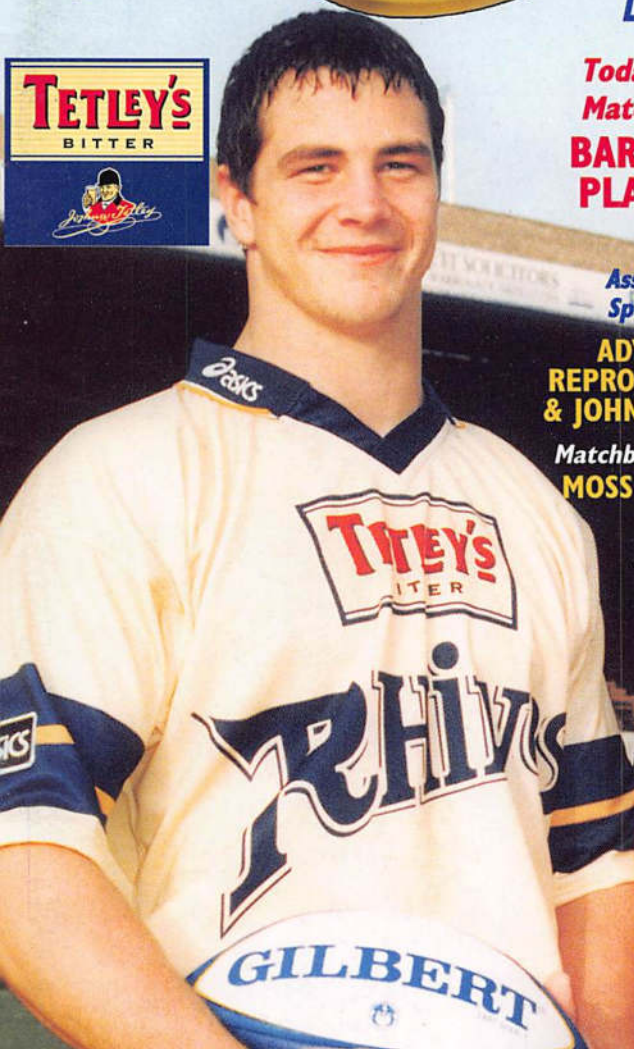


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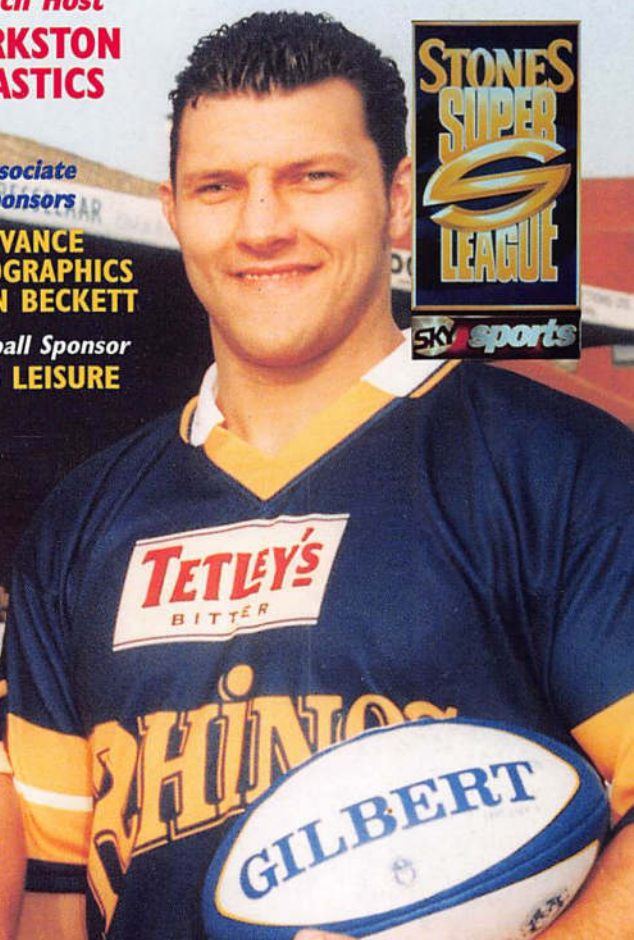
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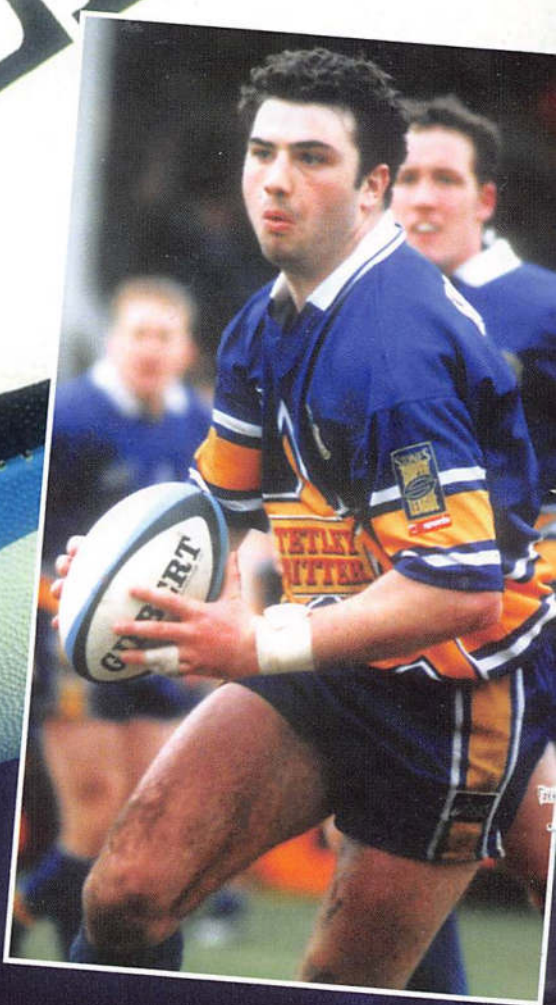


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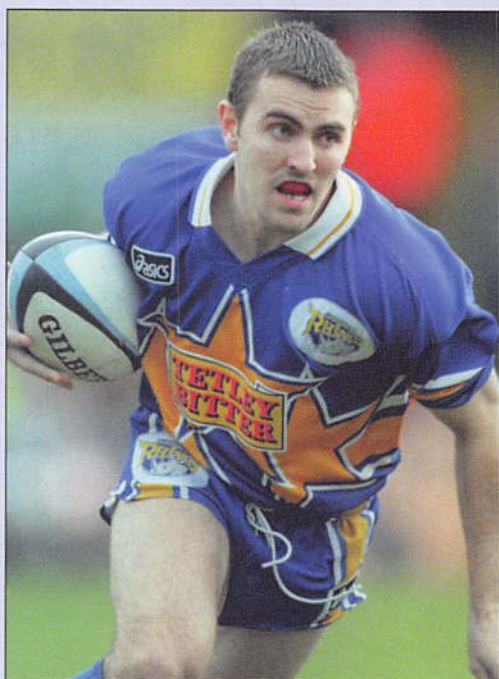
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Phil Caplan

HERE AT LAST!!



Well, it's here at last!!
Super League, 1997
style, hits us today and
the feeling is that it is
going to be bigger and
better than last year.
At a news conference
to launch Super League
held in London last
week, Rugby League
Europe Chief
Executive, Colin Myler,
was upbeat about the
game as it enters its
second season.

There is no doubt that
the involvement in the
game of such as

Richard Branson has lifted the profile of a sport desperate to widen
its boundaries and shake off its old image. M&C Saatchi have been
installed as marketing partners for Super League and the sport as a
whole gained great publicity from the launch.

Here at Leeds the Rhinos Chief Executive, Gary Hetherington, is very
keen to promote both the family image and the community
involvement of the club. You will no doubt have noticed some changes
already with the new Rhinos branding around the stadium and there
will be plenty more to come as the day unfolds. It is hoped that we
can build on this as the season progresses and make your day out at
Headingley even more enjoyable.

The Curtain raiser today is the English Schools inter town
competition and features Leeds U11's playing their counterparts from
Keighley. At half time the juniors from the Milford club in Leeds will
be taking part in some Little League rugby. This is all part of the
changes that we have planned for you and you will be seeing more as
the season goes on.

Last week's defeat of Featherstone Rovers saw Leeds go through to
their fifth successive Challenge Cup semi-final. That is a tremendous
record and will give the team a chance to make amends for their
defeat by the Bulls at the same stage last year. Everyone at the club is
keeping their fingers crossed for another trip to
Wembley and we will all know the outcome in a
couple of weeks.



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TETLEY'S QUIZ

Answer the questions listed below and you could win a new Leeds Rhinos shirt and two VIP tickets to a Super League Game at Headingley.

1. What position did Oldham Bears finish in last season's Super League?
2. Which former Leeds half back is now playing for Oldham Bears?
3. Which former Leeds forward is now coach at Oldham Bears?
4. At which ground will Oldham Bears play their games this season?
5. Before Oldham were known as the Bears what was their nickname?

Send your answers to:

**TETLEY QUIZ, LEEDS RHINOS, ST MICHAEL'S LANE,
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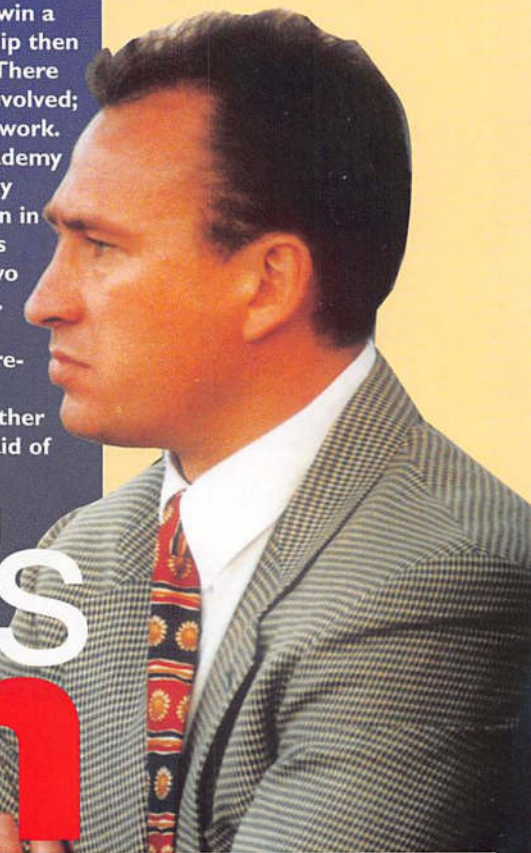
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the supporters for helping us to again reach the semi-final of the Challenge Cup. I suppose that there will be a lot of critics who will say that we have been very fortunate to have reached this stage of the competition without coming up against Super League opposition. They do have a valid point and after the draw was made both the players and myself were welcoming the challenge that Bradford will provide. They have been making a lot of noises that they think they are capable of winning everything that is on offer this season. On a personal note, looking at the team that they have got, they would be my tip to take the Super League title. So they will be a test for us and will give us an idea of how far we have come. It will be nice this week to get into the routine of playing week to week rugby league and the challenges that Super League lays down for us this season. It is going to be a big year for the game and, I know that it is a well-worn phrase, there are no easy games this year probably

more than ever. Every team has strengthened this term and it promises to be an intriguing year. The World Cup Challenge will provide an opportunity for the top English clubs to test themselves against the best teams in Australia. This was previously just a dream and I think that both our game and the game in Australia will benefit from the world-wide exposure that we will obtain. I have talked to the players already, and while the Challenge Cup is obviously nice to play in, winning the Championship is a fairer reflection of the capabilities and efforts of a rugby league club. If you win a rugby league championship then you deserve to win one. There is no such thing as luck involved; it is purely down to hard work. The Alliance and the Academy also start playing regularly this week. They have been in training for just as long as the first team who are two months into their season. We have found it very difficult to arrange any pre-season games for our Academy side. Perhaps other sides were a little bit afraid of

"It is going to be a big year for the game, there are no easy games"

taking them on, I just don't know, but they are jumping to get started! All my first team squad, with the exception of Marvin Golden, are fit so it will give the other players a chance to force their way into the squad.

Oldham are our visitors today and their Coach, Andy Goodway, is a former teammate of mine. Like him they will be a very physical side and will be a stern test for us today. I hope that you enjoy both today's game and the rest of the season.



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It's early days for Australian Super League

Dave Hadfield the Independent Rugby League correspondent will be continually monitoring the Australian Super League

It is very early days for Australian Super League, just two weeks into its delayed first season, but already questions are being asked about the coaching credentials of one of the game's greatest players.

Mal Meninga is not merely a legend of the modern game, he was also one of the driving forces behind the Super League revolution. So the way in which Canberra have started their campaign under his control is bound to be a hot topic around town. The Raiders have gone down to Cronulla and Penrith in their opening matches, conceding a total of 59 points in the process, and there are inevitable mutterings that Meninga's lack of coaching experience is to blame. There will be those willing him to fail, but they would do well to remember that the big bloke was written off prematurely on more than one occasion during his playing career. He always came back to prove the doom-mongers wrong and, as he tries to do the same as a coach, he has the distinct advantage of having plenty of outstanding talent at his disposal. No other club can boast a threesome to match Laurie Daley, Ricky Stuart and Bradley Clyde. The Raiders will come right for Meninga – almost certainly in time for them to be a major force in the World Club Championship when they play Halifax, London and Wigan in June. If anything would create more smirks than Canberra's early travails, it would have been the Brisbane Broncos – the club that can claim to be the originators of the Super League concept – falling

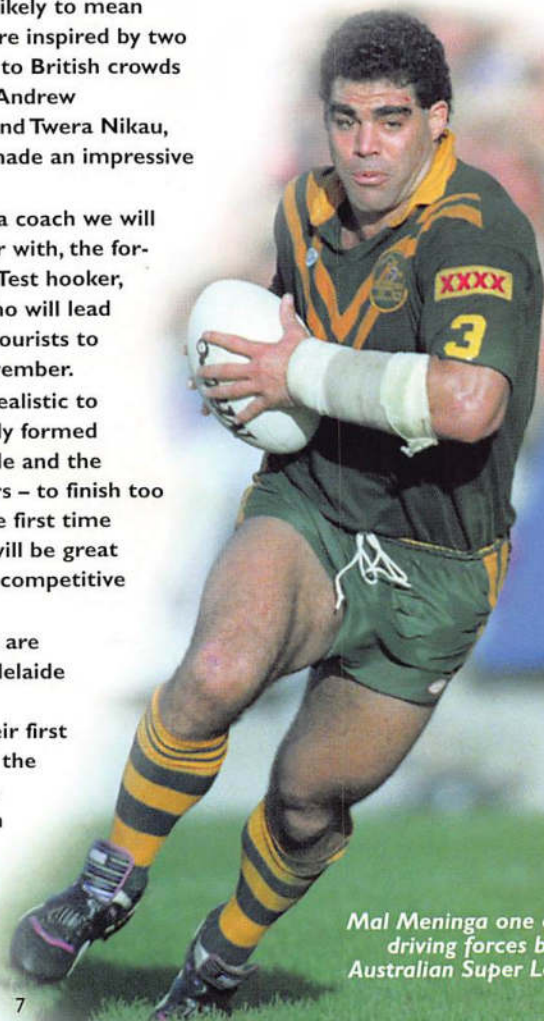
flat on their faces. Despite the absence of familiar names, now departed, like Willie Carne and Kerrod Walters, the Broncos have started smoothly, beating Auckland and new boys Adelaide in their first two outings. When they get here in July, watch out for their new acquisitions, middle back Anthony Mundine and forward Gorden Tallis. Excitement is the name of the game when these two get the ball and they are custom-built to continue the Brisbane tradition of swash-buckling attacking flair. Super League in Australia also needs a genuine contender from Sydney. That is likely to mean Cronulla, who are inspired by two players familiar to British crowds in the shape of Andrew Ettingshausen and Twera Nikau, and who have made an impressive start.

They also have a coach we will become familiar with, the former Australian Test hooker, Johnny Lang, who will lead the Australian tourists to Britain this November. It would be unrealistic to expect the newly formed teams – Adelaide and the Hunter Mariners – to finish too high in the table first time out, but there will be great interest in how competitive they can be.

So far, the signs are encouraging. Adelaide have not been swamped in their first two games and the Mariners – who have both Kevin and Tony Iro on board – have been highly respectable

against both Canterbury and Auckland.

Ah, yes, the Auckland Warriors. This is a big season for them and for their coach John Monie. Perhaps expectations in New Zealand were inflated, but there was keen disappointment there that Auckland failed to make an impact in their first two seasons in the Winfield/Optus Cup. With the dawn of Super League, a squad that includes Denis Betts and most of the Kiwi Test team that humbled Great Britain last year has the chance to start a new era.



Mal Meninga one of the driving forces behind Australian Super League

Community Programme

One of the biggest changes to affect the club in the wake of Gary Hetherington's appointment as Chief Executive was the announcement that the club would be instigating a Community Programme. This is aimed at securing links with the local community.

The key areas involved are the continuation of the already well established Apprenticeship scheme, the setting up of a complete schools coaching scheme, a much closer liaison with all the junior clubs in the Leeds area and the setting up of a classroom at Headingley to be used by schools on a daily basis.

Damian McGrath will head up the programme and will be assisted by Paul Fletcher, Ken Bond, the club's Apprentice Officer and Bob Pickles,

who has recently been appointed Community Liaison Officer.

The first phase was launched at a meeting of the Leeds Junior Amateur Rugby League Officials and it was agreed that Leeds would pay a signing on fee of £500 to the local junior club of anyone signing for Leeds, with further payments based on success. There will be further benefits involving coaching and the provision of kit for the junior representative teams.

The Leeds and Hunslet Schools RL Association will also benefit: everyone who represents the city will be given a free Super League season ticket and coaching and kit will be provided for all schools representative teams.

This represents a substantial investment by the club and a major change of policy. It will

improve relations with the local amateur club and, speaking at the launch, an enthusiastic Colin Cooper, Secretary of the Leeds Junior ARL, commented: "The whole consultation process has been handled correctly and we look forward to being part of a relationship that will enhance rugby within the city of Leeds."

Damian McGrath commented:

"Leeds Rhinos acknowledge their responsibility as a community leader and further funding is planned that will involve schools and groups working with the socially disadvantaged in the City".



Headingley H

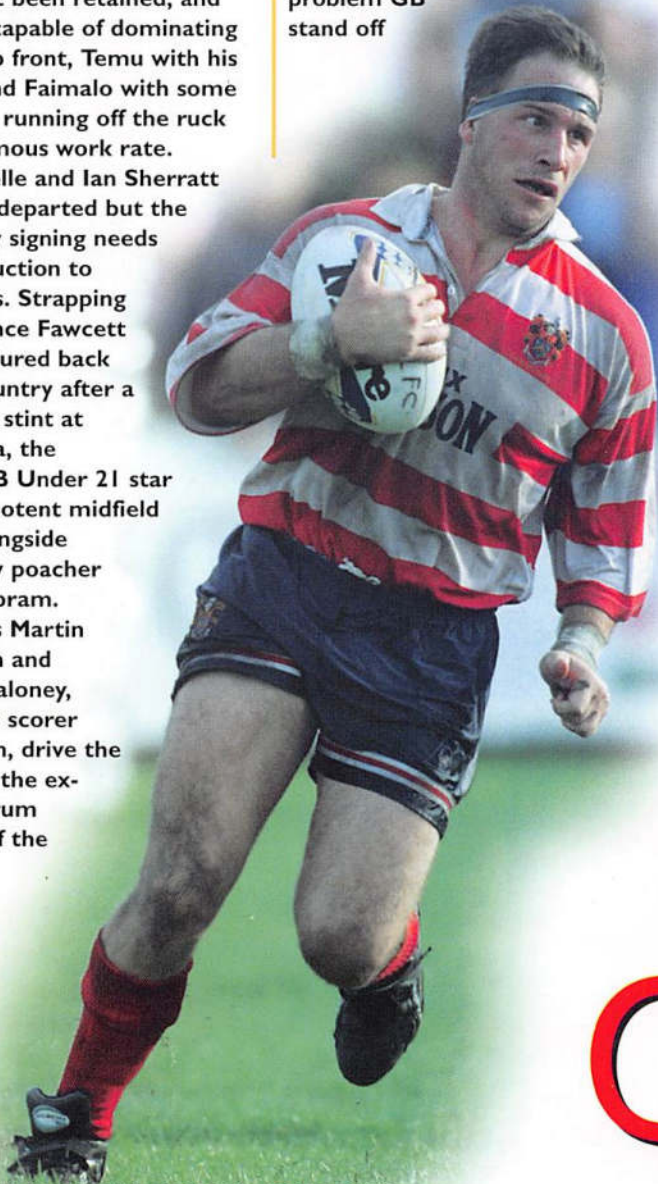
Highly respected Oldham Coach Andy Goodway has always loved and responded to a challenge, liking nothing better than to prove the doubters wrong. Irrespective of the playing personnel at his disposal, the former Wigan, Manly and Oldham legend will have his charges extremely fit, highly motivated and well prepared for the rigours of Super League. Many critics are already predicting a struggle for the Bears this time around but the squad that finished eighth in the inaugural campaign and confounded many has been strengthened. Certainly the Rhinos will not be underestimating the potential threat of having conceded a double to today's visitors last time round. Perhaps the biggest and most significant close season change has been the sale of the Watersheddings and a move to Boundary Park. There is little doubt that the improvements in surroundings will suit players and spectators alike, as witnessed by last week's big Cup crowd, but some believe that the Bears may have lost a psychological edge by moving from a venue that all who ventured into feared. The new arrivals from Australia, Brett Goldspink, Luke Goodwin and Nathan Turner, should appreciate the more salubrious arena of their soccer neighbours and the side as a whole should benefit from playing on a wider, more consistent surface. The incoming Aussies join compatriot Matt Munro,

unfortunately out for the opening weeks with a broken hand, who was a real unsung hero in last year's campaign, producing a string of strong defensive efforts alongside a five try haul.

Kiwi's Jason Temu and Joe Faimalo complete the overseas line up, centre Andrew Patmore having not been retained, and both are capable of dominating a game up front, Temu with his big hits and Faimalo with some damaging running off the ruck and enormous work rate.

Adrian Belle and Ian Sherratt have also departed but the other new signing needs no introduction to Leeds fans. Strapping centre Vince Fawcett has been lured back to this country after a successful stint at Paramatta, the former GB Under 21 star will be a potent midfield threat alongside proven try poacher Darren Abram. Half backs Martin Crompton and Francis Maloney, top points scorer last season, drive the side, with the ex-Wigan scrum half one of the

best organisers in the game. His exemplary kicking game has turned many a match, as has his eye for a close-in try which was the undoing of Leeds in Lancashire this time last year. Maloney, another Headingley Junior, has all the skill and, if clear of niggling injuries, should stake a claim for the problem GB stand off



Ronnie's
coming



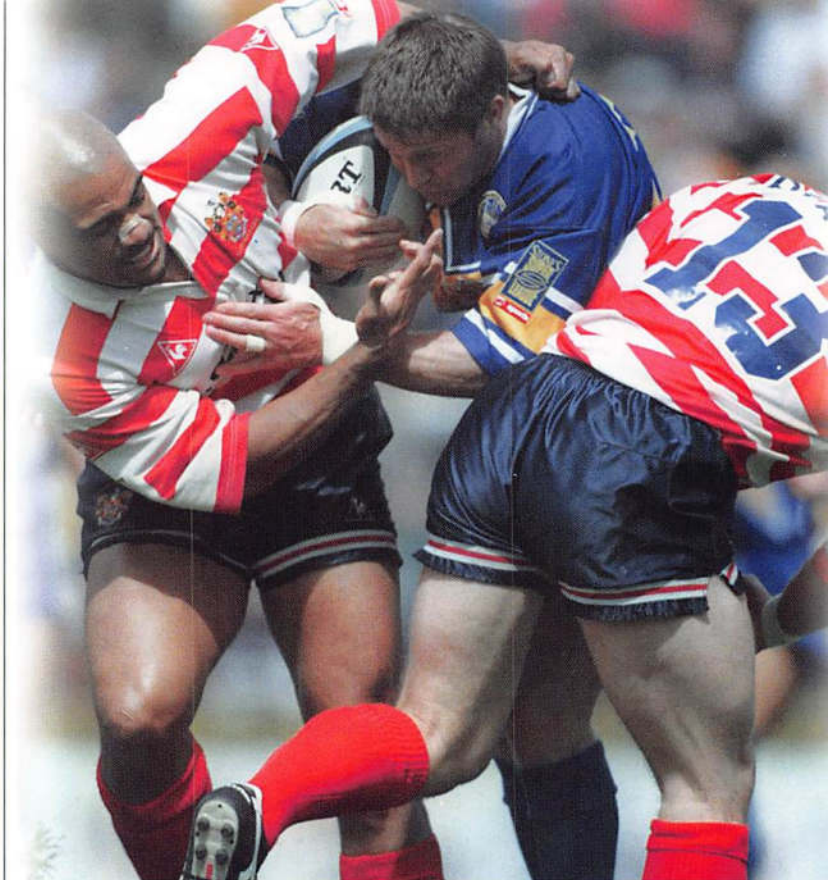
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berth. The other real strength in the side is in the back row where David Bradbury has emerged as a real find, forcing his way onto the autumn tour. Strong and powerful, he was one of the real stars last season and will be keen to maintain the standard that had several clubs chasing him as his contract came up for renewal. The move to Boundary Park was a major factor in persuading him to commit himself to another two years with the Red and Whites. Prodigious youngsters Howard Hill, Chris McKinney and Paul Crook will have all benefited from last summer's experience and will be looking to stake extended claims.

Full back Paul Atcheson is another genuine gamebreaker as his top try tally of 11 from 21 games illustrated. There is real pace on both wings, Scott Ranson, Rob Myler and Jimmy Cowan are all in contention and add a sprinkling of vital experience throughout the side. Paul Topping, Ian Gildart, Paul Davidson and irrepressible Gary Lord will provide the essential backbone of the squad. One player to watch is former East Leeds hooker John Clarke who, if he continues his excellent progress, has unlimited potential – a lot like the Bears outfit as a whole.

PHIL CAPLAN



Believe it or not – the Oldham Bear



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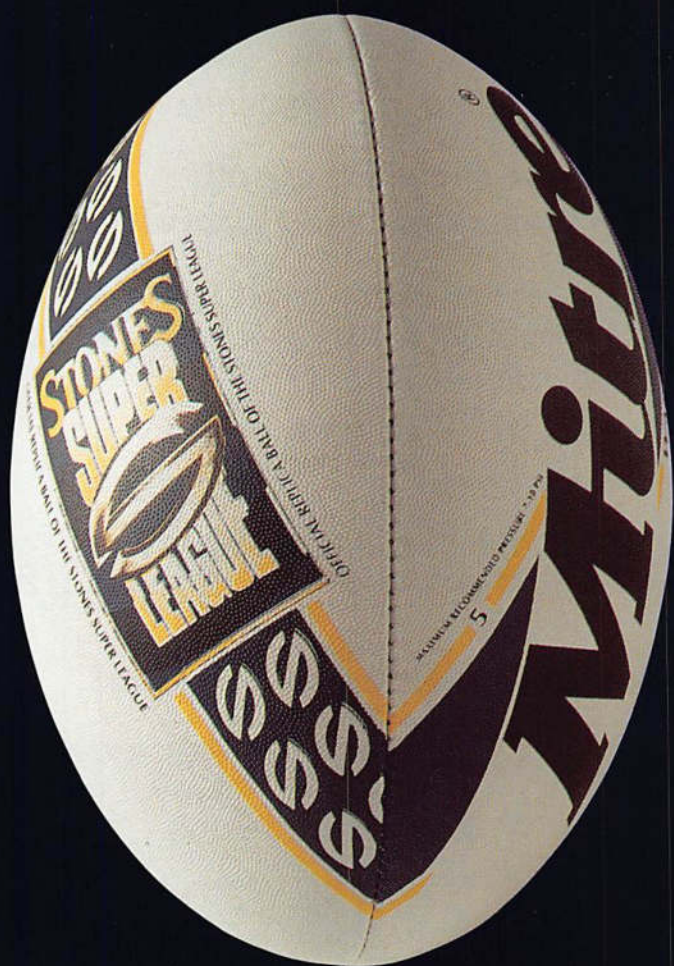
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VICKY'S VERDICT

Feel the passion, the enthusiasm and the raw energy. It's not just the players ... it's us, the supporters too. The new Super League will bring with it many fab changes and no doubt many questions. Such as 'who's Ronnie?' and 'who's Vicky Locklin?'

All will be revealed about my mate Ronnie soon. As for me, I co-present the Breakfast Show on The New 96.3 Aire FM, and I'm better known as the one with the manic laugh and big mouth ... (and that's just the nicer comments!).

Being invited along to meet you all at home games is an honour and responsibility I hope to live up to. No doubt you'll let me know how I'm doing! Getting the "horn" for Leeds Rhinos is going to be great fun this season with loads of action-packed fun and frolics along the way. Bon voyage to the boys who are off to Paris St Germain next week. Hopefully they will whip the Gallic pride ... (Has anyone got space for me in their suitcase to squeeze me in?).

During this season we are going to make sure that every game here at Headingley is full of energy and crammed full of entertainment. Join in, get behind the team, and get "horny"!

VICKY



The New 96.3 Aire FM

Junior Rhinos Club

Are you under sixteen and have not joined the best junior supporters club around? Since our launch a fortnight ago we have been inundated with applications to join. Make sure you are in it from the start and join the charge. Those that have already signed up are receiving the benefits now. These include:

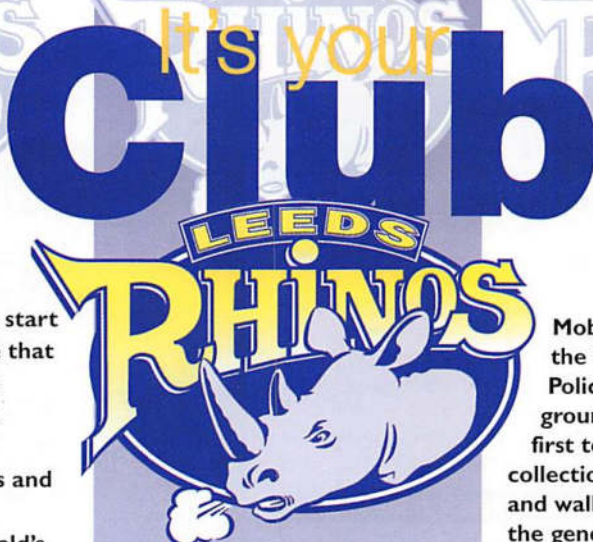
- * Privileges at McDonald's and LA Bowl
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 - * Birthday and Christmas card from YOUR favourite player
- For further details contact the Chief Rhino at the club.
Tel: 0113 278 6181

Club Video

ALL Leeds games can be purchased on video. This season the video will incorporate the match commentary from Radio Rhino and is available from the Club Shop. The price will be the same as last year at £11.50.

Touchline News

You can keep up to date with all the latest gossip from the club by calling Touchline News. Updated daily, Touchline News gives up-to-the-minute match reports on all the club's First Team, Alliance Team and Academy Team games. Touchline News is always first with the Transfer News and features daily interviews with Management and Playing Staff. Call 0891 555888 and stay in touch.



Golden Gamble Draw

Don't forget to buy your Golden Gamble ticket at today's game. You could win up to £2000 at every Leeds Rhinos home game. So watch out for the Golden Gamble Girls today!

New Shirt

The new Rhinos shirt is now available from the Club Shop. There is a limited stock so make sure you get yours today and be the envy of the city. The new away strip will be available soon. See Julie in the Rhinos Store for further details.

Radio Rhino

Radio Rhino will be on the air today. Now transmitting on 1404AM, Radio Rhino brings you all the latest club news, up-to-the-minute team news and full match commentary with reports from the Leeds bench. Call the post-match Talkback line and have your say on 0113 274 9569.

BT Mobile Collector Card

From today the new Collector Card series is available to all under sixteen supporters. This continues the Collector Card series which this season is sponsored by BT

Mobile with a question on the back of each. Ask any Police Constable within the ground for yours and be the first to complete the 1997 collection. A free answer form and wall chart is available from the general offices to keep your collection in.

Tetley's Quiz answers for Featherstone programme

- 1 Leeds 39 Featherstone 22
- 2 Alan Tait
- 3 Paddy Handley, Lee Maher and Paul Gleadhill
- 4 Daniel Ward
- 5 1983

Fixture change

Due to our success in the Challenge Cup we have had to rearrange our Easter Weekend fixtures against Castleford Tigers at home on Friday March 28th and away at Halifax Blue Sox on Monday 31st March. We will let you know the new dates as soon as they are available.

Paris Trip

The Club will be organising official trips to Paris for the Super League fixture on Friday 21st March. Contact the Club on 0113 278 6181 for details of the available packages.

Today's curtain raiser

Today, kick-off 1.30pm, Headingley entertains an English Schools match between Leeds Under 11s and Keighley Under 11s.



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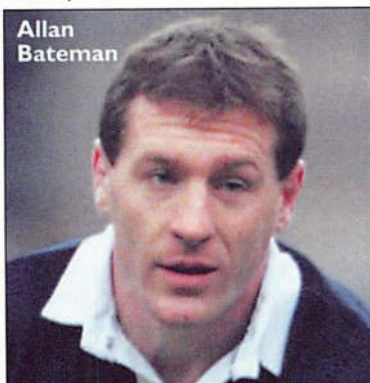
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When the Welsh Rugby Union dish out their awards at the end of the season they should strike up a special medal for the people who have played the major role in transforming their side from the whipping boys of the kick and clap world.

Allan Bateman



Namely Eric Hughes, Graeme West, Andy Gregory, Brian Johnson and the rest of the coaches who knocked the current crop from The Valleys into shape.

No-one is doubting the fact that Jonathan Davies was a top performer when Doug Laughton took him to Widnes eight years ago. But, then again, people like Jiffy are a one-off. Superstar in any code, he was certainly a better all-round performer when he headed for Cardiff than when he arrived.

The real proof of the pudding comes with the rest of the lads who headed back to Union when the lid came off the pot of gold.

David Young didn't get within a mile of a regular slot at Leeds when he signed. Eventually, after some bloody hard work from Doug Laughton and Andy Gregory at Salford, he became a prop par excellence.

And what happens? He walked straight back into Wales' international squad as one of the cornerstones of their Five Nations bid.

The same goes for Scott Quinell. Wigan took the softly, softly approach with a man who, while he might have been good enough to carve out a reputation as one of Union's top forwards, patently wasn't fit enough to cut the mustard in League.

Yet what about his performance against Scotland in the opening international? Head and shoulders above the rest of his team-mates in the pack - and all thanks to the professional regime he worked under at Central Park.

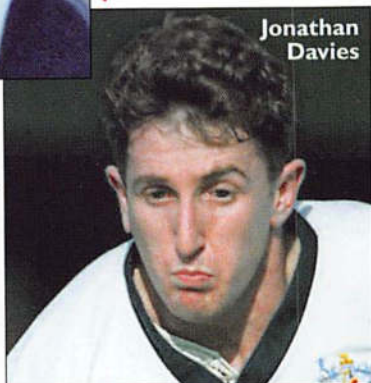
In fact the only men to rival Quinell for personal honours in the win over the Jocks were a certain Allan Bateman and Scott Gibbs.

Now when Warrington signed Bateman, along with Kevin Ellis seven years ago, coach Johnson was jumping through hoops at his potential. Yet it was still a very raw one and took months before it finally came to the fore.

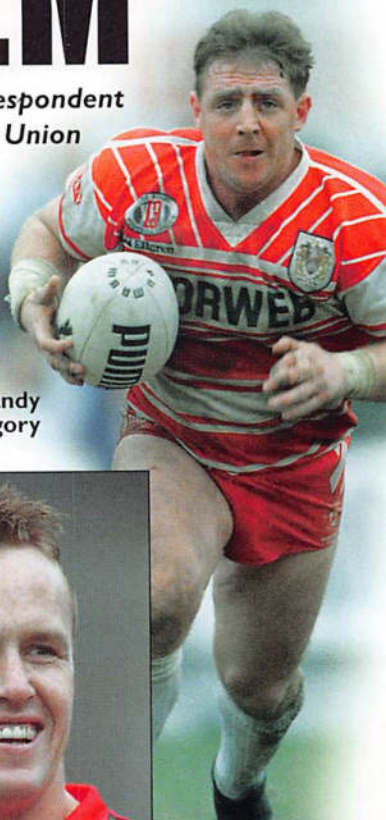
WE TAUGHT THEM

Phil Thomas, Rugby League Correspondent of The Sun, assesses the debt the Union exiles owe to League

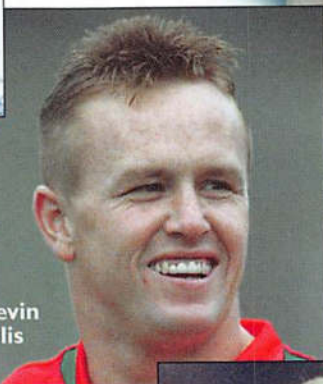
Jonathan Davies



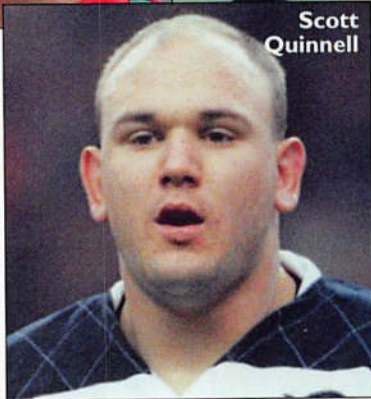
Andy Gregory



Kevin Ellis



Scott Quinell



So much so that crack Aussie outfit Cronulla snapped him up and he became a regular in their line-up. That prospect was about as likely as former England hooker Brian Moore winning a modelling contract for his good looks.

Bateman has been a revelation back in Union, thanks to the teaching he got in League. So too has Gibbs. A great player and unfortunate with injuries before he joined St Helens maybe, but not a patch on the powerhouse who returned home last year. And it was significant to hear Gibbs himself say how bored he was during his early games back because of the lack of involvement. But maybe Alan Tait is the best example of the different demands of the two codes. Heading for 33 he was lucky to win a place in the Leeds line-up before he joined Newcastle. And as for international honours - you'd have been laughed out of town for suggesting it 12 months ago.

Yet put him back in the 15-a-side game and not only does he win a place in the Scotland side - and weren't the eulogies over his performance a fortnight ago a little over the top - but he's straight in the preliminary Lions squad.

All that without really touching on the impact Robbie Paul, Jason Robinson et al had in their brief Courage League

flings throughout the winter. The Union's die-hards can rant and rave all they like about how wonderful their game is, but the bald facts are staring them in the face. If you really want to get ahead in Rugby Union there is only one place to serve a true apprenticeship - in the rough tough world of Super League. Vernon Pugh, you have been told!

From the Heat OF THE BATTLE

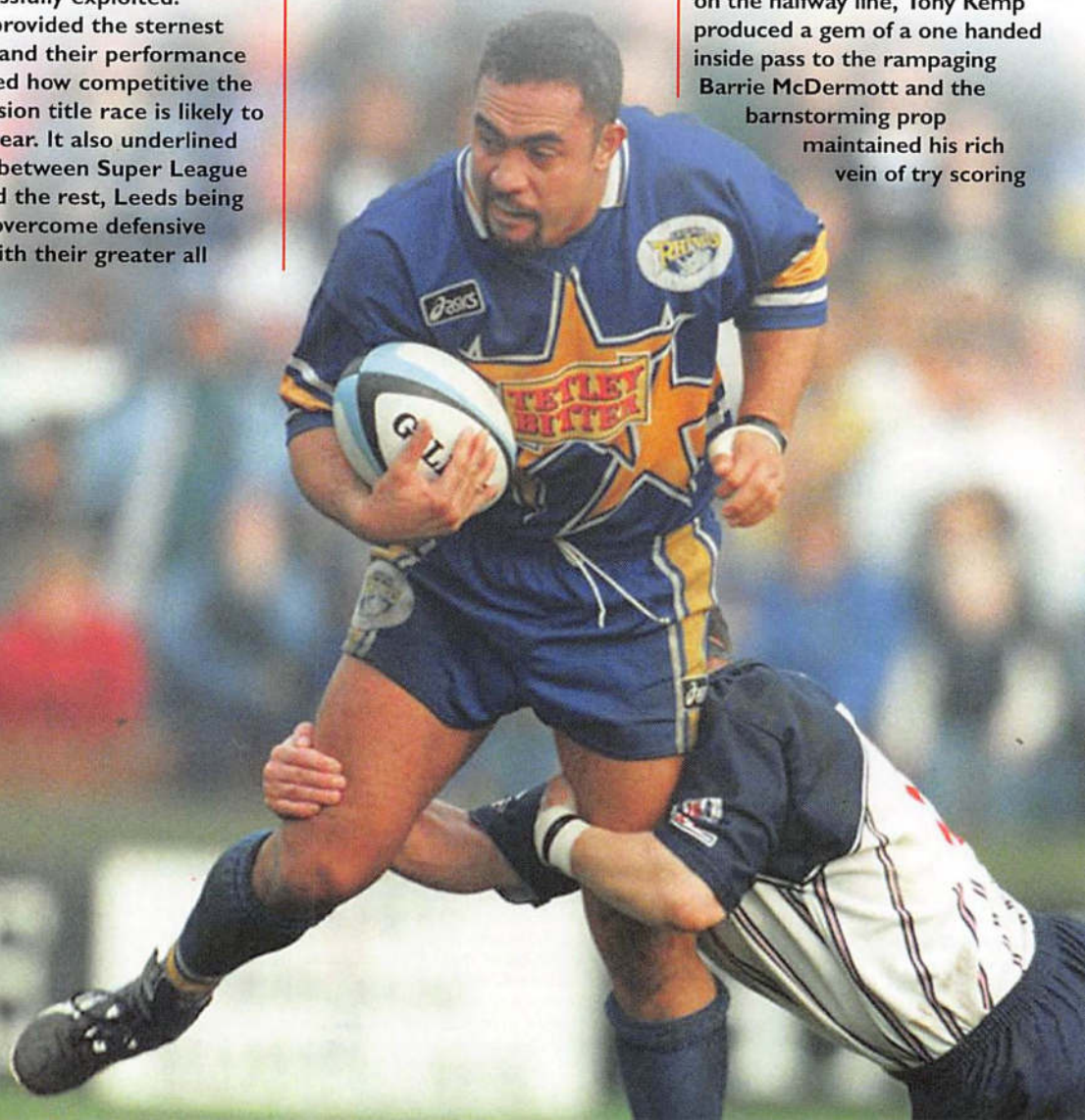
The interim report as the Rhinos shape up for their now customary tilt at the Challenge Cup Semi-finals and stand on the verge of Super League, would probably read "steady progress but could do better". Three tries against first division opposition have all been negotiated without too much alarm but have all exhibited failings that a higher calibre of opposition would have been able to successfully exploited.

Rovers provided the sternest test yet and their performance illustrated how competitive the first division title race is likely to be this year. It also underlined the gap between Super League sides and the rest, Leeds being able to overcome defensive lapses with their greater all

round strength all round strength and in particular, pace. Twice in the first half impressive Aussie second rower Danny Baker exposed the Rhino's markers at acting half back to grab an impressive brace of tries but on each occasion the home side stormed back within a set of 6 tackles to redress the balance.

