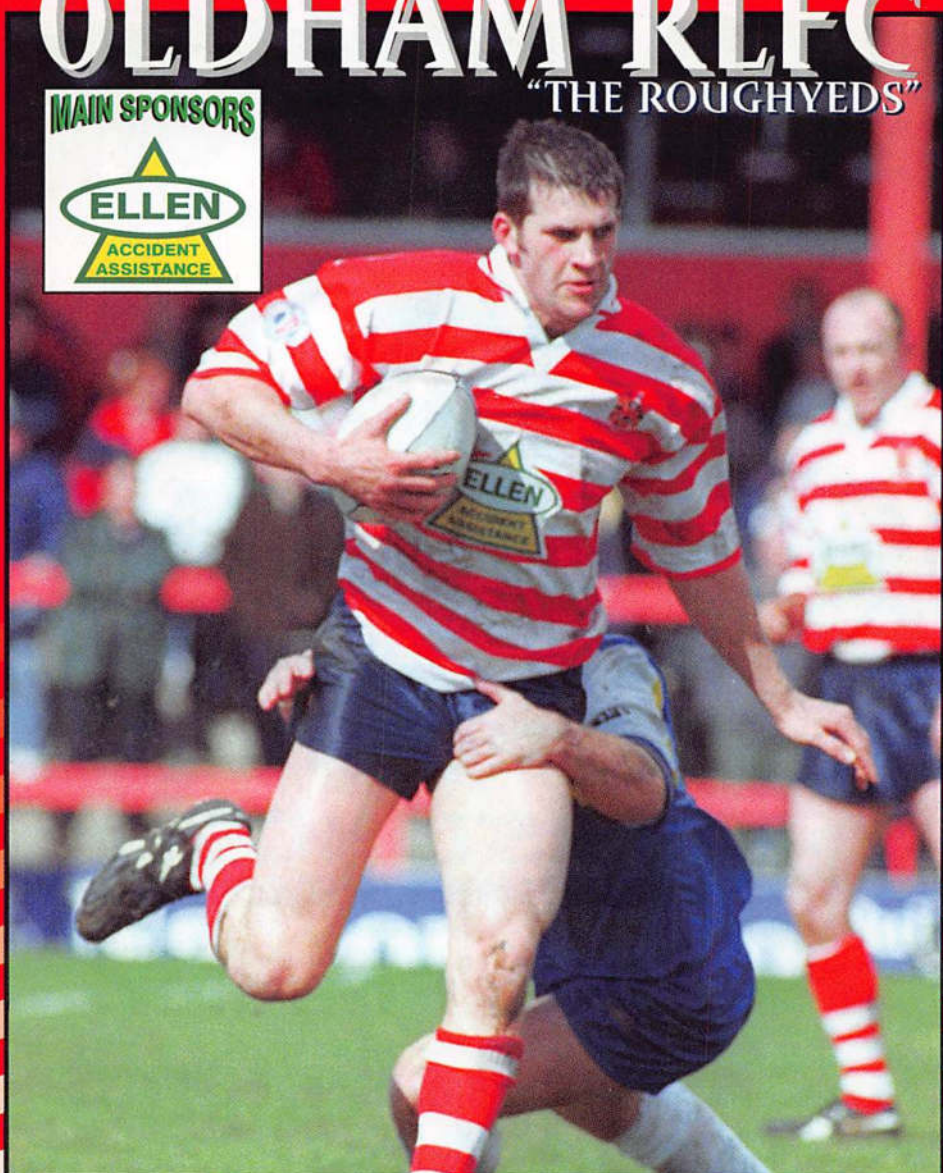


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Chairman's CHATTER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

THOSE who witnessed our display against Workington Town in our last home fixture will know that we were lucky to win. Our opponents showed plenty of spirit but few ideas and it was that which kept us in the game in the first half and even though we improved slightly in the second we still found ourselves hanging on to the very end. Several reasons have been suggested as to why that performance was below par but it is important that the players pick themselves up today and show the same level of commitment that was there in abundance in the early part of the season. With five games to go, we occupy one of the promotion spots and have every chance of going up - it's in our own hands.

Today's opponents, Doncaster, have proved over the last couple of weeks just how tight the division has been this season with two excellent results against both Batley and Bramley which have, in turn helped us. Let's hope that after today's match the Dragons haven't helped our promotion rivals! Before this season started, I don't think many people would have guessed that the Second Division would provide so many



tight games, leaving the majority of teams with a chance of promotion even at this late stage of the season. The major disappointment, however, has been the attendances at all the other clubs. Whilst our support has been magnificent both home and away, other teams have really struggled to get people through their gates.

To any person who does not have a particular affinity to the sport of Rugby League, the constant infighting must be a source of some bewilderment. I cannot think of another sport that seems to have as much squabbling and about turns on decisions as Rugby League. Some sports struggle to market themselves because the commodity they have to offer is problematic. Rugby League is the opposite - the game itself is fantastic - but the constant off field problems coupled with adverse media coverage means that the potential major sponsors are reluctant to invest. The latest outburst has come not from the professional game but from BARLA with the Maurice Oldroyd affair. Oh for a united front!

Best wishes,

Christopher Hamilton



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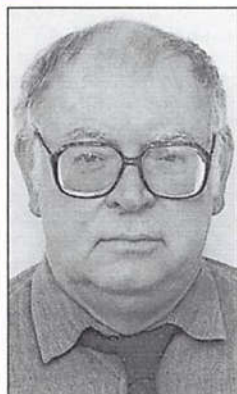
A J Law Cup Winners 1998

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF OLDHAM RLFC (1997) LTD.



Roger

Oldham Evening Chronicle's HALSTEAD



THE second division promotion battle is building up into a fight to the death.

Lancashire Lynx look odds-on favourites now to take the £40,000 championship prize, but it would be a brave man who would put a week's wage on the two clubs to follow Kevin Tamati's men into

the first division.

York, Bramley, Oldham and Batley are separated by only two points after last Sunday's games which included Batley's 17-16 defeat of Barrow at Mount Pleasant and York's hard-fought 20-15 win against Workington at Derwent Park.

Both these results increased the pressure on the Roughyeds, who currently lie in fourth spot but with a game in hand on York, Bramley and Batley.

