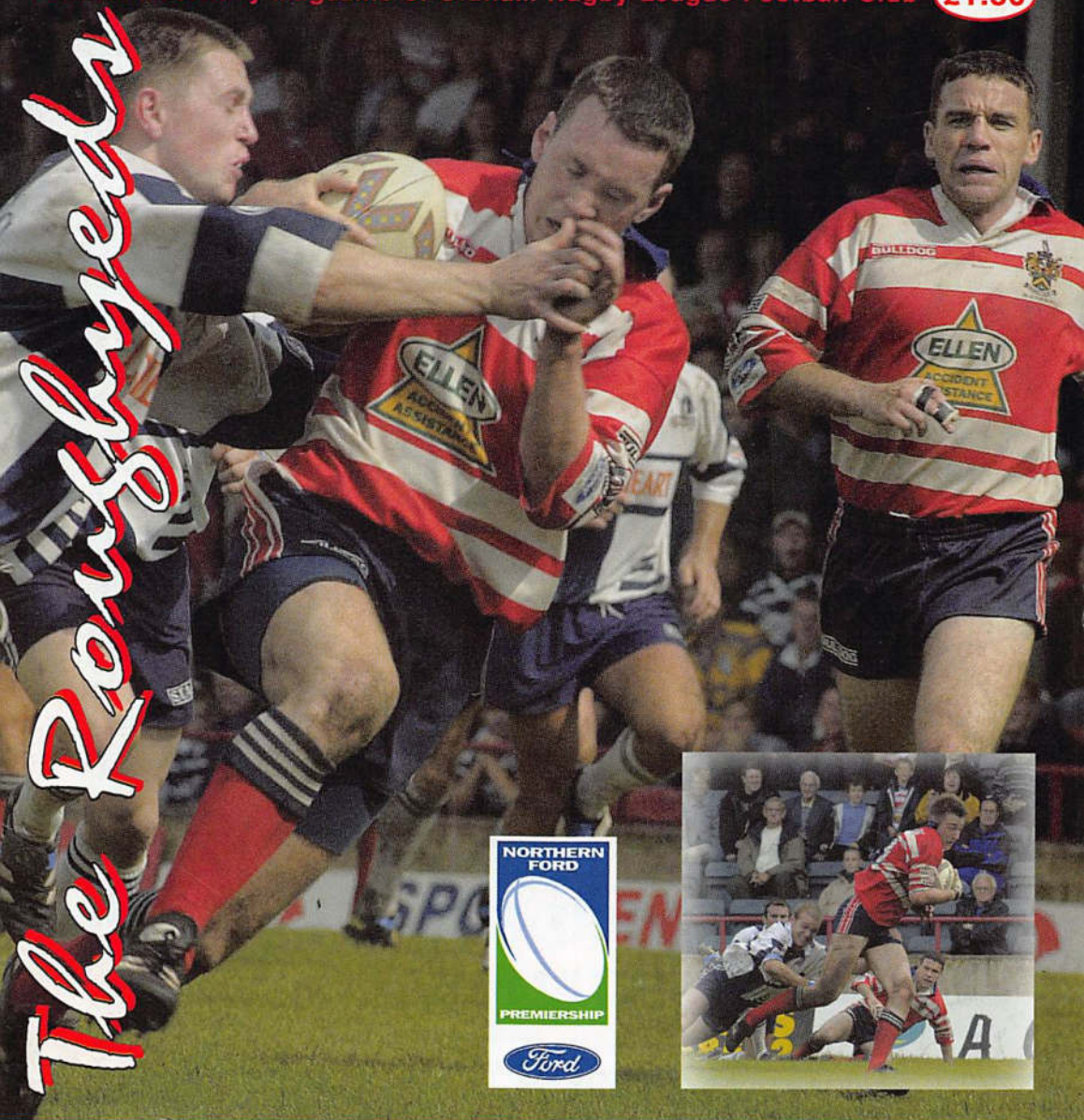


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The Roughyeds



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Up Front

.....With Christopher Hamilton



WELCOME back to Spotland for the last home game of what has been a tremendous season both for us and the Northern Ford Premiership competition. Last weeks performance and result against Featherstone were the perfect way to end the 'normal' League season and it was moving to hear the support of the crowd for the team at the end of the game. We all know that when the Oldham! Oldham! chant goes up and the main stand are singing it that the team has done well!

Our opponents today, Hull KR will be confident after finding their form again in their last two League games and they are sure to have a big away following.

As we enter 'knockout football' I have every confidence in Mike and the players to cope with the new mental questions that this latest scenario will pose. It has been there for all to see in the second part of the season how the character of the team has grown stronger and stronger which has been reflected in the performance on the field.

Apart from our own club interests in the final part of the season one of the most important aspects from my point of view is the television coverage with Granada and Yorkshire having cameras at every play off game and their extensive coverage of the two major semi finals and live coverage of the Grand Final. This is a progression from last year when they covered the Grand Final and I personally hope that it will be the pre-cursor to coverage for the competition on an even bigger scale next year. Terrestrial television exposure is the means that attracts sponsorship and revenue that could make the difference between survival and extinction for many premiership clubs and we must make the most of this opportunity.

I would also like to thank all the people who have worked for the club over the past season, either in a paid or voluntary position because we wouldn't have made the progress we have without you.

Thank you to each and every one for your magnificent support throughout the season - you are the envy of many clubs, and please back the team all the way to the Grand Final.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

The Roughyeds The Roughyeds

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

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



FORD FOCUS With Mike Ford

Haydn Walker's Round up



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS gave us a really hard match last week. They came to Spotland as the form team but our lads showed great character and were delighted to keep them pointless. Everyone played well and that was confirmed when I took

a look at the match stats.

Today we are pleased to welcome Hull Kingston Rovers in play-off football. We know they will give us a hard test. They have played some good football recently with an especially good win at Widnes which secured them seventh spot.

Regarding the season to date I would say that I gained experience at Bramley last year and got to know the players and teams competing in the NFP. I have been positive from day one and as the season has

progressed I think I have learned how to prepare my team better for each match as it has arisen. However, it is not about me: everything we have done has been a team effort. I cannot praise too highly the help of all my backroom staff; John Henderson who I rely on for my 1-2-1 management meetings; Haydn Walker who told me about Neil Roden and Phil Farrell; Chris Hamilton who always backs me; Debbie Clough our excellent physio; Mike Toothill our kitman; and Wayne our water carrier and rubdown man. I think you, the fans, have been brilliant all season and hope you will go on giving us your fantastic backing. The playing staff have been terrific, training five times a week. But most of all I thank my wife, Sally-Anne, who I don't see much of, but who is my inspiration.

Finally Dave Roberts has been trying to embarrass someone every week, so how about this? When the Fanzine Player of the year was announced he rang John Henderson to tell him he had won instead of John Hough.

Enjoy the game,

Mike



WHAT A difference two weeks can make in Rugby League. We sat second in the table with three games to go and ended up finishing seventh. To say the players are disappointed not to have made the play-offs would be the understatement of the season. One more win would have seen us finish probably third on points difference. Ultimately the home defeat to Batley cost us dearly and although we finished the season with a great backs to the wall performance against Widnes we ultimately did not achieve our goal of making the top five.

Overall, however, the season has seen a lot of plus points, the emergence of Gavin Dodd, Lee Doran, Alex Peet and Danny Guest being good examples. A much better work ethic and professionalism exists within the players compared to when I joined the club. Most importantly there is now a belief that goes right through the club from first team, alliance and academy that the club is on the verge of great things. I think that this feeling is now visible with the clubs supporters as well.

I would like to close by saying a big thank you to all the alliance players for their efforts this season. Mike Toothill who has been a superb kitman and runner, and most importantly the spectators who have encouraged the team home and away.

P.S. Let's see you all at the academy games over the summer.

Haydn Walker

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ROGER ROGER

COLIN Hutton will be consumed by nostalgia at Spotland today. Oldham v Hull KR in a sudden death knock-out....what memories that will stir for one of rugby league's most respected elder statesmen.

At the age of 74 Colin can truly say that, in terms of his chosen sport, he has seen and done it all.

Oddly enough, many of the key moments of his life and his rugby career have involved matches against Oldham.

Today's clash of the Roughyeds and the Red, Red Robins of East Hull in the elimination semi-finals of the Northern Ford Premiership top-eight play-off will be no exception.

But back to the start or, to be more precise, to 1957 and the Rugby League championship final at Odsal between Oldham and Hull.

A young Colin was then a loyalist of West Hull. He didn't sport red and white, but the black and white of the men from the Boulevard. he was the Hull FC full-back.

It was May 18, 1957 and Oldham won the championship for the first time since 1911.

The teams lined up like this: OLDHAM: Ganley; Cracknell, Davies, Ayres, Eddy; Daley, Pitchford; Jackson, Keith, Vines, Little, Winslade, Turner,

HULL: Hutton; Cowan, Dannatt, Turner, Watts; Moat, Finn; Scott, Harris, J. Drake, Sykes, W. Drake, Whiteley.

Oldham won 15-14 in front of a 62,217 crowd, but Colin missed a goal in the last few minutes otherwise the title would have gone to Humberside.



Len McIntyre

Some seven years later Colin was coach of the Hull KR side which met Oldham in one of the most controversial Challenge Cup semi-finals of all time.



Len McIntyre's late drop goal earned Oldham a replay after a 5-5 draw at Headingley. At Swinton on the following Wednesday night Oldham went in front in extra time from a Geoff Robinson try but referee Dennis Davies abandoned the tie for bad light.

Thus robbed, Oldham never recovered and lost 12-2 at Fartown in the second replay, much to the delight of a relieved Colin Hutton, who took his team to Wembley where they were beaten by Widnes.

To this day, Colin is convinced Oldham would have gone to Wembley but for the decision to call off the tie in the first replay.

"We had 'gone'" recalled Colin this week. "We became the only side ever to lose a semi-final and still go on to Wembley. There would have been no way back for us once Robinson scored in the corner.

OLDHAM: Dyson; Sims, Donovan, Smethurst, Simms; Nestor, Pycroft; Bott, McIntyre, Wilson, Robinson, Whitehead, Major.

HULL KR: Kellest Paul, Major, Elliott, Blackmore; Burwell, Bunting; Bath, Flanagan, Tyson, Palmer, Clark, Poole.

By the time 1990 came round Colin had left the dressing room behind, waved farewell to the coach's dug-out and was firmly established 'upstairs' as chairman of the Rovers club.

On May 13, 1990 Oldham beat the Robins 30-29 at Old Trafford in one of the most dramatic Second Division Premiership finals of all time.

OLDHAM: Platt; Irving, Hyde, Henderson, Lord; Clark, Ford; Casey, Ruane, Fieldhouse, Round, McAlister, Russell. Subs: Martyn, Newton.

Ford and Henderson, coach and assistant coach respectively of today's Oldham team, were among the try scorers in a brilliant match that had everything.

If today's game is half as good it will be a fitting tribute to everything Colin Hutton has done for rugby league in Hull spanning nearly half a century.

Roger Halstead

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LIVING HISTORY

From the Pen of Michael Turner

RUGBY LEAGUE MILESTONES - A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1990 - 2000

THE 1990s started where the '80s had left off in so much as Wigan swept all before them in their relentless quest for honours. In the entire history of Rugby League no one club has ever had such a stranglehold on the game's silverware and even in today's shrinking level of club compatibility, it seems unlikely such domination will ever be seen again.

In 1991-92 Division Two was contested by just eight clubs playing each other four times. The reasoning behind this system was sound enough with more intense games being played out by teams with comparable ability to prepare them for a higher level of competition, rather than the tight match one week - cricket score the next syndrome, which was a regular occurrence in the old second division. The drawback of course was the monotony of the fixture list, which led to the demise of the idea after two seasons.

Going into the last month of the 1994-95 season, the whole game of Rugby League and everyone associated with it, had been shell-shocked by the announcement that many clubs would have to merge before going on to compete in a Summer based, 'Super League' competition backed by the millions of media mogul Rupert Murdoch. Oldham & Salford / Castleford, Featherstone & Wakefield / Widnes & Warrington / Bradford & Halifax / Hull & Hull KR, all these and more, famous clubs would seemingly disappear almost overnight.

Whether the Rugby League administrators ever seriously thought that this steam-roller tactic would work, is open to question, but the response from the fans was swift and loud. NO MERGERS.

In order to bring about the transition to summer rugby, a shortened 1995-96 'Centenary Season' was organised, in which no clubs would be promoted or relegated. This left the Rugby League with something of a meaningless competition, just when a high profile celebration of 100 years of the 'greatest game' was what the supporters expected and deserved.

In 1996 Salford ended Wigan's Challenge Cup run. St Helens won the cup but there was some consolation for beaten finalists Bradford, now the 'Bulls', in so much as Robbie Paul became the first player to score a hat trick in the Wembley final. In 1997. The World Club Championship was introduced and not surprisingly the British clubs were well and truly hammered by the opposition from down under, especially eventual winners Brisbane Broncos.

It was at this time that the RL authorities completely lost their way and betrayed their heritage, with vast amounts of money being pumped into the Paris, London and Gateshead clubs, while the likes of Leigh, Widnes, Featherstone, Workington and Hunslet, to name but a few from the game's heartland, were left to struggle.



The World Club Championship: Oldham players; Matt Munro, Francis Maloney and John Clarke take the field before the match against Adelaide Rams on July 25th 1997 - was it really only three years ago?

PROBING THE NFP

THE UNDER ACHIEVERS BARROW BORDER RAIDERS

Given their fantastic home record, with only Dewsbury and Workington able to win at Craven Park, the Raiders should really have made the 8. Travelling proved a major problem with away points gathered only at Lancashire and Workington. **Top players:** DARREN HOLT AND GEOFF LUXON.

BATLEY BULLDOGS

A real no-no of a season for the Bulldogs whose form at Mount Pleasant was dismal. When I saw them I thought Batley would have done better to play some football instead of trying to rough up their opponents. **Top players:** RICHARD PRICE, ROGER SIMPSON.

HUNSLET HAWKS

The refusal of Super League to take the Hawks was the kiss of death. A mass exodus of players followed and results went into freefall. Financial peril looms and it really makes you wonder about R.L. priorities when you get stabbed in the back like this. But then we know all about that at Oldham! **Top players:** ALL LEFT

ROCHDALE HORNETS

I won't say they'll regret losing Steve Linnane at Spotland because in my view his team was terribly lacking in discipline and it cost them dear. At times they could mix it with the best, but their record shows only one big scalp, Featherstone at home. **Top players:** DANE DORAHY, DANNY SCULTHORPE.

SWINTON LIONS

Peter Young chastised me at the start of the year for forecasting an indifferent year for the Lions. But my 'inconsistent' tag was proved right. Like Hornets they could claim only one big victory, against Leigh away. **Top players:** IAN WATSON, IAN PICKAVANCE.

WIDNES VIKINGS

Although they finished in the 8 Widnes had high expectations of being at or near the top and have invested heavily to this end. They could not live up to their billing and were unable to topple any of their top rivals when it mattered, a 19-18 win over Doncaster excepted. **Top players:** PHIL CANTILLON, PAUL MANSSON.

THE ACHIEVERS

DONCASTER DRAGONS

A heavy investment in new players meant the Dragons were always likely to be serious contenders, but even quality players have to be coached and blended into a good team, something Ian St. John Ellis has managed to do. No club managed a victory in the Belle Vue 'House of Pain', but away from home only a 30-27 win at Keighley toppled a top side. **Top players:** CRAIG WESTON, PETER EDWARDS.

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

A lot of old hands were dispensed with and young players were given their head. And what a successful formula that was under the astute guidance of one of the best coaches around, Peter Roe. **Top players:** JAMIE ROONEY, DANNY EVANS

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

Like Peter Roe, Karl Harrison had a big rebuilding job on his hands but at least he started with a clutch of experienced, quality players from whom he has been able to extract the best. **Top players:** MARTIN WOOD, NATHAN ANTONIK.

OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

New coach, new team and a big overall improvement in League position. In my view Oldham therefore are THE team of the season. Except, of course, everyone's expectations have been raised to the point where play-off success in now going to determine the final verdict. **Top players:** SHAYNE McMENEMY, JOHN HOUGH.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

The Eagles started where Oldham started nearly three years ago and Mark Aston's achievement is much to be admired, especially without the financial resources enjoyed by the rest. Their result of the season was a 26-24 win at Leigh. **Top players:** GAVIN BROWN, JEFF WITTENBERG.

AS EXPECTED

DEWSBURY RAMS

It's a bit cheeky not to have the Rams in the Achievers category, but as a top side for four years and last season's beaten Grand Finalists they were expected to be the team to beat and so it proved. Only Leigh won at Ram Stadium with away defeats at Doncaster, Hull K.R., Keighley and Leigh and a draw at Swinton. **Top players:** BARRY EATON, SEAN RICHARDSON.

HULL K.R.

The Robins Board and supporters no doubt had high hopes of their season but away from Humberside a dispassionate view suggests that Rovers had too many problems to overcome to mount the kind of challenge they wanted. For the future a club no longer in administration and with an outstanding crop of young players coming through has much to hope for. **Top players:** MARK HEWITT, WHETU TAEWA

LANCASHIRE LYNX

I forecast Lynx to finish bottom and they did not disappoint. Quite frankly how they manage to survive is amazing, but enthusiastic Chairman Harry Morris says the club is not in debt and Preston North End will keep backing them as long as they break even. **Top players:** They all left!

LEIGH CENTURIONS

At the start of the season Leigh were my personal tip to finish top of the League, but then I hadn't reckoned on Ian Millward going to St. Helens. Despite the setback Leigh continued to play well and finished in the top 4. **Top players:** STUART DONLAN, DAVE WHITTLE.

WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS

Like Barrow the Warriors don't travel well and they even lost to all the top teams at home (Oldham excepted). I shudder to think how they'll go on without the experience of Kevin Tamati to guide them. **Top players:** AARON LESTER, DAVID FATIALOFA.

YORK WASPS

After a two season gamble for success the wheels finally came off the York bandwagon as I fully expected they would. The consequence was that Wasps were effectively bankrupt and had to shed players left right and centre. As with Lancashire Lynx.... **Top players:** All left.

In Town Today



...HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

ONE of the great names of Rugby League and a major force in the game in the '80s, Hull Kingston Rovers have recently travelled a very rocky road. Now located at a new stadium and out of administration Rovers can look forward to a better future. No doubt the Club would have wished to finish higher in the League than seventh, but all things considered they have enjoyed a decent season.

Coach of the Robins is the highly respected Dave Harrison and it is good to see a Board back their man despite the odd disappointment. A former Rugby Union player at Cowley G.S. and Waterloo and with representative honours for Lancashire and the North, Harrison turned to R.L. with St. Helens. After four years at Knowsley Road he transferred to Hull KR playing three seasons before starting coaching as assistant at Scarborough Pirates (remember them?). Returned to Rovers in 1997.

After Bob Everitt unfortunately broke his leg last week, today's fullback is likely to be MARK BLANCHARD who made a try-scoring debut against Oldham last year.

Wingman JON WRAY played RU for Morley and England Colts and Under 21's before taking the professional ticket with Castleford. Signed for the Robins from Wakefield in 1998. Always a potential try-scorer with plenty of pace.



Rob Nolan

At centre the regular selections are ROB NOLAN and WHETU TAEWA. Nolan is big and strong and spent 10 years over the river at Hull FC. Vastly experienced and dangerous. Taewa meanwhile has played for Auckland Warriors and North Queensland Cowboys and has represented his native New Zealand. Came to England to play for Sheffield Eagles, with

whom he won a Challenge Cup Winners Medal. A very accomplished and elusive player.

Left-wing GAVIN MALLOY is big and strong and is a product of the Robins' exceptionally strong Academy set-up.

Stand-off LEROY JOE is a New Zealand Maori international who played for Otahuhu and Counties Manukau before signing for North Queensland

Cowboys. Kevin Tamati signed him up for Whitehaven where he played a season at scrum-half before joining Rovers for 2000.

Scrum-half will be MARK HEWITT. Leading points scorer in Hull Sharks' 1997 promotion campaign, Hewitt subsequently went to Widnes Vikings for two seasons. The Vikings have proved singularly unable to replace him following his return to Humberside with the Robins this year. An outstanding goalkicker to whom it is wise not to provide too many chances.

Last week Rovers' longest serving player PAUL FLETCHER played at prop, though more normally associated with second-row. Enjoyed a testimonial last year and is one of the real stalwarts of the game. Bears the nickname 'Psycho'.

Hooker MIKE DIXON, a lively, eye-catching performer is another ex-Hull FC man. A former Gt Britain Under 21 international he takes a lot of policing around play-the-ball.

At 10 will be RICHARD WILSON (no, not that one!), a big, robust chap sure to be in the thick of the action.

With Andy Smith having suffered cartilage damage the likely second-row is JIM LEATHAM and DEAN ANDREWS. Leatham is a recent signing, having played in Hunslet's Grand Final winning side in 1999. However he is a native of Hull and started with Hull FC. Andrews is also a local lad, progressing through the ranks to claim a starting spot in the first team.



Chris Charles

Similarly, last man down CHRIS CHARLES, known as 'Cheeky' to his teammates, is a local Humbersider now hitting some of the best form of his career.

Off the bench we could see: CRAIG HARDY, a joiner nicknamed 'Hardhat' by his colleagues and a no-nonsense prop; SCOTT YEAMAN a

sub at hooker last week after appearing in the Academy side most of last year where he scored a lot of points; JAMIE BOVILL a tourist to Australia with the Gt Britain under 16s last year and of whom great things are expected; JON WILKINS a young second-rower; and possibly, injury allowing, the classy RICHARD SLATER a former Wakefield and Featherstone loose-forward who tackles ferociously and possesses great ball handling skill.

Walkerbouts

RUGBY LEAGUE

WORLD CUP 2000

With Brian Walker



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THE FIXTURE format for the fast approaching RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2000 was included in the Dewsbury v Oldham programme. Spurred on by Don Yates's riotous attempts to catch the three Russian World Cup preparation games held recently in France, and also in a bid to extend for as long as possible the excitement generated from within the NFL this season, I have decided to take in as many of the World Cup final qualifying matches as possible, in the hope that at least some of the games played by the 16 nations are half as competitive.

Windsor Park, Belfast on Saturday 28th October for the opening ceremony and Ireland v Samoa is out. The 3pm kick off and the unavailability of Concord doesn't allow enough time to make a 6.30pm kick off the same evening at 'Twickers' and the ensuing slaughter of the lambs. As cynical as that may be I could not consider missing an England v Australia match. Twickenham does add the glamour touch, and I suppose where there's life there's hope. Just.

An overnight stay in London and then across country to Gloucester, and the Kingsholm Stadium for Sundays 3pm New Zealand v Lebanon clash.

Kingsholm is a lovely old union county and club ground decked out in Gloucester's red and white livery, almost Watersheddings revisited. A set up that has over the years produced many England union internationals, some of whom took the professional ticket with Oldham, Alf Wood, Billy Hall, Dave Holland, Tug Wilson.....

It's then at least two hours fast motoring from Gloucester upto Wrexham, and with a

1	Ireland v Samoa	Windsor Park, Belfast	Sat 28th Oct	3.00pm
2	France v PNG	Charlery Stadium, Paris	Sat 28th Oct	4.00pm
3	England v Australia	Twickenham, London	Sat 28th Oct	6.30pm
4	Tonga v South Africa	Région Parisienne	Sun 29th Oct	3.00pm
5	Fiji v Russia	Craven Park, Barrow	Sun 29th Oct	3.00pm
6	New Zealand v Lebanon	Kingsholm, Gloucester	Sun 29th Oct	3.00pm
7	Scotland v Maori	Firhill Stadium, Glasgow	Sun 29th Oct	3.00pm
8	Wales v Cook Islands	Racecourse Ground, Wrexham	Sun 29th Oct	6.45pm
9	France v Tonga	Carcassonne	Wed 1st Nov	3.00pm
10	England v Russia	Knowsley Road, St Helens	Wed 1st Nov	7.45pm
11	Australia v Fiji	Gateshead Int'l Stadium	Wed 1st Nov	7.30pm
12	Ireland v Scotland	Tolka Park, Dublin	Wed 1st Nov	7.30pm
13	Samoa v Maori	Derwent Park, Workington	Wed 1st Nov	7.30pm
14	PNG v South Africa	Toulouse	Thurs 2nd Nov	8.00pm
15	Wales v Lebanon	Stradey Park, Llanelli	Thurs 2nd Nov	7.30pm
16	New Zealand v Cook Islands	Madejski Stadium, Reading	Thurs 2nd Nov	7.30pm
17	England v Fiji	Headingley, Leeds	Sat 4th Nov	3.00pm
18	Australia v Russia	Boulevard, Hull	Sat 4th Nov	7.30pm
19	Ireland v Maori	Tolka Park, Dublin	Sat 4th Nov	6.30pm
20	Cook Islands v Lebanon	Millennium Stadium, Cardiff	Sun 5th Nov	12.30pm
21	Wales v New Zealand	Millennium Stadium, Cardiff	Sun 5th Nov	3.00pm
22	Scotland v Samoa	Tynecastle, Edinburgh	Sun 5th Nov	6.45pm
23	France v South Africa	Albi	Sun 5th Nov	3.00pm
24	PNG v Tonga	Perpignan	Mon 6th Nov	8.00pm
25	Qualifier Group 1 v Qualifier Group 4	Vicarage Road, Watford	Sat 11th Nov	3.00pm
26	Qualifier Group 1 v Qualifier Group 4	Headingley, Leeds	Sat 11th Nov	6.30pm
27	Qualifier Group 2 v Qualifier Group 3	Auto Quest, Widnes	Sun 12th Nov	5.00pm
28	Qualifier Group 2 v Qualifier Group 3	Wheldon Road, Castleford	Sun 12th Nov	6.45pm
29	QF B/C v QF A/D	Reebok Stadium, Bolton	Sat 18th Nov	3.00pm
30	QF B/C v QF A/D	McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield	Sun 19th Nov	6.45pm
31	THE WORLD CUP FINAL	Old Trafford, Manchester	25th Nov	3.00pm

6.45pm kick off at the Racecourse Ground for the third game of the weekend Wales v Cook Islands. So making the start will be pretty tight!

On the following Wednesday, (1st Nov), there are four matches in Carcassonne, St Helens, Gateshead and Dublin. Ignoring the nonsensical England v Russia at St Helens and because I have never been to any of the French club grounds, I have decided to plump for a mini break in the land of the grapes, a decision not too difficult to make, allowing me to take in France v Tonga in Carcassonne followed the next day by PNG v South Africa in Toulouse.

Continued on page 21

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An interview by Dave Roberts with Steve Molloy



Photo courtesy Andrew Varley Picture Agency

It's nice to see you here Steve, but why Oldham?

It all happened very quick, staying at Huddersfield was not an option. I was on a bit of a downer but now I am here and must say it is a refreshing change.

So how have you found the NFP so far?

Very competitive, obviously its not Super League, there is a difference of speed at the play the ball, but Super

League players have more time to work at things like weights etc. but as I say it is very competitive and I am enjoying it.

Today's game should be very competitive.

We should not get carried away with our form. Yesterday's papers are for fish and chips. Every play-off game should be taken very seriously. Hull KR have had by their standards a rough season and know they are in last chance saloon.

Mike Ford is a very wise man, he definitely won't get carried away so we won't be making any predictions, we will just be working hard.

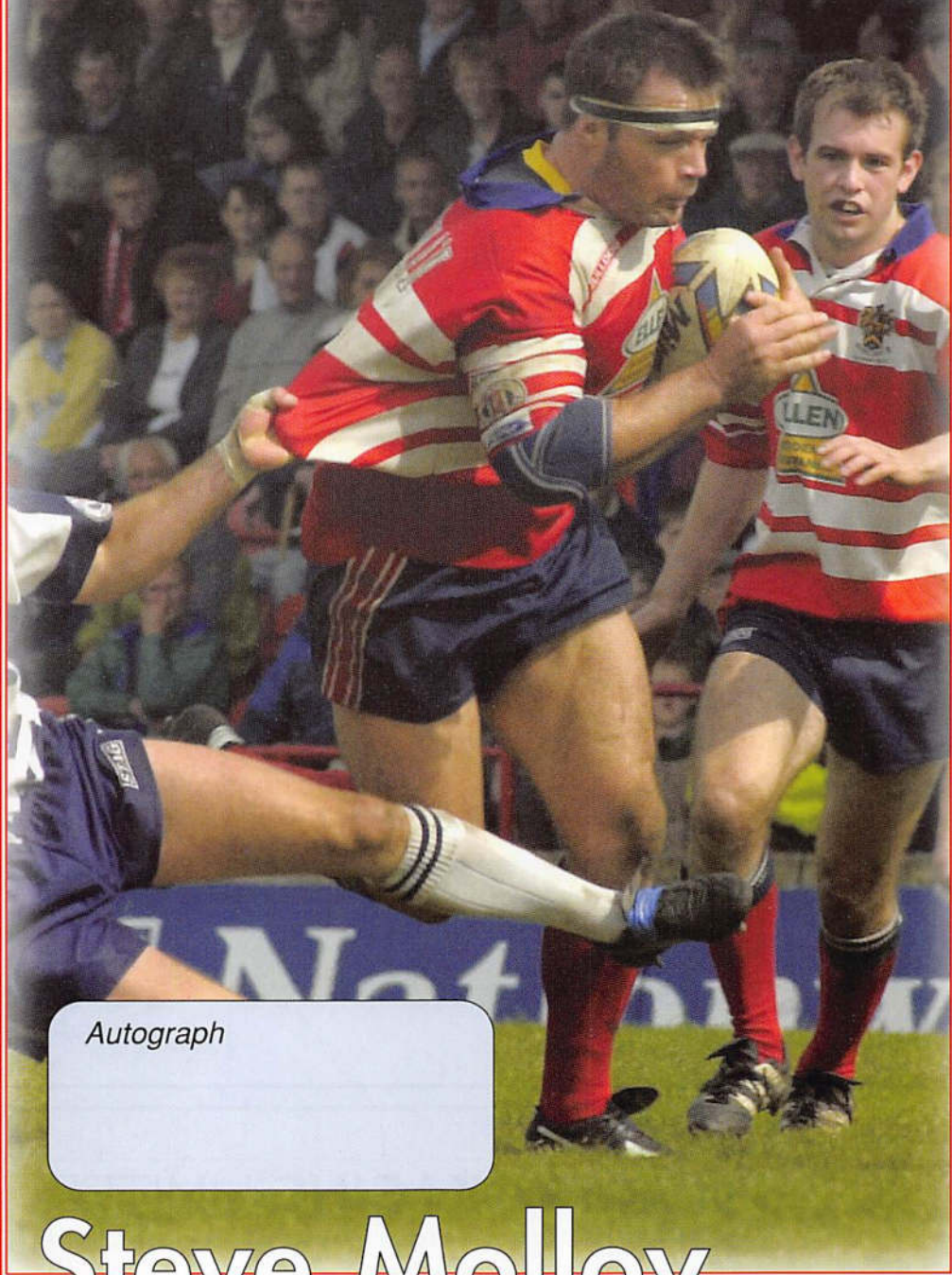
Should we progress to the next game it will be even tougher, but it would not bother me who we played. At Dewsbury the other week we could have won but made some wrong decisions and for all our hard work came away with nothing.

Embarrass someone.

I have not been here long enough, but when I was at Leeds Dave Ward was giving us a roasting for losing to Featherstone. He banged his hand on the Physio's table and catapulted a jar of resin into the air. It came down on his head and as it was a hot day it stuck to the sweat on his bald head. We had to bite our lips as he carried on with his talk.

Dave Roberts

Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

Steve Molloy

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N.F.P. TEAM

1. OLDHAM - Came from nowhere to reach the play-offs
2. DONCASTER – ditto



N.F.P. PLAYER

MARTIN WOOD (Keighley Cougars).
A major and majestic influence on his team every time he played.



N.F.P. SIGNING

SHAYNE McMENEMY (Oldham).
Easily the best decision made by any club this year.



N.F.P. COACH

MIKE FORD
(Well, I know I'm prejudiced BUT)
If not Fordy, then, NEIL KELLY
(Dewsbury)



REFEREE

KARL KIRKPATRICK
(You'll disagree whoever I say!)

R.F.L. POLITICS

The re-emergence of Bramley and Gateshead

R.L. OCCASIONS

The N.F.P. Grand Final

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

The N.F.L. Salary Cap (S.L.E. please note what the term 'salary cap' means.)

INTERNATIONAL OCCASIONS

The upcoming World Cup

TOP OF THE FLOPS



N.F.P. TEAM

FEATHERSTONE – The ONLY team not to play any football against Oldham.

N.F.P. PLAYER

TATE MOSELEY. Obviously didn't fancy the British climate. Or couldn't match 'Tricky' Trindall's wage at St. Helens. Or knew Trindall wouldn't last.

N.F.P. SIGNING

PAUL LOUGHLIN (Swinton). It's a bit unfair because it was largely injury which prevented him making a significant contribution.

N.F.P. COACH

STEVE HAMPSON. Don't suppose Steve's all that bothered given the rather lucrative client list he has for his fitness coaching.



REFEREE

PETER TABERNER
Last week's performance v Featherstone was as bad as any I have ever seen.

R.F.L. POLITICS

1. Non promotion of Hunslet.
2. Refusal to consider Leigh and Dewsbury for Super League even at alternative stadia.
(Mind you, Dewsbury at Don Valley is a bit cheeky!)

R.L. OCCASIONS

Huddersfield – Sheffield Giants at home.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Exclusion of South Sydney from the N.F.L.

INTERNATIONAL OCCASIONS

St. Helens v Melbourne Storm World Club Championship (thanks for the memory, Ellery).

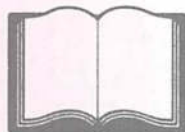
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Amateur Album



..... BARLA's INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

IN FOUR months time the BARLA national team will be involved in the Emerging Nations Championship, a competition which runs alongside, and promises to be just as interesting as, the Lincoln Financial Group World Championship Competition. Indeed, the Emerging Nations should be more exciting than the major competition because few people would bet against Australia lifting the World title which they have held ever since 1975. Of the six countries involved in the Emerging Nations tournament, at least three have realistic chances of lifting the trophy - BARLA, Morocco and Italy. One of the other three, Japan, Canada or United States could spring a surprise so the eight day competition, consisting of nine matches, promises to produce some thrilling rugby.

The composition of the BARLA national side has been the subject of some controversy in recent months. During the past few years BARLA have maintained that selection for the national team must be earned via county selection and, before that, selection in the local team for the Inter-town knock-out Cup Competition. However, those criteria have been sidestepped in the past and I expect them to be sidestepped again this year. During the season just past, three local players have been involved in the Amateur County Championship, centre Stuart Fraser (Saddleworth Rangers) and props Lee Fletcher (Saddleworth Rangers) and Jason Akeroyd (St. Annes). Nevertheless, it would be no surprise to me if one or two other local players were included despite their lack of recent representative recognition. Gareth 'Spike' Davies has had a tremendous season at Saddleworth whether turning out at hooker or full back whilst St. Annes have several candidates. Full back Chris Wright, utility player John Brierley and winger Graeme Sykes are just three who spring to mind. At Waterhead loose-forward Peter 'Percy' Pearson would be a strong candidate and if BARLA decide to select players who have returned to the amateur game after brief professional contracts then the list of local candidates would be a lengthy one.

BARLA have been included in the group with Morocco and Japan. Their first match is against Morocco and takes place at Post Office Road, Featherstone on Monday evening 13th November. Four days later, on Friday evening, 17th November BARLA take on Japan

at the Recreation Ground, Whitehaven. Should BARLA be successful in those matches, and I am confident that they will win both, then they will meet the winners of the other group in the final. That final takes place here at Spotland, Rochdale on Monday 20th November, kick off 7.30pm. Italy are firm favourites to win their group which includes Canada and United States. Should the Emerging Nations final throw together BARLA and Italy then it certainly



Greg Florimo

would be a match not to be missed. The Italian squad consists mainly of players connected with Australian clubs but is also likely to include Super League stars Greg Florimo (Halifax), Carlo Napolitano (Salford) and London Broncos' Frank Napoli.

The tournament will be a severe test for the BARLA boys, especially if, as expected, they meet Italy in the final. But it is a challenge they will be eager to meet. Hopefully, one or two local lads will be involved to add further interest to what already promises to be a tremendous competition.

Don Yates

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Dewsbury Rams	28	22	1	5	848	400	448	45
Keighley Cougars	28	22	0	6	1002	401	601	44
Doncaster Dragons	28	21	0	7	880	397	483	42
Leigh Centurions	28	21	0	7	854	476	378	42
Featherstone Rovers	28	20	1	7	795	523	272	41
Oldham	28	19	1	8	734	513	221	39
Hull Kingston Rovers	28	17	1	10	583	481	102	35
Widnes Vikings	28	17	0	11	698	483	215	34

Swinton Lions	28	13	2	13	726	733	-7	28
Barrow Border Raiders	28	14	0	14	647	711	-64	28
Whitehaven Warriors	28	11	1	16	533	674	-141	23
Workington Town	28	11	1	16	502	776	-274	23
Rochdale Hornets	28	10	0	18	563	696	-133	20
Sheffield Eagles	28	9	1	18	479	585	-106	19
Hunslet Hawks	28	8	0	20	487	678	-191	16
Batley Bulldogs	28	6	0	22	482	759	-277	12
York Wasps	28	5	1	22	392	859	-467	11
Lancashire Lynx	28	1	0	27	301	1361	-1060	2

R.L. World Cup 2000

Continued from page 14



I would also have liked to attend in the Welsh game at Llanelli and also the Kiwis match at Readings Madejski Stadium (who christened that?), if for no other reason than to give those stadiums the once over.

Flights are booked to arrive back in Manchester late Friday, in time for the weekend games. Saturdays (4th Nov) is easy to select, England v Fiji at Headingley with a 3pm start. Australia v Russia (Boulevard 7.30pm) will leave most fans cold!

On Sunday, after giving serious consideration to Scotland v Samoa at Tynecastle Stadium, Edinburgh I have decided on the double header at the magnificent Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, Cook Islands v Lebanon (12.30pm) and Wales v New Zealand (3pm).

The final qualifying game is the next day in Perpignan, PNG v Tonga (metal helmets provided!). Thanks, but no thanks.

So it is a total of eight games at seven venues, five of which I have never previously visited.

The quarter final format is about as easy to work out as the NFP top eight play offs, so no decisions yet, but if the RL's box office is to be believed Australia will play at Watford FC's Vicarage Rd ground, and should England qualify they play at Headingley.

The semis are at the Reebok and McAlpine Stadiums, with the final at Old Trafford on Saturday 25th of November exactly 4 weeks after the first qualifying match kicked off at Windsor Park.

Should you want to take advantage of the ticket packages being offered by the R.L. phone the Box Office for details.

STRANGE, THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF PREMIERSHIP CLUBS EVEN CONSIDERED MOVING THE KICK OFF TO THE NEW SEASON FROM CHRISTMAS TO THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD CUP AND NOT SURPRISINGLY THROWN OUT WITH A COMPROMISE START THE WEEKEND AFTER THE WORLD CUP FINAL (3RD DECEMBER) AND THREE WEEKS EARLIER THAN LAST TERM. THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS, THOUGH WAS NEVER THE BEST TIME TO DRUM UP A CROWD SO WHY CHANGE A WINNING FORMULA?

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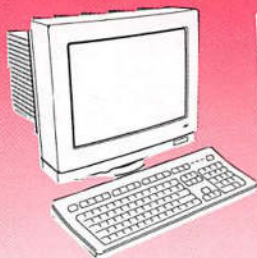
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THE RECENT exodus of top Australian players has caused dismay in the NRL and provoked widespread media interest both here and down under. This has prompted a very public reaction from both Maurice Lindsay and Gary Hetherington. Whilst Hetherington was simply happy to call NRL officials whinging Aussies, Lindsay has seen fit to defend his actions.

Australian officials have publicly stated that they can't compete with the kind of money being thrown at their stars by English clubs. Lindsay has touted these high profile signings as being in the best interests of the English game. He has stated that there isn't any comparable British talent around and to a large extent he's right. However, could that be because our young talent here is being stifled by an overload of overseas imports? Hardly rocket science Maurice.

What is disturbing to hear is that the Australians cannot compete financially with the offers from British clubs. This is despite their game attracting massive crowds, far more income and generating massive sponsorship compared to ours. The obvious answer to this puzzle is that the money generated down under is ploughed back into development of the sport at grass roots level. The Sky television deal presented itself as an ideal opportunity to follow that lead and build a successful future.

However, there is simply no evidence that News Corporation funding is filtering its way down through the system to youth development in this country. That's a crying shame. A vast amount of this money is simply being used to line overseas players' pockets, most of whom, to put it politely, are past their best. Far from wanting to tar all of these players with the same brush, some are still great players and it will be good to see them in action, but not at the expense of our prospective stars of tomorrow.

Of course, I understand why clubs are desperate to maintain their Super League status. These are the very same clubs who confined the News Corporation funding to that

league. Many feel that their only short term option is to look for ready made talent elsewhere. However, I feel that a long term perspective needs to be taken up by the games governing bodies.

Home grown talent is bound to suffer if there is a flood of overseas players taking up first team places on big contracts. It has to. We have placed the future of our game in the hands of the likes of Lindsay, Hetherington and Caisley and I fear that they have badly let us down. Some might even say that we are in danger of becoming something akin to an Antipodean Nursing Home League. These people in charge of our game will be the very same people who will rally round forming working parties to investigate our continued failure to compete at International level in the not too distant future and when they frantically search for the cause, they need look no further than their own doorstep.

Whilst causing short term irritation to the NRL, the departure of established stars will of course result in the bright young talent being offered greater opportunity to progress. This being the case, I strongly suspect that their game will actually benefit and we will suffer the consequences yet again.

On a brighter note the recent suggestions for restructuring the points scoring system in Super League introduced a delightful element of comedy to the season. Suggested by the Halifax Chief Executive, presumably this is a desperate attempt to give the clubs outside the top half of Super League something to actually play for. Perhaps points should be awarded for the nicest kit, how many consecutive Australian coaches you can employ and how many other teams you can swallow up to avoid relegation despite finishing bottom of the league. Whilst Super League goes from the sublime to the ridiculous, the game outside Super League looks forward to welcoming Bramley and Gateshead back next season. After Sheffield's survival this season it will be great to welcome them back to the NFP family.

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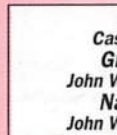
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CLUB CALL

Well it just keeps getting better and better doesn't it!! The tackling and the commitment shown by our lads last week was absolutely superb and I know you all felt the same with the tremendous ovation you gave the players after the final whistle. Please keep that level of support up as we get to the Knock Out stage of the season.

OLDHAM RLFC INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION

The limited edition watercolour pictures that we have been advertising recently are now available in the Club Shop. The picture captures 43 of ORLFC's most famous players in superb detail. The response has been very good and if you are considering purchasing one please hurry! There are only 100 copies and they are available in a Gilt or Dark Oak frame. Priced at only £49.99 order can be made by contacting Brian Walker on 01457 875 084 or by phoning the Club on 0161 628 3677.

ROUGHYEDS REVIEW OF THE 1999/2000 NFP SEASON

Once our season has finished (hopefully at Bury on 29th July 2000)! We will be selling a special video with all

the tries from our games this season (including the play-offs) and featuring an interview with Mike Ford. The price will be £14.99 and I am sure that it will be a must for all Roughyeds fans. To place an order phone Paul on 0161 628 3677.

NFP GRAND FINAL TRIP

The Club is running a trip to the NFP Grand Final which will be held at Gigg Lane, Bury, on Saturday 29th July 2000. The trip includes Executive Coach Travel, Match ticket and a four course meal at the Albany Hotel, Heywood, on your return from the game. The trip is priced at £30 per person for Elite Club members and £35 for non-members. There are limited places so to reserve your seat please phone Paul on 0161 628 3677.

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Finally a Big, Big, Thank You to all our matchday volunteers for all their help and assistance this season. People such as Gillian Holt, Leanne Monchuk, Peter Birtwistle, John Barrett, Lou Lavety, The Golden Gamblers (Maureen Alldridge, Joyce and Lynn Pilkington, Ray, Brian and the girls), Stephanie Gregory, Dave Roberts, Robin Highfield, Debbie Rafferty, Geoff Cooke, Brian Walker and Sheila and Grant Somerville. These people have given up valuable time and worked very hard and I think deserve as much credit as our players for making this season a great success.

Until next time enjoy your Rugby.

Scott

1999/2000 Match Results

	Barrow	Batley	Dewsbury	Doncaster	Featherstone	Hull KR	Hunslet	Keighley	Lancashire	Leigh	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Sheffield	Swinton	Whitehaven	Widnes	Workington	York
Barrow		28-25	10-36		38-10	42-12	36-18		40-6	20-12	19-16	32-14	34-16	34-22	31-4	20-17	22-24	
Batley			8-18	20-28	18-38	14-32	18-27	18-28	34-16		16-28	24-12	14-21	24-28		8-24	10-30	10-33
Dewsbury	42-20	45-10		20-16	46-26	14-2	46-0		72-13	18-22	16-12	26-2	33-18			42-24	36-6	26-19
Doncaster	68-12	42-8	33-10		32-14	50-12	52-12	19-12	82-4	29-18	26-16		29-8	28-14	64-16			70-8
Featherstone	35-14	38-16	2-38	16-10		28-8	36-4	34-20			61-26		45-13	28-14	44-20	28-22	58-6	56-12
Hull KR	26-14	30-10	20-12	8-4	2-2			8-30		14-18	12-32		6-4	54-16	22-14	24-10	48-7	30-10
Hunslet		10-17	10-22	10-24	12-13	14-21		12-21	24-16	10-24		19-24	6-27		24-2	10-34	22-8	30-6
Keighley	66-6	40-12	22-6	27-30		10-24	24-23		66-0	28-36		26-14	36-2	66-12	50-12		54-8	32-13
Lancashire	14-50			6-34	6-60	6-66	4-98		6-68	14-48	22-38	20-33	6-68	22-12	14-30	12-34	18-26	
Leigh	48-22	44-40	38-16	22-6	18-8		44-4	26-16	50-14		28-10	42-10	24-26	20-22	34-8	24-16		
OLDHAM	30-16		12-14	25-6	32-0		44-18	14-24	50-8	27-10		23-20		34-28	26-22	34-26	30-17	40-18
Rochdale		33-20		18-20	31-16	26-38	24-16	10-30	50-8	14-42	12-13			21-32	20-22	8-34	32-28	24-14
Sheffield	30-2	12-22	8-30	10-16	14-29	10-8	17-12	16-28	56-12		6-28	19-22			19-22		18-20	12-12
Swinton	35-22	16-32	14-14				24-31	12-34	54-6	12-46	18-23	34-16	38-30		28-28	12-28	38-34	50-12
Whitehaven	30-0	20-14	10-36	14-24	14-29	44-12		10-56		24-6	26-18	14-8		16-20		13-6	42-0	44-12
Widnes	17-10	30-10		19-18		14-16	30-21	18-30	64-8	28-16	20-31	38-10	3-0	22-14	22-12		42-16	
Workington	18-35		6-58	23-18	25-42	20-10			38-8	6-46	12-12	22-8	18-19	10-21	27-18	16-10		23-7
York	20-18	8-10	17-56	1-36	12-25	6-24	18-22	2-26	14-12	22-28		22-42	16-15	14-30		18-50		

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'THE DON'



On this Day

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO JULY 9TH YESTERYEAR

THIS AFTERNOON Oldham begin their play-off campaign with high hopes of reaching Gigg Lane, lifting the Northern Ford Premiership and then posting a firm bid for inclusion into Super League. Their opponents are another club aiming to regain former glories, for it was not too long ago that Hull Kingston Rovers were a team to be feared and one which included several star names.

Hull Kingston Rovers' players were prominent on this day in 1983, Saturday 9th July, in a sensational test match which was staged at Lang Park, Brisbane. Australia met New Zealand that day hoping to extend a 16 test winning sequence which included five victories over the Kiwis. However, New Zealand sprang a major surprise by defeating the all conquering Kangaroos 19-12. Four Hull Kingston Rovers players of that era were involved in that match. Kerry Boustead, who played for the Robins in 1986-87, was on the wing for Australia, whilst stand-off Gordon Smith, loose-forward Gary Prohm and prop Mark Broadhurst, all Championship winners with Rovers in 1984, were included in the Kiwi line-up. The architect of the New Zealand victory, though, was full back Nick Wright, a former Oldham player, whose superb kicking game was a feature of the match whilst his three placed goals and one dropped goal proved to be decisive scores.

Five years previously, on Sunday 9th July 1978, New Zealand had a less successful day during another tour of Australia. The Kiwis met North Queensland in Townsville that afternoon when they fell to a disappointing 27-20 defeat. Versatile Gary Prohm was in the Kiwi second-row for that match but the star of the show was Kerry Boustead who scored two tries for the home side.

It was on this day in 1995, Sunday 9th July, that the BARLA under-18 team met the Junior Kiwis at Greymouth. The New Zealand juniors proved much too good for our

youngsters that afternoon and they hammered us 52-10. There was one Humberside player in the British line-up, substitute forward David Holdstock (West Hull), who scored a try, whilst the only Oldham representative with the tourists was a member of the medical staff, Dr David Atherton who was involved with Higginshaw for many years.

Three years ago, on Wednesday 9th July 1997, Scotland met France at Firhill Park, Glasgow. Scotland did enough to win that evening but a late, disputed French try enabled the visitors to win 22-20. A try scorer for the Scots in the match was Bradford winger Gary Christie who began his professional career with the Roughyeds. Also included in the Scotland line-up was substitute Mike Dixon, a diminutive but lively hooker who was then with Hull but who has since crossed the city to team up with the Robins.

In 1988 Great Britain undertook a less than successful tour 'down under'. Nevertheless the trip did leave one outstanding memory and that occurred on Saturday 9th July when the Lions met Australia at Sydney Football Stadium in a World Cup rated test match. Most spectators expected



Bob Lindner

the match to follow the pattern of the first two tests and end in a Kangaroo victory. The Lions has not won a test in Australia for 14 years but, prompted by scrum-half Andy Gregory (Wigan) they won convincingly 26-12. Oldham prop Hugh Waddell was included in the British pack whilst one of the Australian substitutes was Bob Lindner, destined to have a spell as player-coach with the Roughyeds.

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	D12-12	595
29	DONCASTER DRAGONS	W25-6	2043
JUNE			
4	LEIGH CENTURIONS	W27-10	2823
11	Lancashire Lynx	W48-14	616
18	WIDNES VIKINGS	W34-26	2073
25	Dewsbury Rams	L12-16	1456
JULY			
2	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	W32-0	2132

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Sponsors for the tremendous support they have shown the Club this season. The Club can only progress with their support and I certainly think we have made tremendous progress this season!! **Ellen Accident Assistance** deserve great credit for their continued backing of the Club. They have been our main sponsors for three years, so a big thank you to **Glyn and Dave Adams**.

Other companies and individuals (in no particular order) I would particularly like to thank include:

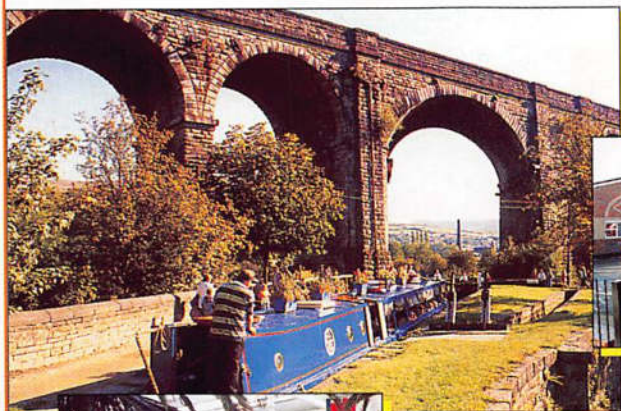
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The list is endless and I am sure I have missed many people out but to everyone who has supported the Club this season – THANK YOU!

Finally a personal thank-you to **Stuart McDonough** and **Karen Ramsden** for all their help on matchdays and their hard work and good humour in helping our sponsors feel welcome on matchdays.

Scott

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.

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



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Mike FORD
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Coach Dave HARRISON

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