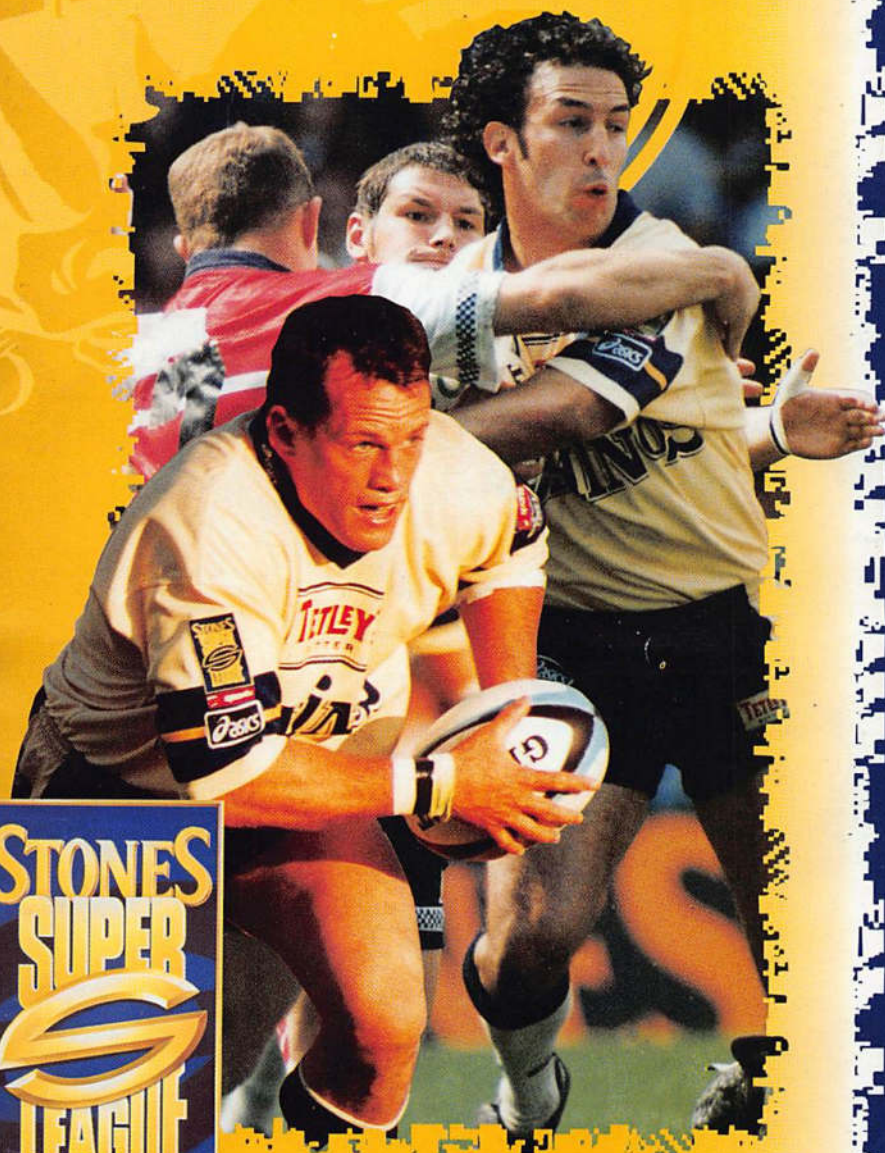
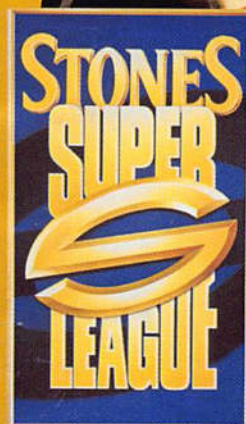


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Dean's Team

The last week of the season was a huge disappointment for the players and everyone connected with the club. We have hit a flat patch at the wrong time in the season and although we have played some enthusiastic and high class opposition, we feel that we lost the games against Sheffield and St Helens rather than a case of them beating us. Reflecting back on the way that we lost those games I suppose that it is disappointing not to finish in the top four but if we had been asked at the beginning of the season to say where we would finish, most of us would have settled for fifth spot. But we have certainly had more highs than lows this season and to go through the whole campaign with only two home defeats is a tremendous achievement. There are certainly many positive aspects to take out of

the season, not only on the playing side but also the way that the club has gone forward and captured the Super League ethic. One only has to look at the success of the Alliance and Academy teams in winning their respective championships to know that the future here is very bright. We realise that the first team does need

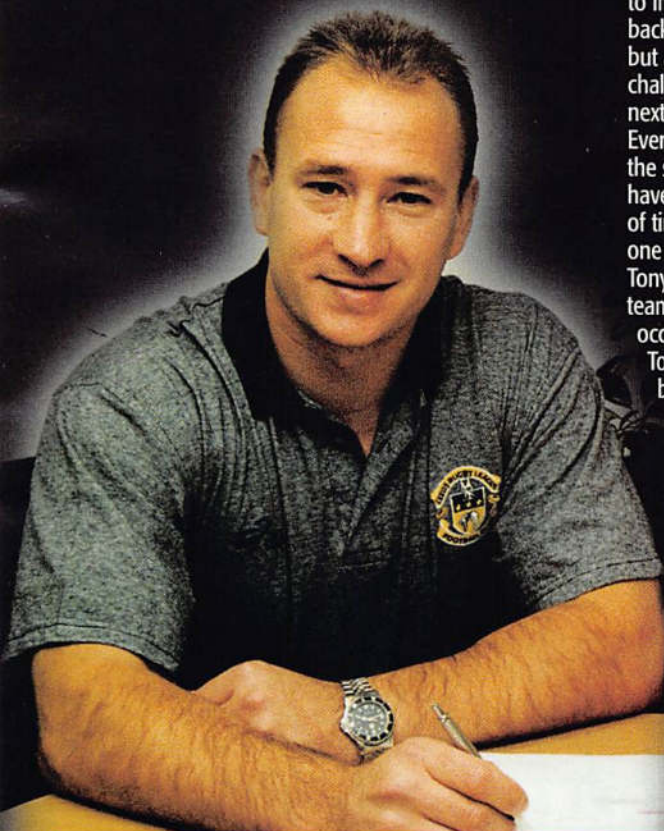
to improve and there is a lot of work going on in the background, not only to improve the players that we have, but also to add to the squad so that we are in a position to challenge more purposefully for Super League honours next season.

Every team goes through injury problems in the course of the season and, while I do not want to make excuses, we have had some important players missing for long periods of time. Barrie McDermott obviously comes to mind but one player that the team has missed more than most is Tony Kemp. Tony has the ability to give direction to the team and I feel that that has been our downfall on several occasions this season.

Today we start on the road to Old Trafford and we begin by welcoming Oldham to Headingley. They come with nothing to lose and plenty to gain. They have just been relegated from Super League but come here off the back of a great victory over Warrington last week. It is always sad to see teams relegated but they can expect no sympathy from us today. My players are determined to put the disappointments of the last couple of weeks behind them and make sure that the last home game of the season is one to remember.

On a final note I would just like to thank all the supporters who have got behind the team this season. Even in defeat they have always been there supporting the team and they are a great credit to the club.

I would just like to thank all the supporters who have got behind the team this season. Even in defeat they have always been there supporting the team and they are a great credit to the club.



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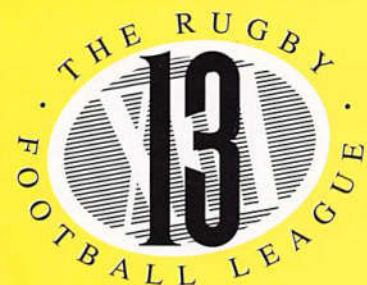
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Marketing The Rhinos



We return to Headingley a week earlier than anticipated due to the relatively disappointing playing end to the Super League season. Whilst it's always easier to stand back and criticise any area of the club, what we are all determined to do is look at the positive aspects, put together a good show for the supporters this evening and then look forward to the return visit to Wigan. It looks like that fixture will go ahead on Monday 15 September with a 7.30pm kick off, providing we can overcome the Bears.

We welcome everybody from Oldham tonight in what are surely desperate times for the club, it's players, officials and supporters. To lose Super League status at this crucial time for the game of rugby league is going to be difficult to overcome yet we wish them all the best in their efforts to bounce back at the first attempt.

It all brings home how critical the finances are in creating the correct base to go forward. All clubs will be feeling the strain, with the prospect of a long winter ahead and little income to balance the books. We at the Rhinos are no exception to this rule and a critical time is upon us. What are the key decisions that need to be made?

In the minds of the supporters there will be only one factor. Which players are we signing, who will be coaching the side next year and when are we going to consistently compete with the top sides of the moment? Is it simply a matter of players and coaches though? All successful businesses need key people in the key positions.

Unfortunately the rugby league mentality has traditionally been to sacrifice the long term interests of the club, in the interest of short term, usually costly, success.

And is that success then guaranteed? Of course not. It is an ever decreasing spiral that would never happen if professional people were employed to create the right strategy to put in place a secure foundation on which the club can build for the future.

There are many different aspects within a club that contribute towards success on the playing field, not simply who plays and who coaches.

It's easy to harp on about the example at Bradford, but the implementation of a five year plan, **that everybody in the club understood and were committed to**, allied to strong and imaginative leadership, has resulted in the success that that attitude fully deserves.

Will we follow that example, and there is no disgrace in following a winning formula, or will we cut back, scrimp and save with a short term objective in mind?

Only time will tell.

I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed the small insight that this column has allowed over the course of this season and can only look forward to repeating the same as we bid to keep our supporters fully informed and close to the heart of this great club. Enjoy the evening.

Rob Clayton

Head of Marketing, Media & Public Relations



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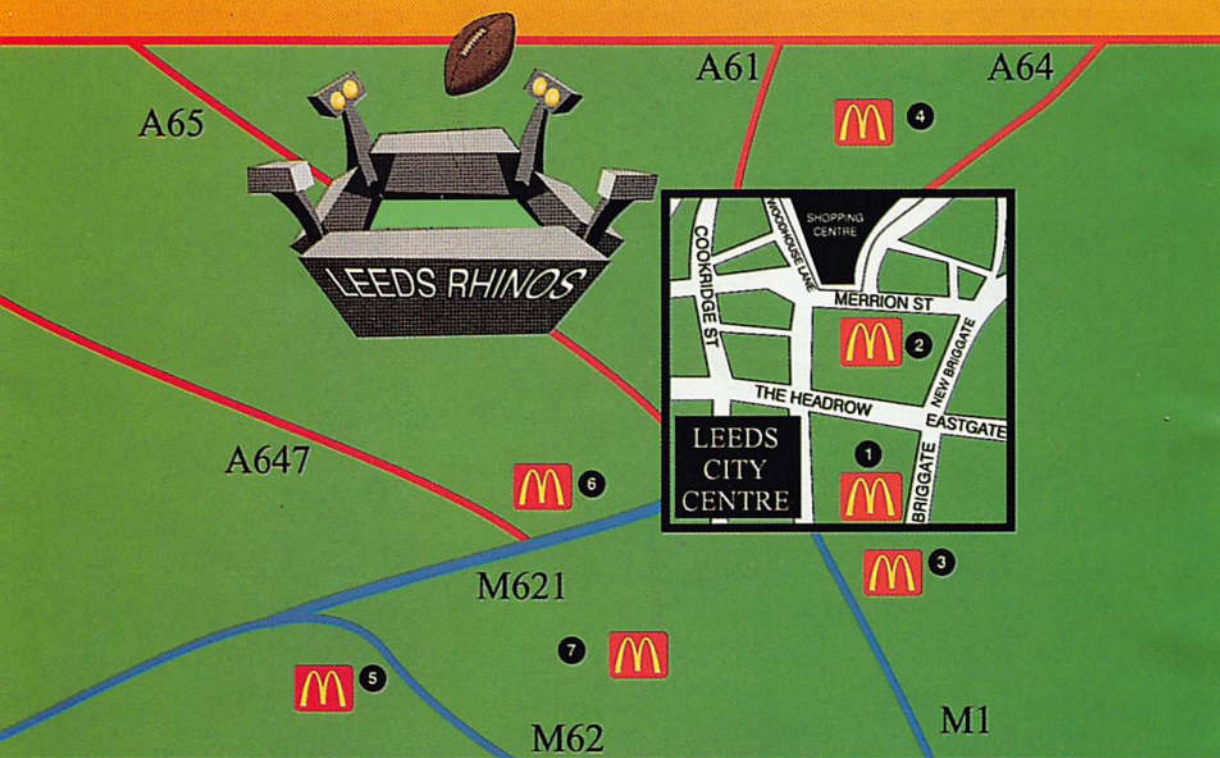
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Words like 'tragic' and 'disaster' are frequently used when sport is discussed by ardent fans or in the media. It would have been understandable if Rhinos' supporters, dejected after defeat at Central Park, had used such language to describe their side's plight in finishing outside the top four.

The events in Paris in the early hours of last Sunday give true meaning to that vocabulary and our fanaticism a sense of place. Bill Shankly coined the immortal phrase of sport being more important than life itself. We can appreciate his sentiment, victory and defeat can generate such emotions.

Sport in the modern world provides both livelihood and lifeline for many associated with it. Occasionally, though, our work and allegiances are put into perspective and context.

Everyone connected with the Leeds Rhinos sends their sincerest condolences to all of the families who lost loved ones in the accident that took the life of Diana, Princess of Wales.



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Jottings...



So WHO would be your Rhinos player of the year?

There are quite a few possible this season, but probably no one outstanding candidate.

Phil Hassan began the season like a house on fire and mid-way through was running away with everyone's player of the year thinking.

