

Oldham RLFC



The Roughyeds

LHF HEALTHPLAN NATIONAL LEAGUE 1
V BATLEY BULLDOGS

OLDHAM

V

**BATLEY
BULLDOGS**

Jon Goddard	1	Mark Sibson
Gavin Dodd	2	Steve Beard
James Bunyan	3	Chris Spurr
Pat Rich	4	Danny Maun
Nick Johnson	5	Matt Bramald
Gareth Barber	6	Mark Toohey
Neil Roden	7	Barry Eaton
Steve Molloy	8	Steve Hill
Keith Brennan	9	Andy Heptinstall
Martin McLoughlin	10	David Rourke
Lee Doran	11	Tim Spears
Dane Morgan	12	Andy Spink
Phil Farrell	13	Ryan Horsley
John Hough	14	Danny Thomas
Simon Svabic	15	Paul Harrison
Martin Elswood	16	Chris Molyneux
Lee Marsh	17	Sean Richardson

Match Officials:

REFEREE: P Taberner
TOUCH JUDGES: P Brooks, S Tordoff
4TH OFFICIAL: R Hicks

Designed & produced by Siren Creative Ltd 0113 245 6607

Oldham RLFC

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



The Roughyeds

LHF HEALTHPLAN NATIONAL LEAGUE 1
V BATLEY BULLDOGS



Special Commemorative Edition

The Roughyeds at Bloomfield Road

SUNDAY 30th MAY 2004 • KICK OFF 3.00pm

Special enlarged commemorative edition £3.00



The Roughyeds

**Oldham Rugby League
Football Club (1997) Limited**

14 Waterloo Street
Oldham OL1 1SQ

Telephone: 0161 628 3677

Fax: 0161 627 5700

Club Shop: 0161 627 2141

CHAIRMAN

Christopher Hamilton

DIRECTORS

Christopher Hamilton

Sean Whitehead

HEAD COACH

Steve Molloy

ASSISTANT COACH

Andy Proctor

SENIOR ACADEMY COACH

Shaun Gartland

CLUB CAPTAIN

Phil Farrell

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Nic Walker & Clare Gross

TIMEKEEPER

David Lord

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

David Bradshaw

OFFICE MANAGER

Jacki Collier

PROGRAMME EDITOR

Nigel Marland

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

(SPONSORED BY J. W. LEES, BREWERS)

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

BANK HOLIDAY RUGBY BY THE SEA

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Blackpool FC may I welcome everyone concerned with both Oldham and Batley Rugby Clubs to Bloomfield Road. In particular I would like to thank Chris Hamilton who has worked so closely with both Matt Williams our press and website officer who was instrumental in this game coming here today, and myself.

We are extremely pleased to be able to host a weekend of Rugby League here in Blackpool having already hosted the GMB BARLA National Final yesterday.

When I arrived here at the club in 1985 from Leigh RLFC there was still regular rugby league taking place each week and of course in the last few weeks of their life Blackpool FC hosted Blackpool Boro' prior to them leaving the town. Blackpool Boro' finished the 1986-87 season playing their last 6 league games and 1 cup match all at Bloomfield Road. Their last match that season, which also turned out to be their last ever match, was played at Bloomfield Road on Wednesday the 22nd April 1987 when they lost 18 - 11 to Carlisle. Boro's points that night were scored with try's by Martin Meyrick and Steve Melling plus a conversion and a drop goal by Billy Price. To rub salt in Boro's wounds the decisive try for Carlisle was scored by and ex Boro' favourite Jimmy Green.

With the Fylde Coast being home to many people for the inland towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire I am sure there are many Rugby League fans who are living away from their traditional roots that would be very pleased to see a re-birth of the professional game here in Blackpool. When Boro' were in their heyday they were playing and beating some of the top sides. The highest ever attendance achieved by Boro' was also at Bloomfield Road when a crowd of 12,015 watched them draw 24 - 24 with the New Zealand tourists in September 1955. (Thanks to Cliff Muspratt for the history on Blackpool Boro').

Of course the Borough Park ground is long gone, now the site of the Odeon Cinema Complex at the north end of

our own stadium, so we may now be one of the few remaining venues and I for one would be very pleased to see the facility used far more than currently. Having been involved in the building of the first half of the re-development we are all happy to see it being well used and becoming far more than just a soccer venue 23 times a year.

I hope that everyone enjoys the surroundings and the facilities and will support me in my bid to get the 'Play off' final here at the end of the season. We see Blackpool as a tremendous area for this fixture - it will be in the middle of the famous illuminations and will provide fans from the two competing sides a great venue not just for the rugby but for a weekend away. I am sure that many of you here today will not just be day trippers taking in Blackpool but will be here to enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend.

With such a wide range of hotel accommodation available and the thousands of entertainment venues it really does offer everything for a great weekend break, topped off with a great game of Rugby League, hopefully in the sun.

Feel free to avail yourselves of our catering and hospitality facilities and hopefully you will all be returning should Oldham need a temporary venue at some stage in the future.

Enjoy the game.

Yours in Sport

GEOFF WARBURTON
Commercial Director
Blackpool FC



"Of all the grounds we have played at, Blackpool FC will be considered the most adventurous so far"

IN THE CHAIRMAN'S OPINION

with **CHRIS HAMILTON**

Today we add yet another ground to the growing list of Oldham RLFC "home" venues as we continue our nomadic trek across the UK.

Of all the grounds we have played at, Blackpool FC will be considered the most adventurous so far. Being unable to play at Boundary Park for two months we will obviously be up against it but certainly, in respect of this game, we have worked very hard to make something positive out of the situation.

Over the last few weeks we have marketed this game extensively both in Oldham and over here on the Fylde Coast and hopefully this will be evidenced by the attendance at the game.

The Blackpool Football Club have been very helpful to us and have been proactive in assisting us with various elements of today's game and our thanks go to Matt Williams and Geoff Warburton for their efforts on our behalf.

A number of competitions have been run over the last couple of weeks and one of the results of this will be 17 mascots walking out with the Oldham side this afternoon.

Matt Birkett, the Lancashire Rugby League Development Officer has also worked hard to organise a mini rugby tournament involving the under 11 sides from Blackpool Scorpions, West Craven Warriors, Leyland Warriors and Royton Tigers and we wish them all well this afternoon.

A special vote of thanks must also go to those companies who, when approached with the idea of a game being played at the seaside and the clubs desire to transport its supporters at no cost to the game, were willing to back us and provide the funds to do just that and on behalf of everybody at the club and especially those who have travelled by coach today we wish to place on record our sincere thanks

to HANLON AND WRIGHT LIMITED, ALPHATEC LIMITED, THE OLDHAM ADVERTISER, TT EXPRESS LIMITED AND MOORSIDE ELECTRICAL LIMITED. Thanks are also due to our other supporters of the event The Oldham Chronicle and the guests of Alphatec for their valued support.

Turning to the game and, after playing the "get out of jail" card last week, against Rochdale we really must work hard to play for 80 minutes today as Batley have had an excellent start to the season and their win against Hull KR last Sunday will have given them even greater confidence.

Currently sitting in third place in the division will mean they come to play us today with no fear and it is important that we as a team rise to the challenge, not only of losing home advantage but also of achieving our goals. Our current points against average of just under 24 per game will win us nothing at the end of the season and our defence must improve and improve quickly if we are to be serious challengers for any honours this season.

The injury situation continues to be a major concern and we are picking up serious ones with alarming regularity. To remedy this we have ordered special supplies of cotton wool which will be used in all training sessions from now on in order to reduce the numbers of players getting injured.

As I said previously today will be a big test and it promises to be a great game. To all of you at your first rugby league match we hope to provide you with something to remember and to all of you who have made the journey from Oldham thank you for your support and please be as vocal as possible in getting behind the lads.

Enjoy the game

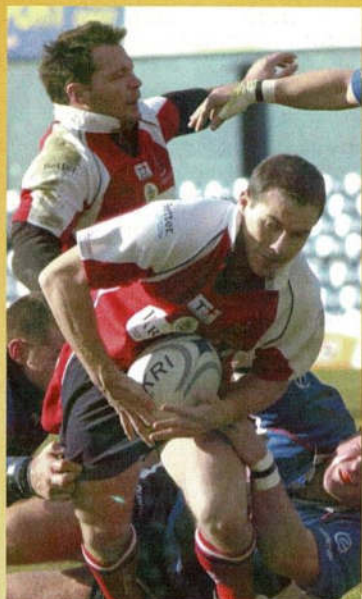
Chris

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

Together, a winning team



Oldham Council is proud of its association with Oldham Rugby League Football Club and the rich heritage of the sport in the Borough. Oldham Rugby plays a key role in community life and in helping to enhance the reputation of the Borough.

OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

oldham  **together**
the outlook's bright

www.oldham.gov.uk www.visitoldham.co.uk

COACHLINES

with **STEVE MOLLOY**

Well here we are at the splendid surroundings of Bloomfield Road, the home of Blackpool FC. For what is set to be a tough encounter against a highflying Batley Bulldogs outfit.

Looking at the fixtures for this weekend's National League 1 games shows just how competitive and hard fought a division this one really is and at this stage every single game is crucial either because you are fighting for the top spot or just trying to stay in touch. So it's vitally important that the sea air and the Bank Holiday weekend atmosphere doesn't detract our players from the big job on hand as we have already played our Get out of Jail card against Rochdale last week.

A lot of people I have spoken to say what a game of two halves it was but after studying the video I

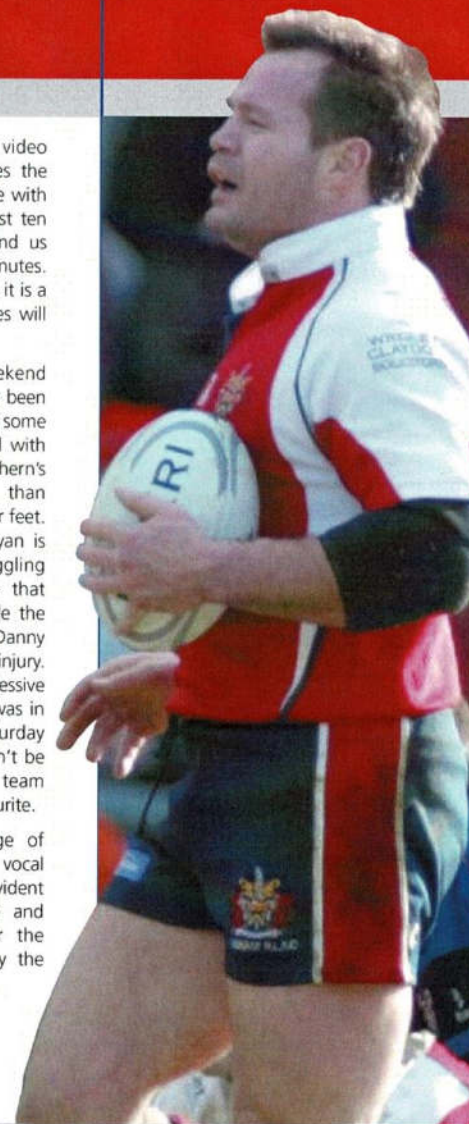
have to disagree. The video shows that for fifty minutes the game was a real arm-wrestle with Rochdale dominating the last ten minutes of the first half and us dominating the last 20 minutes. Whatever your view I'm sure it is a match the fans of both sides will remember for a long time.

