

Dragons

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Feel The Heat

OLDHAM

**SUNDAY 6th FEBRUARY
2000
at
BELLE VUE STADIUM
K.O. 3.00pm**

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Peter Smith

Directors:

Managing Director:

John Wright

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Marketing Assistant:

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Football Secretary/Development:

Ray Green

Lottery Manager/Physio:

Mick Geoghegan

Head Coach:

St John Ellis

Assistant Coach:

Tony Miller

Club Doctor:

Martyn Coleman, MBBS

Announcer:

Paul Murray

Kit-Co-ordinator:

Dave (Primo) Wilson

Photographer:

Phil Callaghan

Statistics:

Kevin Clegg

Club Historian:

Ken Browning

Programme Produced by:

Art & Type Partnership

Tel: 01924 455885

The views expressed in this
matchday programme are not
necessarily those held by
Doncaster Dragons R.L.F.C

Voice from the Chair...

We would like to welcome to Belle Vue today, Chris Hamilton, Chairman of Oldham, his board of directors, players and supporters.

Oldham, over the past few years, have like Doncaster, had a turbulent existence, but under the guidance of Chris, the club has steadied, and this year the club are a force to be reckoned with, this is reflected in their position at this time in The Northern Ford Premiership.

Well the waiting is over, the French Bears have come, they have tasted Doncaster beef and gone home with their tails between their legs. In a fifteen minute spell, we were treated to a rugby exhibition by our boys of such a proportion that it would have graced the Grand Final itself. At the time of writing the draw for the next round of the cup has yet to be made, but we do not care - on this form we can take on all comers.

With the amount of home fixtures coming on board over the next few weeks, I would like to thank our commercial team for all the preparation work required 'to make it happen', organising sponsors etc. etc.

It is no easy task on match days organising kit, sponsors, supporters, food, bars, hanging sign-boards and also organising the dancers. So to you all, on behalf of the board, I would like to thank you, especially Ray, Shelley, Primo, Greg, Lynsey and Keeley.

At today's game the girls will be going round with a bucket collection, for financial support, to help buy new pompoms and dancing kits - we hope you can give generously.

Another firm favourite down at Belle Vue who never gets any recognition is our Club Doctor, Martin. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin for his efforts over the years.

Enjoy the game.

Peter Smith

Club Records

Goals in a Season:	R. TURNER	123 (inc. 10 D/G)	1993/4
Tries in a Season	M. ROACHE	21	1989/90
Points in a Season	R. TURNER	272	1993/94
Appearances in a Season	A. STREET	40	1951/52
Goals in a Match	T. ZELEI	12 v Nottingham (H)	1/9/91
	R. TURNER	12 v Highfield (H)	20/3/94
Tries in a Match	C. HALL	5 v Mysons (H)	31/10/93
Points in a Match	T. ZELEI	32 v Nottingham (H)	1/9/91
Career Tries Record	A. ROACHE	111	1985/1996
Career Goals Record	D. NOBLE	1751	1976/1992
Career Points Record	D. NOBLE	850 (inc. 77 D/G)	1976/1992
Appearance Record	D. NOBLE	326 (inc. 18 sub)	1976/1992
Highest Win (Home)	96-0	Highfield	20/3/94
Highest Win (Away)	52-8	Nottingham	26/12/89
Heaviest Defeat (Home)	0-72	Halifax	9/10/94
Heaviest Defeat (Away)	3-75	Leigh	28/3/76
Highest Home Attendance	York Rd Stadium	10000 v Bradford N	16/2/52
	Tattersfield	6440 v Leeds	4/9/94
	Belle Vue	2071 v Featherstone R	16/1/2000
	Stainforth	1449 v York	8/4/96
	Leeds	20043	19/1/52
Highest Away Attendance			
Lowest Home Attendance	Workington	105	27/4/82
Lowest Away Attendance	Blackpool	72	20/2/77