Without doubt one of the most improved players in Super League from last season - and maybe a candidate for the Test train-on squad - he hasn't been at the top of his game over the past few weeks, but still in the running.

Aussie full-back Damian Gibson seems to be a popular choice among the teenage girl fan contingent. Lacking a bit in size but as brave as they come, he had an uncertain start, but he has improved tremendously over the season and he has probably been the Rhinos' form player over the past few games.

Jamie Mathiou, like Gibson a new recruit this year for North Queensland Cowboys, would probably get the award for most improved player from the start of the season to the end. He didn't make

much of an impact in his early games, but since Barrie McDermott's injury he has turned in a series of top displays. He is a players' player, a real worker, who takes the ball up all day and is regularly around the top of the tackle count, although he doesn't do the sort of things that always catch the fans' eyes.

Speaking of Barrie Mac, definitely the "people's hero" he could well have been a leading contender for player of the year if it wasn't for the broken leg that ended his season a couple of months early. His try against Warrington, dummieing for a dropgoal and charging through the gap that opened up, was a classic and he was really missed over the final few games. The team's reaction after the Adelaide game "this one's for you Barrie" summed up how his colleagues felt about his efforts this year.

Gary Mercer looks like winning the Supporters' Club honour. The skipper has led by example this year and turned in some quality performances, though he blotted his copybook near the end with the five-match ban.

Others, including Adrian Morley and Iestyn Harris, will no doubt figure in many peoples' thinking, but for consistency of performance, surely Wayne Collins would get the nod. The experienced Aussie hooker may not be at his peak, but he has rarely had a bad game this year, is always near the top of the tackle count and has proved invaluable in a team containing so many youngsters.

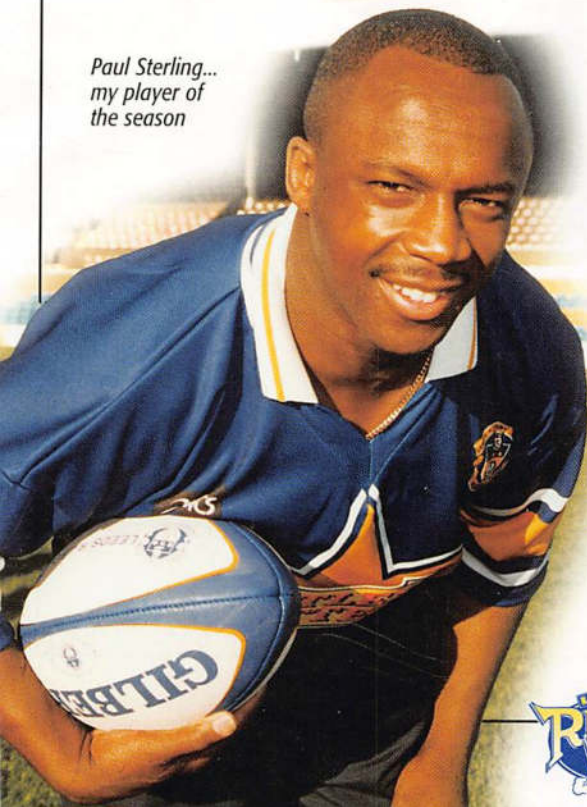
But, this column's selection as player of the year goes to someone else. Few players can ever have had the sort of year that Paul Sterling has. Twelve months ago his career was going nowhere. At 32, playing on loan at Second Division Hunslet and in dispute with Hull, he can't have dreamed of what was to follow.

When he was signed for £15,000 from Hull most people assumed his Headingley future would be with the Union team and on the fringes of the Rhinos' set-up.

Twenty tries later, he has proved the Rhinos' most potent strike weapon and a major factor in this year's improved showing. And in just 18 seconds in July, he became a national hero with a touchdown which will be long remembered by everyone lucky enough to see it, either at the ground or on TV.

Sterlo has made mistakes and has had off-days, but for sheer unexpected impact, he's this column's player of the year.

*Paul Sterling...
my player of
the season*



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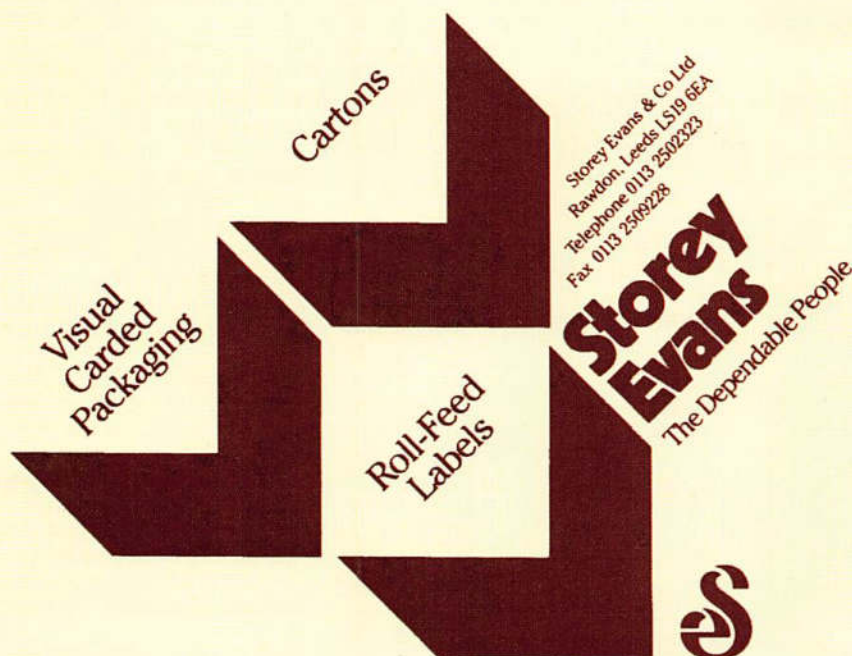
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It's your Club

FANS FORUM

As part of the Rhinos changing attitude towards our customers we are holding a series of forums in which supporters can contribute ideas on some of the key issues affecting the club.

Various members of staff will be available to answer questions which should be put in writing beforehand to Rob Clayton at the club.

The dates for the forums will be Tuesday 7 October, when the subject will be marketing and the clubs Marketing team led by Rob Clayton will be in attendance. On Tuesday 4 November Dean Bell and Gary Hetherington will be on hand to discuss team matters and on Tuesday 2 December Paul Caddick and Steven Ball will be available to discuss the planned re-development of the Headingley Stadium.

Tickets are priced at £2.00 but will be free to season ticket holders. Supporters will be allowed to ask questions from the floor if there is time on the night but it would be easier for everyone if questions were put in writing beforehand.

The forums will commence at 7.30 pm and there will be a video of the highlights of the season.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

This years Player of the Year awards evening will take place on Tuesday 16th September at the Queenswood Social Club, Queenswood Drive at 7.30pm. This date is now confirmed and Loiners Guild members wishing to attend should contact, Nadine Burgess for further details. All the players will be attending and a top class cabaret act has been engaged. We hope to see you all at what promises to be a super evening.

LEEDS RUGBY UNION

Why not come along and support Leeds Rugby Union this coming season. Season Tickets are now available and have not been increased from

last season. They are priced at Adults £50.00; OAP's £30.00; Students £20.00; Juniors (under 18) £10.00. A

full list of fixtures appears on page 46.

RHINOS WEBSITE

It's here, the Rhinos have gone into cyber space. With the new website now open the Rhinos have taken a step into the future. Make sure you log on today for up to-the-minute updates direct from Headingley, with pictures and interviews as well as the usual gossip from the Rhinos camp. You'll find the site at:

<http://www.sporting-life.com/rleague/leeds/>

TETLEY QUIZ ANSWERS

Did you enter the 'Name the Player's Faces' quiz in the North Queensland Cowboys programme? The two players were: Adam Hughes and Damian Gibson. Keep your entries coming in... don't forget that you could win a Leeds replica shirt and two VIP tickets to a Super League game at Headingley. Make sure you enter today's quiz, it's on page 18.

GOLDEN GAMBLE

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

TETLEY'S SUPERFAN OF THE SEASON

The 1997 Leeds Rhinos, Tetley's Superfan of the Season is David Wilson. He won the award having been entered in a competition in the Adelaide Rams match day programme by his mother-in-law.

The judge's decision was made easy by David's outstanding commitment to the Leeds Rhinos in travelling 160 mile round trip to see the Rhinos play at home, and converting many of the people of Derbyshire (his home county) to the delights of Super League. David received an engraved tankard from Vicky Locklin on the pitch at the Sheffield Eagles game.



VICKY'S VERDICT

Welcome back to Headingley, although it would have been nice to have had that extra week off if we had finished in the top four. I hear Ronnie had his holidays booked with Rita and the kids but had to cancel at the last minute. Lucky Skegness I say! Tonight sees the Premiership begin. There are a couple of hard games to come but I really hope the lads can get to that final at Old Trafford. Not least because it will give me a good excuse to buy a new outfit. Finally, once again thanks for making me so welcome this season. You've made me feel like one of your own and I hope you've enjoyed the season. To realise how much I've loved it, you only have to listen to my breakfast show on the New 96.3 Aire FM, I'm proud to be a Rhinos supporter.



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Paul Sterling's wonder try against Adelaide certainly had the fans talking about great tries and great wingers. Who was the best? Who scored the best try? Leeds have certainly had their share of great tries and great wingers over the years. Eric Harris, Stan Smith, Drew Turnbull, Wilf Rosenberg, Del Hodgkinson, Gary Hemingway, Alan Smith, John Atkinson, Steve 'slippery' Morris, Phil Ford, John Bentley, E T, Jim Fallon and Paul Sterling all have their special place in the hearts of the Leeds supporters.

One player not on that list who would certainly figure in the list of all time 'Greats' is Eric Grothe. Eric signed for Leeds in a blaze of glory and, while Brett Kenny, Peter Sterling and Mal Meninga all enjoyed success that season with other English clubs, the fact that he was a winger, and Leeds has always had great love affairs with wingers, meant that the supporters were wild with anticipation. Leeds fans had already had a look him in the flesh when he scored a spectacular try for the Kangaroos in the game against Leeds in 1982. Collecting a John Holmes kick deep in his own half, he simply powered his way down the South Stand touchline leaving Alan Smith trailing in his wake. The fact that he wouldn't be able to join Leeds until Christmas didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the Leeds fans at all. "Just wait till Eric comes" was the cry from the terraces as supporters looked to Grothe to put the icing on the cake and lead the then Loiners charge for honours. Leeds made heavy weight of the fact that he would be arriving with programme and newspaper adverts proclaiming "Christmas is coming and so is Eric Grothe".

Arriving just before Christmas, Eric made the headlines immediately when it was announced that the club did not have a No 2 shirt big enough to fit him and that a prop's shirt would have to be renumbered. A huge crowd gathered to see his debut on New Years Day when Leigh were just pawns in 'Eric's game'.

He certainly didn't disappoint his many admirers becoming only the second Leeds player, after Alan Smith, to score a hat trick on his debut. The South Stand had a new hero, great days were on the horizon! It was the manner of his tries which set the fans alight. All pace for his first and second it was the sheer power of his third that sent the crowd wild with delight.

The Leeds backs opened play out and the ball was given to Grothe thirty five metres out. The giant was only a metre in from touch but he beat four Leigh players on his run to the line and never

deviated from the straight. It was a try that no other player in the world could have scored and it left one Leigh player with a trip to hospital after an abortive tackle attempt. Eric had arrived.

Despite the anticipation of success that Grothe's arrival had created, Leeds flattered to deceive in a season that brought them three semi-final appearances and three defeats. Most disappointing of all was the defeat to Widnes in the Challenge Cup after the Chemics had been annihilated the previous week at Naughton Park. Grothe though certainly fulfilled his promise, fourteen tries in sixteen games, and all without a recognised centre, left the Leeds fans hoping that one day he would return. Sadly it was not to be and his try at Hull K R in the Premiership semi-final turned out to be his last for the club.

His career in Australia was blighted by the knee injury that affected him throughout his time with Leeds and it is fair to say that he was never quite at his peak again. He struggled on for a few more season before being cut by Parramatta. He joined Balmain where he tried to make a career in the forwards! It was not to be however and the man who was known as the 'Guru' because of his deep thinking and meditating, dropped out of the game that he had graced so well at a young age. Eric is still active in the game, coaching juniors at Balmain, but it is as a one of the greatest wingers of all time that he be best remembered. Leeds probably never saw him at his best but anyone who had the privilege of seeing him play will settle for what they saw.

Stuart Duffy



The Guru

In the **Rhinos Den**

If the Rhinos camp needed any reminder that despite their relegation from Super League the Bears still pose a threat, they need only look at last week's result from Boundary Park. With seemingly nothing to play for, the squad being destined to break up and veiled threats about the very existence of the club, the players showed a willingness and resolve amidst the trauma to beat the Warrington Wolves.

Only five days earlier they had returned defeated from Paris knowing that their fate had been sealed, but to their credit they just got on with the job. Many of

their star names will no doubt be looking to the Premiership to put themselves in the shop window which makes them dangerous wounded animals.

In many of their matches this year that ultimately ended in defeat they have dominated for spells and troubled some of the very best. Both at Headingley to open the Super League II campaign and at Boundary Park in May, the Bears gave the Rhinos a real run for their money, proving to be dogged competitors. The match at Oldham Athletic's ground summed up their season in many ways. Leeds jumped to a big early lead only to be pegged back to within two points entering the final stages before two late tries pulled them clear and meant that the Oldham effort gained no reward. Against North Queensland, on the same night that Leeds defeated Adelaide, the Bears had a stunning victory that never really received the full credit it deserved, proving what they were truly capable of.

