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Paul DARLEY

Stuart DICKENS

Steve DOOLER

Andy JARRETT

Adam HAYES

Jamie STOKES

Bryan HENARE

Danny EVANS

Jim CARLTON

OLDHAM Coach

Steve MALLOY

Jon GODDARD

Gavin DODD

Lee DORAN

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TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: M. DAWBER

 P. Brookes

 S.M. Ellery

 4th J. Holdsworth

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National League Division One

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

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UNISON

SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2004

Kick-off 3.00pm

Official Matchday Magazine £2

Lionheart Stadium
Post Office Road, Featherstone, West Yorkshire, WF7 5EN

Head Coach: Gary H Price
Assistant Coach: Kevin Hobbs
First Team Captain: Ian Tonks

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Frank Slater on 01977 602602

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ROVERS HIGH ACHIEVERS

Most Goals in a Match: 13 by Mark Knapper,
v Keighley 17th Sept 1989

Most Goals in a Season: 165 by Jamie Rooney,
Season 2002

Most Goals in a Career: 1210 by Steve Quinn,
1975 to 1988

Most Tries in a match: 6 by Mike Smith v
Doncaster, 13th April 1968 and by Chris Bibb v
Keighley - 17th September 1989

Most Tries in a Season: 48 by Paul Newlove,
Season 1992/93

Most Tries in a Career: 162 by Don Fox,
1953 to 1966

Most Points in a Match: 40 by Martin Pearson,
v Whitehaven 26th November 1995

Most Points in a Season: 429 by Jamie
Rooney, Season 2002

Most Points in a Career: 2654 by Steve Quinn,
1975 to 1988

Highest Score For: 96 - 0
v Castleford Lock Lane 8th February 2004

Highest Score Against: 75 - 20
v Leigh Centurions 10 July 2004

Most Appearances in a Career: 440 by
Jim Denton 1921 to 1934

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Representative Players:

Great Britain: T Askin, J Bridges, T Clawson,
M Dixon, S Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox,
D Hobbs, G Gordon, S Molloy, A Morgan,
S Nash, P Newlove, P Smith and J Thompson.

Tourists: T Askin, C Bibb, J Bridges, G Cooper,
C Dooler, S Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox,
D Hobbs, S Nash, P Newlove, I Smales and
J Thompson

World Cup Tourists: A Morgan, P Smith and
J Thompson

England: J Bridges, I Butt, M Dixon, S Evans,
V Farrar, J Hirst, D Hobbs, A Morgan,
J Mullaney, P Newlove, P Smith, R Stone,
J Thompson and A Wood

Wales: P Banner and H Box

Ireland: L Casey and L Child

Scotland: N Lowe, J Houston and N Graham
France D Divet and F Banquet

New Zealand: B Tuuta

Great Britain Under 21's: C Bibb, P Bonson,
Deryck Fox, P Lyman, P Newlove, M Pearson
and I Smales

Great Britain Under 24's: K Bell, S Evans,
D Fennell, V Farrar, M Gibbins, J Gilbert,
D Hobbs, T Ramshaw, P Smith, V Thomas,
J Thompson and L Tonks

Academy Tourist: J Stokes

Academy Internationals: J Stokes, N Lowe,
K Pratt and S Dickens

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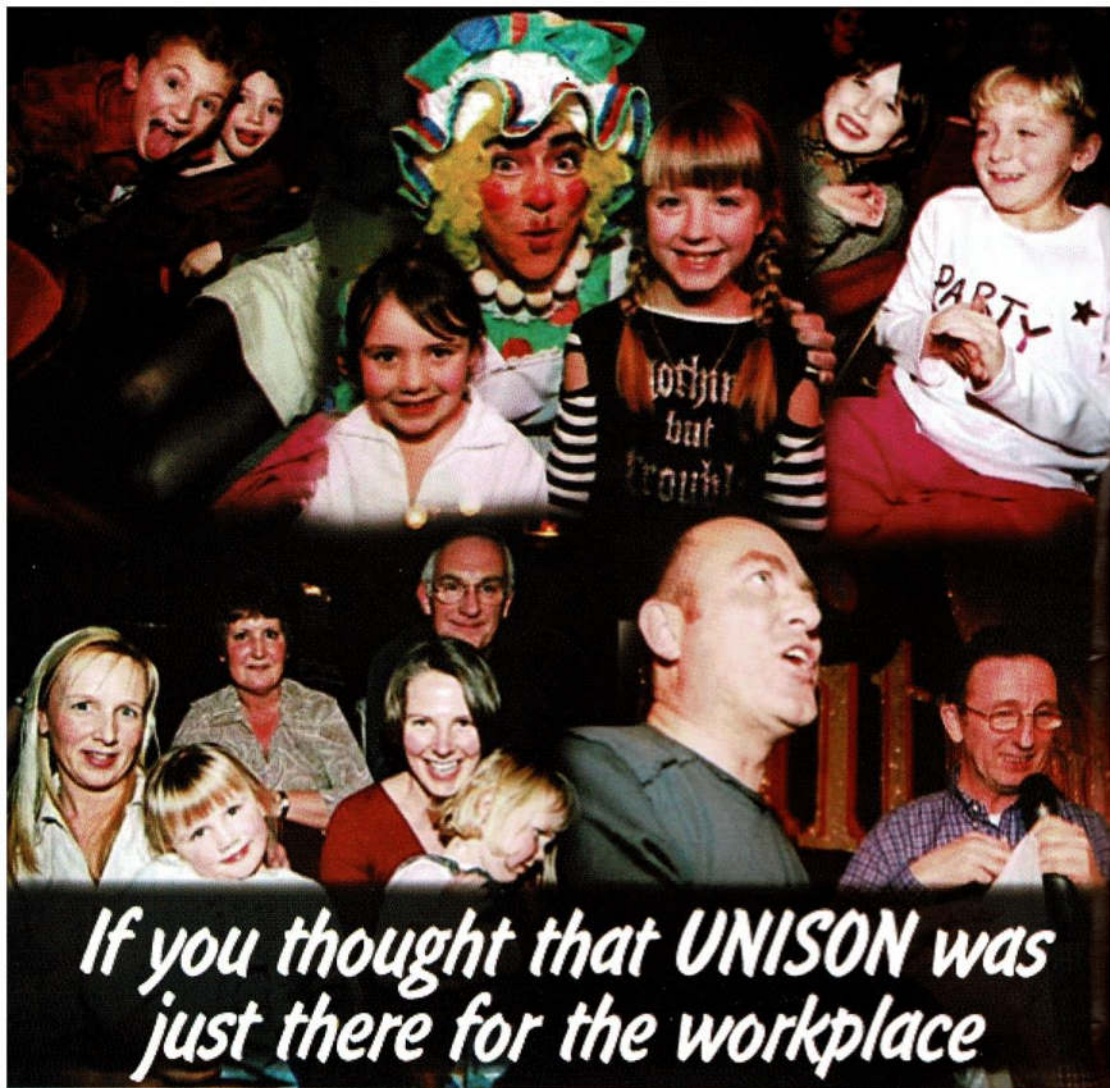
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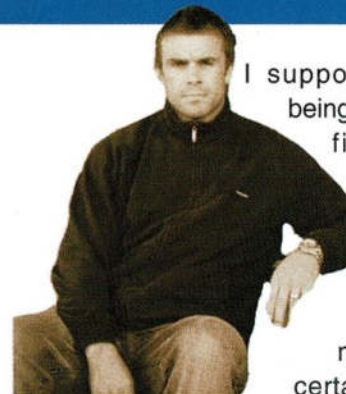
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From the Top

100%
ROVERS

with Gary Price



I suppose with this being our last home fixture of the regular season, it's time to reflect a bit - but not too much, and certainly not with any regrets. I don't believe in them. You learn from your experiences - good and bad, and take what you have learned to help shape your future.

Anyway: when I arrived at the start of the season, there were three players signed on at the club.

I thought about that when people started to try to pin me down about where we would finish at the end of the season.

Once we had assembled a squad of sorts, my main mission has been to establish my principles, standards and beliefs into the fabric of the team, what it does, and the way it does them. It has been

a big mission to put my own stamp on the team. This has been tough. But we have made a huge amount of progress, and we have strengthened our squad. There is no doubt that we need to strengthen further. Whether we can is not in my hands. Now we are in a position to have a say in the outcome of the competition.

I still won't be drawn into any speculation. I feel positive but realistic, and that's as far as I can go on that. Except to say that I believe we deserve to be in the play-offs. What I can say is that the players have put in some outstanding efforts this year and will still be doing so when the final hooter goes on the very last game we play this year, whatever that game is and whatever the result is.

Bearing all this in mind, I'd like to thank the players for their efforts, and I'd like to thank you, our ever loyal and vociferous set of fans, for sharing the experiences, good and bad, and yes - sometimes awful, with us. You are special people!

Gary Price

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Players Stats 2004



	SEASON 2004						TOTAL SENIOR RECORD					
	Apps	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts	Apps	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts
BEN ARCHIBALD	5	3	1	-	-	4	6	8	2	-	-	8
NATHAN BATTY	16	-	4	-	-	16	16	-	4	-	-	16
RICHARD BLAKEWAY	24	1	13	4	3	63	24	1	13	4	3	63
CARL BRIGGS	13	2	1	58	-	120	43	2	6	88	8	208
DALE CARDOZA	1	1	2	-	-	8	1	1	2	-	-	8
JIM CARLTON	4	16	-	-	-	-	25	23	3	-	-	12
RICHARD CHAPMAN	13	7	3	-	-	12	185	55	104	128	3	675
STEVE COULSON	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
JAMIE COVENTRY	6	1	1	-	-	4	58	18	12	-	-	48
PAUL DARLEY	26	1	2	-	-	8	62	39	7	-	-	28
STUART DICKENS	24	2	3	66	-	144	165	41	20	194	2	470
STEVE DOOLER	22	1	9	-	-	36	135	35	37	-	-	148
DANNY EVANS	-	3	-	-	-	-	87	61	29	-	-	118
BEN FEEHAN	3	-	1	-	-	4	3	-	1	-	-	4
JAMES FORD	4	12	4	-	-	16	9	13	4	-	-	16
MAXIME GRESEQUE	5	1	3	6	-	24	5	1	3	6	-	24
TOM HAUGHEY	4	-	1	-	-	4	4	-	1	-	-	4
ADAM HAYES	23	5	7	-	-	28	23	5	7	-	-	28
BRYAN HENARE	12	8	1	-	-	4	12	8	1	-	-	4
JAMES HOUSTON	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	7	2	-	-	8
ANDREW JARRETT	6	16	2	-	-	8	6	18	2	-	-	8
NEIL LOWE	6	7	2	-	-	8	132	54	59	1	-	238
ANDY McNALLY	9	-	7	1	-	30	13	6	7	1	-	30
CRAIG MILNTHORPE	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CRAIG MOSS	8	2	1	-	-	4	8	2	1	-	-	4
RICHARD NEWLOVE	22	1	21	-	-	84	75	9	55	-	-	220
DANNY PATRICKSON	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-
JONATHON PRESLEY	19	2	10	-	-	40	24	10	14	-	-	56
DEAN RIPLEY	4	1	2	-	-	8	4	1	2	-	-	8
JAMIE STOKES	19	3	14	-	-	56	180	10	115	-	-	460
ADAM SULLIVAN	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BRIAN SUTTON	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
IAN TONKS	22	2	-	-	-	-	76	7	5	-	-	20
LEE WILLIAMSON	1	2	-	-	-	-	5	20	-	-	-	-
MATTY WRAY	27	-	16	-	-	64	27	-	16	-	-	64
FREDERIC ZITTER	10	4	7	-	-	28	10	4	7	-	-	28



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Junior Rovers News

100%
Rovers

with Bob Fowler

What a wonderful end to the season for our Under 21 side. They reached the play offs and first of all defeated a strong Doncaster side. They were then drawn away to Salford City Reds and came away with a fantastic win. Although the score reads 24 -26 I understand that Rovers were in control most of the game. They were due to play the losers of the Leigh V Huddersfield game this week, with the winners going into the Final. Let's hope our recent improvement holds out because the side have no fears about meeting either side.

Our Under 18 side haven't been messing about either. A wonderful 14-all game against a very powerfully built Huddersfield giants side gave Coach , Dave Wandless, immense pleasure.

I spoke with Dave about the game.

He told me that in his opinion it was the finest display by his side this season - in fact it had Churchillian proportions, to use Dave's words. He also felt that not only did his side play exceptionally well, they also entertained the crowd. Over recent weeks the side have worked on aspects of their own and team game-plans and Dave felt this had paid off. "The lads were up for this one" said an enthusiastic coach. The talk in the dressing rooms was of victory. He felt Rob Allen had his finest game of the season and he opened the scoring for Rovers. Many times this year, when a side has taken the lead, heads have dropped - not in this game though, and despite going behind 4 -14 the fight back started.

