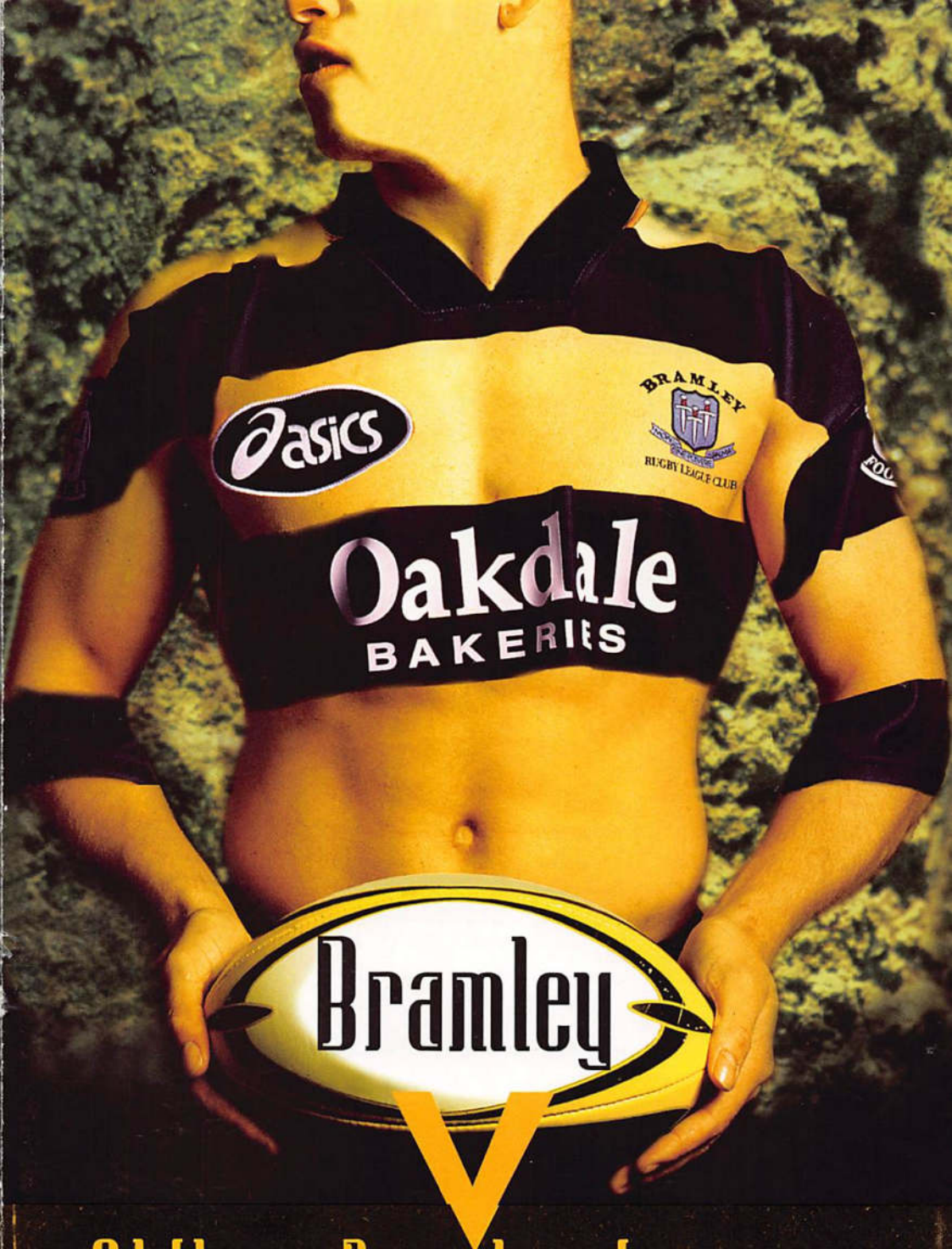




Oldham Roughyeds

WED 22nd APRIL
7.45pm

A VIEW FROM THE DUG OUT

BY PAUL FLETCHER



It is nice to be going into tonight's game sitting at the top of the table with two wins under our belt. We worked very hard over the Easter period to get the points and there were some notable performances. Glen Freeman, with 41 tackles in the Doncaster game, gave an outstanding display. He had also played in the game at York on Good Friday and to back up in such circumstances is tremendous.

I feel that Neil Kite and Dan Potter have benefited from the step up in levels. In both games they worked very hard and quickly showed how they have adapted to their new environment.

The York game was played in some of the worst conditions that I can remember but I thought that we worked really hard to get the result. It is the first time Bramley have won at the Ryedale Stadium and it was a great result for us. In the appalling conditions our ball control was excellent and our defence was superb.

Today we face an Oldham side who have just come down from Super League. They are rebuilding at the moment and they have put a useful side together. We are not getting carried away with our results so far and we realise that we will have to work very hard if we are to get the points this evening. We are a young side and, if we apply ourselves correctly, who knows what horizons we can reach.

A welcome from

Bill Clift

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I would like to welcome the Oldham Roughyeds to Headingley tonight and I look forward to a very competitive game.

The Bramley team has started the season with two league victories and I am informed by long serving supporters that this is the best start for twenty years!

It is important that we build up the support to match the results and if you all bring a friend to the next match then we will double the crowd!

For the game at York we took the Bramley Patrons and Sponsors on a coach trip to the Ryedale Stadium. Everyone had a very enjoyable evening and the hospitality shown by the York directors was first class. I would like to especially thank the players who gave a superb performance in what turned out to be atrocious conditions.

Enjoy the game and let us work together to build a family club.



On behalf of Bramley R.L.F.C. supporters club I would like to welcome the supporters of Oldham to tonight's game and wish them a safe journey home over the pennines. It's good to see Oldham here tonight after all their problems last season their supporters must have wondered whether they would have a team to support this season. Oldham are one of the oldest names in Rugby League and it would have been a tragedy had they been not allowed back into the league, but the way they were treated last season must have been very distressing to their supporters. At the time of writing these notes Bramley are sitting proudly on top of the division after two games. Two hard fought games have brought two narrow but well deserved victories, well done lads. I hope the controversy surrounding the Doncaster game is soon resolved as the club can do without adverse publicity.

I should have some details about the coaches to Cumbria in time for the next programme so watch this space.

I am still wanting volunteers for agents for the lottery as yet nobody has come forward and I can't do it on my own. Let's all get behind the team tonight and hopefully cheer them on to another victory and stay top of the league.

That's all for now - support the lads!

supporters club information

If anyone wishes to join the Supporters Club, book seats on the coaches or any other information please call me on

0113 248 6150

or see me in the bar after each game.

Steve Hunter
Chairman, Bramley RLFC
Supporters Club

B

TODAYS VISITORS

Oldham Roughyeds

BY STEVE HUNTER

It's safe to say that to drop from Super League to division two in one go would be enough to decimate any club. That Oldham have not only survived the experience but have come out of it much stronger, says a lot for the new management team that have come to the rescue of this famous old club.

Standing their corner in the ridiculous dispute with the RFL that saw them banned from the Challenge Cup, should leave no-one in doubt as to their ability to fight their way out of the situation that they were presented with when they took over the club at the start of the year.

Faced with the complete decimation of the playing staff, the new Board made their first masterstroke in appointing former scrum half Paddy Kirwan as coach. Kirwan is Oldham through and through and he has already started to mould what looks like a squad good enough to get out of this division at the first time of asking.

At the hub of things is skipper and scrum half, Neil Flanagan. The former Huddersfield and Rochdale player is the rock that Kirwan can build upon. He will receive sterling support

from veterans, Paul Round and Keith Atkinson. Both played for Oldham with Kirwan and will give, what is basically a young side, a lot of experience.

