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Jon Goddard	1	Michael Platt
Gavin Dodd	2	Liam Williams
James Bunyan	3	Andrew Gorski
Pat Rich	4	David Cunliffe
Nick Johnson	5	Komai Nawlumata
Gareth Barber	6	Lee Birdseye
Neil Roden	7	John Braddish
Steve Molloy	8	Andy Leatham
Keith Brennan	9	Janan Billings
Paul Southern	10	Tommy Hodgkinson
Lee Doran	11	Kris Ratcliffe
Dane Morgan	12	David Newton
Phil Farrell	13	Darren Shaw
Martin McLoughlin	14	Sam Butterworth
Simon Svabic	15	Rob Ball
Martin Elswood	16	Darren Robinson
Craig Farrimond	17	Mark Costello

Match Officials:

REFEREE: R Silverwood
TOUCH JUDGES: C Tobin & P Stockman
4TH OFFICIAL: B J Robinson

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The Roughyeds

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CLUB CAPTAIN

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PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Nic Walker & Clare Gross

TIMEKEEPER

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HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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Joe Ferguson 1899-23

Herman Hilton 1913-26

Alan Davies 1950-62

Frank Stirrup 1950-62

Bernard Ganley 1950-61

John Etty 1954-56

Derek Turner 1955-59

Bob Irving 1964-74

Martin Murphy 1966-82

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

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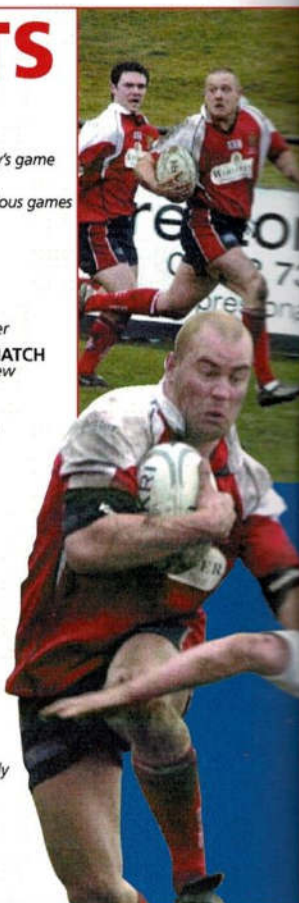
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1998-2003

Trans-Penine Cup

Finalists - 1998

Northern Ford Premiership

Club of the Year - 2000

Grand Finalists - 2001

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7 goals, 3 tries)

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

Derwent Park

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

Craven Park

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

at Huntington Stadium

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

RLCC 3rd Rnd at Boundary Park

IN THE CHAIRMAN'S OPINION

with **CHRIS HAMILTON**



After a weekend off for the Challenge Cup Final it's back to the nitty gritty of the league this afternoon as our local rivals are back in town.

Last Saturday's game between Wigan and St Helens was a good game although never a classic and the heat of the day certainly didn't do the older Wigan pack any favours.

It was particularly good to see a capacity crowd on a glorious day and I bet there are still a few people only just getting over their hangovers!

Watching the build up and the game on television it still makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up when you imagine your own team walking out in a final and no matter how far away it might seem we all live the dream.

With next year's final now being played on 27 August 2005 it will be interesting to see what difference, if any, that has on fans interest in the game. Of course the fans of both finalists will be keen as ever but will the date affect the gate with it being in the holiday season - only time will tell.

Another impact will be to see how our own fixture format will change next season as traditionally the amateurs and ourselves play our games in the cup early on in the season.

Back on the league front the LHF Healthplan National League One has already done what most people expected in so much as it has shown that the division is not going to be a cakewalk for any team with all the sides capable of beating each other.

Leigh are emerging as everybodies

favourites although even they have already lost a game up at Whitehaven and it is very refreshing to see, after the dominance of Huddersfield and Salford the last two seasons, that even at this early stage no team is unbeaten.

As far as we are concerned the opening four league games have been tough and I don't think any other team has had as difficult a start. Although we have four points from those games I sincerely hope that we have learned from all of the games. One thing we have definitely learned is that the game is tough with 13 players on the pitch but with less it is nigh on impossible. We are not a dirty side at all but we are guilty of being naive and that is an issue that must be addressed by the coaching staff and the players as a matter of urgency. There is no room for mistakes in an 18 game season and I for one don't want to be looking back at disciplinary issues as reasons for not reaching our goals this season.

Following our match at Hull KR, where we managed to keep 13 players on the field, I was able to ring the Rugby Football League Disciplinary Panel and advise them that this week they could let someone else have my usual seat in the room!

Over the past few weeks the amount of vocal support has been superb and with today being a local derby we all hope to give you plenty to shout about - please get behind the lads once again.

Enjoy the game

Chris

"Over the past few weeks the amount of vocal support has been superb"

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

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

www.roughyeds.co.uk

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COACHLINES

with **STEVE MOLLOY**

Welcome to today's visitors, Rochdale who I'm sure will be out to avenge their Arriva defeats at our hands and also want to play a part in the famous local rivalry between these two teams.

Today is also significant as it is our last game at Boundary Park for a couple of months with the pitch undergoing maintenance work means we are going to lose home advantage but I'm sure that our loyal fans will follow us and also enjoy the changes of venue.

It is very important that we start to convert good performances into league points, which was one of the frustrating aspects with the Hull KR performance. A lot of effort for no reward.

**"It is very important
that we start to
convert good
performances into
league points."**

Discipline and injuries have also been big issues and very costly over the last three weeks and I'm hoping neither of these factors surface again this season.

A new addition to the coaching staff in former Oldham favourite, Mick Worrall has filled the Senior Academy Coaching post, which was recently vacated by Shaun Gartland. Knowing how knowledgeable and passionate Mick is about rugby league I'm sure his enthusiasm will benefit everyone involved at the club.

Phil Farrell and myself took a trip over to Bloomfield Road to promote next weeks game against Batley and I'm sure everyone will be impressed with the facilities and being a Bank Holiday weekend and local club, St Anne's playing at the same venue the previous day it looks like it's a big weekend and I'm sure everyone will enjoy the experience.

