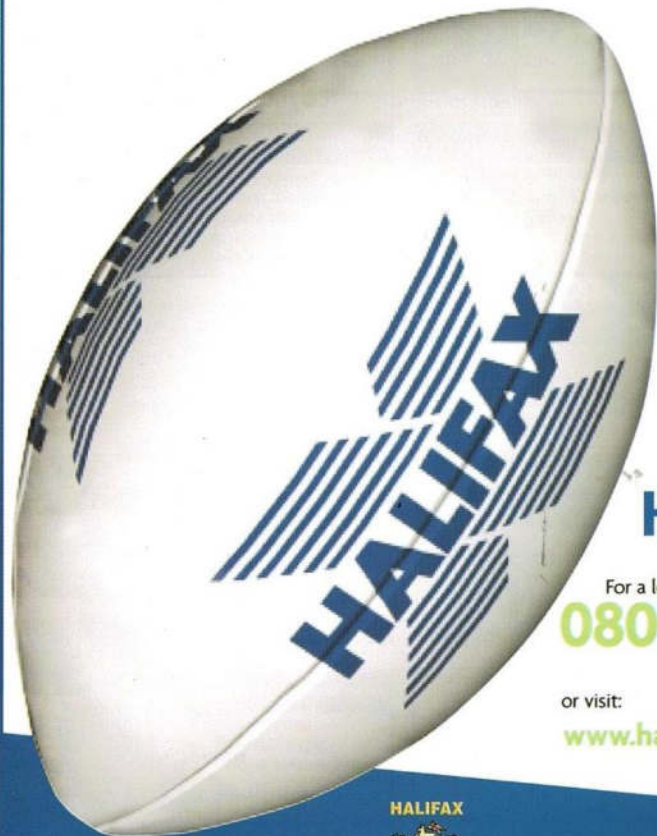


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BLUE'n'WHITE

The Halifax RLFC Matchday Magazine

LHF Healthplan National League 1

**HALIFAX RLFC
V OLDHAM**

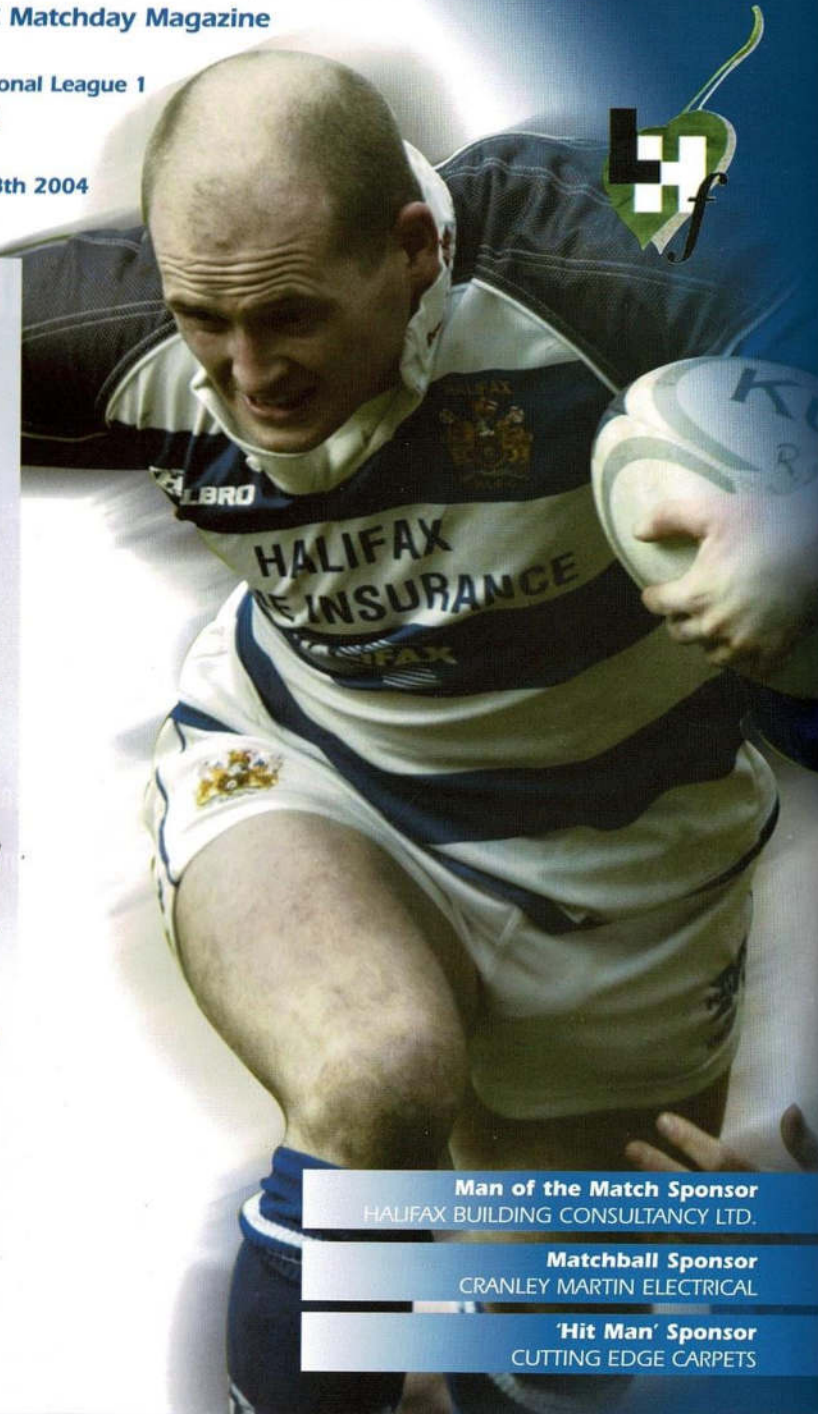
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- 7 Day TV Guide
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THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR YOU EVERY NIGHT!

Welcome....

... to all the players, officials and supporters from Oldham today. We are very proud of our reputation for good hospitality here in Halifax, and whatever the result on the field we trust you will enjoy your first visit to the Shay Stadium.

We are now into the newly sponsored LHF Healthplan National League Division 1, and our record of 1 game and 1 loss versus Doncaster sets us up for the challenge from our ambitious visitors from Oldham. I trust we will all enjoy a good game today.

It was good news from the Rugby Football League that they managed (at the 11th hour) to secure a new sponsor for the National Leagues 1 and 2 in LHF Health Plan, and we would like to thank them for coming up with the sponsorship which will no doubt manifest itself in many mutually beneficial ways during the coming months.

Whilst I can understand that our supporters will have been disappointed that we were unable to put a stop to the Leigh Centurion's good form on Good Friday. Several key players did not take part in that game and we had to play no less than 10 players from our U21 team. Quite simply Leigh were just too good on the day and physically our young men were not equal to their maturity, although there were some great efforts from several of our younger lads whom, no doubt in my mind, will mature as future stars in Rugby League.

Due to other results, we did finish top of our group and earned a much needed rest next weekend while the five second place finishers plus Featherstone (who were the best finishing third placed team) battle it out for the three remaining quarter final places. The Arriva Trains Cup knockout stages then begin on June 6th.

Instead of bringing back confidence as expected, the loss to Doncaster on Easter Monday showed that there is still an awful lot of work to be done. As a Club virtually rebuilt from the

bottom during the last 18 months, the expectations of our supporters are very high, and quite rightly so as we have signed some quality players and have a crop of outstanding juniors.

Why they are not performing to the potential that we all know exists is a complete mystery, and that frustration is understandably spilling over. Be assured however of two things. Firstly, everyone involved behind the scenes at the Club is giving 100% to the cause. I know how hard the coaching staff work preparing the team for matches, and I know how many hours are put in to try and bring success to this Club. The lack of results is not because of a lack of knowledge, skill hard work or desire. In sport, there is an unknown factor where everything 'gets' and a winning synergy develops - it is that for which we strive.

Secondly, the directors of the Club (who are the people that the members have elected to safeguard its future and bring that success), are doing that job for the right reasons, and will take whatever action or decisions need to be taken after the consideration and discussion of all aspects of the situation in a proper and fitting manner, and not as a 'knee jerk' reaction.

We have a new board whose members include people drawn from the supporters, sponsors and staff, alongside others who have a wealth of experience gained at the cutting edge over the last 18 months. We will soon have an independent chairman and whatever happens, in the next few days, weeks and months, it will be done in the best interests of the Club, and with the 'big picture' always in our sights. I ask you to have confidence and trust that they will do this.

A good effort and a good win today would be the best thing for us all. Please get behind the team and give them the benefit of your vocal support!

Thank you.

Bob Sweeney



Halifax Rugby League Football Club Ltd.

The New Pavilion,
Shay Stadium, Halifax. HX1 2YS

Telephone: 01422 342792

Fax: 01422 349607

E-mail: info@halifaxrlfc.co.uk

Website: www.halifaxrlfc.co.uk

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Mick Stansfield, Bob Sweeney,

David Turner, Laurence Turner.

Company Secretary:

Michael Steele

Head Coach: Tony Anderson

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Manager: Mick Scott

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Good afternoon

This week has been one of the hardest I have ever been through in my career as a player and a coach, following our non-performance against Doncaster last Monday.

You would be hard pressed to find three people more dedicated to this Club than Mick Scott, Paul Dixon and myself, and we have talked and talked about what is and what isn't happening.

We have prepared well for every game; we have had a plan for every game; we have moves that we work hard on in training; we have studied the opposition's strengths and weaknesses; we have worked hard on our fitness; we have had team bonding sessions and yet come kick off time, something doesn't click that obviously needs to click, and I am struggling to know what it is.

Yes, we need strengthening in certain areas which we are working on. Yes, we have some players who are still learning their craft and should really have another 12 months Academy under their belts. Yes, we have had some injuries we could have done without, and yes, other teams see us as prize scalps and lift their games accordingly but, these are all things I was aware of and thought we had prepared for. I state none of these as excuses, I'm simply telling you as it is.

I can fully understand the frustration that is felt on the terraces, the letters in the Courier, the messages on the website, and the angry calls of the crowd. At heart I would feel the same. I have searched myself and questioned what I am doing time and time again, and if I thought the Club would be better off without me I would have walked away by now. That hurts me to say, because Halifax is my home. It's my British Club. The thing is, that's the easy way out. It would have been easy not to have come here in the first place knowing the challenge that lies ahead, but I am not a quitter.

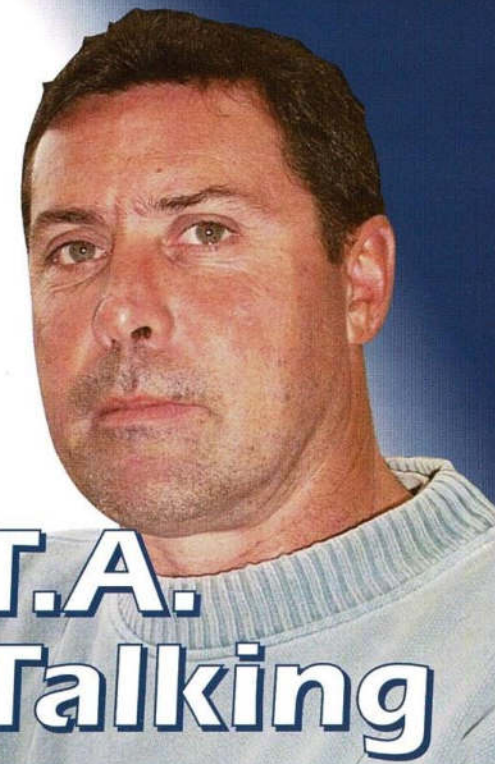
Whether I remain coach of this Club is not entirely my decision. I would simply say that whilst I am coach at this Club I pledge to do as I always have, and that is to give 100%. If I am not Coach, I hope the superb juniors we have coming through will serve as a legacy, not the shorter term results on the field, which were always secondary in the long term plan as relayed to me in 2002, a plan which convinced me that I wanted to be here amongst people who had the long term interests of the Club at heart.

We have prepared for today exactly like we have prepared for every game this season. We have a plan. I hope today we find a passion.

Thank you

Tony Anderson.

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Thanks to the generous sponsorship of
Bob and Petra Sweeney and Sportsmatch,
Halifax RLFC are delighted work together
with the amateur clubs and hold 2
Festivals of Rugby in May.

All 8 amateur sides in the area are taking part
and Halifax RLFC players are visiting the clubs
to assist with training and explaining the rules of
Tag Rugby.

The Under 8s and Under 9s Tag Festival
will take place at The Shay on Sunday 9th
May prior to the LHF Healthplan National
League Division 1 game against Batley
with the following teams entering:

- Brighouse (Under 9s)
- Elland (Under 8s and 9s)
- Halifax Vandals (Under 8s and 9s)
- Illingworth (Under 8s and 9s)
- King Cross (Under 8s and 9s)
- Ovenden (Under 8s)
- Queensbury (Under 8s and 9s)
- Siddal (Under 9s)

The under 10s and 11s festival will take
place on Sunday 30th May prior to the
LHF Healthplan Division 1 game against
Featherstone Rovers. The following
amateur sides will be entering:-

- Elland (Under 10s and 11s)
- Halifax Vandals (Under 10s and 11s)
- King Cross (Under 10s and 11s)
- Ovenden (Under 10s)
- Queensbury (under 10s and 11s)
- Siddal (under 10s and 11s)

We would like to wish all sides the very best of
luck for the forthcoming festivals.

The Halifax Home Insurance Sportsmatch Schools Cups

A number of qualification games took place
prior to half-time, however the pace will
increase after half-term with the finals taking
place in June. Listed below are the results we
have had in to date:-

Year 7 Boys	
North Halifax	18
The Ridings	0
North Halifax	20
St Catherines	6
Year 8 Boys	
North Halifax	46
Holy Trinity	6
North Halifax	34
St Catherines	14
Year 9 Boys	
North Halifax	50
Holy Trinity	16
North Halifax	28
St Catherines	12
Year 10 Boys	
North Halifax	40
Holy Trinity	4
North Halifax	18
The Ridings	0
North Halifax	6
St Catherines	10

As results come in, we will continue publish
them.



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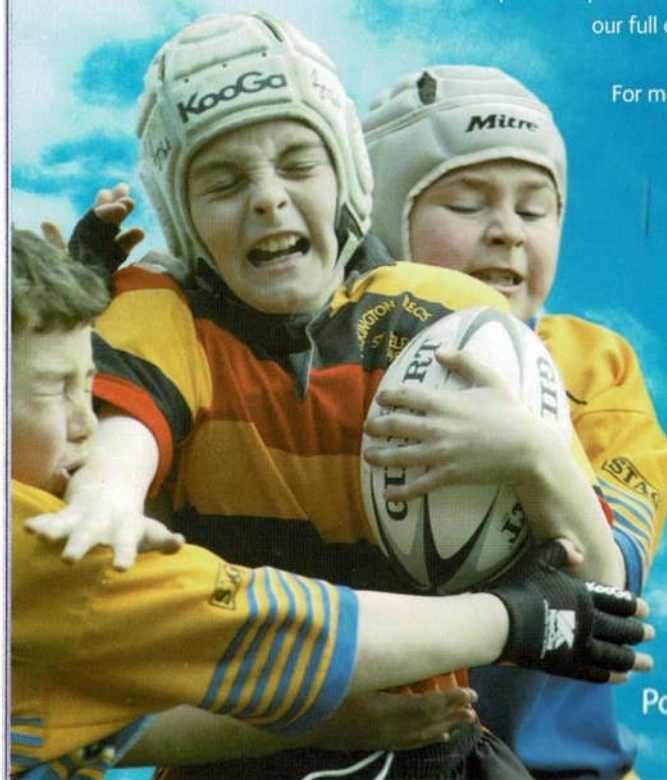
In the Community

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The Oldham Roughyeds

It is probably safe to predict that this afternoon's clash will be a fairly high scoring affair.



