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Office / General
01302 343281

Ray Green
01302 342749

Fax: 01302 369099

e-mail:

doncasterdragons2001

@tiscali.co.uk

website:

www.doncasterdragons.net

Lottery website:

www.fireball500.com

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Steve Uttley

Club Historian

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Club Patron

Stewart Piper

Life Member

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Website Manager

Tom Walters

FROM THE FRONT DESK....



What a difference a couple weeks make in Rugby League.

Two great wins have seen us come out of our Arriva Trains Cup slump to joint top of the LHF Healthplan National League Division One, although it is still early days with lots of Rugby League still to be played. Last Sundays performance was one of the best I can remember in my time with the Dragons, all the players and coaching staff deserve huge credit for a fantastic result against a Hull KR side full of star players.

Today sees us entertain Oldham in the Arriva Trains Quarter Final qualifier. With both sides opening their league campaign with two wins, it should be a close and entertaining contest.

Last week's launch of the Supporters Trust didn't go completely according to plan with a leaking roof at the Earl, a major problem on the day. But all concerned with the Trust continued as best they could and I was pleased to see so many supporters joining or taking away application forms.

I took the short trip over to Oldham to watch our Under 21's Academy in action last Saturday, I thought the lads (many of whom are new players this year) were excellent and ran a good Oldham team pretty close, so well done lads and keep it up. Welcome to our friends from Oldham, looking forward to a clean and injury free game.

John Wright Chairman

DRAGONS' NEXT HOME MATCH

Our next home game will be in a fortnight's time, Sunday May 9th. when we entertain Whitehaven in the LHF National League Division One

The views expressed in this matchday programme are not necessarily those held by the Doncaster Dragons' Board of Directors and Staff.

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BLUE & GOLD SOCIETY

Good Afternoon and welcome today's Arriva Trains Qualifying match against Oldham. After two excellent results in the league it should be another cracker down at Belle Vue today.

First and foremost I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Breathing Fire, Associate and Dragons club members for their continuing support. For those members who don't pay by standing order, and you think your payments are up for renewal please don't hesitate to contact me at the office on 01302 343281, and we can arrange your payment.

The Breathing Fire club is an exclusive members club for the supporters of Doncaster Dragons RLFC. For just £6 per week (that's only £312 per year) members receive:

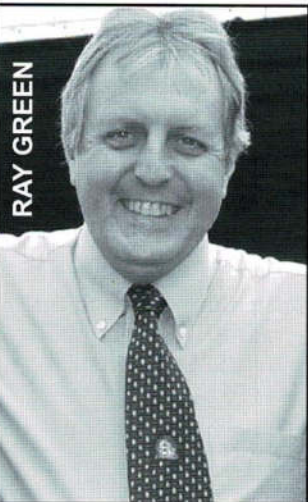
- * 6 separate memberships of the Dragons Fireball 500 Lottery. This gives each member 60 chances to win 5 weekly prizes of £100 and the monthly Fireball prize of £500. Plus 12 chances to win a share of the National Lotto draw.
- * Free admission to Belle Vue for all home league fixtures
- * Free matchday programme
- * Free replica shirt, plus 10% discount on club merchandise
- * Free admission for up to four family members under the age of 16
- * Members name in matchday programme
- * Free entry into all Dragons bars
- * Entry into two members only draws

Anyway enjoy the game today, and I will see you up at the Earl if you have any questions.

David Margrave - Lottery Manager.

PREVIOUS HOME ENCOUNTERS AGAINST OLDHAM

1963/64	div 2 - lost 6-12	Goodchild 2	att 2,250
1968/69	div 1 - lost 10-26	Brook, Pell	att 731
1970/71	div 1 - lost 10-14	Jeff, Battye	att 595
1971/72	div 1 - lost 9-27	Towle	att 511
1974/75	div 1 - lost 3-18	Banham	att 266
1977/78	div 2 - lost 7-18	Fortis	att 1,395
1978/79	div 2 - lost 8-10	Flaster	att 749
1979/80	div 2 - lost 0-25		att 911
1981/82	div 2 - lost 13-36	Wilson, Knott, Russell	att 1,005
1987/88	div 2 - won 20-18	Jones, Noble, Louis	att 2,060
1989/90	div 2 - lost 20-22	Hall, Turner, Rayne, Vincent	att 3,460
1994/95	div 1 - lost 14-22	Evans, Carlyle	att 1,803
1998	div 2 - lost 8-28		att 1,020
1999	div 2 - lost 12-27	Kerr, Adams	att 878
2000	div 2 - won 26-16	Weston 2, Sini 2, Wilson	att 2,130
2003	div 2 - won 52-24	Gleadhill, Fielden, Mansson 3, Horne 2, Hepi 2	att 860



RAY GREEN

THE MARKET PLACE

Hello and welcome to Belle Vue for todays Arriva Trains play-off game with Oldham, if today's game is anything like our last home game with Hull KR we are in for a treat.

Off the field the reorganisation of the clubs backroom staff is complete. Just so you know whose who: Irene will still do the Admin for the lottery, wages, invoicing and day to day accounts plus match day accounts. The new member of staff is David Margrave, he is the new lottery manager taking over from John Garside. David has been working for Castleford Tigers and comes with loads of enthusiasm and new ideas and I am sure he will do a good job. John has moved from the lottery to take up the post of football Secretary, dealing with all the ever increasing paperwork from the Rugby League, he will also oversee the smooth running of the Academy.

