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Tom Turton

Timekeeper

Peter Hilton

Photographer

Steve Uttley

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Club Patron

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FROM THE FRONT DESK.....



After having last week off its good to get back to the job of playing and hopefully winning rugby league matches.

Our last home match saw us defeat struggling Keighley 52-30 to move into third in the LHF Healthplan National League Division One, only adrift of first place Leigh Centurions on points difference.

Points difference could prove to be crucial come the end of the season so its good to know the lads have been doing extra defensive work this week after conceding some soft tries in the final quarter against Keighley.

Today we entertain Oldham, who have made a good start to the league season and are fifth at the moment 2 places and 2 points behind ourselves, which means it should be another cracker of a match to watch especially with Oldham wanting revenge for their Arriva Cup defeat here in April.

I made the short journey to Keighley to watch the Academy play last Wednesday. After a great recent run the lads were heavily beaten 52-12 after having a man sent off and 2 players sent to hospital, lets hope they got back to winning ways yesterday at home to Huddersfield Giants at Castle Park.

Finally this week I must congratulate Peter Green on making his 100th consecutive club appearance, well done Peter I hope you make many more appearances for the Dragons.

Welcome to all Directors, Officials, Players and Supporters from Oldham, have a safe journey home.

Looking forward to a clean and injury free game.

John Wright Chairman

DRAGONS' NEXT HOME MATCH

Our next home game will be in three weeks,
Sunday July 25th when we entertain Batley Bulldogs,
kick-off - 3pm.

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

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BLUE & GOLD SOCIETY

Good Afternoon and welcome to our fifth home game on the trot.

Today's opponents, for the second time this season, are Oldham Roughyeds. I'm sure they are going to give us a real test, but I doubt Singe and the players want to relinquish our 100% home league record.

Firstly a big thank you must go to everyone at the Trades and Labour Club for their hard work in recruiting new members over the last few weeks, your help is very much appreciated, and lets hope you don't stop there.

Trades and Labour's recent recruitment drive has seen their membership move over the 50 mark, so they are now entitled to 15% commission. Don't forget this is open to all agents, so lets get recruiting.

Congratulations to the recent winners of the Breathing Fire Club draws, N. Armstrong and J. Crowcroft, I hope you enjoy your prizes.

All that is left to say is, enjoy today's game, and I'll see down the Earl of Doncaster if you have any problems or queries.

David Margrave - Lottery Manager.

DONCASTER DRAGONS 52 KEIGHLEY COUGARS 30

Doncaster Dragons moved level on points with co-leaders Whitehaven and Leigh with a convincing victory over strugglers Keighley Cougars.

The Dragons, who are now well placed in the play-off race, started off strongly and were soon on the score sheet. Stand Off Graham Holroyd sent in Johnny Woodcock with a fine long range pass. Woodcock failed with the conversion, but made no mistake minutes later, converting Horne's try, who was also sent in by Holroyd. Holroyd was in the thick of the action at this stage and his excellent 40/20 gave Doncaster the platform to score their second try.

At this stage Doncaster led 10-0, which was the same margin that they led Rochdale the previous week, before taking their foot off the gas. But there was no sign of a drop in intensity this time, as the Dragons continued to dominate. Keighley's cause wasn't helped in the 16 minute when experienced prop Stevenson was sent off for a high tackle on Dragons prop Gareth Handford. Chris Hough then darted over from close range and when James Walker barged over 4 minutes later, things looked ominous for the Cougars.

With Woodcock in fine kicking form the score had moved to 22-0.

In the 34th minute Keighley opened their account with a excellent team try, they moved the ball out to left, where Beever did well to slip the inside ball to the supporting Mitchell who dived over out wide. Mitchell converted his own try to narrow the deficit to 16 points. But before halftime Peter Green was put through a gap by Craig Cook and normal service was resumed. Woodcock added the conversion, and the Dragons went in 28-6 to the good. Ex Doncaster back, Matty Foster, who made his debut for the Dons on Boxing day 1994 at the age of 17, scored a trademark try just after the re start. He jumped the highest to reach Matty Firth's cross field kick and touched down out wide. Mitchell again was successful with the kick. In the 48th minute, James Walker's second try ensured that there was only going to be one winner when he crashed over. Johnny Woodcock then scored the try of the game. Holroyd released Craig Horne who in turn, got his pass away to Woodcock who side-stepped his man and then dummied the full back to score beside the posts. The reliable Woodcock added both conversions. And on the hour mark Chris Hough, who had his best game for the club, picked up a loose ball and raced 40 metres to score, Woodcock converted and the Dragons led 46-12.