With a virtual full strength squad to pick from, Dean Bell opted for

a Kemp/Sheridan half back combination which almost paid immediate dividends, the returning stand off's pass to Paul Sterling being deemed to have gone forward as the powerful winger surged over in the corner. Debutante Richie Blackmore bust the cover down the left hand side to make an immediate impact as the Rhino's used stifling defence at speed to get on a roll and force Rovers into mistakes. From one on the halfway line, Tony Kemp produced a gem of a one handed inside pass to the rampaging Barrie McDermott and the barnstorming prop maintained his rich vein of try scoring



form in an unstoppable charge from 30 metres out. Far from spurring the Rhinos to maintain their early dominance, it was the visitors who took up the cudgels, responding to Neil Summers' prompting as he instigated a flowing backline move. From that confident platform it came as no surprise when Baker claimed his first score, exploiting a gap on the inside close to the ruck. Commendably the Rhinos response was immediate, led by conscientious hooker Terry Newton who broke 40 metres

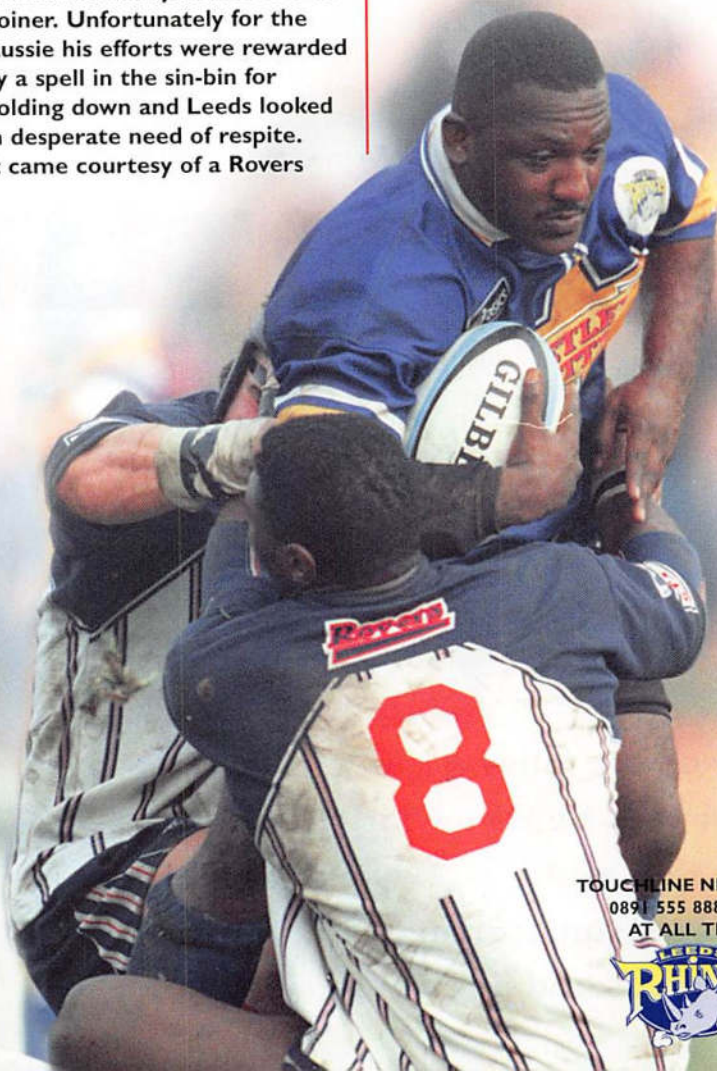
dynamic set of six from the restart that covered the length of the field and culminated in Ryan Sheridan breaking out wide for Damian Gibson, supporting on the inside, to take the scoring pass. Rovers began the second period with a spell of intense, concerted pressure in an all or nothing effort. Adam Hughes just rescued a Gleadhill grubber, Damian Gibson denied Colin Maskell on the line the impressed and increasingly influential Rovers full back, Jon Strange was thwarted by a

dropped ball on their own 30 metre line. From the ensuing scrum Kemp again turned provider, sending Francis Cummins, ironically linking from full back, sprinting clear for an excellent match winning score. Graham Holroyd's introduction was the final impetus for victory, the youngster kicking a landmark penalty and then setting up Cummins again after twice being involved in a flowing backline move. The main positive for the Rhinos going into a daunting semi-final clash with Bradford was that there was no lack of concentration in the closing stages this time and some credit in nilling committed opponents after the break. Maybe the underdogs tag will suit the Rhinos
PHIL CAPLAN

LEEDS RHINOS 32 FEATHERSTONE ROVERS 12

up the middle of the park to set the position for Anthony Farrell to crash over from a Play the Ball close in. There were few thoughts of consolidation as the game swung from either end but too often the final, scoring pass went astray until another decisive Kemp intervention. His superbly timed short ball gave Martin Masella the time and space to gallop and step through for his first try in Leeds colours. Any significant gap in the scoreline was short lived as Rovers capitalised on a rare penalty concession to secure the ground for Baker and Maskill to repeat the set piece, much to the consternation of the Leeds coaching staff. Their concern was partly erased by another

forward pass to Hughes and a last ditch ankle tap. It looked as though Richard Gunn's magical pass out of the tackle from Damian Gibson just filed the ex-Loiner. Unfortunately for the Aussie his efforts were rewarded by a spell in the sin-bin for holding down and Leeds looked in desperate need of respite. It came courtesy of a Rovers



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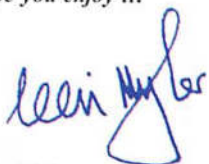
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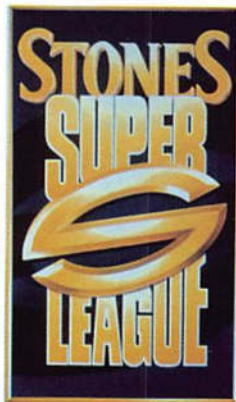


Colin Myler

Chief Executive – Rugby League (Europe) Ltd



SUPERLEAGUE ACT II



Over the following weeks Ian Proctor is going to be reviewing the status of Super League clubs as they progress through the season, starting with London Broncos and Sheffield Eagles

LONDON BRONCOS



Robbie Beazley

Seventeen years after Rugby League gave birth to a cheeky infant in the shape of Fulham there are real signs that the troubled 'teenager' is about to mature into a fully-fledged adult. London's time has surely come.

After years of struggle against adversity, apathy and a nomadic existence in the wake the sensational initial impact made at Craven Cottage, the Maranta-backed Broncos appear to have found their rightful home at the Stoop. Let us hope so, after fleeting stops at Craven Cottage, Chiswick, Crystal Palace, Barnet Copthall, Brentford, Charlton and other venues, it is time the Broncos had a long-standing base.

The Stoop, a much-changed venue from where the Broncos appeared in 1995/96, seemed home-from-home when they entertained Bradford in the Challenge Cup last month. Sure, the pitch will need some attention, but the place seems an ideal setting for summer Rugby League. On the field the Broncos appear strong enough to mount another challenge for a place in the top four. Last season's highest-ever league placing was a credit to the hard work of coach Tony Currie who was in his debut season at the club, and the ever-demanding Australian has set his sights on at least equalling that fine effort.

The Broncos may find it tough in the early weeks, as their influx of new players takes time to gel, and they have a difficult start with Sunday's home game against champions St Helens being followed by the visit to Warrington. But, by the time they entertain Paris in round three, the new signings should be settling into British Football.

Gone from last season's team are veteran half-back Kevin Langer, popular Leo

Dynevov, retired hooker Tony Rea (now chief executive), centre Evan Cochrane and utility back Duncan McRae. All will be missed, particularly Rea for his tireless work around the rucks and support play, and McRae, who was a brilliant footballer capable of hitting the heights in the big games.

The Broncos have addressed those losses with some shrewd recruitment from Australia. Ex-Manly prop Matt Dunford will fill the void left by Gavin Allen and Darren Shaw, and has the chance to emulate the achievements of his former Sea Eagles colleague Tony Mestrov, who has made such a success of his move to England.

There was no finer prop in the game than Mestrov last summer and, along with back-rower Peter Gill, a worthy selection in the Stones Super League Dream Team, the Broncos had two of the most consistent forwards in the entire competition.

Dunford's signing will strengthen the pack and former Illawarra man Robbie Beazley is set to get the hooker's berth. He had a tough start at the Stoop, coming up against an inspired James Lowes, but will get better as he gets to know his colleagues. Tony Currie has confidence in him.

Josh White was another who found the going tough against the Bulls, and London may feel the need to recruit another half-back to complement Lions tourist Tulsen Tollett, one of their major stars of 1996.

White's kicking game is his strength, but it was significant that the Broncos were being linked with Wigan legend Shaun Edwards as the build-up to the Super League kick-off began last week.

Edwards would give the London operation another massive shot of credibility and, alongside ex-Wigan colleague Martin Offiah, add to the Broncos already potent attacking threat with Tollett, the outstanding Greg Barwick and giant centre David Krause, who is bound to prove a success in '97.

The Broncos management are well aware of the need to give youth a chance. Tony Martin at full-back was, arguably, the discovery of last summer and his progress will be monitored with interest. And there was great delight at the Broncos when forward Matt Salter, still to make his debut, earned selection for the GB Academy tour last summer.

Ady Spencer and Nick Mardon have now forced their way into the London squad and 19-year-old Paul Terry seems set to follow suit. As the Broncos status continues to grow, the hope is that youngsters in the capital will aspire to be the next Offiah, Tollett or Matterson ... and then the Broncos dream of being the dominant force will start to become reality.

It has been 'all change' at Sheffield, in the close-season, with founder Gary Hetherington departing for Leeds, leaving the Eagles to restructure the club completely. Now Sheffield are set to become the first Rugby League club to float on the Stock Exchange.

With the Great Britain management team of Phil Larder and John Kear installed as coaches and Hetherington having left behind a young, highly-motivated playing staff to work with, the Eagles will be looking to improve upon last season's creditable 7th-place finish.

Larder did an ultra-professional job at his previous clubs, Widnes and Keighley, and the prospect of pitting his wits against the best in Super League is bound to bring the best out of the former Director of Coaching. And he has moved quickly to put together an Eagles playing staff more to his liking.

The acquisition of Nick Pinkney and Martin Wood from Keighley and the signing of GB forward Steve McCurrie brings Sheffield three players he knows from his previous clubs. All are quality signings and, together with a trio of Australians (Steve Edmed, Willie Morganson and Rod Doyle), plus 1993 Kiwi tour winger Whetu Taewa, they give the Eagles playing staff a whole new look.

In former Wakefield centre Wayne Flynn, Sheffield have signed an Academy international with real potential.

Larder released Ryan Sheridan, Anthony Farrell and Dean Lawford to Leeds, Ian Hughes has gone to Wakefield, Richard Chapman to Featherstone and Mark Gamson severed links with the Eagles which stretched all the way back to their formation in the summer of 1984. It has certainly been a close-season of sweeping change at Don Valley.

Two long-serving players, Mark Aston and Test prop Paul Broadbent, will remain to play important roles in 1997, and Larder will relish the chance to work again with the admirable Broadbent (one of the successes of the Lions tour), fellow tourist Keith Senior, hooker Johnny Lawless, Paul Carr and Andy Hay. And luckless David Mycoe will hope for an injury-free season so that he can fulfil the potential which was apparent when he made his debut as a 17 year-old, back in 1989.

After a move to Bramall Lane

seemed imminent, the Sheffield management have resisted further change by brokering a deal to remain at Don Valley Stadium, which seems a natural venue for summer Rugby League.

Supporters recalling the club's nomadic days of the '80s will surely be relieved at the prospect of staying put.

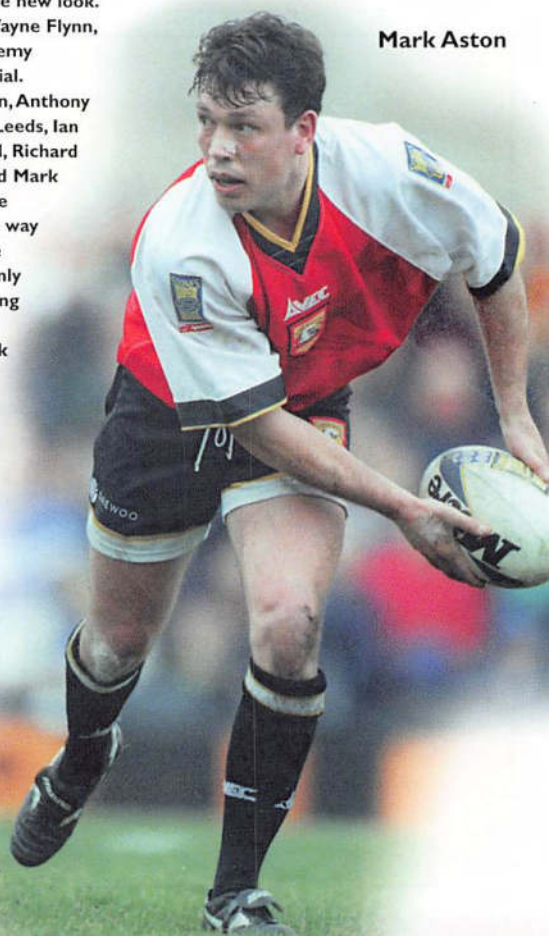
Don Valley proved a lucky venue last season, of course, with Sheffield remaining undefeated there in Super League. The Eagles' only home defeats were against Wigan (at Bramall Lane) and in the clash with St Helens which was switched to Cardiff.

In contrast, Sheffield, the Jekyll and Hyde outfit of Super League, were awful on their travels. They managed only one win, at relegated Workington, and conceded an average of 44 points away from home.

A larger supporter base has got to be one of the Eagles' aims in 1997, because they have been unable to add significantly to the loyal fans they already have on board.

Their impressive home form deserves better although it's not easy in a city of soccer fanatics.

Mark Aston



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The league season gets underway in earnest this week for the club's Alliance and Academy teams.

The Alliance broke new ground on Thursday evening when they travelled to Stalybridge to play Oldham in the first game at their new home for their Alliance team. It is always difficult to estimate how the Alliance will fare, but after the disappointment of losing at Warrington in the cup the Rhinos will be keen to make amends in the league campaign.

What is certain is that the likes of Matt Schultz, Paddy Handley, Lee Maher and Paul Gleadhill will leave some gaps to fill but with Marcus Vassilakopoulos fit again the side will have some stability. It is going to be

a very young side that takes the field in most games and Vassy's experience could be vital.

