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DONCASTER DRAGONS

AT ASHTON U.F.C. SUNDAY
10TH MARCH 2002 KO 3.30PM

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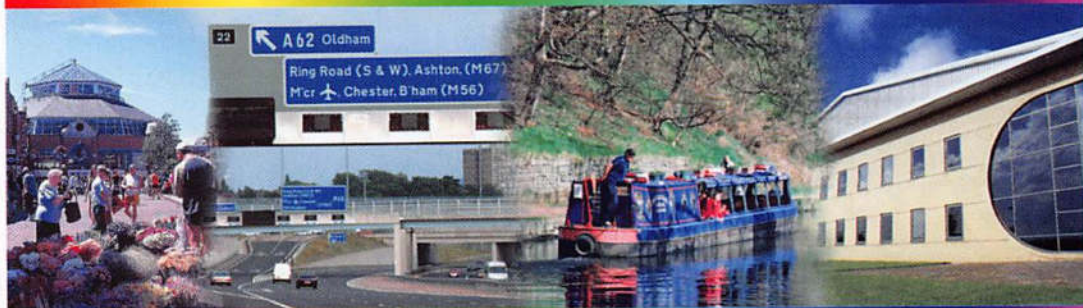
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IN THE HOT SEAT

with
Christopher Hamilton



FINGERS crossed that you are reading these notes on the scheduled date for this fixture.

With the postponement of the game against Rochdale we lost another opportunity to make up games on the other clubs.

In between we produced (first 20 minutes apart) a stirring performance at Huddersfield Giants. All the things we don't have, they do, and the benefits of having a full-time squad and everything that goes with it were there to see. It was that which probably won them the game in the end.

The team performance showed great determination and commitment which have become our trademarks and we played some great rugby and scored some good tries. After the recent trials and tribulations the squad has come through well and the desire to succeed is as great as it has ever been. John Harbin's influence is starting to pay off and we are all looking forward to picking up league points on a regular basis.

After a period of negotiation we are also delighted to welcome to the club some new faces, David Foster is a centre/winger on loan from Leeds Rhinos and Anthony Murray is a hooker/half back signed permanently from Swinton. We wish both players well in their new Oldham careers and hope their association with the club is a long and successful one.

We have not finished bringing players in and there will be further signings, hopefully in the next few days.

Today's opponents, Doncaster, will be full of confidence after their recent run of results and it promises to be another tough test. We have had some great games against Doncaster over the last four years, including the never-to-be-forgotten win in extra time in the play offs.

As ever the lads are confident in their own ability but your contribution is just as important. Please make as much noise as you can and get behind the team.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



The Roughyeds

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Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

Front Cover:

Action from last weeks NFP game
against Huddersfield Giants.

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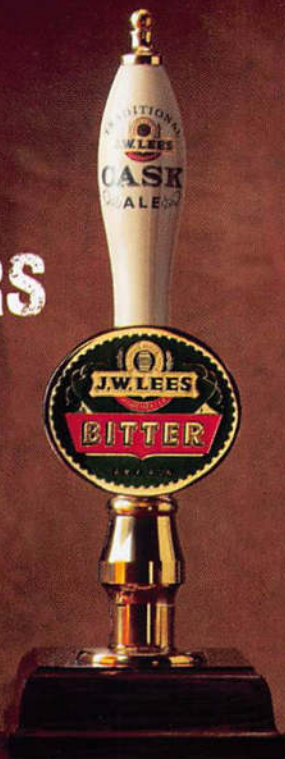
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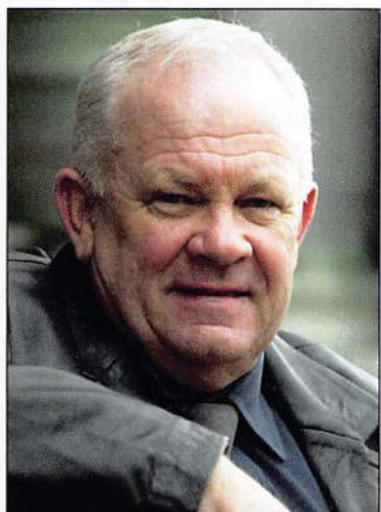
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COACH'S COMMENTS... with John Harbin



ALTHOUGH we lost at the McAlpine Stadium last week I thought we put in a good performance. Huddersfield hit us with pace and power in the first quarter and we were caught unawares. We had no possession to speak of and the home side made only 19 tackles in the first 20 minutes – an unheard of statistic! In the second quarter we clawed our way back into the game and at 14-8 down at half-time we were in with a real chance. Once we got used to the pace of the game and the conditions (Let's face it no mud, no rain, no wind, no slope and even a bit of sunshine are not what we are used to!) we performed well. You could see the side visibly grow in confidence and we began to add some penetration to our attack to go with our excellent defence. At the end of the day we only just went down and we gave them a real fright.

Today we face Doncaster Dragons who are the only side to have beaten Huddersfield (in the Cup) so we know we are in for another tough encounter. We know they have some good players especially Martin Moana who I encountered in Super League last year. Our pack has to stand up to the Dragons' forwards but I am confident about that when I have a front row like Jason Clegg, John Hough and Paul Norton. With Bryan Henare available again and young Lee Doran playing out of his skin I think we have the men for the job.

This week we have been pleased to make a couple of signings. Threequarter David Foster is a current Super League squad player and we are fortunate to get him on loan from Leeds, largely because of the abolition of Alliance football at S.L. level. He will be in our squad today and should give us some extra go-forward. We are also pleased to welcome Anthony Murray whose utility value will be a great asset. He has played hooker, halfback and threequarter with his previous clubs Leigh, Barrow and Swinton and he has good hands, quick footwork and mobility. He won't be in the squad today as he has hardly trained with the rest of the lads but he should prove a useful acquisition. And these two may not be the last players we sign as we have other irons in the fire. Watch this space!

Enjoy today's game.

John



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In Yer Face



SINCE the formation of Oldham R.L.F.C. (1997) Ltd. it has been my pleasure and privilege to have acted as Editor of the club programme. Unfortunately this programme represents the last occasion on which I shall carryout this duty as the demands of my business are now such that I cannot devote the time required to the production of what I hope has been an entertaining and thought-provoking magazine. I would hope to be able to continue contributing articles to future editions, particularly as my '100 greatest Rugby League players ever!' feature is still only half way through and I am sure you will want to know who I regard as the best of the best.

The philosophy behind the programme has always been to produce something which is a good read. I have myself tried to be forthright in my views as I believe that provokes discussion and helps readers make up their own mind where they stand on certain issues of the day. It is to the credit of the Oldham Board of Directors that they have from day one, allowed me the freedom to get on with it and have never once interfered with the content of the programme. There have been only two awkward moments: one was when Mick Coates accused the then York Directors of manipulating the salary cap; and the other when I criticised Stuart Cummings over a head tackling issue apparently to the chagrin of Greg McCallum. If these are the only instances when we have upset the apple cart then we have done well. If there is one thing I can't stand, it's sitting on the fence, which might explain to those of you who read or collect other clubs' programmes why that produced by Featherstone Rovers is my favourite after our own.

While I have, no doubt, over the course of time criticised the administration of rugby league it may be of interest to learn that the co-operation and efficiency of the individual clubs in the N.F.P. in providing information has been, without exception, exemplary. Only the last programme versus Gateshead presented any problems which, given the state of the club at the time, is entirely understandable. So, you see, not everything

in the game is done badly.

Fortunately, here at Oldham I have been able to rely on some outstanding contributors whose efforts have been much appreciated. Regulars like Don Yates, Michael Turner, Roger Halstead, Iva Slateloose, Simon Winnard and Ian Wilson have given willingly of their time, as has the Chairman Christopher Hamilton and the various Coaches. Then there have been Marjorie Cooke, Dave Roberts, David McGealy, Debra Rafferty and Adele Knowles plus a fine selection of guest writers most helpful of whom have been Robert Gate and Dave Hadfield. All of these are people who enabled us to expand the programme from 32 to 36 pages and to increase its written content.

Of course the real tower of strength in producing the programme has been Brian Walker. Brian has throughout co-ordinated the photography, written a piece himself, obtained many of the guest writers and, until this season, attracted all the advertising. It might be of interest to know that when we began Brian and I met with Chris Hamilton on the Monday at 6pm before Oldham's first home game against Lancashire Lynx on the following Friday, 10th April 1998. 'Could we sort out a programme for the game?' said the Chairman. 'What's the deadline?' we asked. 'Wednesday' was the reply! In 48 hours Brian got the advertising and photography sorted and I put together and proof-read all the text. I still regard that as a pretty fair achievement. And, surprisingly perhaps, I do not regard that as the most difficult programme we have ever produced. No, that honour goes to the Gateshead programme of three weeks ago if only because everything was done last minute, had to be ready and yet might never have seen the light of day had the Tyneside club folded.

And my favourite programme? I have no hesitation in saying the one we produced for the visit of South Sydney. I think the quality of material we published that day was outstanding. And isn't it nice to be able to say that we played a part – however small and insignificant – in the restoration of Australian rugby's premier club to the N.R.L.?



'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to March 10th yesteryear

THIS afternoon Nutri Grain Challenge Cup quarter-finalists Doncaster Dragons visit Hurst Cross. It has been a satisfactory start to the campaign for the Dons, especially after losing several players twelve months ago when the club suffered financial problems. It was exactly twelve months ago, on Saturday 10th March 2001, that scrum half Latham Tawhai left Belle Vue for Rochdale. He had been at Doncaster for 16 months and had made 38 appearances after joining them from Hunslet, scoring 21 tries and three dropped goals. Fifty six years previously winger John Etty was beginning a career in which he won every domestic honour. Etty had already played a handful of trials games with Dewsbury before he joined



John Etty

Batley from Dewsbury Boys for £150 'signing on' fee. On Saturday 10th March 1945 Etty made his debut for Batley in a 23-12 home victory over Keighley. He went on to make 345 appearances for the Gallant Youths and scored 97 tries and two goals before joining Oldham in January 1955 for a £2,650 transfer fee.

The French national team made its debut on Saturday 10th March 1934. A group of French rugby enthusiasts, all union men led by Jean Galia, decided to try out the new code by undertaking an ambitious six match tour of England. That tour began at Central Park, Wigan where a crowd of 8,000 saw the home side take a 10-0 lead within fifteen minutes. The French came back and prop-forward Georges Blanc (Saint Jean-de-Luc) scored the first French points in rugby league when he crashed over for a try. After an hour the scores were level and, remarkably, France led three minutes from

time before a try from Jack Morley, converted by Jim Sullivan, won the match for Wigan 30-27. The tour was a success and just over a month later the French Rugby League was officially founded. France were the fourth nation to take up the game after Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia. Since then rugby league has expanded so that the last World Cup embraced sixteen nations with another six countries involved in the Emerging Nations competition. Seven years ago a BARLA open age squad made a short tour of South Africa where, on Friday 10th March 1995, the British boys met South Africa at Johannesburg. Britain led 18-2 before the Rhinos pulled back to 18-14 at half time. After the break BARLA once again forged ahead and went on to win 40-14 with fullback Peter Livett crossing for a hat trick of tries.

Finally, with the future league structure of the game causing recent discussion, it is interesting to note that it was on this day in 1993, Wednesday 10th March, that the Rugby Football League announced that the bottom three clubs in the Second Division at the end of that 1992-93 season would be relegated into the amateur National Conference League. There was a huge outcry at the decision but the League stuck to their decision and Chorley Borough, Blackpool Gladiators and Nottingham City started the 1993-94 season playing amateur opposition. Blackpool and Nottingham were unable to maintain their relatively high standards and were relegated from the Premier Division of the Conference after their first season of amateur rugby. Chorley fared much better and challenged, albeit unsuccessfully, for the National League Championship for a couple of seasons before regaining their professional status when the Super League revolution occurred during the Spring of 1995. They later moved to Preston and were renamed Lancashire Lynx before returning to Chorley and eventually altering their title to their current one, Chorley Lynx.

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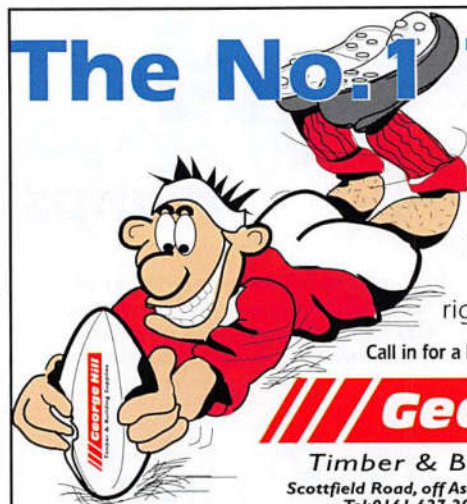
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Saturday 16th March	Oldham v Batley Bulldogs	Manor Park RUFC	12.0
Saturday 23rd March	Oldham v Workington	Manor Park RUFC	2.30
Saturday 30th March	Batley v Oldham		2.30
Thursday 4th April	Oldham v Rochdale	Manor Park RUFC	7.30
Saturday 20th April	ALLIANCE SPRING CUP FINAL		

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP TABLE 2001-2002

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Huddersfield Giants	10	9	1	0	363	88	275	19
Hull Kingston Rovers	9	8	0	1	242	120	122	16
Leigh Centurions	8	7	1	0	334	103	231	15
Whitehaven	10	7	1	2	234	112	122	15
Rochdale Hornets	9	7	1	1	240	135	105	15
Workington Town	11	7	0	4	254	193	61	14
Featherstone Rovers	9	6	1	2	222	142	80	13
Sheffield Eagles	10	6	0	4	274	168	106	12
Dewsbury Rams	9	5	0	4	254	180	74	10

Doncaster Dragons	8	5	0	3	210	144	66	10
Barrow Raiders	11	4	0	7	259	232	27	8
Batley Bulldogs	10	4	0	6	143	253	-110	8
Oldham	8	3	0	5	186	178	8	6
Keighley Cougars	9	3	0	6	150	313	-163	6
Chorley Lynx	10	2	0	8	166	298	-132	4
Hunslet Hawks	9	2	0	7	114	321	-207	4
Gateshead Thunder	10	0	1	9	82	254	-172	1
Swinton Lions	7	0	0	7	66	278	-212	0
York Wasps	9	0	0	9	67	348	-281	0

NFP Round Up

WHILE Oldham were suffering another postponement a fortnight ago, three fixtures did escape the appalling weather. At South Leeds Stadium Hunslet Hawks notched their second win of the season by defeating York Wasps 14-9 leaving their visitors still firmly anchored to the foot of the table.

Keighley Cougars also grabbed a welcome two points at the expense of troubled Gateshead (32-10). The gallant Thunder lads put up a fine performance and impressive fullback Kevin Neighbour scored two excellent tries.

Another troubled club, Swinton, were trounced by Dewsbury to the tune of 75-12 before just 521 spectators. ADRIAN FLYNN scored a hat-trick for the visitors with new signing CARL BRIGGS marking his Rams debut with 11 goals and a drop goal. However last week Swinton put up a much improved performance in losing to today's visitors Doncaster by 40-14. Marvin Golden scored twice and a Jason Lee 'special' thrilled the crowd. Meanwhile St. John Ellis incurred the wrath of referee Paul Lee and was banished to the stand.



St John Ellis

At the top of the table Huddersfield maintained their 100% record but not before Oldham gave them a fright, turning a 14-0 deficit to only 20-18 down with five minutes to play. The Giants were indebted to wingman Hefin O'Hare with a hat-trick and Man of the Match Chris Thorman for their lucky escape.

Leigh Centurions also remained unbeaten winning easily at Chorley 62-18. Chris Irwin had four tries with Andy Isherwood and Paul Anderson each claiming a hat-trick. Points machine Neil Turley added two tries and seven goals to add to his already impressive totals.

Second placed Hull KR have lost only once and claimed a 20-8 win at Gateshead. The young Thunder side will have encouraged their newly appointed former Leeds and Bramley Coach Paul Fletcher by showing enormous resilience and fighting spirit. Let's hope this is the start of a Thunder revival.

Dewsbury had another easy victory against York (48-6) and Featherstone gained an expected win against Batley (43-12), a try, seven goals and a drop goal here for the prolific Jamie Rooney. Sheffield also had a comfortable result defeating Hunslet 28-12 to consolidate eighth place. Keighley, however, had to come from behind at 14-24 to overcome Barrow 30-28. The appearance from the bench at half-time of Paul



Jason Ramshaw

Ashton transformed the Cougars and, with the evergreen Jason Ramshaw, Ashy guided the side home.

Finally, the result of the day was Hornets defeat of Workington at Derwent Park (20-10). Another evergreen hooker Richard Pachniuk was outstanding as Rochdale's big pack out-gunned the home six. The win enabled the visitors to leapfrog Town into fifth place.

This week the big game is on Humberside where Hull KR entertain Huddersfield.

The Giants will have to defend better than against Oldham if they are to keep their 100% record intact. Other close games will be at Hurst Cross where Oldham will be tested by Doncaster; at Barrow where Whitehaven are the visitors (and should probably snatch a close result); and at Batley where home advantage will be enough to account for Keighley in what should be a hard fought encounter.

In other fixtures Hunslet will lose twice (at Dewsbury on Wednesday and at home to Featherstone today); Leigh will be too good for Workington; Rochdale will put paid to Gateshead; and Sheffield will win at Swinton. And then there's York v Chorley. I will predict the Wasps to secure their first two points here to bring some cheer to a beleaguered sporting city.



Super League got off to a flying start with some great first round fixtures and some excellent attendances. Bradford's show at Wigan makes them the team to beat and on the evidence so far Leeds are going to be much tougher and more resilient this season. Widnes put up a great fight against Saints and, although it was at Oldham's expense, I am pleased to see the Vikings in the top flight once again especially since they were never relegated because of their playing record.

By the time you are reading we will already know just how resilient Leeds are as they will have visited the Boulevard on Friday night. This is the toughest call of the weekend and I am tipping the visitors by a whisker.

In the other games; Saints to beat Salford, Wigan to win at London, Bradford to defeat Warrington, Castleford to overcome Widnes and Halifax to account for Wakefield. And here's hoping I don't fall flat on my face!

IN Town TODAY



DONCASTER DRAGONS

IN two week's time Doncaster Dragons will be one of two teams keeping the NFP flag flying in the Challenge Cup when they have a date with Castleford Tigers at the Jungle. In the meantime tenth placed Dragons have to overcome Oldham today if they are to advance their League standing before trying to shoot down the Tigers. The fact the Dragons have advanced to this stage is testimony to the rebuilding job undertaken by the Board of Directors and Coach Ian St. John Ellis since the difficulties of last season when several leading players had to be released.

Today's team is expected to line up as follows:-

Fullback: **RICHARD BAKER** A fast, elusive players signed from Dewsbury. He had previously featured with Hunslet where he was top scorer.

Right wing: **ANTON GARCIA** A former Super League player with Sheffield Eagles, Garcia has also demonstrated his try scoring ability at Lancashire Lynx and Widnes Vikings.

Right centre: **MARVIN GOLDEN** Another ex-Super League man who has had spells with Leeds, Halifax, Salford and London. Packs plenty of experience for a player only in his mid 20s.

Left centre: **SIMON IRVING** Club captain is a vastly experienced goal-kicking centre who is strong defensively and uses his knowledge of the game to guide his side round the park. From the Hunslet breeding grounds for RL players he has played for Leeds and Keighley.



Jason Lee

Left wing: **JASON LEE** Former Keighley flyer Lee has a terrific scoring record and adds punch to the Dragons back division. Had a spell with Halifax Blue Sox at the end of last season and made an impressive debut for Wales against England when he scored twice.

Stand off: **PAUL MANSSON** has been the regular no.6 but the classy Kiwi could be moved to loose-forward to accommodate new signing **CHRIS ROSS**. Mansson is one of the best playmakers in the NFP and has caused Oldham plenty of problems whether appearing with Hunslet, Widnes or the Dragons. The versatile Ross, meanwhile, comes to Belle Vue from Hunslet where he was a consistent scorer of both tries and goals.

Scrum half: **PADDY HANDLEY** A typical ball-playing prompter of his attack, Handley graduated from York amateurs Heworth to play for Leeds and Featherstone before transferring to Doncaster.

Prop: **MAEA DAVID** A fans' favourite the powerful David is a Samoan who signed for Illawarra before trying his luck in Britain. He has been a key member of the pack at Hull Sharks, Bramley and Featherstone.

Hooker: **PETER GREEN** A regular in the Castleford Alliance team last term Green has representative honours for Yorkshire at both Schools and Academy levels.

Prop: **GARETH HANDFORD** A punishing tackler and driver in of the football Handford has previous experience with Featherstone Rovers.

Second row: Local man **TONY ATTER** occupies one berth after joining the Dons Academy from Bentley amateurs. Has worked hard to secure his place alongside **MARTIN OSTLER** a newcomer from Hull's Alliance side.



Martin Moana

Loose forward: If Paul Mansson wears 6 and he has recovered from injury the Dragons likely last man is **MARTIN MOANA**. A junior Kiwi and Maori World Cup player Moana had five seasons with Halifax where 130 appearance yielded an impressive 65 tries. Released last season to Huddersfield Giants,

Moana became a key pre-season signing for the Dragons where he also takes on a role as a Development Officer.

Substitutes: Doncaster's bench will be chosen from: **JOHNNY WOODCOCK** a lively threequarter who started locally with Toll Bar and had played for Hull Academy; **JAMIE FIELDEN** at 6'7" not surprisingly, a former Huddersfield Giant; **RICHARD SMITH** the widely travelled threequarter who has impressed for Halifax, Keighley and Hull K.R. and has been capped by Ireland, **CRAIG FORSYTH** the former York prop with several powerful displays against the Roughyeds over the years; **BILLY CONWAY** former Wakefield hooker who is Doncaster's Assistant Coach; and local forward, the hard working **CRAIG LAWTON**.

Walkerbouts

... with Brian Walker

OLDHAM HALL OF FAME CD AN ABSOLUTE MUST FOR ALL ROUGHYEDS FANS!!

Tolstoy is once meant to have said "History would be an excellent thing if only it were true" so young journalist Kevin Fitzpatrick, busy launching his Roughyeds' Memories CD surrounding the players in Oldham's Hall of Fame, has taken no chances and gone straight to the horses mouth! The CD promises a nostalgic review from Oldham favourites including Fame stars Bernard Ganley, Alan Davies, Frank Stirrup, John Etty, Martin Murphy and Andy Goodway and that's just what it delivers. And much more.

The former Oldham and current Saddleworth Rangers' threequarter has come up with an excellent nostalgic, entertaining and informative production that's a must for Roughyeds fans!

Brian Walker



Kevin Fitzpatrick

IN just over a century, more than two thousand players have pulled on an Oldham rugby league shirt. This sound documentary pays tribute to ten of the very best. The Oldham Rugby League Hall of Fame CD reflects on the careers of some of the greatest players ever to play for the club. The record

breakers, the clubmen, the players who had that little bit extra. The ten men picked out for inclusion in the Oldham Hall of Fame, which was established in 1995 by what is now Oldham RL Heritage Trust.

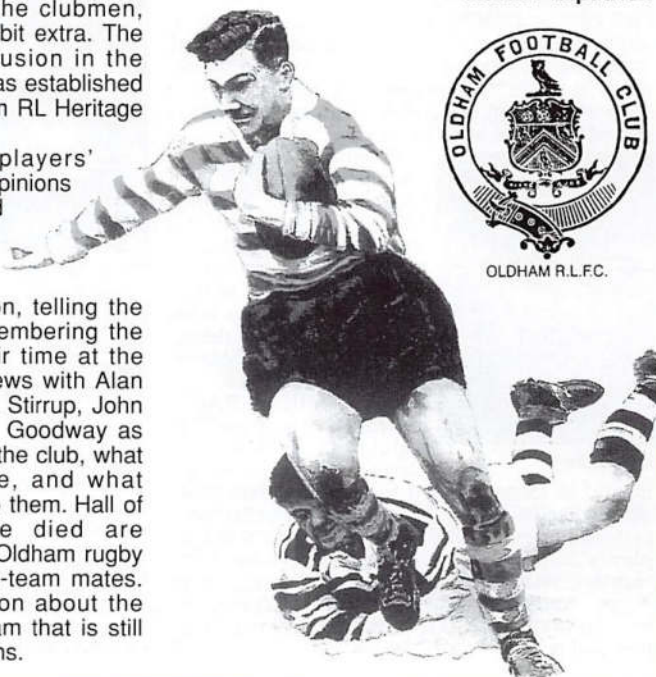
The CD combines the players' stories with narration and the opinions of rugby league historians and fans to establish just how good they really were.

Each member of the Hall of Fame has their own section, telling the story of their career and remembering the impression they made in their time at the club. The CD includes interviews with Alan Davies, Bernard Ganley, Frank Stirrup, John Etty, Martin Murphy and Andy Goodway as they recall how they arrived at the club, what their first impressions were, and what Oldham rugby league meant to them. Hall of Fame members who have died are remembered by locally known Oldham rugby experts, family, friends and ex-team mates. There is also a special section about the great side of the 1950's, a team that is still fondly remembered by many fans.

The sound documentary is Strictly Limited Edition and will be sold on a first come, first served, basis. The memories captured in this documentary are priceless when looking at the history of the club.

To order your CD send a cheque for £10.99 (£9.99 plus £1 p&p) to Kevin Fitzpatrick, 3 Berry Street, Greenfield, Oldham, OL3 7EF. Tel. 01457 820050. Orders must be received by MONDAY 1st APRIL.

Kevin Fitzpatrick



Iwa Slateloose



COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002

As you may know, Manchester will be hosting the Commonwealth Games in July this year. You may not be aware that many of the famous events which go to make up this feast of sporting excellence have been especially adapted to be more in keeping with Manchester's rich cultural heritage and quaint local customs.

OPENING CEREMONY

The flame will be ignited by a petrol bomb thrown by a native of the city in the traditional costume of balaclava and shell suit. The flame will be contained in a large overturned police van situated on the roof of the stadium

THE EVENTS

In the previous Commonwealth Games, Manchester's competitors have not been particularly successful. In order to redress the balance, some of the events have been altered slightly, to the advantage of local athletes.

100 Metres Sprint

Competitors will have to hold a video recorder and microwave oven (one under each arm) and, on the sound of the starting pistol, a police dog will be released from a cage 10 yards behind the athletes.

110 Metres Hurdles

As above, but with added obstacles (ie car bonnets, hedges, garden fences, walls etc).

Hammer

Competitors in this event may choose the type of hammer they wish to use (claw, sledge, etc). The winner will be the one who can cause the most physical damage within three attempts.

Fencing

Entrants will be asked to dispose of as many stolen goods as possible in 5 minutes.

Shooting

A strong challenge is expected from local men in this event. The first target will be a moving police van. In the second round, competitors will aim at a post office clerk or bank teller, or a Securicor-style wages deliveryman. The traditional .22 rifle has been replaced in this event by a choice of either a Browning automatic handgun or sawn off 12 bore shotgun.

Boxing

Entry to the boxing will be restricted to husband and wife teams and will take place on a Friday night. The husband will be given 15 pints of lager while the wife will be told not to make him any tea when he gets home. The bout will then commence.

Cycling Time Trials

Competitors will be asked to break into the University bike shed and take an expensive mountain bike owned by some mummy's boy on his first trip away from home. Against the clock.

Cycling Pursuit

As above, but the bike will be owned by a visiting member of the Australian rugby team who has witnessed the theft.

Modern Pentathlon

Amended to include mugging, breaking and entering, flashing, joyriding and arson.

Swimming Events

All waterways are currently being tested for toxicity levels. Once a stretch of water is found which can support human life, swimming events will be organised. Please note that the Synchronised Swimming event for this year will consist of dropping acid and watching all the funky ripples on the pool. The specific musical support for this event will be provided by "The Verve"

The Marathon

A safe route has yet to be found.

Men's 50km Walk

Unfortunately, this will have to be cancelled. Greater Manchester Police will not guarantee the safety of anyone walking the streets of Manchester, especially anyone who appears to be mincing....

Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY the Oldham club extends a warm welcome to all the players, officials and supporters of Doncaster Dragons RLFC and for our featured match we go back to the summer of 1999 - a time of trauma for the Roughyeds.

Do you remember the match Oldham v Doncaster played on July 30th 1999 ? Probably not ! For only 676 people turned up for what was the first game after the club's record defeat at Widnes. A pleasant summer Friday evening at Spotland was the setting and those who turned up were the real "hard-core" of Oldham supporters, their number slightly swelled by the few, but vociferous, travelling "Donny" fanatics. This was a match played out by the two bottom clubs in the NFP and as such provided a thrilling encounter by two equally matched teams.