The last quarter must have been a disappointment for Dragons coach St John Ellis, as Keighley out scored Doncaster 3 tries to 1. Nipperess converted tries by Hoyle, D. Foster and Matty Foster's second. In between, Martin Moana marked his return to the club with a try, barging his way past at least four would be tacklers. Woodcock again added the conversion.

All in all this was another good performance, and the boys could now enjoy their blank weekend, before preparing for another stern test against Oldham Roughyeds today.



RAY GREEN

THE MARKET PLACE

Welcome to Belle Vue, today we entertain Oldham who we faced in the Arriva Trains Cup Play-offs recently and although we came out winners that day we will be taking nothing for granted.

We now have DVD's on sale of all recent matches including the Leigh and Hull KR victories so if you are interested then please contact us in the office or see myself, John or David in the Earl after the match.

The club also have a limited stock of genuine playing shirts for sale and at just a tenner each it's a great chance to own a real piece of Dragons history, but they are selling well so don't leave it too long.

Speaking of shirts we will be going back to kit manufacturer Kukri next season and after the Rochdale match we displayed some sample kit designs at the Earl, your opinions really do matter so let me know what you think.

This seasons play-off format has been decided and they begin on the 19th of September and you will find details below.

Welcome to all from Keighley.

Enjoy the game - Ray Green, Chief Executive

Week 1 Game A
Game B

Week 2 Game C
Game D

Week 3 Game E

Week 4 Grand Final

3rd vs 6th - loser eliminated

4th vs 5th - loser eliminated

1st vs 2nd - winner to Grand Final

winner A vs winner B - loser eliminated

loser C vs winner D - loser eliminated

winner C vs winner E

DONCASTER DRAGONS SUPPORTERS TRUST

ENSURING THE DRAGONS FUTURE IN THE SUPPORTERS HANDS

Many of the Dragons faithful have already signed up to the new Doncaster Dragons Supporters Trust as we all look to take our first step towards a greater involvement in the running and future of the Dragons. An encouraging number joined the trust on the opening day but we understand that not everyone would have been able to make the launch but would still like to join get involved in having a say in how your club is run. After today's home game and over the coming weeks representatives of the Trust Steering Group will be present at the Earl of Doncaster for people to sign up. And remember the more people that sign up the stronger the voice of the supporters will be.

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

Alternatively they can ask any of the steering group at the Earl after the game or at the ground; the current steering group, which has overseen the original phase of the trust are; Keith Needham (Chair), Geoff Bowen (Vice chair), Graham Daniel (Secretary), Penny Flintoff (Treasurer), Tracy Broughton (Membership Secretary) Rob Nash (Media, PR and Club Liaison), Keeley Thompson (Media, PR and Club Liaison), Darryl Hilton (Media, PR and Club Liaison), Frank Protheroe and Richard Saunders

The Trust Objectives

To strengthen the bonds between the community and Doncaster Dragons Rugby League Football Club (RLFC) in Doncaster and surrounding areas

To maintain and encourage the development of Rugby League at all levels irrespective of race, religion, colour, gender or ability in Doncaster and surrounding area

To encourage the club to take proper account of the interests of its supporters and of the community it serves in its decisions

To buy and hold shares in Doncaster Dragons RLFC or any company owning or controlling the club on behalf of all Trust members, with a view to securing a seat or seats on the Board of Doncaster Dragons RLFC

To seek and acquire a majority/sole shareholding in the club in pursuance of the objective above.

VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT...

It's good to be back home for this league encounter with Oldham and the lads have trained hard all week as we have gone back to four sessions.

We are on the turn round now and are looking for an edge, which will see us gain another victory over Oldham as we have beaten them already once this season.

They are a big, physical side and will come at us for the full eighty minutes so we will need to have prepared well. We are at home and with being just two points behind we need to concentrate on winning our home games.

Next week will be tough as we travel to Hull Kingston Rovers and it is the start of what is a tough month for us. We have added to the playing staff and I would like to welcome Martin Moana, who fitted in straight away in our last game, back to the club for his second stint.

I know we can score tries but what I am more worried about is our defensive prowess.

We sometimes stand off teams and allow them to score - it's something we have to work on. This was so against Keighley, where we had the game won comfortably but allowed them to come back in the latter stages. Having said that the spirit in the camp is very high but we have to continue to play for the full eighty minutes.

There will be further additions to the squad and it will mean players will have to stand up and be counted in each and every game. If they under perform there is always someone there to knock them off. Team selection will always be difficult and will always depend on players performing top the highest quality.

