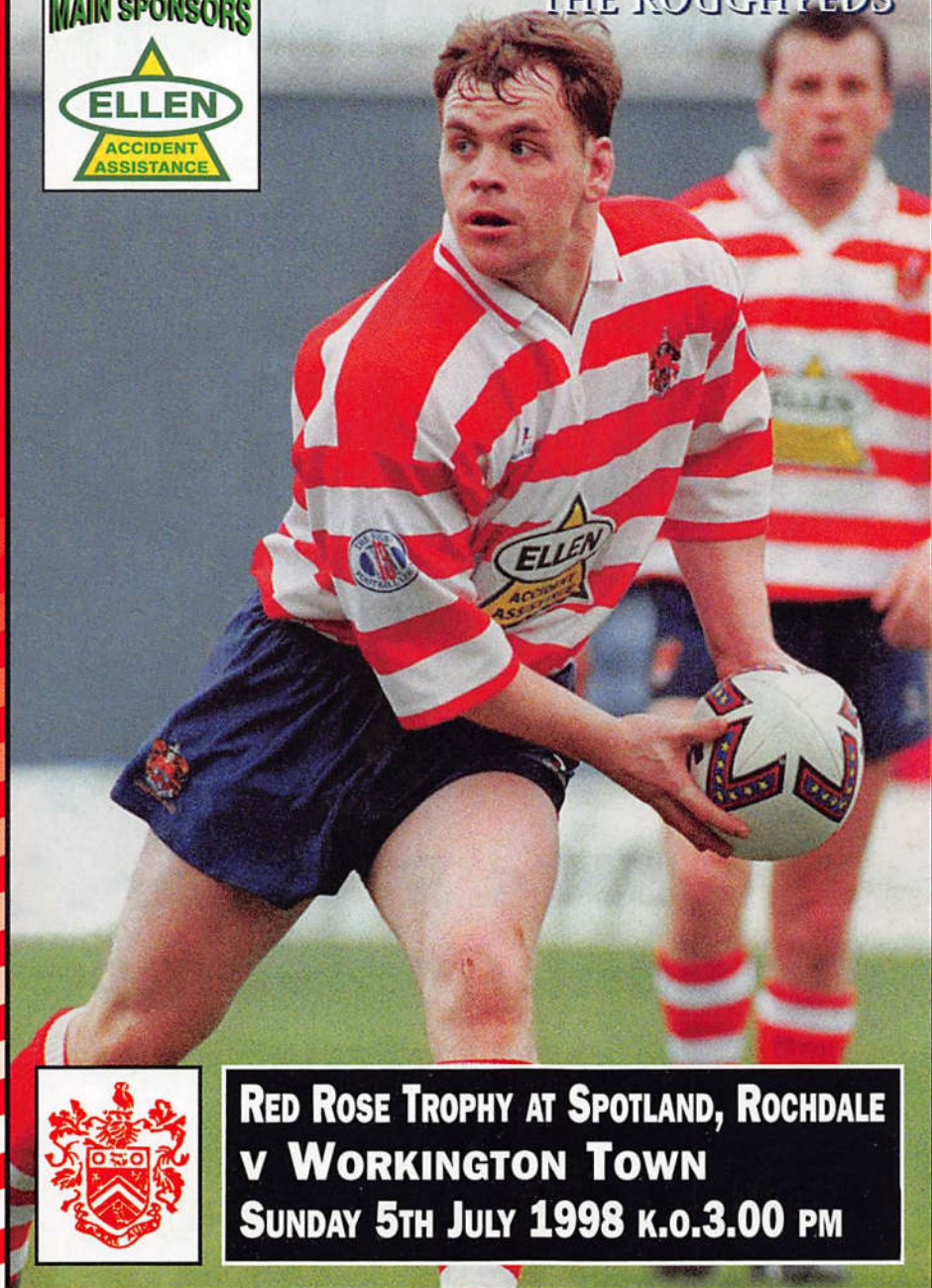


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Chairman's CHATTER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

THE visit of Workington Town takes on added importance after the disappointing events at Barrow last Sunday. Perhaps the team thought, like I did, that when our opponents were reduced to 12 men we had won the game. Unfortunately we all found to our cost that the game of Rugby League is one in which team work and determination can make all the difference, indeed our lads have shown that themselves this season, but on Sunday we got what we deserved - nothing! It is now important to pick up the pieces and take it out on Workington today! With this being the last game in the Red Rose Championship, a good performance and a convincing win would be especially welcome as it may propel us into the final of the competition...and a chance to further enhance our trophy cabinet!

Events off the field have again taken the headlines over the last couple of weeks, as seems to be the norm within Rugby League, with the ongoing 'feud' between Super League and FASDA making most of the news. Having only been "on the inside" of the game for a short time, I can tell you what immediately becomes apparent is the fact that clubs are only looking after their own interests. Most of you would perhaps think that is

the way it should be and obviously, at the end of the day I will do my level best for 'our' club. However, I cannot help wondering if the introduction of the News Corporation monies to all the clubs came with a set of blinkers for club representatives to wear. I say that because at the present time there is no real forward, long term planning for our game - at all levels - and such short-sightedness can only be harmful.

We at Oldham are in a unique position, as I have said previously, because we are not tainted (and I use that word specifically) by Sky money. I honestly do not believe that people have given sufficient thought to what happens to their clubs, or the sport, when the money has run out. It is blatantly obvious that there will be comparatively little or more likely, no monies from future Sky deals and the consequence of that and any remedies to it are, unfortunately, still only at the back of peoples minds. The leadership of the game needs to present a strong and united front if these challenges are to be met and I for one hope that they are not found wanting.

Be noisy.

Christopher Hamilton



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Oldham Evening Chronicle's HALSTEAD

Roger



WITH apologies for continuing the theme I touched on in the last programme, I would like to draw Super League's attention today to two Division Two games taking place in Red Rose territory.

The first is here at Spotland and features Oldham versus Workington.

The other is 35 miles away in Preston where Lancashire Lynx will be entertaining Barrow Border Raiders at Deepdale.

There will be more spectators at Spotland than at Deepdale - and in comparison with top Super League games there will not be a big crowd at either.

But those fans who are present at Division Two matches will be just as passionate and just as keyed-up as those watching Super League....so much so that I can well imagine the telephone lines between Spotland and Deepdale will be kept busy this afternoon as the Oldham and Lynx clubs fight for information about what is happening on the other side of the county.

In terms of the Red Rose Trophy - and qualification for the inter-county final and the chance of a £20,000 winners prize - Oldham and Lynx go into today's games locked together at the top of the table.

Each has seven points from five games, so everything will hinge on the outcome of Oldham v Workington and Lynx v Barrow.