They began the season with Andy Goodway at the helm but switched to respected Aussie Bob Lindner who returned to the club he had played for and briefly coached to safety in 1994. A dual tourist in 1986 and 1990, the proud Queenslander wore the green and gold in 23 Tests, gaining a reputation as being one of the toughest and bravest back rowers of the modern era. He will have his charges fired up for tonight's clash as he hated defeat as a player. One of the lynchpins in the side, scrum half Martin Crompton, has missed the vital run in with a serious ligament injury. He has often proved to be the thorn in the Rhinos' side, particularly with his pinpoint short kicking game and uncanny ability to snaffle a try from

close in.

The creative onus has fallen on the shoulders of stand off Francis Maloney who has produced the best form of his career with Oldham. The former Leeds junior relishes playing at Headingley and his distribution is crucial to how the side go

Oldham



forward. In back rower Paul Davidson they have one of the form players in the league who feeds off the shoulder of Maloney. His try last Sunday was his tenth in nine matches and the former Widnes player's robust defence and powerful charges make him a real threat.

Another costly injury at a crucial time late in the season was suffered by Aussie prop Brett Goldspink who was just starting to deliver his best go-forward form. Compatriot Luke Goodwin has also been an excellent signing, slotting in at half back and loose forward with great effect. His display against Leeds at Boundary Park almost single handedly turned the tide. Injuries to tough tackling Matt Munro and centre Nathan Turner curtailed their involvement. Kiwis Jason Temu and Joe Faimalo have maintained their consistency, despite the side struggling and their contrasting styles of middle of the park big hitter and wide out potent runner seem to compliment each other. Irrepressible stalwart Gary Lord has provided dependability up front and will have done his best to keep spirits up off the field.

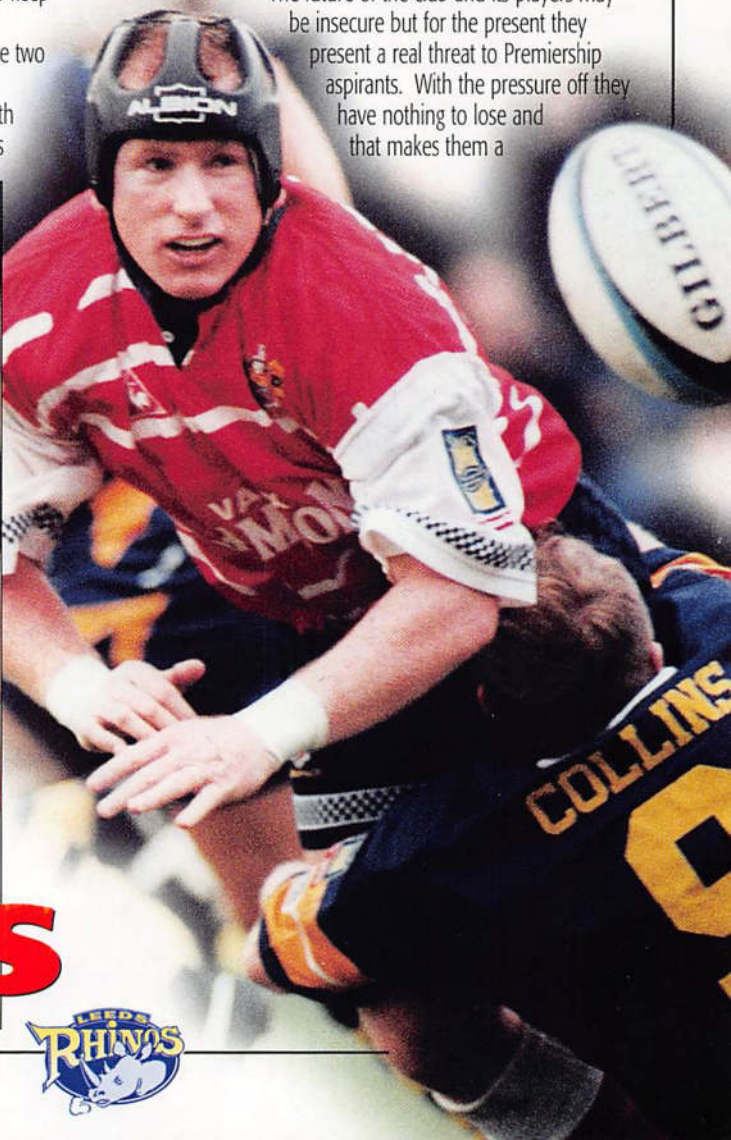
In John Clarke and David Stephenson, the Bears have two of the best up and coming hookers in the game but injury and suspension have limited the impact of both this time around. There are several other youngsters

capable of making a real mark in the code with the club, most notably centres Howard Hill and Jimmy Cowan, Irish international Tony Nuttall, back rower Chris McKinney and Paul Deacon. The nucleus of the squad, though, is crammed with experience. Welsh international and former Wigan full back Paul Atcheson has had some storming games, wingers Scott Ranson, David Jones and Afi Leulia have the pace to outrun the tightest of defences and Paul Topping and Rob Myler give added versatility. Too little has been seen of centres Vince Fawcett who returned to the British game from a stint in Australia with Parramatta and prolific try poacher Darren Abram. Ian Gildart is another whose absence has been significantly felt.

The late acquisition of Ian Russell on the run in nearly saved the Bears from their fate. The well travelled Aussie who had earlier stints here with Castleford and Sheffield so nearly engineered the great escape with his tireless promptings.

The future of the club and its players may be insecure but for the present they present a real threat to Premiership aspirants. With the pressure off they have nothing to lose and that makes them a

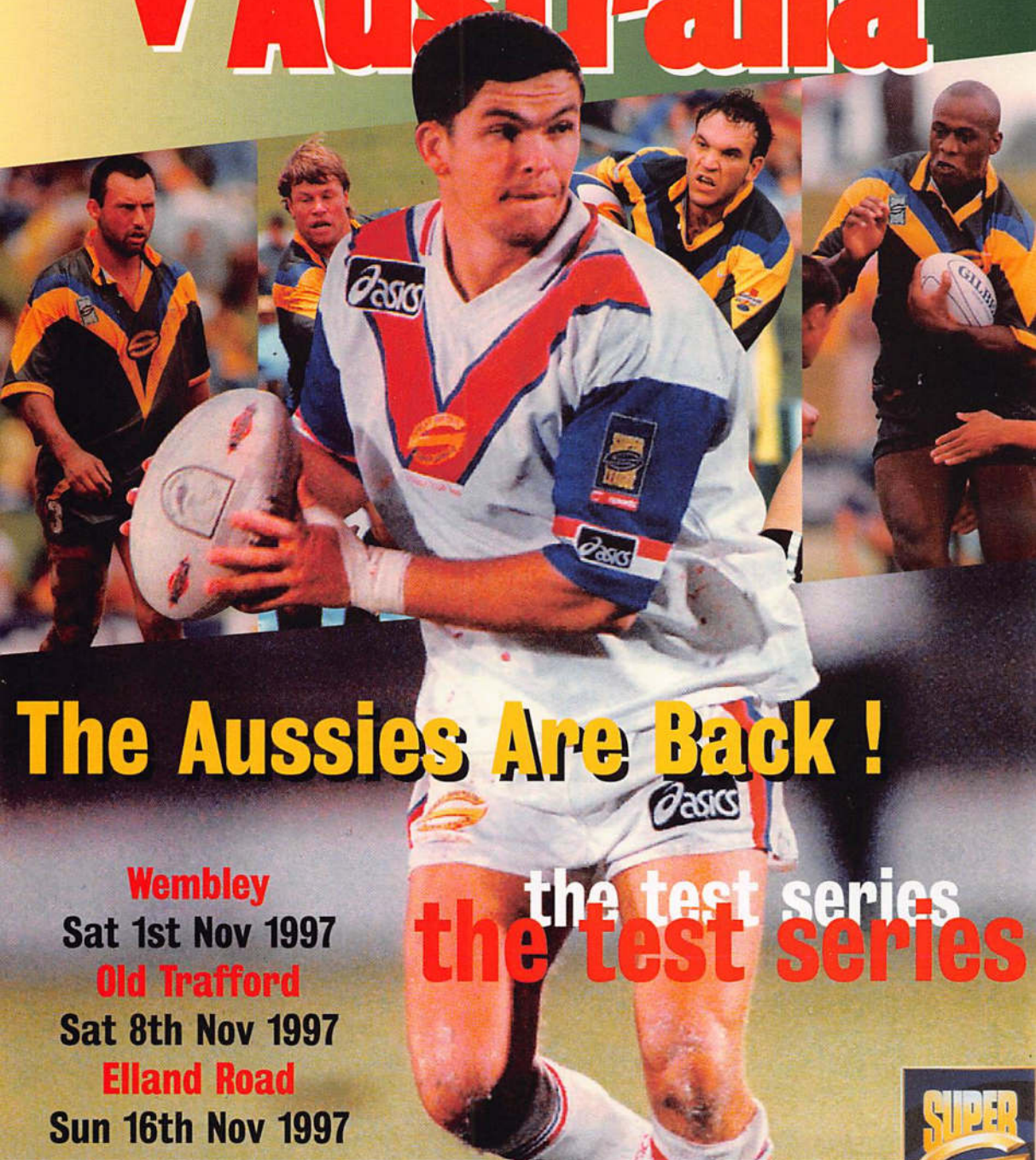
David Stephenson



Bears



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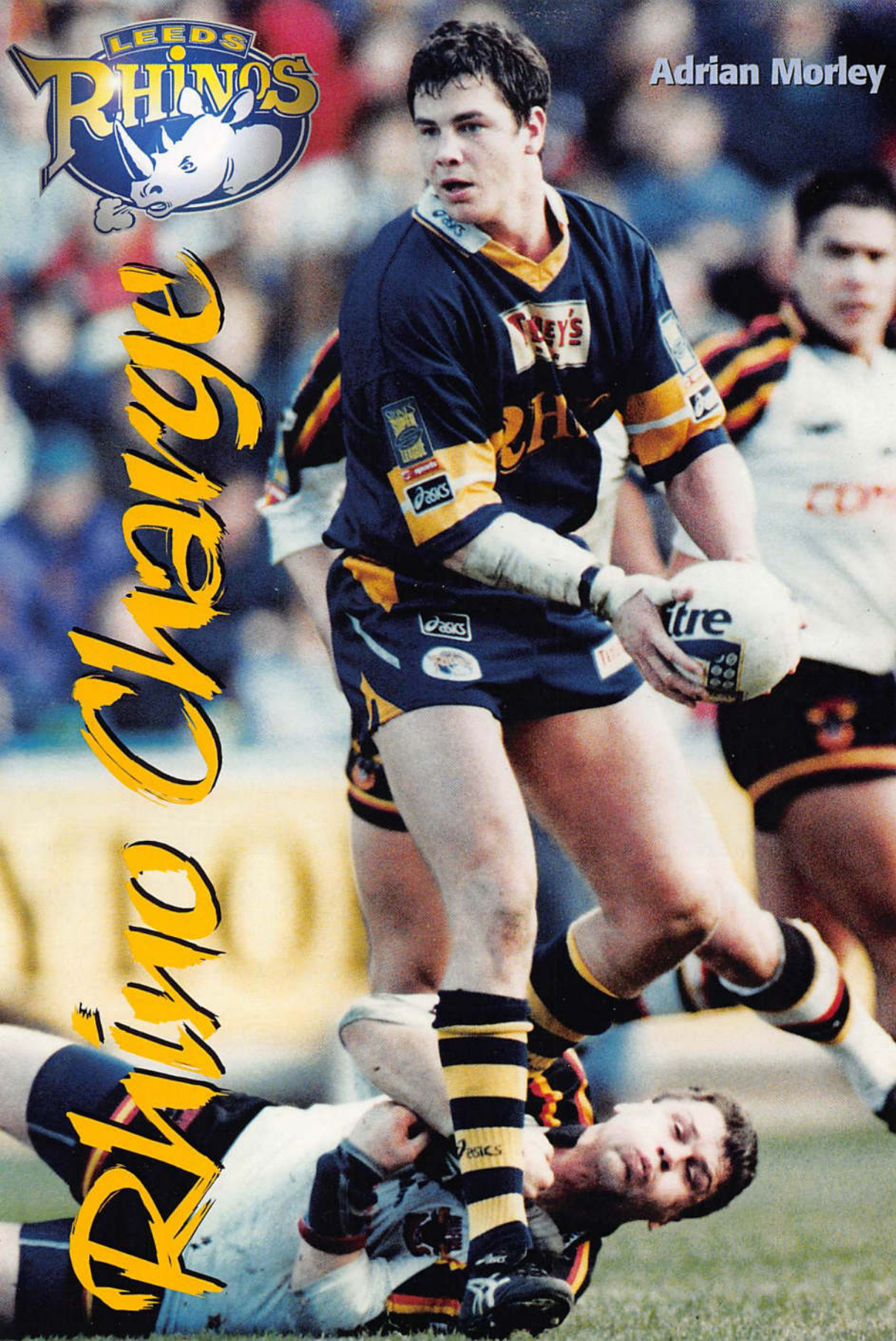
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Adrian Morley

Rhino Charge





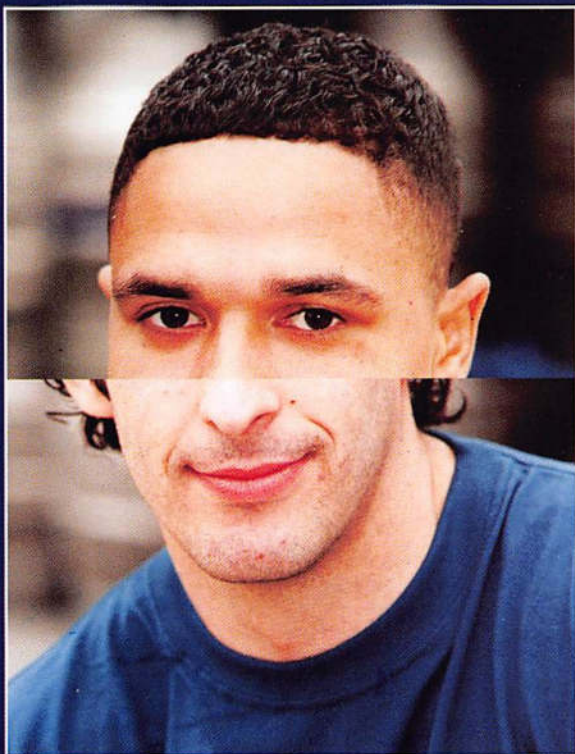
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Please return all entries to:

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Simply name the players faces included in the photo fit above.

