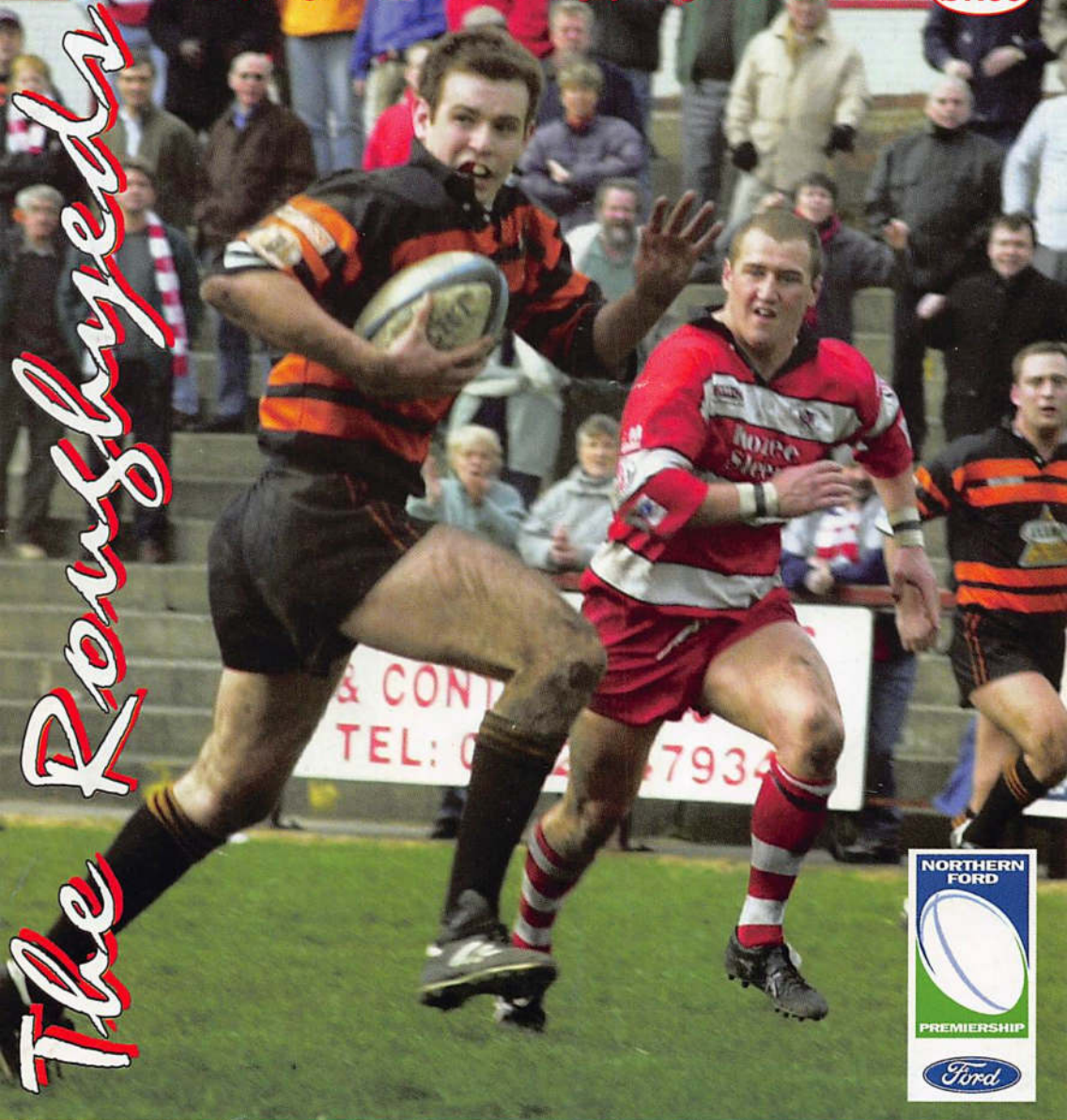


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The Roughyeds



Swinton Lions

at Boundary Park Mon 24th April 2000 Kick-off 3.00pm

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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



WELCOME BACK to Boundary Park after another two away games. Hopefully we will have kept our fine form going and will be looking for our fifth win from five. The players set themselves that goal after the disappointing defeat at Featherstone and have responded magnificently. That shows the character and determination within the playing staff and over the last few games the players have the rewards for their hard work.

Particularly pleasing was the victory at Batley where our discipline and commitment was outstanding in what was a very physical encounter. After the game the dressing room looked like half the team had done ten rounds with Mike Tyson such was the extent of the facial injuries the players had picked up.

Our discipline for the whole of the season has been exceptional and if the league sponsors, Northern Ford, were thinking of having a trophy in this category I have no doubt who would lie top of the pile.

Today is my first direct opportunity to officially welcome Neil Roden and Phil Farrell to the club. They have both made a good start to their careers with us and we hope that they will be here for a long time to come.

As you will already be aware our new Academy side has started training and I would also like to wish Mark Knight our new Academy coach all the best in his new position with us.

Last but not least welcome to Malcolm White and everybody from Swinton Lions for what, once again, will no doubt prove to be a very difficult game. We signalled our intent for the season when we won at Gigg Lane on 2nd January and they will obviously be looking for revenge today.

This is our last game in April before embarking on a spell of 7 games in May which will probably see some settling of the league in terms of positions. Let's hope we can maintain our progress and please get along to support the team and, if possible, bring along a friend or six.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

The Roughyeds The Roughyeds

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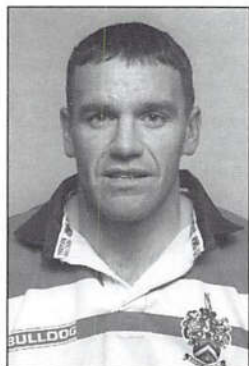
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF OLDHAM RLFC (1997) LTD.

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



FORD FOCUS With Mike Ford

Haydn Walker's . . Alliance First Division Round Up



TODAY we welcome Swinton Lions to Boundary Park and anticipate a tough match. We have great respect for Mike Gregory and his team and expect a hard game which could go right down to the wire.

It is also my pleasure to welcome our new Academy team coach, Mark Knight. The formation of an Oldham Academy side

is another step in the right direction for the Club, part and parcel of building slowly but methodically for a bright future. We already have a number of players on the books playing Alliance football who qualify for the Academy age group and we are sure that Mark's contacts in the North West Counties youth set up will see us give opportunities to many more promising boys, especially local boys. Mark is also the ex-Widnes Vikings Academy coach, has run several youth

development camps and will be the leader of an Emerging Students side to tour the USA shortly.

We have been quietly pleased with our recent performances against Hunslet and Batley. (These notes were written before Friday's game at Rochdale.) We think we put in two professional performances at a time when some key players have been out injured. We let in two soft tries against the Hawks, but skill had a good points difference at the end.

For the Batley game we were pleased to have secured the services of Neil Roden and Phil Farrell permanently. We knew we would be subject to a physical battle with a lot of provocation, so I was pleased we gave away few penalties and kept our discipline. It was especially good to go in leading at half-time, particularly when we had been brought back for a forward pass which was perfectly legal and would have given us a substantial lead. Anyway, despite this we had the confidence and character to go on to win and so move up to seventh in the table, which represents good progress.

Enjoy today's game.

Mike



SINCE MY last programme notes the Alliance have managed just one game, away to league leaders Hunslet. Due to the injury situation with the first team it was a somewhat makeshift team that travelled to the South Leeds Stadium.

A 24-10 defeat was probably a fair reflection of the game, but we certainly fancy our chances in the return fixture. A number of our young players had good games, Simon Tillyer being the pick. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Wayne Gittins, Gavin Dodd and Craig Milner also being worthy of a mention.

Finally two significant things to happen since our last home game have been the formation of an Academy side, and the permanent signing of Phillip Farrell and Neil Roden. Fans should realise that the Chairman Chris Hamilton has put in an unbelievable amount of work to ensure both these events happened. Roden and Farrell's signing two minutes before the five o'clock deadline last Friday. As well as appreciating the work put in by the Chairman the Oldham public should see this as a sign of intent, that the club does have real ambition and that this is not simply talk but can be demonstrated by action.

Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Hunslet Hawks	12	10	2	288	256	32	20	
Widnes Vikings	12	7	0	5	360	202	158	14
Featherstone Rovers	12	7	0	5	339	279	60	14
Whitehaven Warriors	9	6	0	3	262	208	54	12
Oldham	11	6	0	5	219	203	16	12
Leigh Centurions	12	5	1	6	294	288	6	11
Batley Bulldogs	11	4	1	6	183	240	-57	9
Keighley Cougars	10	4	0	6	260	280	-20	8
Rochdale Hornets	9	4	0	5	152	232	-80	8
Workington Town	10	3	0	7	252	219	33	6
Barrow B Raiders	12	3	0	9	223	425	-202	6

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In Yer Face



TWO RECENT letters to League Express have claimed that falling attendances in the NFP prove that a 'winter' season does not work. Interesting this, because it is only in the last few weeks that attendances have been disappointing. Two things spring to mind regarding this:- 1) that it coincides with the beginning of Super League and 2) that it coincides with the start of the 'summer' season. Conclusion - the opposite of our letter writers: more spectators watch NFP football during the winter months (better attendances in December, January and February) and more people watch NFP football when there is no competition from Super League. Therefore is it not likely that NFP games in Autumn/Winter and Super League games in Spring/Summer would produce the best all round attendances? The only stumbling block would appear to be the question of promotion and relegation, though on current evidence the chances of inter-league changes are minimal.

TO ANYONE with any kind of realistic appreciation of what it takes to build a successful rugby league club, Oldham's achievement at the half way point of the season is quite remarkable. After finishing almost rock bottom in 1999 Oldham were lying seventh in the NFP table after 14 games with a game in hand on several of their rivals and a realistic chance of making the play-offs. I hope people realise the enormity of this achievement. A progressive Chairman and his Board of Directors and an outstanding, young coach have turned around a desperate situation and have done so without running up debt or mortgaging the future as so many clubs have done in the past. Player recruitment has been first class. Oldham can now boast some of the finest talent in the league. Mark Sibson and Joey Hayes are exciting finishers while lacking nothing in defensive ability. Pat Rich is simply outstanding in everything he does, a player who rarely misses a tackle and whose goalkicking is reliable. Playing almost as an extra forward Rich is perhaps only short of a yard of pace.

Anthony and David Gibbons have brought cool heads and quality play to the team, together with organisational skill and the ability to assume responsibility.

In the pack Mark Campbell, Kevin Mannion, Chris Holland and Wes Rogers have 'fronted' up to some intimidating opponents and come out on top. The addition of Shayne McMenemy and Phil Farrell has given new strength in depth and takes some of the burden off a tireless front row of Leo Casey, Jason Clegg, Andy Proctor and the redoubtable John Hough. Add in the excellent progress being made by Danny Guest and Lee Doran and you can judge the progress made.



Phil Farrell

But all this is only half the story! This year has also seen the emergence of a fine young Alliance side which is also challenging for a play-off spot and now comes the addition of an Academy team. From one team to three in the space of three years: when was the last time you saw any club do that? So when you get frustrated or downhearted (as at Featherstone) just remember where we were a year ago or, worse, three years ago when we had no club at all. Keep the faith.

ROGER ROGER

OLDHAM's prospects for qualifying for the top-eight play-off in the Northern Ford Premiership are starting to look good after consecutive wins against Sheffield Eagles, Hunslet Hawks and Batley Bulldogs.

These notes had to be written before the Good Friday derby clash at Rochdale, but the Roughyeds must have gone into that match with quiet confidence after scoring a total of 100 points in their three previous outings at the Don Valley Stadium, Boundary Park and Mount Pleasant.

Only Dewsbury Rams have managed to win at Boundary Park so far this season and Mike Ford's men can now look forward to a spell of six games on home soil out of the next nine.

Moreover, they have already played five of the eight teams above them away from home, winning at Widnes but slipping to defeat at Leigh, Featherstone, Doncaster and Barrow.

Last Sunday's win at Batley, in fact, lifted them above Barrow and Widnes and sent them to seventh place in the division with a game in hand on three of the clubs above them - Featherstone, Hull KR and Leigh.

With more home games than away games to come and only two away matches against teams currently higher than themselves in the division - at Hull KR and Dewsbury - the club's play-off prospects look promising.

The merry, or is it the mad, month of May will clearly have a major bearing on which mid-table clubs make the cut and which fall by the wayside.

Oldham have seven games in 29 days and although four of them are here at Boundary Park the three matches on the road take the Roughyeds to the far-flung corners of the NFP territory, namely Hull KR, Whitehaven and Workington.

It will be a testing time for the Roughyeds, but supporters can draw encouragement from the battling performances against Sheffield, Hunslet and Batley and from the signings of Wigan's on-loan pair, Phil Farrell and Neil Roden.

Both have signed contracts to November 30, 2001 and, significantly, both have featured prominently in two of the most pleasing aspects of recent performances - the

development of the back row of the pack and the team's growing confidence when it is called upon to go into battle without the leadership of Ford at scrum-half.



For the past two seasons and for much of this we have regarded the pack's power base as the front-row, but in Farrell and Shayne McMenemy, the Aussie, we now have a pair of second-rowers who are blending together to form a useful partnership in which each player complements the other.

The emergence of Farrell and McMenemy as a second-row of some prominence has coincided with the emergence of Roden as a useful understudy to Ford at scrum-half.

The early-season confidence has started to flow through the team again and stand-off David Gibbons has taken over as captain with quiet efficiency. The extra responsibility seems to have helped his own game and, whether by pure chance we will never know, his twin Anthony has also come more to the fore during recent weeks.

The Gibbons boys did a superb job at Batley where Oldham won without the services of their club captain, Proctor, their most experienced front-row forward, Leo Casey, and their player-coach Ford, who was a sub but who didn't put himself on.



Neil Roden

Had anyone suggested a month ago that the Roughyeds would win at Mount Pleasant without Ford, Casey and Proctor, not to mention Kevin Mannion, few would have believed it.

In short, prospects for the second half of the season look good.

All that remains now is for the fans to turn up in numbers like they did earlier in the season.

Roger Halstead

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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1939 - 1945

IN EARLY September 1939, just two weeks into the 1939-40 season, the league championship was abandoned after the start of World War 2. However, by the end of the month two county based "War Emergency Leagues" were set up with all clubs participating apart from St Helens Recs who disappeared from the Rugby League scene never to return. This was a sad end for a club which, a decade earlier, had almost contested the first Wembley final. They went down to Wigan in a semi-final replay 13-12, after drawing the first match seven points each.

Swinton and Bradford were the respective Lancashire and Yorkshire champions in the first war time season and the two clubs played off for the championship with Bradford emerging the victors 37-22 after a "two leg" final. In the subsequent seasons many clubs had to drop out of the league due to their players being called up by the armed forces and by 1942-43 only 14 teams were left in a re-established inter county competition. Bradford remained strong throughout the War years with Dewsbury also emerging as a force. This was achieved under the astute management of Eddie Waring in his pre BBC commentary days. In these days many teams employed a "guest" system in order to make up their playing strength. This often had the effect that players could be team mates one week and then in opposition the next.

An international competition was maintained in war time between England and Wales and there were even matches between Rugby League and Rugby Union players. These inter-code encounters were obviously staged as a morale boosting venture which was also demonstrated by that fact that ex-Union stars, who had turned professional, were temporarily allowed back into the 15-a-side game. Sadly at the conclusion of the hostilities the anti Rugby League discrimination returned in full force.

In 1945 the full League Championship competition was re-instated with only Leigh not re-entering the fray. However, they were back for the following season. This boosted the number of clubs to 28 after Workington Town had joined the league for the 1945-46 campaign. On November 17th 1945 an awkward looking member of the Australian navy made his debut for Warrington as a trialist against Oldham. The name: Brian Bevan.

International Match

ENGLAND v. WALES

At Watersheddings, OLDHAM

Saturday, November 9th, 1940.

TEAMS	
ENGLAND	WALES
1. BELSHAW (Warrington) (Capt.)	1. JONES (Wigan)
2. BATTEN (Hunslet)	2. WALTERS (Bradford)
3. WARING (St. Helens)	3. RISMAN (Salford) (Capt.)
4. LAWRENSON (Wigan)	4. EVANS (Leeds)
5. PEAKE (Warrington)	5. WILLIAMS (Salford)
6. TRACEY (St. Helens)	6. MORRIS (Leeds)
7. McCUE (Widnes)	7. JENKINS (Leeds)
8. ROBERTS (Widnes)	8. WHITCOMBE (Bradford)
9. BROOKS (Oldham)	9. MURPHY (Leeds)
10. IRVING (Halifax)	10. HUGHES (Swinton)
11. TATTERSFIELD (Leeds)	11. THOMAS (W.T.) (Wigan)
12. BUNTER (Broughton)	12. ORFORD (Wakefield)
13. MOORE (Bradford)	13. FOSTER (Bradford)
BROGDEN (Hull)	LEWIS (Swinton)
FLOWERS (Wakefield)	
England—White jerseys.	Wales—Red jerseys.
Referee: Mr. G. F. PHILLIPS (Widnes)	

November 1940 - While the war rages throughout Europe, international rugby comes to Watersheddings. England took on Wales on November 9th. The programme shows that the Welsh team were led by the great Gus Risman. However, England won the match by eight points to five, the selection of Edgar Brooks adding extra interest for the locals.

PROBING THE NFP

WEEK 14 produced one of the biggest upsets of the season when Sheffield Eagles, fresh from a mauling by Oldham, overcame Leigh Centurions at Hilton Park 26-24. Leigh turned in a mistake riddled performance and even blew the chance of a draw at the death by opting to run the football when an easy penalty goal was on the cards. This error looks even worse when taking account of Dewsbury Rams draw at Swinton where the Lions put in an outstanding performance which should alert Oldham to their potential today.

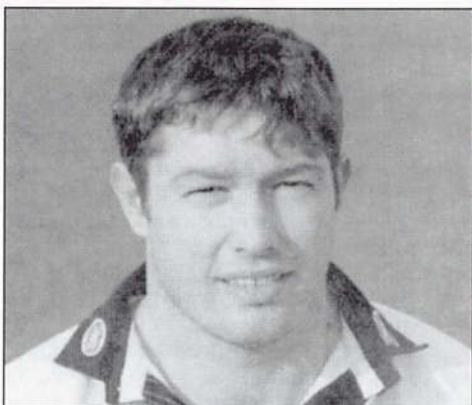
With these championship favourites pre-occupied with the Trans-Pennine Cup Final, subsequently won by Dewsbury 10-8 in a real nail-biter at Ram Stadium, Hull K.R. seized the chance to top the table by demolishing Lancashire Lynx 60-6. Featherstone maintained their run, defeating Whitehaven 44-20, though it was only in the last 20 minutes that Rovers got on top.

Rochdale Hornets nearly did the leaders a favour in holding Doncaster to 18-20 after establishing an early 12-0 lead, but the Dragons battled back to win via a controversial Carl Hall try. As forecast, Keighley were too good for Widnes at the Autoquest, with Martin Wood again leading the way with two tries and five goals. The Vikings' cause was not helped by the dismissal of Karl Fitzpatrick after an incident sparked off by a Leuila high tackle. Now where have we seen that before?

Elsewhere, Batley ran Barrow close at Craven Park, John Okul scoring the match winning try, although the Bulldogs had a late Paul Gleadhill 'try' ruled out. The closeness of the result (28-25) suited Oldham who reduced their points difference vis-à-vis the Border Raiders when they overwhelmed Hunslet 44-18. The Roughyeds delighted the home fans, not least because the crowd look forward to tries from the usual favourites, Hayes, Sibson and Hough, all of whom duly obliged.

Workington, meanwhile, accounted for York Wasps 23-7, before springing what was, perhaps, the surprise of the season to date, a 20-10 win against Hull K.R. at Derwent Park. Reports credited the whole side from 1 to 17 with a superb performance, but Town undoubtedly had their confidence boosted by the inclusion of Stephen Holgate on loan from Halifax and Michael Horner at scrum-half.

Another big result from April 16th was Rochdale's defeat of Featherstone 31-16. Despite missing Dane Dorahy, Lee Maher and Danny



Stephen Holgate

Sculthorpe Hornets overpowered the Rovers in the second half. Props Andy Ireland and Mickey Edwards, both newly signed, led the way. We can only hope they didn't do a repeat on Friday.

Today's visitors Swinton sneaked home at the death against Sheffield 38-30. This was a good result for the Lions who were badly hit by injuries to star players. As usual scrum-half Ian Watson was at the hub of Swinton's attack as well as claiming five goals and a try.

Oldham (1997) finally won at Mount Pleasant (28-16) against Batley. The Mount has not been a happy hunting ground since the Roughyeds reformation, so it was delight all round to pull this one off. To add to Oldham's joy Widnes went down 42-24 at Dewsbury and Barrow were comprehensively mauled by Keighley Cougars 66-6, tipping the points difference column substantially in Oldham's favour. However Keighley are beginning to look ominously good, with twelve tries suggesting a team capable of powerful finishing. With the Cougars due at Boundary Park on May 10th make a note not to miss the game, it's sure to be a cracker.

In between times our next visitors are York Wasps who seem to be rediscovering some form. Although they lost again, to Leigh 28-22, the margin of defeat suggests the Wasps have not thrown in the towel, especially since Leigh's winning score came in the 79th minute.

Elsewhere the week was completed by two expected results, a Hunslet win against Whitehaven (24-2) and Doncaster's hammering of Lancashire Lynx by 82-4.

In Town Today



...SWINTON LIONS



SWINTON come to Boundary Park today seeking revenge for Oldham's 23-18 victory at Gigg Lane on January 2nd. A

record of seven wins and a draw sees the Lions holding tenth place in the table with a realistic chance of reaching a play-off spot if they can achieve any sort of consistency. Last week's 38-30 win against Sheffield will undoubtedly give them confidence coming back to back with a highly creditable draw against championship favourites Dewsbury (14-14). Some of Swinton's best results have come away from home with outstanding victories at Leigh (22-20), Whitehaven (20-16) and Workington (21-10), so the Roughyeds will have to be on their mettle today.

The Lions' line-up recently has featured WAYNE ENGLISH a lively full-back now fortunately recovered from a bad injury in 1999. In the threequarters JASON ROACH, a big, strong wing has returned to Swinton after Super League spells at Castleford and Warrington. On the opposite flank MARLON BILLY has been in outstanding form and made the N.F.P. team of the month for March. Formerly with Keighley Cougars. RICHARD HENARE is a Kiwi wing or centre who has played for Warrington and Workington. Very quick, he will need to be watched carefully by the Oldham defence.

Also vying for places in the backs are PHIL COUSSONS, a powerful centre once of Salford and Rochdale; PAUL LOUGHLIN the ex -St.Helens, Bradford and Huddersfield star (although he has recently been out injured). Loughlin has actually played in a British Test Match victory against Australia and is undoubtedly one of the greats of the modern game; MICK NANYN is an Oldhamer who has just broken through to the first team after graduating from the Alliance side.

At half-back recently ANDY CRAIG and IAN WATSON have been teamed up. Craig is a clever footballer who has appeared with Wigan and Halifax and creates many openings. Meanwhile Watson, who is also the side's goalkicker, is one of the best scrum halves in the division and is invariably a handful.

Swinton's big pack of forwards features JOHN NEILL the former St. Helens and Huddersfield 'bruiser' and MATTY KNOWLES who has often been a thorn in Oldham's side when playing for Wigan and Rochdale as well as for a second time at Swinton. Also to be contended with is ex-Oldham forward TONY BARROW, now matured into one of the best in the game and the Lions longest serving current player.

Hooker may be disputed between CHRIS HIGHTON, a mighty atom of a player once on the books of Warrington, and his recent deputy SEAN FUREY.



Half-back IAN WATSON

In the back-row Swinton are blessed with several talented footballers. RYAN STAZICKER and CRAIG RANDALL, ex-Halifax and Salford, could form the second row, but big IAN PICKAVANCE could have something to say about that if recovered from injury. A former St. Helens and Huddersfield man Pickavance was in the N.F.P. ratings for March and is a really tough competitor.

Loose-forward competition, meanwhile, is strong. Club captain SEAN CASEY, once of St. Helens and Whitehaven, is one possibility. However ex-Eccles amateur PAUL SMITH could also feature, together with PAUL BARROW who had a brief and expensive flirtation with Oldham Bears before appearing with Swinton and Warrington. A clever footballer Barrow is now in his second spell at Gigg Lane.

Club coach MIKE GREGORY a Warrington stalwart as a player and scorer of a memorable 75 yard try in a British victory over Australia is the current G.B. Academy Coach and a well respected up and coming tutor. In addition to those named he has a depth to his squad which makes Swinton tough opposition. Threequarter JIM EVANS is ex-Folly Lane amateurs; DAMIEN CLEARY is a product of the Academy and Alliance sides' STEVE GARTLAND is the elusive ex-Oldham stand-off; MARK WELSBY is a quality fullback once on the books at Wigan; and MATT BATEMAN is a former Eccles threequarter. Other young forwards in contention are PHIL CUSHION and ANDY COLEY, products of Swinton's own development system.

Walkerbouts Volcano!

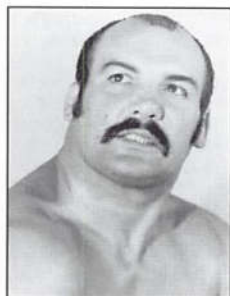
With Brian Walker



Don Vines in his Oldham Days

AMATEUR SIDE Normanton Knights, by their own standards have had a reasonable season in the second division of the National Conference likely to end the campaign just below the promotion zone. Starlet of the club is fifteen year old loose forward CRAIG DON VINES who has just been snapped up on scholarship terms by Leeds Rhinos. Name seem familiar?

Yes, Craig is the grandson of Welshman and all time great DON VINES late of Oldham RLFC, Wakefield Trinity (although Wildcat would have



T.V. Wrestling Star

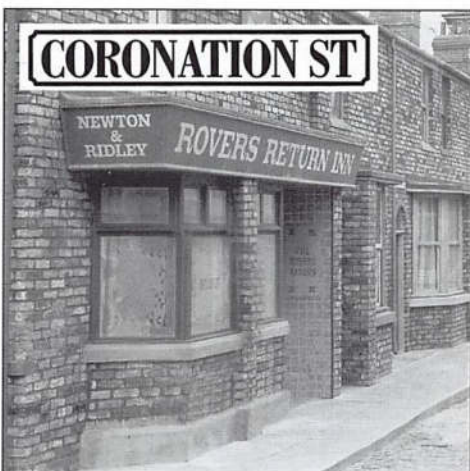
suit Don much better!), St. Helens, Wales and Great Britain. Also former star of Coronation St., Emmerdale, Diana Dors 'All our Saturdays*', and grappler with Kent Walton 1960's international wrestling circus**. Add to that Debt Collector, RL Development Officer

and for the last seven years of his life PE Lecturer at Wakefield College. Not the CV of a couch potato!

Don would readily have told you that he had two claims to fame, first and foremost before the recent Wigan dominance he was the only player in the sport with four consecutive Wembley Challenge Cup winners medals and secondly he was the man in 'The street' to knock out rugged builder Len Fairclough!

Mind you Don knocked out one or two in his time! Of his era Vines was always the fittest and hardest forward on the pitch. Karalius was tagged 'Wild Bull' and Turner 'Rocky'. For Don 'Volcano Vines' would have been apt. Very apt. If Vines had been playing today he would never have been the recipient of a Morley nosebender or McDermott jawbreaker. **It would have been akin to disturbing an hornets nest!**

Anecdotes surrounding Vines still pour off the lips of older Oldham supporters but none repeated more than the story based around Oldham Town Hall reception afforded to the 1956 Aussie tourists prior to their appearance at Watersheddings. Reportably the combined teams posed on the marble staircase for an official photograph only for one feared Aussie forward to find himself somersaulting down the



Continued on page 21

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An interview by Dave Roberts with Andy Proctor



Tell us about your injury.

I woke up one morning in agony and it got progressively worse. I could not move the right hand side of my neck. Worse was to follow because I had no sleep for two weeks which at the moment is not too inconvenient as we have just had a little girl, so I would not have had much sleep anyway.

How annoying is it being out of the team?

Very! It's massively frustrating, because we are having such a good run.

Everything is going well and my injury just came along without any sort of warning.

How long will you be out of action?

It has started to ease up, so now I have got to start building up the muscles on my right hand side. I would say the Rochdale game is too soon, so if I don't play today, next Monday must be my target.

Other than your problems things are going well?

After the Featherstone game we all looked at ourselves and set goals that we had to achieve and things have started to go well again. Today's opponents can not be taken lightly just because we have already beaten them. It will make them want to win even more.

This League is wide open!

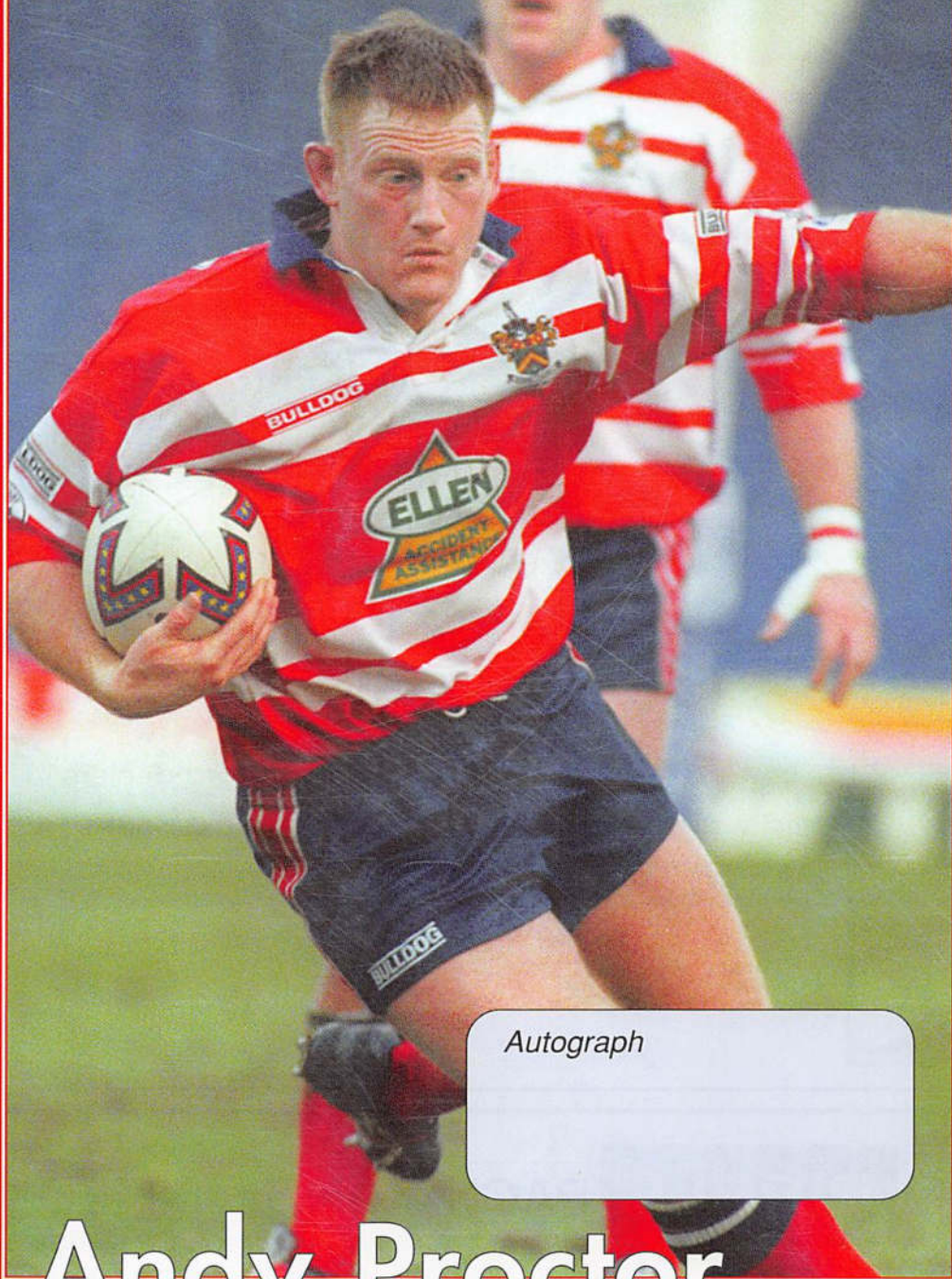
Except for the bottom two anyone can get in the play-offs and win the final so we will be aiming to finish as high as possible and who knows what will happen when the play-offs start?

Embarrass some of your team mates.

I won't mention Dave & Anthony's wind problems, so I will pick on Warren Barrow who we call the fridge, he just gets bigger and bigger and sometimes looks like he is carrying a fridge on his back.

DAVE ROBERTS

Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

Andy Proctor

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GORDON BENNETT

The wing sensation of 1936 signed for Leeds and had a five year career before Hitler had him shot. He dropped more ball than an England slip fielder, leading to the famous South Stand cry . . . "Oh! Gordon Bennett!".

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS

One of the famous Fairbanks brothers who kept a dairy farm above Elland, Douglas signed for Huddersfield in 1954 as a swashbuckling centre, but his career came to a shuddering halt after a crushing tackle by Batley's prop Errol Flynn in his one and only appearance at Mount Pleasant.

THE MARX BROTHERS

Shortly after the turn of the century Wigan fielded an almost complete pack of Marx Brothers. Groucho, Harpo and Chico formed the front row, with Zeppo in the second row. Unfortunately loose-forward Karl had been outlawed from the game after publishing inflammatory literature, to wit *The Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital*. Needless to say these calls to the proletariat to take control of their own destiny did not go down well with the industrial barons of northern England at that time and Karl Marx's promising career ended prematurely.

PAUL DANIELS

Brother of Halifax wing flyer Arthur, Paul Daniels appeared briefly in 1952 at stand-off for the Thrum Hallers. Famed for his trick of taking the ball up only to disappear, Paul Daniels once scored six tries in a match by re-appearing behind the defensive line with only the fullback to beat. Unfortunately he had a tendency to get his hair off and was banned from the game after a verbal assault on a touch judge.

BRUCE FORSYTH

A cousin of York forward Colin Forsyth, Bruce appeared in the famous Wasp colours in 1974. A full-back, Bruce tended to take advice literally and once knocked an opponent cold by smacking him between the eyes after hearing the cry "*chin him, Bruce*". His career came to an abrupt end when he was found guilty of giving away the staff cars to winners of the half-time draw.

FREDDIE STAR

A quicksilver scrum-half Freddie appeared for Widnes in 1980. The best 'feeder' of the scrum in the game, Freddie habitually distracted the opposition hooker with impressions of Roy Orbison or Elvis. Once, when a rat ran on the pitch Freddie ate it. His career ended when he was barred for wearing shorts with a swastika on.

PETER SELLERS

Peter was a Hull KR full-back for three games in 1967. Ferried to training and matches by his chauffeur Cato, Peter was constantly in trouble for stopping opponents with kung-fu drop kicks. He was an arch-exponent of the bomb (pronounced '*berm*'). Eventually his coach cut off his thumb with a cigar cutter and collapsed with a nervous breakdown because of Peter's unorthodoxy. Sellers also made one representative appearance against Morocco. He so entranced the Arabs that ever after they sang, '*I've grown accustomed to your Fez*' in his honour.

ROBERT MAXWELL

The burly prop was an instant hit with Leigh in 1975. His bruising, bullying style catapulted him to international honours. Unfortunately when selected to play against France in Toulouse he twice fell overboard from the cross channel ferry, having to be rescued by two reporters from Mirror Group Newspapers. This incident obviously foreshadowed his later sad demise when Mirror Group staff were not around (or were they?)



MARILYN MONROE

Norma Jean made one guest appearance for St. Helens in 1962. Such was her impact in rugby kit that Saints achieved a record win against Liverpool City by 96-0. Marilyn 'fronted up' to the Liverpool boys all day. Her two greatest assets had Geoff Fletcher tearing his hair out. So now you know how RL's most famous pig farmer became folically challenged!

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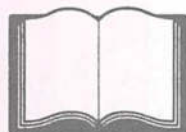
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Amateur Album

MIDDLETON RHINOS



THE MIDDLETON RHINOS club was formed in January 1994 following a meeting of enthusiasts at the Radclyffe Arms, Middleton Junction which is still used by the club as its headquarters. Two original rhino heads adorn the pub, hence the Rhinos suffix to the club name.

At that time the Rhinos played their home matches at Hopwood Hall College, Middleton so the actual name of the original club was Middleton Hopwood Rhinos. The Hopwood part of the name was dropped in 1996 when the Rhinos moved to the North Manchester RUFC ground on Victoria Avenue, Moston, Motorway construction at that site caused the club to move again two years later and they now play on the North Chadderton School Ground, Cathedral Road, Chadderton. Training also takes place at the school on Mondays as well as at the British Aerospace complex, the Lancaster Club, Broadway, Chadderton on Thursdays. Throughout their short history, the Rhinos have always played in the North West Counties League, commencing in division seven in 1994. The Rhinos won promotion in three of their first four seasons so by the 1998-99 campaign they were operating in division four, a tremendous achievement for such a young and, administratively speaking, inexperienced club. They have been able to maintain their fourth division status although, understandably, the past 18 months have been difficult ones from a playing point of view.

If the club administrators lacked experience, then the coaching staff certainly did not. The first coach at the club Geoff Clucas, one of the club's founders, who had played professionally for Carlisle, Warrington forward Ian Knott also coached the club during the 1997-98 season when the Rhinos enjoyed arguably their best ever season. Other coaches have included players Billy Taylor and Ian Sutton with Sutton being the current coach, sharing duties with former Oldham utility back Tommy Leyland. Tommy played for the Roughyeds during the late 1960s-early 1970s and he is now the Middleton Chairman. Two of his committeemen, Ian Sutton and Sean Prendergast, were amongst the original enthusiasts who formed the club six eventful years ago.

During that time the club has been indebted to a number of sponsors. This season Kevin O'Rourke of O'Rourke Glass & Double Glazing and Paul Neville of Monarch Metals have both contributed substantial

sponsorship to the club, generosity which is very much appreciated by everyone at Middleton.

Hopefully, the Rhinos will continue to grow and, with that in mind, the club is forever on the look out for new players, new ideas and new helpers as well as sponsors. They would also like to speak to any experienced player hoping to break into coaching. Interested parties are asked to contact either Tommy Leyland on 287 8510, Ian Sutton on 653 2936 or Ray Lawton on 330 4683

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	A	L	16 - 4

FEBRUARY

3rd	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	W	34 - 6
26th	Batley Bulldogs	A	W	18 - 11

MARCH

8th	Widnes Vikings	A	L	40 - 6
14th	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	W	34 - 12
23rd	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H	W	43 - 18
30th	Featherstone Rovers	A	L	32 - 6

APRIL

5th	Hunslet Hawks	A	L	10 - 24
13th	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H		P
20th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	7.30	
27th	HUNSLET HAWKS	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			

Volcano!

Continued from page 14



*Oldham Celebrate winning the Championship 1957.
Don Vines already the showman*

staircase to be taken off by awaiting ambulance directly to Oldham Infirmary! More likely than not a fable but surely it was not just coincidence that never again was a pre-match reception ever held at Oldham Town Hall! Oldham won the game 21-2.

Vines, scrummager and firebrand of the famous 50's Oldham side won County, League and Championship winners medals whilst at the club but never a Challenge Cup medal. I

suspect he would have exchanged any two of the four he won with Wakefield and St. Helens for just one appearance with the Oldham club, win or loose. I know that one of his biggest regrets was that his great friend and fellow countryman Oldham forward Charlie Winslade never made an appearance at Wembley.

Actor, comedian, wrestler, lovable toughman, international rugby player, proud family man sadly Don Vines died in 1989, at the age of 57.

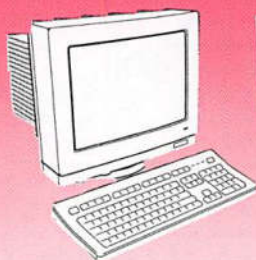
Here's to young Craig. Let's hope that in three or four years time he's pulling on the blue and gold before facing the Roughyeds in Sports Park 2000 in a top of the table Super League match. Just dreaming!

****Diana Dors 'All our Saturdays' was a comedy from the early 70's based on Rugby League.***

*****Televised wrestling in the 60's was phenomenally successful providing the TV companies with their highest ratings. Many bouts were staged managed but Don Vines had the reputation of only taking on opponents if the outcome had not been predetermined.***



50's autograph hunter. Is this you?



WINNARD'S

Stats & Facts

1999/2000 Match Results

	Barrow	Batley	Dewsbury	Doncaster	Featherstone	Hull KR	Hunslet	Keighley	Lancashire	Leigh	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Sheffield	Swinton	Whitehaven	Widnes	Workington	York
Barrow		28-25				36-18		40-6		19-16	32-14	34-16		31-4				
Batley			8-18		14-32	18-27	18-28	34-16		16-28	24-12							
Dewsbury				20-16	14-2				18-22			33-18			42-24	36-6	26-19	
Doncaster					42-8		32-14	52-12	19-12	82-4	26-16		28-14					
Featherstone	35-14	38-16	2-38			36-4	34-20			61-26		45-13						
Hull KR				8-4	2-2				14-18			6-4	54-16	22-14	24-10		30-10	
Hunslet			10-22		14-21		12-21	24-16						24-2		22-8	30-6	
Keighley	66-6		22-6		10-24				28-36	26-14	36-2						32-13	
Lancashire				6-34	6-60				6-68	22-38	20-33		22-12		12-34	18-26		
Leigh	48-22		22-6	18-8						28-10		20-22		24-16				
OLDHAM			12-14			44-18		50-8			23-20			26-22		30-17		
Rochdale				18-20	31-16	26-38			14-42				20-22	8-34	32-28	24-14		
Sheffield		12-22		10-16		17-12			6-28							18-20		
Swinton	35-22	16-32	14-14				12-34	54-6		18-23	34-16	39-30						
Whitehaven			10-36	14-24			10-56	24-6				16-20		13-6	42-0			
Widnes	17-10	30-10				30-21	18-30	64-8		20-31		3-0	22-14					
Workington	18-35				25-42	20-10			6-46			10-21		16-10				
York	20-18	8-10		1-36	12-25				22-28			16-15			18-50			

Northern Ford Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Leigh Centurions	15	12	0	3	450	242	208	24
Hull KR	15	11	1	3	347	182	165	23
Dewsbury Rams	14	11	1	2	337	185	152	23
Doncaster Dragons	14	11	0	3	403	173	230	22
Featherstone Rovers	15	10	1	4	436	277	159	21
Keighley Cougars	14	10	0	4	421	224	197	20
Oldham	14	9	0	5	363	293	70	18
Widnes Vikings	15	8	0	7	354	269	85	16
Barrow Border Raiders	14	8	0	6	347	338	9	16
Swinton Lions	14	7	1	6	328	327	1	15
Batley Bulldogs	14	5	0	9	255	335	-80	10
Hunslet Hawks	14	5	0	9	248	329	-81	10
Workington Town	14	5	0	9	231	363	-132	10
Rochdale Hornets	14	4	0	10	287	375	-88	8
Whitehaven Warriors	14	4	0	10	225	337	-112	8
Sheffield Eagles	15	3	0	12	220	353	-133	6
York Wasps	14	3	0	11	192	365	-173	6
Lancashire Lynx	15	1	0	14	176	653	-477	2



Ian Pickavance of Swinton



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Club Call

CLUB CALL

Happy Easter to supporters of both clubs. The team has played very well in the last few weeks and I hope that continued at Rochdale on Friday. I know we say it week in and week out, but the support you are showing the team is superb. The game at Batley was more like an Oldham home game, and I'm sure Mr Morris thought so!!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A big Thank You to **Alpha Photography** for sponsoring Lee Doran and **Mr Peter Rush** and **Mr Ray Clark** of **Castleton Gabriels** for sponsoring young Alex Peet. Now that we have signed Phil Farrell and Neil Roden from Wigan we are looking to get these players sponsored as well.

We also have some match sponsorship opportunities available. Included in these packages is a four course meal, complimentary bar, seats in the Executive box and a personal

memento of your special day. For further details please contact me on 0161 628 3677.

AWAY MATCH TRAVEL

The Club is organising travel to away matches this season. We are using Barlows Coaches and you can either book directly through the Club on 0161 628 3677 between 9 and 5pm Monday to Friday (or on 0161 627 2141 9-1pm Saturdays) or phone Joyce Pilkington on 0161 665 3175. 'Elite' Club Members receive extra discounts on away travel. So there is no excuse for not being part of the 'Roughyeds Barmy Army!'.

CLUB SHOP

The new Fleeces and PU Jackets that arrived at the Shop a couple of weeks ago are selling well. Priced at £24.99 and £39.99 make sure you don't miss out! Hopefully the new polo shirts and leisure tops will arrive soon as well as Oldham RLFC wall clocks. Videos of all our games can be ordered at the Shop for only £9.99.

Enjoy your Rugby.

Scott

'ELITE' CLUB

A big Thank You to all supporters who have joined our new membership scheme the 'Elite'.

The 'Elite' is the only OFFICIAL Supporters Club. There is no deadline for joining the 'Elite' and membership costs £15. There are numerous benefits to be had . . . not least the fact that YOU are helping YOUR Club.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT: 0161 628 3677

Junior Roughyeds sponsored by **REDDISH DEMOLITION LIMITED**



Hi to all the Junior Roughyeds.

We would like to welcome all the supporters, Directors and players of Swinton Lions to Boundary Park.

The Junior Roughyeds have the privilege today of being in the Executive Box courtesy of Chris Hamilton and the Board. Many thanks on behalf of all the children. Give us a wave at half time.

Many thanks to **Stuart Gough** of **Celebration Caterers** for his on-going

support of the Junior Roughyeds. Stuart has donated an Easter Egg for each Junior Roughyed to enjoy.

The Mascot for today is **James Greenwood**. James is 8 years old and his favourite player is Jason Clegg.

James plays rugby for Saddleworth Rangers under 9's and has been selected for the North West Counties under nines team.

Good luck James and congratulations from all Junior Roughyeds.

Enjoy the day.



James Greenwood

Debra Rafferty

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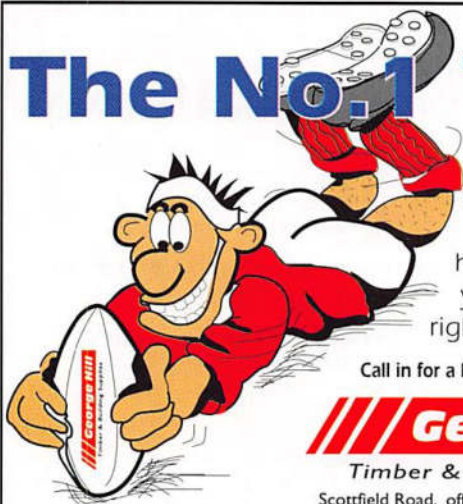
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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO APRIL 24TH YESTERYEAR.

NEXT weekend all roads will lead to Murrayfield for the first Challenge Cup Final to be played outside England. One hundred and three years ago, on Saturday 24th April 1897, the very first Challenge Cup Final was staged at Headingley where Batley defeated St. Helens 10-3.

Although today's visitors, Swinton, never appeared at Wembley they have lifted that famous old trophy on three occasions and in season 1927-28 won every trophy available to them. Two years previously they gave notice of their intentions when they won both Lancashire Cup and Challenge Cup but missed out on the Championship when they were beaten in the semi-finals under the old 'top-four play-off' system. It was on this day in 1926, Saturday 24th April, that Swinton's Championship dream ended when they conceded two tries in the opening ten minutes at Warrington where they eventually lost 11-8.

The seasons leading up to the Second World War were disappointing for the Lions despite the fact that they were able to field a superb pack of forwards. On Saturday 24th April 1937 the Lions defeated St. Helens Recs 19-10 at Station Road. Included in the Swinton pack that afternoon were three players who, between them, won 26 caps for Great Britain. At hooker was Tommy Armitt, loose-forward was Fred Butters and in the second-row was Martin Hodgson, a prolific goal kicker who landed five in that victory over the Recs.

Current Roughyeds' director Sean Whitehead has also enjoyed a fine career as a goal kicking back-row forward. He had a short spell with Swinton during the mid-80s but he is best known in these parts for his exploits with Saddleworth Rangers for whom he won many a Conference League match with his accurate goal kicking. Nine years ago, on Wednesday 24th April 1991, Rangers defeated Leigh Miners 25-14 at

Shaw Hall Bank Road. Whitehead's scoring contribution to that victory was seven goals, one being a dropped goal, but he was also a



Sean Whitehead

fine handler of the ball creating numerous scoring opportunities for his colleagues.

Twelve months ago, Saturday 24th April 1999, was a far from happy day in the annals of the Oldham Amateur League. Higginshaw bade farewell to Division One of the North West Counties League following a 14-10 home defeat

against Spring View of Wigan. It was their second relegation in consecutive seasons and their last match before amalgamating with Heyside. Unfortunately that amalgamation has failed to halt the downward slide of what at one time was one of the most successful amateur clubs in the Oldham area. On the same day Middleton Rhinos lost 52-0 at Milnrow and they too faced relegation until restructuring of the league enabled the Rhinos to maintain their Division Four status. Watersheddings Wanderers were beaten 76-19 at Clayton but Saddleworth Rangers defeated Egremont 19-12 and Waterhead beat Simms Cross 19-10. Former Roughyeds and Scotland utility player Jimmy Cowans made his debut in the match.

Finally, sadly and putting events into perspective, it was also twelve months ago, on Saturday 24th April 1999, that the Oldham Amateur League lost a great servant when the death occurred of Brian Hollingsworth aged 61 years. He had been the League's treasurer during the previous ten years and before that had been a loyal official of the Waterhead club.

Fixtures

Date	Opponent	Result	Att
DECEMBER			
	F - A		
12	ROCHDALE H (LAW CUP)	W 30-18	1,204
27	ROCHDALE HORNETS	W 23-20	3,562
JANUARY			
2	Swinton Lions	W 23-18	2,567
9	WHITEHAVEN W	W 26-22	2,446
16	Barrow B.R.	L 19-16	1,618
23	WORKINGTON T	W 30-17	2,222
FEBRUARY			
6	Doncaster Dragons	L 16-26	2,130
8	Wigan St. J (SCCC R3)	W 44-0	1,376
13	Rochdale H (SCCC R4)	L 14-30	2,168
20	Leigh Centurions	L 10-28	2,410
MARCH			
5	LANCASHIRE LYNX	W 50-8	1,522
12	Widnes Vikings	W 20-31	3,300
19	DEWSBURY RAMS	L 12-14	2,115
26	Featherstone Rovers	L 26-61	2,071
APRIL			
2	Sheffield Eagles	W 28-6	1,220
9	HUNSLET HAWKS	W44-18	1544
16	Batley Bulldogs	W28-16	805
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	

Oldham RLFC fully support the let's tackle racism in rugby league campaign and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable. Allow everyone to enjoy the game.

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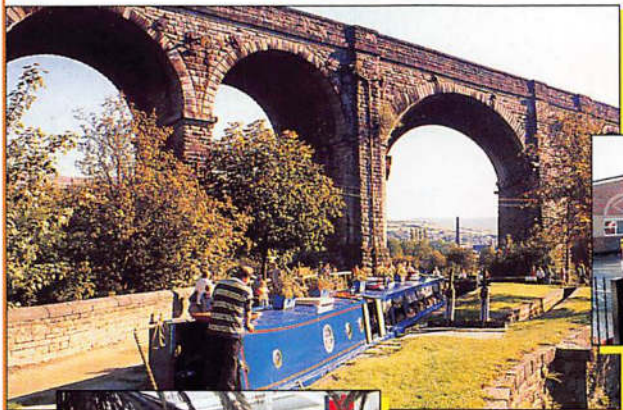
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This endeavour has led to an expanding, improving town centre which has benefited from £100 million investment, 20 new schools in as many years, a national award-winning multi million pound regeneration scheme, development of a new cultural quarter, 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



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Lee DORAN

Ian SINFIELD

SWINTON LIONS

Coach MIKE GREGORY

Wayne ENGLISH

Jason ROACH

Paul LOUGHLIN

Phil COUSSONS

Marlon BILLY

Andy CRAIG

Ian WATSON

Jon NEILL

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