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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



ANOTHER tough fixture is in store tonight against Dewsbury who kept up their title challenge on Sunday by defeating Lancashire Lynx. By contrast we were well beaten by a Hull Kingston Rovers side who look a good bet for reaching the Grand Final.

Our bad luck continued with the injury to Jimmy Cowan and before the game we suffered a setback with the news that Danny Websters arrival is being delayed. These things seem to be symptomatic of the way our season has gone but its probably the same story at every club.



As the season goes into it's final third things are starting to settle down both at the top and at the bottom. We are at the wrong end of course but how significant is it with the financial disparities that exist within the Division that the five clubs who receive so much less than all the others occupy five of the bottom eight positions, that surely proves that the system of distribution for 1999 has been anti-competitive.

Following on from my comments in the Hull K. R. programme about the playing season it has been noticeable how much press comment there has been, that has shown that no rash decisions must be made and what has happened now, however, is that a situation that was originally reported wrongly by Bob McDermott has been made worse by journalists putting their own interpretation on the subject. Our own Roger Halstead reports refers to Bob's "masterplan" - Wrong. Roger also argues that the problem with the game is not when it is played but how it is played. It would appear therefore that to sort the game out all we have to do is re-educate all the coaches and all the players and hey presto! I'll get straight onto it! Seriously, however, this is another example of everybody connected with the game putting their oar in and whilst accepting that Mr Halstead has a job to do in my eyes. It proves that sometimes think now, speak later is a rule that those of us running clubs should adopt. Enjoy the game.

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 vote of Northern Ford Premiership clubs on Bob McDermott's suggestion to kick-off the new season on Boxing Day, 1999 will be eagerly awaited.

In the ten days or so since it first became known that the chairman of the Association of Premiership Clubs (APC) was pushing for the start of the season to be advanced several weeks, to try to arrest falling attendances, clubs have expressed a wide range of opinions.

As I see it, I think we have to accept that summer rugby is failing - fast.

And I say that as one who pushed for a change of seasons in the first place and was once an enthusiastic advocate of rugby in the sun.

I reckon a lot of people out there are now tempted to say: "I told you so."

I am certainly prepared to hold up my hand and say "OK, I was wrong."

Don't assume from that that I believe a return to winter rugby will solve all our sport's ills. It won't. There are many factors behind the current slump in attendances and, as I wrote in the programme for last Sunday's Hull K. R. game, the biggest of the lot is the game's decline in popularity as a spectator sport.

Much of the entertainment value has disappeared from the modern game on the back of the "five drives and a kick" philosophy. If Rugby League is to get the turnstiles clicking again, the administrators must take steps to put some of the old adventure and flair back into the sport.

And they can't do that until and unless they take a good, long look at rugby league 1999 style and are honest enough to admit that many features of the crowd-pleasing sport of yesteryear are with us no more.

Regular readers of this column are well aware of what I think of the Sport's PR machine and those hackneyed expressions: "The product has never been better" and "We have the greatest game in the world."

Let me put a question to the older Dewsbury supporters who may be here tonight.

Hand on heart, which rugby pleased you more - the quality fare served up in Dewsbury's championship-winning era - and a certain Steve should know all about that - or the rugby the present side will display for us tonight at a time when "the product has never been better"?

Quality entertainment is a must in any serious, structured attempt to bring back the missing fans, but other factors can be addressed as well and the timing of the season in the calendar is one of them.

Bob McDermott's plan has considerable merit and as a compromise between winter and summer - a half-way house if you like - I would give it my support with certain reservations.

It's success will hinge, almost totally, on decent weather in January and February, but it is impossible to squeeze a full and uninterrupted season into any 12 month period while omitting January and February as well as, in view of falling summer gates, June, July and August.

Let me put this to you. The traditional winter season took in September, October, November, December, January, February, March and April.

Next season, if Bob's plan were to be adopted, we would play in January, February, March, April, May, June, July and spill over into August.

To add to the winter-summer debate we would be tempted to compare attendances in January, February and March with those, say, in May, June and July.

But what about September, October, November and December?

Months that are common to both the traditional winter season and the so-called "summer" season are January, February, March and April.

The differences are in the months of September, October, November and December (winter) and May, June, July and August (summer).

In view of current attendances I think many followers of the game would now lean to the autumn months as the better option.

The McDermott plan has a lot going for it, so long as we don't overlook the claims of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness in our haste to compare mid-winter with mid-summer.

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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to Dewsbury.

Well the infamous game eventually gets played. I can't believe all the wrangling that's gone on, about one game. Anyway it had to be played and whether one team likes it or not it's tonight.

Mixed feelings writing these notes, the taste of Featherstones 61-6 hammering still fresh in my mind makes me disappointed, but having just been to watch the U.21s beat Keighley at their ground makes me feel a little better.

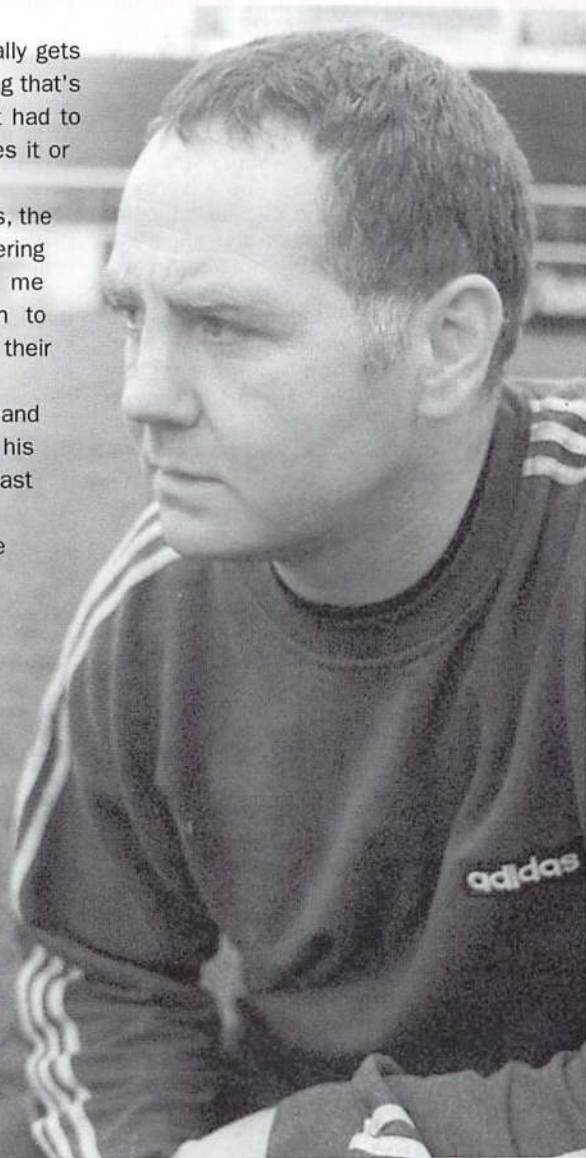
Neil Kelly's team on the other hand is up at the right end of the table with his team continuing where it left off last season.

The last month, in general we have seen the team turn in some results that in early season were eluding us and I'm convinced that with a player or two, maybe a Josh Bostock, we would have turned them into victories, anyway that has gone and we must continue to look forward.

The club doesn't infer any smugness when commenting that some of the clubs in our division and in Super League are financially on their backsides, but, it can always be said they told you so!

Enjoy the game.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

IT WAS pure coincidence that both Roger Halstead and myself wrote about the standard of play in Rugby League at the current time in last Sunday's programme for the visit of Hull K.R. These views, together with the proposal floated, if not yet discussed in depth, by Dewsbury and the Association of First Division Clubs' Chairman Bob McDermott reflect the current concern with the level of attendances and apparent interest in the game. Of course this is nothing new, as a reading of the 'Twas Ever Thus' feature in tonight's programme will prove, although when you consider that Bert Summerscales, Oldham's long-serving Secretary in the 1950's, was disappointed with an 11,000 plus attendance for the visit of Wigan, you can appreciate how far we have fallen from grace.

Whilst we need not yet get too alarmist, the worrying trend is that today's spectators are so fickle that they will only associate themselves with success. So Leeds and Bradford can pull big attendances to their games - and to a lesser extent Hull K.R. and Leigh in the N.F.P.L. - while everyone else struggles. It has long been a matter of personal annoyance and frustration that boys in Oldham were sporting Wigan jerseys. Now the next generation appear in Rhinos' and Bulls' shirts. No wonder the letter writers on Oldham Athletic affairs in the local press tear their hair out at the proliferation of Manchester United 'replica men'. Maybe the so-called reds fans might like to reflect that three years ago you could hardly walk round town without encountering a black and white Newcastle Magpie shirt, most of whose wearers could not have found Newcastle on any map nor had ever been within a hundred miles of St. James Park.

Unfortunately, we now have several generations of sports 'fans' who cannot

tolerate failure. They do not know how to lose with dignity and, not having experienced dismay, dejection and disappointment will never know the full pleasure of the success of their local team when it finally arrives. After all what goes round, comes round as Wigan followers are on the verge of discovering.

There are no easy solutions to this problem of those who would bask in reflected glory, for their whole psyche has been warped. But they might care to ponder this: if only the successful can draw crowds sufficient to sustain the financial well-being of the clubs who will there be left for them to play when the rest have gone to the wall?

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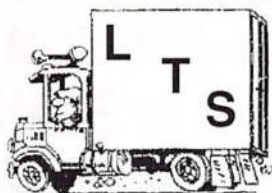
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T'was Ever Thus



MUCH has been said....regarding the televising of the First Test Match at Headingley and the effect on attendances at League matches on the same day....

Since the commencement of the season....they (attendances) are definitely up to standard in comparison to the day when the Test Match was played (when attendances were down)....We consider we have a great game in R.L., but is it attracting the crowds? Are individual clubs putting the goods over and giving value for money?....Television or no television people will go to see the real thing and get the real atmosphere, provided always that the game is played as it was intended to be. It is up to Club Directors to remedy matters, the solution to good attendances is in their hands - good management.

*(Oldham programme v Warrington
25th October, 1952)*

Referring to G.B. v Australia 13th December, 1952

A sport that so easily degenerates into personal violence calls for a merciless punishment that will banish from the game those who cannot keep their tempers within reasonable limits. I believe that a high code of conduct in sport reacts upon behaviour generally, and that the lessons of the playing field are as essential and important as part of our education. It teaches us how to keep our passions within limits, how to take good fortune gracefully and bear defeat without resentment - in a word - how to be civilised beings. It is for this reason that we should fight against any lowering of our standard of sportsmanship, whether amongst the players or the onlookers.

*(Oldham programme v Wigan
27th December, 1952)*

An ugly rumour has been persistent of a breakaway from the Rugby League of eight premier clubs, owing we presume to being dissatisfied with the structure of the Rugby League - or in other words possibly - of not getting their own way. I would point out that this club is not a participant in this unconstitutional way of conducting its affairs and would refuse to join any insurgent move against any constitutional authority. All clubs are part and parcel of the Rugby League and must

adhere to a majority vote however much it may go against its own (sic) ideas. The expanse of the Rugby League does not demand or tolerate a section ruling the majority, this would be fatal. "Advance, Rugby League," should be the motto. United we stand and can fight a battle, but divided would be fatal and a retrograde step.

*(Oldham programme v Rochdale Hornets
24th June, 1953)*

This chopping and changing of rules does our game no good, to make the rules fit the players is a retrograde step. It is up to the players to play the game according to the rules. The referee is there to see that they are carried out, and if any player persists in transgressing the rules the referee has only one option - dismiss the player from the field, as being incompetent of not knowing how to play the game he is in.

*(Oldham programme v Hunslet
3rd September, 1955)*

There is nothing wrong with our game if played according to the book, and is a direct answer to legislators and rule interfering representatives of Clubs who are always condemning our game...

....if you play for the first team of a Club you should not be told how to play the game: you should have arrived.

*(Oldham programme v Wakefield Trinity
15th September, 1956)*

The Northern Rugby Football League opinion of the suggestion put forward for the Standardisation of Players' Wages. They suggest that a flat rate payment shall be compulsory....It shall (also) be permissible for a club to distribute bonus to the players....such bonus shall not exceed 20% of the gross gate receipts....

*(Oldham programme v St. Helens
8th December, 1956)*

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JOHN FIELDHOUSE - OLDHAM, TWO DECADES

FOREWORD

COUNTY and international player John Fieldhouse joined Oldham as pack leader to Tony Barrow's promotion chasing squad of 1989. Whilst at his previous club St Helens he had been troubled by injury to particularly his wrist and knees but overcame his problems to appear in sixty-one of Oldham's next sixty-six matches. John was both player and player coach during his time at Watersheddings and after twenty-two years as a player the Rugby League has granted him a benefit which will last just three months July, August and September of this summer (John did not receive the normal benefit after ten years).

There will be a Sportsmans Dinner held in his honour at St. Annes Rugby Club on Friday 27th of August. Details are available from the St. Annes Club on 0161 678 8660 or direct from John on 01925 816968. There is also a Sports Forum planned for the Clayton Arms for Wednesday 18th August that will be sponsored by GMR and will include amongst the guests Paul Sculthorpe and Iestyn Harris. Details will appear in the press asap.

Thanks for your support.

Brian Walker



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Front Row: Bob Beardmore, Deryck Fox, Les Bettinson (Manager), Harry Pinner (Captain), Maurice Bamford (Coach), Joe Lydon, Gary Schofield.

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ON THE ROAD



AFTER twenty-two years it is now time to bring down the curtain on the playing part of my league career. A career that has seen lots of good times but with the sufferance of some bad injuries. Two years ago in my fifth season at Halifax I broke my jaw playing against St. Helens but despite medical advice and not one to give up (I have to admit coupled with missing the fray) resumed playing. However suffering a bad spinal injury I have now decided at last to call it a day but will still carry on with my duties as assistant coach at Warrington.

It is the end to a playing career that was spawned in 1977 when as a fifteen year old playing for Wigan Under 16's was spotted by Alex Murphy who kept tabs on my progress and at midnight on the 28th of June 1979 signed me for Warrington.

I stayed at the Wires for six seasons enjoying gaining representative honours for Lancashire and Great Britain Under 24's.

My second club was Widnes who I joined in a straight swap for my great mate Andy Gregory. This gave me the stage I required from which to gain full international status winning 'The Man of the Series' award against the '85 touring New Zealanders and also playing in two of the test matches in the Australian series (The Unbeatables) the following year.

After the Australian series St. Helens moved in for me. Murphy was now their coach and he led us out at Wembley in both '86 and '89. In the summer of '89 after being out for six months with a wrist injury and having also recovered from a series of knee injuries, I was approached by Tony Barrow the new Oldham coach. Tony was looking for a pack leader for his new squad at 'Sheddings and believe me I was his man!

We were in the second division but some forty games later had not just won promotion but had won the second division championship by beating Hull KR in that exciting Old Trafford final. The reception the team received on its return to Watersheddings brought more than one tear to my eye and without argument was the most memorable moment of my career (and there were a few!)

Nothing is forever and next season after narrowly losing key first division games Tony Barrow's position was under pressure. In January 1991 Tony left the club and, after first consulting Tony and talking to key players, I accepted the club's proposals to take over as player coach albeit in a caretaker capacity. We won eight out of thirteen league games and reached the semi final of the Challenge Cup against World Club Champions Wigan. Despite the late success and substantially raising the team spirit level we finished twelfth out of fourteen and were relegated. A visit from the club Chairman informed me of Peter Tunks' appointment. A disappointment. You can't be coach one day and player next and anyway Peter Tunks had his own ideas, so despite the superb relationship with the Oldham spectators I left the club.

After Oldham I spent five seasons at Thrum Hall and also played for the now defunct South Wales, Whitehaven, a second stint at Widnes before finally moving back to Wildespool.

A long stint, but I now look forward to coaching. Not a new challenge! Good luck to the Oldham club and thanks to the supporters for those two very happy seasons.

John Fieldhouse

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IN TOWN TONIGHT.

DEWSBURY

DEWSBURY RAMS come to Spotland tonight holding a top five play-off spot and having qualified for the play-off last season. Ably coached by **Neil Kelly**, now in his fourth season at the Rams and also the club's Chief Executive, the Rams have lost five and drawn one of this season's fixtures before last Sunday's visit of Lancashire Lynx. These facts give some indication of the magnitude of Oldham's achievement in knocking out the Rams from this year's Silk Cut Challenge Cup. At home Dewsbury have lost to Rochdale and Widnes, while on their travels they have succumbed to Lancashire Lynx, somewhat surprisingly, to Leigh and to Widnes. The draw was a creditable 24-24 result at Featherstone.

The squad features **Nathan Graham** at full back, now in his second spell at Dewsbury after appearing for Bradford Bulls in a Wembley Final.

Wingman **Alex Godfrey** signed in the close season from York Wasps. He is a former Academy player with Hull Sharks. Local lad **Gavin Wood** could be on the opposite wing having graduated through the Academy team.

At centre classy Australian **Brendan Williams**, ex South Queensland and Hunter Mariner, will pose plenty of problems together with fellow Aussie **Brendan O'Meara** who has joined the club in mid season from South Sydney.

Half backs **Richard Agar** and **Barry Eaton** form a clever and punishing partnership. Both are now in their fifth season with the Rams. Free-scoring Eaton signed from Wakefield, while astute kicker Agar has appeared with both Rochdale and Featherstone.

In the front row well travelled,

powerful prop **Alan Boothroyd** will put all his experience with Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield to good use. Fellow prop is **Simon Hicks**, a product of Stanley Rangers and an ex-Wakefield Trinity regular. Between these two will be lively hooker **Paul Delaney** who started at Dewsbury Moor, signed for Leeds and returned to his hometown club in 1991.

The second row is likely to comprise youngster **Andrew Spink**, ex Thornhill and Yorkshire Academy and a BARLA under 18 tourist in 1997, together with **Adrian Flyn** who has seen service at Leeds, Castleford, Keighley and Wakefield.

At loose-forward we look forward to the return of the talented, if erratic, **Danny Wood** who made such a good impression on Oldham spectators during his spell on loan here earlier in the season. Welcome back, Danny.

Other players in the Rams squad include hard-running, veteran forward **Paul Medley** a Great Britain international who has graced the ranks of Leeds, Halifax and Bradford, terrorising defences along the way and providing pleasure for the fans with his scything breaks. Back rower **Mark Haigh** is a local lad now in his tenth season with Dewsbury, **Damian Ball** a utility signed from York Wasps, while **Matthew Long** is a forward from Thornhill who returned to Dewsbury via Hull Sharks. **Shayne Williams** has seven years service after signing from Dewsbury Celtic and **Leon Williamson**, the club's leading try scorer in 1997, returned home after spells at Doncaster and Hunslet. Also likely to feature today are versatile forward **Gareth Cochrane** and back-rower **Darren Ballentyne**.

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Down Memory Lane



DON LOOKS BACK TO A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



THIS evening's rearranged fixture sees the hard working Dewsbury outfit visiting Spotland in what is, for them, another vital confrontation. Since losing here in the Challenge Cup last February, the Rams have enjoyed a successful league campaign and look capable of qualifying for the Premiership playoffs.

Should Dewsbury reach the play offs, their followers will look back 26 years to season 1972-73 when the Crown Flatt side lifted the League Championship with a superb play-off campaign after ending the league season down in eighth position.

There was a single division in 1972-73 with each club playing 34 fixtures. Dewsbury won 23 of those matches including an 18-14 victory over Warrington, who ended the season in top spot, and a league double over Wigan who were beaten 9-7 at Craven Park and then 24-15 over at Crown Flatt. The most disappointing result of the season came in the Yorkshire Cup Final when John Holmes crossed for a hatrick of tries as Leeds demolished Dewsbury 36-9.

The Championship play off involved the top 16 clubs. Dewsbury's progress to the final started with a comfortable 29-14 home victory over Oldham. Hooker Mick Stephenson scored two tries in that match and centre Nigel Stephenson a try and seven goals. Next up, Dewsbury travelled to second in the table Featherstone Rovers where Nigel Stephenson repeated his try and seven goals feat and Mick Stephenson was again a try scorer. Reward for that 26-7 victory at Post Office Road was a trip to top-of-the-table Warrington and another magnificent performance which culminated in a memorable 17-7 win.

The final gave Dewsbury an opportunity to avenge their Yorkshire Cup Final defeat with

Leeds providing the opposition, again at Odsal. the line up for that final was as follows:

Dewsbury: Adrian Rushcroft; Gregg Ashcroft, John Clark, Nigel Stephenson, Terry Day; Alan Agar, Alan Bates; Harry Beverley, Mick Stephenson, Trevor Lowe, Jeff Grayshon, John Bates & Joe Whittington.

Substitutes: Steve Lee & Bryan Taylor.

Leeds: John Holmes; Alan Smith, Syd Hynes, Les Dyl, John Atkinson; Alan Hardisty, Keith Hepworth; Terry Clawson, Tony Fisher, Geoff Clarkson, Phil Cookson, Graham Eccles & Bob Haigh.

Substitutes: John Langley & David Ward.

Dewsbury's performance that afternoon was virtually flawless. The pack tackled ferociously and drove forward with conviction. Hooker Mick Stephenson distributed the ball intelligently to set up play for a talented back division well led by the free scoring Nigel Stephenson. Leeds opened the scoring with a Clawson penalty but within a couple of minutes Mick Stephenson had set the pattern with a try under the posts. Nigel Stephenson converted and soon added a dropped goal. Dewsbury held that 7-2 lead until the 25th minute when disaster struck Leeds. Skipper Alan Hardisty was sent off for a high tackle on John Bates. It is doubtful whether Leeds would have won with a full complement of players but without Hardisty their task was well nigh impossible. By half-time Dewsbury's lead had stretched to 12-4 and, early in the second-half when just about everyone expected a determined Leeds onslaught, up popped Mick Stephenson again to score the killer try which pushed Dewsbury 17-4 in front. The final score read 22-13 with Mick Stephenson quite rightly claiming the Harry Sunderland Trophy as Man of the Match. Unfortunately, that match proved to be the finale for Mick Stephenson who moved on to Penrith in Australia for a World record transfer fee. Steve is now back in Britain as part of the Sky TV commentary team. Perhaps, before too long, he will be lending his views to a Super League match involving Dewsbury, the club with whom he first rose to fame.

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

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

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The Incorrighible Iva

THE other day I was looking through some very old local rugby magazines for background material for yet another of my enlightening, entertaining and scintillating programme pieces and was spellbound indeed agog with the adverts of the day. The origination was terrific! the punchlines superb! - Satchi and Satchi eat your heart out! I think if I updated the punchlines they could bring in a few bob for the club. What do you think? **Thoughts direct to Chairman please!**

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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

ALTHOUGH Dewsbury were present at the famous meeting of clubs who broke away from the R.U. to form the Northern Union in 1895, they decided not to throw in their lot with the rebels at that time. The men from Crown Flatt eventually joined the League in 1901-02 but it would not be until February 17th 1906 that they played Oldham in a senior fixture. The match was played at Watersheddings and resulted in a win for the Roughyeds by thirteen points to nil. The points came from tries by George Tyson, Billy Dixon and Harry Topham with two goals from Joe Ferguson.

The return match was played at Dewsbury on April 28th 1906 when the Yorkshiremen gained revenge in a keenly contested encounter with a five points to four victory (two goals from Ferguson). This was the last match of the 1905-06

season and as such, was the last 15-a-side game played by the club, as the Northern Union converted to 13-a-side for the next campaign.

Here then is the historic last ever 'fifteen' to represent Oldham F.C.

R. L. Thomas; G. Tyson, S. Irvin, T. White, T. Cash; W. Dixon, A. Lees; H. Ellis, J. Wilkinson, J. Wright, J. Ferguson, A. Smith, J. Owens, A. Avery, H. Topham.

Prior to this seasons Challenge Cup tie, the last meeting between the clubs was in the 1993 Divisional play off. Oldham had already been promoted and were well fancied to go on to make a fourth appearance in the play off final at Old Trafford. However, Dewsbury had other ideas and they came to Watersheddings fired up for the match which ended in a 14-14 draw. In truth the

Yorkshire team were unlucky not to win the game when after scoring a last minute try, the conversion was missed from a reasonable position.

So it was a replay which was played at Batley's Mount Pleasant ground on April 18th exactly 87 years on from that last 15-a-side match. Oldham started well and looked like they would run away with the match after a couple of early tries but Dewsbury fought back well and ran out worthy winners by 20 - 18, the difference being down to two drop goals from scrum half Paul Shuttleworth. Oldham's points came from tries by Iva Ropati, Tommy Martyn and Roland Phillips with three goals from Sean Tyrer.

Oldham team: S. Tyrer; S. Ranson, D. Abram, I. Ropati, G. Christie; W. Gibson, T. Martyn; M. Solomona, R. Russell, B. McDermott, I. Sherratt, R. Phillips, D. Bradbury. Subs: D. Stephenson, J. Graziano.



Adrian Alexander dives over for a try. Action from the Oldham victory (24-2) at Dewsbury in the first round of the Challenge Cup in February 1980.

IT IS HOPED TO CONTINUE THIS FEATURE IN THE PROGRAMME SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 'ROUGHYEDS OF YESTERYEAR'.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY PHOTOS THAT THEY THINK WOULD BE OF INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT

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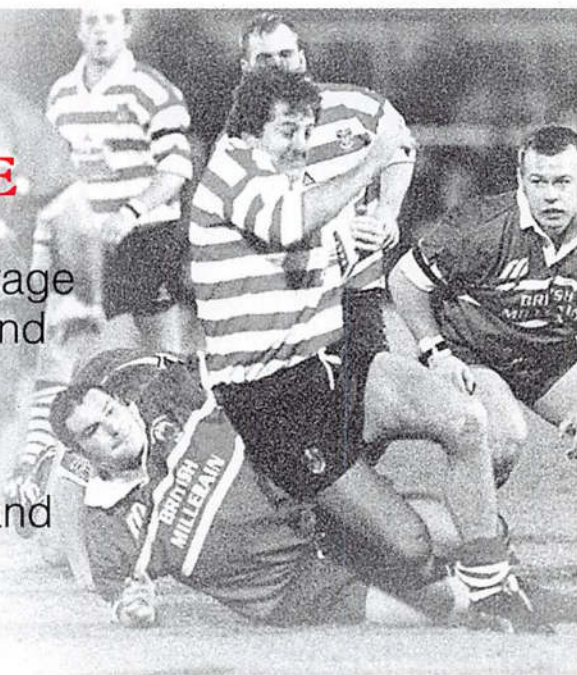
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On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



OLDHAM'S brief flirtation with the Super League did not contain too many successes but three years ago, on Sunday 7th July 1996, the Roughyeds recorded one of their best results of that period. Oldham were at Headingley that day facing a Leeds team which included former Waterhead and Oldham prop Barrie McDermott. The Loiners began well and led 12-0 after 15 minutes but Oldham hit back and, with the game entering stoppage time, the score was 26-22 in Leeds favour. Then powerhouse prop Jason Temu crashed over to equalise and Paul Topping's conversion gave the Roughyeds a sensational 28-26 victory. Earlier second rower Matt Munro had scored a couple of tries and so had stand-off Francis Maloney. Maloney and Topping each landed two goals. The only Oldham players who appeared that day and who could be in action this evening are Paul Crook and Jimmy Cowans who were on the substitutes bench three years ago.

On the same afternoon, Sunday 7th July 1996, Dewsbury were in action at the Boulevard where they met Hull in a First Division match. The Rams did not meet with the same success as Oldham and were beaten 22-6. Second-rower Glenn Bell scored their try to add to an earlier penalty from stand-off Barry Eaton.

Way back in 1920, the British Lions were making their third tour of Australasia. Included in the party were Evan Davies, Herman Hilton and Alf Wood of Oldham together with Frank Gallagher of Dewsbury. On Wednesday 7th July 1920 the tourists met Tamworth whom they defeated 27-10.

Alf Wood did not play in that match but centre Evan Davies did, scoring two tries, whilst second-rower Herman Hilton also scored a try and so did loose-forward Frank Gallagher.

The last Dewsbury players to tour 'down under' with the British Lions were the Bates brothers in 1974. Second-rower John Bates suffered injury on that tour and was unavailable on Sunday 7th July 1974 when the Lions met Monaro. However, Alan Bates was at scrum-half as the Lions won 34-7 with Roger Millward, playing on the wing, landing five goals and scoring two of the eight British tries. That match was staged at Queanbeyan and attracted a creditable attendance of 10,584.

It was on this day in 1995, Friday 7th July, that Australia entertained New Zealand at the Sydney Football Stadium. The Kiwis played some exceptional rugby that evening and after 25 minutes they led 10-4. However, by half time, the kangaroos had equalised and they went on to win 20-10 with stand-off Brad Fittler (Penrith) proving to be an inspirational skipper.

Twelve months later, on Sunday 7th July 1996, another Australian in the news was loose-forward Ian Russell. That day Russell was signed by Paris St. Germain and later that day he turned out for the Frenchmen in a 14-10 defeat up at Workington. Russell, a Queenslander with considerable experience in Australia had previously played in this country for Sheffield Eagles and he later had a spell with the Oldham Bears.

Finally, it was on this day in 1899, Friday 7th July, that Liberal candidate Winston Churchill was defeated in a by election at Oldham. It was his first attempt to enter politics. It at first you don't succeed.....

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ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

Mar	16	Batley Bulldogs	H	6 - 40
	25	Leigh Centurions	H	26 - 14
	31	Hunslet Hawks	H	29 - 29
April	8	Featherstone R.	A	4 - 39
	14	Dewsbury Rams	H	P
	24	West Cumbria	A	24 - 10
May	28	Swinton Lions	A	36 - 24
	5	Keighley Cougars	H	8 - 22
	13	Dewsbury Rams	A	4 - 25
	19	Swinton Lions	H	28 - 39
	29	Barrow B. R.	A	24 - 42
June	10	Rochdale Hornets	H	16 - 44
	12	West Cumbria	H	P
	19	Batley Bulldogs	A	18 - 36
	23	Featherstone R.	H	10 - 34
	July 1	Keighley Cougars	A	24 - 32
July	10	Barrow B. R.	H	
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A	
	21	Leigh Centurions	A	
	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
Aug	14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd		
	18	Rochdale Hornets	H	
Sept	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd		
	11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final		
	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final		

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David

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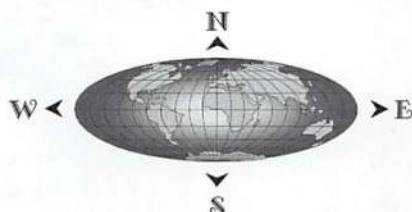
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JANUARY																				
1	Rochdale H. (Law C)	L10-48	2879	Mead	Farrell G	Quinlan	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Casey	Hough	Clegg T	Shaw	Varley	Martindale	Coulter	Leulla T	Prescott	Round
17	Widnes	L6-12	2500	Mead 1T	Farrell	Leulla	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Barker	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Fitzpatrick	A.N.Other
24	Leigh	L12-34	1000	A.N.Other	Mead	Leulla	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook G	Farrell	Round	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan G	Coulter T	Bostock	Barker	A.N.Other T	Fitzpatrick
FEBRUARY																				
1	ECCLES CC 3rd Rd	W26-7	1764	Minut 3G	Mead 2T	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Coulter	Jackman	Round	Peralta	Prescott 1T	Perrett
7	Batley Bulldogs	L0-30	1018	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan	Jackman	Coulter	Prescott	Perrett	Peralta
15	DEWS. R CC 4th Rd	W18-10	1620	Minut 2G	Mead 1T	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 1T1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan	Peralta
28	Whitehaven CC 5th Rd	L2-18	1438	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Peralta	Perrett	Shaw	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan	Crook
MARCH																				
12	BARROW B.R.	W24-20	1123	Minut 2G	Mead	Leulla	Bostock 2T	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 2T	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan 2G	Peralta
17	Hull K. R.	D8-8	2080	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock 1T	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Coulter	Peralta	Perrett	Prescott
21	Hunslet Hawks	L2-44	1533	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Bostock	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Peralta	Quinlan 1G	Martindale	Jackman	Prescott	Perrett	Shaw
28	WIDNES VIKINGS	L18-33		Minut	Mead	Leulla	Jackman 1T	McNicholas 2T	Wood 3G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Peralta	Martindale	Farrell	Prescott	Perrett	Quinlan
APRIL																				
2	Doncaster Dragons	W27-12	878	Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas 1T	Wood 1T3G1DG	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Lewis	Crook	Peralta
5	LEIGH CENTURIONS	L20-26	2163	Minut	Mead 2T	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas	Wood 4G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Quinlan	Crook	Peralta
11	Bramley	L18-24	500	Minut 3G	Mead	Jackman	Farrell 1T	McNicholas 1T	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale 1T	Barker	Varley	Round	Peralta
25	YORK	L14-43	1125	Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas	Wood 1G	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Varley	Prescott	Martindale	Crooke	Barker	Round	Peralta
MAY																				
1	SILK CUT CC Final																			
3	Rochdale Hornets	L18-29	1568	Minut	Mead	Wood	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook 5G	Brown	Casey	Hough	Peralta	Clegg 1T	Prescott	Martindale 1T	Quinlan	Varley	Round	Sinfield
9	Keighley Cougars	L28-32	1642	Minut	Mead	Wood 1G	Farrell 1T	McNicholas 2T	Crook	Brown 1T, 3G	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Round	Quinlan	Sinfield	Coates	Varley	Jackman	Peralta
23	Swinton Lions	L24-31	1478	Minut	Mead	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 1T, 4G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Round 1T	Varley	Sinfield	Coates	Shaw	Prescott	Quinlan 1T
30	WHITEHAVEN W.	L24-32	775	Minut	Mead	Farrell	Jackman	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 4G	Casey	Hough	Clegg 1T	Round 1T	Varley 1T	Sinfield 1T	Fitzpatrick	Shaw	Prescott	Barket
JUNE																				
6	Workington Town	W22-17	1148	Minut 1T	Mead	Leulla 1T	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook 2T	Brown 1G	Clegg	Barker	Peralta	Round	Varley	Shaw 1T	Coates	Darkes	Hough	Jackman
9	FEATHERSTONE	L18-25	901	Minut	Mead	Leulla	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook 1T	Brown 3G	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Round	Varley	Shaw	Darkes	Barker	Jackman 1T	Peralta
13	ROCHDALE	W26-18	3023	Minut 1T	Mead	Leulla	Darkes 1T	McNicholas	Crook	Brown 5G	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Round	Varley	Shaw	Farrell	Barker	Jackman 1T	Peralta
18	BATLEY BULLDOGS	D20-20	1013	Farrell	Mead	Leulla	Darkes	McNicholas 1T	Crook	Brown 1T1G	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Round 1T	Peralta	Shaw 1T	Coates 1G	Barker	Jackman	Sinfield
27	Featherstone Rovers	L6-61	1437	Farrell 1T1G	Mead	Sinfield	Darkes	McNicholas	Crook	Brown	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Round	Peralta	Shaw	Perrett	Barker	Jackman	Prescott
JULY																				
4	HULL K. R.	H																		
7	DEWBURY RAMS	H																		
11	Barrow B. R.	A																		
18	HUNSLET HAWKS	H																		
25	Widnes Vikings	A																		
30	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H 7.45																		
AUGUST																				
8	Leigh Centurions	A																		
13	BRAMLEY	H 7.45																		
22	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H																		
29	York	A																		



**Oldham Council is proud to celebrate
the 150th Anniversary of the Borough's
municipal status in 1999.**

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

To invest in Oldham and take advantage of its central
location and excellent communications links
contact the Council's Economic Development Department now.

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email edd.jblair@oldham.gov.uk
web-site www.oldham.gov.uk

OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

Today's Sponsors

Man of the Match Sponsor

Supersys

OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 1 Jimmy COWAN | | | |
| 2 Adrian MEAD | | | |
| 3 Richard DARKES | | | |
| 4 Mick FARRELL | | | |
| 5 Joe McNICHOLAS | | | |
| 6 Paul CROOK | | | |
| 7 Daniel BROWN | | | |
| 8 Leo CASEY | | | |
| 9 John HOUGH | | | |
| 10 Jason CLEGG | | | |
| 11 Paul ROUND | | | |
| 12 Graeme SHAW | | | |
| 13 Emerson JACKMAN | | | |
| 14 Keith BRENNAN | 16 Emmanuel PERALTA | | |
| 15 Criag BARKER | 17 Mike PRESCOTT | | |

Today's Officials

Today's Referee
Mr Graham Shaw



Touch Judges
Mr Steve Ellaby
Mr Dave Blood

DEWSBURY RAMS

Coach Neil Kelly

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| 1 Nathan GRAHAM | | | |
| 2 Alex GODFREY | | | |
| 3 Danny WOOD | | | |
| 4 Brendan O'MEARA | | | |
| 5 Adrian FLYNN | | | |
| 6 Richard AGAR | | | |
| 7 Barry EATON | | | |
| 8 Alan BOOTHROYD | | | |
| 9 Paul DELANEY | | | |
| 10 Simon HICKS | | | |
| 11 Andrew SPINK | | | |
| 12 Mark HAIGH | | | |
| 13 Greg PEARCE | | | |
| 14 Damian BALL | 16 Paul MEDLEY | | |
| 15 Gareth COCHRANE | 17 Matthew LONG | | |

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS