

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP



THE ROAD TO TWICKENHAM 2001



OLDHAM vs HULL K. R.

SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2001

KICK OFF 3.00pm

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.80

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

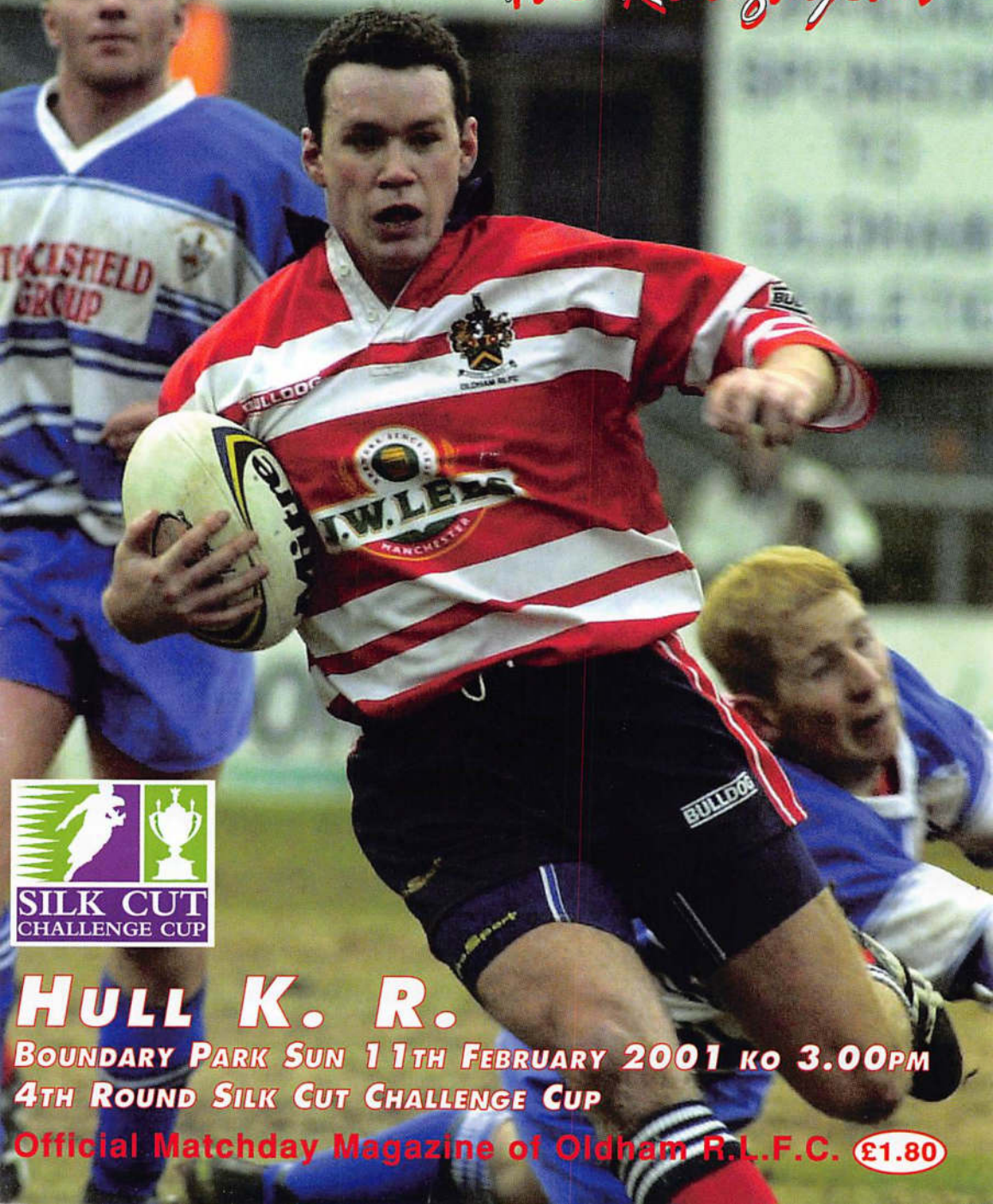
The draw for the first round will be made live on GMR at 7.10pm on Tuesday 14th November, 2000. The draws for the second and third rounds will be made live on BBC Radio Leeds at approximately 7.00pm on Wednesday 6th December and Wednesday 3rd January respectively. The fourth round draw will be made on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

OLDHAM RLFC

The Roughyeds



HULL K. R.

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Up Front

... with Christopher Hamilton



A WARM welcome to today's visitors Hull Kingston Rovers for this Silk Cut Challenge Cup Tie. After the stop/start of the last few weeks lets hope that today's game goes ahead and we can start playing on a regular basis. Although today is a Cup Tie no side has yet (with the exception of Leigh and Keighley) settled into its rhythm and coaches are becoming increasingly frustrated.

Today however, it's Cup glory we are after, but we know that Hull KR have started to put some form together and their result against Toulouse Spacers in the last round was probably the best performance of the day. There are a number of ties today which see NFP clubs battling against Super League opposition and there could well be one or two upsets.

The two teams mentioned earlier are both at home against Salford and Hull respectively and either of those could see an upset, particularly if the home team get in front. It would be tremendous for our division if we were able to defeat one of the Super League clubs and would really strengthen our case in relation to promotion/relegation.

Anyway, back to reality and lets hope that today's game is a cracker but we win! Hull KR, now out of administration are finding life tough but have lots of people willing to roll up their sleeves to try and re-establish the Rovers as a force in the game and we wish them luck in that respect.

As ever we hope your support will be loud and get behind the lads. We have a young squad and they will make mistakes but with your backing it can be overcome. Cheer the lads on to victory.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton



The Roughyeds

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FRONT COVER

**Mark Sibson in action in the 3rd
round against Queensbury ARLFC**

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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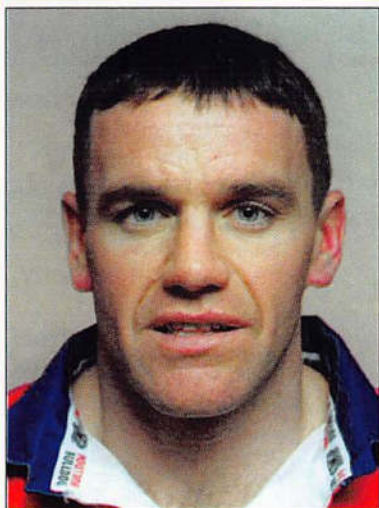
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FORD FOCUS . . . with Mike Ford



THE RECENT bad weather has become a great nuisance because it affects the team's training programme as well as the fixtures. It's a really big let down for the players when they have prepared both mentally and physically for the weekend game. It's not for me to argue the merits of summer versus winter because that's all tied up with finance but, as a player, summer is preferable because of the conditions and continuity. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we don't get many more postponements because a fixture pile up will only make things worse as the season progresses.

Today we are pleased to welcome Hull K.R. in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Rovers are a very competitive side which plays the percentages.

They don't concede many points and today's game is definitely going to be a tough one. The Robins control the football well and have a good kicking game, so we will have to be patient and maybe grind out a win. We are hoping for good conditions so both sides will be able to play open football if possible but we are ready for an endurance test if need be. We would like to go as far as we can in the competition because that generates extra revenue and prize money for the club and brings in the possibility of a T.V. fixture which we would like to have to show our capabilities to a national audience.

The recent meetings I had with Wayne Bennett and David Waite were very productive. You have to get used to some different (Australian) terminology, but it's a real help to know you're working on the right lines. I think the conditions underfoot at Castleton were a real eye-opener for David Waite and made him realise what we British coaches are up against.

I hope you enjoy today's game and cheer us on to victory.

Mike

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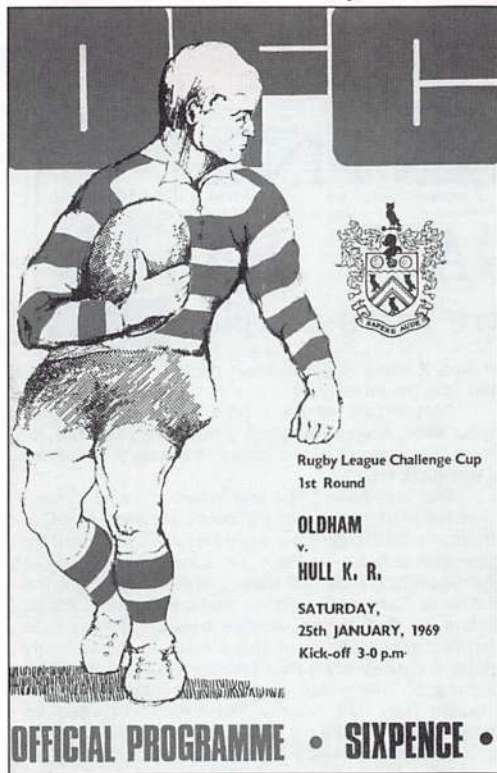
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Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



Programme cover for the match against Hull KR on January 25th 1969.

THERE IS probably still no other competition, in either code of rugby, that captures the imagination as does the Rugby League Challenge Cup. Since the trophy was first contested in 1897 it has become a firm favourite with both the 'die hard' and casual followers of the game.

For today's fourth round tie we welcome to Boundary Park the players, officials and supporters of Hull Kingston Rovers. The 'Roughyeds' and the 'Robins' have had some memorable cup encounters in the past - the 1925 final at Headingley when Oldham won the cup for the second time in their history. The titanic struggle in the 1964 semi-final when Rovers went to Wembley at the third attempt after two drawn games. The 1990 second division premiership final at Old Trafford when the 'Roughyeds' came from well behind to snatch a dramatic victory.

However, for today's featured match I have chosen a first round Challenge cup tie from January 25th, 1969. This was the last occasion when the two clubs met in this competition and yet again there was hardly anything to choose between the teams. The match, which attracted a healthy attendance of just under nine thousand spectators, was played at Watersheddings. Rovers opened the scoring in the 12th minute by means of a Terry Clawson penalty goal but the lead was short lived, for five minutes later, Wilf Briggs and Phil Larder combined well to send in new signing Jim Crellin for a try which was converted by Derek Whitehead. Briggs followed this up a few minutes later with a drop goal, which still counted for two points in 1969. Oldham then had a lucky escape when Larder knocked down a Roger Millward pass with the try line wide open.

Two further penalties by Clawson left Rovers just one point in arrears at the interval and shortly after the resumption the goal kicking prop forward was successful again to put Hull KR ahead. Oldham, although on the wrong end of the penalty count, were gaining a lot of possession from the scrums and this eventually led to a further score when Briggs got on the end of a Kevin Taylor break to score near the posts. Whitehead again converted to give the home side a 12-8 advantage. Clawson pulled back two points with another penalty goal but it was Oldham who finished the stronger. Scrum half Tom Canning had a try disallowed for a double movement and the last minutes of the match saw Oldham camped on the Rovers line. The final whistle sounded with the 'Roughyeds' triumphant by twelve points to ten. Kevin Taylor for Oldham and, a nineteen year old, Phil Lowe for Hull KR were the pick of the players on view.

The teams that day were:

OLDHAM: D. Whitehead, M. Elliott, J. Crellin, P. Larder, T. Davies, W. Briggs, T. Canning; K. Wilson, K. Taylor, G. Fletcher, B. Irving, C. McCourt, R. Clark. Subs: G. Smith, A. Ogden

HULL KR: Markham, Stephenson, Moore, Wigglesworth, Burwell, Millward, Dooler; Clawson, Coverley, Mennell, Small, Hickson, Lowe. Subs: Cooper, Coester.

Attendance: 8,825

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LAST-GASP SAVER

McIntyre earns a replay

CUP TIES between Oldham and Hull KR are always something a little bit special to me because I started to cover Oldham's fortunes for the Chronicle in April, 1964 just as Frank Dyson's men were preparing to meet Colin Hutton's Rovers in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup.

The late WD (Bill Doran), a former secretary to the old Lowermoor amateur club, had the pleasure of following the club for the Chronicle during those magnificent days of the 1950s and when he left the paper in 1962 he was succeeded by Ken Ashton, a St. Helens man who was then working in Bristol and keen to return North to pursue his journalistic career in rugby league.

I had arrived at the Chronicle on July 31, 1961: a young news reporter with a general interest in sport and a passion for rugby league, who quickly came to realise that Billy Doran was a real character among the senior sports reporters.

In my second day on Union Street a piece of copy paper came floating over my shoulder and dropped on to my typewriter. "Are you one of us?" I was asked and on looking round I was confronted by Bill and one of my fellow members of the news desk team, a youthful John McKeown, whose brother Des was a player at Watersheddings.

"Well, are you?" they insisted. "Am I what?" asked I, growing more puzzled by the second.

"Are you a Catholic?" "No, but why do you ask?" "We thought you looked like one!"

I had well and truly arrived at the Chronicle. The swinging 60s were in their infancy and with Bill the go-between, the Chronicle staff and the Watersheddings players of that time rocked many a night away.

If we were not partying at his Fitton Hill home we were partying at the McKeown family home at Moorside - great days, great memories and rugby league to top it all off.

Bill went soon afterwards to pursue a career that took him to Fleet Street with the Sunday People and the great team of the fifties began to break up.

By '64 a new team had been built, but Ken Ashton covered the 'Sheddings scene for only two years before he also looked for pastures new.

He wrote in the Green Final: "Was it Will Shakespeare who said, 'Parting is such sweet sorrow'

or was it Harry Goodwin (club president) in the Mare and Foal the other night?

"After two years I now hand over to my successor, Roger Halstead, and if he gets half as much pleasure out of the job as I have done he will be a very lucky man."

That was April, 1964 and in the 37 years since, I have reported on Oldham's fortunes in Lancashire Cup finals, in Challenge Cup semi-finals, in Old Trafford premiership finals, in Paris, on sun-baked grounds in the South of France (will those present ever forget the Battle of Carcassonne?), in tropical Queensland at Townsville and on the famous Adelaide Oval, not to mention the meeting of the Aussie RL disciplinary panel in Sydney when Paul Davidson was up for head-butting at Townsville and both he and Jim Quinn thought they had seen a ghost when I turned up unexpectedly to take my seat in the press gallery.

Wonderful rugby memories - but nothing to compare with my first game: Oldham v Hull KR in the cup semi-final at Headingley on Saturday, April 11th, 1964.

There is nothing to compare with a 'first'. Ken wasn't to finish until the end of the following week, but by way of an introduction it was arranged for me to do the 'runner' for that night's Green Final and Ken to do the follow up and comment piece for Monday's paper.

I was probably as nervous as the Oldham players - most of whom were a lot older than me. But I got through on adrenalin, fired by the pressures of the job and the excitement of the tie - although Len McIntyre left it so late to drop his equalising goal for 5-5 and a replay that our Green Final edition was a few minutes late.

Ken covered his last match when the teams replayed at Station Road on the following Wednesday night and then I was up and running and on my own for the second replay at Fartown on April 20.

Older supporters will have their own memories of that dramatic semi-final series from the kick off at Headingley to the final whistle at Fartown.

And what better time to relive them than in yet another Challenge Cup tie between the Roughyeds and the red, red Robins from East Hull.

Roger Halstead

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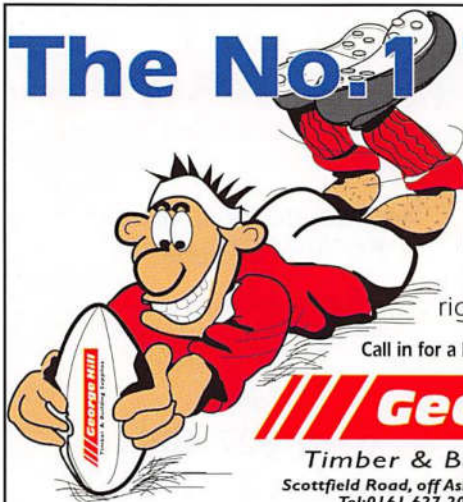
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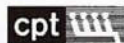
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Alliance Action

... with Haydn Walker

WITH the Alliance not having a game again last week due to the weather, I thought I might take the opportunity to talk about a number of Community Development projects we are currently involved in.

The Club sponsors the Oldham Secondary Schools Cup and last week the draw was made at McDonalds on Broadway. McDonalds themselves are sponsoring our Primary Schools Festival to be held in the spring.

The launch of the Oldham Rugby League Service Area is something that the Club is fully behind. The Service Area brings together all factions of the game on one body with a brief to develop the game in the town. Player Development Camps will be held at under 12s to under 16s during the February half term with the better players being invited to the regional and national camps. Other areas of work for the Service Area will include match officials, women and girls rugby league, coach education and facility development. In short the Service Area will secure the long term future of the game in Oldham.

ALLIANCE TEAM FIXTURES

Dec

6	Keighley	A	7.30	L16-36
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	P	
20	Workington	H	2.30	W24-0

Feb

3	Whitehaven	H	P	
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			

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Probing The NFP

IN A bruising encounter at Belle Vue, Keighley Cougars ended Doncaster Dragons' unbeaten 16 match run at home. Both Paul Mansson (Doncaster) and Martin Wood (Keighley) had to retire from the fray injured, though not before Wood had notched his 1000th point for the Cougars. Two tries by Keighley right wing Craig Horne were the decisive scores.

With Keighley's Sunday fixture postponed, however, the Cougars were overtaken at the top of the table by Leigh Centurions who walloped Workington 70-0 in midweek before humbling Rochdale 48-0 last Sunday. Against Workington fullback Neil Turley equalled a 54 year old Leigh record by scoring six tries in one match, while Simon Svabic plundered eleven goals. Svabic then followed up with a try and six goals against Hornets, with Turley's try taking him to 18 for the season. What price Leigh to shock Salford in the Cup?



Neil Turley

After their midweek humiliation Workington surprisingly bounced back to win at Swinton 29-20. Several players returned from injury not least influential stand-off Tane Manihera. Even so at 10-4 down at half time Town did well to recover, and it was largely thanks to livewire hooker Carl Sice that the Cumbrians hit back in a half which saw the lead change hands several times before Lewthwaite and Rumney scored tries in the last five minutes to settle it.

Another side to notch two wins was Featherstone Rovers. In midweek they defeated Hunslet 26-14 with Jamie Rooney reaching 100 points for the season in only his ninth match. Rovers followed this with a 37-6 victory at York to maintain the pressure at the top of the table.

Dewsbury Rams had only a midweek win at Sheffield to their name. Although Sheffield took an early 6-0 lead it was the Rams who took the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half to run out 25-6 winners.

Another side to score first before going down were Chorley Lynx, a Brian Capewell penalty the

forerunner of an Oldham blitz. David Gibbons followed his hattrick against Queensbury with four more tries against Lynx. Dean Cross grabbed two more and prop Andy Proctor, a rare scorer also had two, one of them displaying surprisingly neat footwork. Pat Rich added eight goals from ten attempts. Although Chorley started with young Chris Ramsdale on the wing they looked a much better attacking force when he switched to hooker in the second-half. Graeme West is right to persist with a youth policy but it's obviously going to be a long, hard road before the team posts its first win.

The other midweek winners were Whitehaven who overcame Rochdale 13-4 in a thriller. Hornets lost halfbacks Paul Owen and Mick Coates to injury which disrupted their attacking play but 'Haven also lost Leroy Joe on a bad night for the playmakers.

At the weekend Hunslet recovered from their defeat by Featherstone to win in a snowstorm at Gateshead (another of my forecasts down the pan!). With some players treated for mild hypothermia it makes you wonder how the game got the go-ahead, but Hawks' scrum-half Chris Robinson defied the odds to lead his side to a 27-12 win.

My forecasting wasn't totally useless as I did say Barrow would trouble Widnes and so it proved as the Border Raiders fought out a 6-6 draw with the Vikings. Martin Crompton starred for the visitors but in another game played in a snowstorm Barrow's Mike Whitehead scored a crucial equalising try in the 75th minute.

And finally, today's visitors Hull KR, with a reputation for scoring few and conceding few, edged out Sheffield at Don Valley Stadium 12-11, but only after Mark Aston failed with a last minute conversion attempt. Two goals off the touchline by Rovers' Chris Charles proved vital, therefore, and serve as a warning to Oldham today.

And speaking of today, can any of the NFP teams pull off a shock? Leigh are desperate to prove their credentials and will give Salford City Reds a tough run-out. It could go either way. Keighley will similarly give Hull FC a close call, but the Cougars aren't relishing the game after the behaviour of the Hull 'fans' when last they met. Dewsbury v Castleford is another interesting one, but the Tigers are a class side so I don't expect a surprise. Similarly I can't see Barrow (v Halifax), Swinton (v Leeds), Widnes (at Bradford), or Batley (at London) troubling their Super League opponents. However, I am intrigued by Workington v Wakefield and wonder how the Wildcats will cope on Town's mudheap pitch. And what about Featherstone at Huddersfield: if one thing is certain it's that the Rovers will give it everything they've got. I'd just love them to turn over a club that enjoys Super League status because it's got a stadium rather than a team.

GC

IN Town TODAY



HULL K.R.

TODAY'S fourth round Silk Cut Challenge Cup pitches Oldham in against one of the best known club in Rugby League. Last season the Roughyeds pulled off a rare victory at New Craven Park and completed a double with a play-off tie victory at Spotland. Past form, however, will count for nothing today when the Robins will be out for revenge and to extend their interest in the Cup. Now coached by former Academy Coach Gary Wilkinson a young looking H.K.R. will be a tough test for Mike Ford's men.

At fullback today will be the diminutive but whole-hearted BOB EVERITT. A mormon missionary, Everitt has twice had the misfortune to break a leg but is now back to his best.

In the threequarters Rovers can chose from: DEAN ANDREWS a wingman with five years service punctuated by a brief spell at Doncaster;



Wheta Taewa

MARK BLANCHARD a young centre who scored on his debut against Oldham two seasons ago; GAVIN MOLLOY, a graduate from the Robins Academy; club captain and fans' favourite WHETU TAEWA a Challenge Cup winner with Sheffield Eagles, Kiwi international and former Auckland Warrior and North Queensland Cowboy; BRIGHT SODJE, a strong finishing winger who has seen service with Sheffield and Wakefield as well as two spells with the Robins; ANTHONY CHAMBERS, a versatile recruit from Ideal Isberg; and possibly second row cum centre ANDY SMITH once a Hull F.C. man before crossing the river to Craven Park four years ago.

At halfback 18 years old SCOTT YEAMAN is a former captain of Hull K.R.'s highly successful Academy team who drives his forwards on. He could be partnered at stand-off by the highly experienced MIKE CRANE a former Hull Dockers and York Wasps player before lending the benefit

of his years in the game to the Robins. And in the absence of either of these two expect JIMMY WALKER, another Academy product, to be on stand-by.

At No. 8 will be JON ASTON who originally signed for Hull F.C. in 1994. He has also appeared with Carassone in France and with Rochdale Hornets. Last season he suffered an horrendous broken jaw from which, I am pleased to say, he has made a full recovery. He will, as ever, be leading from the front today.

On the blind side I would expect to see RICH HAYES in a second spell with Rovers after returning from a sorely troubled York Wasps. However, there are alternatives in the shape of JAMIE BOVILL a Great Britain under 16 international and tourist to Australia, and DAVID LUCKWELL a Welsh World Cup selection, once with Batley but currently troubled by injury.

Hooker MIKE DIXON started with the Robins, crossed to Hull F.C. and then returned to his roots. A dynamic runner from acting half, Dixon is a 5'5" non-stop action man who will need to be policed.

The first choice back row is highly experienced. At 11 the 33 year old RICHARD SLATER never stops working and the former Featherstone skipper undoubtedly sets a good example to Rover's battery of young guns. So too 30 year old PAUL FLETCHER whose display against Oldham at Spotland last year was an absolute tour de force. Rovers longest serving player, Fletcher enjoyed a testimonial year in 1999 and is a keen fan of Leeds United. He has now spent 14 years in H.K.R. colours, a tribute to his commitment, fitness and stamina. By contrast loose-forward CHRIS CHARLES is still only 24 but packs a wealth of experience. Signed from Hull Boys Club in 1994 Charles is an accomplished goalkicker with representative honours in sides east of the Pennines.

Back-up takes the form of half-back CHRIS KITCHING, ex-Hull F.C. and Great Britain Academy and a regular try scorer; ALAN DUNHAM reserve hooker and utility forward; RICHARD WILSON yet another ex-Academy man; and JON WILKINS a loose-forward who is the youngest player ever to appear in the Robins first team and is a G.B. U16 international.

Walkerboul

... with Brian Walker

POINTS GALORE!

WHILST Mikes' boys have done well, thank you very much, their growing reputation has been earned more in respect of 'mean machine' than 'points machine' so breaking club scoring records would perhaps have been as remote in Mike Ford's thinking as winning the World Club Championship!

However, the 64-0 victory over plucky amateur side Queensbury was the widest winning margin achieved by any Oldham professional side, pipping the long standing 63-0 victory of 1899, ironically also against first round amateur opposition, Goole. Oldham that season went on to be the first Lancashire side to lift the Challenge Cup! The scoring of one hundred and twenty points in just two consecutive matches, (Queensbury and Chorley Lynx), has never previously been achieved by either the new or old club.

Oldham's highest score is 70, beating Ray Ashton's Bramley side 70-10 in the 1995 Challenge Cup. Until the Queensbury match both the highest score and margin attributed to the new club was the 56-8 win in the chase for Trans Pennine Cup qualification points against Workington in 1998.

The eight goals from the boot of Pat Rich against Queensbury was also a record for the new club. Also you have to go back to Wilson Marsh in 1994 and before that to 1959 and the era of points machine Bernard Ganley to

equal Pat's tally of 16 in two consecutive games.

Whilst during the Queensbury game, Mark Sibson equalled his own new club record of four tries, David Gibbons touching down seven times in two games provided the talking point. Seven in ONE match (James Miller in 1908) is the Oldham record and whilst seven in consecutive games is not going to get David into the record book, it is not a feat achieved too often. Our own John Henderson was the last Oldham player to achieve this in 1990, before that was Malcolm Price in 1964 and you then have to go way back to 1922 and to the days of wingman Reg Farrar.

No Oldham player has ever kicked more than two drop goals in one game so Neil Roden's brace earlier in the season at Workington equals the record shared by, amongst others, Ray Ashton, John Blair, Tommy Martin, Fred Hall, Martin Crompton and Mike Ford.

Incidentally, the Oldham side having already this season won at both Barrow and Workington, have the incentive to go for that rare Cumbrian hat trick by winning at Whitehaven, a match scheduled for mid June, and a feat not achieved by Oldham since season 1957/8.



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Cook(e)ing up a storm



THE weather in January and the postponement of several NFP fixtures has – predictably – renewed the debate regarding 'summer' v 'winter' rugby.

Now I don't propose to come down on one side or the other in this continuing argument, especially as an APC working party is going to investigate this question as thoroughly as it can. But what I don't like – and from his public pronouncements Chris Hamilton is determined to avoid this – is knee-jerk reaction because it snows in January and games are postponed. What does anyone expect? In Britain we often get snow in December, January, February and March! It's even been known to snow in other months as well. So if you choose to play in those months the first thing you do is build into the fixture list some flexibility so you are not FORCED to re-play matches in midweek. The clubs have the voting power: if matches are played on a cold, wet, windy, dismal Tuesday or Wednesday in January or February it's because the clubs themselves allow this to happen.

Another point to remember is that 'winter' rugby means rugby in September, October and November (ie autumn) as well as winter. If the current season was two-thirds of the way through because it had started in September would we be quite so worried about fixtures lost in January? As Simon Winnard has pointed out in this programme before, Rugby League managed to run its competitions successfully for a hundred years before the advent of 'summer' rugby, so let's identify the real reason for change, which is not the weather but bums on seats. It shouldn't be beyond the wit of a half-decent statistician to show which alternative, 'summer' or 'winter', produces the best crowds. And that I would suggest is the only thing that matters.

Oh! and the statement that no game played in a 'summer' season has been postponed is incorrect: I refer you to Oldham v Lancashire Lynx Good Friday 10th April 1998 – match postponed: waterlogged pitch! And it snowed on Easter Monday, too!



THE letter printed in the Queensbury programme from Brian Wood praising the standard of Oldham's publication has prompted me to look at the quality of programmes being produced in the NFP. Bearing in mind that all clubs are working with limited budgets, I will try not to be over-the-top in criticising, but instead will try to highlight the positive features. I am particularly aware of this because one of the best programmes I ever read was flimsy and poorly produced but had outstanding written content: it belonged to Runcorn Highfield!

So, to begin this feature, let's look at Featherstone Rovers and Swinton.

FEATHERSTONE Price: £1.50, 32 pages.

Essentially black and white with blue standing colour. Printed by Pennine Printing Services (who produce the Oldham programme). Photography by Andrew Varley is top quality but the pictures could do with captions.

Content: Lots of stats, which is okay for visiting supporters, but a bit repetitious if you are a home fan.

Good reading material. In particular, Coach Peter Roe is usually forthright, as is Editor Glyn Robinson. Trenchant comment also from Steve Lancaster, Bob Fowler and Colin Smith (The Flat Capper). Clearly, they call a spade a spade down Fev. way! Historical material and the visitors are dealt with by Alan Brookes. Supporters' views by Paul Cox.

Verdict: Plenty of entertaining comment. Lots of variety. A good buy.

Rating: 8/10

SWINTON Price £1.50, 32 pages. Full colour.

Printed by Colourplan, who produce several Super League programmes, but will not normally produce for NFP clubs because of the smaller quantities and the cost of full colour. Tony Barrow has the connections to pull off a deal for Swinton!

Content: Peter Young, the Editor, has some very reliable contributors. So, in addition to Chairman Malcolm White and Coach Mike Gregory, you can read the excellent club historian Steve Wild, together with Mike Caine and Dave Hadfield of the Independent who are now the Lions' main club sponsor. Then there's Spelly, the inimitable John Spellman – to the point as always – and some peculiar ramblings from Martin Kelner, plus a Junior Lions page with what I always think is a sad looking mascot in Vinny the Lion.

The photography is not acknowledged (unless it's Bury Times) but, being in colour, is excellent.

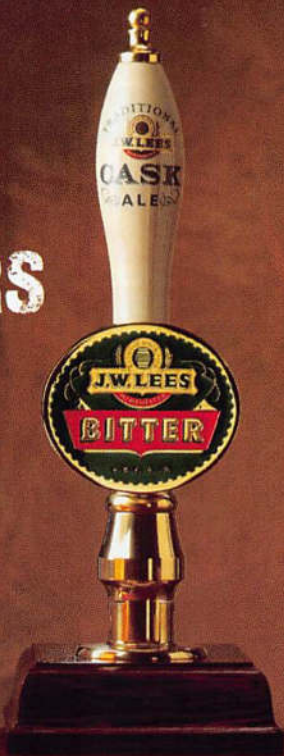
Verdict: Good value. Plenty to read and make you think.

Rating: 8/10.



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121



..... Neil Roden

**Q. Who encouraged you to start playing rugby?**

I started playing at junior school with my friends and was encouraged by my parents to carry on when I got to St. Patrick's Senior School where I played till I signed for Wigan at the age of 17. We have always been supporters of rugby league as a family and my mum and dad, as many parents do, travelled for

miles to watch me play rugby and to ferry me about. My dad is now chief scout at Wigan so you can imagine how many miles he travels during the season and yet he still manages to see all my games.

Q. Which players do you admire?

I really used to enjoy watching Andy Gregory when he played for Wigan. It seemed to me he was a complete player, hard to tackle, cunning and great with the ball in his hands. His passing skills could break a defensive line into little pieces. The player I presently admire is Andrew Johns, a very athletic and skilful player who plays intelligently. I think one of the toughest players I have played against is Aaron Lester the Whitehaven hooker, a strong and purposeful guy on the field. I particularly enjoy being coached by Mike Ford here at Oldham. Being a scrum half himself he knows what it takes to make a half back or scrum half tick and gives some good advice and passes his knowledge on.

Q. Have you any personal ambitions?

Yes, the team and me want to get to the Grand Final this season. We were gutted after losing in the semis last season and hope we can go one better this time. Personally I want to improve my game and play as well as my potential abilities allow. I really feel I am getting there. Going back to Wigan after a spell out with a broken jaw I became unsettled so I had a spell on loan to Lancashire Lynx and from there came to Oldham with my mate Phil Farrell. The move has been great for me because I am enjoying my rugby again, getting fitter and improving my game.

Q. What do you do to relax?

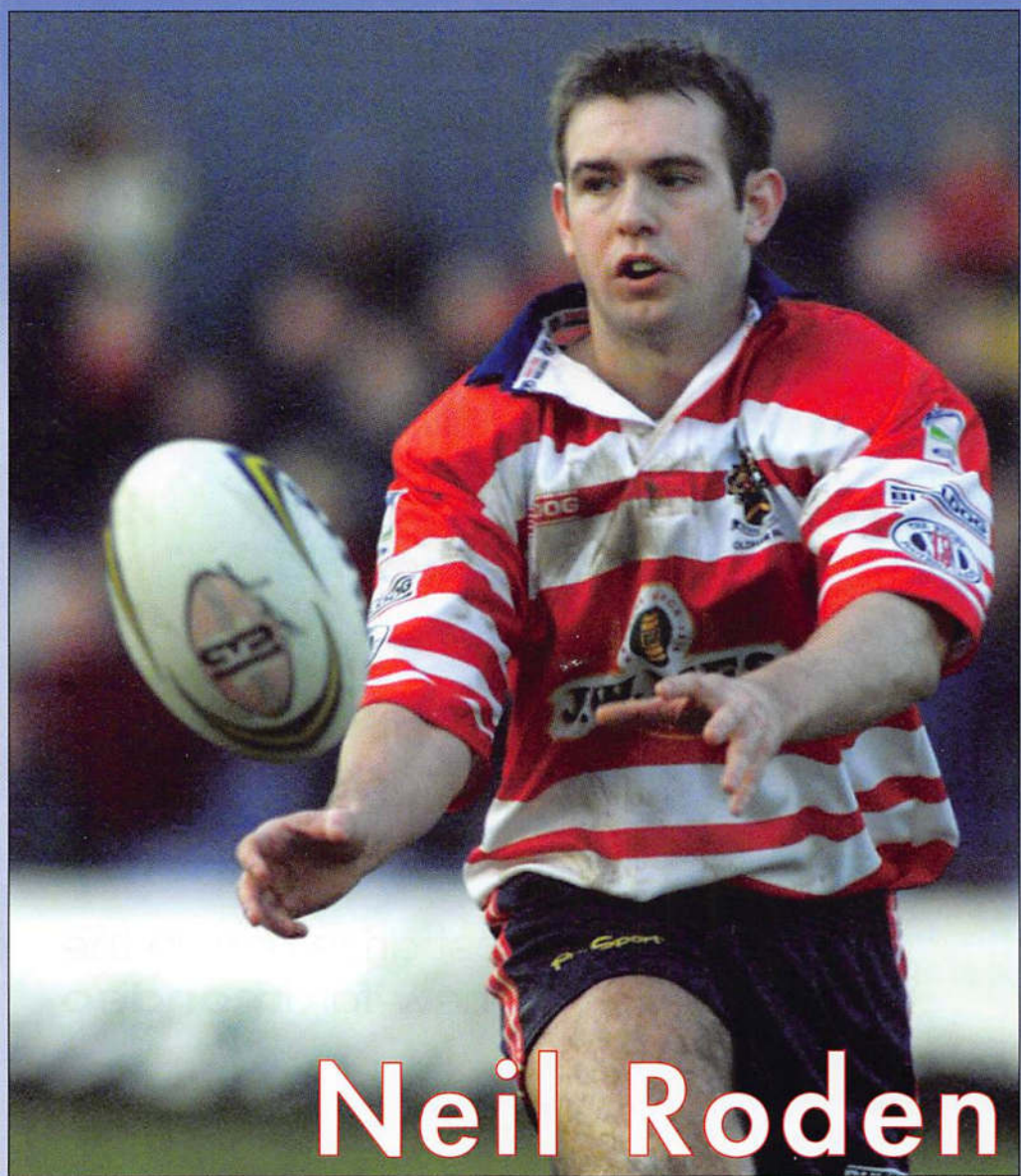
I really enjoy watching football: my favourite team is Manchester United. There is not a lot of time to do many other things because of the demands of work and training. We have some laughs at training and there is a good team spirit in the squad. Cleggy keeps us in good spirits and there is a good feeling even when we are all tired out.

On a personal level I am trying to save up for a holiday in Cyprus; I've been told it's a great place to go.

Q. Do the supporters really affect the game and the players?

Yes, we love playing at home; when the supporters get behind us we feel there is a great big family out there, willing us on. It's tremendous.


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DEALERS



ON THIS DAY - IN THE FUTURE

By MYSTIC MAZ

11/2/2010

Maurice Lindsay, the popular Wigan Chairman will marry his long time companion at Wigan Register Office. Maurice's best man will be Dale Winton and Jimmy Summerville will perform for the guests at the reception. Maurice's partner will wear a two piece pink suit with Doc Marten shoes.

11/2/1212

Andy Goodway's back in Rugby League - 'I'm delighted to be back in big time Rugby League' said Andy as he pulled on the head or Red 'Ed - the Roughyed. 'There's no stopping me now.'

11/2/2013

Dinosaurs speak

Kevin Ashcroft (78) called today for the return of proper scrums, no feeding and real hookers.

Alex Murphy (85) demanded that all foreign players should be sent packing 'back to Wagga Wagga - wherever that is!'

Tony Barrow (91) Insisted that Rugby League is a winter sport and should start in October and run til late December when all matches would be frozen off until Easter when all clubs would play every other day for 2 months to be in time for the Wembley Final.

He also called for the abolition of substitutes and the return of fat props.

11/2/2009

The fixtures for Super Duper League I were announced today from Red Hall.

The four teams - Bradford, Leeds, St. Helens and Wigan - will play each other twelve times.

The rest of the teams playing Rugby League will lose all Murdoch money.

A spokesman for Super Duper League said - 'What's wrong with that?'

11/2/2011

An amateur coach was today suspended for six months for using the words 'drop-goal'.

As you know, drop goal was replaced by the Australian - 'field goal' five years ago. Other banned words or phrases include - drive (hit up), own twenty five (red zone), up and under (bomb), play-the-ball (ruck), and high tackle (head-shot).

Any use of those words carries an automatic ban.

11/2/2008

Chris Caisley was appointed Editor in Chief of the Rugby League Express newspaper. 'There isn't a finer example of balanced, reporting in any other sporting publication', said Chris.

11/2/2010

Wigan Warriors shocked the world today by signing an English player. Billy Boston IV, aged eighteen months, signed a Junior Warriors contract from his pushchair in Golborne.

'I like the way he handles a meat pie', said the chairman from his honeymoon suite in Rhyl.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I feel the club has missed out on some revenue regarding the half-time draw.

We could have got that Phil Woolas to nip down to the Kumbh Mela in India while he was over there.

There were 70 million all at the same place; even if only one in ten had bought a ticket that would have made £7 million, £3.5 million for the winner and £3.5 million for the club. We could have bought some grass seed.

Yours faithfully,
Peach Road (Mrs)

Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

THE OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE HERITAGE TRUST

THIS year Oldham RLFC will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the formation of the old club, which played its first match against Stalybridge on Glodwick Lows on the 21st October, 1876.



Over the years the club

has won many trophies, provided the sport with over 80 internationals, and brought to the club players from all over the rugby playing world.

In recognition of its achievements members and supporters of the club

have gathered together one of the best memorabilia collections in the rugby world. Medals, caps, jerseys, rugby balls, photographs and many other mementoes.

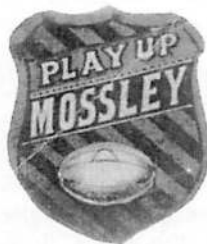
With the help of Oldham fan and solicitor, Tim Hughes of Norcross Lees and Riches Solicitors, Oldham, THE OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE HERITAGE TRUST has

now been formed. Trustees are Tim Hughes, Michael Turner, Dave Whitehead and myself with Mick Harrop Chairman. The trust will own, maintain, and protect the collection making it available to the people of Oldham for years to come. The collection can never be sold or broken up.

We currently have two displays within the Civic Centre, both of which are changed periodically. When items are not displayed they are deposited with the bank, but of course, when Boundary Park is upgraded hopefully many items will be permanently exhibited there.

We would like to take this opportunity to make an appeal to anyone that has any rugby memorabilia, relating particularly to the Oldham club, or to rugby in the town which they would consider donating to the Trust to please contact either Brian Walker on 01457 875084 or Michael Turner on 0161 620 6005. What we don't want is for any rugby memento to be destroyed or disposed of, so please, however insignificant you might think the item is, get in touch!

Brian Walker



Behind the Scenes

... with Dave Roberts

IVA SLATELOOSE

Born: Yes.

Address: Sir

How did you get interested in RL?

I started watching games 20 minutes from the end, when they opened the gates, that was after I had been to the pictures. It was not long before RL was the preferred option – I was only 37 at the time.

What are your duties?

Programme contributor.

Best team seen?

The team of the early 80's when we won the Second Division Championship.

Least favourite RL personality?

Maurice Lindsay, he would make a nice decoration near the water feature in my garden.

Favourite Ref?

No such thing.

Who would you like to meet?

Geoff Fletcher, to find out how he kept Highfield going for so long, also Chris Hamilton – its like trying to get hold of Harry Lime, also the person who stole my car.

Who are your heroes?

You should tell from the photo, Eddie the Eagle and also Eric the Eel. You should know I love the underdog, that's why I follow Oldham.

Who will win the Cup this year?

Either Woolston or Wigan I'm stuck between the two.



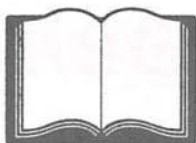
Iva in action. You didn't know I was a star skier did you? About as much style as a walrus on heat!

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Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES



Sid Miller

THIS afternoon Oldham meet Hull Kingston Rovers in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, rugby league's oldest knockout competition. Sat in the stand watching events will be Sid Miller, a player who, a little over seven years ago, created a little piece of Challenge Cup history

by turning out for Littleborough when he was 52 years of age, thereby becoming the oldest player to appear in this doyen of competitions.

Sid's playing career began thirty odd years previously on the banks of the Humber where he was an amateur player with the South Newington club. He turned professional with Rochdale Hornets in 1963, moved across to Rochdale and has lived there ever since.

Whilst with Hornets, Miller was a member of the first team squad which reached the final of the 1965 Lancashire Cup. Despite being involved in all matches leading up to that final, Miller was left out of the final itself, a situation he describes as one of the biggest disappointments of his professional career. After three seasons with Hornets, half-back Miller was transferred to Leigh, snapped up by Leigh coach Alex Murphy who certainly knows all there is to know about scrum-halves and half-back play in general. Miller enjoyed a couple of years at Leigh before moving back into amateur rugby with the Rochdale based Mayfield club. During the early seventies Mayfield were involved in the Standard Cup and Miller starred for them in that particular competition. He was a Standard Cup winner on three occasions with Mayfield and was awarded the Ben Powell Trophy in 1973 for his match winning performance in the defeat of Waterhead. Sid also appeared in a Standard Cup final for local club St. Anne's

before moving back into the Rochdale league with Milnrow and then Littleborough. Miller also enjoyed considerable coaching success whilst at St. Anne's, coaching the Saints open age squad as well as the Lancashire under 18 and open age teams. He also served on the Oldham Amateur league executive committee but he has had no active involvement in rugby league during recent years. However that may quickly change as he has just received an invitation to do some scouting work for the Huddersfield Super League club.



Sid Miller in action

Despite Sid's success at Rochdale, and particularly during his time at Mayfield, he will forever be remembered for events which occurred in early December 1993 when he was substitute in the Littleborough team contesting a first round Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie at

Redhill. Miller came on for the closing 14 minutes of that fiery tie which included three dismissals and a late disputed try which saw Redhill through 16-12. Littleborough were unlucky to lose that match, the star of which was their young prop-forward Jason Clegg, a try scorer and winner of the man of the match award. Despite Clegg's award winning display it was Miller who hit the headlines earning his place in rugby league history with a feat that is unlikely ever to be beaten.



Jason Clegg

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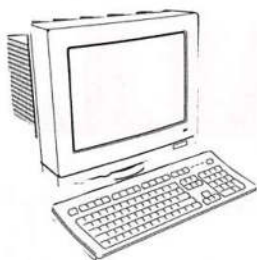
A LOCAL MAN DEREK PLAYED HALF BACK FOR THE

CLUB IN THE EARLY SIXTIES AND SUPPORTED THE

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... with Simon Winnard

THE START to their Northern Ford Premiership campaign has seen the Roughyeds register a 5 and 1 record and having to utilise the full extent of their senior squad, one of the largest squads in the NFP. Last week's game against Whitehaven would have completed a 3 match - 7 day programme, with many positives to come out of the week. However, the game became the third Oldham fixture to become a victim of the weather this season.

Other than the inevitable argument against a winter season arising from this time, what has been interesting is to see the younger players being given a chance of staking their claims for a first team spot. Gareth Barber did particularly well during the games against Queensbury and Chorley. Whilst either of these sides would not be regarded as the best standard of opposition, he showed great pace and a willingness to get the ball out wide and added another dimension on attack. David Gibbons move to centre as cover for his twin brother appeared to give him another lease of life. In addition Mark Sibson, who to date had only shown brief glimpses of what we know he's capable of, also seemed to benefit as the two totalled 12 tries between them. Indeed, Anthony Gibbons return from suspension poses a difficult selection decision for Mike Ford. It was also good to see Lee Doran and Gavin Dodd further cutting their teeth at senior level. These players, amongst others, are sure to carry the very future of our club and full credit to all for this investment. Oldham's long term future will surely depend on its ability to invest and nurture young talent and, if the recent signings are anything to go by, a prosperous future lies ahead.

Oldham today will also be looking to erase the memory of last season's Challenge Cup exit at the hands of neighbours Rochdale Hornets. That defeat was probably the lowest point of the season and today they have the chance to make

amends. With the possibility of a lucrative home tie in the next round the Roughyeds will be giving it their all and, given the club's Super League ambitions, it would offer a golden opportunity to square up against top flight opposition. Indeed, Leigh are principal NFP ambassadors today as they meet Salford in front of both the TV cameras and what is sure to be a bumper crowd at Hilton Park.

In the chase for the Grand Final, Leigh are also benefiting from a large squad and, along with Keighley, are already looking a good early season bet. Pre-season bookies favourites were big spending Widnes who dropped yet another point last weekend against Barrow. Such is the competitiveness of the NFP, there are any one of seven or eight clubs more than capable of success. Today's visitors Hull KR fall firmly in that category despite, like our very own club, having to struggle through some difficult times of late. Their own troubles aside, nothing must stick in their throat more than the rescue package offered to their fiercest rivals. The Gateshead Thunder / Hull FC Super League sponsored takeover was financed as a thinly veiled merger. The new club was then allowed a development club overseas quota despite the local amateur scene clearly being the most successful in the country. As a result of this, they are also now close to sealing a new shared stadium with the town's ailing football club. Not long ago, the debate was underway to merge the two Humberside RL sides, but full credit to all involved that the identity of two great RL clubs were kept distinct and not made extinct.

I wish our visitors the very best of luck in their continued efforts to return their club back where it surely belongs. One thing is for sure, they will have to do it the hard way. However, the success will be all the sweeter for all the suffering endured rather than an empty sense of achievement if the powers that be simply bend the rules and hand it to



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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to February 11th yesteryear

THIS AFTERNOON Oldham continue their Silk Cut Challenge Cup campaign with a match against Hull Kingston Rovers, the club who knocked the Roughyeds out of the competition in that heart breaking semi final in 1964. There have been other Humberside disasters during Oldham's cup campaigns, one occurring exactly 40 years ago, on Saturday 11th February 1961. Oldham travelled over to the Boulevard that day for a tough first round tie which was decided on goal kicks after a terrific forward battle, the Airlie birds winning 4-2. Full-back Peter Bateson landed a couple of penalties for Hull and Bernard Ganley one for the Roughyeds.

The all conquering Wigan team lifted the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on eight consecutive occasions between 1988 and 1995 but it was on this day in 1996, Sunday 11th February that their winning sequence was shattered when they crashed to a 26-16 fifth round defeat at Salford. It ended a run of 43 unbeaten Challenge Cup games, a record that is unlikely ever to be beaten. On that same afternoon, Sunday 11th February 1996, Hull defeated Keighley 42-10 in another fifth round tie. Included in the Hull line up that day were hooker Mike Dixon and substitutes Chris Kitching and Jon Aston, all three of whom have since moved across Humberside and are likely to be in action against Oldham today. One player who certainly will not be in action is Oldham winger Danny Arnold, out for a couple more weeks with a broken collar bone. On Sunday 11th February 1996 he scored a hattrick of tries for St. Helens as they won 58-20 at Rochdale. Scrum half Mike Ford and hooker John Hough have less pleasant memories of that afternoon. They were members of the Warrington team beaten 30-10 at home by Leeds in another fifth round tie. The only amateur team left in the competition are Woolston Rovers who received the draw they always wanted, a trip to Wilderspoon. Six years ago on Saturday 11th February 1995 they were involved in a third round National Amateur Cup tie here in Oldham when they visited Waterhead. The Peach Road boys, then a North West Counties League outfit, put up a brave fight and actually led 4-0 at one stage before slipping to a 34-4 defeat.



Danny Arnold

Today's visitors, Hull Kingston Rovers, had an outstanding team during the 1960s including a number of internationals. On Sunday 11th February 1968 four Hull KR players were included in the Great Britain team which travelled to Paris to take on the French. They were hooker Flash Flanagan, stand-off Roger Millward and wingers Chris Young and Alan Burwell. France had beaten Australia earlier that season and were confident of further success but Great Britain had difference ideas. They led 15-3 at the break and went on to win 22-13. Burwell and Millward each scored a try but the hero for Britain was Leeds full back Bev Risman who scored two tries and five goals.

Sponsorship is a vital part of all sports funding these days when every opportunity to gain income has to be explored. Twelve months ago, on Friday 11th February 2000, it was announced that the Tissot watch company would be the official timing sponsors to the Rugby Football League.

Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER F - A

3 Barrow 28 - 16 1,294

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) 64 - 0 1,559

30 CHORLEY 56 - 2 1,210

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

(ALL GAMES)

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	SUBSTITUTIONS	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
M. SIBSON	7		7			28
D. CROSS	6		4			16
J. McNICHOLAS	1					
A. GIBBONS	5		1			4
P. RICH	8			34		68
W. BARROW	2					
D. LACEY	5		1			4
D. GIBBONS	8		9			36
N. RODEN	8		4		3	19
A. PROCTOR	6		3			12
J. HOUGH	8		2			8
J. CLEGG	3	5				
L. CASEY	5	2				
P. FARRELL	8		1			4
P. NORTON	5	2	1			4
S. McMENEY	1					
I. SINFIELD	7	1				
G. BARBER	2	1	1			4
M. FORD		5			1	1
D. GUEST	1	6				
C. FARRELL	1	4	1			4
D. ARNOLD	4		4			16
K. MANNION	3	2				
G. DODD		1	1			4
L. DORAN		2				
K. BRENNAN		1				

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Oldham - a leading player at the heart of the North West

Take a look around the Oldham of the 21st century and you won't fail to be impressed with what's been achieved. There are now huge efforts taking place to ensure that the Borough remains in its rightful place at the hub of the North West region.

Two hundred million pounds and more has been invested in turning the town centre into a modern and vibrant place to shop and work. Money has also been spent regenerating and renewing areas like Westwood, Glodwick, Fitton Hill and Hathershaw, and building 23 new schools in just 20 years. An exciting new town centre Cultural Quarter is taking shape; new industry, new investment and more tourists are coming to the Borough and a state-of-the-art Business Management School is now open.

Oldham is already at the heart of the motorway network and now also benefits from the new M60 orbital route. Metrolink is also coming to the town, and the brand new £3.4 million central bus station has opened this year.



The M60 Motorway



Town Centre Shopping

There are many other reasons which make Oldham a desirable place to live, work and visit - its reputation for hard work, commitment and down to earth friendliness are just some of them.

Put them all together and they make Oldham a leading player at the heart of the North West.

Enquiries about projects being undertaken by the Council, or any of its policies, to the Marketing and Communications Unit, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG.

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Metropolitan Borough 



TODAY'S TEAMS



4th Round Silk Cut Challenge Cup

OLDHAM

Coach: Mike FORD

HULL K. R.

Coach: Gary WILKINSON

Mark SIBSON	1	Bob EVERITT
Danny ARNOLD	2	Dean ANDREWS
David GIBBONS	3	Andy SMITH
Pat RICH	4	Whetu TAEWA
Dean CROSS	5	Bright SODJE
Gareth BARBER	6	Mike CRANE
Neil RODEN	7	Jimmy WALKER
Jason CLEGG	8	Jon ASTON
John HOUGH	9	Mike DIXON
Danny GUEST	10	Richard HAYES
Phil FARRELL	11	Allan DUNHAM
Ian SINFIELD	12	Paul FLETCHER
Chris FARRELL	13	Chris CHARLES
Gavin DODD	14	Chris KITCHING
Kevin MANNION	15	Jamie BOVILL
Lee DORAN	16	Jon WILKINS
Paul NORTON	17	Richard WILSON

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

M. J. ASHCROFT

D. C. MALLALIEU

S. W. LEE

4th



REFEREE:

**PETER
TABERNER**

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.

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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.

