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The Roughyeds



*Roughyeds
Spotlights*



John Hough



Barrow Border Raiders

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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



AFTER 2 defeats on the trot it is important that we get back to winning ways today against Barrow. Defeat against Keighley was a bitter pill to swallow and certainly the score flatters them as we were unlucky to lose the game but the difference was that they played the smarter football on the night, both when they were in front and when they were behind. They never panicked, even when we had them under pressure, and that is the sign of a good side. It was the same against Dewsbury earlier in the season when we lost by 2 points. It is no coincidence that those two sides are now second and first in the League respectively. Our lads have to gain experience from those type of matches to be able to use it to their advantage in similar situations in the future.

Mike Ford has mentioned recently that at times there has been a lack of self belief amongst the players and that they have to become more arrogant (on the pitch!!). The players have, without a shadow of a doubt, done tremendously well so far this season and its down to them and their hard work. We are not in a false position in the League we are there because we have accumulated more points than the teams below us and that is the reward for the commitment and hard work that they have all put in. I have tremendous belief in the players and what we can achieve with them. They know that because it was discussed with each of them prior to them signing. As we enter the last third of the season the lads can use what they have done so far as a springboard for further progress - WELL DONE BOYS - KEEP IT UP.

I would like to welcome Alan Stoker and all his colleagues from Barrow for today's game which although, on paper, should be a home banker as Barrow have struggled away from home, I am sure will be as difficult as it always is, as they will no doubt be trying even harder to turn their results on their travels around. As we have said before games are coming thick and fast in May and your support is vital. Please keep up the noise.

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



FOR OUR visitors - Barrow Border Raiders - today's game is a real 'four pointer' if they are to achieve their goal of a top eight play off place. So don't be surprised if they come out all guns blazing. If their big pack get some go-forward sets of 6 rolling, half backs Darren Holt and Tane Manihera and classy

full back Rod Maybon will be ready to punish us, so we must be up to the task defensively as we were at Craven Park when a 19-16 defeat could so easily have been a win if our goal-kicking had been on song.

As for recent results, the two defeats represent a setback. We are sometimes lacking a bit of experience on the park to control the game, which was highlighted when we were

unable to hang onto the lead late in the match against Keighley. Our young players are learning all the time and we must take the positives from the Keighley and Whitehaven fixtures. I think that in the course of the season you, the spectators, and I, the Coach, have re-assessed our expectation and up graded our standards, which is terrific so long as we realise we will sometimes lose. It's all down to self-belief among the players on the park and I would not mind us showing some arrogance at times.

Looking at the rest of the season we have five out of eight matches at home and play some of the top teams. If we can beat them we pull them back into the pack and enhance our own chances of a high placing. As always we appreciate your support which really makes itself felt when we come off after warming up and at the start and finish of games. In addition we like the way you get behind us if we go behind. I can assure you it really makes a difference.

Keep up the good work,

ALLIANCE SCOREBOARD

TOP TRIES

13 Simon Lewis (Wigan); 12 Shane Irabor (Barrow) & Chris Spurr (Featherstone); 10 Mike Briggs (Widnes), Shelton Davis (Hunslet), Stuart Dickinson (Leigh), Phil Jones (Wigan), Matt Turner (Featherstone), Alex Wilkinson (Bradford); **9 Gavin Dodd (Oldham)**

TOP GOALS

42 Kevin Fitzpatrick (Oldham); 40 Liam Jones (Widnes) & P. Jones; 39 Steve Stoddart (Whitehaven); 32 Craig Wingfield (Leigh); 30 Craig Fisher (Workington)

Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Hunslet Hawks	14	10	0	4	319	306	13	20
Widnes Vikings	14	9	0	5	470	218	252	18
Leigh Centurions	15	8	1	6	375	341	34	17
Featherstone Rovers	13	8	0	5	369	302	67	16
Oldham	14	8	0	6	297	261	36	16
Whitehaven Warriors	11	7	0	4	293	239	54	14
Batley Bulldogs	15	6	1	8	263	307	-44	13
Rochdale Hornets	12	6	0	6	230	299	-69	12
Workington Town	13	4	0	9	303	315	-12	8
Keighley Cougars	13	4	0	9	286	363	-77	8
Barrow B Raiders	14	3	0	11	253	507	-254	6



THE ALLIANCE have had no games in the last two weeks, but hopefully when you read this we will have had a win away to Barrow. Things are getting tight in the top five and at least eight teams have a realistic chance of making the play offs. It's what is commonly known as the business end of the season and it is very important for me that the players who have worked very hard all season realise that

it means nothing if we don't reach those play offs.

On our day we are the best team in the competition, but we need to prove that in our remaining games. Individuals also have a lot to play for in terms of first team places, because there are plenty of games left in the Northern Ford Premiership.

A big push is needed over the last games and that would be very much helped by a few more supporters at our home games. We have had good support all season but a few more voices would certainly help to lift the lads even more.

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In Yer Face



LET ME digress. I didn't actually hear any of the songs, but I did get in in time to sit with a beer and watch the voting in the Eurovision Song Contest. Which, as always, was laughable. And it struck me that any contest that required judges to determine a winner is a waste of time. "Faster, higher, longer" as the Olympic motto has it is straight-forward: either you do it or you don't. So motor racing, horse racing, soccer, rugby, hockey, cricket, swimming, athletics etc. etc. all have an obvious point. But ice skating (you're only any good if the Russian judge says you are) and ski jumping (style marks? What's all that about?) are utterly pointless.

So, by extension, obvious facts speak for themselves—Kevin Phillips of Sunderland scores 30 Premiership goals (in by no means the best team in the land), ergo he ought to be in the England squad. As Joe Public already knows. But Kevin (current Messiah) Keegan may not (though by the time you read this K.K.'s European Championship squad will have been announced and I will be proved right either way). Similarly, Joe Public knows when Alan Shearer is out of form and ought not to be picked, or if he is picked, ought to be substituted. But expert pundit Barry Venison, Bobby Robson, Ron Atkinson, or whoever is paid a lot of money to spout absolute tosh, deigns to tell us from their lofty heights that we are undermining one of 'the Immortals',

when all we are saying is, 'yes, he's a good player but he's not in good form at present, so why can't we pick someone who is?' - which of course is what Sir Alf Ramsey did, by accident or design, when he preferred Geoff Hurst to Jimmy Greaves. But then the obvious never occurs to 'the expert'. A twenty yard wide shot is 'because it bobbled as he went to hit it'. Bobbled? Parks player Fred Flintstone



England's best stand-off
Tommy Martyn,

gets a ball that bounces five feet in the air and five feet in front of him and still gets unmercifully hammered, for 'missing a sitter' by his mates. Now that's 'bobbled'!