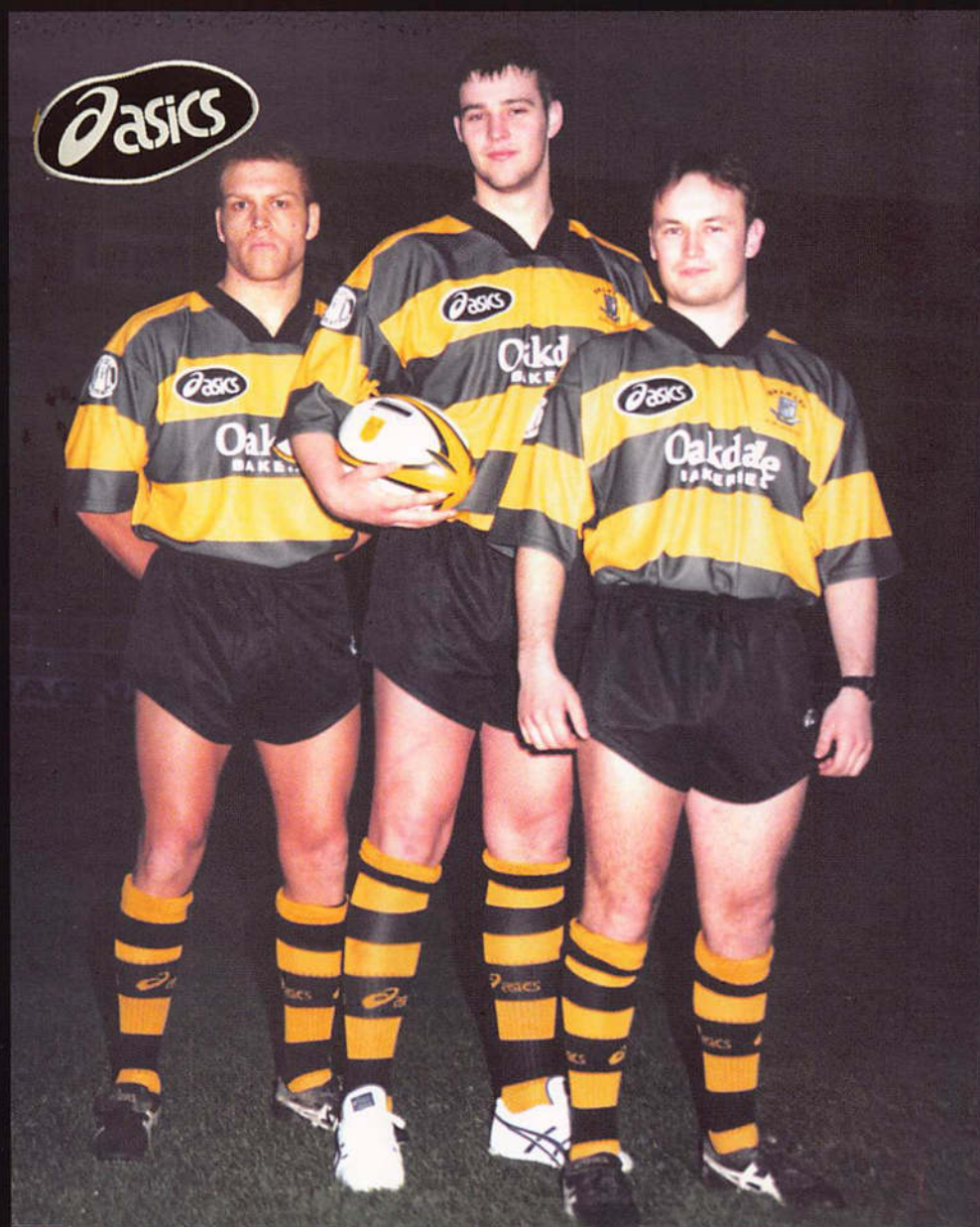
Of the new faces hooker John Hough, formerly of Warrington will need no introduction. He is a master at dummy half play and his quick breaks will cause plenty of problems for clubs this season. Ian Sinfield, formerly of Salford, is the brother of Leeds Academy star, Kevin and prop Jason Clegg has seen service with Bradford and Batley.

Former Bramley man Brian Quinlan is now settled at Oldham and Kirwan will be grateful that he is able to call on the services of Afi Leuila in the centre or on the wing. Leuila is one former Bear who didn't desert the sinking ship and his Super League experience will be vital this season.

These then are the men charged with helping to restore a great rugby tradition. It is unimaginable to see a rugby league without Oldham. Welcome back, the game needs you and everyone at Bramley hopes that you are able to regain your former status.

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fri april 17th	CASTLEFORD	7.45PM
fri april 24th	SALFORD	7.45PM
fri may 15th	WIGAN	7.45PM
fri june 5th	HUDDERSFIELD	7.45PM
fri june 19th	HALIFAX	7.45PM
fri july 3rd	BRADFORD	7.45PM
fri aug 14th	LONDON	7.45PM
fri aug 28th	SHEFFIELD	7.45PM
sun sept 6th	ST. HELENS	3.00PM
sun sept 20th	HULL	3.00PM



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SCrum HALF
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HOOKER
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TOP PIC
BRAMLEY
1998

RIGHT
BRAMLEY
1895

FAR RIGHT
BRAMLEY
1966

THE OPENING
MATCH AT
McCLAREN
FIELD



Vintage champagne for Bramley after 94-year wait

1973

Cheers—to Keegan and his merry men

INCREDIBLE. That's the only word for this schoolboy magazine version of the Floodlit Competition final in which little Bramley at last hit a trophy jackpot in their first final after 94 years of struggling.

The bonus and boost of a try in the first three minutes followed by a goal to give them a 5-0 lead only evened up a little Widnes's big advantage of playing at home.

Yet gradually it was borne in upon those watching that Bramley were going to accomplish a tremendous achievement.

INCREDIBLE it was because they did not get the ball from one of the seven first-half scrums.

INCREDIBLE because after only 17 minutes they lost their goal-kicker, scrum-half Barney Ward, split second architect of that first try with a cute kick to winger Jack Austin.

INCREDIBLE that they should win this trophy by recording the biggest ever Final score, surpassing neighbouring giants Leeds and Lancashire aces St. Helens.

It all worked like a charm just as Keegan had said. And Bramley did not even need possession from the scrums to make their dreams come true, to say nothing of their £70 winning pay packet. It would never have happened but for the tremendous forward play of Graham Idle, Tony Cheshire, David Sampson and their colleagues in the Bramley pack. They completely put to shame the Widnes set.

And Keegan revelled in the glory of being the man who had changed Bramley from the "club who had never been in a final," to the "club who have never lost a final."

Widnes 7 v Bramley 15

keegan
goodchild
hollan
hughes
austin
Widnes (t)
ward
briggs(d)
firth
cheshire
sampson
idle
mullins
huxley
aibman

1998 HOME FIXTURES

mon april 13th	DONCASTER	7.45PM
wed april 22nd	OLDHAM	7.45PM
wed april 29th	LANCASHIRE LYNX	7.45PM
sun may 17th	BATLEY	3.00PM
fri may 29th	WHITE ROSE TROPHY YORK WASPS	7.30PM
sun june 28th	BATLEY	3.00PM
sun july 5th	DONCASTER	3.00PM
sun july 26th	YORK WASPS	3.00PM
sun aug 23rd	WORKINGTON	3.00PM
sat sept 5th	BARROW BRAVES	3.00PM



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Over the hill, but not far away.

Oldham, our visitors today, have been through the excitement of Super League and the despair of oblivion in a matter of months. Whilst the fans of many clubs in the game have seen their favourites under financial threat, few could have imagined the speed at which the club went off the rails. Equally few would have predicted that a new club would bounce back so quickly in this Pennine hotbed of rugby league, and it is all credit to the energies of the new board.

I never liked clubs "over t'ill" in Lancashire in my younger days, but Oldham were the exception. In the 1950's they were always in the top four, winning the Championship in 1957 and the Lancashire Cup three years running from 1956. Despite this they often seemed to miss out on their entitlement to silverware and clubs like Wigan and St Helens seemed to attract the glamour. In later years Oldham became a yo-yo club, their record score a 70-10 hammering of Bramley in February 1995. But Oldham's experience in Super League has reminded us of the demands of the new era both on the field as well as off. Too few points, too few fans and insufficient capital meant that the demands of Super League were overwhelming, despite the move from the much loved but inadequate Watersheddings. Workington suffered similar trauma and the message must now be clear for all existing or aspiring Super League clubs. Murdoch monies at current rates will not be there forever. So Super League clubs need careful

planning now to ensure that their projected income from all activities is capable of meeting the costs of full-time professionalism, including professional back-up staff as well as being capable of running stadia fit for the millennium. Where this prospect does not immediately appear realistic clubs should put more energy into promoting a high level, exciting competition outside of Super League, on the lines of the Nationwide Football League, rather than attempting to jump too quickly into the fiery furnace of the elite competition. If this means collaboration between Super League clubs and those outside, on the lines of the Leeds/ Bramley links, then this should not be rejected. An increase of nine clubs into the RFL by the millennium, including existing amateur clubs as well as clubs in newer areas such as Gateshead and Hemel Hempstead, will require support from leading clubs in terms of expertise but also perhaps playing resources. When Hull played A team games at Goole during their glory days of the 80's it was proposed that they became a Goole club but linked with Hull. This fell foul of the bye-laws yet it would have brought new fans to the game, a new town on the RL map with every likelihood of success. Surely any new second division club, say within striking distance of London, should have links with the nearest Super League club, the Broncos, to provide the opportunity for those players from London who do not become full-time. Conversely such a club could help the development of young players. At the end of the day we are all in this great game together, Super League, FASDA and BARLA.

Welcome back Oldham!

the oval world of Cliff Spraklen

Bramley opened their division two season at Huntingdon Stadium on Good Friday in terrible conditions.

In driving rain, sleet and high winds defences were on top. Play went from end to end in the first half but actual scoring chances were few. The only score of the half was a coolly taken drop goal from David Gibbons sending Bramley in to the interval with a 1-0 lead. Playing in to the wind in the second half Bramley stuck to their task. A Kris Smith penalty made the score 3-0. After a lot of Bramley pressure the first try of the game went to Bramley when Macdonald crashed over the line. With the score at 7-0 the game entered its final stage with York desperate for points. Eventually Leigh Deakin forced his way over in the corner. A fine Chris Hopcutt conversion made the score 7-6 with ten minutes remaining. A nail biting finish was on the cards but our nerves were settled when Gavin Brown scored a great try to wrap up the match for Bramley. This was a great win and Bramley's first ever on this ground.

Scorers

York

TRY:

DEAKIN

GOAL:

HOPCUTT

Bramley

TRY:

MACDONALD,

BROWN

GOAL:

SMITH (2)

DROP GOAL:

GIBBONS

BRAMLEY 13

York Wasps 6

BY STEVE HUNTER

VIEW FROM THE TERRACES

Well we are well and truly into the new season now and things are looking good. I am writing this column before the Doncaster game and I hope we've done the business again and taken two points.

Our last away match at York was sensational, although the final scoreline was close you have to say the win was fully deserved in dreadful conditions with everything against us.

It was nice for the supporters who'd made the journey over to come away happy, and all who were there were full of admiration for the way the team played. Bramley supporters over the past few months have found it hard to support a team which has literally been fully replaced with fresh faces, but at York everything went back to normal and the support base once again felt they were supporting Bramley, there wasn't a lot of us and it was nice to be acknowledged by the team at the end.

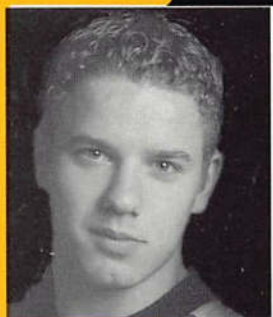
Tonight we are facing Oldham here at Headingley and it's going to be one tough encounter. Although up to writing this column Oldham have not played, I'm sure they are in for a successful season. The Oldham club reformed after Super League relegation last year must feel they have a point to prove, and I hope with the exception of tonight of course they prove it. We have all got to be pleased that their supporters have a team to follow, a league without Oldham is unthinkable, and I'm sure I speak for all supporters in wishing them all the best for the future.

Back to us now, the arrival of top quality loan players in Gavin Brown, Marvin Golden and Phil Cantillon is excellent and it would be good if they stayed in Bramley shirts all season! This Bramley team is the strongest I've seen in a long time and if we can play to our potential who knows what can happen this season.

BY R. HUNTER



DAN POTTER is one of the young players signed from Leeds Rhinos and, as a former member of the all conquering Leeds Rhinos Academy team, is used to being a winner and should be a great asset to Bramley.



Dan was born in 1978 and comes from York. He attended Milthorpe School in York and came to light playing for the New Earswick All Blacks Amateur team in York. He represented them at under 11 and under 16 levels. The team were League and Cup runners-up during his time with them.

Dan plays centre which is his favoured position and he says the biggest influences on his career so far are his dad and Gary Schofield. His ambition is to play in Super League (he also says his other ambition is to NOT drop the ball!).

His message to supporters is "keep coming, we are a young and inexperienced team but we have the talent, let's wait and see what develops".

player profile



Bramley

Oldham Roughyeds

FULL BACK

RIGHT WING

RIGHT CENTRE

LEFT CENTRE

LEFT WING

STAND OFF

SCRUM HALF

OPEN SIDE

HOOVER

BLIND SIDE

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOOSE FORWARD

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ANDY POYNTER
NEIL KITE
MARVIN GOLDEN
DAN POTTER
RICHARD STEAD
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GAVIN BROWN
EUGENE CURRIE
PHIL CANTILLON
RYAN MACDONALD
GLEN FREEMAN
WAYNE FREEMAN
KRIS SMITH
MICKEY HORNER
STEVE PICKLES
RICHARD TIFFANY
NICKY RENDER

1 ADE MEADE
2 CHRIS ECKERSLEY
3 AFI LEUILA
4 SEAN COOPER
5 CRAIG DIGGIE
6 CRAIG BARKER
7 NEIL FLANAGAN
8 JASON CLEGG
9 JOHN HOUGH
10 MIKE EDWARDS
11 GRAEME SHAW
12 IAN SINFIELD
13 MICK MARTINDALE
14 PAUL ROUND
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