



Producers and suppliers of high quality bread, rolls and confectionary.

Specialists in barmcakes, batons, soup rolls and plaits.

Suppliers to the NHS,
Catering Companies, Hotels and Shops

BAKERY SHOP
OPEN DAILY
8.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Baker Street, Coppull PR7 5UH
Telephone: 01257 471101
Fax: 01257 471082



t: 01772 312554 - f: 01772 312163 - E: info@pwdesignuk.co.uk

CHORLEY
LYNX

RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Season **2004** £1.50



Official Shirt Sponsor 2004



Arriva Trains Cup

Chorley Lynx v Oldham Roughyeds
Sunday 21st March 2004 - Kick-Off 3.00p.m.



Powergen — the power behind Rugby League

At Powergen energy is our business, and we're committed to supporting Rugby League at all levels. As one of the world's most energetic sports, Rugby League inspires passion, commitment and dedication. This is why we're delighted and proud to be involved, from the grassroots of Powergen Champion Schools, through to the Powergen Challenge Cup.

To team up with Powergen visit powergen.co.uk

Powergen | Power in good hands



Chairman's View

About the Lynx

OFFICIALS

Chairman:
HENRY MORRIS

Directors:
GERRY HAMILTON
JOHN MARK

Club Secretary:
MICK WEARMOUTH

**Chorley Sporting Club
Manager:**
DENNIS RAMSDALE

Head Coach:
MARK LEE

Media Manager:
ALAN HARROP

Programme Editor:
IAN BRIDGE

Timekeepers:
DAVID AINSWORTH

Kit Manager:
PAUL RIDING (First Team)

R.L. Council Representative
JOHN MARK

Contact Numbers
Rugby Football Office:
01257 263406
Fax: 01257 241625

Match Day Enquiries:
01257 263406
(11.00 a.m. onwards)

Chorley Sporting Club, Victory Park,
Ashby Street, Chorley PR7 3DU

Today we welcome Oldham to Victory Park in the Arriva Trains Competition.

In our first encounter Oldham hit a rich vein of form and performed excellently on the day, however, I am sure Mark and his players will have learned a lot from this experience and all will be determined to improve.

Over the last couple of weeks a number of players are returning to fitness such as Rob Smyth and Danny Barton, both who will provide stability to our team and experience.

Against Swinton I believe our level of performance was greatly improved, but for uncharacteristic lapses in concentration we could and probably should have won the game.

This seasons Arriva Trains competition has provided much stiffer opposition than last season and I am confident this will stand the team in good stead when the league campaign starts.

The National League Two division this season looks to be stronger than ever with teams such as York recruiting extremely well.

Hopefully Marks injury crisis will have cleared up fully by the start of the season, along with one or two more signups, we shall be a competitive force in National League Two.

Enjoy the game.

Henry Morris
Chairman

Chorley Sporting Club Social Club

CABARET EVERY WEEKEND
in the social club

Related Institution Council for
Electrical Installation Contractors

VME ELECTRICAL LTD

UKAS
QUALITY
MANAGEMENT

APPROVED CONTRACTOR

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

constructionline

9 Astley Road, Chorley, PR7 1RR
Tel: 01257 279439

**JOHN CLARKSON AUTO
SERVICES**

ENGINE MANAGEMENT - DIAGNOSTICS
Service - Repairs - Tyres - Batteries
PETROL - DIESEL - MOTS

Tel. 01257 263879
Quarry Road, Chorley, Lancashire

CHIROPODIST

Professional Foot Care
in the comfort of your own home

Hillary Hunt MSSCh MBChA

Tel: 01257 791943
Mobile: 07720 930510

**Astandish
AUTOBODIES**

ACCIDENT REPAIRS, RESPRAYS,
WELDING TO M.O.T. STANDARD, RECOVERY
& VALETING

UNIT 35 BRADLEY HALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
BRADLEY LANE, STANDISH
TEL/FAX: 01257 472552 MOBILE: 07976 777563

In the Dugout



Welcome to Oldham players and officials for today's game, and of course to fans of both teams.

Oldham were our first opponents in the Arriva Trains Cup and if the lessons from that 64-14 defeat are not heeded today then we could be in for a tough time. They will come here looking to get back on track after a couple of defeats but we will give them a competitive game.

What I'm looking for is week on week improvement. In order to deliver that we need to tighten-up on our ball retention and to display more pride in our defence.

Today it's good to welcome back Lee Patterson after what I still feel was a particularly harsh 2-game suspension. But on the down side, it looks like we will have to do without the services of Brian Capewell. A combination of injuries and his work situation seem likely to force him Brian out of the game.

I'm still on the lookout for another forward to join the squad and with the news about Brian we may also need to recruit another back too.

Whilst we've had a welcome weeks break, every one of the players is keen to get back in action following the Swinton game. I thought that match was not very professional at all. We are supposed to be trying to clean up the game but there was a lot going on around the ruck area and that was very frustrating.

Having said that, although we were disappointed with defeat we played some good rugby at times. We played as we trained and were putting into practise some of the things we've been working on during those training session. That was pleasing and represents the sort of improvement that we need to continue making.

Lets hope we can take it on a step today.

I hope you enjoy the match.

Mark Lee

Nigel Clare Menswear

14 High Street, Chorley

Tel: 01257 249040

The White Horse

32 - 36 Chorley Road, Heath Charnock, Adlington PR6 9LJ

Tel: 01257 481766



**Your Hosts
Matt & Julie**

- Home Cooked Food
- Great Entertainment
- Games & all Spy Games

D.E.S.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Tel: 01257 241500

Complete Electrical, Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting Installations

We are pleased to be associated with

CHORLEY LYNX R.L.F.C.