Rugby league can always throw up the added shock, and both Oldham and Lynx will have to guard against over-confidence and will have to put as a priority the need for a win - even by one point to enhance their standings in the race for the Second Division Championship and promotion.

Victory for Division Two points is more important than a win for points in the subsidiary tournament, but I have no doubt at all that if and when Oldham and Lynx do enough groundwork to get on top they will each be seeking the tries and goals needed to finish top in the Red Rose.

Assuming for a moment that both Oldham and Lynx do the business and win - and I am well aware that assumptions can be very dangerous things in professional sport - the Roughyeds need to win by 14 or more points MORE than the margin with which Lynx beat Barrow.

It goes without saying that Paddy Kirwan's men will have to play better than they did last week at Barrow when their four match unbeaten run came to an end.

Nevertheless, the trip to Craven Park - Oldham's first since 1989 - proved once more that the heartbeat of Rugby League in the old, traditional towns is still strong and healthy.

I was particularly delighted to hear that Barrow are redeveloping the main stand and that it will be named after Willie Horne, that genius of goalkicking and outside-half player, who was such a kingpin of the great Barrow side of the 1950s.

Another member of that side, Reg Parker, was present at the game and he was quick to tell me how impressed he has been with the work of the new Barrow Board and its ambitious plans for the club in the future.

No doubt, the men in charge at Workington will be just as ambitious....and we all know what Christopher Hamilton and his three fellow directors are achieving on the new Oldham club's behalf.

Unlike, Barrow and Workington, the Roughyeds do not have a ground to call their own. Nor do they have any Murdoch funding in their inaugural season, but I am sure lots of clubs will be looking with interest at how Oldham go on this season.

They will perhaps be used as a benchmark for the future in the event of those clubs outside Super League finding that they have to go it alone without financial help from above.

Oldham are flying the flag for the traditionalists and are fighting back in some style with the backing of a magnificent band of supporters and a lot of assistance from the town's business community.

I have been pleasantly surprised at the standard of rugby in Division Two and the way in which clubs like Lancashire Lynx, Barrow and Workington are striving so hard, like Oldham, to show that Rugby League doesn't begin and end with Super League.

To be honest, I am enjoying the rugby at this level far more than Super League. I can't put my finger on the reason why.

It's just feels better: it feels like the old Rugby League when Workington, Oldham and Barrow were strong and healthy...when teams played Rugby League instead of five drives and a kick...when a stand off wore No.6 and a blind side prop No.10...when Teddy Cahill played full-back for Rochdale Hornets and when you wondered what things were coming to if there wasn't a Myler in the Widnes side.

Clubs like Oldham, Barrow and Workington are working desperately hard to bring back the atmosphere and the spirit of those real Rugby league days. All power to their elbows.



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Don Yates On This Day

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

DON YATES RECALLS THIS DAY IN HISTORY

IT WAS on this day in 1958, Saturday 5th July, that one of the most dramatic matches in Anglo-Australian test history was fought out before a crowd of 33,563 at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground.

Great Britain had lost the first test so had to win in Brisbane to stand any chance of retaining the Ashes. After five minutes prop-forward and skipper Alan Prescott (St. Helens) broke his arm but courageously played on for 75 minutes in that condition. Ten minutes later stand-off Dave Bolton (Wigan) broke his collar bone and was eventually forced to retire from the match. Other injuries suffered by Britain included Warrington fullback Eric Fraser bursting a blood vessel in his elbow, Warrington centre Jim Challinor suffering a badly bruised shoulder and St Helens loose-forward Vince Karalius badly bruising his spine. All five players had to receive hospital treatment after the match. Despite these serious set backs, Britain produced a magnificent performance which resulted in a 25-18 victory and eventual retention of the Ashes. The headline in the Sydney Telegraph the following morning read, 'AUSTRALIA OUTCLASSED BY A TEAM OF CRIPPLES'.

Sadly, on the same day, Saturday 5th July 1958, former Australian back-row test forward Frank Burge died aged 63 years. Burge was a prolific try scorer who, in a career embracing 213 first grade matches, scored 218 tries. He toured Britain with the 1921-22 Kangaroos, scoring 33 tries in 23 tour games. Five of those tries were scored in a 29-6 victory over Lancashire on the Everton soccer ground. The Toffees thought that he would make an excellent goalkeeper and chased him for weeks, offering him a £3,000 signing-on fee, an amazing sum of money in those days. Burge declined the

offer, preferring instead to play the game he loved.

On Sunday, 5th July 1992, New Zealand met Papua New Guinea at Carlaw Park, Auckland in a World Championship qualifying match. The Kiwis had to win by a margin of 109 points in order to qualify for the final. New Zealand scored two tries in the opening four minutes and ran in 13 touchdowns altogether but they had to settle for a 66-10 victory. Winger Richie Blackmore led the try scoring with three but full-back Matthew Ridge could land only four goals from ten attempts before handing over the substitute Daryl Halligan who converted all three of his efforts.

Four years previously, on Tuesday 5th July 1988, Papua New Guinea enjoyed a more comfortable evening when they registered a 38-12 victory over Waikato at Huntly.

It was on this day in 1924, Saturday 5th July, that the British Lions defeated Central Queensland 34-20 at Rockhampton. Swinton winger Frank Evans led the scoring with three of the eight British tries.

The last British team to win a test series in Australia were the 1970 Lions who, on this day, Sunday 5th July, defeated Southern New South Wales 24-11 before a 7,796 crowd at Wollongong. Stand-off Roger Millward was outstanding in that match, scoring a hattrick of tries and three goals just 24 hours after starring in Britain's third test victory.

Back to Britain where, on this day in 1996, Friday 5th July, Bradford Bulls pulled off a remarkable 50-22 victory over St. Helens at Odsal. It was Saints' biggest defeat of the season by far but they recovered to clinch the Super League Championship to go alongside their earlier Challenge Cup victory.



Comments from THE COACH

THE last two weeks have shown how quickly fortunes can change for any team, in any sport. At home to promotion favourites Lancashire Lynx we produced our best attacking display of the season for the last twenty minutes of the first half. After going down 10-2 we produced some excellent football and support play to score 18 points without reply. Instrumental in all four tries was Mick Martindale, producing a superb inside pass for Stephen Wilde to go 49 yards to the corner then putting in Aidie Mead at the corner, being involved in the build up to Stephen Wilde's second try and then crashing over himself before half time.

In the second half Lynx came out really strongly and in this tough second period we gave away too many silly penalties and got drawn into playing one man rugby. This allowed Lynx to play most of the second half in our territory. With the amount of pressure and territorial advantage they had I thought it was a great defensive effort on our part to restrict them to two tries, both from field kicks.

Overall, Stephen Wilde deserved his man of the match award, but there were other big performances from Mick Martindale, Afi Leuila, Paul Round and Mickey Edwards when he came on a substitute.



