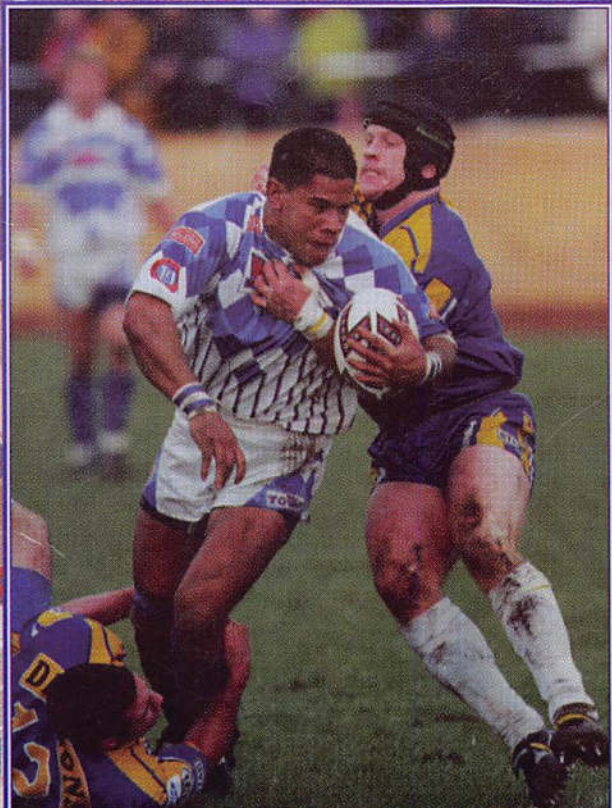


WORKINGTON TOWN review



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WORKINGTON TOWN

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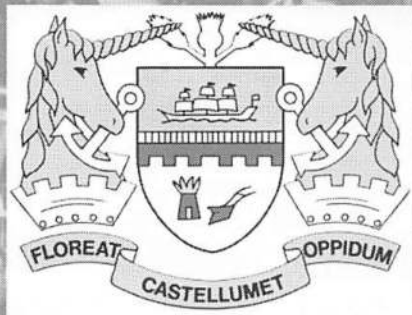
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WORKINGTON TOWN

R•L•F•C

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*"If we are
to get to
the play-
offs and do
anything
the lads
need
vociferous
support
and we
need bodies
through the
turnstiles"*

We're on a roll but where is everyone?

It's confusing to say the least, last year the club almost went out of business but the fantastic support given by people to the club through the newspapers, petitions and by their presence at Salford was probably the major reason why we are here today. Last year was nightmare in terms of performance on the field and yet we still managed crowds of around 700. Here we are 7th in the division with the lads playing some of the best rugby I have seen at Derwent Park, looking for a top five place and we struggle to get 800 people. If we are to get to the play-offs and do anything the lads need vociferous support and we need bodies through the turnstiles to be able to offer them decent incentives. The club has said all along it will invest any upturn in support back to the players (whilst remaining within the salary cap of course). After all it is these lads that have got us where we are. They are a team that deserve good support, so if you know anyone who perhaps signed a petition or travelled to Salford and they are not coming to support us then take the time to ask them why.

This afternoon we have made into a special day for the kids. Free entry, bouncy castles, face painting and the like. The Derwent Lounge is open from 12 noon with the Swinton game being screened at 1.00 p.m. After the game we have have an excellent entertainer in 'Fizzer'

and the Man of the Match award will be made at approximately 5.00 p.m.

Oldham provide us with the opposition today hot of their defeat by "Jennings Team of the Week" Whitehaven (I wonder who chose that?). By all accounts they played really well and but for the last ten minutes or so could have had the game sewn up. Andy will have no doubt run the rule over Oldham and will be fully informed so here's hoping we can make it four out of four.

On to something less pleasant. We, as club have been reported to the Rugby League concerning Racial Abuse from an element of our supporters. The actual game in question was the York game.

The Club will make it's position clear. ANYONE found using racial abuse in this ground will be ejected and banned from this club for life. There is no room or excuse for behaviour of this kind in society today. We will be asking the support groups to help us stamp out this cowardly behaviour by getting their members to report anyone being abusive in general (not just racially). This is not the first incident or time that this club has been reported, indeed an incident of verbal abuse occurred at Lancashire Lynx this year and a couple of seasons ago a similar racial abuse complaint was made to the authorities about our club. Workington Town believes in equal opportunities for ALL regardless of creed or colour.

Enjoy the game

Boardroom Brief

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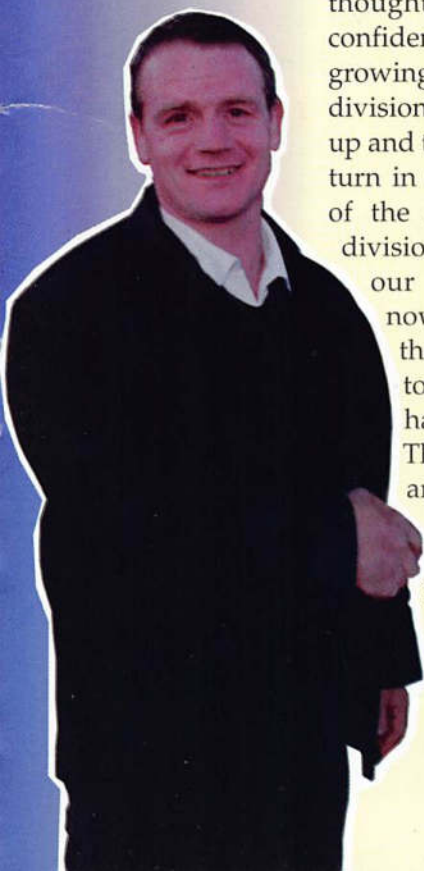
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*I believe the club
has made great
strides in the
last few months,
and full credit
must go to the
Directors for
backing me, and
allowing to sign
the players I
needed to take
this club
forward*



The players and officials of Oldham together with their vociferously passionate and loyal supporters were under no illusion as to the size of the task facing them in the Ford Divisional Premiership. While the first half of the season has tended to reinforce that view, the side bearing the Oldham club's hopes has performed far more creditably than their results to date have shown.

A very close home defeat by our neighbours Whitehaven confirmed my thoughts, and while the confidence in our side is growing, other clubs in this division are beginning to sit up and take notice of the up turn in our results. As one of the form sides in the division at the moment, all our opponents from now until the end of the season are going to try that little bit harder to defeat us.

The team turned in another tremendous performance last Sunday against Swinton Lions, and again played some

great football and fully deserved to win. Craig Stalker once again had a great game and is maturing every week, and fully deserved the man of the man award.

I believe the club has made great strides in the last few months, and full credit must go to the Directors for backing me, and allowing to sign the players I needed to take this club forward. I felt before the Hull K.R. match that we would need a season in which to find our feet, but so far the performances of the side have exceeded my expectations. This is a very competitive league, and to be pushing for a top five position and a place in the Play-Offs is no longer a dream, it is an achievable target!

What we do require is more support. Enjoy today's game, but try and encourage your family and friends to join us here at Derwent Park.

Enjoy the game,

Andy.