One of the main jobs I have given John is working closely with the R.L Development department, setting up a scholarship system for the club. In my job as Chief Executive, I will deal with the major issues with the Rugby League and work closely with John Wright on the new proposed stadium, continue to work closely with the coaching staff and be in charge of the day to day running of the club. I will obviously have more time to concentrate on the commercial side, so like it or not you will be seeing more of me in the future. Things in the pipeline are a race night at the conservative club, sportsmans dinner and pubs and clubs ball raffle. If you would like to volunteer to help with commercial activities please call me on 342749.

Enjoy the game - Ray Green

TODAY'S ARRIVA TRAINS CUP QUARTER-FINAL QUALIFYING MATCHES

BARROW RAIDERS v KEIGHLEY COUGARS
DONCASTER DRAGONS v OLDHAM
YORK CITY KNIGHTS v FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

THE WINNERS OF THESE GAMES WILL JOIN HALIFAX,
HULL KINGSTON ROVERS, LEIGH CENTURIONS AND
WHITEHAVEN IN THE DRAW FOR THE QUARTER-FINALS,
TO BE PLAYED ON JUNE 6TH.

VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT...

To start I must say I was very happy with the way we performed last Sunday in beating Hull KR. They like Halifax are considered one of the sides, which will lead the division going towards the play offs at the end of the season.

We have beaten them both and you cannot ask for better than that from a team considered by some people as being relegation candidates.

I thought Graham Holroyd killed them with a superb kicking game and Shaun Leaf was a top performer which goes to prove what I have been saying for a long time that competition for places is such that people have to play well to keep their place in the side.

Still talking of Hull KR, one thing which does disappoint me is the one match suspension received by Makali Aizue for his tackle on Johnny Woodcock.

I have lost a player for two weeks yet he misses just one and this makes me think there isn't a lot of justice about in the game at the moment.

We are back to cup action this week against Oldham but the preparation has been no different. A lot of people have used this competition as something of a warm up for the full National League One programme but I have to say the competition is there to be won.

Whether it's the Arriva Trains Cup or an egg cup we want to win it and we will be giving it 110% in the hope we can turn in yet another excellent performance and make it through into the quarter final of the competition. I am proud of the way the players have equipped themselves in the recent games but I am not allowing us to get carried away by what we have achieved so far as we still have sixteen games left yet. However I think we have already made people sit up and take notice of our intentions. We now have to consolidate what we have done so far.

SINGE



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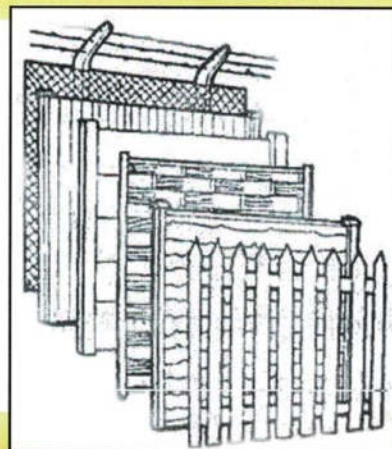
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HALF-TIME QUIZ

1. WHICH NL2 TEAM IS COACHED BY GERARD STOKES ?
2. WHO ARE THE SPONSORS OF THE 2004 CHALLENGE CUP?
3. WHAT WAS THE FINAL SCORE IN THE CONTROVERSIAL EASTER MONDAY MATCH BETWEEN BRADFORD AND ST HELENS ?
4. WHICH SUPER LEAGUE CLUB PLAY HOME MATCHES AT BELLE VUE ?
5. WHICH FORMER DRAGON SCORED FOUR TRIES FOR OLDHAM IN THEIR OPENING LEAGUE MATCH AGAINST FEATHERSTONE ?



BREATHING FIRE MEMBERSHIP CLUB

Currently Breathing Fire Club membership is as follows:-

Full members:

Howard Lowndes
Tracy Broughton
Frank Rushe
M. Sykes
J.G. Leonard
Duncan Wright
Nigel Armstrong
John Williams
J.G. Cook
S. Ward
Mark Jones
D. Westwood
P. Flintoff
S. Atter
S. Scholes

Martin Ramsden
Steve Monks
Phil Jenkins
Dave Armstrong
Stephen Edwards
Stephen Wilks
Ray Harrison
Keith Needham
M. Froggatt
G.L. Haines
Phil Clarke
Andrew Jones
Steven Stinton
Karl Williams
Kevin Wingfield

Darryl Hilton
Lee Blagden
R.V. Blazaitis
Steve Dobson
Steve Mortimer
Donald Blackham
Lynne Needham
Daryl Clarke
Jenny Barber
David Whiteley
J. Mitchell
Colin Armstrong
John Banks
David Mottershead
J. Crowcroft

Pensioner members:

M.A. Caswell

D. McGlone

J.B. Herbert

Associate members:

Gary Fox

Dragons Club:

Mrs Walters

Mr Walters

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: the draw for 6 x complimentary tickets to dine with players - (home fixtures) or 2 x Director passes (away fixtures) will be made during the half-time break at home games throughout the season

TODAY'S VISITORS...

JON GODDARD

Jon came to Oldham on loan in the 2002 season on the high recommendation of Graham Steadman the former Castleford boss. He was reared in Castleford youth and schools rugby before going to The Jungle to play for the academy side. During his two seasons in their Alliance team he played three times in Super League, against Wakefield, Bradford and London. Has developed into a competent full back or centre.

WILL COWELL

Cowell has played 18 times in Super League for Warrington Wolves, mostly as a substitute. The 22-year-old Cumbrian, 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 he has recently extended for another year. He plays full-back, wing or centre, preferring full-back his chances to impress the coach will probably be as a winger or centre. Former Warrington coach Daryl van de Velde, spoke well of Cowell before the youngster was invited to join the Roughyeds.

JAMES BUNYAN

Second row or centre James Bunyan was from local rivals Rochdale Hornets. He has been brought in particularly to stiffen up the defence on the fringes. He is one of those players who is a quiet achiever rather than a star performer, but in the same vein he is a player who is highly respected by his fellow professionals. He comes with a wealth of experience and is again somebody who is very keen to be playing at the highest possible level, which of course concurs with the clubs ambitions of reaching Super League. His previous clubs also include Huddersfield Giants and Doncaster Dragons.

PAT RICH

Pat Rich is no stranger to the Oldham ranks. He played in the successful 1991 Grand Final team and still holds the club points scoring record for his achievements during that season. Pat plays centre, and is renown for his copy book tackling and his prolific goal kicking which enabled him to gain the point scoring record.

NICKY JOHNSON

Nicky signed for Oldham towards the end of the 2003 season for the run in to the play offs on a loan deal from Bradford Bulls. Nick is the younger brother of Gavin.

He has been on long term loan to London Broncos, where he played four full first team games for the Broncos, one of them being the Challenge Cup victory against Oldham.

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.

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.

IAN WATSON

Scrum-half Ian Watson was signed from local rivals Rochdale Hornets.

Ian has been a Welsh international since 1996 and is regarded to be a clever half back with a good kicking game, attributes with which he has tormented Oldham in the past.

An experienced scrum half who has served Salford, Swinton, Widnes and Rochdale since his amateur days with Eccles

STEVE MOLLOY

The vastly experienced Steve Molloy hails from Oldham and is an ex England captain. 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 2002.

A front row forward who has also played for Featherstone, Sheffield, Warrington, Huddersfield and Leeds.

KEITH BRENNAN

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 in in many positions, most notably as hooker whilst deputising for John Hough.

Keith decided to hang up his boots at the end of the 2002 season, but after the start of the 2003 campaign the lure of Rugby League was too much to resist and Keith signed on again.

PAUL SOUTHERN

Experienced prop forward Paul Southern was also signed from local rivals Rochdale Hornets. Paul who is 27 years old has been signed on a twelve month contract. He will be renewing acquaintances with Iain Marsh, Simon Svabic and Ian Watson who he has played with in his spells at Salford and Rochdale.

Paul showed great consistency playing for Hornets last season and this earned him a place in the NL1 form team of the year. From the Roughyeds point of view we hope he can continue that consistency.

He has been brought to the club with a view that he will influence the younger players with his good training and playing habits.

OLDHAM

DANE MORGAN

Dane is a leviathan of a man, standing at 6'5" and weighing around 17 and a half stone, the 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 who beat St Helens for the title.

Dane came to Britain with an ambition to play in Super League, hopefully he can achieve this ambition with the Roughyeds. Already he has shown he is not a forward you can take liberties with.

PHIL FARRELL

Phil is in his fourth season at Oldham and is the 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, a position his older brother Andy fills for Wigan. One of the youngest captains in the league, he will not be phased by the responsibility.

SIMON SVABIC

Simon joined Oldham from the Leigh 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.

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 side and made the occasional appearance for the Bulls in the Alliance Championship. Spent almost a season earning his Oldham spurs in the Alliance team.

MARTIN MCCLOUGHLIN

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

Local, 20 year old second row or centre Martin Elswood was signed from Super League club Huddersfield Giants. Martin who was on the verge of a first team call up last season when Steve Molloy first looked at him with regard to strengthening his squad for the run in to the play offs, but sadly injury dashed his chances, Steve opted instead for Craig McDowell. At around 6'4" and 16st Martin has power as well as pace. He is eager to further his career and for this reason wants to get some first team rugby under his belt. Martin was brought up on a strong rugby background at North Chadderton school and progressed through the Royton Tigers youth set up. Steve Molloy still has many contacts at Huddersfield from his playing days there, and he has had nothing but good reports of Martin from those sources.

