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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



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I won't for one minute pretend that anybody at the club is happy with our current position but I hope that you, the fans, appreciate that we are working hard to rectify matters. The support we have received in these recent games has been impressive and it is that sort of thing that drives us on.

Whilst progress on the field is not happening as quickly as we would like there are many facets to running a club and I would like to think that some of the basic principles we set out to establish are now firmly in place. The Alliance team is up and running and that has to be the bedrock from which future first teams are selected. With that in mind we have already signed up as professionals Kevin Fitzpatrick, Warren Druggitt, Craig Milner and Dave Lewis. All of these lads have the potential to carve out a career in the game if they apply themselves correctly and on behalf of the club I would like to wish them well.

Finally our next home fixture in a fortnight's time is the local derby against Rochdale. Which will be played at Boundary Park with a 7.45 kick off. This game forms a major part of the Boroughs 150th celebrations and there is lots of entertainment planned including a beer marquee with live music, past players, face painting, bouncy castles, army vehicles, lot of giveaways and the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team. Everything will be starting at 5pm so please come along early and enjoy the special occasion.

Thanks for your support,

Christopher Hamilton



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Scott Claber

Head Coach
Mick Coates

Assistant Coach/Alliance Coach
Graeme Bradley

Physiotherapists
Alison Boyd (1st Team)
Johnathan Thomas (Alliance)

Trainer - Conditioner
Tony Ogden

Kitman
Neil Haughton

Timekeeper
Lou Laverty

Club Doctor
Dr Phil Kershaw

Club Dentist
Neil Gibbison

Statistics
John Blair

Programme Editor
Geoff Cooke

Club Honours
A J Law Cup Winners 1998
Trans Pennine Cup
Finalists 1998

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

BOB IRVING - "ABOVE ALL HELPER OF THE HELPLESS"

THE sudden death in Blackpool last month of former Oldham forward Bob Irving, at the age of 51, stunned thousands of rugby league enthusiasts who watched Oldham in the sixties and Wigan in the seventies.

Bob was the type of bloke we thought was indestructible . . . strong as an ox, a terrific athlete in his playing days, a man who always looked after himself and, as he proved so often in the later years of a busy life, a Christian with a heart of gold and a deep desire to help those who were less fortunate than himself and his family.

He rang me last December in search of another journalist's telephone number and, during the conversation, he told me briefly of the work he was doing for Catholic charities in the Fylde, with particular emphasis on the job he and his wife Jenny were doing in setting up and running soup kitchens for the homeless.

He had heard that Jason Robinson was involved with a similar project in the Moss Side district of Manchester and he felt the journalist whose number he was seeking might be in a position to publicise the plight of the homeless in the North West and the need to recruit voluntary workers.



Bob Irving

I told Bob that, once Christmas was over, I would ring him back for another chat with a view to writing a piece in the Oldham Chronicle about the role being played by a former Watersheddings star in the care of the homeless in Blackpool and beyond.

I never did make that call . . . and the next I knew of Bob was the sad news of his death, relayed to me in a telephone call from a distraught Lew Lavery.

I was overwhelmed by the feeling that I had let the side down; that Bob would never have been so careless when dealing with an issue that clearly meant a great deal to him.

Those feelings were reinforced at his Requiem Mass in St Cuthbert's RC Church, Blackpool, when Father Peter Draper referred to his "fierce determination" to fight for the hungry and the homeless.

Father Draper revealed that on the day Bob died from a heart attack he was due to travel to London on behalf of the Catholic community in the Fylde to attend a course in public speaking.

And he went on: "He was acutely aware of the hungry, both locally and throughout the world. He had no time for red tape or administration. If somebody was hungry, he wanted to feed him. He just wanted to get on with it."

It was a measure of the esteem in which he was held by the Catholic faith in the Blackpool area that the celebration of the Mass was shared by three parish priests and a deacon.

Rugby League in Oldham was represented in force by many well-known former players and officials, including Joe Collins, who played in the team when Bob made his debut as a 16-year-old in 1965, and John Etty, a fellow member of the Watersheddings Hall of Fame.

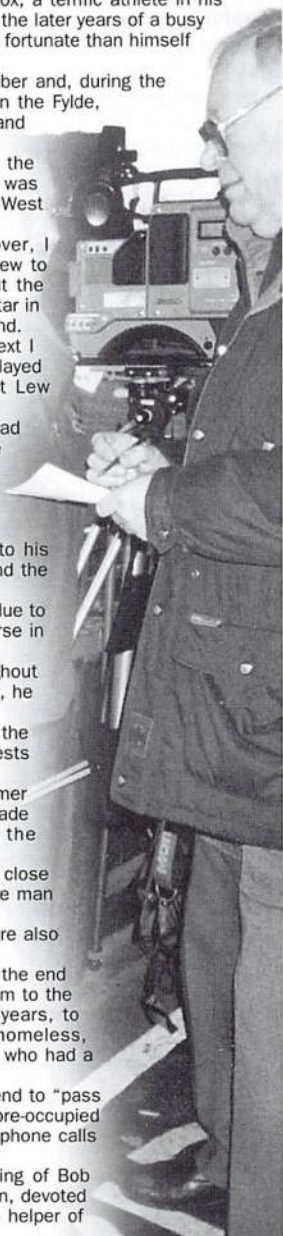
Graham Starkey, who coached Bob at both Oldham and Wigan and whose close friendship spanned 30 years, made a moving tribute in which he spoke of Bob the man and Bob the rugby league player.

His feats on the rugby field have been well chronicled and are also given in detail elsewhere in this programme.

Suffice it for me to say that he was a fighter to the end . . . that the drive and determination which took him to the top in his chosen sport enabled him, in later years, to champion the cause of the hungry and the homeless, those who had fallen on hard times and those who had a genuine need.

He set an example to those of us who tend to "pass by on the other side" or those who are so pre-occupied with our own lives that we forget to return telephone calls which might have helped others.

The world is a poorer place for the passing of Bob Irving, rugby league star, business and family man, devoted member of the Catholic community and, above all, helper of the helpless.



