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SILK CUT
CHALLENGE CUP 2000



◊ OLDHAM v WIGAN ST. JUDES ◊ SUNDAY 30TH JANUARY 2000 ◊
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SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP 2000

2000 Silk Cut Prizes

This is the fourth year of Silk Cut's current contract with the RFL, having extended their original agreement for a further two years until 2001. The extension is worth £1.8 million, which guarantees Rugby League's first £1 million in sponsorship in the final year. For the first time in Rugby League history the final will be held at Murrayfield in Edinburgh and the victorious team in 2000 will receive a record prize cheque of £120,000.

Of the 2000 sponsorship investment of £800,000 a total prize fund of £563,200 is projected for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The remaining funds will be deposited in the League's Capital Development Fund. The complete year 2000 Silk Cut Challenge Cup prize structure is:

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

Third Round winners (First Division Clubs)	£4,400
Third Round losers (Amateur Clubs)	£1,200
French Clubs	£6,500
Fourth Round losers	£5,400
Fifth Round losers	£9,000
Quarter-Finals losers	£17,000
Semi-Final losers	£22,400
Runner-up	£55,000
Winners	£120,000
PROJECTED PRIZE FUND	£563,200
PROJECTED CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	£236,800
GRAND TOTAL	£800,000

2000 SILK CUT AWARDS

Silk Cut Awards will again be presented to the adjudged Man of the Match in each tie from the first round onwards. In each case the winner will receive a commemorative medallion, plus a cheque for £200 (from the third round through to the quarter finals). The Man of the Match at both semi-finals receives a cheque for £400 plus an engraved silver plated replica rugby ball.

2000 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP TIMETABLE

First Round	4th & 5th December, 1999	Fifth Round	26th & 27th February, 2000
Second Round	18th & 19th December, 1999	Quarter-Finals	11th & 12th March, 2000
Third Round	29th & 30th January, 2000	Semi-Finals	25th & 26th March, 2000
Fourth Round	12th & 13th February, 2000	Final	29th April, 2000

2000 SILK CUT TICKETS

Tickets for the all-seater 2000 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final on Saturday 29th April 2000 can be booked now priced £40, £30, £25, £15 and £10.

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2000 SILK CUT DRAWS

The draw for the first round will be made live on GMR at 7.10pm on Tuesday, 16th November 1999. The draws for the second and third rounds will be made live on BBC Radio Leeds at approximately 7.00pm on Wednesday 8th December and Wednesday 5th January respectively. The fourth round draw will be made live on BBC Radio Five Live at approximately 5.15pm on Monday, 31st January 2000.

The draw ceremonies for the fifth round, quarter-finals and semi-finals will be made live on BBC Sunday Grandstand at approximately 5.10pm on the following dates:

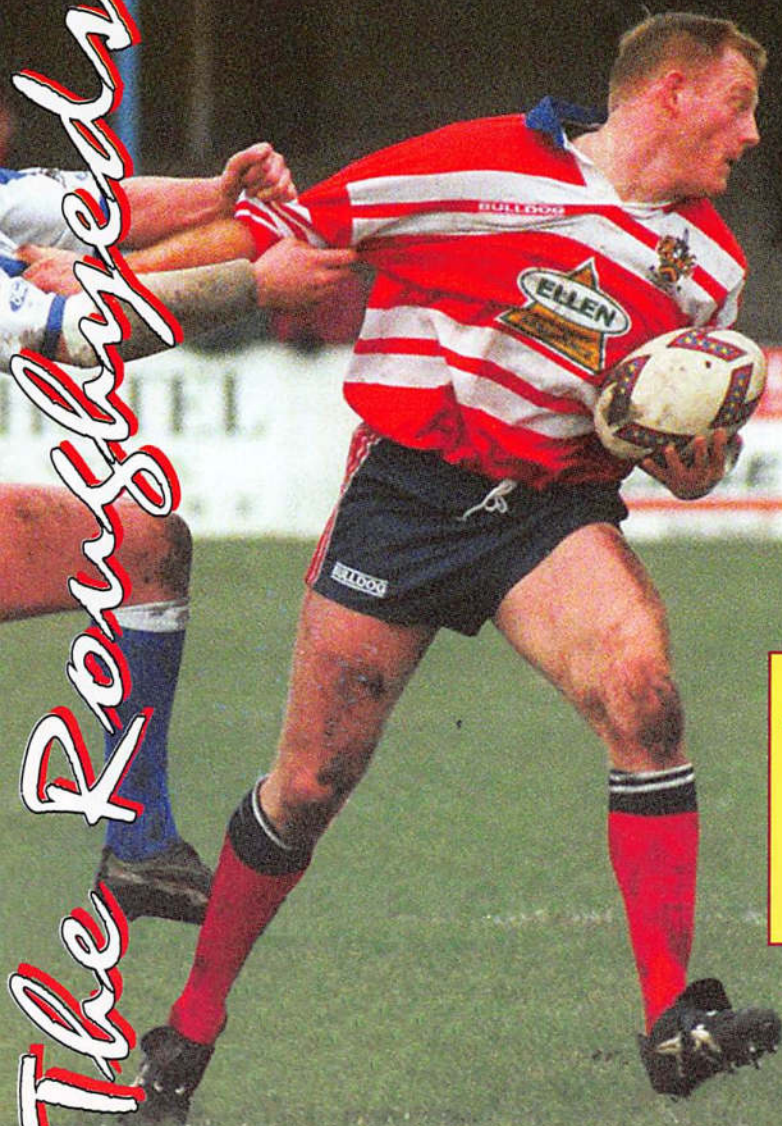
Fifth Round	Sunday 13th February
Quarter-Finals	Sunday 27th February
Semi-Finals	Sunday 12th March

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The Roughyeds



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3rd Round of
The Silk Cut
Challenge Cup



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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



A WARM welcome to all the players, officials and spectators of today's opponents Wigan St. Judes. They have done extremely well to reach the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and we hope that they enjoy their day with us. We also look forward to entertaining the representatives of Silk Cut, the sponsors of the Challenge Cup and thank them for their continued support.

Obviously today is a break from the League campaign where we have made an excellent, if not convincing start to our season. What is particularly pleasing is that the players know they can improve considerably and we have a group of people who, as professionals, want to improve. The Northern Ford Premiership has already proved to be a very competitive division and anybody who has witnessed our games this season will agree with that. Although we are playing an amateur side today we know that we cannot afford to be complacent and we will treat St. Judes as we would any other side.