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Answers:

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Tetley's "In your own time" is a "Match Winner" because:

(10 words maximum)



ON THE Record



Phil Caplan assesses what the wise and the worthy are saying and writing about the greatest game....

"I am sick of second rate athletes in Rugby Union getting all the headlines. We had an option to take two of their stars back to Odsal for the summer. You might have noticed that we didn't take up that option."

Bradford coach Matthew Elliott.

"In the late nineties, sport is high profile. It ought to be viewed as carrying significant political clout, not only because it engages the energies and passions of so many voters, but also because it is an increasingly powerful economic force."

Part of the leader column in the 'Independent' examining the proposed national academy.

"We might not have the most individually talented players or the most flair, but we compliment one another and the collective will exists."

Honest Bulls star Steve McNamara looks at the ingredients that captured the title.



"Dissent on the terraces would have been almost total. Wigan desperately need to get their supporters back inside the ground. The mighty have fallen and we have to help them back up again. The game of Rugby League needs a strong Wigan just as, perhaps, football needs a strong Manchester United, Liverpool or Arsenal."

Maurice Lindsay's reaction on hearing news of the resignation of Jack Robinson and Tom Rathbone from the board of his old club.

"Relegations means that we will no longer be full time professionals. The contracts that prevailed in Super League cannot be offered any more. Merger is a very sensitive subject, it would require major negotiation but it is a good idea."

Oldham chairman Jim Quinn on what relegation means to the club and a possible way ahead.

"I think fees will be scrapped in the future. I think clubs will have to pay a fee for players up to a certain age, probably 24, but after that they will become free agents. Players' futures have got to be taken into account as well. We have a duty to provide players for the top level."

Dewsbury boss and rising star on the coaching ladder. Neil Kelly blasting other clubs' player valuations.

"Akin to being reprieved from the gallows only to find that you will be shot in a few months time." Saints programme columnist Alex Service on qualifying to play the Brisbane Broncos in the WCC.

"RLE has been portrayed as divisive but that's not true at all. If it had been allowed to operate without restrictions in accordance with its aims and objectives we would be further down the road than we are now. We have had a constant and concerted attempt from people within the sport to derail the organisation for personal and selfish motives."

RLE Chairman Chris Caisley defends the formation of the marketing arm of Super League.

"The product of League is far superior to that of Union but we do need to look at the geography. We need to attract new people to the game." Sean Jarvis from GSM the promotions firm brought in to get the game wider exposure.

"We have a coach in place and certain players are earmarked to join us. We feel it can go big. We reckon the investment will be something in the region of £4 million and we are ready and willing to go for 1998. But it has to be Super League. Glasgow can be a huge success." Australian spokesman for the consortium bidding for the next Super League franchise.

"I don't see any problem. I would have done before I took on the job with New Zealand, but that experience showed me that you're just a professional coach trying to help the players you are coaching. It would thrill me to be a part of the team which regained the Ashes for Great Britain."

New GB Technical Coach Shaun McRae honoured to be plotting the downfall of his compatriots.

"I will be looking to him for a lot of guidance. It is going to be very much a joint venture. I think there are enough quality British players out there. Provided we make the right choices and are prepared to take a couple of risks, we will get there." Andy Goodway on the prospects facing him and his partnership with McRae as he gets to work preparing for the autumn Tests.



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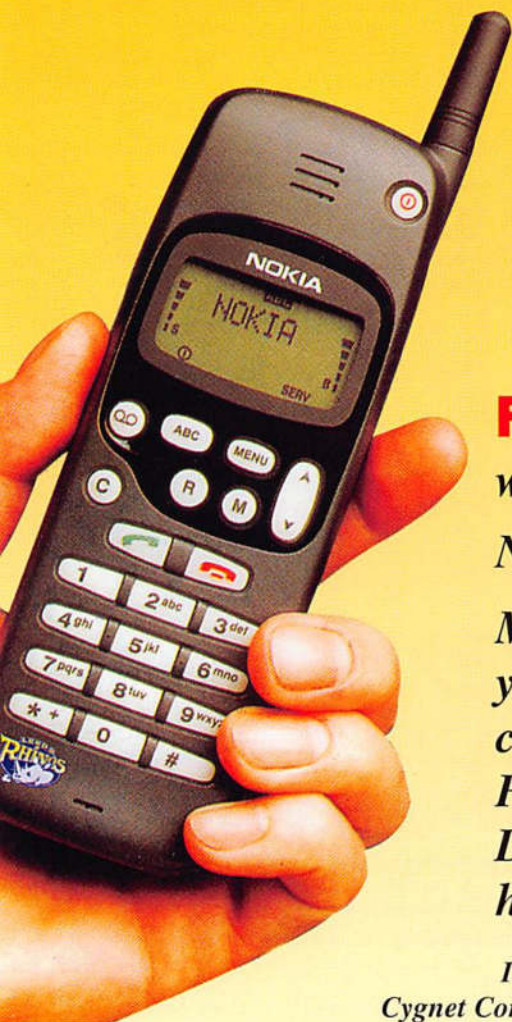
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Column Inches

Getting the Balance Right

Striking the right balance is a fundamental within sport. It applies as much to the delicate art of team selection that faces coaches as it does to the allocation of limited budgets to competing departments within clubs, through to the evasive running skills of speed men like Jason Robinson, pictured centre, or Martin Offiah.

Weighing the options is a key part of the decision-making process and where there are choices to be made there will always be dissenting voices bemoaning the route taken. Where criticism is constructive, however, the evolution of debate is worthwhile.

The common starting point is often the posing of observational questions such as why on Sky's 'World of Super League' do the week's action highlights occasionally include slow motion replays of players suffering broken limbs rather than scoring spectacular tries? That programme is the only contextual link between the week's events and should, therefore, be a showcase of action and analysis. Whether focusing on suffering is also part of that remit is an editorial decision, but if time and exposure for the code is limited it seems to be a waste. Certainly any parents watching and already concerned about the physical demands and possible dangers of allowing their offspring to

participate in full contact sport may have their reservations compounded. Injuries are part and parcel of the game, but spotlighting the worst of them seems more than just insensitive.

The image of rugby as a whole was tarnished by the sickening pictures of eye gouging published recently in some of the tabloids. Most of the accompanying text referred to 'rugby' even though that particular incident was from a New Zealand club game in Union. In an era where image is so important, the

overall impression was to tarnish both codes. Were the picture editors giving the public what they want or merely appealing to the basest of human emotions?

That topic is one which is currently taxing the press as they examine their responsibilities in the light of clamours for more regulation. There seems to be a growing desire within Rugby League to move our decision-making Policy Body nearer to the corridors of power and eye and ear of the media in London so as to obtain a fairer representation and hearing. Balance is again the issue, this time between reconciling the desperate plight of some of our

founder clubs with a perceived need to 'shake off our northern tag'. The dilemma is between whether to concentrate limited funds and central resources on getting our own back yard in order as a platform for future expansion or to open up new markets and audiences in different areas for potential fans, tv and sponsors that may regenerate the heartland if there is an overall upsurge in interest. The involvement of quality people from the city is seen as being crucial to obtaining national profile and finding the right doors of opportunity to knock on. Radio Five Live has undoubtedly helped in taking Super League to a wider national audience. It has also

tried to adopt a magazine type format on blank summer Sunday afternoons in a slot that is now seen to be assigned to the code. Twice informal debate has come live from Dave Woods' front room and on both occasions reviewers and listeners have commented favourably on the information and entertainment provided. The only drawback has been that the majority of those who would have listened avidly only got to know about the programmes after they had happened.





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In Profile **Terry Newton**

Terry Newton will be 19 in November, an age that belies his maturity both on and off the rugby pitch. He has displayed over the last month that the promise shown as a much sought after junior with Wigan St Judes is starting to be realised in the tough school of Super League. The combative back rower has brought much needed steel and momentum to the Rhinos pack, particularly in the absence of skipper Gary Mercer.

The form and reputation of his oppoosite numbers have made little difference to his style and application for he only knows one way to play - with total commitment. The Academy tourist last winter, who played in all three Tests against the Kiwis, has shown his versatility by making valuable contributions at hooker where his solid and dependable midfield defence and dummy half organisation has been a steadying influence at vital times. His tackling technique is straight out of the textbook and that is complimented by direct and forceful running from around the ruck area. Those qualities were especially evident even in the face of obvious defeat at Central Park last week where he refused to bow to the seemingly inevitable and was one of the major reasons behind Leeds not throwing in the towel in the second half.

His only points for the club were registered in the narrow home defeat of Halifax with a try but he has been the instigator or creator of numerous others for his grateful teammates this season. His debut campaign last year saw him play at Academy, Alliance and first team level with equal distinction such was his form and enthusiasm. Despite a desperately disappointing time for the side his

resolve and mental toughness, like that of Adrian Morley, was fired by adversity and their performances did much to maintain Super League survival and offer hope. That experience has been built on and both are amongst the frontline of young British talent that will carry the code into the twenty-first century. At 5'10" and just over fifteen and a half stone he has benefited from the

physical and conditioning programmes of Edgar Curtis and Rudi Meir and with another off-season of weights and stamina work his physical development will make him an even more valuable player and dangerous opponent.

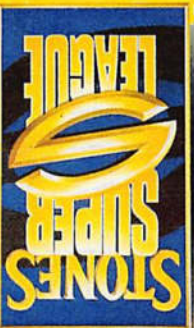
In the dressing room he is one of the organisers in chief of squad entertainment and spirit. A genuine character he is responsible for the generation of several nicknames for his colleagues and is a prime mover behind the undoubted upsurge in morale and camaraderie seen in the side which has been an important component behind improved displays.

Those leadership qualities, combined with his dynamism on the park, mark him out as a future captain of the club. His next

goal will be to establish a regular first team place but he has shown in some of the bigger games that he has the necessary temperament to hold his own in exhalted company. Progress in the premiership will give him the opportunity to further test himself. Some have compared his playing style to that of former Leeds second row great Graham Eccles whose desire and will made him an integral part of the club's greatest ever side. That is a hard act to follow but one he is eminently capable of making if he can maintain the progress to date.

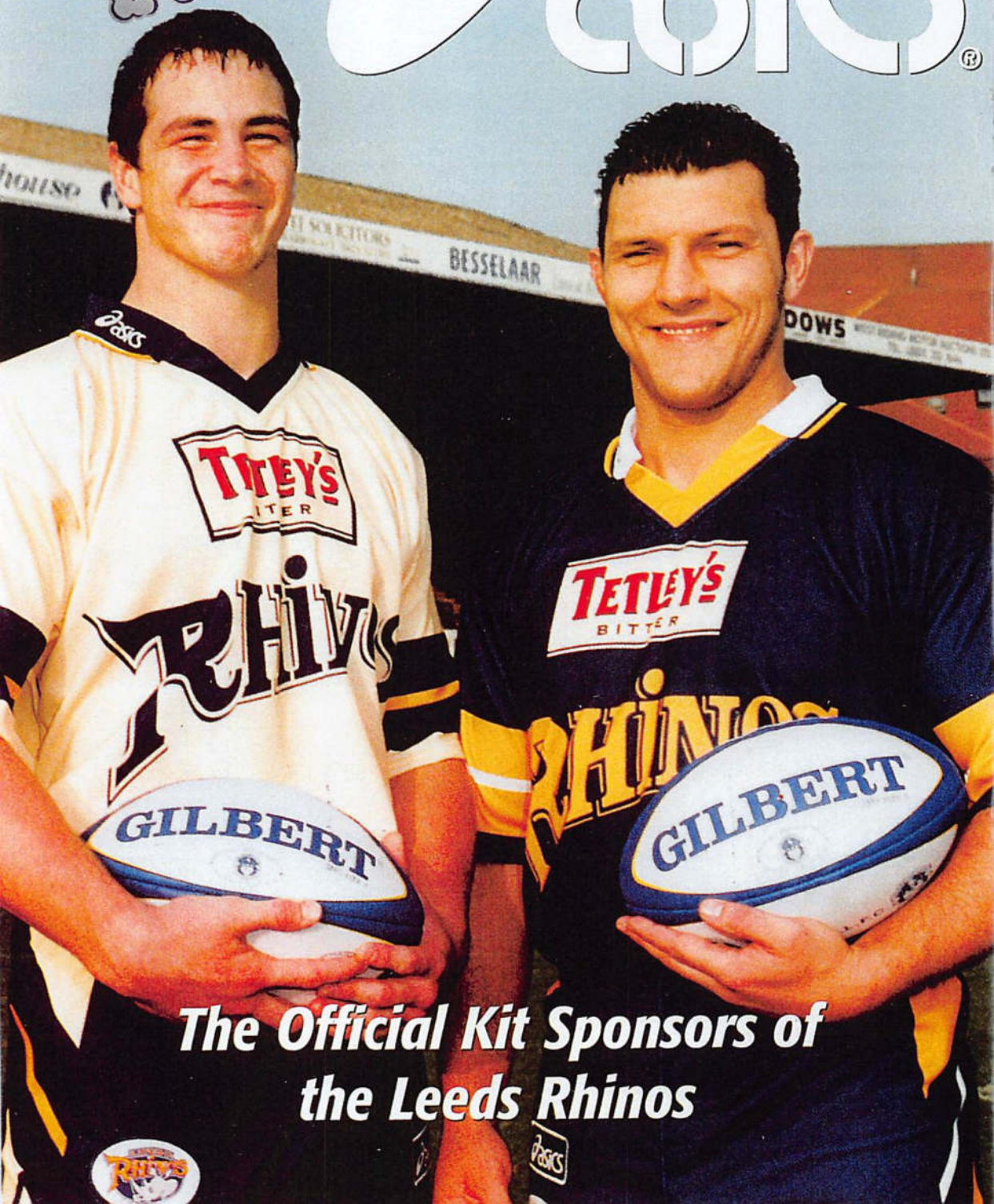


Terry Newton





asics



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The club has recently received this letter from Mr D Asquith from Middleton, and we are delighted that the Asquith family are enjoying Super League and the Leeds Rhinos in particular.