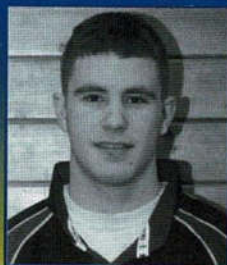


Steve Molloy is halted during last season's match which the Dragons won 52-24

DONCASTER DRAGONS' PLAYER SPONSORS 2004



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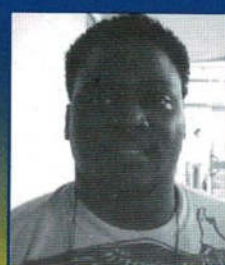
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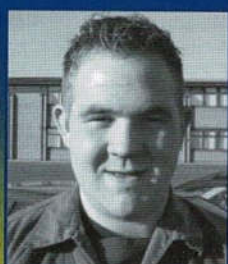
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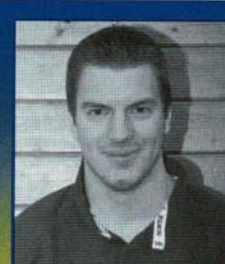
MARTIN OSTLER



PETER GREEN
JOAN BURT



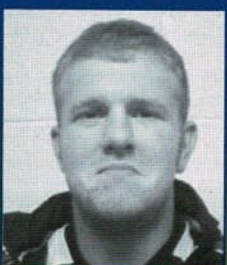
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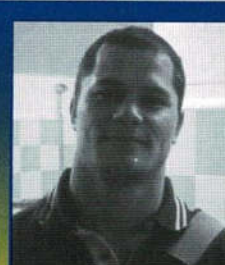
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DONCASTER DRAGONS FIXTURES 2004

ARRIVA TRAINS CUP

February			K.O./Res
8th	West Hull	H	W 28-6
	POWERGEN CHALL CUP - 3rd ROUND		
11th	Sheffield Eagles	A	W 6-38
15th	Batley Bulldogs	A	L 46-26
22nd	Hull K.R.	A	L 28-12
29th	Hunslet Hawks	A	W 20-48

POWERGEN CHALL CUP - 4th ROUND

March			
7th	Sheffield Eagles	H	W 34-4
14th	Huddersfield Giants	A	L 36-12
	POWERGEN CHALL CUP - 5th ROUND		
20th	London Skolars	A	W 6-24
28th	Batley Bulldogs	H	L 30-44
31st	London Skolars	H	W 58-20
	Postponed from February 1st		

April			
9th	Hull K.R. (Good Friday)	H	L 8-38

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

12th	Halifax (Easter Mon)	A	W 20-38
18th	Hull K.R.	H	W 27-14
25th	Oldham	ARRIVA TRAINS QUARTER-FINAL QUALIFIER	

May			
2nd	Batley Bulldogs	A	3:00
9th	Whitehaven	H	3:00
	POWERGEN CHALL CUP FINAL		
15th	Featherstone Rovers	A	3:00
23rd	Leigh Centurions	H	3:00

June			
6th	ARRIVA TRAINS CUP - QF		
13th	Rochdale Hornets	A	3:00
20th	Keighley Cougars	H	3:00
27th	ARRIVA TRAINS CUP - SF		

July			
4th	Oldham	H	3:00
11th	Hull K.R.	A	3:00
18th	ARRIVA TRAINS CUP - FINAL		
25th	Batley Bulldogs	H	3:00

August			
1st	Whitehaven	A	3:00
8th	Featherstone Rovers	H	3:00
15th	Leigh Centurions	A	3:00
22nd	Rochdale Hornets	H	3:00
29th	Keighley Cougars	A	3:00

September			
5th	Halifax	H	3:00
12th	Oldham	A	3:00

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MATCH PREVIEW

REVENGE IS SWEET FOR THE DRAGONS

DONCASTER DRAGONS 27 HULL KR 14

For the second successive week Doncaster turned the formbook on its head with another excellent performance against the fancied Hull outfit. Only nine days earlier the Robins had trounced the Dons by 38-8 in the Arriva Trains Cup so it was no surprise when they took the lead early doors. Marlon Billy failed to deal with a Paul Mansson bomb and Craig Farrell capitalised, another ex Dragon Lynton Stott added the extras. The Dragons refused to buckle this time and were well on top for the rest of the half. Driven forward by the excellent pack, Doncaster grew in confidence, and shortly after the opening try by the visitors Graham Holroyd kicked a long range penalty. However soon after the Dons suffered a setback when Andy Fisher was sent to the sin bin for dissent. This didn't deter the home side and they score an excellent try. Loose forward Craig Lawton combined with Dean Colton down the right and he evaded the covering defence to score, Holroyd added the conversion to make the score 8-6 in the Dragons favour.

With Graham Holroyd directing the Dragons superbly with excellent tactical kicking, they continued to look dangerous. A Holroyd 40/20 gave the Dragons good field position, which allowed scrum half Chris Hough to add a drop goal, and soon after Holroyd added another penalty to leave the score 11-6. Hull KR rarely threatened Doncasters' line, but good work from Frank Watene allowed Mansson to break through, he chipped substitute fullback Shaun Leaf, and Leaf was adjudged to have blocked Mansson from getting to the ball. A penalty was awarded and the ever-improving Leaf was sin-binned. Stott slotted over the penalty to leave the scores 11-8 at half time.

Doncaster were still down to 12 men at the start of the second half, and Hull KR capitalised as Aizue powered over from close range, Stott again added the extras to give Hull KR a 14-11 lead.