Specialist Contractors to the leisure and rail sectors

www.deschorleyltd.uk

Unit 30, CBTC, Euxton Lane, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 6TE

Beryl Davis Products

MANUFACTURERS OF PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Unit 1 Primrose Bank House, Friday Street, Chorley, Lancashire, PR6 0AA

Tel: 01257 272121 Fax: 01257 268033

Email: sales@beryl-davis.co.uk

www.beryl-davisproducts.com

www.chorleylynx.com

LET US GET YOU THERE IN STYLE

Club Oasis Minicoaches

**CHORLEY'S PREMIER
MINICOACHES CO.
COACHES FOR ALL OCCASIONS**



12, 16, 31 Seater Minicoaches available for day trips

• Contract work

• Private Hire

• 24 hour airport service

DON'T DELAY, BOOK TODAY

**Telephone: 01257 272888
13-15 Albion Street
PR7 3AD**

**"Do you prefer Business Class
TRAVEL..."**

On four WHEELS?"

- UK Coverage
- European Contracts
- Corporate Events
- Airport Shuttles
- 24Hr Service
- Special Occasions
- Mobile conferencing
- Chauffeur Hire

MLC Travel

Telephone: 01257 410850

58 Montcliffe Road • Chorley • Mob 07801 782989

National League Talk

Day of the underdog

By GARETH WALKER of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

LAST weekend saw two National League teams upset all the odds with tremendous wins despite adversity.

York City Knights became the only NL2 club to make the quarter-finals of the Powergen Challenge Cup, with a stirring against-all-odds win at Featherstone.

And last year's wooden spoonists London Skolars recorded a historic win at home to Sheffield Eagles in the Arriva Trains Cup.

First, the Knights' tale:

Richard Agar's squad was down to 15 fit players at the club after a series of injuries and suspensions, and with some players being Cup-tied. As a result, the retired Richie Hayes dug his boots out after calling it quits with a persistent shoulder injury last month, and Danny Seal - who hasn't trained with the Knights for several weeks - had special permission to have time off work in London and travelled up to the game.

Even then, the Knights were up against it when Australian centre Aaron Wood was sent off in the tenth minute.

But their twelve men battled against all the odds, and Alex Godfrey's 79th minute try sealed a gripping contest.

"We had so much thrown at us in the last week," said Agar, who also missed Tuesday's training himself as his wife was due to give birth.

"I've been involved in Grand Final winning teams, but I've never every seen the amount of guts and

determination that were on display today.

"For Richie Hayes to put in a performance like that against a National League One team is awesome. And Danny Seal went to unbelievable lengths to play in this game.

"The team was down to 12 men, playing into a gale force wind in the second half, and went behind twice. Even if we had lost then I would have been a very proud man."

The Knights' reward is a quarter-final trip to Super League side Huddersfield Giants.

The Skolars' win, meanwhile, was their first ever in the Arriva Trains Cup, and managing director Mark Croston hopes it is the signal for more wins for the Skolars.

"It was a good achievement for us - the result of all the hard work that has been put in over the winter and during the season," Croston said.

"We're all looking forward to more days like that at the New River Stadium.

"It was a very good day for everyone at the club, and credit must go to the players and coaches."

Today's ATC clashes see more chances for the underdog to upset the odds - will the trend continue?

**READ THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE
COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL
LEAGUES AND ALL LEVELS OF THE
GAME IN RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE
EXPRESS - OUT EVERY MONDAY**

www.chorleylynx.com

CHORLEY LYNX RLFC Fixtures 2004

Month	Date	Comp	Opponents	Venue	Kick-Off	Result	Attend
Feb	1st	ATC	Oldham	A	3:00	14-64	1,096
	6th	PCC 3	Locomotiv Moscow	H	7:30	54-6	521
	15th	ATC	Barrow Raiders	H	3:00	6-40	303
	22nd	ATC	Leigh Centurions	A	3:00	10-60	1,452
	27th	PCC 4	Wakefield Wildcats	H	8:00	6-88	696
Mar	7th	ATC	Swinton Lions	A	3:00	24-27	430
	21st	ATC	Oldham	H	3:00		
	28th	ATC	Barrow Raiders	A	2:00		
	4th	ATC	Leigh Centurions	H	3:00		
Apr	9th	ATC	Swinton Lions	H	3:00		
	12th	NL2	York City Knights	A	3:00		
	25th	NL2	Sheffield Eagles	H	3:00		
May	2nd	NL2	Gateshead Thunder	H	3:00		
	9th	NL2	Dewsbury Rams	A	3:00		
	23rd	NL2	Workington Town	H	3:00		
	30th	NL2	Hunslet Hawks	H	3:00		
Jun	6th	ATC	Quarter Finals				
	13th	NL2	Barrow Raiders	A	3:00		
	20th	NL2	Swinton Lions	A	3:00		
	27th	ATC	Semi Finals				
Jul	4th	NL2	London Skolars	H	3:00		
	11th	NL2	Sheffield Eagles	A	3:15		
	18th	ATC	Final				
Aug	25th	NL2	Gateshead Thunder	A	3:30		
	1st	NL2	Dewsbury Rams	H	3:00		
	8th	NL2	Workington Town	A	3:00		
	15th	NL2	Hunslet Hawks	A	3:30		
	22nd	NL2	Barrow Raiders	H	3:00		
Sep	29th	NL2	Swinton Lions	H	3:00		
	5th	NL2	London Skolars	A	3:00		
	12th	NL2	York City Knights	H	3:00		

Dates for the Diary

April 18th, 2004 Powergen Challenge Cup Semi Final 2
 April 25th, 2004 Powergen Challenge Cup Semi Final 2
 May 15th, 2004 Powergen Challenge Cup Final (Cardiff)
 July 18th, 2004 Arriva Trains Cup Final



CHORLEY LYNX fully support the 'Let's Tackle Racism in Rugby League' campaign, and welcomes all players and supporters, irrespective of their race or ethnic origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are unacceptable, please allow everyone to enjoy the game.

View from the Bridge

by Ian Bridge

Chasing the dragon ... ?

Something over 2.6 million people were tuned in to watch the Saints' victory over Leeds in last Saturday's Powergen Challenge Cup 5th round tie. They saw a thrilling end-to-end spectacle played at a frenetic pace and decided by solid defensive grit, coupled with incisive finishing.

What they also observed - and heard - was a packed Knowsley Road crowd in full voice. The crowd of 13,699 was Saints best against Leeds since Starsky & Hutch were in their (original) prime, twenty-eight years ago.

All of which contrasted starkly with the listlessness of the action from the event preceding it on Grandstand; a Powergen Cup semi-final game between rugby union's two northern powerhouses - Sale and Leeds Tykes - played in front of around 6,000 at Stockport County's Edgeley Park.

Whilst proponents of the union code will have enjoyed their game for the multi-faceted spectacle it presumably was - with rucks and mauls and line-outs adding texture to the odd Billy Whiz gallop downfield - any neutrals tuning in would be in no doubt as to which was the most stirring and more dramatic spectacle.

But whatever in-grained passions and prejudices the two codes stir in the hearts of rugby fans of either code, it is the spending power of high quality corporate backers such as Powergen and Tetley's, which will ultimately shape the future of the rugby game.

At club level we have seen our edge on the Zurich Premiership eroded since that code's shift to professionalism, but

occasions such as last Saturday clearly demonstrate that when we get it right we retain a clear superiority. Yet we cannot afford to relax if we are to maintain and indeed extend that position.

As a sport, I believe we owe a duty to our sponsors to continually seek to drive out added value and deliver excellence of performance. Only by so doing will we differentiate ourselves from our competitors and ensure that it is we who attract the top-dollar.

In which case, I believe there should be cause for concern in the corridors of Red Hall. Excluding the live broadcast, the amount of coverage accorded to the respective games in 'the media' seems to have been in inverse proportions to the numbers attending and the merits of the games themselves.

Just a quick glance through the Sunday press revealed that the rugger clash received approximately twice as much newsprint as the League game. And Monday's TV continued the trend with BBC's own North West Tonight show giving a summary of the rugger semi but neglecting to mention the League game at all.

At the end of the day those column-inches and air time seconds are what drive the corporate sponsorship pound.

While off-field commercial activities will rarely be as thrilling as a Sculthorpe-Long defence splitting combination, they are nonetheless just as vital to the ongoing success of the sport.

Who at the RFL is addressing the issue? And what is being done?

ATC Round-Up

ATC-West

LEIGH v SWINTON

Utility player Andrew Isherwood is ruled out of Leigh's plans for their Arriva Trains Cup West Division game with Swinton. Isherwood picked up a one-match ban from the Powergen Challenge Cup clash with Tetley's Super League side Hull, leaving coach Darren Abram to consider his options.

With Oliver Wilkes, Neil Turley and Ian Knott all in need of late fitness checks, Abram will leave his final team selection until Saturday.

Swinton have injury doubts with Jason Roach (hamstring), Wes Rogers (arm) and Safraz Patel (shoulder) and all are extremely doubtful, according to coach Paul Kidd who could spring a surprise by naming ex-Salford and Widnes Academy half back Neil Hayden in his squad of 17.

"It was a bonus for us to beat Chorley two weeks ago, but Leigh will provide a different kettle of fish," forecast Kidd.

ATC-North

WHITEHAVEN v BARROW RAIDERS

Ecstatic about picking up Super League side Warrington Wolves in the Challenge Cup quarter final, Steve McCormack is determined not to let things slide ahead of their big clash, saying: "Everyone will be fighting for a place in the cup team so the Barrow match is a vital game."

INS/OUTS: Sam Obst (debut West Tigers) replaces Aaron Lester (rested) and centre Dave Seeds returns.

Barrow coach, Peter Roe, hopes his side can cause an upset, saying: "It can be like taking medicine. The taste can be a lot better than you expect if we go in the right frame of mind," he said.

DOUBTS: Jamie Smith (work), Adam Pate (bruised foot) and Geoff Luxon (neck)
INS/OUTS: Craig Bower returns.

GATESHEAD v WORKINGTON

"I would like to think we can emulate London Skolars and claim our first win of the season," said Thunder coach, Seamus McCallion.
"Anything is possible."

DOUBTS: 2nd-Row Tony Doherty and centre Joe Bagshaw.
INS/OUTS: Debuts for Mike Kent (ex-Sheffield Eagles) and (maybe) Gareth Stephens (ex-Leeds and Sheffield).

Workington boss Gerard Stokes says:
"We want to try to switch things about. Players have got to be multi-positioned at this club."
INS/OUTS: Dean Burgess back.

ATC-Pennine

ROCHDALE v HUNSLET

"I'm really grateful for Warrington loaning Richard Varkulis out to us and I will be delighted to have him back again, given the chance," said Hornet coach, Bobbie Goulding, who hopes to avenge the 24-8 thrashing Hunslet handed out in his first game in charge.

INS/OUTS: Rob Ball (suspension), Richard Varkulis (loan expired)

"This is an important game if we are to clinch a qualifying spot in our division," insists Keighley Cougars Coach Roy Sampson.

INS/OUTS: Hawks add hooker John Liddell to fully fit squad.

Other Games Today:

KEIGHLEY v HALIFAX

BATLEY v YORK CITY KNIGHTS

FEATHERSTONE v DEWSBURY

ATC Round-Up

The 2004 Arriva Trains Cup kicked-off on February 1st.

It comprises five groups [North, East, West, Pennine and Yorkshire].

In addition to group games each team will play one home and away fixture against a team from another group to make a total of eight games played per team.

The final round of group games will take place on Good Friday (April 9th).

ATC NORTH FIXTURE SCHEDULE

Home Teams	Away Teams	Barrow	Chorley	Leigh	Oldham	Swinton
Barrow			Mar 28			
Chorley		Feb 15 6-40		Apr 4	Mar 21	Apr 9
Leigh			Feb 22 60-10			
Oldham			Feb 1 64-14	Mar 7 10-64		
Swinton			Mar 7	Feb 1 6-22		

Quarter Final Qualification 1

The top team from each group will qualify for the quarterfinals automatically. The five group runners-up plus the best third placed club [based on competition points and points differential] will playoff to determine the three other teams to progress to the quarterfinals.

Knockout Stages

Playoff Matches: Sunday April 25th, 2004

Quarterfinals: Sunday June 6th, 2004

Semi-finals: Sunday June 27th, 2004

FINAL: Sunday July 18th, 2004 [venue to be decided]

Group Standings

WEST								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Leigh Centurions	4	4	0	0	187	58	129	8
Oldham Roughyeds	4	2	0	2	136	137	-1	4
Swinton Lions	4	1	0	3	61	114	-53	2
Chorley Lynx	4	0	0	4	54	191	-137	0

NORTH							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Whitehaven	4	4	0	0	178	54	8
Barrow	4	2	1	1	80	70	5
Workington	4	1	1	2	94	120	3
Gateshead	4	0	0	4	56	230	0

YORKSHIRE							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Batley	4	3	0	1	159	80	6
York	4	3	0	1	154	74	6
Featherstone	4	2	0	2	80	71	4
Dewsbury	4	1	0	3	82	174	2

EAST							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hull KR	4	4	0	0	132	36	8
Doncaster	4	2	0	2	110	84	4
Sheffield	4	1	0	3	78	160	2
London	4	1	0	3	28	154	2

PENNINE							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Halifax	4	4	0	0	110	46	8
Hunslet	4	3	0	1	128	70	6
Keighley	4	1	0	3	92	84	2
Rochdale	4	1	0	3	46	92	2

Today's Team



OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

1. Chris Ramsdale (Lynx Supporters Club)
2. Lee Patterson (Chris Lamb)
3. Mick Redford (Sue & John Taylor/R&K Millers Butchers Ltd)
4. Jamie Stenhouse (S M Walford)
5. Eddie Kilgannon (Alpha Business Systems)
6. Rob Smyth (Midge Hall Hotel)
7. Martin Gambles (Duck Eggs Quiz Team 1)
8. John Hill (Duck Eggs Quiz Team 2)
9. Martin Roden (Mr Postlewaite)
10. Ian Parry (DMS Roofing)
11. Gary Smith (Barrow's of Coppull)
12. Gareth Jones (Wareings Fruit & Veg)
13. Chris Newall (Moore & Leyland)

SUBS:

14. Lee Rowley (Signcraft)
15. Danny Barton (H W Moon - Toyota)
16. Gary O'Regan (Utility Forum)
17. Anthony Murray (Mick Barrow)

Note: Name in () Denotes Shirt Sponsor

Referee S. Nicholson

Touch judges: M.R. Fallon and P. Smith Match Commissioner: Ian McGregor

1. Gavin Dodd
2. Will Cowell
3. James Bunyan
4. Jon Goddard
5. Nick Johnson
6. Neil Roden
7. Ian Watson
8. Steve Molloy
9. Keith Brennann
10. Paul Southern
11. Lee Doran
12. Dane Morgan
13. Lee Marsh

SUBS:

14. Gareth Barber
15. Simon Svabic
16. Martin McLoughlin
17. Martin Elswood

Inside the Game

What's on the line ... ?

Chorley Lynx coach, Mark Lee, was left frustrated after their last outing, a three-point loss at Swinton. He is sure to be looking for further signs of improvement from his side today as they hunt their first win of the season.

Much the same could be said for Roughyeds player-coach, Steve Molloy, who knows his team must improve their performances to satisfy the demands of supporters and boardroom alike.

Team News

LYNX: Fullback, Lee Patterson, is free from a three-match suspension and returns to a Chorley side today.

With Rob Smyth and Danny Barton having returned from injury and much the better for their run-out against Swinton Lions, it offers coach Mark Lee some respite.

The club are still awaiting news on the extent of Simon Smith's knee injury but expect him to out for around one month. And it looks likely that Brian Capewell has played his last game for the club as work commitments and injury problems leave him considering retiring from the game.