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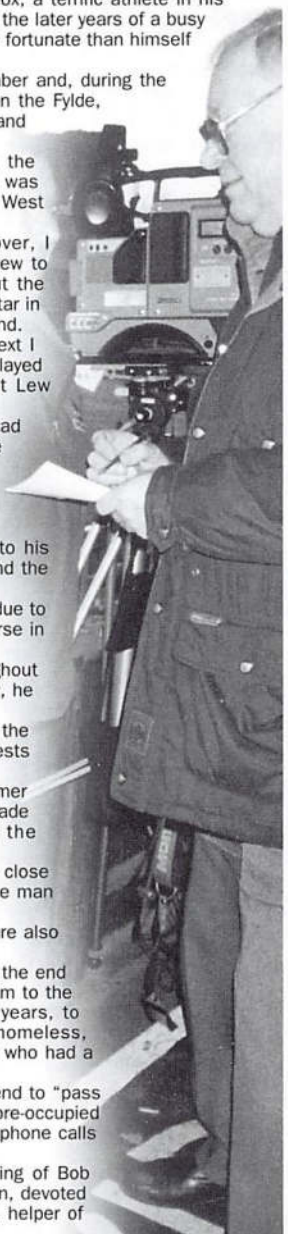
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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to all who have travelled down from Whitehaven for today's game.

Well, do you want to read an article different to any previous programme notes, or do you want me to comment on our last game?

Why do we keep coming away from games with 'absolutely nothing'? The obvious thing to say is that we just aint good enough! The players and coaching staff have to prove that they are and that will be achieved with a team that can win football matches. Frustration is a word that seems to come to mind. Three points to prove this are:-

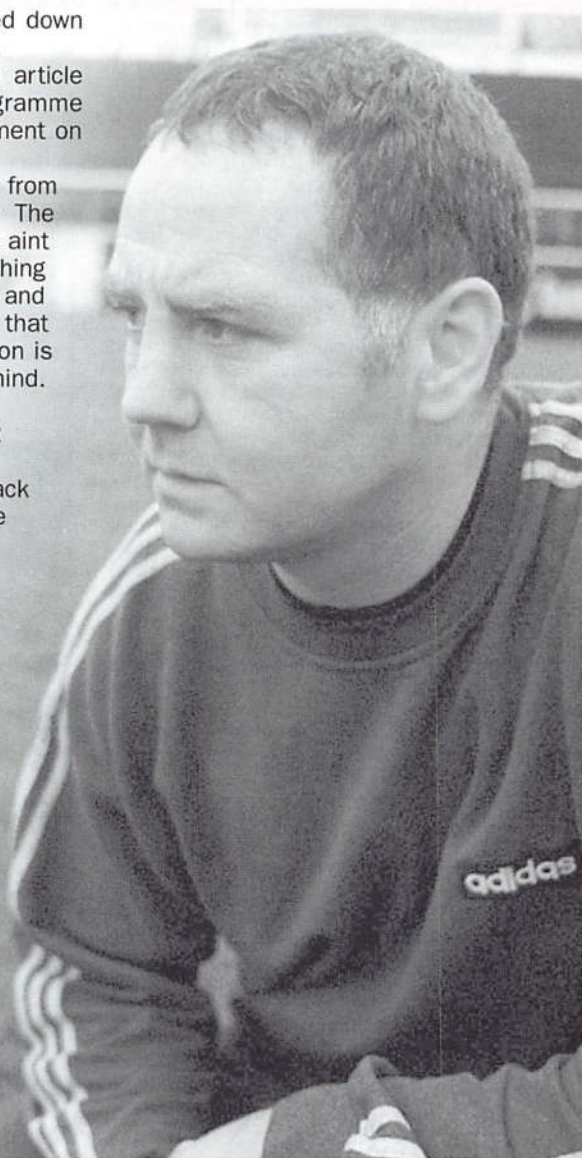
- i. Why do we give teams 10 to 12 points start?
- ii. Why do we then get ourselves back in the game, in a position where one score could win it, then press the self destruct button?
- iii. Now, a common talking point after matches is 'REFEREES'. Why do match officials who are totally impartial to who wins or loses, have such a bearing on the actual outcome?

These are but three points that are obvious and there are many more of course but if we could correct just the points mentioned then a win could be achieved.

Let's hope that we can get a much needed win that will see us turn the corner.

Enjoy the match,

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

HAVE Rugby League fans become armchair viewers and listeners? I ask this question because awareness of the sport nationally has probably never been higher, yet bums on seats are hard to come by and getting harder by the week. Sky T.V. coverage has enhanced the game's image nationally and the Summer Conference League is evidence that Sky has reached the parts others cannot reach. At regional level BBC 2's commendable Monday night magazine programme is a major break through. With G.M.R. and Radio Lancashire and other regional broadcasters producing midweek magazine programmes on radio the devoted League fan is almost overwhelmed with choice. Now comes the news that Talk Radio is switching its Monday night 'Rugby' slot from Union to League because League fans have proved more enthusiastic in 'phoning in than the followers of Union.

So, having said all this, why is it that attendances at matches are so alarmingly low? Throughout the Northern Ford Premiership clubs are struggling to attract support. At half of the clubs 1,000 would be a good gate: at the other half 2,000 is a rarity rather than a regular feature. And all this despite the fact that the product on the field is actually quite decent. Teams try to play attractive football and many games are hard fought, nailbiting encounters that lack only the atmosphere that a decent crowd can generate.

And, in case you thought, given all the resources poured into Super League, that things were substantially better in the higher echelons, think again! True, Bradford Bulls, Leeds Rhinos and St. Helens can attract some decent gates. But Wigan Warriors, the dominant force in the game for so long, are down to about half the gates they commanded as little as three years ago. Castleford Tigers and Warrington Wolves have probably added a few to their numbers on the back of improved results. And as for the rest? Well 1,500 at Gateshead is a disaster. Struggling for 3,000 at Sheffield, London and Salford, or 4,000 at Huddersfield, Hull, Halifax and Wakefield is not much better. So alarming is the situation that there are doubts whether some clubs in both leagues can survive the season. And relegation from Super League almost certainly means oblivion for whichever club suffers, as Oldham

Bears and Paris St. Germain found to their cost.

I fear that unless someone in authority addresses the game's problems as a matter of urgency within a matter of a couple of years the game as we know it will no-longer exist. Am I going over the top? Time will tell. I would wish to be totally wrong in my perception of the current situation, but I am only too fearful that my view is accurate.

In the last home match programme a comment appeared which implied that York Wasps had failed to comply with salary cap regulations in season 1998. We wish to point out that this is not the case and that York Wasps did indeed fulfil their obligations under the salary cap. We wish to apologise to the Directors of York Wasps R.L.F.C. for this error.

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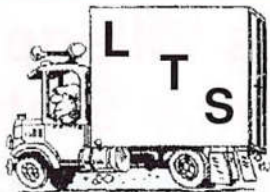
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

A warm Oldham welcome to juniors, players and supporters of Whitehaven Warriors.