■ Roughyeds Coach
Steve Molloy

That's because the Roughyeds – after a rocky spell a few weeks ago when they suffered two floggings by Leigh – have been piling up the points recently, as well as conceding their fair share. Rochdale have been put to the sword twice, 56-12 and 48-12; Swinton were beaten 42-15 and Featherstone 50-24 in their last outing on Easter Monday.

Much has been made about the exodus of talent from Oldham in recent years – Kevin Sinfield, Iestyn Harris, Barrie MacDermott, Paul Highton etc – but our visitors today have at least eight local lads in their squad including player/coach Steve Molloy. An outstanding junior footballer, Molloy has played for Warrington, Leeds, Featherstone, Sheffield and Huddersfield in his time as well as picking up international honours along the way.

Other Oldhamers in the gang include half back Gareth Barber, who arrived via the

Warrington Academy sides, scrum half **Keith Brennan** who signed pro after serving **Higginshaw and Shaw**, second row or centre Martin Elswood who signed this past close season from Huddersfield plus long serving hooker **John Hough** who came to Boundary Park from Warrington in 1997.

Then there are a trio of Roughyeds who all served time with the Bulls Academy side. They are brothers **Nicky and Gavin Johnson** and full back Gavin Dodd. **Nicky Johnson** is a flying winger (and close friend of **Ryan Clayton**) who has already notched a couple of hat-tricks so far this year, whilst Gavin is a second row.

Oldham did their fair share of recruiting over the winter. As well as Elswood they went to Rochdale to pick up three players who helped Hornets achieve third spot in the league last year.

Centre **James Bunyan** was a Halifax target when he was a youngster at Milford but signed for Huddersfield instead before joining Doncaster. Scrum half or hooker **Ian Watson** is a current Welsh international who was previously with Salford, Swinton and Widnes as well as Rochdale whilst prop Paul Southern is another ex City Red.

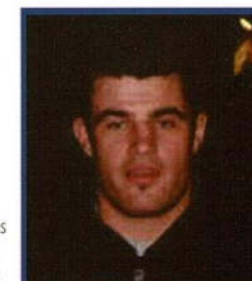
They join the nucleus of local boys and last season's proven performers. Utility back **Will Cowell** is a Cumbrian who has Super League experience with Warrington, full back or centre **Jon Goddard** is ex Castleford,

three quarter **Iain Marsh** arrived via Salford and Barrow whilst scrum half **Neil Roden** was formerly with Wigan. Goalkicking stand-off **Simon Svabic** actually played for the now defunct Oldham Bears outfit in Super League. He moved onto hometown Leigh after they went bust only to return a couple of years ago. Another returnee is **Pat Rich**. The centre was in the squad which lost to Widnes in the 2001 Grand Final before taking some time out of the game. He's back in the fold now though.

The Roughyeds pack is as big as most and is spearheaded by **Dane Morgan**. He's six feet five inches and has extensive Australian experience with North Sydney and Melbourne. Prop **Martin McLoughlin** is ex Wigan and Barrow whilst second rowers **Lee Doran** and Phil Farrell are also former Wiganers. **Craig Farrimond** is a former captain of the Warrington Academy team and utility man **Lee Marsh** came to the club from Salford. Rochdale based prop **Adam Sharples** is a product of the club's Academy set-up.



■ Former Fax Target and scorer of 4 tries last weekend, James Bunyan



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Contact Malcolm on 01422 248858 to claim!
Thanks to all who sold and/or bought tickets

Commercial Corner

Welcome to all our sponsors and commercial partners to our 4th home games in as many weeks!

Thank goodness we have next weekend off!

I am delighted to welcome a brand new name to the Club's list of sponsors today, David Peel, of Halifax Building Consultancy Ltd. is our man of the match sponsor, the first time he has undertaken hospitality at The Shay.

David was a guest of our Company Secretary Michael Steele, when Michael's company (Clarksons Solicitors) sponsored our first game of the season, and he liked what he saw. I hope that we leave a similar impression on David's guests today, and hope we can build a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

Cranley Martin Electrical are our Matchball sponsor today. I am always delighted to welcome Cranley to the games and thank him once again for his support.

As usual, welcome to the guests of Halifax Home Insurance and the Evening Courier, and to all our Diners, Player Sponsors, Kit Sponsors and Advertisers! It's great to have you here!



■ Editor John Furbisher receives a memento of the Courier's match sponsorship last week from Man of the Match Rikki Sheriffe.

I am pleased to say that our hospitality facilities are becoming ever more popular, and we continually strive to improve the facilities we have to offer. Margaret and George in the Weavers (aided and abetted by Debbie and Ronnie) do a marvelous job for us, and rarely get the thanks they deserve (especially from me!) and so I would like to publicly thank them for the fine work they have put in so far this season.

Incredibly, our next home game marks the half-way stage in our scheduled home games programme (barring any Arriva Trains Cup matches and play off games) and it's still be only May! I have vacancies for diners places at most games, and could do with a couple more Matchball sponsors if anyone can supply me with bosses names or such like!

Finally for today, congratulations to Don Fish, who was elected as a director to take the sponsor's seat on the board at the AGM on the 7th. Everyone will know Don (and probably heard Maureen!) and I wish him the best of luck in what he will soon find out (if he hasn't already) is not an easy position!

See you all on May 9th

Chris Murgatroyd

PS Don't forget the sportsman's dinner featuring John Virgo on June 10th (and the Ladies dinner on June 11th). More details (or book on) on 01422 342792.

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Playing for Success



Playing for Success

Hello again and welcome to the Playing for Success report.

Everyone thinks that school holidays means the end of our work with young people, well not here at the 'Blue Base' Study Centre! Over the Easter break we have had two schools participating in Literacy and Numeracy sessions here at the Shay Stadium.

The pupils came from Todmorden C of E Primary and Cross Lane Primary in Elland, they each had two days full of rugby based Maths and English sessions.

The activities that took place over the four days were varied in nature and were meant to be fun, the overall aim is to use an original setting with original materials in order to create an alternative learning environment. In creating this 'Wow' factor we can stimulate the learning of the pupils and hopefully be part of their personal development. Our 'Blue Base' motto is "Adding a sporting dimension to learning", this we achieve with the tremendous support of Tony Anderson and the rest of the coaching staff and players.

One of the highlights of the two days (so the pupils told us), was the chance they had to interview TA. This gave them an opportunity to find out what motivates our head coach and who has influenced his career so far. They delved deep and got him to reveal his tastes in music, about his life back in Australia and asked him what plans he had for the future.

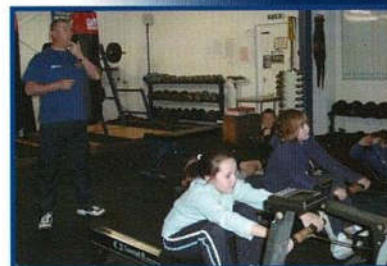
The extra sessions enabled us to give the pupils a workout in the gym.

From these exercises we were able to measure the pupils heart rate and agility, the pupils found this session very enjoyable.

All the pupils were awarded certificates of attendance and were presented with a large Easter egg donated by ASDA. It has been a very successful venture and one that we hope can be carried on in the future, because what we want to achieve is the second of our mottos: "Where the Children of Calderdale and Halifax Rugby League team up to try harder, tackle differences in their aims to score in the world of learning."

■ (top) The children question TA about his career and his work as head coach

■ (above) Mick Moffat puts the children through their paces in the Gym



■ TA presents children with their certificates in front of the Courier photographer

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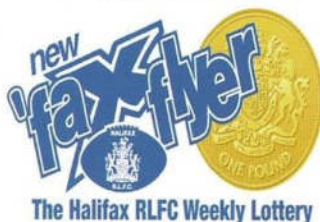


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Billy & Bluey's 1/2 Time Teasers

Pit your wits against the Club's Mascots Billy & Bluey!
There are no prizes, it's just for fun!
Answers next time.

- 1 What is twice the half of 13/7?
- 2 How many marbles can you put in an empty bag?
- 3 Think of words ending in 'gry'. Angry and Hungry are two of them. There are only three words in the English language. What is the third word? The word is something that everyone uses everyday. If you have listened carefully, I have already told you what it is!
- 4 Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the biggest mountain in the World?
- 5 Why can't you take a picture of a man with a wooden leg?

- 6 Beast time! Who are the three players who make up this delightful creature?



Last Edition's Answers
1 Roman Numerals (XX - 1 = XX) 2 Incorrectly 3 Silence 4 Three
5 Twelve 6 It's Chris Norman's head with Wayne Corcoran's mouth and chin topped with Mark
Moxon's eyes and nose!

HALIFAX



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Beaten Finalists	1953, 1954, 1956, 1966
Division One Champions	1903, 1986
Challenge Cup Winners	1903, 1904, 1931, 1939, 1987
Beaten Finalists	1921, 1941, 1942, 1949, 1954, 1956, 1988
John Player Special/Regal Trophy	Winners 1972, Beaten Finalist - 1990
War Emergency League	Beaten Finalists - 1943, 1945
Premiership Trophy	Beaten Finalists - 1986
Second Division Premiership	Beaten Finalists - 1991
Yorkshire Cup Winners	1909, 1945, 1955, 1956, 1964;
Beaten Finalists	1906, 1908, 1942, 1980
Yorkshire League Winners	1909, 1921, 1950, 1953, 1954, 1956
Eastern Divisional Championship	Winners 1964
Charity Shield Winners	1986
Beaten Finalists	1987

CLUB RECORDS

MatchGoals :	14 Bruce Burton at Hunslet 27/8/72;
Tries :	8 Keith Williams v Dewsbury 9/11/57
Points :	32 John Schuster at Doncaster 9/10/94
Season	
Goals:	147 Tysul Griffiths 1955-56
Tries:	48 Johnny Freeman 1956-57
Points:	362 John Schuster 1994-95
Career	
Goals:	1,470 Ronnie James 1960-72;
Tries:	290 Johnny Freeman 1954-67
Points:	2,191 Ronnie James 1960-72
Highest Score	82-8 v Runcorn 14/10/90
Biggest Loss	0-76 v Brisbane Broncos 22/6/97
Record Crowd	29,153 v Wigan (RL Cup) at Thrum Hall 21/3/59

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DAVE FLEMING Column

So, we reach the knock out stages of the Arriva Trains Cup. And I wish I had a fiver for every person who has come up to me and asked how qualification is achieved.

The easy bit is that all five group winners automatically qualify. That leaves three places vacant and they are to be contested for by the second placed team in each group plus the third placed team with the best record overall. See, it's easy. All six go into a draw with three winners emerging from next weekend's games.

The quarter finals can't be seeded though. Four games and five group winners don't tally. So someone who has an outstanding qualifying record could find themselves going to Leigh. Or Whitehaven.

Four groups would have solved that problem. And stopped the need for cross group matches.

And whilst we're on the subject, How were the said cross group fixtures drawn up? How did Halifax find themselves playing Leigh home and away whilst others in the Pennine Group had far easier opponents. Keighley, for example, who played Workington. Hunslet, who played London Skolars.

I think we should be told.

Was it coincidence that on Good Friday 'Fax travelled to Leigh whilst Halifax Town entertained Leigh RMI a few hours later?

There's plenty of ground sharing in the north of England (e.g. Huddersfield, Oldham, Rochdale) these days but I can't remember a precedent for two teams from the same town who share the same stadium playing against another couple of teams from another town on the same day.

Did the appointment of Darren Abram as the Leigh coach during the off season have any commercial implications?

I ask this because I noticed that the Centurions now boast a firm called Econoloft as sponsors on the back of their shirts.

I seem to remember that Econoloft were major sponsors of Trafford Borough and their various reincarnations a few years ago. They then popped up last year as backers of Chorley. The common denominator of course is Abram, who played at Trafford, and coached at Lynx in 2003. The bossman at Econoloft is, I think I'm right in saying, a chap called Livesey.

Who happens to be the father in law of Darren Abram!

■ A 'State of the Art' Transfer Fee.



There have been some strange transfers over the years - and our visitors today were in the midst of one of the unusual some 15 years ago.

This concerned the move of a bloke called Jeff Edwards from Oldham to Rochdale. The latter had just sold their Athletic Grounds base; the former were doing improvements to Watersheddings. Honestly!

And Hornets gave the Roughyeds three second hand turnstiles in exchange!

It's a good job that there wasn't an agent involved - how do you calculate a percentage of that?

Rugby League is like any other business or walk of life.

There are pratts in the game, and there are good guys. Roger Halstead is one bloke who definitely falls into the latter category, and not just because he comes from Rochdull. For those who don't know, Roger has been the rugby league correspondent of the "Oldham Chronicle" for longer than most of us can remember. Did I hear the figure 40 years mentioned once?

Welcome to the Shay this afternoon Roger.

One match statistic that is normally asked for, nay demanded, is the penalty count.

But there is a major debate going on in certain journalistic quarters as to how some of those penalties are interpreted, more specifically, when the referee awards a penalty and then marches the offending side back a further ten metres for dissent?

In my book it's two penalties. One for the original offence, one for the backchat.

Other, more knowledgeable people inside the game, insist that it should only count as one on the tally as the second is merely an extension of the first decision. Stuart Cummings falls into this latter category.

He of course is the man who caused controversy in a London match a few years ago. He penalised the Broncos opponents at a scrum (yes, really) and then marched them back another ten BUT he wouldn't let London kick at goal because the first penalty was of course a differential one.

What do you think?



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Friday June 11th at The Weavers



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Sportsman's Dinner Call Chris on 01422 342792
Ladies Dinner call Joan on 01422 329244



The change from Super League to National League football has seen the players employed at Halifax RLFC go from full time to part time. This week we focus on a player who has played at the highest level and he talks to Paul Ebrey

Phil Cants

A renowned try-scorer with a world-record 48 tries in a season for Widnes in the Northern Ford Premiership, Phil has stamped his mark on the side with 6 tries in 10 games and a couple of man of the match awards thrown in for good measure.

Phil is a born and bred "pie-eater" originating from Wigan, and lives in Pemberton with his partner Nina, who is expecting their first child.

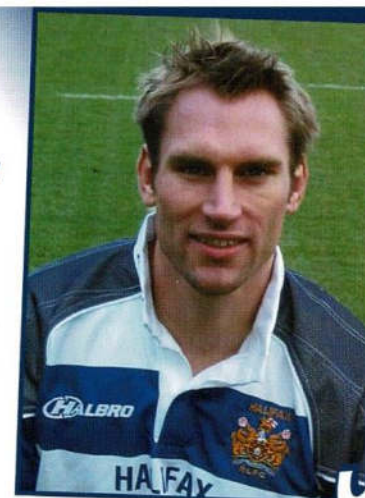
As an amateur, Phil played for Wigan St Patricks and was a multi-talented player, "they played me as a loose-forward, scrum-half, wing or full-back before I moved into the hooking role at 14". Honours quickly followed for Phil, the highlight being international honours playing for England Schools, alongside Jon Roper and Iestyn Harris amongst others.

Phil's signature was chased by Wigan and Widnes, but a love for his hometown club won the day and Phil signed for Wigan at 16, at the same time as Kris Radlinski.

Phil is now 27, and these days he is one of the Club's Community Development Officers, a job he enjoys thoroughly. "I enjoy coaching and teaching kids, and its enjoyable seeing children picking up skills and techniques that you have taught them"

During the day, Monday to Thursdays I go out into the schools and training consists of Monday being a clear-up and video session. Tuesday Nights are weights and a session at Ovenden Park. Wednesday is a Gym session, Thursday, a meeting and session at Ovenden Park, Friday off and Saturday is a ball session once again at Ovenden Park or at The Shay.

When questioned about a career after Rugby, Phil was quite specific. "I have gained some accreditation off the field in the fitness sector so I would like to be a fitness instructor, PE teacher or a conditioner in the future".



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Nickname:

Cants

Amateur Clubs:

Wigan St Patricks

Previous Clubs:

Wigan, Keighley, Leeds, Widnes, Whitehaven (loan)

Career Highlight:

Captaining Ireland to the final of the World 7s in Australia, in 2003.

Rugby League Hero:

Elery Hanley

Interests / Hobbies:

Keeping fit and spending time with the family

Favourite TV Programme:

EastEnders and Coronation Street

Favourite Music:

Anything and everything

Interesting Fact:

Phil holds a Sports Science Degree

Different Lives

Service Area News



The first game at all age groups is versus Bradford with the Under 12s and 13s playing at Cougar Park (6.30pm), travel details via C Willis on 01422 372657 or 07977 596 051). The Under 14s and 15s are at Brighouse Sports Club (6.30pm).

Why have a Club Volunteer Co-ordinator? Part 2.

By appointing a Club Volunteer Co-ordinator you can open new doors for recruitment (such as through Step into Sport and the Volunteer Bureau), keep abreast of developments in volunteering, retain the volunteers you have, and recognise the enormous worth of your volunteers. Just think what a difference appointing one volunteer could make to your club. A Club Volunteer Co-ordinator can help you to achieve and expand on this.

How to recruit a Club Volunteer Co-ordinator.

- Look at the people already involved in your club. Perhaps there is someone who would like to take on this role and who would relish the opportunities it could bring.
- Look at people who support your club - is there someone who wants to become involved but isn't sure what they could do to help?
- Contact your local volunteer bureau - register the opportunity with them, or ask your volunteer bureau to put you in contact with other agencies in your area, such as Reach.
- Use your local press and see if you can get some PR for it, perhaps alongside another story. Your local Secondary School could be registered with the Millennium Volunteers programme, hence many of their pupils in their final year will be wishing to put in many hours of volunteer work, it may be appropriate to discuss this with the relevant staff.
- Contact local firms to see if they do pre-retirement seminars - perhaps they could include your need for volunteers within them.

What qualities do Volunteer Co-ordinators need?

Good communication skills, Organisational skills, A flexible outlook, Diplomacy & Assertiveness

The right recruitment message;

Planning your message before you recruit is vital to its success. It is important to look at it from the viewpoint of you potential volunteer, focussing on what their needs are as well as your own. Think about

1. What is wanted and why it is needed?
2. How will the volunteer meet both the needs of the organisation and themselves?
3. What fears could a potential volunteer have and how can these be addressed?
4. What benefits are there to becoming involved for both the club and the volunteer?

Use a Role Description to guide you in recruiting. As mentioned above, be specific about what you want and what you expect - people will appreciate it if they have a clear idea of your needs and in all likelihood, they will be more inclined to stay. I will include in our next programme a suggestion for Recruitment Action Plan and Club Role Description.

For further advice and contact details, contact Rachel Salt (RFL National Volunteer manager) 01484 544131 or email her at rachel.salt@barla.org.uk

Service Area Squads

The de-selection of players from Service Area squads is a process which is a necessary evil! Squads have been training intensely over the last two weeks to impress the coaching staff before the final train on squad of 25 is selected.

To those children who have or are about to be told of their de-selection, we cannot express enough to you that you should put behind you the inevitable initial disappointment, and work on points of your game which your coach has identified as needing some work on. You already have shown that you have qualities which are above average, and with this extra work back at your club, you should come back next season at a higher age level and stake your claim for inclusion.

To all you boys who fall into the above category thank you for your commitment and time given to your Service Area, and we wish you a successful future within Rugby League.

For those who have been selected to represent Calderdale this year, WELL DONE! Your coaching staff will be working with you closer than ever now, and you should work closely with them. Approach them with concerns or ideas, they are there for the development of your game, whilst developing their own coaching techniques. Please be aware that there are certain forms to be filled in and each squad has a manager for this purpose. Your parent or guardian HAS to sign these forms in the presence of this manager, this is for your benefit, please ask them to come to at least one session, BEFORE the games commence on 5th May. Managers are as follows, and you should make yourself known to them as soon as possible;

Under 12s	
Mr Ian Horne	01422 835407
Under 13s	
Mrs J Webb	01422 379619
Under 14s	
Mr S Mallas	01422 241220
Under 15s	
Mrs C Huck	01422 243454

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LEAGUE WEEKLY

By Danny Lockwood - Publisher

I OCCASIONALLY entertain conflicting theories about why rugby league – at
the highest level – is possibly the 'cleanest' contact sport in the world. The
game's legislators would like us to think their rules, regulations and
punishments account for the disciplines our super-athletes maintain. Refs,
with a humble shrug of their shoulders, would be flattered if we suggested
their skill with the whistle kept the gladiators from going overboard.

Neutral observers might realistically suggest that the presence of the video
camera is the biggest single deterrent against foul play. Its omnipresence
never sunk in with Dougie Laughton though, when he was coaching Leeds.
The television public was treated to every single drag on his fag end. There's
a moral there, somewhere. Maybe Dougie could make a comeback
managing a Formula 1 team?

And in this era of every game being video-taped, there literally is no escape. I'm sure the last thing Tetley's Super League
players do – before a featured Sky game – is give their nose a good blow. It wouldn't do for your mum to see you up
close and personal with your index finger so far up your hooter that you could scratch the lining of your scrum cap. Every
game Eddie and Stevo bring us comes courtesy of more cameras than Cecil B de Mille saw in all his earthlies. You put a
foot wrong – and more particularly a fist – and Big Brother at Red Hall is watching you. But the video camera would only
run second on my personal list of why we can rightly boast such a family-friendly sport.

Super League rugby players move at such a pace that there simply isn't the time to conjure up the thought of an evil
deed, let alone execute it without resembling blatant GBH. These guys hit the line at a speed Linford Christie would give a
thumbs-up to. All the defence has time to do is get body position right and try to execute the tackle.

All of the other factors come into it, obviously, but this sport has evolved to such a level of athletic excellence that
premeditated thuggery has been left plodding through the mud of yesteryear. Here comes a clever scrum half sneaking
up the blind side, the ref's on t'other side of t'scrum, and one maliciously swinging forearm later, the St John Ambulance
lads are lumbering off with a stunned half back draped on their canvas stretcher.

Even 90 per cent of our high tackles – Adrian Morley in the 1st Ashes Test being the prime example – are generally either
mistimed or have ridden up from a 'chest' shot. I'll bet we get fewer broken jaws than ever ... again, specifically at the
top end of the game. I don't have the stats to back this up, but I'd wager that the number of violent-play incidents
increase in proportion to the steps you take down the leagues, and the slower the game gets.

But now and again, boys will be boys. Or rather, men will be men. We should have had that flamboyant Las Vegas
announcer at the 'main event' on Good Friday. "La-deees and gennerlmen – welcome to Knows-lee Road, for the
Heav-e-weight Championship of Lan-ca-sheeeeer! In the red corner today, the no.1 contenders, Saaaaaaaint Helens!
And, in the blue corner, punching above their weight, it's the Wig-an Warr-eeeeee-ors!" Andy Farrell and Paul Sculthorpe
squaring up like Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran – Lightweight Sean Long vs heavyweight Danny Sculthorpe!
Marvellous. This wasn't suddenly a 'dirty' sport. It was passion and pride. No one got counted out – in fact you've seen
more 'claret' at an AA meeting. Sometimes it's reassuring to see that rugby league still is a man's game ... and one
thing's for sure – we won't be losing any of those contestants to boxing!



Here young
Sculthorpe,
let me just help
you up
by the lip...

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2004 Fixtures

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	8	Sun	Oulton	W 66 - 10	1,675
	15	Sun	Rochdale	W 33 - 14	
	22	Sun	Hunslet	W 38 - 14	
	29	Sun	XIII Limouxin	L 18 - 19	
MAR	7	Sun	Rochdale	W 21 - 6	2,096
	21	Sun	Keighley	L 8 - 26	
	28	Sun	Leigh	L16-27	2,815
APR	4	Sun	Hunslet	W20 - 4	1,536
	9	Fri	Leigh	3:00pm	Arriva Trains Cup
	12	Mon	Doncaster	L20 - 38	2,290
	18	Sun	Oldham	3:00pm	National League One
MAY	2	Sun	Hull KR	3:00pm	National League One
	9	Sun	Batley	3:00pm	National League One
	23	Sun	Whitehaven	3:00pm	National League One
	30	Sun	Featherstone	3:00pm	National League One
JUN	6	Sun			Arriva Trains Cup - QF
	13	Sun	Leigh	3:00pm	National League One
	20	Sun	Rochdale	3:00pm	National League One
	27	Sun			Arriva Trains Cup - SF
JUL	4	Sun	Keighley	3:00pm	National League One
	11	Sun	Oldham	3:00pm	National League One
	18	Sun			Arriva Trains Cup - Final
	25	Sun	Hull KR	3:00pm	National League One
AUG	1	Sun	Batley	3:00pm	National League One
	8	Sun	Whitehaven	3:00pm	National League One
	15	Sun	Featherstone	3:00pm	National League One
	22	Sun	Leigh	3:00pm	National League One
	29	Sun	Rochdale	3:00pm	National League One
SEPT	5	Sun	Doncaster	3:00pm	National League One
	12	Sun	Keighley	3:00pm	National League One
	19	Sun			National League Play offs 1
	26	Sun			National League Play offs 2
OCT	3	Sun			National League Play offs 3
	10	Sun			National League Grand Final



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lights onto the dual carriageway (Preston Road) and Craven Park is about half a mile on your right hand side. There is ample secure car parking on site at Craven Park.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Becky Stansfield who is 17 years old today

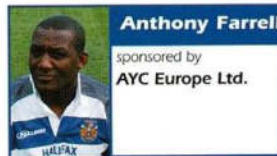
Becky had her first driving lesson this morning although, she's been driving mum and dad up the wall for years!
Love from Mum, Dad and Kirsty, plus all your friends in the Diners' Club!

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OLDHAM

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Will Cowell 2
James Bunyan 3
Jon Goddard 4
Nick Johnson 5
Neil Roden 6
Ian Watson 7
Steve Molloy 8
Keith Brennan 9
Paul Southern 10
Lee Doran 11
Dave Morgan 12
Lee Marsh 13
Gareth Barber 14
Simon Svabic 15
Martin McLaughlin 16
Martin Elwood 17

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Rikki Sheriffe
Jon Roper
Alan Hadcroft
Oliver Marns
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Donna Sladdin
Diane Faulkner

HALIFAX

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Touch Judges: G. Hodgson & M. Hawkes
Reserve Referee: N. Price
Match Commissioner: S. Cross