Northern Ford Premiership League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dewsbury Rams	5	5	0	0	126	34	10
Oldham	5	4	0	1	118	96	8
Hull Kingston Rovers	5	3	1	1	42	34	7
DONCASTER DRAGONS	5	3	0	2	130	51	6
Widnes Vikings	4	3	0	1	132	67	6
Swinton Lions	5	3	0	2	129	81	6
Leigh Centurions	5	3	0	2	140	98	6
Keighley Cougars	5	3	0	2	111	101	6
Barrow Border Raiders	5	3	0	2	121	121	6
Featherstone Rovers	5	2	1	2	87	106	5
Whitehaven Warriors	5	2	0	3	104	85	4
Hunslet Hawks	5	2	0	3	102	92	4
Rochdale Hornets	4	2	0	2	96	101	4
Sheffield Eagles	5	2	0	3	89	97	4
Batley Bulldogs	5	1	0	4	74	127	2
York Wasps	5	1	0	4	50	137	2
Lancashire Lynx	5	1	0	4	78	201	2
Workington Town	5	0	0	5	51	164	0

The Saint



are in the hat and who knows what?

Today we entertain Oldham, coached by my old mate

'Fordy', who are currently running second in the league. I am sure they will come to Belle Vue fired up for what will be a physical encounter. But the players now call Belle Vue 'the House of Pain' and are determined not to loose at home.

Once again, thanks for your support.

Enjoy the game

Singe



Last week gave Tony and myself a chance to try out a couple of our options and those players took the opportunities with both hands, although the opposition was not the best. But we



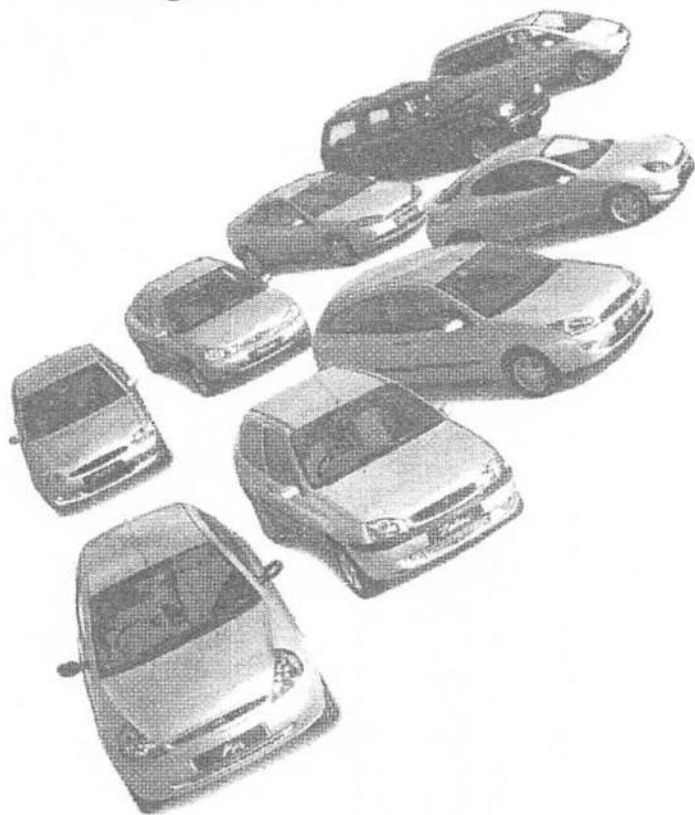
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Casualty - by George the Physio

In the 'Physio Report' this week the top three injuries go like this.

In the No. 1 spot this week we have Basil Richards with a torn calf muscle.

In the No. 2 spot this week we have Joe Berry with a pulled groin, but Joe could be back for today's game.

In the No. 3 spot we have Carl Gillespie, who has torn ankle ligaments, but they are responding to treatment, so I could well see Carl being OK for today's game if selected.

On 'Injury Corner' this week we will talk about 'strapping'. It is important that players get the correct strapping before they go out onto the field. The most common areas that players get strapped are

ankles, thumbs, wrists and knees. It is very important that these area's are protected, but it is also very costly as it can cost up to £10 per player to protect him each match and that's just on strapping alone.

So if you multiply that by seventeen and then multiply that by the number of games in a season - plus training - you will see that the cost is high.

But not as high as it would be if you did not use the strapping.

George the Physio

P.S. Mike Geoghegan and George the Physio both sat with French players after the match. We also sold them some club shirts. They also asked if we had anything we would like to swap, but Primo would not get on the bus - nor would Don Brooks.



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Commercially

DRAGONS FLOORED BY SPONSORS

Resdev is now one of the main sponsors of the Dragons, so it might be helpful for the fans to know a little more about this Yorkshire-based firm.