The Oldham Mascot for today is **Sarah Robinson**. Sarah is 13 years old. Her favourite player is Daniel Brown. Sarah is an Oldham Rugby nut. She attends all the first team and 'A' team matches. Sarah is delighted to be mascot today. Enjoy your day!



THE next Junior Roughyed meeting will be held in conjunction with the Oldham v Rochdale match at Boundary Park on the 13th June '99.

We will be holding the meeting in the Clayton Arms. The club is busy organising lots of pre-match entertainment such as fireworks, face painting, bouncy castle and lots more. So come along and join in the fun.



THANK YOU to Paul Crook, Craig Barker, Daniel Brown and Nathan Varley for attending the May Junior Roughyeds meeting and joining in the fun.



Kim Broadbent was the Mascot for the day against Keighley Cougars. This is what Kim thought of her day:-

My Day at Keighley Cougars

I really enjoyed my day as Oldham Roughyed's Mascot, Leo Casey the Oldham captain was really nice to me and helped me a lot showing me what to do and where to stand. He also helped me

when I tossed the coin (I caught it when I should have let it drop to the ground). When I gave the coin back to the referee he said I could keep it!

Pity we did not win, but it was a good game!



Kim Broadbent

Debra Rafferty

The Mascot for the day against York Wasps was Laurence Rafferty. This is what Laurence thought of his day.

My Day As Mascot by Laurence Rafferty Age 6

I was Mascot for Oldham against York Wasps. I was a little bit nervous before the match but I stood chatting with Leo Casey in the tunnel. I ran on the pitch with Leo and passed the ball. Then I went to the centre circle and had my photo taken. I ran off the pitch and stood for the minute's silence. I then went to my mum to watch the game.



Laurence Rafferty

Debra Rafferty

RACISM IN RUGBY

RUGBY LEAGUE IS A GAME TO BE ENJOYED BY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AND RACISM HAS NO PART TO PLAY IN OUR SPORT. RACIST LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOUR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLUB AND ANY MEMBER OR SPECTATOR ENGAGING IN SUCH CONDUCT WILL FACE THE SEVEREST PENALTIES AVAILABLE. WE MUST ALL TACKLE RACISM AND ENSURE THAT RUGBY LEAGUE IS A GAME FOR ALL.



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Today's Guest Writer

"For Better Or Worse In

CENTRE threequarter Joe Collins signed for the Oldham club in 1964 making his debut against Liverpool in a team that included Malcolm Price, Frank Dyson, Vince Nestor, Harry Mayor and Charlie Bott. It was the season after those famous Challenge Cup Semis against Hull K. R. and the club was playing in the new format one division. Joe's last match was against Widnes in 1973 - the time most supporters remember as the Frank Foster, Cliff Hill era. Nine seasons. You could write a volume about the changes the club experienced during that time!

An Oldhamer through and through Joe still supports the current crop of Roughyeds, home and away.



THE REAR bedroom window of No.74. Sharples Hall Street now looks out over the roof tops of 'Old Rugby Green', a development of houses, being built on the hallowed Mecca of local rugby, Watersheddings. Three generations of our family were previously able to check the weather, spaces on the terraces and queues at the turn-stiles, before leaving to join friends for the much awaited kick off, just by glancing out of this window!

Little did anyone realise how much effort was needed, behind the scenes, to create the rush of adrenalin for crowd and players alike, as the team for the day jogged down the tunnel, onto that lush green turf...that sloped dramatically from right to left, but who cared, providing we won the toss and the match!

To get to the tunnel players walked amongst the fans, not all of whom were friendly, down steep steps that accounted for many a last minute change of studs or even to the team sheet. Players changed in "extended" changing rooms that hadn't been designed with room for a team and two substitutes, never mind four. Match day preparations were preceded by two nights training (plus extra for cup ties) spent on the roads, on the dirt sprint track, or on the training ground, all of which were only a candle away from being pitch black. Weight training involved a barbell and half a dozen weights or you could carry a colleague, or your half of a railway sleeper up and down the touchline. Science and diet played little or no part in training.

Then, training kit, washed and dried on the boiler, by "Little Jimmy" was issued on a first come, first served basis, vital in winter, if one was to avoid split seams or holes in shirts, jumpers or track suit bottoms, (never did see a top) training boots were handed

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Training at Watersheddings John Donovan, Stan, McLeod, Kevin Taylor, Jack Pycroft, John Noon, Ian Howarth and Frank Dyson track Joe.

down, kept alive for years after their original owners had retired by "Little Joe", (my first training boots still bore Billy Mitchell's name).

Midweek refreshments were provided by the resident, and hardworking tenant of the pavilion offering a variety of sandwiches, bowls of onions, beetroots and red cabbage, but only for players who washed and brushed faster than the rest. Last there went hungry! Even travelling was a chore, a trip to Cumbria meant meeting at 7.30am outside Barlows Coaches and returning after midnight, sore, tired and weary.

However, I firmly believe that not one of the 1054 senior team players who have graced the Watersheddings turf would have let the sometimes difficult backroom

activities tarnish their pride in wearing the red/white hoops, blue shorts and red/white socks in front of some of the greatest, most knowledgeable, fans in this great sport of ours.

Don't let cherished memories cloud the need for progress, the stadium announced recently is a must! Who in their right minds doesn't want ample local parking, clean dry seating, tiled toilets, meeting rooms, lounge facilities and a flat, smooth playing field with uninterrupted views. I'd like to think that the next three generations looking out from the bedroom window of No.74 Boundary Park

Road would always look out on a successful, well maintained facility that benefits Rugby League in Oldham.



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TODAY'S VISITORS

Whitehaven

GRAEME LEWTHWAITE (Winger) Fork Lift Driver.

A strong running player who signed from Hensingham ARLFC in 1993. One of the best tackling wingers in the game.

LEE KIDDIE (Stand off) Electrician

Another Ex-BARLA Australian player and product of Kells ARLFC. Talented half back who was 'Haven's top try scorer last season.

CRAIG WALSH (Centre/Winger)

An outstanding academy player with 'Haven. Craig was another young starlet who broke into the first team last season. Signed in 1997 from Kells. Coach Kevin Tamati has high hopes for him for the future.

GRAHAM MORTON (Second row) Electrical Engineer

Strong, Hard tackling forward. Another product of Kells Amateur side. Signed in 1993 after representing BARLA GB Under 19's against Australia and France.

CRAIG CHAMBERS (Second row) Rigger

Powerful, strong running forward. Another signing from Kells, he is now in his 6th season with the Club.