Enjoy the game,
Steve



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IN THE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

with PHIL FARRELL

Well, after a welcome weekend off, it was back to normal at training on Monday. The two weeks without a game certainly seems to have come at a good time for us as it would now appear that other than Will (Cowell), Gav (Johnson), Marshy (Iain Marsh) and Adam (Sharples) we have a fully fit squad. Paul Southern, it must be added still has the groin injury but hopefully the recent injection will have helped that and I am told he has got a protective glove for his broken hand.

It was great to see "Scruff" (John Hough) back in training and he was hoping to make his comeback last Thursday in the Academy match (He's gone from Academy Coach to oldest and smallest Academy player in just one week). I hope it wasn't too much of a shock for new coach Mick Worrall who everybody tells me was a real hero of the Oldham fans when he played for Oldham. We all wish him well and hope the Academy lads go from strength to strength.

Iain Marsh is also making good progress and has been given the all clear to do some straight running on grass. The specialist was pleased with his progress and wants to see him again on June 3 where he will hopefully get the all clear to resume full training.

Lee Marsh wasn't at training on Monday. We were told it was because of work commitments but any of you who saw the photograph of him at Cardiff over the weekend, in the trade press, dressed as a caveman will know the real reason was complete embarrassment and a fear of meeting up with us lot again. I think he's got to be known as "Barney" Rubble from now on.

Finally can I say the lads have sat down together and decided to target the next 4 games as ones we can win? It will be hard, but even though we are giving up home advantage in two, we are determined to do it. Once again it will be made easier by a continuation of your tremendous support, which we are hoping will be apparent today in the local derby against the "old enemy".

The lads are looking forward to next week at Blackpool after I told them how good the facilities are, especially the home dressing room, which we, of course, will occupy. The pitch is similar to Boundary Park and we will have the luxury of training on it on Sunday morning. It promises to be a real feast of rugby over the weekend and I know a few of the lads are going down on Saturday to cheer on St Annes and our old mate Leo (Casey). We hope as many of you as possible will get down to Bloomfield Road and make it really seem like a home game for us with a typical Bank Holiday party mood.

The game after that will be away to Keighley when a lot of the lads will be looking forward to meeting our old mate "Cleggy" face to face. I hadn't taken my boots off in the dressing room at Hull KR the other week when my mobile rang. It was "Cleggy" to tell me he'd been voted Man of the Match. Always shy, modest and retiring was "Cleggy"!!! Anyway I reminded him he should have a double celebration that night. When he asked why I told him it was also 25 years since he last picked up a MOM nomination. Yes our confrontation with him at Keighley will be interesting.

Enjoy the game

Faz



"Iain Marsh is also making good progress and has been given the all clear to do some straight running on grass."

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them every success for the season



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in yer face

WITH GEOFF COOKE

Oldham gave a resolute performance given all their injury woes in their last fixture at Hull K.R. As usual Steve Molloy led from the front and Lee Doran was outstanding, as he has been all season, recapturing the form of a couple of seasons ago which led to several Super League clubs showing an interest in him.

The target now, of course, is to win Super League status with Oldham. Unlikely? Not necessarily! As Leigh were busy crowing over their latest victory at Boundary Park, Oldham were taking the philosophical view that they only need to beat Leigh once (in the Grand Final) to bring their unseemly boasting to a swift halt and to realise their own aspirations. Sport can be a cruel business and you would have thought that the experiences of recent years would have taught the Leigh club some humility.

Meanwhile the Hull K.R. game was plagued by some over-fussy refereeing. In the second half Ben Thaler contrived to penalise Oldham out of the game. I am all in favour of referees taking the defending side 12 or more yards back and ignoring players who are slightly in front of them in order to get an open and free flowing game. But to do this and then contrive to penalise a side for encroaching is perverse to say the least. In addition both Steve Molloy and Lee Doran were penalised for not regaining their feet before attempting to play the ball. Both players know the value of a quick play-the-ball and were attempting to get the ball back in play as rapidly as possible. In Super League you see this all the time and there has been a real effort to ensure the ball is brought back into circulation as quickly as is feasible. A good referee should be able to differentiate between an illegal play-the-ball and interference, bearing in mind that the defending side's interest is to slow down the process as much as possible without incurring the referee's wrath.

At Craven Park I felt the balance was tipped too far in favour of the home side. A quick play-the-ball is the key to getting "on a roll" and keeping the opposition on the back foot yet National League games seem to suffer slower re-cycling of the ball than Super League. I know the fitness levels are not the same but nevertheless free flowing attacking play depends on policing this aspect of play vigilantly. Moral of the story? Penalise interference ruthlessly and get the game flowing.

So another Challenge Cup final has come and gone. St. Helens were deserved winners if only

because they had to defeat all Super League opposition to claim the trophy. Anyone who doubted the pull of the competition will have been well and truly put in their place by the magnificent occasion in Cardiff last week proving that the Cup Final is still Rugby League's biggest draw.

For those who watched the match at home on T.V. the coverage by the B.B.C. gets better and better with the game getting the prestige treatment it deserves. And in Claire Balding R.L. has a persuasive advocate whose love of the sport is infectious. Despite the quality work done by Sky T.V. one afternoon's coverage by the B.B.C. reaches a much wider audience than several weeks exposure on satellite.

Quite how well the cup stands up to being transferred to August in years to come remains to be seen but my guess is that it will remain R.L.'s big day out on the National stage because whatever the merits of the Grand Final it is the cup that has the glamour. Now if only we could broaden the base of potential winners!

The amateur game has got itself in a pickle again, this time with the expulsion of Skirlaugh from the play off series. With the conference League final scheduled for this weekend the semi-finals obviously had to be completed on time. Originally the semis would have taken place two weeks ago but the programme was altered. Unfortunately Skirlaugh had arranged a trip to Cardiff and could not field a side. Given that the goal of the amateur clubs is to qualify for the play-offs and, hopefully, the Grand Final this is a most unfortunate state of affairs. Clearly a programme published at the start of the season has to be adhered to and late changes are not acceptable. No doubt the final will go ahead without Skirlaugh but you can't help but sympathise with their plight.



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FROM THE PEN OF

MICHAEL TURNER

Roughyeds v Hornets – entering the arena

Photo 1. Our first photograph shows the teams taking the field at the Athletic Grounds on October 12th 1957. Bernard Ganley leads out the Roughyeds followed by Dick Cracknell and Dennis Ayres. Oldham won 29 – 21 thanks to seven goals from Ganley which complimented tries from Cracknell, Vince Nestor, Derek Turner with two from future Hornets favourite Johnny Noon. The attendance was 13,844.