From this point the Dons took complete control and were 27-14 up by the hour mark. Straight from the kick-off Hull KR made an error, and in their next set of six Holroyd dived over from Dummy Half, unluckily his conversion just fell short. Soon after the Dragons rampaged forward again and livewire hooker Craig Cook squeezed over from close range, this time Holroyd was successful with an excellent touchline conversion. Doncaster continued to pile the pressure on the Robins and Craig Lawton was rewarded, as he picked up a loose ball and raced 25 metres to touch down. Holroyd uncharacteristically missed a simple conversion but did manage to convert a 60 minute penalty to leave the score 27-14.

By this stage the Dragons were in complete control and Holroyd continued to keep the pressure on with excellent kicking making it a struggle for Hull KR to get out of their own half.

Plaudits must go to all 17 Doncaster players as this was a truly great team performance.

DRAGONS' NEWS...

ACADEMY NEWS

OLDHAM ACADEMY 32 DONCASTER ACADEMY 18

Doncaster Academy kicked off the season with a good performance against last seasons Division 1 Champions.

The Dragons were well in contention to take the victory leading 18-14 with 20 mins to go before falling away in the last quarter of the match.

But with these 17 players never having played together before coach Audley Pennant will know that there is plenty of potential within the squad.

Oldham v Doncaster Academy 17-4-04

1 Simon Wassell 2 Wayne Frost (2 tries) 3 Mick Sykes 4 Jon Woddstones (1 goal)

5 Jon Talbot (1 try) 6 Wayne Southgate 7 Shaun Colton 8 Tom Buckenham

9 Liam Brentley 10 Shaun Archer 11 Jason Eagle 12 Sean Rolls

13 Ryan Rafferty (1 try)

Subs: 14 Ben Hoffman 15 Ben Kirsopp 16 Steve Smith 17 Sid Cherry

ACADEMY FIXTURES 2004 SEASON

Oldham v Doncaster Dragons

Sat 17th April Lost 32-18

Featherstone v Doncaster Dragons

Thurs 22nd April k-o 7.30

Doncaster Dragons v Keighley Cougars

Sat 1st May k-o 2.30

Huddersfield Giants v Doncaster Dragons

Sat 8th May k-o 2.30

Doncaster Dragons v Featherstone

Sat 22nd May k-o 2.30

Leigh Centurians v Doncaster Dragons

Sat 29th May k-o 2.30

Dewsbury Rams v Doncaster Dragons

Thurs 3rd June k-o 7.30

Doncaster Dragons v Salford City Reds

Sat 12th June k-o 2.30

Doncaster Dragons v Oldham

Weds 16th June k-o 7.30

Keighley Cougars v Doncaster Dragons

Weds 23rd June k-o 7.30

Doncaster Dragons v Huddersfield Giants

Sat 3rd July k-o 2.30

Salford City Reds v Doncaster Dragons

Thurs 8th July k-o 7.30

Doncaster Dragons v Dewsbury Rams

Sat 31st July k-o 2.30

Doncaster Dragons v Leigh Centurians

Weds 11th Aug k-o 7.30

Home matches to be played at Castle Park, home of Doncaster R.U and are subject to change.

REFEREEING COURSE

Following the success of previous course, the South Yorkshire East Midlands Rugby League Referees Society (formerly the Doncaster and Sheffield Society) will be hosting a 13 a side refereeing course, on behalf of the Rugby Football League, at Hillsborough Arena on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd May 2004.

The cost of the course is £25 for adults and £12 for under 18s, anyone who wishes to become a referee or just learn more about the game will be made welcome.

The cost of the course includes 2 full days of coaching, refreshments, all training materials, an examination and coaching by senior officials from the RFL.

No previous experience of refereeing is necessary. Members of the society will also be on hand to ensure that successful attendees can find out more about taking up the whistle.

If you are interested please contact:

Geoff Berry at the RFL or

Kevin Simmonds (Development Officer) on 01709 376198

DOWN MEMORY LANE

In the 1969/70 season the Dons made themselves a bit of history by reaching the third round of the cup for the first time, but it was a hard passage for them to progress this far.

In the first round they were drawn at home against top Cumbrian amateurs Glasson Rangers. The game was played in very heavy conditions and was hard and competitive, with the Dons eventually coming out victors by 22pts to 4.

In the second round draw the luck was with the Dons and they were given another home tie this time the visitors would be Rochdale Hornets. The match was played on Saturday February 21st and again the pitch was very heavy so an open game of rugby was out of the question. In the first half there was not much to choose between the two sides but as half time approached the Dons were awarded a penalty on the visitors 25 yard line and fullback Dave Towle converted to give the Dons a half time lead.

The second half continued much as the first with both sets of forwards dominating play in the worsening conditions and handling mistakes were coming thick and fast. Hornets were awarded a penalty in the Dons 25 and Rochdale's Eddie Tees was successful with the kick to bring the scores level. There were several near misses with Dons' Gary Brooke just failing to ground the ball over the Hornets try line. The Dons were awarded another penalty which in dry conditions would have been in reasonable kicking distance. After consulting with fullback Towle, Dons player coach Cyril Sykes elected to have a go for goal. "Marra" cleaned the ball on a hand towel and placed it on the ground - he took four or five paces back, took a deep breath and ran up to kick the ball - to the delight of most of the 1,650 spectators the ball sailed over the bar between the posts.

The Dons were back in front - could they hold onto the lead for the final 8 minutes?

