

T G DG

[illegible]

Neil Turley	1	Jon Goddard
Dan Potter	2	Gavin Dodd
Danny Halliwell	3	Iain Marsh
Ben Cooper	4	Pat Rich
Rob Smyth	5	Nick Johnson
John Duffy	6	Simon Syabic
Tommy Martyn	7	Ian Watson
Simon Knox	8	Paul Southern
Paul Rowley	9	Keith Brennan
Matt Sturm	10	Dane Morgan
David Larder	11	Lee Doran
Oliver Wilkes	12	Phil Farrell
Ian Knott	13	Lee Marsh
Dave McConnell	14	John Hough
Willie Swann	15	Gareth Barber
Richard Marshall	16	Gavin Johnson
Heath Cruckshank	17	Martin McLoughlin

Referee: Mr R Silverwood
Touch Judges: Mr D Winstanley & Mr P Brooks
4th Official: Mr I Jefferson

T G DG

[illegible]

Today's Mascots

lake Stradin

Sophie Stradin

Jamie Abram

Jordan Clegg

Age

10yrs

8yrs

4yrs

6 Yrs

School

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Tommy Martyn

Tommy Martyn

Paul Rowley, Neil Turley

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v oldham**

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'O Leigh O Leigh O Leigh' — Arriva Trains Cup Winners 2004 — fantastic. Congratulations to Darren Abram and his team for the manner in which they executed the game last Sunday. It was a truly professional performance by the team and credit to Darren for getting the club into the position we are now in — Arriva Cup Winners and top of the table.

Today we will be getting back down to the business of ensuring we reach our next target that is the end of season play offs and a place in the Grand Final. The team are focused and ready for the final seven weeks of the league campaign, Darren has the squad that we feel can take us to Super League — so avoiding injuries and continuing to play like we have done lets hope we will once again be celebrating in October.

I would like to welcome Chris Hamilton and Steve Molloy to the Coliseum today. Oldham have been playing at Chorley for a couple of weeks whilst work has been carried out at Boundary Road. They have played some good rugby recently, however I hope today we put a temporary stop to their game and collect two points.

I know every week we mention how fantastic the support has been from you this season, but last Sunday you really were a credit to the Club, to Leigh and to yourself. We as a club were so proud of you — thank you.

One final note that I will add is how great was it to see Tommy Sale on the pitch at half time receiving his award from the RFL. I know Tommy's immediate family were at the game and how proud they were but also his extended family — me, you and all the other Leigh fans and staff, were just as proud. On Wednesday Tommy celebrated his 86th Birthday as well, Happy Birthday Tommy.

Enjoy the game and we will look forward to our next game at home, which will be on Sunday 1st August against Rochdale.

Regards

Derek Beaumont
Executive Director

MATCH VOUCHER

#10 (v Oldham)

25/07/2004

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Championship Winners 1905-06 • Division One Championship Winners 1981-82 • Division Two Championship Winners 1977-78, 1985-88, 1988-89 • Challenge Cup Winners 1920-21 1970-71 • Lancashire Cup Winners 1952-53, 1955-58, 1970-71, 1981-82 • Lancashire Cup Beaten Finalists 1905-08, 1909-10, 1920-21, 1922-23, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1963-64, 1969-70
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• Trans-Pennine Cup Winners 2001

MATCH RECORDS Goals: 15 by Mick Stacey v Doncaster 28/3/76
Tries: 6 by Jack Wood v York 4/10/47 & Neil Turley v Workington 31/1/01 Points: 38 by John Woods v Ryedale York 12/1/92 • **WORLD RECORD** Tries in a season by a Full Back: 55 by Neil Turley 2000-01
• **SEASON RECORDS** Goals: 173 by Chris Johnson 1985-88 Tries: 55 by Neil Turley 2000-01 Points: 400 by Chris Johnson 1985-88 • **CAREER RECORDS** Goals: 1,043 by Jim Ledgerd 1948-58 Tries: 189 by Mick Martyn 1954-67: Points: 2,492 by John Woods 1976-85, 1990-92 **RECORD APPEARANCES** 503 by Albert Worrall 1921-35, 1936-38 **BIGGEST WIN** 92-2 v Keighley 30/4/86
HIGHEST ATTENDANCE 31,224 v St Helens 14/3/53

LEIGH CENTURIONS CLUB OFFICIALS

Hon Life President: Mr Tommy Sale
Life Member: Brian Bowman
Hon Chairman: Mr Andy Burnham MP
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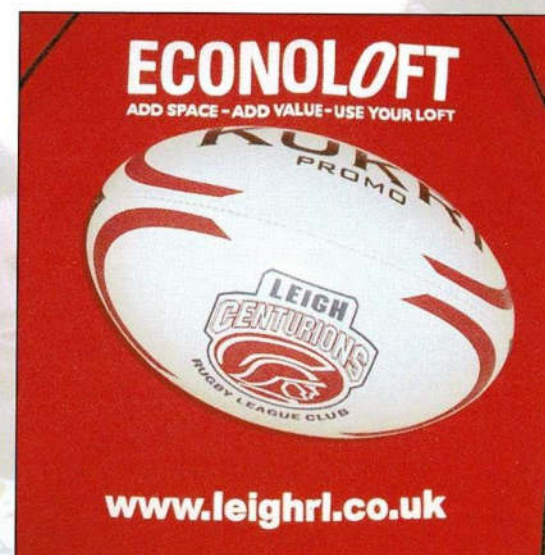
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£250	No 3982	J Ramsdale
£100	No 10934	C Libeteri
£50	No 1743	M Summers
£50	No 2543	D Benson
£10	No 6769	D Wyley
£10	No 5905	M Hilton
£5	No 2208	S Mitchell
£5	No 4122	D Gill
£5	No 5856	A Rogers
£5	No 8176	R Roberts
£5	No 2853	J Fairhurst
£5	No 455	K Hadden