Big things are expected of Ricky Wright this season. Ricky has now left Academy football behind him and has shown in recent weeks that he can make a telling contribution. He has certainly got the ability to secure a regular place in the starting line up. Another who should have a good season is full back Andy Pointer. He has already shown that he has the pace and ability to go all the way. He is my tip, along with second row forward Garreth Carvell for big things this season.

Depending on Alliance needs, the Academy should prove to be very strong this season. Losing only Ricky Wright from the team that won the league last season, they should be immeasurably strengthened when their new recruits from junior football come on board later in the season.

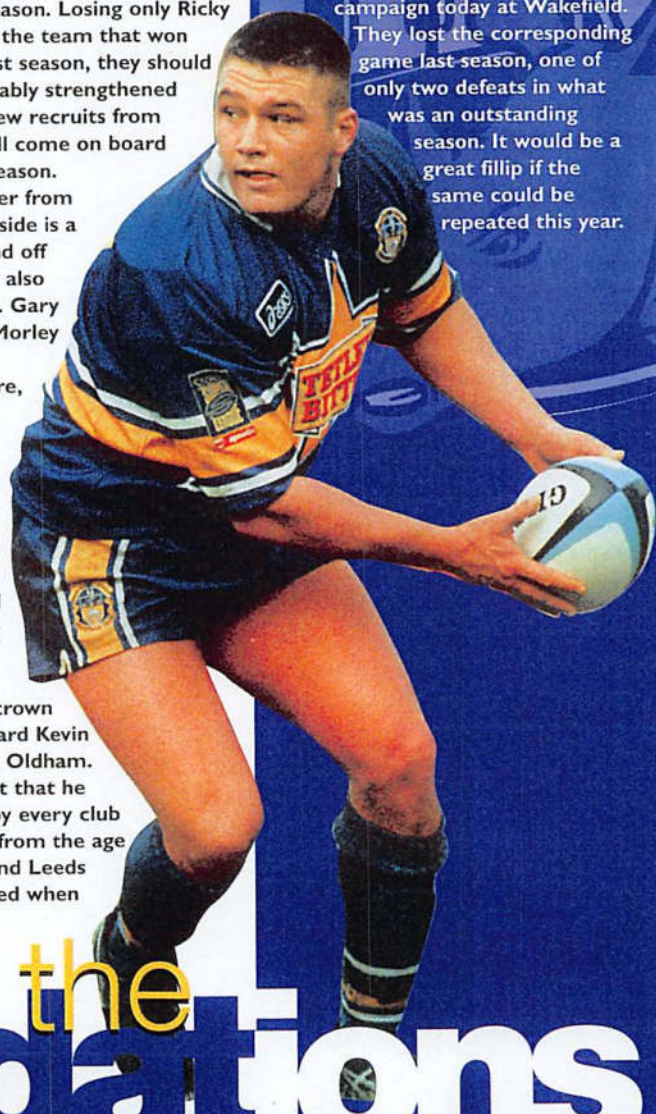
George Rayner from Hunslet Parkside is a very fast stand off half, who can also play full back. Gary Smith from Morley is a strong running centre, while Jamie Jones-Buchanan from Stanningley, has been the outstanding prop forward for Yorkshire this season.

Perhaps the jewel in the crown is loose forward Kevin Sinfield from Oldham. It is no secret that he was chased by every club in the game from the age of thirteen and Leeds were delighted when

he chose to come to Headingley. It is a great tribute to the Leeds Scout Bob Pickles that all these youngsters have been chosen for the England Schools U16s team to play France at the South Leeds Stadium on Saturday April 19. It will be a good opportunity to see these quality players in action.

Big things are expected of the two props, Daniel Ward and Daniel Sculthorpe. Both made great strides last season not coming on board until mid-term. With Cumbrian, Ryan McDonald and hooker Andy Speak, they should ensure a hot reception for anyone silly enough to try and come down the middle.

The Leeds Academy begin their campaign today at Wakefield. They lost the corresponding game last season, one of only two defeats in what was an outstanding season. It would be a great fillip if the same could be repeated this year.



1997 ALLIANCE LEAGUE FIXTURES

MARCH

Thursday	13	Oldham Bears	Away	L 10-32
Wednesday	19	HULL K.R.	HOME	7.30pm
Wednesday	26	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	HOME	7.30pm

APRIL

Wednesday	2	Wigan Warriors	Away	7.30pm
Thursday	10	St Helens	Away	7.30pm
Thursday	17	Featherstone Rovers	Away	7.30pm
Wednesday	23	BRADFORD BULLS	HOME	7.30pm

MAY

Friday	9	Salford Reds	Away	8.00pm
Wednesday	14	OLDHAM BEARS	HOME	7.30pm
Saturday	24	Hull K.R.	Away	2.30pm
Thursday	29	Warrington Wolves	Away	7.30pm

JUNE

Thursday	5	Halifax Blue Sox	Away	7.30pm
Wednesday	18	HULL	HOME	7.30pm
Thursday	26	Castleford Tigers	Away	7.30pm

JULY

Thursday	3	SALFORD REDS	HOME	7.30pm
Wednesday	9	WARRINGTON WOLVES	HOME	7.30pm
Wednesday	16	HALIFAX BLUE SOX	HOME	7.30pm
Thursday	24	Hull	Away	8.00pm
Thursday	31	Bradford Bulls	Away	7.30pm

AUGUST

Wednesday	13	ST. HELENS	HOME	7.30pm
Wednesday	20	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	HOME	7.30pm
Wednesday	27	WIGAN WARRIORS	HOME	7.30pm

Laying the Foundations

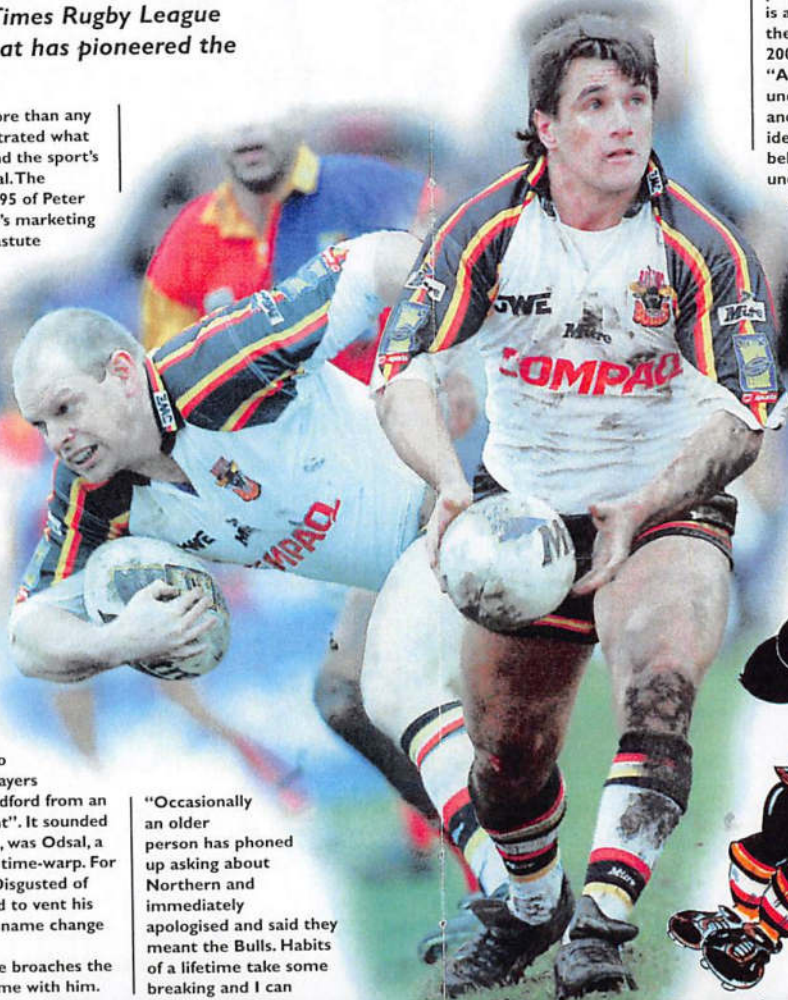


It is appropriate that Bradford Bulls should be the hosts for the first game of the season. Chris Irvine The Times Rugby League Correspondent reports on the club that has pioneered the phenomenon of Super League

As the club that set the best example of what the Super League can do to spread the gospel of Rugby League, it is right and proper that the first game of the second summer season should be at the home of the pioneering Bradford Bulls. Atmosphere is guaranteed. The same cannot be said for the Odsal weather at this time of year. Rugby League conveniently skips spring with its decree that summer has arrived this weekend. If memory and numbed fingers serve me right, winter has a couple more weeks left. Whatever, Super League II is now with us and eight non-stop months lie ahead. Where Bradford led last season off the field, others are expected to take the Bulls by the horns. They are a hard act to follow. As heretic as some might see the fun element, it is very difficult to argue with commercial logic. Bradford not only doubled their crowds last year, they increased their merchandise revenue six-fold. The Bulls were the conspicuous success story of Super League last year, despite St Helens winning the trophy. Who knows, Bradford could well score on the playing front as well this year. Where there will be no let down at Odsal is off the pitch in bringing more families into the sport and spreading the feel-good factor. In getting their off-field team

right, Bradford, more than any club, have demonstrated what can be achieved and the sport's enormous potential. The appointment in 1995 of Peter Deakin as the club's marketing executive was an astute move. Deakin, begging his pardon, is Chief Bull. A manic obsessive and salesman par excellence, he and his team have succeeded in converting a generally apathetic Bradford public. With his detectable American twang, Deakin arrived at Odsal after five years in the United States full of talk about the Chicago Bulls, franchise players and changing Bradford from an "image standpoint". It sounded bull. This, after all, was Odsal, a place caught in a time-warped several months. Disgusted of Wibsey continued to vent his spleen about the name change from Northern. Nowadays, no-one broaches the subject of the name with him.

"Occasionally an older person has phoned up asking about Northern and immediately apologised and said they meant the Bulls. Habits of a lifetime take some breaking and I can

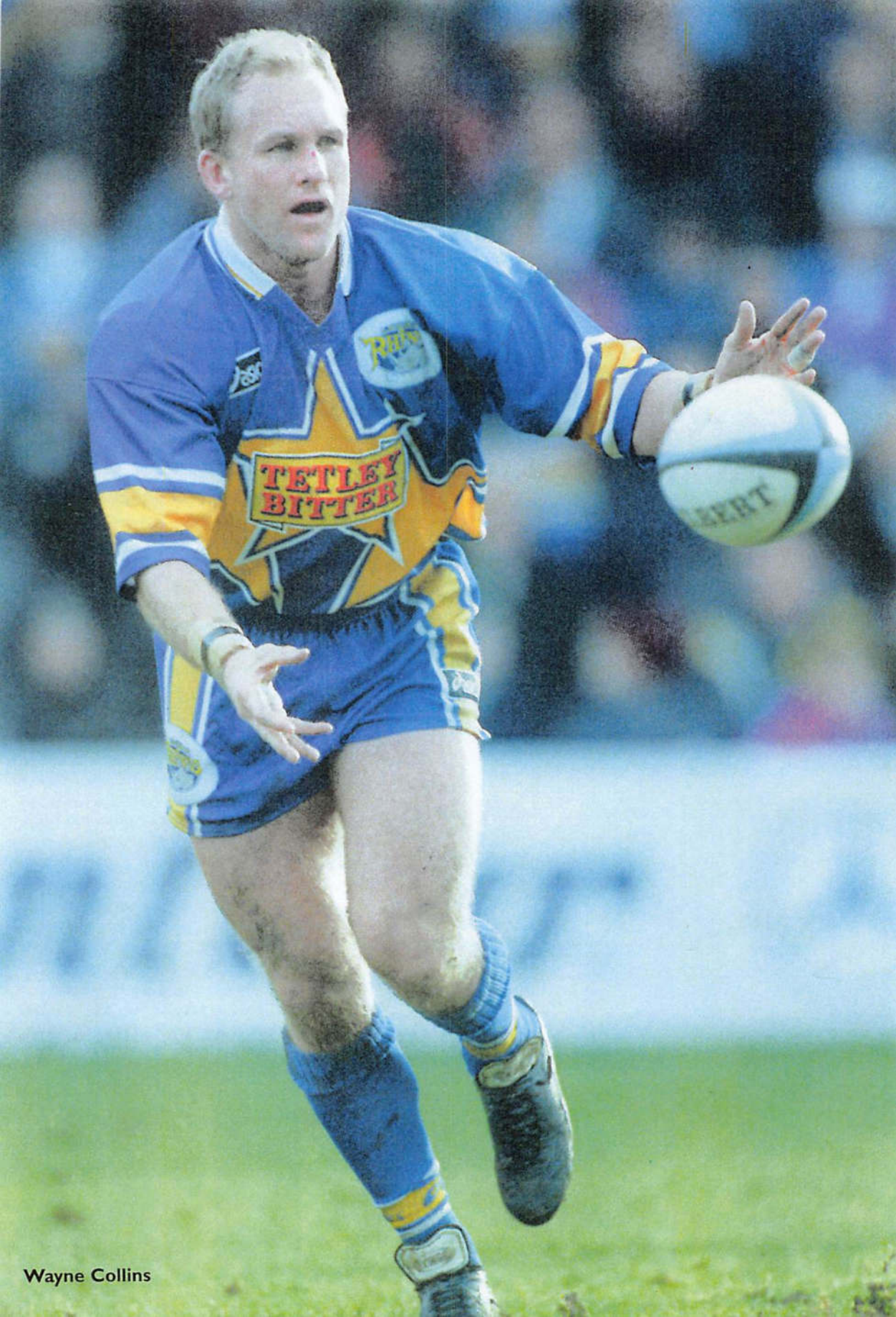


understand the feelings of people, but what we've got here is a bright, healthy future with the kids. They will take us to 2000 and beyond," Deakin said. "A year ago, we were entering uncharted waters. Super League and summer Rugby were novel ideas. There was plenty of self-belief on our part, but the fans, understandably, were sceptical coming off the back of a poor Centenary season, in which nothing in the game had really been done to celebrate its 100th birthday. "We sat down and looked at the audience we wanted. What we wanted was a niche market somewhere between the audience participation and women



and children attending Ice Hockey and the numbers and atmosphere at Football. A lot of people weren't at Ice Hockey because they necessarily understood it. They were going because they were having fun. "The new people at Odsal were not turning up because they especially admired Graeme Bradley's side-step or Robbie Paul's pace off the mark, but because other people had told them what a great time they had had down here. The trick once you get people into the sport is to keep them and get them into the whole culture of Rugby League. "When our fans were going to away grounds last season, they were terribly disappointed that they hadn't been considered in many cases. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to devise some form of entertainment and provision of facilities. I believe we have set a benchmark. In the close season, other clubs have consulted us on the way we're doing things. "There will always be the cynics who carp at the idea of fun having anything to do with sport. Why then did our crowds double to more than 10,000 last season? Rugby League still has an inferiority complex and remains sensitive to criticism. We've got to start trusting and believing in our sport more, because it's a fabulous quality product." In Bradford now, the favourite Bulls gear is no longer made in Chicago. Deakin has his so-called franchise player in Robbie Paul, the face of Bradford. 1997 might just be the Year of the Bulls.

