

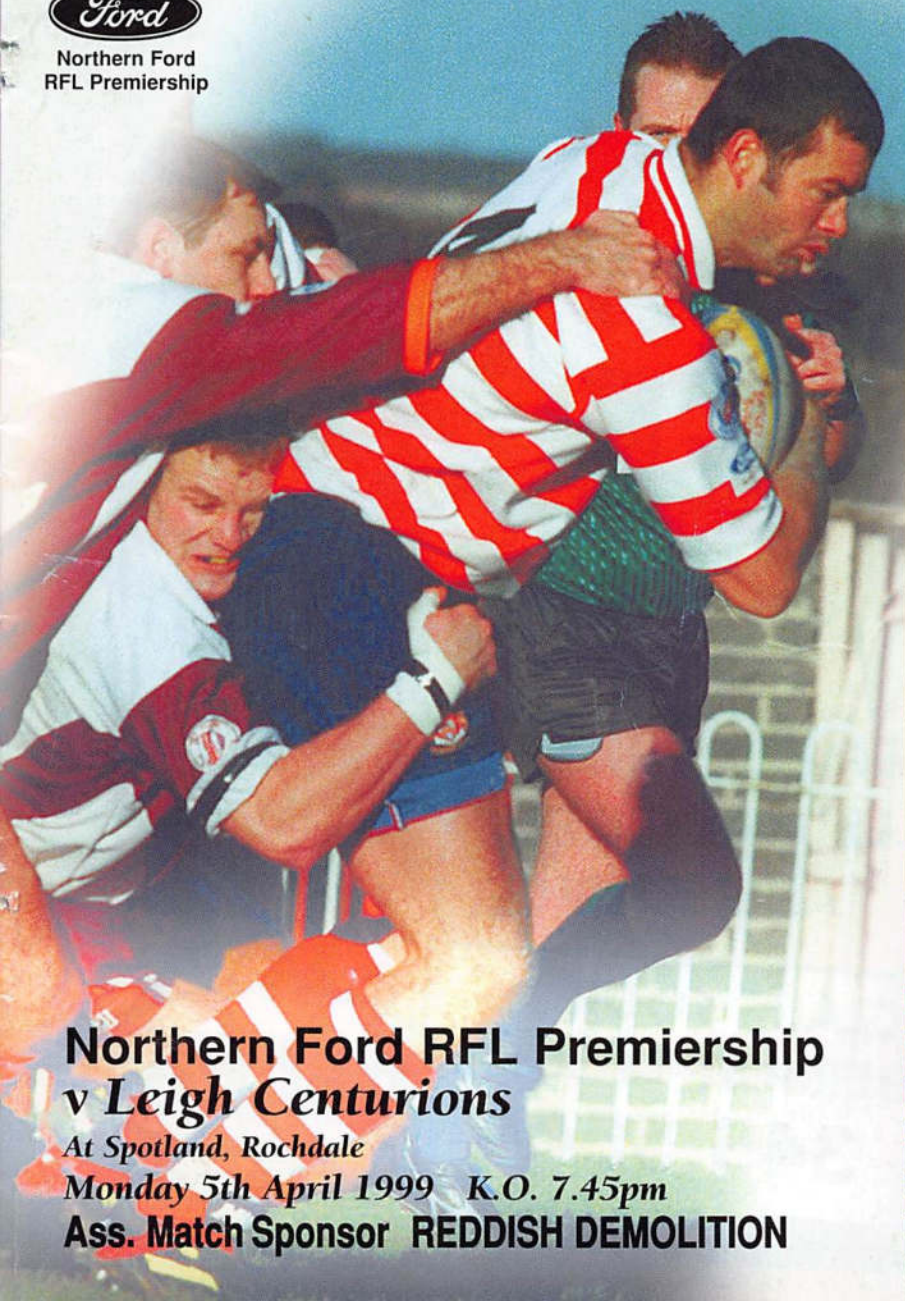
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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



TONIGHT we entertain Leigh who have made a very encouraging start to the season. I know Chairman Mick Higgins has not had things easy in his time at the club and it is good for him and his colleagues to be enjoying better times.

I certainly hope that our players won't be reading these notes as they seem to extend the hand of friendship to the opposition when they go onto the field. In far too many games we are playing catch-up football and that produces mistakes. Regardless of the



result at Doncaster we will be looking at the league table and thinking "if only". I can't help believing that on far too many occasions it's not the opposition that beats us but ourselves. But that situation will remain until we learn from it. It's not good saying the same thing each week; the players have to learn. The main difference this season is that once you give a lead away the premiership teams don't let it slip. We have to start dominating teams from the start and let them take the risks. We have the players who can do it - we have already seen that - but we need to see it more often. Despite this it is certainly not all doom and gloom, and the players must remember that EVERYBODY at the Club from the Board, to the Coaches, to the spectators want them to do well.

I wonder what the Rugby League world thinks of London Broncos getting to Wembley? No doubt everybody will say that it is good for the game but I need somebody to explain that to me because is it good for the game if London can only muster say 5,000 fans on May 1st? If they win will their attendances at Super League games dramatically increase? They certainly didn't when Sheffield won last year and I don't think London will be any different. If that is the case then I for one need to know what the game's strategy is.

Enjoy the game!

Christopher Hamilton

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

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

AS REGULAR readers of this programme might have guessed, I'm on my new-stadium hobby-horse just at present . . . and this evening's visit of Leigh to Spotland takes me back to the far off days of my youth when I used to watch rugby league regularly from the main stand at Kirkhall Lane.

Kirkhall Lane? Yes, that's what the old ground was called before it became Milton Park and I was lucky to have spent many happy hours of my youth watching all-time Leigh greats like Jimmy Ledgerd at full-back, a scrum-capped Trevor Allen in the centre, Charlie Pawsey in the pack and a flier on the wing called Billy Kindon.

Years later came fiery Stan Owen and one of the most prolific forward try-scorers in the history of the game, the dashing Mick Martyn.

At least one man who will be here from Leigh today – that great club servant Tommy Sale – will recall those magical days of long ago with great affection. But I digress.

It's difficult, you see, to think about immediate post-war Leigh without letting one's thoughts wander to the Ledgerds, the Allens and the Kindons, but the real purpose of this exercise in nostalgia is to talk not about the wonderful players who graced Kirkhall Lane, but about Kirkhall Lane (or Hilton Park) itself.

At risk of being shot down by somebody with knowledge of the club's history – and I don't mean my old mate John Stringer – I would venture to suggest that the fabric and structure of Hilton Park changed little from the early 1950s to the late 1990s.

At least, the old ground has survived . . . which is more than can be said for numerous rugby league grounds which were steeped in tradition and brimming over with character.

Among the casualties were Watersheddings, Thrum Hall, Craven Park (Hull KR), Station Road, Fartown, Crown Flatt, The Athletic Grounds, McLaren Field, Tatters Field, Parkside and the original Naughton Park, admittedly rebuilt and redesigned and renamed the Autoquest Stadium.

There will be more casualties too. Central Park, of all places, is going; Wilderspool may be, even Knowsley Road. If Hilton Park can hang in there, all power to its elbow, but all the indicators point to a future in which most clubs will be looking ahead to the next century with plans to go into new stadia, either wholly, jointly or partially owned by the local authority.

Who would have thought, nearly fifty years ago, that the ground made famous by floodlights and McDonald Bailey would survive Central Park or Station Road? It's a funny old game, or it would be if the issues facing Rugby League as we look towards 2000 and beyond were not so serious.

New stadia MUST replace the old if the game as we know it today is to have a half-decent chance of appealing to the sporting interests of future generations of northern folk.

The leisure market has never been more competitive. And when I see Oldham Roughyeds with no home to call their own and Oldham Athletic battling to avoid relegation to Nationwide Division Three anxiety begins to overcome me.

Professional sport in Oldham needs a major tonic and a new stadium would provide it.

Those Athletic fans who desire to hang on to Boundary Park are letting their hearts rule their heads. And I fear that if the opportunity to build a new stadium is not acted upon NOW it might be lost for ever.

The entire country is in stadium mode. Not even Wembley can resist the groundswell support for a new, modern image and state-of-the-art facilities.

Can Milton Park resist? Can Boundary Park resist? I submit that, certainly in Oldham's case, the argument for a new stadium is crystal clear.

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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to the Leigh team and their fans, and congratulations to Ian Millward and his players for the start they are enjoying to this season.

Unlike them we are showing **no consistency at all**, and the game against Widnes showed just that. Widnes started at 3 o'clock and we started at 3.20 gifting them an 18 points start then losing the game by 17 points.

At this moment the taste of disappointment is still strong in my mouth and as I think back it makes me feel sick!

I don't like losing and no one involved in sport should, but by the same rule I can except a defeat when we have given our all and not been good enough. "But" that isn't quite the case: I believe we are capable of beating some of these teams and beating them well, which is why I'm so disappointed.

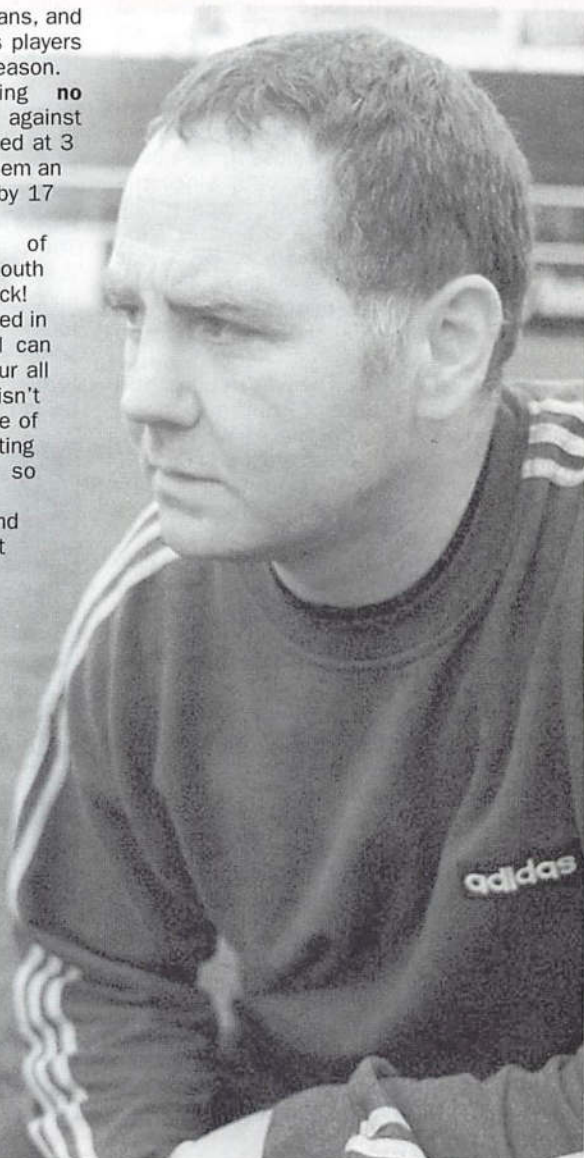
Some players, and I'm sure you and they know who they are, come off that field exhausted and deserving to be winners the disappointment is written on their faces. But some, well I can't print my thoughts on them.

I can't and won't make excuses to the paying spectators, but I will deal with it the best I can with the tools provided and if that means putting a young kid in there I will.

Anyway, to today's game, I expect a real clash in the front row, where ours has been our consistency. The same can be said about Leigh and it could well be an area where advantage can be gained, if it lives up to its billing, Leo & Cleggy v Street & Whittle is worth the entrance fee alone.

Enough has been said, now let's hope for a clean fight and give the Oldham fans something to shout about.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

I GOT my wish (just!) for an appearance at Wembley for London Broncos. I know this will not be universally popular, but it is to be hoped that such an appearance will stir some interest in the capital because, believe it or not, there are some fanatical London followers, just as there are fans of northern clubs, some indeed who have followed London rugby since the days of Fulham. It is a credit to coach Dan Stains (who sounds like a character from Captain Pugwash: all the more so if you call him Dick Stains as the Daily Mirror did) and captain Shaun Edwards and the whole team, that they overcame all the odds to battle through.

That said, London will start second favourites to Leeds Rhinos whose performances in disposing of Wigan, St. Helens and Bradford – the biggest and best RL has to offer – mark them out as a truly formidable team. Despite that the Broncos defensive toughness will ensure the game is far from one-sided and with a finisher of Martin Offiah's quality, already the leading try-scorer in 1999, anything could happen. So let's hope for an engaging and thrilling contest on Wembley's last Cup Final date before its redevelopment.

Meanwhile, back at the Northern Ford Premiership, Easter weekend will take us to a quarter of the league programme completed. Barely Spring and a quarter of the games gone; bring on Summer rugby! Already some shape is developing to the league table. Hull KR and Hunslet are the early pace setters, much as expected, with Dewsbury, third last year, also in the frame. Widnes and Featherstone are beginning to recover from a slow start, but the surprise under-achievers are Keighley and Swinton. Today's visitors, Leigh Centurions, have got away to a good start, new coach Ian Millward having made an immediate impact. Although concerned at what he perceives as his team's defensive frailties, he

must be pleased that Leigh have the ability to put points on the board. Skipper Craig Dean, the best scrum-half outside Super League, is the key play-maker, so Oldham will have to be on their mettle to prevent him dictating the play. With the worst scoring record in the League, Oldham will have to make sure they tackle tenaciously and do not concede early points as they did against Hunslet and Widnes. The highly promising debut at stand-off of Danny Wood – the biggest breath of fresh air to hit Oldham since Tommy Martyn – augurs well for the future. With Wood and Martindale in the same side Oldham hopefully have the players to open up defences. Enjoy the game and get behind the lads.

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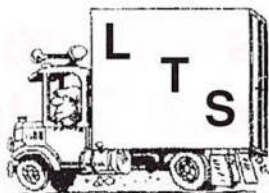
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

A warm Oldham welcome to the players, supporters and junior members of Leigh Centurions



Jonathan Fullerlove

The Mascot for today's match is **Jonathan Fullerlove**. Jonathan plays rugby for Royton Tigers. He also enjoys playing football (we will have to cure him of that)! Jonathan attends Thorpe Primary School in Royton. Have a great day Jonathan.

The Mascot for the day against Hunslet Hawks was **Emma Buckley**.

Emma had a great day. Lots of her family came to watch her being Mascot.



Emma Buckley

Everybody used to say how cold Watersheddings was. Hunslet have got a great new Stadium, but when will they be able to afford to put some sides on that stand – it was freezing!

MANCHESTER STORM / KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN

On Saturday the 27th March the Junior Roughyeds were treated by the Club to a night out. This night replaced the April Junior Roughyeds meeting. The next meeting will now be at the Pennine Lounge on May 10th.

We all had a great time. The children enjoyed tea at Kentucky Fried Chicken, the new Junior Roughyeds sponsor.

Four players came along; Leo Casey (for crowd control), Emmanuel Peralta,

Laurent Minut and Daniel Wood.

Daniel was great with the kids and said how much he was looking forward to his first senior game for Oldham the next day against Widnes. We wish you well. Thank you to all the players for their time.



Debra Rafferty

We held the Mascot Draw for the next four games. The four lucky Junior Roughyeds selected were Luke Hamilton, Laurence Rafferty, Kim Broadbent and Rachel Goodwin. Congratulations to all of you.

All the children were then escorted to a waiting coach to take us to the Manchester Storm game and with a crowd of 7,000 we didn't lose one Junior Roughyed. PHEW! Wow, what a night! The atmosphere was great, the children had lots of refreshments and still managed to join in with all the songs, and the dancing.

All the children and the adults had a tremendous time. I would like to say a big thank-you on behalf of all the Junior Roughyeds to Chris Hamilton for organising our tickets to the STORM.

Thanks

Debra Rafferty

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STEVE BRADY

Rugby Leaguer

OLDHAM versus Leigh. It's going to be some match today. The Centurions are red hot at the moment, with Aussie coach Ian Millward inspiring his young side to great things. But the Roughyeds are more than a handful, particularly at home, as Widnes discovered last week. Since the two old divisions were merged to form the Northern Ford Premiership, the gap between the best and the rest of the professional game has narrowed.

Despite Oldham's position deep down in the table, and Leigh's lofty perch towards the top, the result of today's match will be difficult for anyone to predict.

That has been one of the biggest bonuses of the independent nature of the Association of Premiership Clubs. Standards have risen throughout as clubs take a realistic view of what it will take to succeed in today's modern business environment.

Gone are the days when clubs in the lower divisions were the "pension schemes" for top flight players. Clubs like Oldham and Leigh understand that the future belongs with the youth structure at the club, and the links with local amateur sides.

Only through youth development will clubs in the Premiership ever be able to

compete with the big boys in the game and make it up into Super League – if that is what they desire. There are precious few "sugar daddies" with money to burn willing to invest millions into premiership sides, so the directors and coaches have to do it the hard way by developing the young talent that is in abundance all around them.

And isn't it much more satisfying to see a young Oldham lad run onto the pitch for his debut, than a former Super League star, making the most of his earning potential in the twilight of his playing career? Both Oldham and Leigh are refreshingly free of such players.

It is so very different to the Leigh and Oldham sides of decades gone by, when the sides were packed with the very best stars in the game. And an Oldham v Leigh clash would attract five-figure crowds, at either Hilton Park or Watersheddings.

Times have changed, but everything goes in circles. Oldham and Leigh's match today will be as full-blooded and exciting as any clash between the sides in the past. The difference is that, behind the scenes, both clubs are working progressively towards a bright and healthy future. And it won't be long before that hard work pays off and the "glory days" return.

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RUGBY LEAGUER - the game's leading publication -
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were published in decades gone by...



HALF TIME QUIZ

1. Who has recently left Doncaster Dragons after playing 6 games?
2. What is the nickname of Melbourne?
3. What were the colours of Leeds Parish church?
4. Which Australian scored a hat trick of tries in the 1966 Ashes Test series?
5. Who were Division Two champions in 1975/76?
6. Which Sydney club did the great Daily Messenger play for?
7. Who has recently secured a £15,000 sponsorship deal with NAAFI?
8. Who won the 1955 Australian v France Test series?
9. Who kicked 6 goals and scored a try for Widnes in the win over Barrow?
10. Who scored 4 tries for Hunslet in the victory over Oldham?
11. Who scored over 2,000 points for Widnes between 1966 and 1978?
12. Which Australian winger made his Test debut at Boothferry Park in 1982?
13. Which Sydney club did Kiwi Mark Graham play for?
14. Who recently came back from 8-20 to win 26-20?
15. Which club are currently at the bottom of the National Conference League?
16. Who scored the only try at Wembley in 1970?
17. Where did Australia play Papua New Guinea in July 1988?
18. Who was the first ever top four play off?
19. Who did Wigan defeat in the 1984 Challenge cup semi-final?
20. Where was the match played?
21. Whose stand was destroyed by fire in 1985?
22. Who left Wigan for Leigh for £5,000 in 1950/51?
23. Who did Leeds beat in the 1957 semi final?
24. Where was the match played?
25. What was the first year that all the four semi finalists came from York?
26. Which year were all four from Lancashire?
27. Which team have played in 7 semi-finals?
28. Who scored in 37 consecutive games for St Helens between 65 and 66?
29. What nationality was he?
30. Whose players went on strike in 1977/78?
31. Which team does the book "Old Faithful" cover?
32. Who published the Rugby League who's who?
33. Who won man of the match on his test debut against France?
34. Which Kiwi won the Lance Todd Trophy in 1951?
35. Who was the first woman representative on the RL Council?
36. Which Leigh player toured Australia with the Lions in 1979?
37. Which player won "All Four" medals in a season on two occasions?
38. Who were the only team to be beaten by Bridgend Blue Dragons?
39. Who appeared in four consecutive Sydney Grand Finals in the 80s?
40. Who kicked 8 goals for Leeds in the 1979 Premiership Final?

50 YEARS OF RL STORIES

**Step back in time with some of the
stories covered over the past 50 years**

1952...MAR 29 - 'PRINCE OF STAND-OFFS'

'Barrow's fortunes will depend on Ted Toohy, and one of the princes of stand-off's, Billy Horne. Last year Billy was indeed disappointed in not leading Barrow to victory at Wembley. This season he is playing better than ever and Welshman Thomas is in for a hot time. Billy is the brains of the Furness side, in fact he is an inspiration.'

1955...MAR 30 - 'BARROW & WORKINGTON IN FINAL'

'WE will probably upset some of our readers in Hunslet and Featherstone when we suggest that Barrow and Workington Town will fight it out in the final of the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on April 30. The disappointed readers may however have their last laugh on us after Saturday's semi-finals.'

1966...APR 1 - 'MURPHY WITHDRAWS - BROOKES BROUGHT IN'

'BRICKBATS, not bouquets, have been showered on the Rugby League international Selection Committee since the tour party to Australia was made known. The omission of some great favourites, the fact that the party is suspect in goal-kicking ability and contains some players not long recovered from serious injury, have since become big bones of contention. There has been one change from the original 26. Alec Murphy, the St Helens skipper, maned as a centre, withdrew for business reasons and was replaced by Ian Brooke, the Bradford Northern threequarter.'

1972...MAR 29 - 'FOX CLOSE TO YET ANOTHER MILESTONE'

'NEIL FOX...a name which has spelled success in Rugby League for 16 great seasons. Now another milestone has fallen to the Wakefield Trinity centre. It came with his 300th try, which brought his points total in excess of 4,650. Neil is now also approaching another highlight in his Rugby League career...his 600th senior game.'

1976...MAR 31 - 'COSLETT QUILTS'

'KEL Coslett's decision to end his playing career after 14 years at the top with St Helens could open the door for him to turn to coaching. But he says he has no definite plans in his direction, and adds that he has not applied for the Saints' coaching job.'

1992...APR 2 - 'YOUR LAST CHANCE'

'ANDY GREGORY's return to international rugby could have taken another step nearer last night. Great Britain officials were expected to meet the 30 year old Wigan half back after their championship match at Hull KR. The move followed revelations earlier this week that Gregory, who quit international rugby after the 2-1 series defeat by the Kangaroos in 1990 was reconsidering his decision.'

Rugby Leaguer
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39. Parramatta; 40. Kevin Dick.
Mountainford; 35. Keith Hetherington; 36. John Woods; 37. John Willie Higson; 38. Sheffield Eagles;
South Africa; 39. Featherstone Rovers; 31. Hull; 32. Guinness; 33. Hugh Waddell; 34. Cee
Egan; 23. Whitehaven; 24. Odsal Stadium; 25. 1962; 26. 1900; 27. Oldham; 28. Len Killeen; 29.
Wagga Wagga; 18. Halifax; 19. York; 20. Eland Road, Leeds; 21. Featherstone Rovers; 22. Joe
12. Eric Grothe; 13. North Sydney; 14. London Broncos; 15. Beverley; 16. Alan Lowndes; 17.
7. Combined Services Rugby League; 8. France; 9. Salisbury; 10. David Plange; 11. Ray Dutton;
Answers: 1. Garry Schofield; 2. Storm; 3. Blue black; 4. Ken Irvine; 5. Barrow; 6. Eastern Suburbs;

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TODAY'S VISITORS

Leigh Centurions

AFTER the traumas of 1998 Leigh approach the new season with batteries re-charged. Highly rated Aussie Ian Millward has taken over as Head Coach with Norman Turley as his Assistant and Mark Bailey (ex St. Helens, with coaching experience at Halifax Blue Sox) running the Alliance. Last summer Leigh and Widnes suffered when moved up to Division 1 as they were only given Sky Division 2 money to operate with. This season they are on a more level playing field.

Most of last season's young squad of largely local talent are still on the books. New signings include scrum half Craig Dean (Leigh born) from Halifax; David Whittle, prop forward from Wigan, who was a big hit during a loan spell last season; prop Chris Parr from Rochdale and two Aussie forwards of high reputation in Heath Cruickshank and Jamie Kennedy (ex Hull K. R.). With evergreen Tim Street leading from the front, Leigh expect to have a pack capable of giving live wires Dean, Safraz Patel and Anthony Murray room to get attacks going.

IAN MILLWARD - Head Coach

In his playing career he represented New South Wales Schoolboys and Illawarra Steelers. His coaching career began at Wollongong University and continued at Illawarra. Joined Leigh in time for 1999 season.

NORMAN TURLEY - Assistant Coach

In his playing career he played for just about everyone, except Leigh, his home town club. Has coaching experience with Trafford Borough, Whitehaven and Workington. At Leigh he was Assistant to Keith Latham last season before taking over as Head Coach for the latter part of the season.

MARK KAY - Full Back. Former B.A.R.L.A Youth International and Player of the Year.

PHIL KENDRICK - Centre signed from Widnes last year.

JAMIE KENNEDY - Aussie back row forward who has played for St. George and was last season with Hull K. R.

TAU LIKU -

Prop or second row. Signed in 1994. Played for Tonga in '95 World Cup. Probably fitter than ever. Big season expected.



ANTHONY MURRAY - Hooker or half back who has returned to his home town after spells at Wigan, Warrington and Widnes.

PAUL NORMAN - Forward previously with Oldham. Signed 1999.

CHRIS PARR - Prop previously with Rochdale and Oldham. Signed 1999.

SAFRAZ PATEL - Promising half back who made his debut two years ago. Missed most of last season due to injury.

ANDY PUCILL - Very experienced prop, previously with Swinton and Huddersfield.

KIERAN PURTILL - Versatile back signed from Wigan. Brother of Dean Purtill, Leigh's leading points scorer in 1997.

DAVID SMITH - Back row forward signed from Huddersfield in 1997.

TIM STREET - Prop forward, well known to Oldham fans, in his third spell with Leigh, having first been signed from Wigan in 1989. Can be relied on to lead from the front.

PAUL WINGFIELD - Goal kicking winger who signed from Warrington in 1998.

JAMES ARKWRIGHT - Leigh born. Can play in any back position. Signed from St. Helens last year.

DEAN CONWAY - Prop forward who graduated from the Academy, making his debut in 1996.

JOHN COSTELLO - Hardworking prop or second row signed from Leigh East in 1991. Team captain in 1998.

HEATH CRUICKSHANK - Signed this season. Played previously for Canberra and Gold Coast.

CRAIG DEAN - Scrum half signed by Halifax from Leigh East. Just signed by his home town club and has taken over as captain.

STUART DICKINSON - Promising young winger signed from the Academy

STUART DONLAN - Full back of whom much is expected as his confidence develops. Son of ex Leigh and G.B. centre Steve.

ANDY FAIRCLOUGH - Joined the Centurions from Wigan St. Patricks in 1997. Good footballer who can play equally well in a number of positions.

MARTIN GOULDING - Front or second row forward who joined Leigh from Wigan St. Patricks.

ALAN HADCROFT - Strong running centre signed from Leigh East in 1995.

DAVID HILL - Leigh's longest serving player who has been granted a very deserved testimonial this season. Centre or wing.

SCOTT HILTON - Promising half back who made his debut in 1997.

DAVID INGRAM - Now playing mostly on the wing having had spells at stand off and centre. Hoping for an injury free season.

NICK JENKINS - Aussie hooker who has been with Leigh for two years, having played in various parts of the world.

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DON YATES

Down Memory Lane

DON LOOKS BACK TO A LEIGH MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



THE SUCCESS of last September's Australian type end-of-season play-off ensures that the previous method of deciding the Championship has gone forever. There is no doubt that Wigan's Grand Final victory at Old Trafford was a spectacular occasion and created more interest than is normally generated when a Championship is decided merely on home and away results.

However, there have been occasions when the traditional system did bring about thrilling conclusions to the season

and one such occasion was in 1982 when Leigh were last crowned Champions of the Rugby Football League.

Before the start of the 1981-82 season, most Leigh followers would have been content for the club to just maintain their First Division status. Their supporters, therefore, were delighted with Leigh's early season form. They lifted the Lancashire Cup and, alongside Widnes, Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers, were making a determined challenge for the title. During the middle of the season Leigh established a club record winning sequence of 14 matches, a sequence which left Leigh on the brink of Championship success.

On the final weekend of the season the top of the First Division table read as follows:

1st Widnes, played 29, 47 points, scoring difference + 252

2nd Hull, played 29, 45 points, scoring difference + 320

3rd Hull KR, played 29, 45 points, scoring difference + 254

4th Leigh, played 28, 45 points, scoring difference + 212

On that final Sunday, Widnes travelled to Hull where victory would give them the title no matter what the other results decided. Leigh entertained Hull KR so if both Humberside clubs won then the

title would go to the Boulevard. Leigh's Championship aspirations rested on Hull beating Widnes, whilst they themselves had to beat Hull KR and then win at Whitehaven the following Wednesday.

A crowd of over 18,000 saw Hull beat Widnes 21-3 and the majority then stayed on to hear the result of the match at Hilton Park which had kicked off an hour after the Boulevard game. They were disappointed as Leigh won 18-10 to take the title race to the final match of the season at Whitehaven three days later

A win there would give Leigh the title so a good following made the journey to the Recreation Ground, swelling the gate to 5,611. The teams for that memorable match were as follows:

Whitehaven: Tony D'Leary; Mal McClure, Brian Rose, Joe Stewart, Bob Mackie; Steve Lane, Arnie Walker; Steve Phythian, Mike Barwise, Gordon Cottier, Mike Taylor, David Martin & Milton Huddart.

Substitutes, Ian Litt & Jeff Simpson.

Leigh: Mick Hogan; Des Drummond, Steve Tomlinson, Steve Donlan, Phil Fox; John Woods, David Dunn; Derek Pyke, Ray Tabern, Tony Cooke, Tommy Martyn, Eric Chisnall & Ian Potter

Substitutes, Roy Howarth & Mick McTigue.

Although bottom of the First Division table and with nothing but pride to play for, Whitehaven put up a tremendous show. Leigh were decidedly second best in the first half which ended with Whitehaven in front 4-1. Mal McClure had scored the Whitehaven try and Arnie Walker had added a dropped goal. Leigh's only response was a dropped goal from Steve Donlan. Surely Leigh would not blow the chance of lifting the title for the first time in 76 years with defeat against the division's bottom club?

There were many more anxious moments in the Leigh camp at the start of the second half before a Des Drummond try put Leigh back on course. Further tries from David Dunn and Mick Hogan, together with a Roy Howarth dropped goal, put the game beyond Whitehaven's reach.

The final score was 13-4 and Leigh were Champions after one of the most exciting finishes ever to a League Championship campaign.

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Back Row (left to right) Kevin Fitzpatrick, Daniel Brown, Mick Farrell, Craig Barker, Emerson Jackman,

Middle Row: Emmanuel Peralta, Josh Bostock, Jason Clegg, Gary Coulter, Graeme Shaw, Nathan Varley,

Mike Prescott, Brian Quinlan,

Front Row: Mark Perrett, Laurent Minut, Joe McNicholas, John Hough, Leo Casey, Paul Crook, Adrian Mead, Afi Leuila

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OLDHAM RLFC

The Roughyeds-Stats

APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1999

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts		Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts
J. Bostock	7	-	3	-	-	12	M. Martindale	5	-	-	-	-	-
D. Brown	8	-	4	3	-	22	A. Mead	8	-	3	-	-	12
L. Casey	8	-	-	-	-	-	L. Minut	8	-	-	7	-	14
J. Clegg	8	-	2	-	-	8	E. Peralta	2	5	-	-	-	-
G. Coulter	1	5	-	-	-	-	M. Perrett	4	4	-	-	-	-
P. Crook	4	1	-	-	-	-	M. Prescott	-	8	1	-	-	4
M. Farrell	-	1	-	-	-	-	B. Quinlan	3	4	-	4	-	8
J. Hough	8	-	-	-	-	-	P. Round	-	1	-	-	-	-
E. Jackman	6	1	1	-	-	4	G. Shaw	7	1	-	-	-	-
A. Leuila	8	-	-	-	-	-	D. Wood	1	-	-	3	-	6
J. McNicholas	8	-	3	-	-	12							

The above appearances & scorers do not include any statistics from Law Cup or friendly matches

1999 Match Results as at 29/3/99

	Barrow	Batley	Bramley	Dewsbury	Doncaster	Featherstone	Hull KR	Hunslet	Keighley	Lancashire	Leigh	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Swinton	Whitehaven	Widnes	Workington	York
Barrow					30-10					26-44					18-12			
Batley			14-12				8-14					30-0						
Bramley								14-12									58-24	
Dewsbury								35-8		31-16								
Doncaster		20-29											22-18					
Featherstone									32-18			32-12			28-12			
Hull KR	8-6	12-0		12-2							8-8							
Hunslet				30-18		14-26				44-2							48-6	
Keighley				42-16										30-16			8-10	
Lancashire			13-12	22-12														
Leigh					16-12									24-20			16-12	
OLDHAM	24-20														18-33			
Rochdale				26-10					22-27	22-40								
Swinton			23-8	19-29			10-21											
Whitehaven									24-12							28-6		
Widnes	34-16			30-12									6-2					
Workington			22-16		22-22		14-21											26-14
York		20-20								32-6				16-15				

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IVA'S A TO Z OF RUGBY LEAGUE

- A** is for: **A**bsent Friends. Last seen on the rails at the Cheltenham Gold Cup: 'bye, 'bye Maurice.
- B** is for: **B**ullettes who got the **B**ullet from the **B**ulls, proving that the self-proclaimed 'people's team' don't value the people's participation as much as they like to boast about.
- C** is for: **C**aisley, the people's Mephistopheles - a **c**unning **c**at. Hydra-headed **C.C.** to replace his erstwhile enemy/friend Mo?
- D** is for: **D**odgy **D**eal, the staple diet of RL through the ages. You need a **D**iploma or **D**egree to spot the Derek Pyke damaged knee or the 37 year old centre who suddenly lost four years on the way from Oldham to Whitehaven.
- E** is for: **E**normous **E**go, usually associated with players at Wigan (but also elsewhere) who march into the club office demanding pay parity (or more) when they discover what their team-mates (mates?) get. [Ref: *Ultimate Warrior* by Dean Bell, a man remarkably free of such behaviour].
- F** is (or was) for: **F**eeding, the once frequently heard mantra of the supporter everywhere. Do you realise there is a whole generation now whose only idea of feeding has something to do with McDonalds?
- G** is for: **G**ood Lord, it's **G**oodway, the **G**olden Boy of **G**reat Britain coaching. Or, for **G**erremonside, still the favourite cry of the lesser spotted speccie despite referees taking defenders so far back they're nearly in the Car Park. (Bring back 5 yards, say I).
- H** is for: **H**ull, **H**ell and **H**etheringtons, from all of which the Good Lord Deliver Us!
- I** is for: **I**ncorrigible **I**va the **I**rascible **I**nitiator of **I**rreverent **I**rony.



... to be continued

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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

In extending a "Roughyed" welcome to the players, officials and supporters of the Leigh club, we are once again playing host to one of the founder members of the Rugby League (Northern Union).

The first encounter between the clubs under the "new" code was at Leigh on November 9th, 1895 when Oldham suffered defeat by six points to nil. The return match was at Watersheddings on

April 13th 1896 and this time the spoils went to the "Roughyeds" who emerged victorious 23 - 4 in

front of a 5,000 attendance. The Oldham points came courtesy of tries by Arthur Lees and Alf Childs and two each for wingers Tom Martin and ex-Leigh favourite, Jack Hurst. Sam Lees converted one of the touchdowns and the scoring was completed by a three point penalty goal from full back Harry Eagland.

Oldham team: H Eagland; J Hurst, W McCutcheon, S Lees, T Martin; H Varley, A Lees: E Etchells, R Edwards, R Wylie, R.H. Moore, E Hughes, J Lyons, J Lees, A Childs.

PRIOR TO THE start of this current season Leigh won a friendly match 34 - 12 at Hilton Park. However, for the last first class fixture between the two clubs one has to go back to April 10th 1994. Again Hilton Park was the venue and Oldham were desperate for the points to avoid relegation. After a miserable start to the season the "Roughyeds" recent form had improved tremendously under the influence of coach Bob Lindner. Leigh were well adrift at the bottom of the table but were hoping to at least, end the season with a flourish. However, Oldham were "up" for the occasion and the match was effectively settled in the first ten minutes during which

Australian full back Wally Gibson raced in for a hat trick of tries. The star performers of the game were half-backs Martin Crompton and Glen Liddiard, backed up by a forceful performance from Barrie McDermott in the pack. Other tries were scored by Crompton, Nigel Heslop, Shaun Irwin and Darren Abram who also added three goals.

The final score Leigh 8 Oldham 34, attendance 2,750

Oldham team: W Gibson; N Heslop, S Irwin, D Abram, S Ranson; G Liddiard, M Crompton; I Sherratt, J Clarke, B McDermott, R Lindner, A Goodway, M Kuiti.

Subs: S Kerry, S Tupaea.



Oldham prop forward Harry Ogden in action against Leigh at Watersheddings on October 20th 1951. Other Oldham players are Charlie Winslade (left) and Ken Jackson.