Winners will be notified week beginning Monday 19th July

Messages

Happy Birthday from all his friends to Tommy Sale who was 86 last Wednesday.

Joyce Williams - Hope you have a great day on your birthday, you are a very special mum, wife and nanna to us all. Love you lots from Terry, Bev, Ian, Jake, Sophie, Paul and Dan.



Jim Carmichael-Prince We hope you recover quickly from your recent illness.

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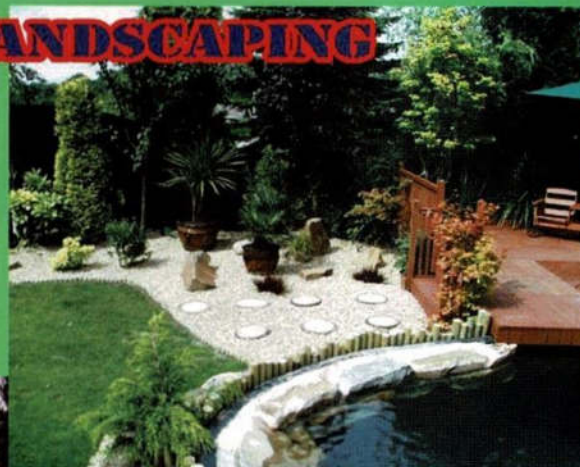


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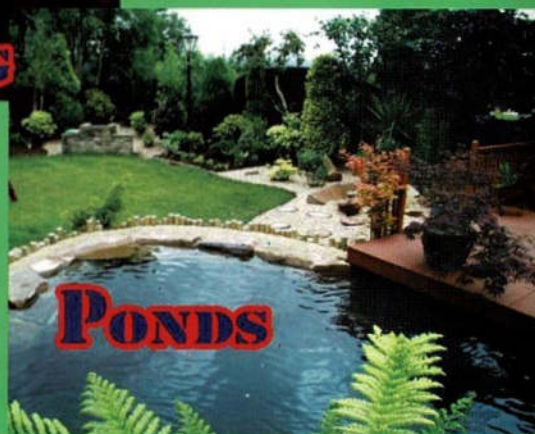
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Here's a match report from the away game on the 2/5/04, Leigh beating Oldham 60-20.

THE Centurions appear to be over their opening day upset at Whitehaven. Now, just three games into the National League One season, they've moved ominously into third place and already are the division's top scorers.

But they were given a helping hand by Oldham who had two players dismissed as tempers boiled over on the Boundary Park sunshine.

Oldham's 100 per cent league record was immediately put on the line when Aussie second rower Dane Morgan was red carded in the 26th minute for an off the ball punch on Simon Knox. At that point they were only 12-8 behind but by the break Leigh were in total command at 18-8.

When Ian Watson became the second Oldham player dismissed, this time for a head butt on Paul Rowley, Leigh were cruising at 42-16. With Oldham stretched to breaking point, Leigh killed them off with three more tries.

As well as enjoying a runaway win, Leigh were able to welcome back long term injury casualties Richard Marshall and Willie Swann. Marshall had a fine game in the front row and Swann came off the bench to score one try himself and set up two more. John Duffy gave Leigh a flying start with a try inside two minutes with Neil Turley landing the first of 10 goals. The first of Nick Johnson's two tries and a Pat Rich conversion levelled matters before a Rich penalty put Oldham ahead.

Marshall scored from close in to restore Leigh's advantage and after Morgan had gone, Turley and Tommy Martyn touched down for a 24-8 half time lead. Johnson scored again to make it 24-12 before a burst of three tries in five minutes from Duffy, and Chris Percival (2), had Leigh well clear. Untidy defensive work let Oldham in twice through Farrimond and Farrell before Leigh provided the final gloss with tries from Swann, Radney Bowker and Steve Maden in the last six minutes.

Jon Goddard

Aged 20, Goddard came to Oldham on loan in the 2002 season on the high recommendation of Graham Steadman, Castleford boss. Goddard 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 has played three times in Super League, against Wakefield at home two seasons before last and against Bradford and London, both away, in 2001.

Although a young novice when first thrown into the first team he has developed well and made the transission from a full back to a very competent centre.

Gavin Dodd

The former Royton Tigers youngster, who later had a spell with Bradford Bulls academy team, has new people to do battle with for the number 1 shirt this season after the departure of Mark Sibson. Fast on the break, yet unpredictable at times, Dodd scored some good tries for the team last season and made the full back position his own forcing Sibson out to a wing berth.

Dodd represented Great Britain students in Australia and New Zealand two years ago, and was selected in the GB under 21 squad last season.