Team Matters
..... with Andy Platt



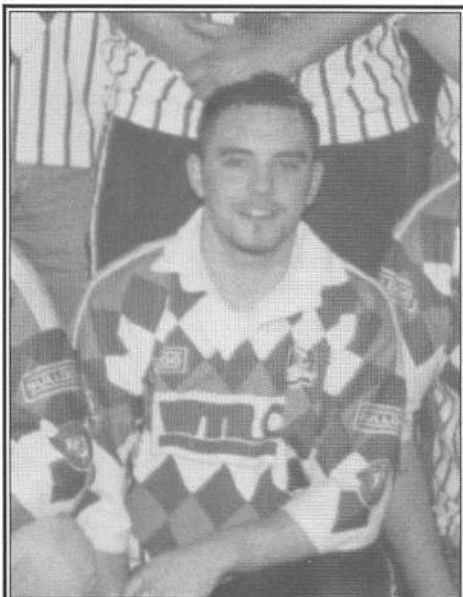
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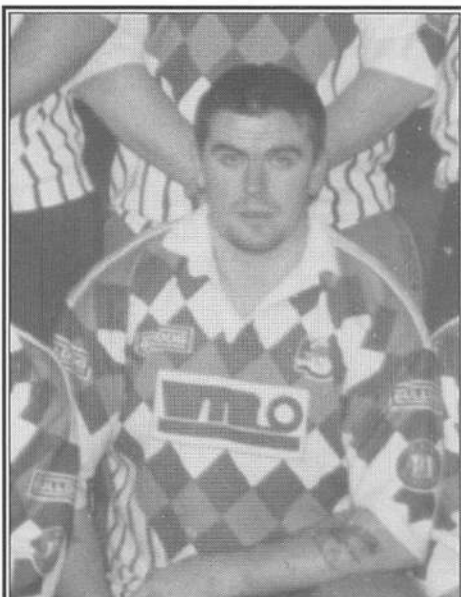
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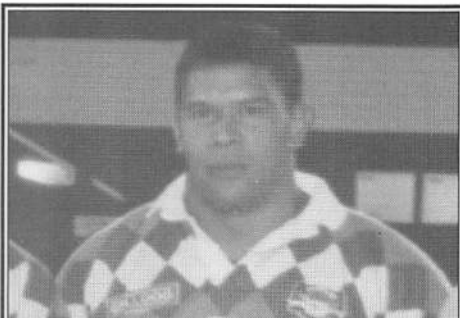
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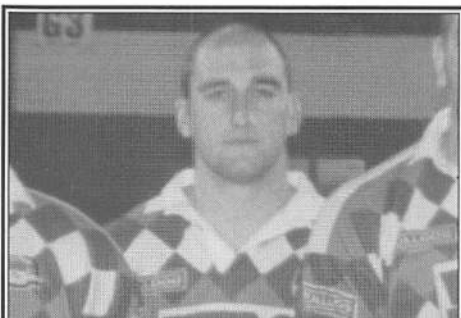
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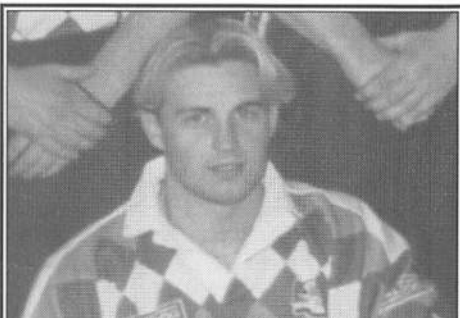
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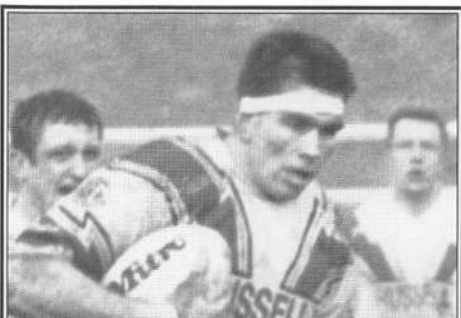
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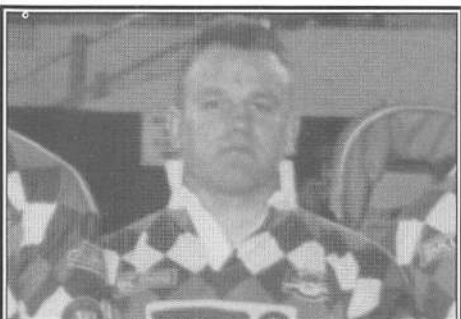
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It is difficult to pinpoint why attendances at our Ford Divisional Premiership Clubs are so poor. Dewsbury, despite turning in top performances on a weekly basis are still struggling to break four figures. Our neighbours Whitehaven have seen their crowds slip below seven hundred, while here at Workington, the crowds are continuing to drop slightly on a weekly basis, despite, the fact that we have won more games this season, than the previous four combined, and more importantly, the side are playing entertaining rugby.

It is commendable that the board are trying their hardest to bring in paying spectators through the turnstiles, and the family ticket, face painting and bouncy castles etc. are a brave effort, but these 'gimmicks' will either bring one or two extra people in, or make it a cheaper day out for the families that already attend games. If this is the case, then the average takings 'per head' could be down on last week's gate, even if there is a bigger crowd!

Don't misinterpret what it is I'm saying, I'm not knocking the club at all, what I'm trying to do is work out where the crowds have gone.

Is everyone going to the speedway on a Saturday night? To be honest I've never been for twenty years, and I didn't like it then, but I'm well aware that some of our supporters do go to both, and maybe they can't afford to watch the Comets on a Saturday and the Town on a Sunday. One thing I have noticed this season and that is the number of visiting supporters coming to Derwent Park is nothing like it was the last time we were in Division One. Featherstone, Widnes and Keighley all had an excellent away following, but you could probably bring their combined support to Workington on one coach

now.

Going by my own feelings, I feel that I'm suffering from 'rugby fatigue'. I don't have the hunger and will to watch the sport I love as often as I used to. I used to crave the start of the rugby season, buying the papers every night to see who had signed for who, and please forgive me if I'm wrong, but is rugby league the only live sport in North of England you can watch for twelve months of the year?

Since the advent of summer rugby, I have watched rugby league constantly. Whether it's standing at the Athletic Ground, Maryport on a Saturday afternoon watching the amateurs, or taking in a junior game on a Sunday morning. Come February it's the turn of the professionals, and a choice of at least two live games a week on Sky or coming to Derwent Park to watch Town.

I believe rugby league is very rapidly reaching its own saturation point, and this is not just happening in West Cumbria at Workington and Whitehaven, it is happening in Super League with average attendance's slowly starting to dip.

I don't profess to know the answer as to how we can 'stop the rot', but identifying the problem is a start, and maybe, just maybe the RFL will see this article and combine their marketing brains in an effort to find a solution.

My own opinion - well for what it's worth I would like to see both the amateurs and professionals back on a parallel season. If this means the amateurs change to the summer, then so be it. As I write this it's pouring down, so don't give me the hard grounds routine. Having played on hard grounds in summer and winter I know which one I prefer!!!!

Straight Talking....

with Paul Williamson



Keith Singleton
writes....

Derwent Reflections

DERWENT REFLECTIONS

*"I thought
last
Sunday
saw
Town's
best
display of
'total
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this
current
season"*

Ignoring the two second half tries Swinton notched in as many minutes, I thought last Sunday saw Town's best display of 'total rugby' this current season. Obviously that 'Lion's' hotspot cannot be totally shelved, ignored, and forgotten because such defensive lapses can, and do, cost dearly at times. The Workington 'against' total is not really in keeping with a team seeking a play off place, but to counterbalance that problem area on the plus side of the coin the 'for' total is now looking very impressive. And

last week some really brilliant tries were posted, following first class handling and support play. I don't on a regular basis mention individual efforts, but the two tries from Craig Stalker were very much top drawer. High speed running and timing, at angles, which left the Lion's tails twitching with admiration I'm sure. Simon Knox took his opportunity to join the scoring list with a bomb, and capped his best eighty in a Town shirt to date. If it is high scoring action you are after then Derwent Park should be the target you aim for on a Summer Sunday afternoon. However I've got to admit that last weeks turnstile return of just over eight hundred was disappointing, what have the lads got to do to persuade the ex patriots back? Keep on winning of course is one solution, but I feel the selective nature of the

public needs added spice to lure them from their armchair, as they enjoy a post Yorkshire pudding slumber. What is the answer? I just wish I could suggest a magic formula to attract the extra purse holders. The era of loud music and dancing girls is on the wane as pre match amusement is it not? (We have loud girls and dancing music of course, which is entertaining to some I guess.)

Personally I tend to be sort of selfish, I mean something like I enjoy the matches and if those ex-Townies miss out it is their problem. Unfortunately though, on a broader scope the club does need more good folk joining us regulars to build for that future accomplishment already blue printed.

So enough of the preaching to you converted folk and on with the action of today. June is here and midsummer nights dreams include, Town consolidating a top five slot. The 'Roughyeds' are having more of their nicknames first syllable than they probably bargained for as they occupy a lowly berth at present, and tut, tut, they didn't 'old out last Sunday did they....??? I have a side bet that Town will finish above the Warriors, and when our Gary gave us a score flash from Spotland I was rubbing the palms with added verve, (makes 'em softer you know) as another two points advantage in the Northern Ford Premiership table looked probable. (The count down to August 1st. continues of course.)

First though, let's get this flaming June off to a hot start at 3.00 p.m. Today, and give more evidence that Workington Town are THE team to WATCH.....

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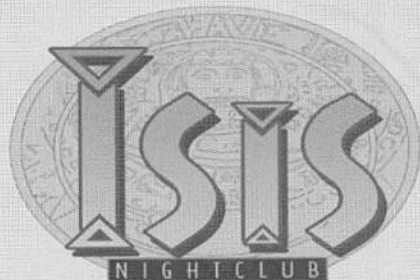
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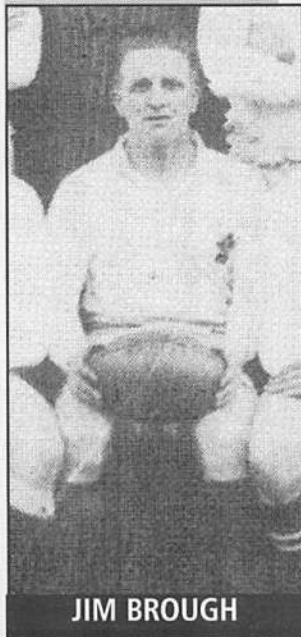
Bob Coulter

concludes his look

at the life and
times of Cumbrian

Legend

Jim Brough



JIM BROUGH

First introduction at Leeds was to Joe Thompson, followed by Mel Rosser. They gave him a very warm welcome and he felt at home right away. Later on he met some of the game's finest "stars." I wonder how many readers have heard of the great Jim Bacon, Australian tourist 1920 and 1924, a centre or winger, scaling 14 stone and little short of even time on the track. Welsh hero Billie Bowen, Joe Jones, Syd Walmsley, "Ginger" Thomas, Arthur Binks and 19 year-old local boy George Broughton, who had just represented England a few months earlier.

A few months after Jim's arrival at Leeds former opponents at Twickenham, Evan Williams and Willie James joined the club. So there were at least eleven Internationals in the side.

Training was methodical but nevertheless enjoyable, and he soon became familiar with the new rules. Brough trained hard and listened to the expert advice of such famous players as Thompson, Bacon, Rosser and Bowen. He later recalled who glad he was that he heeded such sound advice.

Jim Brough's first game in the Leeds colours was against York at Headingley, and York in those days were a much different proposition to what they are today. Jim was the centre of attraction as he made his way to the dressing-room to prepare for the game. The autograph hunters were ever so busy, and to have signed for everyone, would, have meant missing the game.

However, Joe Thompson came to Jim's rescue, and he followed him into the dressing-room to prepare for what he expected would be his toughest ever experience in Rugby League football. Facing York? No! Playing under the critical eyes of a Rugby League crowd. They were used to seeing the very best and he was wondering how his best would appear to them.

The atmosphere in the dressing-room was decidedly different from a training night. Jim Bacon was discussing tactics with Joe Jones and Mel Rosser, while Arthur Binks and Billie Bowen were forming some plan of attack. Everyone was, or at least appeared to be so deadly serious that Brough began to feel a trifle nervous and excited.

When Joe Thompson shook him by the hand and wished him luck Jim's nervousness vanished, and he went out on to the field quite confident that he would do himself justice. He really enjoyed the game. In fact, he enjoyed it so much that he was disappointed when the referee called time!

By then Brough had got the hang of the game. He had been afraid to kick too near the touchline in case he cleared it altogether and they had to scrum where he kicked from. It was not until near the end of the game that Jim dared run into attack. However, there would be plenty of chances to try both in the next game.

The next fixture was a big event in Rugby League football - the great Huddersfield team at Headingley. Brough knew a little of the history of Huddersfield by this time, for Duggie Clark had told him the whole story when he tried to lure him to Fartown.

Clark captained the "Claret and Golds" against Leeds. What a captain, what a player. There has never been either before or since a better player than Clark. He was expert in everything - tackling, wheeling the scrum, handling, and dribbling.

Jim had also heard a lot about the "Headingley roar," and in less than thirty minutes of the Huddersfield game he had experienced it all to himself.

Fielding a Huddersfield clearing kick and beating a couple of opponents with a side-step. Brough slipped down the touchline. The opposition closed in forcing him to kick. The bounce was very much in Brough's favour, and with only the full-back to beat registered the first of his many tries for Leeds.

Did I say the crowd roared? History records they almost lifted the roof off the stand and left Brough with one of his most happy memories of Headingley and its sporting crowd. Jim saw Duggie after the match. Clarke, forever the sportsman congratulated Brough on his display, but added: "You should have been wearing the Claret and Gold."

Jim, by now was now able to form an opinion of the two codes. He concluded beyond a shadow of a doubt League football was faster and harder to play. The difference in numbers had much to do with this, but the players were much fitter. There was little or no training in Rugby Union. The game was the thing, and the result not so important as the afternoon's entertainment. Rugby League, on the other hand, was a business. You stood or fell by your own ability and fitness.

With some clubs only the best will do, and for any man to constantly give off his best requires plenty of hard practice. Training with men faster and more polished than yourself is bound to show an improvement. There will be a pronounced speeding up of thought and action, and to remain in the top flight quick thinking, harnessed to perfect action, is an absolute necessity.

Brough's form against Huddersfield immediately impressed the Cumberland County Commissioners, and they handed him the full-back position against Lancashire in the first of the season's County Championship games. This honour coming so early in his career was a great encouragement.

The training was going down well and Jim anticipated Tuesday and Thursday evening with the rest of the Leeds boys. They congratulated him on his selection for Cumberland, but bigger things were in the offing. An England cap for instance, and a trip to Australia in 1928.

Jim Brough certainly meant to have them if at all possible. For the moment, however, there was the matter of a duel with the greatest of all full-backs, Jim Sullivan. This game was down for decision in a matter of weeks, and Jim left no stone unturned in preparing for the test.

Sullivan was in great form at this particular time. He was on a pedestal as firm as the rock of Gibraltar, while he was playing in a mighty team including such "stars" as Van Heerden, Van Rooyen, David Booyen (South Africa), Tommy Howley, "Danny" Hurcombe and Johnny Ring. But it was of "The Master" that Brough was concerned with at that moment.

Jim Brough had first saw him play in an International game at Workington in season 1924-25 before signing for Leeds. Not being familiar with the Laws of Rugby League football, his display did not impress the young Brough a great deal, although he later admitted to keeping an open mind.

Later, when the became friends, Sullivan told Brough an amusing story about that first visit to Cumberland. On the way back to Carlisle by car, his party stopped for a drink at a local pub in Aspatria. Naturally the main topic of conversation was the International match, and the visitors joined in without, however, disclosing their identity.

Things were going very nicely when suddenly one old-timer burst in with: "And if that's the great Sullivan he isn't fit to be the Brough's bootlaces!" The landlord by this time had recognised his visitors and he whispered something Jim Brough's supporter's ear, whereupon he made an excuse to leave without bothering

to finish his pint.

Brough often recalled his first two encounters with the Wigan "star." The first was at Central Park in 1925 - Jim's first season at Leeds. He had never received as much advice in all his life and before going on the field all the Leeds players as well as Brough himself knew just what he had to do. Within five minutes only the Leeds players knew!

Sullivan sent down a barrage that made Jim dizzy chasing him from one side of the field to the other. How he weathered it would remain a mystery for the rest of his career. He congratulated Brough after the match, who was quite naturally very pleased, because praise from such a player was praise indeed.

His second game against Sullivan at Headingley in the same season was to remain for ever in Brough's memory. As a matter of fact there were many Leeds supporters who saw to that.

Jim was often asked if he still remembered the game against Wigan at Headingley, when he took the ball out of Sullivan's hands and scored under the posts. That was a lucky day, for he finished up by dropping a goal from almost halfway.

As a goal-kicker, Sullivan stood alone - the world's best - even though Brough did beat him in Australia for the 1928 World Championship. His yearley averages were amazing and he always topped the hundred mark. Whenever he placed the ball at fantastic distances teams offered a little prayer begging him to miss just once more - he rarely did!

In Australia, especially in the country games where scores were usually high, Sullivan used to ask his teammates to go as near the posts as possible when they scored so that he could set up a record. Some of the boys, out of sheer devilment, deliberately scored in the corner, but it made no difference. Even when the fence round the pitch interfered with his run he still managed to get them over and with room to spare.

His good form against Wigan, which Jim Brough tried hard to maintain week after week was, he learned, pleasing certain members of the Selection Committee. "Keep it up and you are certain to be selected to play for England against the Other Nationalities at Whitehaven," he was told.

To play for England in his native county and especially in his first season as a professional? It hardly seemed possible. Still it was up to him. If he could produce the form good enough to warrant selection he knew he would get a fair chance and would have the honour of playing for England as a professional within a year of playing at Twickenham.

Thursday, February 4th, 1926, was a red-letter day in Brough's Rugby League career, for he occupied the full-back position for England against Other Nationalities at Whitehaven. In front of him were men whose names will live forever, and who will always be talked of wherever the game is played. The opponents also were of the highest class, and led by the Prince of full-backs, Jim Sullivan.

Other Nationalities - J. Sullivan (Wigan); F. Evans (Swinton), M. Rosser (Leeds), D. Booyens (Wigan), J. Ring (Wigan), D. Hurcombe (Wigan), S. Fowler (Batley); W. Hodder (Wigan), T. Sage (Hunslet); F. Swan (Hallifax), J. T. Thompson (Leeds), R. Edwards (Rochdale Hornets), D. Dai Rees (Hallifax).

England - J. W. Brough (Leeds); S. Wallace (St. Helens Recs), C. W. Carr (Barrow), J. Evans (Swinton), S. Rix (Oldham); L. Fairclough (St. Helens), J. Parkin (Wakefield Trinity); H. W. Burgess (Barrow), J. Bennett (Rochdale Hornets), W. Cunliffe (Warrington), R. Taylor (Hull), S. Thomas (Leeds), F. Gallagher (Batley).

Cumbrian's talk about this game even today, and of Bob Taylor running the length of the field before it started, but that was Bob's way of gaining his second wind, and he did it before every match. He was a grand forward and held the try scoring record for a forward with over thirty in a season.

Brough was quite satisfied with his form in this first International. There were more the following season, and retaining his position in the higher class was bringing him a step nearer a trip to Australia and New Zealand as a member of the British team. Two of his Leeds colleagues, Jim Bacon and Joe Thompson had been out with the 1924 team. Their stories of the voyage and sights at the various ports of call, together with all the wonders of Australia and New Zealand, made Brough long for the commencement of the 1927-28 season.

Another of his colleagues, Mel Rosser - one of the best centres ever - was just as keen as Brough was to make the grade. Excitement grew as the date for the selection of the trial teams drew near. International games were also looked upon as trials. Both were selected for the England v. Wales match at Wigan.

Jim put in extra training in an effort to prepare himself for this very important test, for he was confident he could establish his claim to a berth on the ship bound for Australia. However, a few days before the

International fate unkindly stepped in, and he sustained a severely sprained ankle at St. Helens. He missed the International; He missed the first trial game; in fact he looked like missing the boat too!

He was out of action nearly four weeks. The injury improved very slowly, while all the time the newspaper critics were forecasting the team for Australia, viz. - Full-backs, Sullivan and Brough (if fit). But Brough was far from fit, and the strain was so bad that it was beginning to get him down.

He was selected to play in the final trial. He worked overtime on the injured ankle and got it reasonably fit enough to put in an appearance at Rochdale.

Jim's trial was not the success he had hoped for. He was conscious of the injury and afraid to let go. His opposite number, Walter Gowers (Rochdale Hornets), was far superior on the day and, must have greatly impressed the Selectors.

There was nothing Brough could do now; only a few days more and the team would be announced. They were long days. On the fateful afternoon he went with Rosser to the cinema and for the first time left the selection of the team to the members of the Tour Sub-committee, staying in the theatre until we were sure they would have the job finished.