BRADFORD FUNOMENON

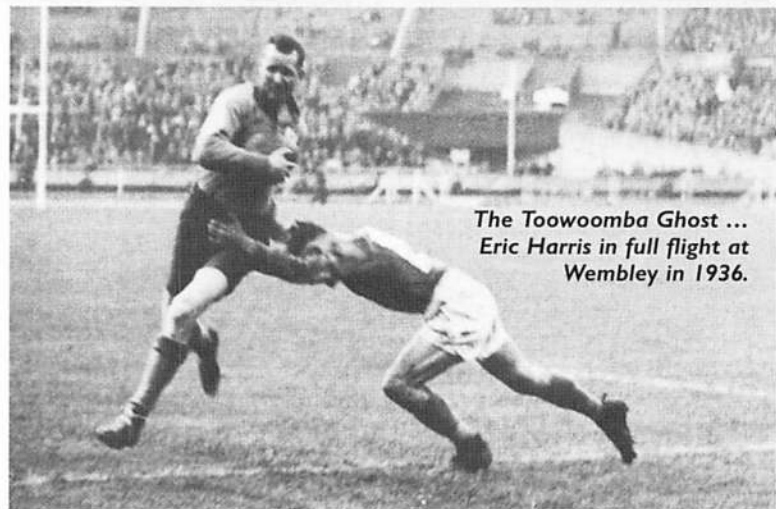


Wayne Collins

OBITUARY

We are sad to report the death on February 16 of the greatest winger to grace the Headingley turf, Eric Harris. Eric passed away at his home in Queensland. He was suffering from a form of cancer. He was 87. Eric joined Leeds in 1930 and made his debut against Featherstone Rovers at Headingley in September of that year. It was the great Australian centre, Jeff Moores, who was responsible for bringing him to Leeds with whom he played in his native Brisbane in the late 1920s. He had already represented Queensland and when Leeds were looking for a winger, Jeff Moores moved quickly and Leeds got their man. In only his first seventeen matches he broke the club scoring record of 30 tries and by the end of the season he had accumulated an astonishing 58.

It was Jeff Moores who made him, with split-second timing of his passes. His growing reputation made him a marked man and again Moores was on hand to keep a watchful eye on his protégé. His deceptive change of pace gave him the lasting nickname of 'The Toowoomba Ghost' and he used that skill to good effect in the 1932



*The Toowoomba Ghost ...
Eric Harris in full flight at
Wembley in 1936.*

Challenge Cup Final at Wigan. He left the Swinton full back, Scott, for dead and ensured a Leeds victory in what was an epic Final.

After Moores' transfer to York he struck up an amazing partnership with his namesake, Fred. Leeds went from strength to strength in what will always be known as the 'Golden Thirties'.

Harris perfected the scissors move and used it to good effect during the 1936 Challenge Cup campaign. Both

Fred and Eric scored tries in the Final at Wembley. By the end of the season he had scored 63 tries and set a record that stands to this day. 1936 was the highlight of Eric's career with Leeds. He created another record when he scored 36 tries in 17 consecutive games. With the outbreak of the war, Eric returned to his native Australia, never to wear the Blue and Amber again.


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In the first of a weekly series of interviews with the men who make things happen in Super League, Ian Proctor meets Salford Reds chairman John Wilkinson to discuss his club's preparation for entry into Super League

Q JOHN, AFTER WINNING THE FIRST DIVISION TITLE TWICE, YOU MUST BE DELIGHTED THAT SALFORD REDS ARE TAKING THEIR PLACE ALONGSIDE THE OTHER ELEVEN CLUBS IN THE GAME'S ELITE COMPETITION

A It's been quite a wait, Ian, but I'm thrilled the time has come. From that first meeting at Huddersfield in April 1995 I was pro-Super League because I'd seen what had been coming from the base of the game and this was by far the best offer we'd ever get to enable Rugby League to go forward into the next century. Super League was a great opportunity. I had to be sold on the idea but I'm a summer fanatic and believe that, while 1996 was good for Super League, this year will be even better. Salford have facilities as good as anywhere in the game. We've always run our business well, but when you've got Manchester United on one side and Manchester City on the other, it makes life difficult. Summer gives us the chance to pull some of those soccer fans into The Willows.

Q ORIGINALLY, SALFORD AND OLDHAM WERE ASKED TO MERGE TO FORM A SUPER LEAGUE TEAM. WAS THAT EVER ON?

A It was never really on the cards, but a quick decision had to be made if we were to accept money on the table. I spoke with Jim Quinn (Oldham chairman) for five hours but we were at stalemate. I'd just bought The Willows Variety Centre and had a ground which held 12,500 in comfort, while Oldham weren't in anything like that situation. It was a marriage which couldn't work. We had to go into the lower division, come back and really show who could be the strongest. Our collective assets weren't owned by Jim Quinn and John

Wilkinson but by those shareholders. It couldn't have been put together easily. I'm not against mergers, but a better one would perhaps have been Salford and Swinton.

Q OLDHAM WENT INTO SUPER LEAGUE, THEN, AND YOU WERE OUT. HOW DID YOU VIEW THINGS AT THAT STAGE?

A Andy Gregory had just come in as coach and we talked about what we needed to get out of the First Division at the first opportunity. We knew we'd be in a loss-making situation for the best part of a year. Our sums had to be good.

But Andy's a knowledgeable guy and brought in Eddie McDonnell as scout. Eddie had a great deal to do with assembling the late-80s side at Widnes. We signed Fata Sini, Darren Rogers and Peter Edwards. Since promotion, we've bought well again with Andy Platt, John Cartwright, Esene Faimalo and David Hulme bringing vast experience to the club.

It's all started to come together, we've performed superbly in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, we're through to the semi-finals for the first time since 1988 and we hope to do what Bradford did last year. Qualifying for Wembley ignited their summer in Super League. We're hopeful it can happen for us too.

Q YOU'VE A GREAT HERITAGE TO FOLLOW AT SALFORD IN THE WAKE OF THE BRIAN SNAPE ERA AND THE FABULOUS TEAM OF THE 70s, HAVEN'T YOU?

A We all like flair players and wingers racing in for tries, so it would be wonderful for those great days to return to The

Willows. My biggest regret was that I never knew Brian Snape and, of course, he died last year. He seemed a man who liked his own company. I probably read him wrongly. I went to his funeral last year and was invited back home by his wife and daughters and they showed me all his Salford memorabilia. It was touching to see how much he cared about the club.

Q HE SEEMED TO BE SO MUCH AHEAD OF HIS TIME, WITH HIS DECISION TO BUILD THE WILLOWS VARIETY CENTRE AND GO FOR FRIDAY EVENING MATCHES IN THE 60s. YOU SEEM TO HAVE INHERITED THAT ZEST FOR THE GAME AND AN UNSWERVING LOYALTY TO SALFORD.

A Brian was ahead of his time, with his vision to make the game appeal to a wider public. I've had to be patient to see things evolve

MOVERS & ONE-TO-ONE—JO

at the club. It's a young man's game but I'm young enough to take Salford further forward. The Willows Centre was bought through my own company because it was the only way I could get together the money needed. But all profits go to the rugby club and I hope one day to marry the football club and The Willows club together.

Q DO YOU EVER SEE THE DAY WHEN YOU WILL CALL YOURSELF MANCHESTER, AS RUGBY LEAGUE BECOMES EVER MORE GLOBAL?

A Salford is a proud city with

proud traditions. I'm probably the major stumbling block here because I have very strong Salford connections. My grandfather worked for Salford Gas for 41 years and my father also worked for the Gas Board for 29 years, so that's 70 years given to the city of Salford between them. I've spent all my working life in the city of Salford. I have that blood in me. I feel I'm such a part of Salford that I couldn't let the name go – maybe, 'Salford-Manchester' might be a way round the problem, but Salford would always have to be there, somewhere, for me.

Q YOU'RE THE LONGEST SERVING CHAIRMAN IN THE GAME, JOHN. WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHANGES YOU'VE SEEN IN THOSE 15 YEARS AT THE HELM OF SALFORD?

A Maurice Lindsay had a vision no-one else possessed. I'm one of his keenest supporters. I know what he's done for the game and saw he had the guts to follow it through. He has never ducked a challenge or avoided doing what he believes

Queensland Cowboys coming to The Willows.

Q BEING IN SUPER LEAGUE MEANS GREATER ATTENTION FOR SALFORD AND WORLDWIDE EXPOSURE FOR THE CLUB ON TELEVISION. IS THAT SOMETHING YOU FEEL YOU'VE EARNED?

A Sky have projected the game in a new light and they've made the game more appealing. They've jazzed it up and given it a badly needed glossy image. The BBC have responded with better production. It's got to help in enticing spectators through the turnstiles. The big screen is an attraction in itself, of course, and Rugby League and Sky deserve credit for embracing new technology. We've done what other sports are only thinking about.

Q WHAT'S YOUR AIM FOR SALFORD IN 1997?

A I'd love to take the club to Wembley for the first time since 1969.

Bradford were there or thereabouts for a while before reaching Wembley and that opened new doors for them last year. I believe it could do the same for us.

As far as Super League goes, I want to see

Salford stay up and play attractive rugby before packed crowds. The bookies have us at 33/1, tipped to finish around mid-table ... that would be very respectable. And, if crowds continue to flock back to The Willows, then it will be a season to remember.

Steve Blakeley holds the Division One cup aloft to propel Salford into the Super League



SHAKERS

HN WILKINSON

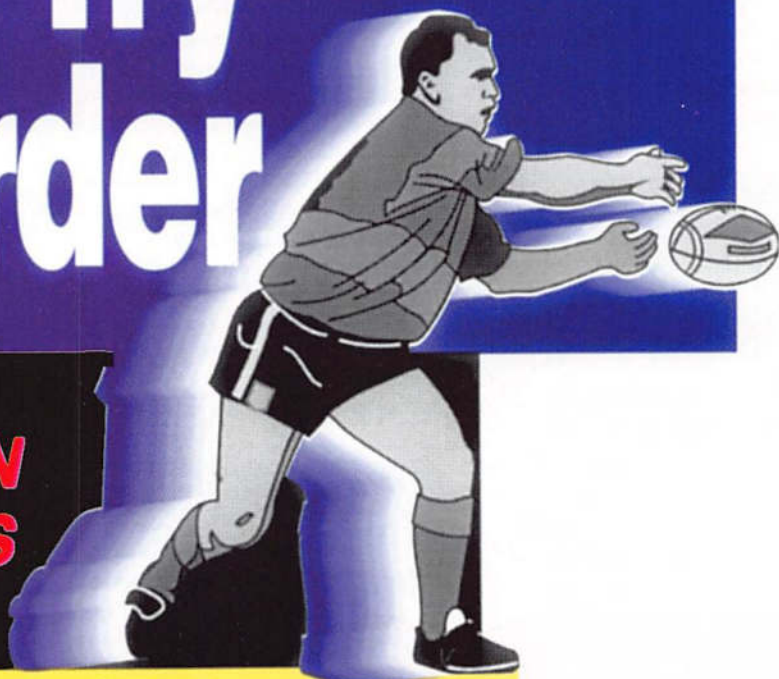
to be right for the game. I hope Super League's marketing arm has the common sense to work with the Rugby Football League to make our game better. No-one should forget what Maurice has done to bring our game to the exciting position where we're looking forward to the World Club Challenge matches – it's all a long way from a year ago when we were in Division One. I believe Maurice still has a big role to play in helping us go further forward.

It's quite a mouth-watering prospect to look forward to Adelaide Rams and North



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Gary Mercer

Ray French, BBC Rugby League Correspondent, was awarded a free string vest as part of the first sponsorship deal at St Helens. He reflects on how the game has come of age and players are justly rewarded

Simply the Best, sang Tina Turner as she helped raise the profile of Australian Rugby League by belting out her No 1 hit.

Computer companies, mobile phone shops and leading sportswear companies obviously took her to heart.

Compaq, Hewlett Packard, JWE, Puma, Nike and household names like Dairycrest Milk are lending their enormous backing to the arrival of Super League in a new hi tech dimension. They easily recognise, and are quick to support, a good thing when they see one.

Before the 1966 Challenge Cup final against deadly rivals Wigan I and my St Helens team-mates entered into the first sponsorship deal in the history of the club.

We received a string vest and were granted the opportunity of purchasing another at a bargain price from a stockist in town.

It is a world away from the commercial merry-go-round of 97, where cut glass vases, silver goblets, holidays abroad and hand made suits are the order of the day for the likes of Bobbie Goulding, Robbie Paul and Richie Blackmore.

As a reward for my exertions over 80 minutes and a Man of the Match award I earned £5 and a packet of ten cigarettes by the sponsors. Three pounds had to be placed in the players' kitty for the annual trip to Blackpool, while the cigarettes were handed over to the skipman, the only one around the changing rooms who smoked. They are sponsorship deals that belong to a past age, and rightly so.

The first pack of forwards I played in – Abe Terry, Bob Dagnall, Cliff Watson, Dick Huddart, Vince Karalius – included coalminers, a joiner, a lorry driver and a scrap metal merchant.



SUPERSTAR TINA GIVES LEAGUE HER BEST SHOT

Now it's highly-tuned athletes, honed to peak fitness after a week of full-time professionalism spent in the gym, on the track, and on the pitch.

Before kick off, stiltwalkers, clowns, cuddly mascots, soul singers, sky divers and hill-billy bands entertain where once the local brass band played. Crowds are increasing – the recipe must be right.

There is no truth in the rumour

that, as Super League kicks off for its second season this weekend, Maurice Lindsay is reviving Bob Dylan's long time favourite "Times, they are a changin'."

It's too late now for that 60s message which captured the mood of Super League last season. The game has moved on apace. The 21st Century approaches – Super League fans hold on tight!