DAVID SEEDS (Centre) Project Draughtsman

A strong running centre, David toured Australia with the GB BARLA squad in 1993. Another product of the famous Kells Club, he signed for 'Haven later that year. Represented Cumbria against Australia in 1994.

DAVID FATIALOFA (Prop/Second Row)

Professional Rugby Player

A hardworking forward who signed for the Club in 1996 having previously played in his native New Zealand with Marist and the Auckland Warriors and for Falian in France. Represented the Junior Kiwis in 1992 and 1993.

KEVIN HETHERINGTON (Centre) Student

Another former BARLA Youth International, Kevin played for Workington Amateur side Seaton and top Rugby Union side Aspatria before signing for the Club in May 1996. A solid and determined player, he is also the Club's number one goal kicker.

AARON LESTER (Hooker/Loose Forward) Professional

Another New Zealander, Aaron is rated as one of the best players outside of 'Super League'. A dedicated professional who played for Auckland Warriors before signing in 1996 by Stan Martin. Back home in New Zealand he represented the Junior Kiwis, N.Z. Residents and N.Z. Nines.

LEROY JOE (Scrum Half) Professional

New Zealand born, Leroy signed for the Club in November 1996. An exciting player who has formed a good half-back partnership with Lee Kiddie. Played in New Zealand for Otahuhu and Counties Manukau and in Australia for North Queensland Cowboys.

WESLEY WILSON

A very promising player who signed professional in January 1997 from Wath Brow Hornets. Gained U18 International Honours with BARLA. He made his first

team debut shortly after signing and has remained automatic choice ever since.

WAYNE KITCHIN (Half back, Hooker or Loose forward)

Electrician/Instrument Mechanic

Signed from neighbours Workington Town in 1997. Wayne is a versatile player with an eye for a gap. Another product of Kells who gained International honours with BARLA on the 1989 tour to Australia.

MARK COX (Prop/Second row) Joiner

At 6' 4" the giant of the squad and a player who puts fear into his opponents. Signed from Wath Brow Hornets in 1996 he broke into the first team regularly last season after successful seasons in our Academy side which saw him representing GB in the 1997 Academy team against France.

GARY CHARLTON (Loose forward) Groundsman

At 31 years of age a senior but enthusiastic member of the team whose previous clubs were Carlisle, Hull KR and Gold Coast Giants in Aussie. Signed for Whitehaven in January 1998.

DEAN VAUGHAN (Second row/Loose forward) Apprentice Electrician

Another young player whose potential saw him break into the first team last season. Previously played for Hensingham and Kells and has represented BARLA GB at Under 18 and Under 21 levels.

BARRY QUALE (Second row) Joiner

A gritty centre or Second rower who signed in January of this year from Egremont Rangers having previously played four seasons with Carlisle Border Raiders.

ALAN BONE (Loose forward/Second row) Apprentice Fitter

At 18 years of age an exciting prospect, a hard running, hard tackling back row player. Signed from the Kells Club in December 1998 after making some impressive performances in our Academy side.

DAVE CURRIE (Hooker/Second row) Joiner

A young player who thrives on hard work, David signed from Wath Brow Hornets before making his mark in our Academy side. Has represented Cumbria at both U18 and Academy levels.

NEIL FRASER (Winger) Lab Technician

A pacy winger who signed from Seaton in February 1998. Unfortunately a shoulder injury saw him miss most of last season but he is now fully fit and looking to secure a first team place.

MATT LYNCH (Centre) Industrial Chemist

A stocky and powerful player, Matt signed for the Club in January of this year after 6 years with Carlisle Border Raiders.

TONY DYMROWSKI (Scrum half/Stand off) Electrician.

Only 20 years of age. An exciting prospect who made his first team debut last season having previously come through the Academy side after signing from Wath Brow Hornets, another who has gained BARLA Youth Honours and represented Cumbria at Academy level.

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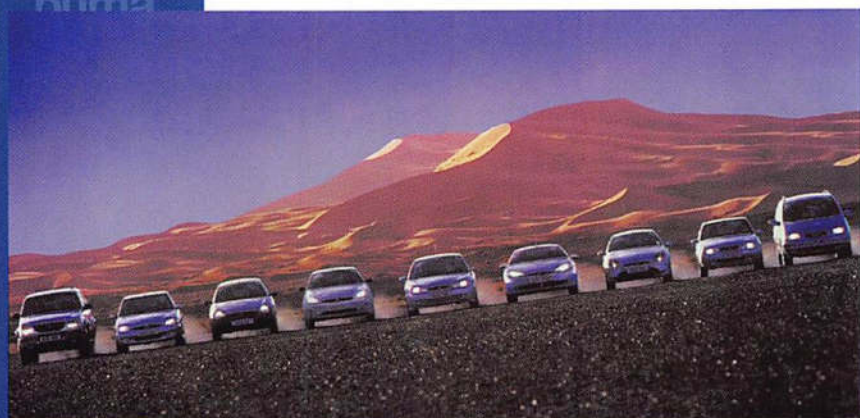
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DON YATES

Down Memory Lane

DON LOOKS BACK TO A WHITEHAVEN MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



RUGBY League is firmly established in west Cumbria where the strength of the amateur game has never been greater and where the three professional outfits plod along despite the fact that all three have known better times. Barrow and Workington Town each has a history which tells of trophies won and includes visits to Wembley. Whitehaven, on the other hand, have never made the Wembley final. In fact the Whitehaven first team have never played in any sort of final nor have they

won any major trophy. Their highest league placing came in the 1959-60 season when they finished in sixth spot and also provided five players to the Cumberland team which lifted the County Championship. It was in March of that season when Whitehaven's Recreation Ground held its biggest ever attendance with 18,650 packed into the stadium to see Whitehaven meet Wakefield Trinity in the quarter-final of the Challenge Cup. Earlier in the campaign a crowd of 12,000 were attracted to Whitehaven for a Lancashire Cup quarter-final tie against St. Helens despite the fact that the match kicked off at 4.30pm on a Wednesday afternoon. Whitehaven lost both those quarter-finals but, no doubt, the gate receipts softened the blows somewhat. Meanwhile Whitehaven's league campaign progressed in satisfactory fashion. They lost only three home league matches all season and completed league 'double' victories over seven of their opponents.

