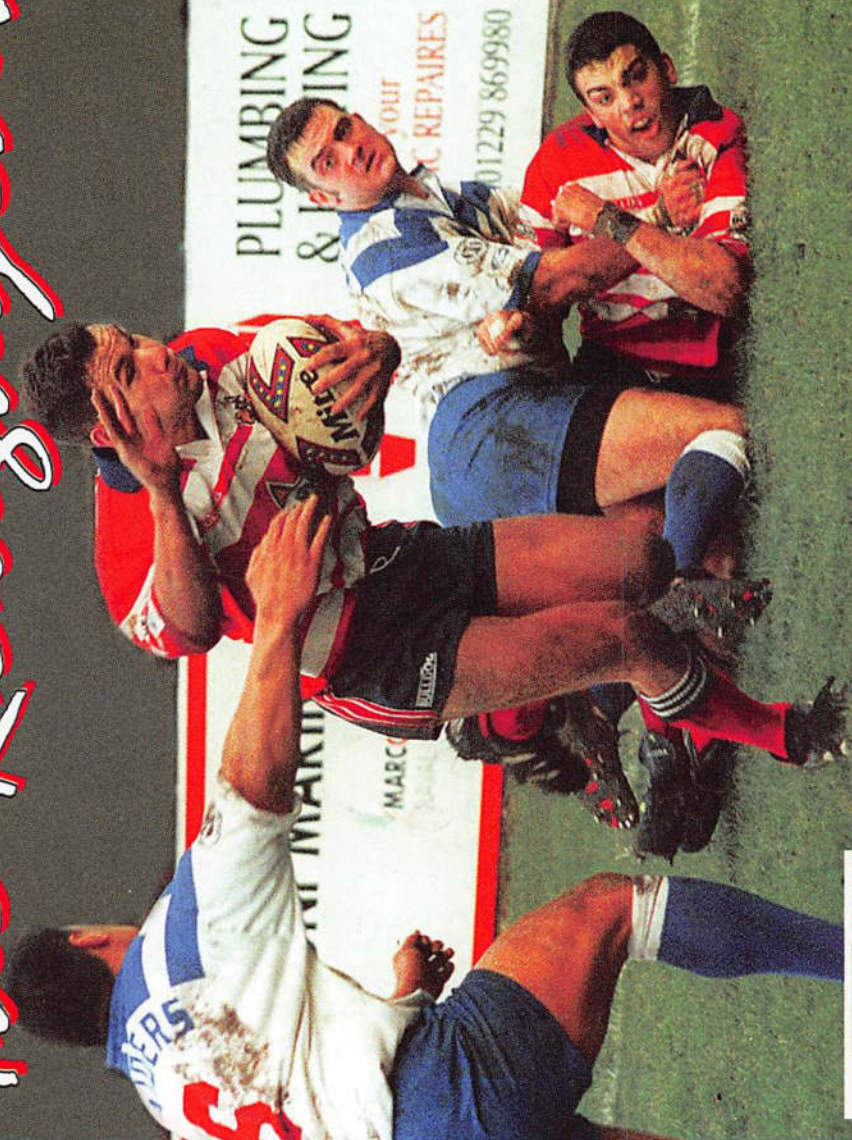


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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



LAST WEEK we lost our unbeaten record at Barrow and it was obviously a big disappointment to everybody at the club. It shows just what a competitive division this is and even at this early stage (4 matches) only Dewsbury have yet to lose.

We welcome everybody from Workington to today's game and although they have not had a good start this will soon change and we need to make sure that it is not today!

Most of you will know that I have been far from happy over the last few days with recent revelations regarding the new stadium. I, like most of you, remember John Battye, standing on the touchline at Watersheddings with a microphone in his hand, promising "us" a new stadium. You can be rest assured that if the new stadium goes ahead, as we hope it will, Oldham Rugby League Football Club will be involved and thus ensuring that the needs of our club are served. I have, since early

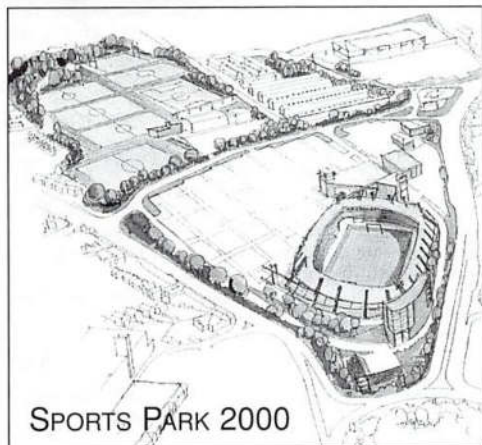
1998, been making representations to OMBC about the plans for the stadium and must confess, that at times, I have felt that we have been treated as "the poor relations". I fully understand the need for private discussions between the council and Oldham Athletic with regard to their assets but if the two clubs are to move forward with confidence then any mistrust and secrecy - on both sides - needs to disappear.

I would like to think that both David Brierley and myself can work together to achieve this but my overriding message to every single Oldham rugby fan is that you can be rest assured that I will do my utmost to ensure that the interests of our club are always served.

At the last home game against Whitehaven the fans were very subdued at the start. I would stress again just how important your vocal support is. Make as much noise as you can - it does make a difference.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton



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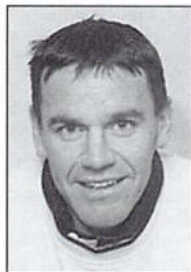
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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE FOR THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY



FORD FOCUS . . . With Mike Ford

Haydn Walkers . . . Alliance First Division Round Up



BEFORE welcoming today's visitors Workington Town to Boundary Park, may I take the opportunity to thank all those Oldham fans who made the long trip to Barrow to support the Roughyeds at Craven Park last Sunday.