Dear Mr Clayton,

I am writing to congratulate you and everybody at the Leeds Rhinos on how you present yourselves on home match days.

Having been a family of Leeds Utd supporters for some years now, we had started to become a bit disillusioned with what was going on at Elland Road so in April I decided to bring my family to Headingley. I used a McDonald's voucher for the Family Stand, two adults and two junior tickets for £10, seat tickets at that, an absolute bargain. From that day we were hooked.

My wife said she couldn't believe the difference in atmosphere, it was brilliant. My seven year old daughter Danielle was up singing along with the music and clapping her hands but more than that it converted my ten year old son Jonathan from football to rugby league. Since then he has been training every week with Oulton Raiders and hopes to make the under 11's squad this coming season, a name for the future maybe. He is as keen as mustard and loves every minute of it. In the short time he's been involved in rugby his hero is Wayne Collins and of course he wants to become a hooker. He loves the way he can mingle with the first team squad before the game in the stand as they are usually watching the pre-match entertainment, he gets his programme autographed and his photo taken with the players. All the players are brilliant with him and never refuse him photographs or autographs. Once again I would like to thank the whole club for their efforts on and off the pitch and look forward to more of the same in the future.

Yours sincerely

D Asquith

PS Jonathan is looking forward to having Richie Blackmore and Andy Hay coaching Oulton Raiders once Super League has finished.

THE OTHER RHINOS

The Sheffield game saw a visit from the Ipswich Rhinos. The other 'Rhinos' are members of the Southern Conference Amateur Rugby League and are working very hard to ensure the game gets a foothold in East Anglia.

Leeds Rhinos have formerly twinned with their namesakes and a whole host of reciprocal arrangements are planned. As part of their day out in Leeds, Bob Pickles arranged a game with East Leeds ARLFC and the Ipswich boys were delighted with the facilities and hospitality of the East Leeds club. Later the whole squad visited Headingley for the London Broncos game and were introduced to the players and to Gary Hetherington. Further correspondence between the two clubs has taken place and we will shortly be sending members of our staff down to Ipswich to speak with local teachers and the local council with a view to arranging coaching sessions in the Ipswich area. The twinning arrangements between Super League clubs and the Southern Conference RL are ensuring that the fledgling clubs survive and that the game will prosper outside of its traditional boundaries. St Helens have also invited the Worcester ARLFC to a game at Knowsley Road.

CAN YOU HELP

Terry Varidel is aged twenty and is a big fan of Canberra Raiders. He is looking for a pen pal from the Leeds Rhinos around the same age. If you would like to write to Terry his address is: Terry Varidel, 15 Risdon Street, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350 Australia.

Pictured here is Paul Viligiardi who recently celebrated his 30th birthday.

The Media and Public Relations department at the Rhinos provided Paul with a surprise birthday Card and a framed team photograph. Paul is pictured with his 'Rhinos' birthday cake made by his mother, Sheila.



The Inside Track





Leeds Rhinos 1997





1997 Leeds Rhinos Fact File

Date	Fixture	Venue	K.O.	Res	Att	Full Back	Right Wing	Right Centre	Left Centre	Left Wing	Stand Off	Scrum Half	Open Side	Hooker	Blind Side	2nd Row	2nd Row	Loose Fd	Sub	Sub	Sub	Sub
FEBRUARY																						
Sunday	9 Whitehaven (SCCC)	A	3.00pm	W48-8	2,321	St Hilaire(T)	Sterling(2T)	Cummins	Hassan(T)	Gibson	Holroyd(SG)	Lawford(G)	Mazella	Collins	McDermott(T)	Newton	Farrell(T)	Mercer(T)	Brown(S,O)	Hughes(S,L,C,T)	Mathiou(S,O,S)	Morley(S,2R,T)
Sunday	23 Dewsbury (SCCC)	H	3.00pm	W48-22	6,775	St Hilaire	Gibson	Cummins(SG)	Hassan	Hughes (2T)	Holroyd(SG)	Lawford	Mazella	Collins(T)	McDermott(3T)	Morley	Farrell	Mercer(2T)	Kemp(S,O)	Sheridan(S,H)	Newton(S,F)	Fozzard(S,B)
MARCH																						
Sunday	9 Featherstone R (SCCC)	H	3.00pm	W32-12	9,579	Gibson(T)	Sterling	Blackmore	Cummins(2T,2G)	Hughes	Kemp	Sheridan	Mazella	Newton	McDermott(3T)	Morley	Farrell(T)	Mercer	Holroyd(S,S,O,T)	Hassan(S,RW)	Lawford(S,H,K)	Fozzard(S,B)
Sunday	16 Oldham Bears	H	3.00pm	W32-22	11,516	Gibson	Sterling(T)	Blackmore(2T)	Cummins(T,4G)	Hassan	Kemp	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins(T)	McDermott	Morley(T)	Farrell	Mercer	Holroyd(S,F)	Fozzard(S,B)	Lawford(S,H,K)	Newton(S,O)
Friday	21 Paris St Germain	A	8.00pm	W28-18	10,513	Gibson	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Cummins(2T)	Hassan	Kemp	Lawford(G)	Mazella	Collins	McDermott	Morley(T)	Farrell	Mercer	Mathiou(S,B)	Holroyd(S,S,H,T,3G)	Newton(S,H,K)	Fozzard(S,O)
Saturday	29 Bradford B (SCCC-SF)	N	2.00pm	L10-24	18,193	Gibson	Sterling	Blackmore	Cummins	Hassan	Kemp(T)	Holroyd(G)	Mazella(T)	Collins	McDermott	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	Rivett(S,W)	Sheridan(S,O)	Newton(S,H,K)	McDermott(S,B)
Tuesday	1 Halifax Blue Sox	A	3.00pm	L18-24	7,093	Gibson(T)	Sterling	Blackmore	Hassan	Rivett(T)	Sheridan	Holroyd(SG)	Mazella	Newton	McDermott	Morley	Farrell	Mercer(T)	Lawford(S,S,O)	Hughes(S,L,C)	Vassilakopoulos(S,H,K)	Mathiou(S,B)
APRIL																						
Friday	4 Wigan Warriors	H	7.30pm	L16-17	11,317	Gibson	Sterling	Blackmore	Hassan(2T)	Rivett	Sheridan	Holroyd(SG)	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	Harris(S,H,G)	Hughes(S,W)	Newton(S,2R)	Leatham(S,O)
Friday	11 St Helens	H	7.30pm	W13-12	12,683	Gibson	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Hassan	St Hilaire	Harris(4G)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	Holroyd(S,S,H)	Hughes	Newton(S,H,K)	Fozzard(S,O)
Tuesday	15 Castleford Tigers	H	7.30	W24-21	10,303	Gibson	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Hassan	St Hilaire	Harris(T,G)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Farrell(T)	Mercer	Holroyd(S,S,H,3G)	Cummins(S,W,T)	Field(S,B)	Fozzard(S,O)
Sunday	20 Sheffield Eagles	A	6.35pm	W30-18	5,332	St Hilaire	Sterling(T)	Blackmore (2T)	Hassan	Cummins	Harris(SG)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins(T)	Mathiou	Morley	Farrell(T)	Mercer	Holroyd(S,B)	Hughes	Field(S,O)	McDermott(S,B)
Sunday	27 London Broncos	A	6.35pm	L16-40	5,919	St Hilaire(T)	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Hassan	Cummins(T)	Harris(2G)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	Holroyd(S,H,K)	Hughes	Field(S,B)	McDermott(S,B)
MAY																						
Monday	5 Paris St Germain	H	7.30pm	W30-2	11,023	Gibson	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Hassan	Cummins(2T)	Harris(SG)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Farrell(T)	Mercer	Holroyd(S,S,H,T)	St Hilaire(S,F)	Newton(S,2R)	McDermott(S,O,P)
Sunday	11 Salford Reds	A	3.00pm	W33-20	5,921	Gibson	Sterling(2T)	Blackmore	Hassan(2T)	Cummins	Harris(T,3G)	Holroyd(C,DG)	Mazella	Collins	McDermott	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	Sheridan(S,H,K)	St Hilaire	Mathiou(S,O)	Newton(S,2R)
Sunday	18 Oldham Bears	A	3.00pm	W43-26	4,500	Gibson	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Hassan(2T)	Cummins	Harris(2T,4G)	Holroyd(SG,DG)	Mazella	Collins	McDermott	Morley	Farrell(2T)	Mercer	St Hilaire	Sheridan(S,H)	Hay(S,2R)	Mathiou(S,B,S)
Monday	26 Castleford Tigers	A	3.30pm	D30-30	6,815	St Hilaire	Sterling(T)	Blackmore(T)	Hassan	Cummins	Harris(3G)	Holroyd(2G)	Mazella	Collins	McDermott(T)	Morley(T)	Farrell(T)	Mercer	Sheridan(S,H,K)	Gibson	Hay(S,2R)	Mathiou(S,B,P)
Friday	30 Warrington Wolves	H	7.30pm	W50-12	10,150	St Hilaire(T)	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Hassan	Cummins(T)	Harris(T,6G)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	McDermott(2T)	Hay	Farrell(T)	Newton	Holroyd(S,F,B,T)	Hughes(S,R,C)	Mathiou(S,B,P)	Morley(S,L,F)
JUNE																						
Saturday	7 N Queensland (WWC)	A	7.30pm	L20-42	14,561	Gibson(T)	Sterling(T)	Blackmore	Hassan	Cummins	Harris(2G)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins(T)	McDermott	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	St Hilaire(S,R,C)	Holroyd(S,2R)	Hay(S,2R)	Mathiou(S,B,P)
Friday	13 Adelaide Rams (WWC)	A	7.30pm	L8-34	14,630	Gibson	Sterling	Cummins	Hassan	Rivett(T)	Harris	Sheridan(T)	Mazella	Collins	McDermott	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	Holroyd(S,2R)	Newton(S,H,K)	Mathiou(S,O,S)	Hay(S,2R)
Sunday	29 Bradford Bulls	H	8.00pm	L16-32	19,137	Gibson	Sterling	Cummins	Hassan	St Hilaire	Harris(4G)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	McDermott(T)	Morley	Farrell	Mercer(T)	Holroyd(S,S,H)	Newton(S,B,S)	Hay(S,2R)	Mathiou(S,O,P)
JULY																						
Wednesday	2 Halifax Blue Sox	H	7.30pm	W20-18	7,462	Gibson	Sterling	Cummins	Hassan	Golden	Harris(T,3G)	Sheridan	Mathiou	Collins	McDermott	Hay	Farrell	Mercer	Holroyd (S,R,C,T,G)	Newton(S,B,P,T)	Rivett(S,B,T)	Field(S,B,P)
Sunday	6 Salford Reds	H	3.00pm	W34-18	8,508	Holroyd(T)	Sterling	Gibson(2T)	Hassan(T)	Golden(2T)	Harris(SG)	Sheridan	Field	Collins	Mathiou	Hay	Farrell	Mercer	Rivett(S,R,W)	Newton(S,L,F)	Morley(S,2R)	Mazella(S,O,P)
Friday	11 Warrington Wolves	A	7.30pm	W23-16	4,704	Holroyd(DG)	Sterling	Gibson	Hassan(T)	Golden	Harris(SG)	Sheridan(T)	Mazella	Collins(T)	Mathiou	Hay	Farrell	Mercer	Rivett(S,R,C)	Newton(S,2R)	Morley(S,2R)	Field(S,O,P)
Friday	18 Adelaide Rams (WWC)	H	7.30pm	W22-14	11,269	Holroyd	Sterling(T)	Gibson(T)	Hassan(T)	Golden	Harris(SG)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Farrell	Mercer	Rivett(S,O)	Newton(S,2R)	Hay(S,2R)	Field(S,O,P)
AUGUST																						
Sunday	3 N Queensland (WWC)	H	8.00pm	L14-48	12,224	Gibson	Sterling	Cummins	Hassan	Golden	Holroyd(SG)	Sheridan	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley(T)	Hay	Mercer(T)	Rivett(S,O)	Newton(S,B,P)	Farrell(S,2R)	Harris(S,R,C)
Sunday	10 Bradford Bulls	A	6.35pm	L8-22	16,542	Gibson	Sterling	Blackmore	Hassan	Golden(T)	Harris(2G)	Brown	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Newton	Mercer	Holroyd(S,S,H)	Cummins(S,R,C)	Hay(S,2R)	Farrell(S,B,P)
Sunday	17 London Broncos	H	6.35pm	W36-8	9,166	Gibson	Sterling(2T)	Blackmore(T)	Hassan	Golden	Harris(T,4G)	Brown	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Morley	Hay(2T)	Newton	Holroyd(S,S,H,2G)	Cummins	Field(S,B,S)	Farrell(S,S,R)
Friday	22 Sheffield Eagles	H	7.30pm	L22-24	9,813	Gibson	Sterling(T)	Blackmore(T)	Hassan(T)	Golden	Harris(3G)	Holroyd	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Hay(T)	Farrell	Newton	Brown	Cummins(S,R,C)	Field(S,O,S)	Sirfield(S,2R)
Monday	25 St Helens	A	3.00pm	L18-25	7,270	Gibson	Sterling	Blackmore(2T)	Cummins	Rivett(T)	Harris(2G)	Holroyd(G)	Mazella	Collins	Mathiou	Farrell	Hay	Newton	Lawford(S,H,K)	Hughes(S,R)	Sirfield(S,B,S)	Carvell(S,R)
Sunday	31 Wigan Warriors	A	3.00pm	L4-38	8,428	Gibson	Sterling	Blackmore	Hassan	Rivett(T)	Harris	Lawford	Farrell	Collins	Field	Hay	Morley	Newton	Holroyd(S,R,W)	Cummins(S,L,C)	Flery(S,2R)	Carroll(S,H,K)