Resdev is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of industrial resin floorings. Its products, which are all made in Elland, West Yorkshire, can be found in factories throughout the nation as well as in Europe and the Far East.

The company has grown from nothing in 1978 to being the most respected innovator in its field, with a strong commitment to research and an eye on future markets. It employs some 50 staff in development, production and administrative roles.

Resin floors are now used by most industries as an alternative to either plain concrete or other types of coating. They are extremely tough and can be expected to last for ten years or more before requiring replacement. Because they are easy to clean, they are very popular in circumstances where hygiene is important, such as food firms.

Resdev selects its personnel carefully and ensures that they have a well-developed management skills at every level. Thanks to the sponsorship deal which now exists between Resdev and Doncaster, this expertise is now being given freely to the Dragons.

In the past, Resdev was a major sponsor of Leeds RLFC and was involved there for over 10 years. The company decided to come in with Doncaster to co-operate with other sponsors from within the flooring industry. This allowed the creation of a financial package which has secured the future of the club.

Resdev can provide a more realistic and meaningful level of support to a smaller club such as Doncaster than it ever could to Leeds. This means that Resdev will be closely involved with the Dragons - so closely in fact that Resdev's chairman, John Wright, is now the club's managing director. He brings a wealth of business experience gained during more than three decades as an industrialist.

Speaking

The aim so far as John is concerned is to use his skills to turn Doncaster into a leading club in just the same way that he has made Resdev into a leading company. With his enthusiasm for both the sport and business, John will be working with his colleagues on the Board to guide the club towards a level of success which will make us all proud to be part of the Doncaster Dragons 'team.'

Carl's Commercial Corner

This week I would like to thank a couple more sponsors for joining us, it's much appreciated.

I have also been in the process of organising a 'Dine with the Players' night which will be held on Wednesday 1st march (just before our big Derby game against our nearest rivals, Sheffield). Tickets for this three course dinner at Indus will be £12.50 per head, on a first come first served basis. All players will be in attendance and a couple will be seated on each table, so don't miss the chance to dine with one of your hero's. Give me a call and arrange your tickets as soon as you can. Cheers, Keep on Shouting!

Carl Hall 0779 058 9187
or 01302 534317

CHANGE OF VENUE

The players will be enjoying post match facilities at the Earl of Doncaster this week. Supporters are provided for in the upstairs Ball Room (*video entertainment for the kids is also provided*), players will join you there after they have eaten.



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This Week.....

by Ken Browning

5 YEARS AGO (8/2/95)

Matches in Division One continued to prove that the Dons were on a downward spiral as they were beaten by Warrington at Wildespool by 68 points to 20 with tries from Neal (2) and Miller before a crowd of 4082.

10 YEARS AGO (4/2/90)

The Dons loose their first match after a run of five wins in Division Two against Hunslet at Elland Road by 21 points to 12, with tries from Roache and Keith Jones, but still stay in 8th position in the league table.

15 YEARS AGO (3/2/85)

A preliminary round fixture of the Challenge Cup against Wakefield Trinity saw the Dons loose by 25 points to 6 before a crowd of 852 at Tattersfield, with a try from Moore converted by Harcombe.

20 YEARS AGO (10/2/80)

An away defeat by Rochdale Hornets in the Challenge Cup by 3 points to 11 only contributed to another defeat in a season which saw the Dons rooted to last place in the league throughout the season.

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A Profile of

CRAIG BARKER Local lad who was with the Bears before signing for the Roughyeds when one club died and the other was born in 1997. A stand off half with a neat pair of hands, this product of the Waterhead amateur club is still waiting for the opportunity to command a senior place consistently.

KEITH BRENNAN A late entrant into the pro ranks, Keith played for Higginsshaw and Shaw Rhinos before impressing as an amateur for Oldham towards the end of the 1999 season. Did enough to be offered a contract for 2000 at the age of 25. An extremely accomplished scrum half who is expected to push player coach Mike Ford all the way for the No. 7 jersey.

MARK CAMPBELL One of 16 new boys brought to the club by Mike Ford during the first two months of the player coach's reign. Formerly with Leeds Rhinos and Keighley Cougars, this 28 year old hard working back row forward is studying at Leeds University for a degree in chemical engineering.