The team finished all square against one of the top teams in the League and left the field to rapturous applause from the spectators waiting to see the main game. "Perhaps they were more entertained by us" said a cheeky Dave

Full details of the game can be found on the Rover's web site.

Featherstone Rovers RLFC Official Matchday Magazine

Our scholarship team will be having the launch of a new season (for them) on Wednesday the 8th September at the clubhouse. Further details may be obtained from the club office. Also today, a bucket collection will be made to help Lee Maddens who was badly injured in a car accident recently, please help as much as you can.

Speaking about injured players, we in the world of Rugby League were all sad to hear of young Matthew King, a young 17 year old lad playing at Halifax for his team London Broncos Under 18. Matthew will unfortunately never walk again and will need considerable help throughout his life. Recently a tag team competition was held at Halifax's Shay Stadium to raise funds to help. It had been organised by a number of well known personalities within the Rugby World both codes. Taking part were such stars as Lesley Vainokolo, Shontayne Hape, Robbie Paul, former stars Lee Crooks, Graham Steadman, James Lowes, Garry Schofield, Dave Topliss, and St John Ellis. The teams played tag rugby, although I understand there was some "rough stuff".

The eventual winners were Halifax RUFC, but the team which reached the final with them was a team called Mortgage Search U.K which contained a number of young Featherstone Lions players. Five of that team were young lads on the Rover's scholarship scheme - all 14 and 15 years old. A wonderful day for them and a wonderful cause to play for well done to all who took part, and a big thank you from me to all who organised such a worthy event.

Fans wishing to know more about the Matthew King appeal can visit www.goforitmatt.com I hope many of you do visit the site.

May I now thank each and everyone of you, no matter who you support, for your help and comments (good and bad) throughout the year. I find it a great privilege to write for the Rovers magazine, and who knows, I may well be asked to do so next season. Have a happy Christmas.

Regards *Bob*

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We're Gonna Win - Fixtures 2004

Note: () denotes subs not used

January 2004		Score	Att.																	
18 Hull		L6-24	2595	Batty	Stokes	Archibald	NewloveT	Wray	Presley	BriggsG	Tonks	Darley	Williamson	Dooler	Henare	Hayes	Ford	Jarrett	Kay	Houston
February																				
1 Dewsbury		W28-12	1489	Batty	Stokes	Archibald	NewloveT	Wray	Presley	Briggs8G	Henare	Darley	Williamson	DoolerT	Blakeway	HayesT	Carlton	Jarrett	Houston	Ford
8 LOCK LANE		W96-0	1576	Batty	StokesT	FordT	Newlove4T	Wray2T	Presley2T	BriggsT11G	Henare	Darley	Carlton	DoolerT	BlakewayTG	HayesT	Coventry	Chapman	Jarrett	Tonks
15 HULL K.R.		L16-22	1929	Batty	Stokes	Coventry	Newlove2T	Wray	Presley	Briggs2G	Tonks	Darley	Henare	Dooler	Blakeway	Hayes	Chapman	Dickens	Jarrett	Carlton
22 BATLEY BULLDOGS		W20-19	1309	Batty	Stokes	CoventryT	NewloveT	WrayT	Patrickson	Briggs6G	Tonks	DarleyT	Dickens	HenareT	BlakewayT	Hayes	PresleyT	FordT	Jarrett	Carlton
29 London Steelers		W52-6	389	BattyT	Stokes	CoventryT	NewloveT	WrayT												
March																				
7 York City Knights		L16-18	1942	Batty	Ford	Coventry	Newlove	WrayT	Presley	Briggs2G	Tonks	Darley	Dickens2T	Dooler	Blakeway	Hayes	Archibald	Chapman	Patrickson	Carlton
14 YORK CITY KNIGHTS		L26-29	2234	Batty	Ford	Coventry	Newlove2T	Wray	PresleyT	BriggsTG	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens	DarleyT	Archibald	Hayes	Archibald	Dooler	Jarrett	Carlton
21 DEWBURY RAMS		W48-4	1068	Coventry	ArchibaldT	Dooler	Newlove2T	Wray	PresleyT	Briggs6G	Tonks	ChapmanT	DickensT	Darley	Henare	Blakeway2T	FordT	Patrickson	Hayes	Carlton
28 Hull K.R.		W18-16	1755	Archibald	Ford	Dooler	FeehanT	Wray	PresleyT	Briggs5G	Carlton	Chapman	Dickens	Darley	Blakeway	Hayes	Moss	Henare	Jarrett	Mintthorpe
April																				
4 Batley Bulldogs		L40-16	1007	Archibald	StokesT	Dooler	Feehan	WrayT	Presley	Briggs2G	Carlton	Chapman	Dickens	Darley	Blakeway	Hayes	Moss	Henare	JarrettT	Newlove
9 YORK CITY KNIGHTS		L38-26	1435	Moss	Stokes2T	Feehan	Newlove	WrayT	Presley	Briggs5G	Jarrett	Chapman	Dickens	DoolerT	Henare	Hayes	Ford	Darley	Tonks	Carlton
12 Oldham Roughyeds		L50-24	1320	Archibald	Stokes	Dooler	Newlove	Wray	Presley2T	Briggs2G	Tonks	ChapmanT	Dickens	Darley	Henare	Hayes	Ford	BlakewayT	Lowet	Jarrett
18 Leigh Centurians		L50-12	1790	Batty	StokesT	Dooler	NewloveT	Wray	Presley	Briggs2G	Tonks	Darley	Dickens	Lowe	Blakeway	Hayes	Ford	Henare	Jarrett	Chapman
25 York City Knights		L27-18	1202	Moss	Stokes	DoolerT	Batty	Wray	BlakewayT	Presley	Tonks	Darley	Dickens5G	Henare	Lowe	Hayes	Archibald	Briggs	Jarrett	Chapman
May																				
2 ROCHDALE HORNETS		W58-12	1098	Batty2T	Stokes2T	DoolerT	Zitter2T	WrayT	BlakewayT	Presley	Tonks	Darley	Dickens5G	Henare	Lowe	HayesT	Briggs	Chapman	Jarrett	Ford
9 Keighley Cougars		L42-18	1251	Batty	Stokes	Dooler	Zitter	Wray	BlakewayT	Presley	Tonks	Darley	Dickens3G	Henare	Lowe	Hayes	CardoazT	Chapman	Jarrett	Sutton
23 DONCASTER D.		W44-18	1418	Batty	WrayT	Condoza	NewloveT	ZitterT	BlakewayT	Presley	Tonks	ChapmanT	Dickens5G	Dooler	Jarrett	Darley	StokesT	RipleyT	Lowet	Hayes
30 Halifax		W27-20	1760	Moss	Stokes	Zitter	NewloveT	Wray2T	BlakewayTG	Ripley	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens7G	Dooler	Jarrett	Darley	Ford	Williamson	Lowe	Hayes
June																				
13 HULL KR		L26-22	1795	Batty	StokesT	ZitterT	NewloveT	Wray	BlakewayG	Ripley	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens4G	Dooler	Jarrett	Darley	Presley	Ford	Williamson	Hayes
20 Batley Bulldogs		W22-14	873	BattyT	StokesT	Dooler	Newlove	Wray	McNally	PresleyT	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens5G	Hayes	Lowe	Darley	Ford	Zitter	Henare	Carlton
July																				
4 WHITEHAVEN		W26-12	1259	Batty	StokesT	McNallyTG	Newlove	WrayT	Blakeway	Presley	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens4G	Dooler	HayesT	Darley	Zitter	Henare	Jarrett	Carlton
8 Doncaster Dragons		L20-75	966	Batty	Stokes2T	McNally	NewloveT	Wray	Blakeway	Presley	Tonks	Chapman	Dickens2G	DoolerT	Hayes	Darley	Zitter	Henare	Lowe	Carlton
15 HALIFAX		D12-12	804	Moss	Stokes	Zitter	Newlove	Ford	Blakeway2G	McNally	Carlton	Chapman	Dickens2G	Dooler	Haughy	Haughy	Gresque	Sullivan	Henare	HayesT
August																				
1 KEIGHLEY COUGARS		W54-16	1089	Moss	ZitterT	McNally2T	NewloveT	Wray2T	BlakewayTGresque2T	3G	Tonks	Darley	Dickens4G	Dooler	HaughyT	Hayes	Ford	Jarrett	Lowe	Carlton
8 Doncaster Dragons		W33-18	966	MossT	Zitter	McNally	NewloveT	WrayT	BlakewayTG	Gresque	Tonks	Darley	Dickens6G	Dooler2T	Haughy	Hayes	Ford	Jarrett	Lowe	Carlton
15 HALIFAX		W35-16	1488	Moss	Zitter2T	McNally2T	NewloveT	Wray	BlakewayTDG	Gresque2G	Tonks	Darley	Dickens3G	Dooler	Haughy	Hayes	Stokes	Jarrett	Evans	Carlton
22 Hull KR		L32-24	1985	Moss	Zitter	McNallyT	RipleyT	Wray	BlakewayT	GresqueTG	Tonks	Darley	Dickens3G	Dooler	Jarrett	Hayes	Stokes	Henare	Evans	Carlton
29 BATLEY BULLDOGS		L28-18	1298	McNallyT	Stokes	Ripley	Newlove	Wray	Blakeway	Gresque	Tonks	Darley	Dickens3G	Dooler	Jarrett	Hayes2T	Zitter	Evans	Coulson	Carlton
September																				
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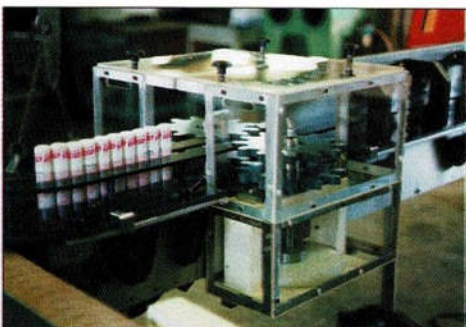


