



TEAMS

OLDHAM DEWSBURY

Coach: Steve MOLLOY

Coach: Andy FISHER



Gavin DODD	1	Nathan BATTY
Chris CAMPBELL	2	Michael WAINWRIGHT
Paul ANDERSON	3	Ryan HARDY
Lee DORAN	4	Danny WOOD
Joe McNICHOLAS	5	George MACK
Gareth BARBER	6	Mark BARLOW
Neil RODEN	7	Danny BROUGH
Steve MOLLOY	8	Frank WATENE
John HOUGH	9	Andy HEPTINSTALL
Paul NORTON	10	Carl SAYER
Chris MORLEY	11	Paul HICKS
Ryan STAZICKER	12	Billy KERSHAW
Phil FARRELL	13	Chris REDFEARN
Simon SVABIC	14	Dave OLDFIELD
Dane MORGAN	15	Tony FELLA
Keith BRENNAN	16	Glen SPEDDING
Danny GUEST	17	Paul STEELE

TODAY'S

OFFICIALS

REFEREE: A. KLEIN
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OLDHAM

RLFC

Official
Matchday
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The Roughyeds



DEWSBURY RAMS

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 AT BOUNDARY PARK
SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2003 KO 3.00PM

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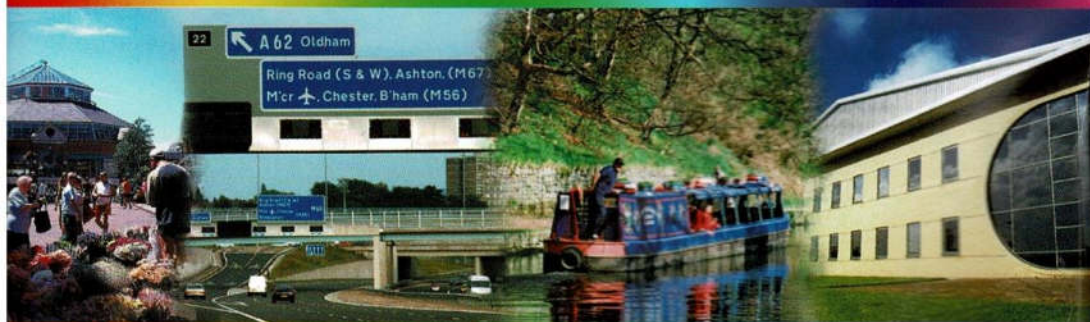
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The Roughyeds

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IN THE HOT SEAT

Christopher Hamilton

LAST weekend saw a break from the League programme for all teams due to the Powergen Challenge Cup Final at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

I think it is fair to say that both the game and the weekend were a great success and everybody I spoke to had enjoyed themselves - it therefore wouldn't be a great surprise if it was announced soon that the 2004 Final was also to be held in Cardiff. The organisation of the whole event was also excellent and congratulations are due to everybody at the RFL and the Stadium for that.

Today it's back to the League and Dewsbury will come full of confidence after beating Featherstone last week. We must be on our guard and make sure we win the game.

Our injury situation shows no sign of getting any better with Iain Marsh, now the latest player needing to see a specialist and in the time the new club has been playing I have never known us have so many players needing specialist treatment or operations.

As you will know Darren Shaw has had his hernia operation and we will wish him a speedy recovery as we signed Darren to be a key player. Without a doubt the team has missed the qualities that Shawy and Phil Farrell bring to the field and fingers crossed it won't be long before they are back playing.

On the positive side regarding the injuries it just goes to show the wisdom of private medical cover for the players, without it goodness knows what would have happened and I am proud that we at Oldham have always, and will always, make player safety a major priority.

We can't prevent injuries which are part and parcel of the game, but we can make sure that players are given the best care once they are injured. Please keep up your support and hopefully our first win of the League season.

Enjoy the game,

Chris

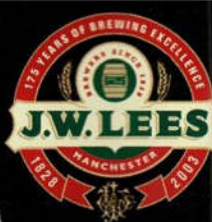


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Molloy's Message



IT SEEMS an age since our opener against Rochdale with a lot of time to dwell on the result and also a lot of hard work and questions asked. I know the players were as disappointed as myself as I know were the supporters. It's frustrating because for long periods of the games we play against better class opposition we compete and control the game but ultimately don't go on to win. This is an area we must remedy as soon as possible if we are going to be a force in this competition.

Which brings us to today's opposition, Dewsbury Rams, who like us struggled in last year's competition and are looking for a big improvement on last year's position. On watching their performance against Featherstone I feel they are well on the way. It's a shame, this year, that Dewsbury have decided against running a Senior Academy side because some of last year's games were real nail biters and were some of the sternest tests for our young guns.

We hope to have Phil Farrell back today who's professionalism has been greatly missed and I hope he can emulate his early season form and lead the side as only he can. Another positive note is the fact that we feel we have probably resolved the Darren Shaw situation. He has had an operation on his groin after three separate opinions on his injury and we hope he will be back by the end of May. Darren's experience was an integral part of our overall plan and to have him back, fully fit, can only bolster the side. It has finally been decided that Martin McLoughlin and Will Cowell do not need surgery so we will with a bit of luck have them back as well by the end of the month. Let's hope the subsequent competition for places will benefit the side and push us to where we need to be.

Enjoy the game,

Steve

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IN TOWN Today-Dewsbury



Nathan Batty 'Batman' plays at full back and signed for Dewsbury in 2001 from Wakefield Wildcats, he formally played for Oulton Raiders. He played for the Yorkshire Academy in 2000 and also for Yorkshire Under 16's. The player he most respects is Darren Lockey.

Mick Wainwright 'Wainy' is a 22 year old winger who signed for Dewsbury in 2001. He turned professional in 1996 and has since played for Leeds Rhinos and Hunslet Hawks and has also played in the Yorkshire and Great Britain academies. The player he most respects is Wendall Sailor.

Ryan Hardy Nicknamed 'Hardy' (very creative), Ryan joined Dewsbury Rams in 2002 from Castleford Tigers after a previous spell with us between 1992 and 1995. He has played with several other clubs during his playing life, which are York, Townville, Lock Lane and Redhill. He is 6' 2" tall and at 28 years old he is one of the most experienced players in the Rams squad. He plays at either second row or centre and he does not have a most respected player.

Mark Barlow Mark 'Sparky' Barlow came to the Rams last December from Wakefield Wildcats where he has played in the academy and the 1st team for the past 2 seasons. He is 5' 9", 18 years old and plays a utility position. Before he went to Wakefield Mark played for Dewsbury Moor and Sandal RUFC and played for Yorkshire at Under 16's. He also played football for Ossett Town Under 16's. The player he most respects is Ian Stanley.

Danny Brough 'Broughy' turned professional in 1999 when he went to Wakefield Wildcats after playing for Thornhill Trojans, then he came to Dewsbury last year. He is a 20 year old scrum half who stands at 5' 8". Alan Langer is the player he most respects.

Frank Watene 'Big Frank' as his mates call him came to Dewsbury in 2002 from Wakefield Wildcats where he played after leaving Auckland Warriors in 1999. This 25 year old, 6'1" prop played for Tonga in 1995 and was a Junior Kiwi in 1996, he played with the New Zealand Maori's from '95 to '99. Players he most respects are his team mates.

Carl Sayer 'Leo' came to Dewsbury this year from Featherstone Rovers. He is 20 years old, 6 feet tall and plays at prop. He turned professional in 1999 and previous to that he played in the Yorkshire Juniors.

Paul Hicks 'Hicksy' came to Dewsbury Rams in 2001 from Batley Bulldogs. He is 5' 10", 25 years old and plays at prop. Paul has previously played for the England Schoolboys, England Students and the Great Britain Academy. His most respected player is Craig Miles.

Billy Kershaw Billy returned to Dewsbury Rams last year from Sheffield Eagles to begin his second spell with us after he had previously played for Dewsbury in 1997. He is 24 years old, 6' 3" and plays at loose forward or in the second row. Paul Sculthorpe is the player he most respects.



Chris Redfean

Chris Redfean 'Redders' signed for the Rams in 2001 from Bradford Bulls. He is a former Redhill and Kippax junior player. He is 22 years old, 6 feet tall and he plays at either centre, loose forward or half back. He had previously played for the England school team and the player he most respects is Keiron Cunningham.

David Oldfield Nicknamed 'Knacker' David signed for Dewsbury Rams this year from Castleford Tigers where he turned professional after playing for Redhill ARLFC. He is 5' 7", 24 years old and plays at hooker. The player he most respects is Keiron Cunningham.

Anthony Fella 'Lego' came to Dewsbury in 2001 from Doncaster. He is 5' 10", 31 years old and plays at prop. He turned professional in 1995 and has played for various clubs including Keighley, Bramley, Hull, Hunslet, and he had a spell with rugby union team Bradford Salem in the close season. Frank Watene is the player he most respects.

Paul Steel 'Steely' came to the Rams from Castleford Panthers in 2002, he has also played for Castleford Tigers. He is 5' 10", 21 years old and plays at centre. He most respects Adrian Vowels as a player.

A Potted History of Dewsbury by Don Yates

TODAYS VISITORS to Boundary Park, Dewsbury, reached the National League, Division One only via the end-of-season play-off. Nevertheless they are determined to mount a serious challenge for Super League as was demonstrated on their last outing when they defeated Featherstone Rovers, one of the favourites for the title.

Dewsbury have an excellent record in the Northern Ford Premiership. During the seven years of competition they have twice reached the Grand Final, lifting the title in 2000 but being cruelly denied of Super League membership under the framing the future criteria. They topped the First Division table in 1999 but, after beating Widnes, lost a pulsating Grand Final against Hunslet by 12-11. They led 7-0 at one stage of that match. Twelve months later Dewsbury again ended the regular season in pole position. They also reached the Challenge Cup quarter-finals and won the Trans-Pennine Trophy before beating Leigh 13-12 in the Grand Final before a record Gigg Lane crowd of 8,487. Having been denied their rightful place in Super League, Dewsbury then lost coach Neil Kelly to Widnes and several members of Dewsbury's Grand Final winning squad also followed their coach across the Pennines. The following season, 2001, Dewsbury finished sixth and fell at the first hurdle of the play-off. Last season was even more disappointing. They ended the campaign in tenth position but retained their First Division status thanks to victory in the qualifying series. Against Workington Town in the final at Widnes they trailed 8-12 at the break before recovering to win 25-15. They now start the long and difficult trek to regain the glory of past years.

The first national competition won by the club was the Challenge Cup in 1912. Dewsbury beat favourites Oldham in the final of that competition, a controversial affair that was played before a Headingley crowd of 15,371. The Roughyeds led 5-2 at half time and looked to be heading for victory before the dismissal of forward Albert Avery for dissent. Two tries from winger Billy Rhodes then snatched victory for Dewsbury.

During the Second World War the club enjoyed a sustained run of success when they were managed by media personality Eddie Waring who won fame and popularity through BBC television coverage of the game and then the Its A Knock-out game show. With wartime troops, including several top rugby league players, assembled at the nearby Caulms Wood Army Camp, Waring was able to gather together a strong team



Gus Risman

around him such as all-time greats Gus Risman, Roy Francis, Vic Hey, Jim Sullivan, Charlie Seeling, Barney Hudson and Alan Edwards. Between 1940 and 1944 Dewsbury were Yorkshire Cup winners and beaten finalists, Challenge Cup winners as well as Championship winners and runners-up. They also won

the 1943 Championship Final but that was declared null and void after it was declared that Dewsbury had fielded an ineligible player in the final.

Dewsbury last won the Championship in 1973 when they were skippered by another television personality, Mick Stephenson, Stevo of Sky-TV fame. The play-off in those days involved the top 16 clubs. Warrington were top, Wigan were sixteenth, Oldham ninth and Dewsbury eighth. In the opening round of the play-off Dewsbury entertained Oldham at the old Crown Flatt stadium. The attendance was 4,500 and Dewsbury won 29-14. A visit to second-in-the-table Featherstone Rovers followed. Dewsbury won 26-7 and they followed that up with another superb win, 12-7 at Warrington in the semi-final. Third placed Leeds were favourites to lift the Championship at Odsal but, once again, Dewsbury came up trumps. Stevo grabbed a couple of tries in the final, which Dewsbury won 22-13.

From The Pen Of

.....Michael Turner



Of Roughyeds And ... Dewsbury

TODAY the Roughyeds extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of the Dewsbury club. Although fixtures between the teams go right back to the 1870s, it was not until the Northern Union was ten years old that the clubs first met in a "Rugby League" match. That occasion was at Watersheddings on February 17th 1906 with Oldham victorious by thirteen points to nil. However, the Yorkshiremen won a close return match two months later by five points to four.

The most famous encounter between the clubs was, of course, the Challenge Cup final of 1912 when, much against expectations, the Roughyeds slipped to defeat (8 - 5) at Headingley. The only other time our visitors lifted the prestigious trophy was in the "War time" 1942-43 season when they easily

accounted for the Roughyeds in a two legged semi-final.