Like men who had just escaped a serious accident they emerged into the street some hours later and bought an evening paper. "Read it out and let me know the worst, Jim," said Rosser. "T'm in, Mel," Brough shouted as he threw the paper into the air, "and so are you."

Both men sat down on the nearest door-step - too weak to stand - and started to study the team. People passing too and fro gazed at them in amazement as they read the following names.

Full-backs - J. Sullivan, J. W. Brough.

Wings - A. Ellaby, T. Askin, T. E. Gwynne, A. Frodsham.

Centres - M. Rosser, J. Oliver, J. Evans, A. N. Other.

Outside Halves - W. Rees, L. Fairclough.

Scrum - J. Parkin, B. Evans.

Forwards - H. W. Burgess, N. Bentham, C. Dolan, H. Bowman, W. A. Williams, R. Sloman, A. E. Fildes, H. Halfpenny, W. Bowen, W. Horton, H. Young, F. Gallagher.

There was great disappointment Rochdale way when Gowers was left out. Eventually Brough was moved up to centre and Gowers brought in to the full-back position. Joe Thompson was looked upon as a certainty in many quarters and his omission was the big surprise.

However, fortune smiled on Joe. For business reasons Frank Gallagher, who had already made two visits "down under," and would have shared with Jonty Parkin the honour of being the first to make three tours, had to cry off.

It was a happy moment for all of them when we stepped aboard the P & O liner S.S. Cathay, their home for the next six weeks.

Brough played in four Test during the tour. And also won the World goal-kicking competition at Toowoomba in opposition to the great Jim Sullivan and Walter Gowers (his son Ken would also attain Test status). The odds were so much in favour of Sullivan that the donor had inscribed the medal ready for presentation. Sullivan's face was a study when Jim Brough read aloud the 'writing on the back.' To make matters worse the winner cut up his boot laces and presented a bit to his mates as a souvenir.

The final accolade came in 1936 when the highest honour attainable in Rugby League was reached, an invitation to captain a Touring team to Australia and New Zealand. This was another successful Tour, to be followed by a third when Jim was selected as coach for the 1958 Tour. Brough attained every honour in the game, the only medal which eluded him being a League Championship Winners Medal. He played 442 games for Leeds, scoring 37 tries and kicking 84 goals. When his playing days ended Jim Coached Leeds, Workington Town and Whitehaven.

JIM BROUGH FACT FILE

Cumberland appearances 24, 8 tries, 6 goals.

England appearances 18, 2 tries, 4 goals.

4 County Championship Winners Medals.

6 Yorkshire Cup Winners Medals.

6 Yorkshire League Championship Winners Medals.

3 Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners Medals.

4 Rugby League Championship Runners-Up Medals.

1 King George V Jubilee International Medal (Rest of the World v. France).

1 First Floodlit Match - White City, London, 1952.

1 World Goal-kicking Championship Medal, Australia, 1928.



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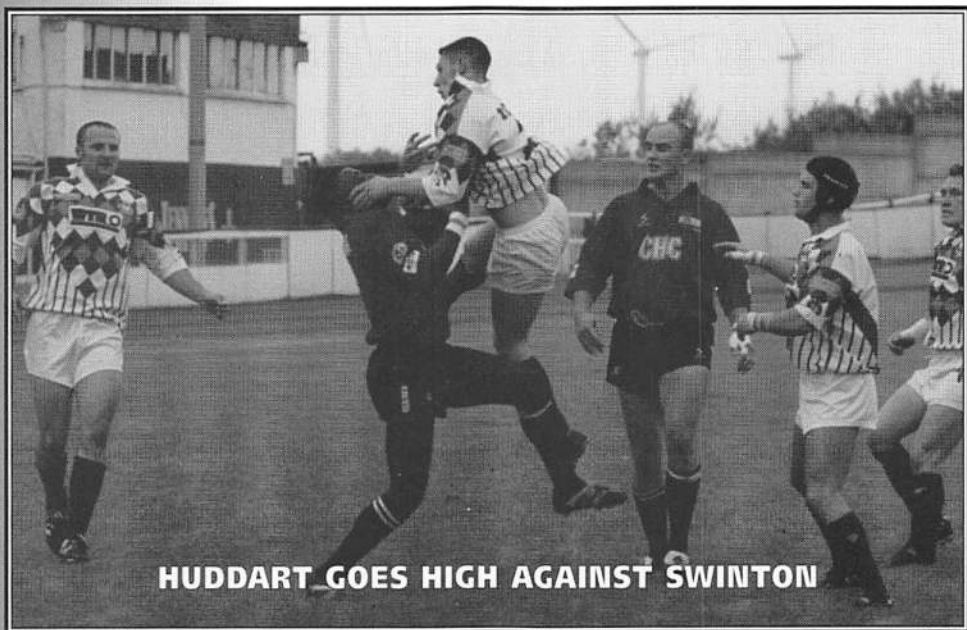
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for season 1999*

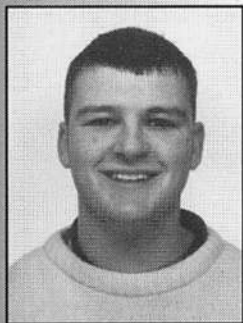
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HUDDART GOES HIGH AGAINST SWINTON



by
PETER GILMORE

Sky sports coverage of Superleague can only be described as superb, the action in the majority of games is very highly entertaining, however, of late the commentary can only be best described as annoying. I have absolutely no doubt that it is a tough job, but it seems that Stevo always seems to go over the top. the way that he got on Brad Hepi's back was nothing short of victimisation, having refereeing experience myself. I do not think many of his tackles justified a penalty. In his time Stevo was supposedly a good player yet he demonstrates very little understanding of incidents in the game, for example when the ball is knocked loose in an impact tackle he like to go on and on about ball stealing. I

knew there was a reason why my TV remote had a mute button. Incidentally, another thing I have noticed is the referees on the televised games are making plenty of blunders. Everyone knows that blunders are inevitable, even if not many understand! Its disappointing that never seem to be admonished for their performances. What would they be like in the NFP with no communications from the man in the stand or the video referee? Its time Mr McCallum showed his faith in the ability of his referees by giving them all a chance in front of the cameras.

FINAL THOUGHT: 2 players in the Cumbria Academy squad-what an insult to the depth of talent in Workington and surrounding areas.

Let's get ready to Grumble

DO YOU RECALL THIS WEEK IN....

1947 TOWN 7 v LIVERPOOL STANLEY 5

TOWN SCORERS... TRY; WAREING.
GOALS; RISMAN 2.

TOWN TEAM: HAGAN, ASKEW, CARR, RODGERS, BURNYEAT, RISMAN,
JACKSON, HODGSON, ACKERLEY, HAYTON, HENDERSON, WAREING,
SHEARMAN.

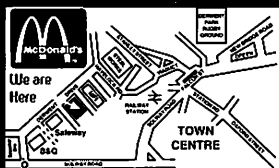
1996 TOWN 18 v LEEDS 48

TOWN SCORERS... TRIES; CHILTON, JOHNSON, FILIPO,
FLOREAT, GOALS; KITCHIN 3.

TOWN TEAM.....J.SMITH, CHILTON, BURNS, ALLEN, JOHNSON, CARTER,
KITCHIN, FILIPO, BETHWATTE, PHILLIPS, PALMADA, HOLGATE, NAIRN.
SUBS;; ARMSTRONG, WHALLEY, GRIMA, HOWARTH.



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*I've
always
had a soft
spot for
Oldham.
They
always
managed
to hang in
there
against all
the odds*

That was of course until Super League and Murdocks millions came along, then after selling their ground in a desperate attempt to "keep up with the Joneses" they eventually folded. I think my affinity with the Oldham club was strengthened after experiencing the horror of Town nearly going bankrupt.

I genuinely hope that they can recover to once again become a force in rugby league, although I doubt very much that they will ever reach the dizzy heights of Super League again.

Oldham have struggled to pick up points this season, but were unlucky to lose against Whitehaven last weekend when they appeared to have the points 'in the bag' entering the final quarter of the game. We know from last season that Oldham are a well organised side, and we will not have to let their league position fool us as we continue our climb up the table. Oldham beat us four times last season, including an opening day reversal by 18-22 here at Derwent Park in front of 1,344 spectators. A similar crowd and result in Town's favour will do very nicely this afternoon,

Taking the field for the "Roughyeds" today will be:-

AIDE MEAD - Product of Oldham Bear Academy this utility back is a handy member of the roughyeds squad. Played on the wing so far this season

and has not let the side down.

AFI LEUILA - Only member of the Bear's Super League squad to join the 'new' Oldham team. Of Tongan origin, Alfi is a strong running three-quarter who likes nothing better than to attack the opposition.

BRAIN QUINLAN - Local born kicking centre or second row. Missed most of last season through injury

MICK FARRELL - 21 year old utility back was outstanding for Rochdale in 1997, but had a disappointing 1998. The ex-Waterhead amateur had just broken into the first team and is playing for his hometown.

JOE McNICHOLAS - This young winger is one of the most exciting prospects in the new division. Having turned down an offer from Bradford Bulls, Joe was unfortunate to miss most of '98 after breaking his leg in the early season. Rochdale born, he is armed with pace and a great side step.

PAUL CROOK - Half back who previously played with Dewsbury, Oldham Bears and Hull Sharks. Creative player who is happy at either stand-off or loose forward.

LEO CASEY - Now a veteran, Leo had returned to Oldham in the close season. Has represented Ireland at International level. This tough prop forward was delighted to be named as Captain for this season's campaign. His

In Town Today.....
OLDHAM

performances in 1999 have been outstanding and he has certainly led by example.

JASON CLEGG - Formerly a Bradford Bull this prop has opened this season in barnstorming form. Scored a typical rampaging try in the Law Cup against Rochdale. 'Cleggy' is becoming a firm favourite with the Oldham spectators with his eye catching performances.

PAUL ROUND - Now in his second spell with Oldham, Paul is a real veteran of the game. Formerly a back rower he now tends to lead from the front row. Former clubs include St Helens and Castleford. His leading of a very young alliance side has brought him back into the first team consideration.

DANIEL BROWN - Australian half-back or hooker who played for Hull K.R. last season. Good play maker and also an extremely hard working tackler.

JOHN HOUGH - John will go down in the club's history books as the first player to officially sign for the Roughyeds. A bright future is predicted for this ex-Warrington Wolves hooker who is renowned for his hard work and sportsmanship. John has been the model of constancy this season and is very popular among the Roughyeds spectators for

his 100% commitments.

MARK PERRETT - This Welsh international is another of the Roughyeds major close season signings. Mar is a hard working prop or second row who is determined to restart his career after injury. He has just been called up to the Welsh training squad and will be looking to restart his season.

MIKE PRESCOTT - Another player who will be determined to have a good season, after last year was wrecked through injury. Mike is a deceptively quick back row forward.

MICK MARTINDALE - A good ball handling loose-forward, 24 year old Mick was at Halifax for a number of years before joining his hometown club via Wakefield.

GREAME SHAW - Hard working back row forward signed from Bradford Bulls. Became the new club's first international in October 1998 playing for Scotland.

LAURENT MINUT - French full back who signed from Villeneuve. Courageous tackler and good under the high ball. Known as 'Mins' to his team-mates.

EMMANUEL PERALTA - Came to Oldham with his team-mate Laurent. 'Manu' is no stranger to England having previously played for Keighley.



RICHARD HENARE IN ACTION FOR TOWN IN LAST SEASON'S GAME AGAINST OLDHAM

ALTHOUGH the original Oldham club fell by the wayside during the initial 'Murdock Madness' and the club who arrive here today, have no connection with the former club other than perhaps they both bare the name Oldham. It's fitting that we should record the tradition the town of Oldham has for Rugby League, writes MIKE BERRY

In the year 1872 a number of Rugby enthusiasts met in the Prince Albert Hotel, Union Street, Oldham, and formed what was later to become the Oldham Football Club. As a result of the above meeting a team was formed to play Rugby Union football. Their first match was arranged to be played on a ground at the rear of the Glodwick Spinning Company, on February 17th, 1873, with Stalybridge as opponents.

After a varied career the Watersheddings ground was obtained and used for the first time on September 26th, 1889. Swinton were the visitors and before a crowd of 7,000 spectators defeated Oldham by 2 goals, 1 try and 2 minors, to 1 minor. The name "Watersheddings," while no doubt amusing to some people upon hearing it for the first time, nevertheless brings back memories to the older supporter of many great games and players in the history of Rugby League.

In the first season of the Northern Union (1895-96) Oldham tied with Runcorn for the Championship of the Lancashire Senior Competition, and although the subsequent play-off at Broughton brought victory to Runcorn, Oldham were for several seasons a power in the code. Indeed, in the third season (1897-98) they won the Lancashire Championship, while in the Northern Union Challenge Cup they lost 3-0 in the final to Batley.

During the following season 1898-99, Oldham scored a total of 432 points against 74 points by their opponents. Victories were registered against Warrington (35-0), and Wigan (43-0). It was in this season that Oldham, by defeating Hunslet 19 points to 9 points in the third Northern Union Challenge Cup Final became the first Lancashire team to win the Cup. They scored 155 points in all the rounds including the final, and had only 14 points against.

It was in season 1900-01 that the famous Cumbrian Joe Ferguson played his first game with Oldham. An unusual incident is reported to have occurred on January 12th, 1901. On account of the great number of people on the ground at

Watersheddings, play was interfered with to such an extent that the match with Swinton was ordered to be replayed. This took place on February 25th, the result being a draw of three points each.

The first New Zealand professional touring team - Baskerville's "All Golds" - visited Watersheddings on November 23rd, 1907, and lost 8-7. George W. Smith, vice-captain of the side, joined Oldham at the conclusion of the tour. He continued to play until he broke his leg in a match against Rochdale Hornets during 1906. Subsequently he became Oldham's trainer and resided in the district for many years after.

The tremendous local enthusiasm accorded the Oldham team at this period may be judged from the following incident which took place when the players reached the final of the Northern Union Challenge Cup in 1912. Coventry, Wigan, Huddersfield and Wakefield Trinity were their victims in the earlier rounds and semi-final. The final was regarded as a certain and 'easy' victory for Oldham - at least to the Oldham community. A tram-car was expensively decorated and illuminated to await the victory at Headingley, and to carry the team, complete with the Cup, in splendour through the streets of the town.

Alas, the Dewsbury team showed their contempt for an over optimistic town and there were many sad faces in Oldham that evening, including the driver of the special tram. Oldham were leading 5-3 when Avery was sent-off. A man short, Oldham's defence contained a leak, which Rhodes of Dewsbury, found to score a try and Neary converted. The final whistle sounded with the Yorkshiremen winners by eight points to five points. The 1912 final was not the first instance of the downfall of so-called favourites. It has happened many times, and even in ordinary League matches every club has its own little stories. While enthusiastic supporters will smile and appreciate the feelings of the Oldhamites when the unused decorations were slowly taken down from the tram.

On April 12th, 1924, Oldham lined-up against Wigan in the Challenge Cup Final at Rochdale. The ground was submerged by a mass of humanity - 41,831 individuals to be exact.

Although Wigan, superbly led by the legendary Jim Sullivan beat Oldham 21-4, they were far from being down and out. They appeared in the next three finals, establishing a record - at that time - in playing in four consecutive Challenge Cup Finals. The team triumphed over Hull Kingston Rovers and Swinton in 1925 and 1927, and lost to Wigan and Swinton in 1924 and 1926. This period was one of the most memorable in Oldham's entire history, well served by a team containing such names as Sid Rix, Reg Farrar, Evan Davies, George Hesketh, Bob Sloman, Archie Brough, Herman Hilton and not forgetting Joe Corsi.

Despite over thirty major finals, Oldham's great dream - Wembley - was never to be realised. The nearest they came was 1964, leading Hull Kingston Rovers 17-14 in a semi-final replay with twelve minutes remaining - the match was abandoned, The Robins won the replay 12-2

One policy the club continued to follow from the fledgling days of the Northern Union, when Oldham were one of the most powerful sides in the land, to more recent times. The Watersheddings outfit had a penchant for Cumbrian born players Owens, Dixon, Fletcher, Kelly, Spottiswoode, Parkinson and Robinson are names from another age, but all were seasoned Cumberland County players during service with the Lancashire (latterly Greater Manchester) club.

Legendary Cumbrian Jim Lomas - first captain of a British Touring party to the Antipodes - was another Cumbrian to wear the famous red and white hooped jersey; while both 'Pop' Shearman and the immaculate Ike Southward left Workington Town to join the 'Roughyeds.' Ike's moves between the clubs twice breaking the world transfer record with fees totaling £21,652.10s - an astronomical amount of money for a player in the late fifties and early sixties - his 31 tries in 1959-60 still stands as a post-war Oldham record.

But perhaps the Cumbrian who gave Oldham the greatest service was the immortal Joe Ferguson who made a mammoth 626 appearances between 1899 and 1923.

Born at Crosby Villa, Joe made his debut on 2nd September 1899, against Morecambe and played his final game more than 24 years later on 28th

August 1923, in an 'A' team Lancashire Combination match against Wigan at the age of 44.

Joe had represented Lancashire County for six seasons before a rule change in 1906, gave Cumberland first claim on his services, they immediately made him captain - an honour he held until 1923 - and during this period led his native county to two championships in 1909-10 and 1911-12.

An outstanding goalkicker, it was Joe's boot that brought the first of those titles with a last minute drop-goal against Yorkshire. His superb kicking was also a major feature of Cumberland's 25-5 success over Baskerville's 1907-08 pioneer tourists.

A gifted goalkeeper, Joe was tempted to take up soccer before and after his retirement from Rugby League; in fact he won a long-range kicking contest with a clearance of 85 yards over Sam McLure (Blackburn Rovers) and Liverpool's Jack Cox.

Joe, however, never did take up soccer professionally and sadly died in October 1936. He was 57 years old.

Although Oldham has been famous for its players and its ability to produce grand Rugby League sides, no history of the club could ignore its contribution to the administrative side.

From that memorable day in August 1895, when twenty-one of the leading Rugby Union clubs in Lancashire and Yorkshire assembled in Huddersfield to decide what combined action to take against the English Rugby Union. Oldham's Joseph Platt piloted the new Northern Union through all its "teething troubles." He remained Secretary for twenty-five years, resigning on June 10th, 1920.

Another link with the past was severed on July 3rd, 1947, by the death, following an accident of Mr George Frederick Hutchins. Mr Hutchins had served as chairman and president respectively of the Rugby Football League, the Northern Rugby Football League, Lancashire County Rugby League, Oldham and District Rugby League and the Oldham Football Club. He was also joint manager of the 1928 and 1932 Gt. Britain teams which toured Australia and New Zealand.

Whatever the future may hold for the present Oldham club, the town can be proud of its contribution to Rugby League Football, and in return the code should be thankful of Oldham's existence.