At Barrow, we expected a tough physical game and that is exactly what we got. We gave away a soft try in the first few minutes but then competed well for the whole of the first half. I was fairly

confident going in at half time 4-2 down, especially as Barrow had just had a player sent off. For the first 10 minutes of the second half we applied all the pressure but failed to cross the line. A couple of mistakes in their 25 allowed Barrow off the hook and gave them the confidence to come back at us. Even so with 20 minutes

remaining the game was there for the taking but for some reason we got the jitters and handed over the ball in our own half on several occasions. Barrow took full advantage of our mistakes and scored 3 tries directly from our loss of possession.

Our defeat squeezes up the division yet again and keeps Barrow in the promotion hunt. We have to pull away from the defeat, learn where we went wrong and put it right the next time we visit Barrow.

Today, we entertain Workington, who will be looking to avenge the defeats we inflicted on them at Derwent Park and obviously it is important for us to perform well to ensure a place in the Battle of the Roses final.

Paddy Kirwan



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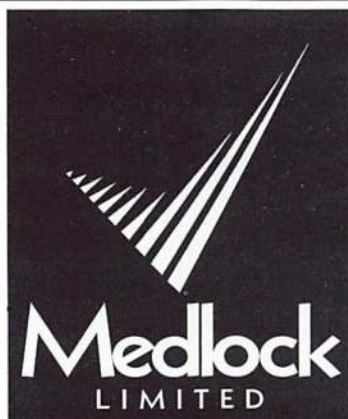
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The Medlock Team wish the Oldham players, staff and directors every success for the future and look forward to us being a major force in Rugby once again

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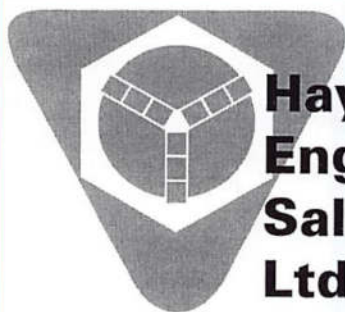
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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

We wish to send out a warm Oldham Rugby League welcome to the Players, Supporters and Junior members of Workington.

What a wonderful achievement for Oldham Rugby League to have reached the top of the Second Division. Well done to all the Players, Coaching staff and the Directors.

Our Mascot for today's match is **Lisa Wooley**. Lisa is 10 years old. Her favourite player is Brian Quinlan.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish **Happy Birthday** to the Junior Roughyeds sharing birthdays in July.

2nd July	Lauren Wolstenholme
4th July	Danny Leech
8th July	Dean Leech
8th July	Michael Gough
16th July	Kim Broadbent
17th July	Alison Newton
18th July	Andrew Hall

The Mascot for the day against Barrow Braves on the 17th May was Sarah Robinson. This what Sarah thought of her day:-

THE DAY I WAS MASCOT

My name is Sarah Robinson. I have been an Oldham fan for as long as I can remember. I go to all the matches mostly with my dad and grandad.



When I was picked out for mascot against Barrow I was delighted and so were my family even though it as my second time.

My favourite players are Mick Martindale and Neil Flanagan. I enjoyed the day and a good win too. WELL DONE OLDHAM.

The next Junior Roughyeds meeting will be begin at 7pm at the Pennine Lounge on the 6th July 1998.

Debra Rafferty

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Wilson Irving CELEBRITY



"STRONG BY NAME, STRONG BY NATURE" WILSON IRVING, OLDHAM RLFC AND CAPTAIN OF THE FIRST WORKINGTON TEAM in an interview with Brian Walker.

Jimmy Parkinson former Oldham and Cumbrian full back and then Oldham club official knew the Cumbrian

rugby scene better than most. Jimmy had turned up in the sleepy Moss Bay area of Workington, booked a room at the Moss Bay Hotel, placed 100 £1 notes around the table and waited for the knock on the door.

Workington Zebras scrum half, Wilson Irving, had just returned north after turning out the previous Saturday for Oldham 'A' against Halifax 'A' - 'Strong by name, Strong by nature' read the green final headlines on the Mumps Station news stand. By the time the steam train pulled out on the first leg of the long return journey to Cumberland, the young scrum half had half a dozen copies tucked under his arm. To protect his Rugby Union anonymity 'Strong' was the name pencilled into the Oldham team sheet.

To an 18 year old Cumbrian miner having spent his first ever night away from home (not to mention in an hotel - the Red Lion, Cross Street, where the trams kept him awake all night) his impression of Oldham was a bit like what you would expect from an Oldhamer who in 1938 left the town to arrive in Manhattan!

He had plenty to relay back to his father about his cotton town experiences especially the news he had been offered £100 to take the pro ticket - 'Ask for £110 came the reply'.

Never before having seen £100 in one place at one time, Wilson did not take too much persuading particularly as the offer was to include accommodation and a job on the Watersheddings groundstaff.

'Digs' were in Carlton Avenue, Watersheddings

with local Justice of the Peace Mrs Fanny Yearn where he struck up an immediate friendship with fellow lodger and young Welsh pro Verdun Rhydderch and was also in good company with fellow Cumbrians Fred Ashworth, Joe McNally and Bert Ambler already at the club.

Wilson Irving's name appeared for the first time on the first team sheet on the 5th February 1938 for the home game against Huddersfield who by coincidence the same day paraded their new capture from Oldham, full back Bob Cattlin.

The young scrum half was soon introduced to Rugby League reality and spent the next five weeks on Wainright Ward, Oldham Royal Infirmary recovering from a cartilage operation!

Irving's Oldham career was soon severely curtailed by military call up prior to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Marrying Waterhead girl Elsie Taylor just before the Christmas of '39 the only rugby Wilson was to play before the cessation of hostilities was the occasional Union game with the Royal Artillery.

Returning to Watersheddings in the Spring of 1945 coincided with the news that attempts were

being made to get a professional Workington side into the soon to be reformed Rugby League Championship. Wilson not only received the invitation to return to Cumbria but to captain the new club. Terms were quickly struck with Oldham and Irving did indeed captain the side in their first match against Broughton Rangers which they won 27-5 in front of a 4000 crowd.

Workington finished that first season 19th out of a League of 27. Wilson Irving played for 3 more seasons (also representing Cumberland) and with the arrival of the mercurial Gus Risman in 1946 the springboard was in place for the Workington team to win the League Championship in 1951

and the Challenge Cup at Wembley in '52!

I had the pleasure to meet up with Wilson before the Oldham game at Derwent Park last month. Now 79 Wilson has nothing but pleasant memories of his time in Oldham and with his wife still returns to the town on occasions.

He rightly points out that what Workington achieved in the late 40's can be mirrored by the Roughyeds in the 90's!



