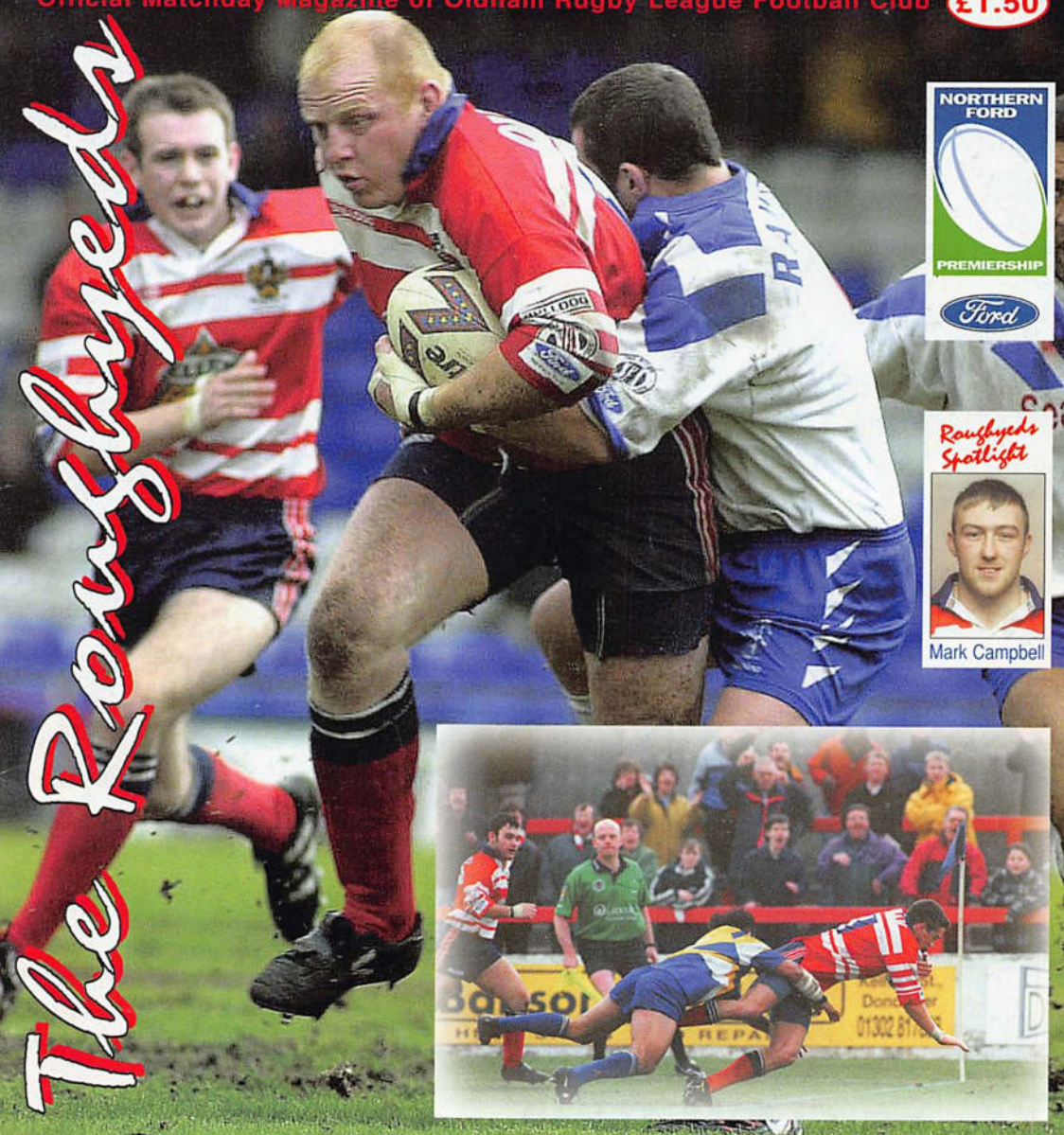


OLDHAM RLFC

Official Matchday Magazine of Oldham Rugby League Football Club £1.50

The Roughyeds



*Roughyeds
Spotlight*



Mark Campbell



Doncaster Dragons

at Boundary Park Mon 29th May 2000 Kick-off 3.00pm

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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



THIS afternoon promises to be another stern test of our capabilities as a top side in the Northern Ford Premiership. Doncaster, our guests this afternoon, have spent big to assemble a side that has performed well this season and we will have to be "tuned in" for 80 minutes to get the win we want.

It is ironic to see ourselves and Doncaster so near the top of the table after last season when we finished in the bottom two positions in the league. I have said, on many occasions, since we started the club that our position as a club would be strengthened considerably once the News Corporation distributions were evened up and the 2000 season has seen that happen.

The remaining games for the players this season include some real toughies but the beauty of the situation is, after today's visitors Doncaster, we still have to play Leigh, Widnes and Featherstone all at home, and Dewsbury away, out of the top eight and therefore we can control our own destiny.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the achievements of last weekend at the club when we fielded 3 teams at Academy, Alliance and first team level. The icing on the cake was the fact

that all 3 teams won, 2 away from home and particular mention should go to the Alliance and Academy teams who both won tough games against bigger and intimidating opponents. Congratulations must go to the players and staff of all three sides.

Finally it was interesting to see that certain clubs were complaining about the number of games in May. Why didn't they do this before the fixture format was voted in? (unanimously I think). The great game of Rugby League is a laughing stock at times, and outbursts like these only serve to highlight why. Time and energy would be better spent trying to come up with ways for clubs to survive when the Sky money runs out, instead of all the negative comments. Come to think of it I propose to suggest this at the APC meeting next Friday but then again responsible management and forward planning are not things that sit well in Rugby League Boardrooms are they? Oh well, it was a nice thought while it lasted.

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



AFTER the setbacks against Keighley and Whitehaven we were pleased to get back to winning ways against Barrow. I thought the players showed great character and commitment, although we were sometimes naive on the last tackle when we should have been applying more pressure.

Barrow's defeat means there is a bit of a gap opening up between the top 8 and those challenging in 9th and 10th positions and our attitude now is to look for a push into the top four rather than be looking over our shoulder at those below us.

These notes were written before Friday's game at Workington but we travelled to

Cumbria in a very positive frame of mind, the players having made a big commitment to training and playing in the last week to 10 days.

Today's game against Doncaster is a real 4 pointer and we will be trying to avenge our defeat earlier in the season at Belle Vue. My old Castleford team mate St. John Ellis has done a really good job in his first season as Coach and has produced a really competitive team. I also played with Craig Weston at South Queensland and know what a talented footballer the Dragons' leading scorer is. The club's management are desperate for success this year and their recent signings of Neil Alexander from Lancashire Lynx and Jamie Leighton from Hunslet testify to their ambition. So, it's another tough game in prospect, but our destiny is in our own hands and, with your support, we can pull it off.

Enjoy the game.

Mike



TRIPS to Cumbria are never easy and although our opponents last week, Barrow, were bottom of the league we realised it was going to need a top performance to get the two points.

Injuries to the first team meant our pack was somewhat lightweight, with young Warren Druggitt filling in in the second row and sixteen year old Anthony Whitehead on the bench. We achieved a great win 23-18, and although that may look close we did always have control to the game.

Wes Rogers, Alex Peet and Welshman Jonno Jones all had big games in the pack, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Adie Meade and Dave Harris in the backs standing out. Best on the day however was Joe McNicholas who time after time went looking for work bringing the ball out of our twenty metre zone.

The top five is still tight but we now have games at home to Workington, Whitehaven, Batley and Widnes; with just one away trip to Leigh.

ALLIANCE SCOREBOARD

TOP TRIES

14 Chris Spurr (Featherstone); 13 Shane Irabor (Barrow) & Simon Lewis (Wigan); 11 Mike Briggs (Widnes); 10 Shelton Davis (Hunslet), Stuart Dickinson (Leigh), **Gavin Dodd (Oldham)**, Phil Jones (Wigan), Matt Turner (Featherstone) & Alex Wilkinson (Bradford); 9 Jim Forshaw (Salford), Chris Chapman & Paul Sterling (Leeds)

TOP GOALS

46 Kevin Fitzpatrick (Oldham) & Steve Stoddart (Whitehaven); 42 P. Jones; 40 Liam Jones (Widnes); 32 Craig Wingfield (Leigh); 31 Paul Sykes (Bradford); 30 Craig Fisher (Workington)

Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Widnes Vikings	15	10	0	5	508	246	262	20
Hunslet Hawks	14	10	0	4	319	306	13	20
Featherstone Rovers	14	9	0	5	389	314	75	18
Oldham	15	9	0	6	320	279	41	18
Leigh Centurions	16	8	1	7	397	375	22	17
Whitehaven Warriors	12	8	0	4	327	261	66	16
Batley Bulldogs	16	7	1	8	279	319	-40	15
Rochdale Hornets	13	6	0	7	258	337	-79	12
Workington Town	14	4	0	10	1315	331	-16	8
Keighley Cougars	14	4	0	10	298	383	-85	8
Barrow B Raiders	15	3	0	12	271	530	-259	6

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Wish the Roughyeds well for 2000

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In Yer Face



RUGBY has always had one big problem which soccer does not have: what happens when the progress of a man in possession is stopped? In soccer the opposing team gains possession. But in rugby one code opted for a player releasing the ball, and the other code opted for the tackled player retaining possession (albeit now for only a limited number of tackles). And neither solution has ever been entirely satisfactory. In Rugby Union the loose-scrum, ruck or maul - call it what you will - is an untidy shambles all too often leading to offences, some of which the spectators neither see nor understand. And, worse still, those penalties are badly overvalued at three points and are regularly the determining factors in a game's outcome. It is precisely this which leads the average Rugby League fan to shake his head in amazement at games which finish 27-18 with not a try scored.

But, is the Rugby League 'solution' any better? I know that R.U. fans who find R.L. boring (yes they do, believe it or not) always cite the play-the-ball as the aspect of the game which spoils the fluidity of the play. Now you and I may not agree with this view, but I am increasingly frustrated, especially with Super League, by the constant interference at play-the-ball (I hate the term ruck) by the defending side. Under the ten metre rule players will do anything, and in this they are actively encouraged by their coaches, to delay the play-the-ball in order to get their defensive line set. So turning a man on his back gains vital fractions of a second. Getting two, three or four men tangled up achieves the same object. So too lying on or holding down. And, worst of all, a sly hand on the ball causing a tackled player to lose possession in his efforts to execute a quick play-the-ball is a spoiling tactic now getting out of hand (no pun intended).

Of course we do not want referees awarding a stream of penalties thereby ruining the continuity of the game, but some stamping of authority on this area of the game is definitely needed. When you and I, from the stands and terraces, can see what is going on

we expect some action, because to abandon the play-the-ball to mayhem is to undermine the spectacle we have paid to see. And to apply the rules of the game intermittently or whimsically is the worst case scenario because nothing frustrates spectators and players more than not knowing when a referee will take action and when he won't. I know the problem is as old as the game itself, but when



James Lowes

I watch Bradford Bulls pull every trick in the book and James Lowes, in particular exploit every weakness or indecision of the referee I get really wound up. And what is worse I know full well that Bradford Bulls are

currently the best team in Super League by a mile and are going to win without the need to resort to such tactics anyway. So, Mr McCullum, how about a clean-up? And this time let's mean it and keep it going all the time, in every game.



Greg McCullum

In the N.F.P., it has to be said, virtually every team that has come to Boundary Park has tried to play football, and most have used the width of the pitch to great advantage. Dewsbury and Keighley did so with outstanding success. But even York and Barrow in defeat gave it their best shot. I thought it was heartwarming the way the fans in the Main Stand applauded the Barrow players from the field after their effort to pull back the deficit. And what cracking displays from stand off TANE MANIHERA and second-row GEOFF LUXON - you know, the one that cracked Ian Sinfield.

ROGER ROGER

AS a Rochdalian who has spent nearly 40 years working for the Oldham Chronicle – 37 of them on the Sports Desk and 36 of them covering rugby league in the town – I never thought I would see the day when, in a sporting sense, Rochdale would leave Oldham behind.

Is it happening? You bet it is. What else can you think when you look at what Rochdale has done, and is still doing, to redevelop Spotland and compare that with what hasn't been done in Oldham to give the town a half-decent stadium by modern standards.

We now hear that, as a result of the changes on the local political scene, there will never be a new stadium on Clayton Playing Fields and there won't be one anywhere else either, unless somebody comes up with the money.

I was brought up to believe passionately in that old saying: where there's a will, there's a way. Towns all over the country have had that will and have got new or redeveloped stadia to prove that they also found a way.

And what of Oldham? If this town had the will, I'm not so sure it has it now, so while Oldham talks . . . and talks . . . and talks . . . about a new stadium, or even the demolition and rebuilding of Boundary Park, the rest of the country builds . . . and builds . . . and builds . . . and builds.

As a simple geographical exercise let's for a moment or two go on a tour of the North-West and look at what other towns are doing, or have done, to improve and modernise their sporting facilities.

Deepdale, at Preston, and Turf Moor, at Burnley, have been redeveloped and modernised, so has Ewood Park at Blackburn.

We have the new Reebok Stadium near Bolton and the JJB Stadium in Wigan.

Widnes can boast the Autodev Stadium – a revamped version of the old Naughton Park with three super new stands and a fourth to follow – and St Helens are moving out of Knowsley Road to go into a new stadium on the south side of the town close to the M62.

Over the Pennines in West Yorkshire, we have the McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield and major development work taking place at The New Shay in Halifax.

Even in Rochdale, the town to which I pay council tax, we have a Spotland stadium which boasts two new stands, while work will start soon on the major development of the popular side.

Rugby League is crying out for a modern stadium in this locality, due to the close proximity of the M62 and it's half-way house situation between Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Spotland housed the Student international match last season between Great Britain and Australia and the forthcoming final of the Emerging Nations Championship, to be run alongside the Lincoln Financial Group World Cup in the autumn, will also take place on the same ground.



Boundary Park has been mentioned in despatches as a possibility for staging a Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final or even a Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final. Gigg Lane at Bury falls into a similar category.

Quite clearly, the RFL views the Oldham – Rochdale – Bury area as a strategic one in terms of catering for fans coming from opposite directions to a central venue.

What would the demand be, therefore, if Oldham could offer a similar, if perhaps somewhat smaller, version of the JJB or the McAlpine?

The opportunities are endless. But what if the town continues to pay lip service only to the dream of a new home for the Roughyeds and for Oldham Athletic? What will happen then?

Leading Oldham Athletic people have already stated publicly that a new stadium is essential to future plans. The same can be said of the Roughyeds.

The worrying part of all this is that not enough people in high places in this town seem to appreciate the value to the town's future status of the continued existence of Oldham Rugby and Oldham Athletic.

More and more Oldhamers are heading in ever-increasing numbers to big-city Manchester for their sporting and other leisure pursuits.

Old Trafford is arguably the best stadium in the country. City will soon be moving to a brand-new home not a million miles from here – can Maine Road be all that bad? – and Manchester Storm and Manchester Giants can attract fans to the well-equipped MEN Arena.

Poor old Oldham. It was once so proud of its past and its present, of its heritage, of its sporting prowess, of its sons and daughters who made an impact on the national and international scenes, of its Oldham Athletic and its Oldham RL Club,

Are we to sit idly by and do nothing as Manchester swallows us up because it can't get a foothold in Bolton, Rochdale or Wigan?

This town is fast losing its identity. Oldhamers beware!

Roger Halstead

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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1960 - 1965

THE 1960 Championship Final was won by Wigan who defeated Wakefield at Odsal. The crowd of over 83,000 reversed the current trend, as by this time Rugby League attendances were in rapid decline. For Trinity there was the consolation of winning the Challenge Cup, before Her Majesty the Queen, when an injury ravaged Hull side were hammered by a then record score of 38-5. Under the dynamic leadership of skipper Derek Turner, Trinity would also take the trophy in 1962 and 1963.

The RL authorities experimented with a two division system in 1962-3 and 1963-4. On both occasions Swinton, who could boast star players of the calibre of Blan, Buckley, Gowers, Stopford etc, were crowned champions finishing well clear of the rest in the first division. As a result the Lions enjoyed their best post war spell, although in the Lancashire Cup they finished runners up four times in five years, each time to St. Helens. The two division system was supplemented by a divisional competition which in effect amounted to an extra Lancashire and Yorkshire championship.

The 1962 Great Britain tourists beat the Aussies two tests to one but lost both matches against the Kiwis. However, there would be ample revenge for the Kangaroos who blitzed the Brits in the first two tests of the 1963 series, inflicting a record defeat of 50 points to 12 in the second test

at Station Road.

The 1963-64 season will long be remembered for the extraordinary amount of draws in the Challenge Cup competition. Widnes, the eventual winners drew twice with Leigh in the first round, twice with Swinton in the third round and once with Castleford in the semi final. However, local supporters are more than likely to recall the epic battle between Oldham and Hull K.R. in the other semi final which also went to two replays before the "Robins" progressed to the twin towers.

1964-65 saw the two division system scrapped and the introduction, for the first time, of substitutes, although the original rules meant that replacements could only be sent on for injured players and only up to half time. The end of season play off was extended to the top 16 with the result that Halifax, who finished in seventh position in the league table, were unlikely champions after defeating table toppers St. Helens in the final. The Challenge Cup final of the same year was a classic. Wigan beat Hunslet 20-16 at Wembley in what many people regard as the best Rugby League match ever to grace the national stadium. A peculiarity of the occasion was the sharing of the Lance Todd Trophy with Ray Ashby of Wigan and Hunslet's Brian Gabbitt as the co-winners.



Ex Roughyeds favourite, Derek Turner receives the Challenge Cup from Her Majesty the Queen after Wakefield's victory over Hull in 1960.

PROBING THE NFP

THESE programme notes were written before last Friday evening's full list of fixtures, several of which had a crucial bearing on the scramble for top eight placings. Doncaster Dragons come to us today, for example, on the back of a visit from Dewsbury Rams, a match I would forecast as a hairsbreadth Dewsbury win. If I am right and Oldham managed a win at Workington - always a tall order - today's match would give the Roughyeds the chance to overtake the Dragons in the league table. Similarly, if Featherstone failed at Whitehaven and Oldham beat both Workington and Doncaster the Roughyeds could break into the top four irrespective of Featherstone's game today against Sheffield.

Other top games on Friday involved Leigh at Barrow, which I would expect the Centurions to have won if only because of Barrow's injury list. Keighley will have slaughtered Lancashire Lynx to maintain their challenge, but will Widnes have managed a win at Gigg Lane? Somehow I doubt it as the Lions mount a serious top 8 bid.

Of today's games Oldham v Doncaster is undoubtedly a gem, but Hull K.R. may return to winning ways at home to Workington, Widnes should account for Whitehaven at the Autoquest, and Rochdale could pull off a derby victory at home to Swinton. However pick of the day, assuming Dewsbury dispose of Hunslet, is the clash at Hilton Park of Leigh and Keighley, third and second in the league respectively. And my money goes on the Cougars who I think are a better disciplined and more organised side.

Meanwhile back on Sunday May 21st the big result was Featherstone's defeat of Doncaster, which I not so much tipped as hinted at. Last gasp it may have been with a Matt Bramald 75th minute try, but Jamie Rooney again dominated for Rovers and scored 12 of the 16 points.

Widnes defeated a badly disciplined Rochdale side 38-10. Hooker Phil Cantillon equalled a club record five tries in a match for the second time. But Hornets were their own worst enemies with Darren Robinson and Lee Maher dismissed and Dane Dorahy and Martin Bunce sin-binned. A 15-5 penalty count against the Hornets tells its own story.

Leigh Centurions had a comfortable outing against Whitehaven Warriors, 34-8. Centre Paul Anderson scored a try for the seventh consecutive match, while Paul Wingfield landed 7 goals. Penalty count here 18-6 to Centurions.

Oldham consolidated their position with a 30-16 defeat of Barrow, Kevin Mannion and Anthony Gibbons were on top form for the Roughyeds as was the irrepressible John Hough who scored a trademark solo try from 20 yards. For Barrow Glen Hutton scored a spectacular 67th minute try.



Adrian Flynn

Dewsbury stayed top of the league by winning at Derwent Park 58-6. Shayne Williams and Sean Richardson did the spadework for Barry Eaton and Daniel Frame to inflict the damage. Wingman Adrian

Flynn finished with four tries and Eaton with 9 goals.

Keighley retained second place with an expected win against Hull K.R. (30-8) and set a new record of consecutive wins which had stood for 97 years.

And finally 15th placed Sheffield Eagles overcame 16th placed Batley 21-14 at Mount Pleasant, Gavin Brown grabbing two tries and two goals, while 14th placed Hunslet Hawks defeated 17th placed York Wasps 22-18 at Huntington Stadium, with Chris Ross scoring a try and five goals for the Hawks.

In Town Today

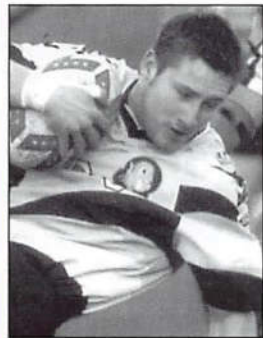


...DONCASTER DRAGONS

FOLLOWING Doncaster (Dragons or otherwise) is a bit like a ride on the Big One – all ups and downs (probably with more downs than ups). Currently the Dragons are very much in an up phase which gives all those of us with the interests of the wider Rugby League scene at heart a great deal of pleasure (except, of course, when they are Oldham's opponents).

Coached by St. John Ellis, an uncompromising three-quarter with Castleford and Great Britain, the Dragons reflect their Coach's go-forward style. Possessed of a non-nonsense pack of forwards who like to dominate their opponents and lay the platform for a prolific back division, the Dragons boast a mean defence and a free-scoring attack. Rest assured they will test the Roughheids to the limit today.

Full-back STEVE BOOTH is a pacy former Huddersfield Giants player currently on loan from Hunslet Hawks.



Lynton Stott

The three-quarters feature LYNTON STOTT, a free-scoring former Wakefield and Sheffield wingman; CARL HALL, in a second spell with Doncaster after considerable experience with Bradford Bulls and holder of a 'tries in a match' record, with five against Mysons in the Challenge Cup; JAMES BUNYAN, a

centre who started with Milford ARLFC, signed for Huddersfield in 1995, scored a try in the 1997 Premiership Final at Old Trafford, and joined the Dragons at the start of this season; FATA SINI, a 1995 World Cup representative with Western Samoa and an ex-Salford and York three-quarter who has given Oldham plenty of headaches in the last two seasons; and NEIL BENNETT a wingman signed from Castleford Lock Lane.

At stand-off Doncaster boast CRAIG WESTON, a prolific marksman and try-scorer. Weston played three seasons with Gold Coast Chargers, one with Sydney City Roosters and two with South Queensland Crushers before coming to England to sign for Huddersfield in 1997. His partner at scrum-half is the 1999 N.F.P. Grand Final man-of-the-match LATHAM TAWHAI who left Hunslet Hawks to join the Dragons for the

millennium season. Tawhai has also played for Keighley and represented New Zealand in the World Nines competition in 1996. Also in contention today at halfback is COLIN CARTER a Hull born and bred former BARLA international.



Asa Amone

A powerful front-row features ASA AMONE, a Tongan international at both League and Union. He played in the Union World Cup in 1987 and the League World Cup in 1995. Amone played for Mount Albert in N.Z., for Blaney in New South Wales and then for Halifax in Super League and Featherstone in the N.F.P. Together with BASIL RICHARDS and JOE BERRY, Amone gains the Dragons plenty of hard

yards. RICHARDS started with Queensbury in the Pennine League and then joined Warrington and Huddersfield before going to Belle Vue. BERRY, meanwhile, signed for Keighley, playing three seasons at Cougar Park before transferring to McAlpine Stadium where he featured in the Giants' Premiership Final team.

Hooker PETER EDWARDS is well-known to Oldham followers as a troublesome former York Wasp. A Kiwi tourist in 1993 who played with Auckland Warriors, Edwards arrived in England to play for Salford before signing for the Wasps and now the Dragons.

In the back-row is CARL GILLESPIE, a workaholic tackler formerly with Halifax Blue Sox who was on the fringes of GB selection in 1997. Partner ROB WILSON is another ex-Hunslet Grand Finalist who also has experience at Hull KR. And loose-forward TONY MILLER is Doncaster's longest serving player. Now also Assistant Coach, Miller appeared with the Dons in Super League and has now completed ten seasons since arriving from Featherstone.

Other players who might appear from the bench include MICK COULT, in a second spell with Doncaster after playing as a three-quarter with Rochdale and Hunslet; WAYNE PARKER the crafty play-making ex-Hull K.R. and Halifax scrum-half cum loose-forward; PAUL LISTER a product of Eastmoor ARLFC in Wakefield from where he first signed for Trinity; utility player JAMES WALKER; Academy product and ex-Toll Bar forward GAVIN MORGAN; ex-Huddersfield hooker GUY ADAMS; ex-York centre CRAIG MOORE; and finally ex-Wakefield hooker or half-back, the elusive BILLY CONWAY.

Walkerbouts

With Brian Walker

"WE PLAYED IN THE 50's WHEN THE GAME WAS POSITIVELY DANGEROUS BUT SEX WAS SAFE!"



SID LITTLE OBE has recently undergone heart surgery and is currently recovering at his West Midlands home. The ex RAF pilot (Sid was awarded his OBE for services to the Air Training Corp), Harlequins and Cumberland union star signed for Oldham in 1952 to form a tremendous

back row partnership with Welshman Charlie Winslade winning 10 Great Britain caps during his stay with the club.

We wish Sid all the best during his period of recuperation and I make no apology for repeating his article featured in 'The End of An Era' published to mark the closure of Watersheddings. This was, in my opinion, one of the best short reviews ever written for an Oldham rugby publication.

It was a surprise, albeit a pleasant one, to be asked to write a few notes on my memories of the period when I played for Oldham. Sadly many of the older players who could have written a better recollection have permanently transferred to another higher league. A few, of course may be playing in that hotter lower division but my first thought must be of them. They were all very good team mates. My time with Oldham was in the 50's when, as another old player said **"We played rugby Sid when the game was positively dangerous, but sex was safe!"** It is nearly 50 years ago but I well remember arriving in Oldham in February 1952. It must have been 10 below freezing that night and at Mumps' Bridge when I got off that No. 98 bus visibility was nil. I had never been to Oldham before and it looked as if I would not see much of it on this trip!

You will perhaps understand my relief when I eventually found the Red Lion. I had been a pilot in the RAF not a navigator. But I did speak the language and several helpful directions got me to my home for the next few days. The bar was heated my bedroom was

not, so I benefited from the loose interpretation of the licensing laws that applied in Oldham at that time.

The generous hospitality of the people of Oldham impressed me on that first night and during my 10 years living, working and playing in the town that generosity never changed. I made many good friends. My welcome from the Oldham Chron's correspondent was less generous, and simply pointed out to its readers that now Oldham FC has signed a Harlequin that would complete the circus! But as many will recall the team of the 50's was no circus, although the tricks, moves and dummy options devised, practiced and perfected contributed to the team's success. Everybody has their opinions as to what makes a good successful team that is entertaining to watch. My personal view is that it owed its success to only three factors, a fit squad with balanced complimentary talents, encouragement, and good coaching. We had a committee who gathered together such a group of talented players who blended and benefited from each other's skills.

Bryn Goldswain was a talented player and a very good captain. He was a teacher by profession and I suspect a very good one. His communication skills laid many of the

Continued on page 21



Sid Little

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An interview by Dave Roberts with Mark Campbell



It was nice to get back to winning ways against Barrow.

Yes, it was a good win and it was a big match for both teams. It was a welcome two points for us as Barrow are ninth in the Table and it gave us a bit of breathing space. We knew it was a game we should win as Barrow are poor away from home. On the whole we played better and had more belief in ourselves.

What remaining games are most important?

All of them. To be honest I don't look too far ahead and just take one game at a time, obviously some of the games we have left are four-pointers and will give us a chance to move up the table. Hopefully we will start a run again but as I say I only look at one game at a time.

We need to stop giving points away.

We need to stop doing it. It could come down to points difference in the table so we would not want to miss out in that way. We need to concentrate more.

How about today's game?

It would be nice to put one over on Doncaster after losing to them at Belle Vue earlier on this season. It is going to be a very tough game and the dangerman must be top try scorer Craig Weston, who must be watched.

Now its your turn to embarrass someone.

I was listening to Fordy who was commentating on the Radio on Cup Final day, and after a decision by the video ref, Mike said, "It's half one and six a dozen of the other."!

DAVE ROBERTS

Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

Mark Campbell

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CONTINUING THE EXPLANATION OF REFEREES SIGNALS.....



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TALK ABOUT EMBARRASS A TEAM MATE....

Charlie McAlister gives birth to a can of Boddingtons as Paul Round admires the newcomer's widget. Meanwhile John Cogger sizes up the lady photographer admiring his handful while Mike Ford wonders if he dare tell that joke about the husband who had lost interest in lovemaking....If you want to know the outcome buy the next copy of Roughyed Times!



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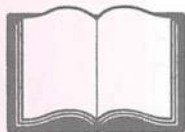
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Amateur Album

HIGGINSHAW EAGLES



THE STANDARD, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1936

Higginshaw Epic



Oldham v Higginshaw 1936

ARGUABLY the most successful amateur club in the history of the Oldham junior rugby league are Higginshaw and so it was most disappointing when the Club's open age team were unable to fulfil their fixtures earlier this year.

The Higginshaw Club has been in existence for over 100 years and enjoyed unparalleled success during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. During the 1930s Higginshaw reached the first round of the Challenge Cup on no fewer than four occasions. No doubt the Club enjoyed financial satisfaction from visits to Hull, Widnes and Swinton but the biggest day in the Club's history was probably their visit to Watersheddings in 1936 when they took on the Roughyeds. Season 1931-32 was a typical campaign during their domination of the local amateur game. That season Higginshaw won 14 and drew one of their 16 matches in their Oldham Amateur League campaign before going on to beat Heyside 13-2 in the semi-final of the Championship play-off and Roundthorn 16-0 in the final. The Standard Cup competition at that time was contested between the winners of two mini-leagues of five clubs. Higginshaw were undefeated in their division, winning seven and drawing one of their eight matches. They then beat Saddleworth Rangers 16-0 in the final. That match against Saddleworth was one of a competition record eight consecutive appearances in the Standard Cup Final between 1929 and 1936. Higginshaw have appeared in 24 Standard Cup Finals and have lifted the trophy thirteen times.

Their last appearance in the Standard Cup Final came as recently as 1998 when Higginshaw were playing in the Premier Division of the North West Counties League. Unfortunately, by the time St Annes beat them in that final, Higginshaw had already been relegated. Indeed their first league victory of that 1997/98 season was not achieved until February. Twelve months later Higginshaw were relegated for a

second consecutive season following a campaign in which they frequently had trouble actually putting a team onto the meadow. In May 1999 Higginshaw announced an amalgamation with Heyside Eagles playing under the new name Higginshaw Eagles. The 1999/2000 season opened optimistically when the Eagles reached the final of the Oldham League Championship only to lose to St. Annes despite full-back Michael Fogarty crossing for a hat-trick of tries. However, it proved another difficult season with player recruitment once again proving a major problem. In mid-January Higginshaw Eagles played their final match, a 42-0 away defeat against Albert Park. Within a month the Club had withdrawn from the North West Counties League.

Higginshaw hope to relaunch their open age team next season but are having difficulty recruiting a high profile coach able to draw fresh blood to the Club and lead them, hopefully, to its former glory.

The youth section, nevertheless, continues to thrive with five teams between Under-9s and Under-14s all enjoying successful campaigns. The Club has also maintained the tremendous support of its two main sponsors, Grimwood & Dix, Electrical Contractors of Wellington Road, Ashton and Derek Anthony Ltd, the Sheet Metal Fabricators of Derker Street, Oldham. With their support and encouragement, and the inspiration of the talented youth section, surely Higginshaw will soon be back as a major force in the local amateur rugby league scene.

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	P
20th	Barrow B. R.	A	W 23-18
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		

Walkerbout

Continued
from page 14

foundations on which the 50's team subsequently blossomed. Bryn Day an ex-paratrooper, played his rugby as he said he had fought the war. Bryn unquestionably believed in the practice of getting his retaliation in first. At his best his ball distribution was as outstanding as his left hook but he was a character and we had many arguments on what rugby was about. I did not win the argument but, while not accepting his pragmatic practices I liked the man, as did many others and he certainly played a role in the 50's team development.

Frank Daley was perhaps the most underrated player of my time and an example to prove that point was made when Wigan played the great Billy Boston at stand off opposite Frank in a Lancashire Cup Final at Swinton. All that needs saying is that Billy never played at stand off again. Frank was a key player and it is sad that he too died a short while ago.

Billy Mitchell, Johnny Noon and Denis Ayres were local lads and they too all played a part. Dick Cracknell's arrival acknowledged the importance of side step and pace in any team and Dick's skill was complimented by the strength and perfectly timed crash tackling of John Ettly. Alan Davies "a centre exceptional" had everything on and off the field. A charming vociferous character, everyone liked Alan, and his performance on the field was outstanding. Frank Stirrup was our "football brain" and had much influence in devising and refining set moves. Older supporters may remember the team's No 10 set piece which suited Terry O'Grady's style so well and its 10 dummies were effective in confusing the opposition!



Bryn Goldswain introduces fellow Welshmen Bryn Day and Les Anthony to the recently arrived Sid Little in February 1952. Left to right: Bryn Goldswain, Bryn Day, Les Anthony and Sid Little.

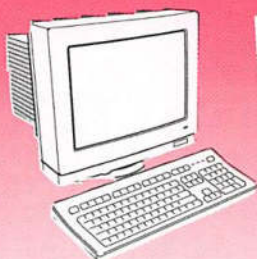
We had good coaching in depth and I will remember the on-going constructive part played by the Leigh mafia! And I should mention Alec Givvons who explained to me some of the game's harder but often clinically executed features considered particularly appropriate for Rugby Union players! Frank Pitchford another regular match winner was perhaps the outstanding scrum half in the League in the 50's. At his peak Frank's eye for an opening and his ability to go through it in the blink of an eye was devastating to the opposition, that is when we could keep up with him. Bernard Ganley whose goalkicking not only broke records possibly won us more matches than any other player while confirming week in and week out that the first man you pick for your rugby team is a man who never misses his goal kicks. (Current coaches take note!)

Derek Turner was surely one of the game's best loose forwards and it was a real pleasure for me to meet him again at a Lion's re-union at Headingley. In the 50's with Derek calling the shots we had a strong mobile pack including keep fit fanatic Don Vine a strong ball handling prop, and in Jack Keith our hooker, we had a remarkable player who could always win the ball that is if he decided to strike for it! For good measure Jack could and did score many tries. Charlie Winslade from Maesteg and Oldham's own Ken Jackson were Internationals and very good players. Indeed if Don, Jack, Ken and Charlie are all packing down in that team in heaven they have the basis for a very good pack. Derek and I miss playing but neither of us feels ready to complete the six just yet. I enjoyed playing at Watersheddings. I had great team mates. There was much humour, there was much success and some disappointment but that is how it should be although we did not think so at the time.

I enjoyed playing rugby league which is such a splendid game, I am pleased to have been associated with such a fine club, and with so many of its players and supporters. I am also delighted to have had this opportunity of thanking the club and its supporters for the kindness shown to me over the years.

We are now in a period of change, and it is a whole new ball game for others to write about. I wish the club growth and success in the future which surely can be and must be bright and successful.

Sid



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With Simon Winnard

AS WE fast approach the climax to what has been an excellent season in the Northern Ford Premiership, thoughts are already starting to turn to next season. Fordy will have the benefit of an unrushed pre-season build up with the majority of his squad already in place and, unlike the farcical events leading up to this season, the NFP can now also utilise this break to plan well ahead.

The instability of last year's closed season was farcical and quite frankly we simply cannot afford to repeat it. Having established a successful partial change of season to accommodate a little traditional Winter RL, it is interesting to consider which teams will be competing next season.

It gives me great satisfaction that Sheffield have survived the wielded axe of Super League and, despite a distinct lack of resources, have competed extremely well this season. Their win at Hilton Park will surely be regarded as one of the truly remarkable results of the year. I cannot praise highly enough the effort put in by everybody at Don Valley and wish them every continued success.

However, the nightmare at Chorley seems to go from bad to worse for Lancashire Lynx. Having conceded more than a thousand points already this season, serious questions have been raised as to whether they will be with us for much longer. Somewhat surprisingly, however, there are positive noises emanating from the ironically named Victory Park. Well let's look on the bright side, it couldn't get much worse. So, happily, it appears that we aren't about to lose any clubs from the bottom of the NFP ladder and, all being well, should actually add to our numbers next season.

This week has seen both Bramley and Gateshead visiting the Houses of Parliament following an invite from the All Parliamentary Group of RLMPs. Both clubs have been working extremely hard since their untimely exclusion from the professional ranks last term. Indeed, Gateshead have already submitted their application for entry to the Premiership and I understand that Bramley are

due to submit their bid in just two days time.

Both clubs have attempted to keep a high profile throughout this season and have received fantastic encouragement from true Rugby League folk everywhere. Indeed, I have been reliably informed that vocal support for Bramley was evident from both Featherstone and Dewsbury fans during their recent clash at the Ram Stadium. Many true RL fans have also bought shares in Bramley – real evidence that the RL community can look after its own when needs be. With business plans formulated, marketing strategies poised and major sponsors at the ready, let's hope that we are soon welcoming both of these clubs back into the family.

At the other end of the spectrum is the prospect of promotion to Super League (he said with tongue firmly in cheek). Keighley coach, Karl Harrison has recently stated that the Cougars would not apply for a Super League place should they eventually win the NFP Grand Final this year. He feels that the finances need to be sorted before the club can commit to what could prove to be a very costly venture. Its a refreshing change to hear a coach talk so realistically but raises the question of what Oldham would do in a similar situation. Its not unfeasible that, one on one in the play offs, we could go all the way this year and if that happens is it really in our interests at such an early stage in the clubs development to apply for Super League? Indeed, would Boundary Park or any of the top eight grounds now meet Super League's minimum ground criteria? Widnes of course, with the AutoQuest Stadium, are the exception but are by no means the strongest side in the NFP this year and in my opinion are unlikely to go all the way.

So the promotion verdict – the Anfield Giants to be sheltered behind the firmly closed trap door of Super League yet again and whilst the exclusive world of Super League seems to get more distant by the minute, the Northern

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ROUGHYEDS "TWICKERS" TRIP

We are organising a weekend trip to the opening game in the **2000 Lincoln Financial Group World Cup** between **England and Australia** at Twickenham on **Saturday 28th October 2000**.

We will be departing for London on the day of the game and arriving at the 4 star Sheraton Heathrow Hotel to check in and have a refreshment break. From here we will go into central London for sight seeing and shopping. The game kicks off at 6.30pm and the trip **includes your match ticket**.

Sunday will begin with breakfast and then into London again before returning to Oldham at 8.00pm (approx). The price of this superb trip is only **£70 for Elite members and £75 for non members!** We have already had a good response so for further details, or to book,

Please contact Paul 0161 628 3677.

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!

HEY DIGGLE DIGGLE!

Before the game, and during half time, we will be entertained by Diggle Brass Band. In March 2000 the band entered its first contest under National Contesting Council rules, at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. From an entry of twenty six bands they were successful in winning through to the National Finals to be held at the Royal Albert Hall in London in October. Obviously there will be a great deal of expense involved during the weekend. With this in mind there will be a bucket collection at today's game to help raise funds for the band. **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.**

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

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Hi to all you Junior Roughyeds.

We welcome to Boundary Park today the Juniors, Players and Directors of Doncaster Dragons.

The Mascot for today's match is Callum Casey. Callum is 10 years old and his favourite player is his dad Leo Casey. Callum plays rugby for St. Annes under 10s and below.

The Junior Roughyeds June Newsletter

will be arriving this week. Please

complete the Junior Roughyeds Player of the Season form and return it at the next meeting on the 16th June.

The next meeting will be at Castleton Gabriels Ground, Castleton, where we will be holding the mascot draws for the remaining games of the season.

Let's hope it's a nice evening as we will be having a B.B.Q. with the players after training.



Today's Mascot Callum Casey

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Approved by The Legal Aid Board

'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO MAY 29TH YESTERYEAR.

IT WAS on this day in 1965, Saturday 29th May, that the Roughyeds paid tribute to Vin Nestor, a talented inside back who made 232 appearances for Oldham between 1955 and 1965. His benefit match that day saw Oldham take on a team of former Oldham players with Oldham Present beating Oldham Past by 47 points to 32.

A player who had a much shorter spell at Oldham was back-row forward Doug Phillips who was signed from Swansea RUFC. He made just 18 appearances for the Roughyeds between February 1945 and December 1946.



Douglas Phillips

Despite his inexperience in the league code, Phillips toured Australasia with the British Lions in 1946 and during that tour, on Wednesday 29th May, he appeared at loose-forward in the Great Britain team which defeated the Canberra district team 45-12. Phillips, who later moved to Belle Vue Rangers and toured again in 1950, died earlier this month aged 80 years.

In 1985, Premiership winners St. Helens undertook a four match tour of New Zealand. On Wednesday 29th May 1985 they met Waikato at Huntly where Saints were beaten 34-24. The fifth minute dismissal of Roy Haggarty for a high tackle did not help Saints who included a young Paul Round in their line up. He scored one of the Saints tries. Round, of course, later played for both Oldham clubs. Also included in the St. Helens party for that tour was Gary Ainsworth, still playing and enjoying his rugby up at Saddleworth.

Saddleworth Rangers enjoyed a comfortable victory nine years ago, on

Wednesday 29th May 1991. That day they defeated Wigan St. Patricks 38-18 at Shaw Hall Bank Road. They scored seven tries through Tony Hurst (2), Gary Dobbs, John Fleming, Paul Garrett, Alan Dalton and Andy McKeown. Graham Schofield landed five goals.

Two years ago Rangers entered two teams in the Oldham Championships, their first team and their under 18s. It is an indication of the strength in depth at Saddleworth that both teams reached the final and on Friday 29th May 1998 Rangers first team won the trophy with a 36-8 victory over the under 18s.

The 1977 World Championship competition was staged in Australia and New Zealand with the opening match, on Sunday 29th May, involving those two nations who met in Auckland. Eventual Champions Australia won that opening fixture, beating New Zealand 27-12.

In late May 1949, a British Empire XIII travelled to France where they met the French national team and then a Pyrenees outfit on Sunday 29th May. The Empire team, full of Antipodean stars, lost to France but then proved too strong for the Pyrenees selection whom they beat 38-12. Australian centre Pat Devery (Huddersfield) crossed for a hattrick of tries in that match.

In 1965 Rochdale Hornets made a short tour of France, unfortunately losing all three matches. The tour opened in Carcassonne on Saturday 29th May when the home side defeated Hornets by 30 points to ten.

Finally it was on Friday 29th May 1998 that Bramley met York in a vital Second Division match at Headingley. Dave Gibbons was at stand off for Bramley that evening and also included in the Bramley line up were a couple of controversial loan signings from Leeds, winger Leroy Rivett and prop-forward Barrie McDermott. Both were try scorers in an entertaining game which Bramley won 36-14. Incidentally, the officials at that match were all from Oldham, referee Ian Smith and touch judges Paul Hewitt and Tony Martin.

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.	W30-16	1604
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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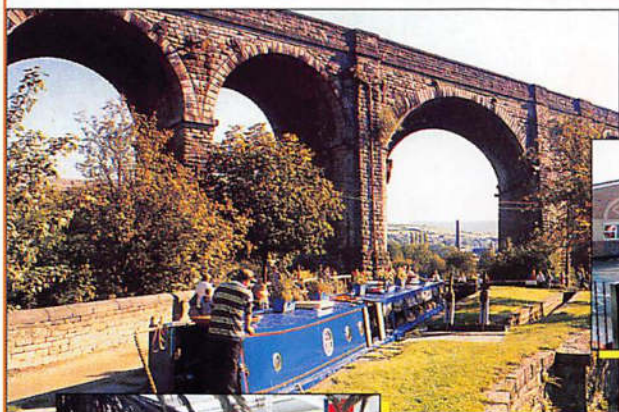
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

BOUNDARY PARK IS FITTED WITH AN EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (LOCAL HIGH PITCH, TWO TONE SIGNAL). IF YOU SHOULD HEAR THE SIGNAL PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN. A TEST OF THE ALERT SYSTEM WILL BE MADE PRIOR TO EACH GAME, TWENTY MINUTES PRIOR TO THE KICK-OFF TIME, FOLLOWED BY THE WORDS:
 "THIS IS A TEST OF THE BOUNDARY PARK ALERT SYSTEM"

Oldham – *Well placed for the challenges of the New Millennium*



Oldham Metropolitan Borough is ready to meet the many and varied challenges of 2000 and beyond.

The Council's forward thinking approach, commitment and activities have resulted in a massive regeneration and revitalisation programme of the Borough throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

This endeavour has led to an expanding, improving town centre which has benefited from £100 million investment, 20 new schools in as many years, a national award-winning multi million pound regeneration scheme, development of a new cultural quarter, a new business management school, a town centre based leisure scheme including multiplex cinema, Britain's newest Sixth Form College, a diversity of industry, the planned extension of the Metrolink tram system and much more.

All this, together with Oldham's reputation for innovation, hard work and friendliness means that the Borough finds itself well placed to meet the challenges of the New Millennium.

The Council is committed to continuing to serve the local community and in helping Oldham maintain its significant status in the North West Region.

OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

Enquiries about the Council's policies and activities, including its regeneration programmes and policies to the Chief Executive's Department, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UG.



TODAY'S TEAMS



OLDHAM

Coach Mike FORD

Mark SIBSON

Joey HAYES

Anthony GIBBONS

Pat RICH

Warren BARROW

David GIBBONS

Neil RODEN

Andy PROCTOR

John HOUGH

Jason CLEGG

Phil FARRELL

Mark CAMPBELL

Kevin MANNION

Danny GUEST

Leo CASEY

Ian SINFIELD

Shayne McMENEMY

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

DONCASTER DRAGONS

Coach St John ELLIS

Steve BOOTH

Lynton STOTT

Carl HALL

James BUNYAN

Fata SINI

Craig WESTON

Latham TAWHAI

Asa AMONE

Peter EDWARDS

Basil RICHARDS

Rob WILSON

James WALKER

Wayne PARKER

Neil ALEXANDER

Tony MILLER

Jamie LEIGHTON

Paul LISTER

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE

RICHARD SILVERWOOD

D. BLOOD

M. J. ASHCROFT

4th B. THALER