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with Doug and Barbara Wilford

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This afternoon's fixture brings an end to another League programme with the visit of Oldham. Ironically, Oldham were the final fixture last season, when their victory put Rovers outside the play-offs. Could lightening strike twice? It seems likely. Rovers had third place in their hands, which two home victories would have provided. With so much at stake, such a lacklustre performance when it really mattered was a big disappointment. Rovers played one-man-rugby, with no back-up support. Batley were more hungry, faster at play-the-ball and constantly crossed the game line. Rovers did score the best try of the match when we did spread the ball and backed up. So why revert to one-man-rugby? After a couple of good wins against top opposition, everyone seemed to believe that Rovers were better than we actually were. It's still not over, and Rovers can very much determine their own destiny – starting this afternoon with a win over Oldham.

Gary Price has made changes this season, and more will follow during the close season. Supporters have their own ideas of who they would like to see in a Rovers shirt, but hopefully, next season will see Rovers as a more consistent team. Hovering at the play-offs mid-table is where Rovers have been for more season than supporters care to remember. To move forward, to be in the top four all season, pushing hard for promotion with constant performances, whoever is wearing the Rovers colours would be nice to see.

Cas are coming down! – Or are they? Only if the promotion team meets the criteria. Leigh do, but do Whitehaven? Judge for yourself next week when travelling with the Supporters Club. Bookings can be made by ringing the above numbers, or booking in the hut this afternoon.

The Mascots for today's match against Oldham are Brad and Zac Ginell. Brad is 11

years old, and Zac is also 11. Their hobbies are Playstation, rugby and drawing. Their favourite player is Ian Tonks.

The Supporters Club would like to wish a speedy recovery to the Madden family, (Chloe and Ebony were mascots for the Halifax match) who were recently involved in a car accident.

The noise level of support last week, when things weren't going well against Batley, could have been better. We need to play our part as much as the



players do. Let's get behind the players! Enjoy the match, and thank you for your support. Let's hope Rovers do make the play-offs and get a home tie, but if not – see you next season!

Jenna Glover with Ian Tonks - Keighley home match



Benjamin Willoughby, also with Ian Tonks - Doncaster away match

Mascots for the Day

HULL KR (Away)

Adie Carr - age 10

Adie enjoys playing rugby, and has enjoyed rugby training with Richard Blakeway during the school holidays. He also enjoys woodwork with his dad. His favourite players are Maxime Greseque, Richard Blakeway, Adam Hayes and Nathan Batty

BATLEY (Home)

Chelsey Hare - age 9

Chelsey's favourite player is Maxime Greseque. Her Hobbies are being a cheerleader for Normanton Nightingales, swimming and playing computer games.

Bethany Louise Birkett with her Mum and Stu Dickens



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TOP TEN TRANSFER-MARKET SALES

Last week we looked at Rovers costliest signings. Economic reality has dictated that rather more players have left us for large transfer fees than joined us. Rovers have often resorted to the sale of players to provide a much needed financial boost. Some famous transfers of the past are not on the list due to inflation. For example, the sale of Steve Nash to Salford in 1976 for £15,000 was a British record at the time. In its day, the transfer of Arthur Wood to Leeds was also a record for a forward.

