

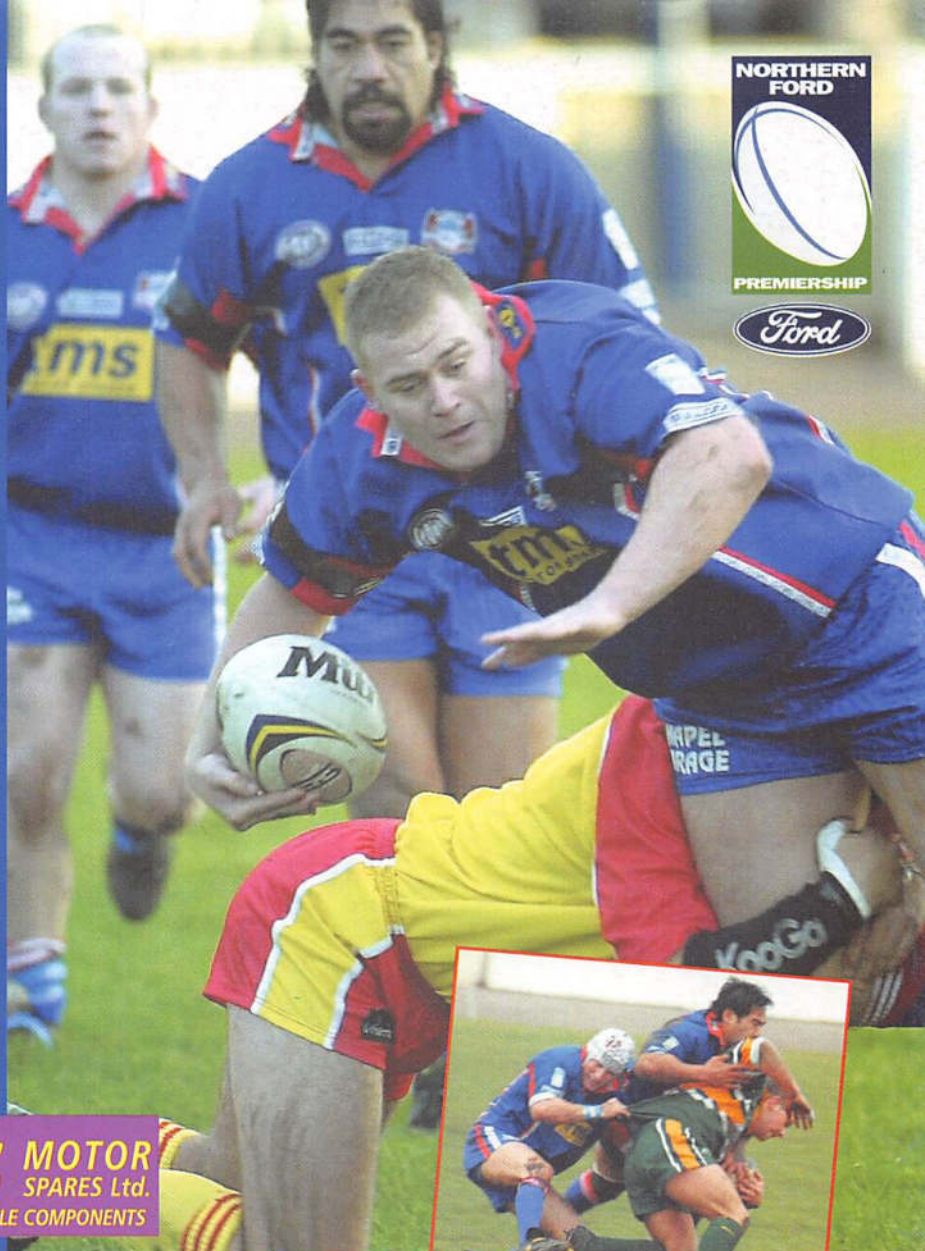
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As we welcome Oldham today it is an appropriate time to mention the current situation regarding our future stadium requirements here in Workington.

The current Oldham Directors' have done a marvellous job in creating a new and thriving club from the wreckage of the Super League days. The one thing which was beyond their control however was ownership of their home ground. Once you lose your ground it becomes very difficult to regain control of your own situation.

All too often neighbouring clubs will seek to take advantage and charge unjustified levels of rent.

In Oldham's case it seems that despite great support from the Local Authority, the local soccer club were not willing to cooperate in ground sharing at an affordable level.

We have also seen the situation with Swinton who left their true home some years ago and have suffered ever since.

The difficulty is that although clubs usually recognise the advantages of retaining their original ground, finances can all too often force a change. Many stadiums, like our own, were built fifty years ago when the economics of the game were different and building costs not quite so enormous.

It has been difficult to make enough improvements over the years and we are now in the era of the modern super stadium.

The challenge for us is to come up with the right solution which I think everyone accepts has to be within Workington itself. The advantage of Derwent Park is

that it is effectively "ours" with a long lease of the land which is virtually permanent and therefore it generates income for us to run the club e.g. Bar Revenue and Speedway rents as well as our own gate receipts.

The disadvantage is the tremendous cost of upgrading the facilities which is totally beyond the resources of the club itself.

Fortunately for us, the leadership of Allerdale Council is firmly committed to working with us to find the right solution and provide facilities of which the area will be proud.

We are going to be working together over the coming months, not as opposing interests but in seeking the same aim.

In the meantime, enjoy today's game and let's keep the old stadium as a fortress as far as visiting teams are concerned.

On the playing side, it was good to achieve a Cup win against Toulouse last week. No-one knew quite what standard they would be and in the end it was a reasonably comfortable victory. It might have been nice to get a little bit of applause from the Rugby League top brass who sat in the Visiting Directors Box, but they were obviously hoping for a French win.

We play Hunslet away in the next round and if we can get one or two injury worries cleared up we should be reasonably confident of progressing further. A top team in the next round to give the fans a good day would be ideal.



within Workington
itself. The
advantage of
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Boardroom Views.... by Barry Earl



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Gary's Notes.....

Last Sunday certainly provided justification for the games hierarchy in returning the game to the summer months!

On a bitterly cold and wet day our supporters were rewarded for the victory over our Gallic friends with an away draw in the next round to face Hunslet Hawks at the South Leeds Stadium.

Although the Challenge Cup is not our highest priority this season, it does give us a welcome break from the rigours of NFP rugby, and the chance of a facing Super League opposition and making some money.

The game against Toulouse was always going to be tough, as we knew very little about both them, and the standard of rugby that the French play. I think its now fair to say that their game is on a par with the NFP, with their top sides would give the majority of NFP sides a good game, especially in their own back yard.

However, we won on the day, and I was particularly pleased with the efforts put in by my forwards in heavy conditions. Despite Toulouse's early try I felt that we were always on top, culminating in the

good support play shown by Steven Wood in notching his hat trick of tries.

Today's game is a different kettle of fish altogether. Oldham, despite their current league position are not to be underestimated. Like us they have a big pack of forwards, and have retained the majority of their squad that made the NFP Final against Widnes last season.

The Roughyeds did the double over us last season, and although we are a much improved side, today will be a yardstick as to how much we have progressed. It is important that we win all our home games if we are to maintain our top four challenge. We have some very hard games coming up in the next few weeks, and its vital that we win to keep our momentum going.

Please give us your vocal support this afternoon, and cheer the players to victory.

Enjoy the game

Gary Murdock



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When it all kicks off.....

If you're faced with more trying times than Town against some scary Superleague side, opening up to someone could make things a lot more bearable.

One choice that might help keep your cool is to use a new alternative to traditional helplines. CALM is a campaign that raises awareness of the problems young men in particular face, and also runs a helpline specifically designed with the millennial male in mind. The service runs from 5pm to 3am every night and provides free, confidential counselling, information and advice, with the option to get follow-up support in the caller's local area from over two hundred and eighty other agencies who can help with specific problems.

CALM is relatively new to Cumbria, having only been running since March this year, but already it's well established as a unique way of helping men help themselves. Differences become more apparent through the kind of people involved with the campaign, such as DJ Judge Jules, essential clothing company Kangol, BOSS Championship racing driver Steve Fitzsimmons, and Carlisle's own soccer ace export Matt Jansen:

'Missed penalties, relegation, goalkeeping howlers - every football fan will tell you they know what it's like to experience that sinking feeling. But if you really are feeling low, it's important to speak to someone. Don't suffer in silence.'

OK, so who would you speak to if you picked up the phone and rang CALM? As the call centre is based in Glasgow, there is no chance that someone will recognise your voice. The counsellors used by CALM come from a variety of relevant backgrounds:

Bereavement, addiction, family or relationship problems, sexuality, HIV/AIDS, work or economic stresses. Even if you just want someone to listen; a friendly advisor is there to talk you through whatever's causing concern.

While certain problems are universal, particular groups of young people across the county have to deal with a unique spin on common issues, simply because they live in Cumbria. Targeting isolated communities such as young farmers, hotel workers and young people in the care system is part of CALM's ongoing commitment to make the campaign relevant to the area, and meet the needs of local men.

Another way CALM is getting the message across that it's OK to 'open up and sort it out' is by being involved with events such as last year's Eden Millennium Festival and club nights at venues such as Workington's Fusion. CALM publicity can also be found at gigs, leisure centres, cafes and take-away food outlets, buses and just about anywhere young people congregate - yes, even in pubs!

The bottom line is, it's okay to talk about what's bugging you. Young men ringing the CALM helpline are treated with respect, and are in control. There is no time limit on calls and the helpline number doesn't show up on landline bills.

**Contact the CALM helpline free on
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At long last the long running dispute between all the 'warring' factions currently running the game of rugby league appears to be coming to an end. The merging of Super League, the NFP and the Rugby Football League is long overdue, and at last we might get some much needed stability returning to the game.

What puzzles me is how we allowed this great game to get into this position into the first place. Although the product off the field was by no means perfect prior to the birth of Super League, we seemed to enjoy a much higher profile. We had regular international fixtures and tours, more than one knock-out cup competition, promotion and relegation, and players whose names were recognised away from their traditional homes in the North of England.

The arrival of Super League was greeted with open arms, mainly due to the fact the money on offer saved the majority of clubs from bankruptcy, albeit in some cases only for a short time, as other problems soon took over.

A game that had in the main been part-time for 100 years, suddenly became full-time over night. The clubs in Super League to a man were not prepared for this. Ourselves and Oldham are testimony to this fact. We were encouraged to spend money we didn't have, signing players on ridiculous contracts which we could not afford.

It was reputed at the time that Rowland Phillips was on £60,000 a year to play for Town - more than John Major

was being paid for being Prime Minister!! - this for a club with an average home crowd of 2,500 spectators.

Whether Rowland was actually paid that amount, or whether it was 'just hearsay' I don't know. What I do know is that we were relegated after one season and the club could not afford to pay the contracts, this resulted in the club going into voluntary liquidation with players and businessman alike losing a lot of money. The club, as we all know, was only saved from

war of the words

The arrival of Super League was greeted with open arms, mainly due to the fact the money on offer saved the majority of clubs from bankruptcy, albeit in some cases only for a short time, as other problems soon took over.

by Paul Williamson

extinction at the last minute due to the efforts of the present directors along with local businessman Bill Dobie's personal guarantees. Believe me I know what I'm talking about because I was one of those businessmen that lost money!

So what lessons has the game learnt during the last six years?

The battle between Super League and the rest of the rugby league has caused a lot

of bitterness, and it will be sometime before the trust and goodwill that the game always enjoyed will return, but if all the factions of the game start pulling in the same direction as they once did, then rugby league can once again go forth and prosper.

In order to do this we do need some stability; no tinkering of the rules and no changing the agreed format of the new leagues for at least a five seasons. The game must find its own level and develop from there.

It was interesting to read that in the on-going battle for television right for the Six Nations Championship between the BBC and Sky, one of the arguments being put forward for a return to the Beeb, was that 'since the loss of England games to Sky it was claimed that there had been a 30% drop in the number of players taking up the game'.

Rugby league has lost players galore at grass roots level and can't afford to lose any more. If we can entice more players to take up the sport by returning to terrestrial television, then I say go with it.

It is imperative that rugby league returns to the BBC in some form in order to gain the national stage that the game desires and needs to attract major sponsors.

This could be the last time we can use our 'Get out of Jail Free' card, and we must not waste it.

Rugby league is a good product, but needs repackaged and re-promoted. Then and only then will we see the true potential of the sport.

Good afternoon everyone,

It's back to league action this afternoon with the distraction of last week's Challenge Cup encounter with Toulouse Spacers now behind us.

Despite the atrocious conditions, I thought we controlled the ball reasonably well and this was reflected in the final score. I was reasonably pleased with the 4th round draw which takes us to South Leeds to face Hunslet. Although by no means a money spinner, it does give us a great chance to progress further in the competition and a possible money spinning home-draw against one of the Super League sides.

This afternoon's match will be a toughie. Oldham need the points to improve on their current league position, while we need them to consolidate our top four position. They have a very experienced squad of players, and we will have to play to the best of our abilities to take the points this afternoon.

Please give us your full vocal support this afternoon

Enjoy the game

Martyn

**Leading
from the
front....**



Martyn Wood

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*Best Wishes & Good Luck
for the Season 2001/02*

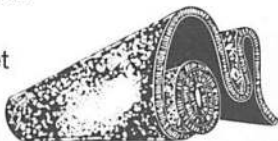
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Today's subject is local businessman, and loyal Townie, Mr. Kevin Bailiff of Dearham. He is not only a dedicated follower of first team action, but also supports the alliance and academy teams, being a regular sponsor of the latter.

What exactly is your line of business, and do you keep busy with it?

I run a small building business, which I took over from my father some five years ago. It takes up a large part of my life, work six days a week, paperwork at night and visiting clients on Sundays, when it doesn't clash with a match of course!

When did you become passionate about Town?

I started watching Town some ten years ago, during Ray Ashton's time, but my interest in RL was really sparked by watching Dearham who were doing well at the time. It was a real shame they folded.

Do any matches, for any particular reason, stand out in your mind?

In common with a lot of my generation of Town fans, the Premiership play off matches at Huddersfield and Rochdale really stand out as special days in my life. The memory of them has certainly helped me through the bad times.

Biggest disappointment has to be the first season out of Super league; we had a team of good, highly paid players who just did not seem to care about the club. It has taken till now for the club to recover from that debacle.

How do you feel about the recent differing of opinions regarding the barracking of the Town players at a recent home match?

I firmly believe that every paying supporter has a right to air their views, BUT if they are supporters they should also give the team their full backing.

The recent booing was simply frustration at a performance well below the standard we know the team is capable of and I don't think it was too serious.

With that question still in mind, we all must agree the Town squad is not perfect. Therefore where would you strengthen it as an urgent requirement?

I would like to see an experienced centre brought in, but only if we can genuinely afford to.

Other than that give the young ones a go it's the only way we'll see if they are good enough.

There is a lot of discussion within the RL law enforcers about Academy, Alliance, Under 21's etc Regarding the best way forward with this backup - any opinion on how to resolve this?

(you better have some).

Seems to be the usual change for changes sake, the Alliance/Academy was fine as it was. It's time the powers that be realized that the game is crying out for stability.

Enough of the political hot potatoes then, now on more personal note...

I believe you fancy assisting our mascot Spike is this true? Perhaps you could join him and be 'little Spike'?

Lies! I don't think he really needs any help; the Horny Devil was born for the job. Mind you if I could find my Tigger suit!!



KEVIN BAILIFF

And with that prickly comment in mind - I know full well you were married during last season, and honeymooned in Cyprus - was it true though that Town action was still at the forefront of your mind during this romantic sojourn? (I'm reliably informed it was so).

Of course! How I ever agreed to the wedding being during the season I'll never know. Still it didn't seem so bad after I missed three defeats out of four matches while away.

Thanks Kevin,
Keith Singleton

One on One....

Keith Singleton talks to Kevin Bailiff of Dearham

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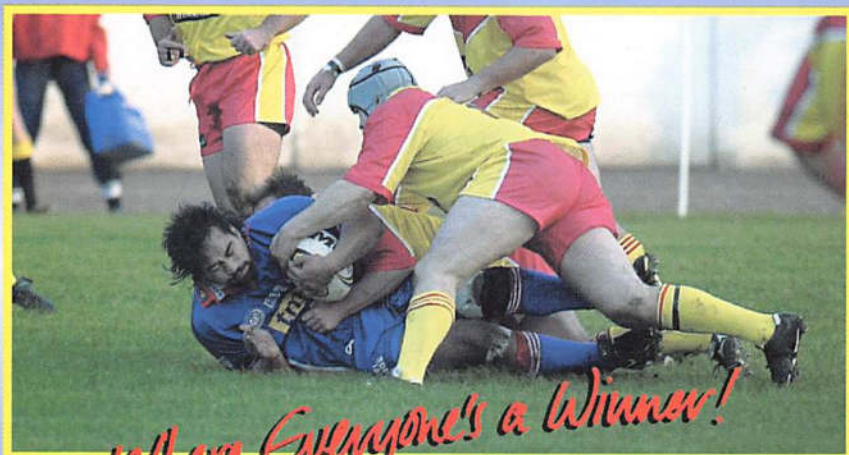
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READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Can NFP clubs close the gap?

GARETH WALKER of **LEAGUE EXPRESS** reflects on the Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Challenge Cup fourth round draw, and looks forward to this weekend's NFP games

JUST how big is the gap between the Northern Ford Premiership and Super League?

It's an issue that often provides great debate, and one that will arise again on the second weekend in February, when the Fourth Round of the Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Challenge Cup takes place.

The draw contains a multitude of mouth-watering clashes for NFP clubs, although unlike last year - when Leigh Centurions took on Salford City Reds and won in a memorable televised game - none of the highest placed Premiership sides will take on Super League opponents.

Nonetheless, the Cup draw, made at the game's birthplace, the George Hotel last Monday night, has ensured that a minimum of five Premiership clubs will progress to the last 16, and has thrown up several other exciting ties.

Batley Bulldogs' London contingent will relish the chance to take on the London Broncos, Barrow Raiders host the unknown quantity that is new-look

Warrington, and Sheffield entertain Wakefield Trinity Wildcats.

Oldham drew the Cup holders St Helens at home, but at the time of writing are undecided as to whether to switch the game to Knowsley Road. Certainly, it would be some English welcome for the likes of Australian newcomers Darren Britt and Darren Albert to trot out at the 2,080 capacity

ground at Hurst Cross, Ashton.

Of the all-Premiership clashes, the pick is the clash between title contenders Rochdale Hornets and Leigh Centurions. With much being made of the fact that the two clubs only play each other once in the league, and the teams recently fighting out a thrilling 14-all draw, there are plenty of scores to be settled.

Elsewhere, York and Chorley both host French visitors, with the Wasps entertaining Villeneuve Leopards - last year's shock quarter-finalists - and the Lynx taking on Union Treiziste Catalane (UTC) at Victory Park in what should be Cup ties to remember.

Onto the league campaign, and this weekend's intriguing fixture list, which contains a number of games almost impossible to forecast.

Arguably the pick of the games is Featherstone's home match against high flying Whitehaven, who will be keen to prove their excellent start is one that can be maintained against a Rovers side yet to hit top form.

Two games that will go some way to deciphering the relevant clubs' play-off credentials take place at Sheffield - where the Eagles take on Barrow - and Doncaster, where St John Ellis' side face Batley Bulldogs.

Other games that should provide close encounters include Dewsbury versus Rochdale and Workington against Oldham. And at the Thunderdome, both Gateshead Thunder and Swinton Lions will be bidding for their first league wins of the campaign. Both clubs have endured difficult times of late, and a victory would provide a much needed morale-boost for either side.



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Losing your team coach is never an ideal situation, but losing a coach in the calibre of Mike Ford on the eve of the season would be a blow to any club, even more so, when the coach leaves to join the ranks of 'the other code'.

The man left in charge is John Harbin, who as coach of Wakefield Trinity, and a man used to working on tight budgets, could be just the man to revive the Roughyeds' fortunes this time round.

Oldham finished last season in impressive style, finishing the season with an impressive ten match unbeaten run, including a hard fought 24-18 home victory over Town to which secure their place in the play-offs.

A place in the final was eventually won, but boy did they do it the hard way. A 15-14 victory away at Leigh was followed by an equally impressive 39-32 win at Rochdale to set up a final against Widnes. Despite putting up a brace performance, the game was one too many for Mike Ford's charges who lost by 24-14, allowing Widnes to take their place in this season's Super League.

This season, things haven't gone quite as plan for the club. A late decision to move to Ashton United's football ground after failing to reach an agreement with their tenants Oldham Athletic resulted in their opening game being cancelled to allow improvements to be made to the non-league sides ground. With five matches gone, the club, one of the favourites for the title, are currently languishing in the lower half of the division, although they do have three matches in hand over Workington, and two on leaders Huddersfield.

Squad wise, all of last season's pack has been retained, and has been strengthened by the arrival of ex-Townie Simon Knox and Tommy Hodgkinson. While the backs do not appear to be as strong, with the loss of Ford along with goalkicking supremo Pat Rich who has opted to travel the world, and Joey Hayes, the ex-Saints flier who will be out until March through injury.

Ford's replacement at half-back ex-Wigan player Neil Roden looks an ideal replacement, while hooker John Hough caused Town plenty of

problems in the corresponding fixture last season.

Hoping to make their mark at Derwent Park this afternoon will be **GARETH BARBER**, 20 year old, Oldham born stand-off, who was reared on rugby with his best pal, the Leeds and Great Britain forward Kevin Sinfield. When Sinfield signed for Rhinos, Barber signed for Warrington, but returned 'home' to sign for Oldham. Made seven first team appearances last season. **PAUL NORTON**, journeyman forward and former Lancashire 'Lynx stalwart who played in 31 of Oldham's 34 games last season. A hard working and value-for-money performer. **JOE McNICHOLAS**, one of the original 1987 Roughyeds', wingman Joe made a first team spot his own midway through last season and went on to score eight tries in fourteen consecutive appearances. Fast off the mark and good in his feet. **DANNY GUEST**, another of the Roughyeds 'originals who returned to the club two seasons ago. A big prop he is expected to be a force in the NFP this season after signing a new, one year deal.

JOHN HOUGH, The first player to sign for his hometown club when the new Roughyeds were formed by Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors in the summer of 1997. Played in 87 of the clubs first 90 matches, scoring 32 tries in the process. **JASON CLEGG**, second biggest forward at the club behind Danny Guest. Jason is a former Bradford forward who has had four good seasons with Oldham. Powerful on the break, he is a firm favourite with the club supporters. **ANTHONY GIBBONS**, formed a reliable centre partnership last season with goalkicking Pat Rich, who has now left the club to do a little globetrotting. Looks certain to be first choice centre again. **DAVID GIBBONS**, Anthony's twin, the brothers have moved around together throughout their rugby careers, starting with Leeds, Bramley and now Oldham. Vice-captain last season, David has been appointed one of two Oldham captains this term. **MARK SIBSON**, quick full-back who loves nothing better than to attack from deep. Joined Oldham on a two year contract when he left Bramley at the same time as Ford,

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Gibbons and Andy Proctor. recently signed a one-year deal. **PHIL FARRELL**, the 'other' Oldham captain. Younger brother of Wigan's Andy (I bet he gets sick of hearing that!!!) Phil didn't miss a match last season, and in his two seasons with Oldham has a remarkable record of consistency. Played for the NFP under 21's against their Super League counterparts at Widnes. **NEIL RODEN**, is a clever half-back who joined the club from Chorley Lynx a season and a half ago, and has only missed a couple of games since. Can play at scrum-half or stand-off, and was a key figure in Oldham's run through to the NFP Grand Final last summer. A knee injury kept him out of the pre-season warm up games, but is sure to be a started when fit. **BRYAN HENARE** joined Oldham midway through last season from St. Helens on loan. A Kiwi back-rower who has played for Auckland Warriors, Bryan played a prominent role in Oldham's surge to the Grand Final in July, 2001 before signing permanently for the club with a one-year contract. **SIMON KNOX** needs no introduction to Town fans after spending a season here during Andy Platts reign as coach. Simon made his name with Bradford Bulls and Widnes before signing for Oldham during the summer. He was an outstanding player for Widnes in the Grand Final, and it was soon after the final that Oldham started the overtures to sign him. **KEITH BRENNAN** is a versatile half-back or hooker. A local lad, Keith shot to prominence last season when his form was so good he kept John Hough out of the No.9 shirt. A natural footballer with good hands, he was injured pre-season, and missed the opening games of the campaign. **TOMMY HODGKINSON**, much travelled and vastly experienced back-row forward. Tommy

joined the club from Widnes a week after his team mate Simon Knox has followed a similar path. Did well in the Oldham warm-up games and is expected to be a key figure in Oldham's plans. **GAVIN DODD** is a local youngster who is learning the ropes at Oldham. Gavin played for the NFP Under 21's at Widnes and is sure to be pushing for a regular sport this season, either as competition for Mark Sibson at full-back or as a lively winger. **LEE DORAN** is another young player in whom Oldham have a lot of confidence. A Wiganer, Lee has worked his way through the Oldham Academy and Alliance sides and is now on the verge of breaking through to the first team on a regular basis. Showed up well for the NFP Under 21's, one of five Oldham players in the squad. **WILLY COWELL**, a 21-year old Cumbrian who originally signed for Warrington from Kells. A utility back, Willy is at home at either full-back, wing or centre. Played 18 Super-League games for Warrington and was recommended to Oldham by Wolves boss Daryl van de Velde. Cowell is keen to kick-start his career in the NFP. **JOHN BRADDISH** signed from St. Helens on long term loan. Top goalkicker in the Alliance Championship last season, and also leading points scorer in that competition. Wanted a change of club due to lack of opportunities at Knowsley Road. Turned down several offers to join Oldham. **JON GODDARD** at 19, is the youngest member of the squad. Cas lad Jon joined Oldham on loan from Castleford thanks to the old-pals act. Graham Steadman is a good friend of ex-coach Mike Ford, and Steady is hoping experience in the NFP will help develop the youngsters skills.

Paul Williamson

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Two of Super League's big guns are destined for an early exit from the Nutri-Grain Challenge Cup after four of last year's big five were paired together in the fourth-round draw.

In the tie of the round, League champions Bradford Bulls were paired with local rivals Leeds Rhinos in a blockbusting repeat of the 2000 final at Murrayfield, venue for this year's decider.

And Wigan, beaten Grand Finalists last October, will fancy their chances of regaining the trophy they held eight seasons in a row from 1988-95 if they can overcome Hull at the JJB Stadium.

That pairing has added extra spice to Wednesday night's Andy Farrell testimonial match between the two clubs.

However, the West Yorkshire derby is undoubtedly the highlight of the fourth round, where the 12 Super League clubs join the fray alongside all but one of the 19 Northern Ford Premiership clubs and three French representatives.

"It's a tough draw but one we're looking forward to," said Bradford coach Brian Noble. "The good thing is that we're at home."

Bradford, last year's runners-up who are looking for a third successive Cup final appearance, will be firm favourites against the Rhinos, having beaten their arch rivals in all four league games last season, but Leeds coach Daryl Powell is upbeat about the tie.

"Obviously one of the top teams will be falling at the first hurdle but when we won the cup three years ago we beat Wigan first up, played St Helens in the next round and beat Bradford in the semis.

"We will get a good look at Bradford this weekend and we'll relish the prospect of testing ourselves against them."

The all-Super League ties will both be screened live on BBC Grandstand on Saturday, February 9, kicking off at 1.15pm and 3pm, as long as Bradford get the go-ahead from their Valley Parade landlords.

Nationwide League First Division soccer club Bradford City, who have a home game on the Sunday, have consistently refused to allow their

tenants use of the ground the day before their match and talks between the two clubs and the Rugby Football League will be held in an attempt to resolve the problem.

"Obviously we've got to talk to Bradford City," said Bulls spokesman Stuart Duffy. "We are hopeful of playing on the Saturday."

In the only other all-Super League clash, Castleford meet Salford at the Jungle, while holders St Helens were paired with Northern Ford Premiership outfit Oldham.

That tie is due to take place at Oldham's new home of Ashton United but the Hurst Cross ground has a capacity of just 2,080 and the Roughyeds are considering moving the game to a bigger venue.

The three French teams experienced contrasting fortunes, with only St Gaudens, 24-0 winners over Keighley in the third round, receiving a home tie against Super League club Halifax.

French Championship leaders Union Treiziste Catalan (UTC) and reigning champions Villeneuve were handed away ties against struggling NFP sides Chorley and York respectively.

The full draw is as follows:

Whitehaven v Dewsbury
Swinton or Skirlaugh v Widnes
Rochdale v Leigh
Batley v London Broncos
Featherstone v Hull KR
Castleford v Salford
York v Villeneuve
Hunslet v Workington
Wigan v Hull<
St Gaudens v Halifax
Chorley v Union Treiziste Catalan (UTC)
Doncaster v Huddersfield
Barrow v Warrington
Bradford v Leeds
Oldham v St Helens
Sheffield v Wakefield

Ties to be played on the weekend of February 9-10.

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The cup match last Sunday was a rather unusual eighty minutes; or so I thought. First the French visitors gave signs of being very dangerous on attack, e.g. their quality early try. And then Town took almost total command, while scoring some well worked four pointers. So at 24-4, come the interval, I did expect a similar points rush a la Swinton Lions away, in part two.

But actually the Toulouse team dug in rather better than I for one had anticipated. What inaugurated my thoughts of a second half Town onslaught was while seeing about half the French team literally collapse on bums and knees, in an apparent exhibition of Gallic dejection. This being most apparent when Town posted their fourth try of the day via Stephen Wood. It looked to me a definite statement of resignation, and perhaps it was - but the staging of an half time address then apparently restored their enthusiasm. Whatever, I was well pleased with the consummate ease that Town saw off a French challenge generally considered, pre match, to be more potent than the normal third round routine of facing amateur opponents. The downside on the day probably being the attendance which was piddling, by that I mean wee - no, no, I'm trying to say it was a poor turnout. Phew I hope that's clear now.

So where do all those former Town devotees look for their kicks these days?

They will return to the fold, because rugby league is addictive, thus so is being a Townie. Either past or present and the want never really fades completely I'm certain of that. (It is just that some want too much, too quickly)

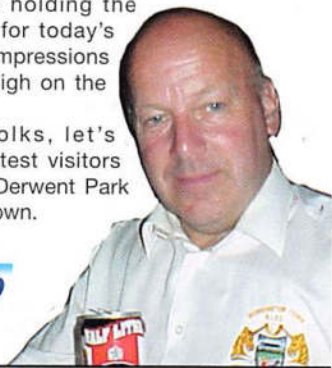
Last Sunday the visitors had no fans present to boost the gate, that I was aware of anyhow - did you see any? Although while within the inner

sanctum of Derwent Park, prior to the match, I was startled by the number of officials the Toulouse team appeared to have with them - I even muttered something like "blimey it's another invasion" - they must have a huge boardroom within their Stade de Minimes that's all I can say. And while the Challenge Cup is, or can be, a handy distraction - albeit mainly financially, although 'money spinner' doesn't immediately spring to mind for a trip to South Leeds does it? Today's fixture versus Oldham is much more important for Workington Town. Gary Murdock has already confirmed this too, and the lads will be well aware of it.

It is league consistency that will tempt the aforementioned most wanted ex patriots back to Derwent Park.

I unhappily recall it was today's visitors who rocked the boat here at Workington last season. The Roughyeds gave us a lesson in forward play and spoiled many Townies pre-Christmas ambience by leaving Derwent Park with the begrudging gift of two league points. So today it is imperative that we maintain the unbeaten home record of this season. I believe Oldham to be a lesser force than twelve months ago - and they lost coach Mike Ford recently to the maulers and kickers of oval ball life, but the news is that a new coach will be holding the Oldham reins for today's visit. So first impressions are probably high on the agenda.

Right then folks, let's impress our latest visitors with a lasting Derwent Park roar - Up the Town.



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RESULTS•FIXTURES•STATS•RESULTS•FIXTURES•STATS•RESULTS•FIXTURES•STATS•RESULTS•FIXTURES•STATS

				Att	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Man of the Match
Dec 2nd	SHEFFIELD	W	12-10	1,308	Wood(2g)	Frazer(t)	McDermott	Hetherington	Lewthwaite	M.Wood	Manihera	Wright	Williamson	Okesene	Beaumont	Samuel	Charlton	Hoyle	Savelio	Sice	Tunstall	McDermott
Dec 9th	Featherstone	W	18-17	1,407	Wood(g)	Frazer(t)	McDermott(t)	Beaumont	Lewthwaite(t)	M.Wood	Manihera	Wright	Williamson	Okesene	Hoyle	Samuel	Charlton	Tunstall	Savelio	Sice	Bone	M. Wood
Dec 16th	KEIGHLEY	W	58-18	1,365	Wood(t)	Frazer	McDermott	Beaumont(4t)	Lewthwaite(t)	M.Wood(g)	Manihera(L8g)	Wright	Williamson	Okesene	Hoyle(t)	Samel	Charlton	Tunstall	Savelio	Sice(t)	Bone(t)	Beaumont
Dec 26th	Whitehaven	L	14-28	3,690	Wood	Frazer	McDermott	Beaumont	Lewthwaite(2t)	M. Wood	Hetherington(g)	Wright	Williamson	Okesene	Bone(t)	Samuel	Charlton	Hoyle	Savelio	Sice	Tunstall	M. Wood
Dec 31st	BARROW	W	19-16	1,247	Hetherington(t)	Frazer	McGrady	Beaumont	Lewthwaite	Rumney(t)	Manihera(4g/3g)	Savelio	Williamson	Okesene	Charlton	Samuel	M. Wood	Hoyle	Wright	Sice	S. Wood	Manihera
Jan 6th	Batley	L	10-18	684	Wood	Frazer	Hetherington	Beaumont	Lewthwaite	M. Wood	Manihera(g)	Savelio	Williamson	Okesene	Hoyle	Samuel	Charlton(t)	Wright	Tunstall	Sice	McGrady(t)	Charlton
Jan 13th	HUNSLET	W	24-16	897	Hetherington	Frazer	McGrady	Beaumont	Lewthwaite	C. Rumney	Manihera(4g)	Wright	Sice(t)	Okesene	Charlton(t)	Samuel	M.Wood(2t)	Hoyle	Tunstall	S.Wood(2t)	Bone	Samuel
Jan 20th	Swinton	W	41-6	532	S.Wood	Frazer(2t)	Hetherington	Beaumont(t)	Lewthwaite(2t)	M.Wood	Manihera(L6g,dg)	Wright	Sice(t)	Okesene	Bone	Samuel	Charlton	Hoyle	Tunstall	Rumney	Barker	Manihera
Jan 24th	Toulouse (rd3)	W	38-12	954	S.Wood(3t)	Frazer	Hetherington	McGrady	Lewthwaite(t)	M.Wood	Manihera	Samuel	Sice(t)	Okesene	Beaumont	Bone	Hoyle	Nixon	Tunstall	Rumney	Barker	M.Wood
Feb 3rd	OLDHAM	H	3pm																			
Feb 10th	Silk Cut Rd4																					
Feb 17th	Hull K.R.	A	3pm																			
Feb 24th	Silk Cut Rd5																					
Mar 3rd	ROCHDALE	H	3pm																			
Mar 10th	Leigh	A	3pm																			
Mar 17th	YORK	H	3pm																			
Mar 24th	Dewsbury	A	3pm																			
Mar 29th	WHITEHAVEN	H	3pm	NLC																		
Apr 1st	Barrow	A	3pm	NLC																		
Apr 7th	Leigh	A	3pm	NLC																		
Apr 21st	SWINTON	H	3pm	NLC																		
May 5th	Chorley	A	3pm	NLC																		
May 12th	Qtr Final		3pm	NLC																		
May 19th	Semi-Final		3pm	NLC																		
May 26th	FINAL		3pm	NLC																		
June 2nd	Chorley	A	3pm																			
June 16th	Gateshead	A	3pm																			
June 23rd	HUDDERSFIELD	H	3pm																			
June 30th	Doncaster	A	3pm																			
July 7th	DONCASTER	H	3pm																			
July 14th	Sheffield	A	3.15pm																			
July 28th	LEIGH	H	3pm																			
Aug 4th	Chorley	A	3pm																			
Aug 11th	Rochdale	A	3pm																			
Aug 18th	GATESHEAD	H	3pm																			
Aug 25th	Oldham	A	3pm																			
Sept 1st	Keighley	A	3pm																			
Sept 8th	FEATHERSTONE	H	3pm																			

Northern Ford Premiership Team Weekending 25th January, 2002

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huddersfield Giants	7	6	1	0	219	60	13
Whitehaven	8	6	1	1	201	82	13
WORKINGTON	8	6	0	2	196	129	12
Rochdale Hornets	6	5	1	0	168	78	11
Hull K.R.	6	5	0	1	158	64	10
Leigh Centurions	5	4	1	0	180	61	9
Barrow Raiders	8	4	0	4	195	150	8
Batley Bulldogs	7	4	0	3	109	130	8
Featherstone Rovers	6	3	1	2	141	101	7
Sheffield Eagles	7	3	0	4	178	118	6
Dewsbury Rams	5	2	0	3	88	98	4
Doncaster Dragons	5	2	0	3	86	108	4
Oldham	5	2	0	3	86	108	4
Chorley Lynx	7	2	0	5	98	164	4
Hunslet Hawks	5	1	0	4	70	178	2
Keighley Cougars	6	1	0	5	78	261	2
Gateshead Thunder	7	0	1	6	62	148	1
Swinton Lions	4	0	0	4	36	115	0
York Wasps	6	0	0	6	46	238	0

BALLOON RACE WINNERS

1st Prize: Kate Spedding
Balloon found Kelson, Scotland

2nd Prize: the Kidds, Whitehaven
Balloon found Peebleshire, Scotland

3rd Prize: Alfie
Balloon found Jedburgh, Scotland

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Gateshead Thunder	7	0	1	6	62	148	1
Swinton Lions	4	0	0	4	36	115	0
York Wasps	6	0	0	6	46	238	0

The question is - it's quiztime.....

- For which R.U. club does ex Bradford/Wigan/Wakefield star Henry Paul now play for?
- Which team gave Towns next cup opponents Hunslet a close call in round three?
- Which Keighley Cougar is now enjoying a well earned testimonial year?
- What is the nickname of Aussie club Parramatta?
- Who is the current Featherstone Rovers senior coach?
- Who does veteran prop forward Tim Street now star for?
- In 1991 Wigan beat Penrith Panthers to become World Club Champs, where was this game played?
- Which team currently lead the BARLA Conference Premier Division?
- Where are Australian outfit North Queensland Cowboys based?
- What is the nickname of the Papua New Guinea national team?

ANSWERS:-
 1. Gloucester.
 2. Woolston Rovers.
 3. Jason Ramshaw.
 4. The Eels.
 5. Ian Fairhurst.
 6. Chorley Lynx.
 7. Anfield Stadium, Liverpool.
 8. West Hull.
 9. Townsville.
 10. The Kumuls.



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Point 1 - When passing the ball, it must always go backwards.

Point 2 - When tackling a player, it must always be around the waist.

Point 3 - After you have been tackled you must play the ball through your legs, making sure it touches your foot.

Point 4 - The Defending side must always be 10 metres behind the play-the-ball.

Point 5 - The attacking side is allowed 6 attempts to score before the ball is given up.

Point 6 - If the ball bounces into touch from a kick, then a scrum is formed with the opposition gaining the put-in. Unless the ball is kicked from inside the 40 metre mark of the team in possession to past the 20 metre mark of the defending team (40/20).

Point 7 - If a player drops the ball in a forward direction a scrum is formed with the opposition gaining the "put-in".