Iain Marsh

Iain is a 22 year old goal kicking centre or winger signed from Barrow Border Raiders.

Iain a St Helens lad played for Salford for 5 years including some Super League appearances. Then went to St Helens the season before last. He was Cameron Bells first signing for Barrow last season, and mainly played as a centre alongside kiwi Cliff Beverley, and scored 12 tries in 32 appearances. A solid defender and very strong finisher.

He is the biggest outside back we have had at Oldham for quite some time and continues the policy of adding size strength and a mean streak to the side from last season.

Pat Rich

Pat Rich is no stranger to the Oldham ranks. Pat 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. From the North East of England Pat had a welcome return to the Roughyeds, taking part in the 56 points to 12 demolition of Rochdale.

Nicky Johnson

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

He has 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 and had a good debut scoring a try against Whitehaven in Cumbria.

Simon Svabic

Simon Svabic began his career with the former Oldham Bears club Academy side, where is half back partner was Bradford's Paul Deacon. Since those days he has played Super League with Salford and also at the top in the National League with Leigh Centurions. He signed for the Roughyeds to begin the 2003 campaign. His preffered poition is stand off, where he can demonstrate his silky smooth ball skills, but he is also at home in the full back position.

Ian Watson

Ian has been a Welsh international since 1996 and is regarded to be a clever half back with a good kicking game.

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

An integral piece in the Oldham jigsaw, he provides the direction around the field that the team needs.

Paul Southern

Paul who is 27 years old has been signed on a twelve month contract. He has renewed 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 fictitious NLI 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.

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 places, most notably as hooker whilst deputising for John Hough. He had a brief spell out of the game in 2003 but the lure of matchday was too much to resist, and the Roughyeds were more than happy to have him back in the fold.

Dane Morgan

Dane Morgan is a leviathan of a man, standing at 6'5" and weighing around 17 and a half stone, the 24 year old 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.

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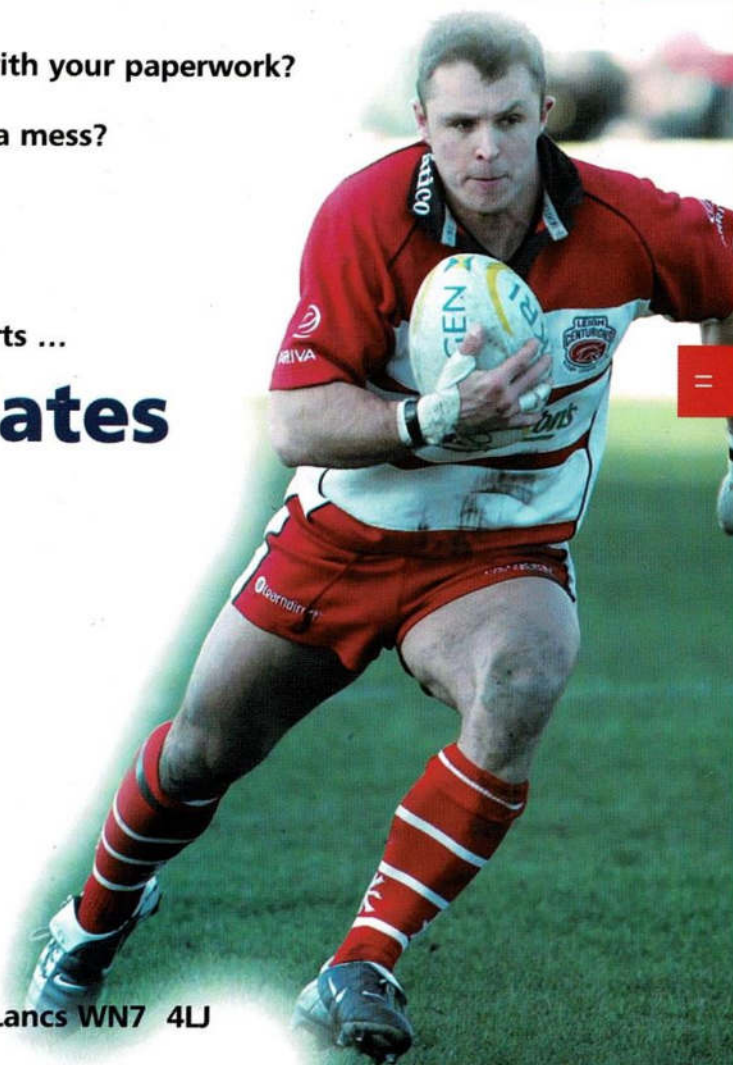
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Leigh Centurions 2004 Behind The Sticks

with Danny Lockwood of the Publisher League Weekly

THE absurdity of Super League's contrived fixture format is set to come sharply into focus as the regular season builds to an exciting climax. The controversial set of additional matches tagged on to the end of the 22 home and away fixtures could have far-reaching consequences this year at both ends of the Super League table.