Our older supporters will still remember Dewsbury winning the league Championship in 1972-73 under the captaincy of the current "Sky" commentator Mike Stephenson most ably assisted by his talented namesake Nigel, probably as fine a threequarter ever to wear the red, amber and black. This was another surprise success for our visitors in the old Top 16 play off. Again Oldham were amongst their victims, defeated in the first round (29-14) at Crown Flatt.

Despite these reverses Oldham have enjoyed the better of the spoils in the majority of meetings between the two clubs over the years thanks largely to a consecutive nine match winning sequence from the late 1970s to the early

1990s. Included amongst these was a first round Challenge cup victory on February 10th 1980 when Oldham's two recent "big" Rugby Union signings, Adrian Alexander and Bob Mordell both got on the score sheet in the 24 - 2 win.

Since the reformation of the Roughyeds in 1997 there have been some titanic struggles versus the "Rams" none more so that last seasons league match at Hurst Cross that finished in a 22-22 draw on August 28th.



Oldham winger Ernie Large dives over to score his sides only points after taking a pass from George Gummer (also in the picture) in the match against Dewsbury at Watersheddings on October 14th 1946. Result: Oldham 3 Dewsbury 8.

NOT HAVING seen the copy for this week's programme yet I can't be sure, but I wouldn't mind betting that a few of our writers wax lyrically about the Challenge Cup Final at Cardiff last weekend and at the risk of repeating their opinions I fully intend to add my own two penny worth. Why not?? We are all perhaps too keen to carp when things go wrong so why not give some praise when everything in the garden appears to be rosy?

First of all the organisation of getting into the city and the relevant car parks was superbly organised and advertised. The stewarding both outside and inside the ground was efficient and pleasant, (I repeat PLEASANT) traffic wardens helping people to park. (Oldham MBC please note). The idea of making the whole area in the centre of the city around the ground, a traffic free zone worked superbly and allowed the crowds to mingle freely and safely in the many bars and coffee bars in the city. The atmosphere was electric and yet completely safe the whole time. We arrived in the vicinity of the ground a good two and half hours before kick off and didn't witness a single unpleasant incident. In fact the police didn't really have anything to do except give directions and chat and laugh with the fans, which they did willingly and helpfully. As for the police horses, I bet they never has so many pats, strokes and tit-bits as they got last week.

Getting into the ground was also painless - no queues and helpful stewards to point you in the right direction and help people who they thought might have access problems to the upper echelons of the ground, to escalators. Inside the ground, at least up to half an hour before kick off there were only small queues for food and drink. Here once again things were well organised with pre-pulled pints of lager with lids on, in packs of fours. A lot of the fans had looks of pure incredulity on their faces when stewards were encouraging them to ease the congestion in the bar area and take their drinks to their seats. Once again I saw no alcohol related trouble whatsoever and in complete contrast to the Sale Sharks v

Gloucester game I was dragged kicking and screaming to a fortnight ago our game wasn't spoiled by fans continuously leaving their seats to buy more alcohol or empty their bladders. Rugby League fans come primarily to see the game and this quite rightly is their priority.

The pre match entertainment - school rugby, 100 strong male voice choir and brass band were superb. For some reason the celebrity 'band' I think they were called Mystique only gave us one song - but to be honest few around me were complaining. The acoustics were more of a concert hall than a rugby ground and I couldn't help smiling as I compared their whole PA and sound system to what I had to put up with last year at Hurst Cross???!! The singing of Abide with Me and The National Anthem was exemplary and I have to admit to getting quite emotional at this point as fans from every club from all three divisions, young and old, male and female and representatives of the Amateur Leagues rose, as one, to add their voice to the proceedings. It is all this all round representation and their mingling together that makes our Rugby League Finals so different and superior to the Finals of any other sport. Where else could a group of four Hunslet fans (Hunslets is situated in Leeds) in their club shirts sitting in the middle of thousand of Leeds supporters, get away without injury, whilst wearing Bradford colours and openly supporting the Bulls?

The game, played in a great stadium, was superb, packed with drama, controversy and emotion with the lead changing hands on many occasions between two evenly matched teams. After the quality of the semi finals surely this last few weeks has done our great game a lot of good. Can I for one congratulate Richard Lewis and his team at the RFL for what they have produced which surely must have raised the game's national profile and made the RFL's position in re-negotiating television rights and looking for major sponsors much stronger. For me there should not be a moments hesitation - book The Millennium Stadium again for next year

NM

RUGBY LEAGUE JOURNAL For fans who don't want to forget.

"Rugby League Journal" is a new magazine which is proving very popular among supporters who can remember how the game used to be.

Launched in December, the "Rugby League Journal" is being published quarterly and to date two editions have been produced. With a deliberate old-fashioned appearance, the "Rugby League Journal" has a fascinating mixture of old black and white photographs and high quality thought-provoking articles.

The "Journal" says it is for fans who don't want to forget the game they used to know, and produces an entertaining mix of history, memorabilia and comment.

The new magazine comes as a breath of fresh air with its comments on current affairs being firmly from the point of view of the grassroots of the game - concentrating on the game **outside** Super League, both at professional and amateur levels.

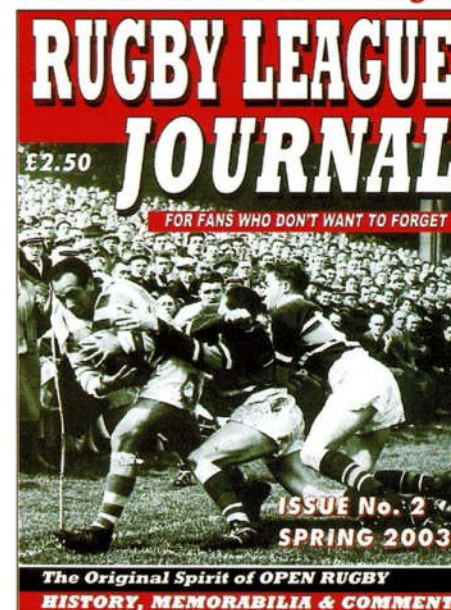
The "Rugby League Journal" is perfect for all those supporters who have missed the original "Open Rugby" magazine, and for followers of clubs like Oldham which have a great history in rugby league, it is a delight.

The current issue (number two) of "Rugby League Journal" is available in Oldham from **Siddall's Newsagents, 87, Union Street, Oldham.**

More outlets are needed in the Oldham and Rochdale areas - anyone interested in selling copies should contact the "Journal" on **01946 814249.**

Copies are available by post price £3 each (including p&p) - or you can book an annual subscription and guarantee a year's supply (4 issues) for £12.

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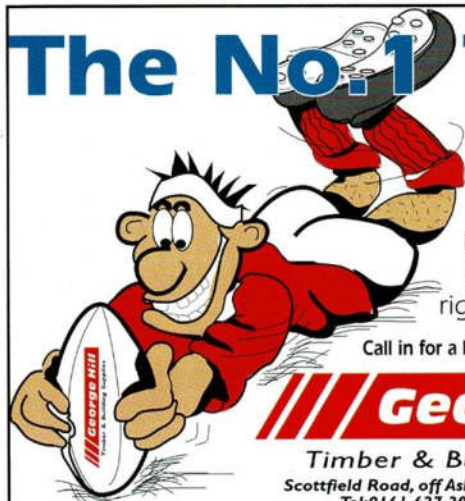
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Back On The Terraces

..... With Simon Winnard

NO SOONER has the laughter subsided after Maurice Lindsay's plea to reduce the overseas quota than he has recruited yet another Aussie 'cast off' in the guise of Cronulla loose forward, Nick Graham. Having recently fallen out of favour with Sharks coach Chris Anderson, Graham arrives initially on a 6 months contract with the option to extend should his stay be successful.

Of the signing, Wigan boss Stuart Raper said: "Our chairman Maurice Lindsay is a close friend of Chris Anderson, the Cronulla Coach and Chris has kindly allowed us to take Nick Graham on loan until the end of the season. We tried desperately to get a player in on loan from the National League Competition but players were either injured or unavailable.

"We are in a more difficult situation than we were before Good Friday as many of our senior players are still unavailable. It is getting to a near impossible stage where we are even struggling to field a side. Nick Graham is a back row/ loose forward who will provide much needed cover"

Chairman Lindsay added: "We are fortunate to have a good friend in Chris Anderson who is helping us out at our time of need."

My heart bleeds for the Wigan Chairman of course, whose staff list only includes internationals such as O'Connor, Lam, Cassidy and Newton, not to mention the likes of Radlinski and Farrell? It's a hard life Maurice. Presumably, you won't be pushing for a reduction in the overseas quota just yet?

Our disappointing start to the season continued with yet another poor performance, perhaps our worst of the season, culminating in yet another defeat at the hands of neighbours Rochdale Hornets.

However, this time it is more significant as we are down to the real business of the League season proper and sadly it has provided our arch rivals to get a head start on us. The most concerning factor is that I believe we witnessed at best what could be best described as two average NL1 sides? and the Roughyeds were definitely the poorer of the two.

Our continual ability to fall away during the latter stages of games causes great concern. There are some commentators that think this is a simple lack of fitness, whilst others believe it comes as a direct result of not having the

appropriate training facilities at hand? I believe it is more likely the latter. This has of course led to the Roughyeds rarely getting onto grass during the pre-season and that has got to have a negative effect on preparations. Curiously, our 'landlords' have a fully equipped training facility at Chapel Road. Could this not have been used as part of the rental agreement between Latics, the Roughyeds and the local authority? If we are serious about Super League ambitions for the club, it's clear that subsequently our coaching team must have the opportunity to prepare in a professional and meticulous manner.

There is no doubting that the club has built up a good reputation for developing young players over the last couple of years. In fact it would be remiss of me at this point not to mention the Academy team's flying start to the season. Indeed, it is about time that the RFL welcomed the remaining Academy teams to the main competition and give all our games youngsters the opportunity to test themselves at the highest under 21 level.

In addition, we have also seen a heavy closed season investment in the senior squad that has so far failed to live up to it's pre-season billing.

In some peoples opinion there are one or two players that are perhaps living on past reputation or are guilty of believing their own hype. Ironically these appear to be the same players that are the most vociferous behind the posts after the team has conceded a try. Perhaps if there was a little less talking and a little more leading by example, the team would start to live up to it's obvious potential.

When analysing our present standards, it is of course all too easy to sentimentalise recent seasons. The present team, despite it's showing to date, is no worse than the sides that took us to play off adventure over the past few years. Indeed, most of those 'regular' seasons produced little better form on the field. So here I plead for a little patience from the Roughyeds faithful as perhaps the best is yet to come. It is of course critical that we get up and running today as, with tough games against Salford, Leigh and Hull KR next in line, we could be in danger of hitting mid June before being able to kick start our season. So let's cheer on the lads to our first two points of the campaign.

Iva Slateloose



Oldham Club Call - Rochdale programme:

"introduce 5 new members to our lottery during April...you will receive free tickets to the shows (advertised earlier) for you and your loved one, plus a complimentary **BOOT** of wine"

A BOOT OF WINE, EH? THAT'LL DO IVA, ESPECIALLY AS I DRIVE A 4 x 4.

Salford programme v Oldham 13.4.03

"During 1957-58 Bernard Ganley set up a new **GOALKEEPING** record with 200 for Oldham and 19 for G.B."

A GOALKEEPER WHO SCORES LOTS OF GOALS, EH? SOUNDS TO ME LIKE FABIEN BARTHEZI!

Garry Schofield caught a cab in Wigan and asked to be driven to the railway station. He sat in the back and wound down the window. Next he took out a small tin from his pocket and sprinkled it in the road. He proceeded to do this every hundred yards or so until they reached the station. Throughout the journey the taxi driver had been watching this odd performance in his rear view mirror and, naturally, being curious, as Schofield paid his fare at the station he asked him about it: "excuse me, Mr Schofield but I couldn't help noticing that all the way here you kept sprinkling some sort of powder in the road: what was all that for?" "Well, said Garry Schofield, it's a powder given to me by Maurice Lindsay: it's designed to keep Australians away from the J.J.B. Stadium." "But there aren't any Australians at the J.J.B. Stadium," said the taxi driver. "In fact there aren't any for miles." "I know," said Garry Schofield "it's bloody good stuff."

Amid the controversy about refereeing decisions in crucial matches and the complaints voiced by club coaches and officials Iva has a proposition to ensure everyone gets satisfaction.

Firstly, I propose that the rugby league sends every Super League club a present, namely a crate of under-ripe Chilean vine fruit.

Secondly, every Super League shall have it's own official referee who will take charge of every home game. The approved list is as follows:-

Bradford Bulls	James (the lawman) Lowes
Leeds Rhinos	Gary (super brain) Hetherington
St. Helens	Ian (motormouth) Millward
Wigan	Maurice (Aussie free zone) Lindsay
Hull F.C.	Jason (I do everything around here) Smith
Castleford Tigers	Dean (if I say it's Sunday, it's Sunday) Sampson
Widnes Vikings	Neil (I'm a Welshman) Kelly
Huddersfield Giants	Tony (the nose) Smith
Warrington Wolves	Lee (I'm in charge) Briers
London Broncos	Any passing Australian
Wakefield Trinity Wildcats	Troy (don't mention relegation) Slattery
Halifax	Tony (mind my tackle) Anderson
Reserve official for all fixtures Mike (know-it-all) Stephenson	

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Tracey's Tittle Tattle



SHAZ and me were having a sitabout in Walkabout. I said, "D'ye know 'McLoughlin' means a descendant of a Viking

person from 'loughlin' - that is 'lakeland - meaning Scandinavia?' She was well interested with that. "He's from near where the Vikings landed, isn't he? D'ye reckon his ancestors were amongst those who went round raping and pillaging? He HAS got fair hair like Scandinavians," she pondered. "Well that might be because Sellafeld's near there," I replied. "So, give me a few minutes with him, and when his eyes light up, if they go luminous as well, we'll know for sure!" she laughed.

"When you see him charging down the field, you can imagine him in Viking costume, with a hat with horns on! A scrum cap with a difference! He'd have to take it off to pack down in the second row, though, else them in front'd be on the horns of a dilemma!" I said "Eh?" she said, stunned. "Horns del llama? I didn't know you could speak Spanish! Or that llamas had horns!" "A DILEMMA, you daft bat. They wouldn't know what to do! They wouldn't like it up 'em" "No, but I" "Shut up!" I interrupted, quickly, changing the subject. "He's only young yet, and he's definitely got potential" "aw, has he?" she said, with that genuine concern of M.P.s who can't fiddle their expenses anymore. "Can they cure it?" They'll never cure our Shaz!

Love & Kisses,
Tracey



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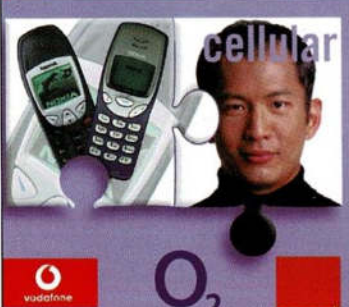


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Profile of . Martin McLoughlin

M McLoughlin



Aged 22 **Martin McLoughlin** is from Wigan and was in the same form at school as Neil Roden. He played schoolboy rugby in Wigan and like Phil Farrell and Neil Roden worked his way through the Wigan Warriors Academy and Alliance system.

Offered a full time contract by the Warriors but was released when the salary cap restrictions began to bite, Dean Bell in charge of the youth set up at the JJB Stadium pointed Martin in the direction of Barrow Raiders coached by his father, Cameron Bell and where he was a regular first team player throughout season 2002.

Leigh Centurions, Rochdale Hornets and Salford Reds all showed an interest in the tough forward whose full time job is at the JJB Stadium as a member of Wigan's development and community projects team but chose a 12 month contract with the Roughyeds.

Currently out of action with a knee injury but expects to be back in action soon.

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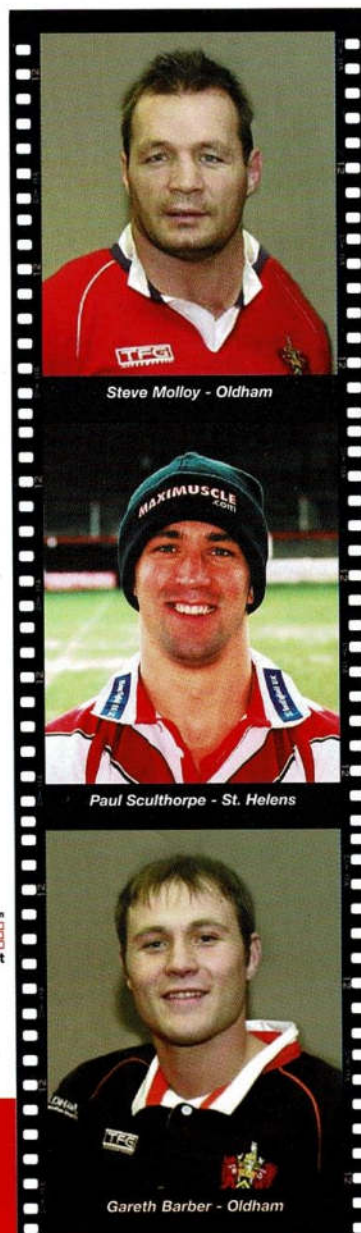
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Does the kit fit?



Martin McLoughlin

10.30am is Martin's time to rise from his slumber on match days. He is fortunate to have a caring wife who not only provides him with his usual breakfast of jam on toast but also packs his kitbag and packs him a snack of bananas to sustain him on his travels to the match. On the coach he likes to sit with the rest of the 'pretty boys' Faz, Cleggy and Knockor to discuss the finer points of life in the pack and other world issues.

In the changing room Martin can be seen permanently plugged into his personal stereo on which he loves to listen to dance music and on occasions he can be seen showing off his terpsichorean skill.

Best/Worst Changing Room

Best - Wigan

Worst - Salford

Best/Worst Food

Best - Grudgingly it has to be the Sunday Dinner at Leigh

Worst - Whitehaven, when playing for Barrow they just brought sandwiches into the dressing room.

Best/Worst Playing Surface

Best - Headingley

Worst - The famous Batley slope

Best Advice by a coach - The day you stop learning is the day you die - Ray Unsworth

Worst Advice - When playing for Wigan against St Helens Billy McGinty told me to "Keep running against Vila Mattoutia, he's a poor defender and you will be able to tire him out."

Martin's advice to young players is just play to enjoy yourself and to certain over pushy parents - let your children get on with the game.

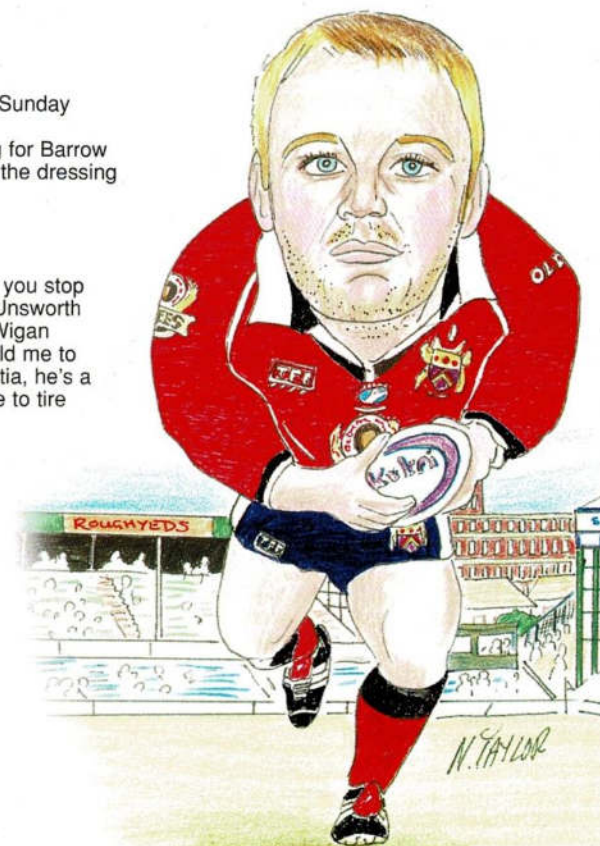
On the present season he feels the team have to start listening to Molly, too often all the hard work that has gone into training sessions and the preparation Molly has provided seems to go during the match.

"We need to stay far more focussed and maintain our concentration levels. Despite all this we should finish near the top and do extremely well in the play-offs. Our main threats are Salford and Leigh. Oh and while I'm chatting to you Mitch, What about that fantastic

round the body pass that I gave during the Rochdale game. Who said props can't think on their feet. That was pure vision." (Watch out Ste. He's after your job - Mitch)
He doesn't think he looks like anyone famous but would like something done about the awful pen picture at the back of the programme as every week the lads rib him something rotten. (The hair, the eyes, he's had a surprise! - Mitch Joke: 'What is Danes idea of a seven course lunch?')

'A pie and a six pack of beer!'

Mitch

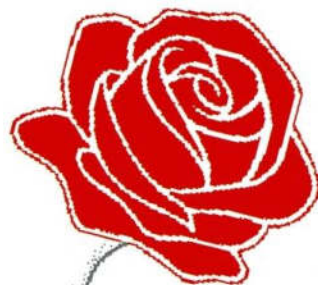


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APRIL 2003 F - A

12 BARROW RAIDERS P

21 SHEFFIELD EAGLES 69 - 6

(DON VALLEY STADIUM)

MAY 2003

3 DONCASTER DRAGONS H 2.30

10 BARROW RAIDERS A 2.30

24 DONCASTER DRAGONS A 2.30

(THORNENSIAANS)

31 SHEFFIELD EAGLES H 2.30

JUNE 2003

14 BARROW RAIDERS H 2.30

28 BARROW RAIDERS A 2.30

JULY 2003

12 SHEFFIELD EAGLES H 2.30

19 DONCASTER DRAGONS A 2.30

(THORNENSIAANS)

26 PLAY OFF RND ONE

AUGUST 2003

2 PLAY OFF RND TWO

9 SNR ACADEMY FIRST DIV GRAND FINAL

23 PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY OFF 1

30 PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY OFF 2



James Kirkland 'Man of the Match' at The Don Valley Stadium

AFTER three warm up victories the season proper got under way on Easter Monday with a 69-6 victory away to Sheffield Eagles.

Hooker, James Kirkland had a fine game and was involved in a number of the 13 tries scored by:-

Martin McDermott,
Matty Harland (2),
Joe McNicholas (2),
Paul Anderson (2),
Kiel Lancashire,
Chris Campbell (2),
Andy Gorey,
Paul Bennett
and **Kirkland himself.**

Words of Wilson

... by Ian Wilson

FOR YEARS I have had cricket-umpiring commitments, which meant I was not able to be a regular at Wembley Cup Finals. Indeed, 1962, (Wakefield v Huddersfield) and 1969 (Castleford v Salford) were the only visits. However, circumstances have conspired to allow me to go to both Murrayfield last year and to Cardiff last week. And I must admit that I am now Hooked, to such an extent that I intend to give notice now to my umpiring bosses that I will be unavailable for white coat duties on all future Challenge Cup Final weekends.

It is interesting to compare Cardiff with Edinburgh, in terms of experiences. Both matches were absolutely compelling, of course, which helps. But it is the whole atmosphere of the occasion which is the attraction, with the anticipation building gradually up to the taking of your seats, through the pre-match entertainment, a male voice choir and a brass band this time - which served to reinforce the sense of tradition, as well as to remind us that we were, after all, in the heart of Wales' capital city - to the action on the field, and then the post-match walk out of the ground, to whatever afterwards.

What everyone says differentiates Rugby League Finals - I include Grand Finals in this too - from those in other sports is the feeling of a larger family coming together, and this was definitely as much the case in Cardiff as last year in Edinburgh. Early sights of a few Oldham shirts, as well as a brief chat with Roger Halstead (!), certainly helped to set the scene as I stood with my party of five outside a pub opposite Cardiff Castle enjoying a pre match pint of Hancock's bitter. The Leeds shirts in the vicinity seemed to outnumber Bradford's by

about three to one, but there were also a few Hunslet and Keighley fans frequenting the same pub, just to reinforce the nature of the occasion. Then, inside the ground, families immediately in front of and behind us were clad respectively in Whitehaven and Workington strips, whilst to our left was a large party dressed in bright red sweatshirts bearing the logo, RYLANDS ARLFC.

Although Cardiff can't boast an equivalent of Princes Street, in terms of style for a pre match stroll, that is perhaps compensated by the fact that the Millennium Stadium is so central within the city. I am assured, too, that around 10,000 tickets were sold to Welsh people, compared to only a quarter of that to the Scots last year. (On the back of such figures, I really can't believe it would be impossible for a successful Wales Super League side to be formed at the same time as the proposed French one, to make our flagship competition a 14 team one in 2005 - but that is another issue.)

What of the Stadium itself? Very impressive from the outside, certainly, if not giving the same spacious feel as Murrayfield, and well-organised in terms of access and facilities, at least as far as I could tell. My only complaint was that I felt that, for a modern stadium, the tiering of the seats at ground level was a bit shallower than ideal - but at least it is a lot better than Wembley! I am not sure about the roof, I would have preferred it left open, I think - and the in goal areas were too big, I thought. But these are minor gripes! Whenever and wherever the RFL schedule the final for next season, I wouldn't miss it for the world.

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Earning their stripes . . . **Express**

By GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

THE RFL is set to confirm a series of representative games for National League players later this month, and that can only be good for the game at this level.

It is expected that both a National League One side and an NL2 team will take on the touring New Zealand Residents at the end of the season.

In addition, a National League under-21s side will tackle their Super League counterparts, as they last did at the end of the 2001 season.

Anyone that attended that game at the Halton Stadium in Widnes will be fully supportive of the concept. A then NFP team including the likes of Rob Purdham, Danny Sculthorpe and Jamie Rooney actually beat their full-time opponents on a memorable evening.

Taking the idea a step further and having open age representative sides is a further boost. Certainly, Leigh coach Paul Terzis backs the scheme.

"Having representative teams for NL1 and NL2 to play against the New Zealand A is fantastic news for the players at this level," Terzis writes in his column for Rugby League World magazine this month.

"It gives them just rewards for their efforts during the season on top of what they've achieved for their clubs.

"We'll also see the National League under-21s play Super League under-21s again, which was a great concept when David Waite first introduced it. Look at the kind of players that were involved for the old NFP side - Danny Sculthorpe, Rob Purdham, and Jamie Rooney.

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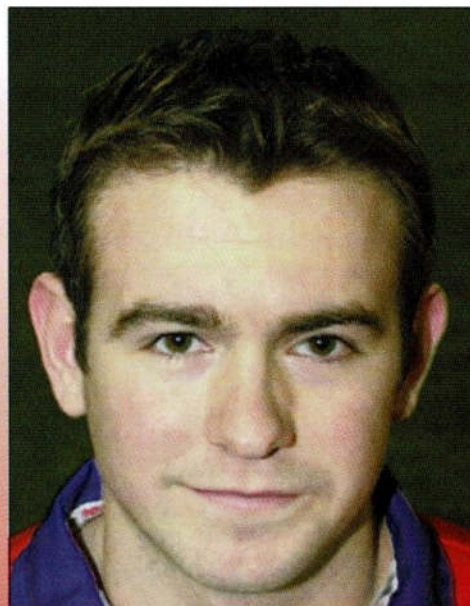
"It can put players in a shop window, and gives them another goal and target to aim for."

There is certainly a fresh wealth of talent to choose from in the National Leagues at the moment, and it certainly won't be an easy task for the representative coaches - who will also come from NL1 and 2 - to select their squads.

As one small example, look at the number of quality fullbacks in NL1. The coach there would have to choose between the likes of Neil Turley, Gary Broadbent, Paul Owen, Jason Flowers, Craig Lingard or Nathan Graham. What a task!

But also, what a prospect. Seeing the very cream of players at National League level play together in a representative side is definitely something to look forward to.

Who would make your team?



Neil Roden - League Express
Man of the Match v Rochdale

CLUB CALL

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Dear Members,

Club Cash Lottery has now paid out over £14000. Your support has not only been **vital** but extremely essential to the future well-being of our club.

We are continuing our 'INTRODUCE A FRIEND' into May and June. Any member who brings on board one or more new members during May and June will be entered into our **MEMBERS SPECIAL DRAW** which will take place at the home game against Whitehaven on June 15th.

The prize will consist of one free entry into the National Lottery for the next 26 weeks with the chance of becoming a millionaire.

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Mick Cotton, Oldham	£10	A5274
James Rose, Moorside	£10	C0512
G. Dalzell, Shaw	£10	C6319
Instant	£10	C9412
C. Hamilton, Oldham	£10	B0254

Jackpot Accumulator

2 - 15 - 19 - 14

No Winner -

Next Week **£150**

Lottery Winners Week 21

Peter Barratt, Derker	£300	B6705
Kevin Lee, Somerset	£100	C0885
K. Preston, Royton	£10	A6491
W. Doyle, Shaw	£10	B9837
Julie Campbell, Hollins	£10	B1305
B. Brooks, Oldham	£10	C9429
M. Garrett, C/o Eddie Holden	£10	C7104

Jackpot Accumulator

26 - 27 - 17 - 12

No Winner -

Next Week **£200**

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In Yer Face

SALFORD CITY REDS' programme for Oldhams match on April 13th contained an illustration of the club's planned new stadium to be built close to Barton Airport. A 20,000 capacity development - including standing as well as seating accommodation - together with 62 corporate hospitality boxes and a shopping mall and casino the plans for which look extremely impressive, it serves only to remind us of the missed opportunities here in Oldham. The development at £35 million is not cheap but the facilities additional to the stadium itself should ensure a return on the capital invested as well as helping secure the future of Salford City Reds themselves. If only Oldham had the vision and leadership to drive through a forward looking development here! Still, as we contemplate the joys of the the George Hill and Pukka Pies stands, we can dream, can't we?



NATIONAL LEAGUE 3 kicked off yesterday and despite all the problems associated with recruiting clubs and getting the division off the ground I wish the competition well and hope that at some not too far distant time teams like Crawley Jets, Coventry Bears, Hemel Stags, St Albans Centurions, South London Storm and Teeside Steelers can make sufficient progress to challenge for a place in a higher league. With the Total R.L. COM Conference also having started yesterday, and especially the new Welsh division, the spread of R.L. is becoming truly national and is encouraging the kind of publicity R.L. has craved for years. Naturally, the R.L. press is full of praise for the achievements and the standards of the Summer Conference while some who have watched football at this level claim it is not up to the standard of the Winter Conference and clubs like our own St Anne's, Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead. Well, there's only one way to find out: when you get the chance go to a match!



G.C.

BY NOW you will have read or heard the opinions of every man and his dog about the Final of the Powergen Challenge Cup. So I won't bore you with my views except perhaps to startle you with a couple of asides. Firstly, I could see absolutely nothing wrong with the refereeing of Russell Smith. If any of the media pundits can do better I suggest they take up the job and see if they can make instant decisions with the same cool authority as Smith. I am sick and tired of T.V. 'personalities' taking apart the performance of the man in the middle when they ought to be analysing the tactics of the teams and the contributions of the players. We keep hearing what a great product we have, so could we please concentrate on the product especially when the players themselves are 99% of the time able to accept decisions and get on with the job.

Secondly, I still believe in technology and am flabbergasted by the current trend of criticising the video referee. Players are now so skilful at trying to prevent a touchdown that even several replays can be inconclusive. When these are the decisions that will settle the outcome of the match I am absolutely certain that they must receive whatever scrutiny is required. In the end the only real argument is does the benefit of any doubt go to the defence of the attack? At the moment the emphasis is on scoring points so the attackers get the benefit. It's arguable but, remember, it's the same for both sides. And I still say the video replay adds to the drama of the occasion. As ever, what rugby league does today other sports will copy tomorrow. Isn't it time soccer caught up?

And talking of soccer catching up did you note Leon Pryce's approach to Russell Smith? "Excuse me, sir, can I ask you a question? About the offside...." Now, imagine the same conversation at Old Trafford involving Roy Keane and Andy D'Urso. How many 'F' words do you think would be involved?

ON THIS DAY

... with Don Yates

MAY
4



IN 1929 DEWSBURY became the first club to qualify for Wembley when they won their semi-final against Castleford whilst the St.Helens Recs-Wigan tie ended in a draw. That first ever Wembley Challenge Cup Final took place on Saturday 4th May 1929 when Dewsbury's opponents in the final were Wigan. The first player to score in a Wembley final was the Wigan full-back and skipper Jim Sullivan who landed a penalty after three minutes. Eleven minutes later stand-off Syd Abram increased the Wigan lead by scoring the first Wembley try. Despite a gallant effort from Dewsbury, Wigan went on to win that historic final 13-2 with the Dewsbury points coming from a dropped goal landed by full-back Jack Davies just before half-time.

Oldhams Championship success in 1957 was their first in 46 years. They completed their league programme in top position, six points clear of second placed Hull. The Roughyeds then met Leeds at Watersheddings on Saturday 4th May in the Championship semi-final.



Dick Cracknell

Leeds were aiming for a league and cup double with a Wembley date waiting seven days later. They did go on and win the Cup but their Championship hopes ended at Watersheddings although they put up a terrific show, leading 7-2 shortly before half-time. A try from winger Dick Cracknell enabled Oldham to equalise by the break and then pull away in the second half to win 22-12. Centres Alan Davies (2) and Denis Ayres scored tries and full-back Bernard Ganley ended the afternoon with five goals.

For obvious reasons, World War II disrupted the careers of many great players. It also caused the cancellation of a number

of international matches and tours including the Great Britain tour to Australasia in 1940. A single match could never compensate for the marvellous experience of a Lions tour but on Saturday 4th May 1940 a team of unlucky Tour Probables met a team selected from the 1936 Tourists. The match was staged at the Willows, Salford and included in the Probables line-up was an absolute tour certainty, Oldham hooker Edgar Brookes. Salford had eight players selected for this match with winger Alan Edwards scoring a hattrick of tries for the 1936 Tourists. It was not enough, however, for the 1940 Probables won 29-21 with Brookes scoring one of their seven tries. A crowd of 7,000 attended the match with receipts of £371 being donated to the British Red Cross Society.

It was on this day in 1963, Saturday 4th May, that one of the most under-rated players ever to play for the club made his first team debut. That player was Stuart Whitehead who appeared in the second-row of an Oldham team which lost 15-10 at home to Warrington in a First Division match. Whitehead, who had been signed from Shawside juniors, went on to make 76 appearances for the Roughyeds during the following three years and he scored 17 tries before transferring to Salford during the summer of 1966 for £2,000. He appeared at Wembley for Salford in 1969 before joining Rochdale in 1972. He made two appearances for Lancashire during his spell at Salford.

On Friday 4th May 2001 Oldham signed Junior Kiwi international back-row forward Bryan Henare from St.Helens. Henare was a quiet achiever with the Roughyeds, getting through a tremendous amount of work and rarely drawing losing pay. He made 44 appearances for the club and scored 14 tries, the most memorable being that euphoric late touchdown at Rochdale which took Oldham through to the 2001 Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final. Henare joined Leigh last November.

STATS AND FACTS

APPEARANCES & SCORERS SEASON 2003

PLAYER	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Gavin Dodd	12	0	8	0	0	32
Iain Marsh	11	1	3	0	0	12
Jon Goddard	9	0	3	0	0	12
Paul Anderson	9	3	4	0	0	16
Joe McNicholas	6	1	2	0	0	8
Simon Svabic	8	5	2	38	0	84
Neil Roden	11	0	2	0	2	10
Steve Molloy	11	1	0	0	0	0
John Hough	9	2	4	0	0	16
Martin McLoughlin	4	4	0	0	0	0
Lee Doran	13	0	4	0	0	16
Chris Morley	9	3	1	0	0	4
Phil Farrell	7	0	4	0	0	16
Gareth Barber	5	5	4	15	0	44
Gavin Johnson	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ryan Stazicker	10	2	3	0	0	12
Danny Guest	1	5	0	0	0	0
Chris Campbell	6	0	3	0	0	12
Anthony Murray	4	1	1	0	0	4
Chris Irwin	9	0	4	0	0	16
Will Cowell	3	0	0	0	0	0
Darren Shaw	2	3	0	0	0	0
Keith Brennan	2	7	2	0	0	8
Dane Morgan	3	4	2	0	0	8
Adam Sharples	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jason Clegg	0	2	0	0	0	0
Paul Norton	5	1	1	0	0	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
Leigh Centurions	2	2	0	0	47	29	18	4
Rochdale Hornets	2	2	0	0	62	46	16	4
Salford City Reds	2	1	1	0	76	32	44	3
Featherstone Rovers	2	1	0	1	64	44	20	2
Dewsbury Rams	2	1	0	1	36	48	-12	2
Batley Bulldogs	2	1	0	1	38	64	-26	2
Whitehaven	2	0	1	1	34	41	-7	1
Oldham	1	0	0	1	28	33	-5	0
Hull Kingston Rovers	2	0	0	2	35	57	-22	0
Doncaster Dragons	1	0	0	1	18	44	-26	0



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Fixtures

DATE	OPPONENT	RSLT	ATT
DECEMBER 2002			
28	ROCHDALE HORNETS	LAW C W	28-22 2,141
JANUARY 2003			
19	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL C L	14-22 3,070
26	EAST HULL	CC R3 W	32-6 1,270
FEBRUARY			
02	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL C D	22-22 2,050
09	LONDON BRONCOS	CC R4 L	12-42 1,014
23	SWINTON LIONS	NL C W	24-16 923
MARCH			
02	BARROW RAIDERS	NL C W	50-11 1,280
09	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C L	4-62 2,839
16	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL C L	26-31 1,945
APRIL			
06	SWINTON LIONS	NL C W	68-14 1,032
13	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C L	12-54 2,162
MAY			
04	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 H	
10	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 A	
18	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 A	
25	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL 1 H	
JUNE			
01	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	NL 1 A	
08		NL C SF	
15	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 H	
22	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 A	
29	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1 A	
JULY			
06		NL C FINAL	
13	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 H	
20	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 H	
27	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 A	
AUGUST			
03	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 H	
10	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL 1 A	
17	HULL KR	NL 1 H	
24	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 A	
31	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 H	
07	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 A	

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