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Swinton Lions

v **Oldham Bears**

Sunday 21st January 2001

Kick Off 3.00pm

2nd May



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THE INDEPENDENT

THE OFFICIAL SWINTON LIONS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

Swinton RLC Officials

CLUB OFFICIALS

Chairman: M.G. White

Director: T. Robinson

Company Secretary: David Jones

Chief Executive: Tony Barrow

Commercial Manager: Peter Young

Coach: Mike Gregory

Asst Coach: Phil Chadwick

Physiotherapist: Norman Brown

& Donna Gormley

Club Doctor: Dr. M.A. Moore

Kit Team: Andy, Eric,

Timekeeper: B. Welsby

Head Groundsman: Michael Curtis

Assistant Groundsman: Paul Euston

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Fax 0161 763 9196

Club Shop - Lottery - Promotions

Marlene Partington

112 Station Rd, Swinton.

Tel 0161 794 6150

Fax 0161 728 6174

Programme Editor: Peter Young

The club gratefully acknowledge
contributions from Mike Caine, Ian
Rigg, John Spellman, Steve Wild,
Vinnny Kirkman,
Martin Kelner, John Edwards.

Lions website:

<http://swinton-lions-rlc.co.uk>

Matchday programme designed

and printed by Colourplan,

11 Waterside Court,

St. Helens Technology Campus,

St. Helens WA9 1UA

Tel: 01744 23868

Club Honours

Championship Winners: 1926/27, 1927/28,

1930/31, 1934/35

Runners up: 1924/25, 1932/33

War League beaten finalists: 139/40

Division One Champions: 1962/63, 1963/64

Division Two Champions: 1984/85

Division Two Runners-Up: 1996/97

Challenge Cup Winners: 1899/1900,

1925/26, 1927/28

Runners-Up: 1926/27, 1931/32

Lancashire League Winners: 1924/25,

1927/28, 1928/29, 1930/31, 1960/61

Lancashire War League Winners: 1939/40

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1925/26,

1927/28, 1939/40, 1969/70

Runners-Up: 1910/11, 1923/24,

1931/32, 1960/61, 1961/62, 1962/63,

1964/65, 1972/73

B.B.C. Floodlight Trophy Runners-Up: 1966/67

Western Division Championship

Beaten Finalists: 1963/64

Division Two Premiership Winners: 1986/87

Club Records

Record Attendance: 44,621 Wigan v Warrington 7/4/51

Record Score For: 90-0 v Prescott Panthers 11.8.96

Record Score Against: 0 - 78 v Wigan 29/9/92

Tries in game: 6 Mark Riley v Prescott Panthers 11.8.96

5 Jason Roach v Prescott Panthers 11.8.96

5 W. Wallwork v Widnes 15/12/1900,

5 J. Evans v Bradford Northern 30/9/1922,

5 H. Halsall v St. Helens 24/1/1925,

5 R. Cracknell v Whitehaven Rec. 11/2/1928,

5 R. Lewis v Keighley 12/1/1946,

5 J. Stopford v Bramley 22/12/1962,

5 A. Buckley v Salford 8/4/1964,

5 J. Ropati v Nottingham 21/1/1990

World Record Kick: Martin Hodgson 773/4 yards (for Swinton)

April 13th 1940, at Rochdale.

Goals in a game: 12 K. Gowers v Liverpool City 3/10/1957

Points in a game: 30 Greg Pearce v Prescott Panthers 11.8.96

Tries in a season: 42 J. Stopford 1964/65

Goals in a season: 128 A. Blan 1960/61

Points in a season: 283 A. Blan 1960/61

Tries in a career: 197 F. Evans 1921 to 1931

Goals in a career: 970 K. Gowers 1954 to 1973

Points in a career: 2015 K. Gowers 1954 to 1973

Appearances in a career: 594 - 8 sub. K. Gowers 1954 to 1973

Consecutive Club appearances: 150 R. Fleay. August 1972

SWINTON LIONS SUPPORTERS CLUB

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Lottery Membership Application Form

The following persons wish to become weekly subscribers to the Swinton RLFC Weekly "Lions' Lottery" (paying monthly in advance), using the Swinton RLFC Supporters Club as Agent.

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* If any of the above persons are Supporters Club Members please also quote their Supporters Club membership number (see card).

When completed please forward this form to Ray Bowdler, 14 Victory Road, Cadishead, Manchester, together with the correct payment to cover the June lottery (5 weeks).

^{M30 FEB} I enclose £..... to cover subscriptions for the above persons for the month of June (5 weeks)

Please also indicate how future subscriptions will be paid:- (1) By posting a cheque directly to Ray Bowdler YES/NO. (2) By leaving cash/cheque at the Station Road shop YES/NO. (3) By posting a cheque by hand at 70 Swinton Hall Road, Swinton YES/NO.

4 week months are July, August, October, November. 5 week months are September, December.

The Chairman

Malcolm White writes...

Welcome today to Chairman Chris Hamilton, the Board, Players and Fans of Oldham. Oldham had a terrific season last year and are again going well under coach Mike Ford who has done a great job with them. The attendance of nearly five thousand at last Sunday's game with Leigh also shows what a good rugby league town Oldham is and that attendance matched many Super League games. Marvellous for the Northern Ford Premiership, as well as the Oldham club.

If we could achieve gates of two thousand on a regular basis it would make a substantial difference to us and until we achieve that I don't really see how we can compete with the top clubs in the N.F.P.

Although we were well beaten in our game with Leigh, I thought it was interesting that they scored 46 points in 25 minutes which meant that for 55 minutes we kept them at bay. I also thought we worked tremendously hard

against Rochdale despite losing 8-4 in atrocious conditions for the players. If we had been a little smarter and managed to get the ball out wider instead of going down the middle we would have won the game.

I must make a point here that I find the decision of the N.F.P. clubs to elect Chris Hamilton as Chairman, when Oldham are one of three clubs suing the N.F.P. totally unbelievable. A bit like turkeys voting for Christmas really. Then again with some of the people that are involved in the game today, nothing should come as a surprise.

On a brighter note, I was pleased to see that Princess Margaret's health is improving. At least I'll be able to sleep again safe in the knowledge that she will soon be able to drink, smoke and holiday in Mustique in the not too distant future. I am sure today's game will be entertaining and I hope you all enjoy your day out in the Lion's den.



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with Peter Young...

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all our sponsors and their guests for this afternoon's game. Once again our Main Sponsors for this fixture are J. PROPERTIES LTD and our thanks go to John Humphreys. Associate Sponsors for today's

match are NORTHERN ROCK, REDDISH DEMOLITION & CHICAGO ROCK CAFE and everyone at Swinton Lions will be going out of their way to ensure you all enjoy a superb day here at Gigg Lane.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Day by day, The Independent, with a main news section covering home and foreign news, business and sport, and a broadsheet daily review section, including comment, features, arts, and an unrivalled entertainment listings service, caters for all interests.

On Monday our 12-page sports section provides every serve and volley, every shot and save from the weekend's action. Also, in the **Monday Review**, you will find the Deborah Ross interview and Network, our weekly IT section.



In the **Tuesday Review**, as well as regular columnists such as Donald Macintyre, David Aaronovitch and Deborah Orr, our media section is full of informed comment, news and gossip from all branches of the media.



On Wednesday, **Business Review**, a separate broadsheet section, is an addition to our extensive daily business news service. Business Review focuses on the people who make the business world tick and is an invaluable companion for those in and beyond the Square Mile.



Thursday is the day for **Education**. The Independent already has a reputation for the best education coverage and our Thursday tabloid section contains features, news and information, together with pages of jobs in the education sector.



On **Fridays**, our authoritative arts pages are expanded to include the reviews of the latest films and extensive music coverage, including reviews of new pop and classical releases.



On **Saturday**, The Independent offers an unrivalled package. As well as the news section and a **Weekend Review** which is tailored towards leisure pursuits such as eating out, gardening and shopping, we have a separate personal finance section – **Your Money** – and **The Traveller**, including despatches from Simon Calder, The Independent's intrepid travel editor. PLUS the **Saturday Magazine**, which focuses on the best in photojournalism, and **The Information**, the essential weekly magazine for going out and staying in.



GREAT MINDS DON'T THINK ALIKE. £ THE INDEPENDENT

The Coach

Mike Gregory...

From a coaching point of view I was bitterly disappointed with our performance against Rochdale Hornets in our last home game. Especially worrying was our ball security and our one up defence. We have worked tirelessly in training on this side of our game but still problems arise. Just as soon as our players who take the field realise that it is far easier to play with possession of the ball than without, then we will have a fighting chance of getting the results we want. Our players realised their own mistakes after the game but of course by then it's too late. The most disappointing factor re the Rochdale game was that we had prepared so well, in a very professional manner and we looked to have sorted out our problems after the defeat at Leigh.

These notes are being written prior to our rearranged Wednesday night game at

Widnes and I hope we have performed well in that game. Obviously we would not choose to play a match against a strong Oldham side only four days after meeting Widnes but we will just have to get on with it. This afternoon I welcome a very old friend in Oldham coach Mike Ford who is doing a tremendous job with the Roughyeds.

They come to us on the back of

a defeat at home to an inspirational Leigh side but there is no disgrace there, as I rate the Centurions as probably the best side in our competition. Knowing Mike Ford as I do, he will have worked on all the faults in that game and he will be determined to turn things around today.

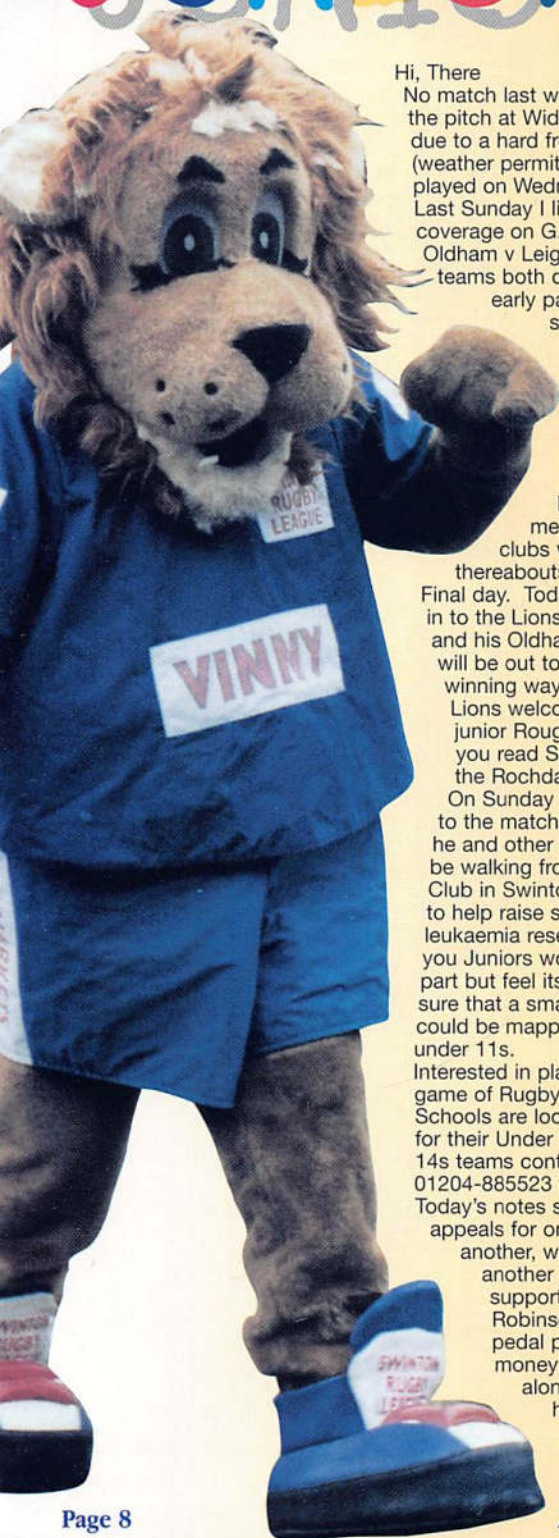
We will need to be at our very best to claim the points today. Over the past number of weeks coaching the Lions it has been my job to try to play all or our twenty four squad players, to assess their strengths and to settle on our best starting line up. Even after winning performances I have felt certain changes were needed but slowly things are slipping into place. Myself and Phil Chadwick will continue to work on a one to one basis with players and improve their styles of play. Our team spirit is excellent and we believe we have players with great attitude and appetite for the game. We are all looking forward to the contest this afternoon and let's hope a big crowd enjoys an exciting match.

**Enjoy the Match
Mike Gregory**



JUNIOR LIONS

with Vinny Lion



Hi, There

No match last week because the pitch at Widnes was unfit due to a hard frost overnight (weather permitting match played on Wednesday last). Last Sunday I listened to the coverage on G.M.R. of the Oldham v Leigh match, two teams both doing well in the early part of the

season. I am no rugby league coach and I don't claim to be an expert on this great game of ours but it seems to me that both

clubs will be there or thereabouts come Grand Final day. Today we welcome in to the Lions Den Mike Ford and his Oldham team who will be out to get back on winning ways. A big Junior Lions welcome to all you junior Roughyeds. Did you read Spelly's notes in the Rochdale programme. On Sunday March 4th prior to the match with the Rams he and other supporters will be walking from the Folly Club in Swinton to The Den to help raise some cash for leukaemia research, if any of you Juniors would like to take part but feel its a bit far I'm sure that a smaller distance could be mapped out for you under 11s.

Interested in playing the great game of Rugby League, Bury Schools are looking for players for their Under 11s and Under 14s teams contact Ron on 01204-885523 for more info.

Today's notes seem to be appeals for one thing and another, well in May

another of our supporters Colin Robinson is taking to pedal power to raise money for MENCAP along with others he is going to ride

alongside the Great Wall of China a distance of about 30 miles, while out there Colin will celebrate his 44th birthday. If you can help with any of the appeals see me or the people concerned as soon as you can.

Today's mascots.



It's a family day out for the Gettins children leading the team is 12 year old Claire, brother Christopher 10 is the boy of the team, making her mascot debut is 2 year old Charlotte, Claire attends Swinton High and enjoys rugby, hockey and listening to music, her favourite player is Wayne English. Christopher goes to Deans in Swinton, his hobbies are

rugby, football and cubs, Rob Barraclough is his favourite player. Charlotte goes to Aunty Steph's playgroup, Tweenies and Bob the Builder are her favourite books, Charlottes favourite is Vinny Lion.

He was a Junior Lion

Name: Lee Woolsoncroft Age: 17 Lee works at J.D. Williams as an office administrator. His hobbies are playing hockey and ice skating. Lee has been mascot at Swinton and has been a ballboy he still watches the Lions when he can but he likes summer rugby best. His other love is Manchester Storm. He has no girlfriend at the moment.

CORRECT SCORE v Rochdale; Aaron White 12pts

SPOT PRIZE: £1.00 coin first to tell me what Bury Schools are looking for.

Joke Time: Q Why did Micky Mouse take a trip to outer space? see bottom of page Did you know the Roughyeds share the ground with the Town's football team

Yours in Rugby
Vinny Lion



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Answer to joke: 'He wanted to find Pluto'

Radio GaGa

Some postponements are better than others, and I must say being deprived of the opportunity to brave the freezing fog on the M62, to go to the Autoquest Stadium last weekend and see us go into a battle on a bitterly cold afternoon against a vastly more experienced Widnes outfit was about the best result we could have hoped for. There is a god. It is never that much fun going to Widnes at the best of times - for any reason - and despite wishing to put a brave face on it, for the Lions these are not the best of times.