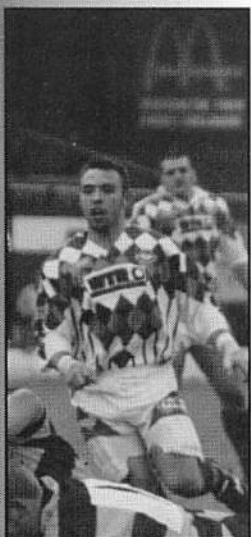
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
JANUARY				Att																	
31	SKIRLAUGH (Silk Cut 3)	W	30-4	1,316	Stalker	Wallace	Allen	Forber	Tubman(2T)	Dempsey(1T)	Fisher(5g)	Armstrong	Roden	Platt	Williams(2T)	Samuels	Knox	Keenan	Tunstall	Craig Armstrong	Riley
FEBRUARY																					
7	HULL K.R.	L	14-21	1,444	Stalker	Wallace(T)	Keenan	Forber	Branthwaite(G)	Knox(T)	Dempsey	Armstrong	Roden	Riley	Williams(T)	Allen	Samuels	Fisher	Craig Armstrong	Tubman	Platt
14	Bradford Bulls	L	0-92	7,593	Arnold	Stalker	Wallace	Keenan	Branthwaite	Knox	Close	Armstrong	Roden	Riley	Williams	Forber	Samuels	Fisher	Allen	Craig Armstrong	Tubman
21	Hunslet Hawks	L	6-48	1,325	Arnold(T)	Stalker	Wallace	Cochrane	Branthwaite(G)	Knox	Dempsey	Armstrong	Fisher	Riley	Williams	Forber	Samuels	Close	Allen	Barker	Roden
28 Silk Cut Round 5																					
MARCH																					
7	DONCASTER DRAGONS	D	22-22	1,002	Arnold	Wallace	Keenan	Cochrane	Woodcock	Dempsey	Close (11,5G)	Armstrong	Roden	Forber(2T)	Williams	Samuels	Knox	Fisher	Barker	Stalker	Riley
14	BRAMLEY	W	22-16	852	Arnold	Wallace	Keenan	Cochrane	Woodcock(T)	Dempsey	Close(3T)	Armstrong	Jenkins	Platt	Williams(1G)	Forber	Samuels	Fisher	Riley	Knox	Roden
21	YORK	W	26-14	904	Arnold(T)	Wallace	Keenan	Cochrane	Woodcock(T)	Dempsey	Close(3G)	Armstrong(T)	Jenkins(T)	Platt	Forber(T)	Samuels	Knox	Fisher	Riley	Barker	Roden
28	Dewsbury Rams	L	24-58	849	Arnold	Wallace	Keenan(T)	Cochrane	Woodcock	Dempsey	Close(T,4G)	Armstrong	Jenkins	Platt	Forber	Samuels	Knox	Fisher(T)	Riley(T)	Allen	Roden
APRIL																					
2	WHITEHAVEN	W	30-16	3,124	Stalker(T)	Wallace	Keenan	Cochrane	Woodcock	Dempsey(2T)	Close	Armstrong	Jenkins	Platt	Forber	Samuels(T)	Knox	Fisher	Riley	Williams	Allen
11	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	L	10-15	1,007	Stalker	Wallace	Keenan	Cochrane(T)	Woodcock	Dempsey	Close	Armstrong	Jenkins(T)	Platt	Allen	Samuels	Knox	Fisher(G)	Tunstall	Heaton	Riley
18	Barrow Raiders	L	12-25	1,566	Stalker	Wallace	Keenan	Cochrane	Woodcock	Dempsey	Close(1,2G)	Armstrong	Jenkins	Platt	Allen	Samuels	Knox	Fisher(T)	Barker	Heaton	Riley
25	WIDNES VIKINGS	W	30-24	1,105	Stalker	Wallace(T)	Allen	Cochrane	Woodcock	Roden(2T)	Close(7G)	Armstrong	Jenkins(T)	Platt	Heaton	Samuels	Knox	Fisher	Huddart	Riley	Quayle
MAY																					
3	Lancashire Lynx	W																			
9	Leigh Centurions	L	10-42	1,484	Stalker	Wallace	Allen	Cochrane	Woodcock	Roden	Close(T,1G)	Armstrong	Jenkins	Platt	Heaton	Samuels	Knox	Fisher	Dempsey	Quayle	Riley(T)
16	LANCASHIRE LYNX	W	36-8	799	Stalker	Wallace(T)	Allen	Keenan	Woodcock	Roden	Close(T)(3G)	Armstrong	Jenkins(2T)	Heaton	Forber	Samuels	Knox	Cochrane	Dempsey(T)	Quayle	Platt
23	Keighley Cougars	W	18-22	1,650	Stalker(T)	Wallace	Allen(T)	Keenan	Woodcock	Roden	Dempsey(TG)	Armstrong	Jenkins(T)	Heaton	Forber	Samuels	Cochrane(2G)	Fisher	Knox	Riley	Platt
30	SWINTON LIONS	W	37-20	806	Stalker(2T)	Huddart	Allen(2T)	Keenan	Woodcock(T)	Roden	Dempsey(T2G)	Armstrong	Jenkins	Platt	Forber	Samuel	Knox(T)	Fisher(2Gdg)	Williams	Heaton	Riley
JUNE																					
6	OLDHAM	H	3.00 p.m.																		
13	Batley Bulldogs	A	3.15 p.m.																		
20	Hull Kingston Rovers	A	3.00 p.m.																		
27	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	3.00 p.m.																		
JULY																					
4	Doncaster Dragons	A	3.00 p.m.																		
11	Bramley	A	3.00 p.m.																		
18	York	A	3.00 p.m.																		
25	DEWSBURY RAMS	H	3.00 p.m.																		
AUGUST																					
1	Whitehaven	A	3.30 p.m.																		
8	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H	3.00 p.m.																		
15	Featherstone Rovers	A	3.30 p.m.																		
22	BARROW RAIDERS	H	3.00 p.m.																		
29	Widnes Vikings	A	3.00 p.m.																		

Stat Attack • Fixtures • Appearances • Scorers

The last time Craig Fisher was featured in the match day programme, he was a raw youngster plying his trade in the 'A' team under former coach Kurt Sorensen. Four years on and 'Kipper' has

One on one

established himself as an important member of the first team squad.



A talented junior player with the Glasson Rangers club in Maryport, Craig had an early taste of representative honours representing the North of England Under 16's alongside Super League stars Paul Sculthorpe, Daryl Cardis and Adam Hughes. He signed for Town in September 1994 making his debut off the bench at Keighley. He marked his home debut with a 'Man of the Match' winning performance against Hull K.R.

1. You're now playing under your fifth senior coach at Workington. How does Andy Platt's preparation differ from that of his predecessors?

I think the biggest change has come since the appointment of Stuart Wilkinson as Assistant Coach. We now do more 'game related training', which involves working on our ball skills and set moves in more of a match day scenario. i.e. after finishing tackling exercises for example, when we are both mentally and physically tired, we will start match day moves, and working on completing our sets of six tackles without dropping the ball. If someone does drop the ball we go back on the bags. After two or three sessions on the bags, you try very, very hard 'not' to drop the ball. The aim of this is to help develop our concentration level.

2. You have certainly experienced plenty of 'lows' during your time with Town, how does it feel to be part of a winning team?

Great, nobody likes to pick up winning pay, or be the bottom of the table. The club is certainly moving in the right direction. This improvement on the field and hopefully the modernised

stadium will see the club's aim of Super League status achieved in the not too distant future.

3. What do you regard as the highlight of your career so far?

Without doubt being selected for the Scotland Students in the forthcoming Student Rugby League World Cup.

4. Did your selection come as a surprise?

Yes, it just came out of the blue. I was invited to play in a trial game for the Scottish Exiles against the Scottish Students. We won the game 28-22 and I scored 18 of those points. I thought I played pretty well, but it was still a shock when I received the call up. It would be a great experience if I can make the World Cup side, but whatever happens I am looking forward to the event and it was an honour to get this far.

5. Who is the most influential player you have played alongside?

Mick Jenkins, although he only arrived after season had started, I think he has made a tremendous impact on the field. He is a superb organiser, and has been a major player in the club's revival.

6. What part of your game do you feel you need to improve?

My defence - I am working extra hard with Stuart and Andy in training to improve this part of my game.

7. Is a top five play-off position a realistic target?

Yes, I think it is if we can continue to build on our recent form. We have some tough away matches coming up, and we have been unlucky to drop points at home, but we can rest assured we will be giving it our best shot!

Paul Williamson

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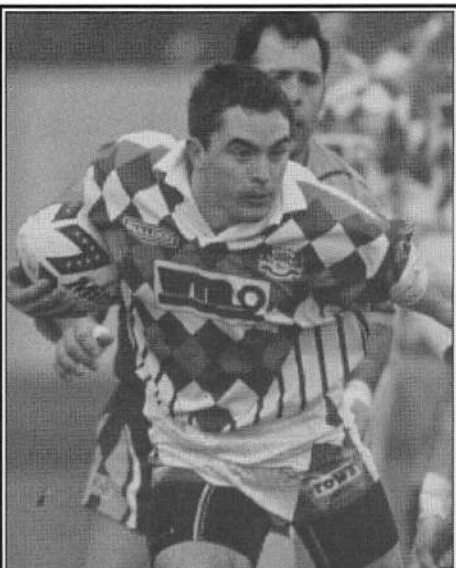
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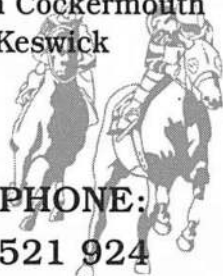
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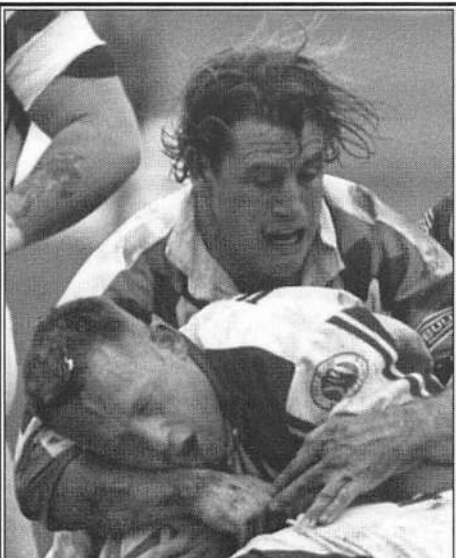
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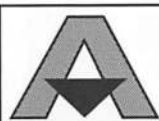
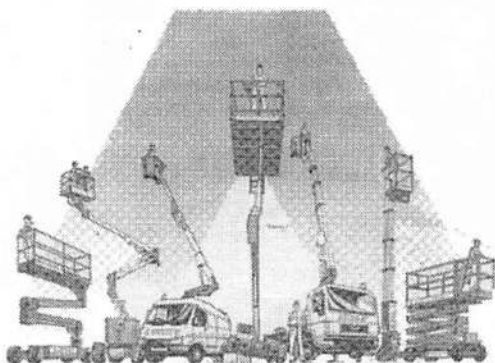
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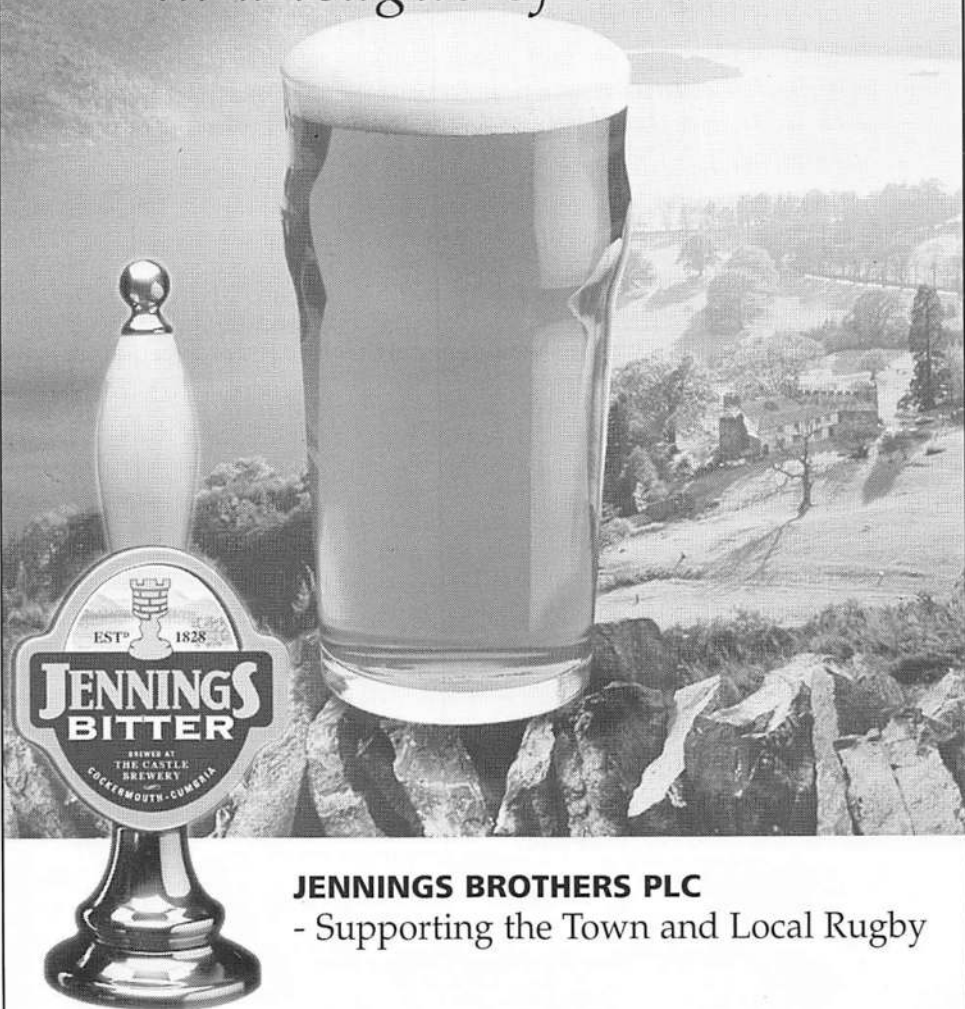
The Perfect Match at Half-Time, Full Time or Anytime

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Drama and excitement played out in front of small but appreciative audiences are the order of the day for the 1999 Northern Ford Premiership

Who could go through a days fixture schedule in this Division and forecast the lot correctly? Only a genius or a nutter, I guarantee that. Look at the latest batch last weekend, pride of place in the coupon busters stakes going to Rochdale Hornets who put a sting in the Rams tail all right and on the 'woollies' own midden at that. Perhaps other shocks weren't of such a high voltage but still sent a tingle or two through punters pens, i.e. Keighley gaining the spoils at Batley, Fev spoiling Yorks unbeaten home run and Whitehaven ridding themselves for the second time this season of that 'Pelican syndrome' (a much publicised ailment by the Whitehaven News in case you don't know of it) all very good away wins in a very competitive premiership world. As I have said earlier full of drama and excitement each week. So then why don't the public show more affection by rolling up in droves at every arena...? What's the problem? Three figure

gates are nothing short of scandalous, indeed I have a suspicion that such as Bramley and Lancashire Lynx will not be continuing the fight in the new millennium, as a matter of fact it's probably a worry for some other outfits also. The mystery to me is when comparing R.L. with Britain's outright number one spectator sport, soccer, as I do as a fan of both, I question what is this magnetic, almost lemming like, appeal that soccer has on the general public. I mean is the round ball game so much more entertaining? I am a Man United devotee, (John Walsh follows City and pigeons, hmmm I do see the connection, but must keep it clean..) And yet appreciate watching Town with equal relish, am I easily pleased then or what? Answers to Walshy please. Optimistically speaking as it were, I do hope millions will be out shouting on their favourite premiership team from the terraces this afternoon. The two best prospects of a hot match today, apart from our game here of course, looking to be at Featherstone where Dewsbury hope to recover from last weeks stinging, and at Cougar Park where the Robins will be watching out for the Cats as they try and knock them off their lofty perch.

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Hull K.R.	15	11	1	3	312	213	99	23
Dewsbury Rams	14	11	0	3	372	237	135	22
Leigh Centurions	15	11	0	4	407	318	89	22
Hunslet Hawks	15	10	0	5	408	224	184	20
Widnes Vikings	15	9	0	6	343	267	76	18
York Wasps	15	8	1	6	307	232	75	17
TOWN	15	8	1	6	307	232	32	17
Featherstone	14	8	1	6	339	371	40	17
Keighley Cougars	14	8	0	6	310	292	18	16
Barrow B.R.	15	7	0	8	389	380	9	14
Bramley	15	7	0	8	254	258	4	14
Rochdale Hornets	14	6	0	8	271	302	31	12
Whitehaven Warriors	15	6	0	9	305	356	51	12
Swinton Lions	15	5	0	10	322	350	28	10
Lancashire Lynx	15	3	0	12	238	541	303	6
Oldham	13	2	1	10	225	364	139	5
Doncaster Dragons	15	2	1	12	258	442	184	5