1. Paul Newlove £245,000 to Bradford, 1993
2. Graham Steadman £170,000 to Castleford, 1989.
3. Deryck Fox £140,000 to Bradford, 1992.
4. Ian Smales £115,000 to Castleford, 1993.
5. Martin Pearson £100,000 to Halifax, 1996.
6. Karl Pratt £80,000 to Leeds, 1998.
7. Steve Evans £70,000 to Hull, 1982.
8. Andy Currier £60,000 to Warrington, 1995.
9. Karl Harrison £55,000 to Hull, 1989.
10. Paul Lyman £55,000 (+ Chris Burton) to Hull KR, 1989.

Of course, for a variety of reasons the exact fee involved in a deal is often hidden, but according to press reports of the time, this would be an accurate list.



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Bring them along to the Club on match days.....there will be a collecting box in the classroom (the old club shop).

Also bring along any old mobile phones you may have and no longer need. They too can be recycled to support Study Rovers, a collection box is in the classroom.



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS RLFC

SEASON 2004



Back Row – Kevin Hobbs, Gary Price, Lee West, Wayne Sutcliffe, Craig Milnthorpe, Bryan Henare, Steve Coulson, Andy Jarrett, Jamie Coventry, Stuart Dickens, James Ford, Jamie Stokes, Ben Archibald and Brian Kellett

Middle Row – Adam Hayes, Richard Blakeway, Matty Wray, Carl Briggs, Ian Tonks, Richard Newlove, James Houston, Steve Dooler and Richard Chapman

Front Row – Kenny Watson, Greg Nicholson, Andrew Jackson, James Binks, Nathan Batty, Jon Presley, and Craig Moss

Oldham - team profile



Keith Brennan: A hugely versatile player who, although preferring scrum half, can also play out half and hooker. Keith hung up his boots at the start of last season but soon missed the action and was training with the lads and will be in first team contention very soon. Keith played amateur rugby when Istyn Harris took him to Leeds Rhinos for trials. He signed for Oldham at the end of 1999 season. Missed most of 2000 with a serious knee injury. Has made the hooker spot his own recently and is playing some of the best rugby of his life.

Gavin Dodd: A former Royton Tigers youngster, who had a spell with Bradford Bulls Academy team. After Mark Sibson left for Batley, he made the full back spot his own until well into last season, when the coach moved pacy Gavin to the wing spot and played Jon Goddard in the number one shirt. He was the club's leading try scorer last season and has represented GB students in Australia and New Zealand and was selected for the Great Britain under 21's squad.

Lee Doran: Still only 21 years of age. Lee is another young player Oldham have a lot of confidence in. The former Orrell St James junior also played for Swinton Lions and Widnes Vikings Academy. He joined the Roughyeds when Widnes disbanded their Academy and has worked his way through the Academy and Alliance teams at Oldham and is now probably the first name on the team sheet. He has only missed one game in the last two seasons. Although basically a second row forward, Lee played at centre three-quarter for the latter part of last season and proved to be a prolific try scorer. He is hoping for a great season in 2004 after representing Ireland in the World Cup. Successfully filled in as Captain earlier in the season when Phil Farrell and John Hough were out through injury.

Martin Elswood: Tall and fast, 20 year Martin is an Oldham lad, who lives in Shaw. Played soccer in his schoolboy days and was snapped up by Oldham Athletic on schoolboy forms. When things didn't work out, he turned to rugby league, started to play for Royton Tigers and was quickly invited to the McAlpine Stadium for trials with Huddersfield. The Giants signed him on and he was there for a couple of seasons, mainly in the Academy and Alliance teams, until he snapped up the chance of a move to his hometown club in the autumn of 2003. Originally a centre, he now plays in the second row and that is where he sees his future.

Phil Farrell: At 23 Phil is one of the youngest club captains in the game. Brother of Wigan and GB captain Andy Farrell he joined Oldham from Wigan in March 2000 where he began a remarkable unbroken run of 67 matches – an almost impossible feat in modern day rugby. Played most of his career at second row but was converted to loose forward by Steve Molloy last season. Had surgery on his shoulder in the close season but hopes to be back early in the 2004 season to lead Oldham from the front. Phil was voted the Players Player of the Year in 2003. Returned after a prolonged absence with a serious shoulder injury and immediately fitted back in the side and is one of the few forwards who plays for the full 80 minutes every game.

Jon Goddard: Still only 21, Jon came to us on loan in 2002 on the recommendation of the then Castleford coach Graham Steadman. Signed a full time contract in 2003 and was one of the most consistent players all season, winning the Coach's choice as Player of the Year. Jon was reared in Castleford Youth & Schools rugby before going to the Jungle. He has played three times in Super League for Castleford. Played most of his rugby at Oldham in the centre, but when Steve Molloy switched him to his favourite position of full back half way through last season he thrived and made the position his own. Has had a superb season and become a prolific try scorer.

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Nick Johnson: 20-year-old winger, and another Oldham born youngster returning "home" after originally signing for a Super League club - in his case Bradford Bulls. The younger brother of Oldham forward Gavin Johnson, Nick was a Great Britain academy international. Stockily built and unusually solid for a winger, Nick lacks nothing in pace. Like Lee Marsh, he played a few games for Oldham on loan at the end of last season before he got his release from Odsal, and then signed for his hometown club on a one-year contract. Has just broken the new club's try scoring record.

Lee Marsh: Not entirely a new face to Roughyeds fans because he played for Steve Molloy's men in the last five games of the 2003 season while on loan from Salford City Reds. A product of the amateur game in St Helens, Lee was wanted by Whitehaven, and his former Salford coach Steve McCormack, when he was released by the City Reds at the end of the 2003 season. He had enjoyed his time with Oldham last summer, however and chose instead to sign a one-year contract with the Roughyeds. Play anywhere, Lee is at home in several positions but he lists loose forward as his favourite with standoff close behind.

Dane Morgan: Oldham's big Aussie prop or second rower joined the Roughyeds in February 2003 and has recently extended his contract until the end of the 2004 season. He has a burning ambition to play in Super League and has represented West Tigers, North Sydney and Melbourne Storm for whom he scored a try when they defeated St Helens in the World Club Championship at the JJB Stadium. He hit a rich vein of form at the end of last season and proved to be one of the best off loaders of a ball outside of Super League. Recently married, he lives in Marsden and works part-time for the local newspaper, the Oldham Evening Chronicle. Was voted the Junior Roughyeds Player of the Year in 2003.