One problem I find with trips to Widnes, quite apart from anything that might happen on the field of play, is that I can never find the blasted ground. I don't know why it is, but there is some grounds, however many times I have visited them, that I still fail to reach without a struggle, and Widnes is one, whether they call it the Autoquest, Naughton Park or whatever. Psychological, probably. Too many bad memories.

Our opponents today, Oldham, had the misfortune of actually playing last week, and their heavy defeat at home against Leigh was something of a bonus for us. It confirmed what those of us at Hilton Park on New Year's Day suspected, that Leigh are one of the very best sides in the division. When your own side is struggling, there is a tendency to put all heavy defeats down to your own deficiencies, but Leigh look to have taken strength from last season's near miss, and in Simon Svabic have unearthed a real star.

My colleagues at the BBC who watch a great deal of Super League tell me that he looked a little naive at the top level last season, but in the NFP he is set to be a real sensation. In my

view, he will find himself back in Super League soon enough, either with Leigh or courtesy of the transfer market.

What I am hoping Oldham's heavy defeat means is that we are not quite as far behind the rest of the NFP, as it might have appeared from this season's matches so far. Admittedly, I have only been able to go to the home match against Barrow and the game at Leigh this season, but it has not looked too promising.

However, given the resources at his disposal, and taking into account the talent he has lost in the close season, nobody could deny that Mike Gregory is doing a creditable job. It will clearly take some time to knit our disparate talents into anything resembling a team, but there are signs progress is being made.

Let us hope for further promising signs this afternoon. Meanwhile, did you read the interview with Peter Purves in the Sunday Times in which he suggested Blue Peter be revived with the original team - Purves, John Noakes and Valerie Singleton - for those of us oldies who enjoyed it first time round?

A lot of retired people, according to Purves are sitting around at home with nothing to do and would welcome the chance to make their own Stannah stairlift out of sticky back plastic and Fairy Liquid bottles. Apparently the show will be called Blue Rinse Peter.

Martin Kelner

"A lot of retired people, according to Purves, are sitting around at home with nothing to do and would welcome the chance to make their own Stannah Stairlift out of sticky back Plastic."



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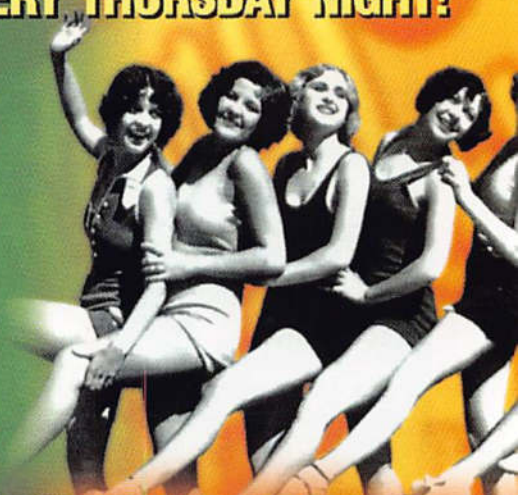
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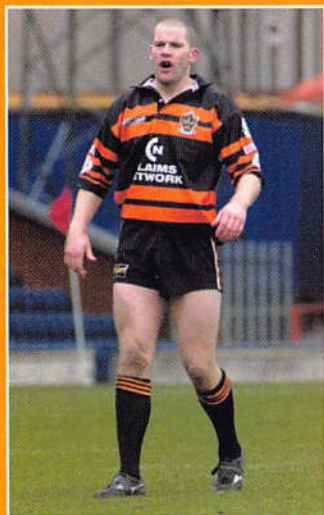


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Oldham



Danny Arnold

PAUL NORTON

Journeyman forward who made a name for himself with Lancashire Lynx. Impressed Oldham when he played against them last season. Like most of the new boys, has signed a one year deal.

DARYL LACEY

Daryl hit the headlines as a 13 year old when he signed for Wigan on a seven year contract. Is one of several ex-Wiganers in the Roughyeds squad which has benefited from the Wigan-area knowledge of Alliance team coach Haydn Walker and new club scout John Jackson.

MIKE FORD

Celebrated his 35th birthday recently and recognised as one of the up and coming coaches of the English game. Has played for a string of clubs and has won almost every honour in the game. A scrum-half, he is just starting out on the second year of a two-year deal as player-coach.

ANTHONY GIBBONS

There are two sets of twins at Oldham, the Gibbons and the Farrells. Anthony Gibbons played in 31 of Oldham's 34 games last season as the Roughyeds marched into the

NFP semi finals. A versatile player, this Gibbons is used mainly by Ford as a centre.

DAVID GIBBONS

Other half of the 'twin partnership' in Oldham's backs, David, used primarily as a stand-off, missed only one match last season. Sound and reliable, he joined Oldham from Bramley after starting his career, like Anthony, with Leeds.

MARK SIBSON

Quick full back who loves nothing better than to attack from deep. Top-scored with 24 tries last season after joining Oldham on a two-year deal from Bramley.

PHIL FARRELL

Anything the Gibbons can do in the backs, the Farrells can have you seeing double in the forwards. Phil, a second-rower, joined Oldham last March, quickly made a back row spot his own and played a major part in the gradual improvement of a team that finished as semi-finalists and NFP club of the year.

NEIL RODEN

Another ex-Wigan player, Neil came to Oldham with Phil Farrell. He also quickly established himself with the Roughyeds, either as a scrum half or as a stand off.



Coach, Mike Ford

The Opposition

LEO CASEY

Veteran of the Oldham side at 35, Lee also had a spell with Hornets after leaving Featherstone, where he spent the best years of his career after leaving home-town Oldham for a club record £100,000.

Returned to the ROughyeds after spells with Hornets and Swinton. One of the most experienced props in the NFP.

DANNY ARNOLD

Former Saints and Huddersfield winger who signed just before Christmas and made his debut at full back at Rochdale on Christmas Eve. Scored 2 tries on his Boundary Park debut against Widnes on New Year's Day. One of the most prolific try scorers in the five years of Super League, he possesses 2 Silk Cut Challenge Cup winners medals, both won with St. Helens.

DANNY GUEST

Another of the Roughyeds 'originals' who returned to the club last season. A big prop, Guest is expected to be a force in the NFP this season after a good pre-season and good marks in the squad's stay with the Green Berets during the autumn.

IAN SINFIELD

Another 'original', Ian had a spell in France, but returned to Oldham last season and has been with the club ever since. Elder brother of Kevin, the England forward, Ian works hard in the back-row and always plays above his weight.

ANDY PROCTOR

Club captain, formerly with Saddleworth Rangers, Wakefield Trinity and Bramley. Highly regarded by Ford as a genuine grafter with a spot-on attitude and motivational qualities which he uses as skipper.

PAT RICH

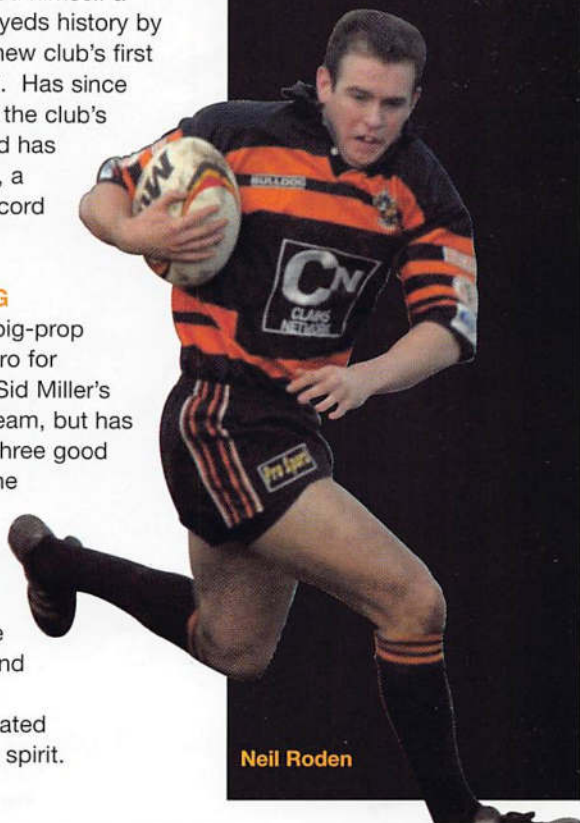
This recently qualified lawyer scored more points for Oldham last season than anyone else. Eleven tries and 108 goals gave him 260 points in 32 games from a possible 34. Started with Keighley Cougars and was wanted by new club Gateshead Thunder 2000, but opted to stick with the ROughyeds.