Home and away, our supporters have given us terrific backing and vocal support in our four games so far, or five if you count the Law Cup.

To see so many of you in red and white when we went out for the pre-match warm-up at Barrow gave the team a big lift, but not nearly so much as it did at the end of the game when, despite our 19-16 defeat, you all stayed behind to applaud us off the field.

The players were delighted to return the compliment because they know, as I do, that the continued backing and support of loyal fans will form an integral part of the club's continued progress.

It was disappointing to lose our 100 per cent record at Craven park. There were reasons for it, but now is neither the time nor the place to dwell on the past.

Suffice to say that had we been offered three wins out of four at the start of the season, or four out of five if you take the Law Cup into account, or six out of seven if you also consider the Alliance team victories at Whitehaven and against Barrow at Castleton, I think we would have snapped their hand off...and I think most supporters would have done, too.

It has been a most encouraging start to the season, but we know that we have to work even harder if we are to keep up the good work, starting with today's Northern Ford Premiership game against Workington here at Boundary Park.

I read nothing into the fact that Town have yet to win a game. Instead, I prefer to run down their line-up for last Sunday's game at Dewsbury and note whom the Cumbrians have signed in recent weeks in order to provide know how and experience in a young team.

Any team that includes former Leeds and Bradford back Paul Cook at full-back, Kiwi ace Dave Watson at stand-off and former Roughyeds forward Joe Nadirole in the front-row, has to be treated with the utmost respect.

Town have been very busy in the past couple of weeks or so in building up their squad and you can rest assured they will be smarting from recent defeats and coming to Boundary Park today determined to prove something not only to themselves, as individuals, but to their club and its supporters.

From our point of view we must be ready to meet that challenge because it is extremely important that we bounce back with a win after slipping up for the first time this season at Barrow.

The NFP is already proving ultra-competitive. It's a thin dividing line between success and failure in this 18-club competition, so we must not fall into the trap of reading anything into Town's record.

We've got a game on our hands and we have prepared accordingly.

Enjoy the match,

Mike



THE Alliance team have made a very encouraging start to the season with wins away at Whitehaven and at home to Barrow.

Our first win at Whitehaven was a real test of character for the team. We had raced into a 10-0 lead but gradually the home side came back. In the end we managed to hang on and win by two points. It would have been an injustice had the game slipped away from us. Collectively the teams defence was superb. The contribution of Ian Sinfield, Danny Guest and seventeen year old prop Lee Doran were immense. While the leadership and general contribution of Keith Brennan made him easily our Man of the Match.

Barrow were simply blown away last week and the 42-2 score could and should have been greater. There was much for me to be pleased with, the teams general level of performance was an improvement on the previous week, our discipline was good, and the players had a very positive attitude. Gavin Dodd a young amateur from Royston Tigers stole the show with three well taken tries a feat that earned him a call up to the first team as eighteenth man for the trip to Barrow. Danny Guest and Lee Doran had powerful games, while it was good to see Graham Shaw back in action and producing some good form.

The aim with our Alliance team is to produce players who are pushing for first team places, certainly a number of the squad are knocking on Mike Ford's door after the first two games. Such is the good form of the first team at the moment opportunities don't exist. However, it is only a matter of time before a number will get the chance if they keep their current form.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank those spectators who have attended our games so far. Yes, we did take some support to Whitehaven and it was very noisy and supportive. After the home win against Barrow a large number of fans waited at the tunnel until we had finished warming down and clapped the lads off. That was very much appreciated along with the positive encouragement the team received. I hope many more people come along and watch the team. Our next home game is on Thursday against Rochdale. See page 20 for Alliance results and fixtures.

Haydn Walker

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In Yer Face



IT HAS BEEN noticeable so far this season that Oldham have conceded fewer penalties than their opponents in each of the matches played. In view of the closeness of the scores the discipline of Mike Ford's side could be regarded as a significant contributory factor to victory. It contrasts sharply with last season when Oldham were caned on penalties in most matches and suffered far too many yellow and red cards. There is no doubt that in modern rugby penalties cost you dear. Not only are you likely to concede a lot of ground, but they enable the opposition to get on a roll. Significantly, Whitehaven took the lead at Boundary Park in the 65th minute following a penalty against Oldham and it took a mighty effort and two Joey Hayes tries to pull the game back. Equally significantly in the game against Hornets Oldham did not concede a single penalty after the first quarter, while Hornets, as they had in the Law Cup game, allowed their enthusiasm - or was it anxiety? - to get the better of them. With their terrific character and team spirit the added discipline suggests that Oldham might just have that all important ingredient, namely the ability to come out on top in matches with only a hairsbreadth in it.



Joey Hayes

And talking of penalties I would point out two areas where Oldham ought to have been awarded them and have not been. Although by and large the refereeing so far has been satisfactory (yes, I know you won't all agree with that!), it would be nice if two particular rules were upheld. The first is players running offside at the kick-off. In

every match so far this season Oldham's opponents have had several players in their half and in front of the ball at kick-off. This may be of little importance when the ball is kicked deep, but if a side tries to regain possession by kicking short to the ten metre line it is a real problem. Whitehaven did this twice late in the game, gained possession through Buck Armstrong who was five metres offside on the second occasion and set up an attack at the death which almost brought an equalising try in the corner but for some desperate Oldham scrambling defence. What an injustice it would have been had they snatched something because the officials can't be bothered with this particular rule.

The second occasion it is noticeable that the laws of the game are ignored concerns scrums. [We have all long since given up on 'feeding' so I won't go into that!] With Oldham holding the ball in the scrum at the back of the pack why do referees ignore the opposing loose-forward breaking away or, even worse at Swinton, the loose-forward and two second-rows breaking off? This is an offence, cuts down attacking options and thereby entertainment value for the spectator. It should be penalised.