The most satisfying victories of that sequence must have been against their arch rivals Workington Town. The two clubs met early in the season at Whitehaven where the home club won 20-4. John Tembey, Jackie Reid, Ron Stephenson and Ron Morgan scored tries that evening with South African full-back Tony Forster adding four

goals. Adding to Whitehaven's satisfaction, Town were unable to breach the Whitehaven try line, Workington's points coming from a couple of Eric Stephenson penalties. Two months later the bitter rivalry between Whitehaven and Workington was put to one side as the clubs combined to take on the Australian tourists. The West Cumbrians turned in a great show at Derwent Park where only an uncharacteristic kicking display from full-back Syd Lowdon, who missed eight out of nine attempts at goal, enabled the tourists to win 13-8.

On New Years Day 1960 the two west Cumbrian rivals met again with Workington Town determined to avenge their early season defeat. The teams for that match were as follows:

Workington Town: Eric Stephenson; Dennis McDowell, John O'Neill, Syd Lowdon, Kenny Foord; Harry Archer, Sol Roper; Norman Herbert, Bert Eden, Jacky Armstrong, Bill Martin, Fred Hodgson & Bill McCall.

Whitehaven: John McKeown; Bill Smith, Harry Hughes, Eppie Gibson, Ian Coles; Alf Hadley, Bruno Davies; Bill McAlone, John McKinnell, Bobby Vincent, John Tembey, Bill Holliday & Ron Morgan.

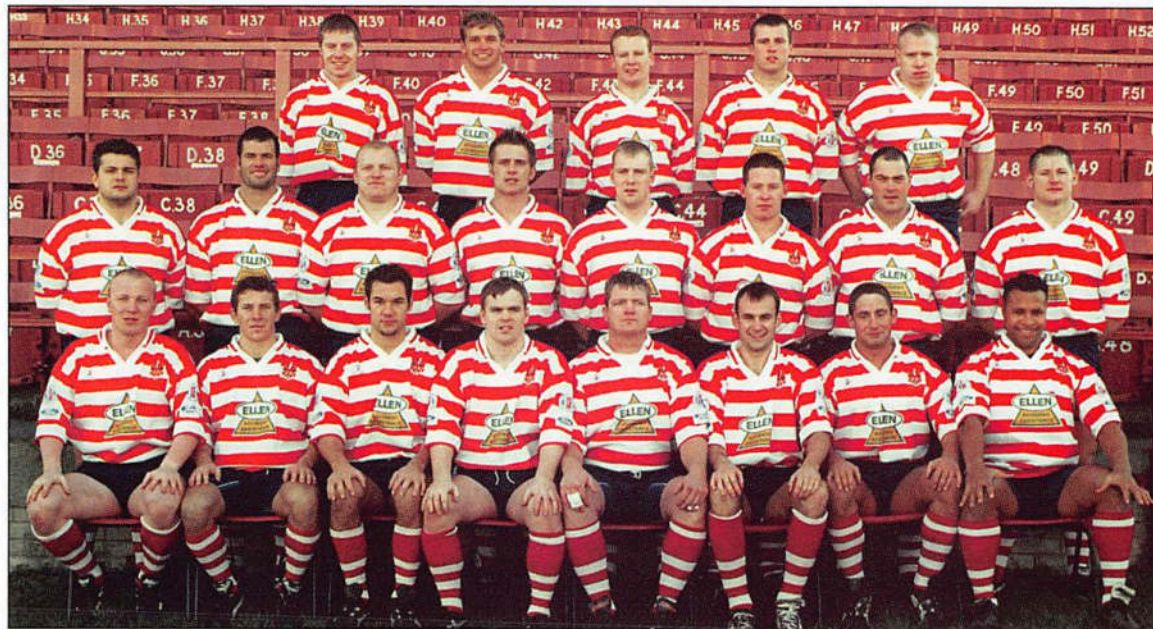
Once again the Whitehaven defence was up to the task ahead and once again Workington were unable to breach the Whitehaven try line. Indeed, the Whitehaven defence was even tighter than it was in the home game and it enabled 'Haven' to register the dream achievement of all their followers, to 'nil' their arch rivals on Workington's home ground. The final scoreline was a convincing 24-0. Alf Hadley (2), Bruno Davies and Bill Holliday scored tries with John McKeown landing six goals.

That victory sparked Whitehaven into an eleven match unbeaten run which looked like bringing an elusive trophy to the Recreation Ground. Alas, six defeats in seven outings around Easter, including one at Watersheddings, ended both their Cup and Championship aspirations. Whitehaven still await their first trophy success but they continue to serve the west Cumbria coast, providing entertainment and the odd inspiring victory for their small but dedicated band of followers.

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OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS SEASON 1999

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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BOB IRVING

PAYING tribute to Bob Irving the rugby player you would think easy, Oldham, Yorkshire, England, Great Britain, World Cup winner, Hall of Fame member....but not so! I find it impossible to separate the player from the man. Having read Roger Halsteads earlier tribute you will understand why. When ever anything was asked of Bob it was 'yes'. He could never be negative. A prime example must be that when the 'End of an Era' brochure to mark the closure of Watersheddings was suggested Bob was the first with a supporting article. This article best sums up the man and the rugby player - he wrote it! So no apologies for reprinting it here!

Brian Walker

But first THAT playing record -

Career Record

	App	Sub	Tries	Pts
Oldham 1965-73	293	3	80	240
Wigan 1973-77	152	2	40	120
Salford 1977-78	39	0	7	21
Barrow 1978-80	48	3	14	42
Blackpool 1981-82	16	0	4	12
Swinton 1982-83	24	1	10	30
Great Britain	8	3	0	0
GB Tour 1970	11	3	6	18
England	3	0	0	0
GB u.24s	1	0	0	0
Yorkshire	10	1	3	9
GRAND TOTAL	605	16	164	492

"From Over The Hill to the End of The World" by Bob Irving

In September 1964 as a 16 year old A. N. Other trialist with Oldham, living in Huddersfield, the most daunting aspect was the travel to and from Watersheddings. I was totally dependant on Frank Dyson the player coach who also lived in

Huddersfield.

Being a mechanic Frank was really into cars and in the swinging sixties the Mini was all the rage. The ultimate Mini was the Cooper S but Frank only had the ordinary mini but drove it as if it were a Cooper S.

Tuesday's and Thursday's training meant a quick dash from work to meet Frank in Huddersfield town centre to start our journey. Although only 16 I was quite well made and Frank in his sheepskin coat was quite a size too, so we were really squashed together in this Mini. Whether we took the Stanedge or Nont Sarahs route was purely academic since both were unlit, foggy with sheer drops from the roadside. The only



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way of knowing whether we were still on the road was by bumping into the sheep. When the weather was really bad Frank would slow down to 50 mph from his usual 70-90 mph, side window open (I think it was to give us a bit more room), fag in mouth, one hand on the wheel, nose against the windscreen, frantically wiping away the condensation. Frank probably thought my silence was due to youthful shyness but in truth I was numb with fear. Lifting sheep off the bonnet was better than any tacking practice.

