

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP



THE ROAD TO TWICKENHAM 2001



OLDHAM vs WAKEFIELD TRINITY

SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2001

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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

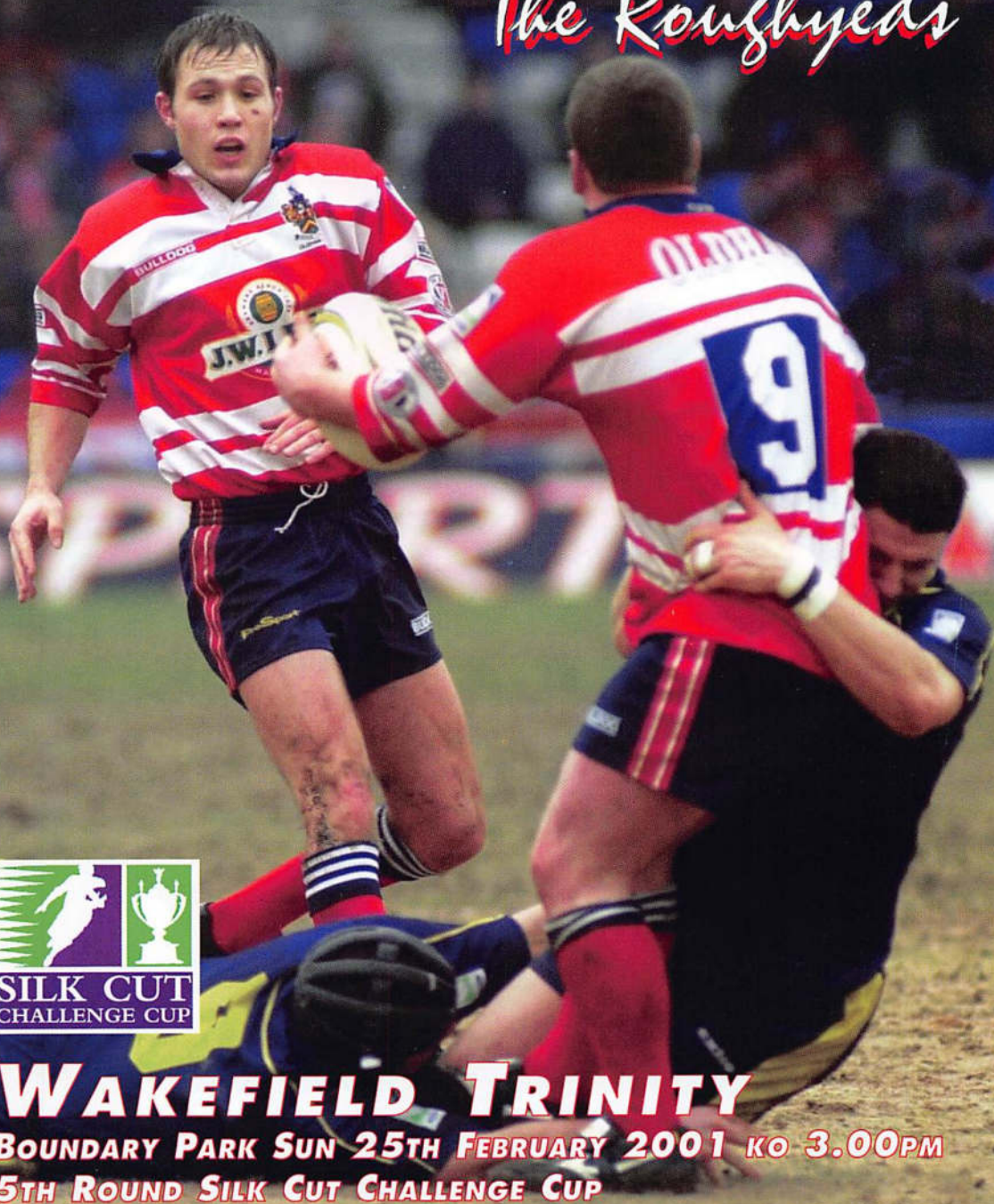
The draw for the first round will be made live on GMR at 7.10pm on Tuesday 14th November, 2000. The draws for the second and third rounds will be made live on BBC Radio Leeds at approximately 7.00pm on Wednesday 6th December and Wednesday 3rd January respectively. The fourth round draw will be made on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

OLDHAM RLFC

The Roughyeds



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Up Front

... with Christopher Hamilton



TODAY sees another landmark in the club's short but eventful history. As we entertain our colleagues from Wakefield Trinity Wildcats we play Super League opposition for the first time since we formed the club after the demise of the Oldham Bears.

The game is a poignant reminder of what the old club had and in our opponents today we are also reminded of what caused their downfall.

Wakefield were promoted after winning the 1998 Grand Final and although they have survived on the playing front, the end of last season saw them hanging on for grim death on the financial side after they were unable to pay their way.

They came through it, however, and we now have the opportunity to show them what progress we have made in little over 3 years. We know it will be difficult, and probably more so after Leigh knocked out Salford in the last round, but everybody is looking forward to the challenge. Good luck lads!

The last week has seen another club hit financial trouble, and Doncaster are now fighting for survival. Added to the recent problems at York if ever people needed a wake up call to face up to the current realities of life then surely this it is. I am sure that there are others with similar problems and I have no doubt whatsoever that as Chairman of the APC I will be spending more time dealing with such matters.

Anyway enough doom and gloom for one day! Silk Cut Challenge Cup day is still a great feature of the Rugby League calendar and we hope to make this day one to remember for a long time to come. Your support is more vital than ever so please give those vocal chords some hammer.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



The Roughyeds

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1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

FRONT COVER

John Hough off loads to Gareth Barber against Gateshead

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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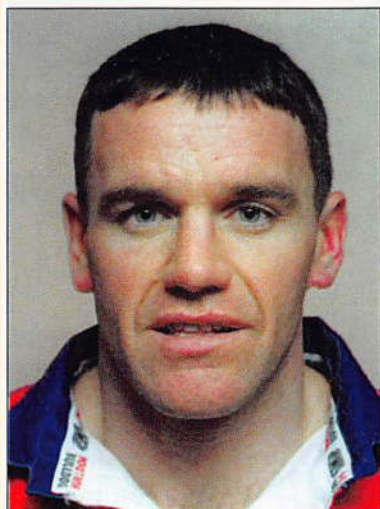
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FORD FOCUS . . . with Mike Ford



RECENT opposition in the form of Queensbury, Chorley and Gateshead has not been testing enough and some of our play has left a lot to be desired. On the positive side our defence has been absolutely outstanding, but because it is almost too easy to attack, we have all too often taken the wrong option or tried to offload in situations we wouldn't if the opposition was stronger. In our opinion we generally play better when the opposition is tougher, so today we should really be put to the test against Super League opposition in Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. If we are half as good as I think we are we are in with a chance and after Leigh's victory over Salford

Wakefield are bound to be nervous about facing a top N.F.P. side, especially with so little game time under their belts. We've been working on our motivation and tactics this week and re-addressing the question of our enthusiasm. We know Wakefield will want to offload in the tackle, so we've got to have the enthusiasm and commitment to get among them. We'll also be looking to our 'old heads' like Andy Proctor, Leo Casey and myself to keep things steady when that's appropriate. I'm not going to make any rash promises but, whatever else, we'll be giving it our best shot. I'm also hoping for a good crowd and lots of vocal support from you, our excellent fans. Recent games have been a bit flat and crowds have been a bit quiet but, hopefully, today there'll be plenty to shout about. We all keep emphasising how much it lifts us when the crowd get behind us, so I hope you'll play your part as well.

As ever, enjoy the game and cheer us on to victory,

Mike

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Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the Wakefield club to Boundary Park for this 5th round tie in the Rugby League Challenge Cup.

This will be the tenth meeting of the clubs in the Challenge Cup with the 'Roughyeds' ahead by six wins to three in the games up to now. On two occasions Oldham and Wakefield have contested the semi final. The first time was in 1912 when Oldham went through to lose unexpectedly to Dewsbury in the final.

The second game is today's featured match. The encounter took place on April 2nd 1927 at Central Park, Wigan. Both teams were in a mid table league position and so a close match was anticipated. The Trinity skipper, Jonty Parkin, took the kick off which was caught by Jack Read who was met by a posse of Wakefield tacklers. This first action set the scene for the whole of the match with defences very much on top. The pitch was heavy due to torrential rain and these adverse conditions contributed to several missed goal attempts by Brough and Pollard for Oldham and Wakefield respectively. The deadlock was finally broken just before the interval when Trinity centre, Siswick intercepted a Johnson pass to put winger Bateson into the clear. The Oldham cover defence got to him just as he crossed the line and despite Oldham protests

that the Wakefield man was 'held up' the score was allowed to give the Yorkshiremen a three nil advantage going into the break.

The second period carried on in much the same vein as the first with defences dominating the proceedings. As the match moved into the final quarter Oldham began to take control, and wingman, Joe Corsi was unlucky to be tackled into touch right at the corner flag. However, the Roughyeds continued the pressure and a smart move by halfbacks, George Hesketh and Abe Johnson paved the way for Welsh centre Alf Higgs to bore his way over the line after shaking off two defenders. Johnson converted brilliantly from the touch line to give Oldham the lead. The Lancastrians were now well in the ascendancy and much of the latter part of the match was played out in the Trinity half. Just before the end Wakefield were penalised for obstruction and Brough kicked a further goal to produce a final score of Oldham 7 Wakefield 3. Attendance 18,000. The teams:

OLDHAM: H. Comm, To. Holliday, S. Rix, A. Higgs, J. Corsi, A. Johnson, G. Hesketh, J. Read, J. Scaife, F. Ashworth, R. Sloman, A. Baker, A. Brough.

WAKEFIELD: Pollard, Bateson, Davies, Siswick, Jones, Pearce, Parkin, Higson, White, Coles, Waters, Horton, Glossop.



Captain Bob Sloman leads out the Oldham team for the semi final against Wakefield at Wigan on April 2nd 1927. He is followed by Jack Read, Fred Ashworth and George Hesketh.

ROGER

ROGER



THE new Oldham club - official title Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd. nickname The Roughyeds - takes another major step in its development today when, for the first time, it comes up against opposition from Super

League.

Now in their fourth season, the Roughyeds have reached the fifth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup before, in 1999, but there is absolutely no doubt that today's visit of Wakefield Trinity Wildcats represents the new club's biggest ever Boundary Park occasion.

At the end of last season, the Roughyeds' play off games in the Northern Ford Premiership were staged at Spotland, Doncaster and Leigh.

In four years of Silk Cut Challenge Cup competition, the club's only tie against professional opposition at Boundary Park was the 17-6 win against Hull KR in the fourth round of this season's competition.

In 1998, amateurs Heworth were beaten at Boundary Park in round three before the newly formed Roughyeds went out at Widnes in round four, beaten 48-8.

A year later, Eccles and Dewsbury were beaten in the cup at Spotland - the latter providing the Roughyeds' best cup performance to date and giving no hint of the league disappointments to follow - before the cup run ended with an 18-2 fifth round defeat at Whitehaven.

Mike Ford's first season at Oldham had many high spots, but a hugely disappointing 'low' was the 30-14 fourth round knock out at Rochdale after a comfortable 44-0 win against Wigan St. Jude's at Boundary Park in round three.

So to this year, and a determination by everyone in the Roughyeds camp to make amends for 'ducking out' at the hands of our derby rivals in one of last season's poorest performances of the entire campaign.

So far, so good. Queensbury were sent packing 64-0 and although Hull KR fought every inch of the way, tries by Gareth Barber and David Gibbons either side of half time finally put

the Roughyeds in control on their way to a 17-6 fourth round triumph.

Due to the postponement of the tie on the original date, Ford's men knew that the prize for victory was another home clash, this time against one of the Oldham boss's former clubs, Wakefield.

Roughyeds' skipper Andy Proctor will also be playing against a former club, the ex-Saddleworth Rangers forward having first turned pro at Belle Vue during former Watersheddings boss Peter Tunks' spell with Trinity.

Proctor went on to become a regular first teamer and a reliable member of the Trinity squad, winning in the process a Belle Vue 'Man of Steel' award for his hard work in the Wakefield pack.

The Wildcats playing register has changed beyond recognition since Ford and Proctor were there, with the result that the Yorkshiremen cross the Pennines today with a team that will show numerous changes from that which ended last year's Super League campaign.

Two of the key men are scrum half Brad Davies and stand off Martin Pearson.

Davies is back for his second spell at Belle Vue. He joined them from York for £15,000 in 1995 and later moved on to Castleford for £85,000 - a handsome profit in the days when transfer fees were still catching the headlines on a regular basis.

Pearson, who first burst on to the RL scene with Featherstone Rovers, has joined the Wildcats after a stint with Halifax Blue Sox.

With Willie Poching, captain of Western Samoa in the recent World Cup, at loose-forward, the Wildcats can boast a formidable midfield triangle.

The Roughyeds will have to be at their best and will have to do enough to get an enthusiastic Boundary Park crowd behind them from the start.

Whichever way it goes, the tie can be expected to produce one of those magical rugby league occasions that never fail to get the adrenalin running as much in the stands as on the field.

I hope the attendance matches the potential of the occasion.

Roger Halstead

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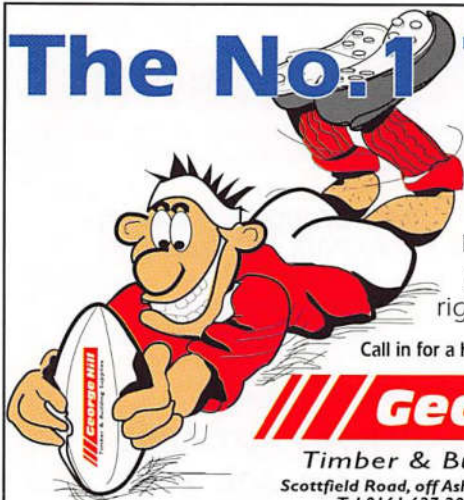
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Hope Springs Eternal

... with Robert Gate

IT's that time again. The Rugby League Challenge Cup. Hope springs eternal. At least it used to. There were times when Featherstone Rovers, Workington Town, Barrow, Hunslet, Leigh and their like could aspire to reaching and even winning the Challenge Cup final. In reality they no longer can, unless by some miracle the gates of Super League open up and let 'em in. It is a cast-iron certainty that this year's Challenge Cup final will be contested by two Super League teams. That fact will, of course, not stop the romantics from dreaming. The game needs romance, especially in Oldham. The Roughyeds were apparently genetically predisposed to fail to reach Wembley. Maybe they will have more luck in finding the route to Twickers.

What is it about the Cup that makes it a more coveted prize than the Super League title? Why do all the Australians and New Zealanders bang on about having a life-long ambition to win the Cup at Wembley, whenever they are interviewed about why they want to come and play in our inferior competitions and dismal climate? Money, naturally enough, never enters into it.

How often have we heard players say they would actually pay to play in the Challenge Cup final? The recent kerfuffle at St. Helens about Cup bonuses is obviously an aberration by a bunch of degenerates, so we can gloss over that. Blimey, I have seen articles or heard interviews in which players say

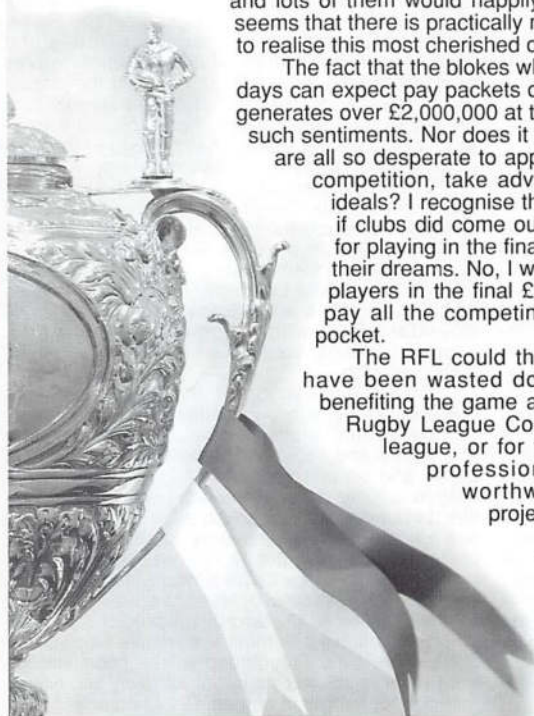
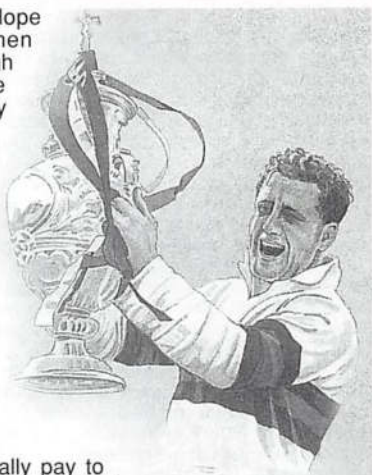
they would give their right arm (never their left, I notice) to play at Wembley. Apparently some would sell their grandmothers to get their hands on a Cup-winners medal and lots of them would happily walk to London to play in a final. In fact, it seems that there is practically nothing that rugby league players would not do to realise this most cherished of ambitions.

The fact that the blokes who play in Challenge Cup-winning teams these days can expect pay packets of several thousand pounds from an event that generates over £2,000,000 at the gate does not seem to be quite in tune with such sentiments. Nor does it seem like good business sense. If the players are all so desperate to appear in a final why don't the RFL, who run the competition, take advantage of the players' burning philanthropic ideals? I recognise that the players might in reality feel a bit miffed if clubs did come out and say they would not bother paying them for playing in the final as they are over the moon just to be fulfilling their dreams. No, I would be generous. The RFL should give all the players in the final £1,000 each, winners and losers. They should pay all the competing clubs' expenses too, so no one is out of pocket.

The RFL could then use the countless thousands that would have been wasted down players' and officials' trouser legs on benefiting the game at large. Just think what they could do for the Rugby League Conference, or for Schools and Student rugby league, or for the heartland amateurs, or for disabled ex-professionals, or for subsidising any number of worthwhile rugby league causes, charities and projects.

Of course, it will never happen but, like those Aussies and Kiwis, I can dream about it.

Robert Gate is the author of many fine rugby league books and the font of knowledge for all things rugby league.



Probing The NFP

SO Doncaster still haven't played Dewsbury. However, my hesitant tip of the Dragons to defeat Hornets proved incorrect, much to the benefit of Oldham, as Doncaster are clear top eight candidates. Ruitions behind the scenes may yet threaten the Belle Vue club's ambitions but for the moment we can just applaud Rochdale on their second home win in a week after disposing of Hunslet in the Cup on Tuesday, 38-4. Turning point in Hornets fortunes has been the switching of Danny Wood to stand-off and the injection of some much needed creativity. Far be it from me to criticise professional coaches but when you have a player who, with a ball in his hands, can practically make it talk, do you insist on playing him out wide away from the action? It's nearly as good as Paul Round at fullback!

Barrow were the other club which defied my predictions with a rare away win at Mount Pleasant, so rare you have to go back to 1998 for the Border Raiders' last victory in Yorkshire. Despite the good form of Batley's Glen Tomlinson, the visitors hung on for an 18-10 win with loose-forward Matthew Leigh the star of the show.

After their exertions against Oldham in the Challenge Cup on Tuesday Hull K.R. nearly came a cropper at home to Whitehaven. Chris Charles rescued the Robins with a try and a goal in the 75th minute to level the scores at 10-10 and thereby salvage a point.

Oldham, meanwhile, followed up their well earned 17-6 cup win with a comfortable defeat of Gateshead Thunder on their first visit to Boundary Park by 52-6. Hatricks here for Mark Sibson and the quiet achiever of the side Neil Roden. Pat Rich landed 8 from 9 of his goalkicks.

Other big scorers were Dewsbury and Widnes. The Rams hammered Chorley Lynx 70-0, while Widnes put 90 past under strength York Wasps. At Ram Stadium David Mycoe landed nine goals and there were three tries each for stand off Mark Cain, centre Adrian Flynn and hooker Richard Pachniuk. Over at the Autoquest, meanwhile, the Vikings established a new record score and speedy hooker Phil Cantillon set a new tries in a match record with seven touchdowns. In addition Ian Watson landed 13 goals. All of which rather overshadowed Steve Gee's three tries and the 200th career try for long serving wingman Mark Forster. For the Wasps things are going from bad to worse. With Alan Pallister suspended and several players in dispute over payments, coach Lee Crooks came out of retirement and named physio Pat Howdle and kitman Steve Harris as subs. although they were not, in fact, called upon. How are the mighty fallen!

Canny Workington coach Gary Murdock is boxing clever. He has now lifted his side into the top eight and is obviously targeting the matches Town can win. A midweek 42-0 mauling of Chorley was followed by a hard fought 15-12 defeat of Sheffield. As ever, skipper Matt Sturm led from the front with good support from hooker Carl Sice and scrum-half Craig Rumney.

As expected Hunslet Hawks dealt with Swinton Lions, a hatrick by home fullback George Raynor the highlight of the game.

And, to conclude, Leigh also delivered the goods with a 30-20 win at the Lionheart. Featherstone pushed the Centurions all the way but found Simon Baldwin too hot to handle. Leigh full-back Neil Turley maintained his scoring run with his 20th try of the season, already a record for any fullback appearing in the red and white.

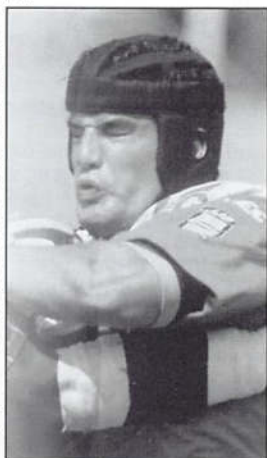
This week will have given Gateshead a good chance of their first points on their visit to York on Wednesday.

Certainly today the clash of the Kelly brothers can have only one outcome as the Thunder travel to meet the Rams. Similarly Keighley will account for Batley and Widnes will overwhelm Chorley. Which leaves Sheffield to take the points at York and the closest call of the day at Craven Park where Barrow take on Workington: outstanding home record v pick-your-matches Murdock. Sorry, Gary, despite winning there last year, it's Barrow for me.

The headlines, of course, will this week be made in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and it will certainly be headline news if any of Leigh, Oldham or Doncaster can shock a Super League side. I can't see any of them winning this time. The telling factor for Leigh and Doncaster is the away draw so in my view the best chance of an upset is at Boundary Park where home advantage and, hopefully, a large, vociferous crowd will get behind the Roughyeds.

With the exception of St. Helens, who will pulverise Whitehaven, the other games should all be close. There is bitter rivalry between Castleford and Leeds and between Halifax and Bradford. On paper and on last season's league positions the visitors are the stronger in each instance. But Cup ties don't work like that and in each case I'd love to see a home win just to keep the loudmouths in their place. Equally intriguing is Hull v London. With no current form to judge by it's anybody's guess who'll win but I've already expressed a sneaking regard for the Broncos so I'll stand by my prediction.

Which leaves Hornets v Villeneuve Leopards. I don't know if the Frenchmen will be good enough but I have absolutely no doubt an away win will do miracles for the game abroad. Go, Leopards, go!



Simon Baldwin

IN Town TODAY



WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS

SINCE THE advent of Super League Wakefield Wildcats are the only club actually to have won promotion. Not that Super League made life easy for them as the club had initially to operate without News Corporation subsidy. This has meant that the Wildcats have had to play catch-up throughout their Super League experience. At first the club made remarkable progress, their biggest success story lying in a highly productive youth policy, as will be evidenced by the team on the pitch today. However, last season some pie-in-the-sky promises brought the club to the brink of disaster as both team building and ground development suffered major setbacks. It says much for the spirit of many of the players that they played on at the end of last season without pay. It would be nice to report that Wakefield are now out of the wood, but as we go to print there are still on-going problems, not least affecting the club's hospitality suite and changing accommodation. However, despite these worries the club are looking forward to a successful 2001 and they will fully extend Oldham today.

Full back is MARTYN HOLLAND. Supporters Club Player of the Season in 1998 and now fully recovered from an injury which limited him to two appearances last term.

Right wing NEIL LAW featured in 22 games last year having signed permanently after first coming to Belle Vue on loan from Sheffield. 10 tries in 2000 and 25 all told in his career at Wakefield.

Right centre RICHARD SMITH is an Irish international who has seen service at Halifax, Keighley and Hull KR.

Left centre JUSTIN BROOKER is an Australian transferring to Wakefield from Bradford Bulls where he played some outstanding football. Like Smith he is expected to lend power to the threequarter line.

Left wing WAISALE SOVATABUA is a Fijian with two World Cups to his name. A brilliant attacking player, he is a real handful for any defence. A former star at fullback for Sheffield Eagles, where he had a Challenge Cup Winners medal to his name, and last season at the Huddersfield-Sheffield Giants.

MARTIN PEARSON is the new stand off. A prolific scorer with Featherstone Rovers and Halifax Blue Sox accumulating 166 points in 18 games for the latter last season (63 goals, 10 tries) before his untimely ban following a positive drug test. Oldham will need to be on their guard against providing him too many opportunities.

Scrum half BRAD DAVIS is another newcomer to the Wildcats, though no stranger, as this is his second spell at Belle Vue. Cut at the end of last season to the dismay of many Tigers fans, Castleford's loss is sure to be Wakefield's gain as the wily half back sets about breaching opposition defences with his sleight of hand and clever tactical kicking.

22 year old prop PAUL JACKSON got through 24 appearances in 2000 and is maturing into a powerful presence in the engine room of the pack.

He is joined in a young front row by 21 year old hooker DAVID MARCH, a livewire attacker from dummy half and solid tackler.

FRANK WATENE is a better known number 10, but has only just celebrated his 24th birthday on February 15th. Used mainly as an impact player.

Second row forward JAMIE FIELD played 25 matches last term and is a hard working former Great Britain Academy international.

Field's back row partner is team captain WILLIE POCHING. Now 27, the admirable Poching is the Wildcat's most experienced player. He captained Western Samoa in the 2000 World Cup and has appeared in Australia for North Queensland Cowboys, Hunter Mariners and St. George-Illawarra Dragons. His leadership and attitude through the difficulties of last season were exemplary and he has just committed himself to a new three year contract.

Number 13 is GARY PRICE now the club's Assistant Coach. A full Great Britain international, Price has experience in Australia and with Featherstone Rovers. At one time he almost signed for Oldham, actually appearing on a pre-season team photo before Featherstone stepped in to take him to Post Office Road.

The rest of the Wildcats squad is made up as follows: 14. PAUL MARCH a scrum half and twin brother of hooker David. 6 tries and 4 goals in 21 appearances last season.

15. RYAN HUDSON, a hooker with 27 outings last term. 16. JULIAN O'NEILL, a new signing from St. Helens the powerful 27 year old prop has a Grand Final Winners medal. He has also done service at Auckland Warriors and is a formidable impact player. 17. GRAHAM LAW, a 21 year old, goal kicking utility back. 18. BEN RAUTER, a 22 year old Australian tackling machine who has featured at Canberra Raiders and North Queensland Cowboys. 19. GARETH ELLIS (19), an Academy graduate who made his debut last year against Wigan. 20. BEN WESTWOOD (19), former Academy Player of the year. 9 appearances in 2000 at centre and wing.

21. TONY TATUPU, a play anywhere New Zealand international. A clever ball player with 21 outings in 2000. 22. KEITH MASON (19), a prop forward with England schoolboy and Yorkshire Academy honours. 23. PAUL HANDFORTH (19), the Yorkshire Academy team's stand off who made his debut in the last game of the season against Castleford. 24. CHRIS FEATHER (19), at 6'5" and 171/2 stone a powerful presence on the field. Signed from Keighley Cougars, he is another who represented Yorkshire Academy last year.



Justin Brooker



Tony Tatupu

Walkerbout ■ ■

... with Brian Walker

WHAT LIES AHEAD?



THERE are a good number of players that have pulled on both the Oldham and Wakefield jerseys, amongst them Don Vines, David Topliss, Mick Morgan, Alan McCurrie, Paul Round, current Oldham coach Mike Ford, and three members of the Oldham Hall of Fame, Alan Davies, Derek Turner and John Etty.

Then there was Oldham's goal kicking utility back Billy Stott who signed for Wakefield as club captain in the mid forties and in his inaugural season became the first ever winner of the Lance Todd Trophy for his performance in Wakefield's 1946 Wembley triumph against Wigan. Playing in the Wakefield side that day was a cracking scrum half called Herbert Goodfellow who four years later was to form a formidable Oldham half back partnership with Frank Stirrup.

And what about the bizarre event when Oldham, in a blaze of publicity, 'signed' Trinity star forward Gary Price only for the player to return almost immediately to Belle Vue but not before taking his place in the Oldham team photo. Obviously our Price wasn't quite right or maybe Gary simply had a crystal ball!

It is, though, not just the migration of players that has helped intertwine the relationship between the two famous old clubs. Both were members of the twenty two northern clubs that broke away from the administrative clutches of the English Union way back in 1895 and have played each other on many, many occasions since. From the mid fifties the paths of the two clubs have followed almost identical directions Oldham being one of the clubs to dominate the latter part of that decade followed by Wakefield being the success of the sixties. Since then, apart from Trinity lifting the Yorkshire Cup, both sides have experienced little success on or off the field and it is now over forty years since Oldham last won the Championship and thirty since the same piece of silverware was displayed in the Belle Vue trophy cabinet.

So what of the future? Since the demise of the Bears in 1997 our future has been determined by the introduction of sound and sensible financial practices and resisting temptation to deviate, so that the light at the end of the tunnel is now more than just a pin prick.

Wakefield must first follow the example of Hull KR and battle it's way out of the CVA but unless the lessons learnt from the demise of the Bears and Wildcats are taken on board by all our clubs, there is no future.



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Cook(e)ing up a storm



David Waite

PLEASE can someone explain to me what is wrong with appointing David Waite as the new Great Britain coach? I'm sorry, but I don't hold with this false patriotism: as far as I'm concerned the best available candidate should get the job. If I could think of a better British born coach at this moment in time then I'd say the Waite appointment was a bad

one. But who is there? The nearest we can get would be Mal Reilly who has already held the job once, albeit not without success. So would the return of Reilly be a step forward or a step backwards? For once I'm prepared to let the powers that be decide, especially when our other good candidates - Phil Larder and Ellery Hanley - are employed elsewhere.

I'm equally positive about Sven Goran Ericsson as England soccer manager and Duncan Fletcher as England cricket coach. The former has yet to prove himself, but the

latter is already having a dramatic impact on the fortunes of our national team, thank goodness. Just look at other sports like golf, tennis, athletics or rowing and you'll find coaches of all nationalities, Australian, American, German, South African whatever. The Redgrave - Pinsent success is built on German know how and our men are not daft enough to use anyone who is not the best available. It therefore stands to reason that if Great Britain wants to match the standards set in Rugby League by Australia and New Zealand we should get the best we can. Hopefully Waite will prove to be just that - the best. And if he is we might just start to close the gap in standards at international level that we were partially achieving prior to 1995. Unfortunately since the advent of Super League the gap has widened again, as was so graphically demonstrated by World Cup 2000. So let's unite behind David Waite who will have a difficult enough job trying to get the clubs to co-operate in releasing players without being snubbed by the fans. After all the coach may be Australian but the team and players are Great Britain. And support for them will be the true test of our patriotism.



Continuing our look at N.F.P. Programmes

WORKINGTON TOWN

28 pages Price: £1.00

Printed by: the Firpress Group, Workington
Format: Black and white with coloured cover and four pages of colour for adverts.

Content: The lively contributions come from Keith Singleton with additional material from P. Williamson and M. Horner plus a syndicated column by Martyn Sadler. The usual coach, captain, alliance, academy and visitors column. The introduction on Oldham was good, but the pen pictures were out of date. Little photographic content. The programme could have done with proof reading as there were a lot of errors (e.g. Mike Ford apparently coached Burnley!)

Verdict: A decent read except for the mistakes! **Rating:** 5/10



HULL K.R.

36 pages. Price £2.00

Printer not acknowledged (? Hull Daily Mail)
Format: Black & white with red standing colour

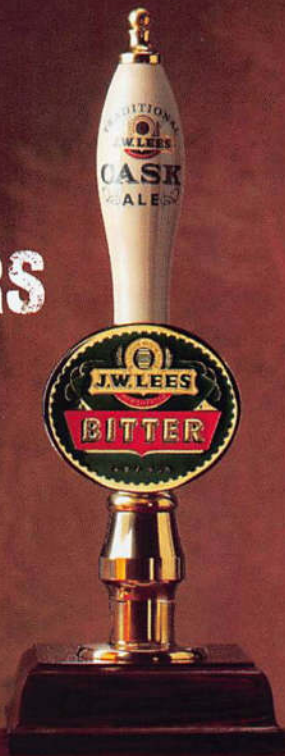
Content: The programme I saw was for the game against Toulouse Spacers in the Cup and I wasn't impressed, especially at £2 a go! There were columns by the coach and captain supplemented by the Martyn Sadler syndicated piece. The visitors pen pictures were poor, but that may not be the fault of the programme editor. The best pieces were by Jonathon Knaggs and the Hull Daily Mail reporter (not named). Not much photography and I couldn't tie in the scorers with fixtures on the stats page. There was a decent player profile on Jon Aston and a quiz for those who like brain teasers.

Verdict: Nicely produced, but won't extend your reading time beyond half time. Poor Value. **Rating:** 4/10.



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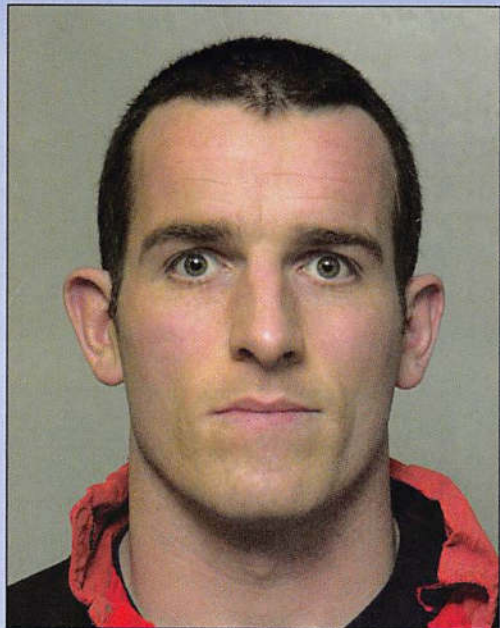
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..... **Paul Norton****Q. When did you start playing Rugby League?**

I started playing when I was about 11 or 12 years old at Wigan St. Jude's Amateurs. My dad encouraged me and the coach at St. Jude's then was Ronnie Mallaghe who was a great guy; in fact I still keep in touch with him. My most treasured memories of that time were when I was a ballboy at Wembley for the Cup Final between

Hull KR and Castleford. The ball boys that year were chosen from schools in Wigan and I was the only one chosen from my school. It felt tremendous to be part of such an occasion; I'll never forget it.

Q. Which was your first professional club?

Kevin Tamati signed me for Lancashire Lynx and I had five seasons with them. I admired Tamati as a player and he was a good coach. We won the 2nd Division (1997/98) championship and played in the Treize Tournois Final against Villeneuve. We lost that game 12-9, but what an experience: to represent your club abroad is great. Also in my last season with the Lynx I was voted Player of the Year jointly by the supporters and club. I felt very proud and will never forget that honour.

Q. Who is your favourite player?

There are two players I have always admired for their strength, power and athleticism: they are Mal Maninga and Ellery Hanley. These two I think could show us a thing or two even in today's matches. And the one most awkward player I've met on the park must be Tim Street. Always on the boil is Tim, I also played in a friendly against St. Helens and played against Kevin Tamati: he was awesome!! and it was only a friendly.

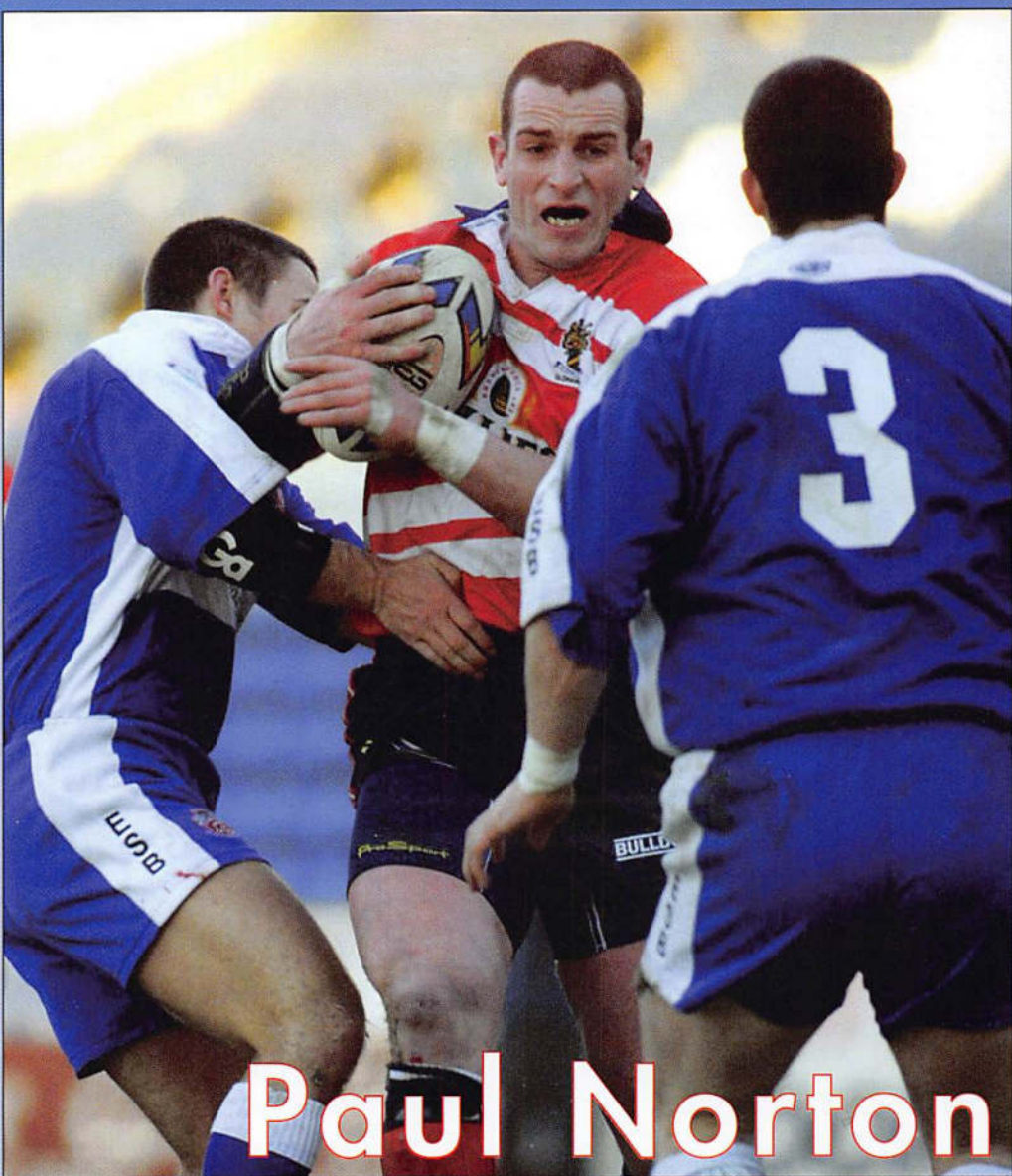
Q. Have you any personal ambitions in your rugby career?

Yes, I want to play to my full potential and help Oldham win the Grand Final. We train Monday, Wednesday and Friday and I go to the gym Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday so you can see we (the team) want this. Oldham have a great spirit with no stars just everyone playing for each other and we all rate Mike Ford as a coach.

Q. Do you have any time to relax?

Well of course you have to enjoy training to spend so many hours partaking, but yes my wife and I catch up with the family on Saturdays and try to get out Sunday evenings for an hour or two. Tracey and I were married last year in Mexico, with the family and friends around us and it was marvellous, I would love to go back for a holiday, there sometime: it is a great place. I also want to say thank you to the supporters for getting behind us like they do.


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DEALERS

Iva Slateloose



FOLLOWING the appointment of Australian David Waite as the new Great Britain coach Iva can give a sneak preview of the train-on squad chosen for next autumn's series against our Antipodean cousins.

1. KEN GAROO

A bouncy full back sure to have the opposition hopping around. Powerful legs make him quick off the mark. Former amateur boxer



2. HUNTER VALLEY A full bodied, red (blooded) centre. Well rounded and tasty. Sunny disposition and a good party animal.

3. MURRAY DARLING A free flowing winger with a deceptive change of speed. On occasion his talent floods over and he drives the opposition onto the rocks.

4. SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE

A man of steel. An outstanding prop who can support an enormous weight



of expectation. Stands out in any company.

5. MEL BOURNE Currently number two behind Sydney Harbour-Bridge, but with pretensions to be number one. A smooth, sophisticated and colourful prop, full of life. Takes the game by storm.

6. BARRY EREEF A spiky character who can tear apart the best of defences. A very colourful character full of life and vitality. Has a great variety of moves.

7. TAS MANIA Cool customer who can be very changeable. Blows hot and cold, but can set an attack on fire during one of his hot spells.

8. BON DYE Once famously described as a 'Beach Bum' for his apparent lazy attitude, Bon has matured into a lively loose-forward who draws people to him before parting with the ball. In his spare time is often found surfing the net.

9. G. O. WALKABOUT Stand off. Can disappear from the action for long periods before suddenly popping up from nowhere to snatch important tries.

10. BILLY BONG Threequarter. Often the side's water carrier, but can sustain the

whole side when things are going wrong. Refreshing attitude.

11. KAL GOORLIE Second Row. Noted for powerful rushes. Waite believes he has struck gold with this one.

12. BRI S. BANE Currently the best second-row in the game. A hot property in the summer game. Bucks the trend of the modern image being a real workhorse.

13. VIC TORIA A cool customer, very laid back. A bit old fashioned in his approach and lacking a sense of humour. Nevertheless seems to go on forever. Stations himself behind the pack to track down any runaways before ensuring they hit the buffers.

14. ADE LAIDE A quiet achiever. Not as prominent as Mel Bourne or the flamboyant Sydney Harbour-Bridge, but very pleasing to the eye.

15. PARRY MATTA Halfback. As slippery as an eel and very hard to handle.

16. SANDY COVE Of Scottish origin. Very difficult to get past as he frequently bars the way.

17. WALLY BEE A smaller, lightweight version of Ken Garoo. Very difficult to tie down. He can tan the hide of any defence.

18. COOK TOWN A hooker who explores all the possibilities and has a whale of a time, which sometimes makes the natives hostile.

19. MATT ILLDA Classy centre who can waltz through the best of defences. Often waits for Billy Bong to come up on his outside before releasing the deftest of passes.

20. COOLIE BARR Of Chinese origin this wingman has branched out recently to reveal the full flowering of his talent. Has a great understanding with Matt Illda and Billy Bong as they are all mates together.

21. AYRES ROCK



A man mountain and phenomenal defender. This craggy fellow really takes some getting around.

22. JACOB S. CREEK A magical utility player, suited to any occasion. Can accompany any meaty performance or fish around for an opening.

THOSE WHO LIT THE FLAME

by Tony Collins.

(Author of 'Rugby's Great Split')



Tony Collins

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING, 'LET THOSE WHO DRINK THE WATER REMEMBER WHO DUG THE WELL'. TODAY'S GAME IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER THE CRUCIAL ROLE THAT OLDHAM AND WAKEFIELD PLAYERS HAD IN THE CREATION OF RUGBY LEAGUE.

Although he never played the game, Trinity's C.E. 'Teddy' Bartram deserves a prominent place in rugby league history for one simple reason.

He was the first player known to be paid for playing rugby.

In the late 1870s Teddy was a cricket pro for Harrogate C.C. and also played as a threequarter for their rugby team. He joined Trinity in 1878 and rapidly became the star player of Trinity's double Yorkshire Cup winning side in 1879 and 1880.



Teddy Bartram

He became so important to the team that in 1881 the Trinity committee invented the post of assistant secretary so they could pay him £52 per year.

But despite his brilliance on the rugby field and reputation as the best centre in the north of England, he was never selected for England.

After Bartram had yet again been ignored by the England rugby union selectors in 1882, a Yorkshire magazine spelt out the reason for his exclusion.

"There is too much of the professional about him for their genteel ideas, rugby

being solely intended, according to their notions, for public school or university players."

The vindictiveness of rugby's rulers at the time didn't stop there. In 1889 Teddy received a testimonial from Trinity. He was immediately banned from the game for life for professionalism.



Abe Ashworth

In Lancashire, the 'honour' of being the first player to be banned for professionalism went to a future Oldham player, Abe Ashworth, in 1890.

Abe was playing for Werneth when his old club, Mossley, accused him of joining his new club in ex-change for a better job.

He had been a weft carrier in a Mossley mill earning a £1 a week, but had mysteriously got a job as an iron dresser at Werneth's Hartford iron works for twenty-seven shillings per week.

The Lancashire rugby union authorities decided to make an example of him and banned him from rugby for life. In Werneth 3,000 outraged people signed a petition calling for the sentence to be lifted.

Eventually the ban was reduced to a suspension and Abe joined the great Oldham side of the 1890s.

Like Trinity, the Roughyeds had also blazed a trail for rugby as the first Lancashire club to import Welsh talent, such as internationals Dai Gwynn and Bill McCutcheon.

A century or more later, the roots of rugby league are woven deeply into the communities of Oldham and Wakefield. And, although they could never know it, the spirits of Teddy Bartram and Abe Ashworth live on today among those who have helped to make our game the greatest game of all.

Behind the Scenes

... with Dave Roberts

LOUIS LAVERTY

I believe you once played for the club?

Yes, I played in the 50's though I was really an 'A' team player. But what an 'A' team, Des McKeown, Vince Nestor, Alan Kellett, Harold Lomas, Frank Stirrup, Arthur Tomlinson, Alan Jones and all the big stars on the way back from injury. What we would have done in today's NFP! I did make the Oldham first team but you have to remember that in those days that there were no subs and consequently only 13 places up for grabs. I played for what I believed to be the best team and the best club in the world and I will take great pride in telling my grandson that!

Did you play anywhere else?

Not professionally but I also played the amateur game for both St. Anne's and Higginshaw and had the honour of appearing in 5 Standard Cup Finals.

So what do you do now at ORLFC?

I supervise the boardroom on matchdays, welcoming the opposing team officials and our other guests, generally making sure everyone is happy. I have also enjoyed very much helping to look after the players at training.

What about today's rugby compared to the 50's?

In my playing days there was more concentration on playing open football and avoiding the tackles although ironically there was then no rule limiting the number of tackles and I must admit that from time to time the forwards did stick it up their jerseys! The half backs, ball playing prop and crafty loose forwards were the key to any team's success and unless my fading memory is again playing tricks there were many more occasions in the 50s and 60s when 'runners' were put through the gap than there are today. Players, though, are bigger, faster and fitter today than 40 or 50 years ago.

What's your most memorable moment?

It has to be the Oldham winning the Championship in front of almost 70,000 spectators at Odsal in 1957. What a spectacle! What a team!

How will we do this season?

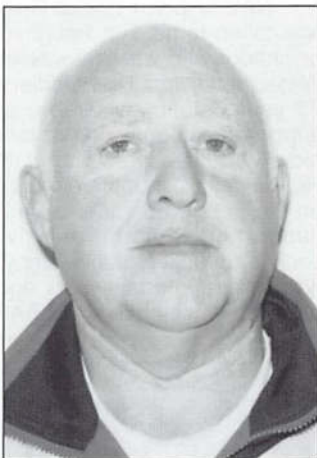
I think we will be up there challenging for a place in the Grand Final and I think we might just 'squeeze' todays game.

What other interests do you have besides rugby?

Whilst I am now officially retired I don't seem to have that much time. I play golf at Oldham Golf Club and enter tournaments when I can (I am a bandit!). My daughter lives out in Tenerife and my wife and I get over there as often as we can.

Finally, Louis any regrets?

Yes, I always wanted to be a film star, Micky Rooney the second!



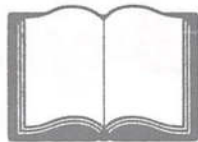
Louis Laverty

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Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES

WAY BACK in 1930 a Greenacres toddler was taken to his first Roughyeds match by a neighbour who was a turnstile operator up at Watersheddings. That toddler is now spritely 75 year old Jimmy Green, still an Oldham supporter, though, understandably, he now picks and chooses which matches to attend. He will definitely be here this afternoon urging on the Roughyeds after a lifetime of, not only supporting Oldham, but giving dedicated service to local amateur rugby, service which was rewarded a few years ago when he was granted life membership of BARLA.

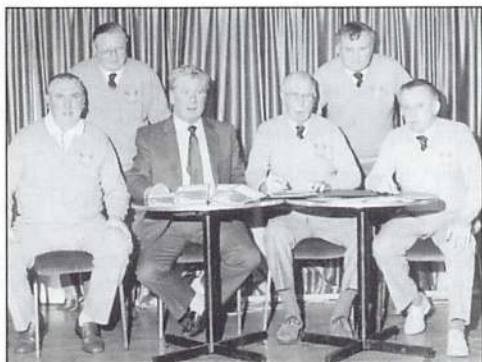


St. Anne's preparing for the Hunslet cup tie 1961 Jimmy Green front left, Brian Gartland front right, coach Peter Brown with diagram.

Jimmy Green played for the St. Anne's school team just before the war when he developed a lifelong friendship with his schoolboy chum, Peter Brown. Unfortunately Jimmy's amateur career never got off the ground because of injury and illness which he suffered during his wartime service in the Navy. Nevertheless he maintained his friendship with Peter Brown and the St. Anne's stalwart invited Jimmy to join the St. Anne's committee in 1952. Jimmy served on the committee for around 15 years before taking a well earned break. After a couple of years away from the amateur game he was invited to join the Waterhead committee and he has been associated with the Peach Road club ever since. His service to Waterhead has been both immense and varied. He has enjoyed more than one spell as chairman and during his time at Waterhead he has been involved in both the planning and construction

of the Peach Road clubhouse. Despite his age, Jimmy watches most Waterhead matches, both home and away, following the fortunes of his grandson Jonathan Eastwood, a prominent member of the Waterhead pack. Both Jimmy's sons, Nigel and Andrew, have also turned out for Waterhead.

Jimmy's current involvement with the game entails him sitting on the BARLA Disciplinary Appeals Committee. He travels over to Huddersfield most Tuesdays with chairman Wally Walker another former St. Anne's stalwart. 'I enjoy that involvement. I find it most interesting,' says Jimmy, whilst about the amateur game in general and Waterhead in particular he continues, 'I find amateur rugby refreshing. The players may not be as fast or powerful as the professionals but they are able to display more individual skill. I'm delighted Waterhead are in the Conference League, it's superb competition. I'd like to see them in the Premier Division but, as long as they continue to provide good entertaining rugby each week, I'll be happy.'



Oldham Executive Committee. Back Row: George Taylor, Wally Walker, Front Row: Frank O'Neill, Peter Brown, John Burke & Jimmy Green

The Roughyeds have lost nine Challenge Cup semi-finals since Jimmy began supporting them over 70 years ago. Probably he will never see them play at Wembley but cup-tie rugby invariably throws up some shocks so maybe, just maybe, Jimmy's dreams of Oldham's involvement in a final will be realised. Then the whisky really will flow in the Waterhead clubhouse.

CLUB CALL

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

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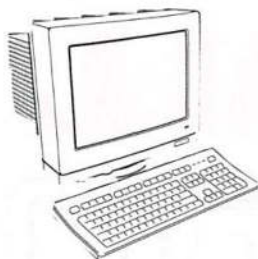
NEXT AT BOUNDARY PARK

SUNDAY 4 MARCH V HUNSLET HAWKS KO 3.00PM (NFP)

SUNDAY 18 MARCH V SHEFFIELD EAGLES KO 3.00PM (NFP)

NEXT GAME AWAY

THURSDAY 1 MARCH V SWINTON LIONS KO 17.45PM (NFP)



WINNARDS

WEB.SITE: COMMONSENSE.COM

... with Simon Winnard

TODAY WE play host to Super League opposition for the first time in the new Oldham club's brief history, welcoming what is possibly the longest club name in Rugby League, the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. This will be a real test of Mike Ford's side's progress and identify just how far the club still has to go in order to realise its top flight ambitions.

The two clubs have shared some epic battles over the years, however, none more poignant than recent respective fights by each to stay alive given the harsh financial reality of modern day Rugby League.

Despite being bankrolled by an enormous amount of News Corporation funding, Wakefield would appear to be a perfect example of the financial suicide which achieving mid-table mediocrity in the top flight seems to currently represent. Indeed, the Wildcats of Wakefield almost joined the Bears of Oldham on the extinct list of Super League menagerie.

My thoughts on the Super League in its present format are well documented. The top four's complete domination of the competition has ensured a captive market of the limited top quality players. The discarded remainder are merely left to do the rounds in a nomadic swap shop between the best of the rest as these clubs all frantically search for that winning formula. If these left over players, along with second rate imports, offer the only alternative to compete with the likes of Wigan, Saints and Bradford is it really therefore a surprise that the Super League status quo has offered the same play-off participants and bottom team in the last three seasons?

Relegation from Super League is currently scrapped, make no mistake about that. Holding back aspirant clubs like Dewsbury and Hunslet from progressing through the ranks in a

structured and financially stable manner is bad enough. However, what's even worse is using minimum ground criteria to exclude teams whilst being apathetic to the various existing SL clubs which clearly still fall short of those standards and are blatantly doing nothing about it. Its killing our game.

A prime example is Salford, knocked out of this competition in the last round as they were completely outplayed by Leigh in the second half. Even before the Super League season starts, they have absolutely nothing to play for. Its as simple as that. Is it therefore any wonder that Salford fans aren't returning to the Willows in their droves? Even if you don't have the greatest team in the league, a relegation scrap represents a cause to fight for and fantastic entertainment for the spectators. Both today's clubs can surely vouch for that. Yes I know the PR routine, Super League attendances are on the increase: and this is true. However, take a look at the crowd figures of the bottom eight Super League clubs in games not involving the big four and they tell a very different story.

Whilst News Corporation coffers simply find their way into players pockets, clubs in the NFP are coming to terms with their own financial independence. If we are ever to see the Roughyeds grace the top flight again, and I certainly hope that this will happen, there are two essential changes that have to take place in Super League. Crucially, a viable method of promotion and relegation between SL and the NFP is a must, as is a truly effective salary cap to ensure a more equal distribution of playing talent.

On a final note, take a look at the magnificent unofficial Oldham Rugby League website which is a must for every Roughyed fan. You can find it at www.OldhamRoughyeds.net



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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to February 25th yesteryear

THIS AFTERNOON the Roughyeds will be hoping to turn the clock back six years to Saturday 25th February 1995, when they pulled off a surprise victory against Super League opposition in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. That day Oldham travelled to Warrington for a televised fifth round tie against opponents who had beaten them 55-6 earlier in the season. Meanwhile an early Warrington try failed to dampen the spirit of the Roughyeds who recovered to win 17-6. Winger Scott Ranson and second-row forward Joe Faimalo scored the Oldham tries at Wilderspool with stand off Wilson Marsh adding four goals and centre Steve Gartland a dropped goal.

Former Roughyeds' physiotherapist John Watkins considers Oldham's 16-4 third round win at Widnes on Sunday 25th February 1990 as the most memorable victory he was associated with during his lengthy spell at Watersheddings. Just like the match at Warrington five years later, Widnes scored all their points before Oldham got on the scoresheet, and it was the same player who scored them all. Welsh international Jonathan Davies scored a converted try for Warrington and a couple of penalties for Widnes. Second-row forward Keith Newton scored the first Oldham try at Naughton Park and another former Widnes star, full back Duncan Platt, added four goals before centre John Henderson settled the tie with the second Roughyeds touchdown. Henderson was not the only player in action that day who is still involved with the current club, for scrum half at Widnes was Mike Ford whilst Leo Casey was leading the pack.

The recently formed Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust has received much publicity lately. The photographs published in the local press include one featuring the jersey worn by hooker Edgar Brooks when he represented England in 1939. That international was staged at Knowsley Road on Saturday 25th February when France visited St. Helens and beat England 12-9, all the points coming from tries. The attendance at that match was 10,000 but receipts were only £425, the average cost of entry being less than one shilling. That's 5p in today's currency. How

times have changed. Also included in the English pack that afternoon was Wakefield second-row forward Mick Exley. Both Exley and Brooks would almost certainly have toured Australasia with Great Britain in 1940 but for the outbreak of war.

By 1975 the cost of watching international rugby had risen to a staggering £1. Even the programmes cost 10p when England met Wales at Salford on Tuesday 25th February 1975. Despite the expense, 8,494 spectators saw England clinch the European Championship with a 12-8 victory after both countries had defeated France. Three Wakefield players were



Mick Morgan

included in the English squad, two of whom later played for Oldham. Loose forward Mick Morgan and non-playing substitute David Topliss were the players who played for both today's clubs whilst the other Wakefield international was full back Les Sheard.



David Topliss

It was on this day in 1922, Saturday 25th February, that Oldham pulled off a comfortable 29-0 away win against the amateurs of Elland Wanderers in the first round of the Challenge Cup. Winger Reg Farrar led the way with four touchdowns. Rochdale Hornets winger Jack Corsi went one better and scored five tries as the Hornets defeated Broughton Moor 54-2 in another first round tie. Four weeks later Hornets knocked Oldham out of the competition and then went on to lift the trophy, their only success in this most prestigious of competitions.

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 P	
11 HULL KR (SCCC R4)	17-6	2,008
18 GATESHEAD	H 52-6	1,451
25 WAKEFIELD (SCCC R5)	H	
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	

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	W44-6
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			

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Alliance Action

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Haydn Walker

LAST WEEK the Alliance team produced probably their best performance of the season so far with a 44-6 win over Hunslet at Castleton Gabriels. It was especially pleasing in that areas we had been trying to improve at training for some time at last showed improvements.

Our attacking structure was much better and we did the basics right. I still believe we can improve even further and indeed on Monday night a hungry group of players put in a long physical session with an hour and a half on the training pitch and an hour watching the match video.

As for the Hunslet game itself those who attend will know that a large number of players had big games. Our pack was really hungry and aggressive with Lee Doran, Paul Norton and Chris Farrell outstanding. Chris Naylor also had his best game of the season and is hopefully recapturing the form he had prior to his shoulder injury.



Keith Brennan



James Wilkinson

Keith Brennan and James Wilkinson combined well at half back while the backline performances of Lacey, Dodd, Barrow and Cross presented Mike Ford with a real selection poser.

Haydn Walker Alliance Coach

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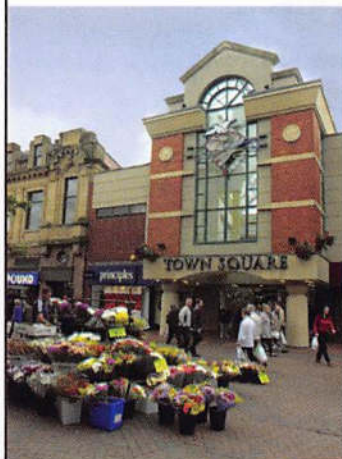
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Oldham is already at the heart of the motorway network and now also benefits from the new M60 orbital route. Metrolink is also coming to the town, and the brand new £3.4 million central bus station has opened this year.



The M60 Motorway



Town Centre Shopping

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

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WAKEFIELD TRINITY

Coach: John HARBIN

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Martyn HOLLAND

Daryl LACEY

2

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Anthony GIBBONS

3

Richard SMITH

Pat RICH

4

Justin BROOKER

Gavin DODD

5

Waisale SOVATABUA

David GIBBONS

6

Martin PEARSON

Neil RODEN

7

Brad DAVIS

Leo CASEY

8

Frank WATENE

John HOUGH

9

David MARCH

Andy PROCTOR

10

Julian O'NEILL

Phil FARRELL

11

Jamie FIELD

Ian SINFIELD

12

Gary PRICE

Kevin MANNION

13

Willie POCHING

Mike FORD

14

Paul JACKSON

Jason GUEST

15

Ryan HUDSON

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DAVE ANSELL



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NICK

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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.

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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.