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1997 Super League Fact File

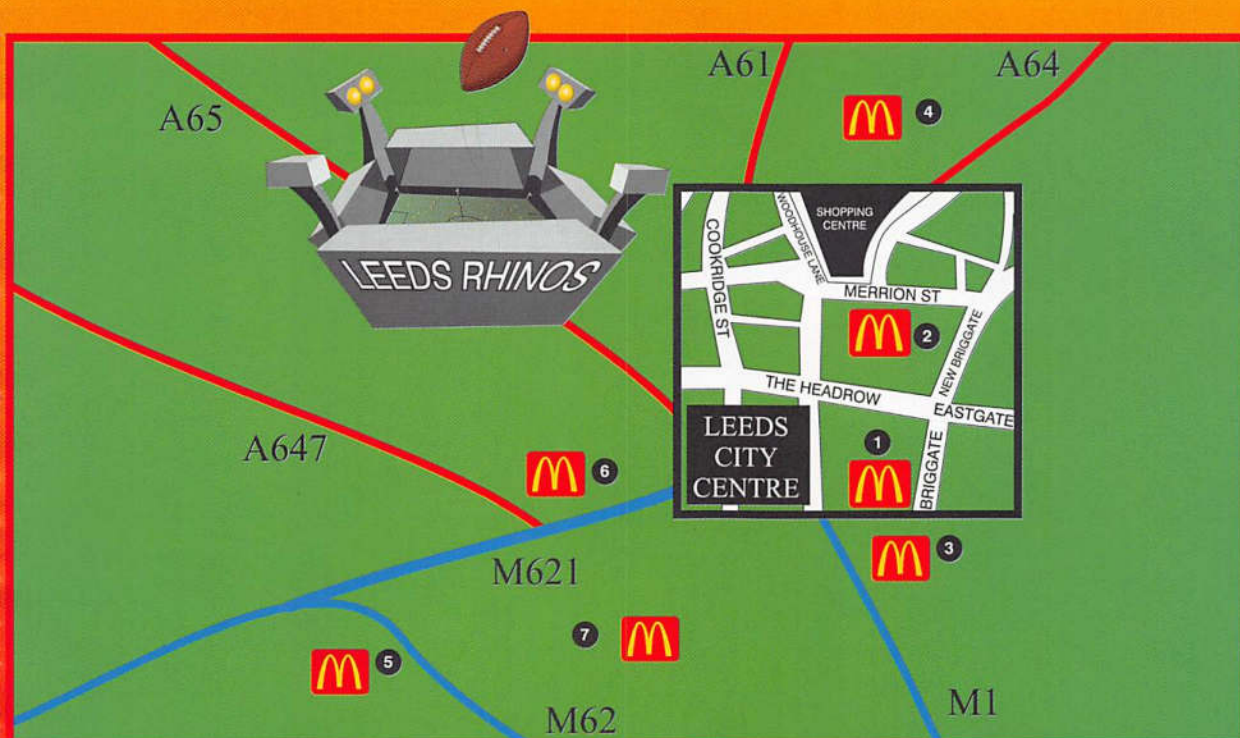
DATE	FIXTURE	K.O.	RES.	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
FEBRUARY																					
Sunday 9th	Whitehaven v Leeds	3.00pm	W48-8	2321	St Hilaire(1T)	Sterling(2T)	Cummins	Hassan(1T)	Gibson	Holroyd(5G)	Lawford(1G)	Masella	Collins	McDermott(1T)	Newton	Farrell(1T)	Mercer(1T)	Brown(56)	Hughes(54,1T)	Mathiou(58)	Morley(51,1,1T)
SSE C&T Challenge Cup 5th Round																					
Sunday 23rd	Leeds v Dewsbury	3.00pm	W48-22	6775	St Hilaire	Gibson	Cummins (3G)	Hassan	Hughes (2T)	Holroyd(5G)	Lawford	Masella	Collins(1T)	McDermott(3T)	Morley	Farrell	Mercer(2T)	Kemp(56)	Sheridan(57)	Newton(511)	Fozzard(510)
MARCH																					
SSE C&T Challenge Cup 6th Round																					
Sunday 9th	Leeds v Featherstone Rovers	3.00pm	W32-12	9579	Gibson (1T)	Sterling	Blackmore	Cummins(2T2G)	Hughes	Kemp	Sheridan	Masella (1T)	Newton	McDermott(3T)	Morley	Farrell (1T)	Mercer	Holroyd (56 1G)	Hassan (52)	Lawford (59)	Fozzard (510)
Sunday 16th	Leeds v Oldham Bears	3.00pm																			
Friday 21st	Paris St Germain v Leeds	8.00pm																			
Friday 28th	Leeds v Castleford Tigers	7.30pm																			
Monday 31st	Halifax Blue Sox v Leeds	3.00pm																			
APRIL																					
Friday 4th	Leeds v Wigan Warriors	7.30pm																			
Friday 11th	Leeds v St Helens	7.30pm																			
Sunday 20th	Sheffield Eagles v Leeds	6.35pm																			
Sunday 27th	London Broncos v Leeds	6.35pm																			
MAY																					
Monday 5th	Leeds v Paris St Germain	7.30pm																			
Sunday 11th	Salford Reds v Leeds	3.00pm																			
Sunday 18th	Oldham Bears v Leeds	3.30pm																			
Monday 26th	Castleford Tigers v Leeds	3.30pm																			
Friday 30th	Leeds v Warrington Wolves	7.30pm																			
JUNE																					
Saturday 7th	N. Queensland (WCC) v Leeds	TBA																			
Saturday 14th	Adelaide Rams (WCC) v Leeds	TBA																			
Sunday 29th	Leeds v Bradford Bulls	8.00pm																			
JULY																					
Wednesday 2nd	Leeds v Halifax Blue Sox	7.30pm																			
Sunday 6th	Leeds v Salford Reds	3.00pm																			
Friday 11th	Warrington Wolves v Leeds	7.30pm																			
Saturday 19th	Leeds v Adelaide Rams (WCC)	7.30pm																			
AUGUST																					
Sunday 3rd	Leeds v N. Queensland (WCC)	8.00pm																			
Sunday 10th	Bradford Bulls v Leeds	6.00pm																			
Friday 15th	Leeds v London Broncos	7.30pm																			
Friday 22nd	Leeds v Sheffield Eagles	7.30pm																			
Monday 25th	St Helens v Leeds	3.00pm																			
Sunday 31st	Wigan Warriors v Leeds	3.00pm																			

Where's
Ronnie





SUPPORTS LEEDS RHINOS



1 33-35 Briggate,
Leeds.

3 Low Road, Hunslet,
Leeds.

5 Centre 27,
Gelderd Road, Birstall.

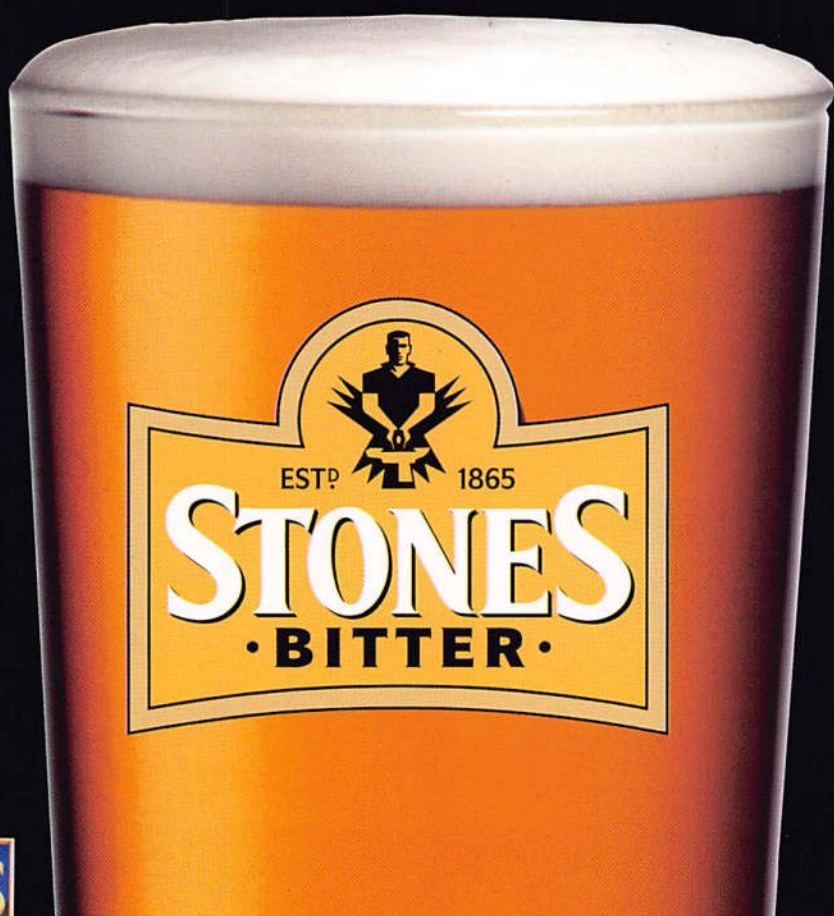
7 NEW, White Rose Centre
(open from 25th March).

2 123 St John's Centre
Leeds.

4 Acorn, Business Centre,
Killingbeck.

6 38 Butt Lane,
Bramley.

THE SEASONS GREETINGS



TASTE THE ACTION



STONES COMMENTARY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH STONES BITTER



Sponsors welcome new season

As we embark on the new season, Stones is delighted to welcome you to the second year of its sponsorship of the Stones Super League.

The Stones Super League last year was marked by some explosive action on the pitch and significantly increased attendances. The 1996 season put the sport on a world stage where it belongs, as St. Helens clinched the Stones Super League title from Wigan on the last day of the season.

1997 is sure to be a truly exciting season as St. Helens try to replicate their success closely contested by rivals Wigan, Bradford Bulls and London Broncos. Newly promoted Salford Reds should not be underestimated as they set out to make their mark on the Stones Super League.

The forthcoming season provides us at Stones with the opportunity to build on the success of 1996, support will continue for the prestigious Stones Gold Awards and the Stones Premiership Finals at Old Trafford on Sunday, September 28th.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all of the teams the best of luck for the 1997 Stones Super League season.

Richard Thompson

Sponsorship Manager Bass Brewers Ltd.

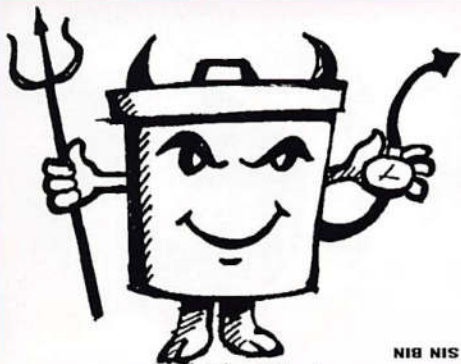


the Great Stones Giveaway

To mark the kick off of the season, we have 20 limited edition Stones Super League T-shirts to give away. All you have to do is answer the simple question below and complete the coupon provided or send the answer with your name and address on a postcard to the promotional address. There are 20 T-shirts to be won:

Who came 3rd in the Stones Super League title in '96?

WHAT AM I ?



NIB NIS

Send your entry to: The Stones Super League T-shirt competition, PO Box 56 Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5UU, to arrive no later than 07.04.97. Winners will be informed by 14th April. To obtain a list of winners please send an SAE to the promotional address.

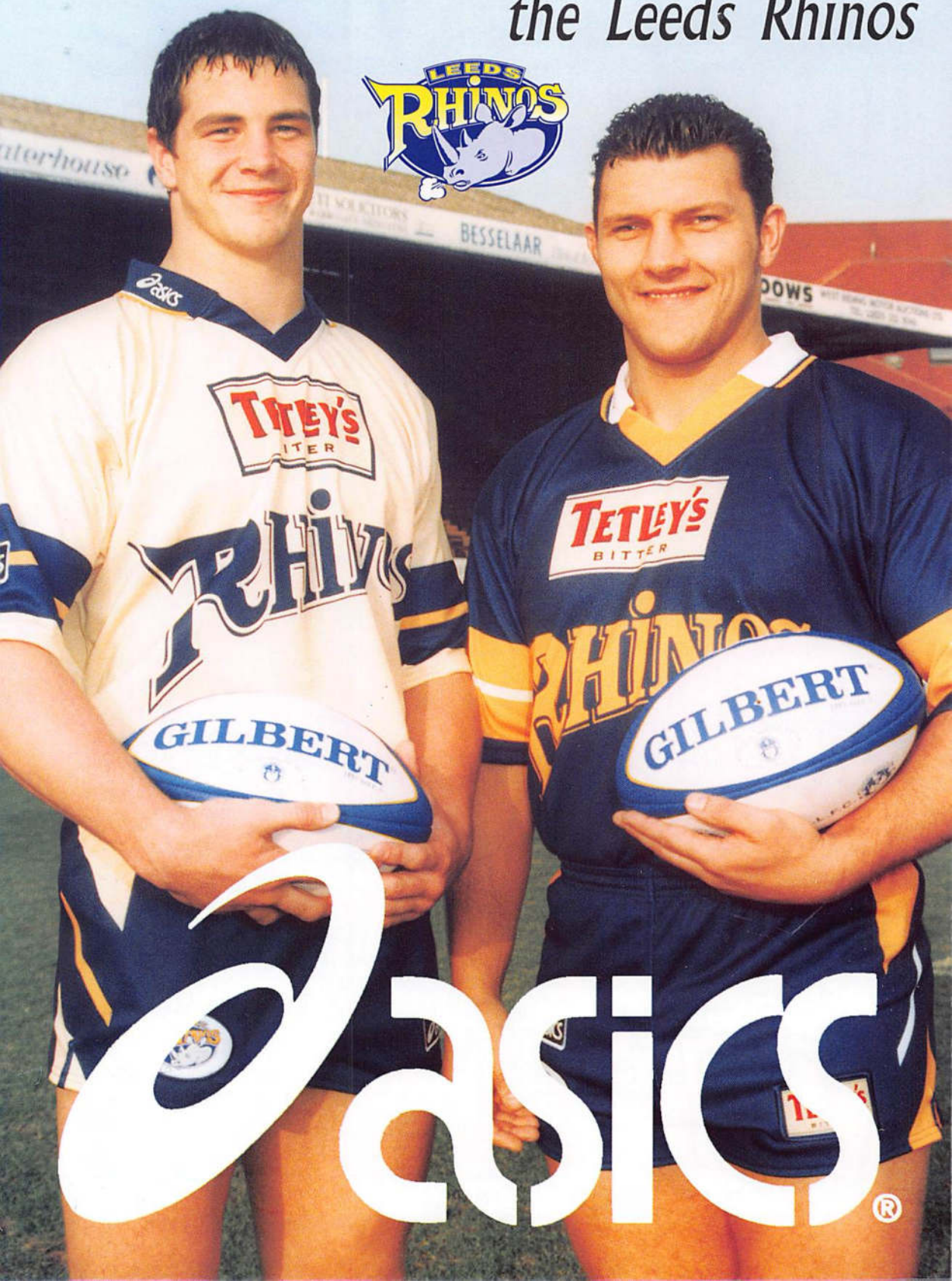
Answer:

Name:

Address:

Daytime Tel:

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CLUB PAGE

The Junior Rhinos Club is going from strength to strength. the Chief Rhino has received hundreds of application forms and he is working hard to send all members their exclusive benefits. You can rest assured knowing that you will receive your membership details in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, have a great afternoon and watch out for Vicky and Ronnie and let's hope the Rhinos can start Super League off with a bang!!

**See ya later
Chief Rhinos Mate**

If you're interested in joining the Junior Rhinos Club just look at the benefits you will receive when you sign up. For further information please contact **The Chief Rhino** at the Junior Rhinos Department on 0113 278 6181.

MATCHDAY MASCOT



Today's mascot is
Ryan Reedman

Age: 11

Favourite Player:
**Barrie
McDermott**

Favourite Food:
Pasta

School:
**Pudsey
Grangefield
School**

He plays rugby for
Rodley rockets

SPONSORED BY:



14 Reasons to Join Junior Rhinos!!

- 1 Personal membership card.
- 2 Quarterly newsletter.
- 3 Team poster signed by the players.
- 4 Exclusive baseball cap.
- 5 10% discount on Leeds Rhinos merchandise.
- 6 Personalised birthday & Christmas card.
- 7 Privilege card at McDonald's.
- 8 Discounts at LA Bowl.
- 9 Chance to vote for Junior Rhinos Player of the Year.
- 10 Quarterly 'Meet the Players' open days at Headingley.
- 11 Chance to be team mascot at any Rhinos match.
- 12 Coaching clinics during school holidays.
- 13 Free admission to all Alliance home matches.
- 14 Free transfer to McDonald's family stand at all Super League matches.

Membership costs

- £10 for 1 person
 - £18 for 2 persons (immediate family i.e. brothers and sisters.
 - Membership is valid for one year from the date of enrolment.
- Please allow 28 days for delivery

Why not come and watch Bramley?

Bramley Rugby League Club are now playing their home games at Headingley. Most of their home games are on Wednesday evenings.

Why not come and support the Villagers?

Season tickets are attractively priced and are available from the Leeds club office. Adult season tickets are priced at £50 while Senior Citizens' tickets are available at £25.00. These prices include entry to two Leeds Rhinos home fixtures and two Rover tickets for entry to any other First or Second Division fixture.

**Junior season tickets are available
priced at £10.00**

Junior tickets include entry to all Leeds Rhinos home games and all Leeds Rhinos Junior season ticket holders can watch Bramley for free!!

Make Wednesday nights Bramley Nights.

BRAMLEY R.L.F.C. 1997 FIXTURES

MARCH

Wednesday	5	YORK	Home	K.O. 7.30pm
Sunday	9	Lancashire Lynx	Away	K.O. 3.00pm
Sunday	23	Leigh	Away	K.O. 3.00pm

APRIL

Sunday	6	Rochdale	Away	K.O. 3.00pm
Sunday	20	Prescot	Away	K.O. 3.00pm
Sunday	27	CARLISLE	Home	K.O. 3.00pm
Wednesday	30	BATLEY	Home	K.O. 7.30pm

MAY

Wednesday	7	HUNSLET	Home	K.O. 7.30pm
Sunday	11	Doncaster	Away	K.O. 3.00pm
Sunday	18	York	Away	K.O. 3.00pm
Wednesday	21	LANCASHIRE LYNX	Home	K.O. 7.30pm
Monday	26	Barrow	Away	K.O. 3.00pm

JUNE

Wednesday	4	LEIGH	Home	K.O. 7.30pm
Sunday	8	Hunslet	Away	K.O. 3.30pm
Wednesday	25	ROCHDALE	Home	K.O. 7.30pm
Sunday	29	Carlisle	Away	K.O. 3.00pm

JULY

Sunday	13	Batley	Away	K.O. 3.15pm
Sunday	20	BARROW	Home	K.O. 3.00pm
Wednesday	23	DONCASTER	Home	K.O. 7.30pm
Wednesday	30	PRESCOT	Home	K.O. 7.30pm



STAT ATTACK

Ray Fletcher, Rugby League Statistician,
Co-author of the Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook

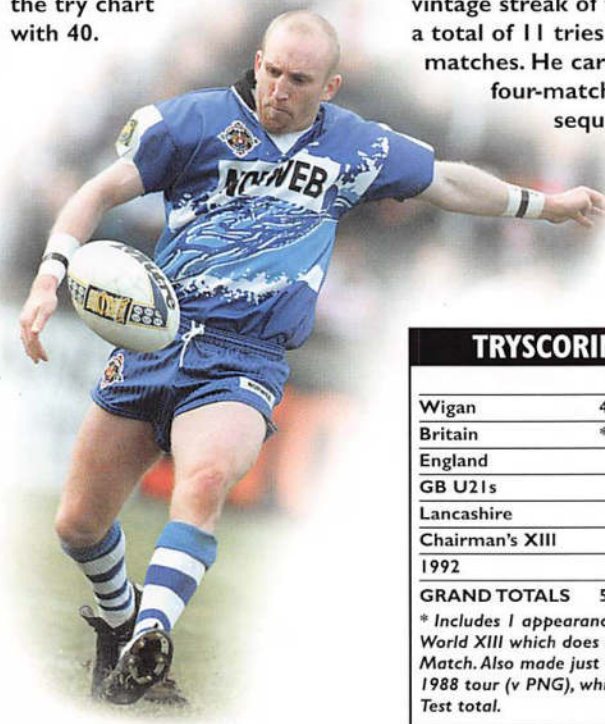
EDWARDS TARGETS 300 TRIES

Shaun Edwards begins the new Super League campaign needing only three tries for a career total of 300. He has scored 274 for Wigan plus 23 in representative matches, including 15 Test touchdowns for Great Britain from a total of 520 appearances.

One of the greatest half-backs of all time, Edwards' most notable season was 1991-92 when he headed the try chart with 40.

The following season he equalled the Wigan match record with 10 against Swinton – still the best tally by a non-winger for any club. Edwards made his debut as a 17-year-old stand-off in a John Player Trophy defeat of York on 6 November 1983 and has been a regular first team player ever since. After being dropped from Wigan's starting line-up late last season he hit back with a vintage streak of tryscoring for a total of 11 tries in the final six matches. He carries over a four-match tryscoring sequence from the last Super League season of 1-2-1-2.

TRYSORING TOTALS		
	App	T
Wigan	453+14	274
Britain	*33+14	16*
England	3	1
GB U21s	4	1
Lancashire	3+1	2
Chairman's XIII	1	0
1992	4	3
GRAND TOTALS	501+19	297
* Includes 1 appearance and try against World XIII which does not count as a Test Match. Also made just one appearance on 1988 tour (v PNG), which is included in his Test total.		

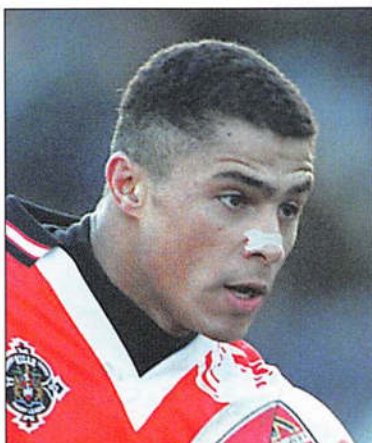


MATCH

MOST TRIES 5



Mike Umaga (Halifax Blue Sox) v Workington Town.



Jason Robinson (Wigan) v Leeds

MOST POINTS 28



Greg Barwick (London Broncos, 6g, 4t) v Castleford Town

RECORDS

MOST GOALS 11



Terry Matterson (London Broncos) v Workington Town



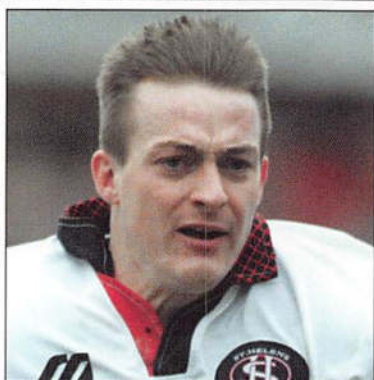
Bobbie Goulding (St Helens) v Castleford Town



John Schuster (Halifax Blue Sox) v Workington Town

SEASON RECORDS

MOST TRIES 28



Paul Newlove (St Helens)

MOST TRIES 28

Bobbie Goulding (St Helens)

MOST POINTS 257

Bobbie Goulding (St Helens, St, 117g, 3dg)

TEAM

Highest score and widest margin:

Wigan 78 v Workington Town 4

Highest away score:

Workington Town 16 v Wigan 64

Widest away win margin:

Workington Town 0 vs St Helens 62

Biggest attendance:

20,429 Wigan v St Helens

TOP TEN TRIES

1. **Paul Newlove** (St Helens) 28
2. **Jason Robinson** (Wigan) 24
3. **John Bentley** (Halifax BS) 21
4. **Henry Paul** (Wigan) 20
5. **Danny Arnold** (St Helens) 19
6. **Robbie Paul** (Bradford Bulls) 18
7. **Richard Henare** (Warrington) 17
Keith Senior (Sheffield E) 17
9. **Greg Barwick** (London B) 16
Rob Smyth (Wigan) 16
Anthony Sullivan (St Helens) 16

TOP TEN GOALS

- 1 **Bobbie Goulding** (St Helens) (3) 120
- 2 **Andrew Farrell** (Wigan) 103
- 3 **John Schuster** (Halifax BS) (2) 103
- 4 **Mark Aston** (Sheffield E) (1) 87
- 5 **Frano Botica** (Castleford T) (2) 86
- 6 **Steve McNamara** (Bradford B) (2) 80
- 7 **Graham Holroyd** (Leeds) (2) 78
- 8 **Iestyn Harris** (Warrington) (2) 65
- 9 **Greg Barwick** (London B) (2) 52
- 10 **Francis Maloney** (Oldham B) 45

Drop goals included in total

DROP GOALS

No players scored five or more

TOP TEN POINTS

	T	G	DG	Pts
1 Bobbie Goulding (St Helens)	5	117	3	257
2 John Schuster (Halifax BS)	8	101	2	236
3 Andrew Farrell (Wigan)	5	103	0	226
4 Graham Holroyd (Leeds)	11	76	2	198
5 Frano Botica (Castleford T)	5	84	2	190
6 Mark Aston (Sheffield E)	2	86	1	181
7 Greg Barwick (London B)	16	50	2	166
8 Steve McNamara (Bradford B)	1	78	2	162
9 Iestyn Harris (Warrington)	4	63	2	144
10 Francis Maloney (Oldham B)	6	45	0	114

STONE EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 1996

	P	W	D	L	Dg	Gls	Tries	Pts For	Dg	Gls	Tries	Pts Agst	Pts
1 St Helens	22	20	0	2	4	137	168	950	1	73	77	455	40
2 Wigan	22	19	1	2	2	126	162	902	4	49	56	326	39
3 Bradford Bulls	22	17	0	5	3	108	137	767	1	62	71	409	34
4 London Broncos	22	12	1	9	5	93	105	611	2	72	79	462	25
5 Warrington	22	12	0	10	3	81	101	569	5	86	97	565	24
6 Halifax Blue Sox	22	10	1	11	3	104	114	667	0	84	102	576	21
7 Sheffield Eagles	22	10	0	12	3	88	105	599	4	111	126	730	20
8 Oldham Bears	22	9	1	12	3	69	83	473	3	95	122	681	19
9 Castleford Tigers	22	9	0	13	2	93	90	548	5	81	108	599	18
10 Leeds	22	6	0	16	3	82	97	555	3	115	128	745	12
11 Paris St Germain	22	3	1	18	0	51	74	398	1	109	144	795	7
12 Workington Town	22	2	1	19	1	56	53	325	3	151	179	1021	5

Totals: 132 matches; 32 drop goals; 1088 goals; 1289 tries; 7364 points

LOINERS GUILD NEWSFLASH...

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- Discounts on Souvenirs, better prices than non-Guild members.

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Leedsline Daily Draw COMPANY SCHEME

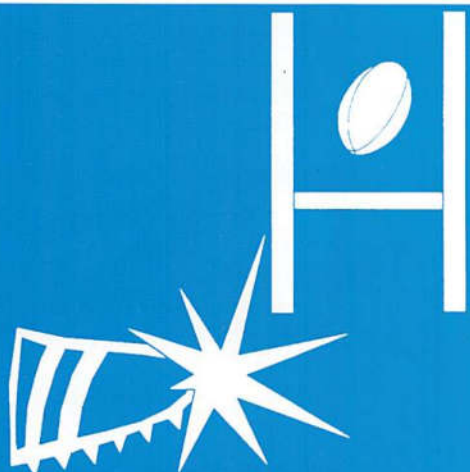


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Squad Number	Player	T	G	DG	Field Position	T	G	DG	Player	Squad Number
5	Damien Gibson				Full Back				Paul Atcheson	1
2	Paul Sterling				Right Wing				Scott Ranson	2
3	Richie Blackmore				Right Centre				Darren Abram	3
4	Francis Cummins				Left Centre				Vince Fawcett	22
15	Phil Hassan				Left Wing				Rob Myler	5
6	Tony Kemp				Stand Off				Francis Maloney	6
7	Ryan Sheridan				Scrum Half				Martin Crompton	7
8	Martin Masella				Open Side Prop				Ian Gildart	8
9	Wayne Collins				Hooker				Chris McKinney	19
10	Barrie McDermott				Blind Side Prop				Brett Goldspink	23
11	Adrian Morley				Second Row				Gary Lord	11
12	Anthony Farrell				Second Row				David Bradbury	13
24	Gary Mercer				Loose Forward				Howard Hill	16
14	Graham Holroyd				Subs				John Clarke	9
19	Dean Lawford								Paul Davidson	15
21	Terry Newton								Joe Faimalo	12
20	Nick Fozzard								Luke Goodwin	26

Scrums

1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24

Penalties

1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24

Rhinos

Bears

Referee: Mr J. Connolly

Touch Judges: Red Flag - D. Mairs

Yellow Flag - P. Brooks

In Goal: D. Redfearn & S. Wright

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