LEO CASEY Needs no introduction to Roughyeds fans. A tough prop, who played with the former Oldham club, Featherstone Rovers, Swinton and Rochdale Hornets before signing for the Roughyeds for the 1999 season. Captained the side and, at the age of 32, became a firm favourite of the crowd. An Irish international, he was the first and only Oldham player to command a transfer fee of £100,000 when Peter Fox took him to Featherstone.

JASON CLEGG A product of Littleborough RL Club, this heavyweight prop turned pro for Bradford Bulls and had a stint with Batley before signing for the Roughyeds shortly after the club was formed. Made the first team place his own property in 1999 and earned selection for the West of Pennines side against an East side coached by Mike Ford. Received an approach from France, but chose to re-sign for Oldham for the year 2000.

PETER FERRIS A former Higginsshaw player and another late recruit into the pro-ranks. Toured

Australia with BARLA under 19s and represented BARLA under 23s, but then left the sport to concentrate on his career in computers, only returning at the age of 23 when Ford spotted him playing at centre for Dukinfield RU Club. Played hooker or loose forward in his younger days.

KEVIN FITZPATRICK A full back who made his name at Saddleworth Rangers. Became the Rangers first choice and regular No. 1 at the age of 19 and turned pro for Oldham at the age of 20. Recently celebrated his 21st while studying for a degree in journalism and the media. Hopes to make headlines as well as write them.

MIKE FORD A scrum half who has been making the right sort of headlines all his sporting life. Played for Wigan at Wembley when only 19. Also starred for Leigh, Oldham, Castleford, Warrington, Wakefield and South Queensland Crushers. Toured down under with GB in 1988. Coached Bramley to mid table respectability in 1999 before landing the Oldham job - at the 4th attempt - to fulfil a sporting ambition.

ANTHONY GIBBONS One half of the twin combination which played for Leeds Rhinos and Bramley before joining Oldham for the start of the 2000 season. A utility back, 23 year old Anthony is earmarked to play right centre. Signed a two year contract after impressing Ford with Bramley in 1999.

DAVID GIBBONS The other twin. Like brother Anthony, David turned pro with Leeds Rhinos as a 17 year old to follow in the footsteps of their uncle, Neil Hague. Both became a house-hold name at Headingley and played more than twenty senior games, including several in the first Super League season of 1996. Formerly captain of Bramley, David will be a key figure for the Roughyeds at stand off.

DANNY GEEST This 22 year old, 18 stone prop was an up and coming youngster with the Bears. He played for the Roughyeds in the new clubs' first ever and historic game at Rochdale on 1st January 1998 but then joined Keighley on a round robin.



Mitre



Oldham

He returned to the Roughyeds via Lancashire Lynx.

JOEY HAYES Young winger who has crammed a lot into his relatively short spell as a pro. Made his name with St Helens for whom he played in a Regal Trophy final and a Super League Premiership final to earn a place on the Great Britain tour squad which went to New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea in 1996. Suffered a setback with a serious knee injury, but fought back to play 11 Super League games with Salford Reds in 1999.

CHRIS HOLLAND Aged 21 and a product of the youth game in Wigan, Chris has played for England and GB Students and took the Man of the Match award in England's defeat by New Zealand at Hull in the last World Cup. Made his debut for Rochdale Hornets at the age of 16. Equally at home at centre or in the back row.

JOHN HOUGH Will go down in local RL history as the first player to sign for the new Oldham club when it was launched in the autumn of 1997. Has had two cracking seasons in 1998 and 1999, when he took the club's Player of the Year award. A native of Oldham, John played more than 30 senior games for Warrington before returning 'home' to hook for the Roughyeds.

DAVE LEWIS Another big prop and a native of Doncaster, he played trials for the newly formed Alliance team in 1999 and did enough to earn a senior spot at Doncaster in mid season. Later signed a contract, but spent the remainder of that first season learning his trade in the reserves.

KEVIN MANNION Another Wiganer, 22 year old Kevin is a ball playing loose forward, who made his senior debut with Rochdale Hornets when only 16. Starred in the Hornets Academy and Alliance side, but concentrated on his studies at Lancaster University. Played for England and GB Students, for whom he toured Australia and played in France.

ALFIE HEAD Starting his third season with the Roughyeds after playing initially for the Bears. Did well as a centre on the Bears Alliance team of

1997, but prefers wing, the position in which he will be hoping to hold down in the senior spot for 2000.