Finally another gripe not affecting Oldham. I was at the Super League friendly between Huddersfield-Sheffield and Halifax. On four occasions Halifax players were penalised for 'travelling' at play-the-ball when clearly what they were trying to do was step over a prone defender to play the ball quickly. In these days of speeding up play it struck me as an injustice that the team wanting to get on with things was penalised while the team trying to slow things down not only got away with it but gained possession. But then I suppose R.L. without controversy just wouldn't be R.L.

GC

ROGER ROGER

THE Northern Ford Premiership has got off to a cracking start.

Close to home, Oldham fans have witnessed a series of terrific matches against Rochdale Hornets and Whitehaven here at Boundary Park and against Swinton and Barrow at Gigg Lane and Craven Park respectively.

The season is still in its infancy and perhaps it is too early to become too enthusiastic about the appeal of the NFP over the course of the next six or seven months.

Early signs, however, are extremely encouraging. With four rounds of matches played only Dewsbury Rams still command a 100 per cent record and it says much for the changing face of the game outside Super League that the Rams record will be given the most severe examination today by Doncaster Dragons.

The Dragons suffered a minor setback at Hull KR, but responded positively to hammer Featherstone Rovers 32-14 at Doncaster last Sunday.

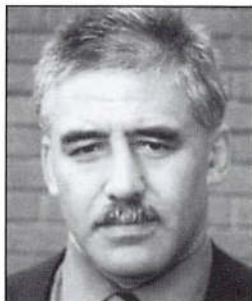
Hull KR, meanwhile, posted notice that they are coming good after a slow start by following up their defeat of Doncaster with a great win against Keighley at Cougar Park.

Widnes are pulling in crowds approaching 4,000 on a regular basis, while both Swinton and Whitehaven hit back from defeats by Mike Ford's Oldham to take out their frustrations on Leigh Centurions.

Leigh were expected to be a real force this season....and it's far too soon to write them off yet....but who would have expected them to slip up at home to Swinton or to go down 24-6 at Whitehaven a week later?

That was a great result for the

Cumbrians and their Kiwi boss Kevin Tamati, whose side played some terrific attacking rugby, inspired by classy playmaker Aaron Lester, in a thriller at Boundary Park a fortnight ago.



Kevin Tamati

Tamati knows a good rugby match when he sees one and he hid his disappointment in defeat by Oldham by declaring that this was a match which had left the paying customer keen to come back for more.

There followed another thriller at Barrow a week later and, sure enough, Craven Park boss Paul Charlton echoed similar opinions, going so far as to comment that the match had approached Super League standard.

By last Sunday evening nine clubs were separated by only two points, behind pace setting Dewsbury, and that must indicate that we are in for a season of thrills and spills, ups and downs, highs and lows, call them what you will, in the race for places in the top eight and qualification for the play off.

More importantly, we have witnessed already this season some terrific wing-to-wing rugby, not only by the Roughyeds but by each of their opponents.

Wingers and centres are scoring tries again and goalkickers are having to swot up how to land goals off the touchline.

Yes, it really is happening. Real rugby is back in the NFP.

Roger Halstead

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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - a summary of important Events

1906 - 1909

THIS WAS an important time period in the evolution of the "Northern Union". After the initial enthusiasm of the breakaway from the Rugby Union the sport was becoming stagnant. To their credit the Northern Union governing body realised that the game needed streamlining. Attendances were in decline and soccer was becoming more and more popular. Rules were therefore introduced that speeded up the game and made for more open play. These 'spectator friendly' initiatives seemed to have the desired effect and attendances improved.

The two boldest departures from the old rules came into force for the 1906-07 season when the 'play the ball' rule was defined and the number of players in a team was reduced from fifteen to thirteen. With these two major changes the game had indeed acquired its own separate identity and any chance of a reuniting of the two codes was now completely out of the question.

Then in 1907 the first international touring team visited these shores. They were the New Zealand 'All Blacks', who actually played in the same 'All Black' as their Rugby Union counterparts but were so named because of their professionalism. The first test was played at Leeds with Britain emerging winners 14-6. The second & third tests were played at the unlikely venues of Chelsea and Cheltenham and the Kiwis won them both to take the spoils from the first ever test series. At the conclusion of the tour two of the most famous players in the team joined English clubs. George (G.W.) Smith signed for Oldham whereas his fellow Kiwi, Lance Todd joined Wigan. They both made their debut on February 19th, 1908 in the league match between Wigan and Oldham at Central Park, with the 'Roughyeds' emerging winners by seven points to five before a crowd of 25,000.

This tour was followed by the first visit from the 'Kangaroos' of Australia in 1908. Once again the test matches went outside the heartland of

the Northern Union. The first test, at the home of Queens Park Rangers in London, resulted in a draw. However, the second and third matches, played respectively in Newcastle and Birmingham, saw Great Britain victorious. So the first Rugby 'Ashes' success went to the Lions.

The 1907-08 season saw Hunslet reign supreme. The south Leeds club pulled out all the stops to win the Championship, Challenge Cup, Yorkshire Cup and Yorkshire League. All this achieved under the captaincy of the legendary Albert Goldthorpe. A veteran who had captained the club right from the start of the Northern Union back in 1895.



Albert Goldthorpe, the famous Hunslet captain, with four major trophies won by the "PARKSIDERS" in 1907-08.

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 NFP

WITH ONLY four or so games played in the NFP it would be foolish to take the early table standings too seriously at this very early stage. But with the Trans Pennine Cup returning after a season break it gives the clubs a chance to lift an early trophy. With that competition over in April, then it might be the time to start thinking about who will be contesting the grand final come July. Even the bookmakers could not agree a favourite amongst themselves with one leading firm offering Leigh Centurions favourite at 9/2 and another making Widnes Vikings favourites at 3/1. A whole host of clubs were on the 5 and 6/1 mark including Dewsbury Rams, Hull KR, Hunslet and dark horses Doncaster Dragons. If you fancied some longshots Oldham were 100/1, whilst Workington and Lancashire Lynx were both friendless, in the market, at 300/1. So if you have had a punt how is your team doing?