The worst journey of all in those days of limited motorways was Workington Town away, Saturday 6am - get out of bed. 6.15am - walk to bus stop. 6.30am - bus to Huddersfield town centre. 7am - meet Frank. 8am - team coach leaves Watersheddings and proceeds to Bolton-le-Sands, picking up players along the way. 8.30 am - realise I should not play cards with seasonal professionals. 8.35am - lost last week's winning pay so might as well have a nap. 10am - arrive Bolton-le-Sands for breakfast. Mid-day - arrive Royal Oak Keswick for steak and egg lunch. 2.30pm - arrive Workington wishing I had not eaten all that food. 3.00pm - kick off. 3.01pm - hit by Brian Edgar and the Martin Brothers (wish I had never got out of bed in the first place). 7.00pm - Wake up in Ambleside at dinner. Cannot eat mixed grill, two teeth missing. 7 pints and as many hours later crawl back into bed.

Eventually I buy my own car which means I can now travel to Oldham for other purposes than training. On several occasions the team was

invited by Chief Constable Palmer to enjoy the hospitality of the police social club. The local lads always seemed to get safely back without having to drive but obviously such hospitality did not extend to that journey over the tops. However, I was offered a vacant cell if I was ever stuck. Some weeks later having skidded on black ice and leaving the road, I vowed not to risk that journey again in such bad conditions. Another social evening later at 1.30am on a foggy freezing night I presented myself to the desk sergeant at police HQ. Fortunately my misgivings were banished on being greeted by Walter Alcock who was always on the turnstile on match day and was kindly soul. He found me a vacant cell and gave me a couple of blankets. At 6am I was awakened by a screaming officer who was throwing out the previous night's drunks. My protestations were ignored and he obviously did not follow rugby league because Bob Irving meant nothing to him. Perhaps he was a Rochdale supporter. He physically man-handled me out of the station and onto the freezing street. I decide to make that journey again. The old pavilion with its lights blazing, Mrs Wood making the after training butties, little Jimmy wisecracking with the lads as he handed out the newly washed kit and polished boots, Sergeant Walter on the gate greeting players and spectators alike with fatherly protection, the buzz of the crowd, the banter in the bar, were yesterday's rewards at the journey's end and today's happy memories. **Thank you to everyone who made it so.**

Bob Irving

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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

TODAY we extend a warm welcome to our Cumbrian visitors Whitehaven. 'Haven' were admitted into the Rugby League from the 1948-49 season, following on from the success of Workington Town who joined the league three years earlier. The first ever meeting between the teams took place at Watersheddings on February 18th 1950. Oldham won the match 17-3 with tries from Ken Ward, Bob Batten and a hat trick from right winger Joe Warham. Bryn Goldswain kicked one goal and the attendance was a more than respectable 10,232.

Oldham Team: I Barraclough; J. Warham, K. Ward, W. Mitchell, R. Batten; F. Heyes, J. Silva; H. Ogden, J. Dean, L. Anthony, J. Sugden, T. Leyland, B. Goldswain.

The return match which was the last game of the 1949-50 season was played at Whitehaven on April 29th 1950 and the Cumbrians gained revenge with a five points to three victory. Bob Batten again on the score sheet with the Oldham try.

We have only to go back to this season's Challenge Cup competition for the last meeting between the teams, when Whitehaven won a four sixth round tie by eighteen points to two at the Recreation Ground on February 28th. However, one has to go back as far as January 10th 1988 for the last league encounter. This was in a second division fixture at Watersheddings and resulted in a 28-20 victory for Oldham. There was a special interest in the game for it was the debut match for local born scrum half Mike Ford who had just signed for his home town club after successful



The Oldham team which defeated Whitehaven 30-13 on August 23rd 1972. Included in the line up is Bob Irving who died recently aged 50. Bob will long be remembered as one of the outstanding forwards of Oldham RLFC. Sincere sympathy is extended to Bob's family on behalf of everyone connected with the club.

Back Row: Tommy Davies, Bill Churm, Bob Irving, Martin Murphy, Mike Elliott, Geoff Munro, Ken Wilson, Frank Foster, Keith Jackson.

Front Row: Mick McCone, Phil Larder, Joe Collins, Cliff Hill, Kevin Taylor, Norman Hodgkinson, mascot.

spells at Wigan and Leigh. The Oldham points came via tries from Des Foy, Peter Walsh, Kevin Meadows and Hugh Waddell with the Australian stand off, Walsh also landing six goals.

Oldham Team: M. Burke; B. McCarthy, G. Warnecke, D. Foy, K. Meadows; P. Walsh, M. Ford; N. Clawson, I. Sanderson, H. Waddell, C. Hawkyard, M. Graham, S. Peters.

Subs: T. Flanagan, M. Bardsley.

Attendance: 3,803

This was the completion of a league double for Oldham who had won at Whitehaven by twenty points to six on the opening day of the 1987-88 season.

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 BRIAN WALKER 01457 875084 OR MICHAEL TURNER 0161-620-6005



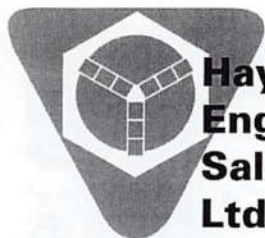
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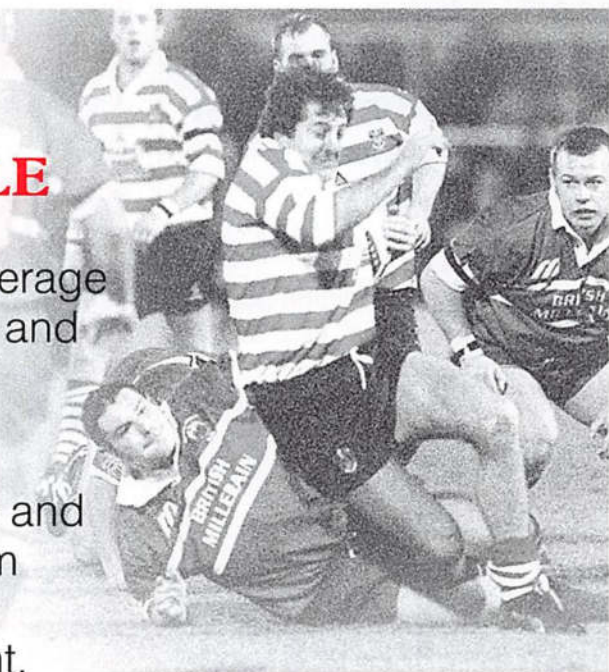
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DON YATES