Point 8 - When scoring a try you must place the ball down over the try line (you must not drop the ball). After a try, the team has the opportunity to kick a "conversion" by kicking the ball through the posts and over the crossbar.

Point 9 - If a player runs into touch or tackled into touch, a scrum is formed with the opposition gaining the "put-in".

Point 10 - When a team gains a penalty it has two options: it can either kick to touch and then receive the ball back at the place it crossed the touchline or it can have a kick at goal.

Point System - 4 Points for a Try, 2 Points for a Conversion after a Try, 2 Points For a converted penalty goal. 1 point for a drop goal.

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Nicky Carter

OFFICIAL CLUB MASCOT

Eleven year old Nicky is a big rugby and football fan and his favourite players are Graeme Lewthwaite and Anthony Samuel.



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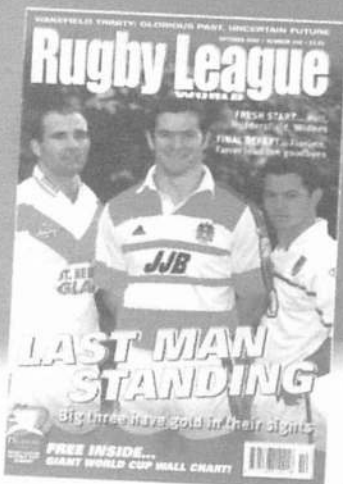


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TODAY'S MASCOT

is nine year old Gary Mattinson. Gary attends Derwent Vale Primary School and his hobbies are football and rugby. His favourite player is Town flier Greame Lewthwaite



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Left: Greame
Lewthwaite

Mike Carter
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AND

what of the others?

With it being the Challenge Cup break last weekend the NFP table lingers as you were for the remainder of January. Last weekends NFP cup casualties were minimal, with only Keighley and Gateshead now able to fully concentrate on winning the championship. Although as I'm writing prior to Wednesday nights schedule perhaps Swinton and Hull Kingston Rovers are also on single minded missions right now.

And looking at the NFP ladder I am quietly confident Town can sneak into second place following this afternoon's action. Whitehaven have a toughie at the Lionheart Stadium today, although having said that I was unpleasantly surprised when Cullens crew won at Donny recently. But the Fev fans are not a happy bunch at present, their favourites are just on the dotted line of NFP utopian blessing at ninth. It is not good enough for the Rovers die-hards to see their team tottering on the brink of possible oblivion, and a win versus Haven is vital for their clubs esteem - go for it Fev.

Looking below the fateful dotted line (I'm talking League Express here incidentally) it looks very tight indeed for the clubs placed tenth to thirteenth. Those being , Sheffield, Dewsbury, Doncaster, and Oldham. I know 'Loans R Us' have the same number of points (4) as three of those forenamed outfits, but I don't envisage them(LRU) as maintaining a long term challenge for the desired cut. And of those in the current 'big nine' I would forecast that the B's of Barrow and Batley will be out of fuel, and the running, as the Summer hots up. I have a hunch that after today just the two combatants will remain undefeated. While I do think Leigh will do the biz at York, in fact it will be quite bizarre if the Centurions lose that one, and of course the Hawks have no chance at the McAlpine, have they?

However watch out for the Rams drawing the Hornets sting this afternoon, this must be our NFP 'match of the day'.

Yet will the crowd rise into four figures? Maybe just eh. The gatherings in general for this very entertaining professional competition are disgustingly poor. And it is a sad return for the effort put in by most clubs. I don't include last weeks cup ties as an example of apathy, because it has always been so that the amateurs do not attract the lukewarm brigade.

But oh dear why is the NFP so underrated too?

It will very soon be time for the Super League to fire into action. Will the added TV, and other media coverage, give an added spin off of interest in the NFP?

I certainly hope something quickly works the oracle for all our sakes.

CLUBS AGREE TO CHANGE

By Ian Laybourn, PA Sport

Rugby League clubs have given their unanimous backing for a major overhaul of the game's administration after being told of moves to wipe out the organisation's debts of £1.8million inside two years.

The 31 club representatives approved plans to unify the game, bringing Super League Europe back into line with immediate effect and stepping up talks with the British Amateur Rugby League Association to bring them on board in the near future.

The Rugby Football League will keep its title and the game will continue to be part-administered from Red Hall but the media, marketing and finance departments will all be housed at Super League's city-centre Sovereign House.

Super League Europe and the Association of Premiership Clubs will continue but their powers will be severely curtailed and their meetings will be chaired by the League's new executive chairman, who could be in place by the summer.

The full-time chairman will be joined on a five-strong board by a business director and three non-executive directors, who will oversee a management team in charge of six distinct departments.

The radical plans were formulated by a task force, led by Wigan chairman Maurice Lindsay, who are expected to stay in place for another two months until the new board is assembled.

"The proposals put to council by the implementation committee were endorsed unanimously," said RFL chairman Sir Rodney Walker.

"The whole council wanted to draw a line in the past. There was a remarkable atmosphere of people wanting to go forward together."

Lindsay, a former RFL chief executive, revealed for the first time that the game's debts had reached £1.8million and said his committee had uncovered "some pretty ordinary management practices".

Six staff at Red Hall have been made redundant and director of rugby Greg McCallum and finance chief are both thought to be negotiating severance terms.

"Unification could not be achieved with the present structure," said Sir Rodney, who intends to step down after the Challenge Cup final on April 27.

"It required fairly radical surgery which created the opportunity to put in place a very focused, structure business plan which will see all accumulated losses eradicated by the end of 2003."

Meanwhile, Lindsay revealed that the League had received 40 applications for the role of executive chairman and that the implementation committee hope to draw up a shortlist by the end of February.

"We been totally impressed by the calibre of those candidates," he said.

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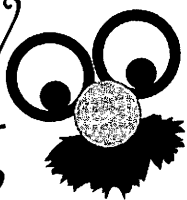


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