Every game is going to be vital in Oldham's five match run-in, starting with the visit to Boundary Park today of Doncaster, who last Sunday felt the full force of the title favourites when crashing to a 48-2 home hammering by Lynx.

Prior to that game the Dragons had looked capable of climbing away from the bottom of the table by pulling off a massive shock to win at Batley and then holding Bramley to a draw on the Doncaster Rovers soccer ground.

They will come to Oldham today smarting to put that Lynx horror show behind them and Paddy Kirwan's men will need no reminding that they cannot afford to take the fellows from South Yorkshire lightly.

Oldham must grab both points today because they then face eight action-packed days in which the club's hopes and

ambitions for next season will almost certainly be decided.

In division two terms you could hardly get a tougher week than that which required the Roughyeds to play Batley away next Sunday, Lancashire Lynx at Boundary Park on the following Wednesday night and Barrow away on the following Sunday.

When you consider that they were well beaten by Barrow and Batley on their last visit to Craven Park and Mount Pleasant and they also slipped to defeat at Preston Grasshoppers on the last occasion they played Lynx you can see the size of the task confronting the Rugby League new boys.

To pile on the agony they then wrap up their fixtures with the visit to this stadium of York on Sunday, September 6....and the Wasps will feel confident of landing a decisive double after their 27-6 win at York last May.

It looks, at first glance, a formidable challenge. Certainly, the Roughyeds will deserve to win promotion if they qualify through that sort of late-season challenge but, if nothing else, this demanding programme should bring out the best in any side with promotion aspirations and with a desire to avenge previous defeats.

Championship ambitions, which looked "on" only a few weeks ago, have gone now barring a sensational collapse by Lynx, the most consistent side over the season so far. Oldham trail by five points with five to play and it would now be more useful to the Roughyeds if the leaders were to beat Bramley today to open up the scramble for second and third places.

Barrow (v York) and Workington (v Batley) can also do Oldham massive favours, but charity begins at home and it's here at Boundary Park where the Roughyeds need to be on their mettle today to do themselves a favour against a Doncaster side which is much stronger than it was when Oldham won 20-8 at Belle Vue in April.



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Don Yates On This Day

DON YATES RECALLS THIS DAY IN HISTORY

AS the Roughyeds move into the closing month of the 1998 season each match takes on the importance of a cup-tie as the Club strives for promotion. Twenty-nine years ago, on Saturday 16th August 1969, Oldham were involved in a genuine cup-tie when they entertained Swinton in the first round of the Lancashire Cup. It proved a thrilling, see-saw affair which Swinton won 28-24. Oldham stand-off Wilf Briggs certainly did not deserve to be on the losing side. He scored three tries and four goals against a Swinton side who went on to lift the Lancashire Cup that season.

Doncaster were not involved in the County Cup that day because they had been knocked out the week before. However, they were involved in a first round Yorkshire Cup-tie on Sunday, 16th August 1981. That day Batley visited Tattersfield and they defeated Doncaster 12-11. Each side scored a try and four goals but the decisive score was a dropped goal landed by Batley loose-forward Brendan Finn.

On that very same afternoon, Sunday 16th August 1981, the newly formed Carlisle club played its first ever competitive game. There was a crowd of 2,779 in attendance at Brunton Park for the visit of Wigan in the Lancashire Cup. Carlisle lost 9-6 but they recovered to gain promotion in their inaugural season with former Oldham prop Mick Morgan playing in all but one of their 36 matches.

Twelve months ago, on Saturday 16th August 1997, Leigh Miners retained the Champions Challenge Trophy when they defeated Thatto Heath 22-16 in a keenly fought final at Twist Lane. Thatto Heath were leading 16-10 fifteen minutes from time when Miners' substitute Shane

Hindley scored wide out. Veteran winger Winston Sarsfield equalised with a conversion from the touchline and then, five minutes from time, raced 70 yards for an interception try which he again converted to give Miners a thrilling victory. One of the features of this fine Miners' victory was the showing of their young pack, well led by the experienced former Oldham hooker Ian Sanderson.

Seventy-four years ago Great Britain toured Australia and New Zealand and, in so doing, played 27 matches. The final match of that tour took place on Saturday 16th August 1924 at Christchurch where the Lions defeated Canterbury 47-10. The tourists scored 11 tries in that match, two of which were scored by Oldham centre Sid Rix who ended that tour with 17 touchdowns from 17 appearances.

Thirty years later, on Monday 16th August 1954, the Lions were back in New Zealand although this time on the North Island where they met Auckland at Carlaw Park. A disappointing crowd of 4,949 saw the Lions turn in a disappointing performance to lose 5-4 with full-back Lewis Jones landing a couple of penalties for the tourists.

Staying down under, it was on this day in 1994, Tuesday 16th August, that the Balmain club announced that they were to change their name to Sydney Tigers and also switch grounds, leaving Leichhardt Oval to play at the Parramatta Stadium. The move did not meet with the approval of a good percentage of their support so after two years the Club reverted back to their original name and original playing venue.

If only the Roughyeds could revert back to Watersheddings.



Comments from THE COACH

HERE we are with less than a month to go in our inaugural season. At this stage we are still on course for promotion but in reality need Lancashire Lynx to slip up if we are to win the Championship.. All we can do is continue to win games and apply the pressure.

Last weekend's break will hopefully have revived the players, many of whom have been carrying injuries and minor knocks. It is now nine months since we started training and forming the side and we certainly looked a bit jaded against Workington. Hopefully today we will come out fresh from the break and be allowed to play the kind of rugby that you, the spectators, appreciate.

A win against Workington was very important. We came through the match without important players like Andy Proctor, Joe Nadiole, Ian Sinfield, Mick Martindale and Steve Wilde. We also had players such as Neil Flanagan, Afi Leuila and Sean Cooper playing with knocks. Workington came determined that they were not going to get another 50 points mauling as had happened at



Spotland and with a very inexperienced referee it was obvious from the start that players like Williams, Heaton and Maguire were going to be as disruptive as possible. It is in situations such as these that the Rugby league should give as much support as possible to promising referees. They should appoint confident, experienced linesmen who can help the referee without undermining his authority.

The win against Workington put us back in joint second spot and heralded the return of Brian Quinlan playing his first game since February. Brian made a big impression in the second half and will be pressing for a spot today. With Paul Crook and Martin Maders getting another game under their belts and the return of Andy Proctor, Ian Sinfield and Steve Wilde competition for places is returning just in time for the run in to the end of the season.

Our target is to win all our remaining games, which will achieve the promotion target and hopefully the Championship.

Paddy Kirwan



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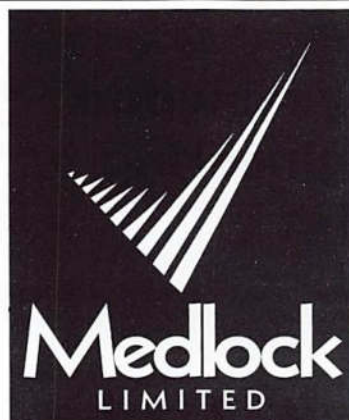
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Junior Roughyeds

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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

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

On Monday 3rd August we held our last Junior Roughyeds' meeting of the season. We had a Magician who was absolutely brilliant. A big thank-you to **Diddy Dave**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with the Junior Roughyeds this season. They are too numerous to mention by name. I'm sure we will be even bigger and better next season. All the positive encouragement and the endless amount of support from the Club has been great.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Stuart Gough** of **Celebrate Caterers** for donating a fabulous and unique Red Ed the Roughyed cake as a raffle prize for the Junior Roughyeds' meeting. Many thanks, it not only looked great, it tasted great too!

Well done to everyone who helped to decorate the float for the Oldham Carnival. You did a great job.

I went to Manor Park last Tuesday to collect the Player Profiles for the last Junior Roughyeds meeting. I was worried the lads might be a bit down after our loss at Lancashire Lynx, but they all decided to have a joke on me. I have enclosed one of the player profiles. Guess who it belongs to...

Oldham RLFC Player Profile

Name: Anonymous

Age: 29

Position played: Wherever picked

Previous teams: Saddleworth/Fitton Hill

Favourite food: Beans on toast

Favourite music: Telly Tuby theme

Favourite drink: P.G. Tips

Hobbies: Train spotting

Favourite colour: Pink

Advice to Junior Roughyeds who want to play Rugby League is: Always sit near the coach during team selection.



Well we should have all got over our disappointment at losing in the final to Batley Bulldogs. Our mascot for the day was **Joshua Lynch**. Joshua is 6 years old. He said he had a really great day and was delighted when Red Ed the Roughyed gave him his flag.

Debra Rafferty

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1959 "Oldham Sign Robinson in CELEBRITY



GEOFF ROBINSON had gained full RU County recognition with Cumberland and Westmorland when he joined the Cumbrian RL 'Conveyor Belt' team Whitehaven. Selling to survive was an art to the craggy Cumbrian Seaside. John Temby and Dick Huddart went to St Helens, Sid Lowden to Salford and to break the RL World record transfer fee for a forward Oldham were to pay £9,000 (£275,000 at today's values) for the rangy, speedy, Robinson.

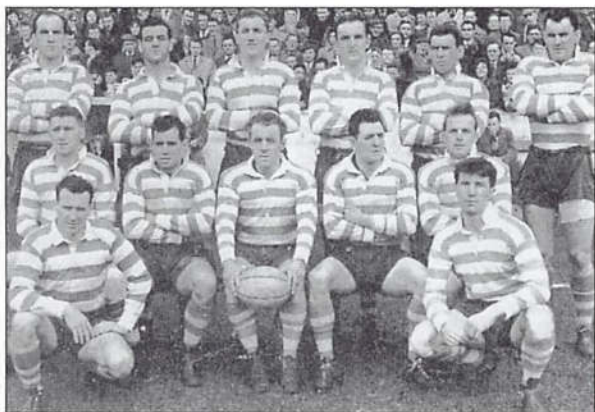
Teaming up in the town with fellow Cumbrian school mate and World record transfer fee holder Ike Southward, Geoff Robinson was to make his Watersheddings debut against Leeds in the opening fixture of the 1959/60 season. It was a time of change at the old club, Sid Little, Derek Turner, Don Vines, Dick Cracknell and John Etty having left the crack 50's side for one reason or another. Meanwhile the management had invested heavily in the attempt to ensure continued success twice smashing World record signing fees for Southward and Robinson, bringing in County hooker Len McIntyre, and the previous season having tempted Irish RU International winger Sean Quinlan to take the pro ticket. Around Robinson and the other newcomers were still many of the Oldham stars of that famous side, Davies, Ganley Pitchford, Ayres, Noon, Jackson Winslade, Keith and Kellett. The management had, they believed, provided the ingredients for further success. They hadn't! The Club has not won a major trophy since! But during the relatively short period of Robinson's reign at Oldham, how close they came! Especially to that elusive Wembley visit!

In Geoff's first campaign Oldham had battled their way to the Challenge

Cup Semi against Hull at Swinton, their first Challenge Cup Semi since 1942/43. It's well documented that during the match Bernard Ganley was sent off for the first time in his professional career (and an almost unknown occurrence in semis) and that Southward had been adjudged by an over zealous official to have stepped in touch for a try that would surely have sealed a visit to the Twin Towers.

It was for season 1963/64, though, that Robinson is perhaps best remembered by the Oldham Supporters – after the disappointment of the 1959/60 Semis the Club had slipped backwards and that season were members of the inaugural Second Division. Against the odds, and already having disposed of Keighley, Featherstone and Hunslet in earlier rounds the side again found itself in the Challenge Cup Semis. This time they faced Hull KR at Headingley. Geoff Robinson though, whilst in the squad and to the surprise of many supporters, was left out of the starting line up. With a pack of Bott, McIntyre, Wilson, Major Whitehead and Parker, Oldham managed to contain the 'star studded' Rovers and thanks to a late McIntyre drop goal came out of the match with a creditable draw.