Neil Roden: Joined the Roughyeds along with Phil Farrell from Wigan in April 2000 after serving a month on loan. He is the son of Wigan's chief scout and quickly made the scrum half spot his own. Very popular with his teammates, he was Player's Player of the Year in 2002 when he was also the club's leading try scorer. Has a phenomenal record at Oldham playing in 118 games out of a possible 126 in three and a half seasons, scoring 50 tries and 18 drop goals – a total of 218 points. Surely one of the best scrum half's outside of Super League. His season has been affected by injuries and he has played quite a few games at out half and hooker. Still a prolific try scorer.

Jon Roper: Versatile strong centre or second row forward who has recently joined the club from Halifax as part of the deal that took James Bunyan to Halifax. Had a successful season at Rochdale Hornets last year and brings valued Super League experience to the side, having previously played for Warrington and Leigh.

Paul Southern: 26-year-old front row forward who, like Ian Watson, was also a major influence last year in the Rochdale Hornets' camp. Big and strong he is known to be a clever ball handler and alongside Dane Morgan Oldham must have two of the best ball handling props in the business. Spent most of his career with Salford – much of it in Super League – and comes to Oldham to "prop-up" the front row following the departures of Paul Norton, Jason Clegg and Danny Guest. Is carrying a serious groin injury, which will require surgery but he is playing through the pain barrier until the end of the season.

Ian Watson: Aged 27, Ian is one of the most experienced scrumhalves in the game. Capped numerous times for Wales, he played most of his career with Salford City Reds, with whom he had considerable experience in Super League. A playmaker and midfield organiser, he was a key man in the Rochdale Hornets team that finished third in National League Division One last term. His last appearance for Wales was against the touring Australians at Bridgend in the autumn of 2003. He was picked at hooker and did enough to be named the best player in a red jersey.

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The Galpharm Stadium is fine by me.

Naming infrastructure and events after sponsors and benefactors is as old as sport itself probably.

The World Series in Baseball? Not a piece of American arrogance as you might quite justifiably suppose, but a competition named after a sponsor: a newspaper called 'The World'. Then there's the Hennesey Gold Cup and all those golf competitions. The only problem for me is that 'Galpharm' sounds like something out of 'The Lord of the Rings'.

Next year, the Lionheart Stadium reverts to being called Post Office Road again. I have mixed feelings about this. Fair enough, Lionheart Smokeless Fuel is no longer associated with Rovers. However, I thought that if you were going to give your stadium some kind of name associated with a sponsor, then we were lucky to get away with Lionheart, which I thought sounded OK: certainly better than the ASS Stadium. Anyway, Post Office Road is fine by me.

Whilst we are on the subject of naming grounds, isn't the redevelopment of the stadium a good opportunity to commemorate some of the people who have given us so much pleasure over the years? I know we have the Freddie Miller gate, but the transformed stadium gives us so many opportunities. What, or should I say, who do you think?

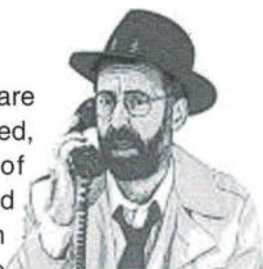
What I believe we should do is have a detailed photographic record of the parts

of the ground that are going to be removed, for the benefit of history. That battered frontage has been the gateway to pleasure, glory and misery for so many hundreds of thousands, millions even, of people over the last 80 years or so, that it has become backdrop to our memories.

Also change often occurs gradually. The railway sleepers that formed the terracing, gave way to concrete: when? The score board, which when I was a kid advertised South Yorkshire Motors, and had a red light which lit up at half time (always inaccurately), was moved to the Railway: when? Somebody will know, but there are precious few pictures to chronicle the change. The pit spoil which forms the banking either side of the steps which take you to the terracing at the Post Office Road end has become fertile with long, if unkempt grass growing on it in the fifty years since I started to come to Rovers' games, that's how gradual, with the exception of the odd fire and the occasional new family stand change can be.

This is the last issue of the Rovers' magazine, programme, or whatever you want to call it, for the regular season. This means it's time to thank the club for allowing me to write this stuff, Frank Slater for his support and advice and Christine at Eborprint for putting up with me.

See you in the play-offs.



TOMMY & IAN SMALES

Today we continue our series of articles on famous Featherstone families by looking at two great back-row forwards.

Although he is a local lad, Tommy Smales was a professional for seven years before pulling on the blue and white shirt of Featherstone. As a teenager he signed for Wigan, and was also at Barrow from where we signed him in 1965. Over the next four years he was to make the loose forward jersey his own with his creative skills and accurate goal kicking. For three straight years he was the club's leading points and goal-scorer, his best year being 1966/7 when he landed 122 goals and scored 271 points. Nine of those precious points came at Wembley where a try and three goals saw Tommy shine in Rovers first Cup final win, against of course his old club. He retired prematurely at 30 and then entered coaching, where, apart from a very brief spell in charge of Rovers in 1974/5, he coached Batley, Bramley, Dewsbury and Doncaster.

Son Ian signed for Rovers in a blaze of publicity in 1987, the BARLA Youth player of the year that season and soon forced himself into first team reckoning. Opinion was always divided over the best way for Ian's undoubted talents to be used. This writer's view was that it was as a creative loose forward in the mould of his father that he was at his most effective, though his record speaks volumes for his versatility. In 166 first team games Ian's appearances were as follows: As a winger 19 games; as a centre 27 games; as stand-off 28 games; as second-row 58 games; as loose forward 22 games; and as substitute 12 games. In whichever shirt, he was a strong runner, sound tackler, capable kicker and showed touches of real class. He was recognised for international honours on the Lions tour of 1990, but disappointingly his representative career never took off. Rovers cashed in on his talents with a big money transfer in the summer of 1993.

If you have any information on Featherstone's footballing families you would like to see here, e-mail us at

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A FEATHERSTONE ROVERS BIBLIOGRAPHY

Once upon a day, owning a complete rugby league library consisted of buying the Rothmans yearbook and the occasional ghost-written biography of a retiring star player. The Rothmans was a monumental work, full of statistics and an essential reference book, but for a jolly good read there was precious little. As rugby league was perceived as a "minority" sport, whatever that means, publishers were reluctant to put out anything for fear of low sales. I've got a few old books by Ray French, Keith Macklin and Eddie Waring, fair enough in themselves, but whole chunks of rugby league's heritage remained untouched.

