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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



TONIGHT we entertain Doncaster, in what has become a game of vital importance for the Oldham club. Our last five games have been nothing short of disastrous culminating in Sunday's embarrassing performance and score line against Widnes. That was the lowest point since the club was re-formed and it gave me immense displeasure to be at the helm of the club on such a humiliating day.

There are now two ways the players can go. Firstly they can throw in the towel or secondly (and I'm sure this is the option they will take) they can regain the pride and commitment they showed earlier in the season when we proved that we weren't outclassed in this division. The end of the season probably can't come quickly enough for many of you but there is no way that I will raise the white flag and the board, coaching staff and players should all be looking to win every game between now and the end of the season.

By the time you are reading these notes some very important decisions will have been made about the future of the game. These will involve News Corporation funding for the next few years, the structure of the division, and probably most important of all for you the fans, when the season will start and finish.

I have been heavily involved with the production of the strategy document which will have been presented to the clubs by Neil Tunnicliffe and I feel that if clubs accept that we are now at a watershed in the game then we have a chance to make a future - let's hope so.

Finally, please get behind the team tonight. We are starting a five game season and I want to give you something to shout about.

Thank you for your support.

Christopher Hamilton



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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

CLUBS in the Northern Ford Premiership, which met this afternoon for what was expected to be a lively and provocative debate on key issues affecting next season, are bracing themselves for tough times ahead.

Many changes are already taking place in the boardrooms of several clubs – and finance, or a lack of it, is the key issue.

The casualties include some of the biggest names in the game, notably two Hull KR directors in Colin Hutton and Phil Lowe.

In total, five directors of the Craven Park club have been ousted by the administrators, but it will be the loss of Hutton and Lowe, two men who have devoted years of service and hard work to the Robins, which will be felt most by those of us who have been in and around Rugby League for the past 30 to 40 years.

I don't know Phil Lowe as well as I know Colin Hutton, a sincere and true gentleman of Rugby League who, quite by chance, helped to shape the destiny of professional rugby league in Oldham in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

As Hull's full-back in the 1957 championship final at Odsal he missed an all-important penalty which gave Oldham a narrow one-point win – and the championship trophy.

Seven years later he was coach of Hull KR when the red, red Robins went bob, bob bobbing along to Wembley courtesy of that controversial cup semi-final replay at Station Road when the tie was abandoned for bad light with Oldham ahead in the first period of extra time.

Colin and I recalled that crucial turning point in Oldham's history only a few weeks ago when the Rovers were here at Spotland.

Little did we know then that this elder statesman with a lifetime's experience and know-how would soon be lost to the game.

To many of us Colin Hutton WAS Hull KR in much the same way that we probably find it hard to imagine a trip to Widnes without bumping into Frank Myler or big Jim Mills.

They were still there, as large as life, when the Roughyeds took something of a hammering at the Autoquest Stadium last Sunday – two great servants of club and game who have seen the good times and the bad times and who, somehow, continue to represent the very foundations of the club to which they have devoted much of their lives.

To the new, younger breed of club administrators, whose business, academic and professional skills are essential at a period of the game's evolution when the balance sheet is perhaps more important than the tackle bag, the old-timers are worth their weight in gold as sounding boards on rugby matters.

Anyway, that brings me back to where I came in – balance sheets.

York Wasps may be the subject of a takeover bid by a former chairman of Halifax, Ron Dobson, and Keighley Cougars are looking for a new chairman after the resignation of Howard Carter.

It's all to do with money. Well, not quite all. Listen to what Dobson has to say about his proposed bid for York.

"I would run a tight financial ship and I would have my accountants look through everything first. I would want to be hands-on and I would want Maurice Bamford involved, not as a coach, but as a football-type manager. His experience and knowledge would be invaluable."

Maurice Bamford . . . another Colin Hutton, another Frank Myler, another Jim Mills. Food for thought, yes?

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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to Doncaster.

Well what can be said to make anybody involved with the club, whether a fan in an official capacity or a spectator, to make them feel a little bit better! The answer is a big fat 'NOTHING'.

There is no hiding place, and whatever fans might think or feel, it's ten fold for myself and Graeme. It just doesn't taste nice.

How different did the team look without our regular props? The physical presence at Widnes was non-existent.

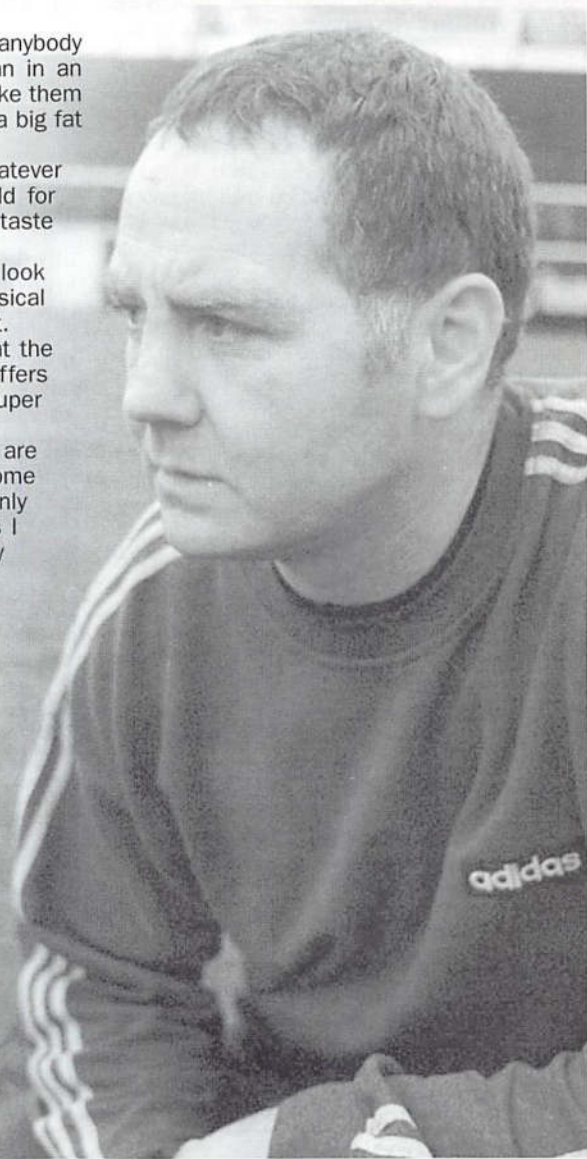
We need players who can play at the level that the top half of our division offers week after week, or even fringe Super League players.

Another area that some fans are blaming is myself! I hear what some minorities say, that I have coached only amateur sides. But the five seasons I had charge of Saddleworth were very successful, and what was achieved is unlikely ever to be matched. But there I had the main ingredients to make a good side. I had a good size squad of good players. We also had a home where we could train anytime and play there week after week. Here the size of the squad has been tested to the extreme, and then asked to do it all again the following match regardless, sometimes a little unfairly. And because of that commitment they have my respect, I only wish more could be done.

Anyway, those who turn up try to give the team a lift. They need your support more now than at any time this season.

Enjoy the game.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

"SUCCESS IS HOW HIGH YOU BOUNCE WHEN YOU HIT BOTTOM" - General George Patton

Last week's headline in the Advertiser - 'Oldham hit rock bottom' - was, in view of the 84-0 defeat at Widnes, somewhat premature. Let us hope that if it were repeated this week it would be true. Because once you hit bottom, the only way is up. We always knew 1999 was going to be a difficult season, but I imagine no-one could have predicted just how difficult back in February. In recent weeks Oldham fans have had to absorb a heavy dose of realism and it has been brought home to us how harsh and unforgiving the world of professional sport can be. With due respect to our opponents, it is to be hoped that the games against Doncaster and Lancashire Lynx can provide the tonic we all need in the shape of four much needed points. Certainly a good result or two before the season's end would put everyone in a better frame of mind and might enable some optimism to be rekindled during the close season. It would then be up to the R.F.L. in its decisions about allocation of finance, length and timing of season, and fixture format to generate some interest for 2000. And, of course, it would help if there were some positive news from either Oldham Borough Council or Oldham Athletic (or both) about a return of the Rugby League Club to the town. We might then, as Patton did, begin to bounce back.



THE R.F.L. got one change right not so long ago! Namely, that having scored, the scoring side kicked off. The change back to the team which has conceded points re-starting play means a side can spend an awfully long time without possession, which is what happened

to Oldham at Widnes last week. Consequently we have seen a return to massive scores and one-sided games. Time for another re-think?



AS an aside to the Ellery Hanley affair. Back in the days of the Roughyed Fanzine before the birth of the Bears, we asked Ellery for an interview. Very optimistic in view of his known antagonism to media exposure! However, shortly before his departure for Australia Ellery took the time and trouble to telephone his regrets at not being able to assist us. Just goes to show that Ellery's attention to detail does extend to everyone.

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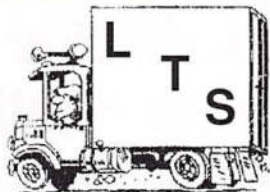
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

We wish to send out a warm Oldham Rugby League welcome to Doncaster Dragons, to their players, supporters and Junior Members.

Thanks to all the Junior Roughyeds who came to the July meeting. Many thanks to the players, Leo Casey, Emerson Jackman, Emmanuel Peralta and Joe McNicholas; they were great sports and joined in all the fun and games.

We will not be having a Junior Roughyeds meeting in August but we are holding an end of season disco. We have got a great D.J. booked for the evening who plays loads of party games for the children and adults to join in.

The date is the 17th September at the Pennine Lounge (more details later). It's going to be a great night.

The Mascot for today's match is **Callum Casey**. Callum has worked hard all season as one of our ballboys. His favourite player is, yes!, you guessed, (his dad) Leo Casey,

Have a great time Callum.



Callum Casey

The Mascot for the home game against Dewsbury was Christopher Tarkenter.

Christopher had this to say about being the mascot.

My Day as a Mascot for Oldham by Christopher Tarkenter.

I WAS mascot against Dewsbury.

I got a new shirt from the shop and some red and white socks from Detra.

When we got to Spotland lots of people kept telling me how smart I looked but I was very nervous.



Debra Rafferty

The referee gave me a £1 in the tunnel before the players came out.

I enjoyed running on the pitch with Leo Casey because he is my favourite player.

When I got into the centre I had to toss the coin and have my photograph taken.

Christopher Tarkenter

I really enjoyed my day and would look forward to doing it again.

Debra Rafferty

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The Frank Pitchford



Frank Pitchford

BARELY ten stone, just five foot four the fifteen year old was a trainee miner at Leigh's Bickershaw colliery. Not exactly every mothers dream but this was Frank Pitchfords lot! In 1950 that was life. It was in industrial and pit towns like Leigh, Oldham and Wigan.

Whilst he had captained the school rugby side the skinny scrum half had taken many a buffeting and understandably when leaving school turned his attention to soccer. For a season and half he played inside right for the local technical college, talented enough to attract the attention of pro side scouts.

A footballing brain combined with a turn of speed you had to see to believe, a jink and sidestep that was the envy of every other half back, Pitchfords love of rugby soon had the better of him. Having put on a few pounds he was back in his favourite scrum half spot with amateur outfit St Joseph's of Leigh.

Within the next 6 months offers to turn pro came in from both Swinton and Salford. Selected for Leigh towns amateur side to play Leigh 'A' Frank's potential was spotted by Oldham scout Jack O'Neil pipping both the Manchester sides for Frank's signature.

Pitchford arrived at Watersheddings at the beginning of the 1952-53 season and by Christmas was making his debut in the senior side at Liverpool forming a half back pairing with the mercurial Frank Stirrup. The team that day was: **Ratchford, Platt, Mitchell, Davies, Emmitt, Stirrup Pitchford, Anthony, Keith, Day, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.**

The two half back spots were contested for by Pitchford, Stirrup and Frank Daley and it was season 1954-5 before Frank could claim the scrum half spot to be his own. The famous 1950's side

was now taking shape and in turn the speedy scrum half was drawing attention from journalists and League hierarchy alike. That season Oldham won the Lancashire League (the club's first trophy for over 20 years) were runners up to Barrow in the Lancashire Cup and reached the League Championship Final at Maine Road narrowly losing 7-3 to Warrington. Pitchford scorer of Oldhams only try that day was proclaimed by Warrington's international scrum half Gerry Helme to be **"the most promising, fastest and intelligent scrum half in the world"**.

The team for the 1954/5 Championship final was: **Stirrup, Barrow, Cracknell, Davies, O'Grady, Daley, Pitchford, Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.**

When Helme made those comments he could not have foreseen that the game he had played against France the previous Autumn was to be his last at international level being replaced against the 1955 touring Kiwis by Jeff Stevenson. The Leeds scrum half held the position until the 1958 tour of Australia.

Stevenson was selected for the 1958 tour but withdrew, Pitchford added in his place. The touring squad now included just two scrum halves both yet to make their international debut, Alex Murphy and Frank Pitchford. Murphy as expected got the nod for the first Test on Sydney Cricket Ground with the Lions (including Oldham's Alan Davies) firm



No time to change! Frank off to training straight from the pit - collected by Bernard Ganley.

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The Frank Pitchford Story (cont..)



Pitchford and Turner discuss tactics with ex Welsh International Bryn Day!

There had been many salad days at Watersheddings between 1954 and 1959 so the events of October 1959 must have been all the more earth shattering. They certainly shook the club and for that matter, the world of Rugby League, to its foundations.

It started with the news that club official Jack Lewthwaite had resigned because of certain payments and promises made to players. Close behind came the resignation of high profile Oldham club and Rugby League Chairman Frank Ridgeway. After that the drama burst onto the national scene when ten Oldham officials were expelled from the sport by the Rugby League!

They stood accused of making illegal payments to players but more was to come. One player (Frank Pitchford) was suspended until 'loans from the club' were repaid and others were given strict deadlines to pay back monies loaned to them. The issue went to court and the Oldham officials cleared of breaking the laws of the game, subsequently reinstated but the loans ceased!

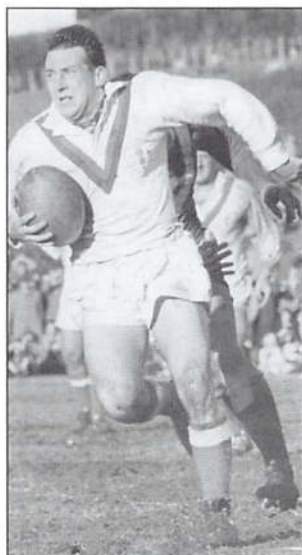
Some, more knowledgeable of the times and circumstances than I, pinpoint this event as the beginning of the clubs decline. It seems more than coincidental that when the loans 'dried up' some players chose to leave. It hit Pitchford quite differently. Most scrum halves are extrovert in character and would have brushed off any criticism and suspicion. Pitchford could not, just the opposite, a quiet and unassuming man, it hurt but he stayed with the club.

By some, the Oldham side of the mid/late 50's was deemed at the time to be the best in the world. I don't know. The fact that the club never graced the Wembley turf to me says something. Perhaps it lacked just a little bit of steel. I do think if we had managed to win the Challenge Cup it

would have been hard to argue. What I do know is that because we didn't and because the team only dominated the English league scene for a comparatively short period of time the side, whilst the most entertaining I have ever seen, can not be compared with the true greats Huddersfield around the time of the first world war, Wigan of the 1990's.....

On the other hand whilst Frank Pitchford may have been eclipsed on the international front and, I, having had the advantage of talking over the years to many of his contemporaries, including Alex Murphy, am convinced that he just had the edge over Murphy at club level. A good scrum half has got to play behind a good pack and both Murphy and Pitchford did. Frank though always seemed to

have 'the indian sign' over Murphy, much as did for instance, Oldham wingman John Etty over St. Helen's Tom Van Vollenhoven.



A typical Pitchford break on the New Zealand leg of the 1958 Tour

Frank Pitchford didn't leave the club until 1962 having had at least one more serious shot at the Challenge Cup (captaining the side against Hull in the 1960 semi defeat). He followed his great pal Alan Davies to Wigan both playing at the Twin Towers in Wigans defeat by St. Helens. Frank played only 28 games for the Central Park outfit and retired.

Frank Pitchford played 305 games for Oldham scoring 105 tries! He died from a heart attack in 1989. His wife, Mary, still lives in the Leigh area and dotes on their six grandchildren (all football supporters!).

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DON LOOKS BACK TO A DONCASTER MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



THE ROUGHYEDS' aim to complete a rare league double this evening when bottom club Doncaster visit Spotland. Unfortunately for the Dons, being bottom of the table is not an unfamiliar position. Since being formed in 1951, Doncaster have ended a season at the bottom of the table 13 times, including five

consecutive seasons between 1956 and 1961. In fairness to Doncaster, during their 48 year existence, Super League giants Bradford Northern and Halifax have also ended a season in bottom spot. Oldham have never finished bottom, although in 1970 only scoring difference kept them above bottom club Blackpool Borough after both finished with 12 points.

Doncaster's history, however, has not been all doom and gloom. Indeed, during 1994 they enjoyed a short spell at the very top of the Championship table. The Dons had gained promotion to the top division with a last gasp win at Batley in April 1994 and four months later they opened their First Division campaign with an equally sensational victory. A 29-20 win over St. Helens at Knowsley Road. The following Friday, Doncaster entertained Widnes in the Sky TV match. The line-up for that game was as follows:

Doncaster: Jamie Bloem; Mark Roache, Martin Rowse, Dave Evans, Max Tomlinson; Alex Green, Brendan Carlyle; Glyn Lingard, Sonny Whakarau, Vila Matautia, Tony Miller, Audley Pennant and Rocky Turner.

Substitutes: Ian Fletcher and Wayne Jackson.

Widnes: Christian Tyrer; Jason Green, Karle Hammond, Darren Wright, Adrian Hadley; David Ruane, Chris Kelly; Andy Ireland, Steve

McCurrie, Lee Hansen, Aiden Halliwell, Paul Myler and David Hulme.

Substitutes: Tony Thorniley and Scott Walker.

Workmen and inmates from the nearby Lindholme Prison had been working frantically all week on the stands and terracing at the Tattersfield ground in order to get the stadium passed by ground safety officials in time for kick-off. They just succeeded, for their efforts were only approved an hour before kick-off when queues had begun to form outside the ground. The attendance for that Widnes match was 3,221, modest by some standards but exceptional at Doncaster around that time.

The locals in the crowd were treated to another rarity as the Dons completely outplayed opponents who had been amongst the game's pacesetters during the previous decade. An early try from Dave Evans set Doncaster on course for a memorable victory. They led 13-2 at half-time and went on to win 21-6 with further tries from Jamie Bloem (2) and Alex Green who also landed two conversions and a dropped goal. Widnes could only reply with a Tyrer penalty and a try from Darren Wright.

That victory took Doncaster to the top of the table, a tremendous achievement even though the Dons only held that lofty position for 48 hours. Victories by Castleford, Wigan, Leeds and Bradford Northern later that weekend relegated Doncaster to fifth position and gave the top of the table a more familiar look. Seven days later Tattersfield housed its biggest ever crowd when 6,440 crammed in for the visit of Leeds. Doncaster lost that match and, in fact, won only three more matches throughout the rest of the season.

The Dons finished bottom of Division One and were duly relegated. Since then things have gone from bad to worse with Doncaster's very existence in doubt on a couple of occasions. But, like Oldham, they have pulled through and long may they continue to fly the rugby league flag in South Yorkshire.

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OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS SEASON 1999

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IN TOWN TONIGHT

DONCASTER

TONY MILLER

Long serving. Second row. Formerly with Featherstone Rovers

DARREN SUMMERILL

Second Row. A local lad formerly with Keighley Cougars.

GRAHAM SOTHERNWOOD

Loose forward. Former Castleford, Featherstone, Hunslet and Keighley forward.

GARETH PRATT

Prop. Hardworking, former Dewsbury player.

LEE MAHER

Fullback. Exciting fullback with pace who picked up the Dragons' Man of the Match against Oldham St Annes.

IAN WATSON

A winger with pace who is exciting to watch in full flight.

ALFIE GOULBOURNE

Ex-Oldham Winger. The Dragons' leading try scorer this season.

DARYL DEROSE

Second row. A strong running second rower formerly playing for Huddersfield.

CRAIG MOORE

Centre. An acquisition from York Wasps who runs and tackles hard.

JOHN OKUL

Centre. Powerful Papua New Guinian centre, formerly with Hull K.R.

JOHN BRUCE

A hard working prop forward who has returned to the Dragons after spells with Dewsbury and Batley.

GUY ADAMS

Livewire Hooker formerly with Huddersfield.

GAVIN MORGAN

Prop Doncaster Toll Bar amateur now running hard at Doncaster Dragons.

BILLY CONWAY

Former Wakefield Trinity favourite. Very experienced player. Always gives 100%.

COLIN CARTER

BARLA International from Hull. Very good hands - one to watch for.

RICHARD HEWITT

In his second spell with the club. Had some time playing RU in South Africa. Centre or second row.

JIMMY WALKER

Pacey half back. Also at home in the centre.

KIEREN ALLEN

Former Wakefield and Hunslet half back. Club Captain. Has a lot of experience.

JAMIE BARTLE

Signed from Sheffield RU. Also played for Orrell. St John Ellis' first signing.

IAN ST JOHN ELLIS

Coach. Formerly with York, Castleford and Hunslet. Has a wealth of experience at the highest levels.

PAUL LISTER

Prop. Signed from Eastmoor ARFC Wakefield.

ARRON CAMPBELL

Winger on loan from Hunslet.

DAVID MYCOE

Stand Off. Former Sheffield and Hunslet Star. Good kicker. Good hands.

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Iva Slateloose



I WAS recently able to interview the well respected ex-player, now top coach, Celery Fanley: this is what he had to say:-

On Club Directors -

Most directors are men of the highest integrity. They are upright, honest, courteous and polite. Contrary to popular opinion most of them have at some time organised booze-ups in breweries, and very successfully, too. a Director can always be relied upon to return a telephone call. A Director is exceptionally knowledgeable about Rugby League football and those who play it and would never, of course, sanction the signing of an Australian second-row forward who was as much use as a fart in a space suit. Astute Directors would always see the value of raiding an ailing club for its best players, as for example a certain loose-forward with Halifax Bluesox. Let's face it some of my best friends are club Directors. Unfortunately most of them are at Wigan.

On Directors of Football -

Some of my best friends in Rugby League are Directors of Football. Unfortunately none of them are at St. Helens.

On Media and Marketing Men -

Some of my best friends in Rugby League

are Marketing Men. Unfortunately none of them are at St. Helens.

On the Press, Radio and TV -

I just love giving interviews to the seekers after truth whose journalistic talent would never allow them to betray a trust, nor twist one's words for the sake of a sensational story. They could never, for example, invent a mischievous story that I wanted to offload Keiran Cunningham and Tommy Martyn. Some of my best friends are media men and I love them all.

On Referees -

Merry whistle-blowers are the salt of the earth, totally infallible, trustworthy and unbiased. Some of my best friends are referees. Unfortunately, none of them ever controls a St. Helens fixture.

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT and if you believe any of the above you'd better watch out for large porcine droppings from the sky. Get yourself a big umbrella!



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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

TODAY we welcome to Spotland the players, officials and supporters of the Doncaster club.

The 'Dons' were admitted to the Rugby League for the 1951/52 season. However, it would be twelve years before they played their first game against Oldham. That second division match was played at Watersheddings on October 12th 1963. The Roughyeds, who would go on to finish the season as champions, were in a rich vein of good form and emerged from the game with an impressive victory by forty five points to thirteen. Skipper, Frank Dyson kicked nine goals to supplement the nine tries from Mike Elliott (2), Peter Smethurst (2), Brian Lord, Trevor Simms, Jack Pycroft, Len McIntyre and Geoff Robinson.

The attendance was 5,621

Oldham Team: F Dyson; M Elliott, B Lord, P Smethurst, T Simms; V Nestor, J Pycroft; C Bott, L McIntyre, K Wilson, G Robinson, H Major, D Parker.

The return match three weeks later at Tattersfield was a much more keenly contested encounter with Doncaster giving table topping Oldham a fright before going down by twelve points to six.

Prior to this season the last match between the two sides was a first division match at Tattersfield

on February 15th 1995. Oldham approached this game with much caution due to the fact that exactly one year earlier they had suffered a humiliating 20 - 0 defeat in the Challenge Cup on the same ground.

The match proved to be another tough fixture but the Roughyeds eventually prevailed 22 - 14, thanks mainly to the superb goal kicking of New Zealander Wilson Marsh whose seven goals paved the way for the Oldham success. The try scorers were Mike Kuiti and Wally Gibson.

Oldham Team: W Gibson; D Jones, M Kuiti, D Abram, A Belle; W Marsh, S Gartland; I Sherratt, D Stephenson, J Temu, P Davidson, J Faimalo, I Green.

Subs: G Lord, P Norman



Clive Hunter scores his first try for Oldham in the game against Doncaster, at Watersheddings, on March 30th 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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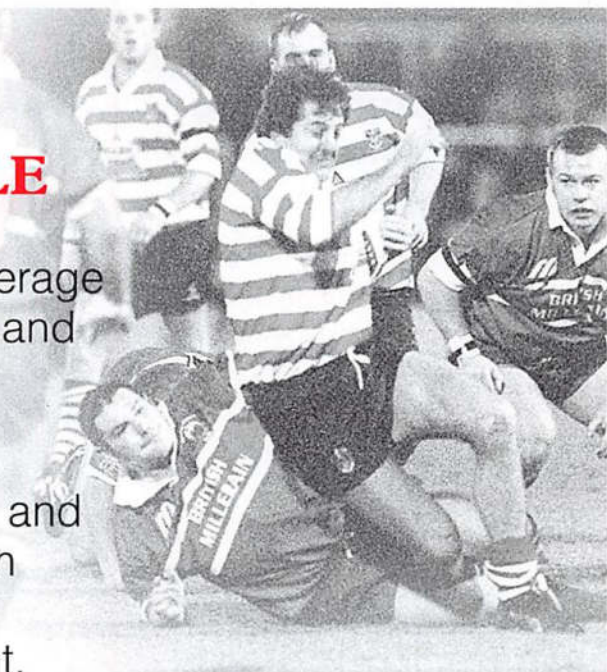
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DON YATES

On This Day

DON RECALLS THIS DAY IN RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORY



TWO YEARS ago, on Wednesday 30th July, clubs outside the Super League were engaged in the Divisional Premiership.

Several players with Oldham connections were involved in those matches. Andy Proctor, ex Saddleworth Rangers and later to become a Roughyed before moving on to Bramley, was in the Wakefield Trinity pack which laid the foundations for a 31-22 victory over Featherstone Rovers. At loose-forward for Trinity was Sonny Whakarau, a member of the Doncaster team during their First Division days, whilst former St. Annes prop Steve Molloy appeared for Rovers in that match. Back-row forward Mike Kuiti, once of Oldham, was in the second-row for Batley who lost 18-14 at home to Dewsbury whilst the former Oldham utility back Jamie Bloem landed six goals for Widnes as they defeated Rochdale Hornets 50-10. At scrum-half for Hornets that evening was Richard Pachniuk, the ex-Oldham hooker who caused so many problems for the Roughyeds in the last home match when he was playing for Hunslet. One of the Rochdale substitutes against Widnes was Brian Quinlan, now on Oldham's books although currently staying away from the club. That match, incidentally, was switched from Widnes to Runcorn because of reconstruction work at Naughton Park and the attendance was a disappointing 893.

Four years previously, on Friday 30th July 1993, the Great Britain under 18s met Australia in the final match of their tour 'down under'. The Aussies won 15-8 with the British points coming from a couple of Cumbrians, both of whom have since turned professional. Centre David Seeds, Kells but now at Whitehaven, grabbed the British try,

with Jonathan Roper, Hensingham but now at Warrington, adding a couple of goals. The pick of the British team, however, was hooker Jon Clarke, then of East Leeds but later of Oldham before moving on to Hunslet and then his current club, Batley.

It was on this day in 1910, Saturday 30th July, that Great Britain registered a remarkable victory over New Zealand in the only meeting between these countries during that first ever British Lions tour of Australasia. The match was staged at the Domain Cricket Ground, Auckland and the Kiwis led 15-10 at half time. After the break, however, Great Britain staged an amazing recovery and went on to win 52-20 with the speedy Oldham back-row forward Bert 'Slosher' Avery crossing for three of the twelve British tries.

Four years later the Lions were back in New Zealand where they won all six matches. On Thursday 30th July 1914 they beat Wanganui 57-12 with Oldham full-back Alf Woods landing nine goals.

The British Lions registered another high scoring victory over Kiwi opposition in 1958. That day, Wednesday 30th July, they beat Wellington 62-20 and, in so doing, crossed for 16 tries. Three of those touchdowns were credited to winger Ike Southward who also landed seven goals for a total of 23 points.

Wellington were also involved in a notable match exactly 21 years later, on Sunday 30th July 1989. That day Wellington entertained Canterbury in a Provincial Championship match. Canterbury led 16-4 at half-time but Wellington fought back during an extraordinary second half to win 22-18. Leading the recovery were Mike Kuiti (ex-Oldham), who scored a try, and Sonny Whakarau (ex-Doncaster), two players who greatly impressed during successful campaigns playing here in Britain.

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**ROUGHYEDS**

Rfl Alliance Div One

*Coach Graeme Bradley*

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

				F - A
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	P
	19	Batley Bulldogs	A	18 - 36
	23	Featherstone R.	H	10 - 34
July	1	Keighley Cougars	A	32 - 24
	10	Barrow B. R.	H	16 - 26
	14	Hunslet Hawks	A	12 - 64
	21	Leigh Centurions	A	20 - 40
	31	Alliance Challenge Cup - 1st Rnd		
Aug	14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd		
	18	Rochdale Hornets H		
	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd		
Sept	11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final		
	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final		

OFF-FIELD events overshadowed those on the field of play in both these fixtures. At Hunslet it was a breakdown by one type of coach and at Leigh by the other type. The mechanical kind may turn out to be the easier of the two to fix.

Although newcomers Danny Webster and Martin Maders showed up well at South Leeds Stadium together with Mick Farrell, the conceding of eleven tries told its own story. As with the first team, things just go from bad to worse. Scorers: Tries by Kenny and Maders. Farrell two goals.

At Hilton Park the red carding of Graeme Bradley made bigger headlines than the performance on the field. The Australian's reluctance to accept the referee's judgement was certainly a talking point and will undoubtedly put him in trouble at Red Hall.

On the field the highlight was the return to Oldham colours of big prop Danny Guest whose performance was good enough to catapult him into the senior side at Widnes. Early on Oldham were overwhelmed by the Centurions, but hit back in the last ten minutes to give the scoreline some respectability. Tries by Duckett, Guest, Fitzpatrick and Farrell. Goals by Farrell and Davies.

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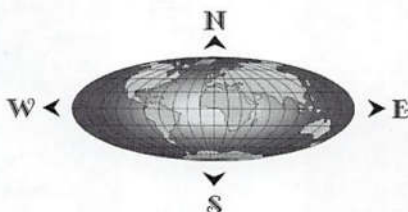
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3 Afi LEUILA

4 Emerson JACKMAN

5 Joe McNICHOLAS

6 Danny WEBSTER

7 Keith BRENNAN

8 Mike PRESCOTT

9 John HOUGH

10 Emmanuel PERALTA

11 Paul ROUND

12 Graeme SHAW

13 Daniel BROWN

14 Mark PERRETT

16 Joe NAIDOLE

15 Danny GUEST

17 Ian SINFIELD

Today's Officials

Today's Referee
Mr Julian King



Touch Judges
Mr Steve Tordoff
Mr Steve Ellaby

DONCASTER

Coach: Ian St. John Ellis

1 Lee MAHER

2 Aaron CAMPBELL

3 James MOSLEY

4 Richard HEWITT

5 John OKUL

6 Kieran ALLEN

7 David MYCOE

8 John BRUCE

9 Billy CONWAY

10 Paul LISTER

11 Darryl DEROSE

12 Guy ADAMS

13 Graham SOUTHERNWOOD

14 Chris WATSON

16 Chris PARR

15 Dean ANDREWS

17 Gavin MORGAN

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