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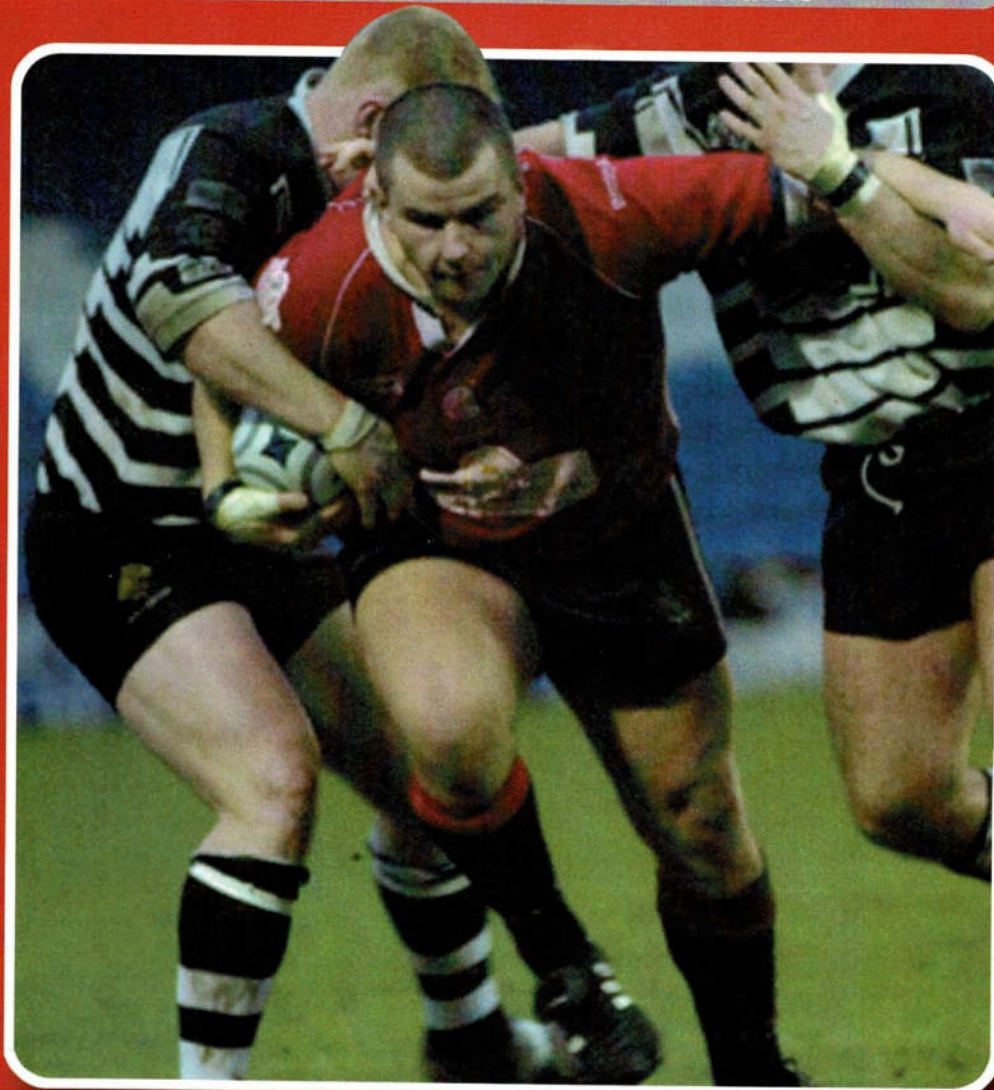
Oldham RLFC

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £2.00



The **Roughyeds**

Powergen Challenge Cup 3rd Round
v Castleford Panthers



BOUNDARY PARK
FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2004
KICK OFF 7.30pm



The Roughyeds

**Oldham Rugby League
Football Club (1997) Limited**

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Club Shop: 0161 627 2141

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Christopher Hamilton

DIRECTORS

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HEAD COACH

Steve Molloy

ASSISTANT COACH

Andy Proctor

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Shaun Gartland

CLUB CAPTAIN

Phil Farrell

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Jackie Collier

PROGRAMME EDITORS

Nigel Marland & Brian Walker

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Joe Ferguson 1899-23

Herman Hilton 1913-26

Alan Davies 1950-62

Frank Stirrup 1950-62

Bernard Ganley 1950-61

John Etty 1954-56

Derek Turner 1955-59

Bob Irving 1964-74

Martin Murphy 1966-82

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

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Runners up: 1894/5

1895-1997

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Runners up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

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Champions: 1904-05

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

Winners: 1899, 1925, 1927

Runners up: 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926

LANCASHIRE CUP

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

Runners up: 1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966, 1968, 1986, 1989

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Champions: 1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners up: 1895-96, 1896-97, 1898-99, 1899-1900, 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1954-55

SECOND DIVISION

Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

SECOND / DIVISIONAL PREMIERSHIP

Winners: 1988, 1990

Runners up: 1992

RECORD VICTORY: 63-0 v Goole - March 18th 1899 (Challenge Cup 1st Rnd)

Record victory in a league match: 67-6 v Liverpool City - April 4th 1959

RECORD SCORE: 70-10 v Bramley - Feb 12th 1995 (Challenge Cup 4th Rnd)

Record score in a league match: 67-6 v Liverpool City - April 4th 1959

RECORD ATTENDANCE: 28,000 v Huddersfield - Feb 4th 1912

Record attendance in a cup match: 25,000 v Huddersfield -

March 23rd 1912 (Challenge Cup 3rd Rnd)

Record attendance (All games): 62,217 v Hull - May 18th 1957

Championship Final at Odsal Stadium, Bradford

MOST APPEARANCES: Joe Ferguson, **627** - Sept 1899 - Apr 1923

CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES: Joe Lawton, **134** - Sept 1897 - Nov 1902

TRIES IN A SEASON: Reg Farrar, **49** - 1921-22

GOALS IN A SEASON: Bernard Ganley, **200** (219 if goals scored in representative matches included) - 1957-58

POINTS IN A SEASON: Bernard Ganley, **412** - 1957-58

DROP GOALS IN A SEASON: Ray Ashton, **9** - 1979-80

TRIES IN A CAREER: Alan Davies, **174** - 1950-61

GOALS IN A CAREER: Bernard Ganley, **1,358** - 1950-61

POINTS IN A CAREER: Bernard Ganley, **2,761** - 1950-61

DROP GOALS IN A CAREER: Ray Ashton, **26** - 1979-1987

TRIES IN MATCH: James Miller, **7** v Barry, October 31st 1908

GOALS IN A MATCH: Bernard Ganley **14** v Liverpool City April 4th 1959

POINTS IN A MATCH: Abe Johnson, **30** (12 goals + 2 tries) v Widnes,

April 8th 1928

1998-2003

Trans-Penine Cup

Finalists - 1998

Northern Ford Premiership

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Grand Finalists - 2001

MOST APPEARANCES: John Hough, **175** - Jan 1998 - September 2003

CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES: Phil Farrel, **67** - *April 2nd 2000 - March 15th 2002

*John Hough was on the team for every match February 1st 1999 - April 16th 2001 (82)

TRIES IN A SEASON: Mark Sibson, **23** - 1999-2000

GOALS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, **146** - 2000-2001

POINTS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, **320** - 2000-2001

DROP GOALS IN A SEASON: Neil Roden, **7** - 2001-2002

TRIES IN A CAREER: Mark Sibson, **60** - 1999-2002

GOALS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, **254** - 1999-2001

POINTS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, **576** - 1999-2001

DROP GOALS IN A CAREER: Neil Roden, **18** - 2000-2003

TRIES IN MATCH: Mark Sibson v Wigan St. Jude's, **4** - Feb 8th 2000 at Boundary Park

Mark Sibson v Queensbury, **4** - Jan 28th 2001 at Boundary Park

David Gibbons v Chorley Lynx, **4** - Jan 30th 2001 at Boundary Park

GOALS IN A MATCH: Simon Svabic v Swinton Lions, **10** - Apr 6th 2003 at Boundary Park

POINTS IN A MATCH: Gareth Barber v Dewsbury Rams, **26** - Apr 2nd 2002 at Hurst Cross

(7 goals, 3 tries)

DROP GOALS IN A MATCH: Neil Roden v Workington Town, **2** - Dec 17th 2000 at

Derwent Park

John Braddish v Hull KR, **2** - Dec 16th 2001 at New

Craven Park

HIGHEST SCORE/WINNING MARGIN: v Yorks Wasps, 70-6 - Apr 1st 2001

at Huntington Stadium

v Queensbury (amt), 64-0 - Jan 28th 2001

RLCC 3rd Rnd at Boundary Park



IN THE CHAIRMAN'S OPINION

with **CHRIS HAMILTON**

Our opening victory in the Arriva Trains Cup against Chorley Lynx was as convincing as the 64-14 scoreline suggests and our attacking play was excellent. It is a long time since we started the season so well and even taking into account that Lynx are a National League Two side, we did what we had to do and did it well.

It is important that we maintain this form as it helps breed confidence and hopefully, we will then too see attendance figures rise. Tonight is the first opportunity to do just that!

I would like to officially welcome players, officials and supporters of Castleford Panthers on behalf of everybody here at the Roughyeds.

The last time that they played against professional opposition was against Leigh back in 1978 and as then, you can be sure that they will be giving it their best shot.

One thing is for sure, they will enjoy the occasion and as most seasons produces one Challenge Cup shock we need to ensure that the only way that they enjoy tonight is off the field and not on it!

As things stand at the moment the Panthers game is our only scheduled night fixture and in my opinion

playing under floodlights adds to the atmosphere which in turn certainly adds something to the play out on the pitch.

The Panthers should bring with them a good number of their vocal supporters and as vocal support is one of my pet subjects I make no excuse for once again asking our supporters to get behind the team throughout the game - there was a distinct lack of atmosphere during most of the Chorley game and although to some degree this is understandable you need to get into the habit of cheering the lads on!!

The quality of attacking rugby we played against the Lynx was well appreciated by the Oldham supporters so lets hope for more of the same tonight. After the Panthers match we face two tough away games at Leigh and Swinton so lets hope we can continue this form.

Thanks for the support, and one final "ask", please encourage those missing fans to attend the matches!

Enjoy the game.

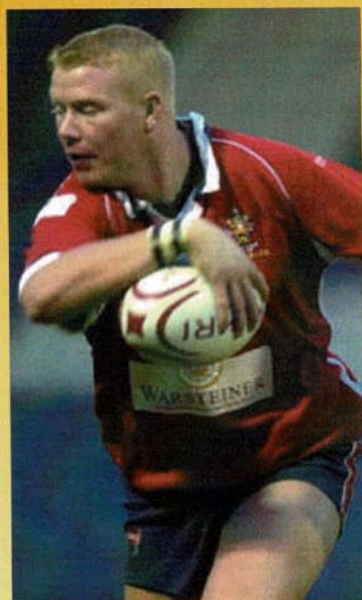
CHRIS HAMILTON

The views expressed in this matchday magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the management and staff of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd.

We would like to express our thanks to the Oldham Evening Chronicle, League Publications Ltd, Phil Burdge and all concerned for the use of photographs.

www.roughyeds.co.uk

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COACHLINES

with **STEVE MOLLOY**

The long road to Cardiff starts tonight with Castleford Panthers the visitors and I'm sure they've been looking forward to this encounter since the draw was made.

Our very own John Goddard hails from the Yorkshire outfit and he is typical of some of the high standard of talent that has passed through their ranks. John, as you would expect, has kept me informed as to the background and calibre of their current first team squad and Shaun Gartland, who is also involved in coaching at Mayfield, has done his homework on the Conference Division Two high-flyers.

"Let's hope both sets of supporters turn out in their droves to encourage both sides."

Professionalism is the key in this type of match and I feel that we displayed this in abundance during the Chorley Lynx game and I am expecting more of the same tonight.

Amateur clubs love to qualify for the third round of the Challenge Cup and Panthers will be no exception. They will view this match as their very own final with a chance of knocking over professional opposition but at the very least will see the game as a benchmark against which to measure their own capabilities.

Let's hope both sets of supporters turn out in their droves to encourage both sides.

It's less than a week since the start of the season proper but I feel nothing but positive vibes from the Arriva Trains Cup group match against Lynx and the entertaining football that was on show needs to be witnessed by more fans so bring along a friend (or two)!

Enjoy tonight's match.

Steve



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IN THE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

with **PHIL FARRELL**

Welcome once again to my column and
also a warm welcome to the Castleford
Panthers for this evening's game in the
Powergen Challenge Cup.

I'm sure the match is going to be very
entertaining but there is no doubt that
we will have to be on our mettle as the
lads from Yorkshire will be gunning to
cause an upset. However, the Oldham lads
are focussed for this game just as they
were last weekend for the Lynx match
and will not fail by underestimating the
opposition and so will be relentless
in their quest to be included in
Monday's draw.

Going back to the game against Chorley I
thought that the whole team played
really well and individually there were
some outstanding performances but no
disrespect to the Lynx the acid test comes
next Sunday when we visit Leigh. It
should be a cracker!

On a lighter note I am sure that Simon
Svabic appreciated all the laughter and
applause when last Sunday he returned to
the pitch from the blood bin. Everyone
thought that John McEnroe had taken up
rugby league! I have never seen so much
bandaging for such a tiny cut to an ear!
Svab is well known for blowing things out
of all proportion and is forever wanting
sympathy and later in the evening was
overheard referring to the damage as a
"shark bite" !

I was interested to see during "I'm A
Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here" Johnny
Rotten giving an impression of Keith
Brennan. Keep up the good work
Johnny!!

Enjoy the game.

Faz

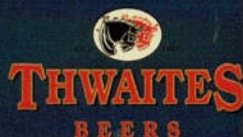


**" the whole team
played really well
and individually
there were some
outstanding
performances "**

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in yer face

with Geoff Cooke

Now that the Hutton report has revealed the deficiencies of the B.B.C. and its line management perhaps we Rugby League fans can comfort ourselves that our constant complaints of bias against our game are not quite as paranoid as we are sometimes led to believe. Clearly some B.B.C. reporters do have an agenda. Except no sooner do I adopt this line of reasoning than a character in "Auf Weidersehn, Pet" comes out with, "I prefer Rugby League". Ah well, can't win 'em all.

The road to Cardiff (doesn't quite have the same ring to it as Wembley somehow) begins tonight with the visit of Castleford Panthers to Boundary Park. If any club other than Bradford, Leeds, Wigan or St. Helens actually wins the Challenge Cup it will be a major surprise although Hull are beginning to re-assert themselves. Despite that, the early rounds give the amateurs a chance to turn over a 'big' club in their very own Challenge Cup 'Final'.

With due respect to tonight's visitors I can't see the Panthers beating Oldham, especially after the Roughyed's comprehensive mauling of Chorley Lynx last Sunday. Probably the best chance of an upset is Rochdale Mayfield's tie at London Skolars tomorrow, particularly with the Sean Gartland/Andy Proctor Oldham connection. Several others from the amateur ranks can be expected to give a good account of themselves. Leigh Miners Rangers will give Sheffield Eagles a run for their money tonight as will Sharston Rovers against Dewsbury Rams before the professionals canter home in the last quarter. Tomorrow Featherstone Lions go to Hunslet but I expect the Hawks to have the firepower to win. Sunday sees Bradford Dudley Hill take on Keighley, Crosfields entertain Workington, West Hull go to Doncaster, Elland are at Leigh, Featherstone versus Castleford Lock Lane (a real humdinger here), Oulton Raiders travel to Halifax, Ince Rose Bridge against Batley Bulldogs and Thatto Heath Crusaders play Whitehaven. I can't see any upsets among these, but as a long shot how about East Hull to beat Swinton at Sedgely Park?

Despite my lack of confidence in the amateurs to spring surprises the round does have some really intriguing ties. Pia, second in the French Elite League, could win at Barrow if the

Raiders are not on their mettle. Fifth placed Villeneuve will test York City Knights, although I expect the Minstermen to pull through. The Knights emphasised their pedigree last week by pushing Batley all the way in the Arriva Trains Cup, finally succumbing 22-24 after enjoying a 14-0 half-time lead. Meanwhile sixth placed Limoux could cause a shock on Tyneside by defeating a Gateshead side still finding its feet and reeling from a 52-0 thumping at Workington last week. French league leaders and erstwhile Super League entrants U.T.C. go to Hull K.R. Last year the Catalans came a real cropper against St. Helens and I can't see the Robins, a side with Super League ambitions of their own, letting them off the hook.

So, that just leaves two utterly unpredictable ties as Chorley and Rochdale take on the Russian duo of Locomotiv Moscow and Dinamo Moscow. Not so long since I got the impression that real progress was being made in Russia but the national team's poor showing in the European Tournament last Autumn changed my opinion. Add to that the fact that they are out of season, with temperatures somewhere around -30 in Moscow, and I can't foresee a Russian revolution however poor Chorley and Rochdale look while attempting to rebuild their sides after the relative successes of last year.

Geoff Cooke



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TODAY'S OPPONENTS - CASTLEFORD PANTHERS

MALCOLM AGAR - Coach
Ex Dewsbury, Halifax

STEVE ELLERKER - Assistant Coach
Ex Redhill



CHRIS HEPWORTH
Age 22 • Full Back
Panthers Junior/Youth, Cas Alliance



SIMON WASSELL
Age 20 • Wing / Centre
Featherstone Alliance,
Panthers Junior / Youth



JAMIE BENN
Age 26 • Stand Off / Full back
Ex Cas, York, Dewsbury Professional
Panthers Junior / Youth



DANNY PICKERING
Age 21 • Prop
Wakefield Alliance
Panthers Junior / Youth



KEIRON HICKMAN
Age 21 • Centre / Wing
Dewsbury Alliance
Panthers Junior / Youth



LUKE VARLEY
Age 21 • Hooker
Panthers Junior / Youth



CRAIG BENN
Age 29 • Wing
Panther for over 5 years
Brother of Jamie



RICHARD LEASE
Age 27 • Prop
Hunslet A, Wynnnum Manly Seagulls



PHILIP PEEL
Age 33 • Prop / 2nd Row
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15th season



CRAIG POTTER
Age 23 • Prop / 2nd Row
Featherstone Alliance



JAMES SHARPE
Age 20 • Centre / Wing
Panthers Junior / Youth



ANDREW SMITH
Age 25 • Loose Forward
Panthers Junior / Youth



PAUL STEEL
Age 21 • Centre / 2nd Row
Cas Alliance & Dewsbury
Panthers Junior / Youth



ARRON GORNALL
Age 22 • Stand Off / Loose Forward
Ex Leeds Rhinos Alliance
Panthers Junior / Youth



KEVIN TILL
Age 20 • Scrum Half
Ex Featherstone
Panthers Junior / Youth



PAUL WALSHAW
Age 24 • Stand Off
Ex Houghton & Smawthorne Junior



CRAIG PEARSON
Age 24 • 2nd Row
Bradford Bulls Academy
Panthers Junior



NEIL PYCROFT
Age 22 • Centre
Cas Smawthorne Junior, Lock Lane



WAYNE GARWOOD
Age 27 • Prop
Former York All Blacks



LEE MARSDEN
Age 22 • Full Back
Panthers Youth Product



CRAIG BROWN
Age 21 • Prop
Panthers Junior,
Keighley & Cas Alliance



MARTIN CRESWEEL
Age 21 • Prop / 2nd Row
Ex Smawthorne & Panthers Youth

From the pen of... Michael Turner

Today the Roughyeds extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of the Castleford Panthers club and for our images we look back to previous encounters against opponents from the amateur game, in this the most prestigious of all club rugby competitions, the Challenge Cup.

Picture 1.

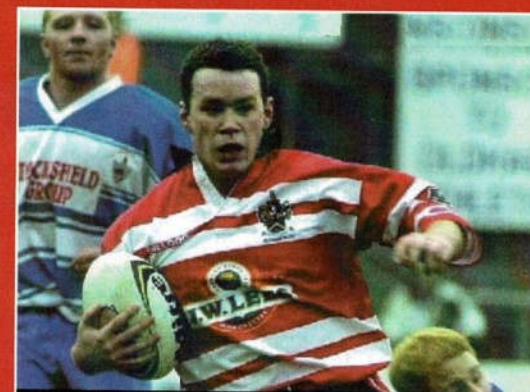
The first photo is of the match against Queensbury from Bradford played at Boundary Park three years ago on January 28th 2001. A crowd of 1,559 turned up and the action shows full back Mark Sibson going clear to score one of his four tries in a resounding 64 – 0 victory.

Picture 2.

The second image shows Roughyeds favourite Charlie Winslade touching down against Walney Central of Barrow on February 27th 1960. Oldham won the match 55 – 4 before a Watersheddings crowd of 11,140. The star of the day was wingman Ike Southward who scored six tries.

Picture 3.

Photo number three shows action from last season's encounter against East Hull on January 26th 2003. This time it's Neil Roden crossing the whitewash for a try in a 32 – 6 success in which Oldham scored seven tries but managed only two conversions. The attendance was 1,270.



Picture 1 - Oldham v Queensbury



Picture 2 - Charlie Winslade



Picture 3 - Oldham v East Hull

IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Panthers on reaching the 3rd round of the Powergen Challenge Cup (first round proper as they used to say!) and a TRUE Oldham welcome to Boundary Park.

Panther's official Steve Lund was on the phone the other night taking great delight in informing me that he had coached our own Jon Goddard as a Panthers' youngster at the same time reminding me that between 1974 and 1980 he pulled on the red and white hoops to pound the Roughyeds' wing on no less than 90 occasions scoring 23 tries.

Panthers' players played an important role at Watersheddings during the 70's Dickie Brown and John Patterson around the base of the scrum feeding World Cup half David Treasure and those of us of an age will recall tricky scrum half Jack Pycroft who played in front of 90,000 spectators in those three Challenge Cup semi-finals against Hull KR in 1964. Jack's nephew, 22 year old Neil Pycroft, plays centre for the current Panthers' outfit.

Panthers were formed in 1970, known in those days as Pointer Panthers playing in the Leeds & District Sunday League (they were the first Sunday league side to win the BARLA Yorkshire Cup when they beat West Hull 13-6 at the Boulevard in 1975). During that era they also faced a strong Leigh side in the Challenge Cup going down 37-8 at Hilton Park.

The club changed its name to Castleford Panthers when it moved into its new HQ in 1998 and now boasts around 16 teams from U7's to Open Age including a number of girls and ladies sides!

The first team currently rides high in National Conference 2 and looks certain to gain promotion.

With an average age of 23 the squad is very young, no less than 14 of the group having graduated through the club's youth section. But, they also have a sprinkling of experience in ex Castleford kicker Jamie Benn and former Leeds Rhino stand off/loose forward Arron Gornall. Other players to watch out for are all action hooker Luke Varley, strong centre or second row Paul Steel and wily scrum half Kevin Till.

BW



Panther's Luke Varley going for a try



and Richard Lees takes a tackle

AS IAN SEES IT

with IAN WILSON

Diary (continued)

November 15th. What a terrible let down! By pure chance, I had booked into the same hotel as the GB side near the centre of Hull, and they seemed fairly relaxed before the game; my wife star struck when she stood in the lift with Adrian Morley (who didn't stiff arm her.) Easy journey to the KC stadium, which I thought was superb.

At 20-8 ahead just before half time, we had the game won, but I genuinely thought we bottled it. The first half game plan was superb, but we were so negative in the second half that you can only believe that Waite had told them to change tack-a real cop out. Admittedly Tim Mander, the Aussie ref, didn't help - several marginal decisions against us, and no penalties at all concede by Australia during the last hour, which is just not credible. But, at the end of the day, we should have won, and failed.

Fairly depressing back at the hotel at night, and at breakfast the next morning, too. My mate and I, who haven't missed a home test for years, were genuinely miserable after the game, though. Yet another series gone, and both the first two tests should have been won, against what is undoubtedly an Aussie squad well below the standard of all those who have toured since the 1982 series which showed just how far we had fallen behind.

November 22nd. I suppose this was inevitable! Great to see another full house(though it would have been disgraceful if it hadn't been, given that we now choose to play at grounds with only around 25,000 capacities) At 12-6 ahead and four minutes to play, 2 brilliant Aussie tries, and one freak conversion, put us in our place yet again!

I felt that Waite really showed his limitations in the selection for this test, even though overall I am happy to accept that he has done a good job. I agree that there should not have been wholesale changes, but surely we should have been looking to the future a bit? Mike Forshaw and Barrie Mac should have been gracefully retired, Newton must have some hold over someone to have been even considered after the First Test, and I didn't see the point in picking an injured Farrell once the series was gone. Horne should have been at stand off, and Scully at loose forward - and you feel that if we had had Burrow and McGuire to come off the bench, we would have been safely ahead as the Aussies tired well before the catastrophic final few minutes.

December 26th. Can't manage without Boxing Day fix, so went to Headingly to watch Leeds v Cas. Great crowd, great atmosphere, and a really competitive game. McGuire showed real touches of class. Would love to see Leeds break the Bradford- St. Helens-Wigan dominance of Super League in 2004.

January 18th. Couldn't make the Law Cup, but spoke at length to someone who did. He was very unimpressed by the Oldham performance. But it is far too early to say and back to real action in a fortnight, at last!

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Joe Ferguson

1899 to 1923

Arguably the greatest ever Oldham player, Joe made a record 627 appearances for the club. But for the First World War his appearances may have crept up to 700, a fantastic record



Alan Davies

1950 to 1961

Of all the big-name players who graced Watersheddings in the "Fabulous Fifties", Alan Davies was king. One of the greatest centres the sport has ever produced, Davies was the complete rugby league player



John Hough

1998 to present

John, a local lad, made Oldham RL history on December 2, 1997, when he became the new Roughyeds club's first signing. With 180 appearances, he is now contracted for 2004 and looking forward to his 7th season as a Roughyed



Across the decades, the Chronicle has kept its readers on the ball with match reports, news and views from Oldham Rugby League Club — the Chronicle's reporters and photographers have been there for every game.

From the club's first game in 1895 to its most successful post-war season in 1956-57 to the present Oldham Roughyeds, the Chronicle has been on the touchline!

Make the most of your evening with Score on Monday and Roughyeds Round-up every week during the season



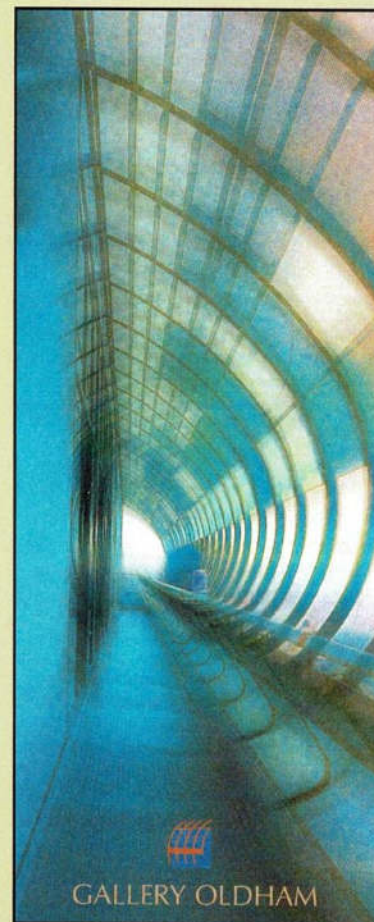
OLDHAM EVENING Chronicle

The voice of Oldham for 150 years



WALKERBOUT

With Brian Walker



The very swish GALLERY OLDHAM is to hold an exhibition between Saturday the 21st of August and Saturday the 18th of September centred on the OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE TRUST collection.

Discussions are taking place to also include the Rugby League's Hall Of Fame, which, for the last few years, has been sited at Red Hall HQ, access to the public largely denied.

It's over 10 years since the successful "C'mon Oldham" exhibition and 7 since the last rugby league show. The Trust's collection has grown out of all recognition since those days and we are confident that the Galleries record attendance will be smashed!



Painting by Steve Bennett of the Roughyeds' Hall Of Fame members (from left to right: Alan Davies 1950-62, Bob Irving 1964-74, Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94, Derek Turner 1955-59, Bernard Ganley 1950-61, Martin Murphy 1966-82, Frank Stirrup 1950-62, John Eddy 1954-59, Herman Hilton 1913-26, Joe Ferguson 1899-23)

NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



UP FOR THE CUP!

THIS is the stuff that dreams are made of. Forty clubs take part in the Third Round of the Powergen Challenge Cup this weekend, all fantasising over a Cup run that can set their town alight.

None of those 40 clubs are going to win the Challenge Cup this season. That much is as certain as certain can be.

But that doesn't mean there isn't much to play for, much to aspire to and much to achieve.

This weekend's clashes are particularly exciting for the amateur clubs involved. Today is their big day - their Challenge Cup Final. Almost every year the Cup throws up a giant-killing act - who will step forward this season?

Punters will inevitably look towards the London Skolars versus Rochdale Mayfield clash as having the greatest "upset potential". The Skolars crashed out of the competition to Halton Simms Cross at this stage last year, and Mayfield are enjoying an excellent season in Division Two of the Conference.

It's difficult to see any other obvious ties where the professionals will be under serious pressure, though Dewsbury, Swinton and Sheffield could face sterner tests than most against Sharlston, East Hull and Leigh Miners Rangers respectively.

The added bit of colour that graces this stage of the Cup is the presence of six teams from overseas - four from France and two from Russia.

Arguably the most intriguing clash comes at Craven Park, where Hull Kingston Rovers entertain Union Treiziste Catalan.

Both clubs have Super League aspirations, and with UTC being coached by Englishman Steve Deakin and having a number of ex-Super League players in their ranks including Russell Bawden and Steve Hall, there is potential for plenty of drama.

Of the two Russian sides, Locomotiv Moscow face Chorley on Friday night with the Lynx keen to avoid an upset, and Dinamo Moscow take on Bobbie Goulding's new look Rochdale team in a tie that has created much interest in the press.

Goulding admits to knowing little about his opponents on Sunday.

"I know Lee Finnerty who played for Halifax, and that's about it - I can't even pronounce their names, let alone know much about them!" he told Rugby Leaguer & League Express.

French outfit Limoux will fancy their chances at Gateshead Thunder, while it should be tougher for Pia Donkeys at Barrow Raiders.

Villeneuve Leopards have claimed a few English scalps in recent seasons, but look less well placed to do so this season after the departure of several high profile players. Their hosts York City Knights will start as strong favourites in that one.

For the victors of this weekend's games, there is Monday night's draw for the Fourth Round, and with the likes of Bradford, Leeds, Saints and Wigan included, a whole host of new dreams to be made.

But for now, it's the tough reality of Round Three. Enjoy today's game.

PLAYER
PROFILE

IAN WATSON

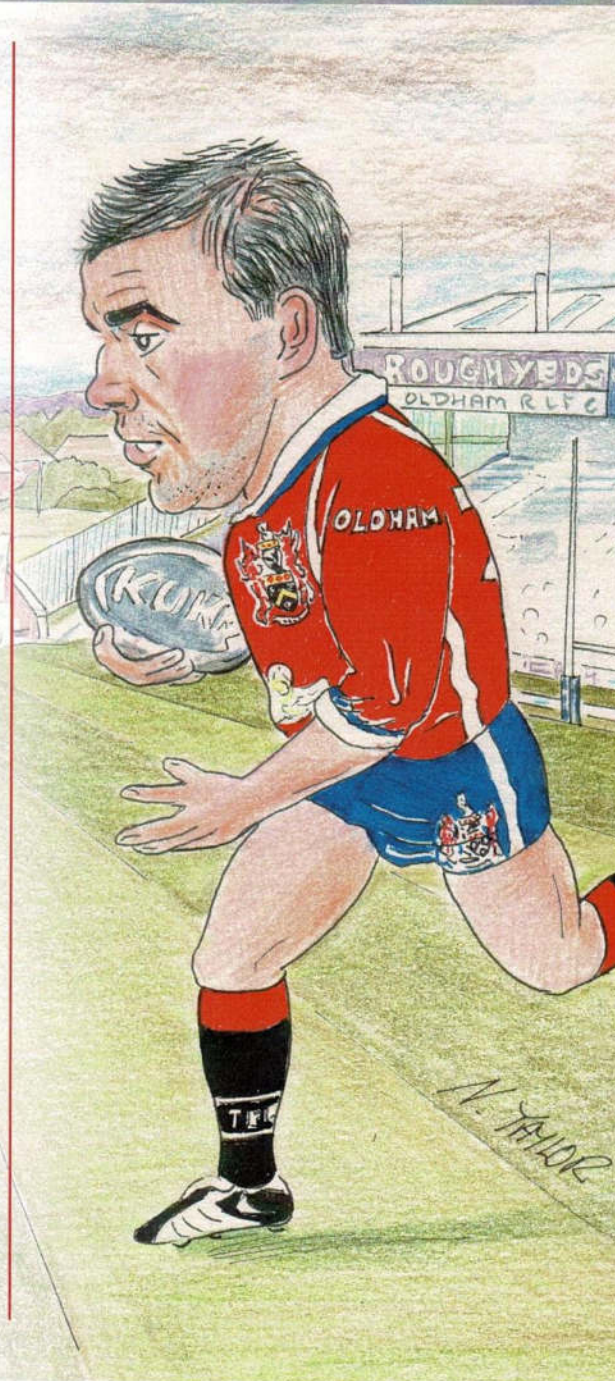
SINCE he first handled a rugby ball at Eccles amateur rugby league club, Ian Watson has been a good organiser. Rugby players come in all shapes and sizes. When you are of smaller stature, you've got to be big on guts, you've got to keep your wits about you and you must be able to play a bit.

It helps, too, if you've got the gift of the gab. Ian Watson has got all those attributes and they have seen him, this little fella from Salford, through many seasons of the toughest team sport in the world, many of them at the highest level of Super League and international rugby.

He has played a dozen or so times for Wales in fully-fledged Test matches, plus numerous other occasions in Welsh matches of lesser status. In two spells with his hometown Salford club, he played a total of 41 Super League games, scoring eight tries, three goals and five field goals to amass 43 points.

Two spells at Salford, one at Widnes and one at Swinton -- not to mention a short spell at Workington on loan -- preceded his move to Rochdale Hornets for the 2003 campaign.

Salford were still in the first division when they loaned Ian to Workington in 1996. At that time the Cumbrians were in Super League. They made a bright start, only to fall away later, and Watson was influential in those early Super League wins for the Cumbrians, for whom he scored 15 goals and a try in five appearances.



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IAN WATSON CONT...

His total Super League record, to date, therefore stands at 46 appearances, nine tries, 18 goals and five drop goals for a total of 77 points.

At Rochdale last season he played in all 32 games - the only Hornets player to do so -- scoring seven tries, 27 goals and six drop goals for 88 points. Along the way he picked up no fewer than eight Rochdale man-of-the-match awards, five in National League division one, two in the Arriva Trains Cup and one in the Powergen Challenge Cup.

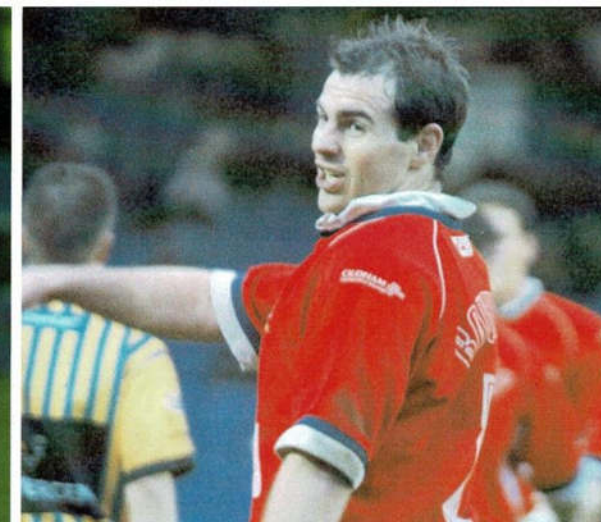
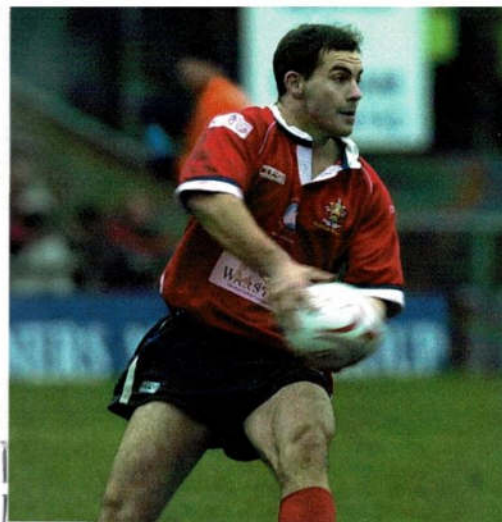
His six drop goals placed him fifth in the list of National League divisions one and two one-point experts, behind Chris Hough of Swinton with 12, Carl Briggs of Featherstone with eight, Paul Ashton of

Keighley with eight and Gavin Brown of Sheffield with seven.

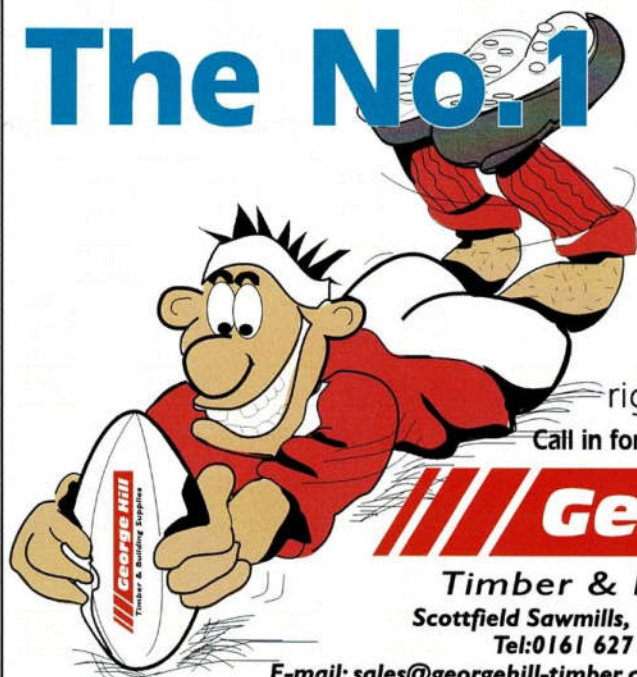
Ian is sure to handle the ball more than any other player in the season that stretches ahead of us. As scrum-half and organiser-in-chief he will call the plays and be responsible for moving the team around the field.

He will also accept responsibility for helping Steve Molloy and the coaching staff to bring on and develop the younger players in the first-team squad. And that won't be new to him, either: in his full-time job outside rugby he teaches football, basketball, hockey and rugby in schools in and around Salford and Eccles.

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We are now working closely with the "adult" supporters section and will also be giving details of events that your own "grown ups" may be interested.

Details of the "Grease" night are available from Janet or Carole.

Good luck to today's mascot John Wood. John is 11yrs old and goes to Radclyffe School. He enjoys playing rugby for Royton Tigers and of course watching Oldham. His favourite player is Dane Morgan (very popular with the "Kids: Dane, not too mention the mums).

Our usual thanks go to our sponsors, Saddleworth Sports, F R Elswood Ltd, The Oldham Advertiser and Cartridge World, Oldham.

Good luck to Steve and the "Lads" for this evenings match.

See you soon
Janet & Carole



TODAYS MASCOT

John Wood

Age: 11

Hobbies: Watching Oldham, playing rugby, plays for Royton Tigers

Favourite Player: Dane Morgan

Welcome to **JADE MIDDLETON** tonight's Castleford Panther's mascot.

Jade is just six years old and her hobbies include dancing, swimming and gymnastics. Her favourite Panther's players are Neil Pycroft and Craig Pearson and she is also a Castleford Tigers fan. She has been lucky enough to visit Disney World in Florida!

From all us Roughyed Kids enjoy the night.

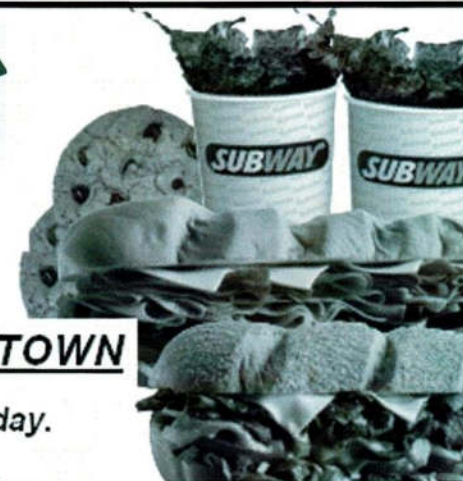
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ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO FEBRUARY 6TH YESTERYEAR

For Castleford Panthers, this evenings match marks the biggest occasion in the history of the club. Five years ago they were playing in the Yorkshire League when, on Saturday 6th February 1999, they entertained Stanley Rangers. Top-of-the-table Panthers were expected to continue their winning ways so it was no surprise when they took a 20 points to ten lead. Daz Simms, Scott Davidson, Chris Rawlinson and Steve Atha scored tries and Daz Rayner landed two goals. Unfortunately for the Panthers, Stanley Rangers came back strongly and were able to pull off a shock 22-20 victory.

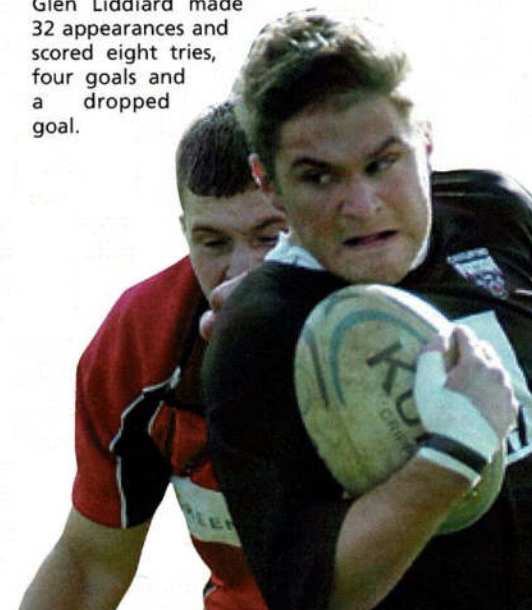
The disappointment suffered by Castleford Panthers five years ago was nothing compared to the despair that Oldham supporters felt on Saturday 6th February 1932. That day the Roughyeds entertained local rivals Rochdale Hornets in the opening round of the Challenge Cup. Hornets included several outstanding players in their line-up. At full-back was Walter Gowers, a British Lion, whilst free scoring Jack Williams was on the wing. Two Australian test players, centre Cec Aynsley and second-rower Vic Armbruster, played for Hornets in that match as did hooker Bob Lister, a Cumbrian County player who joined Hornets earlier in the season after nine years at Watersheddings. The Roughyeds finished higher up the league table than Hornets during that 1931-32 campaign but Rochdale beat Oldham both home and away in league matches and by 18-8 in that Challenge Cup-tie. Centre Jack Stephens and his winger Les Lewis scored tries for Oldham and full-back Tommy Rees landed a goal.

Thirty-two years ago, on Sunday 6th February 1972, Great Britain defeated France 10-9 in Toulouse. Oldham forward Bob Irving almost made an appearance in that test. He was non-playing substitute. Another Oldham forward, prop Hugh Waddell, was in action for Great Britain on Saturday 6th February 1988. France once again provided the opposition and Britain were again winners, this time by a more comfortable margin, 30points to twelve.

It was on this day in 1989, Monday 6th February, that Oldham signed industrious Australian loose-forward John Cogger. Although small in stature, Cogger was a gregarious character, an

inspiring leader and a talented and versatile player who was well worth the £12,000 transfer fee Oldham paid Runcorn Highfield for his services. Cogger made 62 appearances for the Roughyeds during the following two years and scored 31 tries. He was a member of the Oldham team which lost to Warrington in the 1990 Challenge Cup semi-final, one of nine semi-final defeats suffered by the club since they last reached the final in 1927.

The last time a team from Castleford won the Challenge Cup was 1986 when the professional Tigers club defeated Oldham 18-7 in the semi-final. Oldham's try scorer in that semi-final was young stand-off Glen Liddiard, a 16-years old Australian signed earlier in the season from Sydney junior club Colyton. After that stint with Oldham he returned home and enjoyed first grade success with Parramatta, Penrith and North Sydney before returning to Oldham in February 1994. It was on Sunday 6th February 1994 that Liddiard played the first match of his second spell with Oldham. He was substitute in the Roughyeds team which lost a First Division match at Sheffield Eagles by 28-14. During those two spells with Oldham, Glen Liddiard made 32 appearances and scored eight tries, four goals and a dropped goal.



Castleford Panther's player Pete Thornton

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Please watch this space for future events/details or telephone the club office on **0161 628 3677**



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Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg					Monthly Totals				
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Nov 2003	3237	1876	554	177	1295	357063	3723	11652	39398	67982
Oct 2003	2287	1368	396	137	1517	624114	4253	12284	42431	70903
Sep 2003	1882	1152	341	126	1294	783978	3802	10237	34582	56488
Aug 2003	1985	1091	335	120	1360	389112	3738	10409	33833	61553
Jul 2003	2140	1272	359	120	1370	431698	3729	11140	39457	66353
Jun 2003	2316	1315	377	129	1457	333337	3887	11329	39471	69501
May 2003	2086	1174	361	121	1523	324183	3779	11211	36396	64692
TOTAL						3243485	26911	78262	265568	457472

Above are the statistics for the official Roughyeds website www.roughyeds.co.uk up to an including November 2003.

Currently, the website is going through a major update for the new 2004 season, this is your chance to secure advertising on the website at a cost of £150 + vat per page or £200 + vat for two pages. The Home page and Message Board are more expensive.

Advertising on the website not only gives all season long exposure to local people, but also international exposure, as our site receives hits from as far away as Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Also the advertising period is a complete year with 365 days a year exposure not just match days.

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Below, is an example of the Oldham Chronicle banner, but don't worry if you do not have a banner for us to use, as we will make one for you.

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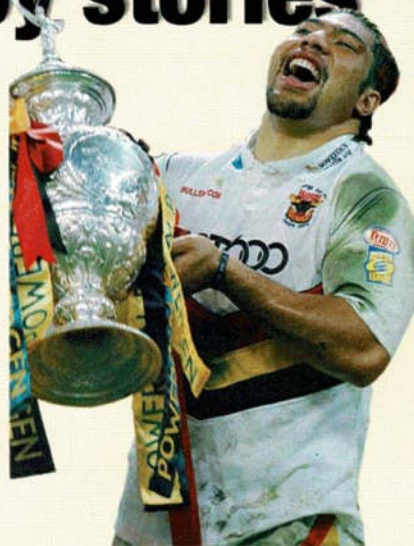




By Danny
Lockwood

Publisher
League Weekly

rugby stories



IT'S tough to see where the 'surprise' results might come in the Powergen Challenge Cup this weekend, unless Sharlston do the sort of 'Friday night special' on the woeful Rams that Dewsbury lads used to suffer if they unwisely wandered over to Casanova's nightclub in Wakefield, in days of yore. The locals might have paid more attention to their ale than their lasses, but that didn't mean anyone else could ogle them. Especially those Dewsbury types. And if they dared to take the dance floor? Blood and snot all the way back to the bus station.

These days a Challenge Cup surprise is when the semis don't consist of Wigan-Saints-Bradford-Leeds. But as Super League has pulled size and fitness levels upwards (yes old timer, we know skill levels aren't what they used to be; no proper stand-off halves any more), so the impoverishment of the semi-pro clubs should have made them far more susceptible to a raid from the out-and-out amateurs. The reality isn't generally borne out however. Wath Brow scraped a deserved Cumbrian win over Workington last year, then gave Batley a good run for their money, but you couldn't really call the Halton Simms Cross defeat of the fledgling Skolars any kind of shock. There were innocent north Londoners walking to the pub who got hauled into pulling on a Skolars jersey last year. If they had an antipodean accent they could have the captaincy and goal kicking duties too...

The days were when a Challenge Cup appearance was one of the game's top honours for an amateur – right up there with representing BARLA's Yorkshire and Gt Britain teams. The bragging rights to most John Player and Challenge Cup appearances was keenly argued by Pilkington Recs and Dewsbury Celtic in the days when only one or two amateur clubs emerged as 'kings' of the code to take on the pros. The Celtic team I watched in the 70s held mighty Wigan to 15-5, and Roger Millward and Clive Sullivan's Hull KR to 31-15. For my own first 'Cup' appearance in 1986, Dudley Hill had to win the Yorkshire Cup, then beat Lancashire champions Simms Cross to make the 'First Round Proper'. It made the day all the more special, and while today's amateur qualifiers will enjoy a richly deserved pay day, the chances of a tilt at the real big boys is still, largely, a fanciful dream.

But for past victors what a prize it was ... Hull at the Boulevard. Fancy lining up against Gary Kemble, James Leuluai, Garry Schofield, Dane O'Hara, Paul Eastwood, Steve Evans, Fred Ah Kuoi, Geoff Gerrard, Lee Crooks, 'Knocker' Norton. The anticipation! So of course it snowed in biblical proportions in Bradford and we travelled without winger Kevin Butcher. Dave Staniforth was literally pulled out of the stand to take the field – how special is that? We led 6-0 until a few minutes from the break, had a try disallowed, a man harshly sin-binned (as if those guys needed a leg up! ***** refs!) and finally succumbed by an honourable 38-10 against the side that had played the classic final against Wigan a few months before.

Ah, if only that try had stood ... if only the ref hadn't binned our man ... if only. The Challenge Cup. Real life fields of dreams.

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with **SHAUN GARTLAND**

The club will run a Senior Academy Under 21 side this season playing its home matches at Manor Park. The early fixtures are included elsewhere on this page, the season getting underway the weekend of the 28th of February.

The nucleus of the squad will be formed from the likes of Andy Gorey, Matty Harland, Chris Carter, Martin McDermott, Paul Bennett, Kiel Lancashire, James Kirkland, Danny Nanyin, John Mitchell, Michael Rowe, Adam Clayton and one or two other youngsters who all gained valuable experience last season.

Dependent on first team calls coach Shaun Gartland will also have available Dave Newton, Adam Sharples, James Lomax, Martin Elwood, Nick Johnson, and Craig Farrimond plus a number of other young players who are currently under the microscope.

Senior Academy Under 21 Clubs

More games are in store for our under 21s this season and firstly they will compete in a grading phase for the senior academy season proper.

Group A. Wigan Warriors, St. Helens, Huddersfield Giants, Wakefield Trinity Wildcats.

Group B. Bradford Bulls, Widnes Vikings, Halifax, Hull F.C. Oldham.

Group C. Leeds Rhinos, Warrington Wolves, Salford City Reds, Castleford Tigers, Leigh Centurians

Each team will play four games and then all results will be entered into a composite league table. The top ten clubs will form the Championship League and the remaining four clubs will be joined by Dewsbury Rams, Doncaster Dragons, Featherstone Rovers and Keighley Cougars to form the First Division.

EARLY FIXTURES

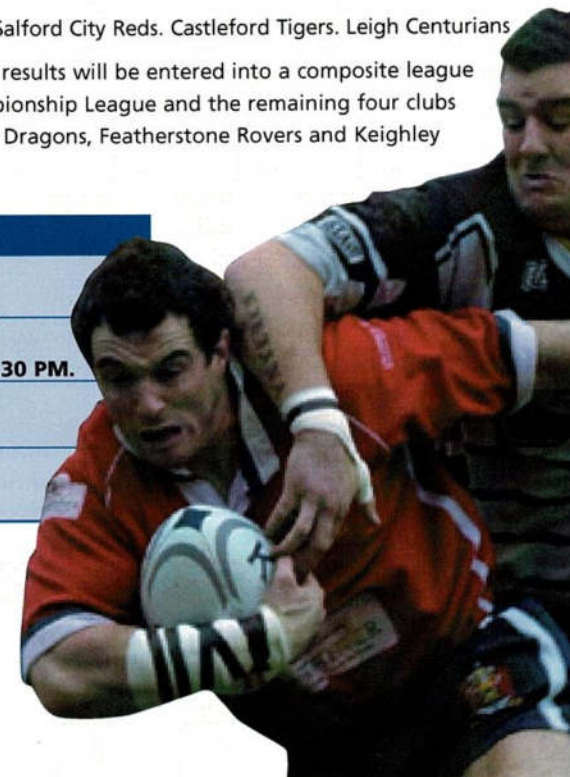
Tuesday 2nd March
Halifax R.L. F. C. v OLDHAM

Saturday 6th March
OLDHAM v Widnes Vikings k.o. 2,30 PM.

Saturday 20th March
OLDHAM v Bradford Bulls

Saturday 27th March
Hull F.C. v OLDHAM k.o. 2PM.

All fixtures are subject to final confirmation.



Fixtures

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L
01/02/04	Chorley Lynx	AT Cup	Home	15.00	64-14	W
06/02/04	Castleford Panthers	Powergen CC	Home	19.30		
15/02/04	Leigh Centurions	AT Cup	Away	15.00		
22/02/04	Swinton Lions	AT Cup	Away	15.00		
29/02/04	Powergen CC R4	Powergen CC				
07/03/04	Leigh Centurions	AT Cup	Home	15.00		
14/03/04	Powergen CC R5	Powergen CC				
21/03/04	Chorley Lynx	AT Cup	Away	15.00		
28/03/04	Powergen CC Quarter Finals	Powergen CC				
28/03/04	Rochdale Hornets	AT Cup	Home	15.00		
04/04/04	Swinton Lions	AT Cup	Home	15.00		
09/04/04	Rochdale Hornets	AT Cup	Away	19.30		
12/04/04	Featherstone Rovers	NL 1	Home	15.00		
18/04/04	Powergen CC Semi Final 1	Powergen CC				
18/04/04	Halifax	NL1	Away	15.00		
25/04/04	Powergen CC Semi Final 2	Powergen CC				
25/04/04	AT Cup Play-offs	AT Cup				
02/05/04	Leigh Centurions	NL 1	Home	15.00		
09/05/04	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL1	Away	15.00		
15/05/04	Powergen CC Final	Powergen CC				
23/05/04	Rochdale Hornets	NL 1	Home	15.00		
30/05/04	Batley Bulldogs	NL 1	Home	15.00		
06/06/04	AT Cup Quarter Finals	AT Cup				
13/06/04	Keighley Cougars	NL1	Away	15.00		
20/06/04	Whitehaven	NL 1	Home	15.00		
27/06/04	AT Cup Semi Finals	AT Cup				
04/07/04	Doncaster Dragons	NL1	Away	15.00		
11/07/04	Halifax	NL 1	Home	15.00		
18/07/04	At Cup Final	AT Cup				
25/07/04	Leigh Centurions	NL1	Away	15.00		
01/08/04	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL 1	Home	15.00		
08/08/04	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	Away	15.00		
15/08/04	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	Away	15.00		
22/08/04	Keighley Cougars	NL 1	Home	15.00		
29/08/04	Whitehaven	NL1	Away	15.00		
05/09/04	Featherstone Rovers	NL1	Away	15.00		
12/09/04	Doncaster Dragons	NL 1	Home	15.00		
19/09/04	NL 1 & 2 Play-offs	NL1				
26/09/04	NL 1 & 2 Play-offs	NL1				
03/10/04	NL 1 & 2 Play-offs	NL1				
10/10/04	NL 1 & 2 Grand Finals	NL1				
17/10/04	NL 1 & 2 Prom/Releg. Play-offs	NL1				

Key

AT Cup – Arriva Trains Cup
Powergen CC – Powergen Challenge Cup
NL1 – National League Division 1

Sponsors

ALL TYPES OF MATCHDAY SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Match Sponsor
(Parties of 20)

Team Sponsor
(Parties of 10)

Man of the Match Sponsor
(Parties of 4)

Match Ball Sponsor
(For two people)

or simply book a table for the
pre-match lunch.

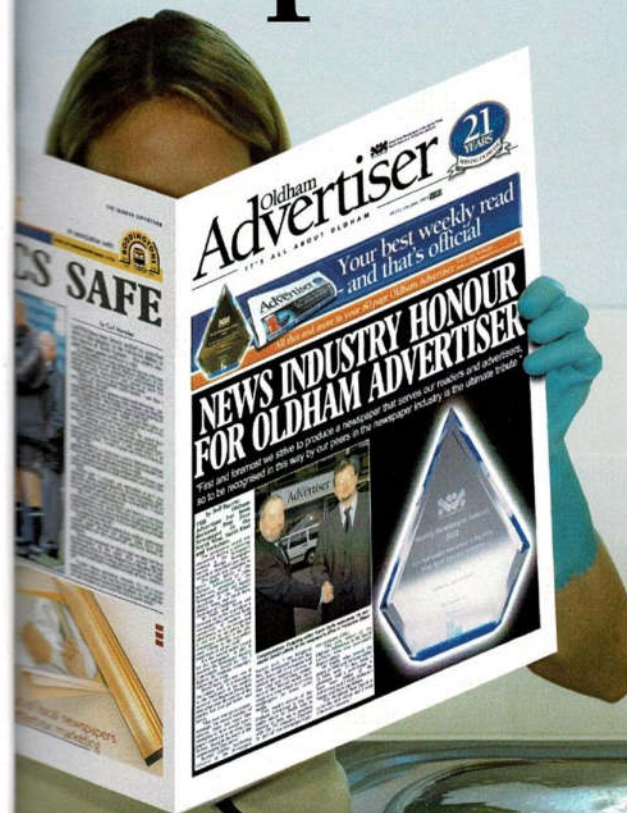
Give Dave or Tracey a ring
at the club on

0161 628 3677

Oldham RLFC fully support the **Let's tackle Racism in Rugby League** campaign and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable.

Allow everyone to enjoy the game.

You won't want to put it down.



It's all about Oldham



OLDHAM



CASTLEFORD PANTHERS

Jon Goddard	1	Chris Hepworth
Will Cowell	2	Keiron Hickman
Iain Marsh	3	Arran Gornall
James Bunyan	4	Neil Pycroft
Nick Johnson	5	Simon Wassell
Neil Roden	6	Jamie Benn
Ian Watson	7	Kevin Till
Steve Molloy	8	Craig Potter (Capt)
John Hough	9	Luke Varley
Paul Southern	10	Danny Pickering
Craig Farrimond	11	Paul Steel
Lee Doran	12	Andrew Smith
Lee Marsh	13	Craig Pearson
Gareth Barber	14	Paul Walshaw
Martin McLoughlin	15	Richard Leese
Simon Svabic	16	Phillip Peel
Dave Newton / Adam Sharples	17	Gary Wilders

Match Officials:

REFEREE: S. Kilgallon

TOUCH JUDGES: S. Williams & P. Wroe

RESERVE REFEREE: R. Hicks

MATCH COMMISSIONER: Ian Ollerton

Power in young hands

Powergen Champion Schools Tournament

We're delighted to sponsor the Powergen Champion Schools Tournament, the largest knockout Rugby League tournament in the world. The competition helps more than 16,000 young players from over 800 UK teams train and learn through this energising sport. As sponsors of the Powergen Challenge Cup we're giving our full commitment to this prestigious tournament.

For more information on the Powergen Champion Schools Tournament call 0113 237 5016.



Powergen | Power in good hands