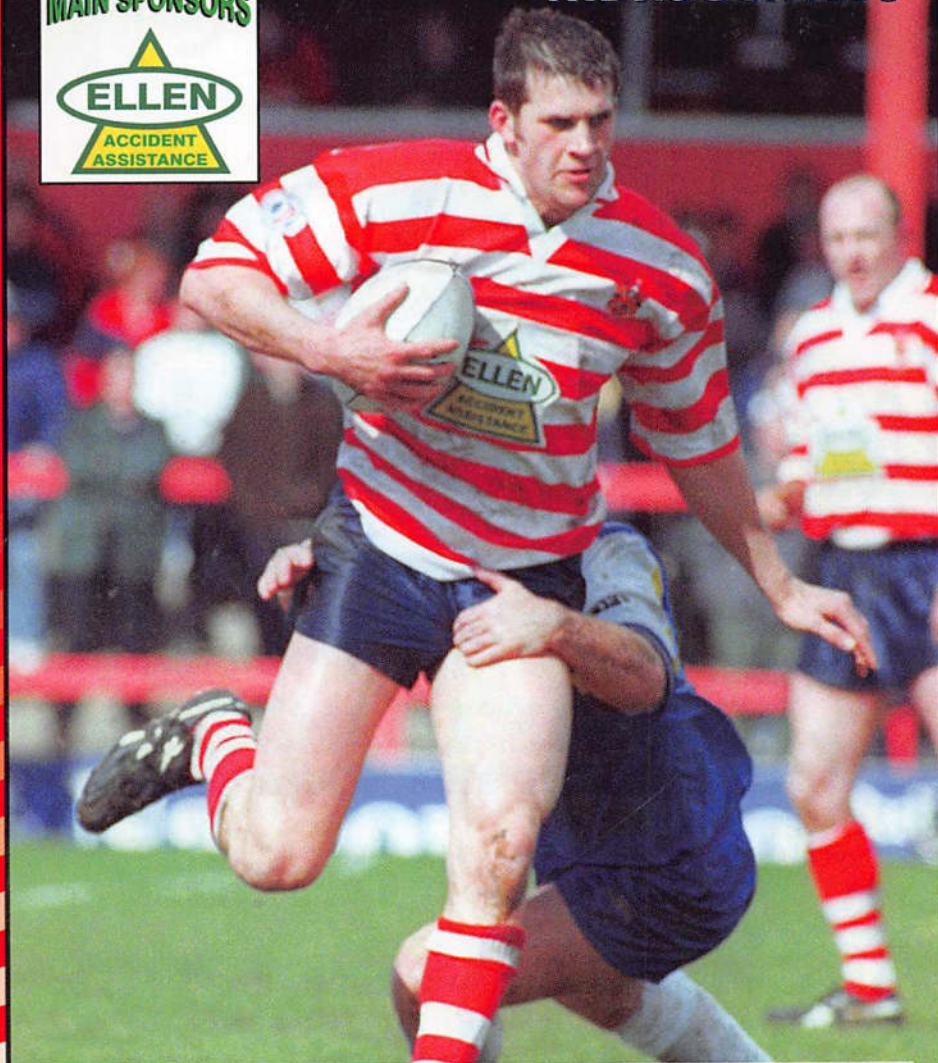


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Chairman's CHATTER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

AFTER the disappointment of recent weeks we now find ourselves playing our last game of the season for little else other than pride. It is unfortunate the way things have gone because the season had promised much over the last six months. To end up with nothing is hard to accept but it also begs the question... have we ended up with nothing?

My answer to that is, certainly not, although the playing side of the Club has not achieved what everybody, and that is including the players, hoped it would do it is off the field where I would like to think that significant progress has been made. From a fan's point of view I accept that it is sometimes difficult to see beyond what the team achieves on the field. From our perspective, as a Board, we obviously see things differently and there will hopefully be some developments over the course of the next few weeks which will indicate that we have been working continuously since the Club was formed to achieve much more than just putting a team on the pitch.

As well as doing all the day-to-day things involved in operating a Club we have ensured that the Club has not placed itself on a financial

tightrope and to have achieved that I would suggest is to have made significant progress in our first year. We made a commitment to yourselves at the outset to be honest. I feel that we have done this and it is our intention to continue in this way. I am

sure that many of you are only too well aware of the serious problems that the game is facing and that has certainly not helped us to stabilise the Club in its formative months. Although promotion has not been achieved the players have given their all and on behalf of everybody at the Club we thank them for their efforts.

The support we have received throughout the season has been tremendous and we appreciate the backing each and every one of you has given us. Just as disappointments end a season a new ray of hope springs ready for each coming season. The Board has learned an enormous amount during this season and we now start planning for next year.

Finally congratulations to York for securing one of the three promotion spots. They have deserved it over the season and we wish them well next year.

Christopher Hamilton



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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



IF the Oldham board thought the autumn of 1997 was a busy one, when they were building up for the launch of the new club, they can expect the 1998 version of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness to be positively tailor made for the

workaholic.

At club level, Chairman Christopher Hamilton and his three fellow Directors will have to go into conference soon to decide upon a senior coach to succeed Paddy Kirwan.

A review of the club's coaching arrangements has been promised after today's final Second Division game of the season against York.

Mick Coates, Paddy's No. 2 for most of the season, stepped into the breach when Kirwan was dismissed a fortnight ago.

Now, the Directors must decide whether Mick is the man for the job on a permanent basis or whether the club should look outside the Roughyeds camp for its next team boss.

If they opt for the latter course and advertise the job I'm sure there will be no shortage of applications from coaches who must recognise the club's potential for future growth in a town that is steeped in Rugby League.

There will be enough decisions to be made on coaching alone to keep the four Directors occupied for most of what remains of September.

Then come the players. Each of the Roughyeds' players has a deal with the

club which expires on December 31st, a date at which players aged 24 or over automatically become free agents under the terms of the new Bosman-type legislation.

Oldham, therefore, must decide which players they wish to keep and then set about the task of making them offers for next year.

As if that little lot wasn't enough there are on-going plans in the pipeline for other schemes, connected with the future development of the club, which have not yet been revealed.

That, then, is a potted version of what needs to be done on the domestic scene.

At RFL and FASDA levels there are also major decisions to be made which will have a direct influence of the future prospects of the Roughyeds.

A sub-committee of the RFL, which includes Oldham's Chairman, is currently considering the applications for membership of Division Two by Hemel Hempstead and one other club, whose identity has not yet been revealed.

FASDA, meanwhile, is working hard to devise a fixture formula for the 19 clubs currently outside Super League, to continue the debate on a return to winter rugby and to decide how best to allocate the £10.8m available to FASDA clubs as a one-off payment.

The Roughyeds Chairman will have plenty to say at those crucial meetings and I have no doubt he will also be taking more than a passing interest in the outcome of the proposed public inquiry to be held soon into the need for a new multi-purpose sports stadium in the town.

It all adds up to an autumnal close season of high drama for Roughyeds' fans, who should be supplied with plenty of information to keep rugby to the forefront during the winter lay-off.



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Don Yates On This Day

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

DON YATES RECALLS THIS DAY IN HISTORY

THE record point scorer of the York club is Vic Yorke, a capable prop-forward who, between 1954 and 1967, scored 2,159 points for the Minstermen including 1,060 goals. It was on this day in 1958, Saturday 6th September, that Yorke played a significant role in a remarkable league match in which York defeated Whitehaven 37-24. Second-row forward Basil Watts scored three of the five York tries that afternoon but it was Vic Yorke who took the eye with eleven successful goal kicks.

Another unusual scoring feat occurred six years previously, on Saturday 6th September 1952, when Bradford Northern defeated Batley 64-5.

Fifty-eight of Bradford's points that day were scored by New Zealanders. Full-back Joe Phillips led the rout with a try and 14 goals whilst other Kiwi scorers were Bob Hawes (4 tries), Jack McLean (3 tries) and Bill Seddon (2 tries). Playing a less significant role in that match was John Etty who was on the wing for Batley before moving to Oldham.

These aforementioned Kiwis would have been useful to the 1961 New Zealand tourists who, on Wednesday 6th September, lost 21-11 against Yorkshire on the Hull KR ground. Playing scrum-half for Yorkshire that evening was Jeff Stevenson of York whilst his stand-off was Alan Kellett of Oldham.

The Australian tourists of 1933 and 1952 suffered no such problems. On Wednesday 6th September 1933 the Kangaroos beat Bramley 53-6 with winger Alan Ridley scoring four of their 13 tries and on Saturday 6th September 1952 prop-forward Albert Paul scored three of their 12 tries when the Australians won 54-4 at Keighley.

It was on this day in 1956, Thursday 6th September, that Lancashire defeated Cumberland 42-21 in a County Championship match at Central Park, Wigan. Oldham winger Terry O'Grady scored four tries for Lancashire and his centre Alan Davies also scored a try. Another Roughyed in the Lancashire side was scrum-half Frank Pitchford whilst the Cumbrian pack included prop Sid Little (Oldham) and second-rower Geoff Robinson, then of Whitehaven but later of Oldham.

Friday 6th September 1968 was a memorable day in the career of Phil Larder for it was on that day that he made his debut for Oldham, scoring a try in a 17-5 Lancashire Cup-tie victory over Rochdale Hornets at the Athletic Grounds. It was perhaps appropriate that the other Oldham try scorers that evening were winger Mike Elliott and hooker Kevin Taylor, both players who showed great loyalty to the Roughyeds. Larder was signed from Sale RUFC and spent 12 years with Oldham, appearing in 328 matches and scoring 111 tries and 475 goals for a total of 1,283 points. He then had a spell with Whitehaven before moving into coaching with Widnes, Sheffield Eagles and Keighley as well as the Great Britain team.

Another player who was to coach Great Britain later in his career, Ellery Hanley, switched clubs on this day in 1991, Friday 6th September. Hanley joined Leeds from Wigan that day in a £250,000 deal which was a record for the Headingley club. Hanley made 114 appearances for the Loiners and scored 106 tries, a terrific ratio for a loose-forward. After leaving Leeds, Hanley moved to Australia where last season he was playing for the Balmain club.



Comments from THE COACH

A WARM welcome to York our visitors today. I believe our toughest match of the season was when we travelled to Ryedale Stadium and I do not expect today to be any different, with York aiming at the Championship and ourselves striving to finish on a winning note.

I do not believe that it has been a very long season, especially when you consider that we have played only 20 league games (and the Trans-Pennine Final).

There have, and I'm sure you will agree, certainly been some twists and turns! The first two-thirds of the season was obviously when we recorded our best results. After raising expectation levels it was a shame that we slipped off the pace and found ourselves on the fringe of the promotion race.

I can certainly put hand on heart and say we are a better side than we have been showing, but in professional rugby, results and not

sentiment are what count. I also believe that when we put our game together we can beat anyone in this division.

My debut programme piece is written after two defeats. There are some fine players here at Oldham who I am sure will have a successful career at a higher level.



A large majority of the lads are only young and have a lot of rugby ahead of them. Hopefully today they will play with plenty of fire in their bellies and have a

real desire to win and, if anybody is answering prayers, then the ball will bounce our way!

Last, but certainly not least, on behalf of myself and the players we would like to thank you all for your magnificent support throughout the season.

You really do deserve something to shout about and we will be doing our best for you this afternoon.

Mick Coates



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The Medlock Team wish the Oldham players, staff and
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us being a major force in Rugby once again

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The Roughyeds

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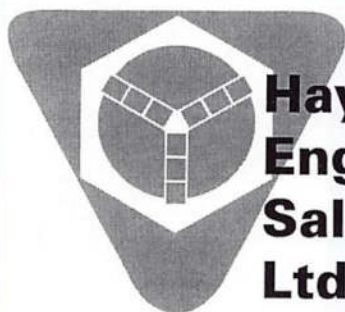
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Best Wishes to Oldham Roughyeds

Junior Roughyeds

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"THE ROUGHYEDS"

HI TO ALL YOU JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

We wish to send out a warm Oldham Rugby League welcome to all the Players, Supporters and Junior members of York on their first visit to Boundary Park.

