

ROCHDALE HORNETS

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PREMIERSHIP



RLFC



Friday 21st April 2000, Kick-off 3.00pm

ROCHDALE HORNETS

v

OLDHAM

Programme Price - £1

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COACH'S PLAYER OF THE SEASON (See Page 15)



STEVE'S VIEW

Coach Steve Linnane Comments

I would like to welcome you all to Spotland Stadium today to what I am sure will be a great clash between two in form Rugby League teams.

The season 2000 has seen us play each other 3 times so far and the rivalry and passion displayed on those occasions ensures today's match will be one of the games of this season.

I would like to touch briefly on last Sunday's match against Featherstone, a game which saw us get the two points very convincingly over an outfit who are one of the form sides in the competition. The 'never-say-die' attitude of the Hornet's players was what really won it for us in the end. Being down 14-0 at one stage

and able to get back and win the match 31-16 showed a lot of fighting spirit.

Today we take on an in form Oldham outfit, and will need to be at our very best to win the match.

Over the past 4-5 weeks we the Hornets have shown signs of gradual improvement and improvement on last week is what is required for us to win today.

So sit back, enjoy the match, cheer the Hornets on and make Good Friday a memorable one for the Hornets.

Enjoy the game
Steve Linnane

Rochdale Hornets RLFC

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HORNETS MAGAZINE DESIGNED &
PRINTED BY:
Vibrant Graphics Limited, Radnor Works
5 Back Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4PP
Tel: 01260 299262

BOARDROOM BRIEF

A warm welcome to all the Directors, Officials, playing staff and supporters of Oldham RLFC who have made the short journey to Spotland for today's Northern Ford Premiership game. If the players provide the same level of entertainment as we have witnessed in our last four home games, we will be in for a real treat. If we play as well as we did in the second half last Sunday, or we can repeat the performance which gave us our Silk Cut Challenge Cup victory over Oldham a couple of months ago, we can also look forward to taking another two much needed points.

Playing any team on the fringes of the NFP play-off positions means you can expect a tough game. The fact that today's game is also a local derby adds a bit more spice to the occasion. The fans from both sides look forward to these fixtures and their desperate desire to see their team win seems to get through to the players. Of course there are also several players on both sides up against their previous club and they will be particularly keen to put in good performances. With all the tension surrounding derby games we all want to see an entertaining game played in the right spirit, but most of all we all want to see our team win.

Last weekend's victory over Featherstone Rovers was a real tonic. We had been saying for several weeks that our results were not matching our performances. Last Sunday, especially in the second half everything seemed to slot into place.

Before the game, Featherstone were third in the NFP, having only lost 3 games. When they quickly built a 14 point lead, against a Hornets

side missing a number of first team regulars, we all probably feared the worst. Whether there was something in the half time cup of tea or not, the side were transformed in the second half, crossing for 4 unanswered tries and running out fairly comfortable winners at the end. It was a really well deserved win.

There were several good personal performances, particularly Micky Edwards who was truly inspirational on his return from injury. However it was also a good all round team display, arguably the best 40 minutes from Hornets this season. Our discipline, tackling and ball handling were all good, and that gave us the platform to perform as well as we all knew we were capable of.

Whilst the win against Featherstone was nice, the real test is whether we can repeat that level of performance with more consistency, starting this afternoon.

Today will be the last home game for several weeks. Even though the weather has not been too good since the beginning of the year the pitch has stood up pretty well, this season. Last year, as today's visitors Oldham will also recall, we had tremendous problems with the pitch and it required major renovation work to make it playable.

This year the ground staff will take advantage of the forthcoming short break in our home fixtures to carry out some minor works. They will also have the period between the end of June and early August (when the football season starts again) to attend to any more significant work.

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GARETH'S

BIG MATCH PREVIEW

EVERYTHING that Hornets had been promising and building up to finally came to full fruition last weekend as the side completely blew away Featherstone in a spectacular second-half performance.

Remember Rovers are genuinely one of the top sides outside Super League, and for Hornets – even without three of their most attacking players in the shape of Dane Dorahy, Danny Sculthorpe and Lee Maher – to beat them 25-0 after half-time was a considerable achievement.

The pack, which is shaping up to be the best six in memory, were absolutely awesome, led by the inspirational Mickey Edwards, already becoming a firm fans' favourites.

His all-action approach to the game, coupled with his seemingly endless enthusiasm was positively a breath of fresh air, and the likes of Andy Ireland, Gavin Price-Jones and Chris McKinney were superb as well.

And with Sculthorpe and long-term injury victim David Stephenson set to return today, things can surely only get better.

But Hornets must certainly be wary of an Oldham side currently running in seventh spot after an excellent first half of the season under popular coach Mike Ford.

They will be keen to exact revenge for Hornets Cup win here at Spotland in February, and will present a firm indication of just how far Hornets are actually developing.

The game will be heightened in interest through

the involvement of several players who have turned out for both local rivals in recent years.

For Hornets, we are likely to see ex-Oldhamers Stephenson, Edwards, Mick Martindale, Steve Wilde, Sean Cooper, Danny Wood and Darren Robinson, while a number of others were born or currently live in the town.

For the Roughyeds, Chris Holland and Leo Casey have both worn the red, white and blue jersey in recent seasons, while Aussie forward Shayne McMenemy started the season here at Spotland before making the short journey to Boundary Park.

The match has all the ingredients of another mouth-watering clash. The opening day game at Oldham was an absolute thriller, and with another decent crowd expected this afternoon, supporters should be in for another treat.

Hornets fans will be hopeful that their side can continue the outstanding form showed in the second 40 last Sunday.

Once Hornets had got their noses in front, the confidence, self-belief and team spirit was there for all to see, and suddenly something seemed to click.

Gone were the handling errors that have haunted the side all year, replaced instead by a confident side that kept going forward more and more.

The performance certainly put a smile on everyone's face on Sunday night, and long may that continue. It's going to be very difficult again this afternoon, but let's hope that last Sunday was the start of something really big.

TODAYS VISITORS

OLDHAM

CRAIG BARKER

Local halfback or hooker who was not always a first choice in '98 but never lets the side down when selected.

KEITH BRENNAN

A late entrant into the pro ranks, Keith played for Higginshaw and Shaw Rhines 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

Back row forward signed from Keighley Cougars. Oldham wanted to sign Mark last season but have finally got their man. Another player for whom big things are expected.

LEO CASEY

Now at the veteran stage, Leo returned to Oldham last season and has re-signed for this year's campaign. Has represented Ireland at International level. This tough prop forward was delighted to be named Captain for last season's campaign and his performances were outstanding. Leads from the front and usually plays 80 minutes, which is a rarity in today's modern game.

JASON CLEGG

Formerly a Bradford Bull this prop had a barnstorming season for the Roughyeds last year. 'Cleggy' is becoming a favourite with the Oldham spectators and is a member of a very consistent front row.

PETER FERRIS

Like Brennan, another former Higginshaw

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 25 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 with 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 the 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 Great Britain in 1988. Coached Bramley to mid-table respectability in 1999 before landing the Oldham job - at the third attempt - to fulfil a sporting ambition.

ANTHONY GIBBONS

Signed with his twin brother, David, from Bramley this close season. Anthony can play anywhere in the backs but will be hoping to make the centre spot his own.

DAVID GIBBONS

Signed with his twin Anthony from Bramley. Can play anywhere in the backs but will be hoping to impress at stand off. David is very talented and began his career at Leeds.

DANNY GUEST

This 22 year old, 18 stone, prop was an up-and-coming youngster with the Bears. He played for the Roughyeds in the new club's first ever and historic game at Rochdale on January 1, 1998 but then joined Keighley on a round-robin return to the Roughyeds via Lancashire Lynx.

JOEY HAYES

A 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 Great Britain Students and took the man-of-the-match award in England's defeat by New Zealand at Hull in the last World Cup. Equally at home at centre or in the back row.

JOHN HOUGH

John will go down in the 'new' club's history books as the first player to officially sign for the Roughyeds. A bright future is predicted for the ex-Warrington hooker who is renowned for his hard work and sportsmanship. Has been consistently outstanding for the Roughyeds and is one of the divisions form hookers.

KEVIN MANNON

Another winger, 22 year old Kevin is a ball playing loose-forward, who made his senior debut with Rochdale Hornets when only 16. Starred for the Hornets Academy and Alliance sides, but then concentrated on his studies at Lancaster University. Played for England and Great Britain Students, for whom he has toured Australia and played France.

JOE MCNICHOLAS

This young winger is one of the most exciting prospects in the new First Division. Having

turned down an offer from Bradford Bulls, Joe was unfortunate to miss most of '98 after breaking his leg in the early season. Rochdale born, he is armed with pace and a great side step.

SHAYNE McMENEMY

Recent recruit to the club replacing the injured Tom O'Reilly. Began this season at Rochdale Hornets where he caught the eye of Mike Ford. Hard Working second row forward this Australian made his debut 48 hours after arriving from Sydney.

CHRIS NAYLOR

A 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 Great Britain against the Aussies at Students level where he confirmed Mike Ford's interest.

ANDY PROCTOR

Andy has returned to the club to play for Mike Ford, who was his coach last season at Bramley. Procky can play at prop or in the back row and with his professional attitude to training will be a valuable addition to this season's team.

PAT RICH

Signed from Keighley Cougars in the close season. Pat is a promising young centre who played for England in the recent Student's World Cup. He has the drive, ambition and ability to have a really big season.

WES ROGERS

Wes signed from Swinton Lions in the close season. Wes is very pleased to have signed for his home team, not least because his family are all fanatics! Can play anywhere in the forwards and is major boost to the Roughyeds pack.

MARK SIBSON

Major pre-season signing for the Roughyeds. A lot is expected from this goal kicking full-back. Although he played 2 games for Huddersfield Giants in the Super League last season most of his performances were for Bramley.

IAN SINFIELD

Local lad, Ian signed for and played Super League rugby with Salford before joining Roughyeds in 1998. Had a brief stint in France in the early part of 1999 before returning to the club, finishing the season and re-signing for 2000. A back row forward and who tackles hard, run strongly and uses the ball intelligently wide cut.

WARREN BARROW

Signed recently from St Helens Alliance side making his debut at Leigh on the wing. A regular try scorer whilst at Saints he can play either on the wing or at centre.

PHIL FARRELL

Recently signed for the club after a successful loan period. Hard working back row forward who has the right pedigree, as he is the younger brother of Wigan and GB Captain Andy Farrell

NEIL RODEN

Signed for the club from Wigan at the same time as Phil Farrell. Young half back who impressed in the Alliance side before making his senior bow against Hunslet at Boundary Park. Scored his first try for the club in the away win at Batley and looks like one to watch for the future.

A TEAM SCENE

ALLIANCE 2000 FIRST DIVISION

JANUARY	5	Leigh Centurions	A	7.30	16-8
	27	OLDHAM	H	7.30	16-4
FEBRUARY	12	Batley Bulldogs	A	7.30	18-10
	24	Featherstone Rovers	A	7.30	8-37
MARCH	11	Workington Town	A	2.30	12-54
	16	Hunslet Hawks	A	7.30	16-20
	23	Oldham	A	7.30	18-43
	30	Keighley Cougars	A	7.30	18-34
APRIL	13	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	7.30	30-22
	27	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	7.30	
MAY	6	Barrow Border Raiders	A	2.30	
	11	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	7.30	
	18	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	7.30	
	31	Widnes Vikings	A	7.30	
JUNE	3	WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS	H	2.00	
	7	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	7.30	
	17	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	2.00	
	21	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	7.30	
JULY	1	TOP FIVE PLAY OFF			
	22	GRAND FINAL			

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"HAVE YOUR SAY"

You can send any letters or articles you wish to have considered for inclusion in the matchday programme to the Club Office.

For example you might want to write about your favourite player or match from the past or tell us about your experiences in supporting Hornets.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are still plenty of opportunities to sponsor players and or their kit. Details can be obtained from the Commercial Manager, Janet Molloy. Remember, as well contributing to a very good cause you get your name in the programme and we will be endeavouring to get details onto our web site in the near future.

MATCH VIDEOS

Copies of Rochdale Hornets match videos are available through the club shop.

NEXT UP

Rochdale Hornets next Northern Ford Premiership home game is against Hunslet Hawks on Wednesday, 10 May 2000, kick-off 7.30 pm. This will be followed by another home game on the following Sunday when Lancashire Lynx will be the visitors to Spotland.

The next A Team home game is against Leigh Centurions on Thursday 11th May 2000, Kick- off 7.30pm. The game will give Hornets another chance of doing a double, having won 16-8 on the opening game of the season.

GOLDEN GAMBLE

FEATHERSTONE MATCH

The winning ticket was No 4873. The prize of £110.00 was won by David Adams whose company, The Ellen Group, sponsored the game.

He promised to sponsor again in the near future as this is the second time he has won the Half-time Golden Gamble draw.

ROCHDALE HORNETS NFP FIXTURES 2000

	H/A	TIME	SCORE	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
DECEMBER																						
27	Oldham	A	3.00	20 - 23	3,542	Wilde	Hudson	Martin	Cooper	Price-Jones	Wood	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	McMenemy	McKinney	Derrice	Newall	Moore	Cameron	Waring	Bunce
JANUARY																						
2	LEIGH CENTURIANS	H	3.00	14 - 42	2,112	Price-Jones	Hudson	Martin	Cooper	Hilton	Dorahy	Waring	McMenemy	Robinson	McKinney	Newall	Derrice	Moore	Ashton	Bunce	Cameron	Holl
9	Lancashire Lynx	A	2.00	38 - 22	320	Waring	Price-Jones	Martin	Cooper	Hilton	Wood	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Bunce	McKinney	Derrice	Moore	Prest	Hudson	Swinson	Best D
23	YORK WASPS	H	3.00	24 - 14	823	Waring	Price-Jones	Martin	Cooper	Hilton	Wood	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Swinson	McMenemy	Bunce	Derrice	McKinney	Robinson	Prest	Newall	Pucill
30	THE ARMY (SILK CUT CC3)	H	3.00	66 - 6	700	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood	Hilton	Waring	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Swinson	McMenemy	McKinney	Derrice	Newall	Robinson	Price-Jones	Cooper	Bunce
FEBRUARY																						
6	Swinton Lions	A	3.00	16 - 34	1,112	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood	Hilton	Waring	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	McMenemy	McKinney	Derrice	Newall	Hough	Price-Jones	Cooper	Bunce
13	OLDHAM (SILK CUT CC4)	H	3.00	30 - 14	2,168	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood	Hilton	Waring	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Swinson	McMenemy	McKinney	Price-Jones	Newall	Robinson	Bunce	Cooper	Pucill
20	WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS	H	3.00	20 - 22	784	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood	Hilton	Waring	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Swinson	McMenemy	McKinney	Price-Jones	Newall	Cooper	Bunce	Forbes	Pucill
27	Hull Sharks (SILK CUT CC5)	A	3.00	10 - 82	3,392	Maher	Hudson	Wilde	Wood	Hilton	Waring	Ashton	Sculthorpe	Swinson	Bunce	McKinney	Price-Jones	Martin	Robinson	Newall	Cooper	Harrison
MARCH																						
1	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	3.00	8 - 34	807	Wilde	Hudson	Cooper	Wood	Hilton	Martin	Waring	Sculthorpe	Swinson	Edwards	McKinney	Price-Jones	Newall	Robinson	Forbes	Derrice	Best D
5	Barnes Beesley Raiders	A	3.00	14 - 32	1,169	Wilde	Powell	Cooper	Martin	Hudson	Wood	Ashton	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Edwards	McKinney	Bunce	Newall	Harrison	Derrice	Martindale	Best D
12	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	3.00	32 - 28	794	Maher	Wilde	Waring	Wood	Cooper	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Bunce	McKinney	Price-Jones	Martin	Swinson	Martindale	Harrison	Derrice
19	Batley Bulldogs	A	3.00	6 - 12	464	Maher	Wilde	Waring	Wood	Cooper	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Bunce	McKinney	Derrice	Martin	Martindale	Harrison	Newall	Swinson
26	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	H	3.00	26 - 38	1,253	Maher	Wilde	Waring	Wood	Cooper	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Inland	Bunce	Derrice	Martin	Swinson	Martindale	Miller	Harrison
APRIL																						
2	Keighley Cougars	A	2.45	18 - 14	1,450	Maher	Miller	Martin	Wood	Wilde	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Inland	McKinney	Price-Jones	Cooper	Swinson	Martindale	Sculthorpe	Bunce
9	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	3.00	18 - 20	1,179	Maher	Price-Jones	Martin	Wood	Cooper	Demetriou	Dorahy	Sculthorpe	Robinson	Inland	McKinney	Martindale	Simenovich	Waring	Bunce	Harrison	Prest
16	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	3.00	31 - 16	1,273	Wilde	Hudson	Cooper	Wood	Hilton	Demetriou	Waring	Inland	Robinson	Edwards	McKinney	Martindale	Simenovich	Swinson	Price-Jones	Martin	Derrice
21	OLDHAM	H	3.00																			
28	Leigh Centurians	A	3.00																			
MAY																						
1	Barnes Beesley Raiders	A	3.00																			
7	Sheffield Eagles	A	3.00																			
10	HUNSFLET HAWKS	H	7.30																			
14	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H	3.00																			
21	Widnes Vikings	A	3.00																			
26	York Vikings	A	7.30																			
29	SWINTON LIONS	H	3.00																			
JUNE																						
4	Whitehaven Warriors	A	3.30																			
11	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	3.00																			
18	Workington Town	A	3.00																			
25	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	3.00																			
JULY																						
2	Harrogate Hawks	A	3.30																			

ROLL CALL



NFP 1999/2000

ALLIANCE FIRST DIV

NAME	APPS	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS	NAME	APPS	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Paul Ashton	2	(1)					Paul Ashton	7	(1)	2	5		18
Dave Best		(2)	1			4	David Best	4					
Martin Bunce	7	(8)	2			8	Jason Best	3	(3)				
Steve Cameron		(2)					Gary Bradbury	2		1			4
Sean Cooper	12	(5)	8			32	Gareth Brown	1	(5)				
Jason Demetriou	6		2		1	9	Chris Buckley	1	(1)				
Darrell Derose	8	(4)					Steve Cameron	1	(4)				
Dane Dorahy	13		7	21		70	Darrell Derose	2		1			4
Mike Edwards	3						Zal Dyke		(1)				
Paul Forber	(2)						Paul Forber	1					
Rob Hall	(1)						Jason Green		(2)				
Phil Harrison	(6)						Michael Hadaway	1					
Chris Hilton	9		4			16	Robert Hall	5	(1)				
Lee Hudson	6	(1)	3			12	Phil Harrison	8		3			12
Gareth Hooson	1						Chris Hilton	5		2			8
Chris Hough		(1)					Chris Hough	8	(1)	4			16
Andy Ireland	4						Lee Hudson	7		2			8
Lee Maher	8		1			4	Glynn Jones		(1)	1			4
Scott Martin	16	(1)	6			24	Gavin Kearsley	1	(1)				
Mick Martindale	2	(6)	1			4	Lee Maher	1					
Chris McKinney	15		1			4	Mick Martindale	5		1			4
Shayne McMenemy	7		2			8	Marlon Miller	8		2			8
Marlon Miller	5	(1)	1			4	Ade Moore		(2)				
Ade Moore	2	(1)					Chris Newall	4		1			4
Chris Newall	8	(3)	4			16	Brian Newby	1					
Mark Powell	1						Dave Newton	2	(3)				
Lee Prest		(3)					Kenny Nicholson		(1)				
Gavin Price-Jones	11	(3)	4			16	John Pickford		(1)				
Andy Pucill		(3)					Andy Pucill	1					
Darren Robinson	11	(5)	7			28	Mark Powell	6		1			4
Danny Sculthorpe	15						Lee Prest	8	(1)				
Lee Sculthorpe		(1)					Gavin Price-Jones	1					
James Simeunovich	2						Ryan Reid		(2)				
Gavin Swinson	6	(6)	4			16	Mark Roughneen	3	(2)	2			8
Phil Waring	13	(2)					Lee Sculthorpe	1	(1)				
Steve Wilde	9		3			12	Ryan Swindle	1	(1)				
Danny Wood	16		9	35		106	Gavin Swinson	3	(1)	2			8
							Graham Sykes	1					
							Luke Vincent	1					
							Steve Wilde	3					
							Jamie Winrow	9		2	15		38

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Campaigning Newspaper of the Year 1997 - 98

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GAVIN SWINSON

NICKNAME: Swinny
BIRTH DATE: 21.03.78
BIRTHPLACE: Pontefract
OCCUPATION: Heating Engineer
GIRLFRIEND'S NAME: Sheree
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Featherstone Rovers
HONOURS: None yet

**MOST MEMORABLE
MOMENT IN THE GAME:**

Being chosen as Academy Division
One, Player of the Year



WORST MOMENT IN THE GAME: None yet

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Dad

HARDEST PLAYER TO PLAY AGAINST: Darren Fleary

MATCHDAY SUPERSTITIONS: Clean boots

YOUNG PLAYER TO WATCH AT HORNETS: Beef (Phil Harrison)

INTERESTS / HOBBIES: Clothes shopping

FAV T.V. PROGRAMME: Simpsons

FAV MUSIC: Ocean Colour Scene

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A "ONE TO ONE" WITH AND WHAT WOULD YOU ASK THEM ?

David Jason, "What was it like to star in Only Fools and Horses"?

AROUND THE WORLD OF RUGBY LEAGUE

Still no news on the action the Rugby Football League are planning to take over Hull, following their fans behaviour at the McAlpine a couple of weeks ago. Recent reports of disturbances at the Trans-Pennine Cup Final between Dewsbury and Leigh and the Leigh v Featherstone game are also not welcome at this time. All the clubs involved must be seen to act swiftly and firmly to stamp out any unwelcome behaviour.

Obviously fans get passionate about watching their own club's and games like today's, against near neighbours and derby rivals Oldham, will probably accentuate those feelings. For some people this is the game that is most looked forward to, it is also the one that must be won. However, this passion must not be allowed to overspill into anything more than that. Foul and abusive language is what it says, whether directed at other supporters, players and officials. Any form of violence associated with the game must not be tolerated. I have no doubt that I speak on behalf of the overwhelming majority of supporters, with the best interests of the great game of Rugby League at heart, in making these comments.

Congratulations are due to Dewsbury Rams for winning the first bit of silverware on offer this year. They won the Trans-Pennine cup beating Leigh 10-8 in a tight game at the Ram Stadium.

Possibly due to the fact that Hornets were never really in the running to make a final appearance this competition has not got a lot

of coverage locally. However, things might change. Apart from the fact that we can all look forward with confidence to next season, there is also the chance that in the future the game will be used as a curtain raiser to the Challenge Cup Final. This would be a great incentive to the NFP clubs and raises the competition's kudos, at a stroke.

The issue has yet to be fully discussed but seems to be something we all ought to push for. The gap between Super League and the NFP Clubs appears to be ever widening and the prospect of the NFP seeing their team at Wembley, Twickenham, Murrayfield etc. is becoming increasingly remote. Most fans would welcome a back door chance of seeing their team on the big stage.

One man who was almost an ever-present at Challenge Cup Finals since the mid eighties, Shaun Edwards, has announced his retirement from playing the game because of persistent injuries. He has expressed an interest in getting involved in Coaching and few would bet against him building on his tremendous haul of winners medals. More than 30 appearances in major finals is a record that might not ever be reached again.

Finally, I hate to say I told you so, but regular readers of this column will recall that just last week I pondered as to whether Wakefield were in danger of over-stretching themselves financially. This week I note a couple of players found their pay cheques bouncing. Apparently this was due to other monies not clearing through the banking system. I will watch events unfold with even more interest!



NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Leigh Centurions	15	12	0	3	450	242	24
Hull KR	15	11	1	3	347	182	23
Dewsbury Rams	14	11	1	2	337	185	23
Doncaster Dragons	14	11	0	3	403	173	22
Featherstone Rovers	15	10	1	4	436	277	21
Keighley Cougars	14	10	0	4	421	224	20
Oldham	14	9	0	5	363	293	18
Widnes Vikings	15	8	0	7	354	269	16
Barrow Border Raiders	14	8	0	6	347	338	16
Swinton Lions	14	7	1	6	328	327	15
Batley Bulldogs	14	5	0	9	255	335	10
Hunslet Hawks	14	5	0	9	248	329	10
Workington Town	14	5	0	9	231	363	10
ROCHDALE HORNETS	14	4	0	10	287	375	8
Whitehaven Warriors	14	4	0	10	225	337	8
Sheffield Eagles	15	3	0	12	220	353	6
York Wasps	14	3	0	11	192	365	6
Lancashire Lynx	15	1	0	14	176	653	2

ALLIANCE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Hunslet Hawks	12	10	0	2	288	256	20
Widnes Vikings	12	7	0	5	360	2025	14
Featherstone Rovers	12	7	0	5	339	279	14
Whitehaven Warriors	9	6	0	3	262	208	10
Oldham	11	6	0	5	219	203	12
Leigh Centurions	12	5	1	6	294	288	11
Batley Bulldogs	11	4	1	6	183	240	9
Keighley Cougars	10	4	0	6	260	280	8
Rochdale Hornets	9	4	0	5	152	232	8
Workington Town	10	3	0	7	252	219	6
Barrow Border Raiders	12	3	0	9	223	425	6

ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

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Mugs (Large)	£3.50	Crystal Rugby Balls	£30.00
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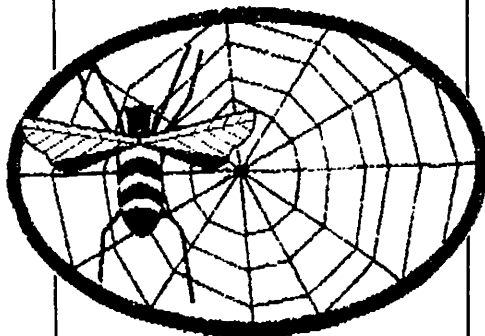
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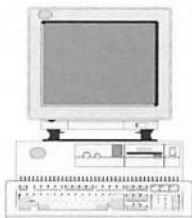
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Janet Molloy

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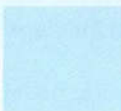
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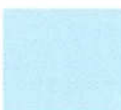
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Challenge Cup Winners,	1921-22
Lancashire League Winners,	1918-1919
Lancashire Cup Winners,	1911-12, 1914-15, 1918-19
Beaten Finalists,	1912-13, 1919-20, 1965-66, 1990-1991
Regal Trophy Beaten Finalists,	1973-74
BBC2 Floodlight Trophy Beaten Finalists,	1971-72

CLUB RECORDS

Debut Season,	1895-96
Biggest Victory, 92-0 v Runcorn Highfield	1989-90
Heaviest Defeat, 2-79 v Hull	1920-21

Most Tries:	In a Career - 103, J. Williams	1931-37
	In a Season - 30, J. Williams	1934-35
	In a Match - 5, J. Corsi, J. Williams, N. Brelsford	1921 & 22, 1933, 1972
Most Goals:	In a Career - 733, W. Gowers	1922-36
	In a Season - 150, M. Strett	1994-95
	In a Match - 14, S. Turner	1989
Most Points:	In a Career - 1481, W. Gowers	1922-36
	In a Season - 346, M. Strett	1994-95
	In a Match - 32, S. Turner	1988-89
Most Appearances:	455, W. Gowers	1922-36

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Gareth HOOSON	2	Joey HAYES
Sean COOPER	3	Anthony GIBBONS
Danny WOOD	4	Pat RICH
Lee HUDSON	5	Warren BARROW
Jason DEMETRIOU	6	David GIBBONS
Phil WARING	7	Neil RODEN
Danny SCULTHORPE	8	Danny GUEST
Darren ROBINSON	9	John HOUGH
Andy IRELAND	10	Jason CLEGG
Mick EDWARDS	11	Phil FARRELL
Mick MARTINDALE	12	Shayne McMENEMY
James SIMEUNOVICH	13	Mark CAMPBELL
Gavin SWINSON	14	Mike FORD
Gavin PRICE-JONES	15	Lee DORAN
Scott MARTIN	16	Chris HOLLAND
Darrell DEROSE	17	Ian SINFIELD

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