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CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

Chairman's Chatter



THERE'S a distinctly negative feeling to everything associated with the club at the present time. The feeling of disappointment at how the season has gone has transformed itself into one of total despair which goes far beyond that. Let me make one thing clear - we are all suffering because things haven't gone our way but there is no way that events this year will detract from what we are trying to achieve and that is a successful Oldham Rugby League team. That means success ON the field as well as off it.



Although it is not always noticeable to you the supporters, a lot of work goes on seven days a week by the staff at the club, and it is hard for them to keep motivated when all they see and hear is negative statements about the club. At the risk of repeating myself we also have to keep in perspective exactly where we are in our development **AS A BRAND NEW CLUB**. We have done LESS than two years and although we have struggled this year, for a variety of reasons, it is not all doom and gloom. Tonight we welcome Bramley who have had a good season so far with only one or two hiccups such as last weeks defeat at bottom club Doncaster and it will be a game which both sides will be looking to win.

Today will have seen further debate on the APC strategy document and hopefully we will soon be in a position to make decisions about the medium term future of the game at Premiership level. This is a crucial time for the game below Super League and we must not fail to seize the opportunity to rectify some of the inherent problems that years of apathy have brought.

Keep the faith.

Chris Hamilton

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE'S

Roger Halstead

SLOWLY but surely the decision-makers for the future of the game outside Super League appear to be heading back towards winter rugby.

First we had the idea of APC chairman Bob McDermott to start next season on Boxing Day with three chief objectives – to allow clubs to play traditional Christmas and New Year fixtures, to test the popularity of winter rugby in January and February without going all the way and to create a season in which Northern Ford Premiership clubs had at least two months without Super League competition.

While clubs were getting their heads around that little lot, it emerged that RFL chief Neil Tunncliffe was preparing a strategy document with proposals on several issues designed to safeguard the future of Premiership clubs over the next few years.

This official 16-page document appears to have replaced McDermott's suggestions . . . and, lo and behold, it calls for next season to start on December 1.

My view – and I have expressed it before in this programme – is that if we are going to tinker about once more with the timing of our season we MUST take advantage of the three best months for rugby in the UK calendar, namely September, October and November.

I can sympathise with those who will inevitably argue that it is inviting trouble to start a new season on December 1, just as the worst of the winter is about to hit us.

I wonder, however, if this is a clever move which could be the forerunner of a gradual return to a full winter season over the course of the next few years.

Given anything like a hint of encouragement by attendances in December, I'm sure the winter-rugby lobby would push to start on November 1 in 2000, October 1 in 2001 and September 1 in 2002, by which time we would be back where we said farewell to the traditional winter season in 1995.

Oldham chairman Christopher Hamilton, incidentally, also had a major input on Tunncliffe's strategy document, which was due to be discussed by APC clubs in Dewsbury today.

Tunncliffe also wants to abolish the top-five play-off system in the Premiership and replace it with a conventional and truly English-style top-eight play-off to be decided by a straight knock-out format.

That makes sense, too, because as we know only too well from the experience of the Roughyeds, this season for far too many teams in the Premiership was effectively over little more than half way through the programme.

Tunncliffe was also proposing a fixture formula which would require all clubs to play each other home and away, giving a 34-match league programme.

For the first eight weeks of the season the clubs would be split into two geographical groups of nine, based on a split between Yorkshire as one group and Lancashire and Cumbria as the other.

The clubs will play other clubs in their region and the top club from either side of the Pennines would play a Trans Pennine Cup final some time in late January.

Also proposed is a NFP knock-out tournament and plans to limit clubs to part-time professionals apart from one overseas player, whom clubs would be allowed to put on a full-time contract.

Apart from that, NFP players would be limited to a maximum winning bonus of £175 a match, falling to £100 in the 2001 season as the clubs income from News Corporation begins to run out.

It all makes sense . . . but I'll bet it was some meeting in Dewsbury today!



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MICK COATES

Game On...



WELCOME to Fordy and his Bramley team!

Well, one of the goals at the start of the season was to finish higher up the division than the teams that would have made up the 2nd division.

Today's visitors are one of those teams. But they are well placed in mid table after some good performances. A lot of things are said during the course of the season sometimes in the heat of the moment, but people being what they are will insist on having something to shout about, and if they have nothing good to shout about then they will do the opposite which creates a situation where the whole thing can explode and leave nothing.

We need to set **REALISTIC GOALS** and work hard to achieve them.

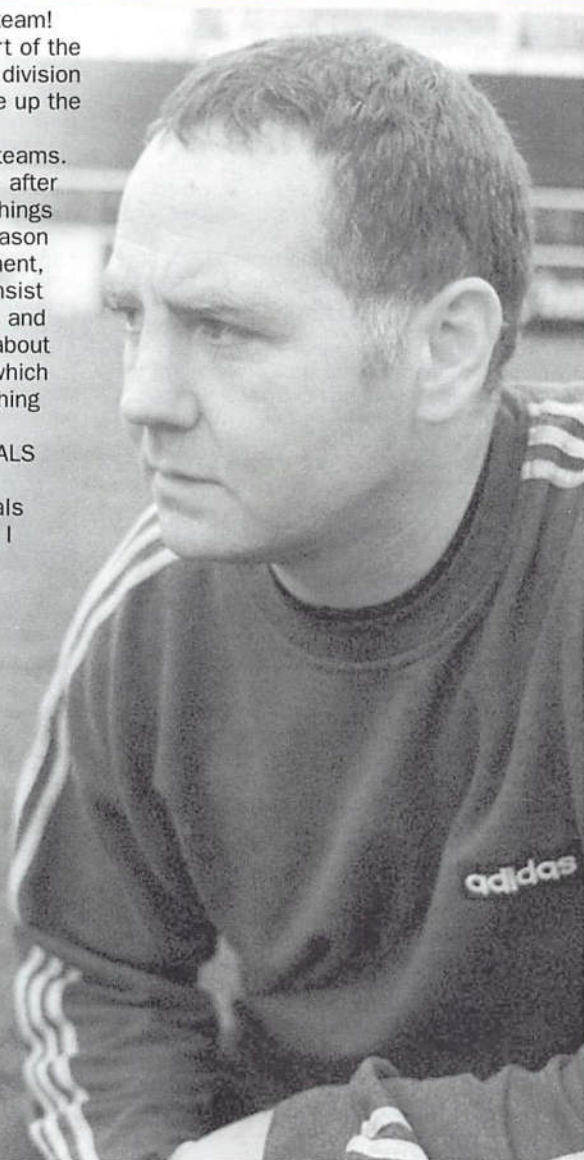
Myself and Graeme had goals which for a variety of reasons, which I won't bore you or insult your intelligence with, but the bottom line is I failed, which is not easy to take.

The last several weeks have been very trying for me and the players, but it's happened and there's no rewind button that we can press to go back and start again.

Hopefully things will be learned and improved, and if success is achieved, then you supporters that have continued to watch the team will get your just reward.

On the player front we are pleased to have Jim Salisbury with us to the end of the season.

Mick



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FROM

The Editor

"SUPER League in crisis...Crisis Management...Our game is dying on its feet...No direction...No leadership...No plan." These were the themes of the callers to G.M.R. as I drove back from Oldham's defeat at Leigh. O.K., so R.L. followers are well known for knocking their own sport, but given that there was yet another 'big meeting' last Tuesday (the outcome of which was not known before going to press), at which the goalposts might be moved yet again, can we really be surprised?

High on the agenda at the meeting will have been the question of mergers and the financial incentives for same. So let us look at what merger really means. Huddersfield - Halifax? The former has the stadium and the latter has the team, so any merger in effect means Halifax playing at the McAlpine. It might be as well to think of Swinton at Bury and Oldham at Rochdale before rushing into that one! Sorry, but I don't see Halifax fans travelling to Huddersfield. All a merger achieves is to kill the professional game in one of its strongholds.

So, how about Wakefield - Sheffield? Now where do these two play? Neither has an entirely satisfactory stadium. If you go to Don Valley another stronghold loses its representation and the biggest centre of the Wakefield Metropolitan Borough has no team, while two of its smaller centres, Castleford and Featherstone, survive. If you play in Wakefield the consequence will be to abandon development in Sheffield after twenty years of endeavour. Where's the sense in that?

Salford and Swinton? This one could be a runner. Swinton are already off their territory, but it could mean a move into Manchester. A Malcolm White led super club could make sense here if people are prepared to grasp the nettle.

To the outsider two other mergers make eminent sense. Hull Sharks and Hull K.R. is obvious, but a century of cross-town rivalry is a big hurdle to jump. Meanwhile Whitehaven - Workington has already begun with the formation of the West Cumbrian alliance side. Further development to create a Cumbrian Super League club makes sense to everyone except, apparently, the leaders of S.L.E.

Mergers, however, should ALWAYS be enacted between consenting and equal partners.

Does anyone seriously think that Barrow Border Raiders is anything other than Barrow signing a few Carlisle players and the game being closed down in Cumbria's biggest city? So far it's our only example of a 'merger' and the warning signs are clear enough.

Just because mergers are the order of the day in Australia does not mean they are the future here. Without having an intimate knowledge of Sydney's geography it is clear that there is a world of difference between clubs from suburbs of the same city merging and those from proud, independent towns coming together. And if mergers are such a great idea why is it that a St. Helens - Wigan combination is never mentioned? After all they are as close geographically as Huddersfield and Halifax or Warrington and Widnes. But then, we all know whose interests are not served by such a merger, don't we?

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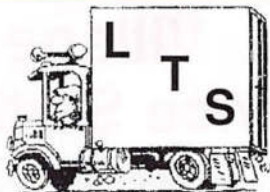
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JUNIOR

Roughyeds



Debra Rafferty

have been chosen for the second time this season to be the Mascot. His favourite player is Jason Clegg.

Have a great time Stefan.

Our Mascot against Hunslet was 7 year old Stella Louise Greenhalgh.



Stefan Holmes

My Day as Mascot by Stella Louise Greenhalgh



Stella Greenhalgh

When we went to Junior Roughyeds Well! we were doing the Mascot draw and Leo called my full name out – Stella Louise Greenhalgh.

I was a bit scared at first, then I had to go to the front.

On the day Debbie had to tell me what to do because it was my first time ever.

When we went on the pitch the referee gave me a pound to toss and he gave it to me after to keep.

Leo really looked after me. It was great.

THE end of the season is fast approaching and this week you should all receive your Junior Roughyeds Newsletter with lots of details about the End of Season Disco. This is going to be a great family night, the DJ plays lots of

games all night. We will also be having a Potato Pie Supper. So book the date in your diaries – 17th September.

We also have the great honour of holding the Player of the Season presentation during the evening. So make sure you also return the Junior Roughyeds' Player of the Season form.

The Mascot for the day for the Historic game against Widnes was Patrick Harwood.

My Day as Mascot by Patrick Harwood

I was lucky to be picked as Mascot against Widnes away.

We set off early but got lost and I wasn't all that sure that we would get there. We arrived at the ground at 2.50

and they were waiting for me and an official took me through. When Oldham were about to come out Daniel Brown nearly forgot me because he isn't used to being Captain. I enjoyed a good day out – apart from the result 84-0!

For the win against Doncaster Dragons the Mascot was Zak Round (son of Paul Round).

Zak has been a Ballboy all season for the

A team and first team matches. Well done and thanks to Zak and to all the Ballboys and Lisa Connor for their hard work.

My Day as Mascot by Zak Round

When I got to Spotland I was really excited. When Leo Casey came down the tunnel I felt better.



Zak Round

I ran out onto the pitch and did some stretches with Leo. then I went to the centre spot and flipped the coin. I ran off then with my little brother Akzel. It was a brilliant day because we won!!!

Debra Rafferty



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Bums on

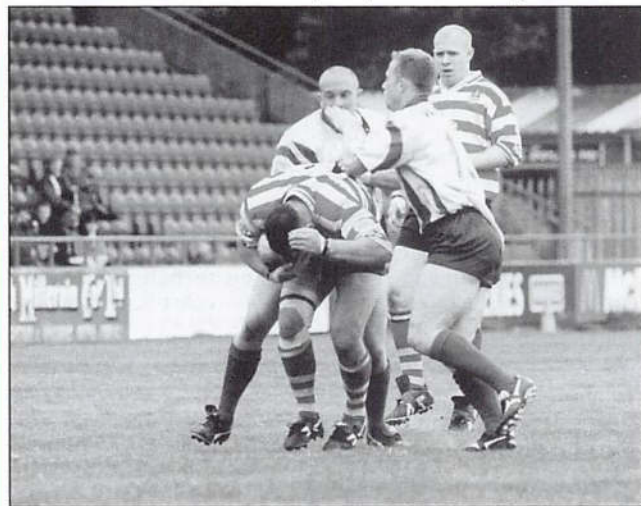
AN unequal and unfair share of News Corporation cash, poor training facilities, a small squad hit by injuries culminating in poor results all keyed to the side playing outside the Borough, have resulted in this season's disappointing attendances. Who would have believed at the beginning of this campaign that from a full Northern Ford Premiership weekend's fixtures Oldham's 'home' game, albeit against Doncaster, would provide the lowest attendance of the weekend (676)?

The average home attendance that season was 1368 and is almost identical to attendance levels so far this season, 1332. So, playing winter football at Watersheddings with a side that would probably blow the gasket out of the current Ford Premiership failed also to attract the audiences. The following season the side was promoted and attendances doubled. Oldham supporters are no different than any others; they will support success in far greater numbers than they support mediocrity.

So, just what is the size of the support in and around the town? Well since the formation of the Roughyeds there have been the 3,000 crowds who turned out for last season's Heworth and Bramley matches and the 3,000 who turned up for this season's Charter Day Rochdale game, all of course at Boundary Park. Oldhamers too made up the mass of the 3,000 attendance at last season's Law Cup at Spotland. I think therefore that its fair to say that if the team is producing the goods in the Premiership they could

expect support along those lines.

Does winter or summer rugby make a significant difference? Probably not. True, the 3,000 attendances at the Heworth and Bramley games were at the 'winter end' of a summer season, but after the heavy defeat by Bramley 1,000 of those spectators didn't turn out for the next home game or for that matter the rest of the season. The club still averaged 2,000 over a mediocre season.



Sign of the times? A new phenomenon? Not if recent history is anything to go by. We need to go back no further than 1978 to find the last time the club struggled in the lower reaches. A squad that included players of the calibre of Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Martin Murphy, John Patterson, John Blair, Geoff Munro, Bob Blackwood, Brian Hughes, Colin Hawkyard and Roger O'Mahoney could finish only ninth from fourteen.



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I think that 3,000 Oldham supporters is a fair estimate of the maximum levels we could expect turning up week in, week out to support a successful second layer team and they would probably turn out regardless of a winter or summer season. However, the vast majority almost certainly would prefer to attend the game in Oldham.

And if the side ever got back into the top flight? Look back at the level of home support over the past few years:

1998	Third Division	Summer	1930
1997	Super League	Summer	4259
1996	Super League	Summer	3541
1995	Centenary	Winter	3826
1994	First	Winter	3977
1993	First	Winter	4046
1992	Second	Winter	3068
1991	Second	Winter	3277
1990	First	Winter	5040
1989	Second	Winter	4751
1988	First	Winter	5693
1987	Second	Winter	3861
1986	First	Winter	4455
1985	First	Winter	4100
1984	First	Winter	4549
1983	First	Winter	3730
1982	First	Winter	3528

The Club's most successful campaign was in 1985 when it finished fifth in the first division with an average gate of 4,100. The most successful season for support was 1988 (5693) and we were relegated! The truth of the matter is, after allowing for the increase in the number of visiting away team supporters, the advantage of playing in the higher flight is that the club would attract the majority of the 3,000 core home support by the increased standard of fixtures. But again we come back to that figure, 3,000.



Super League in summer at Boundary Park with all its razzamataz failed to increase gates over the previous three season's top flight winter rugby at Watersheddings. Then again it didn't fare any worse! So we are back to the 3,000 turning up to support a successful second division side, or are attracted by the higher standard of rugby in the first, winter or summer. But at home in Oldham!

And if we were a really, really, really successful top flight side? Forget it! God bless the 3,000 and bring them forth to multiply!

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BRAMLEY

MARK SIBSON

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ANDY POYNTER

Full back/winger. Former Leeds Rhino Academy. Good strong runner, popular with team mates. Full of potential.

SIMON WRAY

Winger. Strong tackling player, formerly Keighley Cougars.

ANTHONY GIBBONS

Centre, wing & full back. Former Leeds Rhino & Keighley Cougars. Total commitment to team.

DAN POTTER

Centre. Former Leeds Rhino Academy. Potential for Super League.

ANDREW BRENT

Winger. Former Wigan Academy player. Good team player who shares the work load.

STEVEN EMBLETON

Winger. Former University player, good clubman.

MICKY HORNER

Formerly Leeds Rhino player. Hooker or half back. Has the potential to go all the way.

DAVID GIBBONS (CAPTAIN)

Stand off. Great asset to any coach and club. Leads all the way.

HAMISH MUNTON

Former University player. Good solid winger. Total commitment.

MIKE FORD (COACH)

Recently played at international and Super League level. Developing as a good coach. Well known and popular with all Oldham fans.

GARRY SCHOFIELD

Former Great Britain stand off/centre. Good acquisition this year. Ex Hull, Leeds and Huddersfield.

MAEA DAVID

Former Hull Sharks. Has had a good solid season at prop/second row.

RICHARD RUSSELL

Former Castleford Super League. Given everything to the team this year as hooker. Popular ex Oldham and Wigan utility man.

ANDY PROCTOR

Prop/second row. Tackles all day, excellent player. A must for any coach, also ex Oldham.

WAYNE FREEMAN

Bramley through and through. Second/row centre runs and tackles well. Bramley Youth product.

GLEN FREEMAN

Prop/second row. Tackles and runs all day. Another Bramley Youth product.

STEVE BARNETT

Loose forward. Good strong runner committed to Bramley RLFC for years.

TOM O'REILLY

Former Gold Coast centre/stand off. Played for Rest of the World against Australia could be in the P. N. G. side in the near future.

MARC GIBSON

Good utility player formerly with Milford ARLFC. Excellent clubman.

TONY FELLA

Former Hull KR Player, just returned to Bramley. Good strong forward.

ANDY SENIOR

Former Keighley Cougar. Good solid forward and strong tackler.

EUGENE CURRIE

Prop. Formerly Hunslet Hawks. Good strong runner and clubman, respected by supporters and players.

RYAN MacDONALD

Prop. Former Leeds Rhino. Good strong Cumbrian forward. Very popular with everybody.

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Down Memory Lane

DON LOOKS BACK TO A BRAMLEY MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR



SUPPORTING Bramley must be something akin to voting for the Liberal Party. You may celebrate the odd result but you have no chance whatsoever of leading the Nation. In order to maintain some form of credibility the Liberals have established a series of uneasy alliances with other political parties and Bramley have adopted a vaguely similar approach. They have thrown in their lot with rugby league neighbours Leeds, sharing their training and medical facilities and using their stadium on match days.

Last season they went even further by borrowing a few Leeds players who were signed on short-term loan contracts. At the time cynics said that only those players who needed a run-out as they recovered from injury or suspension turned out for the Villagers. During the 1998 campaign Bramley made 23 signings, fifteen of whom came from Leeds.

These signings enabled Bramley to climb steadily up the Second Division table. Towards the end of May the Villagers shared top spot with York, another club who had developed a loan agreement with a Super League club - in their case Castleford. These loan agreements added further spice to the top-of-the-table clash between Bramley and York who met at Headingley on the last Friday in May. Unfortunately, despite the importance of the game, the crowd at Headingley numbered only 771. The teams for this match were as follows:

Bramley: Andy Poynter (ex-Leeds); Simon Middleton, Marvin Golden (ex-Leeds), Dan Potter (ex-Leeds), Leroy Rivett (ex-Leeds); Dave Gibbons (ex-Leeds), Gavin Brown (ex-Leeds); Ryan McDonald (ex-Leeds), Steve Pickles, Barrie McDermott (ex-Leeds), Glen Freeman, Wayne Freeman and Justin Eldershaw.

Substitutes: Nick Horner (ex-Leeds), Neil Kite

(ex-Leeds), Kris Smith (ex-Leeds) and Lee Denham.

York: Mark Cain; Alex Godfrey, Fata Sini, Shaun Austerfield, Chris Hopcutt; John Strange, Dave Brook; Craig Booth, Gareth Dobson (ex-Castleford), Lee Tichener, Andy Hill (ex-Castleford), Stuart Flowers and Paul Darley.

Substitutes: Andy Preston, Spencer Hargrave (ex-Castleford), Alan Pallister and Steve Hill (ex-Castleford)

The appearance of Leroy Rivett in Bramley colours caused a little controversy as Rugby League regulations prohibit clubs from signing more than three loan players at any one time and at that time Bramley's loan register was full. Rivett's transfer therefore, was made permanent although the move was 'subject to Leeds retaining the right to recall him at any time'. If that is not the definition of a loan transfer then I don't know what is.

Anyway, Rivett played against York in what proved to be an entertaining match. The loan players from Leeds made a significant contribution in that match. Centre Marvin Golden put Wayne Freeman in for the first try of the match and Barrie McDermott was outstanding throughout, putting centre Dan Potter in for try number two as well as scoring himself late in the game. On the half-hour Leroy Rivett scored a sensational 80 yards solo try which put Bramley 16-2 in front and well on the way to victory. York did fight back; it was 18-8 at the interval, but they could not match the speed or power of Bramley who went on to win 36-14.

That victory took Bramley to the top of the table, but unfortunately they were unable to maintain their promotion challenge and by the end of the campaign had slipped down to fourth spot. It all became irrelevant when the First and Second Divisions amalgamated to form this season's Northern Ford Premiership.

This season Bramley have adopted a more conventional approach to recruitment. They currently lie in mid-table and, under the guidance of former Oldham skipper Mike Ford, will be fired up to make tonight's match another tough one for the Roughyeds.

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Back Row (left to right) Kevin Fitzpatrick, Daniel Brown, Mick Farrell, Craig Barker, Emerson Jackman,

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

Mike Prescott, Brian Quinlan,

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

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MICHAEL TURNER

First Time-Last Time

TODAY, we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the Bramley club to Spotland for this our penultimate home game of the 1999 season. In the programme for last years match at Boundary Park we looked at our first ever encounter against the "Villagers", so in this issue we will look at the first meeting of the clubs after the second world war.

It so happened that Bramley and Oldham met in the very first game of the 1945-46 season. The match was played at Bramley's old Barley Mow ground on August 25th, 1945 and after a tight fought game Oldham emerged the winners by the narrowest of margins. Tries from Joe Turner and Cyril Sutcliffe with one goal from Dave Schofield were enough to secure victory by eight points to seven.

Oldham Team: R. Smith; J. Turner, John Flanagan, T. Ayres, F. Herd; C. Sutcliffe, D. Schofield; H. Ogden, Bill Flanagan, T. Rostron, A. Laird, Ellis, W. Wood.

The return match took place the following month at Watersheddings when the Roughyeds completed the double with a 12-0 win.

Last season, as in the 1945-46 campaign, Oldham again played Bramley both home and away early in the season. The match at Headingley on April 24th was preceded by a torrential downpour that reduced the playing surface to a sodden mess. A late try by Darren Robinson gave Oldham a chance to share the points, but the conversion attempt by Richard Darkes, went wide and Bramley hung on for a 12-10 victory. The contrast for the return game

played at Boundary Park on "Bank Holiday" Monday (May 4th) was staggering. This time the game was played in sweltering conditions which made for a high scoring game with the advantage going to the pacy Bramley outfit who ran out convincing winners by 50-32. Again goal kicking let the Roughyeds down when only two of the seven tries from Paul Round, Craig Barker, Mick Martindale, Afi Leuila, John Hough, Mike Prescott and Richard Darkes, were converted (both by Darkes).

Oldham Team: A. Mead; R. Darkes, A. Leuila, S. Wilde, C. Eckersley; C. Barker, N. Flanagan, P. Round, J. Hough, M. Edwards, J. Nadirole, G. Shaw, M. Martindale. Subs: D. Robinson, N. Varley, I. Sinfield, M. Prescott.



The Oldham team that defeated Bramley 8-2 at Watersheddings in the Challenge Cup 3rd Round in 1960. A crowd of just under 14,000 saw the Roughyeds progress to the semi-final where they went down to Hull at Station Road, Swinton.

Back Row: C. Winslade, R. Smith, R. Duffy, T. Gray, L. McIntyre, G. Robinson

Front Row: I. Southward, A. Davies, W. B. Ganley, J. Noon, V. Nestor

Kneeling: F. Pitchford, A. Kellett

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



A CLOSE match is in prospect this evening when Oldham entertain Bramley in a Northern Ford Premiership match, the outcome of which could so easily be decided by goal kicks.

That being the case, then both clubs would dearly love to field the kickers handed those duties thirty nine years ago on Saturday 13th August 1960. On that day Oldham met St. Helens at Watersheddings in a league match which the Roughyeds won 16-4. They scored two tries, from stand-off Alan Kellett and loose-forward Geoff Robinson, but it was full-back Bernard Ganley who scored the bulk of the points with five goals. That very same afternoon, Saturday 13th August 1960, Bramley were at home to Halifax and they lost 21-13. Hooker L. Kennedy scored a try for the Villagers with Maori full-back John Wilson also landing five goals. Wilson holds the goal kicking record for Bramley having landed 926 between 1953 and 1964. Ganley landed 1,365 for the Roughyeds between 1951 and 1961, more than any other Oldham player.

Wigan full-back Jim Sullivan landed a World record 2,867 goals during his career. He booted five of those goals on Saturday 13th August 1932 when Great Britain defeated New Zealand 25-14 at Monica Park, Christchurch.

Thirty years later Britain were back in New Zealand and included in their squad was another prolific marksman, Neil Fox of Wakefield Trinity. On Monday 13th August, Fox played centre and landed two goals for a depleted British side which closed their 1962 tour of Australasia with a 46-13 defeat against Auckland. The makeshift Lions line-up included stand-off Dave Bolton and loose-forward Laurie Giffedder on the wings, second-

rower Dick Huddart in the centre and hooker John Shaw in the second-row.

Four years ago, on Sunday 13th August 1995, the current British goal-kicker, Andy Farrell, landed eight goals for Wigan, and scored a try when the pie-eaters defeated Leeds 45-20 in the last Rugby League Charity Shield which was staged at the Royal Dublin Showground. Current Bramley player David Gibbons was one of the Leeds substitutes that day.

As a curtain raiser to that match, Ireland met Scotland and beat them 26-22. Former Oldham prop Hugh Waddell was a member of the Scottish pack whilst included in the Irish line-up were three players with Oldham connections. At stand-off was Des Foy (ex Saddleworth Rangers and Oldham), in the second-row was Tony Nuttall (ex Oldham) and at prop was the current Oldham skipper Leo Casey who scored one of the Irish tries.

Friday 13th August was a significant day in the career of former Oldham utility player and current Bramley hooker Richard Russell. That day Russell was transferred from Oldham to Castleford. He made 122 appearance for Castleford during the following six season, scoring 13 tries, before moving to Bramley during the close season.

Finally the prestigious Champions Challenge amateur pre-season tournament reaches its semi-final stage tomorrow. Five years ago, on Saturday 13th August 1994, the semi-final round produced two outstanding performances from Woolston Rovers and hosts Leigh Miners. Woolston defeated Thatto Heath 35-0 with stand-off Graham Smith scoring a try, five goals and a dropped goal. The second match of the afternoon was a fiery, action packed encounter in which Miners defeated the Leeds based Queens outfit 26-4. An equally entertaining day is expected tomorrow, so why not get along to Twist Lane, Leigh where the action starts at 1.30pm?

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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	Sinton Lions A	36 - 24
May	5	Keighley Cougars H	8 - 22
	13	Dewsbury Rams A	4 - 25
	19	Sinton 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
July	10	Barrow B. R. H	16 - 26
	14	Hunslet Hawks A	12 - 64
	21	Leigh Centurions A	20 - 40
	31	Wigan [ACC RND 1] A	0 - 80
	Aug 14	Alliance Challenge Cup - 2nd Rnd	
Aug	18	Rochdale Hornets H	
	28	Alliance Challenge Cup - 3rd Rnd	
	Sept 11	Alliance Challenge Cup - Semi-Final	
Sept	25	Alliance Challenge Cup - Final	

WIGAN 80 - OLDHAM 0

OLDHAM could hardly have had a worse draw in the Alliance Challenge Cup. And the midweek departure of coach Graeme Bradley was not the ideal preparation. Into the breach stepped John Blair and Tony Ogden just in time to supervise a hammering by a Wigan side containing five players with Super League experience. The outcome was no more than could be expected.

❖ ❖ ❖

DESPITE the defeat at Central Park everyone was in good spirits later the same evening at the Alliance Player of the Season Awards organised by **The Roughyeds Times**, the amusing and well written independent fanzine of the Club. Congratulations went to CRAIG MILNER the first recipient of the award.

Presentations were also made to 'Young Supporter of the Year', **Sarah Robinson**, 'Senior Supporter of the Year', **Dave Davenport** and to **Paul Round** to mark twenty year's service to Rugby League.

Vice-Chairman **Melvyn Lord** supervised proceedings with help from Coach **Mick Coates** and Oldham Chronicle reporter **Roger Halstead**.

Thanks go to **Dave Roberts** and **Gary** for organising the event and special thanks to **Mrs Roberts**, Dave's mum, for providing an exceptional and magnificent buffet.

Fifty four players have appeared so far in the Alliance side and all deserve a big pat on the back for keeping the flag flying on Oldham's behalf. With three home fixtures to come to close the season (including last Wednesday's) why not show your appreciation by getting along to Butterworth Park to support them?

RANDOM REFLECTIONS

THANKS to Jack Dearden. On GMR last Sunday Jack said what many of us have thought for a long time - that Chris Hamilton and his fellow Directors have had no help whatsoever from the RFL. His eminently sensible suggestion was that the RFL could have stumped up the difference in cost between hiring Boundary Park and Spotland to keep the new Roughyeds in Oldham. What would it have cost? Maybe £30,000. What's that compared to £4 million spent on Paris?

❖ ❖ ❖

IF Super League go their own way and/or the Northern Ford Premiership return to winter let's go back to the future in another way. Bring back the County Cups!

❖ ❖ ❖

I KNOW Oldham were outclassed at Leigh but was it really 74 minutes before the Centurions did anything meriting the award of a penalty to the Roughyeds? No offside, no interference, no foul play? Open your mouth off the field and pay the penalty on it. Oldham versus the World!

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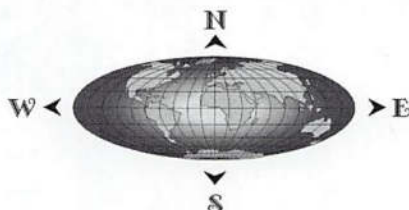
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[illegible]

12	BARROW B.R.	W24-20	1123	Minut 2G	Mead	Leulla	Bostock 2T	McNicholas	Jackman	Brown 2T	Casey	Hough	Clegg	Shaw	Perrett	Martindale	Coulter	Prescott	Quinlan 2G	Peralta
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[illegible]

2	Doncaster Dragons	W27-12	878	Minut	Mead 1T	Jackman	Farrell	McNicholas 1T	Wood 1T	3G10G	Brown 1T	Casey	Hough 1T	Clegg	Shaw	Prescott	Martindale	Varley	Lewis	Crook	Paralta
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[illegible]

1 SILK CUT CC Final

JUNE																	
DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
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2				2				2				2				2	
3				3				3				3				3	
4				4				4				4				4	
5				5				5				5				5	
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7				7				7				7				7	
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28				28				28				28				28	
29				29				29				29				29	
30				30				30				30				30	
31				31				31				31				31	

6	Workington Town	W22-17	1148	Minut 1T	Mead	Leulla 1T	Farrell	McNicholas	Crook 2T	Brown 1G	Clenn	Barker	Peralta	Round	Varley	Shaw 1T	Coates	Darke	Hough	Jackman
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[illegible]

4	HULL K. R.	L22-44 1190	Cowan	Mead	Darkes	Farrell 1T	McNicholas	Crook	Rorwo 3G	Casey	Hough 1T	Clare	Reard	Shaw 1T	Jackman	Reynolds 1T	Barker	Barclay	Reynolds
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25	Nicklas Eriksson	212-86-309	Moss	Sherington V	Audouin V	Dubois	McNicholas	Weber	Brennan	Osoy	Rough	Craig	Round	Shaw	Blum ZU	Brook	Jackson	Radovic	Haders
26	Nikolaus Viktors	18-84-3136	Crook	Mead	Laulia	Jackson	McNicholas	Weber	Brennan	Osoy	Rough	Craig	Round	Shaw	Blum ZU	Brook	Jackson	Radovic	Haders

[illegible]

22	LANCASHIRE LYNY	H
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29	York	A
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**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.

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of rugby balls to
ORLFC.**

OLDHAM

Coach: Mick Coates

1	Afi LEUILA			
2	Paul BRASSINGTON			
3	Adie MEAD			
4	Emerson JACKMAN			
5	Joe McNICHOLAS			
6	Danny WEBSTER			
7	Danny BROWN			
8	Leo CASEY			
9	John HOUGH			
10	Jason CLEGG			
11	Paul ROUND			
12	Joe NADIOLE			
13	Mark PERRETT			
14	Mark PRESCOTT	16	Emmanuel PERALTA	
15	Paul CROOK	17	Danny GUEST	

Today's Officials

Today's Referee

Mr Colin A. Morris



Touch Judges

Mr Martin J. Ashcroft
Mr Robert E. Ainsworth

BRAMLEY

Coach: Mike Ford

1	Mark SIBSON			
2	Andy POYNTER			
3	Wayne FREEMAN			
4	Dan POTTER			
5	Andy BRENT			
6	Dave GIBBONS			
7	Mike FORD			
8	Maea DAVID			
9	Richard RUSSELL			
10	Andy PROCTOR			
11	Simon WRAY			
12	Glen FREEMAN			
13	Steve BARNETT			
14	Garry SCHOFIELD	16	Micky HORNER	
15	Tony FELLA	17	Ryan McDONALD	

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT MR WRIGLEYS