Loiners Guild Newsflash

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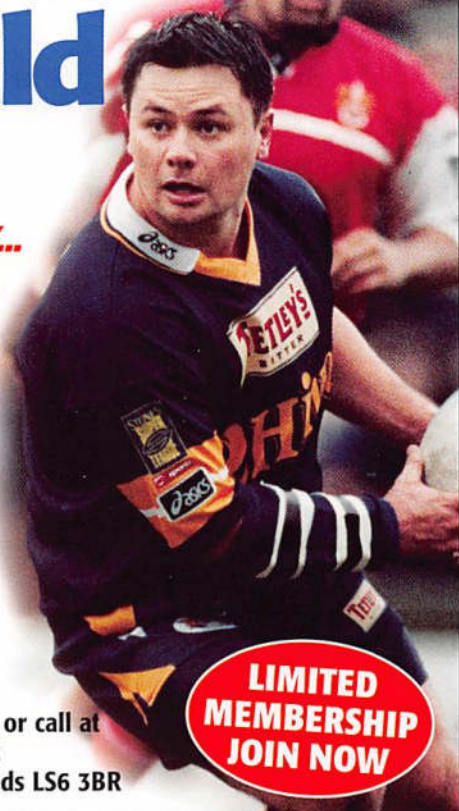
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LOINERS GUILD WINNER

Mr J Hargreaves of Jersey is seen here receiving his Loiners Guild winning cheque from Ronnie

It only seems like yesterday when the Bulls kicked off Super League 2 with their resounding win over Warrington back in March. There have been lows and highs over the past six months but has the game gone anywhere in that time? We have had the humbling experience of the World Club Championship, and internal political difficulties which mean that the game receives column inches for the wrong reasons but is the game growing as it needs to, to be successful? The answer is yes, but with some degree of caution.

The encouraging form of London, Paris finally looking stable, a fine traditional club in Hull Sharks returning to the top flight and a resurgent Leeds side should give us heart for next year. However, the manner in which Bradford were able to win the title should fill all supporters, including those from Odsal, with a tinge of worry. Bradford won the title with sheer hard work and a determination borne out of pride and self belief. Matthew Elliot has continued the work of Brian Smith and built a side whose ferocious defence and tenacity have meant they were often the only team left standing come the final hooter.

The ease with which they have beaten some sides is the main concern. Although the great Wigan sides often won the title with convincing displays, that was a team full of living legends whose presence is still felt in the game today. Internationals filled that team, not experienced players who could do a job for you. Many will say that if the Bulls can dominate what does it say about the rest of the league. To be fair this is too broad a statement to carry much weight. Wigan have showed they can produce the goods on their day, with this season having less of their days than usual.

Beset by problems off the field this season may be seen as a watershed for the Warriors. St Helens too have been disturbed by off field problems, with talk of contracts and transfers coming out on a daily basis from Knowsley Road. Having said this, the nucleus of the double winning side is still there and they will come again. London have been the surprise packet of Super League 2. A hard pack,

a well marshalled defence and tactical play second to none has left many coming away from the Stoop disappointed. Looking outside of the top four, Salford have had an impressive first year in the top flight. With good home form, they have managed to blend in youth with experience, with a little more luck next year they will improve. John Kear deserves particular mention for his efforts at Sheffield. The Eagles are a now a powerful unit whose consistent form should worry the Bulls in the next round of the Premiership. As for Leeds the only sour point has been the missing out on that top four spot. But it would be harsh to let that cast too much of a shadow on the efforts this year. A very encouraging season has proved that Leeds are back, however there is still work to be done. The contributions of players like Wayne Collins, Martin Masella and Iestyn Harris are unquestionable however Leeds have been shown up by Bradford, Wigan and London. Next year the Rhinos must make sure that they play up to their potential more frequently. It has been a mark of this side that several players have off days together, but if they are in form they can tear sides apart. The ability to compete when not on form is the mark of champions, it will be something the Rhinos will have to learn over the Winter break.

The game, too, must reflect on this season over the ensuing cold days of Winter. Much has been done this season with the success of Bradford hopefully spurring everyone on to improve their levels of marketing and entertainment. On the playing front there are also new levels to achieve out of this season. The World Club Championship has proved that our standard of football is way off the best in the world. Having said that Brisbane are better than everyone in the world anyway. The format for this competition will almost certainly change next year and those teams involved will hopefully equip themselves better.

These are worrying times for rugby league, but let's get the problems in perspective. After two seasons of summer rugby most clubs are seeing their attendance figures growing back to the levels of the winter highs. Remember it took 100 years to get to those levels and the game being part of the communities psyche, an automatic reaction to a Saturday afternoon. Now just two years down the road the games support has levelled out and the current attendance's represent a base level from which the game can grow.

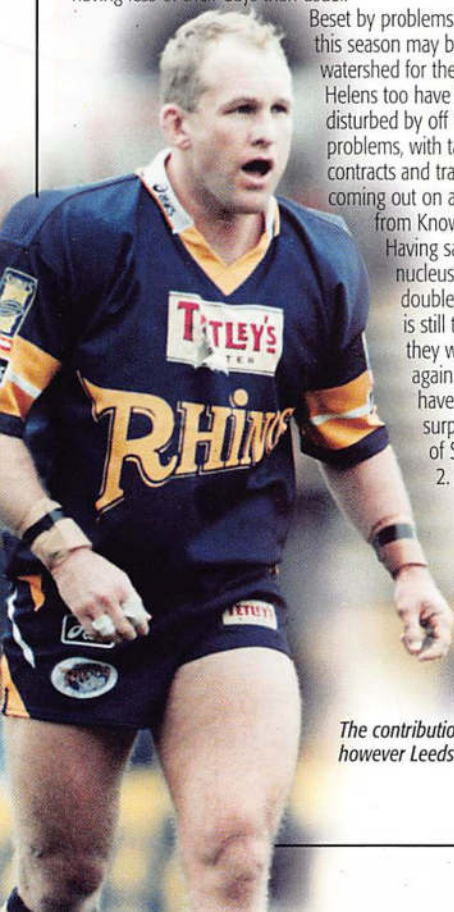
It is of concern that Bass have decided that they no longer wish to sponsor the game. However, we must see this as an opportunity to go forward. Instead of using it as a reason as to why Super League is not working it should be the ideal occasion to get a blue chip sponsor involved. Not that these are crying out to sponsor the game, but with careful negotiations and a positive outlook it is not beyond the realms of possibilities. Let's not forget that this year has seen Richard Branson come into the game and that should be enough to clinch any deal. Let's hope that come March all has been sorted out and we can look forward the best season yet, who knows maybe it will be third time lucky for Leeds.

Phil Daly

The contributions of players like Wayne Collins is unquestionable however Leeds have been shown up by Bradford, Wigan and London.



As it seems to me





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The Leeds Rhinos Alliance team surrendered their unbeaten home run in their final game of the season in a high scoring game against Wigan Warriors. Leeds had already wrapped up the Championship but Wigan were looking to be the only side to do the double over the Rhinos this season.

The visitors hammered the Rhinos line in the opening minutes as a series of dropped balls gave them a big territorial advantage. A fifth minute break by Andy Poynter at last got Leeds out of their quarter and Adam Hughes was on hand to race in from half-way and touchdown under the posts. Poynter then went in from thirty metres and, with two conversions from Adam Hughes, the Rhinos had an unlikely 12-0 lead.

The game then swung the other way with Wigan scoring four tries, three of them from Leeds dropped passes, to give them a 20-12 lead. When Wigan passing broke down on the Leeds line Adam Hughes picked up the loose ball and ran eighty metres.. His conversion pulled the Rhinos back to within two points as the teams left the field for the break.

Leeds attacked incessantly at the start of the second half but couldn't get the final pass to hand and it was Wigan who sealed the game with three tries between the sixtieth and seventieth minutes.

Leeds did hit back when Gavin Brown put Jamie Jones

1997 ALLIANCE LEAGUE FIXTURES

MARCH

Thurs	13	Oldham Bears	A	L 10-32
Wed	19	Hull KR	H	W40-8
Wed	26	Castleford Tigers	H	W36-12

APRIL

Wed	2	Wigan Warriors	A	L10-26
Wed	9	St Helens	A	L24-34
Thurs	17	Featherstone Rovers	A	W20-40
Thurs	24	Bradford Bulls	H	W22-8

MAY

Fri	9	Salford Reds	A	W54-12
Wed	14	Oldham Bears	H	W32-24
Sat	24	Hull KR	A	W32-10
Thurs	29	Warrington Wolves	A	W40-6

JUNE

Thurs	5	Halifax Blue Sox	A	W44-20
Fri	20	Hull Sharks	A	W20-16
Thurs	26	Castleford Tigers	A	W28-8

JULY

Thurs	3	Salford Reds	H	W28-18
Wed	9	Warrington Wolves	H	W48-0
Wed	16	Halifax Blue Sox	H	W38-0
Mon	21	Hull Sharks	H	W30-20

AUGUST

Mon	11	Bradford Bulls	A	W19-8
Fri	15	St Helens	H	W44-8
Wed	20	Featherstone Rovers	H	W36-8
Wed	27	Wigan Warriors	H	L24-38

Buchanan over for a try which the scrum half converted himself.

So Wigan had the consolation of not only finishing runners up to the Rhinos but of ending their unbeaten home record. Leeds had the satisfaction of fielding a side containing no one over the age of twenty and bleeding several young players for the future.

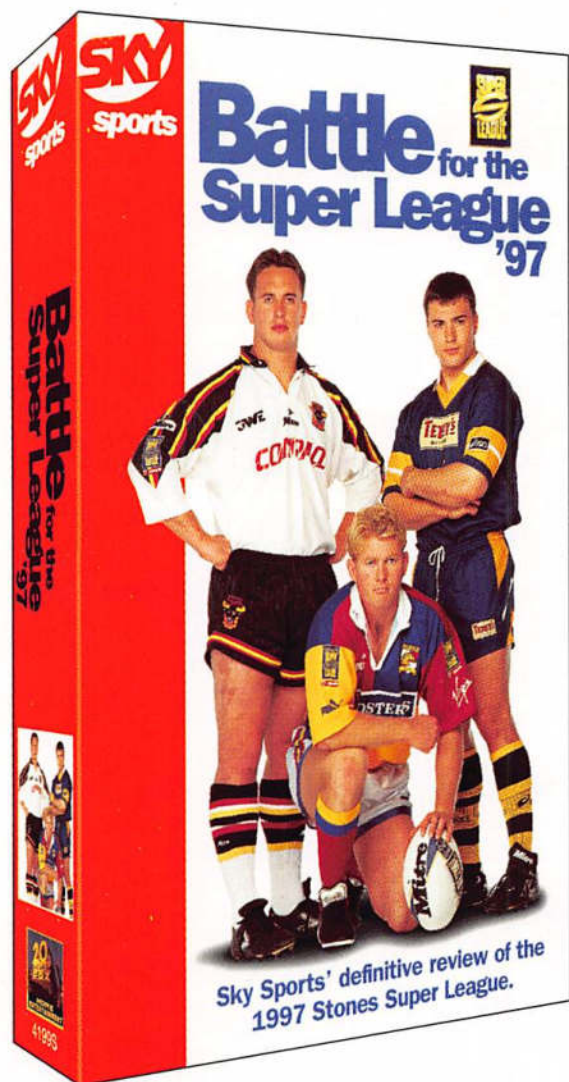
It has been a tremendous year for the Rhinos and the championship has been just reward for the hard work that has been put in by the players and Tony Kemp in particular. Several players have made the step up from the Academy side in style and such as Gavin Brown, Leroy Rivett, Adam Hughes and Marvin Golden have all figured in Dean Bell's plans for the first team.

Stuart Duffy

Roy Waulby presents the Alliance Championship Cup to Dean Lawford



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Academically Speaking



Leeds Rhinos made heavy weather of defeating the games bottom club, Carlisle, 58-0, in a game played in atrocious conditions at Headingley. Rain fell incessantly throughout the game but even allowing for the terrible conditions it was a lacklustre

display by the Champions.

Carlisle did not arrive until shortly before the kick off but it was the Rhinos who looked as though they had spent four hours on the bus. Poor handling and a string of wrong options kept the Cumbrians, who had little to offer but honest effort, in the game.

It was seventeen minutes before Leeds got on the scoresheet when Scott Rhodes threw a huge dummy and went in from thirty yards. The Rhinos were finding the going tough and on several occasions it looked much easier to score than not but Leeds somehow managed to mess things up. Support play was virtually non existent and the Rhinos play the ball was so slow it was embarrassing.