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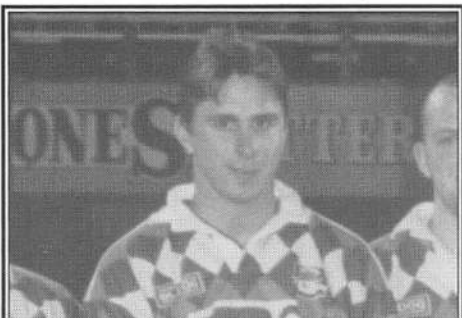
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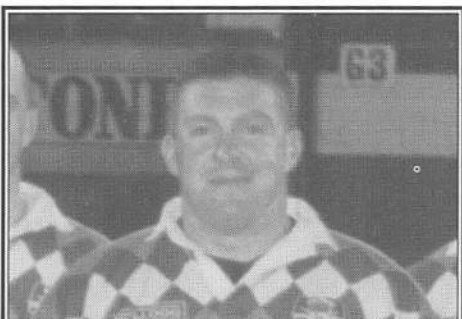
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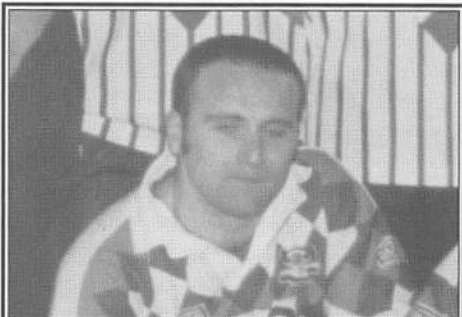
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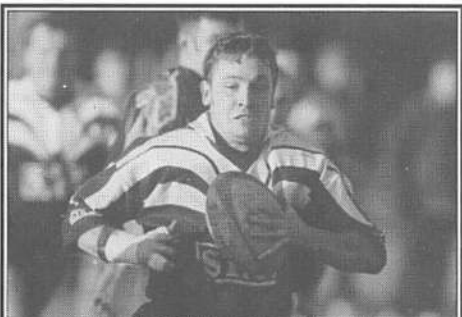
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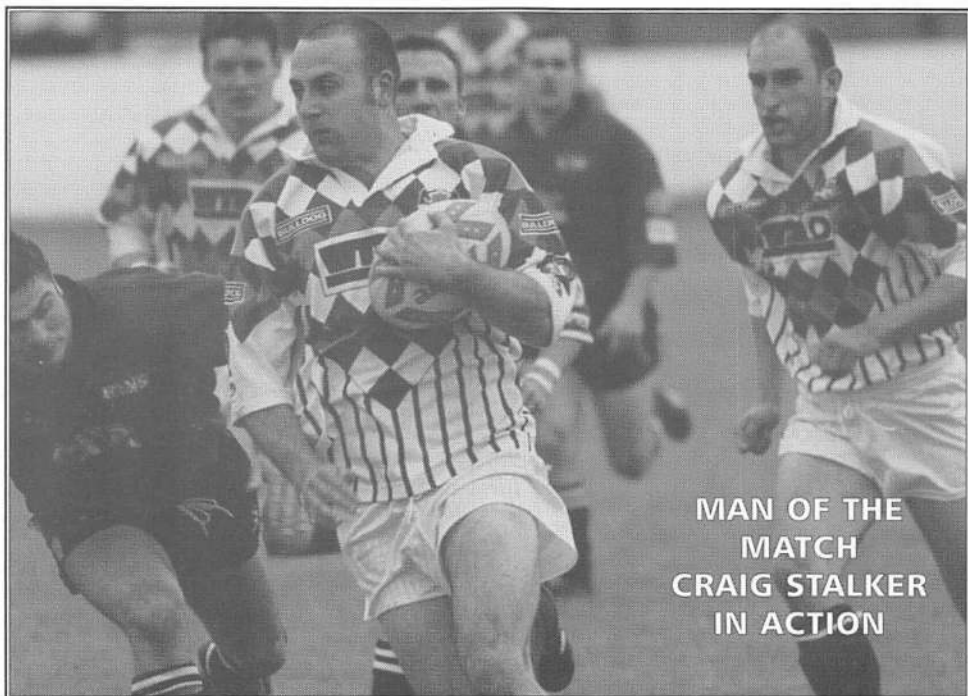
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MAN OF THE
MATCH
CRAIG STALKER
IN ACTION



A blank weekend for the Alliance team leaves this page for the sole use of Academy crack. And crack the academy team did last Sunday when a huge squad of beefy Welshmen came to town.

Cardiff have, or had not enjoyed a great start to this season, until last Sunday unfortunately. The 'titanic taffy's' would not be sunk as big as they were, boy do they eat the right stuff in the valleys or what (does size really matter

West Coast Connections

though ? ~ I hope not!). Indeed the big lads could play a bit of rugby too, obviously refreshed following an overnight stay in Carlisle they powered into a commanding 28 point advantage by the opening half hour. The rather shell shocked West Cumbrian's were really disturbed by the salvo, but did repair their (leaking) defence after that

rather tragic opening span. Once they got back into a normal stride West Cumbria showed the ever increasing

crowd of spectators they could also play a bit, however despite winning the remaining fifty minutes by 18-10 it was never going to enough to stop the Welsh travellers from taking the two points on offer. Too little too late, as it happened, although as I suspected the huge Cardiff pack did tire a smidgen.

For West Cumbria they had a tireless worker in hooker Carl Sice who gave a non stop eighty minute effort to earn the vote as man of the match. Other big raps were earned by young centre Scott Chilton, with hard working forwards Wayne Burns and Steve Cutts catching my eye, which reminds me I must thank Mr. Richards the doctor on duty who was certainly a busy man all afternoon. Not that it was a dirty encounter at all, just hard and fair. Well that was until all hell broke loose approximately ten minutes from time. Following which, the decisions by the match officials made the hair on the back of my neck stand up in anger, even more so after the match when I heard a couple of Cardiff perpetrators celebrating their escape from admonishment, ooh they did annoy me.

For the record if you keep them, the West Cumbria points were via tries from Carl Sice, Jamie Nixon and Ryan Campbell. With three goals from Jamie Nixon to boot.

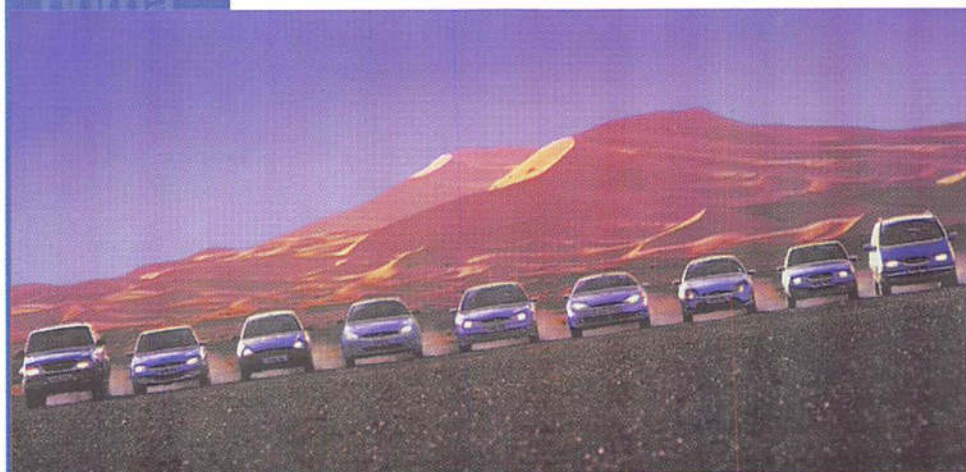
ALLIANCE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Batley Bulldogs	13	10	0	3	371	231	140	20
Featherstone Rovers	11	8	0	3	357	231	126	16
Dewsbury Rams	11	7	0	4	254	198	56	14
WEST CUMBRIA	11	6	1	4	279	251	28	13
Leigh Centurions	11	6	0	5	257	238	19	12
Keighley Cougars	12	5	2	5	269	286	-17	12
Hunslet Hawks	11	5	0	6	258	237	21	10
Swinton Lions	9	4	1	4	218	227	-9	9
Barrow BR	10	4	0	6	207	281	-74	8
Oldham	10	2	0	8	166	300	-134	4
Rochdale Hornets	9	0	0	9	150	306	-156	0

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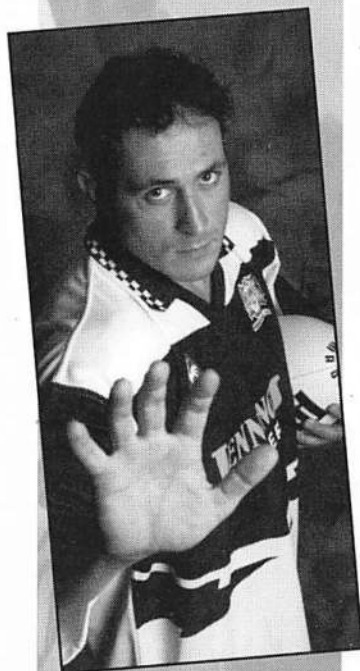


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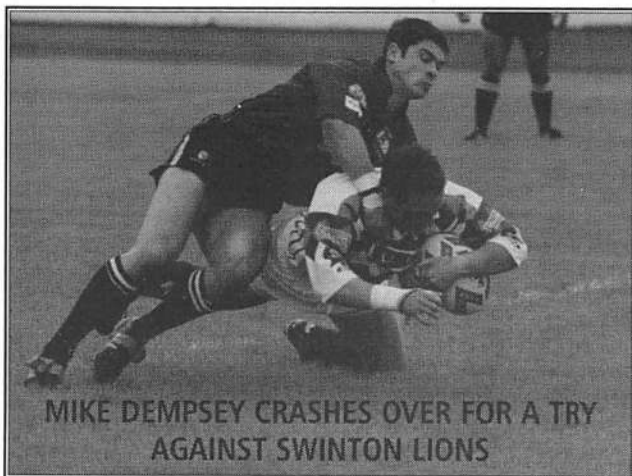


See Question 5

1. Who is the new coach of Featherstone Rovers?
2. Who was named recently as the BARLA League's Conference Player of the Year?
3. Which team currently tops the Alliance First Division?
4. Which Premiership team lost their unbeaten home record last Sunday?
5. Which ex-Town stars scored for Salford Reds v Hull last Sunday?
6. Which club enjoyed a record Super League crowd last week?
7. Which famous Australian forward has announced his retirement from the game?
8. Which Aussie club's plan a playing tour of England later this year?
9. Which team have recently lost their RFL membership?
10. Which top British half-back has announced he wishes to play for Wales in the World Cup?

1. Peter Roe (ex-Barrow)
2. Colin Brown of Skirraugh
3. Batley Bulldogs
4. York Wasps
5. Joe Farnall & Mark Johnson
6. Castleford, 10,462 v Leeds
7. Paul Harragon
8. South Sidney
9. Doncaster Dragons
10. Bobby Goulding

ANSWERS....



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N. Byers (Yellow)

SCRUMS

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24

PENS

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24

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1 2 3 4 5 6
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13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24

PENS

1 2 3 4 5 6
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