Things started well for Oldham with a try in the first few minutes for skipper Leo Casey. This was soon followed by touchdowns by Daniel Brown (remember him?) and Paul Round. Aussie half back Brown converted all three tries with the Dons only reply being an unconverted effort by John Okul. As half time approached Oldham led 18 - 4 and looked to be well in control but an inspired spell of form by full back Lee Maher brought the Dragons right back into the game. Firstly he beat off the challenge of several defenders to score himself and then burst into the clear once more to set up a try for Graham Southernwood under the posts. David Mycoe added the goal to leave Oldham just four points to the good at the break.

A typical John Hough effort direct from acting half back increased the Oldham lead once more but a Southernwood drop goal and a Mycoe penalty set up the match for a rivetting final quarter. Given the free flowing nature of the match in the first hour it seemed more points were inevitable.



Oldham captain Leo Casey who opened the scoring: Oldham v Doncaster July 30th 1999.

However, as it happened the defences of both teams took control and Oldham held on to their five point lead, despite a few scares from the Dragons in the final 20 minutes, for a much needed victory.

It wasn't pretty that night at Rochdale but those who turned up to support the team that day, be they cheering for Oldham or Doncaster can give themselves a pat on the back for following their favourites through thick and THIN !

OLDHAM: A Leuila, A Mead, E Jackman, K Brennan, J McNicholas, D Webster, D Brown.

L Casey, J Hough, J Clegg, P Round, M Maders, I Sinfield. SUBS: P Crook, M Perrett, J Nadiola, E Peralta.

DONCASTER: Maher, Campbell, Okul, Mosley, Moore; Allen, Mycoe. Morgan, Southernwood, Lister, Thackray, Adams, Miller.

SUBS: Watson, Andrews, Derose, Bruce.



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A Chance to Meet . . . JOHN HARBIN

with David McGealy, Radio Cavell 1350AM

Where and when were you born?

I was born in April and I'm not telling you the year. I was actually born in Hazelwood Castle, which is near Tadcaster. But I only had a week with the Royalty then I went to live on Swillington Common. So to answer the question, near Leeds.

So, near Leeds in April, any particular date?

The twelfth of April.

What was the year again?

I didn't say.

You can't blame me for trying! So, you start off in Leeds but then go to Australia. Any memories of Rugby League before you went?

No. None at all. I mainly followed Leeds United and didn't play Rugby League till the age of ten when I got to Australia. So going to Australia introduced me to Rugby League.

The situation in Australia now is like a pyramid from local community clubs up to the professional clubs. Was it like that then?

No, it was mainly school football then. All the Rugby League was played at school and that was played in 'weights'. So I played for 'The Christian Brothers College Four Stone Seven Team' when I first went there and I graduated the following year to 'The Christian Brothers Five Stone Team', then the 'Six Stone Team' and then the 'Eight Stone Team'. What we found was there were fifteen year old Jockeys playing in the 'four stone, seven Division' and 'giving us a belting' so they changed it to 'ages' then.

An interesting concept that. It sounds quite fair that you should have equally balanced teams. But as you say the age difference could be quite big.

The other thing was at the start of the year we all had to go and get weighed. Every kid that was in the school team and all the schools used to go to the fruit market and we had to get weighed on these fruit scales. We were scrutinised by coaches from other teams. But you get someone 'four stone seven' at the start of the year and 'eight stone' at the end of it. I can remember drinking plenty of water so that I'd go to the toilet because I had to 'drop half a pound'. That's what we were all like then. But we played against kids our own size.

So that's where you got an introduction to the game. What happened then?

Well in Australia it's a big thing to represent your school at Rugby League. I left school at fourteen but I was playing for the school all through those age groups and that was considered an honour. When your team played all the school went to watch it, so we had about 400 kids at our school and the other school brought their fans, so it was a big honour. It wasn't a small thing. I left school of course and then did what everybody else does, played amateurs and went up to the semi-pro ranks when you're getting paid £10 a win and £5 a loss and things like that.

Who did you first play for in the 'paid' game?

A club called Fitzroys and then I did a lot of what they call 'Bush Football'. Where you go and play for a team in the 'Bush' and they get you a job and accommodation. You have a year, two years or three years and then move on to another town and get the same kind of deal. A lot of players did that and some did that in preference to going to Sydney and signing up with a big club. Coaches in particular moved around like that.

You did that for a time but you ended up in education didn't you?

No. What happened was I got a bad knee injury very early in my career. Today modern medical science probably would have fixed it, but in them days it wasn't easily fixed and so I turned to coaching straight away. But for fifteen years I was a Union Delegate in an abattoir.

A lot of 'education' went on there then!

Well I probably learnt more in fifteen years as a Union Delegate that I did in the rest of my life.

I was just going to ask who, or what has been the greatest influence on you in Rugby League?

Probably one of the 'Brothers' himself, a guy called Brother O'Donoghue, who later became a Priest, but he was a Brother and played Rugby League. I can remember going to watch him play and he scored 36 points in one game. He was probably the greatest influence on me in the early days.

You often find that the Priests are fanatical about their sport.

They were in them days. I don't know if they are now, but they were in them days certainly. Now there's no more Brothers left at The Christian Brothers School. But Father O'Donoghue, as he is now, is probably the one I looked up to.

Either as a player or as a Coach, what was your most memorable moment so far in rugby league?

Very hard that one. But the final whistle when Wakefield beat Salford last year in the final game of the season which clinched Super League survival and a livelihood for twenty odd players who were at the club. It didn't clinch my livelihood by the way, but it was a lot of pressure on them. It would have meant them going to be unemployed as they were going to be out of work. So that's probably the most memorable moment.

Keeping Wakefield up was very much against the odds. If you'd have been a betting man you'd have got very good odds against that happening.

At the start of the season certainly, and during it with some of the things that went on. But I'll never forget that moment. I've got it on video so I can have a look every now and again. Not worn it out yet then?

If that was the 'high' what was the 'low'? What was your worst moment in Rugby League?

I think going home for my holidays last year, after keeping Wakefield in Super League, and landing in Australia and getting a phone call from Willie Poching to say the club had sold him. I think that was the worst moment because Willie and I are very close friends and I knew nothing about it. It had been timed to perfection so that I got on a plane and by the time I landed on the other side the club had sold my captain. I decided that Wakefield wasn't the place for me virtually there and then.

It must have been a very, very disappointing moment that? How did you react to that?

I'll be honest, I fell ill and was under the supervision of a doctor for a couple of days. It sickened me. It absolutely sickened me.

All that work that you'd put in just came to naught.

All the work that everybody put in to keep that club up was, really, just scoffed at in the end.

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If that was the worst moment, what about the most amusing thing you've ever seen on a rugby field?

You've got me thinking now. I think there are too many and you've got to have been there to see them because to tell the story doesn't have the same effect as to have actually seen it. I've seen players split their shorts and have no underpants on and to cover up pretend he had a groin injury wanting to be carried off. But the physio refused to carry him off and left him there and he had to but unless you see it and know the personality of the person concerned it's not real funny, I suppose. That was a funny one in an actual game. But whichever club you go to there's always plenty of fun and different characters in the team. Certainly Cleggy at this club and certainly one or two at Wakefield. You can have a laugh.

You mention Jason Clegg as a character at Oldham, who's the biggest character you've come across in the game?

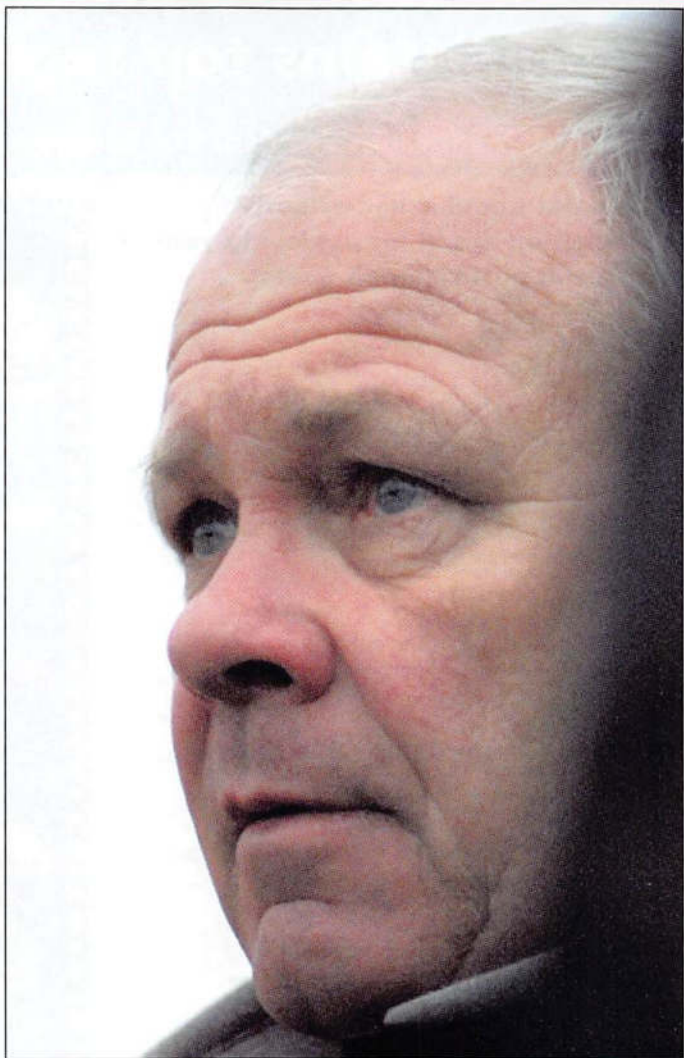
I think a guy who actually came over as Wally Lewis's minder and played for Wakefield. A friend of mine called Lindsay Gill. Lindsay was a character, he did a bit of time for armed robbery and things like that. But wherever Lindsay went something was going to happen. He was a good friend of mine, but you just knew, that something was going to happen when Lindsey was around. Whether it be good or bad something was definitely going to happen! It must have been an interesting time to go out with him for a drink!

When you came to Oldham you said your ambitions were no longer for yourself but for the players and the club you were in charge of.

That's right and I think it's a sign of age when your ambitions and goals are about achievements for other people. I want to see Oldham be very successful. I want to see the players here be very successful. I want to see the coaching staff be very successful and our medical staff. You know I'd love to see every player represent their country. I'd love to see Mark Knight being honoured at representative level and Danni our Physio. My goals are for them and hopefully I can give them something that can help them attain their goals.

Now I normally end by asking for a team mates secret, but somehow I daren't. John Harbin thank you very much.

This interview will be broadcast in full on Radio Cavell - 1350AM next Friday during "Sports Week" between 5-00 and 6-00pm.



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The research team from Spain examined a group of 19 national level players from Athletic Club de Bilbao, one of Europe's leading footballing sides. The players were divided into two groups. Group one were given 20g of creatine per day for six days. Group two received a 'dummy' supplement that had no effect.

The players were then asked to perform a series of tests. These included a number of sprinting and jumping drills that closely matched the demands of a game. The group who used creatine were consistently able to outperform the 'non-creatine' users during both 5 and 15 metre sprints. These improvements in performance were enough to have a big impact on a player's performance. "More than enough", according to the researchers, "to outrun an opponent and attain possession of the ball".

Creatine is a natural substance found in many foods, such as salmon, tuna and beef. Although it is possible to obtain creatine from your diet, it would be almost impossible to get enough to have any effect on performance. The creatine in food can also be 'damaged' by cooking. As a result, many athletes rely on creatine supplements to provide them with a competitive edge.

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REFERENCE

1. Mujika, I., Padilla, S., Ibanez, J., Izquierdo, M., & Gorostiaga, E. (2000). Creatine supplementation and sprint performance in soccer players. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, 32(2), 518-525

Wilson's Wisdom

... with Ian Wilson

DOES anyone actually know when the RL season starts? Certainly, according to Sky, and our good friends Eddie and Stevo, it began last weekend with the first round of games in Super League VII. And incidentally, what a pair of crackers they were to get Sky's action off on the right foot. Bradford back to their barnstorming best, Wigan clearly second on the night (and did I spot a glimpse of an early Wigan walk as Vaikona went over?), Widnes obviously very 'competitive', in both senses of the word, and Saints showing the mix of disorganisation and skill when it matters which makes them always worth watching. And two decent looking attendances too.

But hang on. The BBC clearly felt the 2002 season started on Feb 9th when they pushed the boat out with their Saturday afternoon double header. And, again, good TV, with Hull a bit hard done by to lose by so many, and Leeds absolutely magnificent in victory over Bradford. Even Steve Ryder seemed quite genuinely impressed!

I was at the Grand Final on Saturday, October 13, and that was surely the end of last season, wasn't it? Everyone said so - the 'climax to a fantastic season', I distinctly remember (by that time of course, the Oldham players had enjoyed 11 weeks or R&R, after their final game, and the Chorley lads an extra 4 weeks.

But that can't be right. I distinctly recall spending a small fortune going to watch three GB v Australia Tests in November. Perhaps that was a pre-season tournament.

On the other hand, what about that superb evening at the McAlpine, on February 1st 2002? Was that the real end of last season, when the Bulls showed the Knights that we can play a bit over here?

But surely not? I distinctly remember nearly watching Oldham play Swinton on December 2nd; it was only the minor inconvenience of not having a ground to play on that stopped us. And since points gained then would have counted towards the NFP league table which will be finalised on Sept 8th, surely that must have been the real start of the new season? Mind you, with today being the 15th weekend since then, but only our 9th league game, it is very difficult to know quite what is what.

Anyway, at least we are now well into the season proper, I am sure we can all agree. Especially after our superb effort last week at Huddersfield, the battle is well and truly joined for places in the final NFP league table, which will decide...., exactly what is it that is will decide, does anyone know? Still, no doubt the programme editor will manage to find the necessary three or four pages of a match programme some time next Autumn to explain the end of season play offs, and next year's league format which might depend on it.

But what is this "Nat Cup" I see on the fixtures page? In a couple of weeks from now, we seem to be starting another season, in another new competition. That should really get us all going, I am sure.

Does some phrase about inmates and asylums come to mind?

Junior Roughyeds



sponsored by ^{Oldham} Advertiser

A warm welcome to all the junior supporters of Doncaster Dragons. We hope you enjoy your visit to Hurst Cross but we also hope for an Oldham win.

I apologise for the lack of details about mascots and will bring you up to date in the next programme.

Meanwhile here's a little quiz to test your brain cells!

- (a) Who is Oldham's current leading try-scorer?
- (b) Which team plays at Mount Pleasant?
- (c) Who has appeared in every Oldham game this season without having started a single match?
- (d) How many teams have yet to lose a game in the N.F.P. this season and who are they?
- (e) What colours do York Wasps play in?
- (f) Who plays at the Thunderdome?

Answers: (a) Joe McNicholas; (b) Batley; (c) Danny Guest; (d) 2, Huddersfield and Leigh; (e) Black & Amber (& White); (f) Gateshead

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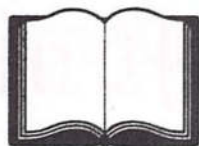
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WE ALL know how good amateur rugby league can be. Especially at the highest level or when a prestigious trophy is at stake like the Standard Cup. We are indeed very fortunate here in Oldham where such entertainment is available



Standard Cup

throughout the winter months. Sports enthusiasts elsewhere would be surprised at the commitment and skills of our local amateurs, a fact borne out a couple of years ago when Swiss sports fans Peter Vogelsang stumbled across his first game of rugby league.

Forty year old Peter is from Turgi, a small town not far from Zurich, Switzerland, and works as an administration officer for the Swiss National Sports Press Agency. The agency covers news items from over 90 different sports but over in Switzerland the most popular sporting interests are soccer, skiing, athletics, cycling and formula one motor racing. It is the perfect job for sports mad Peter whose main sporting interests are soccer, athletics, golf, skiing and, yes, now rugby league.

Peter first visited England in 1983 when he came to a language college in Hastings, East Sussex on a five month residential course studying English. Whilst in this country Peter took in various local sports especially his main sporting passion, soccer. He has visited

around 25 countries to watch soccer and, since 1988, Peter has visited England each Easter where he is able to watch several matches over the packed holiday weekend.

In 1999 Graham Corless, fell runner, enthusiastic soccer, rugby league and general sports fan, suggested to Peter that they attend the Standard Cup Final prior to travelling on to a soccer match. Peter agreed and that is how he came to watch his first rugby league match, Shaw versus Waterhead.

As usual, it was a typical Standard Cup Final. Plenty of thrills and spills with Shaw excelling against opponents two divisions higher before losing narrowly 26-18. Peter was suitably impressed. He found it hard to believe that the players were all amateur. Their commitment, skill, discipline, speed and rugged athleticism converted him immediately to the oval ball game. His sporting itinerary was already mapped out for that trip but, ever since, Peter insists on watching a good mix of rugby league and soccer with the Standard Cup Final always being top of his list.

Peter is also impressed by the behaviour of rugby league spectators. Whilst still showing the passion and sporting biases of their soccer cousins, he considers rugby league fans to be far friendlier with matches lacking the ugly violence which occasionally breaks out amongst soccer crowds. In eighteen days time Peter will once again fly into Manchester. The following morning his sporting holiday starts in earnest, at Boundary Park where he is sure to be entertained as he watches another stirring Standard Cup Final.

CLUB CALL

THE SATURDAY YANKEE

The Sat Yankee is a major source of the clubs income and prize money last month reached a record level of **£5000** and that was for just **£1 weekly stake**. If you are not a member of this existing lottery you can help the club and hopefully yourself by filling in a Saturday Yankee form or calling Lorraine at the club on 0161 628 3677. Also we need collectors for most areas around Oldham and offer good commissions.

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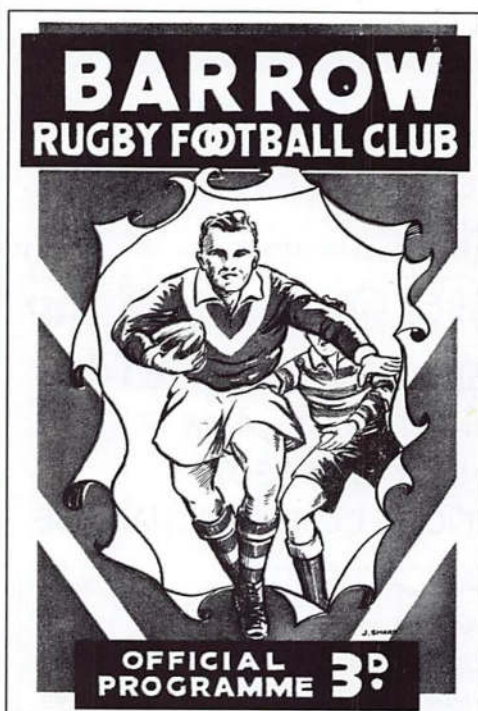
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..... With Sam Shepherd

AS A RL referee in the 1960's, you were given your quota of matches for 6 weeks ahead, and inevitably, some games could be classed as 'unusual'.

For me, a visit to Barrow on Saturday, 28th October, 1961, was my first and **only** visit as the referee for a first team game.

Another look at the fixture list in the programme showed that they had beaten Oldham at Barrow, and also that Oldham had beaten Barrow at 'sheddings in the 1st round of the Lancashire Cup 10-3. (Tries, Simms 2, Goals Noon & Patterson). The programme that day cost 3d, and the day return from Manchester by train cost 1 guinea (21/-).



Next on my list of 'unusuals' was a Rugby League Challenge Cup first round game between amateur club **BROOKHOUSE** and **DONCASTER** at Barnsley Road playing fields, Wakefield, February 10th 1962, admission 2/-.

Rugby League Challenge Cup
FIRST ROUND

BROOKHOUSE
v
DONCASTER

at
BARNSELY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS
WAKEFIELD

SATURDAY, 10th FEBRUARY

1962
Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

ADMISSION 2/-

Brookhouse, in only their third season, had emerged as one of the foremost amateur rugby league teams in the country, and up to this game had conceded only 6 tries, while their 'points for' total was over 700. Would Doncaster, encouraged by their recent victory over

Salford and coached by former Oldham favourite Bryn Goldswain, prove a sterner test for the amateurs? In the event it was a very tight game, Brookhouse led 4-2 for much of the game, but a late try and a goal for Doncaster took the honours.

Now for the League Championship Final between Leeds and St. Helens at Swinton on Saturday, May 20th, 1972. These two teams, it will be remembered had provided a hard, gruelling, yet exciting Cup Final at Wembley the previous week.

Both teams had had to make changes, but Leeds still had John Holmes, Hardisty and Clawson, and St. Helens still had Pimblett, Benyon, Coslett and John Mantle.

It proved to be a very tight game with points hard to come by, but Leeds managed a 9-5 victory.

HONOURS LIST 1971-2

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP	LEEDS
CHALLENGE CUP	ST. HELENS
LEAGUE LEADERS	LEEDS
YORKSHIRE CUP	HULL KR
LANCASHIRE CUP	WIGAN
FLOODLIT TV COMPETITION	ST. HELENS
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TOPIC OF THE DAY

...THE 100 GREATEST RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS - EVER! (Well, 1951 to 2001)

60 KEVIN WARD. Castleford and St Helens prop Ward was a fearsome man mountain who could mix it with the best. Britain's best number 8 for most of the '80s, Ward toughed it out with the Aussies on eight occasions and was especially prominent on the 1988 tour. A wonderful competitor whose name would have been first on anyone's front row team sheet when in his pomp.



Horne, Bolton was another with 8 Australian Tests to his name.

58 JOHN STOPFORD. The last time Swinton had a great team in the mid '60s British international Stopford formed a devastating left-wing partnership with Alan Buckley (back in the days when you thought of centre and wingman as partners rather than two footballers just thrown together by accident). For finishing power few could match Stopford and it didn't matter whether it was near to the line or from a distance. On the two occasions Buckley and Stopford played together for Britain against Australia at Headingley in 1963 and Sydney in 1966 Britain won both (16-5 and 17-13).

57 KEITH FIELDING. Schoolmaster Fielding was a crowd pleaser if ever there was one and the ex-Moseley and England R.U. star developed a wonderful rapport with the home fans at Salford. But then he was the scorer of some scintillating tries set up by the likes of Chris Hesketh and David Watkins. Like all great wingers Fielding in full flight was a wonderful sight and in a great Salford side in the late '70s he was frequently in full flight in particular to the tune of a club record 46 in 1973. But, more than that, at a time when Rugby League was not highly thought of (has there ever been a time when it was?) Fielding demolished all opposition from all sports as the winner of B.B.C. T.V.'s Superstars series, single handedly raising the profile of our game (And I bet if ever it were repeated a Rugby League player would feature prominently again).



59 DAVE BOLTON. Wigan stand-off Bolton was a side-stepping, break-making, try-scoring, try-creating, phenomenon. One of the injured heroes (broken collar bone) of the 1958 Brisbane Test, Bolton was instrumental in Wigan's Wembley triumphs of '58 and '59. A natural successor to Willie

slightly older version, especially after his move to Wigan, was an even more complete footballer. In his prime Goodway was one of the finest tacklers ever to grace a British shirt and he had the honour of captaining his country in 1985. 100% all the time Goodway was rightly chosen as one of the original inductees to the Oldham Hall of Fame.

55 DEAN BELL. 'Mean' Dean was another star of Wigan's phenomenal trophy-winning sides of the '80s. Despite a tendency to tackle high, Bell earned a reputation as a fearsome competitor with Carlisle, Wigan, Leeds and New Zealand. Unusually for a Kiwi, Bell actually represented Cumbria against the 1982 Australian tourists. A great competitor who could hold his own against anyone.

54 KURT SORESENSEN. Second-row and later prop and another New Zealand international, Sorensen was the lynchpin of a very good Widnes side. It was the platform created by punishing forwards like Kurt that enabled quality backs like Davies, Offiah, Wright, Currier and Tait to flourish. Wherever the battle was hottest and at its most ferocious there you would find Sorensen. A member of the outstanding Widnes team which won the World Club Championship against Penrith Panthers in 1989.

53 MICK MARTYN. When you think of Barrow you think of William Horne and when you think of Leigh you think of Mick Martyn. Signing for his hometown and only club in 1952 at 16 years old, Mick Martyn played until 1968 and toured in 1958. Fit, enthusiastic and loyal, Martyn was a fast-running second-row who created a world record for try-scoring by a forward. For Leigh he scored 189 tries in 329 appearances. Add in his representative appearances and he had 213 tries in 353, a record worthy of a top class wing let alone a second-rower.

52 FRANK FOSTER. Barrovian Foster was one of those formidable forwards it was not advisable to tangle with. He appeared with Workington, Hull K.R., Bradford, Barrow, Oldham, Cumberland and Great Britain. It is said that he never failed to complete a match. A great ball handling prop Foster was also an excellent kicker and an inspirational leader. His 47 appearances for Oldham were dynamic and transformed a poor side into a team to be reckoned with in 1972 and 1973.



51 KEVIN IRO. New Zealander Iro is one of the great centres of the modern game. On his day 'the Beast' as he is nicknamed, is capable of running amok against the very best of defences. Spells with Wigan, Leeds and St. Helens have brought him every honour available in the game and his

powerful running has been one of the great sights of modern rugby over the last 15 years.

56 ANDY GOODWAY. No Oldham follower needs to be told of the exploits of Andy Goodway, for he is arguably the greatest second-row ever to represent the club. Young Goodway was a tearaway runner off the passes of Mick Morgan and Terry Flanagan. A

Stat Attack

APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2001-02

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	SUBSTITUTIONS	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
M. SIBSON	10		6			24
G. DODD	8	1	1			4
D. GIBBONS	10		5			20
J. GODDARD	10		3			12
J. McNICHOLAS	10		8			32
J. BRADDISH	10		3	30	2	74
N. RODEN	7	3	3			12
S. KNOX	3					
J. HOUGH	10		3			12
J. CLEGG	10					
P. FARRELL	10		3			12
B. HENARE	8		2			8
L. DORAN	9	1	3			12
T. HODGKINSON	2					
G. BARBER	3	7				
D. GUEST		10				
L. CASEY	1	3				
W. COWELL	2	5				
K. BRENNAN	3	2	1			4
A. PROCTOR		5				
P. NORTON	3	1	1			4
A. GIBBONS	1	1				

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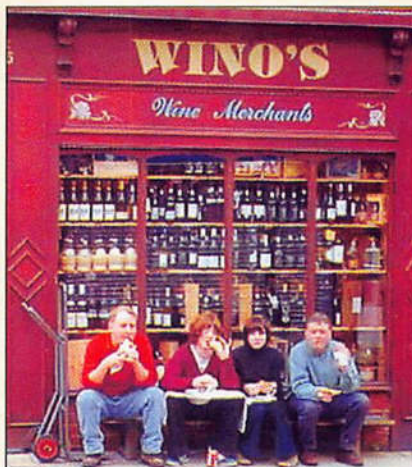
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Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER		F - A	
2	SWINTON LIONS	H	P
16	Hull K.R.	L	10-26 2032
30	Leigh	L	12-46 3388

JANUARY			
6	YORK	W	32-16 1130
13	Dewsbury Rams	L	6-30 1410
20	CHORLEY LYNX	W	34-2 1114
27	WEST HULL (C' Cup Rd3)	W	38-4 1131

FEBRUARY			
3	Workington	L	20-28 991
10	ST HELENS (C' Cup Rd4)	L	6-40 4089
17	GATESHEAD	W	54-2 931
23	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H	P

MARCH			
3	Huddersfield	L	18-28 3191
10	DONCASTER DRAGONS	H	
15	Sheffield Eagles	A	
24	FEATHERSTONE	H	
29	Rochdale Hornets	A (Nat Cup)	

APRIL			
1	DEWSBURY RAMS	H (Nat Cup)	
7	Huddersfield	A (Nat Cup)	
14	KEIGHLEY	H (Nat Cup)	
21	Hunslet Hawks	A (Nat Cup)	

MAY			
5	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H (Nat Cup)	
12	National Cup Quarter Finals		
19	National Cup Semi Finals		
26	National Cup Final		

JUNE			
2	Keighley Cougars	A	
9	WHITEHAVEN	H	
16	Barrow	A	
23	BATLEY BULLDOGS	H	
30	Hunslet Hawks	A	

JULY			
7	LEIGH	H	
14	Chorley Lynx	A	
21	Whitehaven	A	
28	HUDDERSFIELD	H	

AUGUST			
4	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	
11	Batley Bulldogs	A	
18	Rochdale Hornets	A	
25	WORKINGTON	H	

SEPTEMBER			
1	York	A	
8	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	

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Phil FARRELL

Gareth BARBER

Anthony GIBBONS

David FOSTER

Danny GUEST



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Coach: St John ELLIS

Richard BAKER

Anton GARCIA

Marvin GOLDEN

Simon IRVING

Jason LEE

Martin MOANA

Chris ROSS

Gareth HANDFORD

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Jamie FIELDEN

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