Frank Foster INTERVIEWS

"THE ROUGHYEDS"



Following on from the recent article which featured ex "Roughyeds" loose forward Derek Turner, this week we are treated to an expose from another formidable Oldham forward from the past, Frank Foster a ball playing prop forward of the highest calibre and excellent field kicker takes the spotlight, again the subject of an interview with Brian Walker.

Frank signed for Oldham in January 1972, having already played for six years at Workington, six years at Hull K.R., and two years each at Bradford Northern and Barrow. So it was as a seasoned professional with test match and county honours that Frank arrived at Watersheddings. Strangely enough Frank's one test appearance was in the loose forward position against the 1967 touring Australians. However, it is as a tough, uncompromising and extremely skilful prop forward that Frank is best remembered. Of his front row contemporaries he rated, amongst others, Dennis Hartley, Cliff Watson, Mick Clark and John Warlow. His main regret was missing out on the 1968 World Cup series in Australia when Hull K. R. team mate Bill Holliday was selected, though unfit, and did not play in any of the games.

Frank says that the biggest influence on his career were three times GB tourist Brian Edgar and Cumbrian rugby guru Tom Mitchell, the long serving Workington Town official, who instilled into his charges a "proud to be Cumbrian" mentality.

Of his time at Oldham he remembers that after his arrival the playing fortunes of the club, which had been struggling, turned round completely and all but one of the remaining thirteen first team fixtures were won with the only defeat coming to a last minute try at Warrington. The decision to come to Watersheddings came after an approach by coach Graham Starkey and Frank's opinion was that with players of the quality of Irving, Murphy, McCone, Wilson and recently signed Cliff Hill, the prospects looked good.

Recalling his Oldham days he thought Bob Irving was among the best team mates he ever played with and was amazed that Oldham managed to retain his services for so long. He

also had much praise for the ball winning skills of the Kevin Taylor/Ken Wilson partnership and full back Martin Murphy who Frank reckoned was every bit the equal of GB star, Paul Charlton. Amongst his playing colleagues at his other clubs, Roger Milward at Hull K. R. and Harry Archer at Workington are singled out for special praise.

Renowned for being one of the games "hardmen", when asked about his "hardest" opponents Frank lists Derek Turner, who like himself was never the biggest man in the pack and a somewhat less than obvious choice the ex Swinton half back George Parkinson.

After his spell with Oldham, Frank went on to be the coach at Barrow for ten years and he still lives in the Furness town.

He plays bowls, has four grandchildren, spends time at his caravan in the Southern Lakes and still watches "Super League" on TV, which Frank describes as a different sport - but he enjoys it all the same.



A team photograph of the 1972 Oldham squad featuring Frank Foster and further details of that season are included in today's "From the Pen of Michael Turner".



Today's VISITORS

GRAEME CLOSE

Diminutive utility back who has linked up with Town following spells with Salford and Warrington, prior to which he learned his trade as a junior in Wigan. Has a keen 'footballing brain' and has made an immediate impact in the Derwent Park ranks as an organiser.

STEVE ARNOLD

Back. First graduated into League life with the Woolston amateur club, then moved on to Warrington's pro club. Now the former Wolves junior has joined the Town Wilderspool brigade at Derwent Park. Plays in the three-quarters or fullback with equal distinction. Has deceptive pace and tackle-beating ability.

MATEAKI MAFI

Winger/centre. Made the long journey from the beautiful island of Tonga to seek a League career. A South Seas 'flying machine' who made an immediate impact with Town fans although primarily a raw recruit learning the RL trade. He has now made a big improvement in his defensive game which, allied to his well documented pace, (ie. a former Olympian) makes him a force to be reckoned with in this division.

DENNIS BIBBY

Three-quarter. It must be said this young Penrith man has endured a see-saw Town career. An Academy product with commitment that was second to none, Dennis invariably struggled to make first team ranking, having a loan spell at Carlisle to gain experience. Now back in Town contention he is keen to prove his worth, and was very impressive in the early season encounters.

CARL RODEN

Halfback. A Warrington Academy graduate, where he is still highly regarded, who joined Town last season. Carl plays either six or seven, although recent trials at hooker have added an extra dimension to his skills. His game plan efficiency is excellent, being a reliable distributor and tactician.

CRAIG FISHER

Scrum Half. Former Town Academy regular, now accepted as a first team corner stone. A nippy runner is 'kipper', probably prefers a 'dry track' in keeping with all the games diminutive tricksters. He has also established his role as the

team's number one goalkicker, and is becoming increasingly reliable in that vital trade.

DAMIEN WHITTER

Forward. Another former Wilderspool player. Damien's physique and visual presence was exactly what was required to scare opponents and boost the rather lightweight looking Town pack of last season. When either driving in at first man (always a daunting task) or holding the defensive line Damien has provided rock solid effectiveness.

DANIEL SOWERBY

Hooker. Always regarded as the 'Mr Fitness' of Derwent Park. Daniel never stops working throughout a game. Joined Town in '95 as a raw Academy recruit, initially as a back. However the move to the pack brought out the best from a talented young man who can generate so much enthusiasm for rugby league that he will make it to the top surely.

SCOTT WALKER

Forward. Origins at Hensingham, then Scott moved south for a spell at Widnes. His return to Cumbria has seen him don the colours of main rivals Whitehaven, Egremont Rangers, and now Town. He seems well settled at Derwent Park, where fans enjoy the sight of his aggressive charges.

BARRY WILLIAMS

Forward. Joined Town from Carlisle, having had a previous successful loan spell. No one can deny opinions that Baz is a top class player, with talent to burn. His ability to charge and 'offload' is second to none in the game. Unfortunately his Town career has been rather of a stop-start fashion owing to niggling injuries. Once fully pain free and 100% fit Barry will be utilised as a major destructive weapon for Town, no doubt about it.

JASON MOORE

Forward. A Maryport lad who joined Town from the famous Elbra Rangers amateurs. Jason is a chunky but very mobile forward who takes a lot of putting down when he hits the line at pace, and is also a keen defensive worker never taking a backward step.

PETER RILEY

Forward. A long-serving 'Townie' having just completed his benefit year. Peter has had a rather yo-yo Town vocation but served it with creditable distinction and has remained loyal to the Club

throughout both good and bad times. His experiences within the game will be a very useful asset to the many youngsters now progressing through the ranks at Derwent Park.

NICKY CRELLIN

Forward. A gentle giant of a young man, who is another junior product from Town's Academy school. Still very much on a learning curve but looks capable of making a big impact in Rugby league, once he acquires an aggressive streak.

STEVE MAGUIRE

Forward. A new recruit this season to the Town ranks, but of course not a stranger to the Derwent Park set up. He originally came to Town in 1982 as a stand off and remained for five years, enjoying mixed success during some lean years for the Club. He subsequently has served Barrow and Whitehaven as a creative back row forward very effectively. Now he can demonstrate those matured talents 'back home', and will surely provide effective input for the less experienced members of the Town camp.

ANTHONY SAMUELS

Forward. A rough, tough, New Zealand import, who firstly came to our shores and tried his luck with Widnes before trekking further north. Hopefully will really settle in here at Workington and can add some much needed qualities, of strength and aggression, to the Town pack.

MARK KEENAN

Back. An ex-Academy product who in those early days starred as a wily, tricky and aggressive scrum half. Progressed through Alliance football in similar fashion, then was transformed into a very talented winger in Town's superleague days. Injury has enforced a longer-than-wished-for lay off recently, but once fully recovered 'Keeno' will return to tantalise and torment opposing defences.

MIKE BETHWAITE

Back. Another talented player plagued by injuries. Mike's career with Town saw him initially take on the number six jersey, always being a prominent member in the Alliance grade, with a good kicking game. A change to the hooking role never hampered his ability, and indeed he became an accomplished number nine during the club's superleague spell.

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MATCH BY MATCH 1998

	At	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
JANUARY																			
1 Thurs	ROCHDALE H (Law Cup)	H3.06	30-18	Mead	Eckersley	Wilde	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Gunst	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Prescott	Jackman	Robinson	Round	Levitt
19 Sun	HEWORTH (RLCC 3rd Red Prelim)	A3.00	29-14	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Prescott	Robinson	Eckersley	Clegg
FEBRUARY																			
1 Sun	WIDNES (RLCC 3rd Red)	H3.00	45-18	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Eckersley	Clegg
APRIL 1998																			
10 Fri	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H4.00																	
13 Mon	WORKINGTON TOWN	A3.00	13-14	22-18	Mead	Darke	Levitt	Cooper	McNicholas	Barker	Flanagan	Clegg	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round
22 Wed	BRAMLEY	A7.45	10-0	10-12	Wilde	Darke	Levitt	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Round
26 Sun	DONCASTER DRAGONS	A3.00	10-50	25-8	Wilde	Darke	Levitt	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Varley	Martindale	Robinson	Round
MAY																			
4 Mon	BRAMLEY	H3.00	29-21	32-50	Mead	Darke	Levitt	Wilde	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Nadrole	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson	Varley
10 Sun	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H3.00	19-29	29-20	Wilkinson	Mead	Levitt	Ophers	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Nadrole	Martindale	Robinson	Varley
17 Sun	BARNOW BORDER RAIDERS	H3.00	19-7	13-4	Wilkinson	Mead	Levitt	Darke	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Nadrole	Martindale	Sinfield	Varley
24 Sun	YORK	A3.00	14-52	6-27	Wilkinson	Darke	Levitt	Cooper	Eckersley	Barker	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadrole	Martindale	Mead	Sinfield
31 Sun	RR LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00	13-51	16-18	Wilde	Mead	Darke	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Robinson	Edwards	Nadrole	Shaw	Martindale	Sinfield	Varley
JUNE																			
7 Sun	RR WORKINGTON	A3.00	10-57	27-10	Wilde	Darke	Levitt	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Hough	Shaw	Sinfield	Nadrole	Martindale	Mead	Clegg
14 Sun	RR BARNOW B & B (at Workington)	H3.00	10-8	32-4	Wilde	Darke	Levitt	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Proctor	Nadrole	Sinfield	Mead	Crook
19 Fri	RR LANCASHIRE L (at Workington)	H7.30	18-58	25-20	Wilde	Mead	Levitt	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Round	Hough	Proctor	Sinfield	Nadrole	Martindale	Crook	Edwards
28 Sun	RR BARNOW BORDER RAIDERS	A3.00	13-33	2-18	Wilde	Darke	Levitt	Cooper	Eckersley	Wilkinson	Flanagan	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadrole	Martindale	Mead	Crook
JULY																			
5 Sun	RR WORKINGTON	H3.00																	
19 Sun	RR FINAL																		
26 Sun	LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00																	
AUGUST																			
7 Sun	WORKINGTON	H3.00																	
16 Sun	DONCASTER	H3.00																	
23 Sun	BATLEY	A3.15																	
30 Sun	BARNOW BORDER RAIDERS	A3.00																	
SEPTEMBER																			
6 Sun	YORK	H3.00																	

APPEARANCES & SCORERS....SEASON 1998 TO DATE

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts		Apps	Subs	Tries	Goals	D.G.	Pts
19 Sun	9	-	2	-	-	8	Joe McNicholas	3	-	2	-	-	8
26 Sun	1	6	-	-	-	-	Aide Mead	8	3	1	-	-	12
							Joe Nadrole	9	-	1	-	-	4
							Mick Prescott	1	5	-	-	-	4
							Andy Proctor	5	-	-	-	-	-
							Brian Quinlan	2	-	-	6	-	12
							Darren Robinson	1	7	2	-	-	8
							Paul Round	8	6	3	-	-	12
							Graeme Shaw	10	3	2	-	-	8
							Ian Sinfield	6	4	-	-	-	-
							Nathan Varley	1	10	-	-	-	-
							Steve Wilde	10	-	5	-	-	20
							Chris Wilkinson	8	-	-	19	3	41
							Does not include Law Cup and Friendlies						

Best Wishes for the Season  Seton Healthcare Group plc

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OLDHAM 1998 The Roughyeds

Back Row: Michael Edwards, Chris Eckersley, Brian Quinlan, Nathan Varley, Paul Round, Graeme Shaw, Keith Atkinson, Craig Diggie, Sean Cooper.

Middle Row: Paddy Kirwan (Coach), Darren Robinson, Graig Barker, Richard Darkes, Jason Clegg, Martin Maders, Andy Fleming, Afi Leuila, Steve Wanless (Physio), Mick Coates (Asst. Coach),

Front Row: Michael Prescott, Steven Wilde, Neil Flanagan, John Hough, Ian Sinfield, Aidrian Mead, Joe McNicholas.

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GUEST WRITER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"



Sam Shepherd, one of Oldhams most famous referees, former head-master, now retired, lives in the town, rarely misses an Oldham game and is still active as a referees assessor.

Reading the superb recent programme article by

'Guest Writer' George Worthington certainly stirred some fond memories! George now living in Devon is both a former Oldham head teacher and neighbour of mine. For years George was a member of the old Oldham club and a regular of Watersheddings 'E' stand. Incidentally George can be seen on page 35 of Michael Turners Oldham R.L. 'bible' standing on the terraces of Hunslet's old Parkside ground clad in overcoat, cap and gloves, shielding his eyes from the winter sun! (Did I say winter?)

One of my earliest of many fond memories of the Oldham club was being persuaded by my father to travel down from York to watch the '54 Lancashire Cup Final against Barrow. As usual, father wanted to be able to 'lean' against a barrier, so I spent from 1 o'clock 'til 3 watching the grass grow and alas what was to come later was not much more exciting - the Oldham team was never in it, even though we had already beaten them twice that season! Anyway we were already into the 14 match unbeaten run against Wigan and with hindsight I suppose we all eventually took solace from that.

To the more recent past. What an emotional experience it was on New Years Day at Spotland to see Oldham turn out in the old familiar strip, jogging

memories of players and games gone by. We are indeed indebted to the Chairman and his Board for their courage in resurrecting professional Rugby in the town.

Anyway to the point - my interest in refereeing began in 1957 encouraged and stimulated by R.L. (Dickie) Thomas and subsequently I joined the Oldham Referees Society. By the 60's we could boast 4 Grade 1 Refs, Dickie Thomas, Alex Givons, Terry Keane and myself. Currently Alan Burke is our only Grade 1 but we must not forget our quota of top class touch judges, Paul Hewitt (officiated at Wembley on 3 occasions), John Ward (can also claim Wembley on his CV), and of course Fred Royales and Tony Martin both operate on the Super League lines.

Without doubt the most distinguished Oldham referee was Bill McCutcheon. Signed in 1891 by Oldham from South Wales the three quarter was to gain 7 Welsh RU International Caps and win a Triple Crown medal. Retiring as a player Bill was to go on to be an International Referee, club committee member and was President of the Club when Oldham won the Challenge Cup in 1925.

I was fortunate to have officiated at a time when there were plenty of refereeing 'characters' - Clay, Wilson, Manley, Gelder, Coates, Davies and Geraghy, spring readily to mind. Regrettably though there is now a serious shortage of quality officials, although I find no lack of advice for the ref from those around me at the games! They SOUND knowledgeable, so to find out I pose 2 very basic questions-

a) When the referee awards a penalty, is he penalising a player or the team? and b) what are the 4 choices available to the kicker after a penalty award?

Regards, Sam Shepherd.

Iva Slateloose

Guest Writer

PEN PICTURES - WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN
RENOWNED FOR HIS TACKLING - *Can't catch or pass a ball*

ONE FOR THE FUTURE - *Not much good, but we need him to make up the squad.*

PLAYER WITH A LOT OF POTENTIAL - *Useless*

A STRONG RUNNER - *Can't tackle*

EXPECTING GREAT THINGS THIS SEASON - *Hopeless last year*

CHUNKY BUT MOBILE - *You fat bastard!*

STEPPED UP FROM THE ACADEMY SIDE - *We don't pay enough to get decent players*

SPELLS WITH MORE CLUBS THAN YOU CAN COUNT - *Trouble Maker!*

VERY POPULAR WITH THE CROWD - *Dirty Sod!*

NEVER SHIRKS A CHALLENGE - *Thick as two short planks*

ALWAYS READY TO OFFLOAD - *Doesn't like being tackled*

SPEEDY AND ELUSIVE - *Fanny merchant!*

HIS EXPERIENCE WILL PROVE INVALUABLE - *Old bugger past his best*

HAS NOW BROKEN INTO THE FIRST TEAM SQUAD - *We have a lot of injuries*

EQUALLY AT HOME AS... - *Doesn't know what his best position is*

HIGHLY THOUGHT OF BY THE COACHING STAFF - *Yes man!*

WILL ADD COMPETITION FOR PLACES - *Not good enough to be first choice*

HAS HAD EXPERIENCE IN SYDNEY CLUB FOOTBALL - *Overpaid, talentless Aussie*

BEEN INVOLVED IN RUGBY LEAGUE MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE - *Can't get a proper job*

TRAINED HARD IN THE OFF SEASON - *Unfit!*

ELDER STATESMAN - *Played when Jeff Grayshon was a boy*

GOOD UNDER A HIGH BALL - *Can't bend down*



From The EDITOR

A RECENT letter in League Express from a reader in Workington purported to show that attendances for summer rugby in 1997 were higher in the first half of the season than in the second.

An obvious explanation would be that fans of clubs with disappointing results do not attend in such large numbers once they see how their Club's season is going. Since, however, we are talking averages here, would this not be offset by supporters of successful clubs attending in greater numbers as the season reached its climax? Our correspondent's view was, I believe, that summer rugby was a failure, particularly because July, August and September are peak holiday months.

Now, while I am not necessarily agreeing with this view, I have always been surprised that rugby league did not test the water first before going over lock, stock and barrel to summer rugby. After all major companies like Cadbury or ICI spend millions on test marketing any new product they are thinking of introducing. Not so rugby league. We just took a leap in the dark. And since many supporters remain unconvinced about summer rugby it might, at the very least, have been a good idea to undertake a thorough-going statistical analysis of several seasons of winter rugby to ascertain what trends and patterns applied and whether a switch of seasons might reasonably have been expected to produce an improvement in overall attendances.

All of which leads me to Paul Marshall's letter in the last programme. In short no-one

knows why there was such a large difference in Oldham's attendances between the first games played at Boundary Park and Spotland and the second game at each venue. Except, of course, that January 1st and May 4th were both Bank Holidays. This suggests that public holidays produce better attendances which also suggests that the loss of the Good Friday fixture against Lancashire Lynx was a bigger catastrophe than at first sight appears.

The second factor I would throw into the equation is the extraordinary fixture list. It can be of benefit to none of the Second Division sides to have three home games, followed by three away, followed by another three at home. Spectators who only attend at home and are on a limited budget become selective, especially if they attend as a family. Some will attend two out of three, others perhaps only one out of three and I have no doubt that some have said to themselves, 'I've seen Barrow once, so I'll miss the next Barrow game and watch Lancashire Lynx instead'. Of course ground availability is part of the reason for the way the fixtures fall, but this only emphasises the need to be in control of your own destiny with a ground of your own or one in which you have a vested interest.

Finally, I watched Swinton play Widnes in an excellent First Division game a fortnight ago. All the game lacked was a crowd better than the 1,349 who did attend. Now if all the people I saw sat outside the pubs and parked in the retail parks on my way to the ground had actually been at Gigg Lane . . . !

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From the Supporters Club

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

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Looking to the future, we are considering the possibilities of organising a special Christmas Shopping Weekend to either Bruges or Paris, including a trip to a Hypermarket on the outskirts of Calais on the return journey. The trip will include a one night stay on the continent and a Channel crossing by Le Shuttle.

Itineraries for both trips are now available and if you are interested please contact either Alice (633 6780) or Trevor (628 8006) for a copy and further details.

AWAY TRAVEL

We will be organising coach travel to all away matches this season, with coaches departing from the Black Horse public house on Ripponden Road, Watersheddings. Seats on the coaches can be reserved by contacting Joyce (665 1832) prior to match day.

Members of the main branch of the Supporters Club receive a discount on the above prices.

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match within a reasonable time prior to kick off and depart for home immediately after the match.

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Ladies, the 107 branch will be having a night to remember - we will be having a Ladies Night on 22 July at Mr Wrigleys - for more details contact Debbie or Cathy on the above numbers or tickets can be purchased from Marie at Mr Wrigleys.

Yours secretary
Debbie Holmes

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From the Pen of . . . Michael Turner

To tie in with the feature on ex Roughyed (and Workington Town) forward Frank Foster elsewhere in the programmes, today we look back at the 1972-73 season and ask...

Was it really a quarter of a century ago?

AFTER the successful run in at the conclusion of the 1971-72 season when 12 of the last 13 league matches were won, the following campaign was anticipated with a measure of optimism and confidence that had been denied the Roughyeds supporters for quite some time.

Martin Murphy remained as safe as ever at full back. Mick McCone was a tricky and elusive scrum half and the well established Wilson/Taylor front row partnership ensured a more than equal supply of possession, this being at a time when the art of actually winning the ball at a scrum was still evident. Tony Wainwright was signed from Leeds to add some flair to the three quarter line and Fred Hall and Johnny Farrell came from Blackpool to bolster the back row of the forwards.

The team possessed two excellent "ball players" in Frank Foster and stand off Cliff Hill and no one benefited more directly from their distribution than second row forward Bob Irving who scored 13 tries. However, Bob was

but one of **seven** Oldham players who scored ten tries or more. This feat has only been bettered on two occasions, not surprisingly by the great 1950's side in 1957-58 and 1958-59 when eight Roughyeds got into double figures. Top of the list was Mike Elliott with 20 touchdowns and the others were Norman Hodgkinson (18), Tony Wainwright (16), Phil Larder and Bob Irving (13), Tommy Davies and Kevin Taylor (11). Larder also landed 127 goals to finish top points scorer with a total of 293, this being the era of the three point try. Elliott was an "ever present" playing in all 43 of the first class matches.

Most notable memories of the season include:-

A sad exit from the Lancashire Cup following Foster's dismissal at Salford - The crowd invading the pitch when Great Britain were defeated 18-15 at Watersheddings - Murphy's wonder try in the BBC Floodlit Trophy at Leigh - The "special" train to Hull in the Challenge Cup - Larder's eleven goals at Blackpool.



Oldham 30 v Whitehaven 13 August 23rd, 1972

Back Row: Tommy Davies, Bill Churm, Bob Irving, Martin Murphy, Mike Elliott, Geoff Munro, Ken Wilson, Frank Foster, Keith Jackson. *Front row:* Mick McCone, Phil Larder, Joe Collins, Cliff Hill, Kevin Taylor, Norman Hodgkinson, Mascot

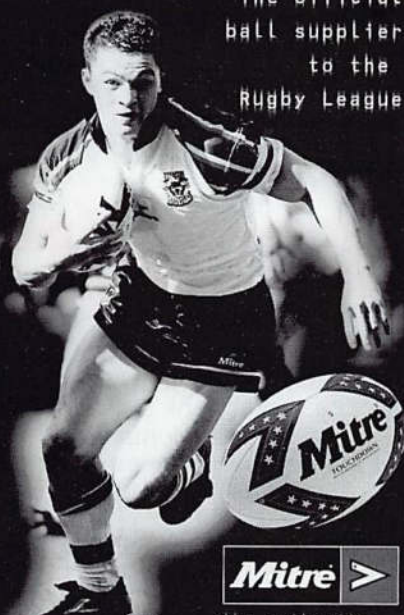
It is hoped to continue this feature in the programme showing TEAM PHOTOS of the "Roughyeds of Yesteryear". If anyone has any photos that they think would be of interest please contact Brian Walker, 01457 875084 or Michael Turner 0161-620-6005



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The Roughyeds

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Andrew Greenhalgh, R L Reporter, The Advertiser GUEST WRITER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"



LEAVING Spotland after the first game in *Roughyeds'* temporary summer season in Rochdale, I heard a couple of Oldham fan opining that this was, in their words, "better than Super League".

Now, these words came after a 32-8 win which would have warmed the hardest of Oldham hearts, but even so, the sentiment was there and I am of the firm belief that they were not referring just to the victory.

Oldham is a town rich in Rugby League heritage and a team in any such town will always have support, but the devotion of Oldham's support suggests to me that the fans are here for other reasons than that they always have been and always will be. They are here because they see a club which does not take them for granted or treat them as an unfortunately necessary evil.

In contrast to other clubs in any of the three divisions, the people behind Roughyeds could quite clearly be counted purely as Oldham fans, if money and circumstances had not allowed them to make the leap from the terrace to the boardroom.

Their honesty with the fans - itself stemming from being real-life fans themselves - has communicated itself to the players, a lot of whom are Oldham lads

making a much yearned for return to their home club.

And it shows on the pitch. Whatever team the coach chooses to put out seems in little danger of being accused of not showing enough effort.

Now contrast all that to the days when Oldham was a Super League club. Crowds similar in size to today turned up week in week out to watch a team which underperformed, provided minimal value for money and gave no impression of even pretending to care. What was the slogan? "No Guts, No Glory"? Well, no glory it was then.

In the seasons which, on paper, looked like Oldham's glory days - when the team were in the sport's top division - do any of you reading this really think that a crowd of pushing 2,000 people would have made the trip to Rochdale on a wet Sunday afternoon to watch a Second Division (that's SECOND DIVISION, folks) game against Barrow? No, me neither, especially not when the alternative was to stay in and watch genuine world class football from the warm and secure comfort of their own armchairs.

Okay, so for many there is only one sport and football is for soft southerners only, but you get my point. For a newcomer to Oldham like myself, it is truly stirring to see a bevy of fans in Roughyed's shirts going to the match at the weekend. Yes, it is unfortunate that the team has been forced to start in the bottom division, but the fans can rest assured in the knowledge that they are amongst the best in the country, Super League included.

Andrew Greenhalgh



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Good Luck to the Roughyeds



Dave Hadfield GUEST WRITER

DAVE HADFIELD THE INDEPENDENT AND OPEN RUGBY COLUMNIST
EDITOR/AUTHOR OF OUTSTANDING R.L. BOOKS X111 WINTERS AND X111 WORLDS

ONE of the few disadvantages of covering Rugby League for a national newspaper is that life is inevitably dominated by the Super League fixture list.

Not that there has been too much wrong with watching that level of competition this season; I've seen far more engaging, competitive matches than I have one-sided affairs and for that, after the procession that was last season, I'm heartily grateful.

But there is good stuff going on below Super League that, if I'm not careful, I can lose track of completely. That's why you will occasionally see in the columns of "The Independent" a match report from Dewsbury or Bramley. It's all part of keeping your feet on the ground and staying in touch with what is happening out there - in the real world.

Like Super League, I have to say that the First and Second Division fare I've seen this year has been notable for its close scorelines and general unpredictability. That, after all, is what you want. It doesn't matter that the players of, say, Doncaster and Workington fall some way below the standard of skill and fitness required for Super League. If it's like against like, it can be equally compelling.

But - and it's a big "but" - there must be something to play for. There are clubs in the First and Second Division who know that, barring a series of unimaginable miracles, they are never going to rise to Super League level. But there must be the opportunity for them to do so if the unthinkable should happen.

That, of course, is one of the great strengths of football in this country. One reason it holds the attention so firmly at all levels is that it is possible for a team playing on a park pitch to improve itself on and off

the field and rise through the pyramid structure to play in the Premiership.

It would be foolish for Rugby League, which fights a much harder battle for its share of public acclaim and recognition, to create any closed shops, because there is no surer way of killing interest.

Oldham are among the clubs who have shown that it is possible to sustain a solid support base outside Super League, but I believe that the chance - however remote - of rising through the ranks is an essential element.

Look at the First Division this season, for instance. Clubs in contention for the top five can offer their supporters matches that mean something and, although they are not exactly beating the doors down, interest is sustained.

But what happens if the side that wins the play-off final is turned away from Super League in a way that makes it obvious that the trap-door is permanently nailed shut? How much interest will there be next season? Far less, I fear.

Of course, there must be criteria applied. Football does that, as several winners of the GM Vauxhall Conference have discovered. There are standards that must be met before clubs are promoted and if Wakefield, Dewsbury or in a year or two's time - Oldham can't or won't meet those standards, then they don't deserve to be elevated.

But, if they do, the prospect of a future in the top flight has to be there as an incentive. I agree with Sir Rodney Walker when he says that anything less than that would be a betrayal of the principles of "a fair go" for which the sport is supposed to stand.

Dave Hadfield.

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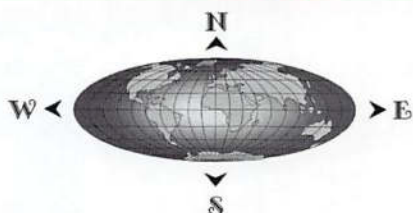
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The Roughyeds



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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

IN 1962 the Rugby Football League introduced a First and Second Division fixture structure after 47 seasons of single division rugby. At the same time they introduced an Eastern and Western Division Championship. The formula for the competition was that each club played eight matches, four at home and four away, and the top four teams then played-off for the Championship.

In 1962-63, the Roughyeds won only five of their eight regional matches and so failed to qualify for the play-offs. The following season Oldham were more successful, losing just one match and qualifying to visit St. Helens in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, the Roughyeds lost at Knowsley Road and their hopes of ever lifting the Western Division Championship died with that defeat, for the competition was disbanded after those two seasons.

This season the Red Rose Championship has come into being and this afternoon reaches its conclusion, hopefully with Oldham clinching the title. Whichever club heads the table by the end of play today qualifies for the Inter-Pennine Cup Final. That final is to be staged in Yorkshire in two weeks time.

Obviously this is the first time that Oldham have entertained Workington Town in the Red Rose Trophy although they did win 27-10 at Derwent Park in this competition. The Roughyeds avoided Town in the two seasons of the Western Division Championship between 1962 and 1964 but they have met ten times in another regional competition which is now disbanded - the Lancashire Cup. Oldham have had by far the better of the exchanges in those ten matches, winning eight and losing just twice. Workington's solitary win at Oldham came in September 1947 when they won 13-3 at Watersheddings in the quarter finals only to lose at Belle Vue Rangers in the semis. Since then Workington have lost four consecutive regional matches at Oldham. This afternoon the Roughyeds aim to extend that sequence albeit at their adopted home here at Spotland.

RESULTS OF PREVIOUS OLDHAM-WORKINGTON TOWN REGIONAL MATCHES

1946-47	Lancs Cup. Round 1		
	First leg	W.Town 2	Oldham 8
	Second Leg	Oldham 19	W.Town 10
1947-48	Lancs Cup		
	Quarter Final	Oldham 3	W.Town 13
1950-51	Lancs Cup		
	Quarter Final	W.Town 8	Oldham 15
1952-53	Lancs Cup		
	Quarter Final	W.Town 13	Oldham 10
1954-55	Lancs Cup		
	Semi Final	W.Town 13	Oldham 20
1968-69	Lancs Cup		
	Quarter Final	Oldham 7	W.Town 5
1983-84	Lancs Cup		
	Round 1	Oldham 26	W.Town 20
1986-87	Lancs Cup		
	Quarter Final	Oldham 46	W.Town 13
1988-89	Lancs Cup		
	Round 1	Oldham 64	W.Town 2
1998	Red Rose		
	Trophy	W.Town 10	Oldham 27

RESULTS OF OLDHAM MATCHES IN THE WESTERN DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

1962-63	Whitehaven	18	Oldham 8
	Oldham	17	Barrow 0
	Oldham	16	Leigh 10
	Rochdale H.	10	Oldham 2
	Oldham	40	W'haven 9
	Barrow	13	Oldham 15
	Oldham	22	R'dale 7
	Leigh	24	Oldham 17
1963-64	Blackpool B.	10	Oldham 24
	Oldham	13	R'dale 4
	Barrow	15	Oldham 9
	Oldham	18	B'pool 13
	Leigh	2	Oldham 6
	Oldham	32	Barrow 5
	Oldham	12	Leigh 0
	Rochdale H.	3	Oldham 5
	St. Helens	22	Oldham 11
	(Semi Final)		

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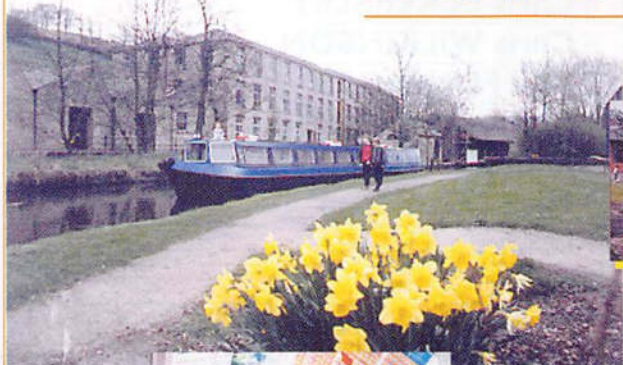
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