The work ethics at the club are great and to gain promotion to Super League isn't just a pipe dream we can make it a reality. We are almost at full strength except for Chris Hemmings so all in all things are going well but they can always get better.

SINGE

DRAGONS' MILESTONES - DRAGONS' MILESTONES

Peter Green needs 8 points to reach 100 points for the club. **Craig Lawton** needs 20 points to reach 100 points for the club. **Dean Colton** needs 20 points to reach 100 points for the club. **Matt Walker** needs 3 appearances to reach 50 for the club.

James Walker needs 4 appearances to reach 50 for the club.

DRAGONS AGAINST RACISM

Doncaster Dragons welcomes all players and supporters, irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants or comments are totally unacceptable. Any supporter using abusive language will be removed from the ground and banned from future fixtures.

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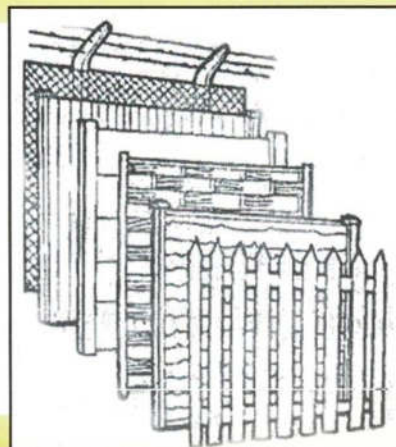
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HALF-TIME QUIZ

1. Which National League 1 Club do Leroy Joe and Aaron Lester play for ?

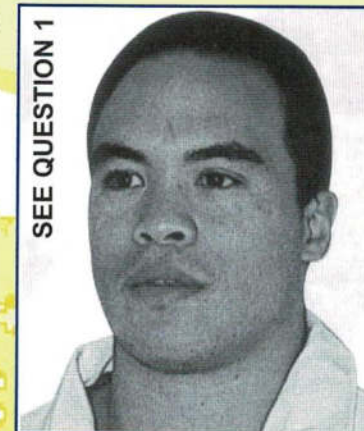
2. Former Gateshead and Wigan scrum half, Willie Peters has joined which Super League Club ?

3. At which ground did Oldham play their recent 'home' fixture against Whitehaven ?

4. Which Supermarket chain sponsors Wakefield Trinity Wildcats ?

5. From which Super League Club did the Dragons sign Martin Moana ?

SEE QUESTION 1



BREATHING FIRE MEMBERSHIP CLUB

Currently Breathing Fire Club membership is as follows:-

Full members:

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

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

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

Pensioner members:

M.A. Caswell

D. McGlone

J.B. Herbert

Associate members:

Gary Fox

Dragons Club:

Mrs Walters

Mr Walters

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

TODAY'S VISITORS...

JON GODDARD

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

WILL COWELL

Cowell has played 18 times in Super League for Warrington Wolves, mostly as a substitute. The 22-year-old Cumbrian, a product of that prolific provider of rugby league players, Kells, he left Wilderspool permanently to join Oldham originally on a one-year contract which he has recently extended for another year. He plays full-back, wing or centre, preferring full-back his chances to impress the coach will probably be as a winger or centre. Former Warrington coach Daryl van de Velde, spoke well of Cowell before the youngster was invited to join the Roughyeds.

JAMES BUNYAN

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

PAT RICH

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

NICKY JOHNSON

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

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

Nick is a winger and was a member of the Bradford Academy team which won the Super League Academy Championship.

An Oldham lad he is keen to play for his own town team.

NEIL RODEN

Signed from his own town club Wigan, the son of Wigan's chief scout now has the scrum half jersey to himself, after winning the accolade of Players Player of the Year in 2002.

He has shown improvement in the three seasons with the Roughyeds and is one of the best scrum-halves outside Super League.

IAN WATSON

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

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

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

STEVE MOLLOY

The vastly experienced Steve Molloy hails from Oldham and is an ex England captain. Molloy who signed for his second spell at Oldham from Batley Bulldogs was the obvious choice as player coach when the previous coach left mid season 2002.

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

KEITH BRENNAN

Keith is a product of Amateur Rugby League in the Oldham area, playing for both Higginshaw and Shaw Rhinos before signing for his home town club. Scrum half is his preferred position but he has filled in in many positions, most notably as hooker whilst deputising for John Hough.

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

PAUL SOUTHERN

Experienced prop forward Paul Southern was also signed from local rivals Rochdale Hornets.

Paul who is 27 years old has been signed on a twelve month contract. He will be renewing acquaintances with Iain Marsh, Simon Svabic and Ian Watson who he has played with in his spells at Salford and Rochdale.

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

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

DANE MORGAN

Dane is a leviathan of a man, standing at 6'5" and weighing around 17 and a half stones, the second row or prop forward has a brilliant pedigree. He has played for North Sydney and was a try scoring member of the World Club Championship winners Melbourne Storm who beat St Helens for the title.

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

GAVIN JOHNSON

A back row forward who can also fill in at centre or wing, Oldhamer, Gavin spent two seasons at Odsal in the Bradford Academy side and made the occasional appearance for the Bulls in the Alliance Championship. Spent almost a season earning his Oldham spurs in the Alliance team.

MARTIN McLOUGHLIN

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

MARTIN ELSWOOD

Local, 20 year old second row or centre Martin Elswood was signed from Super League club Huddersfield Giants. Martin who was on the verge of a first team call up last season when Steve Molloy first looked at him with regard to strengthening his squad for the run in to the play offs, but sadly injury dashed his chances, Steve opted instead for Craig McDowell.

At around 6'4" and 16st Martin has power as well as pace. He is eager to further his career and for this reason wants to get some first team rugby under his belt. Martin was brought up on a strong rugby background at North Chadderton school and progressed through the Royton Tigers youth set up.

SIMON SVABIC

Simon joined Oldham from the Leigh Centurions at the end of the 2002 campaign, although his career started in Oldham with the now defunct Bears.

A stand off half of great guile, will be an important play maker in the Roughyeds armoury for this year.

OLDHAM

PHIL FARRELL

Phil is in his fourth season at Oldham and is the club captain. Played a lot of his rugby with Oldham at second row but it looks like he will fit into the loose forward role this season, a position his older brother Andy fills for Wigan. One of the youngest captains in the league, he will not be phased by the responsibility.

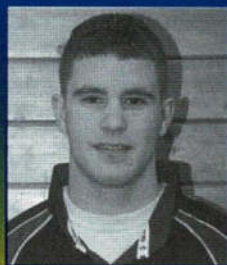


STEVE MOLLOY

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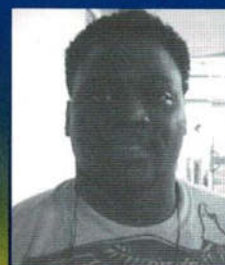
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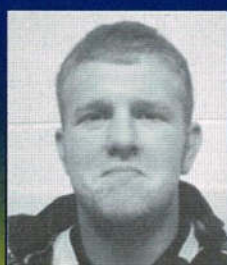
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DONCASTER DRAGONS FIXTURES 2004

ARRIVA TRAINS CUP

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

POWERGEN CHALL CUP - 4th ROUND

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

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

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

12th	Halifax (Easter Mon) A	W 20-38
18th	Hull K.R. H	W 27-14
25th	Oldham ATC QUALIFIER H	W 32-28

May		
2nd	Batley Bulldogs A	L 28-20
9th	Whitehaven H	W 31-24
23rd	Featherstone Rovers A	L 44-18
30th	Leigh Centurions H	W 19-14

June		
6th	Hull K.R. ATC - QF H	L 28-50
13th	Rochdale Hornets H	W 38-18
20th	Keighley Cougars H	W 52-30

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

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

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

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BIG BROTHER'S LITTLE BROTHERS

BY GARETH WALKER OF RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

Few Rugby League players can have gone through the trials of Paul and Neil Thorman to play the game they love.

Permanent fixtures at the most traumatised club of recent years, Gateshead Thunder, the brothers have battled against adversity throughout their careers.

From being junior players at the ill-fated Super League Thunder to members of the virtual Academy side that helped the club battle through the second half of 2002, the Thormans have seen their local club stutter from one disaster to another.

But, spurred on by the amazing success story of elder brother Chris, who left his North East roots at 16 and has gone on to be one of only two Englishmen currently playing in the NRL, Paul and Neil continue to follow their League dreams.

They are mainstays, and stand-outs, of a Thunder side in the midst of a record losing run at present. And with mum Phyllis a key figure in keeping the club going during its darkest hours - at least until a recent acrimonious boardroom departure, - they are something of a Geordie version of the Mylers or Sullivans, a mini-Rugby League dynasty.

It's certainly been a roller coaster ride.

"Thunder wouldn't be Thunder without a few incidents throughout the season," says Paul.

"We've come to expect it really - it's been a bit of a soap opera."

Neil stresses that he has never considered quitting the game altogether, despite the constant tribulations at Thunder, though Paul, slightly more experienced and having gone through a couple more ordeals than his brother, admits it "crossed his mind" a couple of times.

Both are now keen to further their League careers, and have aspirations of following Chris into both Super League and the NRL. There have been approaches from other clubs in the past - both as a pair and individually - though their studies in Newcastle made staying in the area the more sensible option.

But if the duo did come to leave, what would the future hold for the club?

"I think the Super League season showed there is scope to have a successful professional Rugby League team here," Paul adds.

"It's just that no-one's come up with the formula of how to work it yet, how to finance it, where to get the playing personnel.

"People are still fiddling with it and trying to make it work, and hopefully one day they'll come up with something that works."

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DRAGONS' NEWS...

Welcome to Belle Vue.

The Academy team's three match winning run came to a sudden halt when they travelled to Keighley last Wednesday evening.

The Dragons started brightly and despite losing Steve Smith to a red card they led 12-10 at the interval, but it was all one way traffic in the second half and 44 unanswered points condemned the Dragons to a 54-12 defeat.

Another cause for concern was both Wayne Southgate and Shaun Colton ending up in hospital, I wish both lads a speedy recovery.

Our next home match is on Thurs 29th July, hope to see you there.

Keep cheering, **John Garside** - Academy Manager

ACADEMY FIXTURES 2004 SEASON

Oldham v Doncaster Dragons	Sat 17th April k-o 12.30	lost 36-18
Featherstone v Doncaster Dragons	Thurs 22nd April k-o 7.30	lost 46-18
Doncaster Dragons v Keighley Cougars Sponsored by Mallard Supporters Branch	Sat 1st May k-o 2.30	won 30-27
Huddersfield Giants v Doncaster Dragons	Sat 8th May k-o 2.30	lost 44-26
Doncaster Dragons v Featherstone Sponsored by Mallard Supporters Branch	Sat 22nd May k-o 2.30	won 35-18
Leigh Centurians v Doncaster Dragons	Sat 29th May k-o 2.30	lost 50-36
Dewsbury Rams v Doncaster Dragons	Thurs 3rd June k-o 7.30	won 23-16
Doncaster Dragons v Salford City Reds Sponsored by the No Joes	Sat 12th June k-o 2.30	won 39-24
Doncaster Dragons v Oldham Sponsored by Paul & Janet Margrave	Weds 16th June k-o 7.30	won 46-15
Keighley Cougars v Doncaster Dragons	Weds 23rd June k-o 7.30	lost 54-12
Doncaster Dragons v Huddersfield Giants Sponsored by Needhams Motorcycles	Sat 3rd July k-o 2.30	
Salford City Reds v Doncaster Dragons	Thurs 8th July k-o 7.30	
Doncaster Dragons v Dewsbury Rams Sponsored by the Mallard Supporters Branch	Sat 31st July k-o 2.30	
Doncaster Dragons v Leigh Centurians Sponsored by Pipers Car sales	Weds 11th Aug k-o 7.30	

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

SENIOR ACADEMY U21 FIRST DIVISION

Team	Played	Won	D	L	For	Against	Diff	Points
LEIGH CENTURIONS	10	10	0	0	503	134	369	20
SALFORD CITY REDS	10	8	0	2	336	211	125	16
HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS	9	7	0	2	428	226	202	14
DONCASTER DRAGONS	10	5	0	5	283	330	-47	10
FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	8	3	0	5	246	248	-2	6
KEIGHLEY COUGARS	10	2	0	8	177	350	-173	4
OLDHAM	10	2	0	8	151	404	-253	4
DEWSBURY RAMS	9	1	0	8	160	381	-221	2

DOWN MEMORY LANE

A FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN THE COURTROOM

When John Sheridan first came to the Dons as coach it was often a struggle to get enough players to travel to any distant mid week away fixtures.

On one occasion, the fixture in question was a Friday night match at Barrow in Furness and John had just about managed to find enough players to travel but he had a problem with winger, Mark Roache.

Mark was willing to play but couldn't be at Tattersfield for 1.00pm to board the team bus - the reason was because he was due to appear at Doncaster Magistrates Court at 2.00pm on the day of the match.

John Sheridan asked me if I was going to Barrow in my car and if I was would I be willing to take Roachey up to Barrow?

After a discussion with Mark who assured us both that the hearing was just a formality and he would be out of court by 2.30pm it was agreed that I would meet him at court at 1.45 pm and wait for his case to be heard, then drive him up to Barrow and arrive in plenty of time for the 7.30pm kick off.

The Dons physio, Don Brookes said he would come to court with me and Roachey and travel with us up to Barrow. The three of us met up as arranged at the court at 1.45pm and again Mark said 'it's just a formality, I will be out by 2.30pm.'

He then left Don and myself and went to speak with his probation officer who happened to be former Great Britain Rugby League International David Barends. Just after 2.00pm Roachey's name was called and he disappeared into court number two.

I turned to Don and said everything is running on time, we'll be on our way in half an hour. 3 o'clock came and went - no sign off Roachey. 3.15pm - still no sign - by 3.30pm Don and I were getting anxious!

Suddenly David Barends appeared from the court room and we asked him what was happening?

'It's looking grim for Mark,' came the reply. 'But I'm trying my hardest for him.' and he went back into the court room.

At 3.45pm Roachey appeared with a huge grin on his face and said, "Come on you two, lets get off up to Barrow."

We raced away up the M62 & M6 and arrived at Craven Park at five to seven, giving Roachey just enough time to get on the team sheet.

We lost the game by 50 odd points and Roachey was due to appear in court the following week again as David Barends had managed to get the case against him adjourned for seven days... just a formality.

BENTLEY GOOD COMPANIONS

Bentley Good Companions are trying to start under 8's and under 9's team for the forthcoming season, anyone interested should contact Gareth on 01302 788078

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

THE MALLARD SUPPORTERS BRANCH

Welcome to our visitors from Oldham for this LHF Healthplan National League One match.

This will be Oldham's second visit to Belle Vue this year, the teams having met in an Arriva Trains National League Cup Play-off match in April with the Dragons running out narrow winners by 32 points to 28.

On behalf of the Branch, I would like to wish speedy recoveries to Shaun Colton and Wayne Southgate who were both injured in the recent away Under 21

(Academy) match at Keighley. Both players required visits to hospital and at the time of writing these notes it was unclear how serious the injuries are. Hopefully, it won't be too long before they're able to resume playing. The next Branch Meeting will take place at The Mallard Public House, Cusworth Lane on Tuesday 13 July 2004 with future meetings unless advised otherwise on the second Tuesday of each month.

GARY FOX (Branch Secretary)

THORNE SUPPORTERS

Hello again, welcome to another home game at Belle Vue.

At least we have had a week off to recharge the batteries and for me to think of something new to put in this column.

Crowds at home games continue to disappoint, supporters have been asked to display match day posters in pubs, clubs, workplaces and cars so we can spread the word.

Lets hope we keep our undefeated home record today and take a big following to Hull next weekend.

**Next Thorne Branch Meeting
8pm Tuesday 13th July at the
Canal Tavern, Thorne .**

Todays mascot is Stephen Dunn. Stephen is 7 years old and attends Dunsville Primary and his favourite players are Johnny Woodcock and Marlon Billy. Have a great day with the Dragons Stephen.

DONCASTER GAMES

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AWAY TRAVEL

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

TODAY'S HALF-TIME QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Whitehaven
2. Widnes Vikings
3. Victory Park, Chorley
4. Sainsburys
5. Salford City Reds



WHO THE HELL WAS ST. GEORGE ANYWAY?

Good afternoon once again for what is remarkably our 5th consecutive home game. I'm not saying I don't like the old place in all its dilapidated glory but it is nice to go on the road and visit the highs and lows of rugby league venues from time to time.

Talking of lows don't forget we're at Hull KR next week for, presumably, the kind of warm welcome you can only get in what was described recently as "The worst place in Britain"; they seem to like it though. Word of warning, I have been tipped off by a Hull KR friend (of sorts) that not all the bars have been open this year so getting served may be a little harder should any of you require a soft drink or salted peanuts (I assume none of you use rugby as an excuse for a drink on a Sunday?). Alcoholism and bar snacks aside it would be a very nice game to win next week to complete our first league double of the season, something that I was sure I wouldn't be saying at the beginning of the season.

Anyway before I look ahead too much, today we take on Oldham for the first time since we managed to knock them out of the Arriva Trains Cup... some good that did us in the end...and a team I can honestly say look to be one of the best we have played so far this year and who have started looking better in recent weeks after a relatively slow start. Oldham, like us, seem to be scoring a lot of points and conceding more than they would probably like so we can maybe expect a high scoring point fest today, although after I've said that we'll probably get to witness the extravaganza that is a 6 - 2 thriller...which I'd take now as a win if it was offered. Hopefully whatever the result today we won't have the same post match speech farce we seem to have every time we play Oldham for one reason or another. Looking further a field on Wednesday it was the Sport Relief day to find Rugby League's fastest man, obviously this was written before hand so I don't know who won (so at least we know who ever won isn't fast enough to go back in time, cause that would be ludicrous and frowned upon) but I understand China was our representative so hope it all went well China. I see the Keighley representative was former Dons man Max Tomlinson which doesn't really bode well for the Cougars I wouldn't have though, and the only team not to have supplied a name as I write this is Sheffield. Presumably Mark Aston and Jon Bruce are arguing over who gets to do it for them, (and before anyone suggests it, no the race isn't down hill).

Si thee - Jemmo

ON THE ROAD WITH THE DRAGONS

The Dragons next away match is next Sunday, July 11th when they visit Hull Kingston Rovers. Directions to Craven Park:

Follow the M62 all the way eastwards along the the A63 and the Clive Sullivan Way towards Hull city centre. Carry straight on through traffic lights as you reach the centre (the Marina is on your right). Go over the road bridge and carry on straight down Hedon Road over the next three roundabouts. At the fourth, turn left into Marfleet Lane again going over a road bridge and down to the next set of lights. At crossroads turn right into Preston Road, the ground is on your right.

John Wright congratulates Dragons' captain Craig Lawton following his side's South Yorkshire Cup victory in March



PROMOTION A MUST

LHF National League One joint leaders Doncaster Dragons must win promotion to Super League if the club are to move forward, according to their outspoken Chairman, John Wright.

The Dragons, who have beaten all the big guns in the League at home, are only averaging gates of around 1,000, which according to Wright, is about half the crowd required for the club to be self supporting.

"Since I took over the reins at the club in 2001, we have tried everything to attract the Rugby League supporters in the town, but nothing seems to work. I can only conclude that the last financial disaster was one too many, and that the people have lost belief in the club completely.

A question I am often asked is why I am putting so much money into the club, as if I had to have some sort of angle, or gain to make. The truth is, I am a Rugby League fanatic, and I feel it a great honour to be trusted with the fortunes of the Doncaster Dragons. I also firmly believe that everything is right at Doncaster for success to happen, with the new stadium and a great catchment area for support on the doorstep. I don't want anyone to think my comments are about finance, they are not. I am backing the club financially, and will continue to do so for as long as is required.

The hard facts appear to be that the Rugby League supporters of Doncaster have had enough of being losers, and who can blame them. It is my job to make the Dragons winners, and I know I can. That is why promotion is a must," says Wright.

The Dragons have already beaten odds on promotion favourites Leigh and second favourites Whitehaven at home in the League, and if they can carry that form with them away, promotion looks a real possibility.

Despite his disappointment with the gates, the Chairman signed loose forward Martin Moana from Super League club Salford last week, so it looks as though he clearly believes that 2004 will be the year of the Dragons.

IN TOUCH...

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE WORLD OF RUGBY LEAGUE

Hull KR and Leigh Centurions emerged triumphant in last Sunday's Arriva Trains National League Cup Semi Finals and will now meet at Rochdale's Spotland ground on Sunday 18 July 2004.

Hull KR were comfortable 32-0 home winners over injury-hit York City Knights who thus far had been the surprise package of the tournament.

A number of former Dragons were on show at Craven Park with the Robins seventeen including Marvin Golden, Lynton Stott and Paul Mansson as well as one-time loanee Dean Andrews and the Knights fielding Craig Forsyth. The other Semi Final at Whitehaven's Recreation Ground was a much closer affair with visitors Leigh Centurions relying on a late Tommy Martyn try to secure a 34-30 victory in the clash between the teams currently first and second in NL1.

For the Dragons, the return of Martin Moana may prove to be another piece in the jigsaw which enables the Club to achieve a top half finish in National League One and entry into the end of season play-offs.

Chairman John Wright has gone on record as saying that if the Club is to move forward it must win promotion to Super League as the current crowds are effectively half of that which is required for the Club to be self-supporting (see opposite page). Moana is a player with top level experience and it is possible that another such player may yet join the Dragons as John and Coach St John Ellis continue to improve the squad for a difficult second half to the season. Most of the fancied sides in our division have been to Belle Vue and have been beaten but the next six weeks could make or break the Dragons season with visits to Hull KR, Whitehaven and Leigh Centurions as well as home fixtures against Batley Bulldogs and Featherstone Rovers providing an extremely tough schedule.

The Under 21s (Academy) had been enjoying a winning run until visiting Keighley Cougars recently in a midweek fixture. In what must go down as 'a bad day at the office' the side including a number of fringe first teamers was beaten 54-12 after having one player sent off and another sin-binned early in the game. Sadly, two players suffered injuries which required them to seek hospital treatment, Wayne Southgate was stretchered off and taken to Keighley Hospital early in the first half and Shaun Colton attended Doncaster Royal Infirmary after severe swelling to his leg after the game. It is hoped that these two promising young players will be fit to continue playing the game they obviously enjoy so much in the very near future.

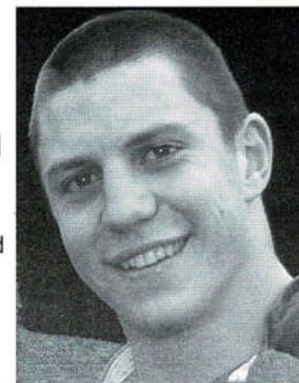
Breaking News... Sheffield Eagles Jack Howieson has been banned for four matches for punching an opponent in an off-the-ball incident which occurred towards the end of the Eagles match at Hunslet on June 13. The victim Shaun Ibbetson did not play in the Hawks next fixture against Gateshead a week later.

Enjoy your Rugby League - GARY FOX

100 CONSECUTIVE GAMES FOR GREEN

Peter Green (pictured) made his 100th consecutive appearance for the Dragons against Rochdale.

This marvelous achievement puts head and shoulders above any other player who has donned the blue and gold strip when it comes to consecutive appearances. For the record David Noble played 92 consecutive games and Kevin Jones 79, two great efforts that have been passed by the Doncaster born Second Rower. Lets hope there are many more to come.



PLAYER STATS - 2004

PLAYER	A	S	T	G	D	PTS
TONY ATTER	0	3	0	0	0	0
MARLON BILLY	19	1	13	0	0	52
LIAM BRENTLEY	2	4	2	0	0	8
TOM BUCKENHAM	0	4	1	0	0	4
DEAN COLTON	13	4	8	0	0	32
SHAUN COLTON	0	0	0	0	0	0
CRAIG COOK	19	0	4	0	0	16
JASON EAGLE	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAMIE FIELDEN	4	1	0	0	0	0
ANDY FISHER	12	0	1	0	0	4
WAYNE FROST	0	0	0	0	0	0
PETER GREEN	21	0	2	0	0	8
WAYNE GREEN	5	1	3	0	0	12
GARETH HANDFORD	15	1	3	0	0	12
CHRIS HEMMINGS	2	9	0	0	0	0
GRAHAM HOLROYD	20	0	10	72	1	185
CHRIS HOUGH	15	5	6	0	2	26
CRAIG LAWTON	17	0	4	0	0	16
SHAUN LEAF	15	2	6	0	0	24
JASON LEE	6	0	4	0	0	16
GARETH LLOYD	12	0	5	0	0	20
CRAIG MILES	4	0	5	0	0	20
ALEX MUFF	12	8	6	0	0	24
MARTIN OSTLER	13	1	2	0	0	8
P.J. SOLOMON	18	0	7	0	0	28
MARTIN SYKES	0	1	0	0	0	0
KRIS TASSELL	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAMES WALKER	1	13	2	0	0	8
MATT WALKER	6	12	3	0	0	12
JOHNNY WOODCOCK	16	1	8	23	0	78
CARL STANNARD	0	7	0	0	0	0
CRAIG HORNE	4	3	2	0	0	8
CARL SAYER	0	2	0	0	0	0
DANIEL GRIMSHAW	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS			107	95	3	621

TODAY'S TEAMS DRAGONS OLDHAM

JOHNNY WOODCOCK	1	JON GODDARD
DEAN COLTON	2	GAVIN DODD
CRAIG HORNE	3	JAMES BUNYAN
PJ SOLOMON	4	PAT RICH
MARLON BILLY	5	NICK JOHNSON
GRAHAM HOLROYD	6	SIMON SVABIC
CHRIS HOUGH	7	IAN WATSON
GARETH HANDFORD	8	MARTIN McLOUGHLIN
CRAIG COOK	9	KEITH BRENNAN
MARTIN OSTLER	10	DANE MORGAN
CRAIG LAWTON	11	LEE DORAN
PETER GREEN	12	PHIL FARRELL
MARTIN MOANA	13	LEE MARSH
SUBS:		SUBS:
MATT WALKER	14	JOHN HOUGH
JAMES WALKER	15	IAN MARSH
WAYNE GREEN	16	MARTIN ELSWOOD
ALEX MUFF	17	STEVE MOLLOY
COACH: ST. JOHN ELLIS		COACH: STEVE MOLLOY

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE
PETER TABERNER
(WIGAN)

TOUCH JUDGES:
DARREN TURTLE
& GERRY HODGSON

FOURTH OFFICIAL:
MATTHEW KIDD

MATCH COMMISSIONER:
PAUL CRASHLEY

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