We would like to send out **Happy Birthday** wishes to the following Junior Roughyeds who have birthdays in September:

Zoe Buckley	9th September
Emma Buckley	15th September
Megan Hartley	15th September
Kieran Aitken	16th September
James Pemberton	24th September
Lee Reed	24th September
Maria Holmes	24th September
Tom Slater	24th September
Freddie Fallas	27th September
Mark Brocklehurst	27th September
Jordan Hamilton	30th September

Welcome to our **Mascot of the day EMMA CAMERON**. Emma is 8 years old and her favourite player is Afi Leuila. Emma was thrilled to be chosen as Mascot. We hope you enjoy your day.

JUNIOR ROUGHYED PLAYER OF THE SEASON

The Junior Roughyeds have voted for their player of the season, it was a very close contest between Micky Edwards and Afi Leuila – but Afi won by two votes. Congratulations Afi.

Here are a selection of comments made by the Junior Roughyeds about Micky Edwards.

- He's dead hard
- He's got pace and he gives 100% in every game
- He's the player who has played the best throughout the season
- He is outstanding and I like how he plays
- When he gets the ball Oldham always attack
- He's a good player, he is funny and he is friendly
- He does a great impression of Grant Mitchell!

Here are a selection of comments about the winner – Afi Leuila

- He's good at playing and he is friendly
- He's good at passing the ball and scoring tries
- I like his fast running down the wing
- He scores some good tries
- He is a good strong player and if given the right chance he can run like the wind
- Afi is fast, tough and good
- He is brilliant!
- He gives 100% in every game he plays and was funny when I met him.

The presentation for the Junior Roughyed player of the season will be made at the presentation evening to be held on Friday 25th September at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

BROADHAM PLANT HIRE

As the season comes to a close I would like to congratulate all the lucky Junior Roughyeds who were chosen as Mascots over the season. They all did a tremendous job on the day and I know they all enjoyed it. Well done all of you and good luck to the other Junior Roughyeds. It may be your turn next season to be chosen. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Broadham**

Plant Hire for sponsoring the Junior Roughyeds this season and providing a match shirt for each mascot.

Thank you.

Here's what some of our lucky Mascots thought of their day as Mascot:

SAM KERSHAW - WHAT A DAY!!!

When I was standing at the top of the players entrance I was very nervous. When the players had finished warming up I went onto the pitch and had my photo taken with my favourite player (Paul Round). I then went back into the players entrance, the ref blew his whistle to signal the players to come out of the dressing rooms.

It seemed ages before Workington finished going out of the players entrance. Then Neil Flanagan advanced round the corner. I knew what I had to do. I came out to a loud cheer, I warmed up with the players and went to the centre and shook the hands of the officials and the Workington captain. We won the toss and Mr Flanagan said "We'll stay the same". I went back to the line and stood with Red Ed and all of the players for a minutes silence. Then I ran off.

We won the game 12-9. WELL DONE LADS!!!

KELLY HULBERT

Kelly Hulbert was the Mascot against Batley Bulldogs away on the 23rd August.

NIGEL SCOTT

Nigel was the Mascot against Doncaster on the 16th August.



SAM ABBOTT - MY DAY

It was a very hot sunny day. I had a lot on my mind and I was quite nervous when we got there and I didn't know where to go. I felt great though.

When we finally got in we went in the changing rooms of the Roughyeds. I felt really silly. I was in the wrong colour kit because Barrow play in blue and white and our away kit is the same colour. So we had to get a shirt off someone in the crowd. I felt brilliant when I had the right kit. I went on the pitch and the Ref said to our player if I was playing and he said hopefully in the future.

JAMES HITCHINSON (Aged 8) - MY DAY AS MASCOT

As I arrived at the ground with my family I was very excited at being the Roughyheads mascot. I met Caroline and she took me to the players entrance. Here I was introduced to "Red Ed the Roughyhead" he was really funny and gave me an autographed programme.

Before the game I had my photograph taken with Micky Edwards my favourite player. My big moment was nearly here. The Oldham players came out of their changing room. Andy Procter gave me the ball. I then led the team out onto the pitch. I felt so proud. I shook hands with the Doncaster captain and the match officials following which I tossed the coin.

I had a fabulous day and thank all those involved at Oldham Rugby League and especially the Junior Roughyheads.

Debra Rafferty



Phil Larder GUEST WRITER

One of the great attractions of the 1970s was the wing partnership of Mike Elliott and Phil Larder. A much under-estimated player, Larder was a fine attacking centre and goalkicker. Short, perhaps, of that bit of 'devil' that put the likes of Les Dyl and Syd Hynes in front of him, Larder nevertheless had the quality to be close to Great Britain selection. Nationally, however, Phil became better known after his retirement, for it was in his various roles as RL Director of Coaching, assistant coach to Malcolm Reilly and subsequently as Great Britain Coach in his own right, that he became arguably the most influential single figure in raising the standard of the British game to match the Australians. Larder's 1988 Coaching Manual remains THE textbook to read on the intricacies of the modern game. Here Phil Larder explains how he came to leave RL for a job with the RFU. If you never read another article on Rugby League read this one for an analysis of what is wrong with the administration of our game.

I REMEMBER throwing a ball about with my dad in the back garden of our house in Haven Lane, Moorside, when he suddenly said 'Why don't you come with us to watch the rugby this afternoon?'

A chance comment, a quick acceptance by a six year old who did not know what he was getting into, and my first visit to Watersheddings which was to have such a great influence on my life. Now 45 years later, working for the Rugby Football Union I am still a Rugby League fanatic.

Rugby League as a game is the best in the World - by far. But as a sport it worries me. It worries me a lot. To explain I must tell you of events which involved me personally.

In 1994, after taking First Division Widnes to Wembley, I surprised the rugby league world by becoming the Team Manager/Coach of Keighley Cougars, a club which had finished 7th in Division Two.

But Keighley Cougars in 1994 were special. A new Board of Directors headed by Chairman Mick O'Neil had taken over the Club at the beginning of the 1991/92 season, and introduced Cougarmania. The ground and terracing had been repainted, a new stadium and clubhouse built, and average crowds had increased from 400 to 1500.

Cougarmania was carefully thought out. A clever policy aimed at selling rugby league into the community, and presenting the other rugby league clubs with a blueprint for the future. A classroom with a resident schoolteacher was based at the Club so that the majority of primary school children could be taught there for a month every academic year. All the learning was related to Keighley Cougars and rugby league.

During Maths the children measured the area of the pitch, worked out how many spectators could

stand in each section of the ground, added up gate receipts and wrote projects on other fund-raising opportunities.

During Geography the children plotted routes from Whitehaven, Barrow, Leigh and Hull KR.

During English they wrote about the players, staff and completed match reports.

For projects they designed banners, made up tunes, compiled scoring statistics and wrote stories about the game. The Club also took over 1,000 children in a great convoy of buses to Wembley for the 1993 Great Britain - New Zealand test.

The Secondary schools were also targeted. The Overseas players were qualified as Coaches and



Phil Larder takes a pass in his Union days.

employed to work in the schools, teaching rugby league in the physical education curriculum.

Close working relationships were also made with the Keighley Technical College. Groups of students visited Cougar Park to practice painting, decorating, plumbing and general ground improvement.

Mary Calvert was appointed to oversee the project and over 2,000 pupils each year were influenced by the scheme. She also involved the Club in the fight against crime, particularly drug abuse. The crime rate in Keighley began to drop and in 1995 it was the lowest in Yorkshire. The Chief Constable attributed its success to Keighley Cougars.

These projects gave the Cougars a massive profile in the community, and the Keighley News carried stories each week which made interesting news on pages other than the sports page.

The Community began to embrace rugby league at the Cougars. New spectators, the majority of them women and children, began to attend the games, and crowds began to increase.

The new fans had to be entertained, and Chairman Mick O'Neil was the man to do it. Mick had enjoyed his youth, none more so than when he was employed by Brigitte Bardot in her Club in Monte Carlo as a disc jockey. Just the experience to entertain the spectators. Match day at Cougar Park



Phil Larder . . . continued GUEST WRITER

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

became an event with pre-match entertainment, and even music during the games. Every player was given his own signature tune and no sooner had he touched the ball down to score a try than his tune was blaring out of the very loud and very clear PA system.

Other Clubs began to take an interest, none more so than Peter Deakin who used the scheme as a basis when he moved to Bradford Northern (later Bulls).

The Board of Directors were adamant that Cougarmania needed success on the field. I was appointed as Coach for the 1994/95 season and given £100,000 to spend, I signed André Stoop (London Broncos), Neil Kenyon (Warrington), Simon Irving (Leeds), Chris Robinson (Halifax), Grant Doorey (Manly), Darren Fleary (Dewsbury) and Shane Tupaea (Oldham).

I was appointed to win promotion to Division One and I noted the Rugby League Bye-Law at the beginning of the season, which stated quite clearly that the top two teams in Division Two at the end of the season would be promoted. Clear, concise and in tablets of stone.

We trained hard during pre-season as I made sure that we would be the fittest team in the competition, before I began to improve their tactics. The previous season Keighley had scored more points than any other Division Two team but finished a disappointing 7th. Defence was obviously the key, and that could easily be made stronger.

By the time the Regal Trophy was upon us, Keighley were at the top of the table, 4 points in front of Batley, Huddersfield and London Broncos. We were on top form and delighted to draw first Division Sheffield Eagles in the third round, who had beaten Oldham at the Don Valley Stadium the week before. Our first-half performance was awesome, and although the Eagles hit back strongly in the last quarter we defeated them 26-10 before 4,156 spectators. Our next opponents were Warrington, currently in fourth place in Division One and in front of 5,750 spectators were leading as the stadium circle signalled the end of 80 minutes. The bumper crowd watched spellbound as in the third minute of extra time Jonathan Davies scored under the posts and kicked the conversion to earn an 18-20 victory.

Unfortunately the Cup games drained us mentally and physically. Having to play four league



Phil Larder scores his first try for Oldham against Blackpool Borough.

games in 13 days, and with several injuries to key players, our form wobbled and two defeats brought us straight back into the promotion dog fight.

But Cougarmania was at its highest. The Sheffield and Warrington performances had caught the imagination of the town and home attendances soared towards the 6,000 mark, making Keighley the best supported team after Wigan, Leeds and St. Helens. The supporters followed us on our away journeys with an estimated 3,000 following us to the Recreation Ground to give Whitehaven its highest crowd for five years.

As the end of season approached Keighley and Batley were 4 points clear of the chasing pack and promotion was within our grasp.

Magnet - our major sponsors - confirmed a £200,000 per year shirt sponsorship for the following season as long as we were in Division One which guaranteed televised games. After negotiations Magnet agreed to advance us a loan and the decision was made to

immediately strengthen the squad with the signing of an International stand-off.

The Board were convinced that Cougarmania would continue to expand as long as the team were delivering the goods on the field of play. The games with Sheffield and Warrington had suggested that the existing squad would be strong enough to hold its own when promoted, but a mid-table position was to be the aim. As a result we approached Sheffield Eagles for the Great Britain stand off Darryl Powell, and after lengthy negotiations signed him on April 4th for a Club record fee of £130,000.

Unknown to the world of rugby league, April 4th was also the day that Maurice Lindsay, Chief Executive of the RFL, would meet with Rupert Murdoch and sign the Sky Super League sponsorship for £87 million.

The outcome was that Division One was to be reduced to 12 teams, including Paris and London Broncos, and there was to be no promotion.

The Cougars went into the last game of the season having to defeat bottom club Highfield by more points than Batley had to beat Swinton to guarantee the Championship. The town of Keighley was in uproar following the Super League news, yet 4,500 fans travelled to Spotland (the venue had been changed to accommodate the fans) to support the team. As it happened Swinton defeated Batley,



Phil Larder . . . continued GUEST WRITER

but that result was insignificant as Keighley broke the Division Two record smashing Highfield 104-4. The fans went wild as the Second Division Championship Trophy was presented, Maurice Lindsay made a wise decision not to attend.

The Cougars completed the season by winning the Premiership defeating Huddersfield convincingly at Old Trafford prior to the Wigan/Leeds game, and took great delight in smashing fourth placed London Broncos in the semi final 38-4.

Keighley Cougars began the 1994/95 season, like all the other clubs, in good faith. Their target was promotion, and they achieved it in fine style.



They played entertaining and winning rugby and their support increased to over 6,000 on occasions, making them the fourth best supported team in British rugby league.

They worked particularly hard in the community and set an example which was later to be most successful at the Bradford Bulls. In order to finish the season in style, and in order to prepare themselves for a successful first season in Division One they purchased Darryl Powell the Great Britain stand off. To do this they used a guarantee of sponsorship money which was to be paid by Magnet as soon as promotion was achieved.

The about turn by the RFL, the moving of the goal posts which denied promotion, announced two weeks before the season's end has virtually destroyed the Club. The inspirational Chairman Mick O'Neil is disillusioned and has left. Mary Calvert

could no longer be paid. The Cougar classroom no longer exists. Powell and Fleary were given to Leeds in order to save on contacts, King and Parsons returned to the Gold Coast Chargers, Pinkney and Wood were sold to Sheffield Eagles and Critchley to Castleford. Only 1,200 spectators turned up to the last home game and the team is fourth from bottom of a very weak Division Two.

I am sorry to go on, but rugby league worries me. The game is great but the administrators do not realise what makes the game so great, and that is you – the spectators. The life blood.

This is Keighley – over 5,000 spectators lost to the game.

In the same year Hull, Widnes and Salford were relegated among with bottom clubs Featherstone Rovers and Wakefield Trinity. At the beginning of the season the Rugby League Bye-Laws stated that the bottom two would be relegated – but five dropped.

You the spectators of Oldham, I am sure, have your own complaints.

Do you not agree that the RFL has wasted millions in Paris, and in so doing gave Paris help which ultimately caused Oldham to be relegated and which bankrupted the Club?

How many millions have been pumped into London, and are now ear-marked for Gateshead and South Wales?

How many millions of pounds have been spent on second rate overseas players, who prevent our own youngsters from gaining experience? They then take the money back with them to Australian bank accounts.

Whilst all this has been happening how much have the RFL invested in developing the grass roots in the North West which we know can produce real talent?

How much money has been given to the amateur Clubs who attract all the new youngsters into the game or invested in promoting rugby league in the schools?

We, who live in the North West, love the game. We have been brought up in it. Our fathers played, and their fathers before them. It is in our blood, Rugby League is ours – but we have been abused.

The game of rugby league is still great. But what of the sport?

I feel that it quickly needs to change its entire outlook before it does itself irreparable harm.

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MATCH BY MATCH 1998

	At	Result	F-A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
JANUARY																				
1 Thurs ROCHDALE W (Law Cup)	H3 00	30-16	Mead	Exeterley	Wilde	Copper	McNicholas	Barter	Finnagan	Guest	Hough	Meaders	Quinlan	Prescott	Jackson	Robinson	Round	Leila	Diggle	
18 Sun HEWORTH (RCCC 2nd Rd Prelim)	A3 00	29-13	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Copper	McNicholas	Barter	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Meaders	Quinlan	Shaw	Prescott	Robinson	Exeterley	Clegg	Fleming	
FEBRUARY																				
1 Sun WIDNES (RCCC 2nd Rd)	H3 00	45-19	Wilde	Diggle	Mead	Copper	McNicholas	Barter	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Meaders	Quinlan	Shaw	Marrindale	Robinson	Exeterley	Clegg	Fleming	
APRIL 1998																				
13 Mon WORKINGTON TOWN	A3 00	13-4	Mead	Darke	Leila	Copper	McNicholas	Baker	Finnagan	Clegg	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Marrindale	Robinson	Round	Meaders	Varley	
22 Wed BRAMLEY	A7 45	10-9	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Copper	Barter	Barter	Finnagan	Meaders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Shaw	Marrindale	Robinson	Round	Prescott	Varley	
26 Sun DONCASTER DRAGONS	A3 00	10-0	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Barter	Finnagan	Meaders	Hough	Edwards	Sinfield	Varley	Marrindale	Robinson	Round	Clegg	Shaw	
MAY																				
4 Mon BRAMLEY	H3 00	29-1	Mead	Darke	Leila	Wilde	Exeterley	Barter	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Nadole	Shaw	Marrindale	Robinson	Varley	Sinfield	Prescott	
10 Sun BATLEY BUILDERS	H3 00	19-9	Wilkinson	Mead	Leila	Darke	Exeterley	Barter	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Meaders	Nadole	Marrindale	Robinson	Varley	Clegg	Prescott	
17 Sun BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	H3 00	19-7	Wilkinson	Mead	Leila	Darke	Exeterley	Barter	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Meaders	Nadole	Marrindale	Sinfield	Varley	Clegg	Shaw	
24 Sun YORK	A3 00	14-2	Wilkinson	Darke	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Barter	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Marrindale	Mead	Sinfield	Varley	Prescott	
31 Sun RH LANCSHIRE LYNX	A3 00	13-1	Wilde	Mead	Darke	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Proctor	Robinson	Edwards	Nadole	Shaw	Marrindale	Sinfield	Varley	Prescott	Round	
JUNE																				
7 Sun RH WORKINGTON	A3 00	16-7	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Proctor	Hough	Shaw	Sinfield	Nadole	Marrindale	Mead	Clegg	Varley	Round	
14 Sun RH BARROW B R (in brackets)	H3 00	16-6	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Proctor	Nadole	Sinfield	Mead	Cook	Edwards	Varley	
19 Fri RH LANCSHIRE L (at Nostell)	H7 30	18-6	Wilde	Mead	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Proctor	Sinfield	Nadole	Marrindale	Cook	Edwards	Shaw	Varley	
28 Sun RH BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	A3 00	13-3	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Marrindale	Mead	Cook	Varley	Round	
JULY																				
5 Sun RH WORKINGTON	H3 00	16-0	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Marrindale	Mead	Cook	Varley	Clegg	
19 Sun BATLEY RH (Final)	25-96	12-28	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Nadole	Marrindale	Mead	Sinfield	Varley	Round	
26 Sun LANCSHIRE LYNX	A3 00	7-3	Darke	Mead	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Shaw	Marrindale	Meaders	Cook	Diggle	Edwards	Varley	Clegg	
AUGUST																				
2 Sun WORKINGTON	H3 00	15-1	Darke	Mead	Leila	Copper	Exeterley	Wilkinson	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Shaw	Meaders	Cook	Jackson	Varley	Quinlan	Clegg	
16 Sun DONCASTER	H3 00	16-5	Wilde	Darke	Leila	Quinlan	Exeterley	Cook	Wilkinson	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Varley	Meaders	Sinfield	Mead	Barter	Shaw	Clegg	
23 Sun BATLEY	A3 15	10-4	Wilde	Mead	Leila	Quinlan	Exeterley	Cook	Finnagan	Round	Hough	Edwards	Varley	Proctor	Sinfield	Jackson	Darke	Nadole	Clegg	
28 Wed LANCSHIRE LYNX	H7 30	7-0	Wilde	Mead	Leila	Quinlan	Exeterley	Cook	Barter	Proctor	Hough	Edwards	Nadole	Meaders	Jackson	Darke	Sinfield	Varley	Clegg	
30 Sun BARROW BORDER RAIDERS	A3 00	8-6	Wilde	Mead	Leila	Quinlan	Darke	Cook	Barter	Round	Hough	Edwards	Nadole	Meaders	Sinfield	Jackson	Varley	Marrindale	Clegg	
SEPTEMBER																				
6 Sun YORK	H3 00																			

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photos of the all-time greats,
Bryn Day, Alan Davies, Bernard
Ganley, Derek Turner, Martin
Murphy, Terry Flanagan and Co.

Iva Slateloose GUEST WRITER

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FROM OUR SYDNEY CORRESPONDENT

Agents are scouring hostels, nursing homes and lunatic asylums following the news that a new Super League club is being formed in the U.K.

It is rumoured here that "Bruiser" Clarke, Wally Gibson and John Cogger have already signed.

Names linked with the coaching position include Artie Beetson and Rolf Harris.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost - Boundary Park area.

Large hat-pin, essential for team selection.

Would the finder please return to the Oldham Club Shop.

STOP PRESS

Central Park sources deny that Mick Cassidy has been loaned to Belle Vue Aces Speedway Team in order to speed up his six match ban.

Belle Vue have meetings every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings which means that Cassidy will have completed his ban on September 7th.

Gary Hethrington of Leeds is reported as saying - "It's an outrage, it brings the game into disrepute - and I thought of it first" - **REUTERS**

APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1998 TO DATE

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts						
Craig Barker	11	1	2	-	-	8	Mick Martindale	15	1	5	-	20
Jason Clegg	1	13	-	-	-	-	Joe McNicholas	3	-	-	-	-
Sean Cooper	15	-	4	1	-	18	Aidie Mead	13	7	4	-	16
Paul Crook	6	4	1	-	-	4	Joe Naidole	13	1	1	-	4
Richard Darkes	17	2	5	8	-	32	Mick Prescott	1	5	1	-	4
Craig Diggle	2	1	2	-	-	8	Andy Proctor	10	-	1	-	4
Chris Eckersley	18	2	15	-	-	60	Brian Quinlan	6	1	1	15	34
Mick Edwards	16	3	6	-	-	24	Darren Robinson	1	6	2	-	8
Neil Flanagan	19	-	3	-	-	12	Paul Round	12	7	3	-	12
Andy Fleming	-	2	-	-	-	-	Graeme Shaw	14	4	2	-	8
John Hough	21	-	7	-	-	28	Ian Sinfield	9	6	1	-	4
Emerson Jackman	1	3	1	-	-	4	Nathan Varley	3	17	-	-	-
Afi Leuila	15	-	8	-	-	32	Steve Wilde	16	-	6	-	24
Martin Maders	11	1	-	-	-	-	Chris Wilkinson	13	-	-	34	3 71



From The EDITOR

THIS Season we have attempted to bring you a programme with a difference. We hope we have succeeded in our objective to make it the most interesting programme in the League, a programme which is a 'good read' and not something you put down and forget about after two minutes. To this end we invited a number of professional journalists, together with well-known Rugby League figures and a number of past players to write articles. We hope this has contributed to the quality of the magazine and thank all those who have participated so willingly.

To our regular contributors I extend my heartfelt thanks. Christopher Hamilton and Paddy Kirwan were always intelligent and thought-provoking in their articles, Roger Halstead did us proud with his personal reflections, Michael Turner is the marker of Oldham's history and the prolific Don Yates is so reliable and knowledgeable that it's untrue! Above all however, the enthusiasm, time and help provided by Brian Walker has been unparalleled.

My thanks also to the Supporters Club branches and Junior Supporters and to all advertisers and sponsors. Last, but not least, many thanks to Pennine Printing Services who have been exceptional in the quality of their work.

All this said, we are already working on ways to improve the programme for next season and are always open to suggestions. Please write in if you have any ideas.

KNOWING full well that team selection is always a topic to get fans arguing and in view of team of the week selections etc. here is my

Division Two team of the year:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | Steve Wilde | OLDHAM |
| 2 | Neil Kite | BRAMLEY |
| 3 | Shaun Austerfield | YORK |
| 4 | Dan Potter | BRAMLEY |
| 5 | Chris Eckersley | OLDHAM |
| 6 | Richard Price | BATLEY |
| 7 | Gary Barnett | BATLEY |
| 8 | Shaun Wallis | BARROW |
| 9 | Mark Cass | BATLEY |
| 10 | Jason Pekepo | LANCS LYNX |
| 11 | Barry Williams | WORKINGTON |
| 12 | Wayne Freeman | BRAMELY |
| 13 | Mick Martindale | OLDHAM |
| 14 | Phil Jones | LANCS LYNX |
| 15 | Lee Tichener | YORK |
| 16 | P J Soloman | LANCS LYNX |
| 17 | Tony Miller | DONCASTER |

Highlights of the Season:

- 1 Law Cup win
- 2 Defeat of Lancashire Lynx at Spotland
- 3 Eckersley's try v Barrow
- 4 Leuila's hat-trick v Workington
- 5 Eckersley's hat-trick v Doncaster

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From the Supporters Club

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

OLDHAM RLFC SUPPORTERS CLUB'S PRESENTATION EVENING

TO mark the end of the inaugural season of Oldham RLFC (1997) the Supporters Clubs are organising a Player of the Year Awards Presentation evening on Friday the 25th September 1998 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham.

Although the main purpose of the evening will be to present awards to those players who have excelled or become firm favourites with the supporters, we believe the evening will not only be an awards ceremony, but an opportunity for everyone who has played their part this year, the Directors, Players, Coaching Staff and Supporters alike, to show their appreciation and celebrate together the end of our first season and the successes we as a Club have achieved.

The awards presentations will commence at approximately 9.00pm thereafter the evening will be handed over to the Disco for everyone to enjoy the rest of the evening dancing or just celebrating what we hope will be the ultimate prize of promotion.

There will be a free draw for all members of the

Supporters Clubs who attend the evening, so please remember your membership card.

A Voting form for the Player of the Year will be sent to all members of the Supporters Clubs within the next few days.

We hope as many fans as possible will attend the awards, which we hope will be both an enjoyable and rewarding evening for both the Club and its supporters.

Tickets for the evening priced at £5.00 will be available shortly from any of the Supporters Club officials or the Club Shop.

Check out the local press or contact your Supporters Club official for further details.

WATERSHEDDINGS 107 BRANCH

WE would like to give DJ Brian from Mr Wrigleys a big Thank You for doing a great job at the Ladies Night which was a big success - watch this space.

Forthcoming Events - Sports Day: Cricket match W107 versus Players, family fun etc. 20th September, starts 1.00pm at Austerlands. Everyone welcome. Come and see if the Players can play cricket better than rugby!

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From the Pen of . . . Michael Turner

THE MINSTER MEN

TODAY for our last match of the season we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the York club, who will most likely be celebrating promotion, unless there has been a series of shock results the previous weekend.

Although York joined the old "Northern Union" in 1901, it was not until the 1923/24 season that they were first in opposition against Oldham. The first match between the two clubs was in York on December 8th, 1923, when the home side recorded a narrow 7 - 5 victory. The Oldham points came from a try from veteran centre Billy Hall and a rare goal from international forward Bob Sloman. The return match on April 14th 1924 saw Oldham gain revenge after another tight encounter. This time a try from Sloman was the only score of the match as the "Roughyeds" won by three points to nil.

It is interesting to note that on the only two occasions the clubs have clashed in the Rugby League Challenge Cup both games saw Oldham win

by a single point. Firstly by 4 - 3 in the second round at York in 1949 and by 6 - 5 at Watersheddings in 1976, again in the second round.

The only time York have won in Oldham was on May 20th 1979. By coincidence this was the last game of the 1978/79 season and no doubt the "Wasps" will be eager to emulate that success today. However, I am sure that the Roughyeds will be equally determined to end the first campaign for the re-launched Club on a winning note and so an exciting encounter can be anticipated.

Finally, I would like to thank all the supporters, players and officials who have rallied round to maintain the presence of our great club in senior Rugby League. As these notes are being written it is still unclear what level of competition we will find ourselves in next season but no doubt the same firm resolve to re-establish the Club will be in evidence and the "Roughyeds" will hopefully go from strength to strength.



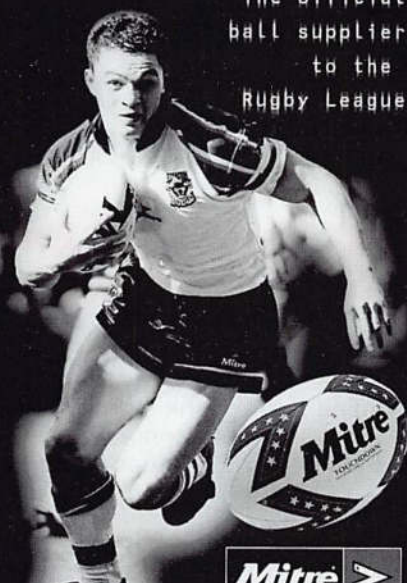
An historic photo from the second ever visit of York to Watersheddings on December 15th 1924. The image shows the teams leaving the field at the conclusion of the match with Oldham captain Herman Hilton in the centre of the photo with one of the Corsi brothers on the extreme left. This match, which was played in atrocious conditions, ended in an Oldham victory (15-0) and saw the Welsh born Corsi brothers in opposition with Joe playing for Oldham and Jack and Angelo turning out for York.

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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Le Treize Tournoi

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

DON YATES LOOKS AT THE WINTER FARE

THE winners of this season's exciting Second Division Championship chase will join the First Division Premiership finalists to form a three pronged British challenge in Le Treize Tournoi – the European Cup.

All three British clubs visit France on the weekend of October 3rd/4th to take on the three French challengers, Limoux, Villeneuve and St. Esteve.

The action moves across the Channel to England the following weekend – October 10th/11th - then back to France on October 17th/18th before the final round of matches in Britain on October 24th/25th. The top British club from the four preliminary round matches will meet the top French club in the final which will be staged in Toulouse on Sunday 1st November.

Apart from Le Treize Tournoi, local followers of the game will be able to watch top class amateur action from the Premier Division of the National Conference League throughout the winter months. St. Annes, who play at Higginshaw Road on Oldham Edge, and Saddleworth Rangers, who play at Shaw Hall Bank Road in Greenfield, are at home on alternate Saturdays throughout the season. The fixtures for the 1998/99 season are as follows:

Saturday, 12th September

St Annes v Walney Central

Saturday, 19th September

Saddleworth Rangers v Askam

Saturday, 26th September

St. Annes v Egremont Rangers

Saturday, 3rd October

Saddleworth Rangers v Heworth

Saturday, 10th October

St. Annes v Thornhill

Saturday, 17th October

Saddleworth Rangers v Beverley

Saturday, 24th October

St. Annes v Askam

Saturday, 31st October

Saddleworth Rangers v St. Patricks

Saturday, 7th November

St. Annes v Beverley

Saturday, 14th November

Saddleworth Rangers v Woolston Rovers

Saturday, 21st November

St. Annes v Saddleworth Rangers

Saturday, 28th November

St. Annes v West Hull

Saturday, 5th December

Silk Cut Challenge Cup, first round

Saturday, 12th December

Saddleworth Rangers v West Hull

Saturday, 19th December

Silk Cut Challenge Cup, second round

Saturday, 2nd January

St. Annes v Leigh Miners

Saturday, 9th January

Saddleworth Rangers v Walney Central

Saturday, 16th January

St. Annes v Lock Lane

Saturday, 23rd January

Saddleworth Rangers v Leigh Miners

Saturday, 30th January

BNFL National Cup, second round

Saturday, 6th February

St. Annes v Skirlaugh

Saturday, 13th February

BNFL National Cup, round three

Saturday, 20th February

Saddleworth Rangers v Egremont Rangers

Saturday, 27th February

St Annes v Heworth or BNFL Nat. Cup, R. 3

Saturday, 6th March

Saddleworth Rangers v Lock Lane

Saturday, 13th March

St Annes v St Patricks or BNFL Nat. Cup, R. 4

Saturday, 20th March

Saddleworth Rangers v Thornhill

Saturday, 27th March

BNFL National Cup, Round 5

Saturday, 10th April

BNFL National Cup, quarter-final

Saturday, 24th April

BNFL National Cup, semi-final

Saturday, 22nd May

BNFL National Cup Final



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Good Luck to the Roughyeds



Neil Tunncliffe RFL Chief Executive GUEST WRITER

I'M DELIGHTED to have been invited to write this article, towards the end of what has been a very eventful and challenging season – my first as Chief Executive of the Rugby Football League.

It seems a short, but also a very long time since the first week in January when I was invited to succeed Maurice Lindsay – initially for an interim three-month term, prior to a full appointment by the Board of Directors on (appropriately enough, some might say) 1 April. To my mind, at the start of the year, we were in a bit of a hole, and I set myself three priority areas for attention if things were to improve.

The first of these was the management at Red Hall. We'd never had the structures of a proper business – no job descriptions, no terms and conditions of employment, no appraisal system, no health and safety or equal opportunities policies. It's taken some time to put these things in place, but I'm much happier now that we run a tighter ship, and that the people who work here know where they stand and what they are supposed to do. I believe we are a much more productive unit as a result.

Second, I wanted to address the fact that our game's sponsorship portfolio was desperately thin. Silk Cut have been tremendous sponsors of the Challenge Cup but, elsewhere, companies have fulfilled their contracts with us but not then renewed them. This has been a major source of concern, and we have been doing a lot of work to try to rebuild the Rugby Football League's reputation as sponsor-friendly and a sound investment.

So far this year we have attracted new names to our game in Thomson ESG and Brannigans, and we have a few more in the pipeline who – fingers crossed – will come on board. But there is still a lot of work to do in this area.

Third, there was the fact that the international scene was in disarray. We had an old International Board which had not been disbanded, a new one which had not been formally constituted, and I could not have told you who Great Britain were playing this year, let alone into the next century. Now we have real progress in that area; as from mid-August, a new unified Rugby League International Federation with a definite brief and purpose, and an international calendar which begins with the impending visit of the Kiwis to play three Tests against Great Britain in November this year, and which includes the return of the World Cup to these shores in 2000.

There is still a long way to go before the Rugby Football League gets to where I want it to be. In a sense, we are a lot like the new Oldham club; starting again this year with new goals and ambitions, needing to consolidate but also to grow and succeed, and encountering a few setbacks along the way. In both our cases, there is no shortage of effort or enthusiasm. I'm sure that, if we both stick with it, the glory days which we remember from the not-too-distant past are just around the corner once again.

Neil Tunncliffe
Chief Executive

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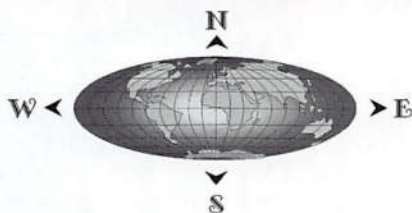
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The Roughyeds



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Don Yates Down Memory Lane

"THE ROUGHYEDS"

Don Yates looks back to a season of success for York

SPORTING interests in the City of York have always included rugby league although success in recent seasons has principally involved the amateur clubs of the Minster City, Heworth, who opened the season here at Boundary Park last January, were founder members of the National Conference League and have always been a prolific source of young talent. In recent seasons they have been joined by Acorn and New Earswick All Blacks so the amateur game in York is as healthy as anywhere in the game.

Unfortunately the York professional club have never been one of the glamour clubs of our code. They have won the Yorkshire Cup on three occasions - in 1922, 1933 and 1936 - and have also appeared in three other county cup finals. The biggest day in the Club's history was probably their visit to Wembley in 1931 when they lost to Halifax but, apart from the Yorkshire Cup, the only other trophy lifted by York was the Second Division Championship in season 1980/81.

York had been relegated from the First Division in 1980 after just one season in the top flight. Five of their players stayed in Division One - Alan Maskill transferred to Halifax, Neil Lean to Leeds, Barry Banks to Hull whilst Billy Harris and Terry Day joined Wakefield Trinity. To make matters worse, coach David Doyle-Davidson resigned and Salford's Steve Nash declined an invitation to fill his shoes. At that point, York's hopes of filling one of the four promotion spots, let alone winning the title, were grim to say the least. Wigan, relegated with York, were quickly installed as promotion favourites and, as the newly formed Fulham club continued their impressive recruitment campaign, it looked as if the Londoners would be their closest challengers.

Former Wakefield Trinity coach Bill Kirkbride was eventually appointed coach at Clarence Street but his first match in charge did not augur well for the new season - a 47-8 defeat at Leeds in the Yorkshire Cup. Two weeks later Wigan visited Clarence Street where York produced a much better performance and an encouraging 22-17 victory over the Championship favourites. By the end of September York led the Second Division table with that month ending with a 52-8 victory over Dewsbury which featured five tries from John Crossley and eleven goals from Chris Gibson on his debut. Crossley continued to score with amazing consistency as the season wore on. He played in all 28 league matches and scored a club record 34 tries in those games. York won all their home games but suffered defeat at Swinton, Huddersfield and on the grounds of the three clubs who accompanied them into Division One, Whitehaven, Fulham and Wigan. However, York showed much more consistency than their rivals and a 22-16 victory at Doncaster in the penultimate match of the campaign clinched the Championship for the Minstermen.

Alas, York found life in Division One during the 1981/82 campaign just as painful as was their previous sojourn in the top flight. They were relegated and have spent only one season in the top division since then. They are currently fighting, not only for promotion, but for their very existence because another season in Division Two could see the Club go to the wall.

Of course we wish the club well in their fight for existence but Oldham, too, are at a vital point in their rehabilitation so a match full of commitment is assured as the curtain falls on this historic season for the reformed Roughyeds.

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