Recent media coverage has been encouraging some tinkering with the Challenge Cup format. It is no surprise to read that this is loaded in favour of Super League clubs who seem to think that playing NFP Clubs is nothing more than an inconvenience. It would be interesting to know what the NFP players think as my guess would be that, even though there are obvious differences between the two divisions, they would be keen to test themselves against the best. It never ceases to amaze me that in Rugby league we always have to change things from one year to the next. I'm convinced that to market ourselves efficiently we have to have continuity. Ah well, we live in hope!

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

The Roughyeds The Roughyeds

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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



THERE's nothing like the Silk Cut Challenge Cup for carrying players, coaches, club officials and fans through the full range of sporting emotions.

Over the years I'm sure we've all experienced a buzz when it's time for clubs to hit the Wembley trail and it will be no different this year just because we are going north of the border to

Edinburgh, or to Murrayfield to be precise, for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final..always one of the great days in the Rugby League calendar.

Between now and the big day there will be plenty of tears and plenty of cheers on the cup trail and I can speak from personal experience, having experienced both the highs and the lows of Silk Cut Challenge Cup rugby during my long playing career.

I was fortunate enough to play in two Wembley finals: the first in 1985 when Wigan beat Hull 28-24 and the second in 1992 when I was at scrum-half in the Castleford team beaten 28-12 by Wigan.

In 1985 there was the sheer euphoria of playing alongside the great Brett Kenny and winning the cup, but seven years later I sampled the despair of the Wembley losers' dressing room.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that Graeme West was one of my Wigan team mates when we beat Hull in one of Wembley's best-ever finals and that his son, Vaughan, could be lining up against us this afternoon in the Wigan St Jude's team.

Another big disappointment came in the semi-final of 1990 when I was with the Oldham team beaten 10-6 by Warrington at Central Park in a thriller that could have gone either way.

We had a try disallowed in the dying seconds...heartbreak stuff.

In more recent times, however, I will never forget the empty feeling I was left with when Leigh Miners pulled off a cup shock by beating Bramley at Headingley in the same round last year.

It was my first professional game as coach and, to be frank, it provided me with a nightmare start to my coaching career.

Today's game, played against an Oldham team lying second in the Northern Ford Premiership and in a big stadium here at Boundary Park, will be Wembley and Murrayfield rolled into one for the lads of St. Judes.

They played Rochdale Hornets at this stage of the competition last year, so they are not exactly new to the demands of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and they will be revved up to give it their best shot.

They will come to enjoy themselves...not too much I hope. Enjoy the game.

Mike



TWO WINS from two games and confidence was high for the trip to Workington. However, as it is often said it is a funny old game. Workington totally out played us in every department and ran out easy winners by 26 - 4.

We had everything in our favour. Town lost both props early, one dismissed and one with a broken ankle. We simply could not take advantage of this with ball control in the first half of only 25%. At this point it was 4 - 4 but the second half began disastrously with an early try conceded and the dismissal of young Micky Travis for a high tackle. From then on we struggled to get much ball and when we did we either lost it or did not have field position. In the end only our strong defence kept the score down.

The lads were all bitterly disappointed with our performance but hopefully will have learned a few lessons. I certainly learned a thing or two on how some players react under pressure and I am sure we can address this in the weeks to come.

There were some positives from the game. Craig Milner was outstanding at hooker, while young prop Lee Doran and full back Gavin Dodd once again had solid games. By the time you read these notes we will have played Rochdale, a game we all want to win. Hopefully my next report will be able to reflect on that. **See page 20 for Alliance results and fixtures.**

Haydn Walker

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In Yer Face



IF RECENT press reports are true the Challenge Cup tie you watch this afternoon may be one of the last under the current format. Apparently the Super League clubs - or is it the R.F.L.? - are concerned that the gap in standards between Super League and the rest is such that heavy defeats suffered by the 'minnows' do the sport's credibility no good. Furthermore there are worries that the superior strength and fitness of full time professionals could result in serious injury being suffered by a part-time pro, or, worse, should it come to it by a fluke of the draw, by an amateur. While it is clearly true that Rugby League does not offer the same opportunities for 'giant killing' as soccer and there is no example of a Super League scalp being claimed by a non-Super League side as yet, there are examples of amateurs defeating professionals: just ask Mike Ford's Bramley last season (defeated by Leigh Miners Rangers). It does not follow automatically, however, that a Widnes or a Leigh could not surprise a Salford or a Huddersfield on the right day.

So, while at first sight there is some merit in the Super League club's argument, the fact of the matter is that this is like Manchester United undermining the F.A. Cup and the traditions of the game on a grand scale. At the end of the day the 'magic' of the cup is its unpredictability, the sometimes once in a lifetime chance for a David to slay a Goliath. A cup competition which takes away that possibility is arguably a cup competition not worth having.

Furthermore, if you look beyond the superficial and analyse just WHY Super League clubs are so dominant (in my view at least) you might be surprised. David Hulme is quoted as saying in Rugby League World recently: "when I was at Widnes we only trained twice a week and I reckon we were just as fit and prepared for a game...[as Super League players]". Remember this comes from

a player just returned to his home town club after stints at Salford and Leeds, a player still going strong at 35 with an outstanding international career behind him. Is he wrong? And if he isn't, where does the difference lie?

I would suggest - and I am aware that this is controversial and will have many of you disagreeing with me fundamentally - that the cause of the disparity in standards is the ten metre rule. Our Australian cousins talk about making the 'hard yards', but I would suggest that under the ten metre rule there are no hard yards. Any player worth his salt should be able 'to get over the advantage line' as current jargon has it. Just consider how often play goes from one end of the field to the other within six tackles, turning modern Rugby League into an elevated form of basketball. Long gone are the days when one side could lay siege to its opponents line for minutes on end provoking a prolonged 'scratching shed' roar of support for the home side whether attacking or defending. To hear fans these days shouting repeatedly for offside has me wondering if they'd like to see the defensive line forming up in the Car Park rather than on the field!

To return to the point, the advantage the top sides have over their 'inferiors' is greater bulk via weight training, more power running on to the ball produced by better coaching techniques and tactical awareness and an emphasis on a quick play the ball to keep defenders constantly on the back foot. Now, put these teams on mid-winter mud heaps or snow bound pitch under a five yard rule where they lose these advantages and who knows what might happen? Oldham might yet knock over Wigan as they did so famously at Watersheddings in 1987.

But then it's just not going to happen is it? Because if the administrators have their way there'll be one cup for Super League and another for the rest.

ROGER ROGER

AT RISK of putting the kiss of death on some poor, unsuspecting Northern Ford Premiership club, I will advance the view here and now that I don't think there will be one pro-am cup shock in this weekend's third-round Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties.

You might have been tempted to take Walney Central to win at Lancashire Lynx, but Lynx will have taken great heart from their defeat of Whitehaven and that pick-me-up will probably tip the scales their way.

Dudley Hill at York Wasps? An outside chance, perhaps, but York seem to be improving and strengthening by the match and much as I admire Dudley Hill as renowned cup battlers I believe the Wasps will carry too much of a professional sting.

The strongest amateur teams in cup action this weekend are West Hull, Skirlaugh and our own Oldham St Anne's, but West Hull face Mission Impossible (well, almost) at Widnes, Skirlaugh face the long trek to Workington and Saints – of the green and gold variety – have to go to Batley Bulldogs.

A month ago you might have fancied Skirlaugh to cause an upset at Workington, but as we saw when the Cumbrians ran the Roughyeds close here at Boundary Park last Sunday, Town can be a formidable force



Tau Liku

now that Ryan Charters, Matt Sturm, Anthony Samuel and Tau Liku have been joined at Derwent Park by Paul Cook, Dave Watson and Joe Nadiole.

I have a sneaking feeling St Anne's might give Batley a few frights, but home advantage – and THAT slope – should prove

crucial in a game that could be tight for 50 minutes or so if Saints get first use of the gradient.

You see, there are no 'easy beats' in the NFP so far this season and, unlike last year, when the professionals were coming in cold, they have just passed through a highly-competitive five weeks and are now well into their new season.

Compare that with last year. Oldham played Rochdale Hornets in the Law Cup at New Year and then had only a couple of friendlies before going into their tie with Eccles on the first weekend of February.

While the professionals were ring rusty, the amateurs were half-way through their season and, in some cases, it was an advantage that tipped things towards the lads who play for fun – and the odd pint or two after the match.

That advantage has been taken away from the BARLA clubs by the decision to start the new NFP season over Christmas – and that's another big reason why I'm going for no upsets.

Waterhead, like St Anne's, have a relatively big pack and some fine footballers in key midfield positions, but they won't be able to last the 80 minutes against Swinton's heavyweights at Gigg Lane, nor would you expect them to.

St Jude's? I know little about them, but I'm sure they will be travelling from Wigan in a bid to uphold the fine rugby league traditions of their town at both pro and amateur levels.

They will play their part in an entertaining game and will take away lasting memories, but I can't see a shock either here or elsewhere. Am I sticking out my neck?

Roger Halstead



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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - a summary of important Events

1910 - 1915

AFTER THE ground breaking tours by New Zealand and Australia to Britain in 1907 and 1908 respectively, the second decade of the twentieth century brought the first reciprocal trip "down under". Jim Lomas of Salford captained the British team who, after losing the opening two matches, went on to win nine and draw one of the remaining twelve fixtures in Australia. This included both of the test matches. The short tour of New Zealand was a complete success for Lomas and his men who won all four games, concluding the tour with a 52 points to twenty rout of the Kiwis in Auckland on August 6th. The colours for tourists were red and white hoops. Oldham had two representatives on the tour, Bert Avery and Scotsman, Tom Helm who unfortunately was taken ill on the journey and did not play in any of the matches.

Back on the domestic scene the county cup competitions were now established and the final red rose final of the decade saw Swinton go down to Oldham by four points to three at Broughton. The 'Roughyeds' victory coming courtesy of a towering drop goal from Joe Ferguson. Oldham, along with Wigan, were very much the Lancashire form teams of the era, but as far as the history books are concerned, it is a team from the 'white rose' county that stole the limelight. This was of course Huddersfield, dubbed '**the team of all talents**'. Captained by the mercurial Harold Wagstaff, who became known as 'the prince of centre's', the Yorkshire outfit embarked on a run of remarkable success, as the fans flocked to Fartown in their thousands. The zenith of their achievements came when they emulated the Hunslet triumph of 1907-08 winning all four major trophies in the 1914-15 season. In the 1913-14 campaign Australian winger, Albert Rosenfield scored 80 tries in senior competition to establish a Rugby League record that still survives today after more than eighty years.

Wagstaff went on to skipper the second touring team down under in 1914, during which he would take part in the most famous Rugby League test match of all time. The game in question was the final test of the three match

series against the Aussies. With the honours even at one victory each, Wagstaff led Britain to a remarkable triumph, bearing in mind that the already injury ravaged tourists, were reduced to just ten players by the conclusion of the match. Nevertheless, the 'Lions' prevailed to register a fourteen points to six victory. This famous encounter has since passed into Rugby League folklore and become known as the 'Rorkes Drift' test, comparing the match to the famous rearguard action fought by the Welsh Guards against the massed Zulu tribes. Included in the team were all three Oldham players; Alf Wood, who kicked four goals, Billy Hall and Dave Holland.



Alf Wood - One of the British heroes of the Rorkes Drift Test in Sydney in 1914

PROBING THE NFP

THIS WEEK we take a break from the League action and concentrate on the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

We are at the stage when the amateur clubs are drawn against the Pro clubs of the NFP. Shocks are rare but have taken place more frequently in the last few years. Here are some brief thoughts on some of the games.

Barrow Border Raiders v Featherstone Lions

Barrow remain as hard as ever to beat on their own patch and there appears to be no reason why the Lions, who are fourth in the National Conference First Division, will trouble the Cumbrians. Prediction: Barrow by 40.

Batley Bulldogs v Oldham St Annes

St Annes almost caused an upset last season only being beaten in extra time against Doncaster. Batley are not having the best of seasons but their infamous slope always provides them with an advantage. Lets hope the local men can repeat last years heroics. Prediction: Batley by 32.

Castleford Lock Lane v Villeneuve

The French side must be favourites against Lock Lane, who are having an inconsistent season in the National Conference. The fact that the French always have to travel may prove a disadvantage but I doubt it. Prediction: Villeneuve by 16.

Doncaster Dragons v St Gaudens

Belle Vue is proving to be an intimidating place to visit so far this season. The French will arrive in good form but as underdogs. With players such as Carl Hall and Carl Gillespie it looks like the Dragons will have too much fire power for their opposition. Prediction: Doncaster by 20.

Rochdale Hornets v The Army

This should be a real battle (sorry, couldn't resist that!). The army beat Dewsbury Celtic 54-7 in the last round and certainly should lack little in fitness and courage. Rochdale have been hit by injuries but are beginning to get their season back on track. Prediction: Rochdale by 36.