London Broncos, three points ahead of bottom club Castleford, may appear safe from relegation but seven of their 10 remaining fixtures are against the big four of Leeds, St Helens, Wigan and Bradford. Conversely, the Tigers meet only three of the big four during a run-in that offers them real hope of avoiding the drop. The Broncos are paying the price for their own success. Their remarkable achievement in securing a fifth-place finish in 2003 landed them with a tougher fixture list this time. It is a farcical system that hampers the efforts of a club seeking to make the big breakthrough while at the same time rewarding failure. Warrington, who also made the play-offs for the first time last September, are similarly being punished while Hull, like Castleford, have been handed an easier run-in due to their failure to make the top six. Huddersfield, Wakefield and Warrington are the clubs vying for the last play-off spot, which is seen as something of a poisoned chalice. The kudos gained from claiming a top-six place, and with it a tough away tie in the first round of the play-offs, is offset by a cruel handicap next time around. Even Hull director of rugby Shaun McKee, one of the chief beneficiaries of the ludicrous system, accepts that it is time to think again and he is in good company.

Super League coaches are virtually unanimous in condemning the artificial nature of the fixture format but they are in direct conflict

with their own administrators who insist clubs cannot survive on 11 home League "games". There are, however, a host of alternatives, the most obvious of which would be to increase the number of teams who then simply play each other home and away. The arrival of Perpignan in 2006 would take the number to 13 and Widnes have proposed admitting another new club to make it 14 and produce 26 fixtures in the regular season, just two fewer than at present. But that would result in a reduced distribution of television funding and, with that in mind, club representatives have already voted to stick with 12 clubs.

There are, however, other ways of generating additional income through the turnstiles while operating a 22-match League programme. St Helens coach Ian Millward has proposed an expanded World Club Challenge to kick off the new season. His idea is to involve the four top teams from both Super League and Australia's National Rugby League. Apart from the difficulty in selling the idea to the Aussies, the tournament would completely ignore two thirds of the Super League clubs and, in all probability, increase the gap between the haves and have-nots. A more practical idea is to bring back the old county cups which at one time enjoyed huge popularity and, if taken seriously by Super League clubs, could provide a mouth-watering curtain-raiser to the season. The competition could be organised on a round-robin basis to ensure clubs have more than one match and would take the place of the comparatively meaningless friendlies arranged for that time of year.

Apart from providing useful match practice before the start of Super League, the Yorkshire and Lancashire Cups would give National League clubs the rare opportunity to mix it with the big boys. And they would both generate revenue and fill the void created by moving the Challenge Cup to later in the year.



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Terry Wynn MEP

Lakeside
Alexandra Park
Prescot Road
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Lancs WA10 3TT

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Terry Wynn - Chairman and Brian Simpson - Secretary of the European Parliament Rugby League Support Group. Supporting Rugby League in Europe

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Leigh Centurions 2004 Commercial Corner

with Mike Callaghan (Operations Manager)

Firstly a **big thank you** to all the fans who travelled to the Arriva Trains Cup Final and made the day special for the players. You were magnificent. I would also like to thank Arriva Buses for providing the travel and thank the very friendly drivers who looked after our fans on the day.

We are now coming to the business end of the season and you may be thinking about summer holidays, but we are busy getting our sponsorship ready for next season. Our two new recruits in the commercial Dept have now started work. We are focussed on success and with the team winning this always makes our job that little bit easier. This season we have attracted a number of new major sponsors to the club, and with our unique and friendly atmosphere at the club they are very keen to extend this partnership for the 2005 season — watch this space.

Arriva Trains Cup Poster:

We are in the process of having an A3 full colour poster from Sundays final produced. The poster will show a collage of action shots and team photo. We are hoping that this will be ready (free of charge of course) by the end of next week. Look at leighrl.co.uk for the latest info on this poster.

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Tommy Martyn Testimonial:

Tommy will be holding his final celebration evening for his testimonial on Saturday 31st July in the Mick Martyn Bar. The evening will see Mowtown Magic — a top northern sole band provide the entertainment. There are still have a few tickets available at £17.50. There is also a late bar and disco. Tickets are on sale in the club shop

Tommy Sale:

Congratulations To Mr Leigh — Tommy Sale on his recent induction into the RFL Hall of Fame. Tommy has given me a letter to print in the programme — it goes like this:

"I was completely overwhelmed with the reception the Leigh supporters gave me when I was presented with my Roll of Honour award at half time on Sunday. The icing on the cake was added when the team won the cup. I told Darren Abram before the game that my award would have paled into insignificance if the team would have lost, he informed me that he gave my message to the team before the game and they responded, they consider my award not just to Tommy Sale but for the Leigh Club and its loyal supporters". Tommy Sale.