Faced with an injury to Parker, Oldham draughted in Robinson for the mid week evening replay at Swinton's Station Road. When Rovers roared into an early 14-3 lead it looked to all the world like Challenge Cup curtains but, led



*1960 Challenge Cup Semi-Final v Hull
Back Row (L to R) Charlie Winslade, Dick Smith, Roger Dufty, Tom Gray, Len McIntyre, Geoff Robinson.
Front Row (L to R) Ike Southward, Alan Davies, Bernard Ganley (Capt.), Johnny Noon, Vince Nestor, Kneeling Frank Pitchford, Alan Kellett*



World Record Transfer for a Forward"

INTERVIEW

with
Brian Walker

"THE ROUGHYEDS"



1964 Challenge Cup Semi-Final Squad v Hull K R

Back Row (L to R) Harry Major, Stuart Whitehead, Brian Lord, Charlie Bott, Johnny Noon, Geoff Robinson, Tug Wilson, Dave Parker, Len McIntyre.
Middle Row (L to R) John Donovan, Geoff Sims, Frank Dyson, Peter Smethurst, Trevor Simms. Front Jack Pycroft, Vince Nestor.

superbly by Captain Frank Dyson's example at full back and with the forwards now beginning to get the better of the Hull pack, the speedy Robinson was creating havoc breaking through those gaps that appeared wider as the second half wore on. Fighting back to 14-14 the match was to go into extra time when, early into this period, and with Rovers clearly beaten, Robinson on this occasion scooped up a loose ball to score in the corner. The Wembley hoodoo was again about to strike when referee Dennis Davies abandoned the game due to increasingly bad light. Match officials or just bad Cup luck? It was the only time in the history of the Challenge Cup that a team had won the Semi and not appeared in the Final! Geoff's late score has unfortunately become known in Oldham Rugby folklore as 'The try that didn't get us to Wembley'.

Oldham were to lose the second replay at Fartown 12-2.

Between 1959 and 1965 Geoff Robinson was to play 177 first team games for the Club before Warrington beat the Challenge Cup deadline to sign him to replace the unfortunate ex Oldham stalwart Charlie Winslade (out with a broken ankle) in the Wires' second row. It seems to happen to many players that when they leave Oldham they are almost immediately successful in picking up silverware, Geoff Robinson being no exception, winning the Lancashire Cup in his second season. An irony was that whilst still at Whitehaven Geoff had the

chance to join the Wires who came in with a late bid but he preferred 'Sheddings'.

After spending two seasons at Wilderspool former Oldham colleague and then Rochdale Hornets' coach, Johnny Noon enticed Robinson to the Athletic grounds where he was to play out his professional career in one of Hornets' most successful post war periods.

Geoff Robinson played 14 years as a pro gaining Cumbrian County Honours both whilst at Whitehaven and Oldham.

Having a successful career in banking Geoff continued to live in the Springhead area playing regularly for Ashton RU Vandals. He now though, is back in Cumbria living in Penrith and pursuing a successful career in Management Development. Geoff still keeps an interest in rugby with occasional visits to Penrith RU, watching Super League on TV and obviously keeping tabs on the Roughyeds. To 'relax' he pursues his love of the outdoors - particularly climbing, having been a member of British Frigidairs' expedition to Pakistan and the Himalayas. It was in the early 70's whilst out walking in Wharfedale that Geoff rescued a young woman from drowning and was awarded the Royal Humane Society Medal presented to him in the Old Saddleworth Courtrooms by the then Chief Constable.

Asked about THE try... "still gobsmacked".



Oldham presented with the Mackeson Regional Trophy prior to the 1963 Doncaster home match.

(l to r) Geoff Robinson, Jack Pycroft, Dennis Wright (physio), Vince Nestor, Trevor Simms, Peter Smethurst, Dave Parker, Charlie Bott, Brian Lord, Tug Wilson, Mike Elliot, Len McIntyre, Frank Dyson, Harry Major.



Today's VISITORS

DONCASTER DRAGONS

LEE SENIOR

Full Back. Speedy player signed from Featherstone Amateurs last season. Elusive runner when in full flow.

ALEX GOULBOURNE

Alex was signed from Featherstone Rovers in 1996. A consistent performer at either wing or centre.

DEAN CREASSER

Signed during the close season from Bramley. Plays either full back, centre or half back. Dean is an excellent goal kicker.

WARREN WILSON

Powerful centre or full back with a good turn of pace. Warren has done the rounds during his career starring for Halifax in the old First Division.

MARTIN ROWSE

Another player who had starred for the old Dans, Martin signed for the Dragons from Hunslet last season and after suffering injury last year is now fit and raring to go.

ALEX GREEN

After spells at Hull, Dragons on loan in 1996 and Keighley, the Dragons brought him back in time for the 1998 kick off. Speedy half-back at home in either

position. Good solid player, with good kicking abilities.

JASON SIMS

Prop forward signed from Featherstone Rovers, during the close season. Leads the team from the front, taking the ball up strongly.

CHRIS WATSON

Hooker signed from Hunslet and was on ever-present last season. Chris learnt his trade in the Castleford side and was a promising prospect until injury forced him out.

RICHARD PELL

Came in a player exchange deal from Hunslet for his second spell with Doncaster. Prop forward with good handling ability.

CARL SAUL

Prop forward signed from Dewsbury for this season. Showed up well in the pre-season friendlies, but unfortunately injured at Bramley.

GARETH PRATT

Reliable second row forward, who takes it up hard and has a solid defence. Signed last season from Dewsbury, but unfortunately suffered an injury in the opening couple of games. Came back strongly at the end and now is nearing his best in 1998.

MARK KEAR

Signed from Castleford. Mark is a strong running second row forward, who is an outstanding prospect. Can also play out in the centres.

TONY MILLER

Seasoned professional, who made numerous appearances for the old Doncaster side and returned at the start of this year. A solid performer in both attack and defence who rarely has a poor game.

COLIN MASKILL

Colin has starred in the hooking role at Leeds, Castleford and Featherstone, before returning to Doncaster for a second spell, this time as player coach.

IAN WATSON

Signed from Castleford Amateur club Lock Lane for the centre or wing position. Ian is a solid performer with sound defence and a good turn of pace.

DAVID BIRDSALL

Signed from the Amateurs, David is a solid performer, who has played for Yorkshire and is now hoping to make a successful step up to the professional ranks.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17																
JANUARY																
	At	Result	F - A													
1 Thurs RHOADALE H (Law Cup)	H3.00	30-16	Mead	Edarney	Wide	Cooper	McNicholas	Barter	Fanagan	Guest	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Prescott	Jackson	Robinson
18 Sun NEWORTH (RLCC 2nd Ref Prelim)	A3.00	29-14	Wide	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barter	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Prescott	Robinson
FEBRUARY																
1 Sun WINCES (RLCC 2nd Ref)	H3.00	45-78	Wide	Diggle	Mead	Cooper	McNicholas	Barter	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Maders	Quinlan	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson
APRIL 1998																
10 Fri LANCASHIRE LYNX	H4.00															
13 Mon WORKINGTON TOWN	A3.00	13-4	Mead	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	McNicholas	Baker	Fanagan	Clegg	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson
22 Wed BRAMLEY	A7.45	10-12	Wide	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Barter	Fanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson
26 Sun DONCASTER DRAGONS	A3.00	10-0	Wide	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Barter	Fanagan	Maders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Varley	Martindale	Robinson
MAY																
4 Mon BRAMLEY	H3.00	28-7	Mead	Darke	Lealla	Wide	Edarney	Barter	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Nadole	Shaw	Martindale	Robinson
10 Sun BATLEY BULLDOGS	H3.00	19-29	Winston	Mead	Lealla	Darke	Edarney	Barter	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Nadole	Martindale	Robinson
17 Sun BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	H3.00	19-7	Winston	Mead	Lealla	Darke	Edarney	Barter	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Maders	Nadole	Martindale	Sinfield
24 Sun YORK	A3.00	14-2	Winston	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Barter	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Martindale	Mead
31 Sun RL LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00	13-1	Wide	Mead	Darke	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Predictor	Robinson	Edwards	Nadole	Shaw	Martindale	Sinfield
JUNE																
7 Sun RL WORKINGTON	A3.00	10-7	Wide	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Predictor	Hough	Shaw	Sinfield	Nadole	Martindale	Mead
14 Sun RL BARROW B H (Hawkins)	H3.00	18-6	Wide	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Predictor	Nadole	Sinfield	Clegg
19 Fri RL LANCASHIRE LYNX (Hawkins)	H7.30	18-6	Wide	Mead	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Predictor	Sinfield	Nadole	Martindale	Clegg
28 Sun RL BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	A3.00	13-3	Wide	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Predictor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Martindale	Mead
JULY																
5 Sun RL WORKINGTON	H3.00	16-20	Wide	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Predictor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Martindale	Mead
19 Sun BATLEY RL Final	26-96	12-28	Wide	Darke	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Predictor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Martindale	Mead
26 Sun LANCASHIRE LYNX	A3.00	7-33	Darke	Mead	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Martindale	Maders	Clegg	Diggle
AUGUST																
2 Sun WORKINGTON	H3.00	15-1	12-9	Darke	Mead	Lealla	Cooper	Edarney	Winston	Fanagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Maders	Clegg
16 Sun DONCASTER	H3.00															
23 Sun BATLEY	A3.15															
30 Sun BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	A3.00															
SEPTEMBER																
6 Sun YORK	H3.00															

Best Wishes for the Season



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All photographs by kind permission of the Oldham Evening Chronicle
whose co-operation we gratefully acknowledge.

Iva Slateloose GUEST WRITER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

MY mole inside Super League Europe Headquarters leaked me the following information:

Memo from C.C. to M.L.

In view of the difficulties surrounding the expansion of S.L.E. for 1999 we are considering the following possibility:

Club: Carseagateloose

Venues: Matches in rotation at Cardiff, Swansea, Gateshead and Toulouse

Colours: Blue, Black, Orange, Green, Yellow, Red, Purple and White

Kit Suppliers and Merchandising: Nikedaskbok (for maximum exposure)

Chief Backers: 1. Silver Shred (Is this right? Please check as I spread this on my toast in the morning), 2. Some Fat Australian, 3. Durex (Toulouse keep sending me French Letters), 4. R.F.U. Wales (Well, they do keep wasting money on Neath, Bridgend, Llanelli etc.)

Chief Executive: Either Peter Tunks or Kath Hetherington. (This will be decided either by duel at dawn, or by a game of tiddlywinks to be shown live on Sky with Eddie and Stevo).

Coach: Andy Goodway or any Australian out of a job.

Player Base: Obviously we can get the best of the Welsh RL/RU mercenaries, together with a load of Australian cast-offs when their League is reduced in size, plus any Frenchmen who signed for P.S.G. and are not toally browned off by the experience.

Fan Base: the best of four different venues. If we lay on transport the crowds will be phenomenal.

Attraction for TV Viewers: Even better than London! Just think of it – a multi-national, multi-lingual squad with more appeal than anything that Arsenal or Chelsea could produce.

Perceived Advantages: Novelty value of a new club. New places for existing supporters to visit. Something the lads in the pub at Inverlochtymuchty have never seen before, thus encouraging new fans and players.

Perceived Disadvantages: None

I would welcome your comments (in margin please) by return.

APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1998 TO DATE

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts						
Craig Barker	9	-	2	-	-	8	Mick Martindale	15	-	5	-	20
Jason Clegg	1	9	-	-	-	-	Joe McNicholas	3	-	-	-	-
Sean Cooper	15	-	4	1	-	18	Aidie Mead	10	6	4	-	16
Paul Crook	2	4	1	-	-	4	Joe Naidole	11	-	1	-	4
Richard Darkes	15	-	4	8	-	32	Mick Prescott	1	5	1	-	4
Craig Diggle	2	1	2	-	-	8	Andy Proctor	7	-	-	-	-
Chris Eckersley	15	2	12	-	-	48	Brian Quinlan	2	1	-	-	-
Mick Edwards	12	3	6	-	-	24	Darren Robinson	1	6	2	-	8
Neil Flanagan	18	-	3	-	-	12	Paul Round	10	7	3	-	12
Andy Fleming	-	2	-	-	-	-	Graeme Shaw	14	3	2	-	8
John Hough	17	-	6	-	-	24	Ian Sinfield	6	5	1	-	4
Emerson Jackman	-	1	-	-	-	-	Nathan Varley	1	15	-	-	-
Afi Leulla	15	-	8	-	-	32	Steve Wilde	12	-	5	-	20
Martin Maders	8	1	-	-	-	-	Chris Wilkinson	12	-	-	31	3 65



From The EDITOR

BARRY Williams' performance for Workington two weeks ago certainly had the crowd roaring its disapproval. But who can blame Workington's star man for not wanting to be on the wrong end of a 50 point hammering, which was the fate of his team mates the last time the two sides met? So when we reflect on Williams' abrasive performance let's remember that he is precisely the kind of player you want on your side rather than playing against you.

In the past I can recall two outstanding examples of players who had roused the crowd to fury, but who Oldham had the good sense to sign subsequently. One was Hugh Waddell who led Blackpool to a famous victory in the Lancashire Cup at Watersheddings in 1984. Since Hughie went on to be a Great Britain Test player, his signing ranks as one of Oldham's best ever. The second was the diminutive John Cogger who, playing for Runcorn, had the temerity to wallop each of Oldham's forwards in turn. Quite rightly, Oldham gave Cogger the chance to play at a higher level and were repaid with wholehearted effort and commitment in every game, attributes which quickly endeared him to the Oldham crowd.

No doubt you all have your own memories of similar signings, so let's remember it's not always the top-rated players who turn out to be the most useful acquisitions. Sometimes all it takes is the right club and coach to galvanise a player previously under-rated. Certainly in this

season's Second Division there have been some out-standing performers who have given Oldham trouble. To go with Williams one thinks particularly of Batley stand-off Richard Price, probably the best player in his position outside Super League. Lancashire Lynx stand-off Phil Jones is another to have impressed, along with team-mates Neil Parsley and P J Soloman. Disregarding some of their more exotic 'signings' Bramley have the talented Neil Kite and Dan Potter in the backs to go with Glen and Wayne Freeman in the forwards. Doncaster Dragons Dean Creasser and Alex Green are proven performers together with player coach Colin Maskill. At York Shaun Austerfield, Alan Pallister and Lee Tichener took the eye, while John McKelleher, Barrow's full-back, was a stand out player for the Border Raiders behind a powerful pack spearheaded by Geoff Luxon and Shaun Wallis. Surprisingly, in three games against Oldham Barrow scrum-half Dean Marwood, a highly rated player, has not shone. Finally Batley Bulldogs' promising scrum-half Gary Barnett and hooker Mark Cass have looked good playing off another very powerful pack of forwards.

So, all in all, the Second Division has had a lot to offer. So much so that as the season enters its closing stages the promotion spots are very much up for grabs. Given that Oldham started the year with barely enough players for a team what a tribute it is that we enter the closing weeks with all to play for.



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From the Supporters Club

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

DUTY FREE SHOPPING

Looking to the future, we are organising a special Christmas Shopping Weekend to 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.

This trip is planned for 4th - 6th December, 1998 including a trip to a Hypermarket on the return journey. For more details ring Alice 633 6780 or Trevor 628 8006.

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 seat prices. Watch this space for details of the Player of the Year and Awards Night.

ROUGHYEDS REWARD

This year the half time draw will be known as the Roughyed Reward and will again be sold by the main branch of the Supporters Club. As in previous years the winner will receive 50% of the total sales at each match. The winning number will be drawn at half time and the holder of the winning ticket will be presented with their prize on the pitch.

Please look out for the Roughyed Reward team at today's match and future fixtures and please buy a ticket or two. Remember the more you purchase the bigger the prize, the more it helps Oldham RLFC.

FUTURE EVENTS

We are always looking at different ideas for fund raising so watch this space in the programmes for details of future events that we hope you will attend and enjoy. If you have any fund raising ideas please contact either Alice (633 6780), Sue (681 3397), Trevor (628 8006) or any other Supporters Club official.

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From the Pen of . . . Michael Turner

ENTER THE DRAGONS!

TODAY we extend a Roughyed welcome to the Players, Officials and Supporters of Doncaster. Admitted into the Rugby League in 1951, it was not until the 1963-64 season that the first fixtures between the teams took place.

Oldham recorded a "double with a 45-13 score line in their favour at Watersheddings on October 12th, 1963, which included nine goals from skipper Frank Dyson. This was followed up with a hard earned 12-6 victory on their first trip to Tattersfield three weeks later.

The only occasion the "Dons" took a point away from Watersheddings was after a 9-9 draw on March 20th, 1971. The turning point of the

match was the controversial dismissal of Oldham captain Bob Irving by referee (Sgt Maj) Eric Clay. This in fact worked against the visitors, as the official seemed to realise the error of his ways and proceeded to award a succession of penalties to Oldham, with Phil Larder landing three goals to square the match.

The most recent success for Doncaster came when Oldham travelled over to South Yorkshire in the Challenge Cup 5th round on February 13th, 1994. On that day our visitors really rose to the occasion to run out worthy winners by twenty point to nil. The game proved to be the last for Oldham coach Peter Tunks who resigned soon afterwards.

One match against Doncaster will have special memories for coach Paddy Kirwan.

On September 27th, 1981 Oldham defeated the "Dons" by 38 points to 10 at Watersheddings and the current Roughyeds coach scored his only ever "hat trick" of tries in an Oldham senior game.



Paddy Kirwan in his playing days

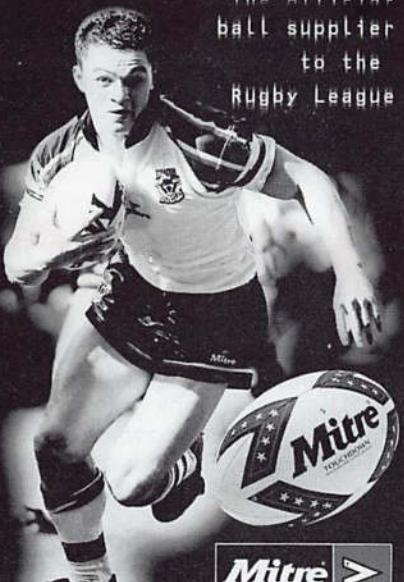
To continue our series of old team photos the squad for the 1964 semi finals against Hull KR can be found elsewhere in the programme in the article with Geoff Robinson

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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An Open Letter

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Dear Mr Gates,

Can I call you Bill? Listen Bill, you don't know me but my mate who gets the posh 'papers on Sundays tells me you are worth fifty billion dollars. I don't need my calculator to tell me that's over a million quid – pounds.