IT IS HOPED TO CONTINUE THIS FEATURE IN THE PROGRAMME SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 'ROUGHYEDS OF YESTERYEAR'.
IF ANYONE HAS ANY PHOTOS THAT THEY THINK WOULD BE OF INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT
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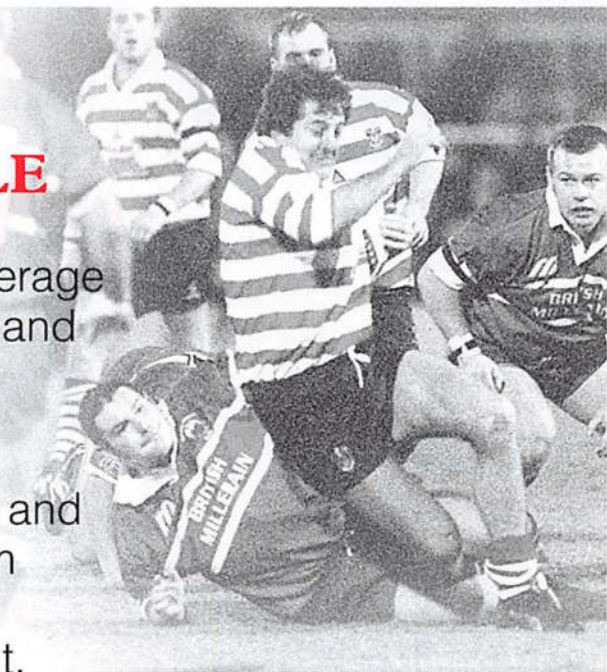
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DON YATES

On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



OLDHAM supporters who thrilled to the exploits of the great Roughyeds team of the mid-1950s will forever be grateful to the junior clubs of Leigh who produced no fewer than five backs who figured prominently for Oldham during that era. They were full back Bernard Ganley, half-back Frank Stirrup, scrum-half Frank Pitchford, utility player Frank Daley and Alan Davies, regarded by many as the greatest centre of his era and certainly the greatest centre ever to play for Oldham. It was on this day in 1959, Sunday 5th April, that Davies made one of his 20 test appearances. He was at centre in the British team which lost 24-15 to France in Grenoble. Also playing in that match was second-rower Charlie Winslade who was making his one and only appearance for Great Britain.

The traffic of players between Leigh and Oldham has not been all one way however. It was on this day in 1947, Saturday 5th April, that Leigh defeated Liverpool Stanley 16-2 in a Northern League match at Holden Road. All four tries in that match were credited to Leigh centre Ted Kerwick who had been signed from Oldham earlier in the season. Kerwick made 202 appearances for Leigh and scored 71 tries before moving on to Workington Town.

Forty years later, on Sunday 5th April 1987, Leigh enjoyed an excellent 46-8 home victory over Wakefield Trinity in a First Division match. Amongst the Leigh try scorers that afternoon were a couple of former Oldham juniors, centre John Henderson, ex-Saddleworth Rangers, and scrum-half Mick Ford who began his career with St. Annes.

That same afternoon, Sunday 5th April 1997, was a significant day in the career of Ian Sherratt, the former Waterhead junior who turned professional with Bradford Northern. He later returned to Oldham when he was transferred to the Roughyeds and it was on this day that he made his debut for his home town club. Unfortunately it was not a successful debut as Oldham lost 24-22 at Barrow in a First Division match.

Two years ago, on Saturday 5th April 1997, Steve Elsworth of Watersheddings Wanderers had a much more successful afternoon when he travelled over to Halifax for a Pennine League match against Lonsdale. The Wanderers were in unstoppable form that afternoon and crushed Lonsdale 106-6. Elsworth's contribution to that victory was immense, five tries and 15 goals for a personal tally of 50 points.

It was on this day in 1904, Tuesday 5th April, that the first ever rugby league international was played. The match was between England and Other Nationalities and was staged at Central Park, Wigan. There were five Oldham players involved in that historic match. Winger Frank Spottiswoode and loose-forward Joe Ferguson were in the England line-up whilst on the opposite side were centre David Lewis, second-row Dai Thomas and prop George Frater who skippered the exiles. Other Nationalities won the match 9-3 with Thomas scoring one of their tries.

Finally, it was on Wednesday 5th April 1995 that the Rugby League Council met at Headingley to discuss a possible move to summer rugby. It was at this meeting that Chief Executive Maurice Lindsay informed the Council of Sky TV and Rupert Murdoch's interest in forming a Super League. The Rugby Revolution was about to take off and, as they say, the rest is history.



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Keighley Cougars	5	3	1	1	148	96	52	7
West Cumbria	5	3	1	1	142	110	32	7
Leigh Centurions	5	3	0	2	122	92	30	6
Hunslet Hawks	5	3	0	2	127	98	29	6
Batley Bulldogs	6	3	0	3	136	125	11	6
Featherstone Rovers	4	2	0	2	100	110	-10	4
Swinton Lions	3	1	0	2	60	81	-21	2
Oldham	2	1	0	1	32	54	-22	2
Barrow B Raiders	5	1	0	4	88	164	-76	2
Rochdale Hornets	5	0	0	5	110	182	-72	0

ALLIANCE TEAM MATCH REPORT

OLDHAM 26

LEIGH 14

ON A FOUL night Leigh had first use of the elements and with ex-first team skipper John Costello plus ex-Oldhamers Chris Parr and Paul Norman in the pack soon ran up a 6-0 lead.

Oldham, despite finding it difficult to get out of their own half, stuck to their task, tackling tenaciously and were rewarded on their first serious attack by a Mike Prescott try. Leigh, however, continued to have the better of the play adding a penalty goal and a converted try for a 14-4 half time lead.

Showing good discipline and lasting the pace better, Oldham dominated the second half. A strong back row of Ward, Prescott and Varley provided the platform for influential half backs Barker and Wood to open up the Centurions' defence. Wood, perhaps trying too hard to impress in the first-half, showed his class to score a fine try, adding to scores by Round and Ward, all of which Wood duly converted. Prescott's second try completed a highly satisfactory second-half in which Leigh failed to score. Only a week after the Batley defeat and already Oldham had claimed their first points, a credit to club and coach.



Coach Graeme Bradley

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

Mar	16	Batley Bulldogs	H	6 - 40
	25	Leigh Centurions	H	26 - 14
	31	Hunslet Hawks	H	
April	8	Featherstone R.	A	
	14	Dewsbury Rams	H	
	24	West Cumbria	A	
May	28	Swinton Lions	A	
	5	Keighley Cougars	H	
	13	Dewsbury Rams	A	
June	19	Swinton Lions	H	
	29	Barrow B. R.	A	
	10	Rochdale Hornets	A	
July	12	West Cumbria	H	
	19	Batley Bulldogs	A	
	23	Featherstone R.	H	
Aug	1	Keighley Cougars	A	
	10	Barrow B. R.	H	
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A	
Sept	21	Leigh Centurions	A	
	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
	14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd		
Oct	18	Rochdale Hornets	H	
	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd		
	11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final		
Nov	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final		

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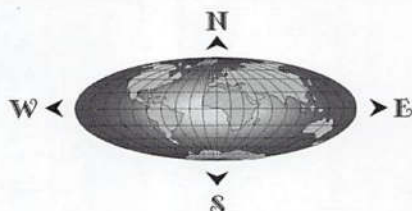
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A BRIAN WALKER INTERVIEW WITH . . .

Len (Drop Goal!) McIntyre



BETWEEN 1958 and 1966 hooker Len McIntyre played 212 first team games for Oldham, scoring many tries, his speciality being his ability to duck under the opposing defence to score from dummy half. Whilst also having something of a goalscoring reputation for both his previous clubs Barrow and St. Helens he only ever scored one goal for Oldham and it's certainly the scoring of that goal for which Len is best remembered. Perhaps unfairly so, as Len had some cracking games for the club and gained both

Lancashire County and Great Britain International honours during his stay at Watersheddings.

It's 35 years this month (how time flies) that Oldham Roughyeds played those Kingston Robins in the 1964 Challenge Cup Semi . Losing 5 - 3 until McIntyre dropped that goal in what everybody except referee David Davies calculated to be the last minute, and at 5 - 5 (a dropped goal was 2 points at that time) it seemed to the Oldham hordes that Davies was reluctant to blow giving the Robins a last chance to make a winning score! Len maintains Davies never gave Oldham a break and still blames the referee for abandoning the first replay at Station Road with Oldham in the lead.

Len McIntyre learned his rugby in Wigan where he still lives. He has just retired and relaxes by playing golf. He remembers fondly his time at Oldham and points to Charlie Winslade, Ken Jackson and Dave Parker as being the exceptional forwards at the club, "And you need look no further than Johnny Noon, Dennis Ayres and Alan Davies to emphasis the quality of the backs".

Len, a regular visitor to the town restricts his rugby to the TV these days but we are hoping for his company at today's game!

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Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds throughout the 1999 Season

Match by Match Analysis 1999



JANUARY

1	Rochdale H. (Law C)	L10-48	2879	Mead	Farrell G	Quinlan	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Casey	Hough	Clegg T	Shaw	Varley	Martindale	Coulter	Leulla T	Prescott	Round
17	Widnes	L6-12	2500	Mead 1T	Farrell	Leulla	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Fitzpatrick	A.N.Other
24	Leigh	L12-34	1000	A.N.Other	Mead	Leulla	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook G	Farrell	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan G	Coulter T	Bostock	Barker	A.N.Other T	Fitzpatrick

FEBRUARY

1	ECCLES CC 3rd Rd	W26-7	1764	Minut 3G	Mead 2T	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Coulter	Jackman	Round	Peralta	Prescott 1T	Perrett
7	Batley Bulldogs	L0-30	1018	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan	Jackman	Coulter	Prescott	Perrett	Peralta
15	DEWS. R CC 4th Rd	W18-10	1620	Minut 2G	Mead 1T	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 1T1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan	Peralta
28	Whitehaven CC 5th Rd	L2-18	1438	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Peralta	Perrett	Shaw	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan	Crook

MARCH

12	BARROW B.R.	W24-20	1123	Minut 2G	Mead	Leulla	Bostock 2T	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 2T	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan 2G	Peralta
17	Hull K. R.	D8-8	2080	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock 1T	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Coulter	Peralta	Perrett	Prescott
21	Hunslet Hawks	L2-44	1533	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Peralta	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Jackman	Prescott	Perrett	Shaw
28	WIDNES VIKINGS	L18-33		Minut	Mead	Leulla	Jackman 1T	McNicholas 2T	Wood 3G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Peralta	Martindale	Farrell	Prescott	Perrett	Quinlan

APRIL

2 Doncaster Dragons A

5 LEIGH CENTURIONS H

11 Bramley A

14 FEATHERSTONE ROVERS H

25 YORK H

MAY

1 SILK CUT CC Final

3 Rochdale Hornets A

9 Keighley Cougars A

23 Swinton Lions A

30 WHITEHAVEN W. H

JUNE

6 Workington Town A

13 ROCHDALE HORNETS H (Boundary Park)

18 BATLEY BULLDOGS H 7.45

27 Featherstone Rovers A

JULY

4 HULL K. R. H

11 Barrow B. R. A

18 HUNSLET HAWKS H

25 Widnes Vikings A

30 DONCASTER DRAGONS H 7.45

AUGUST

8 Leigh Centurions A

13 BRAMLEY H 7.45

22 LANCASHIRE LYNX H

29 York A



Northern Ford RFL Premiership

As at 30.3.99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull K R	6	5	1	0	87	44	11
Hunslet	6	5	0	1	171	70	10
Leigh	6	5	0	1	156	123	10
Dewsbury	6	4	0	2	177	119	8
Widnes	6	4	0	2	121	104	8
Batley	6	3	1	2	107	74	7
York	6	3	1	2	104	91	7
Featherstone	5	3	0	2	114	88	6
Lancashire Lynx	6	3	0	3	98	134	6
Workington	6	2	1	3	114	179	5
Keighley	5	2	0	3	100	91	4
Whitehaven	6	2	0	4	104	102	4
Swinton	6	2	0	4	97	100	4
Barrow	5	2	0	3	110	124	4
Doncaster	7	1	1	5	110	179	3
Oldham	5	1	1	3	52	135	3
Rochdale	5	1	0	4	84	115	2
Bramley	6	1	0	5	62	96	2



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Coach: Mick Coates

1	Laurent MINUT			
2	Adrian MEAD			
3	Afi LEUILA			
4	Emmerson JACKMAN			
5	Joe McNICHOLAS			
6	Danny WOOD			
7	Daniel BROWN			
8	Leo CASEY			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Jason CLEGG			
11	Graeme SHAW			
12	Emmanuel PERALTA			
13	Mick MARTINDALE			
14	Mick FARRELL	16	Brian QUINLAN	
15	Mike PRESCOTT	17	Mark PERRETT	

Today's Officials

Today's Referee

Mr P. Taberner



Touch Judges

Mr I. Fairweather

Mr S. Tordoff

Reserve G. Maxwell

LEIGH CENTURIONS

Coach: Steve Hampson

1	Stuart DONLAN			
2	Paul WINGFIELD			
3	Dave INGRAM			
4	Phil KENDRICK			
5	Dean PURTILL			
6	Safraz PATEL			
7	Craig DEAN			
8	Tim STREET			
9	Anthony MURRAY			
10	David WHITTLE			
11	Tau LIKU			
12	Jamie KENNEDY			
13	Andy FAIRCLOUGH			
14	Andy PUCILL	16	Radney BOWKER	
15	James ARKWRIGHT	17	Heath CRUCKSHANK	

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS