

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP



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OLDHAM vs QUEENSBURY ARLFC

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY 2001

KICK OFF 3.00pm

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SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

2000/2001 SILK CUT PRIZES

After 17 years of sponsorship the year 2000/2001 is the final year of Silk Cut's involvement in the Rugby League Challenge Cup. The final year is worth £1 million - a first for British club Rugby League. With the demolition of Wembley now well underway, the final will be held at the headquarters of rugby union - Twickenham - with the victorious team in 2001 receiving a record prize cheque of £150,000.

Of the 2001 sponsorship investment of £1,000,000 a total prize fund of £642,650 is projected for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The remaining funds will be deposited in the League's Capital Development Fund. The complete 2001 Silk Cut Challenge Cup prize structure is:

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

Third Round winners (NFP Clubs)	£4,500
Third Round losers (Amateur Clubs)	£1,300
French Clubs	£6,750
Fourth Round losers	£6,000
Fifth Round losers	£10,000
Quarter-Final losers	£18,500
Semi-Final losers	£25,000
Runners-up	£65,000
Winners	£150,000

PROJECTED PRIZE FUND

£642,650

PROJECTED CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

£357,350

GRAND TOTAL

£1,000,000

The above amounts are paid direct to the clubs by the Rugby Football League. There will be no prize money cheque to be presented at matches by the Silk Cut Sales Representative.

2001 SILK CUT AWARDS

Silk Cut Awards will again be presented to the adjudged Man of the Match in each tie from the first round onwards. In each case the winner will receive a commemorative medallion. The winner will also receive a cheque for £200 from the third round through to the quarter-finals. The Man of the Match at both semi-finals receives a cheque for £400 plus an engraved silver plated replica rugby ball.

2000/2001 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP TIMETABLE

First Round	2/3 December, 2000	Fifth Round	24/25 February, 2001
Second Round	16/17 December, 2000	Quarter Finals	10/11 March, 2001
Third round	27/28 January, 2001	Semi Finals	31 March/1 April, 2001
Fourth Round	10/11 February, 2001	Final	28 April, 2001

2001 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP FINAL TICKETS

Tickets for the all-seater 2001 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final on Saturday 28th April, 2001 at Twickenham can be booked now priced £50, £45, £40, £35, £30, £25, £20, £15 and £10.

Please forward order and remittance, made payable to the Rugby Football League, to:
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2000/2001 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP DRAWS

The draw for the first round will be made live on GMR at 7.10pm on Tuesday 14th November, 2000. The draws for the second and third rounds will be made live on BBC Radio Leeds at approximately 7.00pm on Wednesday 6th December and Wednesday 3rd January respectively. The fourth round draw will be made on Monday 29th January, 2001.

The draw ceremonies for the fifth round, quarter-finals and semi-finals will be made live on BBC Sunday Grandstand at approximately 5.10pm on the following dates:

Fifth Round	Sunday 11th February
Quarter-Finals	Sunday 25th February
Semi-Finals	Sunday 11th March.

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The Roughyeds



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Up Front

... with Christopher Hamilton



TODAY we welcome everybody from Queensbury for this afternoon's Silk Cut Challenge Cup Third Round tie and hope that they enjoy the hospitality from the people of Oldham. They have done well to reach this stage of the competition but we obviously hope they don't go any further!

Most of you will be aware that the Association of Premiership Clubs are looking at what happens

after the end of this season. In regard to a whole host of issues, not least of which is when the season should be played.

In my role as Chairman of the Association I am keen to make sure that we start to think about this sooner rather than later to ensure that the decisions we make are informed ones and not a knee jerk reaction. I know that many of you, the mainstay of our game, are fed up with the constant chopping and changing and that that has had a negative effect. I can understand that position but I am also aware that as a division there are 19 of us who need to secure our future and the decisions we have to make shortly may mean things staying as they are, because this will determine our sponsorship and media opportunities.

With these things in mind I am very keen to make sure that all relevant issues are considered as part of the process and if any of you wish to have your views considered please write to me at the club.

I also hope that all of you will do your best to attend the next 2 games, Chorley on Tuesday and Whitehaven next Sunday. Both of these games are at home and through the fixture format we have a glut of home games before several away games and cash flow is as important to us as to everyone else and any money that comes in now will be used to cover the period when we don't have match income.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Chris Hamilton



The Roughyeds

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1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

FRONT COVER

*Leo Casey breaching the
opponents defence once more.*

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

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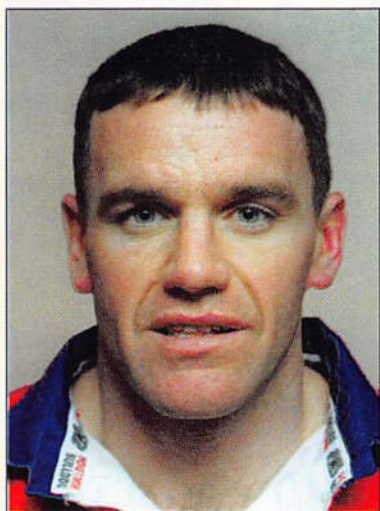
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FORD FOCUS . . . with Mike Ford



WELCOME to today's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Queensbury who play in the Pennine League. We hope all the players, officials and supporters of Queensbury have an enjoyable day with us and we especially welcome back Nathan Varley who was such a wholehearted player in his time with the Roughyeds.

We will not, of course, be underestimating Queensbury and will want to put on a professional performance even if the weather is such that it is difficult to play flowing football. I have been on the wrong end of a result against amateur opposition when Leigh Miners Rangers defeated Bramley and I can assure you it is not an experience I wish to repeat.

As far as our last game, the defeat by Leigh here at Boundary Park, I can only say how disappointed we all were at the outcome. The result has hurt our pride and we do not intend to let it happen again. The result does not constitute a crisis, like the Featherstone game last

season, but we were particularly upset that our defence was so poor after defence had been our great strength up to that point.

Although I know that conditions are the same for both sides our preparation was not helped by the state of the ground. At 2pm we fully expected the game to be called off because it was really hard beneath the George Hill stand, and it did nothing for the players' confidence when Daryl Lacey was injured in the first tackle of the match on this side of the pitch. Then, when Leigh scored in their first attempt largely because Daryl's wing was unprotected, we knew we had a mountain to climb. Similarly in the incident which led to Anthony Gibbons' dismissal we thought we got the worst of it because Leigh could easily replace Tim Street whereas we did not have a stand-by right centre. I won't criticise the referee except to say I would have liked him to be a bit stronger. Leigh are a good, but perhaps arrogant, team and it is a real pain that the fixture format does not give us a second go at them at Hilton Park and a chance for revenge.

Anyway, all that's now water under the bridge and the season is still young with plenty to play for starting with today.

Mike

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Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY, we extend a warm welcome to Boundary Park to the players, officials and supporters of the Queensbury club for this afternoon's Challenge Cup tie.

When preparing these notes for this match I was left in something of a dilemma as to what should be the format for the article. Oldham have never played Queensbury before and I'm sure that no one wants to read a review of the "Roughyeds" matches against non-league opposition - again!

I could have stretched a point and reviewed the matches Oldham Bears played against the **Queensland** Cowboys in 1997. Or even the match Oldham played

against Featherstone at the ground of **Queens** Park Rangers AFC in 1955. Then again there have been many games which have witnessed displays of the **Queensbury** rules (last week against Leigh immediately springs to mind).

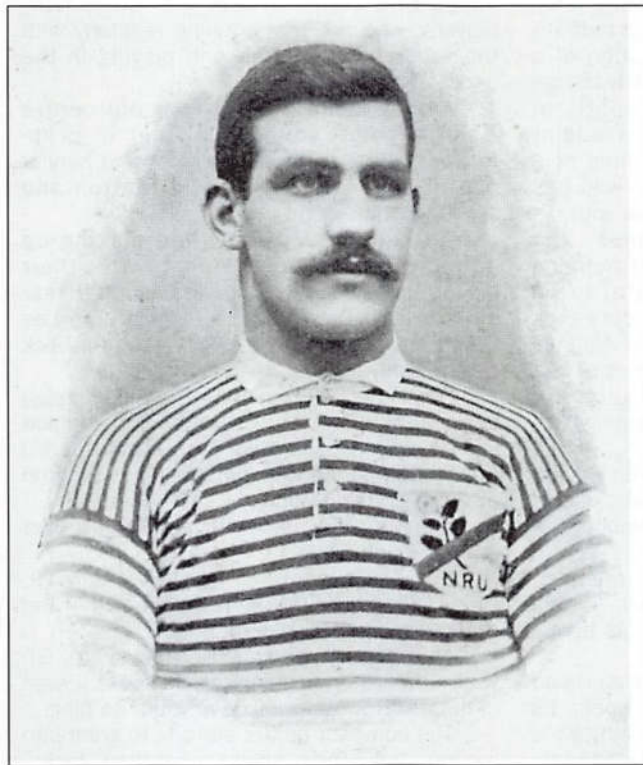
Perhaps wisely, I decided to forgo those tenuous links with the name of our visitors and instead look at the first ever match the Roughyeds played in the Challenge Cup.

As fate would have it that match, which took place way back on March 20th 1897, was away against Bradford, which is of course the home city of our visitors. This original Bradford club was the forerunner for both the rugby playing Bradford Northern (Bulls) and the soccer outfit Bradford City.

In that first staging of the Challenge Cup, the competition was played at the end of the county based, league season in which Oldham were runners up in the Lancashire section with Bradford finishing seventh in the Yorkshire equivalent. The teams were then still fifteen aside and Oldham probably started the match as favourites. However, it was not to be for the "Roughyeds" as the Yorkshire men secured a seven points to three victory in a dour encounter before a good crowd of 14,000. The only Oldham score came from a (three point) penalty goal by full back Harry England.

The Oldham team that day was:

Harry England; George Walsh, Sam Lees, Ike Taylor, Tom Martin; Harry Varley, Arthur Lees; Joe Lees, George Frater, Harry Broome, Jim Merrill, Enos Etchells, Emanuel Bonser, Bob Edwards, Ed Hughes.



George Frater, the Scottish born forward who played in Oldham's first ever Challenge Cup tie, here pictured in his Lancashire county jersey. George played over 260 games for the club including the Challenge Cup final victory over Hunslet in 1899.

ROGER

ROGER



OLDHAM'S capture of 16 year old local lads James Wilkinson and Paul Bennett sends out a message loud and clear that the Roughyeds are building for

the future.

The building bricks are taking shape...the formation of an academy team now looking forward to the start of its second season in April...the creation of a development camp for boys in the 14/15 age group which meets once a month at Castleton...the appointment as academy coach of Mark Knight...the recruitment of a chief scout, John 'Jacko' Jackson, who has had a remarkable record of success with his previous clubs, Wigan and Widnes...the building of bridges with youth teams from the area who are now invited, in turn, to be guests of the Roughyeds on Boundary Park match days...the promotion to the Alliance team this season of several members of last year's academy side...and the ultimate signing on pro forms of promising youngsters like Wilkinson and Bennett.

Wilkinson, formerly a centre with Royton Tigers, is the younger brother of Alex, one of many highly-regarded young professionals at Bradford Bulls.

Wilkinson jr. had also attracted attention from other clubs but chose, instead, to sign his first professional contract with his hometown club.

Bennett, a stand off with the Waterhead club, was similarly placed, having spent 18 months as a member of Wigan's development squad with his Waterhead team mates Ryan Collins and James Kirkland.

Kirkland is still at Wigan while scrum-half Collins, one of four Oldham-area boys on the North-West Counties under 16s tour of Fiji,

New Zealand and Australia later this year, has committed himself to Bradford.

But Bennett has waved farewell to Wigan to fulfil an ambition to play for Oldham - a club he has supported as a fan for the past five years.

'Jacko' has his finger on the pulse at the hub of the behind the scenes operation which is geared up to hold back the exodus of talented local lads from this area to Super League clubs across the region.

More signings can be expected as the season unfolds, while the club also has high hopes of a clutch of last year's academy players, who are now training regularly with the first and 'A' teams and playing in the under-21s team.

Among them are 18 year old centre Danny Naylor, younger brother of prop-forward Chris, and big forwards of a similar age in Matt Williams, David Newton and Anthony Whitehead.

Already on contract, and picking up consistently good reports for their performances in the reserves, are 19 year old stand-off Gareth Barber, young prop Lee Doran and a player of similar age in full-back Gavin Dodd.

Doran was 18th man for the recent Leigh game, while Barber was named to replace injured player-coach Mike Ford on the bench for the postponed NFP game against Swinton at Gigg Lane last Sunday.

The youthful approach also spills over into the senior side.

Daryl Lacey and Neil Roden are only 19; Dean Cross and the Farrell twins, Phil and Chris, are one year older.

At the other end of the age scale, 35 year old Ford is planning to take a back seat in the next few weeks to give youth its fling.

The conveyor belt is starting to grind into motion...but nobody knows more than 'Jacko' how important it is to keep the town's top talent alive to what the Roughyeds have to offer.

Roger Halstead

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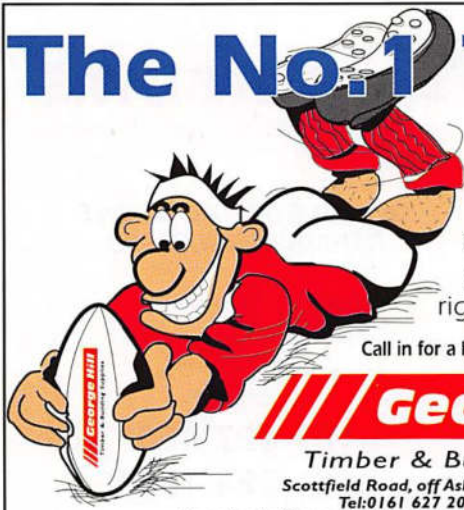
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Alliance Action

... with Haydn Walker

BAD WEATHER has again been a source of much frustration for the Alliance team with just one game in the last two and half weeks. The one game we did play saw us beaten 36-18 away to Leigh at Hilton Park.

In many ways that game reflected the first team's defeat four days later, missed tackles (33) and poor ball control (42%) being the cause of our demise. That said there was a terrific performance for Lee Doran who made 38



Joe McNicholas

tackles and 17 hit ups for a total of 55 involvements - an alliance record. Gavin Dodd, Tony Swift and Joe McNicholas also played well, while Chris Farrell who had to fill in at stand off had his best game to date and looks set to break into the first team soon.



Chris Farrell

The club's Development Squad are continuing to train together once a month with a view to the better players progressing to the Academy squad for the coming season. The last session saw the club's conditioner Tony O'Brien giving a lecture on conditioning and nutrition, along with the club's physio Lisa Sherratt giving a lecture on injury prevention and rehabilitation.

Among the many good things to emerge from the sessions to date has

ALLIANCE TEAM FIXTURES

Dec				
6	Keighley	A	7.30	L16-36
16	Workington	H	2.30	P
21	Rochdale	H	7.30	W24-0
Jan				
3	Hunslet	A	7.30	W26-10
10	Leigh	A	7.30	L36-18
18	Widnes	H	7.30	
Feb				
3	Whitehaven	H	2.30	
15	Hunslet	H	7.30	
22	Batley	H	7.30	
March				
17	Whitehaven	A	2.30	
22	Featherstone	H	7.30	
29	Doncaster	A	7.30	
April				
4	Batley	A	7.30	
19	Doncaster	H	7.30	
May				
3	Featherstone	A	7.30	
10	Keighley	H	7.30	
19	Workington	A	2.30	
24	Rochdale	A	7.30	
31	Leigh	H	7.30	
June				
7	Widnes	A	7.30	
13	Top Five Play Offs			
14	First Division Grand Final			

been the attendance of many of the players junior coaches and parents. This has enabled them to see first hand how the club works, and to see what demands there are in being a professional player.

It is also pleasing to report that we have signed Paul Bennett from the Development Squad. This was a major coup for the club in that Paul had been training for some time with Wigan and the fact that he chose to sign for us is a big boost for the club. Hopefully he will be the first of many.

Probing The NFP

THE BIG game at Boundary Park between previously unbeaten Oldham and Leigh went the way of the Centurions and to some tune too (44-18). It left the Centurions the only 100% record in the league and favourites to progress to the Trans Pennine Cup Final as the West of Pennines representatives. Whoever made Widnes favourites for the NFP title needs their bumps feeling with a side of Leigh's quality around. Consolation for Oldham came in the form of a new Roughyed crowd record of 4,747.



Richard Chapman

Over the hill meanwhile Keighley needed a last minute try and conversion to draw level with a super-charged Featherstone for whom hooker Richard Chapman was in outstanding form. I had thought the young Rovers might find the going tougher this season but on results so far it looks as though Peter Roe's men will be there or thereabouts once again come the play-offs.

At South Leeds Stadium Batley Bulldogs saw off another youthful outfit in Hunslet Hawks (13-4). With several games having fallen foul of the weather, spectators at both Keighley and Hunslet had to cope with misty conditions which can't have made for easy viewing. An argument against winter rugby here?

Over on Humberside Doncaster gave Hull K.R. a thorough going over. St. John Ellis moved Paul Mansson to loose-forward thus allowing Craig Weston to revert to stand-off. With Peter Edwards at hooker and Latham Tawhai at scrum-half this game gave the Dragons a lethal midfield quartet and it was that man Tawhai who did the damage with two tries and a hand in all the others.

In midweek, meanwhile, Whitehaven got off the mark with a 28-4 victory against

Chorley, juggernaut prop David Fatialofa proving too big and strong for the Lynx to handle.

With the entire NFP programme wiped out by the weather last week attention turns this week to the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Generally speaking one would expect the NFP clubs, especially with home advantage, to come out on top but given the strength of amateur football these days an odd surprise is always possible. So who are the likely candidates? Oldham St. Anne's will undoubtedly put up a good show at Whitehaven but although it could be close I would expect the professionals to win. To me those most in danger are York Wasps (v Oulton Raiders), the Wakefield based amateurs being in red hot form at the moment, as Saddleworth Rangers found out to their cost recently. Then there is Wigan St. Jude's at Gateshead, a real test for the Thunder this one; and Woolston Rovers at Chorley where any complacency on the part of the Lynx will undoubtedly be punished. Meanwhile the plum tie of the round is Hull K.R. versus Toulouse Spacers where the Robins will definitely have to hit top gear if they are to deny one of France's finest.

On the news front Batley coach Jon Sharp has resigned to become assistant coach to Tony Smith at Huddersfield Giants. Although he goes with the club's blessing, Sharp's loss will be a big blow to the Bulldogs.

Strangest event of the last fortnight has been the signing of Hunslet coach David Plange to the Leeds Rhino's coaching staff. Plange himself is delighted but to us cynics we always wonder about the Hetherington hidden agenda. Meanwhile the Hawks have taken Lee Maher on loan from Keighley.

Elsewhere Whitehaven have signed local amateurs Marc Jackson, Phil Sherwen and Ian Devlin; Gateshead have added local lads Richard Spence, Gareth Barron and Steve Bradley to their register; York have signed Darren Coake from Conference side York Acorn; and Keighley have snapped up 21 year old Oldhamer Dave Best.

GC

IN Town TODAY



QUEENSBURY ARLFC

ESTABLISHED 1937. During the 1940s and '50s Queensbury were one of the strongest clubs in Yorkshire, being the first Bradford and District Club to reach the Yorkshire Cup Final in 1955 when the team finished runners up to Lock Lane of Castleford in a game played at Thrum Hall, Halifax.

The 1960s proved to be lean years when several times the club almost folded. Then, in 1968 present day rugby secretary Brian Holdsworth was co-opted onto the committee and started an under 18 team. He had the good fortune to inherit an almost full Bradford Northern colts team of players who were not retained by the senior club. This proved to be the turning point of the clubs fortunes. Among the players was a lad called Peter Craven who eventually took over the reins and from that day on the club has never looked back. The club is now run very efficiently with present day Treasurer Andy Thornton to the fore.

Over the years the club has produced several players for the professional ranks, none more so than present day Bradford Bulls star Leon Pryce. His relative Geoff Pryce had ten years at York, while today's coach Basil Richards came through the club juniors achieving county and international honours before signing for Warrington, then Huddersfield and finishing at Doncaster. No less than 11 players in today's team are junior products of the club which can boast two open age teams and eight teams in the junior sections. It is pleasing to know that all the hard work over the years by people too numerous to mention is now paying dividends.

STEVEN EYLES (Beer pump fitter for Carlsberg)

Steven came up through the club juniors as a winger, but after a reshuffle because of injuries moved to full back and made the position his own.

JASON PELL (Self employed electrician)

Jason joined the club from Wibsey Sedberg Rugby League Club (now defunct). He won his place after outstanding games in the 'A' team.

TREVOR STEAD (Engineering production manager)

Trevor is one of the longest serving players in the team, coming up through the club juniors. He was last season's first team player of the year award winner, and a try scorer in the first round against Charleston Knights (Hull). Has represented Bradford in the inter-town competition.

LEE BARON (Tax Inspector)

Lee is another player who joined the club from Wibsey Sedberg. Has represented Great Britain Social Services team against the armed forces. He is the team's reserve goal kicker.

ANDREW BARRACLOUGH (A fraud analyst)

Andrew - 'Bazz' to his team mates - is another club junior who has earned his place on the wing. He is equally as effective at full back.

JOHNNY FEATHER (IT officer - computers)

Johnny has made debut season in open age and is steadily making a good job of it. His kicking game was one of the main factors in the defeat of Charleston Knights.

CARL SMITH (White collar worker)

Carl, son of local bookmaker Peter, who wore the No. 7 shirt in the 1980s with great success, was the winner of the M.O.M. Medallion in the previous round at Walney Central to go with the other two he has won in previous seasons. Queensbury believe they have got one of the best scrum halves outside the professional game.

ANDREW CANNON (Electrician)

Andy, along with his brother Chris (both nicknamed 'Burger' for obvious reason) is also sampling his first season in the open age. Son of club vice chairman Paul, this game should be a great experience for him if selected.

STEPHEN SENIOR (Bradford & Bingley employee)

Stephen is another club junior and younger brother of team mate and blind side prop Andrew. They are another two following in dad Alan's footsteps, who propped in the 1980s, also with great success. Stephen, along with girlfriend Sharon, compile the club programme).

ANDREW SENIOR (Electrician)

Andy - 'Soggy' to his team mates - is yet another ex-junior and was the mascot for the 1st team in the 80s. He was then signed up by Keighley Cougars but returned to the club when he became surplus to requirements under new coach Lee Crooks. Their loss is our gain.

NATHAN VARLEY (Managing Director sheet metal business)

Nathan is returning to Oldham after being a player here last season. After non renewal of his contract he rejoined the club where he started. He has been elected captain for the day today. Renowned for his workrate and tackling.

MATTHEW GALTRESS (Builder self employed)

'Gally' is the son of retired senior referee Brian Galtress. After coming through the juniors was signed by Keighley, but returned to the club via Dudley Hill. He missed the previous round at Walney Central because he was on the verge of being a father.

LEE CHARLTON (Salesman)

'Chazz' has divided his time between loose-forward and stand-off with equal effect. His two tries in the first round against Charleston Knights earned him the man of the match award. Dare we say another club junior?

MARTIN POTTS (Retired stuntman)

'Potts', an ex professional with Bradford, joined the club from local rivals Clayton. He understudied Keith Mumby at Bradford in the late 1980s. His vast experience is appreciated among the young players in the team.

CRAIG WINNARD (Pharmaceutical Distributor)

Craig wants it to be known he is not to be confused with a drug pusher! Craig is the only Lancashire lad in the team having been born in Chorley. He came to live in the Queensbury area because of his work. He previously had a short stint with Wigan St. Patricks.

GARY PRENTICE (Sheet metal worker)

'Gazza' is another long serving member of the club over 10 years, last year winning the Pennine League Premier Division Player of the year award. Brother of club chairman Mark, he is noted for his tremendous work rate.

DARREN WILKINSON (Student)

'Popsy' to his team mates Darren is another player for whom today's game will be a great experience if selected. Not lacking in size and ability he is a great prospect.

IAN THORPE (Fork Lift Truck Driver)

'Morley' or 'Rhubarb' to his mates Ian gets through a lot of work in defence and is very reliable. A big Halifax Blue Sox supporter. Bless him!

MARK CRAFT (Heating Engineer)

'Crafty's' first team appearances have been limited due to his job travelling around the country. Nevertheless he is a valuable player on the bench and can come on and play any position you ask him to.

Club Coach: Basil Richards

Physio's: Rory and Caroline Grayson

Colours: Blue & White

Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

This article appeared recently in the business pages of the Manchester Evening News. Not the first insolvency practice with rugby league experience! Good Luck to Bernard in his 'retirement'.

PROFESSIONALS BUSINESS

Manchester
Evening News

GANLEY THE BOOT SCORES FINAL GOAL WITH MERGER



Bernard today

A RUGBY League legend is poised to blow the whistle on his career as an insolvency specialist.

Bernard Ganley was a record breaking full back for Oldham and Great Britain in a career which spanned more than a decade.

He signed for the Lancashire club as a teenager in 1950 and went on to set a host of records between 1951 and 1961.

Ganley the Boot, as he was known, landed 1,365 career goals including 200 during the 1957-58 season.

In 1959 he kicked 14 in a match against Liverpool City, which has never been bettered by an Oldham player.

He starred in a terrific Oldham side in the mid and late 50's and collected a Championship winners' medal in 1957 following victory over Hull at Bradford.

Bernard is one of only 10 players to be given a place in Oldham's Hall of Fame, and is still a revered figure in the town.

Unusually for Rugby League players of his time, he attended university.

While his contemporaries were working down the pit or labouring on building sites, Bernard was studying to become a chartered accountant.

When he finished playing, he became a respected TV and radio sports presenter for the BBC.

Now, he has merged his Golborne-based firm WB Ganley and Co with Kay Chartered Accountants, of Northwich, to form Ganley Burt Insolvency Services, which specialises in business recovery and rescue.

Bernard said today: "It has a separate name, but is part of Kay's. I am acting as a consultant while Laurence Burt from Kay's is the senior partner."

"I have decided it is time for me to wind down"

Laurence said the merger would enhance the range of services to professional advisers, company directors and individuals.

"We have been in discussion for some time about the possibility of further developing the breadth and depth of the services that we both offer, with a view to creating a single business that deals with all aspects of insolvency and corporate recovery."



Bernard accepts the 1957 Championship trophy after Oldham's victory over Hull at Bradford.

GOOD TO see such a magnificent turnout at the Leigh game of our former stars of the 50's and 60's supporting Frank Stirrup's inauguration into the J. W. Lees Hall of Fame. After the game John Donovan, Trevor Simms and Vince Nestor were kept amused by former team mate Len McIntyre recalling what to him was the most famous drop goal of all time, of course referring to his timely effort at Headingley that gained us a replay in the 1964 Challenge Cup semi against Hull KR. I couldn't bring myself to tell them that after a lot of digging I have unearthed the original Grandstand recording (Eddie Waring and all) but am I having

trouble wrestling a copy from the Beeb! Ironical that without my effort they would never have known they had it!



OLDHAM Council are almost there with the road improvements and subsequent upgrading of the small park at the junction of Watersheddings St. Counthill Rd and Ripponden Rd (it's taken almost 3 years!) and the unveiling of the blue plaque to commemorate one of the most famous rugby grounds in the world will now be in the early spring.

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Gabriels



Cook(e)ing up a storm



WHEN South Sydney were over I went to watch their match at Hilton Park. During the game there were three or four major brawls. At Boundary Park two weeks ago there were two brawls. A Swinton follower writing to League Express complained about a serious brawl in the Lions game with Leigh at Gigg Lane. Leigh supporters don't seem averse to a bit of a dust up either.

Now as a team which can play some spectacular rugby, Leigh are second to none. So when an occasional incident occurs between two players (as it will in a fierce contact sport like Rugby League from time to time) do we really need every player on the park sprinting to get involved? Certainly the officials can't be expected to differentiate easily between those wanting to fight and those (if any) wanting to separate the combatants.

One of the classic moments of Rugby League which has always stayed with me was the sight of Halifax captain John Burnett sitting down fifty yards from the action while a mass brawl took place between Halifax and St. Helens players in the 1966 Championship Final at Station Road, Swinton. And I've always thought what a sensible chap he was. And just in case you think Burnett lacked courage

there was one occasion at Keighley when Halifax finished with ten men due to injuries (no substitutes in those days) and Burnett returned to the field three times after dislocating his shoulder to head his men to victory. Now if that had taken place in a Test Match just think what that would have done for his reputation.



Johnny Freeman (not noted for loss of temper) sticks one on Tony Barrow in the Halifax - St. Helens 1966 brawl

Dear Sir,

I am writing to congratulate you on the quality of the programme you produced for yesterday's game at Boundary Park. It was very good value, well produced with several really good articles - a good read!

Incidentally, at Spotland two years ago when Oldham entertained Leigh, I thought the programme was equally good. I remarked on this to my friend from Leigh, something like, "this is a good programme, Leigh's could be like this." It just so happened that he had just taken over editing the Leigh programme so the reply was, "put your pen where your mouth is and write me an article."

Since then I've written a few articles for the Leigh programme, so look what you've started!

Irrespective of Yesterday's result which didn't do justice to Oldham, there have been some great Leigh v Oldham occasions in the past. Isn't it stupid that we only play each other once this year. This should be organised better than that!

Best wishes

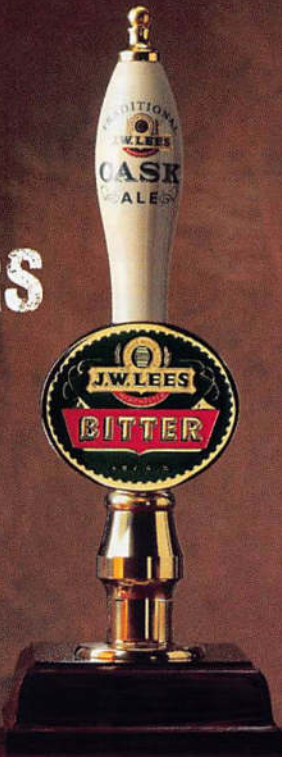
Brian Wood

It's nice to be appreciated, so thanks to Brian. I'm sure we all agree with his closing remark. Incidentally the Leigh programme is a good one as are several others in the N.F.P. More of that another time.



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..... **Ian Sinfield****Q. How did your Rugby career start and when?**

I played as a boy with Waterhead then known as Oldham Juniors, with Paul Sculthorpe, Ian Knox and Paul Highton. We were all mates and enjoyed training, playing matches and going to Watersheddings to watch Oldham Rugby. When I was about 14 years old Peter Burns encouraged me to start weight training: he sorted out a personal training programme for me and gave me the responsibility for my own general fitness. As a result my game improved, I was more confident and was soon playing for Lancashire and then Great Britain.

Q. Which was your first professional club?

I signed for Salford when I was 17 years old. I'd had offers from Halifax and Castleford, but Salford at that time seemed to have the edge. Gary Jack was the coach who appealed to me at the time as a forward looking coach and who, for the young, ambitious, new professional player had evolved a programme of learning, training and experience so that in a steady way you would be prepared for first team selection. Unfortunately he did not remain long at Salford before Andy Gregory was brought in. Gregory almost immediately started bringing older, more experienced players to the club, in an effort to get back into Super League. As a consequence the younger players were 'put on the back burner' so to speak and started to drift away.

Q. What about your short career playing in France?

It was a 'real' experience, because I was a full time player but I was very much left to my own devices, I went to the gym to keep my fitness levels up and I trained twice weekly with the club. Then, on the day of the game, all the team met for lunch and talked tactics. We had a three course lunch only a few hours before the game!

The games in France were hard, rough and tough and the refereeing was pretty dismal. Never the less I met some great guys, I learned a bit of the language and did some sightseeing, so it definitely was not time wasted.

Q. Any players you admire?

I have always admired Ellery Hanley as a player, his skills, strength, fitness, athleticism and dedication to the game are legendary and set a good example to younger players. As an opponent I do not think I have ever played against anyone as hard, strong and tough as Brendon Tuuta, from Featherstone. What a player!

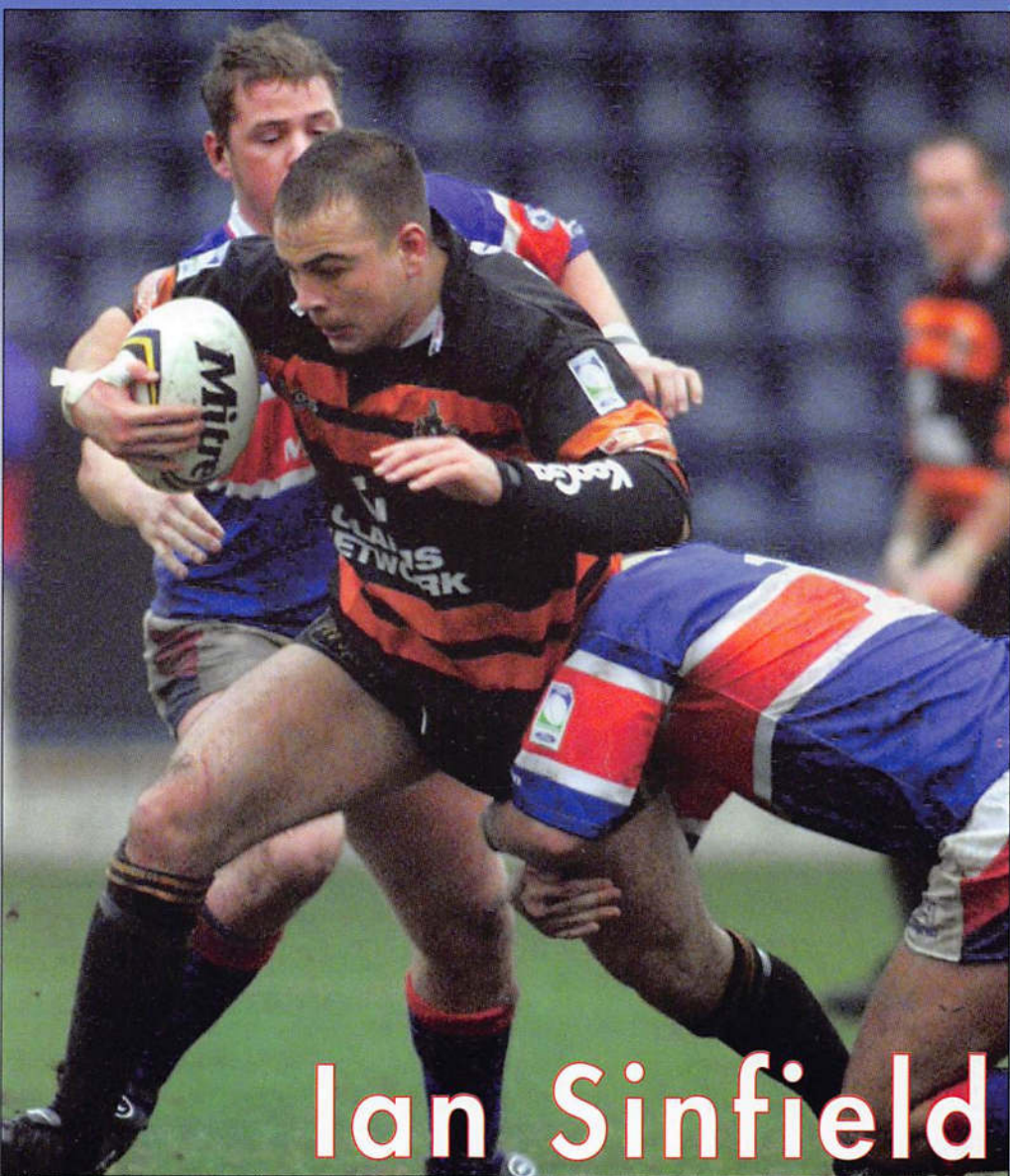
Q. What are your personal ambitions?

I feel honoured and pleased to be playing for my home town club: the lads in the squad are great and we have tremendous team spirit.

It would be great to get to the Grand Final with Oldham and having a coach like Mike Ford gives us a load of confidence. His preparations are excellent.

On a more personal level I now live locally with my girl friend. A while ago we holidayed at Cancun in Mexico and I'd recommend that to anyone. In the future I would really like to go to Australia for a long holiday, and more especially if it could be arranged at the same time the Great Britain squad are there on an Ashes tour, preferably with my brother Kevin in the squad. Now that would be brilliant.


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MRS McCALLUM'S DIARY

.....

JULY

Greg came home in a real fluster: something to do with Martin Pearson's testosterone level. I thought he must be on that Viagra but Greg said something about Ecstasy. I thought the two are probably connected, but I decided to keep that thought to myself. Greg kept saying he couldn't see why players don't stick to ten pints of lager like they used to; after all these '...ines', '...aines', '...oids', '...etics' and '...olics' are what you buy at the Chemist before a holiday in Mozambique aren't they?

AUGUST

That Huddersfield-Sheffield team have lost £1m, Greg says Super League had already given them a million, so that's two million down the drain. Apparently the phone bill is horrendous: the Chairman keep ringing 09068 444444 to speak to somebody called Tarrant.

Peter Deakin's gone over to the other side. Again! Greg says at least they have the right name, Sale. All shoddy goods bought in at knockdown prices presented to the punters as something they're not!

SEPTEMBER

Super League says Australian coaches can't have a job in England unless they've already been a Head Coach Down Under. Greg says it's a good job the rule doesn't apply to Directors of Rugby. However, if you have a British grandad you can get round it. Trouble is if you can prove your grandad's British you might find out what he got convicted for in the first place!

Those fuel protesters gave Greg an idea: he thought we could stand outside Red Hall to see if we could make the R.F.L. bring Super League into line like the protestors did with the government. I told him not to be such a fool because no-one would ever make Super League see sense.

OCTOBER

Rugby League is dead. At least the Daily Mail and the Times think it is. It's all the fault of that

Jason Robinson. Apparently Sale have signed him as their line-out jumper. That's because he's the smallest man they could get and you can throw him higher into the air than anyone else.

Leeds Rhinos nearly got slapped with a racial discrimination case. It seems somebody called Barrie McDermott a 'big Irish jessie'. Luckily Barrie has always admired Jesse James since he went to the threepenny rush at the Roxy as a boy so he didn't follow things up when Gary Hetherington told him it was a compliment. Greg said Gary's sigh of relief could be heard over in Wigan.

NOVEMBER

It won't stop raining. Greg says it's something to do with El Nino. I thought he played stand-off for Parramatta. Anyway it's not helped the World Cup because all the media keep showing pictures of empty seats. No-one's bothered to point out that when the roof leaks in Cardiff you do the sensible thing and clear off to the bar.

Greg can't work out how the New Zealanders couldn't tell the difference in the Final between a big black man on one wing and a little bleached blond white man on the other. He thought it might have something to do with Kiwis and All Blacks.

DECEMBER

Greg's fuming at that Chris Caisley. It seems he thinks club rugby is the be-all and end-all. That's why Bradford are going to play Leeds once a fortnight next season. And he wants to draw them in the Cup as well! He had a row with that Martyn Sadler because he thought a pornography baron had bought League Express. Greg had to point out that was the Daily Express and that when Andy Farrell was photographed getting out of the bath at Wigan he had his towel with him.

We went back to Oz for Christmas but Greg never spoke to me once on the flight over. He was too busy reading some papers to do with a player from Leigh who seemed to have signed a contract with every club in Super League. I know Leigh's not a very nice place, but that seems a hell of a complicated way to get away from it!

FRANK'S BIG DAY



THE inclusion of Frank Stirrup and Herman Hilton into the J. W. Lees Oldham Rugby League Hall of Fame attracted over 40 former players from the 50s and 60s period. Indeed a high mark of support for their former playing and coaching colleague Frank on his big day. It was gratifying too for the club and organisers to later receive several letters of thanks from our guests and I thought all our supporters would like to share particularly in the letter received from former star forward Sid Little.

BW



Sid Little

Sidney D. Little OBE, FIBF, AMIQA, IENG.

Dear Brian,

I write to thank you and the Oldham Rugby League Football Club for the invitation to Boundary Park on Sunday. It must be over forty five years since I last visited Boundary Park. Roads and buildings have changed so I appreciated your directions.

I certainly enjoyed the game. The result was disappointing but both teams played well on a very hard pitch on a biting cold day. Oldham's current squad might not yet measure up to our team in the 1950's but the foundations are surely in place and the soccer ground and facilities seemed excellent. The Oldham supporters were as enthusiastic and knowledgeable as ever - some remembering match details and what might have been against Leigh that I have tried years to forget!

The pub next door was also impressive but, having to drive back to the Midlands I did not enjoy the tonic water which the young lady behind the bar tried so hard to make appropriate for the occasion.

It was also enjoyable to meet so many old friends, a few of the remaining old team-mates and to see Frank join the Club's 'Hall of Fame'. Frank, as most now accept, was the innovator of so many deceptive set pieces - and their dummies within the game. Not all of them worked but those that moved from the Watersheddings training sessions to the match regularly led directly or indirectly to a score.

The print you kindly presented was the subject of some interesting comments down here. Most expressed disbelief at my head of hair, I told them with tongue in cheek that it was the payment I promised to the artist coupled with the lack of exposure to Oldham Brewery's bitter that caused the loss and change in colour.

Thank you all again for a most enjoyable day and I wish the Club every success with its plans for the future.

Best Regards
SD

Behind the Scenes

... with Dave Roberts

HAYDN WALKER - 'A' TEAM COACH

How did you become involved with Oldham?

It happened just after the Student World Cup. Mike spoke to me and later asked me if I would be interested in coaching the Alliance team.

What is your RL background?

I worked as full time Development Officer for Hemel Hempstead, and I also did work for the Student World Cup.

How did you find Oldham's Alliance set up?

The thing that struck me was that attitudes needed to change and things had to be more professional. As things turned out we just missed a play-off place in my first season.

This season we have won two and lost two, but it is all about player development and getting lads ready to step up to the first team - take a look at Ian Sinfield as an example.

What is your least favourite ground?

Hilton Park (Leigh). There is nothing good in Leigh, and the only good thing to come out of Leigh is the road to Wigan.

Who is the best player you have coached?

I have been very lucky, I coached the NW Counties U15's for seven years; so I have coached a lot of great players, but to pick one it would have to be Andy Farrell.



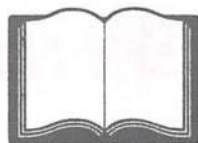
School time at Central Park - a special ten week rugby league course for the cream of junior talent was run by Haydn for youngsters aged between thirteen and fifteen.

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.....WITH DON YATES

THIS afternoon Oldham become the fourth local club to enter the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Two of the three other clubs, Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead, have already fallen by the way side but St. Anne's still survive and today they make the unenviable trip to Whitehaven.

Accompanying them will be a familiar character in local rugby circles, physiotherapist John Watkins, who has been involved in many cup campaigns with the former Oldham club.



John Watkins

John played soccer and cricket in his younger days but has always watched and enjoyed his rugby league. In the early eighties he accepted an invitation by Brian Churm to help out with the preparation of the Oldham 'A' team. He quickly got involved in the backroom activities up at Watersheddings, picking up skills of strapping joints and physiotherapy from the likes of Frank Navesy, Alan Bonnelle and Nick Hodgson. He was also involved in the commercial side of activities, launching the lucrative Lifeline Society with Ray Hill and John Cogger. They were happy times at Oldham where John built up lifelong friendships with many of the Oldham personalities of that era. He was heavily involved with the Oldham "A" team in 1993-4 when they completed the season undefeated and he describes his association with coach Shane Tupaea as 'something special'.

When the old club folded, John was obviously disappointed, and even more

disappointed when the current club failed to take him, and his vast experience, on board as the new club was launched. But he bears no grudges, "It was a new beginning. A fresh start and I understand where they were coming from".

One day he was watching a match at Higginshaw Road when Saints' president Billy Herron asked him to join the St. Anne's backroom staff. John agreed and it was the start of a new, exciting adventure. John admits to be pleasantly surprised by the standard of competition in the National Conference League. 'It really is superb', he said, 'both the playing and coaching side'. He has much admiration for current St. Anne's coach Shaun Gartland who he worked with at academy level with Oldham. 'He has lots of good ideas and, quietly, he is doing a great job especially following in the successful footsteps of Chris Deakin'. John is lavish in his praise of Chris Deakin but the coach who has impressed him most is current Keighley boss Steve Deakin. 'He is the best British coach in the game', said John. 'His help last season was instrumental in the defeat of Batley and the good showing Saints put up at Castleford'. Hopefully, it will pay off again up at Whitehaven this afternoon.

Editor's note:- In 1998 I was in Barbados for the West Indies v England Test Match. Now, there is precisely one Fish and Chip Shop on Barbados and having had a good lunch this particular day we decided to see what a West Indian fish supper was like. On entering the premises there were two people waiting to be served. You've guessed it, one was John Watkins and the other Dave Whitehead. wouldn't you just know that two Oldham lads would find the chippy? Incidentally the menu was Flying Fish or Red Snapper (battered of course) Chips and mushy peas. Not bad, eh?

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Barrow												16-28				5-4			
Batley					16-19	6-37	24-4												12-4
Chorley	24-38										4-56				12-30				
Dewsbury		24-12				21-12		32-10											50-2
Doncaster									36-8					22-2					
Featherstone					34-4		68-6							12-15					
Gateshead					8-27			0-18		0-52									
Hull KR					0-30	6-6			40-12										2-0
Hunslet	4-13		2-34							12-44				14-0					
Keighley			32-6		22-22		24-8												
Leigh	19-8														46-4				
OLDHAM										18-44							20-12		
Rochdale			52-12									6-10					14-24		
Sheffield		34-1								16-52									
Swinton	26-24												4-8						
Whitehaven			28-4								8-30				4-8				
Widnes											20-25					22-14		26-16	
Workington												6-22	18-8		31-10				
York					8-26				20-20	14-48									



Winnards

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... with Simon Winnard

In the context of new RL Stadia springing up over the next couple of years in places such as Warrington, Salford and Hull, where does this leave the Roughyeds faithful in their long running saga to find a similar facility? Sadly the answer is firmly in the dark once again.

Whilst all has gone strangely quiet in respect of the proposed re-development of Boundary Park, had a change in local authority control not taken place back in May of last year, work on a brand new stadium would have been well under way by now. The immediate scrapping of the Sportspark 2000 plan and subsequent decision to redevelop Boundary Park saw years of work towards building a state of the art stadium abandoned almost overnight.

Following the initial announcement of The Oldham Stadium, it would appear that a Stadium for all Oldham has once again failed to materialise. Following an initial letter to the editor of the Chronicle last week, the paper reported that the Stadium Company has amazingly not even been formed yet. We are now a whole eight months following the much publicised initial announcement and this represents a ridiculous state of affairs. If this is the length of time needed to merely set up the company, how long before any real development takes place?

Interestingly, my column notes from last June read as follows, "I'm sure I can be forgiven for demonstrating a little scepticism here. Should this development ever materialise, and on that issue I have very serious doubts, it is quite clearly far too early at present to offer premature, misplaced enthusiasm until the facts are clearly and publicly presented...we have been down this road too often before. Whilst the previous local council administration was much maligned for lack of communication with the community it serves, a disappointing mixture of what appears to be apathetic inactivity and unnerving silence prevails."

However, let's assume that this development does eventually get off the ground. What does appear obvious is that there is only a need for a scaled down version of the stadium in the present sporting climate.

Latics attendances at the foot of the old third division this season have averaged just 4,715 with a recent home game versus Colchester only just breaking the 4,000 mark. Indeed, Wigan Athletic have only attracted an average of 6,300 to the magnificent JJB Stadium despite pushing for promotion from the very same division. On the RL side of things, should the Roughyeds achieve their goal of reaching a top four driven Super League they can expect attendances at best approaching those of Halifax, Salford or Wakefield. Therefore a 10,000 seat capacity would easily suffice for both clubs.

Of more immediate concern however is the short term future for the Roughyeds. As I understand it, once formed the Roughyeds will be leasing directly from the joint Stadium company and not sub-leasing from Latics as has been the case to date. At present the football club continues to rent Boundary Park for £20,000 a month and retains responsibility for the maintenance of the pitch and facilities.

Does this therefore mean that the Roughyeds will not now face a similar untimely eviction to last year as their season reaches its crucial climax?

Given the present state of the Boundary Park pitch, it seems inevitable that further major work will be needed on the pitch at some stage towards the end of the season. Last year, after some initial disgruntlement, Roughyeds' officials reluctantly accepted that they would have to vacate Boundary Park earlier than planned. Despite Latics serious concerns about the state of the pitch they continued to allow schools finals to be played whilst insisting that the Roughyeds vacated for the remainder of the season. Latics then arranged a pre-season home friendly versus Leeds which, had this not taken place, surely could have allowed the Rugby League club to satisfy the remainder of its fixtures whilst allowing enough time for the remedial work needed on the surface. The poor state of the pitch, the likelihood of the Roughyeds involvement in the play-offs and both clubs historically uneasy relationship implies a short to mid-term uncertainty which needs to be resolved, and sooner rather than later.



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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to January 28th yesteryear

MATCHES at this time of year are frequently affected by the wintry weather, not that I am an opponent of winter rugby, quite the opposite, but six years ago, Saturday 28th January, 1995, was one such wintry matchday. The third round of the National Amateur Cup was scheduled for that day featuring sixty ties including Queensbury's home match against Sowerby Bridge Robins. As event turned out only five cup-ties went ahead as scheduled but when Queensbury eventually met the Robins, two weeks later, they ran out winners 18-8.

One match which did go ahead on that day, Saturday 28th January 1995, was the Alliance match between Oldham 'A' and Featherstone 'A' which, rather surprisingly, was played up at Watersheddings. Oldham won 42-12 with one of their eight tries coming from substitute forward Craig Richards, the former Queensbury junior who spent four years with the Roughyeds.

Heavy snow also disrupted the programme twelve months later, on Sunday 28th January 1996, when only three fourth round Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties were staged although, as usual, several players well known in this town were involved in those ties. The former Waterhead second-rower Roy Jewitt and current Higginshaw coach Ray Ashton were included in the Bramley side which lost 74-12 at Wigan. Current Rochdale Hornets coach Martin Hall landed five goals for the pie-eaters in that match. The Featherstone Rovers team which lost 35-12 at Salford included former St. Anne's prop Steve Molloy and second-row forward Joe Nadiole, currently starring for Shaw Rhinos. Another former Shaw player, prop Bob Marsden was in the Huddersfield team which lost 35-14 at home to Sheffield Eagles. Also included in the Fartown pack that day was second-rower Basil Richards, brother of Craig, and another former Queensbury star.

Probably the most famous product of the Queensbury club still currently involved in the game is the Bradford Bulls head coach Brian

Noble. He won numerous honours as a player with Bradford, including skipper of the 1984 Ilons in Australasia. Eleven years ago, on Sunday 28th January 1990, Noble was a member of the Bradford Northern team which won 22-12 at Runcorn Highfield in a first round Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie. Noble actually played prop in that match because Glenn Baraclough was hooking, and he had an extended run in that position before returning to the hooking role.

On that same afternoon, Sunday 29th January 1990, Oldham defeated Workington Town by 30 points to eight at the same stage of the same competition. Centre



Mike Ford



Leo Casey

John Henderson crossed for a hatrick of tries in that match and there were also strong performances from a couple of our other senior players, scrum-half Mike Ford and prop Leo Casey.

It was on this day in 1998, Wednesday 28th January, that Oldham signed the former Queensbury back-row forward Nathan Varley from Bradford Bulls. Whilst with the Roughyeds, Varley proved to be a willing worker who always played well above his weight. Unfortunately he suffered more than most with injuries and these restricted his number of first team appearance. Varley played 32 matches for the Roughyeds and scored one try before returning to Queensbury. He will certainly be 'up for it' on his return to Boundary Park this afternoon.

Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER
3 Barrow F - A 28 - 16 1,294

10 CHORLEY H P

17 Workington 22 - 6 1,295

24 Rochdale 10 - 6 3,402

JANUARY

1 WIDNES 20 - 12 3,471

7

14 LEIGH 18 - 44 4,747

21 Swinton A P

28 Queensbury (SCCC R3) H

FEBRUARY

4 WHITEHAVEN H

11 Silk Cut Challenge Cup

18 GATESHEAD H

25 Silk Cut Challenge Cup

MARCH

4 HUNSLET H

11 Dewsbury A

18 SHEFFIELD H

25 Featherstone A

APRIL

1 York A

8 BATLEY H

13 ROCHDALE H

16 Widnes A

22 Batley A

29 KEIGHLEY H

MAY

6 BARROW H

13 Chorley A

20 WORKINGTON H

27 DONCASTER H

JUNE

3 Gateshead A

10 SWINTON H

17 Whitehaven A

24 Keighley A

JULY

1 Hull KR A

Sponsors

Silk Cup Challenge Cup

APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2000-01

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	SUBSTITUTIONS	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
M. SIBSON	5		2			8
D. CROSS	4		2			8
J. McNICHOLAS	1					
A. GIBBONS	5		1			4
P. RICH	6			18		36
W. BARROW	2					
D. LACEY	4		1			4
D. GIBBONS	6		2			8
N. RODEN	6		3		3	15
A. PROCTOR	5		1			4
J. HOUGH	6		2			8
J. CLEGG	2	4				
L. CASEY	4	2				
P. FARRELL	6					
P. NORTON	5					
S. McMENEMY	1					
I. SINFIELD	5	1				
G. BARBER		1	1			4
M. FORD		5			1	1
D. GUEST		6				
C. FARRELL		4				
D. ARNOLD	3		3			12
K. MANNION	2	1				

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TODAY'S TEAMS



3rd Round Silk Cut Challenge Cup

OLDHAM

Coach: Mike FORD

QUEENSBURY

Coach: Bazil RICHARDS

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Danny ARNOLD	2	Jason PELL
Anthony GIBBONS	3	Trevor STEAD
Pat RICH	4	Lee BARON
Daryl LACEY	5	Andrew BARRACLOUGH
David GIBBONS	6	Johnny FEATHER
Neil RODEN	7	Carl SMITH
Leo CASEY	8	Andrew CANNON
John HOUGH	9	Stephen SENIOR
Paul NORTON	10	Andrew SENIOR
Phil FARRELL	11	Nathan VARLEY
Ian SINFIELD	12	Matthew GALTRESS
Kevin MANNION	13	Lee CHARLTON
Mike FORD	14	Martin POTTS
Jason CLEGG	15	Craig WINNARD
Danny GUEST	16	Gary PRENTICE
Chris FARRELL	17	Darren WILKINSON

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

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B. P. KING

C. HALLORAN

4th



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COLIN A.

MORRIS

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

2000/2001 SILK CUT PRIZES

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Of the 2001 sponsorship investment of £1,000,000 a total prize fund of £642,650 is projected for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The remaining funds will be deposited in the League's Capital Development Fund. The complete 2001 Silk Cut Challenge Cup prize structure is:

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

Third Round winners (NFP Clubs)	£4,500
Third Round losers (Amateur Clubs)	£1,300
French Clubs	£6,750
Fourth Round losers	£6,000
Fifth Round losers	£10,000
Quarter-Final losers	£18,500
Semi-Final losers	£25,000
Runners-up	£65,000
Winners	£150,000

PROJECTED PRIZE FUND

£642,650

PROJECTED CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

£357,350

GRAND TOTAL

£1,000,000

The above amounts are paid direct to the clubs by the Rugby Football League. There will be no prize money cheque to be presented at matches by the Silk Cut Sales Representative.

2001 SILK CUT AWARDS

Silk Cut Awards will again be presented to the adjudged Man of the Match in each tie from the first round onwards. In each case the winner will receive a commemorative medallion. The winner will also receive a cheque for £200 from the third round through to the quarter-finals. The Man of the Match at both semi-finals receives a cheque for £400 plus an engraved silver plated replica rugby ball.

2000/2001 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP TIMETABLE

First Round	2/3 December, 2000	Fifth Round	24/25 February, 2001
Second Round	16/17 December, 2000	Quarter Finals	10/11 March, 2001
Third round	27/28 January, 2001	Semi Finals	31 March/1 April, 2001
Fourth Round	10/11 February, 2001	Final	28 April, 2001

2001 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP FINAL TICKETS

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2000/2001 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP DRAWS

The draw for the first round will be made live on GMR at 7.10pm on Tuesday 14th November, 2000. The draws for the second and third rounds will be made live on BBC Radio Leeds at approximately 7.00pm on Wednesday 6th December and Wednesday 3rd January respectively. The fourth round draw will be made on Monday 29th January, 2001.

The draw ceremonies for the fifth round, quarter-finals and semi-finals will be made live on BBC Sunday Grandstand at approximately 5.10pm on the following dates:

Fifth Round	Sunday 11th February
Quarter-Finals	Sunday 25th February
Semi-Finals	Sunday 11th March.