JOHN HOUGH

Walked away last season with three player-of-the-year trophies. Carved himself a niche in Roughyeds history by becoming the new club's first signing in 1997. Has since played in 87 of the club's 90 matches and has scored 32 tries, a phenomenal record for a hooker.

JASON CLEGG

Rochdale lad, big-prop Jason turned pro for Bradford from Sid Miller's Littleborough team, but has since enjoyed three good seasons with the Roughyeds. Powerful on the surge, he was voted Top-Gun by the Green Berets and the player who most demonstrated the commando spirit.



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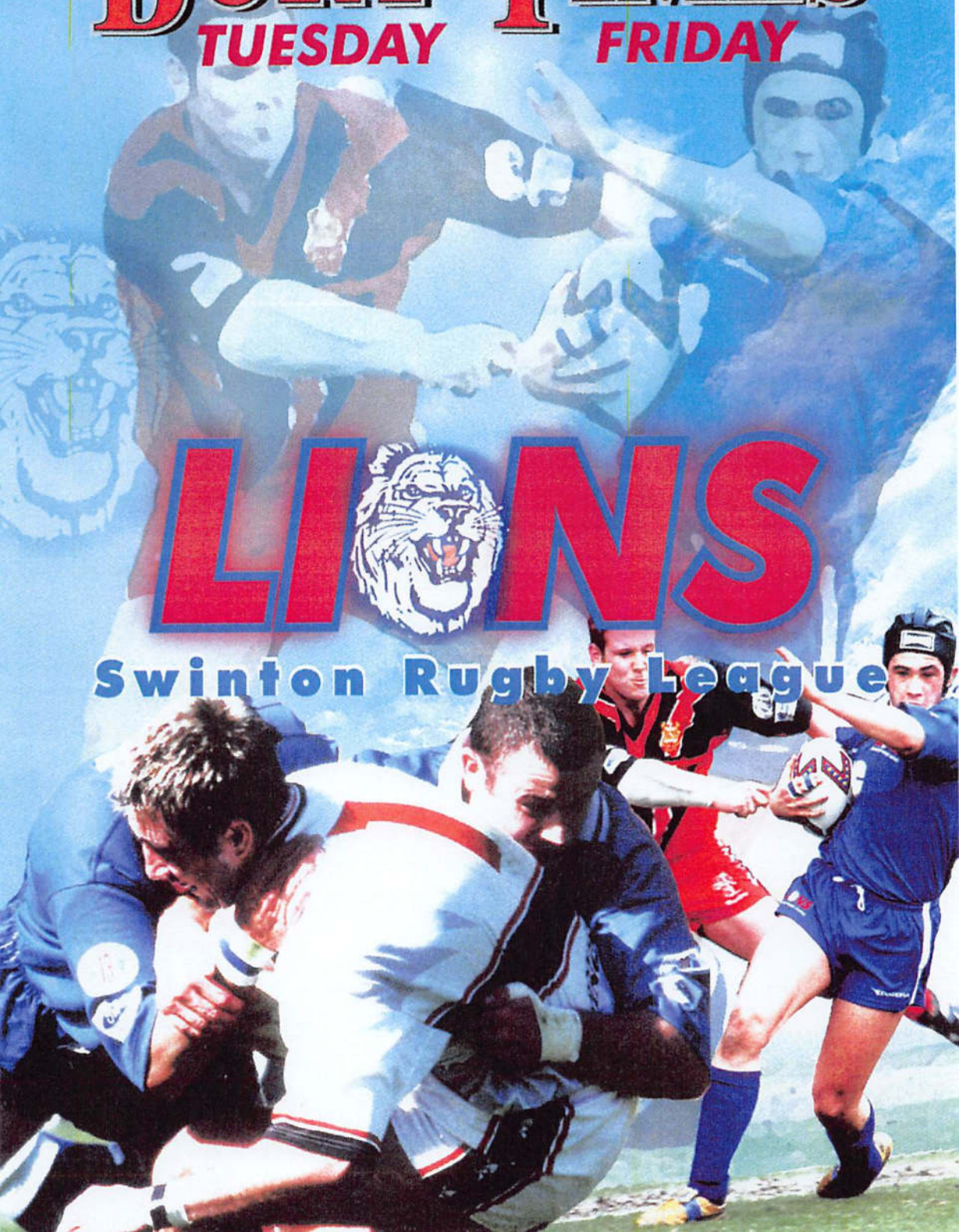
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BURY TIMES

TUESDAY FRIDAY

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Swinton Rugby League



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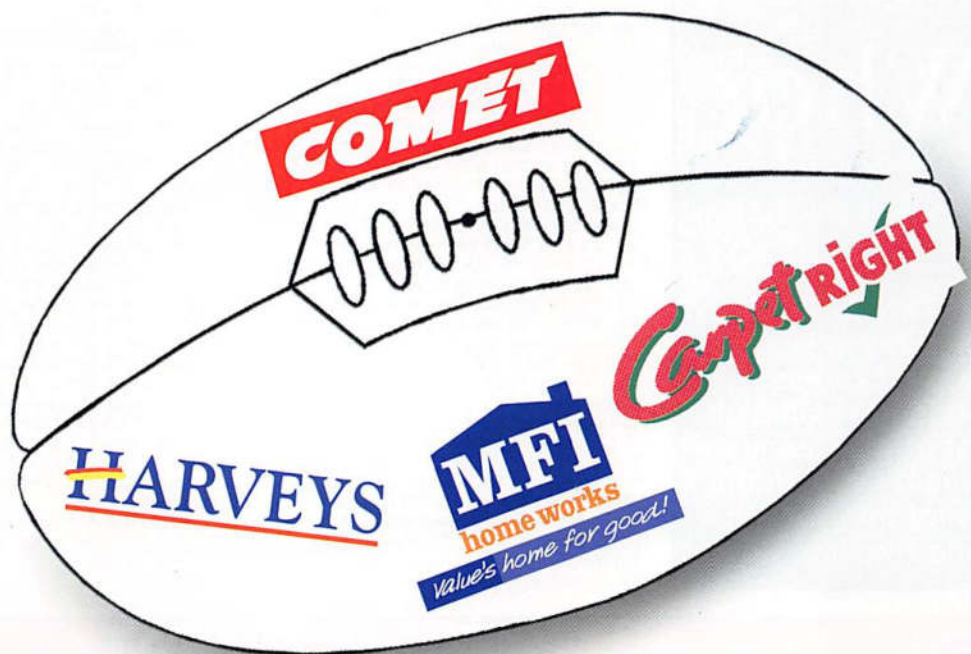


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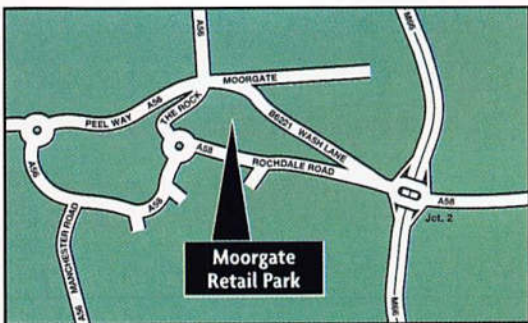


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Leigh Versus Who?

MARTYN SADLER,
the editor of *Rugby League Express*,
wonders which club
East of the Pennines
will join Leigh in the
final of this season's
Trans-Pennine Cup.

The Trans-Pennine Cup is one of the unsung trophies of Rugby League. It was first introduced in 1998, when there were two separate divisions below Super League, and the eight teams in the second division played for the Trans-Pennine Cup to supplement their sparse fixture programme.

The first Trans-Pennine Cup final was played on 19 July that year at Batley, when the Bulldogs defeated the newly formed Oldham 28-12 in front of 2,696 fans at Mount Pleasant. It was a great win for Batley, although the occasion, sadly, was marked by a collapse suffered on the pitch by the club's former Great Britain backrower Roy Powell. A few months later, while in his early thirties, Roy would pass away after collapsing at a training session while employed as the assistant coach to Deryck Fox at Rochdale Hornets.

The trophy was not contested in 1999, but last year it was back on the agenda. As in this season, the clubs were split into East (Yorkshire) and West (Lancashire and Cumbria) sections, and for the first nine rounds of the competition they played other clubs in their own section. When each club had played every other club once in its section the leading club in the East and West played off against each other in the final, tossing up for the right to the home venue.

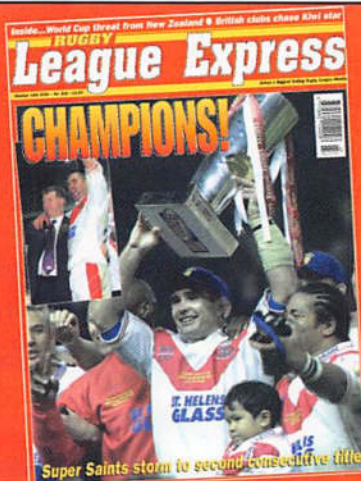
Last year it was Leigh and Dewsbury who reached the final, which was held on 12 April, one of the foulest nights of the year, at Ram Stadium. The Rams held out the Centurions to win 10-8. Later in the season, in the NFP Grand Final, the

score would be even closer, as Dewsbury won 13-12. So who will make it to the Trans-Pennine Cup final in 2001?

There are just two rounds of fixtures remaining, and Leigh, with their decisive win over Oldham last Sunday, look certain to have booked their place in the final as the West of Pennines representative. They are now in the driving seat, undefeated and with home games remaining against Workington and Rochdale Hornets.

The competition East of the Pennines is a little more uncertain. The finalist will be one of Keighley, Doncaster and Dewsbury, but everything between those three clubs is on a knife-edge. The Cougars, with 13 points, are one point in front of the Dragons, both having played seven games, with Dewsbury on 10 points, having played a game less. This weekend Keighley travel to Doncaster, and if they win they will go through if they can then get a result against Batley. But if the Dragons can beat the Cougars, we will then have what effectively will be a play-off the following week at Belle Vue, as the Rams visit the Dragons. That would certainly bring the Trans-Pennine Cup to life, and it would surely guarantee one of Doncaster's biggest gates for many seasons. The Cougars, who dropped their first point at home to Featherstone on Sunday, will, of course, be out to ensure this weekend that it doesn't happen.

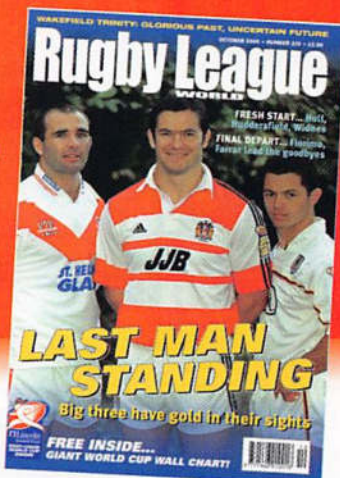
Whichever Yorkshire club makes it, they can be sure that the Centurions will be formidable opponents.



Rugby League Express

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Rugby League World

MAGAZINE

Monton Murmurings

Good afternoon Roughyeds and Lions alike and let's hope it's a cracker of a match!

Right that's the niceties out of the way, it's time to sharpen my pencil and my tongue!!

I see Sven Goran Eriksson has now 'officially' taken over to try to restore some glory for our round ball cousins - **why!**

What the hell is going on? The guy is a foreigner. He's not ENGLISH! So why put him in charge of another country to that of his birth? Could it happen in our sport?

Up to now the England/Great Britain coaches in the greatest game on the planet have been from this Sceptred Isle and as far as I'm concerned that's the way it should stay. Forever!

Personally I could not motivate myself to coach The Convicts or The Kiwis or any other nation than this one of which I am fiercely proud. Don't get me wrong, I've no quarrel with the Millwards and Endacotts of this world in charge at club level but domestic football and

international football are totally different and I reckon 'If you can't play for 'em you shouldn't be allowed to coach 'em'.

I want to beat the Aussies so much it hurts (nothing personal Mr. Veivers) but would I be happy if we did it with a non Brit at the helm? I don't know if I would. I didn't even approve of Sean McRae's bit part with

Andy Goodway. Call me jingoistic if you like (I reckon some might even say racist) but I'm sorry, a foreigner in charge of a national team (any national team) is wrong and I'd say the same if a Brit was appointed to a certain post in Sydney or Auckland. Keep it in house!!!

I've heard Kevin Ashcroft say he wouldn't care if a Chinaman was in charge but it's not the first time I've disagreed with the Leyther and who's to say he is right. So if the powers that be should happen to read this scrawl, just make a note of what I say and don't follow what soccer has done. Give Ellery the job - NOW!

Anyway, I always thought an Eriksson was a mobile phone. Anyone agree? Disagree? You know where I am.

SPELLY

P.S. Sponsor forms for the walk are in the club shop or in reception at Gigg Lane or see me!



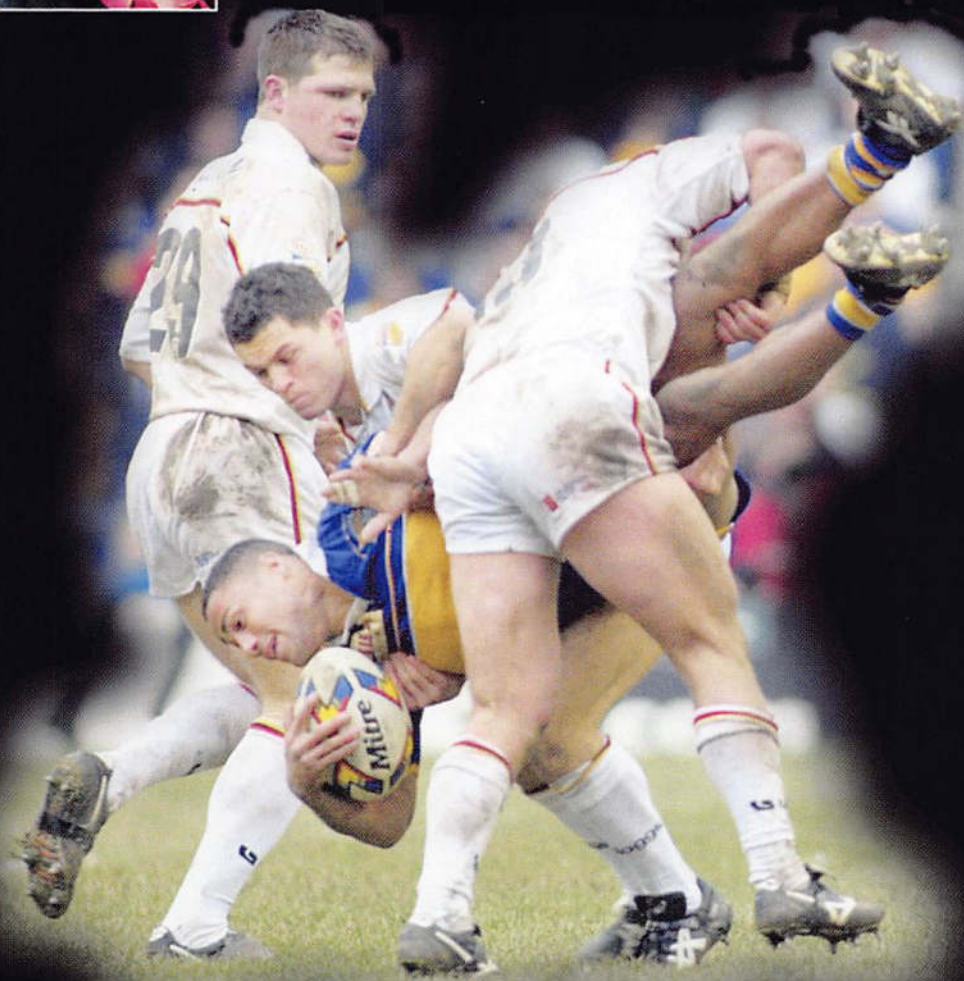
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Mine host - William Smith



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Nice editorial piece by Graham Clay in the December 2000 edition of Rugby League World magazine. He starts by declaring that the World Cup was a success and in particular, states that development work centred around the competition, has seen 13,000 school children play rugby league for the first time. Also, that another 100 teachers have qualified to coach the game, trebling the number of coach educators. Taking things further, Clay then turns to thoughts of the next World Cup. He dismisses talk

of downsizing the next event to eight competing countries. I entirely agree - the game needs more international exposure, not less.

A lot of huffing and puffing has been going on about comments made by the Bradford Bulls and Super League Europe Chief, regarding the future of the home nations. (No names mentioned for obvious reasons!). All I can say is, if that is the way a man in his capacity is thinking, then Lord help us!!!

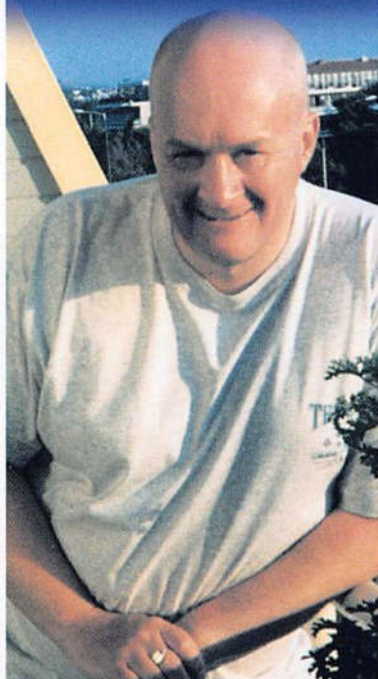
Clay then turns to the so-called Aussie way of doing things, saying it is time to do our own thing. Here, here says I.

Natural and expressive talent, has been stifled so much in recent years that players who are blessed with those attributes, are very much the exception these days. As far as our own club here at Swinton is concerned, just think back twenty years to men like Les Holliday, the Mellor brothers and Danny Wilson. All entertainers in their own right and all players worth paying to go and see. Internationally, who could forget that sublime sporting moment when current "Lions" coach Mike Gregory raged across the Sydney Football Stadium to score "that try", with Martin Offiah urging him on. It was almost as if Gregory was the horse and Offiah the

jockey, as Great Britain's team of "no-hopers" turned the tables on the cocky Australians and gave them a taste of their own medicine.

Graham Clay is right when he says that the entire English back line in the recent World Cup, seemed incapable of doing anything other than driving the ball in, head down, a**e up!!! Even current Australian coach Chris Anderson recognises that current British players are being taught that defence and safety first rugby is king. The trouble is the Australians stopped doing that ten years ago, hence the emergence of players such as Girdler, Kimmorley and Mat Rogers in more recent times.

As Clay says, it really is time we got back to doing our own thing and I, for one, totally agree with him. This season, for the first time in years, we don't have any Southern Hemisphere players here at Swinton, except for Lee Hansen, who has been in this country forever, it seems. Our chairman wants a zero overseas' quota in the NFP. Is he right? OK, I know Swinton were the first club to break the Anglo-Aussie signing ban in the early eighties, so why not let us be trend setters again? Over to you President Malcolm!!!
All todays half time music comes from Robbie Williams



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A Lions Web?

The Official Swinton Lions RLC Web Site

<http://swinton-lions-rlc.co.uk>

Hello everyone and welcome to this afternoon's derby game against local rivals Oldham. Hopefully the Lions can pick up with their magnificent start to the season.

Well so far the site is proving to be very popular with all the exiled supporters. I am trying to get the site updated more often especially with up to date news etc etc.

I watched the Rochdale game from the back of the press box alongside Mike Gregory and he certainly was getting a tad animated and more and more upset as the game went on. The look on his face at the end of the game said it all really.

How many others went to Widnes last weekend then, I was one of them and spent the best part of the day enjoying one of the local hostilities swapping a few war stories with a couple of lads from the army. I did not find out the game was off until around twenty minutes before the scheduled kick off time. Gutted is not the word I would use.

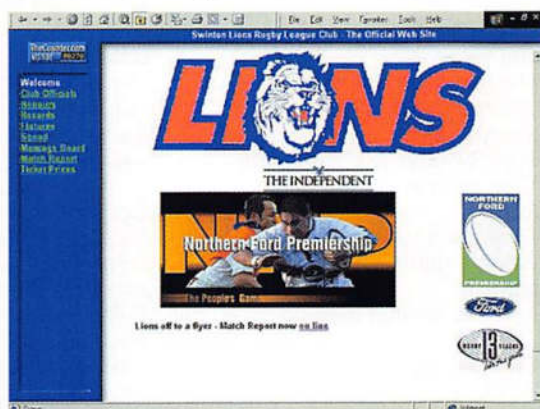
The Rochdale game was, for me, particularly profitable, as our team won the quiz in Starkies before the game then at half time I went on

to win the Golden Gamble. £110.00 went in my pocket and I must have been the only Swinton supporter to actually leave the game with something of a smile on my face, though I tried to hide it from the wife and failed miserably.

I am desperately looking for more content for the site so if you feel a certain area needs improving or something is missing please let me know.

Until next time then - good luck to the lads today and please voice your support as loudly as possible - it does make a difference.

Gordon Sorfleet
Website Manager
The Official Swinton Lions
Website
<http://swinton-lions-rlc.co.uk>
email me on
gordon@swinton-lions-rlc.co.uk



Spelly's Quiz...

All I want to know today is 'Which Sport'

- (1) Which sport's world championships have three classes called 'OPEN' 'STANDARD' and '15 METRES'?
- (2) Eldrick Woods is a superstar in which sport?
- (3) New Zealander Barry Briggs was a World Champion in which sport?
- (4) It's commonly known as just Wimbledon but the full title is 'The All England Tennis and.....Club' - What's missing?
- (5) Which sport did Fidel Castro excel at as a youngster?
- (6) Which sport is the greatest on the planet?

should be ashamed of yourselves!!!
for this one you're wrong and you
(6) If you've not put Rugby League
(5) Baseball
(4) Croquet
(3) Speedway
(2) Golf (it's Tiger's real name)
(1) Gliding (double points if you get this right)

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In Times Gone by

THE SONG OF THE SWINTON BLUE

It had become the custom during rugby union days for the home clubs to provide a meal and a social evening for their visitors. There was no expense spared at these convivial events which was shown in the considerable item detailed within the clubs balance sheets. The practice ceased when clubs formed the Northern Union. Every club showed a considerable saving in its entertainment item compared to the broken time payments. The players receiving a small meal allowance for the long games. It was also common for clubs to have smoking evenings when it was considered unsociable to smoke, especially in the presence of ladies. These evenings consisted mainly of the singing of popular songs and one was composed by the Swinton bard specially for the Blue Colliers of the Little Village.

Where ere you go both near
and far
The cry is just the same
When a match is o'er you
always hear
That Swinton won the game
Then success to the Swinton
F.C.
They are a jolly crew
When a game is O they all
agree
And this is what they do

Chorus

Pull Pull Together Blues
Pull Pull Together Blues

All Pull Together Blues
Like Brothers Every One

In every game they play to win
And selfishness desist
But when a game they once
begin
Each blue will do his best
And play as if the game alone
Depended on his play
Their zeal and pluck is always
shown
And this is what they say

Then here's success to the
Swinton F.C.
May they keep up their frame
They'll then to all a model be
Who play this noble game
Their motto work together blue
A motto far from wrong
And one that other clubs might
use
And take this for their song

There are many reports of the
spectators singing the song
Particularly the chorus at games
before WW1. The last recorded
time I have found is in 1921
when there was a reunion
arranged by Robert Percy the
former secretary and at his
request it was sung before the
game when the old players
were introduced to the throng
and at the tea arranged at the
Conservative Club behind the
Old Chorley Road Ground.
I regret I have been unable to
ascertain the true identity of the
Swinton Bard or the tune but
doubtless our choir may
possibly find the right air so the
old song may be heard
alongside 'the wonder of blue'.

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Rugby - Rugby - Rugby

with Dave Hadfield

One of the better items of news to trickle through from the game's various governing bodies recently has been the suggestion that county matches between Lancashire and Yorkshire are set to return to the representative calendar.

Those of you who remember the last time this was tried might feel a little underwhelmed at the prospect. Three years in a row, Yorkshire put the cleaners through Red Rose sides which did not really seem to have their minds on the job and the fixture eventually died of apathy.

But, as with other rugby league initiatives which have fallen by

the wayside, the question is whether it was the concept that was flawed or just its application.

In this case, I've got no doubts. There was nothing wrong with the idea, just with the way Lancashire failed to respond to it.

It pains me to say it, but Peter Fox's Yorkshiremen seemed a lot more proud to wear that shirt than did the Lancashire line-ups coached by Alex Murphy, Doug Laughton and - with slightly more effect - Ray Ashton.

Done properly this time, there is no reason why it can't work. I was lucky enough to be in Australia as State of Origin was

just getting off the ground and the conventional wisdom, especially in Sydney, was that it couldn't be fair dinkum, because players wouldn't give it their best shot against team-mates from the same club. We all know what happened to that theory. Provided Super League clubs live up to their promises and make sure that players are available, the two teams should be a good match for each other.

But, as we found out last time round, the question of coaching is crucial. There lies the problem, because at Super League level, we have two Yorkshire-born coaches - Brian Noble and the semi-Aussie John Harbin - and not a single Lancastrian.

If the counties have to be coached by a "native" - and I would argue that they do - they might be better looking in the NFP, to people like Neil Kelly or Mike Ford.

I can hear the objections now - that elite players are being asked to listen to someone from an inferior competition. But it would have great advantages as well.

If the timing is right, the NFP season will be over and the selected coaches would be free to concentrate on the War of the Roses.

They would also go into it with an open mind and might even prove to be a bit of a breath of fresh air to players from Super League who are familiar with the way the game is played at that level.

MediaPass2001



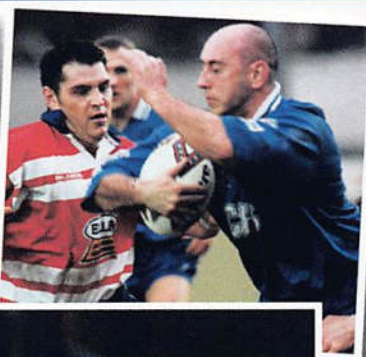
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clash.



Lions v Bears

From the Lions Archives...

BILL HOLLIDAY

Great Britain captain and forward Bill Holliday was signed from Hull KR by Albert Blan in 1968 for a then club record fee of £6,000. It was hoped that the Cumbrian would kick-start the Lions' fading reputation, but in reality Swinton could have done with a forward of his quality a couple of seasons earlier. He made his debut on 7 September 1968 in a home defeat against Workington in the Lancashire Cup, and later that season he turned out twice in the County Championship for Cumberland. Indeed he scored a try and two goals in a defeat against Lancashire. He figured in Swinton's 11-2 victory over Leigh in the final of the Lancashire Cup in 1969, but by the following season he had become disillusioned enough to request a transfer. Injuries made his appearances more sporadic, but his last game in a Swinton shirt was another Lancashire Cup final - this time the 1972 defeat against Salford. He later enjoyed a good spell as coach of amateurs Folly Lane, and in the mid-1980s he returned to Station Road as assistant to Jim Crellin. Then, as joint first team coach alongside Mike Peers, Holliday helped guide the Lions to a promotion and Premiership double in 1987.

Swinton Career Record
92 appearances, 5 tries, 57 goals
Representative Honours: 2 Cumberland caps
(4 goals, 1 try)

LES HOLLIDAY

Signed from Folly Lane at the age of 20,

the son of Bill Holliday made a try scoring debut in a 43-0 win against Doncaster at Station Road on 14 December 1982. He immediately showed his class as a loose-forward of immense intelligence, tactical awareness and skill, and by only his third appearance he had taken two man-of-the-match awards. In 1983/84 he scored a hat-trick of tries against Doncaster (42-0), and a season later he was hugely influential as the Lions won the second division championship. An unlucky relegation followed, but as captain he led the team to another promotion in 1986/87 as well as an unforgettable Premiership Final victory over Hunslet at Old Trafford. Huge speculation clouded Holliday's future, but an inspired performance, including a late drop-goal in a 21-20 success away to champions elect Widnes, merely underlined his class. Finally, after playing in a narrow John Player Trophy defeat against Salford on 15 November 1987, he joined Halifax in a record £65,000 deal. After enjoying successful stints at Thrum Hall, Widnes and Dewsbury, Holliday returned to his home-town club in 1995 and played a further 50 matches (culminating in 1997). As a player and assistant coach to Peter Roe promotion was achieved from the second division, before Holliday became coach in his own right before being succeeded by Mike Gregory. A hugely popular player for Swinton and arguably the finest player the club has had in the past 30 years. However, his only representative honour (in Swinton colours) came when he scored a try for

... An A-Z of Swinton Greats by Steve Wild

Part 16

Cumbria in a defeat against the 1986 Australian Tourists.

Swinton Career Record
184 appearances, 41 tries, 25 goals
Representative Honours: 1 Cumberland cap

BRUCE HOOTEN

Another Cumbrian, this time a winger, who signed for reigning champions Swinton in the summer of 1935. A former county player from Kendal Rugby Union Club, he made his Swinton debut in a home win against Leeds on 2 November 1935. His only hat-trick came against Barrow in March 1936, and in season 1936/37 he was the Lions' top try scorer with 11. By the following campaign he had made his bow, but during his first two seasons with Swinton he had performed well playing outside Harold Evans and he had also appeared 3 times for Cumberland (scoring 1 try).

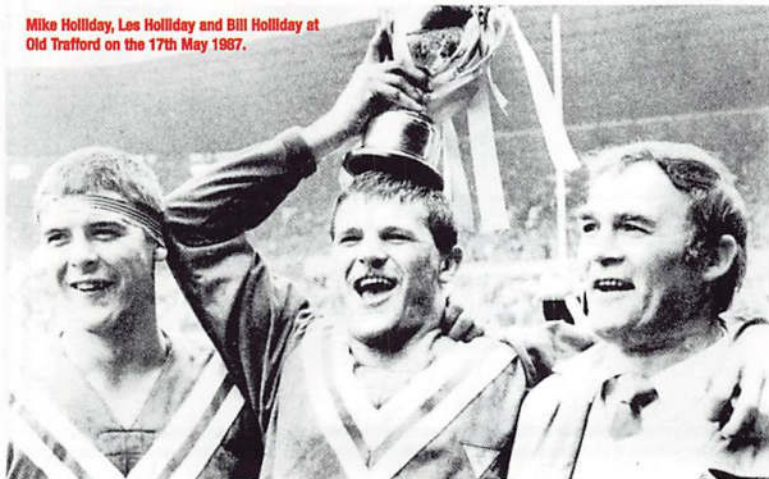
Swinton Career Record
72 appearances, 22 tries,
Representative Honours: 3 Cumberland caps (1 try)

ALBERT HOPE

Hope was a forward who made his debut way back on 26 October 1878. On this occasion Swinton faced Halifax at Stoneacre (and won), in what was the first ever time that the Lions had faced Yorkshire opposition. A week later, the Lions travelled into Yorkshire for the very first time, and with Hope again in the line-up Wakefield Trinity were also defeated. In season 1882/83 Albert Hope won his three Lancashire caps. Firstly against the Midlands at Whalley Range, then versus Cheshire at New Brighton, and finally against Yorkshire at Whalley Range when no less than 8 Swinton players were chosen for the home county. Further notable games in which he was involved were the match at Oxford University in 1882/83 which transpired Swinton's national reputation, and the first game at the new Chorley Road ground on 2 September 1886 when Manchester were in opposition. As a committee-man he was totally dedicated to the club, and it wasn't until season 1889/90 that he made his final appearance.

Swinton Career Record
110 appearances, 13 tries,
Representative Honours: 3 Lancashire caps

Mike Holliday, Les Holliday and Bill Holliday at Old Trafford on the 17th May 1987.



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To join please send your name and address to the Chairman, Steve Wild, at 70 Swinton Hall Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 4BJ enclosing a £5 cheque made payable to "Swinton RLFC Supporters Club" or leave your name, address and payment with Marlene in the club shop on Station Road. We also hope to have a "recruiting table" outside the ground at the Workington game on 4 February. Please note that in all circumstances your membership card, badge and other relevant details will be posted to your home address.

WORKINGTON TOWN, 17 June

Tickets are now available for this subsidised trip. They cost ONLY £5

(or £2.50 for OAPs and juniors). To get your tickets either see Steve Wild, Danny Bentham, Ray Bowdler at any Swinton game, or see Marlene in the Club Shop, or Gigg Lane Office, or write to us with a cheque to the address mentioned above.

The coach will leave the Folly Club at 9.45am and on the way there will be a stop-over at Keswick.

FANZINE

This will be available very shortly. Look out for details!

FORUM

Following the success of the White Lion forum last season we hope to organise another very shortly. Again, please watch this space for more details.

EST.



1807

THWAINES

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Match Statistics Season 2000-2001

Date	Opponents	Ven	K/O	Res	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Dec 3	Chorley Lynx	A	3pm	30-12	English	Mead	Naryn 2T, 3G	Loughlin	Bateman	Veivers	Peet	Neill	Barracough	Hansen	Cushoin	Doherty	Smith T	Cheetham 5, T	Barrow 10	Evans 2	Crosland 12, T
Dec 10	Whitehaven Warriors	A	3pm	8-4	English	Mead	Naryn	Loughlin	Cheetham T	Veivers	Peet	Neill	Barracough	Hansen	Cushion	Doherty	Smith T	Furey 7	Barrow 8	Staziker 12	Crosland N/U
Dec 17	BARROW RAIDERS	H	3pm	26-24	English T	Mead T	Naryn T, 3G	Loughlin	Cheetham	Veivers	Furey	Neill	Barracough	Hansen	Russell T	Stazicker	Smith T	Evans 11	Barrow 8	Cammann 5	Crosland 12
Jan 1	Leigh Centurions	A	4pm	4-46	English	Mead	Naryn	Loughlin	Hudson	Waring	Peet	Neill	Barracough	Hansen	Cushion T	Smith	Veivers	Cheetham 5	Doherty 7	Napolitano 4	Stazicker 10
Jan 7	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H	3pm	4-8	English	Mead	Naryn T	Cheetham	Hudson	Veivers	Waring	Neill	Barracough	Hansen	Cushoin	Stazicker	Smith	Evans 9	Barrow 8	Russell 12	Doherty 10
Jan 21	OLDHAM	H	3pm																		
Jan 25	Widnes Vikings	A	7.30pm																		
JAN 28	NEW EARSWICK A.B.	H	3PM																		
Feb 4	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	3pm																		
Feb 18	Hunslet Hawks	A	3pm																		
Mar 4	DEWSBURY RAMS	H	3pm																		
Mar 11	Hull KR	A	3pm																		
Mar 18	FEATHERSTONE ROV.	H	3pm																		
Mar 25	YORK WASPS	H	3pm																		
Apr 1	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	3pm																		
Apr 8	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	3pm																		
Apr 13	Keighley Cougars	A	3pm																		
Apr 15	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	3pm																		
Apr 22	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	3pm																		
May 6	GATESHEAD THUNDER	H	3pm																		
May 9	Batley Bulldogs	A	7.30pm																		
May 13	Doncaster Dragons	A	3pm																		
May 20	Barrow Raiders	A	3pm																		
May 27	Rochdale Hornets	A	3pm																		
Jun 3	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	3pm																		
Jun 10	Oldham	A	3pm																		
Jun 17	Workington Town	A	3pm																		
Jun 24	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	3pm																		
Jul 1	Dewsbury Rams	A	3pm																		

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	T	G	FG
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2. Matt Bateman	☐	☐	☐
3. Mick Nanyn	☐	☐	☐
4. Paul Loughlin	☐	☐	☐
5. Jim Evans	☐	☐	☐
6. Phil Veivers	☐	☐	☐
7. Kelvin Peet	☐	☐	☐
8. Jon Neil	☐	☐	☐
9. Rob Barraclough	☐	☐	☐
10. Lee Hansen	☐	☐	☐
11. Phil Cushion	☐	☐	☐
12. John Paul Doherty	☐	☐	☐
13. Paul Smith	☐	☐	☐
14. TBA	☐	☐	☐
15. TBA	☐	☐	☐
16. TBA	☐	☐	☐
17. TBA	☐	☐	☐

Coach

Mike Gregory

Bears

	T	G	FG
1. Mark Sibson	☐	☐	☐
2. Danny Arnold	☐	☐	☐
3. Anthony Gibbons	☐	☐	☐
4. Pat Rich	☐	☐	☐
5. Daryl Lacey	☐	☐	☐
6. David Gibbons	☐	☐	☐
7. Neil Roden	☐	☐	☐
8. Andy Proctor	☐	☐	☐
9. John Hough	☐	☐	☐
10. Leo Casey	☐	☐	☐
11. Phil Farrell	☐	☐	☐
12. Paul Norton	☐	☐	☐
13. Kevin Mannion	☐	☐	☐
14. TBA	☐	☐	☐
15. TBA	☐	☐	☐
16. TBA	☐	☐	☐
17. TBA	☐	☐	☐

Coach

Mike Ford

Mitre



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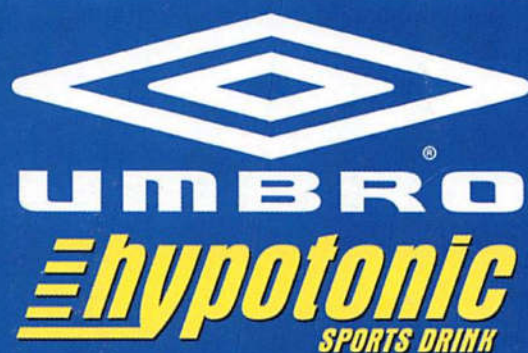
saddened to hear of the

death of loyal supporter

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Our sympathies go to his

family and friends



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