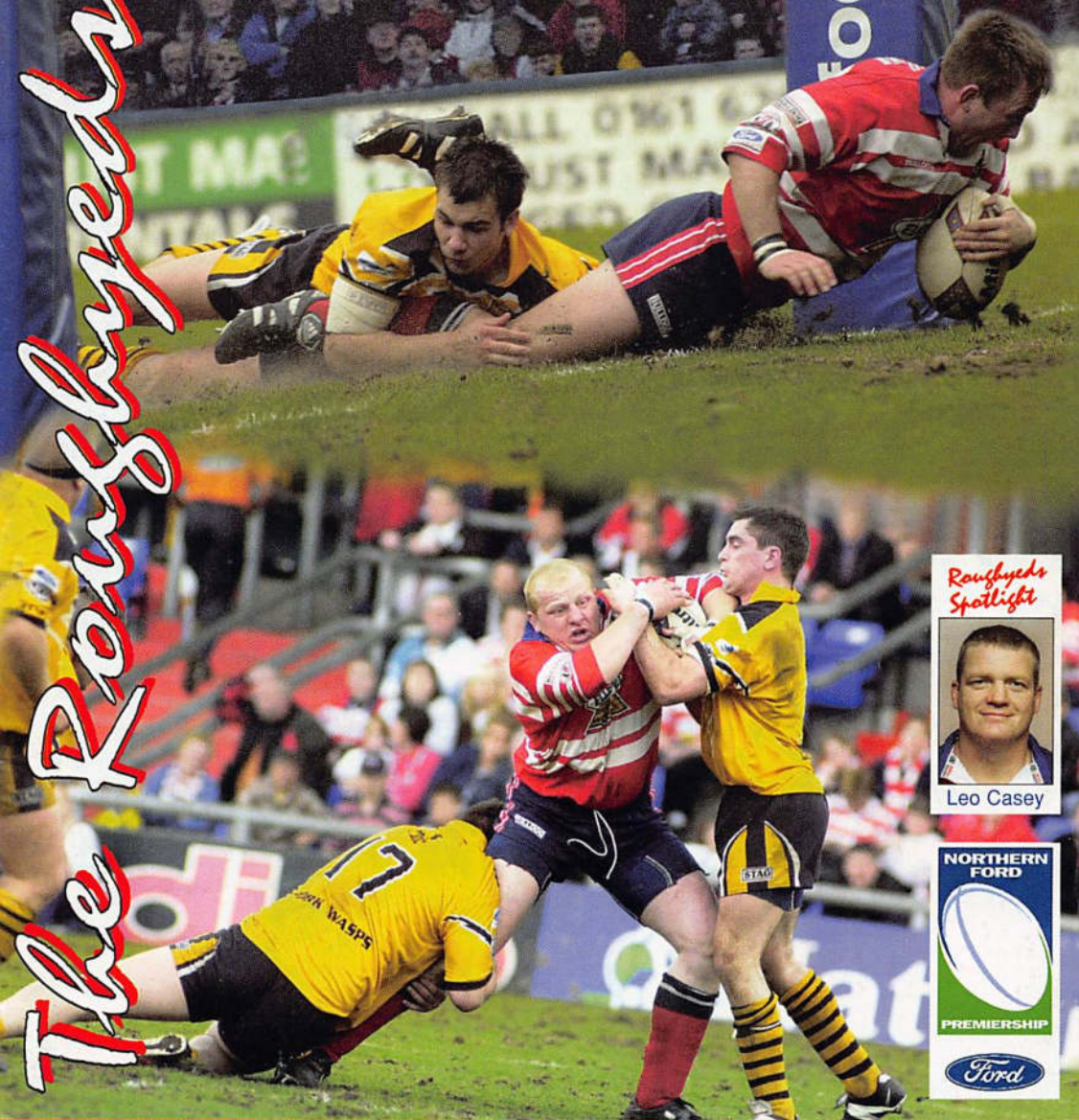


OLDHAM RLFC

Official Matchday Magazine of Oldham Rugby League Football Club £1.50

The Roughyeds



*Roughyeds
Spotlight*



Leo Casey



Keighley Cougars

at Boundary Park Wed 10th May 2000 Kick-off 7.30pm

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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



TONIGHT we welcome Keighley Cougars for what is undoubtedly the clash of the two form teams in the Northern Ford Premiership. Keighley have won their last 10 matches and this has seen them climb up to third in the table whilst our 7 consecutive wins have seen us peg teams back rather than make great strides up the table.

Our win at Hull KR was as comprehensive as the score of 32-12 suggests and the facts behind that scoreline such as scoring six tries to one, back up just what a big effort it was from the players. With performances like that the players deserve all the praise put their way and I hope that more of the people of Oldham will come to Boundary Park and watch the excellent entertainment on offer. Our support, both vocally and numerically, on Sunday was terrific at a venue that can be very intimidating and was much appreciated by the players.

As you will all have read by now May, with the high number of matches to be played, will be a tough month and come the end of the month it will be survival of the fittest. Your support can play a vital part in this and I hope you will be as vocal as ever.

It was disappointing at the weekend to see the clubs first ever Academy match called off with Hemel Hempstead unable to raise a team. It would appear that other clubs are having similar problems and we hope that things are sorted out quickly so we can commence our season, at the last training session we had over 30 lads training and we are quietly confident that we will have a competitive team on the field. It would appear that as some of the financial implications of bad boardroom decisions start to hit some clubs the playing competitions in the Northern Ford Premiership from first team, to Alliance and onto Academy will suffer some problems. If ever there were proof needed that the way we are doing things at Oldham is the right way then surely things like this go a long way to providing it. Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

The Roughyeds The Roughyeds

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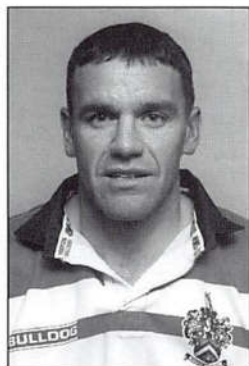
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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE FOR THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY



FORD FOCUS With Mike Ford

Haydn Walker's . . Alliance First Division Round Up



WELCOME to what could prove to be one of the game's of the season. Keighley and Oldham are THE form teams of the competition at the moment with the Cougars nominated as the N.F.P.'s team of the month for April. The achievement of Karl Harrison in his first season as a Head Coach and his assistant Steve Deakin is much to be admired and we know we will have a game on our hands tonight. However, we are not short of confidence ourselves after our recent run, a run founded on TEAMWORK. To win at Hull KR was a fine achievement. The Robins had

recently defeated Dewsbury at Craven Park and only Leigh had won there prior to ourselves on Sunday. Not only that, but we won well by 32-12 and, if anything, the margin could have been bigger. It's never easy to win at Hull (either club) and the players deserve credit for their achievement. However in this game it's the next result that counts, not the last one, and we'll have to be on our guard because the wide Boundary Park pitch could suit Keighley's free scoring style.

Finally, while celebrating our last home win against York, I would like to say how disappointed we were that they chose to cite Anthony Gibbons. Rugby League is a collision sport and having watched the video I can say that Anthony's reaction was instinctive and not malicious.

Enjoy tonight's game,

Mike



THE last two games for the Alliance have seen great wins at home to league leaders Hunslet, and away to Keighley. After the loss to Leigh I am glad to report the team have responded in the right way with two good wins.

Although strengthened for the Hunslet game by Andy Proctor and Kevin Mannion it was still a good team effort from one to seventeen.

Keighley was an even better performance, arguably our best of the season. It was very pleasing to see Joe McNicholas back to the form that we all know he is capable of. Ian Sinfield, Danny Guest, Chris Holland and Lee Doran all had strong games in the pack. Adie Meade again worked hard, while trialist scrum half Alan Fletcher had a fine game and allowed Kevin Fitzpatrick to really run the show at stand off.

A top five spot still remains our goal and if we can sustain our current form and not be hit by too many injuries I feel confident we can achieve this and hopefully go well in the play offs.

Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Hunslet Hawks	14	10	0	4	319	306	13	20
Widnes Vikings	14	9	0	5	470	218	252	18
Oldham	14	8	0	6	297	261	36	16
Leigh Centurions	14	7	1	6	354	325	29	15
Featherstone R	12	7	0	5	339	279	60	14
Whitehaven W	11	7	0	4	293	239	54	14
Rochdale Hornets	11	6	0	5	214	278	-64	12
Batley Bulldogs	14	5	1	8	234	299	-65	11
Workington Town	12	4	0	8	280	285	-5	8
Keighley Cougars	12	4	0	8	278	334	-56	8
Barrow Raiders	14	3	0	11	253	507	-254	6

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In Yer Face



IF EVER a club was badly treated by the Rugby League authorities then that club was Keighley. Denied their right to promotion, not once, but twice, the sense of injustice that afflicts all right-thinking supporters is palpable. Nevertheless the Cougars have continued to battle on against the odds through difficult times and are now beginning to see, once again, a light at the end of the tunnel. We can only speculate as to what will happen should Keighley win this year's Grand Final. Would their compact little ground - one of the most picturesque in the world of rugby league - match up to Super League standards in terms of capacity and availability of seats? Certainly in terms of hospitality and efficiency Keighley is one of the friendliest and best, and has pioneered a computer controlled admission system also now used at Bradford City and Leeds United. And remember that, although Bradford Bulls gain all the plaudits these days for their match day entertainment, it was at Cougar Park via 'Cougarmania' that the modern concept (love it or loathe it) of jazzed up presentation was inaugurated. To that extent the whole of R.L. owes Keighley a debt in the club's efforts to promote the game as a vibrant, exciting sport capable of appealing to all ages. So, yes, I have got a soft spot for Keighley, BUT be sure that I will be looking for an Oldham victory tonight!



Keighley Cougars managing director Peter Rowe and coach Karl Harrison receive the club of the month award at Burgess Ford.

The massive defeat suffered by New Zealand in the Anzac Day test against Australia does not augur well for this Autumn's World Cup. However, I would not expect a neutral referee (which the game surely merited) to have such an influence on the outcome of the game as Bill Harrigan had. So, although Australia will start clear favourites to win the World Cup, I think we can expect New Zealand, England and, possibly even France, with a good sprinkling of their players now gaining Super League experience, to be reasonably competitive. And, of course, large crowds cheering for Australia's opponents could also have an influence. The great pity of the World Cup is that nations other than Australia are keenest to promote international football. The Australians seem to think that State of Origin is the epitome of competitiveness, which can only be detrimental to the game as a whole. Meanwhile everyone else is making sacrifices. New Zealand lose players qualified for the Kiwi jumper to Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, the Cook Islands and a New Zealand Maori team. While Great Britain splits into England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. We can only hope that this does not create an imbalance in the Kangaroo's favour and that neither New Zealand nor the home nations lose key players to injury. That said the competition promises to be a cracker. The 1995 World Cup was a great celebration of 100 years of Rugby League with some memorable matches, and it was backed by a terrific Emerging Nations tournament. All this despite relatively low key promotion by the Rugby Football League. With the Murrayfield Cup Final having proved a great success, it is possible to look forward to some excellent venues and big crowds at grounds like Twickenham and the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff. With tickets on sale now it's well worth making plans for October/November as soon as possible. Be certain there are going to be some great occasions in the offing and a chance for us all to give Rugby League the national profile it surely deserves.

ROGER ROGER

THE town of Oldham can be proud of what the Roughyeds have achieved in the two and a half years since four local men got their heads together to form a new club from scratch with little more than burning ambition, a few quid, a load of goodwill....and a dream.

In Edinburgh on Silk Cut Challenge Cup final day, when Rugby League went on parade before the nation and plenty of Roughyeds scarves and jerseys were in evidence alongside those of many other clubs, it struck me forcibly just how far the club had progressed in a relatively short time.

In struck me even more forcibly at Hull KR last Sunday when Mike Ford's men routed Rovers six tries to one on their own patch to record their seventh successive victory.

Oldham RLFC (1997) has well and truly arrived on the Rugby League scene as a major force to be reckoned with outside Super League.

The Roughyeds and Keighley Cougars come together at Boundary Park this evening as two of the form teams of the Northern Ford Premiership.

Oldham silenced the partisan Rovers crowd...and that takes some doing...while the Cougars were marching to their tenth win in a row with a 54-8 hammering of Workington Town at Cougar Park.

It set the scene for what should be a cracking game tonight, with Oldham's Pat Rich, Mark Campbell and Danny Guest playing against a former club and Cougars' assistant coach Steve Deakin keen to put one over on his hometown club.



Pat Rich, Mark Campbell and Danny Guest

The Roughyeds have made terrific progress this season under Mike Ford...surely one of the best young coaches in the NFP and an Oldhamer in the bargain.

He has assembled a squad that can realistically challenge for the play-offs, having lost only once at Boundary Park this season and that by only two points against one of the division's strongest teams, Dewsbury Rams.

Any self respecting team with play-off aspirations will expect to win most of its games on home soil, but as well as that the Roughyeds have picked up 12 points on their travels with victories at

Widnes Vikings, Swinton Lions, Sheffield Eagles, Batley Bulldogs, Rochdale Hornets and Hull KR.

They have completed league doubles over Swinton and Rochdale...their two derby rivals...and can now look forward to some of their biggest home games of the season between now and early July, starting with tonight's clash with Keighley.

But it isn't only the first team...the club's shop window...which is doing remarkable well in the Roughyeds third season.

The Alliance team, in its second season, has achieved consecutive wins against Hunslet at home and Keighley away to cement a place in the top five of the Alliance first division.

With a bit of luck both teams could figure in end-of-season play-offs...and now we hear that the club has launched a third team in year No.3 for the Roughyeds with the formation of an Academy squad.

Mark Knight, from Widnes, has been given the job of knocking the young under 18s into shape and if he is half as successful as Mike Ford with the senior side and Haydn Walker with the Alliance boys he will do exceptionally well in his first season.

Ford's men deserve the backing of the town's rugby league enthusiasts, who could do the club and professional sport in the town a great service at the same time by standing up to be counted on the new-stadium issue.

Dissenting voices are always the loudest, as regular readers of the Oldham Chronicle letters' pages will readily acknowledge.

Those who feel equally passionate in favour could assist the cause by letting the politicians and decision-makers know, either by direct contact or by letter to the Chronicle.

Oldham Rugby could be sitting on the threshold of a bright future, but a new stadium in the town is an integral part of its plans and ambitions, just as it is with Oldham Athletic.

It was encouraging to hear that major changes on the local political scene should not make too much difference, but nevertheless it's time for more drum-beating on the stadium issue.

As I've said often enough in the past, the town's identity depends to a large degree on the success of Oldham Rugby and Oldham Athletic.

Lose the Roughyeds and the Latics and you're fast approaching the day when Oldham becomes little more than a satellite of Manchester.

Roger Halstead



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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1950 - 1954

THE 1950 TOUR to Australia and New Zealand, under the captaincy of Bradford Northern's Ernest Ward, was remembered as a disappointment in spite of the fact that 19 out of a total of 25 matches saw the Lions victorious. Unfortunately after a first test success in Sydney the remaining two "ashes" tests were lost, as were the two in New Zealand.

The new 1950-51 season saw the rapidly developing Workington Town emerge as surprise champions. Having joined the league just five years earlier 'Town' actually finished third in the table but hit top form in the play-offs to see off first Wigan and then Warrington in the final. There would be more prestige and success for the Cumbrians when they secured the Challenge Cup against Featherstone Rovers in 1952. This was the first final to be shown on live television.

Great Britain made amends for the 1950 tour by beating the incoming 'Kiwis' in 1951 and then the Australians in 1952. That being said it is worth noting that the '52 Kangaroos were a formidable outfit who won 23 of the 27 games played, often destroying the opposition in the process. Only Great Britain (twice) and St. Helens managed to lower their colours, while Oldham forced a draw. The side was captained by one of the all time Aussie 'greats' Clive Churchill.

Attendances for all the major spectator sports were still booming and after the 1954 Challenge Cup Final between Warrington and Halifax had ended in a 4-4 draw at Wembley, the most amazing scenes occurred at the replay in Bradford. The official attendance was given as 102,569, but it has been said many times since the occasion **"There were a lot more than that!"** That phrase, as well as being the title of Robert Gate's superbly researched book on the subject, is a reference to the fact that after a number of barriers were knocked down by the human tide, many spectators got into the ground without paying and without registering in the attendance figures. For the record Warrington won by eight points to four with halfback Gerry Helme picking up the Lance Todd Trophy for the second time, but to all intents and purposes the occasion

overshadowed the match.

At the seasons end the 1954 tourists departed by air for the first time. The captain was Dicky Williams of Hunslet but once again the ashes were lost by two tests to one. The Lions did triumph by two to one in a three match series in New Zealand and two young wingmen returned having scored a pot full of tries each. Terry O'Grady of Oldham crossed for 28 touchdowns but was eclipsed by a certain W Boston of Wigan who scored 36! Later in the year Great Britain won the inaugural World Cup in France under the captaincy of Huddersfield's Dave Valentine.



A scene from the famous 1954 Challenge Cup final replay. Gerry Helme is helped back to his feet by Jim Challinor after scoring the second Warrington try in front of the packed Odsal stadium terraces. Both of those Warrington favourites went on to coach the 'Roughyeds'.

PROBING THE NFP

THE BIG result of May Bank Holiday weekend was Widnes defeat of Doncaster 19-18. Craig Weston's last minute conversion attempt off the touchline failed and as a consequence the Dragons dropped from first to fourth after their nearest challengers all won. It all goes to show how tight the top of the table is and how quickly fortunes can change. Paul Mansson was once again the architect of the Vikings victory but Hansen, Argent, Hill and Hodgkinson stood up well to the might of the Dragons' pack.

Hull K.R. also slid down the table when they lost at Barrow as I was brave enough to forecast, although the margin of victory (42-12) was a surprise. Scrum-half Darren Holt led the Border Raiders to a stunning win with Tane Manihera and Geoff Luxon also in sparkling form.

Leigh Centurions secured an expected win at Hunslet though the Hawks made them battle all the way with Jamie Thackray outstanding. A late Phil Kendrick try and Paul Wingfield conversion saved the day for the visitors as the Hawks threatened to turn round a 16-2 deficit. Centurions, the winners 24-10, consequently reclaimed top spot in the League.

Dewsbury's Barry Eaton scored a try and kicked 7 goals to ensure a comfortable win against Rochdale 26-2. A 16 to 4 penalty count emphasised Hornet's biggest problem, lack of discipline. For the Rams Brendan O'Meara and Damian Ball were on top form.

Featherstone overcame the challenge of Swinton 28-14, Maeda David the star of the show.

Meanwhile, Workington by 30-10 at Batley and Whitehaven 22-19 at Sheffield were away winners giving the Cumbrian clubs a hat trick of victories. And talking of hat-tricks Town winger Graeme Lewthwaite was a three time scorer at Mount Pleasant to knock the heart out of the Bulldogs. Over at Don Valley centre Kevin Hetherington and second-row Howard Hill were stand outs as the Warriors held on to defeat a determined Eagles.

That leaves Oldham who were not entirely convincing winners against York Wasps, although the scoreline of 40-18 suggests otherwise. Stand-off Mark Cain troubled the Roughyeds every time he had the ball. And tonight's visitors Keighley 98-4 victors against Lancashire Lynx. Martin Wood equalised a Cougars record with 15 goals from 17 attempts. A leading contender already for N.F.P.

Player of the Season, Wood is the mastermind in a very good Cougars side. Be certain that if Oldham can't contain Wood they'll be in trouble tonight.

A sunny 7th May brought some big scores but few surprises. A win for Hunslet at Swinton, with debutant scrum-half Nicky Dobson scoring a hat-trick, was perhaps the biggest. And in a close run thing Batley just failed to turn-over Leigh, a late Alan Cross try giving the Centurions the points 44-40. Roger Simpson for the Bulldogs also grabbed a hat-trick.



Craig Weston

Just when you think you missed it four come along at once: hat tricks that is. Craig Weston's for Doncaster was special because it broke a ten year old Dragons try-scoring record (20 in a season by Mark Roache) as Doncaster hammered Barrow 68-12. Meanwhile Nathan Graham was also

scoring three for Dewsbury as the Rams hammered Lancashire Lynx 72-13.

Featherstone maintained their good form with a home win over Widnes (28-22), aided by the sending-off of Vikings scrum-half Lee Birdseye; and Oldham kept their run going with a terrific win at Hull KR 32-12.

Rochdale stormed back from a first half mauling to snatch victory at Sheffield, two tries in the last 10 minutes snatching a 22-19 win, Whitehaven easily disposed of York 44-12, while tonight's visitors Keighley swamped Workington 54-8.

The Cougars victory means there is an outside chance they can go top of the league tonight if they can overcome Oldham; that is if Dewsbury go down at Barrow. Since Barrow have yet to lose at home the Rams task is a tall order. But so too is the Cougars since Oldham, having gained one place on Sunday will be keen to move up another tonight if they can win.

Today's other big game is free-scoring Doncaster's visit to Workington. Although the Dragons will be favourites to win, all the Cumbrian clubs are difficult to beat on home turf, so the top of the table challengers will be looking for Town to spring a surprise.

In Town Today



...KEIGHLEY COUGARS



KEIGHLEY come to Boundary Park tonight as THE form team of the N.F.P. Lying third behind Leigh and Dewsbury, the Cougars have lost just four matches, at home to Hull K.R. and Leigh and away at Doncaster and Featherstone. And, after pulverising Lancashire Lynx 98-4, they are the league's leading scorers. Coached by one of the great forwards of his or any other era, Karl Harrison, the ex-Featherstone, Hull, Halifax and Great Britain prop, the Cougars will undoubtedly provide Oldham with one of their stiffest tests of the season.

Full-back could be either DEAN HANGAR, the ex-Warrington and Huddersfield Australian utility back, or RICHARD SMITH an Irish international who is one of several Cougar players with Halifax connections. As well as appearing with the Bluesox he has also featured with Hull K.R.

In the threequarters places will be contested between local product and 22 year old centre KARL SMITH; ex-Halifax and Hull K.R. and Great Britain international centre or wing GRAEME HALLAS; former Castleford, Doncaster and Batley wingman MAX



Jason Lee

TOMLINSON; ex-Bradford Bulls utility player CRAIG HORNE, at 21 an outstanding prospect; and flying wing star JASON LEE who is a Welsh international.

Regular half-backs have been STEVE PICKLES at stand-off, a player with Super League experience at both Leeds Rhinos and Bradford Bulls, and NATHAN ANTONIK, a classy, ball-playing Australian scrum-half.



Nathan Antonik

Recently returned to the fray after injury is club captain and hooker JASON RAMSHAW. Formerly with Halifax, Ramshaw is a very experienced and wily performer. He is also the leader of the Cougars' Schools Coaching Initiative. His recent understudy DANNY SEAL has been on loan from Halifax and is a talented player whose services Keighley are anxious to secure permanently.

At prop are two big men in STEVE HALL, now in a second spell at 32 with Keighley, and ALAN BOOTHROYD who has done the rounds at Castleford, Halifax and, latterly, Dewsbury. When injury strikes able deputies step up in the form of MICK SLICKER, an Oldham youngster taken from Waterhead to Halifax and then Sheffield, and IAN HUGHES, a likely first choice second-row having enormous experience at Sheffield and Wakefield.

PAUL HARRISON, meanwhile, has arrived in the Cougar back row from Batley where his long-striding breaks made him the Bulldogs top scorer in each of the last two seasons. MATT WALKER at 21 is maturing fast after being released by Bradford, and others likely to appear from the bench include another ex-Bluesox player in BEN THOMPSON and big PHIL STEPHENSON now in his second spell at Cougar Park.

Last man down is the redoubtable MARTIN WOOD, experienced former Halifax and Sheffield star in a second spell with the Cougars having appeared in the previous championship side. Ball-handler, goal kicker, try scorer, tough tackler you name it, Wood can do it.

Finally, other players who could appear from the bench include 21 year old halfback PAUL OWEN who has graduated from the Cougars' Academy; strong running centre and Cougars Community Liaison Officer MATT FOSTER; and JAMES RUSHFORTH former Academy Player of the Year 1995 and Alliance Player of the Year 1997.

Walkerbouts

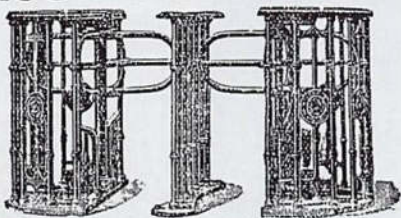
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Southport Central
Sunderland
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Sheffield United
Rock Ferry
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Burton Wanderers
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Bury
Notts County
Notts Forest
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Glasgow Football

Clubs.

Queen's Park
Celtic
Kilmarnock
Glasgow Rangers

Rugby

Football Clubs.

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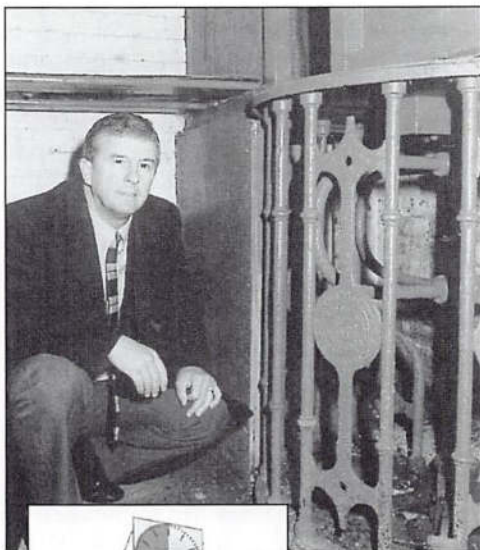
THE OTHER day I sat relaxed on my back porch enjoying the early May sunshine perched on the old wooden seat I had occupied for more years than I care to admit in row 'A' of the old Watersheddings 'B' stand, stealthily removed from under the noses of Highams auctioneers who had already earmarked the whole block ('lot 147') for export to Botswana (they had planned a national stadium but were later stifled by loonies claiming virgin jungle status!).

Looking on admiringly at the spring growth of my little bit of 'Sheddings' turf, a pair of magpies perched on the rim of the restored former Penny Rush turnstile, glowing in its new livery of Post Office red. Both squawked provocatively at an over inquisitive robin that in its old age had decided to stay local for the summer (a thought crossed my mind that this could well be the build up to another Humberside derby!). I turned my attention to a pile of unread back issues of various rugby journals, passed on by Michael Turner, coming across a feature he had previously circled.

The article was about a sister turnstile to

mine that had found its way across the world to Australia after being uprooted from old lady Watersheddings, and was now sitting proudly in the Greenhills district about the city of Sydney and brought back to mind that in total eighteen turnstiles were sold by the auctioneers. One went to the Twickenham union museum, another to Oldham rugby union club, there is, of course, the one in my back garden and now a fourth has turned up in Australia. So what are the locations of the other fourteen?

Oldham was one of the first clubs, rugby or association, to install 'rush preventative turnstiles'. They were manufactured in Irlam around 1889 by W. T. Ellison and in their day they cost a fortune! 'Rush preventative' conjures up the imagination but my mind drifted back to those fatties who regularly got stuck especially in the turnstile on the Watersheddings Street corner (more than once the fire brigade were called on to assist!), the kids being passed over the top to avoid paying but easiest of all my memory would drift to those winter Sunday mornings, when as kids living in Watersheddings we would climb over the wall at the pavilion corner to hunt down the coins dropped around the turnstile area during the previous days match! Back to the point where are the other turnstiles?



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121

An interview by Dave Roberts with Leo Casey

Are things going well Leo?

Yes I think our form has been very good but feel we have been getting the results without playing to 100% of our capability. After that infamous Featherstone game we were all very disappointed; in fact I have never seen a team as down as our lads were that day, but we set a target and worked hard and so far it has paid off.

Do you like Mike's system of rotating the front row?

Yes it helps a lot. It is a good policy of Mike's; coming back on for the last 20 minutes I can give it 100%.

Kelghley will be a real tough test.

It will be very tough, they are a very strong, young side. They have a good individual in Martin Wood (the loose forward) and we will cram preparation in between the Hull KR game and today. Also we are expecting a tough game at Whitehaven on Sunday who have had some good results of late so these two games will go a long way to see how much progress we have made.

How about some more honours (even at your age)?

It's always nice to win anything. I have been quite lucky in some ways, I

have 2 premierships with Oldham and I with Featherstone and a medal from the Emerging Nations World Cup (for Ireland).

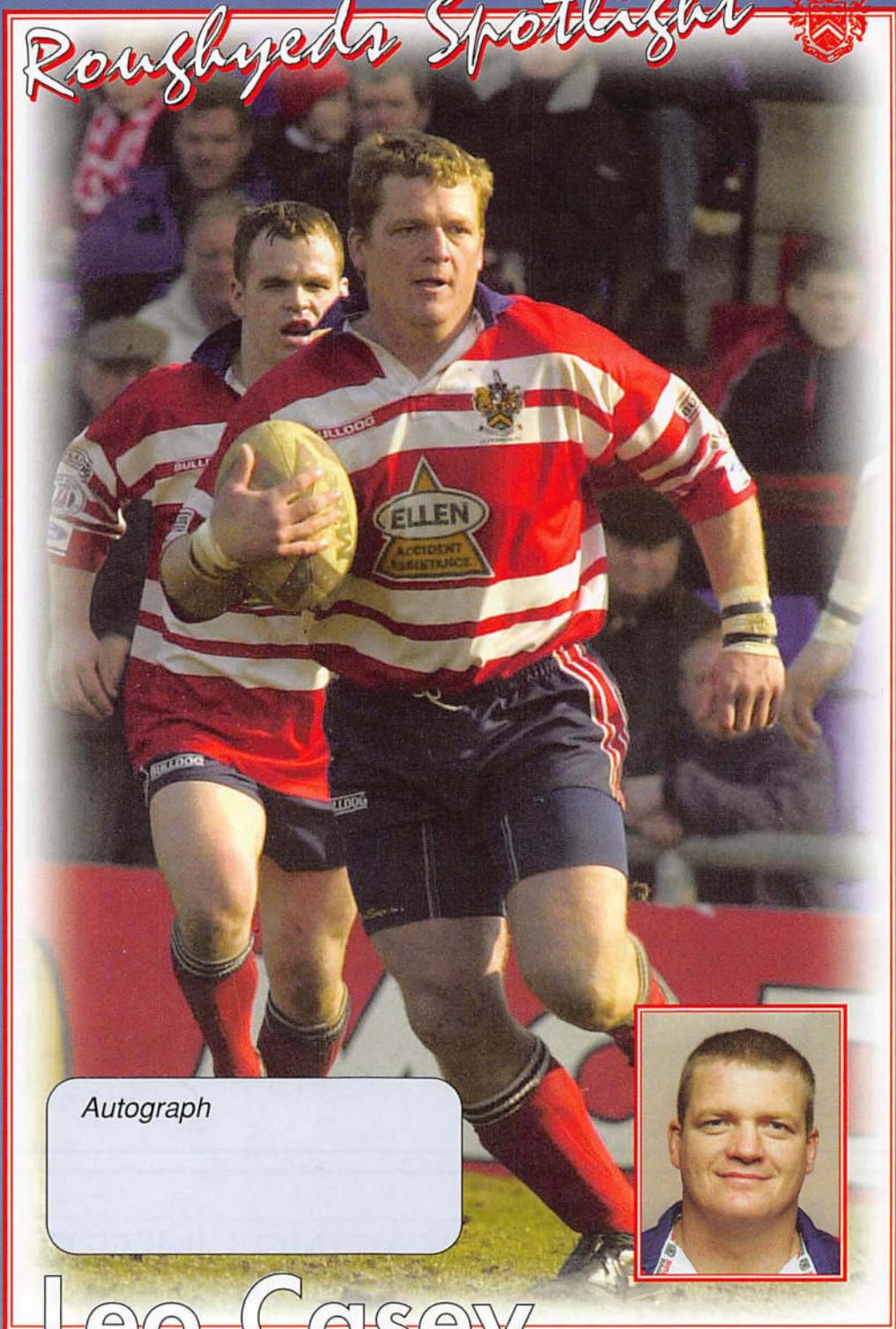
Time to embarrass a team mate.

I can't comment on Dave & Anthony's wind problems because if anything I am worse. I would like to be introduced to one of Cleggy's girl friend as we keep hearing about them but we are yet to see any of them

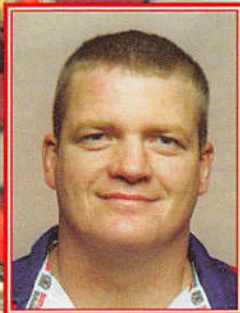
DAVE ROBERTS



Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph



Leo Casey

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Iva Slattery



A MAN is driving slowly down the road in Leeds in his Mercedes and stops to pick up a hitch-hiker. The hitch-hiker asks "what's that on the bonnet?" "Oh that's the sights; if you want to run someone over you line them up in the sights and bingo! you hit them".

Ten minutes later Gary Hetherington steps off the kerb and the driver, playing along with the story, lines him up. At the last minute he swerves to miss him. But as he does so he hears a loud thump. The hitch-hiker says "You'd better get those sights seen to, if I hadn't opened my door, you'd have missed him".

Saturday afternoon I went to see Oldham Athletic. Next to me is a man with a dog. Every time the opposition score the dog puts its paws over its eyes. At the end of the game Latics have lost 5-0. I turned to the man with the dog and said, "Your dog seems to know a lot about football, but what does he do when Latics score?" "I don't know" the man said, "I've only had him 5 years".

Jimmy White went to the doctor with constipation. "What have you been eating?" asked the doctor. "Snooker balls" said Jimmy White. "Well, what did you have for breakfast?" "Two reds, a black and a blue". "And what about dinner?" "Five reds, a yellow and a pink". "I know your trouble", says the doctor, "not enough greens!"

Chris Caisley has trouble with his maths. When he wanted to sell his old car for £2995 to Mike Stephenson, Stevo said he'd give him the price less 10%. Chris Caisley said he'd think about it.

In the local that night Chris Caisley asked the barmaid: "If I offered you £2995 less 10% what would you take off?" The barmaid thought about it, then said, "Everything except my ear-rings".

Q. How many Hornets does it take to milk a cow?

A. 24. Twenty to lift it up and down and four to hold its udders.

Jason Clegg went into Billy Boston's pub in Wigan which was advertising a pint and a pie and a kind word for £1. "That'll do me" thought Clegg. So he got his pie and his pint, but Billy Boston said nothing. "Ey up", says Clegg "what about the kind word?" "Well, if I were you", replies Billy, "I wouldn't eat that pie, it's last weeks".

Did you hear about the Saddleworth Rangers player? He was walking home across the cow field from the pub when his flat cap blew off. He tried on twenty one before he found the right one!

Leo Casey went in John Watkins pub. "Drinks all round", said Leo. When John asked him to pay Leo said he'd settle up at the end of the night.

He bought six rounds and at the end of the night John said "that'll be £174".

"I haven't any money", said Leo. At which point John walloped him with a right hook.

Next night Leo went in again. "I suppose you want drinks all round again?" asked John.

"Yes", said Leo, "but miss yourself out. You get nasty when you've had a couple of drinks".

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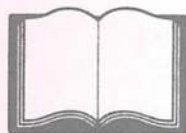
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Amateur Album

ROYTON TIGERS



Paul Sculthorpe

ROYTON Tigers were founded in 1986, the Club's first fixture being at Under-11 level. Included in the Royton line-up that afternoon was Paul Sculthorpe, the current St. Helens and Great Britain star. Other teams were soon operating as the Tigers began the expansion that saw the Club grow to become the largest rugby league club in the Oldham area.

Royton Tigers now caters for players from six years to open age and has more than 2000 registered players. The younger age groups play organised friendly fixtures whilst the older age groups play in the North West Counties League.

In their comparatively short history Royton Tigers have played a significant role in aiding the expansion of rugby league outside the traditional northern heartland. In 1998 the Club took five teams down to Hemel Hempstead as well as sending a team over for a tournament in Dublin. That same year French club Limoux sent their youth section across to Britain for matches against the Tigers and later this month the Tigers Under-12 team is off across the Channel to complete a mini tour of France.



Paul Rustchynski

Each team must have at least one qualified coach so regular courses are organised to help parents and senior players achieve the necessary qualifications. When players turn professional, any money received is earmarked for coaching development. Players who have recently moved into the

professional ranks from Royton include Grant Bithell (St. Helens), Alex Wilkinson (Bradford Bulls) and a couple of players who are making encouraging progress with the Roughyeds Alliance squad, Gavin Dodd and Paul Rustchynski.

The continuing growth of the club has made it necessary for Tigers to seek out facilities outside the original Royton catchment area. A basic clubhouse and pitch at Granby Street, Chadderton

is the base for training and Sunday morning games whilst other Sunday games take place at Merton Avenue, Hollins and the North Manchester RUFC ground in Moston. The Granby Street site will have room for expansion once the construction of the M60 motorway is completed. The club social centre is currently The Colliers Arms, Old Lane, Chadderton where teams return after matches for game reports and nominations for man-of-the-match awards.

The club's ambitious future plans cannot be realised without adequate funding. A major contribution comes from sponsorship by local businesses. A full playing kit costs £600 and the sponsor's name or logo is printed on the shirts and so is displayed for the lifetime to the kit which is at least three seasons. Other sponsorship is available for as little as £25 with sponsors acknowledged with free advertisements in "The Tigers Roar", the club's monthly magazine. Sponsors are also invited to attend various social events during the season.

Anyone interested in either sponsoring the club or becoming a playing member should contact president and club founder Steve Bithell on 678 6047 or visit the club's web site: www.royton-tigers.org.uk.

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	W	26 - 8

MAY

3rd	Keighley Cougars	A	W	38 - 14
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

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Today's Guest Interview...

TERRY RAMSHAW



Terry Ramshaw

It is a pleasure tonight to welcome ex-Oldham player Terry Ramshaw and wife Sandra to Boundary Park. Now died-in-the-wool supporters of son Jason and the Keighley Cougars the Ramshaws certainly had a colourful career, Terry appearing with no fewer than eight clubs. Beginning his career with Castleford Juniors Terry signed professional terms at

16. However, always one for securing a good deal, Terry chose not to sign for his hometown club whose signing-on fee was just £50, but instead signed for neighbours Featherstone Rovers who were offering £250. Better still, Terry got £200 after eight first team appearances and so embarked on a distinguished, if nomadic career.

Five season at Featherstone and 100 plus first team appearances saw firebrand forward Terry mature into one of the best second-rowers in the game gaining Under-24 international honours along the way. At 21 'Rammy' had done enough to attract plenty of attention and when a then reviving Halifax were looking to toughen up their pack it was to fear nothing Terry they turned, much to the disgust of Featherstone's Directors, although they were compensated financially to the tune of £5,000. Two good years at Thrum Hall saw 'Rammy' capped for Yorkshire and appearing in the 1965/66 Championship Final against St. Helens at Swinton before a dispute saw him move on to Bradford. The problem was that Terry had taken a pub – the newly built 'The Sporting Life' almost on the doorstep of Websters' brewery – and Halifax barred their players from being publicans. Conscious that this interfered with his need to earn a living Terry was soon off.

Bradford was followed by a successful spell at Wakefield where Terry came close to Great Britain honours and the 1970 tour team. There followed spells with Salford - including a John Players Cup Final appearance in 1972/73 – Hull KR, Oldham and York, 'Rammy's' last appearance being in York's 1978/9 Yorkshire Cup Final team, a match which the Minster men lost 8-18 to Bradford. It was just 20 years since Terry had signed for Featherstone.

Terry Ramshaw's career with Oldham followed promotion in 1974/75 and spanned the 1975/6 and 1976/7 Division One seasons during which he made 33 appearances (one as substitute) with one try. The try was scored at Fartown in an away defeat (14-19) against Huddersfield. Among his contemporaries at Watersheddings Terry had fond memories of the late Dickie Brown and York's

recently departed assistant coach, the irrepressible Johnny Patterson. He is hoping tonight to bump into evergreen Johnny Blair and Eddie Burton who are rarely missing from Roughyed matches and who featured in games with Terry along with others he remembered such as Mike Elliott, Bob Welding, Fred Hall and Martin Murphy. Having played over 400 matches in his career Terry claims to remember very few, saying wife Sandra has a better recollection of individual games than he has. However he was spot on with an 8-7 Oldham victory at Knowsley Road on February 8th 1976, possibly because an Oldham win away to St. Helens is a rarity. It was also at St. Helens that Oldham went down 17-9 in the third round of the Challenge Cup, a year in which St. Helens went on to win at Wembley against Widnes by 20-5. St. Helens in fact appeared 5 times on the Oldham fixture list (2 cup ties, 2 league games and one match abandoned by fog).

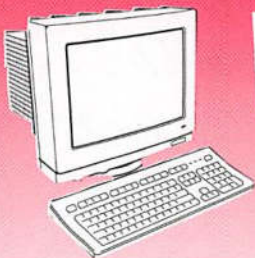
At the time Oldham were threatening a revival under Jim Challinor's coaching but the unfortunate and untimely death of the Oldham and Great Britain coach saw Oldham relegated as bottom club in 1976-7, Terry Ramshaw having a brief spell in charge during this time. There were few highlights that season though Oldham did beat Wigan at home 23-20, 'Rammy's' last appearance for the Roughyeds was in the home Challenge Cup First Round defeat by Dewsbury 8-15.

Today Terry and Sandra like nothing better than

to watch son Jason play for Keighley and to spend time with their four grandchildren, Jason's twins and daughter Stephanie's son and daughter. Terry always likes 'chewing the fat' with old colleagues and rivals and says of his time in the game that he always enjoyed it (you have to to play 20 years!) and regarded it as his job. Defeat always hurt and particularly bad defeats would see him on the beach at Filey, a solitary figure analysing the setback. Of today's game he acknowledges that the sport is faster, that players are better prepared with regard to training and diet and that the game is played to different rules. Nevertheless he is adamant that given the same preparation players of his generation would still be stars in the game of today. And of Jason? "He doesn't have my fiery temperament; he's much more laid back." And of that I think he's proud.



Jason Ramshaw



WINNARD'S

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With Simon Winnard

I, LIKE many other familiar faced Oldhamers, joined the Rugby League family pilgrimage to Edinburgh last week for the Challenge Cup Final at Murrayfield and what a fantastic occasion it proved to be. It was going to take more than three feet of water the day before the game to dampen the spirits of the hoards of RL followers travelling north. Even a few pie eaters turned up for a good ribbing....that's about as close as they get to the Cup these days!

A veritable feast of deep fat fried oddities and pints of 'heavy' awaited the visiting masses who are rumoured to have pumped £10 million plus into the City's economy in just one weekend. The Edinburgh sports fans also played their part with an approximate 10,000 ticket sales locally which ensured hardly a vacant seat in the stadium could be seen.

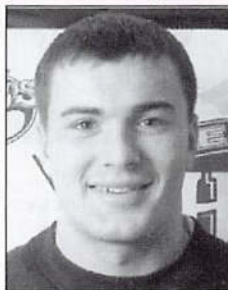
Some have criticised Murrayfield for lacking atmosphere and to some extent they have a valid case. However, the ground staff were helpful, the city centre location was excellent and the facilities were exceptional (apart from the odd lake in the gents).

"But it's not Wembley is it?" the Wiganers cry....very astute Mr Lindsay, I can see you have studied the game at some length! Of course it isn't. They're knocking it down just like they did Central Park. Wembley, however, will of course be back in some form or other and, whether the twin towers are in Widnes or not, the game will surely find it's way back there. In the meantime though, lets turn the next three years to our advantage.

The game itself of course wasn't a classic by any stretch of the imagination and failed to really ignite the atmosphere in the ground. Whether the occasion got to the players is debatable as both teams failed to really hit top form. However, ultimately Bradford were full value for the victory and ended an unbelievable 51 year wait to take the Challenge Cup back to Odsal.

Leeds, as in recent weeks, were off colour particularly in the first half. Dean Lance's team selection seemed to rely heavily on out-muscling the Bulls early on. The choice of

Powell at outside half proved to be crucial with Harris wasted at full back and never really getting into the game. Following his switch to stand off and the introduction of St Hilaire to full back, Leeds suddenly had many more attacking options and nearly snatched the game at the death. However, it wasn't to be on this occasion, but the real disappointment of the afternoon was the exclusion of Kevin Sinfield. I'm sure that Kevin will put aside his disappointment and play a part in many major finals in his career.



Iestyn Harris

If the bosses at Red Hall were looking for a publicity coup in the wake of the McAlpine débâcle, they certainly got it. The local media coverage was nothing short of remarkable, with Rugby League plastered over all the newspapers and television....they lapped it up. This was a world apart from the afterthought coverage we have become accustomed to from the London Media for Wembley finals over the years. So next season to Twickers and then to Cardiff for the 2002 final. A return to Edinburgh for 2003 has already been touted and a jaunt over the water to Dublin cannot be ruled out....all good stuff.

Indeed, with the RFL set to pursue this 'on the road' policy in order to promote development throughout the British Isles, these surely are the high profile games which will maximise publicity opportunities. I'm all for showing the game off for the superb product it is in locations such as South Wales. Following in the crest of a wave of positive publicity from Union country afar and what have Super League come up with....London Broncos versus Warrington Wolves at Newport?....do me a favour. The one saving grace for this stunt is that they almost can't fail to match the abysmal Broncos crowds at the other valley in Charlton this term. Nice try Super League, but think again.

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Club Call

CLUB CALL

A warm welcome to supporters of both clubs. What a wonderful day to be an Oldham Roughyed on Sunday! Warm sunshine and a team performance what was absolutely superb and made the opposition look very, very ordinary. Tonight's game should be a real cracker! Let's hope we start to get the backing of the town's Rugby community.

THE SATURDAY YANKEE

The Jackpot prize on our lottery this week is £2000!! 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**

COACH TRAVEL TO WHITEHAVEN

Coaches to Whitehaven on Sunday leave Barlows at 11.00am and the Black Horse, Ripponden Road at 11.15am. 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 ever expanding 'Roughyeds Barmy Army!'.

CLUB SHOP

It was great at Hull to see so many of you wearing your Club colours. The club shop has all you need to be a 'Roughyed.' Replica Shirts, Car Stickers, Polo Shirts and Scarves are all available at reasonable prices. The new polo shirts are selling well 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 new summer leisure tops. 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'.

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.

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Hi to all the Junior Roughyeds.



Leo Casey

Welcome to the officials, supporters and Junior of Keighley Cougars.

The Mascot for tonight's match is **LEO CASEY**. Leo is 11 years old and plays for Royton Tigers under 11s team.

His favourite players are his dad and Cleggy. Leo's favourite hobby is playing rugby with his brothers Callum, Sean and Connor.

I am pleased to announce that the Junior Roughyeds have sponsored two players until the end of the season namely Neil Roden and Phil Farrell. So let's cheer on our players.

We wish to send out Happy Birthday wishes to Junior Roughyed **LAURENCE RAFFERTY**, for the 7th May.

And finally from myself and all the Junior Roughyeds we wish **CAROLINE BYRNE** a Happy 40th Birthday. Have a great day Caroline.

Debra Rafferty

NEIL GIBBISON

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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO MAY 10TH YESTERYEAR.

WHEN THE First World War ended in November 1918 it was decided to run only the county competitions in a shortened season between January and May 1919 with no Challenge Cup or Championship and then start up as normal in season 1919-20. Rochdale Hornets dominated the two competitions west of the Pennines, winning the Lancashire League before meeting Oldham in the Lancashire Cup final which was staged at Salford on Saturday May 10th 1919. That final attracted a crowd of 18,617 and produced record receipts of £1,365. Hornets proved much too good for the Roughyeds and won 22-0, scoring six tries through Ernie Jones, Jack Bennett, Tommy Woods, Jack Hopwood, Jack Fairhurst & Sammy Carter. Jones and Hopwood each landed a goal.

A bad winter in 1946-7 caused the season to be extended into June so the Roughyeds once again found themselves facing Rochdale on Saturday 10th May 1947. Oldham won that



Puig-Aubert

league match at the Athletic Grounds by five points to two. Scrum-half Ray Smith scored the Oldham try and second-rower Les Thomas added a goal. On the same afternoon, Saturday 10th May 1947, Keighley were well beaten at Leeds 43-10. Winger Elias and hooker Grace scored their tries with full back Mills landing two goals. It was on this day in 1956, Thursday 10th May, that France defeated England 23-9 at Lyons. Legendary French full-back Puig-Aubert landed three goals in that match but there were also one or two legends in the English line up that evening including centre Alan Davies who scored



Colin Clift

one of the three English tries. Winger Mick Sullivan (Huddersfield) and loose-forward Colin Clift (Wakefield Trinity) were the other English scorers. Surprisingly England finished bottom of the International Championships that season, the winners being Other Nationalities.

In 1978 BARLA sent an open aged team on a nine match tour of the South Pacific. The most frightening incident took place on Wednesday 10th May when BARLA met the Northern Zone of Papua-New Guinea in Lae. It was a scrappy match in which the locals, urged on by a capacity 5,500 crowd, led by 4-2 late in the game thanks to a couple of penalties from full back Rodney Som. Full-back Peter Glover (Pilkington Recs, St. Helens) had replied with a penalty for BARLA. After 72 minutes winger Steve Critchenson (Ace, Hull) was sent off and two minutes later he was joined by second-rower Ronnie Carter (Crosfields, Warrington). A section of the crowd, apparently incensed by the British indiscipline, then invaded the pitch and attacked the British players. Needless to say, the match was abandoned but, after talks with the Papua-New Guinea security forces, the tour did continue thankfully without any further trouble. Two years ago, on Sunday 10th May 1998, Oldham defeated Batley 28-20 in a Second Division match at Boundary Park. Of the Roughyeds team which played that day, only two are likely to be in action this evening, hooker John Hough and substitute Jason Clegg. On the same afternoon, Sunday 10th May 1998, Keighley registered a comfortable victory over Rochdale Hornets who were beaten 50-4. The opening Keighley try that day was scored by second-rower Mark Campbell, now of course with the Roughyeds. We will be looking for a repeat performance from Campbell today but certainly not from Rochdale skipper Leo Casey whose interest in that match ended early in the second-half, sent off by referee Robert Connolly for a high tackle.

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	W13-12	2288
24	SWINTON LIONS	W34-28	1908
MAY			
1	YORK WASPS	W40-18	1852
7	Hull Kingston Rovers	W32-12	2005
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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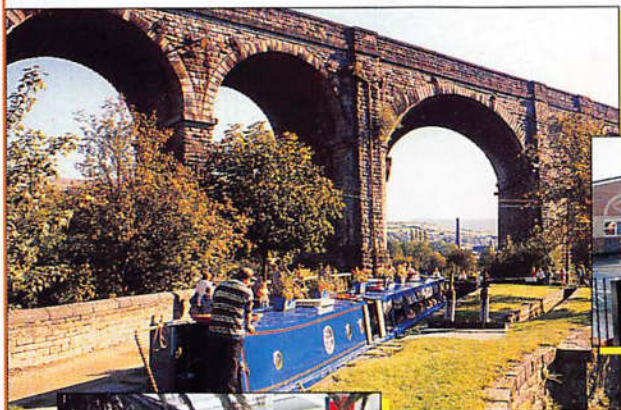
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All this, together with Oldham's reputation for innovation, hard work and friendliness means that the Borough finds itself well placed to meet the challenges of the New Millennium.

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 
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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

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Leo CASEY

John HOUGH

Jason CLEGG

Phil FARRELL

Shayne McMENEMY

Kevin MANNION

Chris HOLLAND

Andy PROCTOR

Danny GUEST

Ian SINFIELD

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

Coach Karl HARRISON

Dean HANGER

Max TOMLINSON

Richard SMITH

Graeme HALLAS

Jason LEE

Danny SEAL

Nathan ANTONIK

Steve HALL

Jason RAMSHAW

Michael SLICKER

Paul HARRISON

Ian HUGHES

Martin WOOD

Paul OWEN

Matt WALKER

Phil STEPHENSON

Steve PICKLES



TODAY'S OFFICIALS
REF: PETER TABERNER

PETER MEADOWS

BOB INGHAM

4th GRANT MAXWELL

DOUGLAS PHILLIPS (1919-2000) It was with great sadness that the club learned of the death last week of D. V. (Douglas Versailles) Phillips. Doug joined Oldham from Swansea RU during the Second World War, making his debut in the 16-0 victory over Batley on February 17th, 1945 at Watersheddings. A tall and immensely powerful second row forward, he was often selected to play in representative games for the forces which further restricted the number of appearances during his brief spell with Oldham. Doug was eventually transferred to Bell Vue Rangers after playing only 18 matches for the "Roughyeds". He was nevertheless an Oldham player when selected for the 1946 tour to Australia and New Zealand, after having played only seven games for the club. He played in all three of the tests in Australia, where he helped the Lions to secure the "Ashes" with two wins and a draw. He also won three Welsh caps during his spell at Watersheddings. Doug toured down under again in 1950, while he was with the Rangers.