With the advent of new technology in printing, it became viable to launch books with lower print runs. Prolific rugby league writers such as Robert Gate have used small publishers or self published many titles in recent years. Gate himself has produced books on the RL Hall of Fame, Brian Bevan, and (soon) Neil Fox among many others. One publisher which has been particularly good for Rugby League is Tempus Publications, who've produced dozens of rugby league club histories. Featherstone Rovers have been well served too, thanks to the efforts of Ron Bailey.

Ron was secretary of the Rovers from 1955 to 1967, and as such in 1956 brought out one of the club's earliest publications, a short booklet called "The History of Featherstone Rovers". Eagle-eyed fans would be able to pick up this gem for a few pounds when an occasional copy surfaces in Collectors' catalogues or on e-bay. He also produced a few well-written yearbooks in the late fifties and early sixties. After he left, there was not much produced other than match programmes and benefit brochures until 1984 when Ian Clayton wrote "100 Years of Featherstone Rugby". That book gave an interesting insight into the very earliest days of rugby in the town, even pre-Rovers times. He brought out an updated version of the same book in 1993. Both are worth having.

In the 1980s Donald Hunt did some sterling work to bring out some useful brochures such as "Rovers Reflections" (1986) and the weightier "Rovers through the Eighties" and the subsequent "Rovers

through the Nineties". If you've never seen these, try to get a copy as they are excellent reads from a club 'insider'. Roy Hinchcliffe also put together two very good and under-rated yearbooks at the end of the 1980s.

Terry Clawson became the first former player to put his career into print with his self published title, "All the Wrong Moves". Told in Terry's own inimitable style, this book is a very entertaining, and occasionally absolutely hilarious read about a great player and larger than life character. We can only hope more former players follow suite into print.

Back to Ron Bailey then, and in 2001 came out my favourite Rovers book, part of Tempus' "Images of Sport" series. It is a quite outstanding collection of photos on the club, a pictorial history, to which Ron provided the text. This was followed up with "Featherstone Rovers: 100 Greats". I love this kind of book, not just for the portraits and historical details of all the legendary players who've played for Featherstone, but because we all know Ron Bailey got it wrong! I mean that in the best possible way. Fans love their own favourite players, and in making his choice of 100, Ron had an unenviable task. The beauty of the book is in disagreeing with his choice and seeing how fans of different ages lean towards players of "their" era. Who is right? It matters not, the book leads to some great debates. Bailey's following work, "50 Greatest Matches" was similar in that we all have our favourite matches, and to see if they line up with Ron's estimation is part of the fun. "50 Greatest Matches" concluded the trilogy of Rovers history books Ron intended to write.

Since then he has gone on to publish most recently a biography of Don Fox. It's another thoroughly researched and well-crafted book, and Ron's admiration and respect for his subject shines through. Fans who want a copy can buy it at the club shop in Station Lane. We have to hope that Ron Bailey keeps up the habit and writes more books to add to the chronicles of Rovers' rich heritage. I would personally love to see a biography of that other great half back, Joe Mullaney.

Last week's question concerned Rovers first ever Yorkshire Cup Final, which Rovers lost 5-0 to Leeds at Belle Vue Wakefield in 1928. **This week's question:** Which was the last of the nine professional clubs Terry Clawson played for?



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with Glyn Robinson

What a strange old season it's been!

I've never known a competition where so little can be taken for granted by so many of the competitors. Clubs have thrown huge amounts of money on the gamble of winning the grand final. You never see a poor bookie, and those club's who have taken that gamble are a perfect illustration of why that's true. They have bet huge sums on success and even as we approach the final furlong, the odds become seemingly more meaningless with every game.

We are still in that race, despite having one of the most topsy turvy seasons in our history.

As Gary says: "we didn't have enough players for a game of five-a-side football at the start of the season".

Rugby league players are special, quirky people. Can you imagine players at a professional soccer club waiting to see who the new coach was going to be before signing a new deal? Me neither. Quite rightly, money is important to professional sports people, but in Rugby League, a very close knit sport: human relationships are right up there as well.

We have all been in the process of rebuilding this club in every aspect of its life. Things are coming in stages, but they are coming. There was a time in the recent history of the club, when we

had to defer the payment of wages of players and staff, because of the chaotic and precarious nature of the club's finance.

Our sound business practice means that this is a thing of the past: though not for some of those clubs who have signed players on big contracts as part of that gamble I mentioned. This adherence to best practice may not have endeared us to some of our supporters, but it is fundamental to the way we run the club and we stand by that. You may not like the idea of your season being the kind of roller coaster ride that ours has been this year: but whether you like it or not, that kind of uncertainty is one of the beauties of sport.

With that in mind, it's now time to thank you, our loyal supporters for sharing that ride with us. We ride those ups and downs together. Here's to more people sharing the experience with us next year.

And finally: congratulations to our Under 21s, who played Huddersfield in the semi- finals of the play-offs on Thursday. Well done everyone concerned, and thanks for your efforts no matter what the outcome was.

Glyn Robinson



KooGa

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Action from the Hull KR match

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Photographs courtesy of Bob Nunn



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The Featherstone Rovers Independent Association are committed to assisting the club achieve their potential. Why not join us and help in supporting the club?

FRISA (Featherstone Rovers Independent Supporters Association) are today giving away 100 free jars of jam – you can collect yours at the Freddie Miller gate before or after the match

We ask you to enjoy the contents, and once you've emptied the jar, start to fill it with the loose change you accumulate over the off-season

Once you've filled it, hand it in at the Club Shop, or at the first home game of next season – there will be prizes for five randomly-drawn jar-fillers

The same **FRISA** 'Spread & Save' initiative last season raised £1,200 - a big chunk of the £6,000 **FRISA** raised via its Committee's Initiatives, or received in donations

Another big chunk was donated by the Blue Lagoon Bar – its profit from your drinking! (keep necking that ale, and remember, you're doing it for the Rovers!)

It all adds to the **FRISA** coffers - £13,000 is the total **FRISA** have been able to hand over to Gary Price this season – money that is ring-fenced for spending solely on building the First Team squad

It's been **FRISA**'s best fund-raising season yet, and it has helped give Gary the freedom to experiment with his squad. Some experiments – Feehan, Cardoza - by their very nature, fail. Others – Zitter, Haughey, Ripley, Greseque – are much more successful

IT TAKES TIME, IT TAKES EFFORT, IT TAKES MONEY

That £6,000 in initiatives and donations (and there were many more of these, big and small) is the cream on the **FRISA** cake (or on the jam, or the Lagoonie ale!) – some years are creamier than others

FRISA's bread and butter - the only money that **FRISA** can guarantee to give to Gary, year after year, so that he can fund key players' contracts - is that money received in membership subscriptions

The 120 or so **FRISA** members, who each subscribe a minimum of £5 per month, have guaranteed Gary £7,000 this season

Imagine who Gary could fund if, instead of 120 members, **FRISA** was made up of every person with Fev in their heart!

Imagine the Featherstone team 2000, 3000 **FRISA** members could finance!

YOU WANT TO SEE FEATHERSTONE ROVERS MOVE UP A GEAR?

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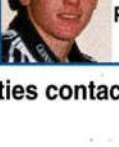
CALL IN AT THE CLUB SHOP ON STATION LANE,

say you'd like to join **FRISA**, and leave your name, address, and telephone number or **PHONE FRANK** on 602602

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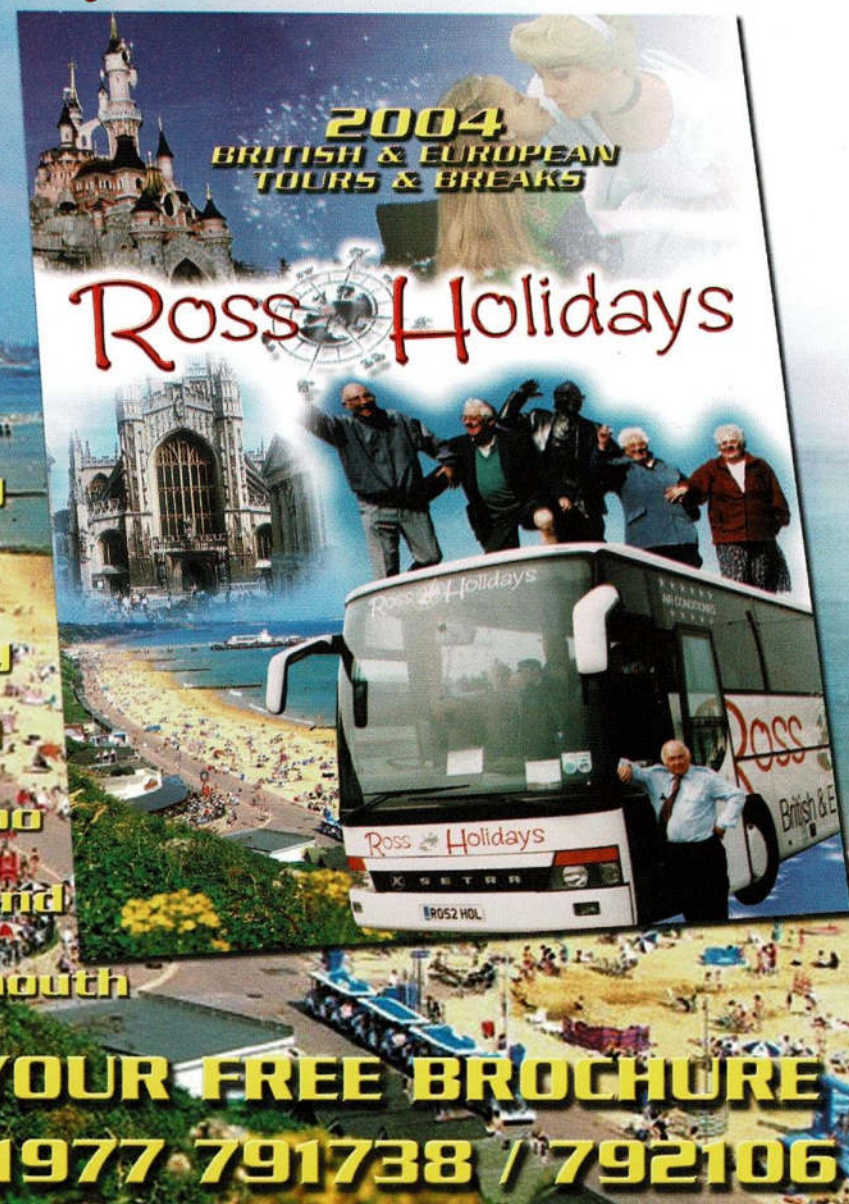
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PLAYERS OF THE YEAR Awards Ceremony & Dinner

Friday 17 September
7.30pm

TICKETS £15.00

DRESS: Smart - shirt and tie for men
(No jeans or trainers please)

NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



Cumbria on the rise

THE autumn clash between Cumbria and an ANZAC side made up of Australian and New Zealand Test players was officially launched last week - at a time when the three Cumbrian clubs are on a major high.

The county side will clash with a team made up of players on the fringes of Tri-Nations selection, in what will be a fascinating encounter at Derwent Park in late October.

And Cumbria will be able to call on a host of players who have enjoyed top seasons at the county's three professional clubs.

They are headed by Whitehaven, who go into today's game at Leigh knowing that victory will assure them of the NL1 Minor Premiership.

Given that the Centurions were seen as red hot favourites from the beginning of the year right up until three weeks ago, that would be some achievement for Steve McCormack and his predominantly local squad.

And it would also put them in pole position to qualify for the NL1 Grand Final - they haven't lost at home all year - and with it, a chance of promotion to Super League, something their directors insist they are equipped to achieve.

Haven's promotion push has been guided by a number of key players who have been the model of consistency all year.

Loose forward Craig Walsh must be a contender for the NL1 Player of the Year award, while Australian scrum-half Sam Obst has had

a massive impact since arriving after the start of the campaign.

McCormack has also had terrific contributions from the likes of Gary Broadbent, Howard Hill, Mick Nannyn and David Fatiafola.

In LHF Healthplan NL2, Barrow Raiders top the division - and like Whitehaven, few would have predicted that at the beginning of the year.

Wily coach Peter Roe has had a massive impact on the famous old club, and despite battling against almost constant injury problems, has guided them to the top of the tree against the odds.

Australian packman James King has been their star performer, with the likes of Darren Holt and Dave Clark also having massive seasons.

Workington Town have provided a third surprise package, overcoming a sluggish start and a miserable recent past to emerge as genuine dark horses in the NL2 play-offs.

Kiwi coach Gerard Stokes has been the man to turn Town's fortunes around, aided by fellow countrymen Jonny Limmer, Tane Manihera and Lusi Sione, who have been class acts on the field.

They also have a healthy sprinkling of local talent in their ranks, have shored up their off-field operation and are planning for the future.

All three clubs have seen increased numbers coming through the gates this season, and after some dark days in the not-too-distant past, this is definitely a boom time for Cumbrian Rugby League.

READ THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUES AND ALL LEVELS OF THE GAME IN RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS - OUT EVERY MONDAY

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