OLDHAM are 'down to the bare 17', according to Molloy. James Bunyan is extremely doubtful because of a shoulder injury picked up in the cup-tie against Warrington and Oldham suffered a further setback when Craig Farrimond was injured in a mid-week Academy game.

What they coaches are saying!

From the Lynx ...

"We have welcomed the week's break from playing, but the players are ready to go again now," said Lee, "It's going to be a tough game today but we've got to look to continue to improve week on week.

"I was disappointed we switched off a couple of times against Swinton when we had scored but overall our defence was much better than it has been. We played some decent rugby at times.

"I was disappointed with the referees performance. Around the rucks it was a joke. After training hard to speed-up the play the ball we were prevented from doing it throughout the game. He was bad for both teams though.

"Although we've had a tough start you have to remember that we've been playing good quality sides NLI and Super League sides in the main. The performance against Swinton was heartening."

From the Roughyeds ...

Molloy was unhappy with his side conceding 3 tries in 6 minutes against the Wolves last week but is focussing now on how they react in the remainder of the season.

"We have to kick on in the Arriva Trains Cup and then National League 1," Molloy insists. "The cup tie was much harder-fought than the score suggests. Maybe we could have used another forward on the bench, but we were down to 17 fit guys.

"And today we might have to call a few of our younger players into the squad, if we pick up any more injuries."



Bolton Road,
Heath Charnock, Chorley.
Tel: 01257 263154



The Pavilion
Mesnes Park, Wigan.
Tel: 01942 825389

WINNERS OF THE
UK'S TOP AWARD
FOR ICE CREAM 2001/2



Massa's
3 Cunliffe St., Chorley.
Tel: 01257 232070



Professional Systems Admin

for the SME & Corporate Client

✓ Maintenance
✓ Consultancy

✓ Internet
✓ E mail



T: 01257 410021 - M: 07973 390 628

Email: gary@purplepig.it - www.purplepig.it

HITCHENS

Metal & Waste

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL
FERROUS & NON FERROUS METALS

- Work Clearances & Demolition
- All Sizes of Containers
- 4 Yds. to 55 Yds. Roll On/Off
- Computerised Weighbridge

Just Give Us A Try

Tel: 01257 262261 / 275285

Fax: 01257 261396 - Harpers Lane, Chorley PR6 7AP

TO ADVERTISE HERE CALL

DENNIS RAMSDALE
ON T: 01257 263406

Win one of "Big John's" mighty Meat Hampers!

Each week the Lynx will be offering you the chance to win a Meat Hamper from Big John's Butchers.

Enter the Lynx prize raffle by purchasing a ticket from the Chorley Sporting Club bar now!

The draw will be made in the bar after each game.

www.chorleylynx.com



Danny
Lockwood

Publisher
League Weekly

rugby stories



Always
scheming...
Ian
Millward

I THINK it was Ian Millward who said last year that rugby league is no longer a contact sport, but a collision sport. An astute man, the St Helens general. And the devilment in that trademark smile suggests that here's someone who never stops thinking about moving the game on to another level.

Millward's observation invited the idea that we need to protect our gladiators better; perhaps by borrowing from that other high-impact sport which many rugby league coaches have long admired, American Football. We've already done that in terms of physical care; properly protecting joints, preparing for games, treating muscular and orthopaedic injuries better. But padding has actually declined in recent years - we no longer see shoulder pads that mean the wearer has to turn sideways to get out of the changing room door. The modern game is so fast and requires such mobility, that those huge plastic contraptions are now prehistoric.

So what's left? The gridiron helmet? One thing's for sure, that would open the game up. American footballers very rarely run for more than seven or eight seconds at a time. And the first thing they do? Pull their helmets off. The things are surprisingly light, but still mightily claustrophobic. And besides, League doesn't need them. Wigan and Saints and Bradford and Hull might have ravaging sick lists - but head injuries generally aren't a problem.

That's one of the side-effects of the speeding up and cleaning up of League. The meeting of defence and attacker comes so rapidly that there is time only for technique. The tackle is generally over before malicious intent can be carried out. A half back trying one down the blind side of the scrum might find himself sitting on his mum's knee in row three, but generally need not fear a Karalian stiff arm. Those dark arts of yore have long been stamped out. But conversely, that pace of contact puts ankles, knees, arms and shoulders at greater risk.

AMERICAN Football helmets might not offer much help in today's Rugby League, but it appears our cutting-edge coaches are borrowing heavily from the sport's attacking strategies - with a little help from netball. In netball, the shooter or goal attack usually faces an equally lanky young lady jumping up and down, waving her arms, and doing everything to put her off except blow a raspberry and shout yah-boo. In gridiron they call it running interference, 'taking out' defenders in the areas you want to run or throw the ball.

More and more clubs are employing the strategy of running dummy men in front of the real attacking line when in the opposition 'red zone', and the wily Millward used it to stunning effect against Leeds last week - although Chris Joynt got a bit carried away on Dom Feaunati's try, putting a proper lineman's block on Danny McGuire.

It's testimony to the intelligence of our top players that they can carry the tactic off without committing blatant obstruction - it's a very fine line - and when they do the rules are there to penalise them. It does give our beleaguered refs one more thing to worry about, but hey, that's not the coach's worry. In the eternal battle between attacking and defensive philosophies, we depend on safe-crackers like Ian Millward to keep the stoppers thinking.

LEAGUE WFFKI Y

Every Monday. Featuring Ray French, Dave 'Nosey' Parker, Denis Betts, Peter Roe, Maurice Bamford, Phil Hodgson's inside line on the amateur game. Full national & international coverage. Full colour. Full on!

Sponsorship

PRIVATE BOX FOR SPONSORS

Eight admission tickets to the private box at Victory Park, Chorley.
Fully stocked fridge with drinks at your disposal.
Tea, coffee and biscuits.
Buffet served in your box.
Join us in Victory Park Social Club for the Man of the Match presentation.
Advertising in the match day programme.

COST TO THE SPONSOR
£295 (plus VAT)

MATCH SPONSORSHIP FOR TEN PEOPLE

Ten admission tickets to the Sponsors' Lounge at Victory Park, Chorley.
Complimentary drinks
Tea, coffee and biscuits at half time.
Buffet in the Sponsors' Lounge after the match.
Then to Victory Park Social Club for the Man of the Match presentation, chosen by the Match Sponsors, the package also includes a cash award of £25 to the Man of the Match.
Full page advert in the match day programme when art work supplied.

COST TO THE SPONSOR £325.00
(plus VAT)

MATCH BALL SPONSORSHIP FOR SIX PEOPLE

Six admission tickets to the Sponsors' Lounge at Victory Park, Chorley.
Complimentary drinks
Tea, coffee and biscuits at half time.
Buffet in the Sponsors' Lounge after the match.
Then to Victory Park Social Club for the Man of the Match presentation (chosen by the Match Sponsors)
_ page advert in the match day programme when art work supplied
COST TO THE SPONSOR £180.00
(plus VAT)

PROGRAMME SPONSORSHIP FOR FOUR PEOPLE

Four admission tickets to the Sponsors' Lounge at Victory Park, Chorley.
Complimentary drinks
Tea, coffee and biscuits at half time.
Buffet in the Sponsors' Lounge after the match.
Victory Park Social Club for the Man of the Match presentation (chosen by the Match Sponsors)
page advert in the match day programme when art work supplied.

COST TO THE SPONSOR
£120.00 (plus VAT)

ADVERTISING BOARD SPONSORSHIP

A sixteen foot by three foot board on Victory Park with your company name, logo and company message. This board is for rugby and football, you board will be seen all year round.

COST TO THE SPONSOR
£320 (plus VAT plus the cost of the board)

PLAYERS' NUMBER SPONSORSHIP

Why not sponsor a number? Select a squad number from one to seventeen and have your company name announced over the tannoy system during the match and a mention in the match day programme.

COST TO THE SPONSOR
£100 (plus VAT) for the season

FOR DETAILS ON ANY OF OUR PACKAGES, PLEASE RING

DENNIS RAMSDALE
TEL: 01257 263406 FAX: 01257 241625

REMEMBER
WE CAN TAILOR A PACKAGE TO SUIT
YOUR REQUIREMENTS JUST ASK!

SCOUTING REPORT... OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

State of Play ...

It's fair to say that the Roughyeds have yet to fulfil their potential in 2004, this despite their blistering 64-14 opening day victory over the Lynx in February.

Since then Oldham have picked-up 'narrow' victories over amateurs Castleford Panthers (16-8) and Sharlston Rovers (24-4) in the Powergen Challenge Cup plus a 30-18 triumph over Swinton Lions. With But heavy losses to Leigh (32-51 and 10-54) plus a 10-44 Cup reverse against Warrington.

With performance not meeting fans' expectations there has been pressure on coach, Steve Molloy. The backing of chairman, Chris Hamilton, will have allayed some of that pressure but neither Hamilton nor Molloy will settle easily for the level of performances delivered so far this season.

Oldham fans will be keen to see signs of improvement today.

Meet the Players

Gavin Dodd (fullback)

A Bradford Bulls academy player, Dodd is fighting for the fullback berth following the departure of Mark Sibson.
Speedy and unpredictable, Dodd scored is a force on attack and scored some good tries for the team last season.
Toured Australia and New Zealand with GB Students side and was selected in the GB under 21 squad last season.

Will Cowell

A former Warrington player, Cowell, 22, is a product of amateurs, Kells. Can play fullback, wing or centre
James Bunyan

The hard working Bunyan was brought in to strengthen the Roughyed defence. He is a quiet achiever and highly respected by his fellow professionals.
Signed from Rochdale this season, his previous clubs include Huddersfield Giants and Doncaster Dragons.

Jon Goddard

A former Castleford Academy star, Goddard recently signed a contract that will keep him with the Roughyeds for the 2003 season. He has developed well and made the transition from a full back to become a very competent centre.

Nick Johnson

Nick is a winger and was a member of the Bradford Academy team, which won the Super League Academy Championship.
An Oldham lad he is keen to play for his own town team and had a good debut scoring a try against Whitehaven in Cumbria.

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.

SCOUTING REPORT ... OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

Ian Watson

An experienced scrum half who has been a Welsh international since 1996. A clever half back with a good kicking game. Former clubs include Rochdale, Salford, Swinton and Widnes since his amateur days with Eccles.

Steve Molloy

Molloy, 33, is former England captain and now player coach of the Roughyeds. The experienced forward is in his second spell with his hometown club after spells with Batley, Featherstone, Sheffield, Warrington, Huddersfield and Leeds.

Keith Brennann

Former Higginshaw and Shaw Rhinos scrum half who has filled in creditably at hooker whilst deputising for John Hough.

Paul Southern

Another capture from the Hornets. Paul, is 27, will renew acquaintances with Iain Marsh, Simon Svabic and Ian Watson. One of the form players in NLI last the year the Roughyeds will hope he can continue that consistency and pass on his good training and playing habits to the younger players.

Lee Doran

Wigan-born, Lee has worked his way through the Oldham academy and alliance sides to establish himself in the first team. 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.

Dane Morgan

At 6'5" and 17 and a half stone, the 24-year-old second row or prop forward has all the right attributes. A former North Sydney player he was a try scoring member of the World Club Championship winners Melbourne Storm who beat St Helens for the title in 2000.

Dane has come to Britain with an ambition to play in Super League and Oldham will hope he can achieve his ambition with the Roughyeds.

Lee Marsh

Marsh, 20, was signed from Salford City Reds and can play Centre, Stand Off and back row forward.

He represented the National League against the Super League under 21's in both games last season but was being denied a regular place at Salford.

Gareth Barber

A 21 year old Oldham born half back who was reared on rugby with his best pal, Leeds and Great Britain forward Kevin Sinfield. When Sinfield signed for the Rhinos, Barber signed for Warrington, but returned "home" to Oldham before the start of the 2000/2001 seasons.

A promising young player who made the stand off position his own last season, was selected for the NFP under 21 squad who beat the Super League under 21's in 2001.

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 will be an important play maker in the Roughyeds armoury for this year.

Martin McLoughlin

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

Martin Elswood

At 6'4" and 16st, Elswood has power as well as pace. The former Huddersfield Giant is eager to further his career and wants first team rugby.

Supporters' Lynx



Annual General Meeting

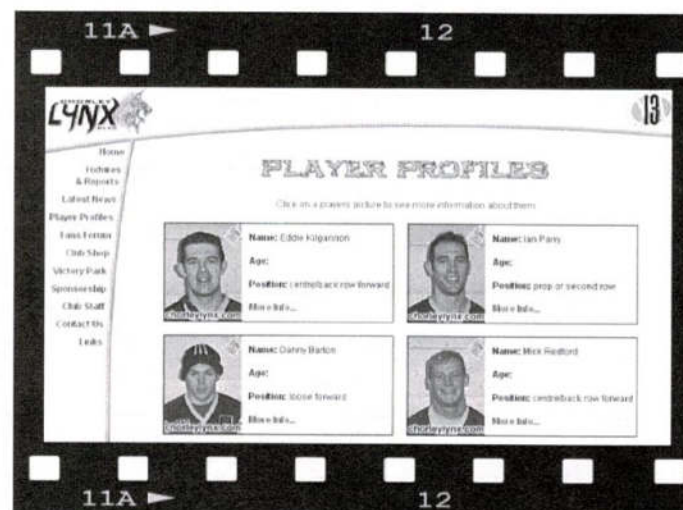
In answer to the many people who have asked, membership fees will be due at or after the AGM. A date for the meeting has not been set as yet, but will be announced soon.

Nominations for the committee and elected officials will be taken before the meeting, but can also be made on the night. In particular, the Club will be looking for a new Secretary due to the resignation of serving Secretary Cassie Willescroft.

Away Travel

The Club will again be running away travel this season, a full list will be issued at the AGM. Listen out for an announcement on travel to next week's game at Swinton during tonight's game.

Club Web Site — www.chorleylynx.com



For the latest news and information on the Lynx don't forget to check out the club's web site.

Features include news, player profiles, our club shop and match reports.

ACTION REPLAY

Swinton Lions 27 Chorley Lynx 24
Sunday, March 7th, 2004 @ Sedgley Park

ARRIVA TRAINS CUP – March 7th

Swinton Lions 27		Chorley Lynx 24
Wayne English	1	Chris Ramsdale
Jason Roach	2	Steve Ormesher
Mark Bolton	3	Mick Redford
Chris Maye	4	Jamie Stenhouse
Chris Irwin	5	Eddie Kilgannon
Ian Hodson	6	Rob Smyth
Warren Ayres	7	Martin Gambles
Tau Liku	8	John Hill
Peter Cannon	9	Martin Roden
Wes Rogers	10	Ian Parry
Phil Cushion	11	Gary Smith
Danny Heaton	12	Gareth Jones
Kris Smith	13	Chris Newall

Subs

Paul Ashton	14	Lee Rowley
Dave Llewellyn	15	Danny Barton
Craig Wingfield	16	Gary O'Regan
Chris Brett	17	Anthony Murray

Scorers

Roach (2), Irwin (19), Cannon 30, Bolton (58), Maye (67)	Tries	Kilgannon (17), Newall (27), Murray (50), Redford (74)
--	--------------	--

Maye 1/ 4, Ashton 2/3

Goals Smyth 4/5

Ayres (69)

DG

Dismissals

Sin Bin:
Bolton (45) - holding down
Ayres (74) - holding down

Attendance: 430
Ref: Craig Halloran [Dewsbury]
HT: 14-12

Chorley matched the Lions all the way in this game and with a little more composure would have emerged with a deserved victory.

Strengthened by the return of Rob Smyth, Danny Barton and Jamie Stenhouse (following a spell at Orrell) the Lynx will take heart from a solid performance against NL2 opposition. Factor in the leadership of new addition, former Warrington fullback Lee Penny, and the Lynx will be a competitive force for the NL2 season in April.

There were good signs too in the performance off the bench of Anthony Murray, who impressed with his work rate and link play whilst Chris Ramsdale put in a solid effort at full back and Chris Newall continued his try-scoring streak.

The Lynx went behind early to a Jason Roach try converted by Chris Maye. But Chorley responded well with Newall and Martin Gambles working the short side to send Eddie Kilgannon in at the right corner, for Smyth to convert and level the scores.

Chris Irwin hit back immediately for the Lions, scoring a try from the kick-off. Then Murray sent Newall over and Smyth's kick gave the Lynx a 12-10 lead.

But Peter Cannon's try from dummy half gave Swinton a 14-12 advantage at the break.

A Smyth penalty levelled the scores at 14-14 before Murray backed-up a break by Gambles and Newall to score. Smyth's conversion gave Chorley a 20-14 lead

But another lapse in concentration enabled former Lynx favourite, Ian Hodson to send Mark Bolton through for a try under the posts. Ashton's conversion again levelled the scores.

Eventually the Lynx defence succumbed to intense pressure from the home side with Maye running the angle to touchdown. Ashton's conversion gave the Lions a decisive 26-20 lead, which Ayres extended to 27-20 with a drop-goal.

Although a late Redford try gave the Lynx hope of snatching a win time ran out on them, leaving Mark Lee still seeking his first victory.

Lowe Down from the Bar

By Simon Lowe

I hereby offer a resume of recent events, both on and off the pitch...

Our Challenge Cup fixture, here at Victory Park, against Super League opposition in the guise of Wakefield Trinity Wildcats; especially with a depleted team was always going to be 'Really difficult' to quote our coach Monsieur Lee; but it proved to be even more difficult than I had bargained for on the night. Allow me to elaborate if you would dear reader...

In the week prior to the game I had gleaned on the grapevine gossip train that the club was banking on over 1000 spectators to be in attendance, with six to eight coaches descending on us Lancastrians from deepest, darkest Yorkshire. The crowd, as it transpired was 696 but what a foul night it was... and that was not made any worse by the opposition supporters who: as my illustrious colleague pointed out are invariably short, stumpy or even indeed stocky, as well as usually very loud! This judgement was delivered in the watering hole prior to our 88-6 defeat. We were defeated most certainly but humiliated most definitely not!

How could the merry whistle blower award four penalties against us in the opening stanza? We are only a semi-professional side for Pete's sake! What a fine try it was by Newall just before the interval... and we nearly scored another but... there, there,

there... at least we were not nilled by the break. And in the second period we had one great opportunity which sadly saw Chris Ramsdale tackled into touch, whereas had the ball been passed inside to 'Alfie' Gambles, the likelihood would have been a try under the sticks. The bruised and altogether gutted face of Redford, as he trooped from the pitch last of all, is my abiding memory. The boys never gave up against impossible odds and they should feel proud.

Other memories are: two pages of build-up on Teletext on the Friday tea-time; the game being declared 'off' on the BBC channel; 'on' on the ITV or other (!); Sir Dennis confirming 'on' over the telephone; the snow that had fallen late afternoon causing half the ground to be deemed unfit for spectators... and yes I suppose all those Wakefield tries: all sixteen of them.

A weekend away in Paris, which included a missed flight, made me unavailable for the Swinton game, but I was pleased to see a close scoreline of 27-24, even if it was a loss. BUT... how pleased I was to see that Rob Smyth was fit and able again; Jamie Stenhouse is back with the club AND that we have recruited Lee Penny to our ranks... a very well done to whoever!

How well I remember a Super League 2 fixture at the old Wilderspool Stadium between Warrington and Wigan Warriors...

Lowe Down from the Bar

By Simon Lowe

the Wire or Wolves had raced away to a handsome lead; Wigan had staged a miraculous comeback, but were still trailing; whereupon Mr Penny scored the winning try under the sticks at the away end of the ground; saluted the Wigan faithful with a jubilant clenched fist salute; I did the 'Wigan Walk' and therefore left the ground immediately; but I was feeling distraught at the time you understand! It was a certain Bobby Goulding who gave the title to such a walk but: doesn't every set if supporters from every club do the same? Anyway... to precede... the Warrington supporters were to be seen doing victory cartwheels and gleefully sliding across the grassed area of a nearby hostelry within minutes of the siren sounding; Mr Penny had in point of fact scored in the very last minute of the game. Thus it goes without saying: a very Warm Welcome to Victory Park Mr Penny! At the time of writing it seems likely that his debut will be at the end of March.

Also on the subject of new players it is good to see that we have recruited Ade Mead and this should give Mark Lee more options in the backs. Competition for places is always a good thing.

Last Sunday saw myself and a work colleague make the journey down to Limoux for Wigan's away fixture in the Challenge Cup. It was one of those opportunities in life that

was just too good to miss. And would you believe it: I bumped into two fellow Lynx supporters in the ground! I must confess that I cannot claim to have seen many of Wigan's fourteen tries in the 80-20 victory, as I was so absorbed in sampling the local culture! Shirtsleeve weather with the snow-clad Pyrenees in the background is a captivating memory. Also highly amusing was the fact that my colleague; amiable chum; partner in crime...or what you will... suffered severe red wine spillage on the plane as we encountered turbulence descending into France. He and his glass were in suspended animation for what seemed like an eternity, and fellow passengers were royally entertained!

And so to today, which sees us entertain Oldham here at Victory Park in the Arriva Trains Cup. It really is high time that we had a victory to toast. Time will tell of course.

Returning to the Challenge Cup and personally I think that it would indeed be very sweet if Wigan were to dump Wakefield out in the upcoming Quarter final, and therefore make some atonement for Lynx's loss to them here in the snow. A Wigan versus Saints final in Cardiff must be a distinct possibility; and what a final that would be!

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