On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY

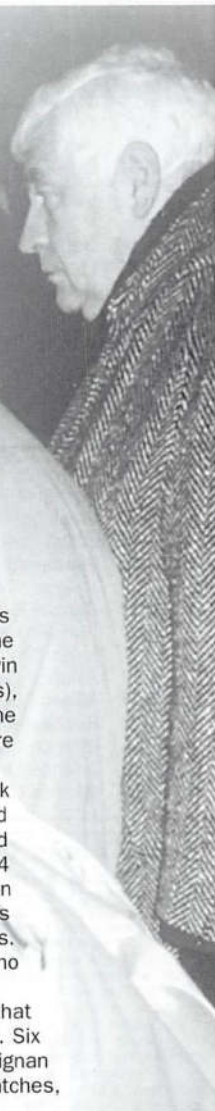


TWENTY-nine long years have elapsed since Great Britain last won a test series against Australia. The team which achieved that distinction was the 1970 British Lions, an outstanding touring team consisting of 26 players, all of whom played in at least one of the six tests on that trip. It was on this day in 1970, Friday 30th May, that the tourists met Queensland at Lang Park, Brisbane. It was the first big match of the tour but the Lions were up to the task, scoring six tries as they raced to a 32-7 victory. One of the British tries that evening was scored by the only Oldham representative on that tour, second-rower Bob Irving. Bob was not tall as second-row forwards go, but he was solid. Solid by stature and, as we were to find out later, solid morally too. He was a great favourite with the Oldham fans, not only for his exploits on the field, but also for the time and patience he showed towards those fans off the pitch. His untimely death earlier this year left the World a poorer place but Roughyeds everywhere will always remember him, not only as a great player but also as a great human being.

During the autumn of 1982 Australia toured Europe and so, in order to accommodate that tour, the 1982-83 County Championship was brought forward to the previous May and completed within eight days. The third and final match of the series was played on Sunday 30th May 1982 when Cumbria entertained Lancashire at Derwent Park, Workington. There were three Whitehaven players in the Cumbrian line-up, winger John Bulman, scrum-half 'Boxer' Walker and prop Paul Grimes. Oldham's Alan McCurrie was at hooker for Cumbria whilst Terry Flanagan was loose-forward for Lancashire. After an even first half Lancashire led 10-8 but the visitors then got well on top and went on to win 46-8. St. Helens winger Kevin Meadows scored a hattrick of tries for Lancashire whilst Mick Burke (Widnes), landed eight goals. Both later enjoyed successful spells at Watersheddings. The big disappointment of the afternoon, however, was the attendance of a mere 732.

Two years ago, on Friday 30th May 1997, the representative action took place at the Boulevard, Hull where the BARLA open age team entertained France 'B'. The French boys looked likely winners of this match when they led 12-2 early in the second half. However, BARLA hit back and snatched a 15-14 victory when substitute prop Graham Summerscales (Shaw Cross) dropped an unlikely goal late in the game. A member of the BARLA pack that evening was Steve Mills, then of Wigan St. Patricks but last season of Saddleworth Rangers. The French squad included Emmanuel Peralta, now with the Roughyeds, but who then was making a name for himself with the Villeneuve club.

Staying with France, it was on this day in 1971, Sunday 30th May, that Marseille lifted the French Cup with a 17-2 victory over Lezignan in Perpignan. Six years previously, on Sunday 30th May 1965, Rochdale Hornets visited Perpignan during their three match tour of the South of France. Hornets lost all three matches, XIII Catalan winning that match in Perpignan by 16-13.



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Rfl Alliance Div One

*Coach Graeme Bradley*

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

Mar	16	Batley Bulldogs	H	6 - 40
	25	Leigh Centurions	H	26 - 14
	31	Hunslet Hawks	H	29 - 29
April	8	Featherstone R.	A	4 - 39
	14	Dewsbury Rams	H	P
	24	West Cumbria	A	24 - 10
May	28	Swinton Lions	A	36 - 24
	5	Keighley Cougars	H	8 - 22
	13	Dewsbury Rams	A	4 - 25
	19	Swinton Lions	H	28 - 39
	29	Barrow B. R.	A	
June	10	Rochdale Hornets	A	
	12	West Cumbria	H	
	19	Batley Bulldogs	A	
	23	Featherstone R.	H	
July	1	Keighley Cougars	A	
	10	Barrow B. R.	H	
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A	
	21	Leigh Centurions	A	
	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
Aug	14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd		
	18	Rochdale Hornets	H	
Sept	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd		
	11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final		
	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final		

THINGS have definitely gone pear-shaped for the Oldham Alliance team since the last home match programme with four defeats and only one victory to report. Despite fielding some good sides on paper, the more experienced players have been unable to motivate themselves sufficiently to give the youngsters a lift. Despite this Oldham have signed Wayne Druggitt, Craig Milner and David Lewis on professional forms as well as welcoming back as an amateur ex-Bears player Jimmy Cowans who has unfortunately sustained an injury. The player to emerge from the pack lately has been young stand-off Michael Coates with two substitute appearances with the first team, the second of these at Swinton showing signs of promise.

To me the Alliance team tries hard to play constructive football, but seems somewhat lacking in power and stamina. No doubt the coaching staff will be addressing the problem.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

THE new Oldham Roughyeds Supporters Club needs your membership - and your help.

Several changes have taken place on the committee since our last home game, following Jack Roscoe's resignation and the decision to extend the number of officials from five to seven.

Going off votes cast at the first committee election in March, Maureen Aldridge has been co-opted to replace Jack & Lynn Pilkington and Sylvia Patterson have accepted invitations to join the committee to provide greater strength.

A group of about 30 members turned up at Mr Wrigley's, Union Street last week for the first open meeting of members since the new club was formed.

Considering that our membership now tops 165, it was a disappointing turn out, but the committee is determined to build up interest one way or the other.

The committee took on board a suggestion from one member that we should be more active on match days, mingling

with the fans to publicise our club and the events it has lined up for the rest of the summer.