Widnes Viking - Most peoples favourites and have made an encouraging start winning two of their three starts, losing only to Leigh Centurions, with the magnificent Auto Quest stadium and enthusiastic supporters they must remain well fancied for a place in SL in 2001.

Leigh Centurions - Have only made a fair start and have tasted defeat on two occasions, most recently at Whitehaven. Obviously Ian Millwards side must still be considered title contenders but will need to make an improvement to figure come July. Their 24-6 defeat at Whitehaven was a major shock from last weekends results.

Dewsbury Rams - Are the only club with a 100% record and have looked awesome so far, winning each of their opening four games and conceding only eighteen points. Having been beaten in the 99 final, determination to take the title this year must be very high. Winger Adrian Flynn and stand off Richard Agar will have a major say in the Rams quest for glory.



Adrian Flynn

Hull KR - Were my tip for the top this year but I am now having second thoughts the Robins managed only 1 try in their first three games but took a creditable two points at Cougar Park. Craven Park remains a difficult place to visit but I think Hull KR will be left wanting in a few departments this term.

Hunslet Hawks - Were left frustrated after taking the title last season and not being allowed into SL. The Hawks early form was a disaster but they took the points at home against a run of the mill York team. Things must improve at the South Leeds Stadium if the Hawks are to realise their 5/1 quote.

Doncaster Dragons - Were last seasons whipping boys and now the boot in on the other foot. The Dons have made some outstanding additions to the squad for this season, and have made an encouraging start but failure might lead them, I suspect, up that well known creek.

Amongst the 'Rags' Oldham Swinton Lions and Barrow Border Raiders are doing best at the moment.

Oldham - Like Doncaster have turned things around and have had three good wins to date and have strengthened their squad. The team spirit has been well noted throughout the RL. Amongst many of the new players, centre Pat Rich, has made an impact on the opening games. The Roughyeds may not take the championship but that will not be through lack of commitment and hard work.

Swinton Lions - Have made a good start losing only to Oldham and put up good performances against Leigh and Lancashire Lynx. Their result at Hilton Park was one of the surprises of the season so far but they will need to be consistent if they are to figure at the end of the season.

Barrow Border Raiders - Look a tough, well organised squad and will be hard to beat on their own patch. They recently ended Oldham's 100% record but may find one or two teams too good for them on their travels this year. Batley, Featherstone, Keighley, Whitehaven, Rochdale and York all have wins under their belts and should hold their own as should Sheffield Eagles, who's fans I applaud. As for any bets on Workington or Lancashire Lynx all wagers will have gone on to local bookmakers holiday funds.

In Town Today



...WORKINGTON TOWN

WORKINGTON TOWN come to Boundary Park today on the back of four consecutive defeats, against Barrow, Whitehaven, Swinton and Dewsbury. Nevertheless, it would be foolish to expect an easy ride today as Cumbrian sides are notoriously tough, as we saw against Whitehaven a fortnight ago. In addition, Town have recently added some experience to their young side with the purchase of two quality footballers with Super League experience, namely David Watson and Paul Cook.



New signing Dave Watson

WATSON is a New Zealand international with 12 caps and was in the Sheffield side which won the Challenge Cup. He joins Town from the merged Giants and has also played at Halifax and Hull KR.

COOK, at 23, packs a wealth of experience into his career. A first rate goalkicker, he has played for Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield and was in Hunslet Hawks' Grand Final team last year. He is also an England international.

Others likely to feature today are CRAIG STALKER at fullback, a dynamic discovery in 1999 after signing from St. Nicholas Arms. Twin brother MARTIN STALKER has now joined Craig and it is hoped will be equally successful at centre. However 20 year old STEVE McGRADY, a close season signing from Kells and a BARLA representative could partner Cook in the centres today.

On the wings could be speedy LEIGH SMITH and the experienced GRAEME LEWTHWAITE who comes to Town after five years at Whitehaven, having originally graduated to the professional ranks from Hensingham.

Watson's scrum-half partner is LEE ALLEN a 1999 signing from Lowca.

In the pack will be TAU LIKU who had five seasons at Leigh and whose robust style makes him a big favourite with the crowd. A Tongan with World Cup ambitions.

Equally robust is JOE NADIOLE who needs no introduction to Oldham fans after two spells with the new club. A Fijian with a forceful running style, Joe has also seen service at Huddersfield and Hunslet, among others.

Hooker OWEN WILLIAMSON is a 19 year old newcomer with CRAIG FISHER and CARL SICE as rivals for his role.

Second-row MATT STURM was a regular for Huddersfield in each of the last three seasons. He played in New Zealand for Counties Manukau and is a likely selection for the Maoris in the World Cup. His partner ANTHONY SAMUEL, meanwhile, is a Cook Island World Cup representative who played briefly for Widnes before joining Town in 1998.



Stuart Hoyles

Loose-forward STUART HOYLES is a stalwart of the outstanding Ellenborough side who adds a touch of class to the Workington pack.

Other players in the running for selection include:-

JAMIE BEAUMONT, now returned for a second spell at Derwent Park after appearing at stand-off for Seaton last year; JONATHAN HEANEY, a 19 year old native Cumbrian who has played RU at Northampton while at Bedford University. Tracked by London Broncos, Salford and Wigan he nevertheless elected to turn pro for Gary Murdock, Town's coach this year and Heaney's former coach at Ellenborough; RYAN CHARTERS is also ex- Ellenborough and is a newcomer to the pro-ranks in 2000. He plays at second-row; NICKY CRELLIN is a big, powerful forward bearing a famous RL name. Can be devastating when used as an impact player; TONY HUDDART is 19 and a utility back who has progressed through the Academy and Alliance sides; TONY DMYTROWSKI is a close-season halfback recruit from Whitehaven. He formerly played at Egremont and Wath Brow Hornets.

Walkerbouts

With Brian Walker

MILLENNIUM MASTERS

IN ASSOCIATION with Lincoln Financial Group (sponsors of this season's World Cup) RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD have published along with their January issue a superb supplement to celebrate those players who in their opinion have proved since the 1895 formation of the Northern Union to be the icons of the sport.

Selected are twenty players who, for the best part of their career, graced the British game but did not necessarily need to be of British descent, plus twenty players each from Australia, New Zealand and France.

The 'British' selection is Lance Todd, Harold Wagstaff, Billy Batten, Jonty Parkin, Jim Sullivan, Gus Risman, Brian Bevan, Dave Valentine, Billy Boston, Tom Van Vollenhoven, Alan Prescott, Neil Fox, Mick Sullivan, Alex Murphy, Vince Karalius, Roger Millward, Clive Sullivan, Ellery Hanley, Garry Schofield and Martin Offiah.

Not too many problems there with the exception that I would certainly have included centre James Lomas, captain of the first tour to Australia and regarded by many historians as 'the' player of the Edwardian era. Lomas was transferred from Salford to Oldham for a then world record fee of £300. Should Lomas have been included it would have been at the expense of winger Mick Sullivan. No room either for the likes of record goal scorer David Watkins (221 in a season), record try scorer Albert Rosenfield (80 in a season), Shaun Edwards, Eric Ashton, Brian McTigue and Martin Hodgson!

If I have a grouse, (and I have), it is with the selection of the Kiwi twenty.

The first ever New Zealand League touring party to these shores was Albert Baskerville's 1907 'All Golds'. They beat the British 2-1 in the three match series. It was not to be until 1971 that the Kiwi's would again win a series in this

Continued on page 21



The Rugby League World Cup



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121

An interview by Dave Roberts with Joey Hayes



What brought you to Oldham?

I wrote to a few of the local clubs looking for a part-time contract, and Mike was keen, so I ended up signing for the Roughyeds and I am looking forward to the season.

So you are o.k. about NFP football?

Yes! like I said, I wanted a part-time contract to fit in with my university course, so things have turned out good. I expect the NFP to be tough, because a lot of the teams look to have a chance. It looks like a competitive league and I am ready for it.

You have had your fair share of injuries.

I had to have a knee re-construction when I was at St. Helens. Then I got poked in the back and it sent pains shooting down my legs. That alone put me back 7 weeks.

Your first game against Rochdale was only a friendly but the win must have fired everyone up.

It was a good team building exercise and it created a good atmosphere. It feels better here than at Salford who are in Super League.

What can we achieve this season?

To start with we have a lot of potential, and hopefully it won't be long before we 'gel' together, so who knows what will happen? There is no reason we should not do well, we are working very hard and Mike has a tough training programme, including weights, diets etc.; it is something that takes up a full week. We did not get that sort of training in Super League.

Who will win the NFP?

I think Leigh will be a danger to all, but if we all pull together, and our fans get behind us like they have done so far, who knows, we might surprise a few people. The fans here are great; they gave us a lift against Rochdale, Swinton and Whitehaven and I would have to say they are much better than the Salford fans.

DAVE ROBERTS

Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

Joey Haynes

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Iva Slateloose



HAVE YOU seen the latest R.L. publication? It's called **CHAIRMAN MO's LITTLE RED BOOK**. Here are a few extracts to whet the appetite:-

1. ORGANIZATION

If there is to be a revolution, there must be a revolutionary party (**me, Gary and C.C.**). Without a party built on revolutionary theory (mergers and expulsions), it is impossible to head the broad masses of the people in defeating imperialism and it's running dogs (**Rodney Walker and Bob McDermott**).

2. THE STRUGGLE

The enemy will not perish of himself (**so SLE will give him a helping hand**).

Who are the enemies? Who are our friends? This is a question of the first importance for the revolution. (**So we'll assume everyone is an enemy bar Rupert and the SLE**)

We should support whatever the enemy opposes (**Summer Rugby**) and oppose whatever the enemy supports, (**Winter Rugby**).

3. BELIEF

The serious problem in the education of the peasantry (**so we'll bring in Eddie and Stevo**).

Our state is a people's democratic dictatorship (**i.e. me and C.C. decide what's best**).

4. REACTIONARIES

All reactionaries are paper tigers. (**Ken Arthurson, Bob McDermott I mean you!**)

All wars that are progressive are just, and all wars that impede progress are unjust. (**Long live News Corp., Rupert, Sky T.V., Tesco, Dave Whelan etc. etc. Down with Red Hall, the APC, BARLA, Hunslet, Gateshead, the Betting Levy Board, the Jockey Club, the forces of conservatism and anything else I don't like!**)

5. DEMOCRACY

Anyone should be allowed to speak out, whoever he may be, so long as he is not a hostile element...(that means you **Harry Edgar, Iva Slateloose, John Spellman, the Flat Capper, the Final Hooter, all Fanzines etc. etc.**)

6. HUMILITY

We should be modest and prudent, guard against arrogance and rashness...(However, **Wigan are going to stuff it good and proper up Leeds, Bradford and St. Helens this year**).

7. HEROISM

Be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount every difficulty to win victory. (**Are you listening Frank Endacott because I'm lining up Ellery for your job next year**).

8. FINANCE

Thrift should be the guiding principle in our government expenditure (**i.e. make sure no-one breaks the salary cap and we're home and dry**).

9. IDEOLOGY

Many things may become baggage, may become encumbrances, if we cling to them blindly and uncritically, (**like Sheffield, Gateshead, Bramley, most clubs in Sydney, Andy Goodway etc. etc.**)



Andy Goodway

10. THE FUTURE

Our vision for the future is clear and uncluttered. (**Despite which we haven't a clue where we are headed**)

LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION

(With apologies to Mao Tse-Tung)

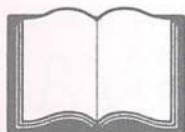
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Amateur Album



HOLLINWOOD ARLFC

HOLLINGWOOD would never claim to be the best or most successful sporting organisation in the town. Not as far as winning trophies is concerned that is. But if you want to be part of a homely little club playing rugby at a competitive but not ultra-professional level, then Hollinwood is the club for you.

Founded in 1979, Hollinwood currently play at the Melrose Playing Fields, off Fields New Road, Chadderton. The ground is actually owned by the Rugby Football League and is leased to the Oldham Amateur League who, in turn, sub-let it to Hollinwood. The clubhouse was built seven years ago and houses changing rooms and small kitchen-cum-shop. Spectators and visitors, therefore, can obtain hot drinks and confectionery on match days. After match hospitality, though, is supplied by the nearby Owd Tatts public house, Butler Green.

Training nights for Hollinwood are Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Hathershaw Sports Centre. Tuesdays inside the gym and Thursdays outside on the floodlit all-weather pitch. Head coach at the club is Colin Garratt, an outstanding and most reliable full-back in his playing days. He enjoyed a fourteen year playing career with Saddleworth Rangers during which time he won a multitude of honours including the Ben Powell Trophy in 1996 when Rangers defeated Higginshaw 18-10 in the Standard Cup Final.

There is only one team at Hollinwood and they are currently playing in Division Two of the Pennine League. Club secretary, treasurer, trainer and general odd job man Fred Halliwell, awarded the 'Sportsman of the Year' trophy by the Oldham Amateur League last season, is happy for his team to play in the Pennine League in preference to the North West Counties League. 'It's better for us,' he said, 'There are less matches postponed, there is a friendlier atmosphere at games and the matches are closer.' Club income is generated only by player subscription, ground collection, after match raffle in Owd Tatts and a lottery 'bonus ball' competition in the pub. 'Sponsorship, what sponsorship?' laughed Fred when asked if the club was sponsored in any way. 'We have had sponsors in the past by there are none at present but if anyone's interested I'm sure we could sort something out.' Fred can be contacted on 624-3542 but, typically, it was the club who actually sponsored the Oldham schoolboys' team which appeared at Wembley in 1984, supplying each member of the squad with a specially designed tie.

They are that type of club.

Don Yates



HOLLINWOOD ARLFC 1991

F. Halliwell Snr. Pennine Clubman of the Year
F. F. Halliwell Oldham Sportsman of the Year
Division 4 Champions Pennine League

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION

FIXTURES 2000

JANUARY

8th	Whitehaven Warriors	A	W	18-16
15th	BARROW B.R.	H	W	42-2
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
------	----------------	---	--	------

JULY

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

Walkerbout

With Brian Walker

MILLENNIUM MASTERS

Continued from page 14

country - a gap of 64 years! **No players from the 1907 tour are included in the twenty.**

During 1995 as part of the RL centenary celebrations the New Zealand postal authorities announced the issue of a series of five postage stamps to commemorate league in their country. The only individuals they thought fit to honour were Baskerville and **GEORGE SMITH**. Winger, Smith was vice captain of the All Golds also a member of the 1905 union All Blacks tour, a champion sprinter and hurdler and a competent pro jockey.

At the end of the 1907 tour George Smith became Oldham's first ever overseas player outstanding with the club through the most successful period of its history. Later he was to become team coach staying in the town for the rest of his life.

At the end of the tour Lance Todd, also a threequarter, signed for Wigan. By coincidence both Todd and Smith made their debuts in the same match at Central Park and on the day were in direct opposition. Smith had the better of the battle and helped Oldham to a 7-5 victory. By skill and reputation George Smith had the edge over Lance Todd. The younger Todd spent most of his rugby years playing the English game and probably quite rightly named as one of the twenty 'British' icons.

EQUALLY TO LEAVE GEORGE SMITH OUT OF ANY NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE ROLL OF HONOUR IS UNTHINKABLE!

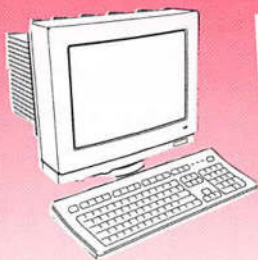
However, congratulation to RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD, a fine issue. If you haven't yet bought a copy it's your loss.



Painting depicting Lance Todd and George Smith - debut 19th February 1908, Wigan

RUGBY LEAGUE'S earliest pioneers, George Smith (left) and Albert Baskerville, are honoured on this stamp. Together, the pair were instrumental in organising New Zealand's first league team, the All Golds, for the ground-breaking tour of Britain and Australia in 1907. Their involvement is also a story of sacrifice. Smith, a 1905 All Black, received a lifetime ban from rugby union for changing codes, while Baskerville tragically died of pneumonia in Australia on the homeward leg of the tour.





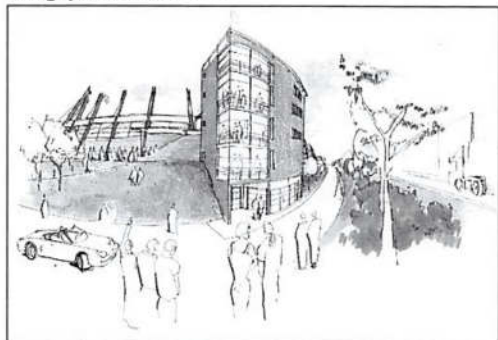
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With Simon Winnard

SHORT SIGHTED administration, the absence of a clear long term strategy and dubious development plans are all issues that blight our game at present....yes, you've heard it all before. However, it is with great difficulty that these allegations could be levelled at our own club who can stand proud within the turmoil and point the way forward.

The Professional approach taken by the club this season, both on and off the field, has not gone unnoticed. Financial stability, positive attitude and sheer commitment will ensure a competitive edge in a fiercely intense competition this season. This has been keenly demonstrated in our first three victories and also in last weeks narrow defeat at Barrow. Never have these qualities been needed more than in the quest to secure a permanent home for the Roughyeds in Oldham.



In sharp contrast to the fate of Watersheddings, the sale of Boundary Park will hopefully secure a long term home for the Roughyeds in the town. This stability should provide the club with a solid base and thus the opportunity to successfully promote itself within the community.

A long term tenancy agreement for both Athletic and the Roughyeds has been agreed with the ground's new owners, Hiretarget - a move which should prevent a repeat of last season's disastrous exile from the town. So far so good.

After a period of hesitance, the football club has now placed it's backing to the proposed new stadium scheme. Whether this decision was taken from a long term perspective or was purely financially driven to alleviate massive debts in

the short term is another issue. Are both clubs putting their past differences behind them and looking to forge a better working relationship?.....let's hope so.

Indeed, this significant move appears to be the first crucial step towards the completion of the Sportspark 2000 development. That possibility raises many emotive issues for all the parties concerned.

In my opinion, there is no question that the sporting public of Oldham deserve a state of the art stadium and all the facilities that come with it. However, whether this should take place at Clayton playing fields is one of many more difficult questions which need to be answered.

There are apparently at least two alternative sights which have been earmarked should the present bid be unsuccessful. However, these locations have not been publicised. Surely for the public to make an informed decision whether to support or oppose the scheme, all the facts must be presented.

What particularly concerns me is the lack of clarification over what part the Roughyeds will play in the ownership/management of the proposed new stadium. Indeed, this week we learned that a company has been created to administrate this venture. This consisted of three Athletic directors but only the option of a Roughyeds official joining 'should the club become involved at a later stage'. Did the sale of Watersheddings to Hiretarget some four years ago not come hand in hand with the promise of an involvement in a new stadium?

Like the vast majority of the Oldham public, I remain disappointingly uninformed about the specific details of the scheme and as a result, somewhat sceptical.

As a Roughyed supporter, I have of course over the years developed a slightly pessimistic (or was that realistic?) approach. However, I certainly have faith in our present administration to protect the club's interests and hope that my concerns prove to be unnecessary.

Quite simply, the jury is still out. Not only in form of the Charities Commission who are expected to make a ruling within the next month, but also many of the Roughyed faithful who are understandably concerned that their club gets a fair deal this time around.

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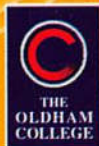
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Club Call

THE SATURDAY YANKEE

Although the season has just started, our lottery 'The Saturday Yankee' runs for 52 weeks of the year. The lottery is a key fundraiser for the Club and anybody wishing to join should contact me at the Club on **0161 628 3677**. We are also always interested in recruiting agents who can spare a couple of hours a week to help the Club. Agents receive commission; discount in the Club Shop and other benefits. Again, please contact me at the Club for further details.

GOLDEN GAMBLE HALF-TIME DRAW

Whilst we are on the subject of fund-raising, can I bring to your attention our half-time draw 'The Golden Gamble'. Tickets are only £1 and the lucky winner receives 50% of the proceeds the draw makes on the day.

Due to the fact that we do not have our own facilities on match days the 'Golden Gamble' is another major form of income . . . so please help the Club . . . and you never know you just might help yourself!!

BACK ROOM STAFF ADDITION

Congratulations to our kit man, Neil Haughton, and his wife Heather on the safe arrival of their baby daughter Melissa last week. With the new arrival, and his little boy, Joe, Neil cannot complain about needing help with the kit now!

Scott

Lancashire Day

OLDHAM v WIGAN ST. JUDES ARLFC

Sunday 30.1.00 at Boundary Park, Oldham (3.00pm kick-off)

Enjoy a day out with the Roughyeds!

Next Sunday we entertain Wigan St. Jude's, in the Third Round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. To mark the occasion we are providing fans with the opportunity of watching the game from the superb Sponsors Suites at Boundary Park. Included in the package is:-

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The price of this **"Lancashire Day"** package in only **£17.50** per person. The ticket office will be open, after today's match, for 15 minutes for reservations.

Details and reservations can also be made on 0161 628 3677.

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS



Hi to all the Junior Roughyeds.

A warm Oldham welcome to all the Workington Town Juniors.

The mascot for today's is **Kim Broadbent**. Kim is 9 years old and her favourite player in Leo Casey.

Newsletters will be arriving soon with details about the first Junior Roughyeds meeting for the 2000 season. See you there!

Debra Rafferty

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ARE PLEASED TO BE PART OF THE TEAM



'THE DON'



JANUARY 23rd is a very significant day in the history of Workington Town because it was on that day in 1945, Wednesday 23rd January, that Workington town were admitted into the Northern Rugby Football League. Their admission was decided at a special meeting which was convened at the Grosvenor Hotel, Manchester and presided over by George Hutchins, the then Oldham Chairman.

Workington's arrival on the professional scene has resulted in many demanding trips by their rivals to west Cumbria where Town are always formidable opponents. The Cumbrians have also nurtured many promising young



Ike Southward

players who have gone on to star in this great game of ours. One such player was winger Ike Southward who moved to Oldham for a World record transfer fee and returned to Workington under similar circumstances. Southward made 52 appearances for Oldham and crossed for 54 tries, one of which was scored on this day in 1960, Saturday 23rd January, when Oldham lost a league match at St. Helens 27-6.

Two players currently in the Workington first team squad were starring for their amateur clubs twelve months ago, on Saturday 23rd January, 1999. Centre Steve McGrady scored a try for Kells as they defeated Seaton 36-12 in the first round of the Cumberland Cup but it was not such a successful afternoon for scrum-half Lee Allen. Although he scored one of Lowca's three tries, they crashed out of the cup, beaten 32-12 at Penrith. On that same afternoon, Saturday 23rd January, 1999 several local clubs had to claw their way to victory after initially falling behind. St. Annes won 12-7 at

Thornhill with a late try from winger Graeme Sykes; Saddleworth were 7-0 behind against Leigh Miners but recovered to win 12-7; Hollinwood were 14-6 down against Siddal but hit back to win 16-14 and Royton Tigers fell 6-0 behind at Pendle Lions before Grant Bithell's try and three goals enabled them to recover and win 14-12. Alas, there was no comeback for Watersheddings Wanderers who lost 72-0 at home to Shelf Lions.

The Great Britain team also staged an unlikely revival on this day in 1965, Saturday 23rd January, during a sensational match at Swinton. That day the Lions took on France seeking revenge for a defeat which they had suffered the previous month in Perpignan. Leading the French in both internationals was prop-forward Marcel 'The Bear' Bescos and he was outstanding as Britain fell 7-0 behind. Wakefield Trinity centre Neil Fox reduced the arrears with a couple of goals before half time but then, on the hour, the match erupted and Bescos was sent off. He refused to walk so referee Dennis Davies left the field followed by the entire French team. Eventually the French, and referee, returned but without Bescos or, indeed, the fighting spirit which had put them in front. Winger Berwyn Jones, also of Wakefield, scored a try for Britain and Fox continued to land goals, seven in total, as Britain went on to win 17-7.

Whilst Britain were slugging it out with France on Saturday 23rd January 1965, a player who was to enjoy a short stint with Oldham, was making his professional debut just down the East Lancashire Road in St. Helens. John Mantle had joined St. Helens from Newport RUFC earlier in the month and he made his debut in the second row as Saints beat Whitehaven 16-3. Mantle went on to win every domestic honour with Saints, made 13 test appearances, toured Australasia with the British Lions and represented Wales in the World Cup. He also played for Salford, Keighley and Blackpool Borough as well as enjoying player coaching appointments at Leigh and Oldham, making just one first team appearance for the Roughyeds.

Don Yates

Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER F-A

12 ROCHDALE H (LAW CUP) W 30-18

27 ROCHDALE HORNETS W 23-20

JANUARY

2 Swinton Lions W 23-18

9 WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS W 26-22

16 Barrow B.R. L 19-16

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 3.30

APRIL

2 Sheffield Eagles A 3.15

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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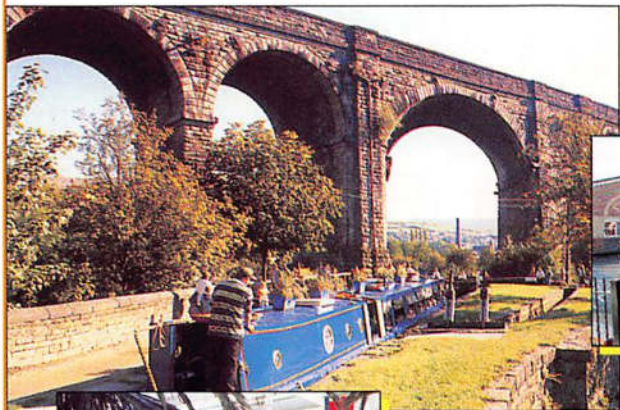
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Oldham – *Well placed for the challenges of the New Millennium*



Oldham Metropolitan Borough is ready to meet the many and varied challenges of 2000 and beyond.

The Council's forward thinking approach, commitment and activities have resulted in a massive regeneration and revitalisation programme of the Borough throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

This endeavour has led to an expanding, improving town centre which has benefited from £100 million investment, 20 new schools in as many years, a national award-winning multi million pound regeneration scheme, development of a new cultural quarter, a new business management school, a town centre based leisure scheme including multiplex cinema, Britain's newest Sixth Form College, a diversity of industry, the planned extension of the Metrolink tram system and much more.

All this, together with Oldham's reputation for innovation, hard work and friendliness means that the Borough finds itself well placed to meet the challenges of the New Millennium.

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

OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

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.



TODAY'S TEAMS



OLDHAM

Coach Mike FORD

Mark SIBSON

Joey HAYES

Anthony GIBBONS

Pat RICH

Joe McNICHOLAS

David GIBBONS

Mike FORD

Leo CASEY

John HOUGH

Andrew PROCTOR

Mark CAMPBELL

Kevin MANNION

Tom O'REILLY

Keith BRENNAN

Jason CLEGG

Peter FERRIS

Wes ROGERS

WORKINGTON

Coach Gary MURDOCK

Paul COOK

Graeme LEWTHWAITE

Steve MAGRADY

John ALLEN

Leigh SMITH

Dave WATSON

Mike DEMPSEY

Ryan CHARTERS

Owen WILLIAMSON

Joe NADIOLE

Matt STURM

Anthony SAMUELS

Stuart HOYLES

Jamie BEAUMONT

Jonathan HEANEY

T.B.A.

Michael BETHWAITE



TODAY'S OFFICIALS
REF: RON LAUGHTON

 **IAN WILLIAMS**

 **BERNIE HUNTER**

 **4th T.B.A.**

There will be one minutes silence prior to today's game in memory of **WILSON IRVING** who died earlier this month aged 81. Wilson was a former Oldham and Cumberland scrum half and also the captain of the first ever Workington side which made its league debut in 1945.