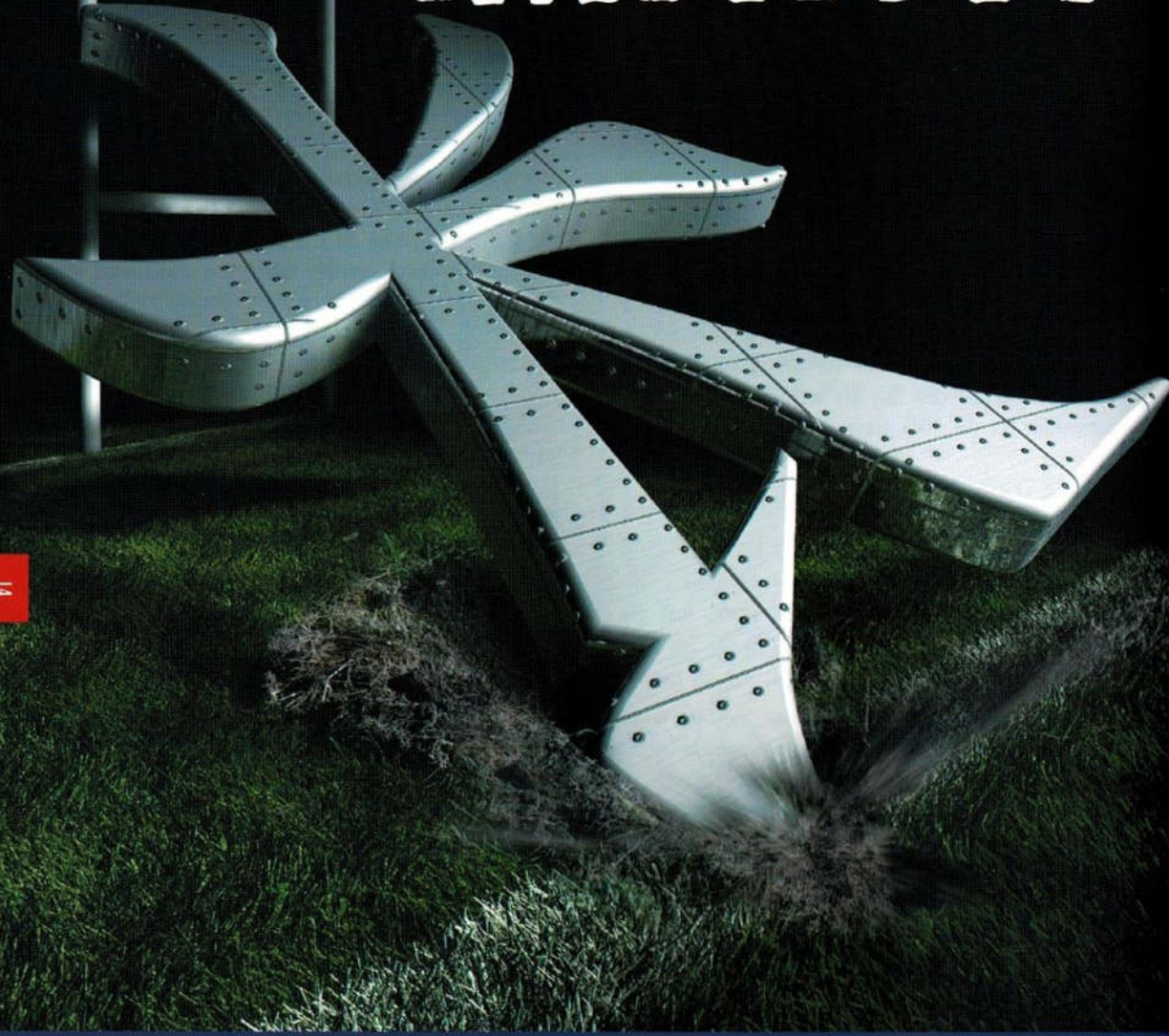

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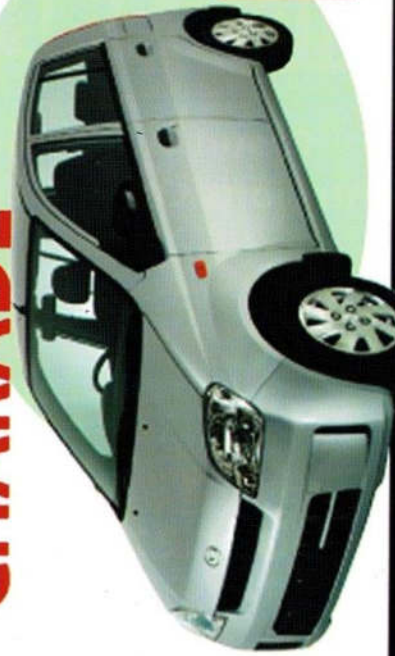
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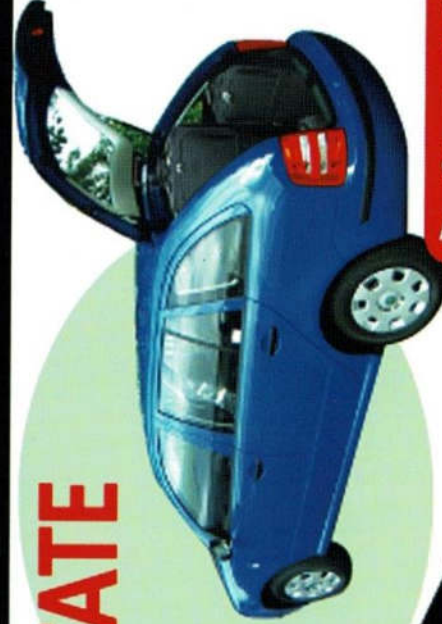


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Leigh Centurions 2004 Coaches Corner

with Darren Abram

WHAT can I say about our performance in the Arriva Trains Final against Hull KR last weekend except that it was everything we'd planned and worked for.

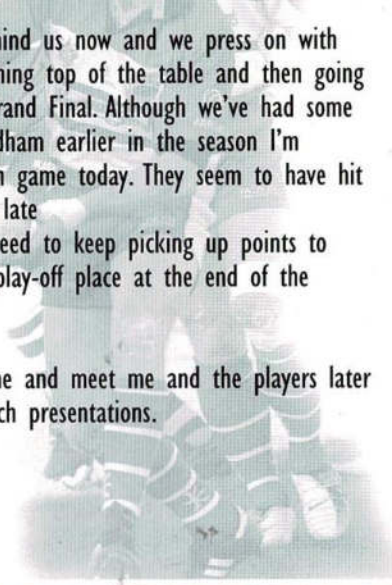
The first half performance at Featherstone the previous week underlined to me that this team is progressing in the right direction and they carried on with that at Spotland in the Final. Although they were a number of candidates for the man of the match award I would have shared it between all 17 — they were magnificent and deserved their moment of glory.

Our preparation had gone well all week and then we got the added bonus of Paul Rowley and Ian Knott declaring themselves fit to play. I know it was tough on a couple of players who had to drop out but they understood the reasons why. Rowley and Knott are two of my best players and if they are fit they've got to play in big games like that. It's that simple.

Our support at Rochdale was magnificent and on behalf of the players I'd like to thank each and everyone who was at the game and later back at the club. It was heartlifting to get a reception like that. I've never known anything like it in my life.

But all that's behind us now and we press on with our aims of finishing top of the table and then going on to win the Grand Final. Although we've had some big wins over Oldham earlier in the season I'm expecting a tough game today. They seem to have hit a bit of form of late and know they need to keep picking up points to make sure of a play-off place at the end of the season.

Enjoy today's game and meet me and the players later for the after-match presentations.



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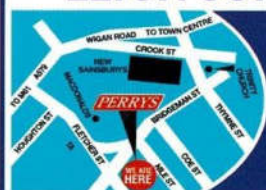
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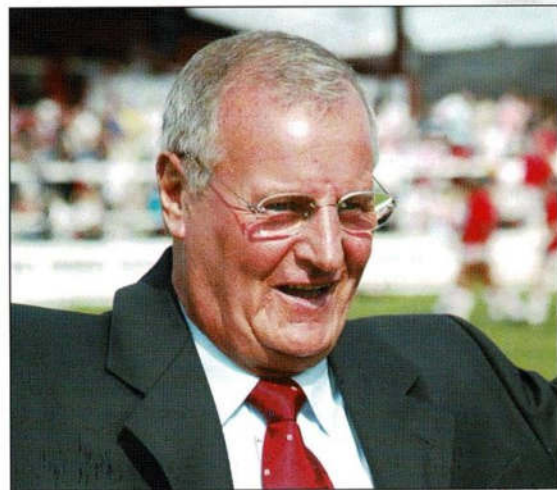


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Once again we have some good news to report our magnificent performance in the league against Featherstone where Darren and the team really showed what calibre of players we have at the club.

The introduction of youngster Mick Govin was a really a site to be seen, his performance in his first senior game was excellent, he adapted to the

game very well a very confident kid and a star of the future. I would also like to congratulate the performance of our pack of forwards Heath Cruckshank, Matt Sturm and Oliver Wilkes all put in a tremendous effort and as I have said before positions in the side are not very easy to come by. From Featherstone we concentrated on the Arriva Trains Cup Final and once again Darren and Tommy's preparation was spot on, it's very unusual in a final that every single player contributes to a wonderful victory but every man on the day produced a quality game of rugby. Tommy Martyn at the helm did a superb job; Danny Halliwell at this moment in time is probably one of the best centres in our division. I would also like to congratulate our supporters not only did they have an enjoyable day out but the way they get behind the lads is absolutely superb. So from the board of directors and the staff may I congratulate Darren and the team for there efforts.

Check out the Official Leigh Centurions website

www.leighrl.co.uk

For all the latest information including:

- Match Details •
- Ticket Information •
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2004 Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Result
01/02/2004	Swinton	Away	ATC	22-6
08/02/2004	Elland	Away *	CC	64-4
15/02/2004	Oldham	Home	ATC	51-32
22/02/2004	Chorley	Home	ATC	60-10
29/02/2004	Hull FC	Home	CC	14-21
07/03/2004	Oldham	Away	ATC	54-10
21/03/2004	Swinton	Home	ATC	66-6
28/03/2004	Halifax	Away	ATC	27-16
04/04/2004	Chorley	Away	ATC	78-10
09/04/2004	Halifax	Home	ATC	46-20
12/04/2004	Whitehaven	Away	NL I	24-31
18/04/2004	Featherstone	Home	NL I	50-12
02/05/2004	Oldham	Away	NL I	60-20
09/05/2004	Rochdale	Away	NL I	74-24
23/05/2004	Keighley	Home	NL I	30-12
30/05/2004	Doncaster	Away	NL I	14-19
06/06/2004	Barrow	Away	ATC 1/4 Final	24-20
13/06/2004	Halifax	Home	NL I	43-25
20/06/2004	Hull KR	Away	NL I	35-8
18/07/2004	Whitehaven	Away	ATC Semi-Final	34-30
04/07/2004	Batley	Home	NL I	27-22
11/07/2004	Featherstone	Away	NL I	75-20
18/07/2004	Hull KR	Spotland	ATC Final	42-14
25/07/2004	Oldham	Home	NL I	
01/08/2004	Rochdale	Home	NL I	
08/08/2004	Keighley	Away	NL I	
15/08/2004	Doncaster	Home	NL I	
22/08/2004	Halifax	Away	NL I	
29/08/2004	Hull KR	Home	NL I	
05/09/2004	Whitehaven	Home	NL I	
12/09/2004	Batley	Away	NL I	
19/09/2004			NL I Play off	
26/09/2004			NL I Play off	
03/10/2004			NL I Play off	
10/10/2004			NL I Final	

* = Game played at The Coliseum, Leigh

Wednesday 19 May	Keighley Cougars	Away	7-30pm
Saturday 29 May	Doncaster Dragons	Home	2-30pm
Saturday 5 June	Huddersfield Giants	Home	2-30pm
Saturday 12 June	Oldham	Away	2-30pm
Saturday 19 June	Keighley Cougars	Home	2-30pm
Thursday 24 June	Dewsbury Rams	Away	7-30pm
Saturday 10 July	Featherstone Rovers	Home	2-30pm
Saturday 17 July	Salford City Reds	Home	2-30pm
Thursday 29 July	Huddersfield Giants	Away	7-00pm
Wednesday 11 August	Doncaster Dragons	Away	7-30pm

Leigh Centurions U 18's Fixture

Date	Fixture	Kick off
23rd May	Keighley Cougars	12.15pm
5th June	Warrington Wolves	2.30pm
13th June	Huddersfield Giants	12.15pm
20th June	Hull KR	12.45pm
26th June	London Broncos	2.30pm
11th July	Featherstone Rovers	12.45pm
17th July	Warrington Wolves	2.30pm
25th July	Wakefield Trinity Wildcats	12.15pm
1st August	Salford City Reds	12.15pm
7th August	Keighley Cougars	2.30pm
15th August	Salford City Reds	12.45pm
21st August	Huddersfield Giants	2.30pm
29th August	Hull KR	12.15pm
5th September	Featherstone Rovers	12.15pm
19th September	Junior Academy Grand Final Play Offs — First Round	
10th October	Junior Academy Grand Final	

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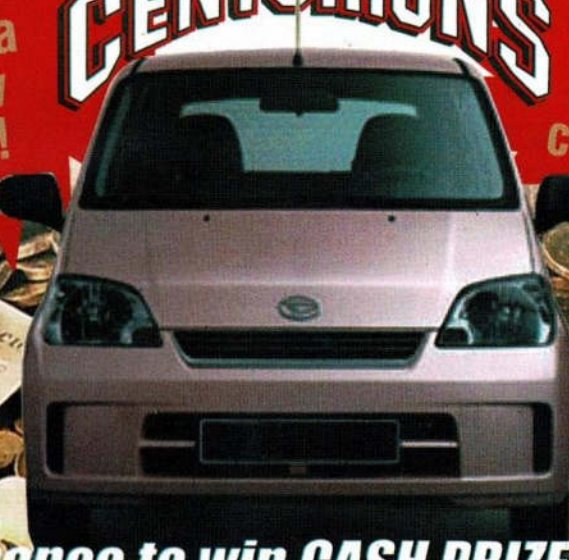
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Leigh Centurions 2004 National League Talk

with Gareth Walker of Rugby Leaguer & League Express



Rugby League needs NL3's national profile
MARTYN SADLER, the editor of 'Rugby Leaguer & League Express', reflects on the success of one of Rugby League's newest competitions.

Coventry Bears, South London Storm, St Albans Centurions and Birmingham Bulldogs are probably not names you would have heard of at the turn of the Millennium just four years ago.

Since the creation of National League 3, however, these names are just four out of 14 that appear in the league table for that competition. Other clubs, if you hadn't noticed, include Manchester Knights, Gateshead Storm, Hemel Hempstead and Essex Eels, as well as Bramley Buffaloes and Carlisle Centurions - the re-birth of two Rugby League clubs that went out of business at the end of the 1999 and 1997 seasons respectively. There are also several amateur clubs from the game's heartland, including Woolston from Warrington, Dudley Hill from Bradford, Underbank from Huddersfield, and Hillsborough from Sheffield.

Of all the leading Rugby League competitions in this country, National League 3 has the greatest claim to having a national profile, with eight clubs in the north of England, and six in the rest of the country, including two in the west midlands and four in the south-east.

National League 3 was created with ten clubs in 2003, and that number rose to 14 this year. But the real question is whether we are going to see the most successful clubs in that competition gradually rising up the Rugby League

hierarchy, into National League 2 and beyond; perhaps, in the long term, into Super League.

If any club is to start on that journey, and change from being an amateur to a part-time club in the first instance, they will have to satisfy the Rugby Football League that they are well organised, with adequate financial backing, and that they have something genuine to offer the higher competition.

The club that seems more likely than any of the others to be able to do this is Coventry, who will be playing in a brand new stadium next season that is currently being built for the Coventry rugby union club. The Coventry union club is anxious to gain promotion into the Zurich Premiership, and it is equally ambitious for its Rugby League club to make it to Super League one day.

The fact is that Super League needs a club like Coventry in the Midlands if we are to convincingly present our leading competition as a national league.

The difference between the Zurich Premiership and the Tetley's Super League is about £5 million, if you compare the amounts that the two sponsors pay for the privilege of adding their names to the competition. Zurich pay around £6 million, while Tetley's pay around £700,000, because the union competition involves teams from most parts of the country.

We may think that Rugby League competitions are better than union ones. But until all our major competitions have the geographical spreads like the union ones, we won't get the sort of money that union does.

A full report of today's game will appear in Monday's edition of 'Rugby Leaguer & League Express'.

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Leigh Centurions 2004

The Definite Article

with Leigh supporter Alan Edge

Views expressed in this column, are not necessarily those of Sporting Club Leigh, or Leigh Centurions!

This is it, then - the beginning of a long-awaited 'run' of home matches, well two actually, after weeks 'on the road'. It is particularly pleasing to return home with our first silverware for a few years - the Arriva Trains Cup.

The reaction of the players, Club officials (Thanks for the hug, Derek!) and supporters showed just how much this success meant to all concerned and was the perfect response to the likes of Leeds coaching supremo Darryl Powell. When asked, on BBC2's Super League Show, for his thoughts on the final, his answer was 'There are those who consider this a meaningless competition.' - hardly music to the ears of generous sponsors, like Arriva. And what the hell do Leeds know about winning trophies, come to that!!

My abiding memory of Sunday's final, along with the astonishing performance at bogey ground Featherstone the previous week, was the sheer professionalism displayed by the team, so reminiscent of Huddersfield and Salford, in previous seasons. In successive weeks, we have destroyed the opposition in the first twenty minutes. (How appropriate to start like an express train, in a final sponsored by Arriva!!) There can be no better compliment to Darren and our coaching team, than to marvel at the team's professional approach, which has been instilled without any detrimental impact on our style of play. It is becoming increasingly difficult to adjudge a man of the match, with all seventeen selected players contributing so much. On

Sunday, Ollie Wilkes was again a popular winner of the award, but I feel that the courage of two other players cannot go unmentioned. Captain Ian Knott (fractured cheekbone) and vice captain Paul Rowley (knee ligaments) defied the pain barrier (and medical advice) to play a full part in our victory. Just imagine how good 'Rowls' would have been on two legs! One disappointment of the final, was perhaps the 'gate' of less than 4,400. True, the atmosphere, generated by Leythers and Rovers, was good, but I thought that our opponents and the neutral fans might have supported the Final better, especially as there were no National League counter-attractions.

As I said, two successive home games - and what befalls yours truly, on those weekends? Two family weddings - starting with my daughter in Shrewsbury and then a nephew in Brighton! So, it's two mad dashes back to 'Mecca' to watch the lads. As 'her indoors' said, about next week's Rochdale fixture, 'Can't you give it a miss, for once?' Not likely, I replied, it just wouldn't seem right to miss a family wedding! Rather ironic, after all the recent journeys, that I find myself travelling further, to watch our first home fixtures, for ages!

And so to today's opponents, Oldham. This is the day that coach Steve Molloy 'couldn't wait for' after we put 60 points past his team at Boundary Park! (Following two other scores in excess of 50 in the ATC group matches) Actually, in fairness to Steve, his side has performed well, in their recent games and seems a good bet for a play-off place. Don't be surprised if they give us a run for our money, today - providing they can survive the first twenty minutes! I hope you 'Roughyeds' supporters have turned up in large numbers and have a safe journey home.

See you next week - M25, M1, and M6 permitting!

Leigh Centurions 2004

Past Players Association



Congratulations to Tommy Sale on his induction into the rugby leagues roll of honour at last Sunday's Arriva Trains Cup final against Hull K.R.

Tommy's family and everyone in Leigh are so proud for him, it is an honour that is well over due. What about that sprint across the field at Rochdale?, he could teach some of the young ones a thing or two about keeping fit. What a proud man he must have felt on that day, hearing "There's only one Tommy Sale", how true that is, well done Tommy.



February 1947 - Tommy Sale (Foreground, Right) discussing the laying of the new drains at the Charles Street ground with Leigh manager Fred Pemberton.

Leigh past players points league.
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The votes for the first division match versus Halifax where
Rowley 3 points, Martyn 2 points, Swann 2 points, Duffy 1 point.

The away match at Hull, K.R. the votes where
Rowley 3 points, Turley 2 points, Swann 1 point.

The Arriva Trains cup semi final at Whitehaven votes where,
Martyn 3 points, Turley 2 points, Halliwell 1 point, Maden 1 point.

Batley home game votes where
Wilkes 3 points, Turley 2 points, Martyn 1 point.

The away game at Featherstone votes where as follows
Govin 3 points, Martyn 2 points, Halliwell 1 point.

The arrive trains cup final against Hull K R played at Rochdale votes where Wilkes 3 points, Knox 2 points, Martyn 1 point.

Current league table

Rowley	23 points.
Turley	23 points.
Martyn	21 points.
Knott	15 points
Duffy	13 points.
Knox	13points.
Wilkes	6 points.
Isherwood	5 points.
Maden	5 points.
Halliwell	4 points.
Govin	3 points.
Alstead	3 points.
Persival	3 points
Swann	3 points
Mculley	1 point.
Larder	1 point.
Potter	1 point.
Cruckshank	1 point.

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