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The Roughyeds



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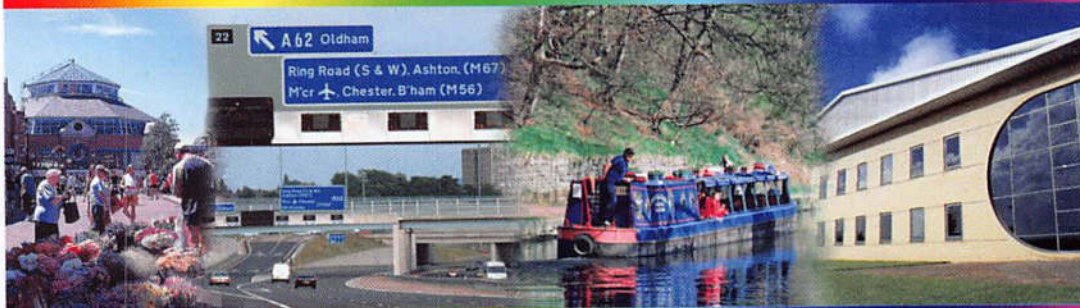
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IN THE HOT SEAT

with Christopher Hamilton

TODAY sees the next instalment in our attempt to climb into the top nine of the NFP when we take on Batley.

After recent results a win today will see us move at least one place higher in the table, but although we have not moved for a while we have been closing the gap on the teams above us in the division.

This season has again seen many people write us off and it is to the players' great credit that they are in the process of proving the doubters wrong. We have been on a run of decent form over the last few games and we are obviously hoping that it continues over the course of the next sequence of games.

The wins at Keighley and Barrow have done nothing for my nerves and it is to be hoped that we start to win by a large margin before the NHS has a run of Oldhamers wanting copious amounts of tranquilisers!!!

Today's game will be hard as Batley will be out for revenge from the defeat they suffered here in the National Cup in early May.

The rest of the Northern Ford Premiership season is taking on increased importance as by now you will be aware that the League will split into two divisions at the end of this year. There is already a healthy debate taking place between clubs as to whether or not the split should happen and the momentum of those who feel it should not is gathering pace.

It is a matter of major significance to all the clubs and no more so than this season when everybody is finding it hard financially and all of the problems are compounded by the fact that this season is one of the longest on record. If anybody is making money in our division or even breaking even then they are performing minor miracles and on that basis clubs are understandably concerned as to what will happen if they are in division two next time around.

I personally feel that all of the principles behind the structure are spot on, but I have my doubts over the timing of it all, particularly as several clubs have indicated that if the changes do take place they will not enter a team into the competition.

The RFL need to be aware of the problems that running a club brings and to ensure that the decisions that are made do not mean clubs going out of business, watch this space!!

On a personal note I hope that today brings better weather for a home game and with it more spectators. You do not need to be a genius to work out that we are feeling the pinch as much as anyone this season and everybody at the club not least the players, deserve more people watching their efforts. If you know of anybody who is no longer attending games for whatever reason please act as an ambassador for the club by urging them to come to games and tell them what they are missing - your help could make all the difference.

A continued thank you to all the fans who support us on a regular basis and to those of you who have helped us to increase membership of our Lottery. We still have a lot of work to do so any further assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



The Roughyeds

Oldham Rugby League Football Club (1997) Limited

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Derek Turner 1955-59, Bob Irving

1964-74, Martin Murphy 1966-82,

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.



THERE WILL BE ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE BEFORE TODAY'S GAME IN MEMORY OF ALEX GIVVONS WHO SADLY DIED ON FRIDAY 14TH JUNE 2002.

ALEX, WHO REPRESENTED HIS NATIVE WALES LOYALLY SERVED THE OLDHAM CLUB AS BOTH PLAYER AND OFFICIAL FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS.

TODAY OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES ARE WITH HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF OLDHAM RLFC (1997) LTD.

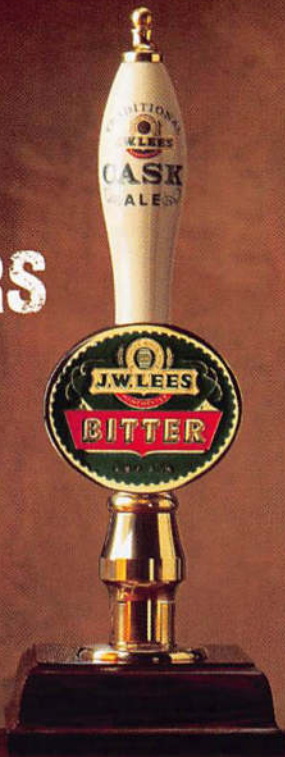
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COACH'S COMMENTS... with John Harbin



WELCOME to Batley Bulldogs for the second time this season and I'm certain they will be a different proposition this time around. We had a comfortable victory over them in the Buddies Cup but the return of Dean Lawford, Glen Tomlinson and Craig Lingard will prove to be a significant boost for them. They are in a similar situation to us in the League and two points will be the target of both teams.

Our victory over Barrow last week now sees us only one point outside of the play off positions and today's match and next week's visit to Hunslet could prove to be of vital importance come the end of the season. We certainly have a tough month in July, with games against Huddersfield, Leigh, Whitehaven and Chorley. By my reckonings a team needs 30 to 32 points to be in play off contention which means we need 16 points from our remaining 13 games. No easy task but one I feel we can achieve.

I was particularly pleased last week, with the form of Mark Sibson, who has been through a sticky patch but come out all guns blazing in the last two games, Neil Roden has also impressed following his absence with illness, and has given us one or two extra options in attack. The icing on the cake of course was Steve Molloy's field goal. I'd love to be able to say that it was a coaching tactic and something we practised regularly, but I'd be lying if I did. "Molly" of course, would have you believe that it was a stroke of genius on his

part. He actually said after the game that he wished we had only won by the one point!

On the injury front, Anthony Murray has a nasty shin injury, which is expected to keep him out for two weeks, Gavin Dodd is struggling with an ankle injury and Ryan Staziker is to visit the specialist this week for a scan on his arm. Good news is that Phil Farrell and Joey Hayes are only days away from being declared fit and could even figure in today's match. John Braddish is also well on the way to recovery and is probably only a week away from making his comeback.

Congratulations to Shaun Gartland and the Academy side for their great win against Sheffield. The coaching staff is confident that a number of these youngsters will figure prominently in Oldham first grade sides in the near future. A special mention to Adam Sharples who was recently selected for the Lancashire Academy side - his first step towards Great Britain selection.

On a final note, it was great to see so many Oldham shirts at Barrow last week. Thanks for your support, it was appreciated.

John Harbin

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In Yer Face



OLDHAM RLFC ran another very successful trip to the Origin match at Headingley last Tuesday. Although Lancashire looked to have the game sewn up at half-time when leading 30-0, Yorkshire's second half comeback really set the fixture alight and everyone came away from the game feeling they had had good value for their money. Not only that, but the club came away with a small profit on the venture and at a time when money is getting tight that has to be a good thing. I urge you seriously to consider the various trips the club organises because not only does it help raise much needed finance, but you are guaranteed a good time.

Meanwhile, as to the match itself and Friday's encounter at the J.J.B. Stadium [both Lancashire victories by 36-28 and 22-18 respectively]. I think the fixtures were revealing as to potential selection for Great Britain both for the game against Australia next month and for the series with New Zealand in November. As much as anything the matches reveal who not to pick as much as who is worth a Test jumper. Chief among the 'not-up-to-it' brigade in my view is Yorkshire captain Ryan Sheridan. I find it extraordinary that Sheridan was made captain and would suggest that at the heart of Yorkshire's woes as they meandered to a 30-0 half-time deficit was a total lack of leadership. After the break Castleford's skipper Danny Orr came on, took the game by the scruff of the neck and transformed the match. So much so that Sheridan was effectively sidelined with Orr dictating play at first receiver. It was not even that Yorkshire used their halfbacks one on the left and one on the right as is fashionable these days.

The situation with Danny Orr also highlighted another bugbear of mine, namely players playing out of position. Yorkshire had pushed Leon Pryce into stand-off and, although I know players have to be extremely versatile these days, I am not a great fan of wholesale, out-of-position selections. So, for example, I think it is a weakness not to be able to decide who is the better fullback, Radlinski or Wellens, or who is the better loose-forward, Farrell or Sculthorpe. Only in the absence of a credible alternative would I play Radlinski at centre or Sculthorpe at stand-off if they do not play there regularly for their clubs. If you give the Australians (and these days the Kivis too) half a chance to find a weakness you can be certain that they will exploit it. I wonder how many of you agree?

Others in the 'not-quite-up-to-it' category for me include players like Anthony Farrell and Mark Hilton, both wholehearted triers and good clubmen but not exactly likely to put the fear of God into the Aussies. Then there are the ones for the future like Mark Calderwood, Rob Burrow, Stuart Donlan, Matt Diskin, Ben Westwood or David Mills. It is right to give these players a chance and to encourage their development but they are, as yet, unproven and it could be two, three or four years before any of them are ready to step onto the big stage.

All of which tends to suggest that Great Britain must fall back on the usual suspects and that we are still, perhaps, not over-blessed with sufficient numbers of top quality players. Well, that's not entirely true, but we do struggle if we have more than our share of injuries and at the present time we must already rule out the following for next month: Keiran Cunningham, James Lowes, Paul Anderson, Gary Connolly and Sean Long. Meanwhile Andy Farrell, Paul Sculthorpe, Stuart Fielden, Chris Joynt, Martin Gleeson and Mike Forshaw are currently injured so it's to be hoped they recover in time.

Assuming the last named players do recover who should face the Aussies? Well, how about this:-

Fullback - Kris Radlinski. Currently the best fullback in the world in my opinion. In the second half at Headingley Ian Millward had swapped Paul Wellens to fullback and Radlinski to centre as Yorkshire piled on 28 unanswered points. The Wigan man was moved back just in time to make the match winning tackle as Yorkshire broke and threatened to score a try which would have given them the lead for the first time. Proof if ever any was needed that Radlinski is the man for the job.

Wingmen - Leon Pryce and Anthony Stewart. The former is already a proven performer, the latter steady as a rock and a great finisher. Best of the rest in the Origin series was Karl Pratt.

Centres - Martin Gleeson and Keith Senior. Gleeson is the best young centre in the game - remember him tearing Oldham apart at Stalybridge in the Challenge Cup? And Senior has come on leaps and bounds: he has the physique and experience to match it with the best now.

Stand-off - Danny Orr is my choice, but I'd expect David Waite to go with Paul Sculthorpe.

Scrum half - Sean Long is our best but he's injured. I wouldn't switch Kevin Sinfield, because again, for me and it's only an opinion, Paul Deacon is the next best No. 7 we have and he should be given his head.

Front Row - With Cunningham injured the front-row picks itself: Terry O'Connor, Terry Newton, Barry McDermott.

Second Row - What about Adrian Morley (if fit and available though I don't think he is) and Jamie Peacock. David Waite may find a place for Kevin Sinfield here, hopefully not one for Andy Hay. If recovered in time Chris Joynt is a certainty and an outside bet is John Stankevitch who is coming on great at Saints.

Loose Forward - Paul Sculthorpe (Oldham bias for you there!) but you can be certain that Andy Farrell will wear 13.

And finally, if you went with my first choice selections you could have a bench comprising Kevin Sinfield, Andy Farrell, Chris Joynt, Paul Wellens, Nathan Sykes and Stuart Fielden!



'THE DON'

ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to June 23rd yesteryear

SIX years ago, on Sunday 23rd June 1996, the Roughyeds were playing Super League rugby, and a 20 points to fourteen victory over Halifax at Thrum Hall that day lifted them up to seventh place in the table. Oldham led 10-6 at half time and when Halifax failed to penetrate the Roughyeds' defence, despite thirty consecutive tackles early in the second period, the writing was on the wall. Loose-forward David Bradbury was the pick of the Oldham side, scoring two tries, whilst hooker John Clarke and scrumhalf Martin Crompton also touched down. Centre Paul Topping and substitute Francis Maloney added goals.

On that same afternoon, Sunday 23rd June 1996, Batley suffered a disappointing 29-24 home defeat against bitter local rivals Dewsbury. The Gallant Youths were 15 points in arrears after 50 minutes before an exciting revival almost snatched the points. Centre Richard Price (2), winger Gary Thornton, second-rower Darren Summerill and substitute Darren Moxon scored tries with fullback Phil Holmes landing two goals.

Next Wednesday in Sydney the 2002 Australian State of Origin will be decided. Three years ago, on Wednesday 23rd June 1999, the deciding match ended in a 10-10 draw before a crowd of 39,371 at Lang Park, Brisbane. It was only the ninth draw recorded in the 287 match series. Queensland had won the title during the previous season and so retained the trophy, a scenario that would be repeated should Wednesday's match also end all square.

Seventy-four years ago, on Saturday 23rd June 1928, a record attendance for the Brisbane Exhibition Ground, some 39,300, watched Great Britain win the first test of that 1928 tour by 15-12. After previously playing in sky blue and maroon hoops, representing New South Wales and Queensland, Australia played in green and gold for the very first time. Green representing gum leaves and gold for wattle, the Australian type fencing made out of woven branches. Oldham's Bob Sloman was included in the British pack whilst at centre was Joe Oliver, a Cumbrian who joined Batley from Huddersfield in January 1927 for £550, quite a sum in those days. Oliver's stay at Mount Pleasant lasted only 18 months. He moved to Hull on his return from the tour and

gave great service to the Airlie Birds for the following ten years, scoring almost 2,000 points.



Sid Rix

In 1924 it was Great Britain who changed their playing strip, adding the red and blue 'V' to their previously all white gear. It was on this day in 1924, Monday 23rd June, that those colours were first used in a test match. A crowd of 50,005 were in attendance at Sydney Cricket Ground and most left disappointed following Australia's 22-3 defeat. Referee Tom McMahon took the brunt of the criticism after dismissing Kangaroo prop Norman Potter, the official being assaulted as he left the pitch. The final British try was scored by Oldham winger Sid Rix following a break by Batley loose-forward Frank Gallagher. Gallagher joined Batley from Dewsbury in October 1922 for what was then a club record £600 transfer fee. During his five years at Mount Pleasant, Gallagher represented Yorkshire eight times, captaining the county on one occasion, and England seven times. He played in all six tests on that 1924 tour when he demonstrated his versatility and footballing ability by appearing at stand-off in a couple of those test matches.

