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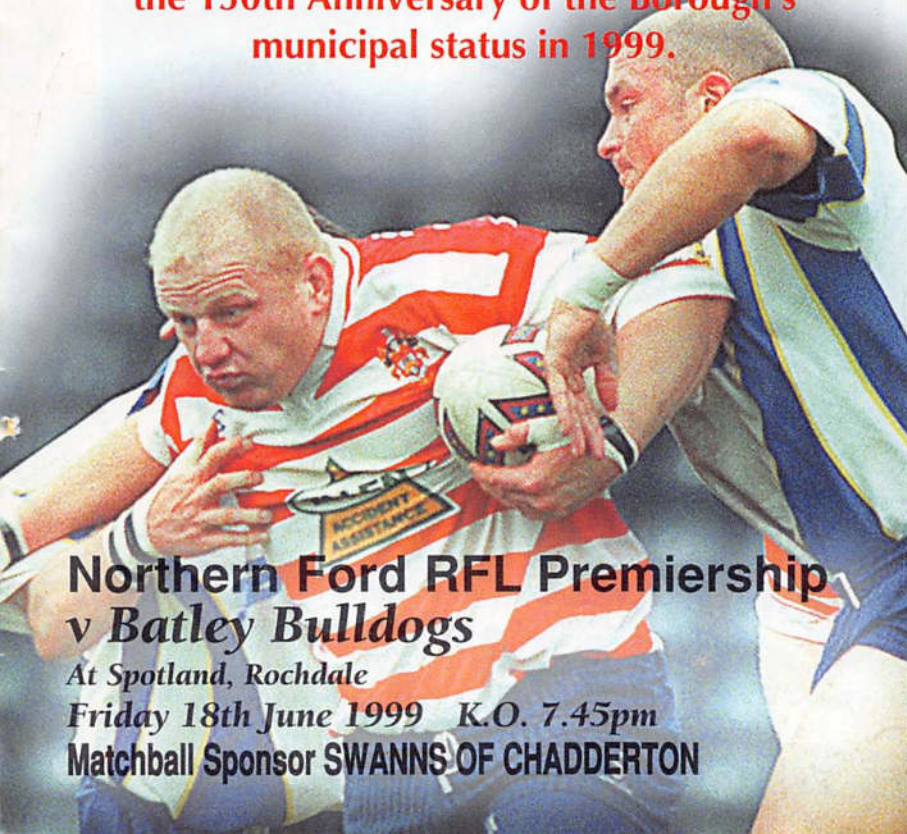
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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



TONIGHT we are back at Spotland after a very successful evening at Boundary Park last Sunday.

Games seem to be coming thick and fast at the moment, so to have won two and just lose to Featherstone is not a bad achievement. Let's hope that we have now turned the corner and that our luck starts to get better. The injury to Nathan Varley is not as serious as first feared but his early departure from the Rochdale game just underlines how our season has gone.



I thought the 'turnout' last Sunday was tremendous and the support the players got vocally made a difference. It again underlined the potential in the town and we are striving to get the Club as strong as possible to utilise that potential. Nobody has a magic wand to make things click from the word go, but believe me this Club is making rapid strides even if they are not all evident to the fans at this moment in time.

Batley will provide us with another test this evening but after the 30-0 defeat in the first game of this season the lads should need no motivation whatsoever to take onto the field with them. Batley are a hard-working side so we will need to concentrate for the full game.

At the present time the RFL is working on proposals for News Corporation Distributions for the Year 2000 and beyond. If the changes are made that I feel are necessary, the the good of the game (and by that I mean the survival of the game) then we are about to enter the most important time since the breakaway to form the Northern Union.

Clubs cannot carry on being run simply chasing a dream. There has to be a large dose of reality delivered to them, and now is the time. It all sounds very serious and it certainly is - I see it almost as a 'now or never' situation. Only time will tell if the game has the nerve and foresight to see it through.

Enjoy the game.

Christopher Hamilton

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

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

THE tremendous success of last Sunday night's big Charter Day celebration event at Boundary Park provided plenty of food for thought.

First of all, congratulations are in order to Chris Hamilton, his fellow directors, and all the office staff in Union Street. They must have put in weeks of work to organise an event of that scale and the smooth running of the entire operation was no doubt due to the preparation that had taken place, the attention to detail and the professionalism of the many people who were involved in the planning.

It was a great pity that the RAF Falcons parachute team was unable to drop in because of the cloud cover and that there was insufficient wind in Boundary Park to get the balloons airborne, but we won't blame the Roughyeds for that.

It was good to see all four sides of the stadium open and an attendance of 3,023 which generated a terrific atmosphere, assisted in no small measure by the numbers of enthusiastic youngsters.

The half-time display by the young people who will be representing the borough of Oldham at a variety of sports in this weekend's Greater Manchester Youth Games was a nice touch which reminded us appropriately that this was not just a Rugby League occasion but an event of wider significance in which the Roughyeds had been given the responsibility of playing a leading role in the Borough's 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

They shouldered that responsibility magnificently on a night which enhanced the belief that future success of professional sport in the town – and by that I mean Oldham Athletic as well as Oldham RLFC – will depend to some degree on close links with Oldham Council and the local sporting community as a whole.

If the future lies with our young people they have to see practical evidence of the development of links between Council, the Roughyeds, Athletic, the schools, amateur sporting organisations and local youth groups.

Roughyeds have launched a Cashback scheme which encourages schools and youth organisations to raise funds by bringing groups of youngsters to home games. One hopes last Sunday's game was merely the start and that promotions like this will continue to be extended and developed.

It isn't easy, of course, when the team is playing out of town and that brings me to another point. We got a sample last Sunday of what will be within the Club's grasp if and when the proposed new stadium is up and running in Oldham.

It can't come quickly enough. The players were delighted to be back on home soil, to be playing in front of a good crowd and to feel part of an "occasion" that had the name of Oldham running right through it.

To stage such an event, of course, requires facilities and the fact that the organisers had to use a giant marquee on the car park and make extensive use of the Clayton Arms – and I'm sure they were extremely grateful for that – does tend to underline the fact that Boundary Park's corporate hospitality facilities are extremely limited by 1999 standards.

The Club knows and accepts that and does, indeed, put it forward as one of the main reasons for agreeing in principle to push for the new stadium.

Congratulations are due also to Brian Walker and his helpers for organising the turn-up of around 90 former players. To get so many ex-players to turn up was a triumph for sheer hard work and determination, but it also proved that players of yesteryear can still play a role in the Club's future.

It would be a pity if the Club were to lose touch with them again now the big event is over. The old boys provide the base for an association that would not only provide social activities for its members, but from which could be developed the basis for an active support group.

Finally, well done to coaching staff and players. Oh, and a word or two for Stuart Cummings. It was a pleasure to see a Northern Ford Premiership game handled by a Super League referee – and good to see an Oldham win on such an important occasion.

Two wins out of three now. Whisper it, but things might be on the up and up.

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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to all the Batley players, officials and, most important, their travelling fans.

We have just passed the half-way stage now and with us having got two wins in the past week let's hope for a better second half to the season.

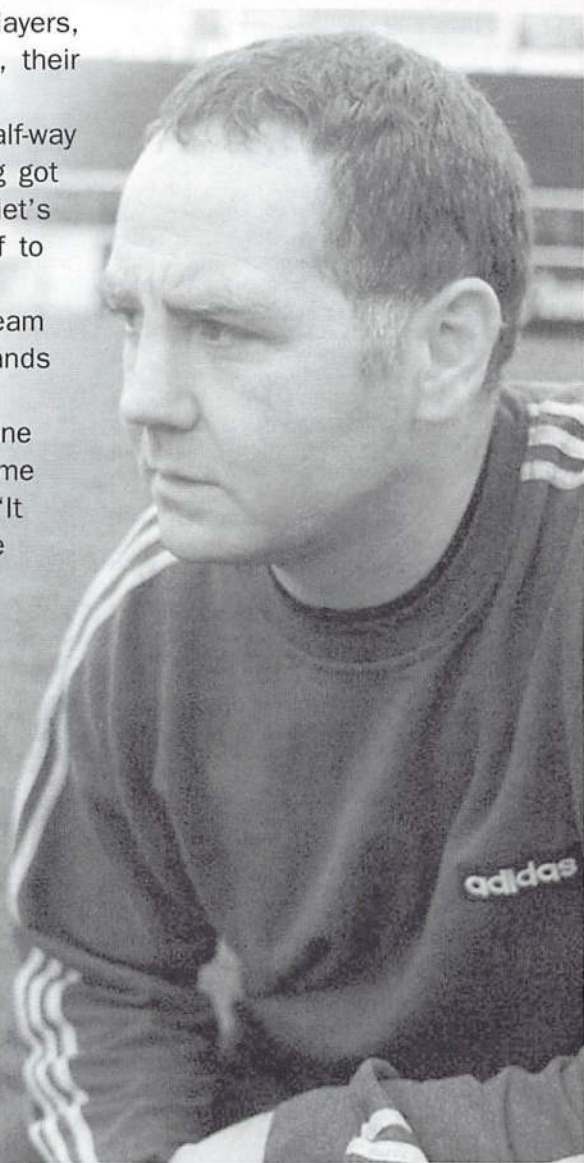
We are still in need of team strengthening but as it stands there is nothing to report.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Rochdale game which was played in Oldham. "It really did feel good". All those kids running on the field to collect the balloons before kick-off just wouldn't have been there if we had played at Rochdale, and having a crowd in all four stands of the ground was great.

This is a **big thank you** from me and the players. It was much appreciated.

Let's hope for a good game and a good result for Oldham - fingers crossed.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

WHO WOULD be a coach? With coaches losing their jobs thick and fast it begs the question, 'what price failure?' And what constitutes failure anyway? Only one team can win the Challenge Cup and only one team can win the Grand Final in each division. Are the rest failures? Or under the current system can we add four more clubs in each division to the list of successful sides by virtue of reaching the play-offs? That still leaves at least 21 teams, assuming no side wins two competitions, that will have failed, at least judging by the reaction of Directors whose first response to a lowly league position is to reach for the shotgun.

But is this a healthy reaction? How can any club sustain a long-term development plan if at the first sign of stormy seas the man at the helm is made to walk the plank? And, if he has a contract which has to be paid up, is this not a complete waste of much needed funds. And when the next appointment is an obscure Australian (John Harvey - who he?) or a big name Brit (not many of those around, however), both expensive options, doesn't it leave you questioning the judgement of the people making the appointment?

So, how exactly do you measure success?

Well, in the current climate any team which can improve its average attendance is successful (Castleford).

Any side which finishes higher up the league ladder than the previous year is successful (Wakefield, Leigh, Workington).

Any club which can demonstrate a production line of talent coming through the junior ranks is successful (Hull F.C., Salford, Batley).

Any club able to balance the books and maintain a team for spectators to watch is successful (Oldham).

And any side which holds out hope of better things to come - after all a long injury list can ruin any team's current season - is also successful (Swinton, Rochdale).

And, as for coaches, consider the following. Arguably the two best coaches in British Rugby League currently, given their resources, are Andy Kelly at Wakefield and John Pendlebury at

Halifax. Add to these Ellery Handley (St. Helens), John Kerr (Sheffield) and Mal Reilly (Huddersfield). Then look to the Northern Ford Premiership and a host of fine coaches: Dave Harrison (Hull K.R.), Neil Kelly (Dewsbury), David Plange (Hunslet), Peter Roe (Featherstone), Andy Platt (Workington), David Ward (Batley), Paul Charlton (Barrow), Mike Ford (Bramley), Mike Gregory (Swinton), Deryck Fox (Rochdale), Colin Whitfield (Widnes). And what do they all have in common? They're all British and they're all good. So, instead of reaching for the guns let's hope that there are no more coaching casualties this season after the recent spate of blood-letting. Indeed, wouldn't it be interesting if there were a rule barring clubs from firing their coaches in the middle of a season? Now that **would** put some people's judgement to the test!

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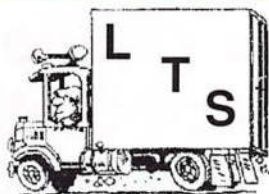
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JUNIOR

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Debra Rafferty

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

May we extend a very warm Oldham welcome to our good friends from Batley.

We hope the Bulldogs Juniors, supporters and officials enjoy their visit.



The lucky Junior Roughyed to be chosen as mascot against Rochdale was **James Hutchinson**. James is 9 years old and attends St. Martin's School. He plays rugby for St. Anne's.

James' favourite player is Jason Clegg. James was busy after his mascot duties as he is one of our very hard working Ballboys. We hope you had a fabulous day James.



The mascot for the day against Bramley was Luke Hamilton. This is what Luke thought of his day.



Luke Hamilton

My Day as a Mascot by Luke Alexander Hamilton

I was mascot for the Bramley game. I travelled on the team coach with my brother, Jordan, and my dad.

After we arrived we went onto the pitch for a look round. When it was time to get ready I got changed in the boardroom and then I waited for the players to come out. Leo Casey took me out on to the pitch and I shook hands with the referee. After I had my picture taken I ran off the field to watch the game. I can't wait to be mascot again and hopefully we will win this time!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to send out Happy Birthday wishes to the Junior Roughyeds having birthday's in June.

Callum Casey	6th
Nicholas Watterson	10th
James Mills	19th
Frankie Byrne	8th
John Wood	18th
Paul Rafferty	28th

Hope you all enjoy your day.



Well, enjoy the game everyone and come on Oldham - let's have a win!

Debra Rafferty

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FORMER PLAYERS CHARTER

SUNDAY's Boundary Park gathering of almost 100 former Oldham club stalwarts was a resounding success. Celebrations, sweetened further by knocking out an exciting victory over Hornets, went on well into the night and some seriously believed the firework display on Oldham Edge had been laid on just for them! The evening will now hopefully provide the springboard for a vibrant and well subscribed ex players association.

An especial thanks to everyone (particularly the Supporters Club) who spent a good part of their weekend in helping prepare for the event, providing a warm welcome for some who were making their first trip back to the town since last representing the club on the field.

Brian Walker

Some of the action -



Hooker Len McIntyre forms a new front row with Oldham Supporters Margaret Ogden & Sylvia Patterson.



Joe Collins, columnist Don Yates and John Etty



50's stalwarts Des McKeown and Harold Lomas



Barbarian Adrian Alexander with former coach & player Eric Fitzsimons



Welsh International Norman Harris with fellow Welshman Bob Pugsley



50's squad Alan Kellett, Jack Doughty, Alan Jones, Frank Stirrup & Alan Davies



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Kiwi Shane Tupaea



Paddy Kirwan and Steve Littler share a joke



Welshmen Mike Elliot & Lyn Morgan flank winger Norman Brelsford



Team mates from 1980 Geoff Munro and Alan Platt



Man of steel Wally Jones



Half back Glen Knight



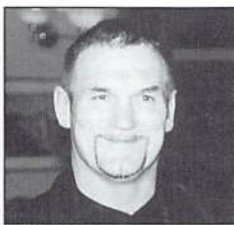
British Lion John Fieldhouse



Half backs Geoff Crowther and Alan Jones



Forward Steve Herbert



Tony Peters



Prop Brian Hughes bustles through



Early 80's centre Clive Hunter

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TODAY'S VISITORS

Batley Bulldogs

DAVID WARD Head Coach & Football Director

As a player David had a distinguished career with Workington Town and Leeds as a Hooker and Captain. He also has twelve Caps for Great Britain. He started his coaching career in 1986 with Hunslet and during his spell there they became Champions of Division 2 and were beaten finalists in the Division 2 Premiership. He was then coach at Leeds before taking up his first spell at Batley between 1991 and 1994. His last appointment as coach was at Featherstone Rovers before commencing his present spell with the Bulldogs. As a Batley lad he is a popular choice of coach among players and supporters alike and is so well respected that he has been invited onto the Board of Directors at the Club.

JEREMY DYSON Full Back/Centre

First joined Batley in the 1992/93 season following a very successful BARLA GB Tour of New Zealand, having played at Hull K.R. Played his junior rugby at Shaw Cross and Thornhill, Schoolboy Honours, Yorkshire U16s - 19s and BARLA GB U19s.

CRAIG LINGARD Full Back/Centre

Joined the Club in 1998 after a spell at Sheffield Eagles. Played junior and Schools Rugby with Sharston, Featherstone Juniors, Crofton and Yorkshire Schools. Very highly rated prospect.

NICK SIMPSON Full Back/Centre

Signed in 1998 from Bradford Bulls. Played for Dudley Hill as an amateur. Toured Australia with BARLA GB U19s. Recently graduated having represented Yorkshire and England University sides.

SIMON JACKSON Full Back/Stand off

Signed for Bulldogs Academy in 1995, and progressed through the Alliance side into first team squad. Fast, elusive runner.

LEE BARGATE Winger/Centre

Lee is in his second spell at Batley, having initially signed from Middleton Amateurs in 1990. He then went to Featherstone Rovers before being persuaded to return to Mount Pleasant by David Ward. Regular first teamer in 1998.

STEVE WALKER Centre/Wing/ Full Back

Signed from Dudley Hill in 1992. Played over 130 games for the Bulldogs in all three positions and has scored 54 tries.

WAYNE FLYNN Centre

Joined the Bulldogs during the close season from Sheffield Eagles. Wayne suffered a bad injury and never really established himself at the Eagles. Previously starred with Trinity and was a GB Academy player. Great acquisition for the Bulldogs.

ROGER SIMPSON Centre/Winger/Stand off/Full Back

Roger signed for the Bulldogs in January 1996 as part of the deal that took Glen Tomlinson to Odsal. Capped for England v France in 1995, but he deserved more Honours, 56 appearances scoring 28 tries for Batley. Very popular, well respected.

PAUL LEADHILL Winger

Paul followed coach David Ward at the start of the 1998 season, having previously played at Featherstone Rovers. A speedy and elusive winger, he is already making his mark having played 24 games and notched 14 tries.

RICHARD PRICE Stand off/Goal Kicker

Signed from Sheffield Eagles in 1996. Broke Club Points Scoring record in 1997 whilst scoring 22 tries and 110 goals, a total of 308 points. To date he has scored well over 500 points for the Club.

GARY BARNETT Scrum Half/Loose Forward

Signed from Bramley in 1995. Also coaches Stanningley Open Age side very successfully. Batley's Players' Player of the Year for the 1998 season.

NIGEL CRAVEN Scrum Half

First signed for the Bulldogs in 1990. Very loyal to the Club. Previously played with Batley Boys and Shaw Cross, and as

understudy to Glen Tomlinson, which kept him out of the side. A talented player.

GARY LORD Prop/Second Row

Gary joined from Wakefield in January 1999. Tremendous track record having held his place at Super League level throughout his career. Club Captain. Fitness fanatic. Ex Oldham Bears.

MARK CASS Hooker/Scrum Half

Rated as the best bargain ever when he signed from Hull F.C. in 1992. Previously played with Middleton. Past Player of the Year. Has played over 160 games for the Club, scoring 40 tries. Known as "Classy Cass"

CHRIS McWILLIAM Prop Forward

Chris is an Australian of Scottish descent who signed from Keighley Cougars having played with Ovenden Amateurs. Leads by example. Puts a tremendous amount of effort into his game having played over 80 games for the Club. Well respected by his colleagues.

ANDY WRAY Prop/Second Row

Previously with Featherstone Rovers, now a settled first Team member. Very good Clubman. 21 appearances in his first season. Highly rated.

BRETT PATTERSON Stand Off/Second Row

Played 9 times with Dewsbury Rams last season scoring nine tries, Australian from New South Wales. At 6' 3" tall weighing 17 stone a power to be reckoned with. Very useful addition to the Bulldogs Squad for 1999.

JOHN CLARKE Hooker/Loose Forward

Another new recruit John had a spell at Hunslet Hawks last season but suffered a bad injury. Now getting back to fitness. GB Academy International. Joined Oldham from the East Leeds side after a successful junior career.

NEIL BRADBROOK Second Row

Neil joined in the 1997 season following spells at Hunslet Hawks, Doncaster and Featherstone Rovers. He played most from the subs bench last season but always impressed when he got his chance. Highly rated by coach David Ward.

TONY WALTON Second Row

Joined the Club from Doncaster in the 1993 season. BARLA GB player with well over 100 appearances for the Club. Missed out on the Final of the Trans Pennine Cup, but he got a richly deserved Winners Medal in 1998.

GRAHAM MIDDLETON Prop/Second Row

Graham joined from the Leeds club in the Autumn of 1993. Although injury and dispute interrupted Grahams career, he is a real battler and has fought his way back into contention.

DARREN MOXON Prop/Centre

Darren joined Batley from Bradford Northern in 1992, and has played mostly at centre with a great deal of success. His best season saw him score 27 tries and equal the Club's post war try scoring record. Following a bad knee injury Darren is now back, chomping at the bit to get back into the first team.

PAUL HARRISON Centre/Loose Forward

Paul joined the club from Hull in 1994 and he has played 90 games for the club. Took on the loose forward berth most successfully last season and had a tremendous start to the 1999 season. Younger brother of Karl.

GRANT MIERS Second Row

Young, talented Australian. Joined the Club from Quilton A.R.L.F.C. where he had a tremendous 1st season, taking home a treasured medal from the Trans Pennine Trophy. Back for a second spell.

LEE BARDAUSKAS

Recently joined the club from Castleford. Still only 19 with Super League experience and a spell at Bradford Bulls. Good ball handler.

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Down Memory Lane



DON LOOKS BACK TO A BATLEY MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



BATLEY have been crowned Champions of the Rugby League on just one occasion. That was 75 years ago, back in the 1923-24 season when the league table had a much different look about it than it does today.

There was just one league in those days consisting of 27 clubs and all clubs did not play

each other, hence the necessity of a top four play off. Not only did clubs not play each other but one club, St. Helens Recs, played only 32 matches whilst some played 34 matches, some 36 matches and four clubs, Wigan, Leeds, Halifax and Hull played 38 matches. The final table, therefore, was decided on a percentage basis. Wigan were top with 82%, Batley second with 71%, Oldham third on 67% and Leigh fourth with 63%. Bramley were bottom on 21% and Rochdale Hornets ended the season in eighth position with 58%. Super League giants St. Helens, Hull, Wakefield Trinity, Warrington, Salford and Bradford Northern all finished in the lower half of the table. Wigan won the Challenge Cup, beating Oldham before a World record crowd at Rochdale, Hull won the Yorkshire Cup and St. Helens Recs won the Lancashire Cup. The County Championships went, predictably, to Wigan and Batley whilst the pie-eaters had the top scorers, winger Johnny Ring crossing for 49 tries and full back Jim Sullivan landing 158 goals, a remarkable 78 more than his closest rival.

Wigan were firm favourites to lift the Championship despite the fact that five of their players were absent en route to Australia with the 1924 Lions. However, despite missing Jim Sullivan, Johnny Ring, Danny Hurcombe, Tommy Howley and Jack Price, Wigan comfortably disposed of Leigh in the Championship semi-final. Winger Attie van Heerden scored a hatrick

of tries as Wigan coasted home 27 - 0. Batley's semi-final opponents were the Roughyeds who were missing four tourists, Sid Rix, Ernie Knapman, Bob Sloman and Albert Brough. Batley were also understrength with their skipper and inspirational loose-forward Frank Gallagher also on board S.S. Moldavia sailing towards the adventure and intrigue of Australia. Mount Pleasant housed a crowd of 9,500 who saw the Gallant Youths pull off their biggest win of the season 38 - 0.

Despite Batley's crushing victory, Wigan were still favourites to lift the title when they met at the Cliff, Broughton in a final which attracted a crowd of 13,729 and which, incidentally, was refereed by Mr F. Mills of Oldham. The teams lined up as follows:

Batley: Joe Robinson; Bryn Williams, George Davidge, Harry Rees, Bert Murray; Willie Scott, Ike Fowler; George Ramsbottom, A. Brooke, J. Leeming, S. Smith, George Douglas & Fred Carter.

Wigan: S. Oakley; J. Armstrong, Jerry Shea, Tommy Parker, Attie van Heerden; Syd Jerram, G. Owens; A. Webster, H. Banks, F. Brown, George van Rooyen, Fred Roffey & Percy Coldrick.

Batley began well and took the lead within five minutes when winger Bert Murray crossed for a try. This score gave the Gallant Youths confidence and they continued to dominate throughout the first half although the only other score was a penalty from Oakley which reduced Batley's half time lead to 3 - 2. After the break Wigan were expected to race to victory but Batley continued their assault on the Wigan line and it was only a matter of time before their lead was increased. When Wigan did crack, once again it was winger Murray who scored the try. Rees added a penalty shortly afterwards and then converted a try from Leeming which gave Batley an unassailable 13 - 2 lead. Armstrong did score a try for Wigan which Oakley converted late on but that was how the match finished with Batley deserved 13 - 7 winners and League Champions for the first and, so far, only time in their history.

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

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Graeme Bradley
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Monday, February 15 was, in my view, Leo Casey's finest hour - at least, the first of several finest hours - in an Oldham jersey. The way he drove in, and tackled down the middle, during the first 20 minutes in the cup-

tie against Dewsbury suggested that he knew he was on for initial impact, and then perhaps again off the bench for the final quarter. But no. He just kept up the commitment, non-stop, until his suffering was relieved with the game virtually won. Talk about leading from the front! I thought that he, with the rest of the front row not far behind, was the main reason for a superb victory, and one that was very important indeed in giving both players and supporters confidence that we could hold our own in this year's Division 1. To concede nothing in the 2nd half against a side forecast to be challenging in the Division was quite remarkable, especially after the awful final quarter display in the previous match at Batley.

Leo's performance, and the way it was cheered when he was announced as man of the match, set me thinking about the way RL crowds in general react to former players. There are players, like him, who are regarded as 'one of ours', wherever they are playing, and whose return is genuinely treated as a coming home. Andy Goodway was another, of course. Similarly, there are others who are still regarded with affection even when they are currently

playing elsewhere - Barry McDermott, Mike Ford and Richard Russell are surely three recent examples. The loyal supporters do not resent such players leaving, in an attempt to 'better themselves', especially when the club has benefited in terms of transfer income. This is in contrast with the equivalent in soccer, for example, when there is almost always less than-friendly grief handed out to returning players from the bulk of supporters.

It has always been thus, of course, at



Derek Turner

least as far as Oldham are concerned. In the aftermath of our great 1950's side, it always seemed wrong to see Alan Davies in the Wigan strip, or Derek Turner at Wakefield. On a slightly different note, though, although it is always great to see them at Oldham games, even though they were popular when they were here, somehow John Etty and Ike Southward were always ultimately Batley and Workington men respectively. In less dated times, Ray Ashton, Chris Joynt and Tommy Martyn are 'ours', whereas Mick Burke or David Hobbs, whatever good they may have done during their time with us, were surely really Widnes and Featherstone at heart respectively.

Of course, it works the other way too. Whenever Alex Murphy, or Andy Gregory, were rumoured to be about to change clubs, I am sure I was not the only one who prayed they would not find their way

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to Watersheddings. They were great players, but had been reviled on the Oldham terraces so often that it just would not have been possible ever to take them to our hearts, I am sure. I suspect that quite a long list of names to add to those 2 could be generated, too!



Charlie Winslade

What is it, then, that determines who generates real affection? It certainly isn't a question of birth.

Although obviously Barry Mac is and always will be an Oldhamer born and bred, Alan Davies, Syd Little and Charlie Winslade, to name but three obvious 1950's examples, were born a good way from the town but are no less treasured for that. Similarly, although it would be great to see Iestyn Harris and Paul Sculthorpe in Oldham shirts some time (!), and they have the home town qualification, somehow I don't think they would generate the same degree of affection as, say, Martin Murphy.

Maybe the crucial attribute is effort,



Paddy Kirwan

especially when the chips are down, or occasionally in a lost cause. I was one of those at Whitehaven to watch an infamous Oldham defeat in February 1984. 8-42 it was, and the home side had not won a game all season until

we arrived! But even amongst the mayhem, Paddy Kirwan grafted non-stop - and that attitude is surely at least as much the reason why he is held in such affection as his famous try against Wigan.

And surely, it is this crucial attribute of effort which is the reason why the remaining, sadly very small, bedrock of Roughyeds supporters have been so much behind the bunch of players Chris Hamilton has brought together after the demise of the Bears. Let us hope, as we emerge over the next few years to take our rightful place in the higher echelons of the game, that the management is able to recruit players whom growing crowds will regard as "ours" too.

Ian Wilson

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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

TODAY we welcome the Batley Bulldogs to Spotland for our return match from the opening game of the season when the Yorkshiremen ran out convincing winners by 30-0.

Batley, like Oldham were founder members of the Northern Union and the first fixture between the teams under the new code took place at Watersheddings on October 5th 1895. The newspapers of the time reported that the game was played in drenching rain. This kept the attendance down to 4,000 which represented a modest crowd for those times. Oldham won the match by eleven points to nil thanks to a try each for Joe Lawton, Bob Edwards and Jim Merrill with one conversion from Sam Lees. This was the first home win for the Roughyeds in the Northern Union.

Oldham Team: H Eagland; J Hurst, H Varley, S Lees, I Taylor; J Lawton, A Lees: E Bonser, E Hughes, T Furniss, J Merrill, R Edwards, R Wylie, J Lees, A Childs.

The last time Batley came to Oldham was in last year's second division fixture at Boundary Pakr on May 10th when Oldham ran out winners by 28 points to 20. The Bulldogs gained revenge in the return match at Mount Pleasant and also won the Trans-Pennine Cup Final which was again played at Batley.

The last time the "Gallant Youths" played at Watersheddings was on October 29th 1989. Oldham won the match 22-4 on their way to promotion to the old first division. The club had appeared in the Lancashire Cup Final two weeks previously and the success of the team made for a



Vintage Oldham v Batley action

Fred Ashworth, with Albert Brough in support, brings down the Batley loose forward in the drawn game (8-8) at Watersheddings on December 18th 1926.

useful crowd of 4,120 turning up to see the debut making Tommy Martyn score a try and kick three goals. The other Oldham scores came via tries from Andy Ruane, Kevin Meadows and Richard Irving. Current club captain Leo Casey was also in the side.

Oldham Team: R Russell; S Robinson, K Meadows, R Irving, P Lord; T Martyn, M Ford; L Casey, A Ruane, J Fairbank, J Fieldhouse, S Allen, J Cogger. Subs: B Clark, C McAlister.

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

On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



RUGBY LEAGUE is a rough, tough sport and occasionally matches do erupt into violence. That is exactly what happened 67 years

ago, on Saturday 18th June 1932, when Great Britain met Australia in a test match which, ever since, has been known as the 'Battle of Brisbane'. The action began at the very first scrum when Leeds prop Joe Thompson was knocked unconscious. Second-rower Martin Hodgson (Swinton) and hooker Les White (Hunslet) suffered wounds which required stitching during the mayhem which followed. Australia did not escape unscathed either. Backs Ernie Norman and Frank McMillan suffered concussion, half-backs Eric Weissel, ankle injury, and Hector Gee, gashed mouth, also required hospital treatment whilst loose-forward Frank O'Connor suffered a badly cut eye and hooker Dan Dempsey broke his wrist. The match? Australia led 10 - 0 at half time and went on to win 15 - 6 with Hector Gee scoring a couple of tries.

Twenty two years previously, on Saturday 18th June 1910, Britain had also met Australia, although on that occasion in Sydney and, remarkably, took on Newcastle and District the very same afternoon. Britain won the test match 27 - 20 with Hunslet prop Bill Jukes scoring a hat-trick of tries whilst 80 miles up the coast, the rest of the tour party, plus a handful of guests, beat Newcastle 24 - 8. The attendance at Sydney for the test match was a World record 42,000.

On Friday, 18th June 1993 the ANZ Stadium, Brisbane staged its first match under floodlights. Brisbane Broncos beat Gold Coast Chargers 14 - 6 in that match which

attracted a ground record attendance of 57,212 despite the fact that eight players, six from Brisbane and two from the Chargers, were absent on international duty.

Not all attendances in Brisbane have been so encouraging, however. On this day in 1979, for instance, Monday 18th June, only 3,245 bothered to turn up to watch the British Lions beat Brisbane 10 - 7. Current Batley coach David Ward was a member of those 1979 Lions but he did not play in that match.

Two years previously, on Saturday 18th June 1977, Ward did play at Lang Park as it was known then, when Great Britain met Australia in the World Cup competition. He hooked for Britain that afternoon and gave the Lions ample possession as the Kangaroos were put under terrific pressure during the first half. At the interval Britain led 5 - 4 but Ward was injured late in the first half and his withdrawal from the game early in the second half was the turning point of the match. Australia got on top thereafter and went on to win 19 - 5.

Tuesday, 18th June 1985 was a significant day in the career of former Batley centre Andy Williams. It was on that day that he turned professional, joining the Gallant Youths from the Batley Boys junior club. Williams went on to make 173 appearances for Batley during the following seven seasons, scoring 67 tries and a couple of dropped goals. Back to international action and to Sunday, 18th June 1995 when, at the Olympic Stadium, Montreal and before a paltry crowd of 514, Canada entertained France. The Frenchmen proved too powerful for the Canadians who were overwhelmed 72 - 32. Three members of the successful French teams are currently playing for English clubs, stand-off Fabien Devecchi (Widnes), prop Frederic Teixido (Sheffield Eagles) and second-rower Gael Tallec (Castleford).

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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
	28	Swinton Lions	A	36 - 24
May	5	Keighley Cougars	H	8 - 22
	13	Dewsbury Rams	A	4 - 25
	19	Swinton Lions	H	28 - 39
	29	Barrow B. R.	A	24 - 42
June	10	Rochdale Hornets	H	16 - 44
	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	
Aug	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
	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		

OLDHAM struggled to raise a team for the visit to Craven Park and crashed to a 42-24 defeat. In a relatively poor display the stand-out player was Emmanuel Peralta whose performance earned a recall to the first team squad for the trip to Workington. Jason Brassington grabbed two tries, with Barker, Quinlan and Winston also on the scoresheet.

At Manor Park Rochdale's Oldham players proved better than Oldham's Oldham players in recording a 44-16 victory. Does money talk or what?

Although Oldham disappointed after a bright start, the team's young players, many of them new signings, have to regard each outing as a learning experience and as a tremendous opportunity to carve out a place in the professional game. Admittedly a bit more guidance and encouragement from the senior players called into the ranks would help, but when the chance is there it needs to be seized. Tries came from Mayers, Quinlan and Perrett with Quinlan landing 2 goals.

Tomorrow comes a big test at Mount Pleasant against League Leaders Batley Bulldogs. Now there's a test and a half!

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

The committee would like to know if anyone has any ideas or venues where we could hold our open meetings, so that we can get around and meet you the supporters. This will also give you a chance to meet the committee and put any ideas forward you may have.

Do not forget on SUNDAY 4th JULY we are holding a sponsored WALK. This will start from OLDHAM to SPOTLAND. We would like your help with this such as walkers and sponsors.

The date of the FUN DAY will be announced soon. If there is anyone out there with any ideas or help just get in touch with me.

Thank you to everyone who has put their names forward for the supporters rugby team. We still need more, either male or female so come along. Don't be shy, give me a ring and join in the fun.

Please come forward and ring DAVID on 345 8566 anytime. Hope to hear from you soon. Cheers,

David Patterson

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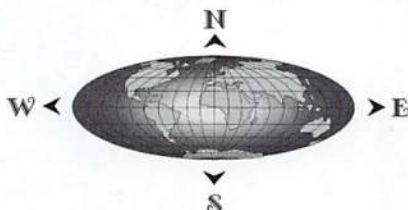
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OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

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| 1 | Laurent MINUT | | | |
| 2 | Adrian MEAD | | | |
| 3 | Afi LEUILA | | | |
| 4 | Richard DARKES | | | |
| 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 | Graeme SHAW | | | |
| 14 | Mick FARRELL | 16 | Emmerson JACKMAN | |
| 15 | Criag BARKER | 17 | Emmanuel PERALTA | |

Today's Officials

Today's Referee Mr Peter Taberner



Touch Judges

Mr Dave Blood
Mr Paul Taylor

BATLEY BULLDOGS

Coach: David Ward:

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------|--|
| 1 | Jeremy DYSON | | | |
| 2 | Lee BARGATE | | | |
| 3 | Wayne FLYNN | | | |
| 4 | Roger SIMPSON | | | |
| 5 | Paul GLEDHILL | | | |
| 6 | Richard PRICE | | | |
| 7 | Gary BARNETT | | | |
| 8 | Gary LORD | | | |
| 9 | John CLARKE | | | |
| 10 | Chris McWILLIAM | | | |
| 11 | Tony WALTON | | | |
| 12 | Grant MIERS | | | |
| 13 | Paul HARRISON | | | |
| 14 | Craig LINGARD | 16 | Steve WALKER | |
| 15 | Simon JACKSON | 17 | Darren MOXON | |

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS