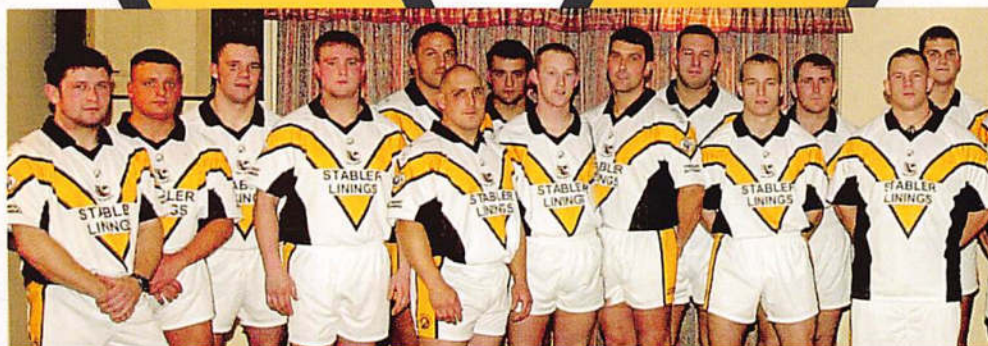


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A WELCOME FROM YORK Wasps

At the end of season 1999, on the 29th August, York played Oldham at the Huntington Stadium. The Wasps had a strong team out that day and won by 70 -8. The Oldham club had just reformed that year after the collapse of the Bears following relegation from Super League the previous season. A group of 200/250 Oldham fans attended that day and "sang their hats off for their lads", for the entire 80 minutes in the popular stand. I know, I was there (during my exile) with them. Their team that day was of a similar standard to that fielded by York at Chorley recently (well not quite that bad), but the fans were just so pleased they still had a club, they just didn't care and they would not be silenced.

It's that spirit we need here at York at this harrowing time, but then again this is York and we tend to react in a different way, oh for a bit of passion!

The cost of those players contracts playing for York that day "broke" the club. Quite a number of them were on bigger contracts than a number of star players we had at Gateshead Thunder playing in the Super League that year. Our current players, the fans, coaches and directors are all suffering as a result of that folly. Just what the goal was I have absolutely no idea - sheer madness! Hopefully the squad will be strengthened gradually as the season progresses. Tony Coleman, our new Director of Football, is trying desperately hard to recruit players to come and help our beleaguered squad and with our enforced Draconian budget (due to the CVA), that is far from being an easy task.

We're hoping and praying that everyone remaining; players, coaches, fans and sponsors, will stay with us and see us through to greener pastures in the future.

Please bear with us!!

JOHN STABLER

Wasps against Racism

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OLDHAM



MARK SIBSON - Former Loughborough student who has had spells at Castleford and Bramley. Very elusive runner from full back, capable of scoring from long range.

JOEY HAYES - A firm favourite with the Oldham crowd. This former Super League star with St.Helens and Salford is always likely to get on the scoresheet.

ANTHONY GIBBONS - Former Leeds and Bramley player with a good step off either foot. Also one of the best defensive centres in the NFP.

PAT RICH - Geordie Law Graduate who was previously with Keighley. A very reliable goal kicker, he represented England students in the Student World Cup Final.

DANNY ARNOLD - Another player with Super League experience playing at St.Helens and Huddersfield. A prolific try scorer who can play wing, centre or full back.

DAVE GIBBONS - Twin brother of Anthony he too played at Bramley and Leeds. Very pacy with an eye for an opening. He is an aggressive defender, who also has a sound kicking game.

JASON CLEGG - A massive prop with deceptive agility. He gives the team a big go forward and a quick play the ball.

JOHN HOUGH - The clubs first ever signing, this Oldham born hooker

was the clubs player of the season last year. Very fast out of dummy half. He is a regular try scorer.

ANDY PROCTER - Club captain and a prop with a big workrate. Formerly with Wakefield and Bramley.

LEO CASEY - Now reaching the veteran stage. An Irish International prop with a wealth of experience. Former clubs include Rochdale Hornets.

DANNY GUEST - Huge young prop former with Keighley and Chorley. Has started to push through this season and big things are expected from him.

PHILLIP FARRELL - Second row who joined the club along with Neil Roden. Brother of England captain Andrew, he is probably the most exciting young second row in the NFP. A massive workrate and a great pair of hands.

PAUL NORTON - Signed in the off season from Chorley. Knockers has been one of the clubs most consistent performers. Very strong defender who can play prop or second row.

IAN SINFIELD - Oldham born player, equally at home at loose forward or second row. An aggressive defender with pace running out wide.

KEVIN MANNION - Former Student international player. A loose forward with a good pair of hands. Wigan born and another former

Rochdale player.

GARETH BARBER - Young stand off born in Oldham and signed in the summer from Warrington. A player with huge potential, he has already played a number of first team games.

DARYL LACEY - Young winger or full back signed in the summer from Wigan. A player with plenty of pace and a safe pair of hands.

DEAN CROSS - Former Widnes wing or centre with great pace. A regular try scorer.

CHRIS FARRELL - Twin brother of Phil and another summer signing from Wigan. A loose forward with great vision.

GAVIN DODD - Young full back or winger and a former student international. A very elusive runner with great pace.

LEE DORAN - Teenage prop who has been staring in the club's alliance team. A very exciting prospect.

KEITH BRENNAN - Reserve team scrum half coming back after a serious knee injury. Expected to push through strongly for a first team place when he's back to full fitness.

WARREN BARROW - Big winger signed from St Helens. A regular try scorer last season and strong finisher.

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Lee's View

A warm welcome to everyone for today's game against Oldham. Special mention to a good friend and Oldham coach, Mike Ford, who is doing a tremendous job at Boundary Park. Both he and Chris Hamilton, as well as everyone else at the club, are to be congratulated for their achievements in resurrecting the club over the past few seasons.

The last month has seen us concede quite a number of points in what can only be said as "very disappointing performances". The worst and most embarrassing being the one at Chorley. I have to admit that because of the amount of players which have left the club and having to continuously change the team around, does not help us in our quest to get this club back on track. What I can and do expect, is for players to put the effort into the game for the full 80 minutes, this has been the case in all our games barring one - and we all know which one I am talking about. For this I would like to apologise to everyone connected within the club, both administration wise and more importantly you, the supporters. I will not accept, or put up with that kind of performance and every player is now aware of that.

At Swinton we had a weaker team out than at Chorley and consequently got another heavy defeat but the difference was that the players at least put in 100% effort. Yes they were not good enough but those players were prepared to play away from home for very little money. How can you criticise anybody in those circumstances?

John Stabler and the board are endeavoring to bring new players to the club. More importantly players with much needed experience and quality. Only time will tell if they can achieve this but I just want you the supporters to know that we as a club are desperately trying to get what you deserve and that is a competitive team.

Again thank you for your support.

CROOKSY

Today's Mascot

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There will be no mascot for today's game against Oldham. If you would like to be a mascot at a future game then please send your name, address and telephone number and we will do the rest!

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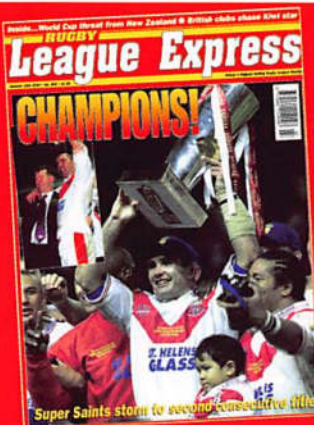
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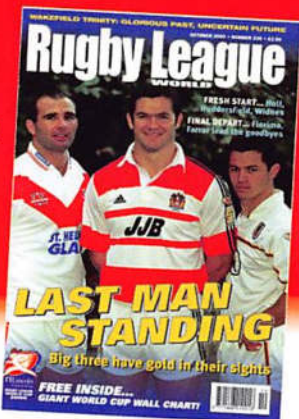
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League Express

LEAGUE EXPRESS editor **MARTYN SADLER** congratulates **Doncaster Dragons** for their two stirring recent performances.

So there is life after a Creditors' Voluntary Arrangement after all.

At least that seems to be what Doncaster Dragons' experience suggests, after their recent stunning wins over Widnes and Leigh, in the latter case overturning the last unbeaten record in the Premiership.

The Dragons went into a CVA last month, causing them to offer significantly reduced contracts to their playing staff, and since then they have seen a succession of players leaving Belle Vue for greener pastures elsewhere.

Last Sunday they were forced to give a debut to 19-year-old fullback Johnny Woodcock, and, in what must have been a magical day for the young player, he scored the winning try with just three minutes to go to give the Dons a 16-11 triumph. After their 12-match unbeaten start to the competition this season, the Centurions were brought back down to earth with a bump, although not without Neil Turley managing once again to get onto the teamsheet. The Dragons have shown that you can reduce your financial commitments but continue to get good results.

This weekend we will have the biggest game of the season, as the Centurions visit Cougar Park to take on Keighley in a battle for top spot in the Premiership. It would be great to see a five-figure crowd thronging Cougar Park for that game, which certainly deserves Keighley's biggest attendance for many years.

In the meantime the debate about the timing of the NFP season rumbles on, with many different viewpoints being put forward.

I recently was speaking on a Radio Leeds phone-in about this issue, and I was followed by Featherstone general manager Terry Mullaney, a renowned supporter of Rugby League in winter. Terry made the point that the current NFP season is not reaching its full potential because it doesn't include the months of September, October and November, which are traditionally good months for watching Rugby League.

Of course he is absolutely right, but his conclusion was that we should therefore play the NFP season from September to May.

I draw a very different conclusion, however. Given that the worst months of the year are December to March - and you only have to look at the season so far to realise the truth in that statement - why not play a season that begins in the first week of April, after the switch to British Summer Time, with a Grand Final ending the season towards the end of November. Then we would play in all the best months, with a climax coming just when people are starting to think about Christmas.

With that timescale we could even have some free weekends at the height of summer for representative football, allowing fans, if they wish, to go on holiday without missing any of their club's games.

It's only a suggestion. But one thing's for sure. The question of when the NFP season should be played needs to be sorted out, the sooner the better.



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Club News



Next Game: 8th April 2001, K.O: 3pm: -v- Rochdale Hornets (a)

13 April 2001, K.O: 7:30pm -v- Hunslet Hawks (a)

Please check the Wandering Wasps column at the bottom of the page for directions to both these games.

Curry Casino Evening -Monday 1 April 2001, 7:30 - 11:30pm. Jaipur Spice Restaurant, Haxby Road. Indian Banquet, Blackjack, Craps and Roulette. Tickets cost £20 and are available from the club office.

The Academy season is kicking off soon with the first game at home. Please come and give your support to the future of York Wasps. Here are the fixtures for the Academy 2001 season:

April:	22	Workington	H	12:00
May:	6	Doncaster Dragons	A	1:00
	13	Chorley Lynx	A	1:00
	20	Gateshead Mets	A	1:00
	27	Dewsbury Rams	H	12:00
June:	6	Hunslet Hawks	A	7:30
	9	Barrow Border Raiders	A	2:30
	18	Featherstone Rovers	A	7:30
	24	Oldham	H	12:30
July:	1	Leigh Centurions	A	1:00
	7	Chorley Lynx	H	2:30
	14	Dewsbury Rams	A	2:30
	21	Hunslet Hawks	H	2:30
	28	Workington Town	A	2:30
August:	4	Featherstone Rovers	H	2:30
	11	Gateshead Mets	H	2:30
	18	Doncaster Dragons	H	2:30



YORK Wasps

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Wandering Wasps

Recommended Route to Rochdale

Take the A64 towards Tadcaster turn left onto A1 continue to M1 and then onto M62 towards Manchester. Leave the M62 at junction 20 signposted Rochdale. Oldham A627M This brings you straight to a roundabout. Taking the turning marked Rochdale 3rd exit if travelling Follow the dual carriageway to another roundabout. Take the first exit signposted Bury. You will be on another dual carriageway for approx. 1 minute, until you reach another roundabout (with Tesco on your left hand side). Get into the middle lane here, and take the second exit onto Roch Valley Way.

Follow this road to the top until you get to a set of traffic lights (with the Cemetery Inn facing). Go straight through the lights which takes you straight onto Sandy Lane itself. Follow the road round, and you will see the football ground on your right hand side. Distance from Huntingdon Stadium 65miles approx. journey time 1 hour 10minutes

Recommended Route to Hunslet

Take the A64 towards Tadcaster turn left onto A1 continue to M1 turn off M1 onto A639 bear left onto M621 turn left onto Tunstall Road, then turn left onto Dewsbury Road, Then left onto Middleton Road. Distance from Huntingdon Stadium 32miles approx. journey time 45 minutes





YORK Wasps

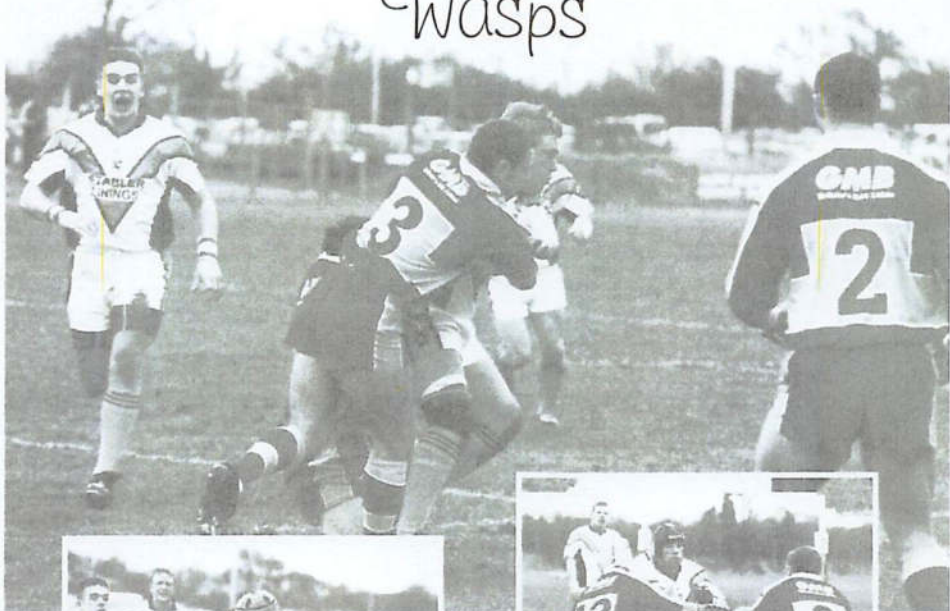
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Wasps in Action

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Wasps



Photo's kindly supplied by Kevin Pratt

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Down Memory Lane

This week we look back to 1984. The challenge cup semi - final against Wigan at Elland Road. Leeds. York from the second division and Wigan high in the first division and looking to make their 12th appearance at Wembley. York having only made one previous Wembley appearance in 1931 losing to Halifax. The game was in doubt due to the torrential rain that had fallen during the previous 24 hours. An estimated 10,000 York fans made the trip to Leeds to watch the team that had beaten first division Castleford and Wakefield in the previous rounds.

The teams that day.

York: 1. Midgely, 2. G Pryce, 3. Harrison, 4. Morrel, 5. Kain, 6. Steadman, 7. Wilson, 8. Hooper, 9. Nuttall, 10. B. Hughes, 11. M Hughes, 12. Price, 13. G Smith. Subs 14 Blackburn, 15 Tansley.

Wigan: 1. Hampson, 2. Edwards, 3. Stephenson, 4. Whitfield, 5. Gill, 6. Cannon, 7. Stephens, 8. West, 9. Tamati, 10. Case, 11. Scott, 12. Julliff, 13. Elvin. Subs 14. Ramsdale 15. Pendlebury.

The first half was very even with Wigan going into the break with just a 4-2 lead from penalties from Colin Whitfield, the first for interference at the play the ball and the second for obstruction by Brian Hughes on Colin Whitfield. York's penalty came from Graham Steadman after Brian Case had been penalised for an off the ball incident.

The second half started with both sides in clean jerseys. Wigan applied intense pressure and on the last tackle Whitfield chipped through, John Kain the York winger dives for the ball and the ball bounces off his chest for Whitfield to score too wide, out to add the conversion.

The second Wigan try had more than a hint of luck, on the last tackle at the play the ball Stephens fumbled the ball, Mick Hughes tried to drop on the loose ball but it slips in the mud from under his body back to Stephens to feed Mick Scott who gratefully dives under the posts, Whitfield converts to make the score 14-2. York didn't give up and continued to put Wigan under pressure, this pressure paid off 5 minutes from time when Wigan centre Whitfield sent a kick downfield which was taken by Midgely on the York 25. He was tackled, from the play the ball Gary Price made a 30 metre break and passes onto Steadman who was brought down, from the play the ball Mick Hughes passed onto Tansley who passed to Gary Smith, Smith was held up by 3 tacklers but still managed to pass to the supporting Tansley who fed on to Chris Harrison to score under the posts. Steadman added the two points to make the score 14-8 with just 3 minutes to go. From the restart Trevor Hooper shrugged off 4 would be tacklers but was brought down.

Wigan regained possession on the last tackle and played the minutes out, to achieve their first Wembley appearance in 14 years.

Kevin and Dawn Beardmore
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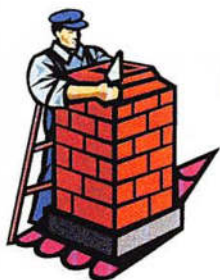
*Kevin looks forward to having a
drink with York Players when
returning from away games*

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Evening Press

For proof that there is light at the end of the tunnel, York Wasps need look no further than today's opponents Oldham.

Many fans think the future of the Wasps is even blacker than the gloomy present.

But just three years ago, Oldham found themselves in a similar dark and imposing tunnel. The Oldham Bears, as they were known, went into liquidation in 1997 and the club was re-born as Oldham the following year.

The euphoria which greeted the club that year soon wore off to be replaced by the harsh reality of life in the lower echelons of the Rugby League.

This brief history, taken from Oldham's official website, has something of a familiar ring about it. "The club was forced to play its home matches out of town at Rochdale's Spotland Stadium. Some of their better players from the previous season had been lured to other clubs. There is no doubt that the second season for Oldham RLFC (1997 Ltd) was frustrating for all concerned with the club. A series of heavy defeats in the second half of the campaign tested the resolve of even the most diehard supporters. As a result, attendances dwindled to the faithful few".

But following a move to Boundary Park and the appointment of a former GB International, in the shape of Mike Ford, the Oldham club have turned their fortunes around.

They made it into the play-offs last season and have become one of the strongest sides in the division, despite a few poor results this season.

They have proved with hard work and dedication - and a loyal coach at the helm - that darkness is not eternal. York's embarrassing hammering by Chorley was the low point in the club's on-field history but at least there's one consolation - it can't get any worse.

If Lee Crooks was ever going to quit then that would have been the time. There's no doubt he seriously considered it - maybe even ruining his comments after the 90-6 defeat at Widnes when he insisted "I'm no quitter" - but at the end of the day he still has belief.

He knows what a fairytale story it would be if the Wasps come through this current mess and "do an Oldham". A few words today with Mike Ford, who recently signed a new three year contract with the Roughyeds, will surely convince him that he has made the right decision.

For all the latest news on the Wasps, check out the Evening Press website at www.thisisyork.co.uk

DIANNE HILLABY

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In the interests of the NFP it was good to see Leigh the victims of what could be termed a bit of an upset at Doncaster last weekend, meaning that the Cougars have now closed the gap to a point approaching the halfway stage of the season.

Okay, so the top three do seem to be breaking clear of Featherstone in fourth place, but the main thing is that there is competition more or less right through the division and the top eight looks unlikely to be settled for some time yet.

Neil Kelly's appointment as Widnes coach coincided with another defeat for the Vikings at home to Keighley, meaning that they drop to eighth. "Ned" has half a season in which to both improve the club's league position and perhaps more importantly, get them firing at the right time for the play-offs. I say that because Widnes (as the Wasps know to their cost) have a quality side who can beat anyone on their day. Presumably Kelly feels the same way, having left the current Champions for the only club likely to get into the top flight should they win the NFP Grand Final in July.

Down at the foot, well the less said about the performance at Chorley the better and though the score was pretty much the same at Gigg Lane last week, there was much more effort from the Wasps against Swinton. It's going to be tight in terms of who takes the wooden spoon and Hunslet are also now being sucked in to the bottom four. They have just lost their Alliance team the other week and so things don't look like getting any better for them either. The match against them on Good Friday at the South Leeds Stadium is one that Lee Crooks will have his eye on as a potential source of league points.

Having said that, looking ahead too far would not be in the best interests of the team, who are going to need to concentrate fully on the job in hand here today first. Lee's old Castleford team-mate Mike Ford has built up a strong side o'er the border and they will come into the game looking to avenge defeat last week against Featherstone. The Roughyeds were seen as dark horses for the title before the start of the season and today could be another hard day at the office for the home team.

JONATHAN DOIDGE



Wasps



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Good afternoon and welcome to all supporters of York and Oldham for today's game.

The last few games have had disastrous results for York but credit must be given to all the players who have turned out to play. Everyone within the club is working extremely hard to improve the current situation and hope it will not be too long before we see some improvements.

We are holding a Curry Casino Evening tomorrow evening at the Jaipur Spice Restaurant to raise funds for the club. Tickets are on sale today from the office, price £20. Further events are being organised and your support would be much appreciated.

A special welcome is extended to Ron & Charlotte Jones who are celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to you both. Hope you enjoy your day at York.

Finally a warm welcome to Oldham's Chairman Chris Hamilton, Directors & Playing staff. Hope you have an enjoyable day here in York.

Supporters Club

Hi! A big welcome to all Oldham and York supporters. It seems an age since we played at home - I don't know why we have changed from home, away, home, away but I am sure it's not helping build crowds in the NFP, when nobody is sure what comes next. Let's make the most of today and get behind Lee and the lads, it's the 16th before we are back at the stadium again.

Thank you for your continuing support for our Wasp Winner half time draw tickets.

MR D A MOSS £90.00
Wasp Winner at Leigh Centurions game.

The Wasps supporters quiz, run by Karen Pearson, made a profit of £111.00. An entertaining few nights were spent taxing our grey cell's but unfortunately we did not manage to win.

£15	1st Prize	C Coman	58 1/2 points out of 60
£10	2nd Prize	Alan Bogey	58 points out of 60
£5	3rd Prize	Julie Smith	56 points out of 60

Congratulations to Karen for a well thought out quiz and to all those who took part (especially Julie Smith, the Supporters Club secretary, how about spending your winnings in the bar!)

Pally's testimonial year is passing away quickly. He has a Race Night 22 April (after the Workington game) run by the New Earswick All Blacks at White Rose Avenue. 1st race is at 8:00pm, admission is free, we have a couple of races still available to be sponsored, please contact 424434.

Fancy an entertaining afternoon then why not make a note in your diaries: 7 May - Pig Racing (Bank Holiday Monday). Fun for all the family.

See you in the bar!!

ANN & LOUISE

Junior Wasps

A very warm welcome to the travelling junior supporters of Oldham. Hope you enjoy your day at York and have a safe journey home.

Things aren't going to well at the moment, with players coming and going but all we ask is that you keep up your brilliant support and stick with us!!!!

***** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** *****
to Junior Wasp Member

Christopher Hill
who is 12 on 3 April.
Hope you have a brilliant birthday
Christopher and best wishes from
everyone at York Rugby League

We are still on the look out for match mascots.
Contact the club office for more details.

I want to hear you all shouting and chanting
this afternoon for a Wasps victory!

COME ON YOU WASPS

WOBBY



York Wasps SUPERCASH

Would you like to HELP YOUR CLUB and have the chance to win some money - for as little as £1 a week? - Join the 'York Wasps Supercash' lottery and you could win

£100 Every Weekday and £500 every Saturday

You could also become a lottery agent by recruiting your own members from your family, friends and work mates.

If you would like to become a lottery member or agent then please call in at the York Wasps Office or telephone us on 01904 634636

League Table

Supporters Man of the Match

MATCH	MAN OF THE MATCH	WINNER
Doncaster	Paddy Handley	Mr Gallagher
Keighley	Michael Smith	Mr Steve Thompson from Bingley
Hunslet	Michael Smith	N. Beavers (Market Weighton)
Sheffield	Gareth Dobson	Mrs Upton
Gateshead	Gareth Dobson	Mr Cackett Huntington
Oulton	Gareth Stephens	D P Crosby, Selby
Featherstone	Richard Darling	Mrs E Turner, Strensall
Leigh	Gareth Dobson	Colin Blunkett, Haxby
Oldham		
Batley		
Workington		
Whitehaven		
Hull KR		
Dewsbury		

Players Profile

NAME: Mick Hagan

AGE: 22

What made you decide to play Rugby League?

My dad

Why did you decide to play for York?

Coz I'm a York lad

Most memorable game & why?

Been beaten 100 - 0 by London in the A team. Say no more!!!

Most admired player?

Anyone playing Super League

Pet Hates?

Training on a Saturday

Any superstitions?

None

Job outside rugby?

Manufacturing kitchen work tops

Where would you most like to be a fly on the wall?

The All Saints dressing room

You have one wish. What would it be?

To be rich

Ambitions for the future (both for yourself and for the club)?

To be playing rugby at a high level

Supporters Man of the Match

My choice of the York Man of Match

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

A draw will be made, the prize is Executive box tickets at the last home game.

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MAPS & DIRECTIONS TO CLIFTON MOOR RETAIL PARK



TODAY IN THE Wasps NEST

YORK Wasps		V	OLDHAM	
White, Amber & Black		Colours	Red, White & Navy	
Lee CROOKS		Coach	Mike Ford	
Andy	INNES	1	Gavin	DODD
Tim	RUMFORD	2	Joey	HAYES
Callum	IRVING	3	Anthony	GIBBONS
Gareth	LLOYD	4	Pat	RICH
Paul	HARPER	5	Warren	BARROW
Gareth	OULTON	6	Neil	RODEN
Danny	WAITE	7	Mike	FORD
Scott	ACKLAM	8	Jason	CLEGG
Gareth	DOBSON	9	John	HOUGH
Andy	HUTCHINSON	10	Leo	CASEY
Luke	JUDSON	11	Phil	FARRELL
Darren	CRAKE	12	Paul	NORTON
Nathan	PINCHER	13	David	GIBBONS
Adam	BRIGGS	14	Kevin	MANNION
Gavin	SMITH	15	Andy	MOCTOR
Lee	McNICHOL	16	Chris	FARRELL
John	TURNBULL	17	Danny	GUEST
 Referee R. Silverwood Res. Official P. Ward Touch Judges  P. Johnson  B.P. King				
Match Sponsor 		Matchball Sponsor		