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Official Matchday Magazine of Oldham Rugby League Football Club

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The Roughyeds



Rochdale Hornets

at Boundary Park Mon 27th Dec 1999 Kick-off 3.00pm

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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Welcome to Boundary Park! Some of you probably didn't think that you were going to read that after we had to go to Spotland last season.

Obviously we are all pleased to be back playing in Oldham and it is appropriate that we should be playing Rochdale in the first game of the season. We are grateful to Ray Taylor and his colleagues for releasing us from the second season of the agreement to play at Spotland.

Those of you who stuck with the team last year are also owed a big Thank You. As spectators you, like us, want success on the field but it doesn't happen overnight and we hope that this season we will see progress on the field to match the progress we have made off the field during the last two years.

Mike Ford has assembled a good squad of players who are keen to impress and training has gone very well indeed.

It is also important to note that this is the first season that we have been on an equal footing in terms of News Corporation Funding with the rest of the Division bar Sheffield.

There is a rational explanation as to why they don't receive any funding for the next three years and that is because they were not one of the clubs who re-negotiated the News Corporation deal for where we are now in the 'final' year (2000). The clubs then decided to spread the final year's money (£300,000) over the next **three** years. Too little, too late? We shall see.

Please get behind the lads today as many of them are making their league debut for the Club and I am sure that you won't be disappointed.

Best wishes for the New Millennium.

Chris Hamilton

The Roughyeds *The Roughyeds*

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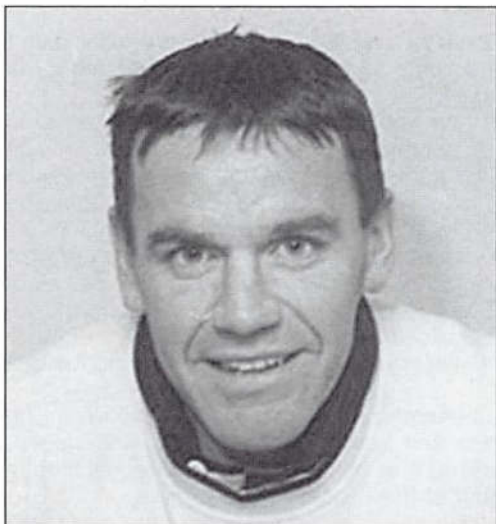
CLUB HONOURS **A J Law Cup Winners 1998, 1999/2000**

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FORD FOCUS

.....With Mike Ford



A BIG welcome to Boundary Park for the start of the Northern Ford Premiership season. We welcome all the players, officials and supporters of our old friends and rivals from Rochdale Hornets. And in particular we welcome all followers of Oldham Roughyeds, hoping that you have had an enjoyable festive season so far and that you are looking forward once again to cheering on your home town team now that we have been able to return to the borough.

On a personal note I am delighted to have been offered the chance to coach my home town club. Just as it was always my ambition as a boy to play for Oldham, so as a player thinking of a career in coaching it was always the Oldham job that I wanted. The fact that it took three goes to get it must say something!

My plan now is to develop Oldham over three to five years so that the new Club can once again carry the town's

name into competition with the very best that Rugby League has to offer. We want all local youngsters to affiliate themselves with this Club so that when the time comes for some of them to think of becoming professionals Oldham will be the team for them. Neither I nor the Board want to see some of the best players in the league signing for the likes of Warrington or Leeds as has happened in the recent past.

To achieve this aim we will need to build a reliable scouting system not just in Oldham, but throughout Rugby League, so that we can attract the best, just as we did twenty years ago in the days of the late and much missed Brian Gartland. We also need to build a bond of trust between the Club and its staff. I will always be straight with any player I deal with. I have achieved almost everything the game has to offer in my own career and having been there I know the kind of people players respect and those they don't. I want us all to be pulling in the same direction: Directors, Players, Office Staff, water carriers, ball boys, whatever. And especially supporters.

Finally to today's match. Don't read too much into the Law Cup result. Steve Linnane's Rochdale Hornets are a very good side and gave us a good game at Spotland. They will be going all out for revenge today with League points up for grabs and, rest assured, we will not underestimate them.

Best wishes for the new Year and New Millennium.

Mike

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In Yer Face



NOW IS THE SUMMER OF OUR DISCONTENT MADE GLORIOUS WINTER BY THIS SUN OF YORK (AND LANCASTER, CUMBRIA AND CHESHIRE).

Those of us who like winter rugby now have our chance to prove the 'summer' fans wrong. Not that the new season commencing today is that radical a departure: after all we played the Challenge Cup Third Round on February 1st 1999 and began league fixtures the same month. But what the 1999-2000 N.F.P. fixture list does do is seek to exploit potential big gate and money spinning days. Two Christmas/New Year matches, two at Easter and a game on each of the May Bank Holiday dates does at least show some forethought. To make a success of the rest is down to us, the fans, turning out in numbers to support a competition which, as a whole, set exceptionally high standards last season and anyone watching only the Roughyeds could be forgiven for not appreciating the quality of football played by the likes of Leigh, Widnes, Hunslet, Dewsbury and York to name but a few. Rest assured that this season Oldham will give all of these a run for their money even if, as yet, it is not possible to promise the team will finish in the top four or five.

Meanwhile what the APC can do for the fans is to ensure that an adequate early warning system is in place in case of bad weather causing postponements. The last thing anyone wants is to set off to (or from) Barrow, Whitehaven or Workington only to find the game called off. Administrators and referees please note.

The close season in R.L. has, as usual, seen a massive amount of turmoil. What price expansion after the demise of Gateshead and the original Sheffield Eagles? It is hard to resist an "I told you so", although one would much rather be praising success than regretting failure. In each instance it is difficult to resist the conclusion that Gateshead and Sheffield were sacrificed to save Hull and Huddersfield. Extra cash, extra players, new coaches, a safe seat for a Hetherington; it's hard not to be cynical. All Super League now needs is for one of the unwanted clubs to finish bottom - Halifax and Salford top the list, followed by Wakefield and Castleford - and a place can be opened up for an Edinburgh, Dublin or South Wales team. Or am I wrong?

Fortunately, the APC eventually got its own structure right. It was the right decision to admit Mark Aston's new Sheffield Eagles and I wish them all the luck in the world because Oldhamers, above all, know what it is like to start from scratch. Commiserations go to the followers of Bramley; despite their letters of protest in the R.L. press Bramley were not in a position to field a team at short notice after losing so many players. However, the APC has done the right thing in keeping open the door for 2000-2001 to Bramley and possibly Gateshead. Has a new air of realism finally permeated the R.L. hierarchy?

Enjoy the game, enjoy the season and let's push Oldham Roughyeds to new heights.

G.C.

ROGER ROGER

THE BLEAK mid winter it may be, but here we are at the sporting gate of a brand new Northern Ford Premiership campaign.

Isn't it great to be back at Boundary Park for a traditional Christmas derby against Rochdale Hornets? The decision by the NFP to advance the start of the 2000 season to produce festive season derby games was not universally accepted, but if the cold snap has relented it will be interesting to check attendance figures.

Indeed, NFP chief Bob McDermott hinted at the new season's media launch in Leeds that if the Christmas and New Year programmes were a success the pro-winter lobby in the APC (Association of Premiership Clubs) would push for an even earlier start next year.

My own feeling is that it will happen sooner rather than later.

Having changed my mind about the virtues of summer rugby and having accepted that we are probably better off playing outside the months of June, July and August, it seems a shame to be gearing up for rugby in January and February, while September, October and November remain largely untapped.

In the Roughyeds camp it has been a close season of massive change.

The coaching set up has been completely revamped with Mike Ford coming in on a two year contract as player-coach and John Henderson and Haydn Walker joining him as his right hand men.

The whole operation will be run as a three man team, but John's main role will be as boss man on the bench on match day. Haydn will coach the Alliance side.

Seventeen contracted players from last season have gone and Ford has brought in a similar number of new boys, including

himself.

Andy Proctor, one of five players signed from Bramley (six if you count Ford himself) has been appointed captain from a short list of three which also included Leo Casey and David Gibbons.

The new look Roughyeds made a pleasing start by winning 30-18 at Spotland a fortnight ago in the pre-season Law Cup match, but Ford is too experienced a campaigner to fall into the trap of underestimating a Rochdale side which will still be smarting from losing to the old enemy on home soil in new coach Steve Linnane's first game.

I'm expecting a cracker today - and when you look around the NFP at the squads assembled by clubs such as Leigh, Dewsbury, Hunslet, Widnes and Hull KR - even Doncaster have been pushing out the boat - I think we can look forward to a fascinating season.

Considering Oldham's dismal record last season, the signs are good.

Fans have purchased a record number of season tickets for the new club and have snapped up new replica jerseys which were sold out within days of going on sale.

If Ford is able to achieve his objective - namely 100 per cent commitment from every player in every game - Roughyeds fans can expect to see their new-look team spring a few surprises.

We're at the starting gate, but a 28 match programme lies tantalisingly ahead. Hold on to your hats for thrills and spills as Ford attempts to drive the Roughyeds up, up and away from the lower reaches of the Premiership.



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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - a summary of important Events

1893 - 1900

In 1893 a proposal by J Miller of the Yorkshire committee, backed by many of the leading Northern teams, to allow clubs to pay players for "broken time", was defeated and the RFU authorities subsequently put into place more punitive measures for any club found guilty of professionalism. This negative reaction to the Northern proposals only served to toughen their resolve and in the close season of 1895-96, 22 clubs broke away to form the Northern Union, including such familiar names as St Helens, Wigan, Leeds & Hull and the more obscure Tyldesley, Brighouse Rangers and Liversedge.

The first Northern Union season sees all 22 clubs play each other home and away producing a staggering 42 fixtures. The championship goes to Yorkshire team Manningham who would eventually evolve into the Bradford City soccer club. The two great Manchester based rivals Swinton and Salford would join the Northern Union for the following season when the league was split into a regional county based competition with the Cheshire clubs Stockport and Runcorn playing in the Lancashire section.

In 1897 the new code begins to evolve its own identity with the abolition of the line out and new scoring values. This resulted in all goals, whether they be conversions, penalties or drop goals being worth two points. A new competition was introduced to great effect and Batley become the first winners of the now world renowned Northern Union (Rugby League) Challenge Cup. In the final they beat St Helens at Headingley. The "Gallant Youths" retained the trophy the following year and Oldham become the first club to bring the cup to Lancashire when they defeat Hunslet at Fallowfield, Manchester in 1899.



The victorious Oldham squad of 1899 with the Northern Union (RL) Challenge Cup.

Back: R. Edwards, J. Moffatt, E. Bonser, H. Ellis, A. Lees (Capt), H. Broome, J. Lees, G. Frater.

*Middle: T. Fletcher, T. Sellers, R. L. Thomas, S. Lees, T. Davies.
Front: T. Martin, S. Williams, J. Lawton, W. Barnes*

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
BRIAN WALKER 01457 875084 OR MICHAEL TURNER 0161-620-6005

PROBING THE NFL

REVIEWING the season to come a year ago Oldham's first matchday programme said; "Expect a big push for honours from the Hawks"; Richard Pachniuk in particular [is] likely to be influential"; and "The South Leeds sides could take some stopping". Well, no one did stop them, except SLE when it came to promotion.

Others we tipped to do well were Dewsbury, Bramley and Featherstone. Our clear under achievers were Keighley, Rochdale and Oldham. And the surprise packets were Leigh, York, Barrow and Whitehaven.

Given that all clubs have had a big turn around in playing staff, forecasting is a dangerous game but, heartened by the Hunslet prediction, here goes:-

Leigh Centurions to be among the front runners. Arguably the best front row in the N.F.P., an intelligent and well respected Coach, and lightening quick backs. With Craig Dean back at scrum half after almost all last season out with injury this will be a team to reckon with.

Hunslet Hawks will still be tough but, having lost both halves since last year, I don't see them going all the way this time. Widnes Vikings could have a similar problem with no established scrum half at this moment in time. However, Paul Mansson is arguably the best stand off in the league and won't often be playing behind a beaten pack. Last year's league leaders and beaten Grand Finalists Dewsbury Rams make up what I consider to be the N.F.P.'s top four. Their only defeats last year were at home to Widnes and Rochdale and away to Leigh, Widnes and, surprisingly, Lancashire Lynx.

At the opposite end of the table Mark Aston's new Sheffield Eagles will do well to avoid the wooden spoon. Surprisingly, he has some well known players including four ex-Bramley men. Michael Jackson, Chris Morley and himself provide the necessary experience, but over a long season blending newcomers together and coping with injuries with a thin squad creates obvious problems.

Other likely strugglers include Workington Town, who seem to have lost more good players than they have gained. The departure of Graeme Close, Paul Forber and Simon Knox leaves too many holes in the squad.

Lancashire Lynx are in the same boat. It is just not possible to replace players of the quality of Steve Gee, Neil Parsley, Doc Murray or P. S. Solomon. My tip to finish last.

The sides not mentioned so far should all be battling for a top eight play off spot. Paul Charlton had Barrow playing some attractive rugby led by the highly thought of Darren Holt. They don't, however, travel well.

The same can be said for fellow Cumbrians Whitehaven. And having lost top scrum half Leroy Joe to Hull K.R. I don't see them better than mid table.

Batley Bulldogs had a great early season, but lost all of their last six fixtures and finished with eight defeats out of 14 on the home pitch which has always been their biggest asset. However, they still have the highly influential midfield trio of Gary Barnett, Richard Price and either Mark Cass or John Clark. David Ward is one who looks to have strengthened his squad so the Bulldogs could be contenders.

The Dragons (with or without the Doncaster prefix) are a completely revamped side. Coach St. John Ellis has recent Super League players galore plus the best of the rest. His first choice side, led by ex Hawks Latham Tawhai at half back looks mighty impressive. The rest of us are so used to things going wrong at Doncaster that I hesitate to be too bold in their favour. so, to sit firmly on the fence, let's just trot out the old cliché - 'strong on paper'.

Featherstone Rovers have a great coach in Peter Roe but face financial difficulties. They and their East Yorkshire rivals at Hull K. R. may struggle to hold on to their fifth and sixth places respectively last term. Both will be tough nuts to crack but, I suspect, less so than a year ago.

Keighley Cougars hit the buffers last term. New Coach Karl Harrison will be determined to revive their fortunes and what Karl says goes. Nevertheless the Cougars may not have the financial clout they once had and could find sustaining a challenge a real problem.

York Wasps have lost more than they have gained over the close season, especially if they can't secure the services of Jamie Benn. The core of the side is still strong, however, and their defence is among the best in the business (a 30-4 defeat at Dewsbury was easily their worst result of 1999). Could creep into contention with the leaders.

Which leaves the East Lancashire trio of Swinton Lions, Rochdale and Oldham. All three were rooted at the bottom end of the table last season. To me, showing obvious bias, Oldham should improve the most. A play-making trio of Ford, O'Reilly and David Gibbons provides plenty of options and will also create room for John Hough to exploit. Hornets don't look as strong in this area. Dane Dorahy may successfully fill the gap left by Peter Fitzgerald, but he will soon become a target if there are not other players to take some of the weight off him. However, Hornets look to have a good 'engine room'. Expect them to finish higher than last term.

Finally Swinton Lions may find it difficult to improve on last term. They are a team of rare inconsistency, with a surprisingly poor home record, only the defeat of York Wasps (23-12) being a notable achievement at Gigg Lane in 1999. Wins at Barrow and Whitehaven were their best away results. However, a bottom half finish looks likely.

In Town Today



...ROCHDALE HORNETS

IN 1999 Hornets did not reach the targets they set themselves at the outset of the season, finishing a disappointing 15th out of 18 with just 9 victories in 28 matches. Deryck Fox paid with his job. Perhaps the most notable result of last season was an away win at Dewsbury, the beaten N.F.P. Grand Finalists, Hornets coming out on top by 19 points to 12.

As they enter a new season Hornets have a new Coach in Steve Linnane an Australian who worked with two 'greats' in Mal Reilly and Warren Ryan at the N.R.L.'s most honourable club, Newcastle Knights. Linnane is a former player with the Knights, South Sydney and St. George.

Today's likely Rochdale team will have new signing LEE MAHER at full back. A former Leeds and Featherstone player, his attacking runs gave Oldham the biggest headache of any full back last season when playing for Doncaster. He is, however, reputed to be vulnerable under the high ball.

The threequarters will feature LEE HUDSON once of Salford Reds; SCOTT MARTIN, also an ex-Salford man and a one time Leigh centre; SEAN COOPER in his second year at Hornets after a season with Oldham and experience at Bradford Bulls; and DANNY WOOD the versatile former Dewsbury player who trialled with Roughyeds last year.

The Law cup game amply demonstrated that new stand off DANE DORAHY is going to be the main man for Hornets this year. 22 year old DORAHY is a 'chip off the old block', looking and playing uncannily like his father John. A former Western Suburbs player, Dane will be among the league's leading scorers with his eye for a gap and his excellent goalkicking.

At scrum half PAUL ASHTON is another son of a famous father. Ex Saddleworth

Rangers and Halifax Blue Sox, Paul will be looking to establish himself, at just 20 years of age, as one of the league's leading half backs.

In the engine room Hornets props are SHAYNE McMENEMY, an Australian signed from Western Suburbs, and DANNY SCULTHORPE, Oldham born and with spells at Leeds and Warrington under his belt. At just 20 he is still young for a prop with plenty of time for improvement.

Ex Oldham Bear DAVID STEPHENSON is the wily hooker and captain of Hornets this year and is always a handful. He is joined by another ex-Bear in the second row in CHRIS McKINNEY, a Cumbrian with a fair amount of experience. McKinney's partner is DARYLL DEROSE, last year's Doncaster player of the season. Hardworking DEROSE has also appeared with Huddersfield.

Loose-forward CHRIS NEWALL joined Hornets last May from St Helens and soon created a good impression with his handling and running skills.

From the bench we can expect to see versatile ex-Huddersfield Giant ADRIAN MOORE who played in 20 Super League fixtures last year. DARREN ROBINSON, Leeds born but ex-Oldham, will also make an appearance. Darren loves nothing better than to score against his former team, as he did in the Law Cup match. GAVIN PRICE-JONES is a Welsh international, well known for the service he gave to Swinton Lions over a number of years. He is a prolific try-scorer, now fully recovered from a serious facial injury. Second row MARTIN BUNCE started at Saddleworth, moved on to Waterhead and subsequently joined Wigan's Academy team. Signing for Hornet in 1994, he is now one of Rochdale's longest serving players.

Walkerbouts

With Brian Walker

CLOSE SEASON COMINGS AND GOINGS

BARROW BORDER RAIDERS **INS:** Andrew Lambert (Workington); Gareth Pratt (Doncaster); Jamie Smith (Hull Sharks). **OUTS:** Garry Ruddy (Whitehaven); Jonathan Hughes, Ray Barchard (both returned to NZ); Joas Marshall, Dean Marwood, Darren Wilson, Gary Spencely, Gavin Chelton (released).

BATLEY BULLDOGS **INS:** David Luckwell (Hull KR); Paul Hicks (Wakefield Trinity Wildcats); Davy Kimmell (Featherstone Rovers); Jason Firth (Dewsbury Rams); Rob Padgett (Featherstone Rovers); Steve Barnett; Ian Popplewell; Marcus Southwell; Rob Morverley. **OUTS:** Paul Harrison (Keighley Cougars); Steve Walker (retired); Andy Lippiatt (Australia).

DEWSBURY RAMS **INS:** Dan Potter, Ryan McDonald (both Bramley); David Mycoe (Hunslet Hawks); Steve Campbell (Keighley Cougars). **OUTS:** Darren Ballantyne (Hunslet Warriors); Alan Boothroyd (Keighley Cougars); Paul Delaney (retired); Paul Evans (released); Jason Firth (released); Paul Medley (retired); Greg Pearce (released); Gary Rose (retired); Brendan Williams (released); Leon Williamson (released).

DONCASTER DRAGONS **INS:** Asa Amone (Featherstone); Joe Berry, James Bunyan, Basil Richards, Craig Weston (Huddersfield Giants); Mick Coult (Rochdale Hornets); Peter Edwards, Tata Sini (York Wasps); Carl Gillespie (Halifax Blue Sox); Wayne Parker (Hull KR); Lynton Stott (Wakefield Trinity Wildcats); Latham Tawhai (Hunslet Hawks). **OUTS:** Darren Summerill (Sheffield Eagles); David Mycoe (Dewsbury Rams); Lee Maher (Rochdale Hornets); Gareth Pratt (Barrow Border Raiders); Alex Gouldbourne, Alfie Gouldbourne, John Bruce, Jamie Bartle; Gareth Lloyd, Graham Southernwood, James Mosley, Stuart Flowers (all released).

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS **INS:** Shane Byrne, Anthony Slatter (both Huddersfield Giants); Matt Lambert (York); Ricky Helliwell (Salford Reds); Michael Rhodes (Brisbane Norths); Maea David (Bramley); Chris Langley (Bradford Bulls, loan); Mark Webster (Bramley). **OUTS:** Asa Amone, Carl Hall (Dragons); Hitro Okesene (XIII Catalan); Rob Padgett (Batley Bulldogs); Richard Slater (Hull KR); Brendon Tuuta (retired); Wayne Simonds (retired).

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS **INS:** Leroy Joe (Whitehaven Warriors); Rob Nolan (Hull FC); Richard Slater (Featherstone); Simon Booth (Hull); Ian Kirk, David Firth, Scott Bennett, Lee Sleightholme, Craig Henry (all Academy); Bob Everett (returned after year off); Jon Aston (Rochdale). **OUTS:** Wayne Parker (Doncaster); David Luckwell (Batley Bulldogs); Ian Hughes; Richard Smith (both Keighley Cougars); Stanley Gene (Gateshead); Kevin Gray (York); Jason Donohue (Widnes); Alex Thompson, Paul Rouse, Rob Danby, Lee Sibary (all released); Mike Bibby, Des Harrison (both retired).

HUNSLET HAWKS **INS:** Dean Hanger (Warrington Wolves); Darren Hughes (Featherstone Rovers); Johan Windley (Hull); Dave King (Huddersfield); Alan Julian (Bradford); Danny Fullelove (Huddersfield Giants); Jim Leatham (Hull Sharks). **OUTS:** Latham Tawhai (Dragons); Richard Hayes (York Wasps); Lee St Hilaire (retired); Lafaele Filipo (released); Richard Baker (released); Rob D'Arcy, Butch Fatnowna, Iain Higgins (all released).

KEIGHLEY COUGARS **INS:** Alan Boothroyd (Dewsbury Rams); Paul Harrison (Batley Bulldogs); Ian Hughes (Hull KR); Craig Robinson (Bradford Bulls); James Rushforth, Ben Thompson (Halifax Blue Sox); Michael Slicker (Sheffield Eagles); Richard Smith (Hull KR); Matt Walker (Bradford Bulls). **OUTS:** Mark Campbell (Oldham); Steve Campbell (Dewsbury Rams); Pat Rich (Oldham); Christian Tyrer (released); Andrew Schick (released); Alex Smits (released); Chris Robinson (released).

LANCASHIRE LYNX **INS:** Anton Garcia, John-Paul Doherty, Kevin O'Loughlin (all Widnes Vikings); Jason Dimitrio (Aus); Sheldon Hannan, Mark Kay, Derek Hardman (all Leigh). **OUTS:** Steve Gee (Widnes Vikings); Danny Guest (Oldham); Neil Parsley (Warrington Wolves); Lee Prest, Darren Abram, Neil Mawdsley, Jason O'Loughlin, Joe Walsh (all retired); Konrad Bisping, Craig Campbell, Martin Horton, Andy James, Danny Jones, Doc Murray, Robert Rose, Lee Rushton, PJ Solomon, Ian Speed, John Welsh (all released).

LEIGH CENTURIONS **INS:** Alan Cross (St Helens); Simon Baldwin (Sheffield Eagles); Adam Bristow (Western Suburbs). **OUTS:** Alan Hadcroft (Australia); Nick Jenkins (Australia); Ken Kerr (France); Tau Liku (Workington); Chris Parr (retired); Andy Pucill (released); Dean Purtil (released).

ROCHDALE HORNETS **INS:** Paul Ashton, Marlon Miller (both Saddleworth); Darryl Derose, Lee Maher (both Doncaster Dragons); Dane Dorahy, Shayne McNemey (both Wests, Aus); Scott Martin (Salford City Reds); Adrian Moore (Huddersfield Giants); Gavin Price-Jones (Swinton Lions); Danny Wood (Dewsbury Rams). **OUTS:** Jon Aston (Hull KR); Phil Coussons, Matt Knowles (both Swinton Lions); Mick Coult (Dragons); Chris Holland (Oldham); Andy Eyres, Peter Fitzgerald, Mike Francis, Willie Swann (all released); Chris Kelly (retired).

SWINTON LIONS **INS:** Matty Knowles; Phil Coussons (both Rochdale Hornets); Chris Highton, Jason Roach (both Warrington Wolves); Paul Loughlin, Ian Pickavance (both Huddersfield Giants). **OUTS:** Cliff Eccles (Widnes); Wes Rogers (Oldham); Howard Hill (Whitehaven); Simon Ashcroft; Ian Bleasie; Carl McCabe; Paul Stevens, David McComas, Ken Nicholson (all released).

WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS **INS:** Colin Armstrong; Mark Keenan, Mark Wallace (all Workington Town); Howard Hill (Swinton); Gary Ruddy (Barrow Border Raiders). **OUTS:** Leroy Joe (Hull KR); Graeme Lewthwaite, Tony Dymtrowski (both Workington); Gary Charlton (released).

WIDNES VIKINGS **INS:** Cliff Eccles (Swinton); Steve Gee (Lancashire Lynx); Jason Donohue (Hull KR); Afi Leuila (Oldham); Andy Cheetham (Huddersfield Giants); Paul George, Karl Fitzpatrick, Karl Long, Alan Reddicliffe (Academy). **OUTS:** Fabien Devecchi (Avignon); Kevin O'Loughlin, John-Paul Doherty, Anton Garcia (both Lancashire Lynx); Richie Eyres, Jason Hunter, Jason Critchley, Jim Salisbury (all released); Phil Hassan, Lokeni Savello (both Halifax); Mark Hewitt (Hull KR); Paul Hulme, Terry Reid (both retired).

WORKINGTON TOWN **INS:** Matt Sturm (Huddersfield Giants); Ryan Charters, Stuart Hoyle (both Ellenborough Rangers); Martin Stalker (St Nicholas Arms, Carlisle); Lee Chilton (Aspatia RU); Tony Dymtrowski (Whitehaven Warriors); David Fletcher (Glasson Rangers); Jonathan Heaney (Northampton RU); Tony Huddart (Clifton Lions); Steven McGrady (Kells); Graeme Lewthwaite (Whitehaven Warriors). **OUTS:** Colin Armstrong, Mark Keenan, Mark Wallace (Whitehaven Warriors); Graeme Close (Leigh); Paul Forber (released); Chris Houston (Edinburgh); Simon Knox (Halifax Blue Sox); Andrew Lambert (released); Evan Cochrane (Aus); Paul McGee (released); Matthew Woodcock (York, loan).

YORK WASPS **INS:** Kevin Gray (Hull KR), Spencer Hargrave, Andy Hill (both Castleford), Richard Hayes (Hunslet); John McCracken, Rob Lee (both Hull); Carl Paterson (Selby RU); Matthew Woodcock (Workington). **OUTS:** Craig Booth, Mick Crane (released); Peter Edwards (Doncaster); Richard Goddard (released); Matt Lambert (Featherstone); Fata Sini (Doncaster); John Strange (Sheffield).

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121

An interview by Dave Roberts with Mike Ford

Well, Mike, you have got the job you always wanted!

Yes, and I am finding it very enjoyable and because it's what I have always wanted, my enthusiasm level is very, very high. Also I feel a lot more comfortable in what I am doing. To be able to go to work and be there in 10 minutes is another plus, but I have always had Oldham in my heart and want to do well for both myself and the club.

How have you found the setup at ORLFC?

At Bramley I was on my own; we did not have much help from Leeds and certainly no help from the Bramley directors - I was the only full time person at the club, so at Oldham it is great because we have got Chris, Scott and Cynthia all helping out. I used to do a lot of work at home on the pc which took a lot of my time, now I can just go next door and give it to Cynthia and she can save me a lot of time. It is a lot more professional here than at Bramley.

Who has impressed you so far?

I like to sign players that I already know, so if I have not played with or against them I like to do my homework. Most players here appear to have great attitudes and want to be a success; they have got certain goals in life, so training this year compared to last year with Bramley is ten times better, nobody has stood out but they have all performed and trained well.

Have you changed your approach to things since coming to Oldham?

Not really. I have had one season in the NFP on the other side of the hills and for a start the training is pretty much the same.

We have things here that we did not have at Bramley, ie good training grounds, showers after training, and even video recorders! I have also given the players diet sheets telling them exactly what they should be eating and also things that they are expected to do over the season, ie discipline and code of conduct. They have also got a weights programme. We have not had much time as the pre season has been quite short, but we have fitted a lot in like running on the hills, weights, tackles, etc. However, things have progressed when I look back at this time last year.

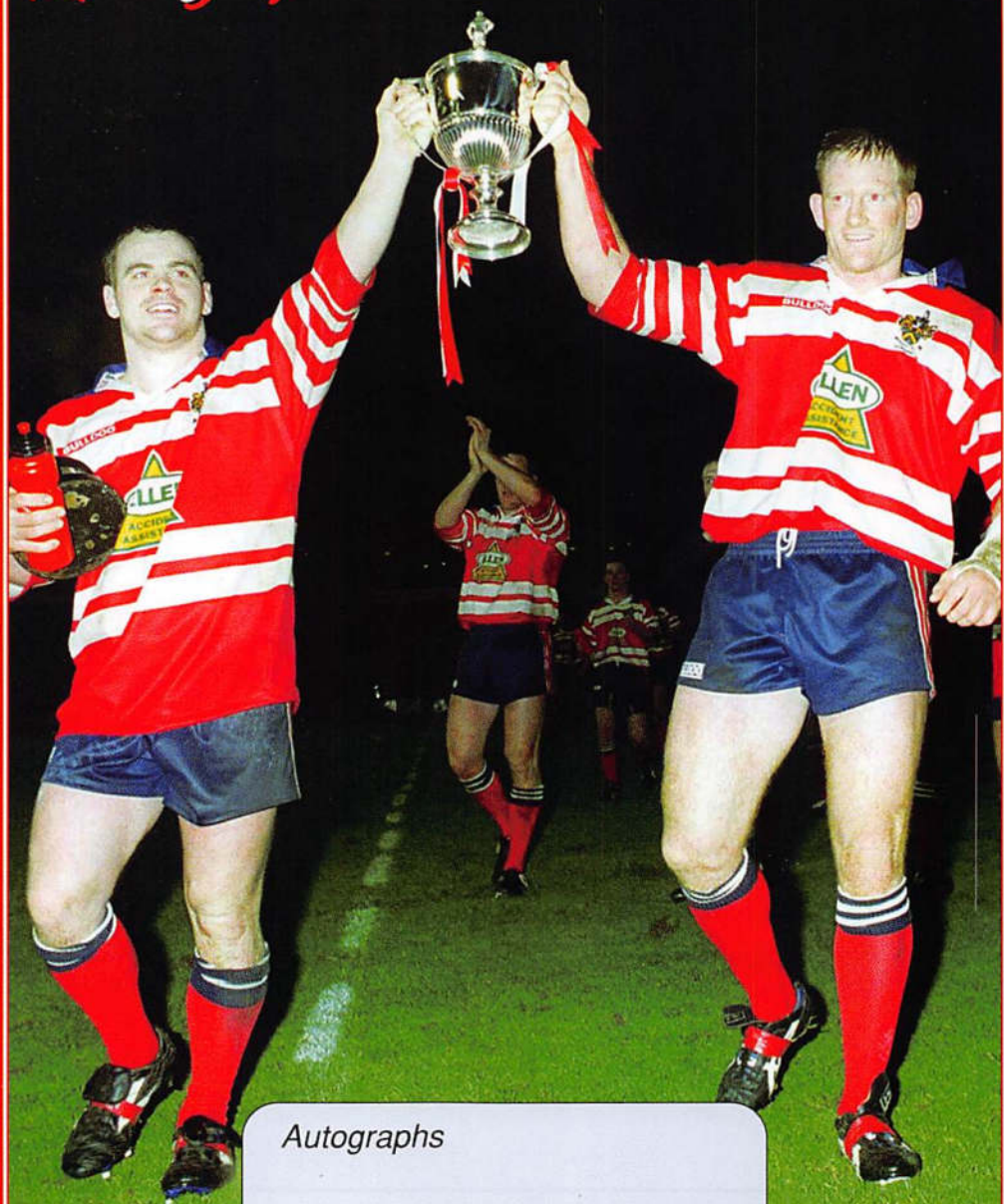
What can Oldham achieve this year?

I'm not going to make any predictions Dave!, but I want us to be competitive, I want fans to come to Boundary Park and also follow us away because we can win each game be it Hull K.R. away or Lancashire Lynx at home. My plan is a two or three season plan and that we will progress each season, and give the fans a team to be proud of.

Who will be the teams to watch this season?

It could be very even this year, Hunslet, Hull K.R., Dewsbury and Widnes will be up there, but if I had to pick one it would be Leigh. Obviously Oldham are aiming to do well and I ask the fans to be patient. I have a belief in how the game should be played and that may take time so I ask the fans to be realistic and not expect us to win it this year. But don't get me wrong, we are going to be a very competitive side and will give it everything, so who knows?

Roughyeds Spotlight



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For £100

Where do Sheffield play?

- a Sheffield
c Anywhere
b Huddersfield
d All of these

For £200

Who runs Rugby League?

- a The RFL
c The ACP
b SLE
d None of these

For £300

Who makes up the 16 teams for the Lincoln World Cup in 2000?

- a Lebanon
c Croatia
b Italy
d 17 Aussies with names ending in....ov?

For £500

Who always comes up smelling of roses?

- a Kath Hetherington
c Maurice Lindsay
b Gary Hetherington
d A pile of horse manure

For £1000 (You'll be relieved if you get this far!)

Who would you keep in Super League at all costs?

- a Hull F.C.
c Paris S.G.
b McAlpine Giants
d Anybody but Oldham

If you've answered all five correctly you get one free bet with Honest Mo on a racetrack of your choice.

For £2000

If they were good enough to gain promotion on merit to Super League would you admit?

- a Keighley
c Hunslet
b Batley
d None of these

For £4000

"Simple Simon met a pieman going to the fair, said Simple Simon to the pieman what have you got there....?" Was the reply?

- a Wigan lads teas
c Typical R.L. catering
b A load of Melton Mowbrays
d Pies, you daft sod!

For £8,000 (You could drop a lot if you get this wrong - most uncomfortable!)

Where are R.L.'s Jam Butties mines?

- a Whitehaven
c Knotty Ash
b Workington
d Chris Caisley's back pocket

For £16,000 (Can you stop that irritating 'music'?)

Who knows most about Rugby League?

- a HKR
b DV2

c H:SO2

(Ask the audience)

d A dead donkey

For £32,000 (It's getting buttock clenching now)

If you want to rationalise in Australia who do you get rid of?

- a A founder member of the League in 1908
c Rolf Harris
b Any club based in Sydney
d Rupert Murdoch

If you've got this far you now have a promise from Sir Rodney Walker that he won't sell Emil Heskey to your club to play hooker next season.

For £64,000 (You might as well play this)

When your club next needs a new coach do you appoint?

- a Andy Goodway
c Andy Goodway's paper boyd Anybody but Andy Goodway
b Andy Goodway's Granny
(Try 50/50)

For £125,000

You want to win the Super League Grand Final, do you...?

- a Back Eric Hughes
c Back Red Rum
b Back Ellery Hanley
d Back Down
(We don't want to give you that)

For £250,000

You want to present Rugby League in a good light on T.V.

Are your commentators.....?

- a Ray and Alex
c Any 2 guys with an Aussie accent
b Eddie Waring and Kent Walton
d Eric and Ernie
(Don't lose it now)

For £500,000

A plan exists to kill interest in Rugby League. Was it devised by....?

- a The RFU
c Rupert Murdoch
b The Vichy Government in France
d Drowning men clutching at straws

(Phone a friend? Who's it to be? No, not Maurice in Wigan)

For £1,000,000 (The biggie)

Who do you trust most?

- a Jeffrey Archer
c Neil Hamilton
b Mohammed Al Fayed
d Maurice Lindsay

Sorry, you failed on that last one. You only get £1m if you merge with another load of old dross.

Merry Xmas from

Iva

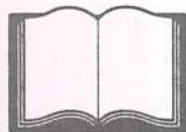
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Amateur Album



SADDLEWORTH RANGERS

THE MOST demanding competition in British amateur rugby league is the National Conference League. One of the most successful clubs in the history of that competition are Saddleworth Rangers who were accepted as members of that league in 1989 and who immediately won the Second Division Championship. Since then they have been crowned Premier Division Champions, have won the League Cup, and, on three occasions, have lifted the BNFL National Amateur Cup. During season 1992-93 Rangers won Championship, Cup and League Cup, the only club to complete a clean sweep of all three trophies.

But the Saddleworth Rangers club is not only about one team. It is a multi team organisation which caters for players from the age of seven upwards. The coaching staff at Shaw Hall Bank Road is as good as any in the game. Oldham's Mike Ford looks after the under-7s and under 8s, Keith Greenwood is under 9s coach, former Oldham and Mansfield player Chris Willis is in charge of the under 10s, Paddy Kirwan, the legendary Oldham scrum half, is under 14s coach whilst the under 15s are under the guidance of Mick Coates, who was first team coach in the glory years during the early 90's. Rangers' under 16s are enjoying an exceptional season. Former Roughyed Keith Atkinson and Dave Hewitt are joint coaches at that age group. Anyone wishing to obtain information about any of the Saddleworth youth teams should contact youth section secretary Brian Mellor on 652-1777.

For the first time in years Saddleworth do not have an under 18s team this season. However, next season several members of the outstanding under 16s outfit will be moving up so the club hope to have a full complement of teams for the 2000-01 campaign. There are two open age teams, the 'A' team play in the North West Counties League, Division Three with Phil Costin and Ray Lucy sharing the coaching duties whilst the first team coaches are Mark Lord and Mick Swift. Both these coaches enjoyed successful playing careers with the St. Annes club. Scrum half Mick represented Great Britain at amateur level and, in fact, skipped his country whilst Mark, a forceful centre, played professionally for Leeds, Oldham, Workington Town and Rochdale Hornets. They enjoyed success when they coached together at St. Annes but, eighteen months ago, felt that the time was right for them to leave Higginshaw Road. Said Mick, 'Saint Annes looked after us really well but we needed a new challenge and everything has gone superb here at Greenfield'.

With Rangers sitting proudly at the top of the Conference League table, it is no surprise that the

Saddleworth committee are equally satisfied with their first team coaches. 'The best two things we have ever done at Saddleworth', said club president Ken Fisher nodding towards Mark and Mick 'is to join the Conference League and sign these two coaches.' Running an organisation like Rangers is a costly business and the club is always on the lookout for sponsorship. Fortunately, Saddleworth have a number of faithful and generous sponsors but anyone wishing to sponsor a match should contact secretary Colin Clare on 628-5982. Match sponsorship costs £120 which enable six persons to enjoy VIP treatment at a match including seats in the stand for the game, after match buffet and a drink in the well appointed sponsors lounge.

Another big fund raiser for the club is the annual Burns Night Supper which this year is being held at the Broadfield Country House Hotel, Rochdale on Monday 24th January. Malcolm Lord is M.C. and the speakers are Eric Jones and Dr. Joe Cunningham. Tickets cost £25 and can be obtained from Ken Fisher on 01706 84715.

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION

FIXTURES 2000

JANUARY

8th	Whitehaven Warriors	A 2.30
15th	BARROW B.R.	H 2.30
22nd	Workington Town	A 2.30
27th	Rochdale Hornets	A 7.30

FEBRUARY

3rd	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H 7.30
10th	HUNSLET HAWKS	H 7.30
17th	LEIGH CENTURIANS	H 7.30
26th	Batley Bulldogs	A 2.30

MARCH

2nd	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H 7.30
8th	Widnes Vikings	A 7.30
23rd	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H 7.30
30th	Featherstone Rovers	A 7.30

APRIL

5th	Hunslet Hawks	A 7.30
13th	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H 7.30

MAY

3rd	Keighley Cougars	A 7.30
13th	WHITEHAVEN W.	H 2.30
20th	Barrow B. R.	A 2.30
27th	WORKINGTON TOWN	H 2.30
31st	Leigh Centurions	A 7.30

JUNE

15th	WIDNES VIKINGS	H 7.30
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JULY

1st	TOP FIVE PLAY OFF	
22nd	GRAND FINAL PLAY OFF FINAL	



NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

HAVING WITNESSED a big turnover of players prior to the commencement of the new season we thought it might be a good idea to introduce the newcomers to Oldham's colours in 1999-2000.

With two tries to his name in the Law Cup victory MARK CAMPBELL made an immediate impact. A 24 year old second row Campbell interested Oldham last year before a motoring accident put him out of commission. Signed from Keighley Cougars, Mark had a spell at Leeds Rhinos. Studying chemical engineering at Leeds University.

PETER FERRIS is a former Higginshaw player brought to Oldham from Dukinfield R.U. where Mike Ford was impressed with his play at centre. At Higginshaw he featured mainly in the pack and was a BARLA under 19 tourist to Australia.

ANTHONY GIBBONS is earmarked to play in the centre but is versatile enough to fill other positions in the backs. One of the stars of Mike Ford's Bramley, Gibbons had Super League experience with Leeds Rhinos.

Twin brother DAVID GIBBONS will be first choice at stand-off. The twins signed for Leeds at 17 to follow a famous uncle at Headingley in Neil Hague. In the last two seasons Oldham have struggled at No.6, so the arrival of a quality player in the role should be a big bonus.

JOEY HAYES is a Great Britain international having toured New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea as a St. Helens player in 1996. He has also played in a Super League Grand Final and in a Regal Trophy final having established himself as a top class finisher at Knowlsely Road. Comes to Oldham from Salford City Reds.

CHIRS HOLLAND is a 21 year old

Wiganer who has represented England and Great Britain Students. A centre or back row forward he was previously on the books of Rochdale Hornets.

KEVIN MANNION is another student international hailing from Wigan. He has toured Australia and France with the Students and is a rangy, ball playing loose forward. Like Chris Holland he joins Oldham from Hornets.

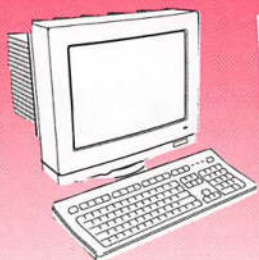
CHRIS NAYLOR has been on the books of St Helens and Salford. A big, strong prop forward he is another student international.

A Papua New Guinea international from Australia but holding an Irish passport, the colourful and talented TOM O'REILLY was a leading light in last season's Bramley team after being recommended to Mike Ford by his ex-Castleford coach Darryl van de Velde. Earmarked for No.13, O'Reilly can also play stand-off.

21 year old centre PAT RICH comes from the North East and played for Keighley while studying law at Leeds. Another who is a student international.

WES ROGERS comes home to Oldham after spells with Swinton and Widnes. A strongly built second row Wes ran in two tries against his home team last year at Gigg Lane.

MARK SIBSON really made a name for himself last year at Bramley after switching to fullback, a position which allows him to pick his spot for some penetrating attacking runs. He featured in the N.F.P. side which played Villeneuve at Widnes at the end of the season having played Super League on loan to Huddersfield Giants. A goalkicker, Sibson has also been on the books at Castleford.



WINNARD'S

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With Simon Winnard

AS WE welcome the start of a new season, it's a time both for optimism and also for reflection on the events which lead us to this date. Rugby League has sadly once again shot itself firmly in the foot. Close season unpredictability, farces dressed up as mergers, traditional clubs die with ensuing fixture chaos. Nothing new to the die hard RL supporter - a laughing stock to the rest of the sporting world.

Ask me what teams I believe will be competing in Super League VI and I have no idea. Ask me what time of year the 2001 Northern Ford Premiership will kick off and I really don't know. Which club will be the next Bramley to be confined to the record books? Well, let's just toss a coin. It's both ridiculous and disappointing. I consistently struggle to come to terms with such a superb product being managed in such a shambolic manner.

Mergers - no. Takeovers and closing down of clubs - yes. I say this because there simply are no mergers, just wholesale transferring of administrations in order to save two clubs whilst killing two others. Last season's two truly disappointing Super League performers are miraculously saved whilst last seasons achievers, namely Gateshead, Sheffield and Hunslet are simply tossed to one side to once again fend for themselves. What kind of message does this give out?

You could, however, point the finger at the poor financial management of the Thunder franchise: a season's loss of £750,000 despite the massive News Corporation handout. However nobody is. Quite the contrary in fact, as we have now thrown another bundle of cash to allow this very same administration to now run the Hull Sharks as they see fit! The reason - "it's vital that Rugby League is represented

at the highest level on Humberside". Presumably this is not then the case in Cumbria and Oldham who were allowed to all but die by the powers that be?

I'm personally delighted that Mark Aston's Sheffield Eagles have been admitted to the NFP this season. Not only because it shows the Huddersfield - Sheffield merger for the sham that it really is, but because I did not want another rugby league community to be destroyed by the games administrator's. Losing clubs, no matter how small is not my idea of expansion or development.

We know better than anybody what it feels like to nearly lose our club and also the uphill struggle which the Eagles now face with a disparity of funding. It won't be easy but thank god that there are people like Mark Aston and Chris Hamilton who are willing to stick their necks out in order to keep our clubs alive. The Giants of Huddersfield will of course now slowly and quietly distance themselves from their tenuous Sheffield link. They will pocket the £1.25 million, a fifth of which may find it's way directly into the hands of Mal Reilly - not bad business for coaching your side to the depths of the Super League basement!

The uncertainty of the game at present, however, does put last season's disappointments for the Roughyeds into perspective. Difficult financial decisions made, knocks taken and pride battered we have survived, unlike others. A financial level playing field now awaits and a new optimism exists. The Roughyeds are finally rooted again in Oldham and let's hope that the support follows. The early signs indicate that a much more competitive squad has been assembled by Mike Ford and I wish him whole hearted support for the season ahead....whatever happens.

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was had by all.

For more details on sponsorship opportunities please contact Scott Claber on 0161 628 3677.

MERRY Christmas and a warm welcome to everyone to today's first match of the season. I hope you like the new look programme. I would like to personally thank Geoff Cooke and Brian Walker for all their hard work in compiling the programme. The intention of this page is to keep you all informed of the latest developments at the Club.

SPONSORS LUNCHEON AND CELEBRATION DINNER DANCE

These events were held at the beginning of December and were very successful. We received a lot of positive feedback from sponsors, both new and old, and everybody was looking forward to the forthcoming season.

The Dinner Dance was held at The Avant Hotel, Oldham, and was well attended. Guest speaker, the ex-Wigan and Great Britain star, Joe Lydon was in good form and a good night

NEW REPLICA SHIRTS

Our new home shirt received it's first airing in the Law Cup at Rochdale. It certainly caught the fans' imagination. The first batch was sold out in under six hours. I must apologise to all supporters who did not manage to purchase a new shirt. The next supply is due in the middle of January and orders can be placed on 0161 628 3677 (PS. Watch out for the new away kit!!)

Well the past month has been very hectic at the Club but a victory today would make it all worth while.

I would like to wish Mike and the boys all the very best for the season. Having worked with Mike these past few months and witnessed his commitment and professionalism I am sure we will have plenty to shout about this season.

Enjoy the game.

Scott

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Hi, Everybody.

Welcome to Mike Ford, all our new players and all the players from last season.

The Supporters Club wish all members, Directors and supporters of ORLFC a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Millennium.

Please check this page of the programme with regard to Supporters Club events for the coming season. With high hopes for the season. All the very best,

David Patterson

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

Hi to all Junior Roughyeds.

We hope you all had a nice Christmas with lots of presents and selection boxes.

We had a great turnout at our enrolment morning on 18th December. Don't worry if you missed it: just send back completed forms and photos with a £5 cheque payable to O.R.L.F.C. Junior Roughyeds to Debbie Rafferty c/o O.R.L.F.C., 66 Union Street, Oldham. (New forms are available at the club shop). Our thanks for supporting the enrolment day go to Mike Ford, Leo Casey, John Hough and Wes Rogers.

The first meeting of 2000 will be at the end of January. Watch this spot in the programme for details.

Mike Ford's sons **George and Joseph** were the mascots for the Hornets Law Cup game and enjoyed Oldham's win.

The Mascots today are the Chairman's two youngest sons **Jordan and Luke Hamilton**.

Jordan is 8 and his favourite player is Mike Ford. Luke is 5 and his favourite player is Leo Casey.

Other mascots will be mentioned in future programmes A Happy New Year to everyone on behalf of the Junior Roughyeds.

Debbie Rafferty

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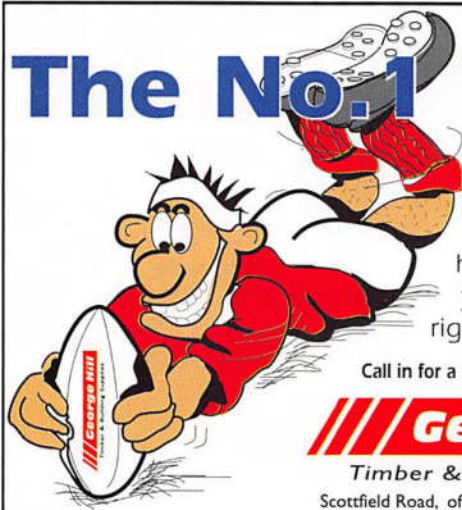
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'THE DON'



IT IS almost like old times again. Competitive rugby league in mid-winter, derby matches at Christmas and Easter and our old rivals from Rochdale visiting us on, well, almost on Boxing Day. Hornets should be our fiercest rivals. We should hate them. But not me. In fact I quite enjoy their company.

The rugby team I hate is Wigan. The only time I have gone to watch Wigan and wanted them to win was when they played Bath.

There is a team I hate more than Wigan though – Manchester United. I have worked for years with colleagues whose knowledge of sport, never mind football is nil, zero. But they all support Manchester United and think that Roy Keane is well worth £52,000 a week. When I was a young chap and began to discover things that you could do when there were no matches on, like entertaining the opposite sex, I always finished up with the ugly, boring girls with bad breath. They always supported Manchester United. The really gorgeous ones who you would pay a pound to but I digress. Rochdale Hornets. I've seen some splendid matches involving Rochdale Hornets.

One Christmas match which stands out in my memory was the 1971 clash at Watersheddings. Hornets had a reasonable side in those days and were confident of beating the Roughyeds. But enter Oldham's secret weapon. Referee Billy Thompson. Billy was an old fashioned type of ref who liked the game played hard. Not fair, just hard. He turned a blind eye to the odd punch and the only high tackles he knew about were the ones that missed.

Unfortunately for Hornets, they must have upset him earlier in the season and he did spot some of their infringements. Before half-time he had 'marched' both hooker Peter Clarke and second-rower

Alan Hodkinson. So Hornets were having a good season, now try and beat Oldham with eleven men. Despite losing 3-2 at half-time I was confident that the Roughyeds would wear them down in the second half. Wrong again.

Hornets that afternoon were magnificent, they played like men inspired and each one deserved a medal. They actually increased their lead and won 8-2. Centre Jim Crellin and loose-forward Henry Delooze scored their tries and full-back Joe Chamberlain tagged on a goal. But it was the tackling of props Peter Birchall and Eddie Brown together with second-rower Bob Welding which sticks out in my mind.

Five years later Hodkinson was sent off again in the Boxing Day match at Watersheddings. Harry Hunt was the ref this time. However, by then Bob Welding was scrumming down on our side and we had three scrum-halves in our line-up. Johnny Paterson, wearing the Number 7 shirt, Dickie Brown at loose-forward and Mick McCone from the bench had the brains to exploit the numerical advantage and the Roughyeds, 0-6 down at half-time, recovered to win 14-6.

The most emotional match between these two clubs in recent years was the Law Cup match at Spotland on New Years Day 1998. It was the day that the new Club appeared, the born again Roughyeds. Oldham's huge travelling support claimed that they just knew Oldham would win. I didn't, but that made victory even sweeter for me and the sight of little Neil Flanagan, hoisted aloft by his teammates and clutching that famous old trophy, will remain with me for a long time.

Let's hope that this afternoon's match throws up more magical memories.

Don Yates

Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER F-A

12 ROCHDALE H (LAW CUP) W 30-18

27 ROCHDALE HORNETS H 3.00

JANUARY

2 Swinton Lions A 3.00

9 WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS H 3.00

16 Barrow B.R. A 3.00

23 WORKINGTON TOWN H 3.00

30 Silk Cut Challenge Cup (Rnd 3)

FEBRUARY

6 Doncaster Dragons A 3.00

13 Silk Cut Challenge Cup (Rnd 4)

20 Leigh Centurions A 3.00

27 Silk Cut Challenge Cup (Rnd 5)

MARCH

5 LANCASHIRE LYNX H 3.00

12 Widnes Vikings A 3.00

19 DEWSBURY RAMS H 3.00

26 Featherstone Rovers A 3.00

APRIL

2 Sheffield Eagles A 3.00

9 HUNSLET HAWKS H 3.00

16 Batley Bulldogs A 3.00

21 Rochdale Hornets A 7.30

24 SWINTON LIONS H 3.00

MAY

1 YORK WASPS H 3.00

7 Hull Kingston Rovers A 3.00

10 KEIGHLEY COUGARS H 7.30

14 Whitehaven Warriors A 3.00

21 BARROW B.R. H 3.00

26 Workington Town A 7.30

29 DONCASTER DRAGONS H 3.00

JUNE

4 LEIGH CENTURIONS H 3.00

11 Lancashire Lynx A 3.00

18 WIDNES VIKINGS H 3.00

25 Dewsbury Rams A 3.00

JULY

2 FEATHERSTONE ROVERS H 3.00

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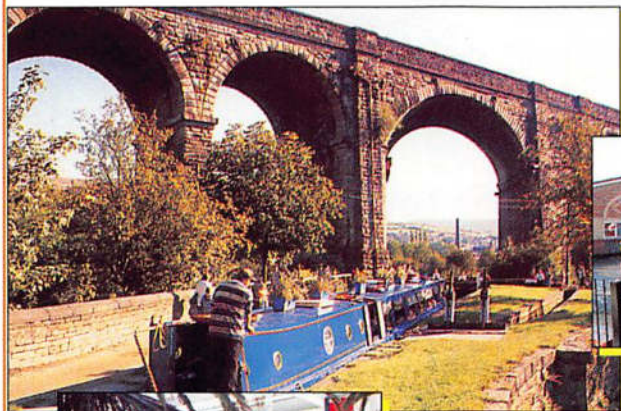
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The Council is committed to continuing to serve the local community and in helping Oldham maintain its significant status in the North West Region.

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Enquiries about the Council's policies and activities, including its regeneration programmes and policies to the Chief Executive's Department, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UG.



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Mark SIBSON

Joey HAYES

Anthony GIBBONS

Pat RICH

Joe McNICHOLAS

David GIBBONS

Mike FORD

Leo CASEY

John HOUGH

Andrew PROCTOR

Mark CAMPBELL

Graeme SHAW

Tom O'REILLY

Keith BRENNAN

Jason CLEGG

Wes ROGERS

Kevin MANNION

ROCHDALE

Coach Steve LINNANE

Lee MAHER

Lee HUDSON

Scott MARTIN

Danny WOOD

Sean COOPER

Dane DORAHY

Paul ASHTON

Shayne McMENEMY

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