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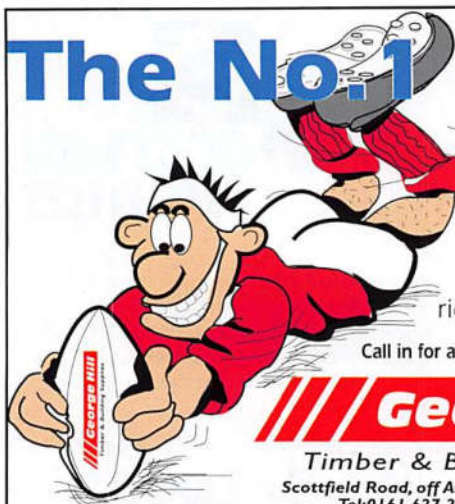
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ACADEMY FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

MAY

11	OLDHAM	v	Sheffield Eagles	W 22-20
15	OLDHAM	v	Keighley Cougars	W 60-12
18	OLDHAM	v	Workington Town	P
25	Dewsbury Rams	v	OLDHAM	L 20-12

JUNE

2	Keighley Cougars	v	OLDHAM	W 46-26
8	OLDHAM	v	Whitehaven	P
16	Sheffield Eagles	v	OLDHAM	W 40-36
22	OLDHAM	v	Doncaster Dragons	2.30
29	Barrow Raiders	v	OLDHAM	2.30

JULY

6	OLDHAM	v	Leigh Centurions	2.30
21	Whitehaven	v	OLDHAM	1.00
27	OLDHAM	v	Barrow Raiders	2.30

AUGUST

3	OLDHAM	v	Dewsbury Rams	2.30
11	Leigh Centurions	v	OLDHAM	12.45
18	Workington Town	v	OLDHAM	1.00

SEPTEMBER

1	Doncaster Dragons	v	OLDHAM	1.00
8	Academy First Division Grand Final Play Offs			
21	Academy Championship Grand Final Play Offs			
28	Academy First Division Grand Final			

U21 ALLIANCE APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2002

PLAYER	APP	SUB	T	G	DG	Pts
G. DODD	2					
M. HARLAND	6		2			8
A. GIBBONS	1					
S. CONWAY	5			2		4
J. MITCHELL	6	4	1	2		8
G. BARBER	1		1	3		10
P. BENNETT	7		2			8
D. GUEST	7		1			4
J. KIRKLAND	6	4	1			4
A. SHARPLES	7					
D. NEWTON	8	1	1			4
A. WHITAKER	2	1				
G. JOHNSON	10		2	6		20
J. WANKLYN		6				
A. CLAYTON		4				
A. PROCTOR	9	1	2			8
D. HEYWOOD		2				
C. CAMPBELL	5		8			32
K. BRENNAN	4		4	16		48
D. LACEY	7	2	1			4
D. ATKINSON	1					
M. GRADY	5					
R. ARROWSMITH	1					
K. LANCASHIRE	8	2	1	5		14
D. HULBERT	3	3	1			4
N. GRENNAN		1				
A. MURRAY	5		1			4
M. McDERMOTT	5	1	3			12
J. BRASSINGTON	3	2	1			4
R. HOLLIC	3					
T. LANSMAN	3	1	3			12
D. NANYN		1				
W. COWELL	5		5			20
D. NORCROSS		3	1			4
M. SIBSON	2		3			12
R. STAZICKER	2		1			4
S. BROWN	3	1	1			4
J. HEYES	1					
N. RODEN	1					
C. CARTER		1				
R. PROUDMAN		1				
J. CLEGG		1				

U21 ALLIANCE SPRING CUP RESULTS

Thursday	14th February	Dewsbury Rams	(A)	Won	18-12
Saturday	2nd March	Rochdale Hornets	(A)	Lost	32-10
Saturday	22nd March	Workington Town	(H)	Won	30-14
Saturday	30th March	Batley Bulldogs	(A)	Lost	74-8
Saturday	6th April	Rochdale Hornets	(H)	Lost	22-10
Saturday	13th April	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	Won	48-20
Thursday	25th April	Batley Bulldogs (Semi Finals)	(A)	Lost	36-18

U21 ALLIANCE CONTINUATION LEAGUE FIXTURES

Saturday	18th May	Batley Bulldogs	(A)	Won	52-6
Thursday	23rd May	Rochdale Hornets	(H)	Won	22-21
Thursday	6th June	Batley Bulldogs	(H)	Won	48-22
Thursday	13th June	Rochdale Hornets	(A)	Lost	52-0

NFP Round Up

NEWS on the NFP front is certainly a mixed bag this week with, unfortunately, the bad news outweighing the good. Once again the powers that be in the NFP are split right down the middle as to the format of the league next year. Whilst there are good arguments for and against a split, surely the important thing is a little consistency over decision making. The Strategic Review of which this is a part was supposed to look at the long term and it is surely working directly against this to start stopping and changing again. Surely everybody knows that this had been one of the major problems in the past. I agree completely with Richard Lewis when he says that the decision on the split was made at the correct time when no games had been played and therefore there was no vested interest. To change it now when clubs have a good idea which side of the divide they are going to be on would, in my opinion, be suicidal. In the long term clubs cannot survive by depending on supporters from the opposition club when playing at home. At the same time the RFL should be showing struggling clubs good practice and actively helping in their long term survival.

It was sad to see the police having to be brought into activities on and off the field concerned with our great game of Rugby League. One of the major plusses in our game is that it is still a family game with fans from opposing sides sitting happily together and partaking in friendly banter and players, in our very physical game, generally smiling all the way through it and shaking hands and having a meal together after the game. The fact that a Hull KR player has been arrested on suspicion of assault and causing grievous bodily harm, and the injured player being interviewed about alleged racial abuse will do no good for our game. It is hoped once the full details are known that the RFL will take decisive action over the matter.

On a brighter note, well for Leigh Centurions at least, it was interesting to note that the Leigh club's squad intend to become full-time for the run in to the Northern Ford Premiership season. They

want to avoid what happened last season when they appeared to run out of steam at the end of the season and crashed out of the play-offs. Leigh obviously feel this will help to put them on a par with their main rivals Huddersfield who already have a full time squad.

At the same time their other rivals Rochdale Hornets are having trouble with their pies. To be more exact it is the suppliers of the pies, their caterers, who are causing the problem. Hornets have finished the caterers because their service was, in the words of Chief Executive, Paul Reynolds, not up to standard. The caterers don't agree and say the club have reneged on paying bills. Who knows that famous old Rugby League cry of 'THE PIES HAVE COME', might not be heard at the next Hornet's home game.

There were certainly some shock results last week in the NFP with Leigh being soundly beaten away to Featherstone and Whitehaven getting back into gear and beating Hull KR in what appears to have been quite a niggly game at The Recreation Ground. Hornets too, looked at one time as if they were going down at Cougar Park until they came back with 14 points in 9 minutes in the second half. And we don't need to be reminded how close we came to defeat at Barrow. These and all the other results make the league table a very interesting read at the present time and this week's fixtures could well result in certain clubs making significant moves up and down the table. Let's hope it's an upwards move for the Roughyeds.

NFP Fixtures Sunday, 23rd June

Chorley Lynx v Doncaster Dragons
Dewsbury Rams v Sheffield Eagles
Hull Kingston Rovers v Barrow Raiders
Leigh Centurions v Keighley Cougars
Oldham v Batley Bulldogs
Whitehaven v Rochdale Hornets
Workington Town v Huddersfield Giants

IN Town TODAY



BATLEY BULLDOGS

PAUL STOREY - Head Coach

Made his debut in the Yorkshire Semi final defeat at Castleford in 1981. In total he made 277 appearances (standing 17th in the all time appearance chart for the club) and was voted Player of the Year in 1983-84 and 1985-86. He took over the coaching reins last season from David Ward, having previously been the Alliance Team Coach.

GARY THORNTON - Assistant Coach

A former Wakefield Trinity wingman who scored 79 tries in over 200 appearances for the club. Joined Paul's coaching team last season.

MICHAEL BOSTOCK. Age 21. A recent signing from Huddersfield Giants, a utility back of whom great things are anticipated.

WILL CARTLEDGE. A local product who broke to the first team last season, winning the Man of the Match in the victory against Dewsbury Rams. The former Knottingley Rockware second row forward has made 31 appearances to date scoring 3 tries in the process.

MARK CASS. A tremendous servant to the club who is due a testimonial season in 2002, formerly played with Hull and won the Player of the Year award in 1994-95 and was runner up in the 1997 season. Mark currently stands in 28th position in the club's all time list of try scorers.

JEREMY DYSON. Fullback or wingman who is approaching 100 appearances for the club and 300 points. Formerly played with Thornhill ARLFC and Hull KR. 'Joe' established himself as a first team regular last season.

KRIS LYTHER. 18 years old joined us to play 'A' team as a 16 year old. Now grabbed a spot in the first team, earlier promise now been realised.

PAUL HARRISON. Experienced former Hull and Keighley back row forward who is currently in his second spell at Batley. Paul is approaching his 150th appearance for the club and currently stands 31st in the all time try scorer chart.

MARVIN COX. Signed this season from Leeds Rhinos. very powerful, good burst of speed. Very promising youngster.

STEVE HILL. Prop forward joined us from York recently. Has made a solid start. Keeps going, an asset to the team.

RYAN HORSLEY. A former Wakefield and Featherstone Rovers utility player who impressed in his first season with Batley last year. He appeared in all of the club's 30 games registering 5 tries.

CHRIS HOUGH. Age 20. A recent signing from Rochdale Hornets. He can play either as a halfback or in the hooking position.

DEAN LAWFORD. Age 24. Experienced halfback formerly of Sheffield Eagles, Leeds and Halifax Blue Sox, he was the first Englishman to score in the Super League for Sheffield against Paris. A good goal kicker he can also slot into the hooking role.

CHRIS LINGARD. Age 24. Star fullback who has scored 58 tries in 62 starts. The former Sheffield Eagle was voted Player of the Year in 2000-01. His

match winning hat-trick of tries against Dewsbury Rams proved to be the highlight of last season.

DANNY MANN. Age 20. Ex Wigan centre. Danny made the right centre position his own in his first year at the club, before injury brought an abrupt end to his season. Great things are expected from Danny this time.

JOE NAIDOLE. Age 37. A seasoned campaigner who joined the club in the close season in the twilight of his career. Previous clubs include Huddersfield, Featherstone, Wakefield, Oldham, Doncaster and Workington. His experience should be invaluable to the teams younger players.

DAVID ROURKE. Age 20. A second row forward in his second spell with the 'Bulldogs'. He previously made his debut against York in season 2000. He arrived from Huddersfield Giants in the close season.

MARK TOOHEY. Signed from Batley Boys, progressed into Alliance and then first team, now playing really well.

CRAIG STEVENS. Signed at a 16 year old. Recently with Hunslet, yet to reach full potential.

ROGER SIMPSON. A popular utility player who joined the club in 1996 from Bradford Bulls as part of the Glen Tomlinson transfer deal. An ex-Great Britain international, Roger has amassed 51 tries as a Bulldog player and is a firm favourite with the fans - especially the women.

GARY SMITH. The ex Leeds Rhinos, Canberra Raiders and Castleford Tigers back row forward also signed during the close season. Great things are anticipated from this young Bulldog.

ANDREW SPINK. Age 22. A tough tackling back row forward who has recently joined the club from Dewsbury Rams in the close season. Should figure prominently in the first team squad.

GLEN TOMLINSON. Current club captain who is also in his second spell at the club. The popular Australian passed the century of tries for the club last season and was voted Player of the Year in 1992-93 and 1993-94 seasons. His all round experience will be invaluable both on and off the field this coming season.

CRAIG WRIGHT. Age 29. The former Castleford Tigers, Oldham and York back row forward joined the club last season. Despite injury keeping him out of the first half of the season, he showed his quality in the latter half of the season and should prove to be a tremendous asset during 2001-2.

DAVID SMITH. Joined from Keighley Cougars previous club York Wasps. 'Tough as teak'. 100% effort in every match.

LEON WILLIAMSON. Joined from Gateshead, ex Dewsbury. Made a very promising start.



Walkerbouts . . .

... with Brian Walker

THE G.W.SMITH SHIELD!!

The RFL announced earlier in the month the details of the forthcoming autumn Kiwi tour highlighted with three Tests played on consecutive November Saturday evenings at Blackburn, Huddersfield and Wigan. In a recent editorial the sports leading newspaper 'Rugby League and League Express' has challenged the RFL for once to pay more than just lip service to 'marketing' the tour and also suggesting that the series be brought in line with the Ashes by creating a trophy to be contested by the two sides. It goes one step further by suggesting that this should be the A.H.Baskerville Shield in recognition of the man who brought the very first touring 'rugby league' side to these shores the 1907 New Zealand All Golds.

A great idea but would this honour the right man?

Make no mistake the 1907/8 tour made a impact on the then still struggling Northern Union greater than any following incoming tour Kiwi or Kangaroo. It also played a major influence in the forming of the 1908 Australian tour and with that the future of international rugby league.



Albert Baskerville

I would never argue that the young and enterprising, union playing Albert Baskerville was a force behind the organisation of the tour but without the input of one George W.Smith a wing threequarter who had previously toured here with the 1905 New Zealand union side the venture would never have got off the ground.

Smith had seen first hand the new code played by paid footballers under the rules of the Northern Union, and had swiftly identified the profit that could be made in returning with a tour party of 'professional' rugby players. Smiths influence and a potential pot of gold was what fuelled Baskerville's interest.



George Smith



Smith & Baskerville featured on a New Zealand postage stamp

It was the silver tongued Smith that persuaded many of the players to take a chance with the tour. Fellow 1905 tourists Duncan McGregor, Bill Makrell and Messa Johnson along with other New Zealand internationals Tom Cross, Jim Turtill, Edgar Wrigley and Eric Watkins gave credence to a venture for which a £50 investment from each of the trail-blazers was a prior requisite with a share of the tour profits the carrot.

The tour managed by H.J.Palmer was a resounding success playing many matches in front of capacity crowds the All Golds (a caustic title dubbed by the New Zealand union authorities!) winning the test series two to one producing an handsome tour profit of £5,000. George Smith played in twenty four of the thirty five matches including all three Tests. Baskerville took part in just one.

At the end of the tour several noted players including Smith and Lance Todd signed for British clubs Smith, spending the rest of his life here.

Walkerbout

...with Brian Walker



The tourists also played matches in Australia both on their outward and inward journeys. During the return visit threequarter Albert Baskerville played in the first ever Australia-New Zealand Test in Sydney scoring a try in the All Golds' 11-10 victory.

Tragedy hit the squad on the homeward leg to New Zealand when on the 20th of May 1908 the unfortunate Baskerville died from pneumonia.

There was more to George Smith than being just a 1907 'rugby league' tourist. **Much more.**

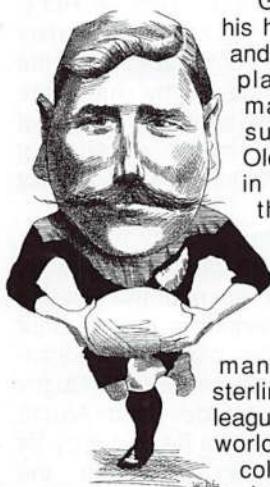
A champion jockey riding Impulse to victory in the 1894 NZ Cup, an athlete who won a succession of national sprint and hurdle titles including the British AAA 120 yard hurdles his biggest moment coming in 1904 setting a world record of 58.5 seconds for the 440 yard hurdles.

A brilliant rugby union winger first touring Australia with the New Zealand side in 1897 and during the 1905 union tour to the UK, France and United States the lightening fast winger scored 19 tries in as many matches.



The New Zealand government originated the **New Zealand Sports Hall Of Fame** back in 1990 and there are now over 100 inductees covering a myriad of sports but only three from rugby league Ces Mountford, Des White and Smith.

The New Zealand Sports Hall Of Fame says of George Smith **'FOR ABILITY AND VERSATILITY, GEORGE SMITH IS PERHAPS THE MOST REMARKABLE SPORTSMAN EVER PRODUCED BY NEW ZEALAND'**



George Smith made his home in this country and for almost 20 years played for and managed the most successful ever Oldham side. He died in Oldham in 1954 at the age of 80. His daughter Edna, now in her mid eighties still lives in the town.

Here then is a man who has given sterling service to rugby league BOTH sides of the world. Smiths 1907 tour colleague Lance Todd is immortalised by the

trophy of the same name. **Now, surely, it's George Smiths turn.**



Todd & Smith make their debut for Wigan & Oldham at Central Park 19.2.08

Painting by Stuart Smith

Michael's Match

... from the pen of Michael Turner



TODAY we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the Batley club to Hurst Cross for their second visit of the current season.

For the "past games" feature we look back twenty years to when Oldham RLFC played their first ever match at Boundary Park. The historic event came about after the 'Latics' agreed to let the Rugby club make use of their under-soil heating, in view of them having a five match backlog of postponed fixtures in the harsh winter of 1981-82.

The pitch on the day, January 10th 1982, was snow covered but perfectly playable. The 'Gallant Youths' opened the scoring when winger Oulton landed a penalty after eighteen minutes. This prompted Oldham into an immediate reply and the ex Rugby Union pair of Bob Mordell and Adrian Alexander combined well to fashion a try for Phil Ward. Mick Parrish added the

conversion and three minutes later increased the lead with a penalty goal. There was no further scoring until the last minute of the half when an Alan McCurrie break from acting half back made the opening for Terry Flanagan to score. Parrish was again on target with the conversion.

For the second half Ray Ashton came on for Paddy Kirwan at scrum half and the scoring was again commenced by an Oulton penalty. The game was made safe fifteen minutes into the new half when McCurrie again made the break, this time for Alexander to score and the Parrish conversion gave Oldham a commanding 17 - 4 advantage. Batley staged something of a comeback when Briggs and Cummins did well to get Savage over for a try. This was followed by an Oulton penalty with ten minutes to go, which seemed to have swung wide of the target but was given by the touch judges. Oldham hung on for the remainder of the game without much problem, to maintain their drive towards the Championship and, to all intents and purposes on another freezing weekend, were just glad to get a match out of the way.

OLDHAM:

A Taylor;
G Munro, B Caffery, M Parrish, P Ward;
A McEwen, P Kirwan;
B Hogan, A McCurrie, A Alexander,
R Mordell, M Worrall, T Flanagan.

Subs: R Ashton, A Platt (not used)

BATLEY:

Storey;
Jones, Shaw, Presley, Oulton;
Briggs, Pickerill;
Frain, Cummins, Waltham, Watts,
Whelan, Savage.

Subs: Pitts & Vodden.

Referee: Mr F Robinson - Leeds

Attendance: 2,743.



Terry Flanagan on his way to a try against Batley in January 1982.



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A Chance to Meet ANTHONY GIBBONS

Anthony, first of all, welcome to 'A Chance to Meet' and we always start off with the same question, where were you born and when?

Leeds born and bred. 18th January 1976. Of course, one of a pair of twins, but there are any other children in the family? I've just got an older sister, she's a couple of years older than myself. There's no point in me asking you what it's like to be a twin, because you don't know what it's like not to be one do you? That's right. I've been asked that question many times, but I always come up with the same answer, 'What's it like not being one?'

Any history of Rugby League in your family?

Yes, my uncle, Neil Hague, played rugby for Leeds for twelve years. He played in a couple of Challenge Cup Finals so I got involved in rugby and it's basically down to him. We used to go and watch him when we were kids from age, well from when I can't remember really, about four years old and I started playing from about seven. So it was your uncle that started you off, but what's your first memory? You say you went and watched him play, but what's the first game or thing that you can actually remember, a specific game or instance? Well I've seen many a Leeds game over the years, one that springs to mind is when Leeds first signed Eric Grothe when he first came over for a season. I think they played Bridgend and the kick off got delayed for about two and a half hours because they couldn't get up because of poor weather. I think he scored about five tries, so that's one that sticks out in the memory.

You watch Leeds from the age of four, but you said you start playing from about seven. Who was that with?

I played with East Leeds, a well known club in Leeds. They run teams right the way through to open age. I stayed there throughout my career. When you went there did you go as part of the 'double act', or by yourself? We both went down together. Again it was my uncle that took us down there. I can remember the first training session we got absolutely flogged on these hills somewhere. We were only about seven and we thought 'Oh no, what have we let ourselves in for?' But we stuck at it and lived to tell the tale.

Now I've got to ask you this question sometime, so I'll ask it sooner rather than later. Have you ever

played for a team where your brother's not been in the team? Err, No! The only time we've not played together is when one of us has been injured. But we've always played in the same teams together. So it's no good asking you if you've ever played in opposition to your brother? No!! Would you fancy that? Well, it'd be interesting. I'm sure we'd have a bit of a go at each other and there'd be a bit of pride at stake as well. When we were kids we always hated losing to each other and I don't think it's any different now! Has the competitive edge always been there between you? Always, yes. I mean, obviously you grow up and it fades away a little bit and you support each other more, but as kids Oh ... we fought like cats and dogs. We really did, but I suppose it wasn't such a bad thing. In a way. Certainly toughened you up for the game of rugby league.

After playing as a seven year old for East Leeds, when did you get into the professional game, or were there school boy honours? I played for Leeds City Boys and Yorkshire at a couple of age groups, but I actually signed for Leeds when I was sixteen. My brother had signed twelve months previous to that. When he signed and you didn't what did you feel then? Well I didn't feel anything really, obviously I was chuffed for him but at the time I had a pretty bad injury and I was out of the game for twelve months at the time he actually signed. So I didn't think anything. I was really pleased for him. Waiting to get over the injury and then sign yourself? Yes, that was it. Eager to get back and prove that I was good enough to be there as well. What position were you playing then? I can't remember, I've played that many positions. It started off when we were kids stand-off, scrum-half and played all the way through amateurs in those positions. Then when we got to about sixteen I started playing in the centre. Then we signed and I've just played all over from then to be honest.

Talk us through your time at Leeds. What was it like going to 'The Big Club'? Obviously it was a great honour. You sign for your Home Town club and you're just chuffed to bits. I just wanted to make great progress. I suppose for a while it was 'steady away'. I had a couple of good seasons and then got the chance to play in the first team. Unfortunately at the time Leeds were going through a pretty rough patch and the timing weren't the best but, you know. I don't suppose I've any ... No regrets.

So how did you come to leave Leeds? It's like anything really. You get told your not part of the plans for the future. It's a bitter pill to swallow but you've got to get on with life and look for different avenues. I went to Bramley on loan for a season, or half a season then a full season when Mike Ford came.

You mentioned Mike Ford there, where did you first come into contact with him and become a part of his team? When Mike first took over at Bramley. I'd never met him before. We were there and he came as coach and obviously it just went from there. Thoughts on Mike Ford as a coach? Well he was a big influence on my career and he certainly taught me a lot. He's been there and done it himself. I thought he was great.

That was my next question, who's been the greatest influence on your career so far? You've mentioned two, your uncle as a youngster then Mike Ford when you were at Bramley. What other influences has there been?

Certainly, THE influence on my career, without doubt, was my parents, Mam and Dad. They kept 'us' feet on the ground. They buy you everything as a kid, take you everywhere you want to go, so without a shadow of doubt it's got to be my parents.

You were at Bramley. Mike then came to Oldham. Why did you come to Oldham? Obviously I knew Mike as a coach from Bramley. Oldham used to be in Super League. From speaking to people the Club seems to be a 'sleeping giant', really well supported. I've never met a set of more loyal supporters than I have here. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here and still am doing.

What about your most memorable moment in rugby league taking it right from a youngster till last Sunday?

Well one that stands out like a sore thumb was playing at Wembley for Leeds City Boys under 11's and scoring a try. That one stands out. I've mentioned this to people before but scoring a try at Wembley, it doesn't matter what age you are, it must be an absolutely brilliant feeling? Ahh ... ahh ... I was 'that close' to bursting into tears. It was just fantastic. Throwing that ball over the line, you know... Scoring tries is nice where ever you are, but to score one at Wembley!! It'll live with me forever.

Your worst moment?

Worst moment? ... Again without doubt was the injury I got when I was fifteen which kept me out of the game for twelve months. It was so frustrating.

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As I mentioned before David signed (for Leeds) twelve months previous to me, so that made me even more eager to get back. But that was a pretty tough time.

Most amusing memory? Things happen on a pitch sometimes noticed by the crowd, sometimes not. So your most amusing memory?

You'd probably be better off asking my dad this question actually. He's probably able to laugh about it now, but at the time he certainly wasn't laughing. We were playing on the same team, me and our kid, and some disagreement happened and we ended up fighting each other. But you'd be better off asking him that. **Neither of you ever backed down then? From each other? No. No never.** There always came a time when we both looked at each other and said enough's, enough. We've been fighting for an hour and a half we're going to stop. **Who's the oldest? I'm oldest by six minutes. Six minutes. I'll wait until I interview your brother and tell him the Chinese thoughts on twins and who's the oldest.**

The biggest Character you've come across in the game?

I've come across a few characters really. One at Leeds was Harvey Howard. I think he was only there a season or two. He was a real joker, a real prankster. Obviously then there's the 'big fellow' here, Cleggy and Faz isn't too far behind either. **We're not going to get any more specific details about any incidents are we? I can't really think of any being honest and to be fair to them. Being fair to them that's a good one!!**

What about you ambition in rugby league?

My ambition in rugby league is just to play consistently well and to be a winner. Pretty simple. **Enjoying your game at the moment? Yes, I'm enjoying my game. If you're not enjoying it I think it's time to pack in. Do you still harbour ambitions to get back and play with the 'big boys' in Super League, or what? I don't really think about it to be honest. My immediate future lies with Oldham and winning games with them every week, so I don't look any further than that.**

Now I'll try this, but it's usually unsuccessful. Tell us a team mates, or even a brother's, secret?

(Quiet laughter) No news on that department, I'm afraid. (more laughter).

This interview will be broadcast in full on Radio Cavell - 1350AM next Friday during "Sports



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The subject of much research over the past decade, creatine has been shown to increase strength, boost exercise performance, and improve power.

According to one survey, almost 80% of the athletes at the 1996 Olympic games used creatine. "There's no magic bullet out there," says top American footballer Rob Zatchetka, "but creatine is about the closest thing."

Despite media claims, there is no scientific evidence that creatine use is harmful. Athletes have used creatine since the 1960's, with no reports of medical side effects. In fact, creatine has been used in some patients for up to five years to treat muscle wastage diseases.

Although creatine has been proven to be effective in power based sports (such as sprinting, weight lifting or swimming), there is now hard evidence showing it can enhance performance in athletes. A recent study showed that creatine leads to faster sprinting times and improved jumping performance after only six days [1].

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

IF ANYONE needed to be convinced of the power of the media in the context of sport, they only have to refer to the impact of the current soccer World Cup – and contrast it to our last, rather pathetic, effort in Rugby League.

By the time this is being read England may have been eliminated by Brazil – and it would be interesting to see then how much the blanket coverage is diminished. But for the first four weeks, TV, radio and newspapers have gone absolutely mad, it seems to me. I might think there is massive overkill – but, apparently, lots of people do not. What would we have given for even 10% of the hype, with spin-offs in terms of sponsorship, replica kits, attendances, etc. etc., instead of the rain-drenched repetitivity or, perhaps even worse, simply ignoring our own World Cup in 2000.

Presumably recent attendances have been a bi-product of the soccer mania? But overall figures for Super League and NFP combined appear to be around 20% down in recent weeks, and our 'crowd' at home to Whitehaven, and those at Keighley and Barrow, have been both depressing and worrying. All three games, in their different ways, have provided superb entertainment and it is tragic that so few people have been there to enjoy it.

Turning to the subject of our recent performances, it is difficult to explain

the contrast between the superb Whitehaven win on the one hand, and the, to say the least, fortunate victories at Keighley and Barrow. In both of the latter, it has to be said, we could very easily have lost, after frittering away what should have been comfortable match-winning leads. There is no doubt that credit is due, on the other hand, to the lads for really digging in when it mattered to secure the wins and the very vital four points that ensued. I also have strong sympathies for both of these opponents as clubs and it was good to see the performances they put in and the fantastic rugby they played as they whittled away at our margins. The weaknesses in our squad that were highlighted in these two games need to be eradicated and I'm sure John and his team are working on it, if we are to figure in the end-of-season shake-up.

There were individual errors, of course, in both games as there always are that contributed to our problems, but to me the weaknesses seemed much more serious than that. I wondered if the fact that both games were played on wide pitches was a factor? Did our compressed defence, as we tired, fail to cope with the opponents' rapid transfer of the ball, particularly down our right flank? No doubt the coaching staff are already sorting it.

Junior Roughyeds



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On Tuesday night he had a race against other mascots. At least he beat some superleague mascots and came a commendable third!!! Well done Red Ed.

On a sad note the Junior Roughyeds would like to send condolences to the family of Alex Givvons. I personally have known Alex for at least 20 years and we always had a natter about the Roughyeds. I remember him telling me once about a great player Oldham had just signed and he said he was proud to iron his Colt Jersey. That player was Andy Goodway! He will be sadly missed.

Enjoy the Game.

Adele

WE once again welcome Batley Bulldogs and hope that we watch an enjoyable game.

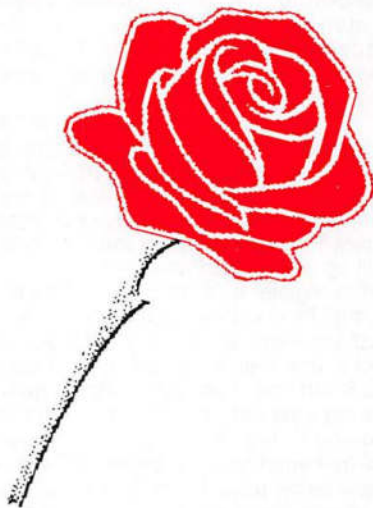
The Mascot for today's game is a long awaited mascot, **Nicola Woodward**, Nichola should have been the Mascot for the Swinton game but due to the postponement no fixture has yet been re-organised. Nicola's favourite player is Bryan Henare.

Did you see Red Ed the Roughyed at both the Lancashire v Yorkshire games last week?

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A Potted History of Batley

TODAY'S visitors to Hurst Cross are Batley, one of the founder members of the Rugby Football League. When the northern clubs split away from the Rugby Football Union in 1895, Batley were one of the leading clubs and during the first six years of professional rugby the Gallant Youths lifted the Challenge Cup on three occasions. They were the first ever winners of that trophy in 1897 when they beat St. Helens in the final by ten points to three. Batley retained the trophy twelve months later when, after beating Oldham 3-0 in the quarter finals, they beat Bradford in the final 7-0. In 1901 Batley won the Challenge Cup for a third time when Warrington were the beaten finalists 6-0. The Gallant Youths overcame Oldham in the semi-finals that year, winning 9-2 at Huddersfield. In between those Challenge Cup successes Batley were also Yorkshire Champions in 1899.

That golden era has never quite been repeated by Batley although they lifted the Yorkshire Cup in 1912 and were crowned League Champions for the one and only time in 1924. Under the old 'top-four' play-off system, Oldham travelled over to Mount Pleasant for the semi-final and were soundly beaten 38-0. Remarkably it was Batley's biggest win of the season. They then met Wigan in the final at Broughton where they won 13-7.

Yorkshire Cup Final defeats in 1924 and 1952 were the closest Batley came to lifting further silverware until 1998 when they entertained Oldham in the final of the Trans-Pennine Trophy. Playing down the notorious Mount Pleasant slope in the first half, Batley built up a 26-6 lead and held on in the second half to register a 28-12 victory. The attendance at that final was a creditable 2,696. Of the Oldham team which faltered that day, only hooker John Hough is likely to be facing Batley this afternoon. Two former Batley players will almost certainly be lining up against their previous club. Roughyeds' skipper Steve Molloy began this campaign in Batley colours whilst fellow prop Jason Clegg enjoyed a spell at Mount Pleasant in 1997 when he scored three tries from 16 appearances.

The most famous player to appear for both Batley and Oldham however, is centre-winger John Etty, a true gentleman in a tough game but, in the words of his biography, a rugby league winner. Etty made five



John Etty

appearances on trial for Dewsbury before joining Batley in 1944. He became a firm favourite at Mount Pleasant where he gained Yorkshire County honours and also played for the British Empire. Oldham signed John in 1955 and he became a regular selection in the great Roughyeds side of the late 1950s. Etty's final couple of seasons were with Wakefield

Trinity. During his career John Etty won every domestic honour including a County Championship winners medal with Yorkshire. Whilst at Oldham he won a League Championship winners medal, two Lancashire Championship winners medals and three Lancashire Cup winners medals. A Challenge Cup winners medal was won with Wakefield as well as Yorkshire Championship and Cup winners medals. The two attributes which I remember most about John Etty were his dependability and his under rated defence. Etty only scored tries when they were needed. He scored twice when Oldham beat Hull 15-14 in the Championship Final but failed to score when Wakefield won the Challenge Cup with a 38-5 victory over Hull. Nevertheless he fully deserved that winners medal for his try haul in the lead up to the final. In round one he scored twice in a shock 15-10 win at St. Helens, was the try scorer in a 5-2 win at Widnes in round two and again scored twice in the 11-2 semi-final victory over Featherstone Rovers.

None of the top wingers ever scored regularly against Etty who frequently snubbed out any overlap by moving inside to take out the centre. I rate Tom van Vollenhoven as one of the greatest wingers I ever saw but he never scored against Oldham when Etty was in the team. It is no coincidence that the first time Oldham met St. Helens after Etty's departure to Wakefield, Vollenhoven grabbed a brace of tries.

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MORE NEWS FROM THE PAST REFEREES' FITNESS

ONE of the casualties was Mick Naughton of Widnes; he had refereed the 1973 Rugby League Cup Final, giving a very good performance and being asked to referee one or two games in Australia. To do this he had to have medical tests and it was discovered that he had a heart problem, regarded as dangerous enough to finish his refereeing career. He was also warned not even to train but Mick himself felt well enough to run with a junior team he was coaching at the time. Unfortunately on one of these runs he collapsed, was taken to hospital, and died very shortly afterwards.

Joe Jackson of Leeds was refereeing at St Helens in the year after his Wembley Final, but collapsed and died after the match in the tea rooms. It was as a result of this tragedy that testing of referees' fitness was introduced by Fred Lindop who had just been appointed Director of Referees.

I was the Senior Assessor at the time and 'A' team referees were the first guinea-pigs: referees had to wear a machine, similar to a walkman, which recorded heart rates at various times throughout the game, with the results being studied on the read-out after the game. It was found that various incidents during the game affected heart rate, eg. if a referee had to admonish or dismiss a player, heart rate would rise appreciably, whereas when the referee awarded a try the reverse would be the case.

Alex Givvons, one of our Oldham referees (son of a famous father who has recently, sadly, passed away) was a former professional player with Halifax. To all intents and purposes he was a fitness fanatic who spent a lot of time on the athletics track. During one game he was refereeing he was provided with a new, smaller monitor which indicated that his heart rate, on occasions, would shoot up beyond acceptable levels. Thus the referee who had already taken

charge of the Yorkshire Cup Final, and two rugby league cup semi finals, in the end, because of medical evidence, was forced to retire.

The testing team went to even greater lengths to check referees' fitness. John Houldsworth was wired up whilst working during the week, then again at his home on the morning of a match. He wore the monitor as he prepared for the game, on his journey to the ground, as he prepared in the dressing room and thereafter on the field. The results showed massive differences in heart rate depending on the activity being undertaken.

Fred Lindop set up three testing centres for referees of various grades—one at Wigan with John MacDonald in charge, one in Wakefield and another in Cumberland under Cliff Hodgson's guidance. Referees had to pass rigorous physical tests, involving not only short sprints and longer distances, but aerobics with expert coaches. The participants' times and performances were compared from week to week and discussed with the individual referees. Fred Lindop, himself well over the referees' retiring age, frequently took part himself.

Just about this time the video had become an essential part of all referees' meetings and discussions on points of play. Fred would often take a video camera to a match to record a referee's performance and use it for discussion at meetings.

In Oldham, Alan Burke, former Grade 1 referee has been our video man; he would video games on TV and select various points of play for our meetings. Unfortunately, Alan's promising career ended when he suffered a serious back injury whilst training in wet conditions, during an authorised training session with one of the Rugby League training staff. Nowadays he runs the Oldham Referees' weekly training groups at Hathershaw Technology College.

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TOPIC OF THE DAY

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

7 BRIAN MCTIGUE. "Brian McTigue was like a bull elephant running amok" comments Geoffrey Moorhouse in *The Official History of Rugby League 1895-1995* about the Wigan prop's performance in the 1958 Great Britain victory over Australia in the Brisbane Test, a victory the tourists achieved against all the odds. In addition McTigue created two tries putting



Mick Sullivan over just before half time to send Britain in with a surprise 10-2 lead. In the second half a McTigue drive and quick play the ball led to Southward exploiting a disorganised Australian defence to score under the posts. But McTigue's reputation does not rest on one performance: in eight tests against the Australians and numerous outings against France and New Zealand the Wiganer was never bested. Described as a 'maestro' by Robert Gate McTigue was a giant in an outstanding Wigan team and appeared in six Wembley Finals (although three of these were defeats!). A useful middleweight boxer and P.T. instructor in the Army McTigue earned his living as a coal miner so it is no surprise that he was as tough as they come. However it was his deftness in touch and eye for an opening that made him the best ball playing prop of his generation. Lance Todd winner in 1959 against Hull and, in an era when it really mattered, one of the best scrummagers around.



6 LEWIS JONES. 'Lewis Jones was one of those players who come along once in a lifetime, one upon whom the title 'genius' comfortably rests. A match winner throughout his career, Jones left an indelible impression on all who beheld his artistry, whether at centre, stand-off or full-back. A creator of tries, a scorer of tries, a supreme place-kicker, a deft dropper of goals, an inspirational captain, a moody maestro - Benjamin Lewis Jones was all these and more'. So says Robert Gate in his *Rugby League Fact Book* and anyone who saw Jones play would agree.

Jones was idolised wherever he played whether it be for Leeds at Headingley or in rugby union for Gorseinon, his home town, Neath, Devonport Services or Llanelli. I know from personal experience when I played in a seven a side competition in Llanelli in 1964 that the name of Lewis Jones so far from being reviled as a traitor to Welsh R.U. was spoken with affection, indeed awe, at Stradey Park. If David Beckham is today's 'golden boy' of English soccer, then Lewis Jones was the 'golden boy' of Rugby Union and his signing by Leeds was a major coup. An immediate crowd-puller Jones soon became a dual international and toured Australasia in 1954, his performance producing a new record of 127 goals and 278 points. However, Jones's most successful season came in 1956-7 when he surpassed Jim Sullivan's 1933-4 record of 406 points going on to amass a world record 496 in a season in which he led Leeds to a Challenge Cup Final victory against Barrow 9-7. Jones went on to score 2,960 points for Leeds in a career spanning 1952 to 1964.

5 NEIL FOX. If Lewis Jones was a rugby union produced points scoring machine then world record holding centre Neil Fox was rugby league through and through. In 1955 a 16 year old Fox made his debut for Wakefield Trinity. He

was to continue playing until 1980 enjoying a career of almost unparalleled longevity and one, certainly, of unsurpassed achievement. For Fox's career brought him 358 tries, 2575 goals and 6220 points. His other individual scoring records are so numerous it is simply best to look him up in the record books because Fox was, quite simply, a master of his craft. In his pomp 6ft tall Fox weighed in around 15 stone of bone crunching muscle. He was centre of enormous power but possessed also great pace and guile. It must have been a dream to play wing to him and to benefit from his strength, penetration and timing of a pass. Lance Todd trophy winner in 1962 Neil Fox featured in three Wakefield cup winning teams (1960, 1962 and 1963) and in Trinity's championship sides of 1966-7 and 1967-8. Although he will always be thought of first and foremost as a Wakefield player Fox delighted crowds throughout Yorkshire, for his quarter century career also took him to Bradford, Hull K.R., York, Bramley, and Huddersfield, latterly as a second row or loose forward. At international level Fox played 92 times for Great Britain and toured in 1962. In 1968 injury deprived him of captaining his country in the World Cup. Quite rightly Neil Fox was one of the first batch of players inducted into the Rugby League Hall of Fame.



4 BRIAN BEVAN. In the 1930's a young boy departing the rugby grounds of Sydney used to practice his sidestep through the milling crowds. It was a training ground that was to make him the greatest wingman ever to play rugby league and the Bevan sidestep was to bring him a world record 796 tries in his career, which spanned the years 1945 to 1964 all but the last two seasons at Blackpool Borough being spent at Warrington.



It was service in the Royal Australian Navy which brought Bevan to England and to the eternal gratification of the Warrington Directors the slightly built, almost anorexic, Bevan pitched up at Wilderspool for a trial in 1945, having been rejected by Leeds and Hunslet. The staff at the Wire saw something the Yorkshiremen had missed and the rest is history. Making his debut against Oldham on the 17th of November 1945 Bevan became the biggest showman in the northern union for the next decade and a half. Because his career was played out in England Bevan was never to represent his country (though he did make 26 appearances for Other Nationalities) but few who saw him would say he was not international class. Although defensively suspect, Bevan was expected to score tries and at that skill he has never been bettered. Despite being a heavy smoker Bevan had the lungs for the length of the field runs, often eccentric in their direction and baffling alike to colleagues and opponents. Wonderful acceleration and the trademark sidestep brought him a host of records (including a century of hat-tricks) all of which stand to this day. Bevan's last game for Warrington was played on Easter Monday 1962 against Leigh when 16,000 saw his final try, sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow' and demanded a farewell speech. Bevan the showman duly obliged. And the best compliment one can pay him is to say that there will never be another like him.

Stat Attack

APPEARANCES & SCORERS 2001-2002

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	SUBSTITUTIONS	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
M. SIBSON	18	3	12			48
G. DODD	19	2	4			16
D. GIBBONS	21	1	8			32
J. GODDARD	23		7			28
J. McNICHOLAS	21		11			44
J. BRADDISH	16	3	4	54	2	126
N. RODEN	16	4	12		4	52
S. KNOX	3					
J. HOUGH	20		6			24
J. CLEGG	18	5				
P. FARRELL	13		4			16
B. HENARE	20	1	4			16
L. DORAN	20	3	6			24
T. HODGKINSON	2					
G. BARBER	12	10	8	36		104
D. GUEST		16				
L. CASEY	1	3				
W. COWELL	3	9				
K. BRENNAN	8	5	6	2		28
A. PROCTOR		7				
P. NORTON	15	2	3			12
A. GIBBONS	13	2	2			8
D. FOSTER	5	1	5			20
A. MURRAY		4				
S. MOLLOY	9	2	2		1	9
D. LACEY		3	1			4
C. CAMPBELL	4	1	2			8
D. NEWTON		1				
R. STAZICKER		2				

* For club records appearance and scorers for the York game have been retained within these stats.

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP TABLE 2001-2002

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Huddersfield Giants	16	15	1	0	602	110	492	31
Rochdale Hornets	16	12	1	3	435	348	87	25
Leigh Centurions	13	10	1	2	439	206	233	21
Featherstone Rovers	16	10	1	5	444	340	104	21
Workington Town	16	10	0	6	420	261	159	20
Whitehaven	15	9	1	5	344	259	85	19
Hull Kingston Rovers	13	9	0	4	305	201	104	18
Sheffield Eagles	17	9	0	8	405	320	85	18
Doncaster Dragons	13	8	1	4	354	251	103	17
Dewsbury Rams	15	8	0	7	373	303	70	16
Batley Bulldogs	15	8	0	7	324	365	-41	16
Oldham	14	7	1	6	355	299	56	15
Barrow Raiders	15	5	0	10	382	365	17	10
Keighley Cougars	15	4	0	11	253	504	-251	8
Chorley Lynx	16	3	0	13	270	497	-227	6
Swinton Lions	14	2	0	12	173	510	-337	4
Hunslet Hawks	16	2	0	14	223	585	-362	4
Gateshead Thunder	15	0	1	14	144	521	-377	1

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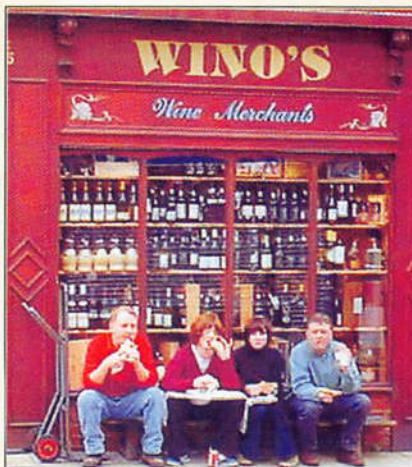
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Date Opponent Result Att

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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
MARCH			
3	Huddersfield	L	18-28 3191
10	DONCASTER DRAGONS	D	22-22 1067
15	Sheffield Eagles	W	25-6 1095
24	FEATHERSTONE	W	23-12 1533
29	Rochdale Hornets (NC)	L	13-14 2096
APRIL			
2	DEWSBURY R. (NC)	W	47-12 1056
7	Huddersfield G. (NC)	L	16-44 2687
21	Hunslet Hawks (NC)	W	56-10 747
MAY			
5	BATLEY B. (NC)	W	40-16 1204
12	HUDDERSFIELD (NC/F)	L	16-36 1699
23	ROCHDALE HORNETS	L	24-28 1050
JUNE			
2	Keighley Cougars	W	34-32 1188
9	WHITEHAVEN	W	46-12 867
16	Barrow	W	27-25 791
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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Keith BRENNAN
Paul NORTON
Lee DORAN
Bryan HENARE
David GIBBONS
Will COWELL
Danny GUEST
Anthony MURRAY
Jason CLEGG



BATLEY

Coach: Paul STOREY

1 Craig LINGARD
2 Paul GLEADHILL
3 Roger SIMPSON
4 Danny MAUN
5 Leon WILLIAMSON
6 Glen TOMLINSON
7 Dean LAWFORD
8 Joe NAIDOLE
9 Kris LYTHES
10 Andy SPINK
11 David ROURKE
12 Will CARTLEDGE
13 Ryan HORSLEY
14 Mark CASS
15 Paul HARRISON
16 Steve HILL
17 Mark TOOHEY



TODAY'S

REFEREE: S. NICHOLSON
P. DENTHAM



OFFICIALS

P. WHARTON
B. SHARROCK

oldham

together

the outlook's bright