One of the first will be at Mr Wrigley's on Saturday, June 12th, the night before the big game against Rochdale Hornets at Boundary Park, which will form part of the borough's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Tickets will be on sale soon and we hope to make it a great night for Roughyeds fans at which we can get a memorable weekend off to a flying start.

An interesting point made at our members' meeting was a need for people with cars to assist those fans who don't have their own transport to get to Spotland on match days because of the problems with public transport on Sundays.

A lot of fans already do this, but we would like to appeal to all fans to consider giving somebody a lift if they know they don't have their own car.

In the meantime, we need more members and more workers. Interested? Then contact Linda or any member of the committee. We would love to welcome you on board.

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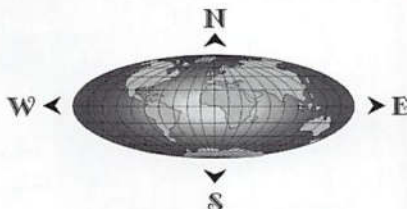
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Front Row: Jason Brassington, Rhys Winston, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Michael Coates, Craig Milner

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Good Fortunes to the Roughyeds throughout the 1999 Season

Match by Match Analysis 1999



JANUARY

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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	Batley Bulldogs	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	L6-30 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	W27-12 878	Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas 1T	Wood 1T3G10G	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Lewis	Crook	Peralta
5	LEIGH CENTURIONS	L20-26 2163	Minut	Mead 2T	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas	Wood 4G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Quinlan	Crook	Peralta
11	Bramley	L18-24 500	Minut 3G	Mead	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas 1T	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale 1T	Barker	Varley	Round	Peralta
25	YORK	L14-43 1125	Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas	Wood 1G	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Varley	Prescott	Martindale	Crooke	Barker	Round	Peralta

MAY

1	SILK CUT CC Final																		
3	Rochdale Hornets	L18-29 1568	Minut	Mead	Wood	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook 5G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Peralta	Clegg 1T	Prescott	Martindale 1T	Quinlan	Varley	Round	Sinfield
9	Keighley Cougars	L28-32 1842	Minut	Mead	Wood 1G	Farrell 1T	McNicholas 2T	Crook	Brown 1T, 3G	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg 1T	Round	Quinlan	Sinfield	Coates	Varley	Jackman	Peralta
23	Swinton Lions	L24-31 1478	Minut	Mead	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1T, 4G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Round 1T	Varley	Sinfield	Coates	Shaw	Prescott	Quinlan 1T

30 WHITEHAVEN W. H

JUNE

6	Workington Town	A
9	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H
13	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H 7.45 (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

APPEARANCES & SCORERS . . . SEASON 1999

	Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts		Apps	Sub	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts
C. Baker	-	2	-	-	-	-	M. Martindale	10	-	2	-	-	8
J. Bostock	7	-	3	-	-	12	A. Mead	15	-	7	-	-	28
D. Brown	15	-	8	15	-	62	L. Minut	15	-	-	10	-	20
L. Casey	15	-	-	-	-	-	E. Peralta	3	9	-	-	-	-
J. Clegg	15	-	4	-	-	16	M. Perrett	4	5	-	-	-	-
M. Coates	-	2	-	-	-	-	M. Prescott	5	9	1	-	-	4
G. Coulter	1	5	-	-	-	-	B. Quinlan	4	7	1	4	-	12
P. Crook	8	3	-	-	-	-	P. Round	2	3	1	-	-	4
M Farrell	7	1	4	-	-	16	G. Shaw	10	2	-	-	-	-
J. Hough	15	-	2	-	-	8	I. Sinfield	2	1	-	-	-	-
E. Jackman	11	2	1	-	-	4	N. Varley	2	5	-	-	-	-
A. Leulla	8	-	-	-	-	-	D. Wood	6	-	1	12	1	29
D. Lewis	-	1	-	-	-	-							

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

OLDHAM RLFC ALLIANCE and UNDER 21

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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	L6-30	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
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APRIL

2	Doncaster Dragons	W27-12	878	Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas 1T	Wood 1T3G1DG	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Lewis	Crook	Peralta
5	LEIGH CENTURIONS	L20-26	2163	Minut	Mead 2T	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas	Wood 4G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Quinlan	Crook	Peralta
11	Bramley	L18-24	500	Minut 3G	Mead	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas 1T	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale 1T	Barker	Varley	Round	Peralta
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J. Bostock	7	-	3	-	-	12	A. Mead	15	-	7	-	-	28
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J. Clegg	15	-	4	-	-	16	M. Perrett	4	5	-	-	-	-
M. Coates	-	2	-	-	-	-	M. Prescott	5	9	1	-	-	4
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J. Hough	15	-	2	-	-	8	I. Sinfield	2	1	-	-	-	-
E. Jackman	11	2	1	-	-	4	N. Varley	2	5	-	-	-	-
A. Leulla	8	-	-	-	-	-	D. Wood	6	-	1	12	1	29
D. Lewis	-	1	-	-	-	-							

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



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the 150th Anniversary of the Borough's
municipal status in 1999.**

The Council is committed to continuing the good work
of all its predecessors in serving the people of Oldham
and in driving the Borough's economic, social,
environmental, educational and recreational aspirations
into the new Millennium.

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OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

Today's Sponsors

Associate Match
Amega Labels

Man of the Match
Saddleworth Sports

Match Ball
Mr Wrigleys

We would like to welcome today's special guests, Bob Irving's wife Jenny and family, and also former Oldham centre three-quarter, Joe Collins.

OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

1	Laurent MINUT			
2	Adrian MEAD			
3	Emmerson JACKMAN			
4	Mick FARRELL			
5	Joe McNICHOLAS			
6	Paul CROOK			
7	Daniel BROWN			
8	Leo CASEY			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Jason CLEGG			
11	Paul ROUND			
12	Nathan VARLEY			
13	Ian SINFIELD			
14	Michael COATES	16	Mike PRESCOTT	
15	Graeme SHAW	17	Brian QUINLAN	

Today's Officials

Today's Referee
Mr Paul Byrne



Touch Judges
Mr F. J. Howley
Mr P. Meadows

WHITEHAVEN

Coach:

1	Wesley WILSON			
2	Neil FRAZER			
3	David SEEDS			
4	Matt LYNCH			
5	Graeme LEWTHWAITE			
6	Kevin HETHERINGTON			
7	Leroy JOE			
8	Wayne RUDD			
9	Wayne KITCHIN			
10	David FATIALOFA			
11	Craig CHAMBERS			
12	Gary CHARLTON			
13	Aaron LESTER			
14	TBA	16	TBA	
15	TBA	17	TBA	

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS