

OLDHAM RLFC

Official Matchday Magazine of Oldham Rugby League Football Club £1.50

The Roughyeds



ford focus



York Wasps

at Boundary Park Mon 1st May 2000 Kick-off 3.00pm

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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



WELCOME BACK to Boundary Park after a thrilling game against Swinton last Monday. To be 18 points down and still win the game typifies the tremendous spirit within the side. Most of you will be aware that the players set out to win all of their games in April and to win the last of five in such fashion was just reward for all the work they have put in on and off the field.

Today we play the first of seven games in May against a York side who have suffered a serious dip in form based against their playing exploits of the last couple of seasons. We welcome all the officials, players and spectators of "The Wasps", for what will still, undoubtedly be, a tough game.

Your support over the last few games has reached another level and I hope that you will continue to be as vocal as you can. We are now starting upon one of the most important parts of the season, where, due purely to the number of matches being played, the teams who will be in contention at the end of the season will come to the fore. I have no doubt that, even at this

stage, most of you will have been surprised at the progress the club has made, on the field, this season. Myself, the Board, the coaching staff and the players all firmly believe that we are capable of doing better. This will be our goal for the remainder of the season. We have recently launched the first of a series of initiatives aimed at increasing attendances and if you can encourage friends, family, acquaintances to come and see what is on offer at our games the whole progress of the club will be accelerated.

Finally, our new Academy team squad has been increasing in number at each training session and we are expecting to be playing our first game at the end of this week. This will be the latest in a series of exciting developments for the club and is intended to send out an important message with regards to the future of Oldham RLFC. If you can please try to get along to the game to cheer on Mark Knight and the players who will all be aged 16-18 as they set out on the path to what, hopefully, will be a career in Rugby League. Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

The Roughyeds *The Roughyeds*

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FORD FOCUS . . . With Mike Ford

Haydn Walker's . . Alliance First Division Round Up



AS you will know by now the players had a heart to heart after the defeat at Featherstone and set themselves a goal of 5 wins from 5. To help achieve this we all agreed to do an extra night's training and the hard work can now be seen to have paid dividends. The players will now be meeting again to set a new target, if not for the whole of May, at

least for the next few games. But you can be sure that our first objective is a top 8 finish and a play-off place.

The Easter games were two humdingers, although I felt we were always in control at Rochdale and were the better side on the day. If anything we could have won more easily. Swinton was another matter and we had to dig deep to win. I thought we played 'Bank Holiday'

football in the first half and had to emphasise how far we had come and what we needed to do to preserve our record at half-time. We defended much better in the second period, but even after equalising the scores at 22-22 we had to come back to level again at 28-28 and then go on to win, which takes a lot of doing.

Unfortunately I picked up an injury – a broken jaw – when making a tackle at Rochdale so like the rest of the injured players I will have to be patient to get back. All the players who have been out have been fantastic: no-one has moaned or complained, they've just got on with it and supported the players who have turned out.

We are working hard to win support, with particular emphasis on school visits, but we realise people have a lot of other things they can do these days and are grateful for the enthusiasm and support of our regulars.

Finally, we never, ever, let League placings affect our judgement and will be taking York Wasps very seriously today.

Enjoy the game.

Mike



THE ALLIANCE team put in our most disappointing performance of the season last week going down heavily 36-14 at home to Leigh. It was our first home defeat of the season, but it was the manner in which we lost that was of most concern.

Fans who attend our games will know that our discipline has been fantastic all season, seventy minutes without conceding a penalty against Rochdale being a prime example. Last Thursday our discipline resembled that of a pub team. To be fair to the players they have all held their hands up and accepted responsibility for the

poor performance, and the attitude at training since has been superb and I have no doubt that by the time you read this column we will have beaten league leaders Hunslet and put the Leigh game firmly behind us.

On a positive note I was very pleased in the Leigh game with the performances of Adie Meade and Craig Milner. Since his return from a loan spell at Lancashire Lynx Adie has been excellent, while Craig has adapted well to playing out of position and put in a tremendous defensive stint last Thursday.

Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Hunslet Hawks	12	10	0	2	288	256	32	20
Widnes Vikings	138	0	5	408	206	202	16	
Featherstone Rovers	127	0	5	339	279	60	14	
Whitehaven Warriors	107	0	3	274	218	56	14	
Leigh Centurions	136	1	6	330	302	28	13	
Oldham	126	0	6	233	239	-6	12	
Batley Bulldogs	124	1	7	193	252	-59	9	
Workington Town	114	0	7	268	223	45	8	
Keighley Cougars	114	0	7	264	296	-32	8	
Rochdale Hornets	9	4	0	5	152	232	-80	8
Barrow B Raiders	133	0	10	227	473	-246	6	

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In Yer Face



WHEN CHAIRMAN Chris Hamilton and Coach Mike Ford decided to bring Shayne McMenemy back to England following his 'sacking' by Rochdale Hornets they made an inspired decision. After the Australian's two barn storming performances over Easter, together with his previous good form, we can see that at last, after some disastrous flirtations with Aussie players, albeit the product of injury and ill-luck, rather than poor decision making, Oldham are getting value for their investment. On current form Shayne is as good a forward as any in N.F.P. Let's hope he stays injury free and helps Oldham to a high placing in this year's championship.

Meanwhile, Oldham's current successful run will be sorely tested this month with some top class fixtures, both home and away, piled one upon the other. The consolation, of course, is that all the challengers for leading positions face the same problem so, hopefully, Oldham will fare no worse than anyone else. And of course, the old adage 'success breeds success' could work in the team's favour, as confidence builds on the back of an excellent run. What stands out about the recent run is that adversity has been turned to advantage: when injuries first struck things did not look at all bright, but the arrival of McMenemy, together with the excellent Neil Roden and Phil Farrell, has provided a strength in depth previously lacking. What's more the club can now boast a settled side and the benefits are there for all to see. Whatever soul searching went on after the Featherstone débâcle it quite clearly had the desired effect. While there is still a long way to go recent results suggest that, if nothing else, Oldham are a team to be reckoned with. Now all that is required is for rugby league fans in the town to turn out in numbers to give the team the backing they deserve.

On the wider R.L. stage one or two issues remain contentious. As I watch Super League on T.V. I am constantly struck by the number of high shots which go unpunished. Referees are resorting to 'on report' decisions rather than sending off or sin-binning players and I can only think this is a reaction to the dismissal of

Adrian Morley after 2 minutes in last year's Leeds v St. Helens fixture. If Greg McCallum has directed that players should be kept on the field to ensure a 'fair' 13 x 13 game it is time to think again. If any player is 'fouled off' the



Greg McCallum

opponent responsible should be dismissed. Otherwise a head tackle should be punished by a sin bin: to use the sin bin only for technical offences is ridiculous. A player persistently offending should be suspended. Funny isn't it that when I watched an Australian game a player guilty of a head shot was instantly dismissed?

Another Anglo-Australian discrepancy is the 20 metre tap to re-start. Here, we have to wait for the defending side to get back 10 metres, while in Australia a team that can organise a quick re-start is allowed to proceed. Since we are trying to speed up the game, why are we not using the Australian interpretation? Hull K.R. in their heyday were masters of the quick re-start and the game was all the better for it. If we can take quick tap penalties we should also be able to have quick re-starts.

Finally the video ref. It's no wonder Ian Millward protested about this after the Saints v Wigan game. It's absolutely crazy to go back through the tackle count and to hear a referee say "in my opinion" such and such happened. If that was the case why did he not blow up? And if the video ref. can rule on a knock-on, why on earth can he not rule on a forward pass? The video referee is a great idea, but let's iron out the anomalies before we degenerate into farce.



Ian Millward

ROGER ROGER

EVERYONE AT Oldham RLFC can take a bow for achieving five wins out of five matches in April.

Victories don't come easy in the Northern Ford Premiership and to record back-to-back wins against Sheffield Eagles (away), Hunslet Hawks (home), Batley Bulldogs (away), Rochdale Hornets (away) and Swinton Lions (home) says a lot about the squad's mental toughness and physical levels of endurance.

The Easter weekend was particularly demanding - first a derby clash at Spotland against a Rochdale side which not only included six former Roughyeds in its starting line-up, but went into the game full of confidence after whipping Featherstone Rovers on home soil seven days earlier.

In truth, the Roughyeds totally dominated the game, in which they had enough possession and enough territorial authority to have won far more comfortably than 13-12.

The score didn't reflect Oldham's control of the game or the fact that, until the dying seconds, Hornets had scored only one try and that was the result of a short kick close to the line by hooker Darren Robinson.



David Gibbons

For Oldham, David Gibbons kicked Hornets to death and produced three spot-on 40-20 touch finders which made an invaluable contribution.

The entire pack worked hard, but none harder or more effectively than Aussie second-rower Shayne McMenemy, who followed up on Easter

Monday with another rip-roaring performance against Swinton Lions at Boundary Park.

McMenemy was an outstanding man of the match on both occasions, producing performances which, in some ways, took my mind back to the Watersheddings days of Bob Lindner.

I don't want to overstate my case by claiming that McMenemy is in the same class as Lindner - one of his country's all-time greats - but I could see certain similarities in the manner in which McMenemy conducted himself in a potentially explosive atmosphere at Spotland.



On current form he is easily the best overseas player to have worn a Roughyeds jersey and he also ranks high among his fellow countrymen who played at Watersheddings for the Bears.

He is making tries, scoring them, taking the ball up relentlessly, doing his tackling and all the time retaining the composure and the cool head to weigh up a given situation and take the lead in decision making.

His field goal at Rochdale was a case in point: so, too, was his chip to the line against Swinton which failed to produce a try but nevertheless showed that the Aussie can think on his feet.

And have you spotted that he is now starting to take the drop-out when Oldham have to kick from under their own posts?

In his short stay with the Roughyeds, the former Western Suburbs man has proved he is a multi-talented footballer with the skills to make a real name for himself over the remainder of the season.

If he can maintain his current form Oldham fans will soon be talking of McMenemy in the same breath as Lindner, the Liddiards, Paul Taylor, Gary Warnecke or Mal Graham, all of whom came to town from a land Down Under and contributed a great deal to the Oldham Rugby story.

If the players can show the enthusiasm and resilience which were hallmarks of their April performances they will be well on their way to cementing a place in the top-eight, if not the top five or six.

Roger Halstead

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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1945 - 1950

THE RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP resumed after the Second World War with Workington Town taking their place in the competition. The Cumbrians won 16 of the 36 matches they played in that first campaign and, respectable as that was, they would go on to much greater things in the very near future.

In the two county cups Bradford maintained their War-time form to take the Yorkshire Cup and Widnes were the somewhat surprise winners of the Lancashire trophy with a 7 - 3 victory over Wigan in the final at Warrington. However, the men from Central Park would make amends by taking the overall championship with a 13 - 4 victory over Huddersfield at Maine Road. The achievement was made more remarkable by the fact that four of their star players had already departed with the 1946 touring party to Australia. The cherry and whites also reached the Challenge Cup Final but the day belonged to Wakefield Trinity and, most notably, to captain Billy Stott who kicked the deciding goal in the 13-12 victory in the last few minutes of the match and also became the first winner of the now legendary "Lance Todd Trophy". This award, which goes to the outstanding player in the final, is still one of the highest personal honours a player can receive in any form of rugby.

The aforementioned tourists became known as the "Indomitables". This name was taken from the Royal Navy ship on which they travelled on the trip "Down Under". The tour, under the captaincy of Salford's Gus Risman, was a success in so much as the "Ashes" were secured after a draw and two victories in the series against the Aussies although the one test in New Zealand was lost. The Oldham club was represented on the tour by the towering, Welsh second row forward Doug Phillips.

Bradford Northern became the first club to reach three successive Wembley finals. Their defeat to Wigan in 1948 was sandwiched between victories over Leeds in 1947 and Halifax in 1949.

The immediate Post War period was a boom time for all sports and Rugby League was no exception, with massive crowds turning up to cheer on their favourites. This was in evidence in that 1949 Wembley final when a crowd of over 95,000 set a new record for a Rugby League match.



Douglas Phillips the only Oldham representative on the 1946 tour to Australia and New Zealand.

PROBING THE NFP

THE Easter fixtures were packed with good football and some crucial results. All those people who prefer to spend their time in B & Q just don't know what they're missing.

The two big results of Good Friday were Featherstone's defeat of Hull K.R., and Widnes' home win against Leigh. In the former game Jamie Rooney won the battle of the scrum-halves with Mark Hewitt as 2,409 saw Fev bounce back from defeat at Spotland with big performances from pack stars Danny Evans, Maea David and Stuart Dickens. Meanwhile 4,237 were at the Autoquest for the Vikings win against the Centurions. The 59th minute dismissal of Stuart Donlan for tripping, with the score 14-8 in Widnes favour, undoubtedly influenced the outcome as the home side went on to win 28-16 with big games coming from Tommy Hodgkinson and Lee Hansen.

Dewsbury hung on to top spot with a comfortable 45-10 win against Batley and second placed Doncaster overwhelmed York by 70-8, stand off Craig Weston accounting for 26 points with 2 tries and 9 goals, and wingman Steve Booth scoring a hat-trick.

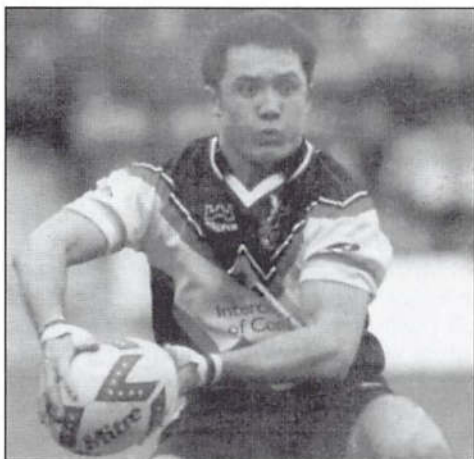
Another hat-trick man was ex-Bramley three quarter Neil Kite, who notched three in Sheffield's 56-12 victory against Lancashire Lynx. Equally convincing winners were Whitehaven, who routed Cumbrian rivals Barrow 30-0 with prop Dean Vaughan in the thick of the action.

The other games were all nail-biters. Keighley won with the last move of the match when Dean Hanger scored in the corner to send Hunslet down by 24-23. Similarly, at Gigg Lane Swinton second row Ian Pickavance scored in the last minute to overturn Workington 38-34. Not quite so close was Oldham's 13-12 win at Rochdale. A magnificent display by ex-Hornet, now Roughyed, Shayne McMenemy, capped by what turned out to be the winning drop goal, gave the visitors the points, Hornet's score in the last minute merely closing the gap rather than threatening the lead.

On Easter Monday Oldham and Swinton again turned in magnificent performances that had the crowd on the edges of their seats. At one stage of the first half Swinton led 18-0 after playing some sweeping width of the pitch football. It would have been enough to demoralise most teams, but Mike Ford's Oldham are made of stern stuff. With Shayne McMenemy again leading the way, Oldham fought their way back with David Gibbons, Neil Roden and Pat Rich on top form. For the Lions Ian Watson and Tony Barrow were outstanding,

but it was not enough to deny the Roughyeds another home win.

Lancashire Lynx frightened Widnes by taking a 14-0 lead but the Vikings fought back led by Paul Mansson and Liam Jones, the latter finishing with a try and 5 goals, the former with two tries in a 30-14 victory.



Paul Mansson Of Widnes

Barrow maintained their 100% home record with a solid 38-10 defeat of Featherstone. For once Jamie Rooney was outplayed, Barrow's Darren Holt finishing with 7 goals and a try.

Doncaster's 28-20 win at Batley took them to the top of the table as Dewsbury went down 20-12 at Hull K.R. These results allowed Leigh, 42-10 winners over Rochdale to reclaim second spot with Paul Wingfield scoring five goals and a try. The Dragons and the Centurions are separated only by points difference so Doncaster's visit to Widnes yesterday was a big game, with Leigh favourites to win at Hunslet.

In other games last week Workington won the local derby with Whitehaven by 27-18, and Keighley accounted for York 26-2.

Big games today feature Dewsbury v Hornets, the home side expected to win, but Rochdale, a better team than their league position suggests, one of only two sides to win at Ram Stadium last year. Featherstone have a tough test at home to Swinton, a game the Lions might just shade and, perhaps the biggest game of all, Barrow's 'fortress Craven Park' will be tested by Hull K.R. My forecast: a bold home win.

In Town Today



...YORK WASPS



ACTING coach Gary Atkins had instilled some extra pride into the Wasps, who this year had been but a shadow of the team which had performed so admirably in 1998 and 1999. Lower

revenues have seen the York playing staff cut back and poor results culminated in the departure of coach Dean Robinson. Despite defeats at Workington (23-7) and at home to Leigh (28-22) the closeness of the scores had given grounds for optimism. Unfortunately the wheels came off on Good Friday when Doncaster Dragons ran in 70 points against 8. A further defeat by Keighley Cougars on Easter Monday (26-2) left the Wasps anchored second from bottom of the N.F.P. table. Despite this the Wasps will be no pushover today as their tough pack will pose Oldham plenty of problems.

Full back today will be contended between recent signing from Hull JOHN McCracken, a 21 year old utility player and DARREN CALLAGHAN, a former York Acorn player and BARLA tourist.

In the three-quarters Great Britain student international MATT WOODCOCK will take one wing spot and MAX RYCE the other. In the injury absence of, arguably, York's best player SHAUN AUSTERFIELD, expect to see the centre berths occupied by ANDY PRESTON, who is more used to a half back role, and KEVIN GRAY, a goalkicking former Hull K.R. and Hull F.C. player.

At stand-off will be either MARK CAIN, York's 14 try leading scorer last term, or CRAIG ROBINSON, while scrum-half will be GARETH DOBSON a tricky play-maker on loan from Castleford.

In the last two years York's great strength has been a powerful pack. Although former Oldham prop CRAIG BOOTH has recently moved to Featherstone, the Wasps

will still boost a fearsome pack of forwards. 21 year old MICK HAGAN will feature at No. 8 or possibly in the second row. Ex-Castleford man STEVE HILL is the likely



Former Oldham and York prop Craig Booth

No.10, a player noted for his powerful driving. Unhappily for the Wasps another big prop LEA TICHENER has had his appearances restricted by injury. In the middle long serving hooker ALAN PALLISTER is a robust and troublesome No.9 who has proved a handful for Oldham previously and will be one to watch today.

In the back-row the three likely incumbents are CHRIS JUDGE, ANDY PRECIOUS and PAUL DARLEY. Judge has played in France and with Wakefield Trinity and is a strong-running, try-scoring second row. PRECIOUS, meanwhile, was York Supporters Player of the Year in 1999 and is noted for an ability to land drop goals. And club captain Darley is an enthusiastic former Castleford and Hull player.

Other York players to watch out for include CRAIG FORSYTH, recently returned from Heworth for a second spell with the Wasps and son of ex-Oldham and York prop Colin. Wingman LEROY MCKENZIE is returning from injury and can be a real danger. He is a former Hull F.C. favourite. Prop RICH HAYES returns to the Huntington Stadium after a spell at Hunslet, while ANDY HILL is also a returnee after appearances in 1999 with Castleford and Huddersfield at second-row. Finally others on the team sheet recently have been centre ANDREW LAMBERT and LEE MCTIGUE, together with ex-Castleford Alliance Player of the Year, second-rower SPENCER HARGRAVE.

OLDHAM RLFC HALL OF FAME - TWO NEW MEMBERS ADDED (Sponsored by J. W. Lees, Brewers)

CURRENT MEMBERS:-

Joe Ferguson 1899-23

Alan Davies 1950 - 62

Bernard Ganley 1950 - 61

John Etty 1954 - 59

Derek Turner 1955 - 59

Bob Irving 1964 - 74

Martin Murphy 1966 - 82

Andy Goodway 1979 - 85 and 1993 -85

Many thanks to those many fans who, either as a result of the article appearing in the Oldham v Dewsbury match programme, or Roger Halsteads Chronicle columns aired their views as to which former player/s should be further added to the **OLDHAM HALL OF FAME**. The response was excellent.

Throughout its history the club has had three golden periods, the turn of the nineteenth century, when during a seventeen year period, it only once ended the season outside the top six (winning a cabinet of trophies along the way!), the twenties when the side appeared in four consecutive Challenge Cup finals and the allstar team of the fifties when it won everything **EXCEPT** the Challenge Cup.

The current **HALL OF FAME** includes Joe Ferguson who is representative of the period at the turn of the nineteenth century



Herman Hilton

with John Etty, Alan Davies, Derek Turner and Bernard Ganley representing the fifties.

There has so far been no inclusion of a player from the twenties side but this has now been put to rights with the inclusion of **HERMAN HILTON** perhaps the greatest ever forward to pull on the red and white hoops! A local man Herman played ten times for his country, scored two tries in the ashes winning test whilst on the 1920 tour and captained the Oldham club to their 1924 Challenge Cup Final victory over Hull K.R. Represented the Oldham club no less than 253 occasions.

The fifties team is still fondly remembered by many older fans and it was therefore no surprise that an overwhelming number of votes went to a player who perhaps left the fans with the most lasting impression of any player in living memory, **FRANK STIRRUP**. Signed from Salford the ball handling half back had so much skill he was known throughout the sport as **MR FOOTBALL**. His sleight of hand exchanges

Continued on page 21



Frank Stirrup leading out Oldham v Aussies 1952

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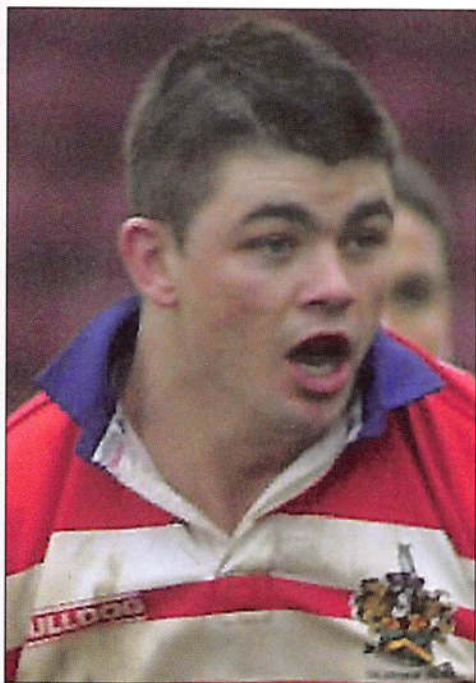
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An interview by Dave Roberts with Shayne McMenemy



A good Easter for us Shayne?

Yes. It was a great performance at Spotland, there is so much rivalry between the two clubs that it was great to come away with the two points.

I lodge with Danny Sculthorpe and he was perfectly ok about everything and we are still best mates.

Against Swinton last Monday we were 18-0 down and things did not look too good. But at half time Fordy had a good talk to us and we came out with our

heads up and showed great character and put in a professional performance. To be honest it was a very tough two games and I think to be honest we were a bit flat at the start of the Swinton game, but as I said, we showed a professional attitude and came away with the points.

And today's game?

We should get two points, but we don't think like that because that's how you get into trouble. There are no easy games in the N.F.P. so we will be preparing for the game very seriously indeed.

May is going to be a very tough month and when we have come through it, hopefully we will have an idea of how we stand re the play-offs.

Where have you visited so far in England?

I have been to London which was very good, last week I went to Blackpool, York was ok and I have also been to Coventry (???).

Can you confirm David and Anthony's wind problems?

Yes!!!

DAVE ROBERTS

Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

Shayne McMenemy

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IVA'S REPORT ON THE FLYWEIGHT BOUT OF THE CENTURY Mo 'LUCKY' LINDSAY v A. J. 'MAULER' MURPHY



V



ROUND ONE

Lindsay is first to the centre of the ring, fixing Murphy with that contemptuous stare that says you're a five times loser not fit to run a booze-up in a brewery.

Murphy, taken aback by the power of his opponents glare, takes time to recover from the assault before blasting back with a flood of invective which catches Lindsay full in the ear.

Scoring: Lindsay 9½, Murphy 9

ROUND TWO

'Lucky' Lindsay is again first off his stool, confronting Murphy with a charge of dereliction of duty. This time the 'Mauler' is ready for him and parries with a cutting blow, accusing Lindsay of not knowing enough about R.L. to fill the back of a postage stamp.

Scoring: Lindsay 8½, Murphy 9

ROUND THREE

'Seconds out' and the 'Mauler' is on his toes, dancing rings round his opponent with a list of his winners medals and Great Britain caps.

Momentarily Lindsay is lost for a reply, but 'Lucky' eventually counters with his successes on the racetrack bringing him wealth and prestige.

Scoring: Lindsay 9, Murphy 9

ROUND FOUR

Lindsay starts to box clever outlining his plans to make Wigan the greatest club in World rugby by bringing in an Australian Coach and top class players.

Murphy, having been denied the kind of resources now being talked about, is stung. He responds by hurling the traditional half-time cup of tea at his opponent but misses by a mile.

Scoring: Lindsay 9½, Murphy 8

ROUND FIVE

Apparently undamaged, after a towelling down, Murphy comes out of his corner, Lancashire Cup in hand, taunting Lindsay with Wigan's first honour in a decade.

Nonplussed, "Lucky" backs onto the ropes, spluttering weak defiance and looking to his corner for assistance.

Scoring: Lindsay 8, Murphy 9½

ROUND SIX

'Mauler' has the initiative now, but 'Lucky' is nothing if not resilient. He now reveals that he will be taking over the running of the whole of R.L., while Murphy can only counter with a list of after-dinner speaking engagements.

Scoring: Lindsay 9½, Murphy 8½

ROUND SEVEN

Lindsay moves in for the kill. He outlines plans to save the whole of Rugby League by negotiating a deal worth £87 million with News Corporation. Murphy reels under the onslaught but, as ever, the 'Mauler' is at his most dangerous when it's backs to the wall. Reaching, as in his playing days, into the depth of his soul Murphy comes up with the killer blow, a right hook to the head leaving Lindsay in a crumpled heap in the corner with a black eye.

RESULT

Murphy the winner by a knockout

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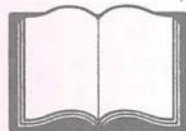
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SALEM HORNETS



THE AMATEUR season which is drawing to a close has been blighted by clubs failing to fulfil fixtures because of a shortage of players. It is nice therefore, to report that a local club, Salem Hornets, have bucked the trend with around twenty-five players attending training sessions and a full complement of players turning up virtually every match, home or away.

Club secretary, baggage man and general organiser Stephen Hughes admits that he does not know the secret of Hornets' popularity but he went on to say, 'We're all good mates. There's rarely any trouble and if there is a slight problem then either myself or coach Tony Pemberton is able to sort it out. We're not world beaters but we enjoy playing and having a few pints afterwards. The other week we were all dead sick when Blackbrook called off the match. We would sooner have played and lost instead of claiming the points.'

The place Salem Hornets visit to 'have a few pints afterwards' is Legends Bar in Lees not far from their home base at Breeze Hill school where the team play its home fixtures and trains each Tuesday and Thursday evening. Welsh international hooker Martin Hall, a World Club Championship winner with Wigan, is the owner of Legends so it is no surprise that they are Salem's main sponsor. Apart from providing after match hospitality and refreshments, Legends arrange kit laundering and are to provide a new playing strip for next season. Other local companies who have provided financial assistance include D & I Glass of the Osborne Industrial Estate, Busk Road and Red Rose Products of Silver Street.

A playing kit is not the only new addition to Salem Hornets next season if rumours circulating the amateur game are to be believed. There is talk of a coach with Super League experience joining Hornets next term and at least one player with similar pedigree joining the squad. Should these ambitious signings come to fruition then Salem could soon be moving up the North West Counties League. They currently play in the Third Division but three seasons ago they were up in Division One. An ageing playing squad suffered consecutive relegation in 1997 and 1998 but Salem's slide seems to have been arrested this season. Scrum half Tony Pemberton has done a superb job coaching the side ably assisted by popular loose forward Lee Robinson. John Eddleston skippers the side from either stand-off or centre but Salem's finest quality must be their terrific team spirit.

The club has some way to go before emulating the team which lifted the Oldham Championship ten years or so ago. But they are certainly on the right lines, so if you want to be part of an ambitious team, either on or off the pitch, or would like to help out with sponsorship, no matter how small, then contact Stephen Hughes on 628 3789. He would be delighted to speak to you.

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	L	14-36
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			

Walkerbout

Continued
from page 14



Frank Stirrup at last seasons
ex-players gathering

with his half back partners became legendary at Watersheddings and his introduction proved to be the turning point in the fortunes of the club. Frank was the first Oldham captain to get his hands on a major trophy for over twenty

years following the 1956 Lancashire Cup final success against St. Helens. If I was to pick a side of Oldham all time greats Frank would be captain!

Both will be officially inaugurated into **THE HALL OF FAME** at a celebration evening to be held at the Clayton Arms at the end of the season. (Exact date to be confirmed). Of course Frank will appear in person!

The Oldham club has produced 85 internationals plus characters galore. There will, in the fullness of time, be further players honoured by their inclusion into **THE HALL OF FAME**. The panel are conscious that the twenties period is still only lightly represented compared to the number of players included from the fifties. The club at the end of the nineteenth century also boasted three full rugby union internationals, Abe Ashworth (England), David Gwynn and Bill McCutcheon (both Wales) and surely one must be worthy of inclusion. And what of Alex Givvons?

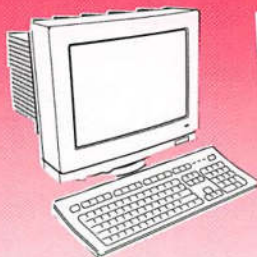
It is two years since Martin Murphy was inaugurated and it is now intended that in the future the situation will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Panel:

**Mick Harrop, Michael Turner,
Brian Walker, David Whitehead.**



Martin Murphy inaugurated into Hall of Fame. Left to right, Bernard Ganley, Martin Murphy, Alan Davies, Bob Irving and John Etty.



WINNARD'S

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With Simon Winnard

ONE OF the most pleasing aspects of this season has been the revitalised youth policy at the club. Not since the colts side of the late seventies have we truly invested and developed our own talent. With the likes of Haydn Walker and now Mark Knight at the helm, we have knowledgeable access to the best young talent around. It's also great to see that local lads are not being overlooked and better relationships with the prospering local amateur game are being fostered.

There are many talented youngsters around (particularly in Super League) whose first team opportunities have been limited, largely by the plethora of imports into our game. Having performed admirably in the 'A' team, Fordy has not been afraid to offer first team outings to some of these youngsters and those opportunities are thoroughly well deserved - regardless of age. The inclusion of players such as Roden, Farrell, Doran and Dodd has not only seen the overall playing standing of the squad improve, but also given these young professionals a chance to really kick start their careers.

Genuine opportunities offer a great incentive for these youngsters to not only sign for our club, but having done so then work hard knowing that the rewards are there for them. This of course shows the true value of having a reserve side, and the formation of the Academy side represents yet another milestone reached in the clubs early development - a huge step in the right direction.

It is disappointing that SL clubs can see fit to commit to a long term investment in the Summer Conference but simply ignore the plight of Rugby League Communities closer to home. Whilst I remain acutely aware of RL's wish to become a truly national game, surely a priority must be to ensure that the foundations are secure before we start building the extension?... apparently not.

Please don't misunderstand me here as I do feel that the Conference has been a

magnificent success to date. I have always advocated development from grass roots level, not the squandering of RL revenue on one-off professional ventures for appearance's sake as has happened far too often in the past. Similarly, Student RL has been a great success and has introduced many people to our game at a truly national level.

However despite these success stories, Rugby league's farcical 'expansion' policy saw the professional game reduce in numbers last season! Allowing established RL communities to perish surely tarnishes the very fabric of our game. Seemingly, the loss of a Bramley, Oldham, Sheffield or Workington can be tolerated by Mr Caisley and company whilst the financial support of St Albans, Crawley and Hull FC is paramount.

If you made the trip to Mount Pleasant you will have no doubt seen the diehard Bramley faithful there to support the game of Rugby League. RL can ill afford to turn it's back on its own in an attempt to gain universal popularity. Let's hope that they make a speedy return next season...it could have so easily been us!

As we welcome our visitors from York, we can reflect on an excellent series of results throughout April. Following the disastrous defeat at Featherstone, the lads were called in for extra training and set a target of five wins from five. They responded magnificently, culminating in last weekend's superb fight back against Swinton. Recent additions have provided a better balance to the side and the never say die spirit on display week in, week out is simply second to none.

In what has proved to be a supremely competitive NFP this season, recent results have shown that anybody finishing in a play off spot is more than capable of going all the way to the Grand Final. It's exciting, exhilarating and it's great to be a part of, so let's really get behind the Roughyeds and let battle commence.....



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Club Call

CLUB CALL

A warm welcome to supporters of both clubs. Well the Easter period certainly provided some superb Rugby and two valuable victories. Both games went down to the wire and I do not think anybody could complain about value for money. The one thing I do know is that these close games are not doing my nerves any good!

THE SATURDAY YANKEE

The Jackpot prize on our lottery this week is £1500!! It only costs £1 a week to be a member of the 'Yankee' and **YOU** could win the big Jackpot!! The lottery is a vital fund raiser for the club, so if you are not a member please consider becoming one.

Whilst we are on the subject of the 'Yankee' we are always on the lookout for collectors and in particular we are looking for a collector in the Lees area. Anybody wanting further details please phone me on **0161 628 3677**

AWAY MATCH TRAVEL

As mentioned previously 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

As promised the new polo shirts have arrived at the club shop and are priced at £12.99 and £15.99. If you have time on your hands pop in and have a look at our superb wall clocks!! They are only £15.99 and are exceptional value. We are also waiting for a delivery of leisure tops any day now. Videos of all our games can also 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'.

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Hi to all the Junior Roughyeds.

Welcome to another Bank Holiday Monday match. It won't be the same as last Monday when the Juniors enjoyed a great Junior Roughyeds meeting in the Executive Box and then enjoyed the match in style. Thanks to the six players who attended the meeting (the walking wounded). The Juniors wish you all a speedy recovery.

The Mascot draws were held for the next eight games, so congratulations to the Juniors who were selected to be Mascot. For

the Workington game on Friday 26th May I did not select a mascot – if any Junior Roughyeds are going to the match and would like to be mascot they need to phone me before 14th May. A draw will be held to select the winner.



George Ford

The Mascot for today's match is George Ford. George is 6 years old and his favourite player is Ziggy (Mark Sibson).

George plays Rugby for Saddleworth Rangers Under Eights. His dad Mike Ford said, "He's scored 34 tries already this season. He's got the pace his dad didn't have."

Have a great day George.

Debra Rafferty

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ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO MAY 1ST YESTERYEAR.

EXACTLY 85 years ago, on Saturday 1st May 1915, the Oldham club staged the finals of the Challenge Cup competition when the Huddersfield 'Team of all Talents' completed a clean sweep of honours by defeating St. Helens 17-3 at Watersheddings. The margin of victory in that final was the widest in the history of the competition. That is until twelve months ago, on 1st May 1999, when Leeds defeated the London Broncos by 52 points to sixteen.

Oldham were themselves involved in the Challenge Cup Final on Saturday 1st May 1926. Unfortunately that final ended in defeat for the Roughyeds who were beaten 9-3 by Swinton. Winger Joe Corsi scored the Oldham try whilst for the Lions, Henry Blewer scored a try which Bert Morris improved and he also landed a couple of penalties. That final, which was played at Rochdale, was the first to be broadcast live over the radio. The Roughyeds had also been beaten in a final seventeen years earlier, on Saturday 1st May 1909. On that day Wigan beat Oldham 7-2 at Salford in the Championship Final. Second row forward Billy Jardine scored the Oldham try in a match which was watched by a disappointing attendance of 12,000. It was the third consecutive Championship Final involving the Roughyeds and they lost the lot although they came back to appear in the next two finals and gained revenge over Wigan by beating them on both occasions.

A match of much less significance took place on Friday 1st May 1959 when today's visitors York entertained Doncaster in the final league match of the season. Included in the York line-up that evening were four players who currently hold club records for the Wasps. In the second row was Basil Watts who won five caps for Great Britain whilst with York, more than any other player. At prop-forward was Vic Yorke who landed



Vic Yorke

1,060 goals and scored 2,159 points between 1954 and 1967, whilst on the winger was Peter Foster whose 167 tries between 1955 and 1967 was also a club record. Full-back in that team was Willie Hargreaves who made a club record 449 appearances for York between 1952 and

1965. York won that match against Doncaster 13-7 with tries from Brian Smith, Jeff Stevenson and, of course, Peter Foster plus a couple of goals from Vic Yorke.



Jeff Stevenson

Quite close to the Ryedale Stadium is Elm Park Way, the home of the Heworth amateur club who were founder members of the National Conference League. It was on this day in 1991, Wednesday 1st May, that Heworth entertained Saddleworth Rangers in a First Division match which the home side won 32-8. Andy Mercer (2), Tony Carr, Andy Tindall and Dave Reed scored tries for Heworth with Tony Carr (4) and Neil Rennison landing goals. Andy Tindall and Carl Deighton added dropped goals. John Fleming and Tony Hurst scored tries for the Rangers. Sixty per cent of professional players begin their careers with National Conference League clubs and one such player joined Oldham on Sunday 1st May 1993. That player was hooker John Clarke who was signed from East Leeds. He made 87 appearances for the Roughyeds and scored 11 tries before moving on to Hunslet in January 1998. He now plays for Batley.

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	W 44-18	1544
16	Batley Bulldogs	W 28-16	805
21	Rochdale Hornets	W 13-12	2288
24	SWINTON LIONS	W 34-28	1908
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.

Sponsors

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Celebration Caterers

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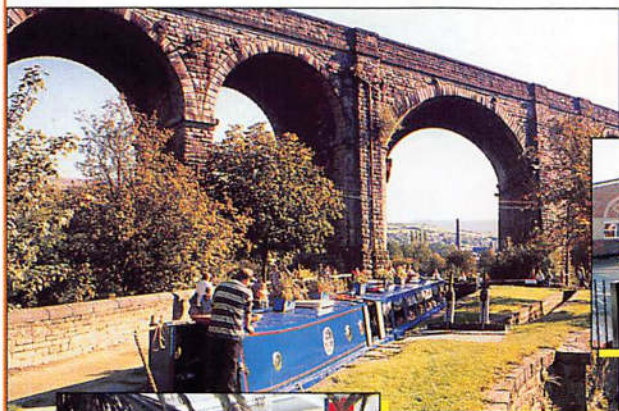
Oldham. OL9 7EL

0161 624 3619

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



OLDHAM

Coach Mike FORD

Mark SIBSON

Joey HAYES

Anthony GIBBONS

Pat RICH

Warren BARROW

David GIBBONS

Neil RODEN

Leo CASEY

John HOUGH

Jason CLEGG

Phil FARRELL

Shayne McMENEMY

Mark CAMPBELL

Kevin FITZPATRICK

Danny GUEST

Chris HOLLAND

Ian SINFIELD

YORK WASPS

Coach GARY ATKINS

1 John McCRACKEN

2 Matt WOODCOCK

3 Andy PRESTON

4 Kevin GRAY

5 Max RYCE

6 Mark CAIN

7 Gareth DOBSON

8 Craig FORSYTH

9 Alan PALLISTER

10 Steve HILL

11 Chris JUDGE

12 Andy HILL

13 Paul DARLEY

14 Leroy McKENZIE

15 Lea TICHENER

16 Spencer HARGRAVE

17 Mick HAGAN

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE



K. TAYLOR

RICHARD SILVERWOOD



S. PEASE



4th P. CARR