The Challenge Cup weekend break, I thought would have been an opportunity for us to get some bodies back, but to no avail with Lee Marsh and Paul Southern's injuries taking longer than expected to get back on their feet. On top of that James Bunyan is struggling with niggling complaints. The positives that have arisen from this include the chance we had to look at Danny Nanyan after Adam Sharples' injury. I thought he made an impressive debut, only discovering he was in the squad on the Saturday morning and I'm sure it won't be long before he's a first team regular and a firm fan's favourite.

Let's hope that the change of location doesn't affect the vocal support that has been so evident this season both at home and away and that you cheer the Roughyeds on to victory by the seaside.

Enjoy the game
Steve

"Let's hope that the change of location doesn't affect the vocal support that has been so evident this season"



RIBBLE

PACKAGING LIMITED

MANUFACTURERS OF SPECIALISED CORRUGATED PRODUCTS

PACKAGING SOLUTIONS FOR BRITISH INDUSTRY

GREENGATE ST. OLDHAM OL4 1DF

0161 284 9000

LEVER'S FISH & CHIP RESTAURANT

UNITS 2 & 3
MARKET HALL
OLDHAM

MON - SAT 10.30-5.30
0161 633 0074

Innovative and committed lawyers to the
business and private sectors

northainleyhalliwell

North Ainley Halliwell
Solicitors
34/42 Clegg Street, OLDHAM OL1 1PS
e-mail: info@northainley.co.uk
web: www.northainley.co.uk DX23605



Totalplus Communications Ltd specialise in the design, installation and management of structured cabling systems for all types of environments, ranging from single outlets to full site cabling and roll out programmes. We place a strong emphasis on designing clients specific systems to meet both existing and future needs.

for further information or quotations contact



Northern House, Moss Street East, Ashton-u-Lyne
Manchester OL6 7BX

Tel: 0161 343 8181 Fax 0161 343 8181

alternatively call Bob Thompson on 07973 684 299 or Paul Gough on 07973 764 938

IN THE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

with PHIL FARRELL

Last Sunday was a real poor performance for the first sixty minutes and it's difficult to know what to put it down to. In the end I think it was probably down to a little complacency all around and this is something we really have to work on and ensure it doesn't happen again. Obviously we weren't helped again by the injury situation but we have to cope with these situations and not allow it to affect our individual performances.

It was as if we only really started to play when we realised we had to or we would lose the game and we nearly left it too late. At half time we were determined to start well in the second half and get the ball out wider and thought it essential we scored first. But we didn't and allowed Rochdale in for another try. We then weren't helped when we lost "Molly" for 10 minutes as we were already missing "go forward" players. We must also look at our defence as we were caught too often on our right side.

In the end though we finally got going, helped by Rochdale's tiredness and the fact that they were down to 12 for a period in the last quarter of the game. I remember them defending two sets on their own line and thinking to myself we could start to reverse things in the next set, which we in fact did. Jon really took his tries well, especially the first one, which took some scoring on such a hot day and I believe he has now gone into the record books as the scorer of the fastest hat trick of tries. Can I also say how well young Danny played coming on at a very crucial time. I know how nervous he was but he didn't let it affect his performance and he was professional in all departments.

We are all looking forward to today's game and are really excited and up for it. We will have to be as Batley are playing well as was shown by their result last week and our old mate "Siggy", Mark Sibson, seems to be hitting a good patch so we shall have to watch him in particular.

Finally another tale of "THE RAT", (Neil Roden) who seems to figure regularly in my tales. Now I'm not saying he's a little parochial or not particularly well travelled but he let slip this story to one of the lads in the Social Club after the Rochdale game. It would appear that on the weekend of the Challenge Cup Final he took his girlfriend out for a weekend in a hotel to MANCHESTER!!!! Not like him to stray so far out of Wigan. But what had me in stitches was that he hadn't booked anywhere and didn't know where to stay, so he only goes into a major travel agent in the middle of Manchester, and asks them if he can book a weekend away. You can imagine the look on their faces when they asked him where in the country he would like to stay and he answered, Manchester. Now how thick is that?

Hope you enjoy the day or weekend by the sea and I hope we send you back home with smiles on your faces after a victory and a good game. Please keep up the great support you have given us this season.

Enjoy the game,

Faz



" Obviously we weren't helped again by the injury situation but we have to cope with these situations "

www.roughyeds.co.uk

Daniel Thwaites are proud to be sponsors
of Oldham Rugby League Club and wish
them every success for the season



For further details please contact
Thwaites Brewery Customer Services on 01254 686868

THWAITES
BEERS

in yer face

with geoff cooke

The first time I saw a game of rugby league in Blackpool was at the old greyhound stadium on St. Anne's Road. It was my one and only visit to that venue but I was to see several more games at Rigby Road (Borough Park), the most famous being Blackpool's defeat of Halifax in 1979 when both sides had a chance of promotion. Borough's 11-3 victory under the coaching duo of Albert Fearnley and Bakari Diabira was one of the highlights of the club's existence. It was, no doubt, a moment much cherished by that doyen of "tangerine dreamers" Dave Hadfield whose opening chapter in 'Thirteen Winters' is such a compelling read.

At the time that Blackpool were kicked out of Borough Park in the wake of the Bradford City fire disaster because the main stand was deemed a hazard by local safety officials I believe the stand was in fact the newest in the entire league. Such are the vagaries of sport and the decision led to the slow decline of Blackpool Borough and their eventual disappearance from the league. If today's fixture between Oldham and Batley can contribute in any way to a revival in interest in our game on the Fylde Coast I for one will be delighted. Let us hope that out of Oldham's misfortune (the temporary loss of Boundary Park) some good can emerge.

Last week today's visitors Batley did themselves and everyone else in National League One a favour by defeating Hull K.R. The Bulldogs have now won four out of five of their league fixtures and are undoubtedly a team to be reckoned with. The side has overcome the loss to injury of influential halfback Dean Lawford and are playing some consistent rugby. The experienced Barry Eaton is their key playmaker but Batley have class right across the park with Ryan Horsley another ball handler of talent. I note that last week Andy Spink in the second row was rated as having given a ten out of ten performance and with powerful go-forward props, especially Steve Hill, the Oldham pack will have their hands full. Last year Hill gave the Roughyeds no end of trouble so he is definitely one to watch. and then there's Sean Richardson,

a wide running second rower whose appearances with Dewsbury, Widnes and now Batley have spelled trouble every time Oldham have faced him. In a talented threequarter line centre Danny Maun is highly rated and his former Featherstone wing partner Matt Bramald knows his way to the try line. And behind them is former Oldham favourite Mark Sibson whose scoring ability is well known to Oldham followers.

So, all in all, after a titanic struggle last week against Rochdale, Oldham will have to be on their mettle today. Although the team underperformed for 50 minutes last weekend what eventually stood out was the side's fitness, resilience and self-belief. Not many team's would have overturned a 24-6 deficit to win the match. Of course no club can "get out of jail" like that consistently, but if a side can win from such a position who knows what they can do if they get their noses in front?

With other results going in Oldham's favour the league table has a very competitive look with no club running away with it at the moment. two or three good results together will soon get a team climbing the league ladder and at this stage it is impossible to forecast how the final table might look. My only other observation is that Whitehaven seem to me to be a really tough proposition. So, anyone wanting to finish in the top two is going to have to turn them over!



Hire Centres (Northern) Ltd

Speedy Hire (Northern) Ltd.

Coldhurst Street, Off Rochdale Road,
Oldham, Manchester. OL1 2BH

Tel: 0161 626 8111 Fax: 0161 628 5060

W: www.speedyhire.co.uk

FROM THE PEN OF

MICHAEL TURNER

Roughyeds v Batley

Photo 1. Our first photograph shows the Oldham side that defeated the "Gallant Youths 14 – 0 in the Challenge Cup 1st round on Monday February 19th 1923. The previous Saturday The teams had fought out a scoreless draw at Mount Pleasant. Thomas (2), Rix and Beynon scored tries with one goal from Knapman. The attendance was 6,000.

Back Row: Sid Rix, Alf Tomkins.

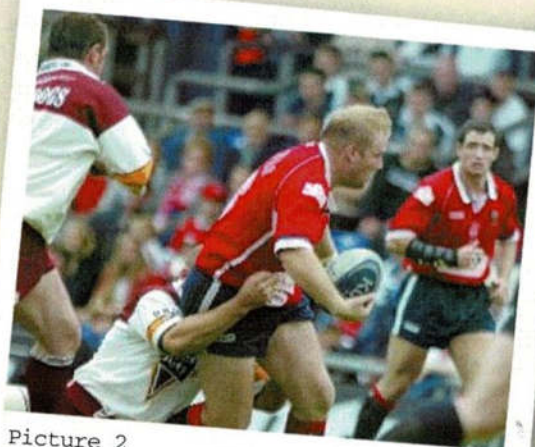
Middle Row: Herman Hilton, Bob Sloman, Fred Brown, Rod Marlor, Jack Collins.

Front Row: Ben Beynon, Ernest Knapman, Evan Davies, Ned Thomas, Jim Finnerty, Jerry Donovan.



Picture 1

Photo 2. The second image shows action from last seasons encounter played at Boundary Park on August 31st 2003. Oldham won 36 – 10 thanks to six goals from Simon Svabic and tries from Nick Johnson 2, Neil Roden, 2 Gavin Barber and Svabic. In the photo Martin McLoughlin looks to off-load to Lee Doran in a Batley tackle. The attendance was 1,461.



Picture 2

AS IAN SEES IT

with IAN WILSON

So here we go, at Blackpool! What an imaginative concept. Let's hope that the club's initiative pays off in terms of following and public relations: it certainly deserves to.

Today's game sees the conclusion of the first 1/3 of the 2004 league campaign – and a vital one it is too. Batley once again have been something of a surprise package this season, and are genuine mid-table contenders for a decent spot in the end-of-season play-offs – as of course, are we. If we can get another victory today, which indeed we should, if the team plays to its potential, that will be 8 points from the first six matches. In the circumstances, I would have thought that that would represent a very satisfactory start.

What circumstances, you may well ask? I suggest that there are two. First, with a fairly small squad, with quite a few relatively untried youngsters included within it, we have had to cope with more than our fair share of significant injuries. For example, in the Leigh game, our starting 13 was missing six whom I would have thought would be amongst the first choice line-up – Iain Marsh, John Hough, Paul Southern, Jon Goddard, Neil Roden and James Bunyan. All sides of course, have to do without injured players during the course of a season but I would have thought we have had more than the norm.

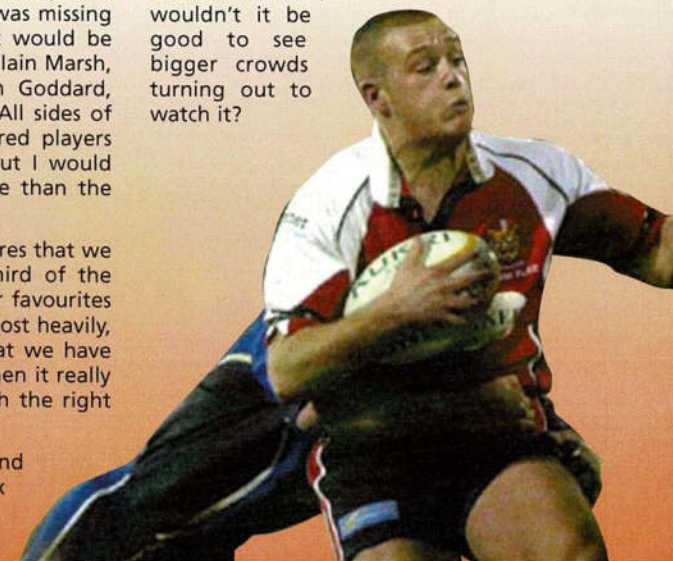
And the second aspect is the fixtures that we have had to play in the first third of the season. Leigh are obviously clear favourites for the league, and although we lost heavily, there was enough to suggest that we have the potential to take them on when it really matters, with a full side and with the right approach.

We have also had to play Halifax and Hull KR away. I know that Halifax

have generally disappointed so far, but I believe they will get better, and be up there challenging at the end. And no one gets much out of a trip to New Craven Park – although if we had not played so atrociously in the ten minutes just after half time, we ought to have actually won fairly convincingly.

What about prospects for the rest of the season? The crunch seems to me to be our home form, and the two sets of fixtures against Whitehaven and, delight of delights, Doncaster. If something better than mid-table safety is to be a realistic target, then you would think that home victories over both of these, as well as Halifax and Hull KR, with the odd away win over fellow mid-tablers, is a requirement.

At least, though, even with the injuries, a win today would put us well in contention at this stage, and with lots to look forward to in the months ahead, wouldn't it be good to see bigger crowds turning out to watch it?



Contact Goodwin Best for a quality assured, professional review of your commercial risk insurances. Exclusive facilities for local businesses incorporating Risk Management and Health & Safety Audits



Commercial Insurance Brokers
Castle House, Schofield Street, Oldham, OL8 1QL
Tel: 0161 628 2200 Fax: 0161 628 7785



RUGBY IN BLACKPOOL

by Dave Hadfield

Almost 50 years after it first came to town, professional rugby league returns to Blackpool today. It should never have gone away, but that's another story.

Half a century ago, Blackpool Borough were preparing for their first season in the Rugby League. What better occasion could there be than this to reflect on the legacy of those pioneers and the achievements of those who followed them?

Life was never easy for the Borough. It took them several years to persuade the League to accept them and then more than three months from their opening game against Salford for them to earn their first victory. That was against Hull KR - at their original home ground, the St Annes Road greyhound stadium - and others were few and far between, but nobody could accuse the club of lacking enterprise.

Some of the very biggest names in the game - Brian Bevan, Billy Boston, John Stopford -

ended their careers here. Tommy Bishop began his, before going on to great things on both sides of the world.

It was also one of the most cosmopolitan of clubs. In its early years, its recruits included the aboriginal speed merchant, Wally McArthur, the Fijians, Nabou, Bose and Ravouvou, a couple of Italians and the American winger, Chuck Wiseman.

It took rather longer to recruit players from Blackpool, but that too began to happen, through the medium of a Colts team that played in the Liverpool and District League.

But the story of Blackpool Borough, even more than that of most rugby league clubs, is one of upheaval. When St Annes Road was sold, the club had to find a new home and scraped the money together to build Borough Park, just down the road from Bloomfield Road.

It was a quirky place, built on the site of the old gas-works. There was a time when the club thought it had struck oil there, as black goo oozed up onto the pitch, but it turned out that they had disturbed an old tar-pit.

Borough Park was nothing flash, although it was, for a couple of decades, the most recently built professional team-sports stadium in the country.

Building new grounds was something that was just not done in the 60s and 70s.

For Borough, the 70s were notable for two playing achievements, within a couple of years of each other. In 1977, coached by Jim Crellin, they reached the final of the Players No.6 Trophy and were by no means disgraced in defeat by Castleford.

That side, led by players like Ged Marsh and Howard "Smiler" Allen, broke up almost immediately, but by the start of the 1978-9 season Albert Fearnley had put one together which was to win promotion to the old First Division.

To a nucleus of players like Jim Molyneux and the long-serving local junior Paul Gamble, Fearnley added talents like Alan Fairhurst, Norman Turley and Bak Diabira - who had succeeded him as coach by the time that Borough clinched promotion.

The season in the top flight was predictably hard going, but there were unforgettable moments like the away victories at Workington, Salford and especially Leeds.

Despite those heady days, there is an argument for saying that the teams coached by Tommy Dickens in the early 80s were some of the club's most consistent, but the seeds of destruction were sown by Lancashire County Council's ruling, in the wake of the Bradford City fire, that Borough Park needed £65,000 worth of work.

Borough ended their life playing here at Bloomfield Road, before the complicated series of wanderings via Springfield, Trafford and Chorley that eventually saw professional rugby league re-emerge under the banner of the Blackpool Gladiators.

When they lost their League status, they limped along in the National Conference and the Alliance before folding in 1997.

There are a couple of ironies in this. Firstly, that there was and is more amateur activity on the Fylde than ever, with the Sea Eagles in the RL Conference, as well as the clubs in the winter competitions and more junior and schools rugby than there ever was when there was a pro club in town.

Secondly, and as I hope this weekend will bear out, Blackpool remains the ideal place for summer rugby. Always was, always will be. One day, perhaps, enough people will share the vision to make it happen.

DAVE HADFIELD
THE INDEPENDENT

Joe Collins attacks the Blackpool defence with the Seasider's threequarter Alex Givvons (Jnr) ready to cut him off.



Oldham centre John Donovan - September 13th 1965



Des Foy breaks into the clear - September 5th 1982



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!

Make the most of your evening with Score on Monday and Roughyeds Round-up every week during the season



OLDHAM EVENING Chronicle

The voice of Oldham for 150 years



WALKERBOUT

With Brian Walker

DON'T ROW AGAINST THE TIDE!

There is an irony about today's 'home' game against Batley Bulldogs being played here on the ground of Blackpool Football Club.

Way back in 1888 the Football League had just been formed by its founder clubs and of the dozen professional outfits involved Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion, Wolves, Stoke, Derby County and Notts County were all, broadly speaking, Midlands sides, with the remaining six, Everton, Bolton Wanderers, Preston North End, Accrington, Burnley and Blackburn Lancashire teams. In an attempt to slow the encroachment of the professional soccer code, particularly here in Lancashire, which, not many years before, had been rich and exclusive rugby territory, the Rugby Union (in those days rugby was still 15 aside union played under the auspices of the English Rugby Union) organised promotional matches in those outlying parts of the county that still weren't supporting a rugby side.

The Fylde area was top of the list and six clubs were enlisted to play exhibition games to be staged in both the seaside towns of Blackpool and Fleetwood. Two of those sides were Batley and Oldham, the Roughyeds playing Rochdale Hornets and Batley taking on the then powerful Leeds Parish Church club on a pitch prepared on parkland at Raikes Hall, which in those days was a public recreational area on what today is the edge of Blackpool town centre. It was all to no avail as it would be another 10 years before any rugby clubs were formed on this part of the coast, Canute himself unable to halt the march of soccer.

Mind you, just seven years before it played in that promotional match by the sea, the Oldham club itself was only a hair's width from extinction, saved at the eleventh hour by then club official George Harrop who later in life would become a driving force behind the Blackpool Tower Company.

Thirty-six years on, at the end of the 1923-24 season, Batley were crowned rugby league champions and as such opened the following season with a prestigious match against the Rest of Rugby League played here on Bloomfield Rd. The Oldham club provided three players to the Rest side; half back George Hesketh, winger Joe Corsi and Welsh RU international lock Ambrose Baker and the referee Mr F.Mills also hailed from Oldham.

Of course, down the years, both union and amateur rugby league has established itself in the Fylde area and Blackpool Borough managed to fly the professional rugby flag on this section of the coast for over thirty years before being forced out of town in 1987 immediately regrouping as Springfield Borough playing their home matches on the ground of Wigan Athletic! This, though, was not before playing on Bloomfield Rd, supported by a 12,000 crowd in a 24-24 draw against the 1955 touring New Zealanders and then attracting a record attendance for the seaside club with a massive 21,000 Bloomfield Rd turn out for a match against Leigh in the 1957 Challenge Cup.

After being forced out of Borough Park and before the removal vans were packed the Milers played their last seven home matches of season 1986-87 on the ground of the Tangerines. The penultimate being against today's visitors, Batley, in front of a paltry 301 spectators, the very same club that had provided Borough's first ever home opposition when on the night of Tuesday 17th of August 1954 Batley won 10-7 in front of a 3,000 crowd

For the record Borough Park has now been demolished and is the site for a number of leisure outlets and Blackpool's earlier home, The Stadium on St Anne's Rd provided the site for a mid sixties housing development.



TODAY'S OPPONENTS BATLEY BULLDOGS

GARY THORNTON Head Coach, took over the coaching reins in the closed season from Paul Storey and got off to a flying start with a 46-12 mill mile challenge victory over Dewsbury Rams.

In his playing days Gary scored 79 tries in 220 appearances for the club, which places him in 12th place in the club's all time try scoring list.

PAUL HARRISON Assistant Coach/ Second Row. Paul is still a regular in the side and is used mainly as an impact player from the bench. 69 tries have shown Paul's value over the years and he stands 15th in the club's try scoring list.

STEVE BEARD utility broke into the first team last season and scored a try against London Skolars.

JOE BERRY utility forward, signed at the start of 2002-03 from Rochdale Hornets. He is the club's only current international having represented Scotland on three occasions last season.

MATT BRAMALD Utility Back, signed at the start of 2002-03 having previously given service at Dewsbury at Featherstone Rovers. Matt scored 8 tries in his first season with the club.

WILL CARTLEDGE Second row, become a regular last season having signed for the club from Knottingley Rockware. Noted for his tremendous tackling Will can also be used as an emergency goal kicker.

BARRY EATON Scrum Half. What a first season for the club Barry enjoyed last year, establishing a world record of 38 successful consecutive goals kicks. Being voted Bulldogs player of the year and establishing a new club record of 139 goals in a season.

Barry became only the second player to play and score in every one at Batley's competitive games in a season. He also holds the distinction of being only the second player to play and score in every game for two teams (Batley and Dewsbury), Mick Parish being the first (also an ex Batley player).

STEVE HILL Prop Forward, the former Castleford & York forward made the number 10 shirt his own last season - making 21 appearances.

RYAN HORSLEY Loose Forward. Ryan is starting his third year at the club having given previous service with Featherstone and Wakefield.

CRAIG LINGARD Fullback, Club Captain. Craig currently stands in 5th place in the clubs all time try scoring chart with 96, and has Glen Tomlinson's record in his sights. Formerly with Sharlston and Sheffield Eagles, Craig is currently being monitored by Super League clubs.

DANNY MAUN Centre. Danny is starting his third season with the club having previously played with Wigan. He was picked in the NLI Dream Team for 2002-03.

ADRIAN FLYNN Wing Centre. Signed from Featherstone. Adrian has also played for Wakefield, Castleford and Dewsbury Rams. A strong running three quarter Adrian will add to the pace in the three quarter line up.

DAVID ROURKE Second row. Strong running and hard tackling Dave has returned to the club following a period out training for the fire service.

SEAN RICHARDSON Second Row. Giant Forward signed in the close season from Leigh Centurions having given previous service with Dewsbury Rams and Widnes Vikings.

CHRIS MOLYNEUX Prop. Signed in the close season from Featherstone Rovers and scored 2 tries in his first appearance against Dewsbury Rams in the Mill Mile Challenge victory on Boxing Day.

SHAD ROYSTON Wing/Centre. Australian who has played for Cronulla and has been introduced to the club by Glen Tomlinson.

ANDY SPINK Prop/ Second row, had a tremendous 2002-03 season which saw him picked in the NLI Squad. Runner up in the Batley Player of the Year awards last season and was named Man of Steel.

CHRIS SPURR Centre, Former Featherstone three quarter. Chris had a promising first season in 2002-03, scoring 11 tries in the process.

MARK SIBSON Wing, one of the fastest players in the division last year. Mark scored several spectacular tries after joining the club from Oldham.

MARK TOOHEY Stand Off/ Second Row. Utility player Mark is now established at stand-off half and is a tremendous ball player, signed from Batley Boys.

DANNY THOMAS Stand off, signed last season from Leeds Rhinos, having previously played for London Broncos. A tremendous turn of pace and his near length of the field interception try at Dewsbury Rams will be long remembered. A star of the future.

DANNY EVANS Second Row, former Featherstone Rovers and Dewsbury Rams rugged forward joined us midway through 2002-03 and made some solid performances.



BLACKPOOL SPONSORS



Oldham RLFC would like to thank the following special sponsors for today's game who have financed, amongst other things, the coaches that have brought supporters from Oldham free of charge.

Without the generosity and assistance of the following today's game would not have been able to take place.

Oldham Advertiser 21 YEARS
IT'S ALL ABOUT OLDHAM
Your best weekly read and that's official
It's all about Oldham

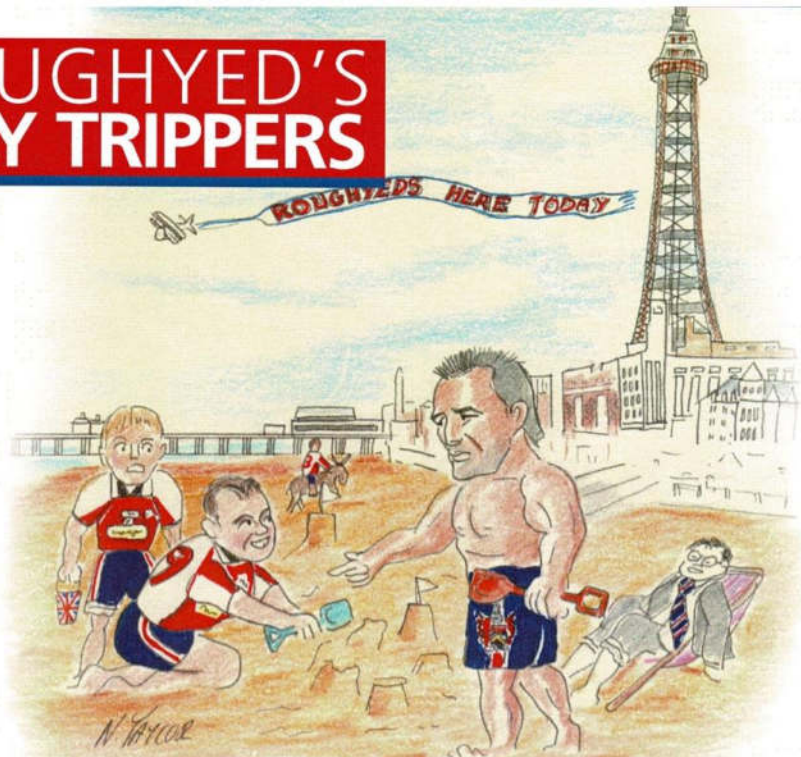
TTX
www.ttexpress.co.uk
WAREHOUSING
AND
DISTRIBUTION
TT EXPRESS (Oldham) Ltd
Ward Street
Chadderton
Oldham
OL9 9EX
0161 628 5584

MEC
Moorside Electrical Contractors Limited
Mill Top House
677 Reppenden Road
Moorside, Oldham
Gtr. Manchester
OL1 4JU
Tel: 0161 628 4545
Fax: 0161 628 4343
E-mail: moorside-elect@btconnect.com
ECA
Representing the best in electrical engineering and building services

HANLON & WRIGHT
MACHINERY HANDLING CONTRACTORS
FACTORY REMOVALS, CRANE HIRE, HEAVY HAULAGE
Tudor House, Park Road, Dukinfield, near Manchester, SK16 5LX
Telephone: 0161-330 7631/2/3 Fax: 0161-330 0436 e-mail: hanlonandwright.co.uk

alpha tec
Labelling Systems Ltd
Peel Street, Denton
Tel: 0161 337 8954
www.alphatec-ltd.co.uk

ROUGHYED'S DAY TRIPPERS



PLAYER PROFILE

LEE DORAN

LEE Doran's consistency has been remarkable since he became a regular member of the Oldham side at the start of the 2002 season.

Look at this for a playing record:

2002: possible appearances 39; Doran's appearances 38.

2003: possible appearances 32; Doran's appearances 32.

2004: possible appearances 19; Doran's appearances 19.

In the last two and a half seasons this 22-year-old from Wigan has played in 89 out of a possible 90 Oldham games in all competitions --- a phenomenal record.

But the case for suggesting that Lee's consistency is exceptional doesn't finish there.

What about this one? All appearance figures include those off the bench, but in Lee's case he had only five substitute appearances in 2002, none in 2003 and none up to the present time in 2004.

And if you want still more proof of Doran's value to club and team ask yourself when you last saw him substituted or, to use the modern parlance, rotated or "spelled" ?

It does happen, but only very, very occasionally. When Doran goes on he usually stops on and of, all the forwards the Roughyeds have used since the start of the 2002 season you would be hard pushed to find anyone with more game time than Doran.

Here is a young man who has learned all he knows with the Roughyeds and has graduated with honours to become a multi-skilled back-row forward who can look forward to a long and rewarding career in the sport.

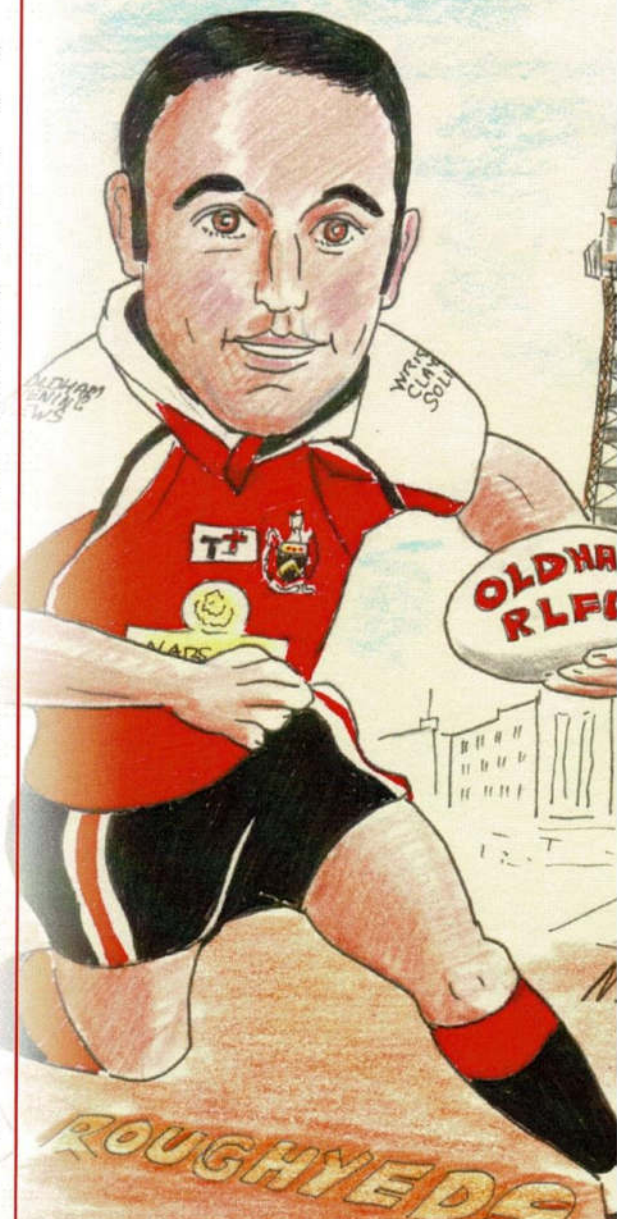
Though still only 22, he did an excellent job as team captain in the absence earlier in the season of club skipper Phil Farrell and vice-captain John Hough.

It is not insignificant that the man chosen to be leader by player-coach Steve Molloy when the big two were out through injury had a similar record of consistency to the pair for whom he was deputising.

You don't achieve such records unless you work hard; unless you are dedicated; unless you stretch every sinew in training; unless you set personal goals; unless you are strong in mind, as well as body.

Somebody once said --- don't ask me who --- "The secret of success is consistency of purpose."

Doran's purpose in his sporting life is to be the best he can be at rugby league, and who can



Derek Woodman
BMW



Vicarage Lane
Blackpool

The Ultimate
Driving Machine

The **BMW 318iES** range



Why pay the price of a BMW and not own one?

With the 318i Edition Sport, Derek Woodman introduces a car that combines driver appeal, low cost of ownership, performance and a comprehensive specification, additional features on the 318i Edition Sport includes:

- 16" Star Spoke Alloy Wheels
- BMW Single CD player
- Air Conditioning

Could you be converted? Go on, give us a try at

Derek Woodman

Vicarage Lane, Blackpool FY4 4ND (01253) 697101
www.derekwoodmanbmw.co.uk
mail@derekwoodman.bmw-net.co.uk

LEE DORAN CONT...

question his consistency in striving to reach those dizzy heights for the benefit of himself, his team and his club.

You know, there's a fishy tale going the rounds that Lee got his dressing room nickname, "Tuna", because he appears to have a diet that's heavily loaded with just that! Bearing in mind that you don't catch tuna in the River Douglas or from the banks of other fisheries in and around his home town, it can be safely assumed that the weekly Doran family shopping basket is overflowing with the tinned and imported variety.

It's a subject of much hilarity in the dressing room, but if I were a gambling man I would chance a few bob on the notion that, far from being a laughing matter, the Doran diet is a very serious issue on the home front and that, more specifically, tuna has played its part in building and developing a rookie forward who is close to becoming the finished article.

He joined the club at the back end of 1999 --- is it really as long as that? -- as a 17-year-old who had played for the academy teams at Widnes and Swinton.

In the next two seasons he worked his way through the academy and alliance teams, first under Haydn Walker and then under Mark Knight, while making fleeting appearances in the first team, under Mike Ford.

He had six sub appearances in the Spring of 2000 and another seven in 2001 --- all part of his steady progress

towards regular first-team football, which he achieved at the beginning of the 2002 campaign.

Since then, there has been no holding him. He has played most of his rugby for Oldham in the second-row but Molloy had no hesitation in using him in the centre whenever there was a need.

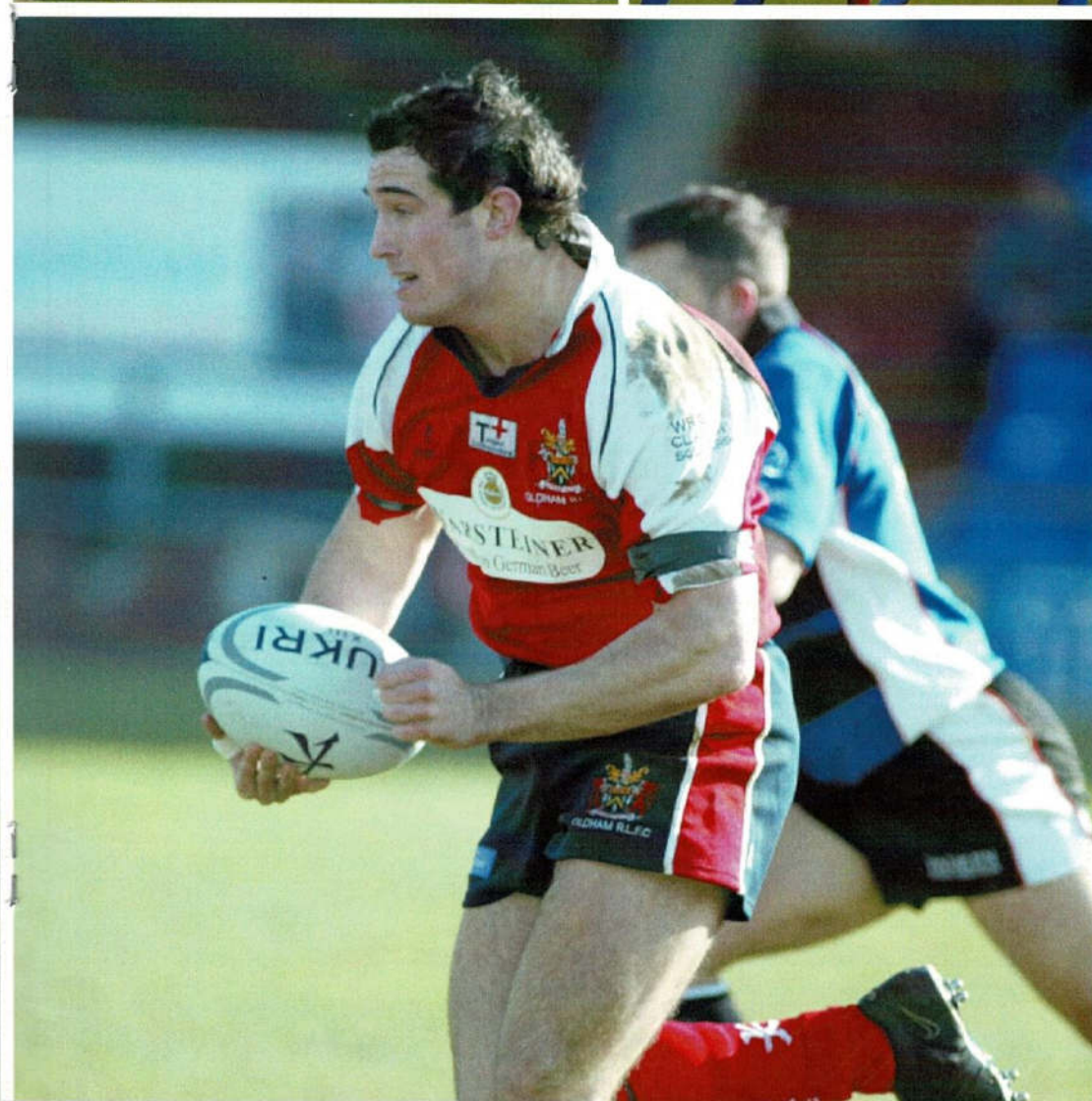
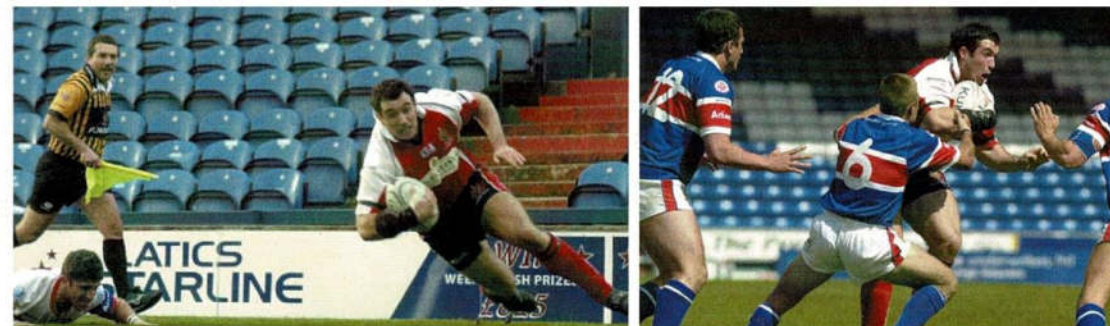
He can play football, he's no slouch and he has good hands, all the qualities Molloy was looking for when he had to find a makeshift centre from within the players at his disposal.

The player himself prefers the back-row and it was his consistently sound performances in that department that earned him recognition at representative level on several fronts.

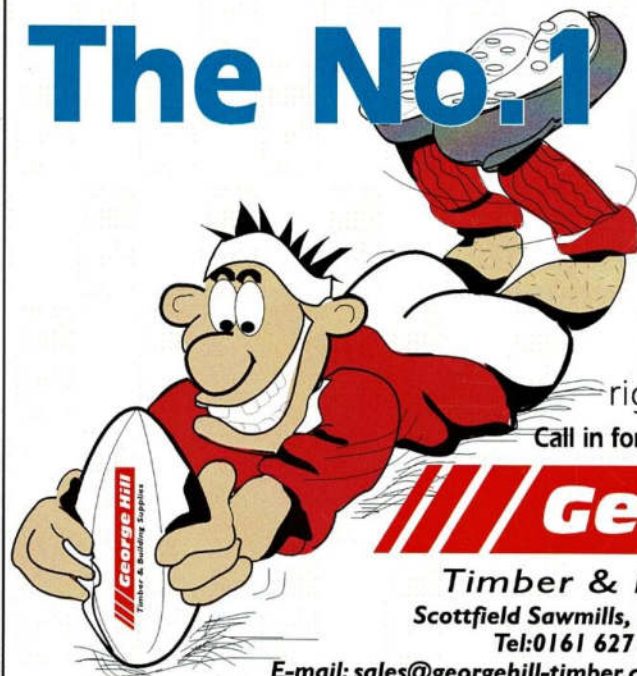
He has played for Ireland, for the National League Select squad and for the old Northern Ford Premiership under-21 rep side against their Super League counterparts.

Along the way Huddersfield, Castleford and Widnes have all been linked with him, but Doran just keeps on turning out for Oldham and playing well . . . consistently, of course.

ROGER HALSTEAD



The No.1 TEAM



At GEORGE HILL
it's never a **TRYING**
experience. We
have all the products
you need to get the
right **RESULT** every time.
Call in for a helping hand not a **HAND-OFF**

George Hill

Timber & Building Supplies
Scottfield Sawmills, Ashton Road, Oldham OL8 1LB
Tel: 0161 627 2020 Fax: 0161 633 2250

E-mail: sales@georgehill-timber.co.uk www.georgehill-timber.co.uk

Branches at: Bolton: Tel: 01204 384867 Nelson: Tel: 01282 613933 Sale: Tel: 0161 969 7543

Lansdown Roofing Supplies Ltd.

*Secondhand tiles and slates
bought and sold*

Demolition work undertaken

*All materials can either be
collected or delivered*

Tel: **0161 626 0896** and **627 4231**

Night 0161 633 4252

Proprietor: Sean Whitehead



*Locally manufactured hydraulic equipment for
the Power & Marine industries Worldwide*

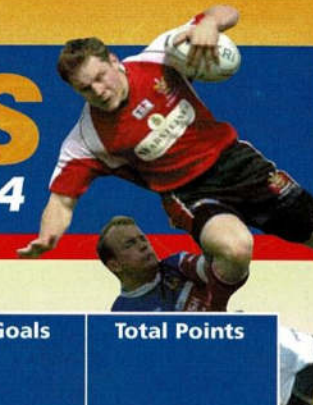
www.pilgrim-international.co.uk

Tel: 0161 785 7700

Working for a brighter future

STATISTICS

Player stats for season 2004



Player	Appearances (Including Subs) [Max. 18] (inc Law Cup)	Tries	Drop Goals	Goals	Total Points
Jon Goddard	17	8	-	-	32
Will Cowell	16	8	-	-	32
Iain Marsh	8	6	-	-	24
Gareth Barber	17	3	-	18	48
Nick Johnson	18	17	-	-	68
Simon Svabic	16	1	-	23	50
Ian Watson	17	3	1	2	17
Paul Southern	13	2	-	-	8
John Hough	6	-	-	-	0
Dane Morgan	17	7	-	-	28
Lee Doran	18	3	-	-	12
Martin Elswood	14	2	-	-	4
Craig Farrimond	5	1	-	-	4
Gavin Dodd	16	9	-	-	36
Gavin Johnson	4	-	-	-	0
Adam Sharples	5	-	-	-	0
Neil Roden	13	12	-	-	44
Martin McLoughlin	16	-	-	-	0
Steve Molloy	17	-	-	-	0
Lee Marsh	15	7	-	9	46
Keith Brennan	15	2	-	-	8
James Bunyan	12	5	-	-	20
James Lomax	2	-	-	-	0
Pat Rich	8	2	-	30	68
Phil Farrell	5	3	-	-	12
Danny Nanyin	1	-	-	-	0

www.roughyeds.co.uk



LEAGUE WEEKLY

Danny Lockwood, publisher

FOR once, those dyed-in-the-wool rugby league purists, for whom a 0-0 scoreline and eight sendings off constitutes a truly memorable match, should have been at least partially satisfied with 40 minutes of rugby league. I refer to that classic opening 'stanza' – as Stevo would put it – of the Hull versus Leeds game last Friday. I suspect if Sky television viewers had been allowed to linger on crowd scenes from the KC, they might have seen the multitudes slumped in their seats at the half time interval, unable to get their breath back sufficiently to go sample an interval refreshment. From the comfort of the Lockwood sofa, eldest son was despatched to fetch dad's asthma inhaler. It was that fast. And that exciting, despite the blank scoreboard.

Last week saw the annual golf match between the rugby league writers and the British Lions Association. I had the delight of going head to head with the last prop forward to win the Lance Todd Trophy, Brian Lockwood (no relation). It isn't difficult to tell us apart. The Batley Lockwoods got the dodgy knees and the good looks; the Castleford Lockwoods got the talent and the good luck. Brian was a great of the game, at a time when a prop forward could be 5ft 10ins tall and weigh 13 and a half stones. He put the fear of God up plenty of Aussies in his Grand Final-winning exploits down there in the mid-1970s, at a time when you had to be something special for the natives simply to let you off the plane.

Brian is one of those rugby league men who is less than enchanted with the modern Super League game, bemoaning the dearth of ball handling loose forwards – and props come to that – and of mercurial half backs like his cousin Roger (of the Millward persuasion) who could weave magic midfield patterns with their dancing feet, silken hands and conjurors' brains. I argued that the modern game is so much faster, greatly reducing the 'time' players get on the ball. Brian disputed that. He couldn't see how, in his pomp, he could possibly have been any fitter or faster than he was.

It's a fair argument, and there is no doubting that men like Brian Lockwood and his contemporaries played the game in a golden age of Rugby League football. My closing argument would simply be that a 5ft 10ins and 13 stone prop running at you full pelt is a far more palatable prospect than Stuart Fielden or Nick Fozzard doing the same, with their benefit of several inches in height, stones in weight, and the aid of a sprinting coach to boot.

What would be an interesting exercise would be to take a classic game of the 60s, 70s, 80, 90s and today, and do a statistical breakdown. To see how many tackles were executed, yards gained, and how long the ball was actually in play. My golfing pal 'Locky' might be proven right after all. But I doubt it.

And one statistic that I think RL players of any era would never match, would be the immense discipline shown by those athletes of Hull and Leeds. One penalty was conceded in that scoreless half – phenomenal not just in the discipline around the tackle, but in the incredible fitness levels required to get back 10 yards in defence time and again without incurring the ref's offside whistle.

The Tetley's Super League brings entertainment galore, and it doesn't always have to resemble a game of seven-a-side, or touch-and-pass. Is it a better sport now than ever it was? Maybe it's simply different – but still the Greatest Game.



Modern forwards - bigger for sure, but are they better?

LEAGUE WEEKLY – Featuring Ray French, Denis Betts, Dave 'Nosey' Parker, Peter Roe, Maurice Bamford, plus Phil Hodgson on the amateur game.
Full national & international coverage. Full colour! Full on! EVERY MONDAY

PLAYER SPONSORSHIP 2004



GARETH BARBER

SPONSORED BY
OLDHAM
ADVERTISER



PAUL BENNETT

SPONSORED BY
THE
ROUGHYETTES



KEITH BRENNAN

SPONSORED BY
ROUGHYED
KIDS



WILL COWELL

SPONSORED BY
MIKE NEILD
BUILDER'S



GAVIN DODD

SPONSORED BY
JOHN
BARRETT



LEE DORAN

SPONSORED BY
SADDLEWORTH
SPORTS



MARTIN ELSWOOD

SPONSORED BY
GED SMITH
(ELECTRICAL
SERVICES)



PHIL FARRELL

SPONSORED BY
FATBUZ



CRAIG FARRIMOND

SPONSORED BY
THE KING
FAMILY



JON GODDARD

SPONSORED BY
KATHRYN
HEPTONSTALL /
KATHRYN
MOTTRAM



JOHN HOUGH

SPONSORED BY
FRED
LAUGHTON



GAVIN JOHNSON

SPONSORED BY
THE
ROUGHYETTES



NICK JOHNSON

SPONSORED BY
AJF
EXPRESS



MARTIN McLOUGHLIN

SPONSORED BY
MANCHESTER
AIRPORT



IAIN MARSH

SPONSORED BY
TOTAL
PLUS



DANE MORGAN

SPONSORED BY
TOTAL
PLUS



NEIL RODEN

SPONSORED BY
TOTALPLUS



ADAM SHARPLES

SPONSORED BY
IAIN TAYLOR
&
ROSS WILCOCK



PAUL SOUTHERN

SPONSORED BY
JADE
COMMUNICATIONS



SIMON SVABIC

SPONSORED BY
LEES VILLAGE
SERVICE
STATION



IAN WATSON

SPONSORED BY
TYMBUKTU
HEALTH &
BEAUTY CLINIC



JAMES BUNYAN

SPONSORED BY
KMH
GROUP



LEE MARSH

SPONSORED BY
SUNSEEKER
SOLAR
ENERGY



STEVE MOLLOY

SPONSORED BY
OLDHAM
ADVERTISER



PAT RICH

SPONSORED BY
H Mullaney
& Son Ltd.
Skip Hire

**For all Sponsorship deals
ring Dave on 0161 628 3677**

ROUGHYED



KIDS + Co

Hi KIDS

Welcome to what we hope is a glorious sunny day in Blackpool. For those of you who have made the trip have a great time and as usual shout as loud as you can at the match.

Today is unusual in that we will have seventeen mascots on the pitch, and although we can't be certain we think this is the first time we have had as many mascots as players on the field. "Roughyed Kids" rep for the day is Dean Williams. Dean is eleven years old and goes to Hathershaw Technology College. His hobbies are rugby and football and his favourite player is Gareth Barber. As one of our regular ballboys Dean will be hard at work after posing on the pitch. Good luck to all the mascots and enjoy the day.

Thanks once again to our sponsors Saddleworth Sports, F R Elswood Ltd, The Oldham Advertiser, Cartridge World Oldham, Warburtons Bakery, ASDA Chadderton, & A1 Upholstery.

Good Luck to Steve & the "Lads"

See you soon

Janet & Carole



TODAYS MASCOTS

Dean Williams

Age: 11

Hobbies: Rugby and Football

Favourite Player: Gareth Barber

OLDHAM RUGBY SUPPORT GROUP

This weekend has certainly brought about an interesting concept with a home game in Blackpool. The occasion has already been a nightmare to organise so let's hope the efforts of those involved are rewarded with a good, enthusiastic crowd. This may be the start of our enforced spell out of town but plans are already being made for a celebration barbecue on our return home. Watch this space for details.

DON'T MISS OUT - COME AND JOIN US

96.2

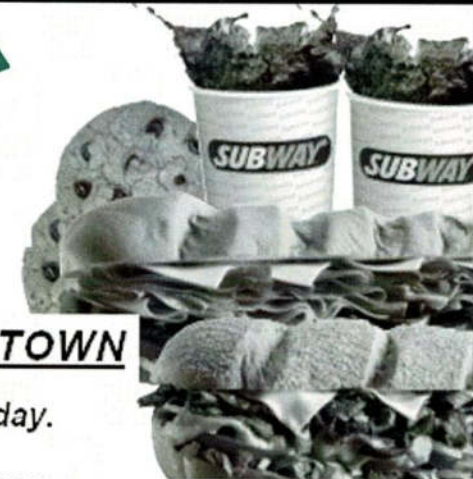
FM

NOW
playing
even more
music
variety

96.2 *the* revolution

SUBWAY

eat fresh.



THE FRESHEST PLACE IN TOWN

We bake our breads FRESH every day.

We slice our salads FRESH every day.

Made FRESH before your very eyes.

A FRESH alternative to pre-made burgers.

Official supplier to the players.

**24 High Street
Oldham.**

**Tel: 0161 678 2929
Fax: 0161 678 2999**

MAKE AN IMPACT!

£600 buys your team
a set of 17 playing kits

Call Mike Humble
for details on
07736 683 827


KUKRI
Who Wears Wins
www.kukrisports.com

Have you visited the Jobcentre lately?

**Call into Oldham, Failsworth
or Shaw Jobcentres**

We can offer

- A wide selection of jobs - full and part time
- Information on trainign opportunities
- Local and National Jobsearches
- Help with Jobsearch skills
- Additional help for Single Parents
- Advice on Working Families' Tax Credit
- Extra help for people with health problems

Office opening hours:-

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm
Wednesday 10.00am to 5.00pm

Jobcentre
75 Union Street
Oldham

Tel: 0161 253 3500

Jobcentre
696 Oldham Road
Failsworth

Tel: 0161 253 3900

Jobcentre
Dale Street
shaw

Tel: 01706 706800

Job Centre

Part of the Jobcentre Plus network
Department for work and Pensions

Prestige
CONSERVATORIES WINDOWS & DOORS

Tel: 01706 880887

Showsite & Office:
Booth's Garden Centre,
Turf Lane, Royton
Oldham OL2 6JH

RYDER & DUTTON

Opening up the world of property

Branches at: Oldham, Chadderton, Glossop,
Shaw, Middleton, Heywood, Saddleworth,
Mossley, Ashton-U-Lyne & Huddersfield

Telephone: 0161 652 1234
www.ryder-dutton.co.uk

ON THIS DAY

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO MAY 30TH YESTERYEAR

Sixty-two years ago, on Saturday 30th May 1942, Oldham entertained Leeds in the second leg of the semi-final of the wartime Challenge Cup competition. Having lost the first leg at Headingley by only 5-2, the Roughyeds were confident of overturning that deficit to reach the final. Alas it was not to be. A try from winger Frank Lees was all that Oldham could muster and they crashed out of the competition, beaten 12-3 on the day and 17-5 on aggregate.

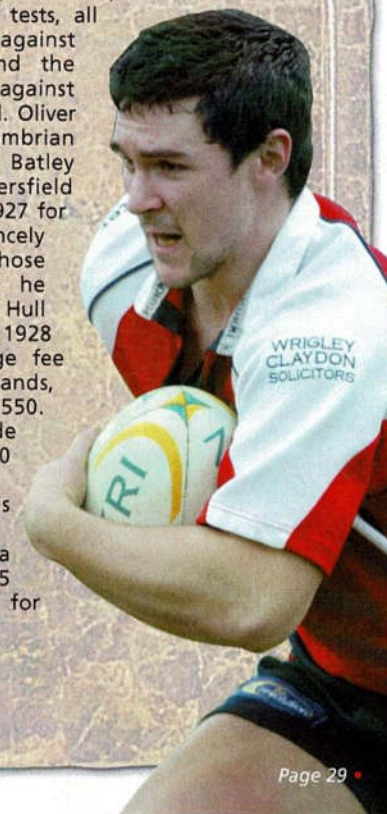
On Sunday 30th May 1982 the last ever County Championship match was staged up the coast at Workington. Yorkshire had already clinched the title with victories over Lancashire and Cumbria so that final match was of academic interest only. Lancashire beat Cumbria 46-8 but probably the most significant statistic was the attendance, a disappointing 732. Interest in the competition had been dwindling for some time so it was no real surprise when this 77th staging of the competition proved to be the last. Oldham had two players involved in this historic final match, Cumbrian hooker Alan McCurrie and the Lancashire loose-forward Terry Flanagan.

Exactly fifty years ago, on Sunday 30th May 1954, Oldham winger Terry O'Grady played a significant role for Great Britain when they drew 17-apiece with the New South Wales Southern Division at the Woollongong Showgrounds. O'Grady, a former Oldham St. Marys junior, scored two of the three British tries. The other Lions' try was scored by Frank Castle (Barrow). Rochdale's Ted Cahill landed three goals for the Lions and Jackie Cunliffe (Wigan) landed one. O'Grady scored 28 tries from his 17 appearances on that tour.

Sixteen years later, in 1970, Britain were again in Australia and included in the tour party was Bob Irving. He had joined Oldham from the Huddersfield St. Josephs junior club in 1965 and developed into a powerful and speedy second-rower. Irving's 18-year professional career saw him play over 600 matches for Oldham, Wigan, Salford, Barrow, Blackpool Borough and Swinton as well as Yorkshire, England and Great Britain at both under-24 and senior levels. On Sunday 30th

May 1970 he was a try scorer for Great Britain when they defeated Queensland by 32 points to seven at Lang Park, Brisbane. Once his playing days were over, Irving settled here in Blackpool where he became heavily involved in local charities, mainly for the regions homeless. Sadly he died in April 1999 after suffering a heart attack at aged only 51 years.

The 1928 British Lions included Bob Sloman (Oldham) and Joe Oliver of Batley in their ranks. After a lengthy sea voyage the tour kicked off at Cootamundra on Wednesday 30th May when the Lions met South West New South Wales. The match ended in a 14-14 draw. Both Sloman and Oliver played in that match with second-row forward Sloman scoring one of the two British tries. Centre three-quarter Oliver was troubled by injury during the tour and only made nine appearances. Four of those appearances, however, were in the tests, all three against Australia and the first test against New Zealand. Oliver was a Cumbrian who joined Batley from Huddersfield in January 1927 for £300, a princely sum in those days. When he moved on to Hull in October 1928 another huge fee changed hands, this time £550. Oliver made almost 700 appearances during his career including a record 35 appearances for Cumberland.



ON THE SOCIAL FRONT



EURO 2004



SUPPORT YOUR COUNTRY SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

**WATCH ALL THE IMPORTANT GAMES IN EURO 2004
INCLUDING ALL ENGLAND GAMES, LIVE ON THE BEST BIG
SCREEN IN THE TOWN AT OLDHAM RL SOCIAL CLUB.
ALFRED ST., WERNETH.**

FIRST GAME SUNDAY 13 JUNE 7-45PM

**Go to Keighley to watch us whup the Cougars
(Cleggy and all)**

**And then enjoy the ENGLAND game LIVE on
the BIG SCREEN at YOUR CLUB.**



THE
OLDHAM
COLLEGE

www.oldham.ac.uk

**A great place
to learn**

With a wide range of courses to choose from, you could improve your job prospects, aim for higher education or simply enjoy learning a new skill.



HIGHER
EDUCATION
AT THE OLDHAM COLLEGE

For course enquiries and prospectus requests call
Freephone 0800 269 480



OLDHAM
BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT
SCHOOL

www.obms.ac.uk

**Maximise your
potential**

Oldham Business Management School offers Higher Education at Undergraduate, Degree, Higher National, NVQ and Professional Programmes levels. We take pride in offering courses that turn ambitions into successful careers quickly, professionally and affordably.

For further information call **0161 615 5050**



**WRIGLEY
CLAYDON**
SOLICITORS since 1795



John Armstrong, Clerk Of The Peace, Oldham and Lancashire rugby player, early pioneer of both Oldham Rugby Club and solicitors Armstrong, Whitticker and Ogden forerunners to today's Oldham RLFC solicitors Wrigley Claydon.

29/33 UNION STREET OLDHAM OL1 1HH
DX 23607 OLDHAM EMAIL EMAIL@wrigleyclaydon.com WEBSITE www.wrigleyclaydon.com
FAX 0161 624 3743 TEL 0161 624 6811

SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...

**Better
come and
see for
yourself**

Better.
www.ijustgotbetter.com

**FREE
DAY PASS**

at Better Health Club
for all Oldham Rugby Club's supporters

To claim your free pass call us on
0161 628 9897

Featherstall Road South, Oldham OL9 6HL

Please produce this advert at reception to claim your free day pass at Better Health Club. One advert per person.

In The News

Welcome to Blackpool for what all connected with the club hope will be a successful experiment. Last week was certainly a nail-biter in a game that most people had us winning before the game began. But alongside other results (Featherstone's slaughtering of Doncaster for example) you can take nothing for granted in this league. I thought Jon Goddard in his speech after getting the Man of the Match award after the game summed it up when he said, "Personally the first half was one of the worst performances I have been involved in and the second half one of the best." We had the record books out to see if Jon's hat trick was one of the fastest ever and it is certainly up there with the fastest. As far as we can find out the fastest ever, allegedly, was by David Watkins for Salford in 1972 against Barrow - 4 1/2 minutes. In more recent times Chris Thorman scored an hat trick in The Buddies Final two years ago with tries in the 3rd, 5th & 7th minutes. Jon's trio on Sunday, timed on the video came in 6 minutes 3 seconds and weren't they welcome?

Things really aren't getting any better on the injury front with Paul Southern aggravating his groin injury in the final seconds of training on the Friday before the match, "Molly" picking up a nasty neck injury and James Bunyan being forced to leave the field midway through the first half with a nagging back injury. We must keep our fingers crossed that the injuries aren't as bad as feared and all are able to play today along with Lee Marsh who hopefully will have got over the nasty dead leg he has been suffering with.

As with all things, positives come out of adversity and I would like to add my congratulations to Danny Nannyn who I thought had an excellent debut when coming on as sub last week. Danny wasn't called into the squad until Saturday morning and certainly couldn't have made his debut under more nerve racking conditions. I thought he did a sound job in attack and defence and it was very suitable that Chairman, Christopher Hamilton, singled him out as the winner of the Champagne Moment award. It must have been a very proud day for Danny and his family.

Still two more home matches to rearrange and we will let you know where they will be played as soon as possible, but it has been a very difficult task with re-seeding going on all over the area.

Can I finally draw your attention to Euro 2004 and, if you also watch the game with the round ball, why not see them on our Big Screen (without doubt the best in the area) at our Alfred St Social Club. Details of all matches being shown will be advertised but a definite is the first England game on Sunday 13 June 7-45 pm. So why not make it a full day of sport and travel to Keighley to watch us and then back to the club for the England game?

NM



TEXT YOUR MAN OF THE MATCH

Oldham RLFC is the first club in the National Leagues to set up a text messaging service for fans.

Launched TODAY. Fans can vote for their MAN OF THE MATCH and WIN A VIP DAY OUT AT THEIR CLUB & £50 CASH.

Just TEXT mom (space) Oldham (space) and the player's number to 89303

E.G. mom Oldham 9 (For Oldham fans)
or mom Batley 7 (For Batley fans)

You can vote up to midnight on the day of the game and the winner will be announced on the following Wednesday. (Winner chosen at random by computer from all entrants who chose most popular player)

The service will be used on an ongoing basis for further competitions and debates. Oldham RLFC will benefit financially from every text. Text costs £1.50 each.

Adamsons

CRASH REPAIR CENTRE

MOTOR BODY ACCIDENT REPAIR SPECIALISTS

Approved repairers to all
leading insurance companies

Telephone

0161 627 4001

0161 624 1904

Cross Street Bottom o'th Moor
Oldham OL4 1JG

24 HOUR RECOVERY SERVICE
• **QUALITY WORKMANSHIP ALWAYS** •

SADDLEWORTH SPORTS

93 CHEW VALLEY ROAD • GREENFIELD
OLDHAM • OL3 7JJ • 01457 872515
e-mail: sadsports@lycros.co.uk

GUMSHIELDS
STICK MITTS
KICKING TEES
RUGBY BALLS
TRAINING LADDERS

ARMGUARDS
HELMETS
PROTECTIVE VESTS
TACKLE BAGS
SHIELD CONE

**OLDHAM'S PREMIER STOCKIST
OF RUGBY KIT and EQUIPMENT**

COOGA
CANTERBURY
CLASSIC
OPTIMUM
PUMA
RUGBY-TECH
MITRE
CATRASPORT
HALBRO
WALSH

Oldham Labour Party continuing its support for OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

OFFICES

Michael Meacher MP
Oldham West & Royton

Lord Chambers
11 Church Street
Oldham OL1 3AN

0161 626 5779

David Heyes MP
Ashton-U-Lyne

Suite 4 St Michaels Court
St Michaels Sq
Ashton-under-Lyne
Oldham OL6 6XN
0161 331 9307

Phil Woolas MP
Oldham East & Saddleworth

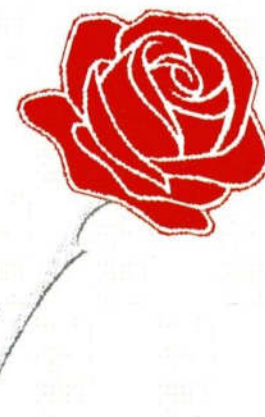
Lord Chambers
11 Church Street
Oldham OL1 3AN

0161 624 4248

Coun. David Jones
Leader Oldham Labour Group

Lord Chambers
11 Church Street
Oldham OL1 3AN

0161 628 8346





The
Roughyeds

£1 TO WIN OLDHAM RLFC THE TOWNS No1 LOTTERY

1st prize: **£300** EVERY WEEK GUARANTEED

2nd prize: **£100** EVERY WEEK GUARANTEED

runners-up prizes: **£10 x 5** EVERY WEEK GUARANTEED

Plus
JACKPOT ACCUMULATOR - Rising by £50 every week

Plus
**YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
£10,000**

A Donated Cash Prize

THE BIGGEST CASH PRIZE EVER OFFERED IN OLDHAM

DON'T MISS OUT - BE IN IT TO WIN

For further information contact David Bradshaw

**AUTOMATIC
PAYOUT**

0161 628 3677

**NO NEED
TO CLAIM**

REGISTERED WITH OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

TTX

www.ttexpress.co.uk

**WAREHOUSING
AND
DISTRIBUTION**

TT EXPRESS (Oldham) Ltd
Ward Street
Chadderton
Oldham
OL9 9EX

0161 628 5584



LTS
Landsowne Road
Chadderton
Oldham
OL9 9EF

Tel: 0161 626 1141
Fax: 0161 628 7078
www.ltshaulage.co.uk



**LOW LOADER HIRE
EXTENDABLE TRAILERS
ESCORTED LOADS**

LTS

ALLEN MILLS HOWARD & CO.

Chartered Certified Accountants & Registered Auditors

Supporting Oldham R.L.F.C in Oldham & Tameside

for all your accountancy, audit & taxation advice contact:

Hyde - Stephen Howard.....0161 - 366 6535

Ashton - John Mills/David Savidge 0161 - 339 6140

Failsworth - Peter Scholes 0161 -681 5600

Library Chambers, 48 Union Street, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 1ND

Telephone 0161 366 6535 Fax 0161 367 8584

AMH

AMH

NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



CLUBS TAKE TO THE ROAD

OLDHAM have taken a step into the unknown by staging this weekend's "home" LHF Healthplan NL1 game against Batley to Blackpool FC's Bloomfield Road.

It's not a new concept in Rugby League of course – in 1998 all Super League clubs were required to take at least one game to a new venue, a notion that was unfortunately ditched.

And London Broncos have frequently taken games "On the Road", the latest announcement confirming that the June 20 game with Hull will be staged at Leicester Tigers' Welford Road ground.

But the Roughyeds' move is a bold one, as it is not something National League clubs have done in recent history.

It has fallen on an opportune weekend for them – on the day before, top local amateur side Oldham St Annes play at the same ground in the BARLA GMB National Cup, against Cumbrians Wath Brow Hornets.

And the switch has also opened up the possibility of taking the National League Grand Finals to the seaside resort, at least if Blackpool FC commercial director Geoff Warburton has his voice heard.

"We would love to host the National League Grand Finals, and we think we could provide all the supporters of the clubs with a weekend to remember," Warburton told 'Rugby Leaguer & League Express'.

"In October you are in the illuminations

period, and we can guarantee that more supporters will want to follow their teams to Blackpool than to anywhere else. In football we find that most teams bring twice as many supporters to Blackpool as to other grounds, and I'm sure the same would apply with Rugby League.

"We would love to talk to the Rugby Football League about the prospect of coming here."

"On the Road" games can be hugely successful – or something of a disappointment – depending on how the clubs involved tackle the challenge.

Providing transport for current supporters is one major step forward – something the Roughyeds have already arranged, and without charge as well.

Also important is marketing the game in the local area, and attracting support from outside the traditional heartlands.

If those things are put in place, "On the Road" games can be a superb way to take the game to new audiences, or to re-ignite old League flames in places such as Blackpool.

Let's hope both Oldham and the Broncos' "On the Road" games achieve their objectives. If they do, extending the concept to other clubs could be something the RFL may wish to re-visit.

SENIOR ACADEMY



Danny Naryn on his first team call up.

First of all let me thank everyone who has given me support in taking this position, especially my wife Catherine, Ste Molloy for his backing and Chris Hamilton for the opportunity to get back into the professional arena. Also thanks to all those people who have welcomed me back to the club, either on the street, on the club website and at last week's game at Huddersfield and at Boundary Park. Its great to be back involved in the club that helped launch my own playing career.

The task ahead is not going to be easy and both the public and the club have to be patient, we have to evaluate what we have and put together a short term plan and also look to the future. The main point being is that the first team needs to be successful to attract interest in the town, and following that a lot of work has to be done in the background in bringing local talent to the club. This is where we need to build relationships with both the service area and the amateur teams, it will take time but if both parties can work together then we will

see the potential in Oldham coming through.

My first game in charge could not have been any harder, taking on Huddersfield, probably the favourites for the league, but I must say the effort from the lads was superb and the first half could have gone either way. The second half was all one way traffic as our lads tired against a very fit and powerful 17. As long as I get that level of commitment then it is up to me to develop the skill levels and game plan.

Let me finally add, congratulations to Danny Naryn on his first team call up, well deserved, and lets hope I can push more players through to the first team.

Thanks for the support

Mick Worrall

ORLFC ACADEMY FIXTURES 2004

17.04.04	Doncaster Dragons	H	12.30 pm	W	32-18
24.04.04	Huddersfield Giants	H	12.30 pm	L	24-50
01.05.04	Leigh Centurions	A	2.30 pm	L	42-0
08.05.04	Dewsbury Rams	H	2.30 pm	W	38-20
20.05.04	Huddersfield Giants	A	7.30 pm	L	46-12
27.05.04	Featherstone Rovers	A	7.30 pm		
02.06.04	Keighley Cougars	A	7.30 pm		
12.06.04	Leigh Centurions	H	2.30 pm		
16.06.04	Doncaster Dragons	A	7.30 pm		
26.06.04	Salford City Reds	H	2.30 pm		
03.07.04	Featherstone Rovers	H	2.30 pm		
08.07.04	Dewsbury Rams	A	7.30 pm		
29.07.04	Salford City Reds	A	7.30 pm		
14.08.04	Keighley Cougars	H	2.30 pm		

FOR THE GREATEST COVERAGE OF THE GREATEST GAME...

Rugby Leaguer & League Express

EVERY MONDAY

SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE: 01484 401895



...OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT totalrugbyleague.com

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	26-24	W	1243
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

MAN OF THE MATCH SPONSOR

TECHNIQUE
LABELS

Technique Labels Ltd
Hawthorn House
Helions Bumpstead Road
Suffolk CB9 7AA
England

TEL: 01440 765200

PROGRAMME SPONSOR

OLDHAM WEST AND
ROYTON CONSERVATIVE
ASSOCIATION

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT SPONSOR

WINOS OF OLDHAM
& EDDIE LUCKRAFT

Oldham RLFC fully support the **Let's tackle Racism in Rugby League** campaign and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable.

Allow everyone to enjoy the game.

You won't want to put it down.

The image shows a woman in a kitchen sink, holding a copy of the Oldham Advertiser newspaper. The newspaper features a headline 'NEWS INDUSTRY HONOUR FOR OLDHAM ADVERTISER' and a picture of a man. The woman is looking at the newspaper with interest. The sink is filled with water, and there are dishes in the background.

Oldham
Advertiser
IT'S ALL ABOUT OLDHAM
Your best weekly read - and that's official
NEWS INDUSTRY HONOUR FOR OLDHAM ADVERTISER
First and foremost we strive to produce a newspaper that serves our readers and advertisers, so to be recognised in this way by our peers in the newspaper industry is the ultimate accolade.

Oldham
Advertiser
IT'S ALL ABOUT OLDHAM
Your best weekly read - and that's official
NEWS INDUSTRY HONOUR

It's all about Oldham