Picture 1

Photo 2. The second image occurred over forty years later. Frenchman Laurent Minut has descended the Boundary Park tunnel steps followed by Jason Clegg. The match formed part of the Borough of Oldham's 150th anniversary celebrations and was played on June 13th 1999. Oldham won an exciting contest 26 – 18 with tries from Minut, Richard Darkes, John Hough and Emerson Jackman and four goals from Daniel Brown. The attendance was 3,023.



Picture 2

AS IAN SEES IT

with IAN WILSON

Martyn Sadler, of League Express, is invariably excellent at generating debate about important current issues in the game through his sharply expressed opinions and analysis. Occasionally, his views can perhaps be described as eccentric – for example, that there should be promotion without relegation! Sometimes I violently disagree with them; currently, for example, he seems to be arguing that Long and Gleeson have done nothing which brings the game into disrepute whatsoever, which I expressed strong views about in a programme earlier this season. Another recent opinion, however is very interesting, and well worth serious consideration, I suggest.

This is that our R.U. exiles – Iestyn Harris, Jason Robinson, and Henry Paul – should not now come back to Rugby League, even if they want to. The essence of his argument was that time has moved on. There is no doubt that Warrington, Leeds, Wigan/ Bradford respectively gained hugely from their presence in the past, as did the spectators who watched them; but they have now been replaced, both in their teams and in the hearts of spectators. And the old adage “never come back” should apply.

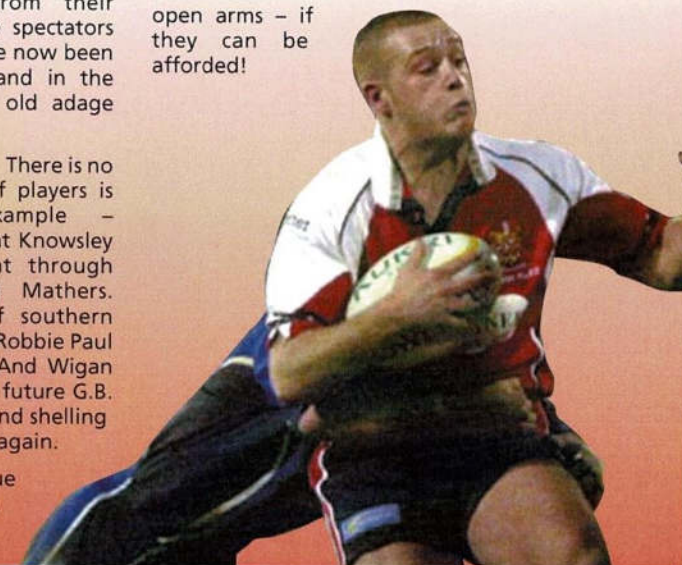
It is certainly a challenging thesis. There is no doubt that a new generation of players is emerging. Leeds, for example – notwithstanding their thrashing at Knowsley Road – have certainly brought through youngsters like McGuire and Mathers. Bradford has a new breed of southern hemisphere ‘stars’ to supplement Robbie Paul and their homegrown players. And Wigan can’t even afford to keep a likely future G.B. full back in Sean Briscoe, never mind shelling out for Jason Robinson’s contract again.

But surely it isn’t as simple an issue as that? In an era when there is

free movement of players between the codes, the questions are: are they good enough and are they worth what they would cost? And I very strongly suggest that the answer to the first question is definitely “Yes”, for some Super League clubs; and hopefully “Yes”, too, to the second, provided that the individuals involved have sensible expectations.

Let us not forget that, certainly in the case of Harris and Robinson, they could also still play a significant role in international rugby league. Although neither is in the first flush of youth, neither are they past it! There is certainly a case that we could easily have defeated the Aussies last November if Robinson had been in the side. And Harris could still be a pivotal figure if a Welsh side is to have a worthwhile future over the next few years.

I trust that there are no sour grapes involved in the debate. I, for one, would welcome them back with open arms – if they can be afforded!



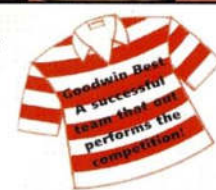
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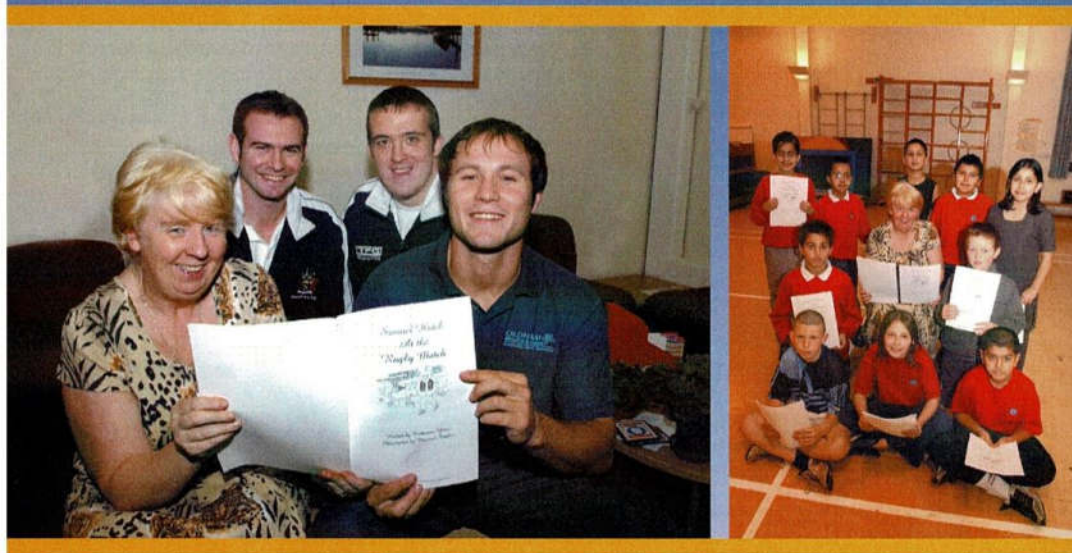
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SAMUEL HATCH AT THE RUGBY MATCH

OLDHAM RLFC introduce innovative new community project



This title will probably mean little or nothing to most of you at the match today but over the next 12 months it will probably be common knowledge to most 10 and 11 year olds in the Borough.

"Samuel Hatch at the Rugby Match" is the response by Oldham RLFC, in conjunction with OMBC Unity In The Community, to the Government's "Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence" initiative.

Today marks the scheme's official launch and we are proud to have Ivan Lewis MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Skills and Vocational Education present at today's match to help launch this anti bullying campaign. It is expected that

representatives of the FA Premier League, The Football League, The Rugby Football League, OMBC's Chief and Deputy Chief Executives, Mr Andrew Kilburn and John Bland, Nick Forde, Assistant Director for Lifelong Learning, and other dignitaries and children from participating schools will be welcomed together with Mr Lewis to today's game by Christopher Hamilton, Oldham RLFC Chairman.

The children will have a personal tour of Boundary Park by Christopher Hamilton before today's game and be given the opportunity of getting the players' autographs as they go into the changing rooms, referees room, Board Room etc on their tour.



The scheme is based on a book written by ex teacher and Education Consultant; Cath. Yates called "Samuel Hatch at the Rugby Match" and illustrated by our very own Norman Taylor who does all the caricatures for our programme. The scheme which involves an Oldham Rugby player reading a chapter from the book and then following it up with a skill session linked to the contents of that chapter, was piloted in 6 Oldham Primary schools at the end of last year and proved a great success.

The aim of the scheme is fivefold:

- To improve behaviour that was unacceptable with regard to bullying
- To encourage pupils to talk about issues associated with bullying
- To encourage pupils who may be feeling at risk to discuss their difficulties
- To provide pupils with a network of contact to remove feelings of isolation
- To draw parallels between other associated projects and look at reasons why bullying in any form is unacceptable.

On 7 June the scheme which has received the personal backing of the Under Secretary of State will be rolled out across the Borough to involve the Year 5 & 6



Schools. It is also envisaged that the scheme could very easily be used to cover all school age-ranges and even be extended to include adults.

The Oldham players already involved are Jon Goddard, Dane Morgan, Phil Farrell, Simon Svabic, Steve Molloy, Lee Doran, Neil Roden, Gavin Dodd and Gareth Barber. Each course will last five weeks.

Club Chairman, Christopher Hamilton said, "Oldham R L F C is one of only 2 Rugby League Clubs that are involved in such a scheme and we are proud to be involved in anything that can help prevent the real terror and unhappiness that results from bullying. We feel that it is ideal that big, tough, rugby league players, involved in a very physical sport, are actively seen to be condemning bullying of any kind, and that it will help get through to youngsters the harm that bullying can really cause."

Unrivalled coverage of Oldham Rugby League spanning 3 centuries!

Joe Ferguson

1899 to 1923

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



Alan Davies

1950 to 1961

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



John Hough

1998 to present

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



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

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

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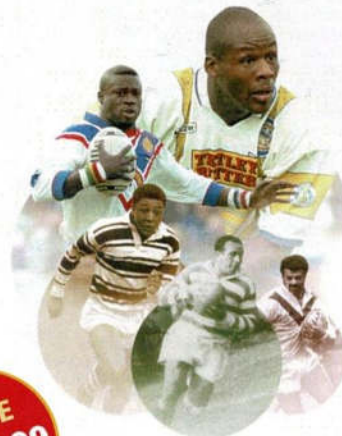


WALKERBOUT

With Brian Walker

THE GLORY OF THEIR TIMES

Crossing the Colour Line in Rugby League



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Phil Melling and Tony Collins
Foreword by Billy Boston

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THE GLORY OF THEIR TIMES

IF YOU'VE NEVER BOUGHT A RUGBY LEAGUE BOOK BEFORE DON'T MISS THIS!

Fifty years before the first black footballer represented England, Jimmy Cumberbatch was scoring tries for the England rugby league team. During the 1950's Roy Francis became the first black professional coach in any British team sport. In 1972 Clive Sullivan lifted the World Cup for Great Britain as the first black player to captain a British national side and in 1994 Ellery Hanley became the first black coach of a major British national team when he was appointed the Great Britain rugby league coach.

Featuring 16 of the game's greatest stars, including our own Alex Givvons, this book tells the story from the inside. It tells the story of how rugby league opened it's doors to black sportsmen when other sports turned their back.

Robert Gate on Johnny Freeman and Colin Dixon, Bill Lythgoe on Billy Boston, Bev Risman on Clive Sullivan, Phil Melling on Ellery Hanley and George Bennett, Huw Richards on Jason Robinson, Franka Phillips on Martin Offiah, Mike Rylance on ex Oldham wingman Green Vigo, David Hadfield on Bak Diabira, Clive Griffiths on Phil Ford, Tony Collins on Lucius Banks and Wally McArthur, Trevor Gibbons on Roy Francis, Ces Thompson tells his own story and Oldham Rugby League historian Michael Turner relates the tale behind Alex Givvons a 19 year old Welsh scrum-half who made his Oldham first team debut on the 21st of January 1933 and then served the club for well over 60 years.

(Michael Turner, a Trustee of the Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust wrote The Complete History Of Oldham Rugby League Club available at £19 from 158, Balfour St, Oldham, OL4 1NS)



Alex Givvons

TODAY'S OPPONENTS ROCHDALE HORNETS

PAUL ANDERSON (Centre) Probably the most experienced player to have joined Hornets during the close season, having had Super League experience with St Helens and Sheffield. Came to Hornets having played at National League level with Leigh and Oldham. A centre with excellent try scoring ability, a powerful runner and can also operate in the Back Row.

ROB BALL (Prop) Product of the successful Wigan youth set up and came to Hornets via Leigh. A player with Super League experience having played for Wigan 10 times. Tall, strong and mobile forward likely to form the cornerstone of an imposing Hornets pack this term.

JANAN BILLINGS (Hooker) 22 year old Aussie who signed from Gateshead Thunder in the close season. Good hands and elusive runner and solid on defence, is relishing the step up to NL1.

LEE BIRDSEYE (Half Back) At Widnes Vikings since the age of 16 where he was a regular star performer in the Alliance / u21's team. Joined Bobby Goulding at Hornets to further his career and become a regular first team performer. A player with an abundance of pace, a good kicking game and an eye for the try line.

JOHN BRADDISH (Stand Off) Product of St Helens youth system having played twice for them in Super League. 23 years old and a reputation as an astute tactical kicker with the ability to dictate the pace of a game.

SAM BUTTERWORTH (Half Back) Rochdale lad joined Hornets from the successful current Mayfield team after a string of impressive performances. Accurate goalkicker, but his main asset is his pace and deceptive footwork. A great professional career awaits Sam if he continues his current rate of progress.

CHRIS CAMPBELL (Wing) Another Widnes based player who came to Rochdale via Whitehaven and Oldham having also played in Super League with Warrington. Scored tries wherever he has been due to his blistering pace. Can play at Full-back if required and could well be among the leading try scorers in NL1 this season.

MARK COSTELLO (Prop) A product of Wigan's youth set up Costello signed for Hornets on the eve of the new season. He has already demonstrated he has all the attributes expected of a good go forward ball handling prop. Another player who will be looking to impress under Goulding's leadership.

ANDY GORSKI (Second Row) Another of Hornets major close season signings with Super League Experience. At 6ft and 15 stone 4lb he was signed by Goulding from Salford City Reds to bring his powerful running style and solid defensive game to Hornets' pack.

LEE HANSEN (Prop) A vastly experienced player, Hansen was one of Goulding's first signings. He is renowned for taking the ball up strongly and putting in big hits on defence. Previous clubs include Swinton and Widnes.

TOMMY HODGKINSON (Hooker) Signed after the start of the season but already a firm favourite with the fans and has a number of man of the match awards already. Allied to his experience gained at places like St Helens, Hodgkinson brings a never say die attitude that helps him make the hard yards.

TONY KIRWIN (Prop) Played for Widnes u21's for two seasons before suffering a serious leg injury. He is renowned as a good go forward, robust player who takes the ball up well and tackles tenaciously. Another player spotted by Goulding playing at Widnes Albion.

ANDY LEATHEM (Prop) Another player who has vast super league experience having played over 30 times for St Helens and Warrington and was a member of the St Helens cup winning team in 1996. He is a blockbusting Prop Forward who scores more than his fair share of tries and has had recent National League experience with both Swinton and Leigh.

MICHAEL PLATT (Full Back) Major coup for Hornets having captured his signature from Salford City Reds where he played 3 times for them in Super League. At 6ft 2" and 15 stone his pace and power and versatility have already marked him out as one of the successes of the season and he will continue to be a telling factor in Hornets quest for success this year. Lancashire Senior Academy honours.

GARETH PRICE (Prop) One of the few players still on the books who played in Hornets successful 2003 campaign. Made a big impact, playing 32 games and scoring 5 tries, was a model of consistency week in week out whether starting or coming off the bench. Another player with Super League experience having played for Salford, London and St Helens.

DARREN ROBINSON (Hooker) Back at Hornets for the second time having previously come through the ranks to establish himself in the first team. He has always been marked out as having the ability to make a name for himself in the game with his good hands and elusive footwork. His versatility could be an asset given Hornets small squad.

DARREN SHAW (Back Row) Vastly experienced Super League player having played for Salford, London, Sheffield and Castleford as well as spells down under at Brisbane and Canberra Raiders. A superb professional and genuine leader on the field with a game based around his strong defence. Has come to the club as Bobby Goulding's Assistant.

DAVID STEPHENSON (Prop) Another player with Super League experience before signing for Hornets. It was as a major coup when he signed for Hornets from Hull Sharks and he is the longest standing player on the books. A wily campaigner, with a robust running and tackling style he has a good pair of hands and leads by example.

LIAM WILLIAMS (Wing) Joined the club from St Helens where he was a product of the academy set up. His sheer pace bagged him many tries for the St Helens side and if he can get the same running chances for Hornets then the tries will surely follow.



PLAYER PROFILE

JON GODDARD

ONE of the most popular Oldham players among Roughyeds regulars is young centre or full-back Jon Goddard.

Not yet 22, the Yorkshireman is the third youngest player of those who represent the Roughyeds regularly, behind Martin Elswood and Nick Johnson.

Originally on the books of his hometown club, Castleford Tigers, Jon spent his first season with Oldham on loan from the Tigers -- a deal brokered at the time by firm friends and former Cas colleagues Mike Ford and Graham Steadman.

Goddard was reared in Castleford youth and schools rugby before going to The Jungle to play for the academy side.

In the summer of 2000 he played in Super League against Wakefield at home and in 2001 he had two more outings at the highest level, against Bradford and London both away.

Initially, the plan was for him to go back to Cas but events moved on at both clubs, Jon liked it here and after impressing with the Roughyeds in 2002, he signed a permanent deal to stay with the club in 2003 and then put pen to paper again for 2004 --- this his third season with Oldham.

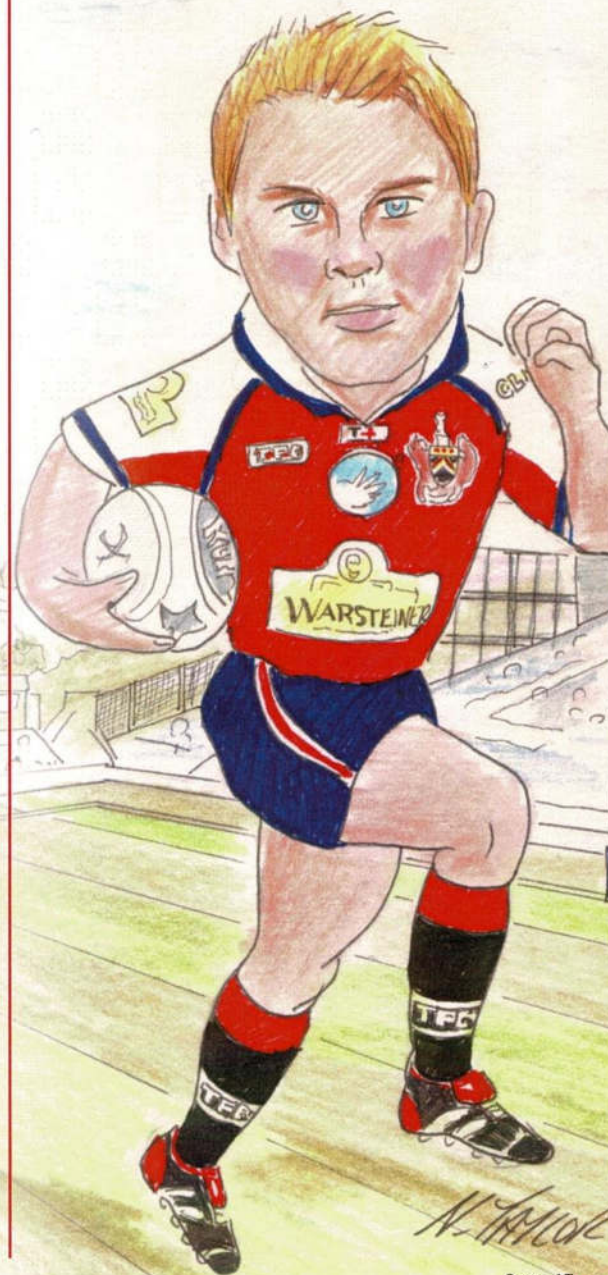
Whether playing at full-back or at centre he always puts in 100 per cent, invariably tests out opposing defences with his nimble feet and can always be relied upon to get the Oldham crowd behind him.

It was exactly a year ago that Goddard was named in a 20-man National League representative squad to play their Super League counterparts at Leigh as part of the selection process for the England 'A' side to play Australia at Brentford and for the National League rep teams to play New Zealand, all last autumn.

He had proved his value to Oldham the season before, 2002, when he turned out in 37 of the Roughyeds 39 games --- 36 of them in the centre and one on the wing.

However, he had always regarded full-back as his best and favourite position and he was soon to set out on a mission to convince player-coach Steve Molloy that he was the club's No 1.

Ever since, Goddard and Gavin Dodd have battled it out for the full-back berth. Both



JON GODDARD CONT..

have their supporters, both have their strong points and their weaknesses and both can reasonably claim the job should be theirs. I suppose it all comes down to personal preference or, to be more precise, to Steve Molloy's preference.

Having said that, other factors more often than not influence selection decisions -- like injuries, or who is needed where in other positions on any given day.

After another good season in 2003 Goddard carried off the top award of the night at the player-of-the-year celebration in the social club. The OMC Ford (Oldham) player of the year trophy, chosen by Molloy, went to Goddard and was presented to him by Mr Peter Wilding of OMC Ford.

It completed a double celebration for the Yorkshireman, who also picked up a similar award on votes cast by members of what is now known as the Roughyeds' Support Group.

A week later he went off to France with the National League under-21s squad, but not before putting pen to paper on a new Oldham deal.

On the back page of the Oldham Evening Chronicle on October 9, 2003, Roughyeds chairman Christopher Hamilton said this of Goddard: "He had a great season. He made the full-back position his own and the two awards he picked up last week reflected his overall contribution to the team.

"Jon is a key member of the squad and he was one of the players we identified as part of the future of Oldham. He has a professional outlook on the game in whatever he does.

"He wants to learn and to improve and that's what you are looking for in a player --- a desire to play at the highest level."

Despite being affected in recent games by a recurrence of an old hamstring injury, Goddard is again having a good season and he will certainly be prominent in anything the Roughyeds achieve over the coming months.

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KIDS + Co

Hi KIDS

Poor Carole can't be at today's match (shame) as she is busy sunning herself on some beach in Spain but she says after last weeks break you should all be able to shout loud enough for her to hear you. Let's hope so.

For all of you who are on the "Kids" coach to Blackpool next week, we are leaving O.R.L.F. Club at 9.30am sharp, so please meet at the club no later than 9.15am. All you "Kids" members will need Voucher B from your Season Ticket books to get your travel voucher, anyone else will need a match ticket which must be paid for before leaving, not tickets = no seat on the coach.

Today's mascot is our youngest rep this season. Two year old Tanisha Gorey enjoys drawing and learning and watching her uncle Andrew play rugby for Oldham's academy team. Andrew is of course her favourite player.

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Good Luck to Steve & the "Lads"

See you soon

Janet & Carole



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Tanisha Gorey

Age: 2

Hobbies: Drawing and learning

Favourite Player: Andrew Gorey

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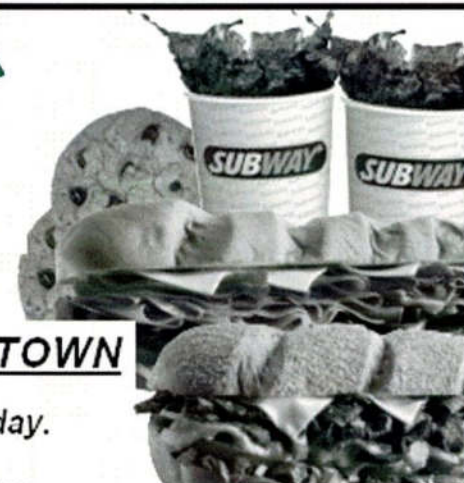
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ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO MAY 23RD YESTERYEAR

Seven years ago Oldham were battling along in the Super League and on Friday 23rd May 1997 faced a difficult match against top-of-the-table Bradford Bulls across at Odsal. The Bears, as Oldham were then called, were next to bottom but gave the Bulls an almighty fright that evening. Tries by Joe Faimalo, Francis Maloney and Paul Davidson together with three Francis Maloney goals gave Oldham an 18-10 interval lead. After the break Bradford came back strongly and, although Paul Davidson again and Rob Myler scored further tries, one of which was converted by Paul Topping, the home side raced to a 42-28 victory. On the same night Rochdale entertained York at Spotland. Hornets ran in six tries to win 37-30. No fewer than eight players with Oldham connections were included in the Hornets line-up that evening, Mick Farrell, Martin Bunce, Steve Gartland, Neil Flanagan, Tony Morrison, Richard Pachniuk, Shane Tupaea and Steve Crowther.

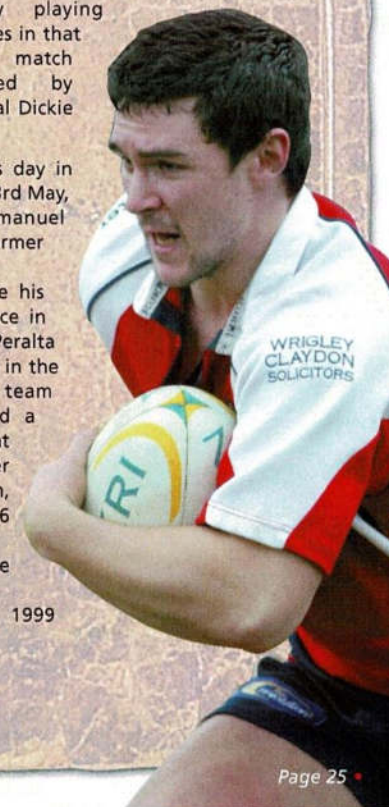
On Saturday 23rd May 1942 Oldham visited Leeds for the first leg of a wartime Challenge Cup semi-final. The Roughyeds played superbly that afternoon and, although defeated, were confident of overturning the 5-2 deficit in the second leg. The Oldham points came from a penalty landed by stand-off Jim Stott. Alas, Leeds won even more convincingly in the second leg at Watersheddings before going on to defeat Halifax in the final.

On Sunday 23rd May 1982 Yorkshire entertained Cumbria at Castleford in what turned out to be the final County Championship competition. Oldham had one player involved in that match, Cumbrian hooker Alan McCurrie. The Cumbrians led 5-0 at half-time but Yorkshire recovered to win 22-7. Castleford winger Terry Richardson scored three of the six second-half Yorkshire tries.

In 1984 Oldham had five players included in the British Lions squad for the tour of Australia, New Zealand and Papua-New Guinea. Two of those players, Terry Flanagan and Andy Goodway, made up the second-row of the team which met Riverina at Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 23rd May. The tourists trailed 18-14 with twelve minutes remaining but staged an exciting finish which enabled them to win by 22 points to eighteen.

Forty years ago the two division league programme was augmented by an Eastern and Western Divisional Championship. It was on Saturday 23rd May 1964 that the old Fartown ground at Huddersfield staged the final of the Eastern Division competition. The two finalists were Castleford and Halifax. Included in the Halifax team was a player who had earlier enjoyed a successful spell with Oldham. He was Alan Kellett, predominantly a stand-off during his Watersheddings days but in this final at Fartown he played in the centre position. Another player who turned out for Halifax that afternoon was Terry Fogarty, a former Saddleworth Rangers junior who gained international recognition during an outstanding playing career in which he served Halifax, Wigan and then Rochdale Hornets as player-coach. He was the last Rochdale player to represent Great Britain at test match level. Halifax defeated Castleford by 20 points to twelve at Fartown with both Kellett and Fogarty playing significant roles in that success. The match was refereed by Oldham official Dickie Thomas.

It was on this day in 1997, Friday 23rd May, that Emmanuel Peralta, the former Villeneuve forward, made his first appearance in British rugby. Peralta was substitute in the Keighley team which suffered a 13-12 defeat at Hull. He later joined Oldham, making 26 appearances for the Roughyeds during the 1999 campaign.



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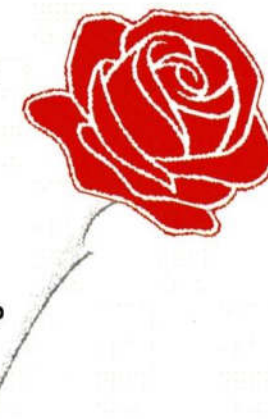
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NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



STARS OF TOMORROW

LAST Saturday's Powergen Challenge Cup Final featured three players who learnt their trade in the National Leagues – so who will make up the next crop of players to progress to the top flight?

Danny Sculthorpe, Jon Wilkin and Ade Gardner all played on the biggest of stages in Cardiff, after making their first team bows with Rochdale, Hull KR and Barrow respectively.

And there is no shortage of young talent in the National Leagues knocking on the same Super League door.

In LHF Healthplan NL1, Halifax are among the clubs with a blossoming youth system. Youngsters Jaymes Chapman, Grix brothers Simon and Scott, Corcoran brothers Ged and Wayne, and winger Rikki Sheriffe all have extensive first team experience already.

Keighley Cougars have also worked hard with their Academies, and second rower Mat Steel is just one to have made an impact at first team level this year.

Leigh have consistently provided homegrown players to the top flight over recent years, though it is a Cumbrian – tough forward Oliver Wilkes – who could develop into their best young player.

Doncaster believe they have a star of the future in quicksilver utility back Dean Colton, while at Whitehaven, centre Mick Nanyn has continued his progression this year after previously impressing at Swinton and Rochdale.

At Hull KR, winger Casey Mayberry could develop into a top talent should he overcome niggling injuries that have plagued him in

recent years, while Paul Pickering is a hard-working, non-stop hooker.

Featherstone Rovers and Rochdale Hornets have both struggled to date, but Jon Pressley and Michael Platt respectively, have given their fans something to cheer about.

Batley centre Danny Maun has rightly been linked with a Super League move in the past after consistent performances at the Mount, while Oldham – another town renowned for producing top players – have potential stars in Lee Doran, Nick Johnson and Jon Goddard.

There are plenty more to be found in LHF Healthplan NL2.

Current Young Player of the Year Danny Brough continues to sign at York City Knights, while Hunslet have an electric dummy half in ex-Castleford junior Jamaine Wray.

Damien Reid, now at Barrow, has unquestionable ability, while at Swinton, centre Chris Maye is catching the eye after stints in Super League with St Helens and on loan at Halifax.

Many were surprised when Sheffield second rower Andy Raleigh didn't step up after a superb 2003.

And there should be bright futures ahead for Gateshead's Kevin Neighbour and Paul and Neil Thorman, London Skolars' Glen Osborn, Workington's Brett Smith, Chorley's Danny Barton and Anthony Thewliss of Dewsbury Rams.

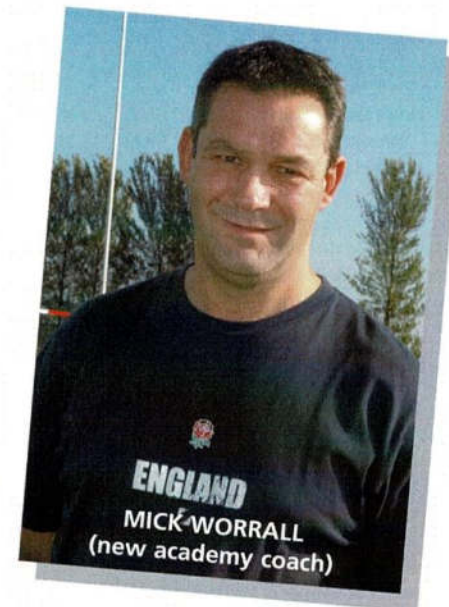
It just goes to show that the National Leagues continue to be a rich breeding ground for young Rugby league stars.

SENIOR ACADEMY

Before welcoming Mick Worrall as the new member of the back room staff at the Roughyeds it would only be right to thank John Hough for the splendid job he did in the interim period after Shaun Gartland left. It was perhaps ironic that in the first game Mick was in charge, last Thursday, it was highly probable that "Scruff" would begin his comeback after that horrific knee injury against Leigh some three months ago, doesn't time fly?

We welcome Mick back into the ORLFC fold for the first time since 1987 when he left Oldham for Salford for a £55000 transfer fee. Whilst realising he has a difficult task ahead of him all at the club are confident he can pull the Academy team round and then continue the progress they had been showing over the last two seasons.

This in future will be Mick's page but I thought a resume of his career as outlined by Mike Turner would be applicable.



Michael Worrall 1980 - 1987

Appearances 173 (incl. 10 sub) Tries 31 Goals 61 Drop Goals (1pt) 0 Points 237



Mick Worrall was part of the successful youth recruitment programme of the late 1970s and played a starring role as the Oldham Colts team swept all before them.

A tall, powerful second row forward, he came to Oldham from the Crosfields amateur club in Warrington, making an immediate impression with his long striding runs, safe defensive work and could be called upon as a reserve goal kicker. Mick was still only seventeen when he made his debut on April 20th 1980 at Bramley. This was the last match of the 1979-80 season and also provided Andy Goodway with his first taste of senior Rugby. It was Worrall, however, who was the first to establish himself in the first team and after the second division title was won in 1981-82, he proved that he could compete at the highest level and subsequently was selected for the 1984 tour. Playing well in the opening club game, Mick was selected for the first two test matches in Australia and performed most impressively, before knee problems caused him to miss the last half of the tour.

Mick would have one more game against the Aussies when the Kangaroos played at Oldham in 1986 and again he relished the challenge, making a brilliant break through the "green and golds" defence to lay on the opening Oldham try for Colin Hayward.

More niggling injuries punctuated his time at Oldham before he left to join Salford in 1987. Since the end of his playing days, Mick retained his interest in the game locally by becoming coach to Saddleworth Rangers.

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Fixtures

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
01/02/04	Chorley Lynx	AT Cup	Home	15.00	64-14	W	1096
06/02/04	Castleford Panthers	Powergen CC	Home	19.30	16-8	W	1003
15/02/04	Leigh Centurions	AT Cup	Away	15.00	51-32	L	2316
22/02/04	Swinton Lions	AT Cup	Away	15.00	18-30	W	783
29/02/04	Sharlston Rovers	Powergen CC	Home	19.45	24-4	W	1301
07/03/04	Leigh Centurions	AT Cup	Home	15.00	10-54	L	1805
14/03/04	Warrington Wolves	Powergen CC	Home	15.00	10-44	L	2859
21/03/04	Chorley Lynx	AT Cup	Away	15.00	10-40	W	370
28/03/04	Powergen CC	Powergen CC					
	Quarter Finals						
28/03/04	Rochdale Hornets	AT Cup	Home	18.00	56-12	W	1214
04/04/04	Swinton Lions	AT Cup	Home	15.00	42-15	W	983
09/04/04	Rochdale Hornets	AT Cup	Away	15.00	12-48	W	1305
12/04/04	Featherstone Rovers	NL 1	Home	15.00	50-24	W	1320
18/04/04	Powergen CC	Powergen CC					
	Semi Final 1						
18/04/04	Halifax	NL1	Away	15.00	6-25	W	1807
25/04/04	Powergen CC	Powergen CC					
	CC Semi Final 2						
25/04/04	Doncaster	AT Cup	Away	15.00	32-28	L	835
02/05/04	Leigh Centurions	NL 1	Home	15.00	20-60	L	2104
09/05/04	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL1	Away	15.00	29-22	L	2121
15/05/04	Powergen CC Final	Powergen CC					
23/05/04	Rochdale Hornets	NL 1	Home	15.00			
30/05/04	Batley Bulldogs	NL 1	Home	15.00			
06/06/04	AT Cup Quarter Finals	AT Cup					
13/06/04	Keighley Cougars	NL1	Away	15.00			
20/06/04	Whitehaven	NL 1	Home	15.00			
27/06/04	AT Cup Semi Finals	AT Cup					
04/07/04	Doncaster Dragons	NL1	Away	15.00			
11/07/04	Halifax	NL 1	Home	15.00			
18/07/04	At Cup Final	AT Cup					
25/07/04	Leigh Centurions	NL1	Away	15.00			
01/08/04	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL 1	Home	15.00			
08/08/04	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	Away	15.00			
15/08/04	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	Away	15.00			
22/08/04	Keighley Cougars	NL 1	Home	15.00			
29/08/04	Whitehaven	NL1	Away	15.00			
05/09/04	Featherstone Rovers	NL1	Away	15.00			
12/09/04	Doncaster Dragons	NL 1	Home	15.00			
19/09/04	NL 1 & 2 Play-offs	NL1					
26/09/04	NL 1 & 2 Play-offs	NL1					
03/10/04	NL 1 & 2 Play-offs	NL1					
10/10/04	NL 1 & 2 Grand Finals	NL1					
17/10/04	NL 1 & 2 Prom/Releg. Play-offs	NL1					

Key

AT Cup – Arriva Trains Cup

Powergen CC – Powergen Challenge Cup

NL1 – National League Division 1

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The image shows a person holding a copy of the Oldham Advertiser newspaper. The newspaper is prominently displayed, showing a headline that reads 'NEWS INDUSTRY HONOUR FOR OLDHAM ADVERTISER'. The person is standing in a kitchen sink filled with water, and a dish rack is visible in the background. The overall scene suggests a domestic setting where the newspaper is being read.



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Letter From The Chair

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Once again thank you for all your help in supporting Oldham RLFC.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Hamilton

Chairman