As you are porbably aware, Bill, Oldham Bears went bust last year and have had to re-build as the Oldham Roughyeds (don't ask).

We play Rugby League, Bill, it's a bit like American Football except that we don't wear motor-cycle helmets (yet), we can't pass forwards (with some exceptions) and the same team attacks as well as defends. And we don't keep stopping.

Anyway, Bill, I'm writing to present you with a unique opportunity to buy your way onto the Board of Directors alongside Mr. Hamilton and my mate Melv. For just a small fraction of your fortune, let's say one billion dollars, the lads could invite you onto the board, and with the money we could perhaps buy a couple of First Division players to ensure we get promotion this season.

As a director Bill, you would be entitled to two, go on then, three pints of bitter for every meeting you attend – and a Chinese takeaway as well! It's a mouth-watering offer isn't it?

I can't believe you made all that money selling windows Bill, but there you go.

In fact when you brought out Windows '95, I went straight round to the Council and insisted that they fitted them in my flat. Bill, they just laughed at me – and I'm up to date with my rent!

Bill, this is not all one-way traffic, I've got an exciting new idea for your company –

Doors

2000 - it's got a certain ring doesn't it?

Windows and doors go together, well they do over here, anyway. Windows '98 and Doors 2000 - like salt and pepper, Bill, with my brains and your money, we can't fail!

Tell you what Bill, I'll enclose a couple of drawings of doors and you can get your lads to knock them out. I can't contain myself Bill, I'll have to go to the toiler.

Another thing Bill, marketing. I've got a long history in retailing myself – Davey Crockett hats, yo-yos, hula-hoops, I've sold the lot.

You sell windows Bill, but you've been badly advised; you don't sell windows in Curry's or Dixon's. You should set up a little stall in the shopping centres and give passers-by a leaflet. It works Bill, cross my heart.

You could put me in charge of Doors 2000 (UK) and slip me a few quid.

Even though the Roughyeds are a new club in the Second Division, Bill, we are already a success.

In our very first game we won the Law Cup – how's that for starters?

Two weeks ago we were in the Trans-Pennine Final. That's one half of the country against the other, I guess you would call it the World Series.

Naturally Bill, you could have your product's name on all the Club merchandise – hats, potties and such.

Just think of it, Bill. You, Mr. Hamilton and the boys sat in the Penny Rush Bar, discussing transfers and drinking decent beer – and a Chinese afterwards.

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Good Luck to the Roughyeds



Dave "Nosey" Parker columnist of the Rugby Leaguer GUEST WRITER



DAVE 'Nosey' Parker writes a cautionary tale of fund-raising in RL. With the possibility of a new stadium in Oldham, albeit one taking some considerable time in coming to fruition. It is worth reading this article to see what might be involved.

I HAVE, for my sins, become involved with two money raising ventures in Rugby League over the last 18 months.

The first invitation came from my adopted town's Rugby League Club, Brighouse Rangers, in December 1996 and the second from my hometown Club of Halifax in October 1997. Rangers, one of the founder members of the RFL back in 1895 were planning a tour to New Zealand for their youth side, while the then Thrum Hall board were planning to move in with Halifax Town at the Shay and build a stadium for a future together.

I'm never one to say 'No', although I do have a lot on my plate, as they say. Whilst we had to raise around £17,000 to send off the under-16 side on 1st August, the Blue Sox have had to work to an original target of £140,000. It has been sheer graft to grind out £17,000, and it has been done with only half of the players' families getting involved. Never again would I take that on board and I just hope the lads will appreciate the effort when they are swanning around the North Island.

In contrast, by the weekend of June 13/14, the Halifax Stadium Appeal Committee as they have called themselves, will have raised £100,000 in six months and whilst the original figure is now £160,000 they should reach that by November - 12 months on.

The Halifax Town AFC fundraisers, who had a £70,000 injection from the Board of Directors, are now on £121,000 but they have been going since February 1997. Compared to working to raise money for the amateur club,

the professional exercise has been far easier with a committee of around 15, including some 'big hitters' who have contacts and the flow has never stopped.

The Football League Ground initiative Trust have weighed in with £480,000 and the work has never stopped on the site. The new North Terrace, as you may have seen on Sky Sports, was up in 12 weeks from start to finish and had to be to ensure Halifax Town could get back in the Football League if they won the GM Vauxhall Conference, while the South Stand end has been proving a problem in ensuring the footings were right in what was an old ash tipping site.

Now the stanchions and cross members are being bolted together for the stand and the Blue Sox have set a target for it to be ready by August 23 when they entertain Bradford Bulls, while Halifax Town would like a week earlier for their debut back in the Football League. In the meantime with the dinners, race nights, car boot sales, match collections, pubs and working mens clubs all doing their bit, the effort continues apace.

It is human nature to sit back and gloat on achieving something worthwhile and I certainly will when I see phase one completed. That will ensure they can both get 10-11,000 in the ground then, when phase two is completed, somewhere in the region of 15,000.

The projected costs of that are coming in at £1.7m - reckon £2m by the time they start. It will certainly be the stadium of the people because, apart from the Football League grant, no other funds will have come forward. However, to make that phase 2 successful the board, and whoever makes up their fund-raising sub-committee, will have to bring in corporate help - with many hoping that Halifax Plc will at long last get involved in supporting their two professional clubs in the town.

Obviously, you Roughyed supporters, after the loss of your old Watersheddings Stadium and the original club, will be hoping for your own stadium as you climb back into your rightful place in the world of Rugby League - food for thought after reading this!

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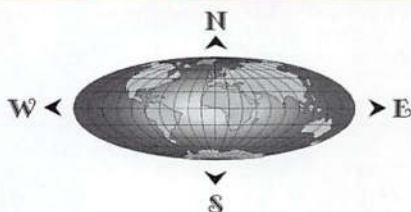
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The Roughyeds



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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear

PROFESSIONAL rugby came to Doncaster in 1951. Their first match produced a 10-3 home victory over Wakefield Trinity and set them off on a satisfactory opening season which brought them 21 league wins and a respectable 11th place in the league table. Unfortunately Doncaster have never been able to surpass the achievements of that inaugural season. They did gain promotion to Super League four seasons ago and were actually top of the table briefly but, just like Oldham, their flirtation with the big time ended in relegation and almost oblivion.

Doncaster's record in cup competition is almost as disappointing. They have never won a cup competition although they did reach the final of the little known bottom 14 competition which was staged in the spring of 1965.

The final was staged at Tattersfield, Doncaster on a Tuesday evening and attracted a crowd of 2,479. The line-up for the match, which was refereed by Oldham whistler Sam Shepherd, was as follows:

Doncaster: R. Astbury; Peter Goodchild, Graham Arrand, B. Kennedy, R. Roberts; E. Horsman, W. Charlton; Don Robinson, Ted Strawbridge, J. Holt, B. Saville, M. Smith and A. Redfearn.

Huddersfield: Brian Curry; T. Waqabaca, Ray Hayward (substitute Paul Longstaff), Bob Hagan, Ken Senior; Martin Calvert, B. Gascoigne; Peter Goddard, Don Close, Dave Heppleston, Brian Dobson, Frank Davies and Rob Valentine.

The match proved to be a scrappy affair but Huddersfield were deserved winners. They restricted Doncaster to just one try, scored by winger Roberts. Huddersfield led 8-3 at half-time and went on to win by 13 points to three. Bob Hagan, Ken Senior and Rob Valentine scored their tries and Brian Curry, later to join the Roughyeds, landed a couple of goals.

Doncaster's moment of glory was over and current form suggests that it could be quite a while before the Dons make a second cup final appearance.

RESULTS OF OLDHAM-DONCASTER MATCHES DURING THE PAST TWENTY SEASONS

1978-79	Doncaster	8	Oldham	10
	Oldham	20	Doncaster	5
1979-80	Doncaster	0	Oldham	25
	Oldham	46	Doncaster	2
1981-82	Oldham	38	Doncaster	10
	Oldham	21	Doncaster	7
	Doncaster	13	Oldham	36
1987-88	Doncaster	20	Oldham	18
	Oldham	17	Doncaster	16
1989-90	Doncaster	20	Oldham	22
	Oldham	30	Doncaster	8
1993-94	Doncaster	20	Oldham	0
1994-95	Oldham	44	Doncaster	8
	Doncaster	14	Oldham	22
1998	Doncaster	8	Oldham	28

Making their first ever visit to Boundary Park this afternoon Doncaster will be hoping to brighten up what has been a pretty dismal season for them by pulling off their first ever victory in Oldham. The Dons did force a 9-9 draw at Watersheddings in March 1971 but they have won only two of their 28 previous matches against Oldham. The Roughyeds' biggest home victory in that sequence was a 46-2 win during March 1980. Wingers Eric Fitzsimmons (eight goals) and Geoff Munro (three tries) led the scoring but there was also a hat-trick of tries from prop Steve Herbert that afternoon. Oldham's biggest away win against Doncaster came a couple of seasons later when, late in the campaign, they won 36-13 at Tattersfield. Centre Mick Parrish scored two tries and six goals in that match as he went on to play and score in every competitive Oldham match during that 1981-82 season. Doncaster's biggest win over the Roughyeds occurred in February 1994 when they won a fifth round Challenge Cup-tie 20-0, a result which brought about the resignation of Oldham coach Peter Tunks.

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WOULD SPECTATORS PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR NEXT HOME FIXTURE V LANCASHIRE LYNX IS AT BOUNDARY PARK ON WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST K.O. 7.30PM

MR WRIGLEY'S 'PENNY RUSH' BAR

Every Tuesday Night - 'Roughyeds Night'

View on the 'Big Screen' The previous weekend's Roughyeds Game! Commences 8.00pm Prompt

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CLUB!

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A designated Roughyeds Players & Supporters Area! - (John Smiths Smooth £1.20 Pint!)

'SHEDDINGS CHALLENGE SHIELD

Announce

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CHARITY RUGBY MATCH

IN AID OF

JOHN POWER

To be held at
Waterhead Park
commencing at 1.30pm on
Saturday 29th August

O.R.L.F.C.

CHADDERTON BRANCH - SUPPORTERS CLUB



WATERHEAD RUGBY CLUB - PEACH ROAD

SATURDAY 5 SEPT 1998

12 NOON - 6.00 PM

ADULTS 50p - ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FREE



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Council endeavour has enabled Oldham to become a centre of real opportunity within the North West region.

It has made possible a new and still expanding Town Centre, 14 new schools in as many years, Oldham Sixth Form College, a multi-million pound programme of building and environmental regeneration, thriving and growing development sites and much, much more.

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MAN OF THE MATCH
Allen, Mills, Howard & Co.

OLDHAM

Coach: Paddy Kirwan

1	Stephen WILDE			
2	Richard DARKES			
3	Afi LEUILA			
4	Brian QUINLAN			
5	Chris ECKERSLEY			
6	Chris WILKINSON			
7	Neil FLANAGAN			
8	Andrew PROCTER			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Mick EDWARDS			
11	Graeme SHAW			
12	Martin MADERS			
13	Ian SINFIELD			
14	Adrian MEAD	16	Jason CLEGG	
15	Nathan VARLEY	17	Paul CROOK	

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

TODAY'S REFEREE
Mr S. K. Lowe



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TOUCH JUDGES
Mr I. Muir
Mr S. Tease

DONCASTER DRAGONS

Coach: Colin Maskill

1	Lee SENIOR			
2	Alfie GOULBOURNE			
3	Martin ROWSE			
4	John OKUI			
5	Ian WATSON			
6	Alex GREEN			
7	Mark CONWAY			
8	Mark KEAR			
9	David WOLFORD			
10	Gavin MORGAN			
11	Tony MILLER			
12	Lance BUSBY			
13	Colin MASKILL			
14	Alex GOULBOURNE	16	Gareth PRATT	
15	John EDWARDS	17	Richard PELL	

Today's **Mitre**

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