It was the thirty fifth minute before Leeds managed

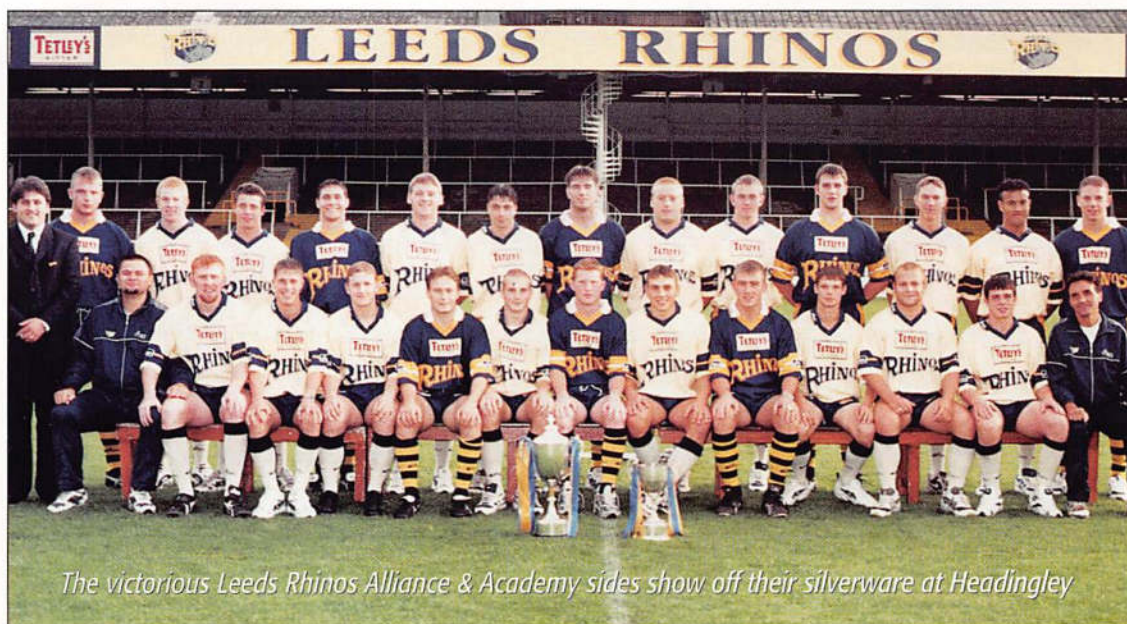
another score, George Rayner supported a mid field break to go over under the posts. Gary Smith scored three minutes later and with Neil Kite, playing at loose forward, converting both, Leeds went in with a 16-0 advantage.

It would have been good to have been a fly on the wall to hear Paul Daley's half-time team talk. It must have ruffled a few feathers for the Rhinos came out and promptly scored twice in the opening five minutes. Dan Potter and Mark Campbell going over as the Cumbrians tired. Leeds at last started to put things together and added further tries from Gareth Hewitt, with two, Andy Speak, Dan Potter and a brace from David Foster, who would have had a hat trick but for an appalling drop of the ball in the last minute.

Much to the delight of the crowd Ryan MacDonald kicked five conversions to show that he has another string to his bow. Despite the flattering scoreline this was not a vintage performance from the Rhinos and they will certainly have to sharpen up for the trip to Halifax next week.

Stuart Duffy

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Matters Arising

Rugby League is 102 years old and how it shapes up in this most crucial of forthcoming off-seasons will determine its future. Streamlined and more accountable decision making, global unification, the attraction of major blue-chip sponsors, a new great Britain set-up, a youth commission aimed at developing quantity and quality talent, franchising, feeder clubs, the World Cup. All items on the overall agenda that will require debate and resolution come the start of Super League 2.

In some respects, this campaign has been a season of lost opportunity. With a clearer field of directly competing events, compared to the inaugural launch, there was a platform for pushing forward and raising awareness, the *raison d'être* behind moving to summer, which has been under utilised.

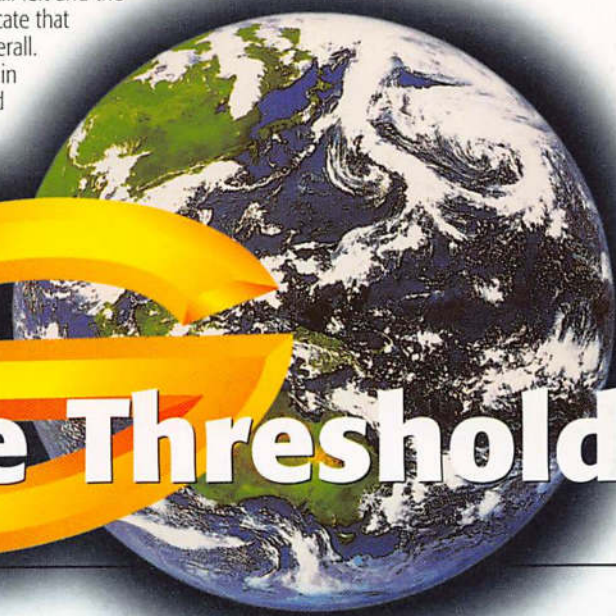
The increase in average attendance figures is encouraging but the instability caused by prolonged division in Australia, continuing vested interest within our respective governing bodies which has led to an inability to present a public face for funding applications, and continued debate about competition format and the criteria for teams to participate in it has undermined that advance.

In some respects, the cloak of other higher profile sports in the summer of 1996 brought us time to refine our excellent product. Whether this year has established the code as a mainstream summer sport is open to debate. The margin by which the Bulls took the title with three weeks of the season still left and the gap between top and bottom would indicate that there is intensity and meaning lacking overall. Certainly in Australia sides were involved in the race for the play-offs until the last and three wins by the bottom club would have made all the difference.

That not only makes fixtures more relevant and, theoretically, appealing but equally as importantly it raises the overall playing standard. The Rhinos can certainly bear that out, as North Queensland took the wooden spoon ahead of Adelaide and both sides gave Leeds plenty of food for thought in their World Club clashes.

There at least seems to be a will and climate for administrative change here, which is essential if News Corporation are to be persuaded to part with a renewed and, hopefully bigger rights contract in 2000. By the middle of Super League III we will be halfway through the current deal and they will want to see evidence of change, rather than the game as a whole meandering along accepting handouts. New teams, better facilities, a programme of development at all levels, financial prudence are all areas that need a concerted plan to be implemented if they are to be achieved.

Rumours of Glasgow, Dublin, Wales, the South West and the Midlands wanting to host sides persist, but the wherewithall of their inclusion remains a mystery. In an ideal world, next years fixtures and consequent club season tickets would already be available for release. We start with a potential disadvantage in 1998 with the soccer World Cup on our doorstep that will hog the limelight. If we are to make an impression alongside it, then the plan for the future needs to be put into practice today.



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Junior Rhinos

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I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Terry Newton who won August's Player of the Month. For such a young lad he has amazing ability and without doubt a future international in the making. The try of the month went to Leroy Rivett for his effort at St Helens on Bank Holiday Monday. Just before I go, I would like to apologise for cancelling October's event which was due to be held on Tuesday October 7th.

I would also like to wish all Junior Rhinos a happy close season and I look forward to welcoming you back to Headingley next season. Don't forget, throughout the off season the Junior Rhinos Coaching Sessions held every Saturday at Headingley will be open to all members. The sessions commence at 10.30am on the Training Ground. All that remains to be said is get behind the boys tonight and let's cheer them on to a Premiership success.

See you soon.

Ronnie Rhino

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TONIGHTS MASCOTS

Tonight's mascots are...

EMMA BARLOW Emma is aged 12 and attends Cardinal Heenan School. Her favourite food is beefburgers and her favourite Leeds player is Barrie McDermott.



MEGAN WHEELER

Megan is aged 4½ and attends Our Lady's RC School. Her favourite food is chicken and garlic bread and her favourite player is Jamie Mathieu.





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Super League Statistics

1997

TOP ATTENDANCE

Leeds Rhinos V Bradford Bulls
19,137 Headingley 29th June 1997

BIGGEST WIN

Bradford Bulls 68 Paris St Germain 0

HIGHEST AGGREGATE SCORE

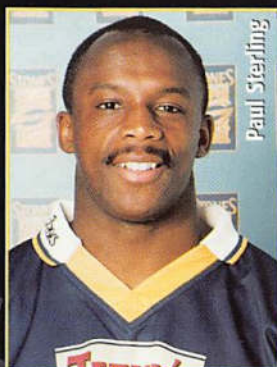
Wigan Warriors 58 Paris St Germain 20
Bradford Bulls 58 Warrington 20

TOP TRY SCORERS

1	Nigel Vagana	Warrington Wolves	17
2	Paul Sterling	Leeds Rhinos	15
2	Alan Hunte	St Helens	15
2	Anthony Sullivan	St Helens	15
2	Jason Robinson	Wigan Warriors	15
2	Tony Smith	Wigan Warriors	15
7	Phil Bergman	Paris St Germain	14
7	Danny Arnold	St Helens	14
9	James Lowes	Bradford Bulls	13
9	Gary Connolly	Wigan Warriors	13

TOP POINTS SCORER

		T	G	DG	Pts
1	Andy Farrell	7	106	3	243
2	Steve McNamara	7	98	1	225
3	Steve Blakeley	6	73	1	171
4	Mark Ashton	3	74	1	161
5	Iestyn Harris	7	63	1	155
6	Greg Barwick	5	60	0	140
7	Martin Pearson	10	49	0	138
8	Bobbie Goulding	2	60	1	129
9	Francis Maloney	6	46	2	118
10	Lee Briers	3	46	6	110



	Bradford	Castleford	Halifax	Leeds	London	Oldham	Paris	Salford	Sheffield	St Helens	Warrington	Wigan
Bradford		34-20	28-26	22-8	19-14	42-28	68-0	34-14	54-10	38-18	58-20	18-33
Castleford	12-38		12-28	30-30	13-22	25-20	25-20	8-13	12-10	35-16	8-24	14-22
Halifax	26-30	29-12		18-24	24-24	40-12	12-14	16-28	18-16	18-26	42-30	18-46
Leeds	16-32	24-21	20-18		36-8	32-22	30-2	34-18	22-24	13-12	50-12	16-17
London	28-24	17-10	28-28	40-16		36-28	28-10	48-12	32-12	24-28	30-6	38-12
Oldham	12-38	12-12	29-30	26-43	22-32		19-18	19-10	20-21	30-34	20-14	26-32
Paris	18-30	8-20	32-0	18-28	16-20	23-12		16-24	16-32	6-44	10-17	30-28
Salford	24-40	4-0	37-18	20-33	16-27	35-26	27-26		17-16	39-26	26-14	14-4
Sheffield	12-32	42-20	24-49	18-30	8-50	14-18	4-18	30-12		14-12	32-18	24-22
St Helens	20-38	42-16	38-20	18-25	22-22	36-26	26-4	19-12	22-6		60-16	12-65
Warrington	14-38	22-14	25-22	16-23	18-38	28-18	37-34	19-12	12-38	20-22		35-24
Wigan	18-22	48-8	20-18	38-4	38-10	44-10	58-20	14-21	58-2	10-22	32-16	

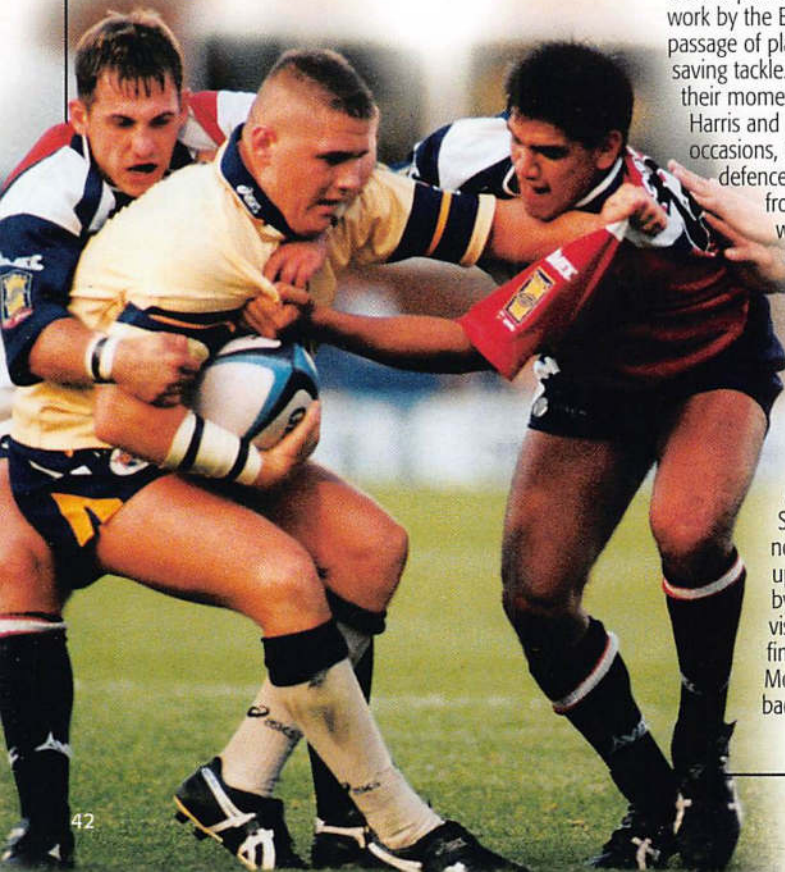
from the Heart of The Action

LEEDS RHINOS	22	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	24
ST HELENS	25	LEEDS RHINOS	18
WIGAN WARRIORS	38	LEEDS RHINOS	4

Inevitably it is the outcome of the final games that shape the impression of a season and a disastrous last seven days saw three defeats that condemned the Rhinos to fifth spot on the league ladder. That, though, should not detract from a much improved and more positive campaign that banished the stigma of Super League I. Heroics against the Broncos that looked set to yield runners up spot going into the final arduous schedule or at worst a top four finish were dashed by performances that were at odds to the majority of fare seen this time around. Against the resolute Eagles, the match was won and thrown away in a frantic last three minutes that saw a slender lead finally surrendered on the last play of the game. A surprising second half fade out at Knowsley Road, despite having an extra man advantage, put immense pressure on the trip to Wigan which proved to be its usual chastening experience.

Matches against Sheffield are invariably open and compulsive affairs and this Headingley clash was no exception. Although the Rhinos were never in total command, they still seemed to be heading for success until Waisale Sovatabua's last gasp four pointer effectively undermined a season's toil. Their Houdini finish was principally built upon an impeccable kicking game from Mark Aston that continually turned the Rhinos around, allied to some unflappable goal kicking that ultimately proved to be the gap between two evenly matched sides. The other area in which they held sway was support play that ensured that every scoring opportunity was taken. In the early stages, two long range raids down the Leeds left yielded first a penalty from in front and then a try to Sovatabua who began and ended a flowing move that flirted with the touchline. Harris and Holroyd capitalised on quick tap penalties with long passes that allowed determined Damian Gibson to send Phil Hassan powering over before the half backs again linked cleverly for Andy Hay to send Richie Blackmore through a gap to the line. The introduction of Darren Turner wrested the initiative from the home side, his darting runs and well timed passes off the ruck, putting Leeds on the backfoot. Greater resolve from the Rhinos' pack at the start of the second period was matched by more instinctive support work by the Eagles, Sovatabua twice being denied in a passage of play that saw Sterling make a memorable try saving tackle. When it seemed like Leeds were losing their momentum, they conjured a sensational score.

Harris and Holroyd were both involved on two occasions, Blackmore loomed out wide to lull the defence and Paul Sterling strode majestically clear from near half way for the score. The Rhinos, with Kevin Sinfield introduced to the fray, exerted a ten minute spell of concerted pressure in the Eagles half, culminating with Eagles old boy Andy Hay latching onto a Harris' spilt pass to cross behind the posts. Eight points up but never sufficiently secure in midfield, the stage was set for a rousing finish. Refusing to let the ball die, the Eagles stormed the Rhinos red zone with intricate interplay prior to an Aston grubber to the corner, eluding Sterling for Taewa to pounce. Aston's nonchalant conversion from the touchline upped the ante. Wasting their last set of six by failing to find touch, Leeds gave the visitors one last chance and with Wood finding the slightest of gaps to exploit, Morganson's hit and hope bomb was palmed back by an Eagles hand for Broadbent and

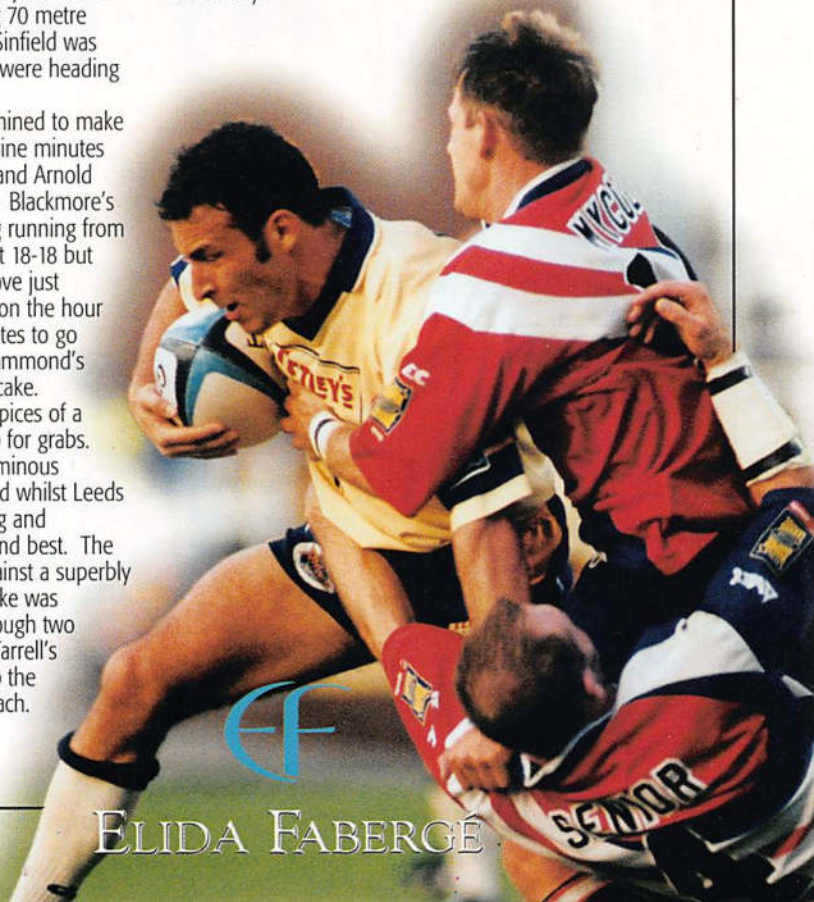


Turner to send Sovatabua jubilantly over as the hooter sounded. Bank Holiday Monday at Knowsley Road served up one of the most frustrating and unsatisfactory games of the season. A total of 25 penalties meant that the match never got going and an unsavoury tackle by Bobbie Goulding that polaxed Jamie Mathiou and led to the former Leeds player being dismissed on the half hour, left a bitter taste. Where Leeds needed calm and direction to exploit their advantage they came up with panic football and a committed twelve man Saints defence held on for the win. In the opening exchanges Goulding was the dominant force with some astute passes to willing runners and a variety of teasing kicks. Newlove and Joynt were the chief recipients of his promptings and a series of quick play the balls allowed St Helens the space to display their attacking confidence. An early penalty was quickly added to by a Joynt try fashioned by McVey, Goulding and Hammond. In danger of being submerged, a barnstorming run by Terry Newton through four tacklers just failed to find the supporting Holroyd, the Leeds loose forward electing to kick instead of pass but soon after Collins, Harris and Hay combined to send Blackmore barging over in the corner. Holroyd added the touchline conversion and Harris a penalty after another Newton break to level the scores ahead of Goulding's premature departure. The Rhinos retribution was immediate, Harris sent the newly arrived Sinfield clear and his superb pass gave Leroy Rivett the time and room to scorch clear in a flowing 70 metre move. Even before the dust could settle, Sinfield was limping off as Cummins and Chris Morley were heading for the sin-bin.

Saints came out for the second half determined to make an instant statement of intent and within nine minutes two Sullivan tries, carved out by Newlove and Arnold down the Leeds left, had put them ahead. Blackmore's strength again carved out a try after strong running from debutant Gareth Carvell to tie the scores at 18-18 but McVey's magnificent short ball gave Newlove just enough room to squeeze in at the corner on the hour mark. A Sean Long penalty with five minutes to go gave the Saints the will to hang on and Hammond's last gasp drop goal was the icing on their cake. The match at Central Park took on the auspices of a cup tie with a guaranteed top four spot up for grabs. Wigan's big guns, just coming back into ominous collective form, thrived on the pressure and whilst Leeds showed commendable effort from a young and inexperienced pack they were always second best. The Rhinos found it tough to make ground against a superbly marshalled defensive unit and every mistake was ruthlessly punished. Henry Paul burst through two defenders to make the score 16-0. Andy Farrell's try five minutes later as he bludgeoned up the middle put the game out of the Rhinos reach. A flourish just before half time saw Rivett

denied after the video ref ruled Blackmore had put a foot in touch in the lead up but an interval deficit of 22-0 was always going to be too high a mountain to climb without three first choice props.

There was plenty of spirit to admire in the Leeds second half performance and more encouraging signs from the latest two debutants Phil Cantillon and Darren Fleary. They were both just denied marking their Rhinos careers with a try in the same passage of play. After Lawford and Holroyd had finally got Rivett over in the corner, in the 64th minute, Leeds employed a short kick off which was scrambled back by impressive Adrian Morley. Cantillon's searing break up the middle was stopped by Radlinski a metre short of the tryline and from the play the ball Cleary was held on his back. By then, though, Wigan had already extended their unassailable lead with a classical centre's score off the back of a scrum by Gary Connolly and a try in the corner to Ellison on the powerplay which capitalised on some weak Rhinos defence out wide on the left. Harris continued to make arcing midfield breaks without support, Rivett showed bravery tidying up some varied Wigan kicks to his wing and Gibson ran well out of defence all night. Andy Johnson's last minute try after good work by Jason Robinson merely emphasised the difference in class and finishing between the sides. The Rhinos run in was always going to be the severest of tests and a hectic seven days schedule proved to be a hurdle too many.



ELIDA FABERGÉ

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Rhinos in the Community



The Leeds Rhinos Super League Squad are seen presenting certificates to the Under 11 age group who attended the Junior Rhinos Summer Coaching Clinics.

Members of the Junior Rhinos Club attended the highly successful Coaching Clinics held at the Leeds training ground during August. The clinics were organised by the club's Community Development scheme and special thanks must go to coaches Paul Fletcher, Mick Cook, Paul Daley and Tom McKenna for their expertise and patience.

All age groups were encouraged to attend and our youngest member Billy Ormondroyd, 4 years old, was awarded with the BFL Bronze Award.

Children were tested on their basic skills and all participants received the coveted BFL Rugby League Skills Lion Award.

The club hope to organise further coaching clinics during the close season.

BE A RHINOS MASCOT

All junior Rhinos members have a chance to be selected as mascot and as you can see they have a really special time. Bart Schofield, who is 7 and attends Inglebrook School in Pontefract, is seen below with Wayne Collins and Ronnie Rhino. Bart was mascot for the game with Sheffield Eagles.





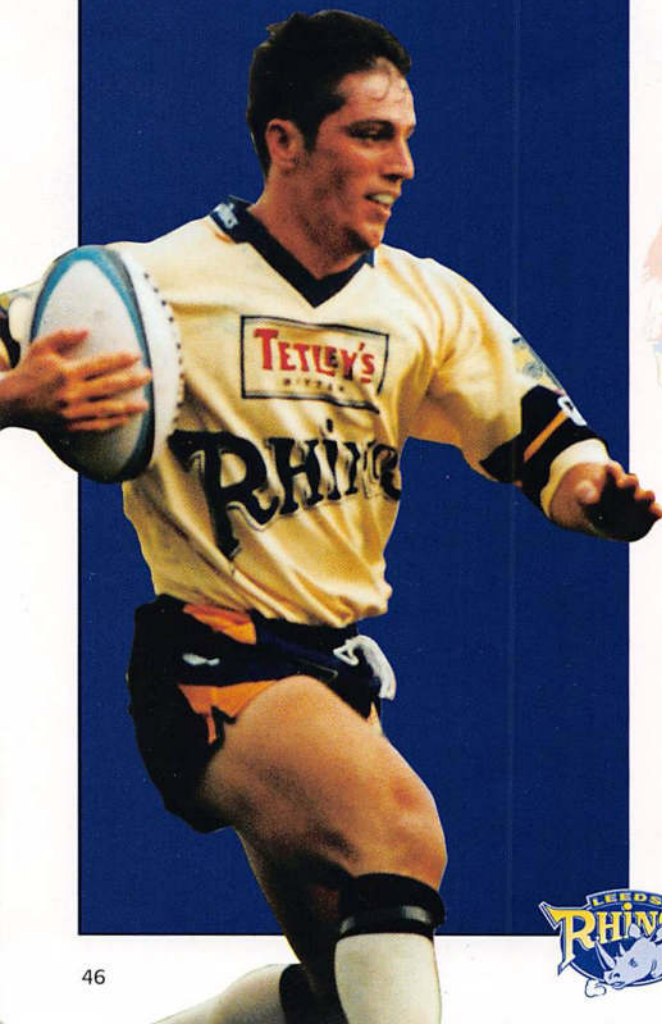
MAN OF THE MATCH

versus Sheffield Eagles

Friday 22 August 1997

Damian Gibson

Damian Gibson's form in the closing weeks of the season has given the Rhinos fans plenty to cheer about. The former North Queensland Cowboy's running from defence has been nothing short of sensational. Against Sheffield Eagles he showed all his attributes including some superb last ditch defence.



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FIXTURES 1997/98

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE
30 Aug	HARROGATE	Headingley
06 Sept	L'pool St Helens	Away
13 Sept	London Welsh	Away
20 Sept	Lydney	Away
27 Sept	MORLEY	Headingley
04 Oct	Pilkington 2	
11 Oct	Newbury	Away
18 Oct	NOTTINGHAM	Headingley
25 Oct	Otley	Away
01 Nov	Pilkington 3	
08 Nov	READING	Headingley
18 Nov	Rosslyn Park	Away
22 Nov	RUGBY	Headingley
26 Nov	TONGA	Headingley
20 Dec	Wharfedale	Away
27 Dec	WORCESTER	Headingley
03 Jan	Rugby	Away
10 Jan	ROSSLYN PARK	Headingley
17 Jan	Reading	Away
24 Jan	OTLEY	Headingley
31 Jan	Nottingham	Away
07 Feb	NEWBURY	Headingley
14 Feb	Morley	Away
21 Feb	LYDNEY	Headingley
07 Mar	LONDON WELSH	Headingley
14 Mar	L'POOL ST HELENS	Headingley
21 Mar	Harrogate	Away
11 Apr	Worcester	Away
25 Apr	WHARFEDALE	Headingley



The logo for 'Stones Super League' is located in the bottom right corner. It features the words 'STONES' and 'LEAGUE' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. Between them is a large, stylized, yellow 'S' that has a 3D, metallic appearance with highlights and shadows.

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13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

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