Disaster struck three minutes from the final whistle, when Hornets loose forward Henry Delooze made a break down the right wing, but knowing he didn't have the pace to make it to the try line he decided to put in a grubber kick for winger Terry Dolly to chase. The kick didn't seem to present any danger to the covering Dons defence but their winger Richard James panicked and shoved Dolly over the touch line. The referee, Mr Davies had no hesitation in awarding Hornets a penalty for obstruction and with the clock running down Hornets elected to kick for goal. Eddie Tees calmly obliged to bring the scores level and the match ended in a draw, with the replay scheduled for the following Wednesday at the Athletics Ground with a 7-30 kick off.

Both teams had every incentive to win the replay with the winners of the tie being rewarded with a lucrative home game against star studded St Helens. Wednesday night at Rochdale was another wet one and the rain had been pouring down all day in Lancashire, so again the pitch was like a quagmire. A crowd of 3,000 huddled together in the main and popular stands and both teams fielded the same players as in the previous tie.

The first half hour was pretty dour with few scoring opportunities to either side but the Dons struck first blood again from the boot of fullback "Marra" Towle. The first half ended with the Dons holding on to their slender 2pt lead. The second half was pretty much the same as the first with mistakes aplenty from both teams. Time was going by - could the Dons hold out and make it to the third round for the first time ever when again disaster struck. Hornets' Joe Chamberlain dropped a pass but somehow managed to boot the ball forward before it touched the ground and Hornets wingman Dolly gave chase. The Dons defence was caught flat footed as winger Dolly hacked the ball towards the try line but Dons' speedy winger, Richard James somehow caught up with Dolly but in doing so the referee said James had obstructed Dolly and he awarded a penalty try to Hornets. Dave Baker, the Dons' second row forward went berserk after seeing James had done a similar error to one that cost us victory in the first tie. He ran over to the distraught Dons' wingman and started punching him and shouted abuse at the bewildered winger. Eventually three or four Dons team mates separated the two players and calm was restored. Tees missed the conversion for Hornets so with only ten minutes remaining they held a slender one point lead (a try was only worth 3 points in 1970) From the restart the Dons charged forward trying to force a mistake out of the Hornets. The pressure paid off when their prop forward, Brown, failed to take a wild pass. Hornets' centre Geoff Crowther picked up the loose ball but he was standing in front of Brown so was adjudged offside and the referee awarded a penalty to the Dons. The decision had to be made should we kick for touch and try and score a try or was "Marra" confident he could kick the goal. The position was about 30 yards from goal and 12 yards in from the touch line. "Marra" indicated to Cyril Sykes that he would like to have a shot at goal. As the Dons fullback shaped to take the kick the Rochdale supporters made as much noise as possible to distract "Marra" but they were very soon silenced as the ball sailed between the uprights - the Dons were in front by 4points to 3! Could they hold on this time? Yes they did and justly deserved their first ever appearance in the third round of the cup. Bring on the Saints - but that's another tale to tell.

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

THORNE BRANCH

Well it's back to the Arriva-Trains Cup today after 2 great wins in the LHF Healthplan National League.

The Dragons supporters trust was launched after the Hull KR game, unfortunately a leaking roof put a bit of a dampner on the event. Despite not being able to use the ball room at the Earl over 20 people joined up and many took away forms.

Thorne branches penny a point continues to swell branch funds, we were able to hand over £100 to the squadbuilder.

PAUL MARGRAVE

BENTLEY BRANCH

Welcome to Belle Vue.

Well what a difference a couple of weeks makes, 2 fantastic victories have seen us climb to joint top of the league, although it is still early days in the season.

Today sees us entertain Oldham in the Arriva Trains Play Offs, let hope for another solid performance and victory to keep the momentum going.

As usual I will be running buses to all away matches this season so to book seats or for more information then please call 01302 337610.

RAY HALL

MALLARD BRANCH

Welcome to our visitors from Oldham for this Arriva Trains Cup Quarter Final Qualifier, a match which pits together 2 teams who currently have 100% National League one records.

Steve Molloy's team have had back to back wins against Featherstone and Halifax whilst the Dragons have also won at Halifax and defeated much fancied Hull KR.

The performance last Sunday against the Robins must rank as one of the best during the reign of coach St John Ellis and congratulations are due to the players and coaching staff for the improvement in recent weeks.

Our next branch meeting will take place at the Mallard public house on Tues 4th May with an 8pm start.

GARY FOX

Branch Secretary

WHO THE HELL WAS ST. GEORGE ANYWAY?

Come on...Admit it...Who amongst you were worried that we wouldn't be able to compete with anyone this season?

OK then after the Arriva trains Cup group stage I think we could all be excused for feeling a little concerned but the last 2 games have been nothing short of outstanding from the lads and have given us all a new feeling of optimism.

Whether or not we have 4 points on our way to the title push or we are 4 points away from the drop zone is yet to be seen. But if we can keep up those types of performances and maybe even better, as players return or are added to the side, we could be in for a very interesting season.

But we are back to the Arriva Trains Cup today so do we play with League form or cup form? One thing is practically certain, if it's the runouts we did in the group stages of the cup we will find it very hard against Oldham today who appear to have improved greatly over the close season and joined us in beating the ex-Super League outfit Halifax last week.

Halifax must be wondering what's going on now. After not winning a league game for over a year they must have thought they'd at least have something to cheer about this year but the sooner they learn this division isn't the walk over they suspected the better it will be for them because almost every club in National League One will go there wanting to get one over the 'big boys'.

Hope you were all out celebrating last night and remembering the 10th anniversary of a particularly great fixture that happened at Mount Pleasant in Batley. Does it really seem like ten years since thousands packed into a ground more suitable for hundreds as we watched Brendan and Rocky do the business in the 10 - 5 thriller? For many the moments after the game, if not the game itself, will live forever in the memory as the Dons fans swarmed their heroes on the pitch for a long night of celebrating. So how many of you exactly 10 years ago today were nursing the mother of all hangovers? A lot has indeed happened since then, the greatest moment in Dons history including an opening day victory at St. Helens (who fielded a full strength team and visited no bookies on the way). Then we had the demise of the Dons and the rise of the Dragons from its ashes which lead to a few years of propping up the game before a steady improvement which has seen us now joint top of the first division. (OK then joint top but we should enjoy it while we can)

Sorry to anyone who is awaiting the next issue of Who The...? You may appreciate these things take quite a while to write after all this time and after the Dragons have started so much better than even we expected. Much of it is going to have to be re-written although we could do our usual trick and just put the Seagulls names into all the bad bits. So it should be here soon and I thank you for your patience...SO STOP ASKING ME OK???

Anyway enjoy today's game, hope the result goes our way (which ever way that is in this competition) and see you all at Batley next week which is just an ordinary game.

Come on you Dons - Jemmo

ON THE ROAD WITH THE DRAGONS

The Dragons next away match is next Sunday, May 2nd at Batley Bulldogs.

Directions for those of you travelling to Mount Pleasant:

Leave the M62 at Junction 28 (Tingley) and take the road to Dewsbury (A653). Travel approx. 2 miles to the 'Babes In The Wood' pub and traffic lights, turn right at the lights into Soothill Lane. Travel full length of the lane turning right at T-junction - go straight across at next lights towards Batley town centre, along Wellington Street. Take the third left into Victoria Avenue, Mount Pleasant is at the top of the hill.

DONCASTER GAMES

HUGE SAVINGS ON GAMES AND ACCESSORIES

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PS2 TWIN PACK MEMORY CARD (RED/BLUE) 8mb £30

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CONTACT PAUL ON 0778 8974 965

AWAY TRAVEL

Brian Leivers will be running a bus to all away games this season, to book your seats or for more info' regarding collection points etc. then call Brian on 01302 882664

TODAY'S HALF-TIME QUIZ ANSWERS

1. WORKINGTON TOWN
2. POWERGEN
3. BULL 54 SAINTS 8
4. WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS
5. JAMES BUNYAN



DONCASTER DRAGONS SUPPORTERS TRUST

ENSURING THE DRAGONS FUTURE IN THE SUPPORTERS HANDS

Following last Sunday's excellent victory over Hull KR many of the Dragons fans went back to the Earl of Doncaster for the official launch of the new Doncaster Dragons Supporters Trust, as the supporters took their first step towards a greater involvement in the running and future of the Dragons.

An encouraging number joined the trust on the opening day but we understand that not everyone would have been able to make the launch but would still like to join get involved in having a say in how your club is run.

After today's home game and over the coming weeks representatives of the Trust Steering Group will be present at the Earl of Doncaster for people to sign up. And remember the more people that sign up the stronger the voice of the supporters will be.

If anyone has any questions about the Trust, its function, or want information on joining they should contact Tracy Broughton at: tracya2805@aol.com or Graham Daniel at grdaniel@fsmail.net.

Alternatively they can ask any of the steering group at the Earl after the game or at the ground. The current steering group, which has overseen the original phase of the trust are;

Keith Needham (Chair),
Geoff Bowen (Vice chair),
Graham Daniel (Secretary),
Penny Flintoff (Treasurer),
Tracy Broughton (Membership Secretary)
Rob Nash (Media, PR and Club Liason),
Keeley Thompson (Media, PR and Club Liason),
Darryl Hilton (Media, PR and Club Liason),
Frank Protheroe and Richard Saunders

THE TRUST OBJECTIVES

- 1.. To strengthen the bonds between the community and Doncaster Dragons Rugby League Football Club (RLFC) in Doncaster and surrounding areas
- 2.. To maintain and encourage the development of Rugby League at all levels irrespective of race, religion, colour, gender or ability in Doncaster and surrounding area
- 3.. To encourage the club to take proper account of the interests of its supporters and of the community it serves in its decisions
- 4.. To buy and hold shares in Doncaster Dragons RLFC or any company owning or controlling the club on behalf of all Trust members, with a view to securing a seat or seats on the Board of Doncaster Dragons RLFC
- 5.. To seek and acquire a majority/sole shareholding in the club in pursuance of the objective above

IN TOUCH...

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE WORLD OF RUGBY LEAGUE WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

What a difference a few days can make in sport !

In my last piece I was singing the praises of Leeds Rhinos and Bradford Bulls for the spectacle which was their televised game at the start of the Easter weekend. Unfortunately, events surrounding Bradford's following super league fixture at Odsal on Easter Monday have thrust Rugby League into the national press for all the wrong reasons. The Bulls' visitors were St Helens and coach Ian Millward, as he had done in the same fixture 2 years ago, selected a much under strength team missing 11 of the players who had been on duty against Wigan just 3 days before. Not unexpectedly, quite a backlash followed with supporters from both clubs, others who had watched the match on Sky, plus sections of the media venting their displeasure! But worse was to come when the Daily Mail broke the story that 2 Saints players were alleged to have placed bets with Stan James (the bookmakers who sponsor Sky tv Super League coverage) for their own team to lose by 9 or more points at Odsal.

The 2 players in question Sean Long and Martin Gleeson are extremely well paid by St Helens and are internationals, why they felt the need to put their careers in the spotlight and on the line for a profit of £1,000 beggars belief. There has been some suggestion that Long placed the bet for a friend although Gleeson has declined to comment. At best these are acts of gross stupidity, at worst they are deliberate breaches of Rugby League bye laws for profit. If the latter is proven to be the case, surely the RFL will have no alternative but to hand out lengthy bans, we await the outcome of the RFL investigation and the action required to show wrong-doing of this nature will not be tolerated.

On a much more positive note, the Dragons recent performances are a credit to everyone connected with the club. The victory at Halifax was an excellent result but even that was surpassed by last Sundays 27-14 victory over Hull K.R., a 43 point turnaround in just nine days! The expectations of the supporters have been given a timely boost and hopefully crowds will increase on the back of these excellent performances.

Breaking News... As these notes were being written, the news that Castleford Tigers have parted company with coach Graham Steadman was received. Steadman had been at Castleford for over 13 years as a player and coach but the Tigers are currently bottom of Super League, having failed to win a game in 7 attempts.

Enjoy your Rugby League - Gary Fox

GRAHAM STEADMAN



PLAYER STATS - 2004

PLAYER	A	S	T	G	D	PTS
TONY ATTER	0	3	0	0	0	0
MARLON BILLY	12	0	8	0	0	32
LIAM BRENTLEY	2	1	2	0	0	8
TOM BUCKENHAM	0	2	1	0	0	4
DEAN COLTON	4	4	3	0	0	12
SHAUN COLTON	0	0	0	0	0	0
CRAIG COOK	11	0	2	0	0	8
JASON EAGLE	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAMIE FIELDEN	4	1	0	0	0	0
ANDY FISHER	6	0	0	0	0	0
WAYNE FROST	0	0	0	0	0	0
PETER GREEN	13	0	2	0	0	8
WAYNE GREEN	5	0	2	0	0	8
GARETH HANDFORD	12	1	2	0	0	8
CHRIS HEMMINGS	2	9	0	0	0	0
GRAHAM HOLROYD	12	0	4	54	0	124
CHRIS HOUGH	10	3	3	0	1	13
CRAIG LAWTON	10	0	2	0	0	8
SHAUN LEAF	9	2	4	0	0	16
JASON LEE	6	0	4	0	0	16
GARETH LLOYD	9	0	5	0	0	20
CRAIG MILES	4	0	5	0	0	20
ALEX MUFF	6	6	4	0	0	16
MARTIN OSTLER	6	1	1	0	0	4
P.J. SOLOMON	11	0	5	0	0	20
MARTIN SYKES	0	1	0	0	0	0
KRIS TASSELL	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAMES WALKER	0	6	0	0	0	0
MATT WALKER	4	8	2	0	0	8
JOHNNY WOODCOCK	9	0	5	5	0	30
CARL STANNARD	0	3	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	167	51	66	59	1	383

TODAY'S TEAMS

DRAGONS 32 v 28 (12) v (4) OLDHAM

WOODCOCK	WAYNE GREEN	1	JON GODDARD
2T	DEAN COLTON	2	WILL COWELL
	ALEX MUFF	3	JAMES BUNYAN
	PJ SOLOMON	4	PAT RICH 66
2T	MARLON BILLY	5	NICK JOHNSON
4G	GRAHAM HOLROYD	6	NEIL RODEN
	CHRIS HOUGH	7	IAN WATSON T
	GARETH HANDFORD	8	STEVE MOLLOY
	CRAIG COOK	9	KEITH BRENNAN
	ANDY FISHER	10	PAUL SOUTHERN
WALKER	MARTIN OSTLER	11	LEE DORAN
	PETER GREEN	12	DANE MORGAN
T LEAF	CRAIG LAWTON	13	PHIL FARRELL T
	SUBS:		Attendance 835
BUCKENHAM	CARL STANNARD	14	GARETH BARBER SYABIC
	JAMES WALKER	15	MARTIN McLOUGHLIN SENT OFF
STANNARD	MATT WALKER	16	GAVIN JOHNSON LEE MARSH 2T
BENTLEY	SHAUN LEAF	17	MARTIN ELSWOOD
	COACH: ST. JOHN ELLIS		COACH: STEVE MOLLOY

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE
STEVE NICHOLSON
(WHITEHAVEN)
TOUCH JUDGES:
DAVE GRIFFITHS &
LEE TODD
FOURTH OFFICIAL:
BEN THALER
(WAKEFIELD)
MATCH COMMISSIONER:
DAVE MILBURN

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