

Swinton Lions

Wayne English

Jake Johnson
Jason Roach
Dave Llewellyn
Chris Irwin

Warren Ayres
Paul Ashton

Tau Liku
Peter Cannon
Mike Loughlin
Craig Wingfield
Danny Heaton
Ian Hodson

Grant Bithell
Mark Bolton
Rob Barraclough
Rob Whittaker

Referee : C. Halloran Reserve: N. Price
Touch Judges : R.Huddleston, D Tidman

Next match for the Lions at Park Lane
Sunday 7th March
Chorley - Arriva Trains Cup

Next match for the Tigers at Park Lane
Saturday 28th Feb
Rosslyn Park - National League 2

Oldham Roughyeds

1. Gavin Dodd

2. Will Cowell

3. Iain Marsh

4. Jon Goddard

5. Nick Johnson

6. Simon Svabic

7. Ian Watson

8. Steve Molloy

9. Keith Brannan

10. Paul Southern

11. Lee Doran

12. Dane Morgan

13. Lee Marsh

14. Gareth Barber

15. Craig Farrimond

16. Martin Elswood

17. James Bunyan

Swinton Lions

Designed & produced by The Swinton Supporters' Trust

RUGBY LEAGUE
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

Inside - LATEST SQUAD PHOTOS



TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR



PAUL KIDD
"Redoubling our Efforts"

IAN RIGG
Whitehaven Match Report

JOHN SPELLMAN
Lions Walk for Leukaemia Research

SIMON GREEN
Coming to terms with East Hull Despair!

IAN JACKSON
Twenties Heroes on Film

MIKE CAINE
Keeping tabs on former Lions



Swinton v Oldham

Sunday 22nd February 2004 - Park Lane, Whitefield, Manchester Price £2.00

Director of Rugby - Les Holliday

After the disappointment of our last game at Park Lane, going out of the Cup against East Hull, the players have been asked to do a lot of soul searching. The performance was not acceptable & changes were made for the trip to Whitehaven, albeit some were due to injuries we picked up.

The performance against Whitehaven was a big improvement with some creditable displays, we controlled the ball better and there was an improvement in our kicking game. We have talked this week about our mental preparation and how we can maintain our performance levels, as it was apparent against East Hull some of us did not prepare well. However we will have prepared for today and will need to perform well if we are to achieve our 1st win.

On another note I would like to thank you Swinton supporters for your restraint in the Challenge Cup game, where it was reported that many of the East Hull support were causing problems both in the bar areas and in the stand. This sort of behaviour will not be tolerated and they have been reported to the Rugby League. Today we welcome Oldham RL & their supporters for what I am sure will be an entertaining game that will be enjoyed in the true spirit of Rugby League.

Enjoy, Les

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CLUB OFFICIALS

Directors:

John Kidd,
Richard Taylor,
Sue Buckley (Supporters Trust)

Company Secretary:

Dave Jones

Director of Rugby:

Les Holliday

Head Coach:

Paul Kidd

Other Officials:

Laura Henderson (Physio)
Norman Brown (Asst. Physio)
John Holden (Safety)
Rob McGivern (Head Steward)
Vinny Kirkman (Kit Man)
Alan Horseman (Asst Kit Man)

Programme Designed

and Edited by:

Peter Green,
Martin McDonough,
Steve Wild

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Champions:

1926/27, 1927/28, 1930/31, 1934/35, 1962/63, 1963/64

Runners Up:

1924/25, 1932/33, 1939/40

Challenge Cup Winners:

1899/1900, 1925/26, 1927/28

Runners Up:

1926/27, 1931/32

Lancashire Cup Winners:

1925/26, 1927/28, 1939/40, 1969/70

Runners Up:

1910/11, 1923/24, 1931/32, 1960/61, 1961/62, 1962/63,
1964/65, 1972/73

Lancashire League Winners:

1924/25, 1927/28, 1928/29, 1930/31, 1939/40, 1960/61

Runners Up:

1892/93, 1893/94 (Under RFU) 1897/98, 1900/01,
1922/23, 1926/27, 1934/35, 1938/39, 1965/66

Second Division Championship Winners:

1984/85

Runners Up:

1986/87, 1996;

Promoted: 1974/75, 1990/91

Second Division Premiership Winners:

1986/87

Runners Up:

1988/89

BBC Floodlit Trophy Runners Up:

1966/67

West. Div. Champ. Runners Up:

1963/64

CLUB RECORDS

Win: 90-0 v Prescott Panthers 11/8/1996 **Loss:** 10-106 Leeds 11/2/2001

Appearances: Ken Gowers 602 (Inc. 8 Sub) 1954-73

Points: (Career) 2105 Ken Gowers; (Season) 283 Albert Blan 1960/61;
(Match) 30 Greg Pearce v Prescott Panthers 11/8/96; Mick Nanyin v York
Wasps 25/3/2001; 29 Bernard McMahon v Dewsbury 15/8/1959

Tries: (Career) 298 Jim Valentine 1884-1901; 197 Frank Evans 1921-31
(Season) 48 Jim Valentine 1888/89; 42 Johnny Stopford 1963/64
(Match) 6 Mark Riley v Prescott Panthers 11/8/96

Goals: (Career) 970 Ken Gowers;

(Season) 128 Albert Blan 1960/61;

(Match) Ken Gowers v Liverpool City 3/10/1957

Ground Record Attendance: 44,621 Warrington v Wigan 7/4/1951

Club Record Attendance: 26,891 v Wigan 12/2/1964

World Record Kick: 77.75 yards by Martin Hodgson at Rochdale Hornets 13/4/1940

Coach's Comment - Paul Kidd

A very warm welcome to Steve Molloy, his players and of course the fans , board members and officials of Oldham RLFC.

Our last home game against East Hull in the Challenge Cup was obviously a very disappointing day for all here at Swinton. The players took it upon themselves to issue an apology which club captain Peter Cannon did via the club web-site. The week that followed the East Hull game, the coaching team saw a very positive reaction from all the players in training. The talk all week was that actions speak louder than words so lets get on with the job in hand.

At Whitehaven last week , myself and the rest of the coaching staff were looking to see if the players put their words into action. We came away from Whitehaven reasonably happy with the overall performance on the field. The players that took to the field deserve a big pat on the back. It is never easy for any team to go away to Whitehaven, but for the full 80 minutes our players gave their all for the Swinton shirt. Thanks also to the fans who made the long journey , your support was and is always very much appreciated.

Today's game will no doubt be another tough encounter against Oldham. They come here following a defeat at Leigh last week, thus giving both teams something to prove. I'm sure that we will all be in for a great game. Keep up your support and enjoy the game.

Paul

Rugby League Round up with Ian Rigg

Neil Turley was Leigh's star man against today's opponent's Oldham as he scored 23 points with 9 goals, a drop-goal and a try as Oldham went down 51-32. Lions' old boys Lee Doran and Ian Watson got on the scoresheet for Oldham. Rochdale Hornets took a 33-14 battering at home from Halifax and Peter Roe's Barrow defeated Chorley Lynx at Victory Park, 40-6.

The World Club Challenge also took place last weekend and Bradford Bulls took the crown defeating my favourite Aussie team Penrith Panthers by 22 points to 4 at Huddersfield in front of a crowd of just under 19,000. There was also a testimonial game for Chris Joynt as a strong St Helens side defeated Widnes Vikings, 36-14. A London Broncos' side made up entirely of English players played a challenge match against London Barbarians and ran in 17 as they won by 98-0 at Wollams in St Albans.

At last the National League is going to get some TV coverage but only starting in the autumn when we will see the climax of the season including the play-offs and the Grand Final. Only time will tell if we guys in the second division will get any coverage!

In other news around the divisions Warrington Wolves opened their account last night at the new Halliwell Jones Stadium with a game against Wakefield Wildcats and it was hoped for a capacity crowd of 12,500. The Wildcats themselves have just secured a grant to improve facilities at Belle Vue on the terraces and other ground areas. Hull FC loose forward Jason Smith has been ruled out for 4 months with a recurrence of his shoulder injury and Wigan are in a similar boat with injuries as Mike Gregory only had 14 fit players training last weekend before Friday night's first game against the Bulls.

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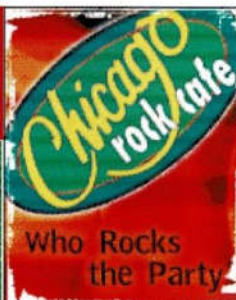
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Fixtures - Season 2004

Date	Comp.	Venue	Opponents	For	Agst	Att.
Sun 01/02/2004	ATNC	H	Leigh	6	22	1,351
Sun 08/02/2004	CC3	H	East Hull	14	26	532
Sun 15/02/2004	ATNC	A	Whitehaven	10	38	1,073
Sun 22/02/2004	ATNC	H	Oldham			
Sun 07/03/2004	ATNC	H	Chorley			
Sun 21/03/2004	ATNC	A	Leigh			
Fri 26/03/2004	ATNC	H	Whitehaven (8pm)			
Sun 04/04/2004	ATNC	A	Oldham			
Fri 09/04/2004	ATNC	A	Chorley			
Mon 12/04/2004	NL2	H	Gateshead			
Sun 18/04/2004	NL2	A	Dewsbury			
Sun 25/04/2004	AT p/o					
Sun 02/05/2004	NL2	H	Workington			
Sun 09/05/2004	NL2	A	Hunslet			
Sun 23/05/2004	NL2	H	Barrow			
Sun 30/05/2004	NL2	A	York			
Sun 06/06/2004	AT qf					
Sun 13/06/2004	NL2	A	London Skolars			
Sun 20/06/2004	NL2	H	Chorley			
Sun 27/06/2004	AT sf					
Sun 04/07/2004	NL2	A	Sheffield (4pm)			
Sun 11/07/2004	NL2	H	Dewsbury			
Sun 18/07/2004	AT f					
Sun 25/07/2004	NL2	A	Workington			
Sun 01/08/2004	NL2	H	Hunslet			
Sun 08/08/2004	NL2	A	Barrow			
Sun 15/08/2004	NL2	H	York			
Sun 22/08/2004	NL2	H	London Skolars			
Sun 29/08/2004	NL2	A	Chorley			
Sun 05/09/2004	NL2	H	Sheffield			
Sun 12/09/2004	NL2	A	Gateshead			
Sun 19/09/2004	NL2 p/o					
Sun 26/09/2004	NL2 p/o					
Sun 03/10/2004	NL2 p/o					
Sun 10/10/2004	NL2 gf					

Today the club is holding a bucket collection for Danny Scott who recently suffered spinal injuries playing for his club Moldgreen, the amateur side we all know from Huddersfield. Danny has been moved to Pindersfield Hospital, Wakefield following two major operations. The Supporters Trust would also like to inform its members it is sending a cheque for £100 on their behalf. We all send our best wishes to Danny.

A Word from our Safety Officer - John Holden

The game against East Hull proved to be a disaster both on and off the pitch. The behaviour of the supporters, club officials, and non-playing players of the East Hull club went far beyond the bounds of common decency. It is a long time since I have seen such behaviour at any sporting venue. Don't be kidded that it was only a small minority, the fact is that a large majority of the East Hull supporters dragged the name of Rugby League down into the mud. Stewards spent most of the afternoon dealing with complaints about foul and abusive language as well as racist comments and were then subjected to abuse themselves whenever they intervened.

The easy answer to dealing with this problem may have seemed to many to be to simply eject those causing the trouble. The problem here was that there were so many causing problems that attempts to remove some of them may have resulted in an escalation of the problem and innocent bystanders becoming unintentionally involved. Furthermore ejection may well have led to further complaints from already un-sympathetic neighbours if such an ill-educated mob were left to their own devices until the time came for their coaches to leave. In the circumstances, I feel that the decision I took was the right one, although I apologise to anyone who feels differently.

At this point I would like to thank my stewards for a magnificent job under very difficult circumstances. We are few in number (yes, we do have vacancies) but committed to ensuring anyone who attends a Lions' fixture can do so in safety and comfort. Well done to all the Swinton supporters who did not rise to the bait and avoided getting involved. Our first game at Park Lane was a great success and the hard work during the close season by so many from both clubs to make it happen seemed so worth it. I'm sure that when the Rugby League have taken the stern action that surely they must against East Hull, we can then draw a line under this episode and show to everyone at Sedgley Park and the surrounding area that Rugby League is a great game to be enjoyed by everyone.

Supporters Trust - Steve Wild

I no doubt speak for a good number of my fellow Swinton supporters when I say that I have never had a more depressing day following our beloved club than I did on 8 February. At half-time I thought the worst that could happen was my feet freezing to the terracing, or that I might be carted away to get treatment for wind-burn. If only that was the case.

I watched the game with my 12 year old son, and even though he has hardly had a sheltered upbringing I constantly cringed at the some of the language we were being forced to endure. I decided to move location for the second half, and whilst doing so was told horrendous stories of racial abuse and general bad behaviour. By the final hooter I couldn't wait to escape the ugly atmosphere beginning to develop, and this was regardless of the result. Don't get me wrong. As anyone who has followed Swinton home and away over the past few years will testify, we can enjoy a pint and a bit of banter with the best of them, but I also think it's fair to say that we Lions fans have also gained a reputation for good humour and fair play.

Sour grapes this is not. On the day, as much as it pains me to say after losing to non-professional opposition in a competitive game for the first time since we joined the Northern Union, the East Hull team deserved their victory. So why did their own people feel compelled to spoil such a great day in their club's history?

Finally, on a totally different subject, I'm sure all supporters will join me in thanking Laura Henderson for all her hard work for the club, and wish her well for the future.



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Welcome to Oldham - Part 1

Gareth Barber A 21 year old Oldham born half-back who signed for Warrington, but returned "home" to Oldham before the start of the 2000/2001 season. A promising young player who made the stand-off position his own last season and was selected for the NFP under 21 squad who beat the Super League under 21's in 2001.

Keith Brannan Keith is a product of Amateur Rugby League in the Oldham area, playing for both Higginshaw and Shaw Rhinos before signing for his home-town club. Scrum-half is his preferred position but he has filled many places, most notably hooker whilst deputising for John Hough.

Will Cowell Played 18 times in Super League for Warrington Wolves, mostly as a substitute. The 22-year-old Cumbrian is a product of that prolific provider of Rugby League players, Kells. He left Wilderspool permanently to join Oldham originally on a one-year contract which has recently extended for another year.

Gavin Dodd The former Royton Tigers youngster, who later had a spell with Bradford Bulls academy team. Fast on the break, yet unpredictable at times, has made the full back position his own. Dodd represented Great Britain students in Australia and New Zealand two years ago, and was selected in the GB under 21 squad last season.

Lee Doran A Wiganer, Lee has worked his way through the Oldham academy and alliance sides and is now probably one of the first names on the team sheet each week. Good pace and robust defence give him all the assets required to make a top class second row forward. Showed up well in the NFP under 21's, in 2001. One of five Oldham players in the squad.

Martin Elswood Signed from Super League club Huddersfield Giants. At around 6'4" and 16st Martin has power as well as pace. Martin was brought up on a strong rugby background at North Chadderton school and was also reared in the Royton Tigers youth set up.

Phil Farrell Phil is starting his fourth season at Oldham and has just been appointed club captain. Played a lot of his rugby with Oldham at second row but it looks like he will fit into the loose-forward role this season. One of the youngest captains in the league but he will not be phased by the responsibility.

Craig Farrimond Started his rugby years at the Wigan based Ince Rose Bridge amateur team before signing for Warrington, where was the captain of the under 21 side for the last two seasons. He also featured in the Super League under 21 side which beat their NL1 counterparts.

Jon Goddard Aged 20, Goddard came to Oldham on loan in the 2002 season on the recommendation of Graham Steadman, the Castleford boss. Goddard was reared in Castleford youth and schools rugby before going to The Jungle to play for the academy side.

John Hough The first player to sign for his home town club when the new Roughyeds were formed by Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors in the autumn of 1997. On his day one of the best hookers in the NFP. A danger to any defence from acting half-back.

Welcome to Oldham - Part 2

Gavin Johnson A back-row forward who can also fill in at centre or wing, Oldhamer, Gavin spent two seasons at Odsal in the Bradford Academy. Spent almost a season earning his Oldham spurs in the Alliance team before signing a two-year deal in September 2001.

Nicky Johnson Nicky signed for Oldham towards the end of the 2003 season on a loan deal from Bradford Bulls. Nick is a winger and was a member of the Bradford Academy team that won the Super League Academy Championship. An Oldham lad he is keen to play for his own town team.

Iain Marsh Iain is a 22 year old goal kicking centre or winger signed from Barrow Border Raiders. Iain, a St Helens lad, played for Salford for five years and claimed a number of Super League appearances. He then went to St Helens the season before last. A solid defender and very strong finisher.

Martin McCloughlin Martin fits the Oldham ethos of big front-row men, but can also play second-row. Signed from Barrow at the end of the 2002 season, and during his year with the Cumbrian club he twice managed to get his name into the NFP form team of the month.

Steve Molloy ex England captain. Oldhamer, Molloy, who signed for his second spell at Oldham from Batley Bulldogs, was the obvious choice as player coach when the previous coach left mid season. A front-row forward who has also played for Featherstone, Sheffield, Warrington, Huddersfield and Leeds.

Lee Marsh 20 year old Lee Marsh signed on a one month loan deal from Salford City Reds in mid August. He made twenty first team appearances for the Reds last term and can play centre, stand-off, second-row or loose-forward. He represented the National League against the Super League under 21's in both games.

Dane Morgan Dane is a leviathan of a man, standing at 6'5" and weighing around 17 and a half stone. The 24 year old second-row or prop-forward has a brilliant pedigree. He has played for North Sydney and was a try scoring member of the World Club Championship winners Melbourne Storm when they beat St Helens.

Neil Roden Signed from his own town club Wigan. The son of Wigan's chief scout now has the scrum-half jersey to himself after winning the accolade of Players' Player of the Year in 2002. He has shown improvement in the three seasons with the Roughyeds and is one of the best scrum-halves outside Super League.

Paul Southern Swintonian Paul has been signed on a twelve month contract. Paul showed great consistency playing for Hornets last season and this earned him a place in the fictitious NL1 form team of the year.

Simon Svabic Simon is another one of the players signed from the Centurions at the end of the 2002 campaign, although his career started in Oldham with the now defunct Bears. A stand-off half of great guile, he will be an important play-maker in the Roughyeds' armoury for this year.

Ian Watson Ex-Swinton ball-boy who needs no introduction. Ian has been a Welsh international since 1996 and is regarded as a clever half-back with a good kicking game.

New Faces



Chris Brett



Jake Johnstone



Neil Hayden



Danny Heaton



Rob Whittaker



Nick Cook



Dave McComas



Mark Bolton

Whitehaven 38 Swinton Lions 10 - Match Report by Ian Rigg

Haven took the lead in the third minute when ex Lion Mick Nanyin brushed Dave Llewellyn aside to score near the corner but he could not convert his try. Four minutes later it was another of the Lions old boys Howard Hill who raced in by the posts after good build up by Nanyin and the centre also added the goal points and Haven led 10-nil.

The first Lions try came in the twelfth minute and a good one it was too when Wayne English chipped Nanyin and his winger Jamie Marshall to win the race with Haven fullback Wesley Wilson for the touchdown to which Paul Ashton added the goal points. Haven's third try came in the twenty-sixth minute when Paul O'Neil crossed in the corner but Nanyin missed the conversion and then eight minutes from the break centre Brett McDermott went in for a simple try and Nanyin added the goal to give Haven a twenty points to six interval lead.

Haven came out strong in the second half and score two tries in the first nine minutes with Marshall and Craig Walsh touching down but Nanyin missed both conversions. The Lions second try came in the sixty-second minute when some great play by Mark Bolton and Chris Irwin down the left sent Warren Ayres in for the try but Ashton could not convert.

Haven added two further tries in the final five minutes when Marshall scored his second and Gary Broadbent scored the last with Nanyin missing one conversion and Stephen Wood adding the other.

Commercially Speaking with Richard Taylor

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Ken Gowers with wife Laura and daughter Karen
enjoying the Lunch 'n' Crunch before the East Hull game

The Monton Mouth Rides Again

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Chris Hamilton and our good friends from Oldham! Like us, they've had a bit of a nomadic life since they left 'Sheddings, what with Boundary Park, Spotland, Ashton, back to Boundary Park! We know how it feels don't we?

Okay, what am I going to bore you with today? Well, we're off walking again! Yes, it's that time of the year when I try (normally very successfully!) to relieve you of a bit of your dosh! .

We've done this sponsored walk for a while now, raising funds for Leukaemia Research in the fond memory of Vanessa and Skeechny who as you know, both paid the ultimate price for this disease. Two Swintonians we'll never forget!

This season, we're doing it on Sunday 7 March which is prior to the Chorley game here at Sedgley Park, and you're all more than welcome to come and join us! (If you're feeling energetic that is!)

As I say every time, it's NOT a race, and we'll be leaving in plenty of time for you all to make it well before the kick-off and watch us tame the Lynx!

Our stroll will be as follows: We'll set off from the "shrine" and walk up Station Road to "The Windmill". It's then straight across the road, past what was "The Beehive", and down towards "Pilks". Next, it's a right turn and along Lumns Lane till we get to Agecroft Road where we'll do a left. Up "Rainsough", and carry on till we hit the A56, where we'll turn left, go up to and over the motorway, before another left turn at McDonald's, and a quick final sprint to Park Lane! A journey of 6.6 miles (I know coz I've clocked it in the car!) There are a few good pubs on the way if you need a bit of refreshment! And it won't rain (or it hasn't on previous walks anyway!)

I'll have the forms with me today. So either come and support one of us for the walk, or better still, grab a few sponsors of your own (friends, family, work-mates) and raise a few bob yourself by walking with us, coz it's for a very good cause, as I'm sure you'll agree!

Last year we raised over £1,400, so let's see if this time we can push that figure to a grand and a half! I reckon I'll be able to talk the shop into giving me something "Lionish" and that'll go to whoever raises the most money! Barbara Cathcart was last season's champ!

Right, that's it I think! So there you have it, a full article from Spelly, and not a controversial word in it! That must be worth a bob or two in itself! Hint, hint!

If you want a sponsor form just ask me, or at the bar. I'll make sure the programme sellers and Trust stall have got some as well!

You can pay me "up front" today if you so desire! Cheques are payable to "Swinton Lions Walk Fund".

Thank you in advance.

Yours in sport,
Spelly



**By Danny
Lockwood**

**Publisher
League Weekly**

rugby stories



I FELL in love with Mrs Lockwood the minute I clapped eyes on her. Well, she's a belter when all's said and done. But the minute I saw her in a swimming pool, I was gone. Ga-ga. And no, it was nothing to do with the cut of her cossie, rather the way she cut through the water. An international swimmer, you see. I swim like a man with pit boots on, two withered arms and one poorly lung. She glided like a dolphin.

Power and brute strength are elemental parts of our sport, but every now and again we witness that magic ingredient called style, and it brings the game to life in a way nothing else can. That's why some of us purists would rather David Waite had given a player like Danny McGuire a run in the Ashes series. The kid has that special something that has made people brave the lousy weather and part with their hard-earned cash over the years. The spark might not ignite every week, but when it does ... well, you don't forget it. And when you have 26 muscle-bound automatons hurtling into each other at speeds that would make a Dallas Cowboy lineman grimace, well, sometimes you need that magic to make the difference. Nothing against that top class loose forward Paul Sculthorpe, but he's not a stand-off – and McGuire has potential to be a great one.

And dare I say it, necessity being the mother of invention that she is, Robbie Paul's dicky arm might just have given us a glimpse of another such rare talent last Friday night at the McAlpine. Leon Pryce had his share of cameo performances at stand-off last year. Sometimes he looked unsure of himself, now and again he exploded into gaps and showed us flashes of brilliance. Perhaps because both Paul and Deacon (and Lowes) were absent against the Penrith Panthers, Pryce had carte blanche to run the game. Along with Karl Pratt he did that very competently ... but what caught my eye was THAT break for the try.

You expect dummies and shimmies from the McGuires and Orrs and Longs of the world. They all have guile and pace. What Pryce has in addition is size. Lots of size. Farrell and Sculthorpe are big men who can use the foil and put a step on – but Pryce has their power and considerably more gas. For his try he showed and went, had the strength to shake off the half-tackle, then he stood the last man up and stepped outside again, all the time with his head up looking for support in case he needed it. He didn't. You can't teach that. It's there or it isn't ... and in the vast majority of cases, even at international level, it isn't. A touch of class.

The problem is, Robbie Paul is the Bulls' talisman and he's itching worse than a cheap woolly jumper to get back into the thick of things. The time was Brian Noble could accommodate him at full-back – heck, he was grateful for him there. But messrs Withers and Reardon will have an enthralling arm-wrestle for that spot. With Richard Whiting earning rave reviews in his early days at Hull, Gt Britain could suddenly have an abundance of star-quality stand-offs, after a veritable dearth for so long. Much depends on Brian Noble as to whether Pryce gets a long-term run in the position. From a neutral point of view it's a lip-smacking prospect. If you're playing against the Bulls, it could be more of a nose-smacking prospect. Fast, tricky, and built like an aircraft carrier? Ouch.

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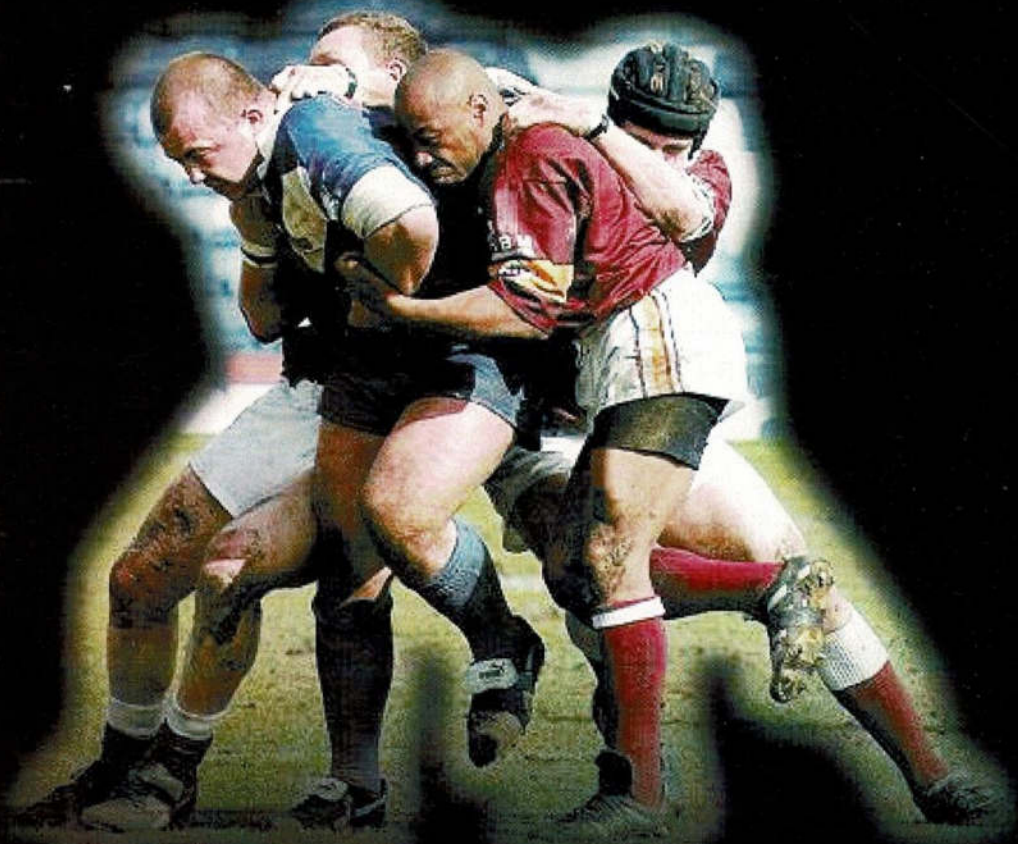
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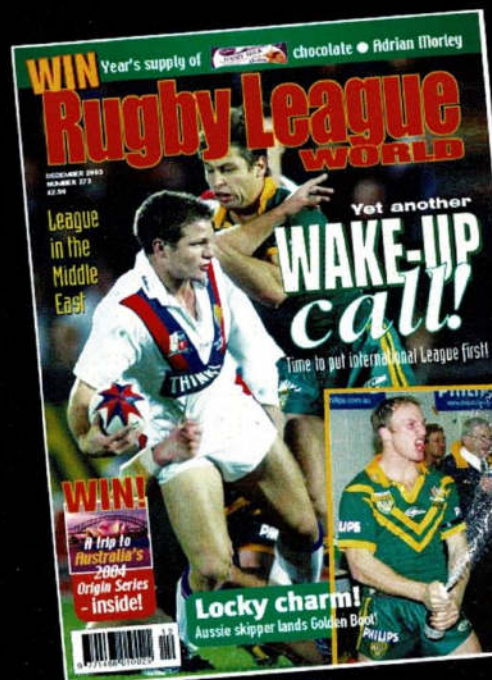


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Name	Played	Subs	Tries	Goals	Drops	Points
Ashton Paul	3	0	1	3	0	10
Ayres Warren	3	0	1	0	0	4
Barracough Rob	0	1	0	0	0	0
Bithell Grant	0	2	0	0	0	0
Bolton Mark	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cannon Peter	1	0	0	0	0	0
English Wayne	3	0	1	0	0	4
Heaton Danny	1	2	0	0	0	0
Hodson Ian	3	0	0	0	0	0
Irwin Chris	3	0	1	0	0	4
Johnson Jake	1	0	0	0	0	0
Liku Tau	3	0	0	0	0	0
Llewellyn Dave	3	0	0	0	0	0
Loughlin Mike	1	1	0	0	0	0
Maye Chris	2	0	2	0	0	8
Patel Sarfraz	2	0	0	0	0	0
Roach Jason	3	0	0	0	0	0
Rogers Wes	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sinfield Ian	2	0	0	0	0	0
Smith Kris	2	0	0	0	0	0
Thorpe Hugh	0	2	0	0	0	0
Whittaker Rob	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wingfield Craig	1	2	0	0	0	0

Kitman Vinny is sponsoring Hugh Thorpe £2 for each try he scores this season. If anyone else would like to sponsor a player in any such way e.g. per goal, try, yards made etc. contact the club shop stating the action and amount sponsored.

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6 In memory of George Parkinson	7 Neil & Wayne Beswick	8 Dave Shirt	9 Graham & Dave Berry	
10 Chris Tyldesley	11 Pete Green	12 The Tyldesley's	13 David Kozomara	
14 The Johnson's	15 John Holden	16 Spelly	17 David Elson	

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2 Dave Hesketh Uxbridge	6 Peter Kidd	13 Steve Wild
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Jake Johnson presents 'the big one' to the Supporters Trust secretary Ray Bowdler, who received it behalf of recent winner Sam Collier. Sam, pays into the lottery via the Trust, which earns the Trust 10% commission. The Trust also received £100, as agents get a 10% bonus of any of their winners.

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View from the Boardroom

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Park Lane for what is now our third home fixture of 2004 in our new surroundings. From all the feedback, I really get the impression that the move to Sedgley Park and the partnership deal we have agreed has given us all a sense and feeling of belonging and made to feel so welcome has been fantastic and at this point I must say a personal "thanks" to both Dave Smith and Geoff Roberts here at "The Park!" and to all Swinton fans, let me say, we owe these two guys a pint or two for their efforts and patience (certainly in Geoff's case) during the negotiations and their work for us in preparing match days.

I do not need reminding of the Sunday from "East-Hell" and the result out there on the field – but the behaviour of so called RL fans (they were not true fans) was despicable and shameful and all credit to our fans for not rising to the bait. Swinton Lions RLC will not tolerate such behaviour and at the time of writing this article I can assure all connected with the Lions that the club has delivered its reports and evidence to the Ruby League and requested a full investigation. To those supporters who got caught by the abuse and were upset by idiots, I can only apologise on behalf of the club and the game of RL itself. This is a family game where everyone is welcome to enjoy a fabulous sport – we all have a responsibility to deliver a friendly, hospitable, humorous and most importantly, a safe day out.

We need to draw a line under such bad memories and I can think of no better way than to be playing our good friends from down the road – Oldham – true Ruby Leaguers and great people. Can I extend a very warm welcome to Chris Hamilton and his fellow director's, Steve Molloy, the players and backroom staff and above all, you the supporters. Enjoy your day with us and good luck for the rest of the season.

On behalf of Swinton Lions, can I thank all our advertisers, sponsors and commercial partners for their generosity and ask all fans to support whenever and wherever possible the people who are helping this club to re-build.

As a club we are very fortunate to have such support off the field and to each and everyone, thank you.

Enjoy your day

Yours in sport
Richard Taylor

A Lion in Exile - Simon Green

OK, so nobody died, but just when you think things are on the up (the Leigh defeat produced a number of big positives), we get beaten by an amateur side in a competition we have *won three times!* Now I'm no Steve Wild (*er, thanks? - ed*), but I reckon that's the first time this has happened in 138 years. So how does it feel to be part of history, everybody? Nice if you're an East Hull fan I guess, but bloody awful if you're a Swinton fan, I can tell you.

Anna Freud, daughter of the eponymous Sigmund, believed that in order to reduce anxiety brought on by experiencing something reprehensible (losing at home to an amateur side is a good example), the human animal utilises up to 6 defence mechanisms as a means of coping. So, how did these manifest themselves on Sunday, February 8th at 4.50 p.m. in this little corner of Essex I call Swinton?

1. Repression (forcing painful feelings into the unconscious which then lurk maliciously, affecting your behaviour and mental state without you realising it). Consequently, for the majority of Sunday evening, I became a chicken called Betty. Fascinating experience, although I do prefer a knife and fork to pecking my Sunday roast.
2. Projection (attributing our unacceptable thoughts and feelings to others). It was our pet tortoise's fault. No tactical guile in that wrinkly little bonce and he's hardly greased lightning breaking from dummy half.
3. Denial (cut off the event from your consciousness). Beaten by East Hull? Impossible. Obviously a conspiracy spread by a malicious Salford fan.
4. Rationalisation (finding a decent, albeit irrelevant excuse). Well, if it can happen to Dewsbury, Keighley, Barrow, Gateshead and Hull KR.....
5. Displacement (redirect your unacceptable urges on to a substitute). I'd kick the dog if we had one. Which leaves the tortoise....
6. Sublimation (turn the forbidden impulses into socially acceptable behaviour). Hosed aforementioned reptile off neighbour's conservatory. Dreadful mess. Nice drop kick, though.

Joking aside (do I see anyone laughing?) we either wring our hands and gnash our teeth and curse our ill fortune, or learn a few harsh lessons and move forward. The least that I ask is that the players and the coaching staff look at themselves long and hard and resolve to spend the rest of the season clawing back some credibility, restoring some faith and in particular, repaying the unselfish unpaid investment of those individuals involved in the club and the Trust - daft, besotted lunatics - who have saved this magnificent club and who have made it possible for them to ply their trade.

Sunday hurt. I know for one that it hurt everyone with blue and white in their blood who paid their hard earned £9 at the turnstile. It should have hurt the players twice as much as professional sportsmen. If it didn't, then I would question whether they deserve the privilege of wearing that Lion on their shirt.

Anyway. Challenge Cup? Mickey Mouse trophy!

Oldham beware. Backlash in progress!

Come on you Lions!

(P.S. No tortoises were hurt in the writing of this article)

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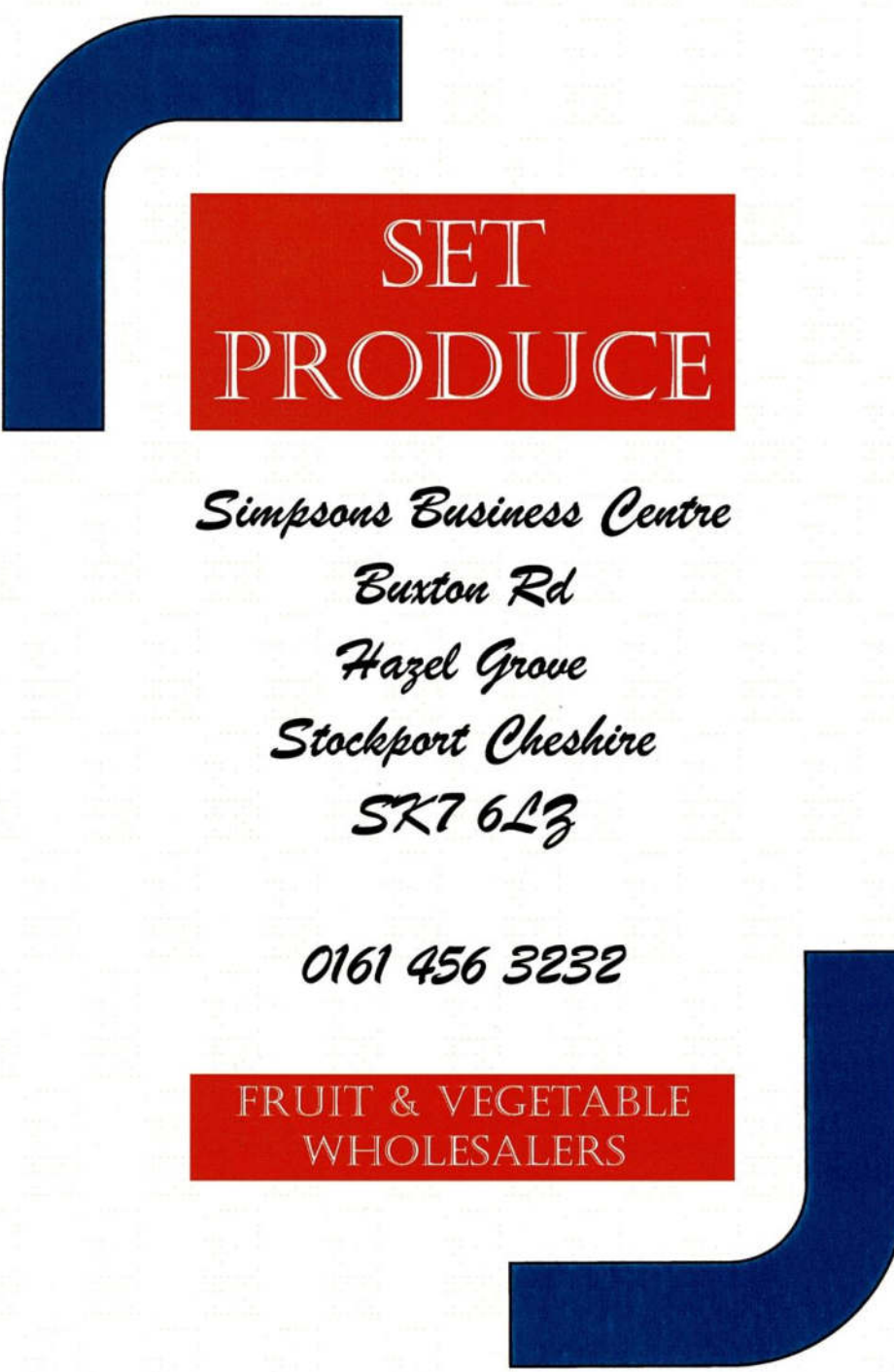


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One Lion on the Shirt - Ian Jackson

Have you ever wondered how Swinton played in the three consecutive Challenge Cup appearances of 1926, 1927 and 1928? Or what it must have been like to watch the Lions play in the 1930s? Or even what the atmosphere was like in the Test matches at Station Road in the 1950s? Wonder no more as this week we explore where Swinton RLFC has appeared on old newsreels from the cinema.

The Swinton club has featured in many British Pathe newsreels from the 1920s to the 1960s, due to the great sides produced by the club and the fact that Station Road was a major international venue. The short films, often silent or worse still containing patronising Standard English commentary, are now contained in the British Pathe archive managed by ITV and can be viewed using the internet.

The mainly black and white images can be accessed on-line at britishpathe.com or itvarchive.com and thanks to a lottery grant you can view the actual flickering images previously seen in cinemas. To imagine thousands of people watching the Lions before the main feature of "This Sporting life" and "Brief encounter" is just fascinating.

There are about eight newsreels featuring Swinton in the archive, which fall into three main categories.

Challenge Cup finals in the 1920s

League matches in the 1930s

International matches at Station Road

There are three Challenge Cup finals featuring Swinton (all silent); versus Oldham in 1926 at Rochdale; versus Oldham in 1927 at Wigan and versus Warrington in 1928 at Wigan. The faded black and white images are a wonder to behold as the players energetically run about. The Swinton players in 1926 run out onto the Athletic Grounds with one lion on the shirt, it is pure magic.

There are two league matches at Swinton featured in the 1930s: versus Batley in 1936 and versus Liverpool Stanley in 1937. The panorama of Station Road is shown in all its glory. The images show a wide pitch, big crowds and lots of smiling faces in flat caps.

The international games at Station Road are Great Britain versus Australia in 1930 and 1951; and Great Britain versus New Zealand in 1952. There are vast crowds, fantastic play with quick and small players. The centre circle in the 1930 Test match is exactly that: a white circle about a yard in diameter. Also the Aussie players have letters instead of numbers on their backs. It is all just fascinating stuff.

Swinton and Station Road obviously appeared often in the output of cinemas. There is other Rugby League material including footage of Wembley Challenge Cup finals and features on Leigh, Oldham and Wigan. There is also footage of the 1958 Agcroft mining disaster and the clock at Walkden striking thirteen so that the people would know when it was time to return to work.

Later this season there will be features of Swinton RLFC on the TV and radio. In the meantime you really must visit the web-site; it is wonderful to see actual film of Station Road and Swinton players from the past.

Junior Lions News - Colin Gettins

May I first of all welcome our visitors from Oldham especially the Junior Roughyeds and their families and hope you have an enjoyable day at Park Lane.

Today we are back in the Arriva Trains competition hoping to gain our first points and also trying to overcome our disappointment at being dumped out of the Powergen Challenge Cup by East Hull. Although we wish good luck to the players of East Hull in the next round, that's more than can be said of their supporters who seemed to forget that Rugby League is a family sport and also paid no respect to our landlords or neighbours. Regardless of the result Rugby League is a family sport and junior supporters from any club are the supporters of the future so lets not turn them or their parents against coming again - so lets cheer on the lads without what was experienced at our last home match from our opposition supporters.

May I remind all junior members to collect their free sweets and drinks from the Junior Lions table when they enter the ground.

Competitions

The first winner of our free monthly raffle for our Junior members is Asti Hill aged 8 from East Malling in Kent. Asti has won a signed Swinton shirt.

Junior Match Day Raffle

The winner of the half time raffle against East Hull was Andrew Wadsworth from Worsley who won a goody bag

Membership

What a good start to the season 54 members after our opening matches, so if you have not received your membership card see one of the Committee members down at the Junior Lion table. Remember if you still not joined why don't you become part of the Junior Lions experience.

Match Day Mascots

If you want to lead the Lions out at any match this season either contact us on a match day or via the club shop

Match Days

As like last season the Junior Lions have set up their table near the turnstiles where all members will be entitled to their free drink and sweets when they produce their membership card. We will also be selling old programmes from Swinton and other clubs to raise money for the junior section. If anybody has any old programmes they do not want give us a ring, take to the club shop or bring them down on a match day and they will be greatly appreciated.

Birthdays

One of our members is having his birthday soon; it is James Birmingham (25th Feb), who will be 15. Hope you I have a good day and a Happy Birthday.

Junior Lion of the Day

Today's Junior Lion, Matthew Gabriel aged 9, and is from Chellasston in Derby. He attends St John Fisher school and enjoys Football, Cricket and Playstation games. His favourite player is all the Swinton squad.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



Back in the limelight

THE news that the National League play-offs will be screened by regional BBC this autumn will be welcomed by everyone connected with the game outside Super League.

For three years, the then NFP play-offs were covered by ITV's critically acclaimed "Rugby League Raw", drawing high viewing figures for such a late night slot. ITV's coverage even included screening the entire 2002 Grand Final between Widnes and Oldham live on a Saturday afternoon.

"RL Raw" may not have been everyone's cup of tea in the manner in which it presented the game, but nobody could argue that it was not good television. It took the sport to viewers who might not otherwise have watched it. In 2003, there was no TV coverage at NL level, and the competition missed that exposure badly. But now the National Leagues will be back on our screens - and that has to be good news for every club involved.

There might not be a financial package such as the one Super League clubs receive for Sky's coverage of the top flight, but exposure on TV can mean so much more for clubs that show a willingness to take advantage of it. The only shame is that the deal wasn't announced prior to the start of the season, when clubs expecting to be involved in the play-offs could potentially have asked for higher packages from their sponsors, given the coverage their companies will get.

The programmes also give supporters at this level the chance to see their teams given the credit they so richly deserve for entertaining thousands of people every weekend of the season. But they can be overlooked elsewhere, and the new BBC programme will present players with the opportunity to display their skills to a wider audience. The BBC will broadcast a series of programmes in the autumn that will follow the National League play-offs and Grand Final. Further details of the programmes covering the National Leagues will be announced in coming months, but already the news has been widely greeted. "It is tremendous news that the excitement and thrills created by the climax to the National League season will be televised, and the vibrancy of the sport at this level will reach many, many viewers," executive chairman Richard Lewis enthused.

Back to the present, and the third weekend of the Arriva Trains Cup takes place this week. After two rounds, there are only six teams remaining unbeaten. Already the competition is shaping up to be even better than last year.

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The Roving Mike with Mike Caine

Going through the teams for all 20 Powergen Challenge Cup 3rd round ties made interesting reading. I was particularly struck by the number of ex-Swinton players playing for other teams, both amateur and professional, so I decided to do a bit of reminiscing and share some memories of them with you.

Doncaster Dragons defeated West Hull 28-6 with the always popular Marlon Billy scoring a try. Last season's regular Lions scrum-half Chris Hough was on the Dragons bench and if you include Graham Holroyd, who signed, but never actually played for Swinton, you have a trio of Lions who have turned into Dragons.

Leigh had a 64-4 win over Elland with last season's Swinton skipper Simon Knox making an appearance off the bench.

Over at Robin Park, Ince Rosebridge went down to Batley Bulldogs to the tune of 42-8. Making a substitute appearance in that match was former Academy stand-off Wesley Else, a player who showed enormous potential under the tutelage of John Prince..

There was a player named Matt Bateman in the Lock Lane team which suffered a 96-0 mauling at Featherstone Rovers, but I am not certain that he is the same player who turned out for Swinton four years ago.

The most surprising appearance came at Crossfields who went down 46-14 to Workington Town. Scoring a try for the amateurs in that game, winning his teams Man of the Match award and also getting sin-binned, was one Andy Pucill. Andy, described as a battering ram in the match report, was an immensely hard working prop-forward and is probably one of, if not the last player, who played for Swinton at Station Road, to be still playing the game today.

The spirit of Glasnost was missing at Victory Park where Chorley hammered Lokomotiv Moscow 54-6. Ex-Swinton second row forward Chris Newall scored a hat-trick of tries for Chorley who also had Anthony Murray packing down at hooker.

Another try hat-trick was scored by Andy Gorski in Rochdale Hornets 60-24 win over Dinamo Moscow. Gorski, who played the final four games of last season whilst on loan from Salford City Reds, was joined in the Rochdale pack by Andy Leatham and Lee Hansen.

Several former Lions faced each other at Knowsley Road where Thatto Heath lost 26-12 to Whitehaven. Scoring a try and two goals for Thatto was full-back Mike Wood, with Tommy Hodgkinson, their man of the match, packing down at loose forward. Mick Nanyin kicked three goals for the Cumbrians, who also had Howard Hill playing in the second row.

The popular Dale Holdstock has finally landed back on home territory by signing for Hull KR during the close season and he was another ex-Lion to get the man of the match award as Rovers went down 23-22 to French Super League aspirants Union Treiziste Catalane.

Leigh Miners Rangers pushed Sheffield Eagles all the way before losing out 14-12. Mark Wallington, the former Swinton academy and reserve utility back, was on the Leigh sides' substitute bench.

London Skolars just managed to edge out Rochdale Mayfield 22-16 at the New River Stadium. Former Swinton and Hornets second rower David Chrimes was yet another man of the match winner, with half-back Steve Gartland, who played for the Lions at Gigg Lane for two seasons, kicking two goals for Mayfield.

Oldham, today's visitors, had a 16-8 win over Castleford Panthers with Welsh scrum-half Ian Watson and Lee Doran in their team. Watson spent three excellent seasons at Gigg Lane, whilst Doran was another product of the John Prince academy set up.

One of the many surprise results was at Cougar Park where Keighley Cougars went down 16-14 to Bradford Dudley Hill. Forward Chris Roe, made a substitute appearance for the Cougars.

So there we are, a total of 21 certainties, one possibility and one that got away. I often wonder what happens to players when they leave Swinton. At least as far as the above are concerned, we now know.

Treatment Table with Laura Henderson

Unfortunately injuries are starting to take their toll with Ian Sinfield (thigh), Wes Rogers (hand), Safraz Patel (shoulder), Kris Smith (shoulder) and Chris Maye (head) all missing last week's trip to Whitehaven through injury. Hopefully, the majority, if not all, will be fit for today's game against Oldham.

Sadly, today is my last game here at Swinton, as tomorrow I start my new job as head physiotherapist at Leigh Centurions. The decision to move to Leigh has not been an easy one, but it is a good career move for me to be in charge of the medical set-up at a successful NL1 club. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and would like to thank all the directors, coaches, staff, players and fans for the very happy six years I have spent at the club. I would especially like to thank Norman Brown for all of the help and support he has given me over the years, you have been an absolute star and I will miss you loads, especially on away journeys...who am I going to share my bottle of wine with now?!?!

Good luck to Paul, Les and all the lads for the season, hope to see you on Grand Final Day in the autumn, you CAN do it!!!

Hope to see you all on the 21st of March for the Leigh 'v' Swinton game, but no matter what club I am working at, I will always be a Swinton supporter!!!!!!

Goodbye & Good Luck

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