



ROCHDALE HORNETS R.L.F.C.



**ROCHDALE HORNETS
v
OLDHAM**

Sunday, 23rd March, 2003

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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MARTIN'S CORNER



GOOD afternoon and welcome to Spotland for this afternoon's Arriva Trains Cup game against Oldham.

I am writing these notes before I know the result of the Swinton game but I'm hopeful that we won on Wednesday night and still have a chance of progressing to the knock-out stages of the competition. Looking at the way things are shaping up, realistically we'll have to win all our remaining games to stand any chance whatsoever of qualifying.

Having said that I expect every Hornets side to go out to try to win every game they play. Hopefully we can build on the progress we've shown in recent weeks and register another win this afternoon.

There is a huge amount at stake for both sides going into any derby fixture and today's game is almost like a knock-out game. Neither of us can afford to lose. Local pride and the supporters reaction to these games always plays a part and even though we've come up against each other a number of times over the last few seasons the expectations and anticipation are still just as great.

There hasn't been much between us in recent seasons and I expect today to be just as keenly fought as the recent game at Boundary park. That game finished in a draw and we will need to put it together to go one better this afternoon.

On these occasions I know I can rely on your vocal support to encourage the players. Hopefully they will respond and we will be celebrating another win this evening.

Enjoy the game.

Martin

ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

P.O. Box 48, Rochdale OL16 1PE Tel: 01706 648004 Fax: 01706 344545

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Vice Chairman: Mr. N. Halsall	Physio: Jon Bowden
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Mr. D. Turner	Gareth Walker, Mike Floyd, Jim Stringer

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS MAY NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

BOARDROOM BRIEF

Today we will be offering a warm welcome to the Officials, Players and Supporters of Oldham for this afternoon's Arriva Trains Cup game. We hope you enjoy your visit to Spotland Stadium.

We also want to welcome representatives of the competition and our sponsors and hope you have a wonderful day's entertainment.

There's always something a little bit special about derby games and today's is no exception. We can usually rely on there being a good crowd and a lively atmosphere. Even though we have played each other four or five times a season in recent years the anticipation doesn't wane. In fact, recent history suggests that there has been very little separating the two sides in recent years and we have seen a number of games settled by one score or less, so the expectation will be as great as ever.

Having said that, we have already played each other twice this season and have yet to register a win, having lost in the A. J. Law Cup and drawn at Boundary Park at the beginning of February. Hopefully this afternoon will see us register our first derby win of the season.

Anything less than a win could well spell the end of our chances of qualifying for the knock-out stages. We have already lost twice whilst, so far, Leigh and Salford remain unbeaten. In effect we need to keep winning, take points off the top two and hope that results pan out the right way. Things might even come down to points difference, so we are not just looking for a win today – we are looking for a good win.

There have been a few good signs in the last few weeks and the players seem to have bounced back from the Salford defeat. We could even take a number of positives from the loss to Leigh. We put them under a lot of pressure and scored some great tries. It was particularly nice to see Marlon Billy back playing again. Our defence was pretty solid for long periods, which probably sounds a bit of a contradiction set against the fact that we conceded thirty-four points. However we gifted them at least three tries and the whole game was best summed up mid-way through the second half. We had survived a bout of concerted Leigh pressure close to our line. Having gained possession we drove the ball up to the half way line and then contrived to present Leigh with the ball for another break-away try.

Last weekend we managed to get back to winning ways against Workington. Even though Workington had put out a somewhat depleted side, we all know it's never easy to go up to Cumbria and get a result. We were rewarded with the two points for a workmanlike performance and a scoreline that significantly improved our points difference.

More of the same would be welcome today.

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OLDHAM

Gavin DODD A local youngster who is learning the ropes at Oldham. A wing or full-back, 21 year old Gavin played for the NFP under 21's at Widnes and is sure to be pushing for a regular place this season, either at full-back or as a lively winger who knows where the try (goal) line is.

Jon GODDARD A 20 year old and the youngest member of the squad, Cas. lad Jon has joined Oldham from Castleford thanks to the old pals act. Graham Steadman is a firm friend and former team mate of former coach Ford, and saw a loan spell with Oldham as the ideal way to bring Jon along. Already this is bearing fruit as Goddard's defence has been superb and as his confidence grows it is expected that the tries will soon be coming.

Joe McNICHOLAS One of the original 1997 Roughyeds, wingman Joe made a first team spot his own midway through last season and went on to score eight tries in 14 consecutive appearances. Fast off the mark, god on his feet and always gives 100%.

Will COWELL A 22 year old who played at Warrington, this Cumbrian utility back is equally at home at full-back, wing or centre. Played 18 Super League games for Warrington after signing from Kells, the Whitehaven amateur club. Recommended to Oldham by former Wolves boss Daryl van de Valde, Will has kick-started his career in the NFP with the Roughyeds.

Chris CAMPBELL 22 year old utility back, signed from Whitehaven after impressing in trials. Is the son of ex referee David Campbell. Signed for Warrington from Crossfields amateur club as a seventeen year old and was the top Alliance try scorer in his first season with 26 tries from full-back. Played 10 matches in Super League before following coach Paul Cullen to Whitehaven on a full-time contract. Unfortunately broke his jaw early in his Whitehaven career.

Gareth BARBER 21 year old Oldham born half-back or centre who was reared on rugby with his best pal, the Leeds and Great Britain loose forward, Kevin Sinfield. When Sinfield signed for Leeds Rhinos, Barber signed for Warrington, but returned home to Oldham before the start of the 2000-01 season. Played for the NFP under 21's at Widnes in the autumn.

Steve MOLLOY Player coach Steve had been playing for Batley on a short term contract after leaving Huddersfield at the end of 2000. A strong

prop forward and ex captain of England, Steve's other previous clubs are Featherstone and Sheffield.

John HOUGH The first player to sign for his home-town club when the new Roughyeds were formed by Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors in the autumn of 1997. Before the start of 2000 season, he had played 87 of the club's 90 matches and had scored 32 tries, a phenomenal record for a hooker. He didn't enjoy one of his better seasons in 2001, but a change of job, and less travelling, has seen him back at his best in 2002.

Jason CLEGG Second biggest forward at the club after Danny Guest. Is a former Bradford (Northern, not Bulls) forward, who has had four good seasons with Oldham. Powerful on the break, he is a favourite of the Oldham supporters and regularly picks up the Junior Roughyeds Player of the Year award.

Lee DORAN Another young player in whom Oldham have a lot of confidence. A Wiganer, Lee has worked his way through the Oldham Academy and Alliance sides and he has now broke through to the first team on a regular basis. Showed up well for the NFP under 21's last year as one of five Roughyed players in the squad.

Paul ANDERSON One of four players snapped up from Leigh Centurions. Originally a forward Paul played for St. Helens and Sheffield Eagles before the then Hilton Park boss Ian Millward took him to leigh - and converted him into a centre. Big and strong, Paul has signed a one-year deal with the Roughyeds, similar to all the other new signings.

Neil RODEN A clever half-back who joined Oldham from Wigan, with Farrell, two and a half seasons ago. Has only missed a couple of games since. Can play stand-off or scrum-half and was a key figure in Oldham's run through to the NFP Grand Final in 2001. He is sure to be a regular performer in the long and testing 2003 campaign.

Gavin JOHNSON A young centre or wing, or occasional back-row forward, Oldhamer, Gavin spent two seasons at Odsal in the Bradford Academy side and made the occasional appearance for the Bulls in the Alliance Championship. Spent almost a season earning his Oldham spurs in the Alliance team before signing a two year deal in September 2001.

Danny GUEST Another of the Roughyed 'originals' who returned to the club two seasons ago. A big prop, he is expected to be a force to be reckoned with in the NFP this season after signing a new one year deal.

Our visitors in focus

OLDHAM

Club Honours

Rugby League Championship Winners: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners Up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1921-22, 1954-55

First Division Winners: 1904-05

Challenge Cup Winners: 1899, 1925, 1927

Runners Up: 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926

Lancashire Cup:

1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1956, 1957, 1958

Lancashire League:

1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Second Division: 1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

Divisional Premiership: 1988, 1992

10 Oldham Milestones

1895 First game in the Northern Union, a 16-8 defeat at Hunslet

1899 Oldham beat Hunslet to become the first Lancashire club to win the Challenge Cup

1922 Reg Farrar sets a club record of 49 tries in a season

1927 The first radio broadcast of a Challenge Cup Final takes place when Oldham play Swinton at Wigan

1933 Alex Givvons makes his debut for the club he would be associated with for 60 years

1956-57 A three trophy season, Lancashire Cup, League and Championship Final

1959 Oldham pay a world record £10,650 to Workington Town for Ike Southward

1981-82 Mike Parrish becomes the only Oldham player to score in every game in a season

1997 Oldham beat Swinton 20-16 in their last game at Watersheddings on 19th January

1997 Oldham Bears drop out of Super League, go into liquidation and are resurrected as a Second Division team

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Following the recent shareholders meeting, ex-player and Director Tony Pratt has launched a major new fund-raising scheme to help Hornets.

Anyone can join: for details see Tony Pratt or any board member.

Members so far (in alphabetical order) are:-

B & O Belfield
 Peter Birchall
 John Buckley
 Brian Gillespie
 J & V Grindrod
 Norman Halsall
 Cameron Heap
 Alan Hindle
 R & M Hindle
 Stephen Holt
 Beryl Lloyd
 John McCormack
 Michael Miller
 Victor Mills
 J & C Nicholson
 K & J Oldham
 T & P Pratt
 P & M Reynolds
 J & M Simpson
 Norman Taylor
 R & B Taylor
 D & D Vining
 Mark Webster

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This weekend's other Arriva Trains Cup Fixtures

Group East

Sheffield Eagles v Featherstone Rovers (7.30 Fri)
 Hull Kingston Rovers v York City Knights

Group West

Leigh Centurions v Swinton Lions

Group Central

Dewsbury Rams v London Skolars
 Hunslet Hawks v Batley Bulldogs

Group North

Barrow Raiders v Workington Town
 Whitehaven v Chorley Lynx

Groups East v Central

Doncaster Dragons v Keighley Cougars

Groups West v North

Salford Reds v Gateshead Thunder

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Replica Shirts	Age 6-14	£32.95
	Med - XXL	£39.95
Baseball Jackets		£49.99
Sweatshirts	Med -XL	£18.00
Jogging Suits		£25.00
Polo Shirts	Age 3-12	£12.00
	Med-XL	£17.00
	Med-XL	£31.50
Fleece Jackets		£12.00
Embroidered Shirts		£4.99
Woollen Hats		£15.00
Umbro Warm-up Sweaters	Large	
Enamel Badges		£3.00
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Mugs (large)		£3.50
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Should referees be coaches?

by **GARETH WALKER** of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

AN issue raised in this weeks edition of Rugby Leaguer & League Express has certainly aroused plenty of interest.

The issue concerns referees, and how they are contributing to games by telling - or in some people's opinions 'coaching' - players not to concede penalties.

It has arisen largely due to the decision by the Rugby Football league, in association with the TV companies, to allow television viewers to listen to referees on the pitch.

On one hand, it can be fascinating to be able to listen in when a referee speaks to a player, providing an insight into why he has given a penalty, or why a player is being sin binned.

On the other hand, it can be very intrusive and irritating to constantly hear a referee shouting to the players on the field.

And it can annoy viewers to hear referees coaching players on the field.

On last Saturday's TV broadcast from Widnes, for example, referee Steve Ganson was heard at one point to shout "offside Sprogger" to Widnes star Stuart Spruce, who was chasing a Vikings kick downfield.

"It's fair to assume that if referee Steve Ganson hadn't shouted those words to Spruce, the result might have been a penalty to the Bulls, if Spruce had encroached into the ten metres of the player receiving the ball," the Up Front column in Rugby Leaguer & League Express reasoned.

"In that sense referees are playing an even more active part in influencing the outcome of matches than by merely whistling when they see an offence committed."

"This practice is surely very questionable."

Some observers believe that the coaching of teams by referees on the field is a beneficial practice, and is designed to keep the game moving.

But, as with the example of Stuart Spruce, if it had been the last minute of the game, with just a point separating the teams, referee Ganson's intervention could have had a massive bearing on the outcome of the game.

The article continued: "And what happens when a team plays who the referee doesn't know so well that he can call every player by his nickname? Referees will then be accused of favouritism, and there is likely to be some truth in the allegation."

There is certainly substance in that statement when looking specifically at the National leagues, where referees are less likely to know the names of every player on the field.

Hull Kingston Rovers coach Steve Linnane was one National League figure to highlight the issue in a recent column in a local newspaper, calling for referees to penalise players that are infringing, rather than talk them out of the offence.

It is certainly something that needs to be addressed - with consistency undoubtedly being the main theme. If referees are calling individuals by their names in Super league and constantly talking them through the game, then surely they should be applying the same style of officiating in National League One and Two.

But is this a feasible option?

FIXTURES and RESULTS 2003

			H/A	Score	Att.
Jan	SUN 19	WORKINGTON (AC)	H	32-8	778
	Sun 26	Oldham St. Annes (CC3)	A	18-62	861
Feb	Sun 2	Oldham (AC)	A	22-22	2,050
	SUN 9	HULL KR (CC4)	H	20-27	1,092
	Sun 23	Salford (AC)	A	16-58	2,346
Mar	SUN 9	LEIGH (AC)	H	32-34	1,251
	Sun 16	Workington (AC)	A	44-10	336
	Wed 19	SWINTON (AC) Kick-off 7.30 p.m.	H	24-14	727
	SUN 23	OLDHAM (AC)	H		
	Sun 30	Swinton (AC)	A		
Apr	SUN 6	SALFORD (AC)	H		
	Sun 13	Leigh (AC)	A		
	Thur 17	Oldham Kick-off 7.45 p.m.	A		
	MON 21	HULL KR	H		
	Sat 26	TXU Energi Final			
May	Sun 4	Doncaster	A		
	SUN 11	WHITEHAVEN	H		
	Sun 25	Dewsbury	A		
June	Sun 1	Batley	A		
	SUN 15	SALFORD	H		
	Sun 22	Featherstone	A		
	SUN 29	OLDHAM	H		
July	SUN 13	LEIGH	H		
	Sun 20	Hull KR	A		
	SUN 27	DONCASTER	H		
Aug	Sun 3	Whitehaven	A		
	SUN 10	DEWSBURY	H		
	SUN 17	BATLEY	H		
	Sun 24	Salford	A		
	SUN 31	FEATHERSTONE	H		
Sept	Sun 7	Leigh	A		

AC - ARRIVA CUP

CC - POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP

ROLL CALL 2003

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Warren Ayres	4	2	1			4	
Damian Ball	5	2				0	
Matt Bateman						0	
Marlon Billy	2		1			4	Interbake Limited
James Bunyan	8		2			8	
Sean Cooper	6					0	Tanners Arms
Stephen Doherty	3					0	
Andy Grundy	3	4				0	
Martin Hall						0	Ray Taylor
Dave Larder	6	1	2			8	Jim Stringer, Peter Walker & Friends
Matt Leigh	3	1	1			4	
Matt Long		7	4			16	
Casey Mayberry	7		2			8	Barbara Taylor
Wayne McHugh						0	
Mick Nanyn	6	2	7		21	70	Ray & Ena Myers
Paul Owen	8		10			40	Albany Hotel
Richard Pachniuk	8		3			12	Eric & Rita Armitage
Gareth Price	1	7	1			4	Timeware
Wes Rogers						0	
Jon Roper	6		2			8	
Paul Smith	8		5			20	North Builders
Paul Southern	5	2	1			4	
David Stephenson	7					0	Spot. League of Gentlemen
Andy Wallace		1				0	
Ian Watson	8		1		15	34	Cravens Chemist
Danny Wood		2	1			4	

There are still a number of player sponsorship opportunities available. Cost £200.00. Contact the club office for more details.

HORNETS 100 CLUB

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ARRIVA TRAINS CUP - THE JOURNEY SO FAR

When we set off we knew we'd be in for a bumpy ride and we've not been disappointed. A tough qualifying group and a number of new faces to bed in, meant it was always going to be hard to hit the track with the engine fully stoked and the brakes off. Our own version of leaves on the line, the inclement weather on the eve of the season, meant that preparations were disrupted and Martin Hall's timetable was scuppered before we'd pulled out of the sidings.

Watching the Hornets team at the moment you still get the feeling that the wheels are not running smoothly and no matter how fired up they may be (and no-one is doubting the players application) we're seeing more of the Inter-City 125 than Bullet Train.

Realistically at this mid point, we have only a very slim chance of qualifying for the knock-out stages. Oldham's failure to take any points (as against a points failure) from Leigh and our own kamikaze performance a couple of weeks ago means that we will probably need to beat Leigh at the Coliseum and Salford City Reds at Spotland - assuming we don't drop any more points ourselves. Even then we will need to improve our points difference and hope that other results go our way.

Overall the signals are not all against us. There have been enough positives to believe that we won't be seeing Jenny Agutter waving her knickers in the air around the next corner. Personally I am reassured that Leigh looked far from unbeatable and all of the other NL1 teams (Salford apart) have had their ups and downs in the Arriva Cup.

Our pack looks strong, the link up play between Watson and Smith will cause our opponents problems and Owen's back-up has been tremendous. We have good pace and power on the wings, we need to get them into the game more. Going forward we need to be a bit more composed and clinical to take the chances that come our way. Hopefully that will come from playing and winning games. The biggest problem is on defence. Too often we've gifted our opponents tries - they have not had to earn their openings. Not insurmountable and issues I'm sure Martin Hall doesn't need me to point out to him.

Elsewhere the qualifying Groups are also shaping up along fairly predictable lines. Whitehaven are the only side to have not dropped a point and are running away with the Northern Group. Barrow Raiders and Chorley Lynx look to be contesting the second spot.

The east Group has already thrown up a couple of surprise results but Featherstone Rovers, Doncaster Dragons and Hull KR look to be stamping their authority on the NL2 sides and two of them should progress even though they are likely to continue taking points off each other. I'm not sure what's the biggest surprise in this Group, York's renaissance or Sheffield's demise.

Finally we come to the Central Group where Batley and Dewsbury are surprisingly not having it all their own way. Arguably the season's most improved side, Hunslet Hawks, and Keighley Cougars are still in the shake-up with 4 games to play. Today's game at the South Leeds Stadium between the Hawks and Bulldogs could be a humdinger.

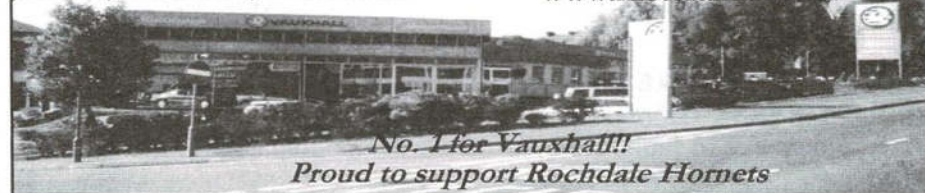
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ian Watson

NICKNAME:

Watto

BIRTHDATE:

27th October, 1976

BIRTHPLACE:

Salford

OCCUPATION:

Development Work

WIFE'S NAME:

Samantha

CHILDREN'S NAME AND AGE:

None

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Salford City Reds, Widnes Vikings, Swinton Lions

HONOURS:

Wales International Caps in European and World Cup
GB Academy and Lancashire

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN THE GAME:

Playing against Australia in the World Cup Semi-final

WORST MOMENT IN THE GAME:

Getting beaten by Salford earlier this year

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:

Dad

MATCHDAY SUPERSTITIONS:

Too many

MOST DIFFICULT PLAYER PLAYED AGAINST:

Brad Fittler

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LOOKING BACK TO

2nd February, 2003

Oldham 22 v 22 Rochdale Hornets

Attendance 2,050

It was perhaps no surprise that his Arriva Trains National Cup game should end in a draw given the number of close encounters served up by the two sides in various competitions in recent seasons. And a draw was a fair reflection on a game that both sides could legitimately argue they should have won.

The game started scrappily in blizzard conditions and the standard of play of both sides noticeably improved as the weather itself relented.

The first score came on the quarter hour when Richard Pachniuk and Mark Nanyin combined to put James Bunyan in at the corner. Oldham bounced right back when Lee Doran burst onto a Gareth Barber pass to touchdown next to the posts. One of the key turning points came just after the half hour mark. Phil Farrell had a try disallowed following Neil Roden's grubber kick and seconds later Gavin Dodd was sin binned for interfering at a Hornets penalty. This proved the spark for a spell of incessant Hornets pressure and it came as no surprise when Matt Long strolled over from close range for a converted score.

Hornets probably went in at half time fairly contented with a 10-6 lead and could not have anticipated Oldham's whirlwind start to the second half.

First Farrell made a break before setting up the supporting Barber to score between the posts. Farrell then scored himself following a left to right cross-field passing move. A similar move 4 minutes later saw Chris Morley power over and Oldham found themselves 22-12 in front.

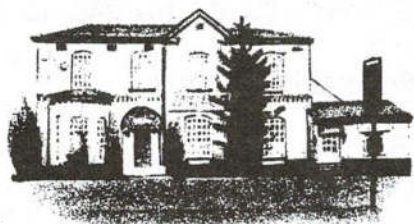
But Hornets refused to capitulate and a number of solid drives resulted in Jon Roper's first try on his Hornets debut. Minutes later, with Oldham not having touched the ball, Richard Pachniuk capped a man of the match performance by scooting over from dummy half.

With the scores level at 22 all, the last 10 minutes provided opportunities for both sides to score. Casey Mayberry went close and several drop goal attempts were either charged down or drifted agonisingly past the posts.

At the final hooter both sides were left reflecting on how they had failed to win.

Oldham: Gavin Dodd, Chris Irwin, Paul Anderson, Jon Goddard, Will Cowell, Gareth Barber (T 3G), Neil Roden, Steve Molloy, Anthony Murray, Martin McLoughlin, Lee Doran (T), Ryan Staziker, Phil Farrell (T). **Subs:** John Hough, Simon Svabic, Chris Morley (T), Darren Shaw.

Hornets: Paul Owen, Sean Cooper, Mick Nanyin (3G), Jon Roper (T), Casey Mayberry, Warren Ayres, Ian Watson, Paul Southern, Richard Pachniuk (T), Dave Stephenson, Dave Larder, James Bunyan (T), Paul Smith. **Subs:** Steve Docherty, Andrew Grundy, Gareth Price, Matt Long (T).



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ARRIVA TRAINS CUP WEST GROUP RESULTS and TABLE as at 18th March, 2003

	Rochdale	Oldham	Leigh	Salford	Swinton	West v North
Rochdale			32-34		24-14	32-8
Oldham	22-22		26-31	4-62		50-11
Leigh		22-14		20-20		38-20
Salford	58-16				58-6	
Swinton		16-24	10-24			38-6
West v North	10-44			8-90		

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Diff	Points
Leigh Centurions	6	5	1	0	169	122	47	11
Salford City Reds	5	4	1	0	288	54	234	9
ROCHDALE HORNETS	6	3	1	2	170	146	24	7
Oldham	6	2	1	3	140	164	-24	5
Swinton Lions	5	0	0	5	52	168	-116	0

HORNETS**Blue, Red & White**

1. Paul OWEN
2. Sean COOPER
3. Mick NANYN
4. Jon ROPER
5. Casey MAYBERRY
6. Warren AYRES
7. Ian WATSON
8. Paul SOUTHERN
9. Richard PACHNIUK
10. David STEPHENSON
11. David LARDER
12. James BUNYAN
13. Paul SMITH
14. Damian BALL
15. Andy GRUNDY
16. Gareth PRICE
17. Matty LONG

OLDHAM**Tangerine & Black**

1. Gavin DODD
2. Chris IRWIN
3. Phil ANDERSON
4. Ian MARSH
5. Chris CAMPBELL
6. Simon SVABIC
7. Kevin BRENNAN
8. Steve MOLLOY
9. Anthony MURRAY
10. Darren SHAW
11. Lee DORAN
12. Chris MORLEY
13. Phil FARRELL
14. Gareth BARBER
15. Martin McLOUGHLIN
16. Ryan STAZIKER
17. Dane MORGAN

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