JOE McNICHOLAS Played his first senior game in the Bears last match at Leeds. Broke his leg for the Roughyeds in the new club's first league game at Workington and missed the rest of the 1998 season, apart from a brief spell as a sub in the final match. A pacey winger, Joe bounced back to hold down a regular spot on the right flank in 1999.

CRAIG MILNER A young hooker, Craig played open age rugby with Higginshaw while only 17 and also turned out for junior side at Saddleworth. Had trials in the club's Alliance side and impressed sufficiently not only to win a contract but to carry of the Alliance team's Player of the Year award in 1999. Hard working and tenacious tackler.

CHRIS NAYLOR Young prop formerly with the Academy sides at St Helens and Salford. Big and strong, Chris played for England in the last Students World Cup, becoming the only English player to be named afterwards in an imaginary World XIII. Also played for GB against the Aussies at students level, where he confirmed Mike Ford's interest.

TOM O'REILLY An international for Papua New Guinea, 23 year old Tom is an Aussie with an Irish passport. Can play stand off or loose forward equally well, but will be earmarked by Ford for the No. 13 jersey. In line to play for Papua New Guinea in this year's World Cup. First recommended to Ford by Darryl van de Velde. Ford, then coach of Bramley, was not disappointed.

ANDY PROCTOR Named captain of the club by Ford for the 2000 season. This former Saddleworth, Wakefield Trinity, Oldham and Bramley prop forward, now aged 30, won the Man of Steele award while with Trinity, as the club was then called. Has built a reputation as 'rugged players' player, who performs well above his weight.



Caught ball watching

Doncaster Dragons

Oldham

Progressive Score	
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Scrums

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16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

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6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

[illegible]

1. Lynton Stott	Coldwell's, the Dentist	Mark Sibson
2. Craig Moore	Kings Head	Joey Hayes
3. Carl Hall	Le Bistro	Anthony Gibbons
4. James Bunyan	Brixton Crime Management	Pat Rich
5. Fata Sini	David & Michael Allinson	Peter Ferris
6. Craig Western	John Smiths	David Gibbonsl
7. Latham Tawhai	Megabyte Cafe	Mike Ford
8. Asa Amone	m2M	Leo Casey
9. Peter Edwards	Resdev	John Hough
10. Paul Lister	The Match Day Stewards	Andrew Proctor
11. Tony Miller	Blue & Gold Society	Mark Campbell
12. Rob Wilson	Sue Walford	Kevin Mannion
13. Colin Carter	Swift Resin	Tom O'Reilly
14. Guy Adams	Optimum Sports	Chris Holland
15. Billy Conway	YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!	Jason Clegg
16. Mick Coult	YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!	Nathan Varley
17. James Walker	Martins Plaice	Joe McNicholas

[illegible][illegible]

Scrums				
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21	22	23	24	25

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Doncaster Dragons

SCORERS
APPEARANCES
RESULTS
ATTENDANCES



December	Att.	Rslt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26 YORK A3.00	1554	W1-36	L.SCOTT (2g)	C.HALL (t)	C.WESTON (t)(2g)	J.BUNYAN	F.SINI (t)	W.PARKER	L.TAWHAI (2t)
January									
2 BATLEY BULLDOGS H3.00	1768	W42-8	L.STOTT (g)	C.HALL (t)	C.WESTON (t)(2g)	J.BUNYAN	F.SINI (t)	W.PARKER (2t)	L.TAWHAI
9 Hull KR A3.00	3000	L8-4	L.STOTT	C.HALL	C.WESTON	J.BUNYAN	F.SINI	W.PARKER	L.TAWHAI
16 FEATHERSTONE ROVERS H3.00	2071	W32-14	L.STOTT (2g)	C.HALL (t)	C.WESTON (t)	J.BUNYAN	F.SINI (t)	W.PARKER	L.TAWHAI (2t)
23 Dewsbury Rams A3.00	3180	L20-16	L.STOTT (2g)	C.HALL	C.WESTON (t)	J.BUNYAN	F.SINI (t)	W.PARKER	L.TAWHAI
30 SOCC 3 ST. GAUDENS H3.00	1593	W40-10	L.STOTT (4g)	C.MOORE (2t)	C.HALL	J.BUNYAN (t)	F.SINI (t)	C.WESTON	L.TAWHAI (2t)
February									
6 OLDHAM H3.00									
13 SOCC 4 WORKINGTON TOWN H3.00									
20 KEIGHLEY COUGARS H3.00									
March									
5 Sheffield H3.00									
12 HUNSLET HAWKS H3.00									
19 Leigh Centurions A3.00									
26 Whitehaven Warriors A3.30									
April									
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9 Rochdale Hornets A3.00									
16 LANCASHIRE LYNX H3.00									
21 YORK H7.30									
24 Batley Bulldogs A3.00									
30 Widnes Vikings A3.00									
May									
7 BARROW BORDER RAIDERS H3.00									
10 Workington Town A7.30									
14 HULL KR H3.00									
21 Featherstone Rovers A3.30									
26 DEWSBURY RAMS H7.30									
29 Oldham A3.00									
June									
4 Keighley Cougars A2.45									
11 SHEFFIELD H3.00									
18 Hunslet Hawks A3.30									
25 LEIGH CENTURIONS H3.00									
July									
2 WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS H3.00									

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Doncaster Dragons

SCORERS
APPEARANCES
RESULTS
ATTENDANCES



8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
A.AMONE	P.EDWARDS	J.BERRY (t)	R.WILSON	C.GILESPIE	T.MILLER	M.COULT (12)	PLISTER (8)	K.ALLEN (2)	C.CARTER (11)
A.AMONE	P.EDWARDS	J.BERRY (t)	R.WILSON	C.GILESPIE	T.MILLER (t)	M.COULT (t) (12)	PLISTER (8)	C.CARTER (13)	J. WALKER (2)
A.AMONE	P.EDWARDS	J.BERRY	R.WILSON	C.GILESPIE (t)	T.MILLER	M.COULT	PLISTER (10)	C.CARTER (15)	G. ADAMS (12)
A.AMONE (t)	P.EDWARDS	J.BERRY	R.WILSON	C.GILESPIE (t)	T.MILLER	M.COULT (3)	C.CARTER (13)	C. MOORE (2)	G.MORGAN (10)
A.AMONE	P.EDWARDS	J.BERRY	R.WILSON	C.GILESPIE	T.MILLER	M.COULT (4)	PLISTER (12)	C.CARTER (6)	G. ADAMS (t) (10)
A.AMONE	P.EDWARDS	PLISTER	R.WILSON	T.MILLER	C.CARTER (2t)	M.COULT (12)	B.CONWAY (9)	G. ADAMS (8)	J. WALKER (4)

Player Statistics 2000

Player App Sub Tries Gls D/Gls Pts

G. ADAMS	-	3	1	-	-	4
K. ALLEN	-	1	-	-	-	-
A. AMONE	6	-	1	-	-	4
J. BERRY	5	-	2	-	-	8
J. BUNYAN	6	-	1	-	-	4
C. CARTER	1	5	2	-	-	8
W. CONWAY	-	1	-	-	-	-
M. COULT	-	5	1	-	-	4
P. EDWARDS	6	-	-	-	-	-
C. GILESPIE	5	-	1	-	-	4
C. HALL	6	-	5	-	-	20
P. LISTER	1	4	-	-	-	-
T. MILLER	6	-	1	-	-	4
C. MOORE	1	1	2	-	-	8
G. MORGAN	-	1	-	-	-	-
W. PARKER	5	-	2	-	-	8
F. SINI	6	-	5	-	-	20
L. STOTT	6	-	-	14	-	28
L. TAWHAI	6	-	5	-	-	20
J. WALKER	-	2	-	-	-	-
C. WESTON	6	-	5	3	-	26
R. WILSON	6	-	-	-	-	-

Supporters Notice Board

This page is for you the Dragons supporters, so if you have any news, supporters chit-chat, birthdays, anniversaries ect that you would like to appear in the matchday programme, please contact Ray Hall on 01302 337610 for inclusion in the programme.

We would like to welcome all officials, players and supporters from Oldham for today's match here at Belle Vue. It should turn out to be a close affair.

Well the Dragons did a very professional job on 'The Bears' from St Gaudens last week in the Challenge Cup. We thank The Bullman for turning out to support us. I think that at last the French have realised how good 'British Beef' is.



At the time of going to press we are unsure of who our opponents in the next round will be, but we shall still turn out in force,

whether it be at home or away. At least it won't be Sheffield.

The supporters would like to give Keeley White a big birthday wish on attaining the age of 21, many more to come Keeley.

Any chit chat or birthdays etc or wanting a know about away travel call the 'Agony Aunt' Ray Hall on 01302 337610

Enjoy the game.

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Player Profile - Joe Berry

Autograph

Nick Name Buzz Lightyear - because of the shape of my jaw!
Date of Birth 7/5/74.
Place of Birth Bradford.
Previous Clubs Keighley Cougars & Huddersfield.
International Honours Toured Australia with BARLA & 4 caps for Scotland.
Family Married to Carey, it's our wedding anniversary today, we both love kids and hope to start a family in the near future.

Donny the Dragon called into the office at Belle Vue earlier in the week and caught up with Joe in the office, he was playing chess with The Saint at the time, however, between games Donny managed to have a chat with the awesome prop.

You have had a great start to the season, certainly you have made a great impact, how are you enjoying playing for the Dragons?

Everyone in the squad was focussed for the beginning of the season, we knew what we wanted to achieve, and overall have been pleased with the results that we have had. The support that the team have received from the Doncaster fans has been tremendous, I don't think they will be disappointed with the effort and hopefully the results that we achieve this season.

When did you first get involved with Rugby League?

My brothers all played at Dudley Hill, so it seemed natural that I would follow on. I started playing for them when I was fifteen.

Who has been the greatest influence on your career?

Without a doubt my dad, Frederick, he has been the inspiration in my life and my playing career. He is the person that I look up to, he taught me valuable lessons regarding respect, discipline, attitude, he's motivated me and given me the belief that I am capable of achieving the goals that I have set myself. It is my aim that he will be proud of what I have become and what I have been able to achieve.

What is the most memorable game you have played in?

That would have been the Premiership Final when I was with Huddersfield against Hull Sharks. It was especially sweet winning that match, not only because that got us promotion to Super League, but we had finished second to Hull in the League, so it was great to turn the tables on them.

Outside of Rugby League, what do you do to relax?

Like a lot of the lads, I enjoy golf, however, I also like having a game of chess with the Boss. St John is very competitive and a great player, he can whip most of the lads in the team, but I have a few victories up my sleeve and intend to get a few more! I also enjoy spending time with my wife, as I have just got a three week suspension from the league, I will be able to spend some quality time with her.

Donny left shortly afterwards and the chess game got back underway, he wasn't too sure that we have a couple of budding grand masters in the making, but it was certainly very intense.

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Who the Hell Was St. George Anyway?

Hello again to you all. I will start this week by giving my own personal hello to a couple of acquaintances at Oldham, firstly my good friend Dave Lewis who plays for Oldham reserves, (you'll owe me a fiver come the end of the season) and also another Dave and co. who write the Oldham fanzine 'The Roughyed Times', I'll see you for a drink after the game.

This is a very different fixture to the one between the same 2 sides last season. Last year was a basement battle between two teams who found it as easy to win as it was to get a chimp to the barbers. Whilst this year both sides have had great starts. So to all the supporters of other teams who slagged us off last year for being the bottom two, I hope you are all eating a large portion of humble pie now we have both been given the grounds to compete. I am looking forward to a good game today which at least should be better than the snore fest we had in the second half of the cup last week.

Talking of the cup, well done to the lads for beating St Gaudens last week. Before the game I thought that it could have been a little harder than that and had vision of our dreadful cup record continuing. In the last 3 years in the cup we have beaten Oulton Raiders by 1 point, been beaten by Featherstone Lions, and last year we had the almighty farce with today's neighbours Oldham St Annes. Hopefully that

era is long gone.

Then again I think it is impossible for an amateur side to beat a NFP side nowadays as the gap is growing. But wait a second, what's this, **Sheffield Eagles 14 - Thornhill 16**. Well blow me down, the Seagulls are still really bad after all. After the recent signings and win against Hunslet I thought they might have turned the corner. But no, the new players are as big a set of clowns as the old lot. They really do make my job a lot easier. It is now 4 weeks till we go to Death Valley Stadium, and I for one can't wait.

Lastly in my weekly rant I would like to thank everyone who bought the last issue of Who The?, sales were a little down on the week before, but I think that was because some of you have worked out it isn't a programme now. All the money we make does find it's way back to the club sooner or later so again I thank you.

I leave, as per usual, by wishing all the lads the best of luck in today's game and against who ever we drew in the challenge cup for next week. Also we are currently looking for one of the players to do a page in the fanzine so if any of you are interested just let me know.

Yours Jemmo

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VIEW FROM THE PRESSBOX

By Steve Hossack, Sports Editor, Doncaster Star

IT is pleasing to see both Doncaster Dragons and Oldham doing so well in the Northern Ford Premiership this season.

Both clubs have had to re-apply for membership in recent years after suffering serious financial problems, and both have had to play a season without any Sky money.

In fact there were real fears that Oldham would go out of business at one stage which would have been a tragic loss for the Rugby League world in view of their illustrious past.

When I first started watching rugby league over 40 years ago, Oldham were one of the country's top teams and in full-back Bernard Ganley they had one of the best goal-kickers of all time.

Bernard, as did all the kickers of that era, used to kick the ball toe-end style and I wonder what he would have made of today's kickers.

The relative merits of the various goal-kicking styles has certainly produced much lively debate over the years.

As a former goal-kicker myself (traditional style) it would be fascinating to see the likes of Ganley, Neil Fox, Lewis

Jones (all toe-enders) in their heyday taking on the best of the modern generation of goal kickers.

Certainly the likes of former Wigan and Castleford star Franco Botica would have given the old masters a run for their money. Doncaster have boasted several useful kickers over the years.

David Noble served the Dons well in that respect for many years and is the current club record holder.

It was Noble's kicking skills which was mainly responsible for him holding down a first team place earlier in his career - though he developed into a good all-round

player later in his career.

Davide Towle, who once kicked nine goals in a match during the years when the Dons were the whipping boys of the Rugby League, was also a tremendous kicker on his day, I suspect that Dragon's current kicker, Lynton Stott, will not be talked about in the same breath.

But he is improving all the time and if the supporters keep off his back I am sure he will do a good job. It doesn't help that most of the Doncaster tries have been scored out wide this season.

DONCASTER Star

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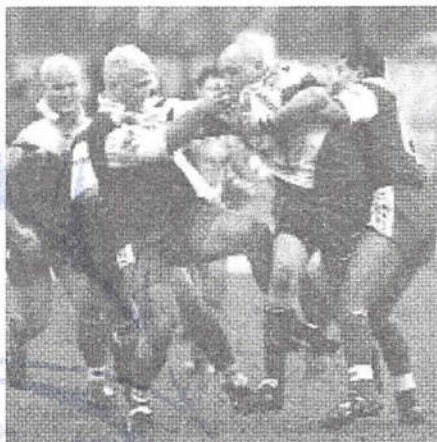
Development at the

Good afternoon and welcome to Belle Vue for what should be another cracking game of Rugby League.

We finally received the news everyone has been waiting for - the Rugby League have finally agreed to allow us to enter a team in the Academy League, so I hope that you will all give the

lads the same excellent support that you always give to the First Team. The Academy season is due to start at the end of April. A full list of fixtures and venue will be out very soon. Training for the Academy will be at Doncaster Toll Bar ground on Tuesday nights at 6.15pm. I cannot promise that we will be the best team

in the league but with hard work and commitment we will have a team to be proud of and a platform to build for the future of Doncaster.



Moving on, a number of people have 'phoned me this week to ask about the goal kicking competition at half time. The competition is quite simple. Every game we will pick three people out of the crowd. They each take it in turn to have a kick at goal from the same spot. If they miss they are eliminated

until we are left with one person. The winner can take £10 or come back near the end of the season for a Grand Final. The winner of the final will receive a £200 bet on the first try scorer at this season's Silk Cut Final. This event is sponsored by Central Racing at Stainforth - so if you are in the area - call in and have a bet.

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Dragons

If you have any ideas for pre-match or half-time entertainment, give me a ring at the office.

I would like to thank everyone for the way they got behind the team last week and say just how good it feels to hear the cry 'Come on you Dons' ringing out on the terraces again. Your support is always well appreciated by players and directors alike.

Let's get behind the lads today right from the start.

Ray Green

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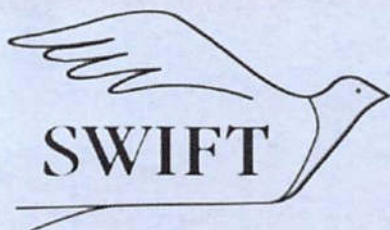
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