Lancashire Lynx v Walney Central

Lynx have made a poor start to the season but had a good result against Whitehaven last weekend. Walney coach Dave Kendall has been doing his homework and must sense they are in with a chance.

Swinton Lions v Waterhead

Our local National Conference Division Two side Waterhead, have already done themselves a credit reaching this round for the first time in their history. It would seem that they would have their work cut out though against a strong Swinton side. Mike Gregory has certainly improved the Lions fortunes this season by adding quality players such as Paul Loughlin to his squad. Prediction: Swinton by 48.



Mike Gregory

Widnes Vikings v West Hull

The joint leaders of the National Conference Premier Division face a daunting trip to the Autoquest Stadium, The size of the crowd should increase their bank balance though! Widnes look very good at home and should have too much pace and power for the amateurs. Prediction: Widnes by 56.

Workington Town v Skirlaugh Bulls

Skirlaugh are another top amateur club who may fancy their chances against the NFP basement boys. Skirlaugh had spies at Boundary Park last weekend and must have been impressed with a rapidly improving Town. With Dave Watson pulling the strings and Joe Nadiole adding power to the pack Town must be confident of achieving their first win of the season. Prediction: Workington by 16.

So there are my predictions but, as we all know, nothing is predictable in this game.

In Town Today



...WIGAN ST. JUDES

The club was founded in 1980, when a rugby club was formed from St. Jude's Catholic Club in Wigan and took its name from those origins. The three founder members are still serving officials of the club today, secretary **Joe Fitzsimmons**, along with **Eddie Moylett** and **Tommy Martindale**. The Wigan club made rapid progress through the North West Counties Leagues, and reached the premier division where they stayed for three seasons before successfully applying to join the National Conference in 1995. They won the Conference Division Two title at the very first attempt. The following season they failed by just one agonising point to win a second successive promotion to the Premier League, when finishing third in Division One.

National Conference Div 1 as at 23/01/00

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Ideal Isberg	17	15	0	2	458	142
Shaw Cross	17	12	1	4	403	248
Oulton	16	12	0	4	447	220
Featherstone L	16	11	0	5	404	220
Eccles	16	11	0	5	324	220
Wigan St Jude's	17	9	0	8	384	250
Siddal	15	8	1	6	371	292
East Leeds	16	8	1	7	300	263
Heworth	17	8	0	9	337	405
Leigh East	18	7	1	10	383	466
Barrow Island	15	4	2	9	202	385
Mayfield	16	2	0	14	201	452
Blackbrook	16	2	0	14	204	470
Millom	16	2	0	14	136	518

St. Jude's had already opened their clubhouse with a three pitch complex at Parsons Meadow, off Keats Avenue just a few minutes drive from the now defunct Central Park.

The venue staged the BARLA Great Britain versus Russia international in 1994.

From that base and under the guidance of Tommy Martindale St Jude's laid the foundations of what is now a very strong and vibrant youth structure. This gives the club a tremendous depth for the future with sides from under 7 to under 18s.

Players who have left the club to join the professional ranks include Kris Radlinski, Mick Cassidy, Wes Davies and Mark Smith (all Wigan), Sean Long (St Helens) and Craig Makin (Salford).

Head coach is former Wigan and Huddersfield player **Dave Walsh**.

Last season Jude's reached the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup going down to Rochdale Hornets (52-12).

PHIL DERMOTT (age 26)
Hooker, key player in pack.



Captain Phil Dermott in crunching tackle action.

TOMMY PORTER (age 33)
Talented ball playing forward and longest serving player at the club.

PAUL OLURANKINSE (age 30)
Back row forward full of commitment, huge work rate.

PAUL MELLING (age 27)
Scrum half, gifted player dangerous in open play.

IAN THOMPSON (age 19)
Centre. Graduated from U.18s. A player with a big future.

PETER O'LOUGHLIN (age 24)
Winger. BARLA tourist and represented Lancashire. Very explosive with great pace, hard to stop close to line.

Continued on page 21

ITS A TRUE BLUE BLOODY OLDHAM KNIGHT!

NOT ALL that drops through the Walkers letterbox are final demands, junk mail or the Chron! Just received a letter from a certain Sir Adrian Stott, descendant of world famous architect, textile mill builder, baronet and Oldham rugby forward, **SIR PHILIP SIDNEY STOTT**.

Of course, in his playing days (around the 1880's) he was then just plain Phil, the knighthood awarded in 1920 supposedly in recognition of his mill design and building prowess but in truth for his financial support to the Blues (the Tories not the Latics).

Anyway to quote from Sir Adrians news, 'The Right Reverend, Dr John Lang is currently writing an autobiography of Sir Philip. Dr John of course is chaplain to Her Majesty (no less!) and can be contacted at.....!' (A must for the club shop!, which incidentally has the latest line in replica shirts, woolly hats, scarves, nodding dogs.....).

Sadly Sir Phil suffered his biggest setback in 1895 over in Germany when one of his mills collapsed, killing 22. He was temporarily imprisoned until finally exonerated when it was proved that the builder had carried out inept work. This was of course the world's first example of 'Jerry building' and also the first time, but nowhere near the last, that an Oldham forward would be thrown in jail!!

Sir Philip and the Stott millions retired to an estate in Gloucestershire, (taking a similar route to most of the wealth made from the towns textile industry!). Maybe now some could be shovelled back in this direction 'Dear Sir Adrian, Associated match sponsorship costs.....'



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121

An interview by Dave Roberts with David Gibbons



The Silk Cut Challenge Cup has not held many good memories for you, has it?

No it has not! At Bramley we suffered defeat twice at the hands

of amateur clubs. In my first season against Ellenbrough and last year against Leigh Miners. I look back at those two occasions as the lowest points of my career. We expected to win the games but showed our opposition no respect - and that is fatal in this game.

Was the Leigh Miners game Mike Ford's first game in charge at Bramley?

Yes and Mike was as embarrassed as everybody else at the club. Needless to say that he made his views known to the players.

How have you prepared for the St Judes game?

Just like we would if we were playing Dewsbury or Hull KR. We expect St Judes to be fired up as it is their big day. We will need to treat them with a lot of respect and professionalism.

If we manage to beat St Judes have you any preference in the next round?

Maybe a fellow NFP club in the next round. After beating them a Super League club at home would be nice.

Like who?

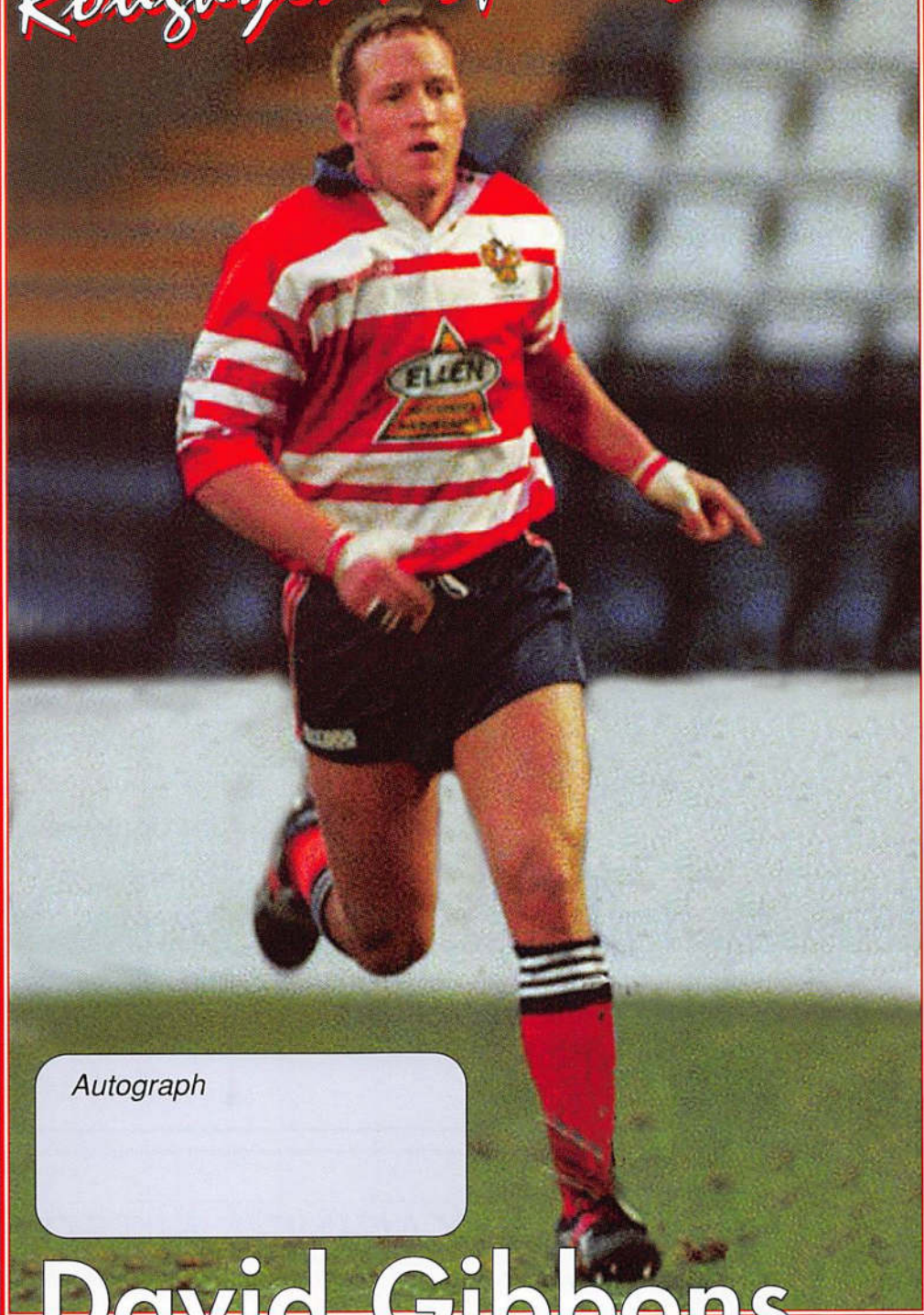
Well Salford City Reds and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats spring to mind. On a personal note though I would love to play Leeds Rhinos. I remember my brother, Anthony, playing for Leeds against Bradford in the 1997 Semi Final and he was gutted when they lost. However I would not mind Oldham getting that far this season!

I take it you have been impressed by the Roughyeds fans?

Yes very much so. I cannot get over our supporters. They have given us a great lift this season. The supporters applauding us off at Barrow was unbelievable. I just hope they have plenty more to shout about as the season progresses.

DAVE ROBERTS

Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

David Gibbons

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WE ALL have our pet hates: here are some of mine:-

Alex Ferguson whingeing that his club, team, player, dog, cat have been badly done to.

Bradford Northern (sorry, Bulls) supporters crowing. It used to be only Wigan fans who made themselves objectionable.

The Millennium.

The Millennium Bug (whatever that was).

Anyone under 25 claiming to be a consultant.

Counsellors.

Clipboards and/or flip charts.

Touch judges who miss forwards passes, foul play, offside and just about everything

Prima-donna referees who think they are more important than the players.

John & Robert Connolly - (which one is which?).



Australians who don't give a toss for international football.

Australians who don't give a toss for the

traditions of their own competition.

Australians who come to play in England for a free holiday.

Australians called Bruce.

Australians full stop.

The catering at McAlpine Stadium.

Access to and from the Reebok Stadium, the JJB Stadium, and most modern grounds. (Why is it easier to park and get away from grounds in the middle of terraced housing or housing estates like Salford or Widnes?).

Anyone who refers to RUGBY as though there was only one game bearing this name.

AND just in case you think I'm a miserable old git here are some of my LIKES.

Geoff Boycott's cricket commentaries on Talk Radio.

Keighley Cougars.

Halifax Blue Sox.

Alan Hansen

(well, somebody has to like him)

John Grisham novels.

Tommy Martyn

(how did Oldham ever let him go?).

The Final Hooter

(best rugby Fanzine around).

Roughyeds Times.

The Northern Ford Premiership.

Oldham pubs.

Oldham R.L.F.C.

The Oldham programme.

Oldham full stop.

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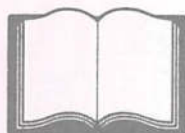
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Amateur Album

REFEREES



I HAVE seen some outstanding teams in my time but none of them would be able to thrill or entertain us without a man in the middle to organise events. You may hate them, but, without a referee, there would be no show, and believe me, they are the most dedicated and enthusiastic bunch of supporters in the game.

There are 16 active referees in the Oldham Society covering every level of the game from Super League to under-11s. The current highest graded referee is 34 year old former Salem Hornets player Ian Smith who regularly referees at NFP level and seems certain to step up to Super League level during the forthcoming season. He has already refereed one Super League fixture and was also chosen to tour South Africa last April with the Shaw Cross amateur squad. Clive Walker is one grade below whilst there are four officials at grade three level, Paul Hewitt, Robert



Ian Smith

Hicks, Fred Royales and Tony Martin. Paul Hewitt has run the line at Wembley on four occasions, three Challenge Cup Finals and the 1995 World Cup Final. He has also officiated in France on seven occasions. Fred Royales is another official who has refereed in France, he had a particularly hair raising experience in Lezignan some years ago



Fred Royales

but, as one of the most experienced officials in Oldham, I could fill this page three times over with stories of his playing and refereeing exploits. All sixteen referees have amusing stories to tell and they certainly get a great deal of amusement and satisfaction from the chosen profession.

Refereeing is not just the domain of the ex-player thought. A stint of refereeing can introduce so many other aspects of the game to any young or aspiring player. The current Leeds skipper, Super League superstar Iestyn Harris, was a member of the Oldham Society for about twelve months during his early teens and that does not appear to have hindered his playing career or, indeed, his coaching duties with the Shaw Rhinos. Anyone who fancies taking up the whistle should contact the Oldham Society secretary Phil Bradbury on 284-3728. The Society will provide all kit except boots and, after undertaking a



Tony Martin

short referees' course and a simple, basic exam, you are ready for your first match, probably an under-11s game between two of the local clubs. From then on referees are assessed by club officials at matches and exams are set in order to move through the various grades.



Paul Hewitt

There is also a rigorous fitness test and so local referees train each Thursday at Hathershaw Sports Centre under the watchful eye of Alan Burke, a former first grade official who recently retired from the middle because of a back problem. He hopes to remain in the game by working as a video referee at televised matches or maybe adding back-up to officials at Super League games.

Whatever position he eventually decides upon, Alan will always be around to give advice and, like several other ex-referees such as Johnny Blair and Sam Shepherd, he will retain his membership of the Oldham Society, a clear indication of the pleasure and fulfilment which one gets from being a member of this important branch of our sport.

Don Yates

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	L	26 - 4
27th	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H		7.30

FEBRUARY

3rd	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H		7.30
10th	HUNSLET HAWKS	H		7.30
17th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	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	A		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			

In Town Today

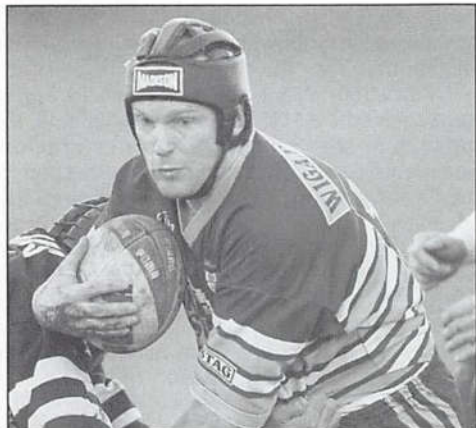
Continued from page 13

KEITH BAXTER (age 18)

Winger who has made a big impact in the Conference this season.

MILTON FINNEY (age 32)

Very talented ball player and loose forward
Ex Lancashire Lynx



Ex Lancashire Lynx pro Milton Finney.

BRENDAN BARR (age 29)

Prop or second row. Very clever round the ruck. First class defender.

MARTIN CUNNINGHAM (age 33)

Prop forward, huge work rate

DARREN JONES (age 28)

Stand off. Lancashire and BARLA international. Toured Australia and South Africa. Leading try scorer this season



Barla International Darren Jones scores against Heworth.

KEVIN OAKS (age 22)

Full back very good in taking the high ball. The quiet man of the team.

PETER CAIN (age 21)

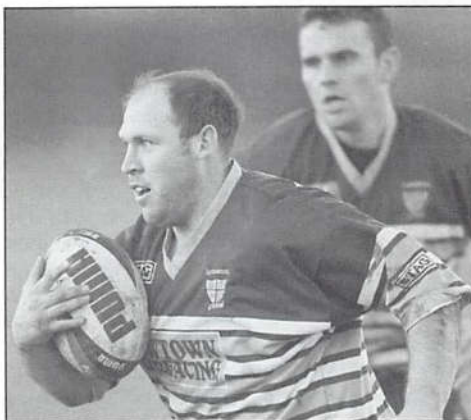
Making a big impact in the game - second row forward.

STEVE TAYLOR (age 26)

Prop. Ex Wigan and Swinton. Makes a big impact when in the team

IAN DUNN (age 28)

Prop. Enthusiastic and committed.



Ian Dunn with captain Phil Dermott in support.

VAUGHAN WEST (age 26)

Ball handling forward, son of Graeme West.

DARREN JONES (age 28)

Stand off. Lancashire and BARLA international. Toured Australia and South Africa. Leading try scorer this season

PAUL KELLY (age 26)

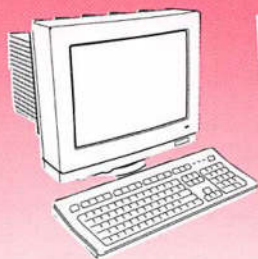
Strong running. forward

NEIL MOLYNEUX (age 28)

Back row forward. His team spirit and commitment are of the highest quality.

GAVIN CORFIELD (age 19)

Centre. Represented Lancashire against the Australian School Boys last October. Very talented, big future.



WINNARD'S

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With Simon Winnard

MIKE FORD'S disappointment in last weeks victory over Workington is understandable. Mike is the consummate professional in everything he does. He is meticulous in approach and competitive to the last - anything less than 100% effort and achievement means there is room for improvement. As a coach there is nothing more frustrating than failing to transfer success on the training pitch into performances on match day. Whilst obviously feeling justifiably satisfied with our league position, after the initial few exchanges in a fiercely competitive NFP, Mike is quite rightly analysing the underlying reasons for the team not quite firing on all cylinders.

The players seem to have felt under increasing pressure in recent weeks as the expectations of supporters have rocketed following our great start to the season. This has clearly manifested itself in their play at times. They look edgy and like they are trying too hard to score every time they are in possession. Structured sets of six are subsequently lost, one pass too many given and the crowd becomes even even more restless. This is where I feel that we, as supporters, have a part to play if we can learn to exercise a little more patience. Fans are champing at the bit to enjoy any kind of success for the Roughyeds and don't get me wrong, that's great to see. However, it's all too easy to forget the difficulties of the last two years and the struggle we have endured to bring us to this early stage in the club's development.

During the Workington game, and particularly in what was a poor first half, you could clearly hear the tension in the crowd. Cries of 'get the ball out wide' on the first tackle and 'we should be beating teams like this' serve no more purpose than to add to the pressure on the players.

Let's put this into some kind of perspective here. I don't believe that Workington are a bad side and their performance certainly didn't reflect their position at the foot of the NFP table. The recent signings of players like Paul Cook and Dave Watson will ensure a steady improvement and I believe they are more than capable of earning a mid table berth come July. The team also needs time to gel together and on early

showings there looks enough talent in the side to suggest that things can only get better. Despite not really hitting top gear in our first five games we are second in the table - a magnificent start to the season by anybody's standards and a positive indicator of what can be achieved in the long term.

Elsewhere, Mark Aston's Sheffield Eagles have secured a £100,000 sponsorship deal, the biggest in the NFP, with internet provider fastfreenet.com. This is not only a major coup for the Eagles but also one in the eye for the Super League officials who played such a significant role in their near demise. Sheffield, without any News Corporate funding, intend to celebrate this lifeline with an investment in local youth development. Super League officials, however, now look to be left without any major sponsor for their fast approaching season following BT's withdrawal from negotiations....now there's a little natural justice for you! Sources have indicated that BT's decision has been influenced, in no small part, by the farcical instability of the closed season. It's disappointing, but sadly no surprise, to see that our 'show-piece' competition is not taken seriously by those who take a step back and view it's chaotic management from afar.



Mark Aston

However, Northern Ford appear to be more than satisfied with their sponsorship of the Premiership. Winter Rugby with minimal fixture disruption in the seasons first month (unlike last year) and despite a continual Hull KR mud bath, increased competitiveness throughout the league, good crowds and the Roughyeds pushing hard for an end of year play off spot....now that's enough to make your heart glow, even on a cold Sunday afternoon in Oldham.

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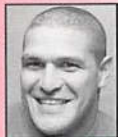
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Club Call

A WARM welcome to everybody, but in particular a big welcome to all officials and supporters of St. Judes. I hope you enjoy your afternoon at Boundary Park....but not too much!!

GMR SPORTS QUIZ

Did anyone hear our chairman and timekeeper, John Barrett, competing on the radio last Thursday? They were taking part in GMR's Sports Quiz presented by Ian Cheeseman. It has to be said that it was a thrilling battle but Chris and John eventually beat Rochdale Football Club

20 points to 17. They now progress to the next round so listen out on 95.1 fm on Thursday nights between 7 - 8pm. It is worth a listen just to hear how nervous our timekeeper is.

A MAJOR STORY FOR SCOOP!

After months of constant moaning, our very own Roger Halstead, from the Oldham Evening Chronicle, won a treble prize at the weekend on our weekly lottery draw, The Saturday Yankee. Roger usually enquires if his numbers have actually gone in the draw!! Well, Roger, yes they do! If you would like the opportunity to be a winner on 'The Yankee' please phone **0161 628 3677** for further details. **The jackpot prize this weekend is £2000.**

Scott

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

Hi to all the Junior Roughyeds!!.

We would like to welcome all the supporters and officials from Wigan St. Judes.



The mascot for today is **Patrick Harwood**. Patrick is 11 years old and his favourite player is Leo Casey. Patrick is one of our match day ball boys. He is also a keen supporter of Oldham Athletic. Have a great day Patrick!

The first Junior Roughyed meeting for the season will be on **Tuesday 1st February at the Clayton Arms, Sheepfoot Lane, Oldham starting at 7.00pm**. Mike Ford and some of the players will be coming along to the evening. We will also be holding our mascot draw for the next five matches. See you there!

Debra Rafferty

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'THE DON'



THIS AFTERNOON the Roughyeds set out on the Murrayfield trail, with a match against St. Judes, a club from Wigan, the town which, at one time, seemed to be twinned with Wembley.

The senior Wigan club were Wembley winners eight years running between 1988 and 1995, winning 42 consecutive ties, including three against Oldham, in a sequence that almost failed to get off the mark. For it was on this day in 1988, Saturday 30th January, that Wigan entertained Bradford Northern at the start of that record breaking run. The Pie-eaters scraped through a drab tie 2-0 with a controversial penalty from centre Joe Lydon late in the first half.

A product of the St. Judes club, versatile forward Mick Cassidy, played in ten of the closing eleven matches of that aforementioned run, his first tie coming on Sunday 30th January 1994 when Wakefield Trinity visited Wigan for a fourth round tie. Cassidy was at hooker in that match, which Wigan won 24-16, but he has been in the second-row for seven of the other nine ties, and substitute for the other two.

Twelve months previously, on Saturday 30th January 1993, Warrington met Castleford in a televised first round tie. The visitors were clear winners by 21-6 and it was scrum half Mike Ford who set Castleford on the way to victory by scoring their first try.

Ford is the only member of the current Oldham squad to have figured in a Wembley final although several former Roughyeds have appeared at Wembley, albeit with a different club. January 30th is a significant date in the careers of two of those Wembley finalists, John Fieldhouse and Terry Clawson. On Wednesday 30th January 1985 Fieldhouse made his debut in the Widnes second-row shortly after his transfer from Warrington. Widnes lost 26-12 at Wigan that night in another match which featured Mike Ford. He seems to get everywhere but was a scrum half on that occasion. Twenty years previously, on Saturday 30th January 1965, Ford was merely a twinkle in his father's eye so was not present when Terry Clawson made his debut for Bradford Northern in a home league match against the club with whom he started his career, Featherstone Rovers. Clawson landed a goal although Rovers spoiled his debut by beating Bradford 11-5.



Terry Clawson

Twelve months ago, on Saturday 30th January 1999, Oldham half-back Keith Brennan was playing amateur rugby in the North West Counties League with Shaw Rhinos. Kirkholt visited George Street that day and returned home on the wrong side on a 58-6 hammering. The Rhinos scored eleven tries and Brennan converted seven of them. On the same afternoon, Saturday 30th January 1999, former Oldham utility back Richard Darkes was back in town playing loose-forward for Huddersfield YMCA who took on Watersheddings Wanderers in a Pennine League match. There did not appear to be many christian actions in that match which YMCA won 38-6 after a bitter clash in which Watersheddings stand-off Mark Jewitt was shown the red card. There was plenty of good rugby up at Waterhead Park where Waterhead beat Castleford Panthers 14-4 in the second round of the BNFL National Cup. Winger John Thewlis scored a first half try for the home side and then, after the break, hooker Chris McAndrew grabbed another and Jon Perks added three goals.

Waterhead are at Swinton today where we hope they pull off a shock result although here at Boundary Park it is the last thing we want.

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 W 30-17

30 Wigan St. Jude's

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

Sponsors

TODAY'S sponsors are obviously Silk Cut. A warm welcome to their representatives. I thought I would take this opportunity to remind potential sponsors and supporters of the packages we have available. Our standard packages are *Match Sponsor*, *Associate Match*, *Man of the Match* and *Matchball Sponsor*. All these packages consist of:

- Executive Box match day seating
- Superb 4 course meal with wines, coffee & mints
- Complimentary Bar
- Programme Advertising
- Electronic Scoreboard Advertising
- Public Address Advertising
- Complimentary match day magazine
- Car Park passes
- Personalised Gift presentation

However, due to the fact that there are two sponsors suites at Boundary Park, we can cater for various sponsors and supporters requests. So please contact me on **0161 628 3677** for any further information about the above.

Scott

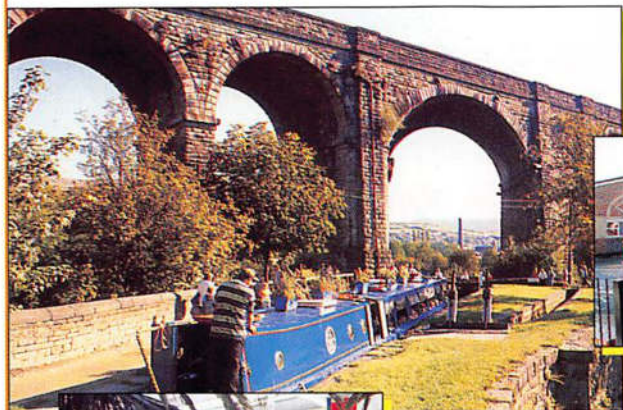
IMPORTANT NOTICE

BOUNDARY PARK IS FITTED WITH AN EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (LOCAL HIGH PITCH, TWO TONE SIGNAL).

IF YOU SHOULD HEAR THE SIGNAL PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN. A TEST OF THE ALERT SYSTEM WILL BE MADE PRIOR TO EACH GAME, TWENTY MINUTES PRIOR TO THE KICK-OFF TIME, FOLLOWED BY THE WORDS:

"THIS IS A TEST OF THE BOUNDARY PARK ALERT SYSTEM"

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



3RD ROUND SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

OLDHAM

Coach Mike FORD

Mark SIBSON

Joey HAYES

Anthony GIBBONS

Pat RICH

Peter FERRIS

Craig BARKER

David GIBBONS

Jason CLEGG

John HOUGH

Andrew PROCTOR

Mark CAMPBELL

Wes ROGERS

Kevin MANNION

Chris HOLLAND

Leo CASEY

Graeme SHAW

Ian SINFIELD

WIGAN ST. JUDES

Coach Dave Walsh

Kevin OAKES

Peter O'LOUGHLIN

Ian THOMPSON

Gavin CORFIELD

Keith BAXTER

Darren JONES

Paul MELLING

Steve TAYLOR

Phil DERMOTT

Paul KELLY

Paul OLURANKINSE

Brendan BARR

Milton FINNEY

Peter CAIN

Tommy PORTER

Martin CUNNINGHAM

Neil MOLYNEUX



REFEREE

NICK ODDY

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

 **PETER MCLAUGHLIN**

 **STEVE WRIGHT**

 **4th TBA**

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP 2000

2000 Silk Cut Prizes

This is the fourth year of Silk Cut's current contract with the RFL, having extended their original agreement for a further two years until 2001. The extension is worth £1.8 million, which guarantees Rugby League's first £1 million in sponsorship in the final year. For the first time in Rugby League history the final will be held at Murrayfield in Edinburgh and the victorious team in 2000 will receive a record prize cheque of £120,000.

Of the 2000 sponsorship investment of £800,000 a total prize fund of £563,200 is projected for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The remaining funds will be deposited in the League's Capital Development Fund. The complete year 2000 Silk Cut Challenge Cup prize structure is:

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

Third Round winners (First Division Clubs)	£4,400
Third Round losers (Amateur Clubs)	£1,200
French Clubs	£6,500
Fourth Round losers	£5,400
Fifth Round losers	£9,000
Quarter-Finals losers	£17,000
Semi-Final losers	£22,400
Runner-up	£55,000
Winners	£120,000
PROJECTED PRIZE FUND	£563,200
PROJECTED CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	£236,800
GRAND TOTAL	£800,000

2000 SILK CUT AWARDS

Silk Cut Awards will again be presented to the adjudged Man of the Match in each tie from the first round onwards. In each case the winner will receive a commemorative medallion, plus a cheque for £200 (from the third round through to the quarter finals). The Man of the Match at both semi-finals receives a cheque for £400 plus an engraved silver plated replica rugby ball.

2000 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP TIMETABLE

First Round	4th & 5th December, 1999	Fifth Round	26th & 27th February, 2000
Second Round	18th & 19th December, 1999	Quarter-Finals	11th & 12th March, 2000
Third Round	29th & 30th January, 2000	Semi-Finals	25th & 26th March, 2000
Fourth Round	12th & 13th February, 2000	Final	29th April, 2000

2000 SILK CUT TICKETS

Tickets for the all-seater 2000 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final on Saturday 29th April 2000 can be booked now priced £40, £30, £25, £15 and £10.

Please forward order and remittance, made payable to the Rugby Football League, to:
THE TICKET OFFICE, THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE, RED HALL, RED HALL LANE, LEEDS LS17 8NB. Switch, Visa and Access credit card bookings can be made by telephoning on the Ticket Hotline 0113 232 9444 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

2000 SILK CUT DRAWS

The draw for the first round will be made live on GMR at 7.10pm on Tuesday, 16th November 1999. The draws for the second and third rounds will be made live on BBC Radio Leeds at approximately 7.00pm on Wednesday 8th December and Wednesday 5th January respectively. The fourth round draw will be made live on BBC Radio Five Live at approximately 5.15pm on Monday, 31st January 2000.

The draw ceremonies for the fifth round, quarter-finals and semi-finals will be made live on BBC Sunday Grandstand at approximately 5.10pm on the following dates:

Fifth Round	Sunday 13th February
Quarter-Finals	Sunday 27th February
Semi-Finals	Sunday 12th March

THE ROAD TO MURRAYFIELD...

THE ROAD TO MURRAYFIELD...

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP 2000