And what has any of this to do with Rugby League you ask? Well, every speccie knows that Sean Long is the best scrum-half England have. But in last year's tri-nations Andy Goodway wouldn't pick him. And England's best stand-off is Tommy Martyn, closely followed by Karl Hammond. But will they play for England? Not if their grandfather once took a day trip to Galashiels, Prestatyn or Dun Laoghaire (go on check the spelling!), they won't. So who scores more tries than anyone else? Answer Tony Sullivan. So would you pick Paul Newlove and Tony Sullivan to play for England? Yes, you would. Would the England coach? Who knows, but Ladbrokes will give you good odds. And who else do we want to face the might of Australia in this year's World Cup? Harvey Howard. Who? You might well ask. Last seen blowing hard in the pre-match warm-up, the aforesaid Mr Howard is about as useful as Steve 'the barrel' Pitchford, and he retired 25 years ago. Now, short of picking all your players from Bradford, St. Helens and Wigan (well they are the best teams after all) it wouldn't be a bad idea to have a look at Dean Sampson (if Andy Goodway didn't rate him he must be ok) who can mix it with the best of them (ask Jamie Bloem if he's stopped counting). Which can't be a bad idea if you have to take on Gordon Tallis. Then there's Danny Orr (A.G. didn't fancy him either), Steve McNamara, Ian Knott, Gary Broadbent, Darren Rogers, Alan Hunte, Steve Molloy, Paul Rowley, Paul Sampson to name but a few. And I suppose Leeds Rhinos might have somebody useful, like Adrian Morley or Barrie McDermott and half a dozen others. All of which is to get in my twopennarth before everyone else. Because rest assured by the end of September facts and figures will tell you who should be playing for England in the World Cup and you and me will know it. Only trouble is, don't necessarily expect the England coach to have the league's leading scorer in his side (can't tackle) or top tackler in his team (no vision in possession) or best kicker on the field (can't catch a high ball) or biggest gainer of hard yards (eats garlic in the dressing room). What's that? Cynical. Me? Never.

ROGER ROGER

THE introduction of a top eight play-off this season in the Northern Ford Premiership will prove a glorious success over the course of the next two months. Of that, I am absolutely convinced.

There is something to be gained on each rung of the ladder from one to eight.

At first glance, the Aussie style format looks complicated, but a second glance shows clearly that it is cleverly designed to proportionately reward each of the eight clubs, relative to their final league positions.

In simple terms, the higher you finish the better chance you have of going through to the Grand Final, so every league point is precious as clubs wind up for their last eight NFP matches of the season.

The Roughyeds play Barrow, Doncaster, Leigh, Widnes and Featherstone at home and Workington, Lancashire Lynx and Dewsbury away and included in that little lot is the additional burden of going to Workington next Friday night and then playing at Boundary Park on the Monday afternoon.

Oldham currently lie sixth, but they are only one point behind fifth placed Featherstone, who come to Boundary Park on July 2 - the last day of the league season before the start of the play-offs.

It is so tight at the top that Oldham fans are sure to be divided about how the club's fortunes can best be served by other results.

Take today's Featherstone v Doncaster clash at the Lionheart Stadium.

If Rovers were to win it would increase Oldham's chances of sneaking into fourth spot, but if Doncaster were to take both league points and Oldham were to beat Barrow, the Roughyeds would climb above Rovers and move into fifth place, although they would still be four points behind the Dragons.

Apply that to many other games involving top-eight aspirants between now and the end of the season and you conclude

that there are so many twists and turns still to come that anything can happen in the final shake-up for top-eight places.

Barrow, Swinton or Workington could still sneak into eighth place, given a good run, so it's wide open for a thrilling run-in to which Oldham should attract some of their best gates of the season.

There have been some superbly entertaining games at Boundary Park so far this season, particularly those against Rochdale Hornets, Swinton and the top two, Dewsbury and Keighley.

Dewsbury won 14-12 to become the first side to win on this ground and Keighley were given a good run for their money before they finished 24-14 winners in a fascinating contest between two teams which were well matched.



Martin Wood

Martin Wood, Keighley's multi-talented loose-forward, was the one big difference between the teams, but the Roughyeds can take great heart from the fact that the top two teams in the division were given the fright of their lives.

The play-offs promise to be intriguing. To qualify, Oldham have a lot of work to do between now and the end of the league programme, but possession is nine tenths of the law.

They command sixth place and they must be ready to scrap till they drop to ensure that the team finish as high as possible after last season's bitterly disappointing next-to-the-bottom finish.

Roger Halstead

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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1955 - 1960

THE 1954-55 season saw the first major success for the Barrow club. They defeated Oldham in the Lancashire Cup Final and followed this up with a defeat of Workington Town in the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley. This was achieved under the shrewd captaincy of half back Willie Horne. The championship that year went to Warrington with Oldham again being the beaten finalists on a near waterlogged Maine Road, the home of Manchester City FC. However, the 'Roughyeds' did enjoy the best post war spell in this era with a hat trick of Lancashire Cup successes and they finally took the Championship title in 1957 after a gap of forty-six years.

In Yorkshire it was Hull F.C. who emerged as the dominant force. The "Airlie Birds" took the Championship title in 1956 & 1958 with only Oldham's single point victory over the Humbersiders at Odsal in 1957 denying them a hat-trick. The touring Kiwis of 1955 and the Kangaroos of the following year were both defeated by two tests to one. After making their debut in the World Cup of 1954, France now had a regular international fixture with Great Britain and earned a creditable draw in the fixture at Toulouse in March 1957.

The 1958 tour down under was led by St.

Helens prop forward Alan Prescott who wrote himself into Rugby League folklore when he carried on playing despite suffering a broken arm in the second test at Brisbane, to inspire his colleagues to a 25-18 victory to level the series. That momentum was carried through to the final test when the Aussies were demolished 40-17 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Three Oldham players; Ken Jackson, Frank Pitchford and Alan Davies were selected for the tour.

The stars of the game in general were the free scoring wingers and Brian Bevan was still the cream of the crop. He did however, have some most notable contemporaries including Mick Sullivan, Billy Boston, Cumbrian Ike Southward and the dynamic South African, Tom Van Vollenhoven of St. Helens. The latter was ably assisted from the scrum half position by a precocious youth by the name of Alex Murphy. Also there was the 'golden boy' Lewis Jones. The ex Welsh Rugby Union international made a most successful transition to the thirteen-a-side game with Leeds and in the 1956-57 season he failed to score in only one match. Ironically enough that was the Challenge Cup final but the 'Loiners' still managed to win the trophy with a 9-7 defeat of Barrow.



A photo that will bring back painful memories for some of the older 'Roughyed' supporters - The Warrington team celebrate with the Championship Trophy after their 7-3 defeat of Oldham in the 1955 final, on a mud heap of a pitch at Maine Road, Manchester.

PROBING THE NFP

WEDNESDAY MAY 10th was a big night in the N.F.P. The fixtures that night brought every club up to 19 matches played and finally produced a true league table. As a consequence Dewsbury Rams went to the top of the pile by inflicting the first home defeat of the season on today's visitors Barrow Border Raiders (36-10). In form Keighley Cougars overcame Oldham at Boundary Park in an absolute thriller and by a score which did not do justice to the tightness of the game throughout (24-14).

Meanwhile Workington Town, unpredictable as ever, did the top of the table challengers a favour by overturning Doncaster Dragons 23-18.

Elsewhere Swinton won at York (30-14) and Rochdale accounted for Hunslet at Spotland (24-16).

Last weekend brought two major upsets and they featured today's opponents. Barrow went down 24-22 in a second successive home defeat to Workington Town. Paul Cook's five goals and two drop goals were decisive for the visitors, but the Border Raiders had two 'tries' disallowed and had John Okul lose the ball with the line at his mercy in the last minute.

Meanwhile Oldham were again involved in a thriller at the Recreation Ground, but paid the price for too many unforced errors. Despite a

brave fightback recovering a 20-8 deficit proved too much for the Roughyeds who finally succumbed 26-18.

All the leading contenders won. Dewsbury beat fifth placed Featherstone 46-26 at Ram Stadium. New signing, Australian second-row Daniel Frame had a big game together with Damian Ball and Sean Richardson. Rovers' consolation was a hat-trick to second-row and captain Danny Evans.



Danny Evans

Keighley's twelfth successive victory equalled a club record which has stood since 1902-03. However, despite the 40-12 scoreline Batley put up a spirited performance and led 12-10 at half time. But in the second half, following Karl Harrison's words of wisdom, the Cougars were a different outfit and cruised to victory despite the sending off of Dean Hanger.

Leigh avenged an earlier defeat by Swinton with a 46-12 victory at Gigg Lane. Centre Paul Anderson was outstanding for the Centurions and his wing partner Paul Wingfield was again in the points with a try and nine goals.

Doncaster also avenged a defeat at Craven Park earlier in the season by overwhelming Hull K.R. 50-12. Full back Steve Booth scored a hat trick plus five goals for the Dragons. For the Robins the season is in danger of collapsing and a visit from Keighley today is hardly the fixture they could most desire.

Widnes complete the current top eight and kept pressure on the three above them - Hull K.R., Featherstone and Oldham - by beating Hunslet 34-10. A hat-trick by hooker Phil Cantillon demoralised the Hawks who have recently eased their financial crisis with the sale of back rowers Jamie Leighton, Jim Leatham to Hull K.R. and Jamie Thackray to Halifax Blue Sox. Despite this coach David Plange has vowed to stay and help develop the young talent emerging at South Leeds Stadium. What price rejection by Super League?

In the other games a Mick Martindale inspired Rochdale Hornets overran Lancashire Lynx without ever hitting the heights. However 50-8 was a good margin and represented Hornets third win on the trot. And Sheffield and York could not be split. 6-6 at half time, 12-12 at full time. Neither coach was particularly happy, but the League table suggests the result was probably to be expected.

Key games today see Dewsbury travel to Workington (Rams to win); Doncaster go to Featherstone (Home advantage to count; or are the Dragons too powerful for the young Rovers?); Keighley entertain Hull K.R. (Cougars to win); Widnes at Rochdale (anyone's guess); Whitehaven host Leigh (can the Centurions triumph where the Roughyeds failed?) and, of course, Oldham v Barrow. You know, it just gets better by the week.

In Town Today



.....BARROW B. R.

YOU HAVE to be good to win at Craven Park, which to date only Dewsbury Rams and last week Workington Town have managed. Oldham (1997) Ltd. have not yet managed it, although Mike Ford's men did come within three points when losing 19-16 on January 16th. Away from their fortress, however, Barrow are not quite so formidable with only a victory at Cumbrian neighbours Workington to shout about. Nevertheless with a top eight play off spot up for grabs the Border Raiders (I thought Braves was so much better a nickname) have everything to play for and Mike Ford for one will not be underestimating them, especially in view of the heavy programme his players have to endure this month.



Darren Holt

Star of the Barrow side is scrum-half DARREN HOLT, a prolific points scorer with 8 tries and 100 goals in 1999 who has attracted Super League attention. Came to Barrow via the merger with Carlisle. Voted best scrum-half in the NFP last season and Best Emerging Talent outside Super League.

Holt's regular stand-off partner is TANE MANIHERA, who also played at Carlisle but is, of course, a Kiwi from Christchurch. A talented ball-handler and link-man, Manihera has also played for Widnes. Likely to play for N.Z. Maoris at the World Cup.

Regular fullback is ROD MAYBON, at 30 a veteran of 150 first grade appearances for Souths, Parramatta, Adelaide and Canberra. Originally due to sign for London Broncos, but visa problems resulted in him coming to Craven Park instead.

In the three-quarters six players contest four places. GLEN HUTTON played with Walney before signing for Keighley. Returned to Barrow last year, scoring 10 tries in 14 outings. DARREN CARTER began at Barrow Island, was a BARLA international and signed for Workington before returning to his roots. He holds a club record of 42 points in a match (including a record 17 goals) against Nottingham in 1994.

PHIL ATKINSON started with Widnes Academy but arrived at Craven park from local club Ulverston. 21 tries and 15 goals last season.

STEWART MAGORIAN joined Carlisle from Ayr RUFC. His 1999 season was curtailed by a knee injury. Now back to his best. JAMIE SMITH has played for Workington and Hull F.C. A real flyer, he was delighted to sign for his home town club. JOHN OKUL toured with Papua New Guinea in 1995 and has played with Hull K.R. and Doncaster before pitching up at Barrow.

Up front Barrow boast a big pack of forwards, none bigger than second-row and occasional prop STUART RHODES. Barrovian RHODES came home on the merger with Carlisle and is a player who has given Oldham plenty of problems in the past as has his partner GEOFF LUXON an ex-London Bronco, whose irrepressible, non stop style endears him to the home fans.

At prop DAMIEN WHITTER treks up from Warrington three times a week to train and play, a mark of his dedication; and on the blind side Penrith based, ex-Carlisle Academy lad STEVE JACKSON is now starting to make a big impression.

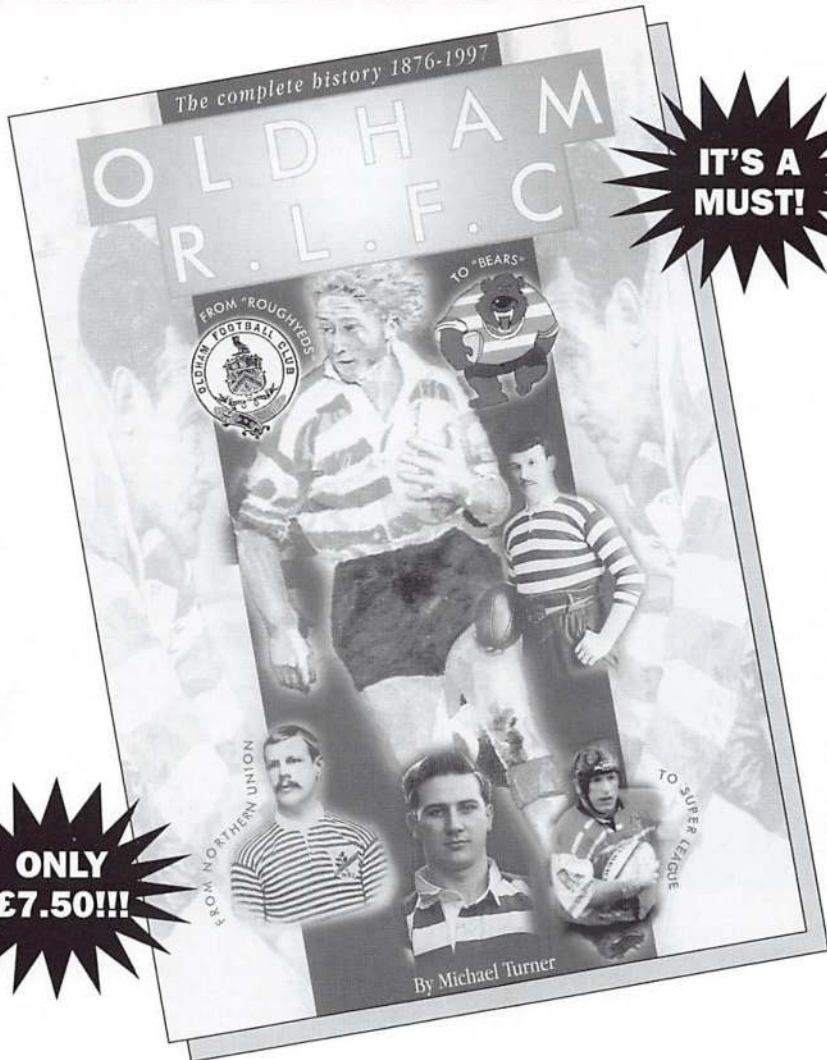
Loose forward GARY CHARLTON has seen service at Carlisle and Whitehaven, but decided to join his father, Coach PAUL CHARLTON, at Craven Park for 2000. A no-nonsense player, young Charlton is a formidable competitor, as was his father, who as a Salford and Great Britain full-back, was one of the finest footballers of his day.

Other players who could appear today include MIKE WHITEHEAD, brought into the game at Walney but with four years experience at Wigan. A big, quick second-row. Prop CHRIS WHITELEY is a prison officer and has appeared with Carlisle, Doncaster and London Broncos. Tough as teak. Hooker MIKE KAVANAGH is ex-Askam and Carlisle and is rivalled for the No. 9 shirt by former Gold Coast Chargers player DAVE CLARKE. Utility forward IAN RAWLINSON is a Barrow Island product making his way in the game; while new signing DAVE KING will be familiar to Oldhamers as a prop formerly with London Crusaders, Warrington and Huddersfield. He likes nothing better than to run wide at the centres.

Finally two young backs occasionally on the team sheet are JAMIE MARSHALL from Roose and centre CHRIS MASSEY from Barrow ARLFC.

Walkerbouts

With Brian Walker



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Walkerbouts continued on page 21

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Map showing the location of Harlequins British Cabaret Bar in Tenerife. The map includes labels for Parque Santiago III, Mediterranean Palace, Royal Garden, Compostela Beach, and Playa de las Americas. The bar is located near the Royal Garden and Compostela Beach.

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An interview by Dave Roberts with John Hough



A bad result against Whitehaven, John?

Basic errors let us down, we played with no confidence, it was us that beat ourselves. With all due respect Whitehaven are not a particularly good side. We gave them an unnecessary good start and had to play catch up football and although we finished strongly we had too much to do.

Can we still finish in the top 4?

Yes, it's not gone til it's gone. We will keep playing and try to win every game, the top four at the moment look strong but so are we and we have to keep thinking we can do it. Finishing 5, 6, 7 or 8 will be difficult but not impossible, so we will try to ensure that we finish in as a high a place as possible.

Today's game will be tough.

Barrow are a good side at home but their away form is not so good. So we have got to be ruthless and get into them and play some good rugby as we know we can. A danger man is scrum half Darren Holt who kicks for fun. We will not take them lightly because they have a lot to offer and we will give them respect.

How is Scruffy Jur?

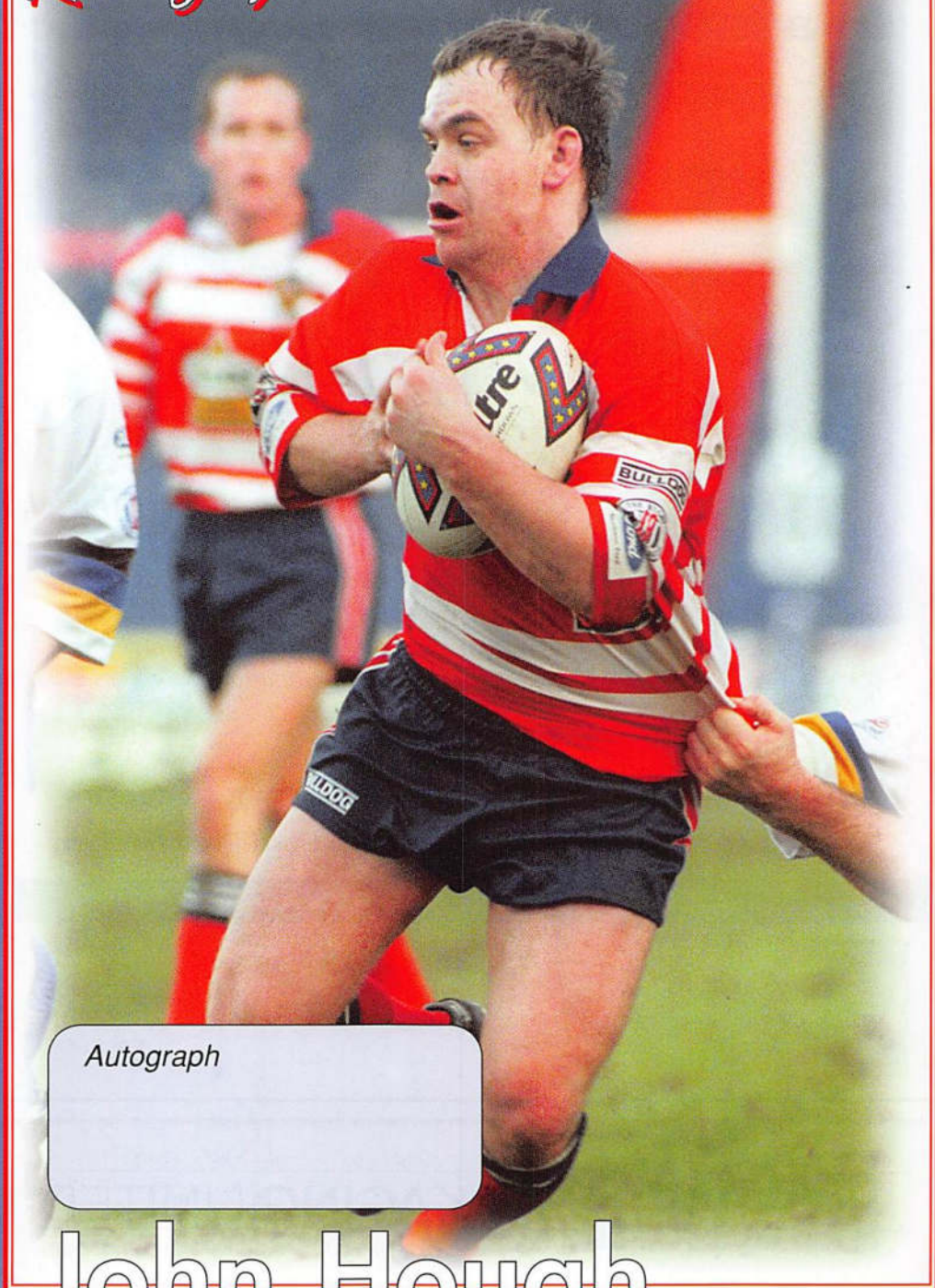
Joe is great he was three months old yesterday (Sat) we have been very lucky, so far we have had no sleepless nights, he is a really good baby.

Embarrass a team mate.

Easy! Warren Barrow was sat in the changing room at Whitehaven and asked when is Euro '96 starting?

DAVE ROBERTS

Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

John Hough

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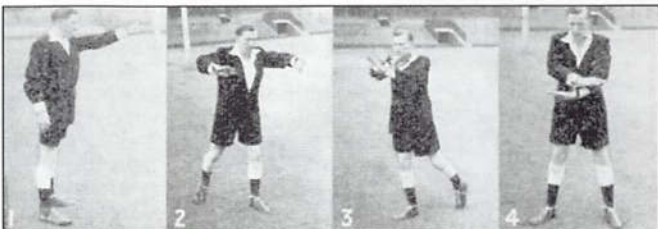
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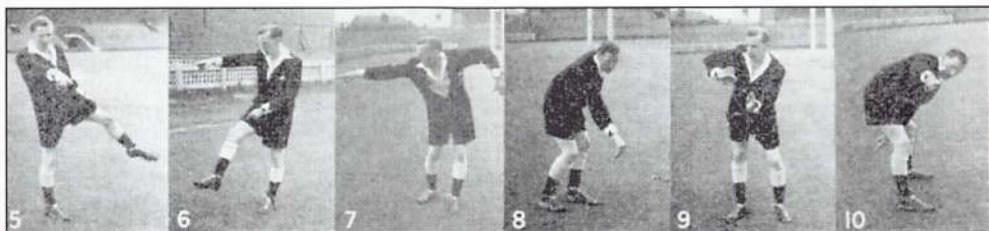
Iva Slateloose



Iva's Guide To Refereeing



- 1 It's that way to Red Hall.
- 2 Who closed the curtains?
- 3 No, don't give me that suitcase full of tenners.
- 4 Where's my fish and chips gone?



- 5 Tell that dog it's supposed to do it like this.
- 6 Those socks don't look half as good as my socks.
- 7 I knew I should have taken out the coat hanger before I put on this jacket.
- 8 If you Featherstone lads dig here you'll find the coal seam starts just below the surface.
- 9 Can we get that fat lady back on the terrace, please.
- 10 This truss is killing me.



- 11 Groundsman, this is how you kick start a mowing machine.
- 12 Who said my deodorant isn't any good?
- 13 Get those sheep back in the pen!
- 14 Look at that pile of droppings they've left behind.
- 15 Paul Daniels has nothing on me.
- 16 Oy! Bring back my dentures.

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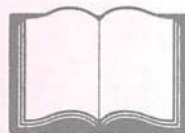
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Amateur Album

SHAW RHINOS



Keith Brennan

OUTSIDE the National Conference League, the most successful of our local clubs is Shaw Rhinos who have enjoyed an excellent season in Division Two of the North West Counties League, failing narrowly to gain promotion. The loss of Keith Brennan to the Roughyeds was a massive blow but the Rhinos could still find themselves playing in Division One next season because of expected league restructuring and the possible promotion of clubs to the Conference League.

The Shaw club was founded in 1978 when they played in the Pennine League. At that time home games were staged at High Crompton Park although their first match, against Wyke, was staged at Watersheddings, on the old training ground, because the park pitch was unavailable. That match was won 16-15 with winger David Hughes earning the distinction of scoring the Rhinos' opening points with the first of his two tries. Centre Alan Butterworth's conversion was Shaw's first ever goal and he added another later in the match as well as crossing for a try. Butterworth is still a keen supporter of the club, having a spell as President, and he also gives valuable support to the Roughyeds, sponsoring winger Warren Barrow. The other try scorer in Shaw's inaugural match was prop-forward Ken Lord, a real stalwart of the club. One dubious 'honour' which occurred in that opening match involved Bob Marsden who became the first player to be sent off, although, before his dismissal, Marsden had done enough to clinch the man-of-the-match award.

Shaw now play at George Street playing fields, Rushcroft and in 1990 switched to the North West Counties League. The Rhinos were Second Division Champions in their first season in the NWCL whilst in 1998-99 they lifted the Third Division title. There is little doubt that the Rhinos would have won many more honours but for the fact that several star players moved on to other local clubs before signing professional contracts. The list of players who fall into this category seems endless and includes Roughyeds director Sean Whitehead, who went to Saddleworth and then

signed for Swinton while Iestyn Harris is another. He joined Warrington after a handful of games for St. Annes.

Superstar Harris, now of course with Leeds, has returned to his roots and currently coaches the team alongside David Whitehead. The high profile given to the club by Harris will help the club to fulfil its ambitious plans of reaching the very top of amateur rugby league. 'At present our facilities would rule us out of Conference League Rugby', said secretary Ken Lord, 'But we are an ambitious club, no doubt about that, and who knows what we could achieve in the future.'

Of course those ambitions would never be achieved without the generous support of local businesses. Tara Leisure provide after match hospitality and have been tremendous supporters of the club, whilst stonemasons Pisani Marble have recently provided two full playing strips as well as sponsoring numerous matches. Full match sponsorship costs £150 but less expensive sponsorship is available for between £80 and £35. Anyone interested in sponsoring the club should contact Ken Lord on 01706 847320.

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	FATHERSTONE 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 CENTURIANS	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	
------	----------------	---	------	--

JULY

1st	TOP FIVE PLAY OFF			
22nd	GRAND FINAL PLAY OFF FINAL			

Walkerbouts-Stats

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP LEADING SCORERS

Tries	NFP	Cup
Craig Weston (Doncaster)	21	3
Jason Lee (Keighley)	15	4
Mark Sibson (Oldham)	14	4
Nathan Graham (Dewsbury)	15	1
Jamie Stokes (Featherstone)	14	
Carl Hall (Doncaster)	14	1
Phil Cantillon (Widnes)	14	4
Alan Cross (Leigh)	13	1
Martin Wood (Keighley)	13	2
Joey Hayes (Oldham)	13	1
Nathan Antonik (Keighley)	13	3
Mick Higham (Leigh)	13	3
Phil Coussons (Swinton)	13	3
John Hough (Oldham)	10	2
Anthony Gibbons (Oldham)	11	

Goals (inc. drop goals)

Jamie Rooney (Featherstone)	95	10
Martin Wood (Keighley)	93	11
Barry Eton (Dewsbury)	94	22
Darren Holt (Barrow)	78	8
Mark Hewitt (Barrow)	74	6
Paul Wingfield (Leigh)	80	11
Paul Cook (Workington)	75	3
Pat Rich (Oldham)	57	11
Ian Watson (Swinton)	56	7
Chris Ross (Hunslet)	49	
Danny Wood (Rochdale)	49	2

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP App & Scorers upto & Incl' 14th May

NAME	APPS	SUB	Total	n/p SUB	T	G	D	PTS
GIBBONS Anthony	22		22		11		1	45
HAYES Joey	22		22		14			56
HOUGH John	22		22		12			48
SIBSON Mark	22		22		18	13		98
CLEGG Jason	16	6	22					
GIBBONS David	21		21		7			28
CAMPBELL Mark	20	1	21		5			20
RICH Pat	20		20		7	68		164
CASEY Leo	16	2	18		1			4
HOLLAND Chris	4	13	17					
MANNION Kevin	12	3	15		2			8
PROCTOR Andy	11	4	15					
FORD Mike	12	2	14	1	3		1	13
BARROW Warren	11	1	12		6			24
McMENEMY Shayne	11	1	12		2	3	1	15
FARRELL Phil	9	1	10		3			12
GUEST Danny	1	9	10		2			8
SINFIELD Ian		10	10	1				
O'REILLY Tom	9		9		1			4
McNICHOLAS Joe	8	1	9					
RODEN Neil	7	2	9	1	2			8
ROGERS Wes	2	7	9		1			4
FERRIS Peter	5		5	2	1			4
BRENNAN Keith	1	4	5	1	1		1	5
DORAN Lee		5	5	1				
MOSELEY Tate	2	1	3		1			4
SHAW Graeme		2	2					
DODD Gavin	1	1	1	1				
FITZPATRICK Kevin	1	1	2					
NAYLOR Chris		1	1					

OLDHAM ACADEMY RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB FIXTURES 2000

MAY			P
6th	Hemel Hempstead	A 2.00	
21st	York	A 12.00	
29th	Leigh Centurions	A 1.00	

JUNE			
5th	DEWSBURY RAMS	H 8.00	
11th	Hull K.R.	A 1.00	
19th	DONCASTER	H 8.00	
25th	Lancashire Lynx	A 1.00	

JULY			
1st	GATESHEAD	H 2.30	
8th	Whitehaven Warriors	A 2.30	
24th	Featherstone Rovers	A 7.30	
26th	LANCASHIRE LYNX	H 7.30	
29th	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	H 2.30	

AUGUST			
5th	Cardiff Demons	A 2.30	
12th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H 2.30	

To be Arranged: Workington Town (Home)

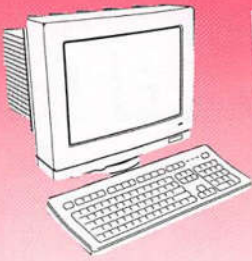
Whitehaven Warriors (Home)

Cardiff Demons (Home) Gateshead (Away)

ACADEMY FIRST DIVISION

(Provisional results to 15th May 2000)

	Games				Pts	
	P	W	D	L	For	Against
Hull Kingston Rovers	6	6	0	0	200	65
Leigh Centurions	5	4	0	1	191	60
Whitehaven Warriors	4	3	0	1	162	90
Workington Town	4	3	0	1	94	41
Dewsbury Rams	5	3	0	2	124	149
Featherstone Rovers	4	2	0	2	162	37
Doncaster Dragons	5	2	0	3	136	136
Gateshead Mets	5	2	0	3	72	113
Hunslet Hawks	2	0	0	2	17	113
Hemel Hempstead S'	1	0	0	1	4	56
Cardiff Demons	1	0	0	1	0	76
Lancashire Lynx	4	0	0	4	33	172
York	4	0	0	4	34	198
Oldham		0	0	0	0	0



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With Simon Winnard

RECENT changes in the local political climate have seen the Liberal Democrats come to power and the Sportspark 2000 plan seemingly die an almost immediate death. Whilst this was anticipated by many, it can only be viewed as an absolute disaster for the sporting public of Oldham.

Hiretarget, the new owners of Boundary Park, had a vested interest in the development but have safeguarded their £3 million investment by seeking planning permission for housing on the site should it not be used in the new Stadium plan. There is apparently a clause in the lease agreement to the two sporting clubs that guarantees the continual use of Boundary Park should a new Stadium not be built.

However, will Hiretarget be happy to simply sit on their considerable investment and, if so, for how long? This is of course the very same company that purchased Watersheddings with a guarantee that the Roughyeds would be built a new stadium. The 'Old Rugby Green' has since been developed for housing, presumably at a considerable profit to the property developer who has a 50% stake in Hiretarget, but alas we are no nearer a new home today than we were back in 1997.

New Council Leader, Mr Knowles, has publicly stated there will be no Sportspark 2000 on Clayton playing fields. Indeed he has already raised considerable doubt with respect to the funding for any new Stadium venture and strongly hinted that the venture may even be scrapped all together. So it appears that we are back to square one. Two other privately owned sites have been touted, however this will surely involve further expenditure and seems an unlikely option when the financing of existing plans has already been brought into serious question. Sadly, at best it appears that we are still three or four years away from any tangible development.

The likely solution, and the least politically damaging one, would of course be the

redevelopment of Boundary Park. Whilst this option will be popular amongst the Latics traditionalists I am not so sure how popular that decision would rest with Hiretarget or indeed both sporting clubs who have publicly stated the need for a new venue.

A totally new stadium with state of the art banqueting facilities, Restaurant, Hotel etc... would quite easily attract the corporate investment needed to make a success of the venture. However would that same investment be there if the redevelopment of Boundary Park is pursued?.....I seriously doubt it. It would appear that whilst brand new Stadia are erected all over the country bringing jobs, business and a mass of social benefits to places such as Wigan, Bolton and Huddersfield, once again Oldham's future generations will be expected to settle for second best as a result of political vote winning apathy.

Massive improvements on the field, combined with a progressive infrastructure focussed on development within the club, have seen us take huge strides forward this season. However, the club needs to lay down its roots again. We simply cannot afford the lack of stability that has plagued the club since the sale of Watersheddings and culminated in the Roughyeds exile from the town last season.

Often previous councils have been lambasted for keeping developments in the dark - an easy accusation for an opposition party to make of course. We can all talk a good game but now comes the real acid test for our newly elected council. A clear vision and positive commitment is now needed from the Liberal Democrats. Are our newly elected officials willing to take unpopular decisions or will they simply be brow beaten by minority pressure groups when the going gets tough? The early indications for the Oldham sporting public aren't good. However, it's now the perfect opportunity for the Liberal administration to place it's cards firmly and publicly on the table...let's see what you've got.



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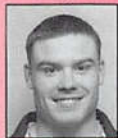
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Club Call

OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS SUMMER GOLF CLASSIC 2000

To be held at **OLDHAM GOLF CLUB** on **FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST 2000.**

This will be our second Golf Classic and those who went to the first one still talk about what a great day it was!!

The competition will be a 4 Ball Better Ball Stableford and a standard team entry costs only £220 (for 4 people) or £250 for Team Entry and hole sponsorship. Included in these packages are Lunch on arrival, lots of prizes! and a Four Course Evening Meal with Entertainment.

For further details contact Scott on 0161 628 3677 or Brian Walker on 01457 875 084.

ROUGHYEDS SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

Fancy a night away from the ladies and the chance to enjoy some top class entertainment? Then read on.

We are holding a Sportsman's Dinner on **Thursday 15th June 2000** at the **Avant Hotel, Oldham.**

Guest Speaker is Hull F.C.'s Australian Coach Shaun McRae. He inspired Hull to knock the mighty Wigan out of this seasons Challenge Cup and will lead Scotland into the World Cup this Autumn. So he will certainly have plenty to say!

Comedian will be the highly rated Albi Senior and the MC for the evening will be GMR Sports very own Jack Dearden. A superb 3 course meal will be served in the excellent function room at the Avant.

Tables for 10 people cost £225 (vat inclusive) or £25 per person. Please phone Scott on **0161 628 3677** to book your place. We expect demand to be high for what promises to be a great night out with the Roughyeds!

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

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

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT: 0161 628 3677

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

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Hi to all the Junior Roughyeds.

A warm Oldham welcome goes out to the Junior supporters, players and Directors of Barrow Border Raiders.

I am writing this article after the Keighley Cougars game. What a great game; well done to Mike Ford and all the players for a great performance.

The Mascot for today's match is

Samantha Shaw. Samantha goes to every home and away match with Oldham. Samantha is 11 years old and her favourite player is Joey Hayes. Enjoy your day Samantha.

Barrow's mascot today is 8 year old Joshua Llewellyn. Joshua attends Our Lady's Chetwynde and his favourite Raiders players are Darren Holt and Stewart Rhodes. He hopes to emulate these by playing for Barrow one day.



Samantha Shaw

Debra Rafferty

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W R I G L E Y
C L A Y D O N
S O L I C I T O R S *since 1795*

29/33 UNION STREET OLDHAM OL1 1HH

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TEL 0161 624 6811



ARE PLEASED TO BE PART OF THE TEAM



'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO MAY 21ST YESTERYEAR.

IN 1958 Great Britain sent what was arguably their best ever touring team to Australasia. They lost only two of their thirty matches and scored 1,196 points. However, on Wednesday 21st May 1958 they were well below their best when they visited Orange to take on Western Districts. The



Ken Jackson

absence of a regular goal kicker in the British line-up proved expensive for the Lions who could only manage a 24-24 draw despite scoring six tries to their opponents four. Scrum half Alex Murphy (2) and second-rower Brian McTigue landed goals whilst try scorers for the Lions that evening were Alex Murphy (2), Brian McTigue, winger Mick Sullivan and centres Eric Ashton and Jim Challinor. Challinor, of course, was later a successful player-coach with Barrow and coach here at Oldham. At prop for Great Britain that evening was former Waterhead and Oldham forward Ken Jackson.

Two years later, on Saturday 21st May 1960, a crowd of 83,190 were attracted to Odsal stadium for the Championship Final between Wigan and Wakefield Trinity. Three players who won Championship honours with Oldham, John Etty, Don Vines and Derek Turner were included in the Trinity team which was aiming to add the League title to the Yorkshire Championship and Rugby League Challenge Cup which Trinity had won earlier in the season. The match began well for Trinity who went in front after only two minutes with a try from winger Fred

Smith but thereafter if was all Wigan who went on to win 27-3.

Five years ago, on Sunday 21st May 1995, the last winter season (although don't bet on it) came to a close when Wigan met Leeds in the Premiership Final at Old Trafford. It turned out to be a slightly one sided affair with Wigan winning 69-12. They scored a dozen tries with hattricks from both centres, Kris Radlinski and Gary Connolly, and a try from Oldham born hooker Martin Hall.

It was a better day for Leeds twelve months ago, on Friday 21st May 1999. That evening the Rhinos defeated Halifax 70-22 in a Super League match at Headingley. Leading the way for Leeds was Oldham born Iestyn Harris who landed eleven goals as well as crossing for one of the twelve Leeds' tries.

It was on this day in 1955, Saturday 21st May, that Oldham met Halifax at Thrum Hall in a benefit match for scrum-half Stan Kieley whose 482 appearances are a club record for the Yorkshire outfit. The match, which ended in a 29-29 draw, boosted the benefit fund to the tune of £600.

On Sunday 21st May 1978 the BARLA open age squad completed their tour of Papua-New Guinea by taking on the Kumuls at Port Moresby. A crowd of over 14,000 saw Britain win 28-7 with winger Steve Critchenson (Ace, Hull) crossing for a hatrick of tries. At hooker for Britain in that test was Dave Robinson of Walney Central (Barrow). Six years ago, on Saturday 21st May 1994, St. Annes entertained Barrow Island in a National Conference League, Division Two match which the Saints had to win in order to lift the Second Division Championship. Barrow Island had nothing to play for but in true rugby league tradition they brought down a team which gave of their all and almost wrecked Saints' celebrations. As the match approached injury time, the visitors led 14-13 but then up popped prop-forward Mick Gill to crash over under the sticks and give the famous Green & Golds a memorable victory.

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	L14-24	2528
14	Whitehaven Warriors	L18-26	808
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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. . . OLDHAM V DONCASTER DRAGONS 29.5.00 . . .

We still have some places available in the Sponsors' Suite for this match.
Included in the Package is:

4 COURSE MEAL WITH WINE

COMPLIMENTARY BAR

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SEAT IN THE EXECUTIVE BOX

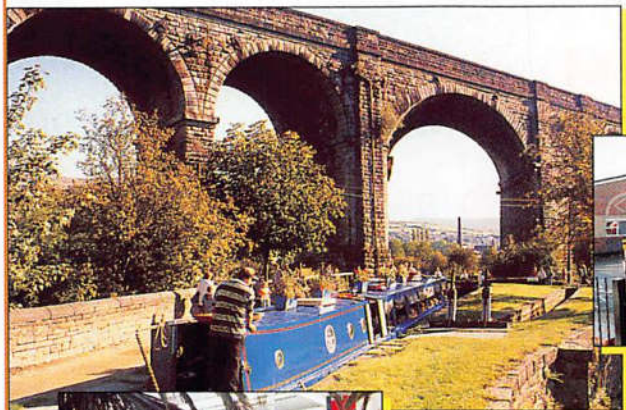
Places can be booked at £45 per head (Vat inclusive) on:

0161 628 3677

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

Joe McNICHOLAS

David GIBBONS

Neil RODEN

Andy PROCTOR

John HOUGH

Jason CLEGG

Phil FARRELL

Shayne McMENEMY

Kevin MANNION

Mark CAMPBELL

Leo CASEY

Ian SINFIELD

Chris HOLLAND

BARROW B.R.

Coach Paul CHARLTON

Rod MAYBON

Glen HUTTON

Phil ATKINSON

Darren WILSON

Stuart MAGORIAN

Tane MANIHERA

Darren HOLT

Damien WHITTER

Mike KAVANAGH

Steve JACKSON

Stuart RHODES

Geoff LUXON

Gary CHARLTON

Jamie SMITH

John OKUL

Chris MASSEY

Mike WHITEHEAD



REFEREE

JOHN CONNOLLY

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

JIM MOLYNEUX

S TORDOFF

4th D THOMPSON