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Powergen Challenge Cup Final
Summer 2005



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**RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP
THIRD ROUND**

**SHARLSTON ROVERS
V
OLDHAM RLFC**

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**11TH MARCH 2005
KO 7.30**

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to be presented by
Local MP Candidate
Edward Balls

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The Match Officials Development Programme has instigated a campaign entitled 'Respect the Ref' who must be supported unerringly to ensure unfettered vibrancy for the future of Rugby League Football. Above all that, Match Officials are not discouraged to turn away from the game as a consequence of touchline behaviour.

Everyone must adhere to the following touchline code:

- Support, display and be an exemplar of good behaviour.
- The use of profane, insidious or racist language to harass players, coaches or match officials cannot be tolerated.
- Acknowledge the good play by opponents and your own club's team.
- Show respect to all officials - without them there would be no game.



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Chairmans Letter

First of all I would like to thank everyone at Featherstone Rovers for the wonderful support we have been given in putting this game on. From reading the papers I know there are a lot of amateur clubs wish they had the same backing.

Tonight's game is a bit special for us because Oldham broke our dreams last year by beating us in the Fourth Round at Oldham. When we are invited into the Challenge Cup all we have are dreams of winning it but you can bet your boots the team will do everything to make our dreams come true.

All we can ask of you is to get behind the boys, give them the support they need and maybe we can get a bit nearer to the impossible dream.

Mick Taylor

Coaches Corner

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the players, committee and supporters of Oldham R.L.F.C on this Third Round Powergen Challenge Cup Round. As you are all aware we met Oldham in the Fourth Round last year at their own ground, it was a close game but Oldham was the stronger team in the end.

This time we have a home draw and as everyone will remember last year's Third Round against Dewsbury we came out victorious with well over 2000 supporters enjoying a great night. We are hoping for a good following tonight and that the crowd gets behind us again. This is a bigger task than Dewsbury last year.

I am very pleased with the way the team is going so far this year, the way we have trained and prepared all season for this game and I could not ask for anything else from anyone of them. We have had a couple of hard games to get where we are today, beating Warrington Wizards (Summer Conference - Premier) away and then a home draw against Oulton Raiders (National Conference - Premier).

I hope you have an enjoyable evening and look forward to seeing you all in the bar after the game. Thank you very much for your support this evening.

Gordie Long

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3rd Round Rugby League Challenge Cup 2005

Sharlston Rovers

- 1 Lee Lingard
- 2 Jamie Cox
- 3 Gareth Davis
- 4 Keith Brook
- 5 Lee Maskill
- 6 Jon Agar
- 7 Danny Grimshaw
- 8 Carl Sayer
- 9 Lee Bettinson
- 10 Andy Booth
- 11 Dale Potter
- 12 James Ward
- 13 Adam Thaler
- 14 Gordon Long
- 15 Stan Smith
- 16 David Lee
- 17 Tony Palmer

Oldham

- 1 G. Dodd
- 2 W. Cowell
- 3 D. Munro
- 4 A. Wilkinson
- 5 N. Johnson
- 6 C. Mataora
- 7 M. Turner
- 8 D. Nanyn
- 9 G. Barber
- 10 P. Norman
- 11 S. Haughton
- 12 T. Glassie
- 13 S. Svabic
- 14 J. Hough
- 15 D. Wilson
- 16 M. Roberts
- 17 C. Farrimond

Squad Members
Stuart Bailey
Lewis Swithenbank
Lee Kelly Snr
Martin Wood
Lee Kelly Jnr

Mascot
Mathew Poppleton

Squad Members
R. Bibey
M. Elswood
J. Goddard
A. Gorey
J. Kirkland
A. Sharples

LITTLE SHARLSTON WITH BIG HISTORY

How time fly's, once again we're at this stage of the competition, the Third Round of The Powergen Challenge Cup, what a fantastic achievement by our players.

Here's a little history in this cup competition, Sharlston are no strangers to this stage of the competition back in 1934/35 season they made the long trip to Barrow the squad that day was: Henry Dooler, Herbert Hudson, Georgie Goldie, Percy Speight, Frank Lingard, Herbert Wood, Albert Wilson, John Lister, Jack Wildman, Tommy Schofield, Jack Simpson, Frank Newitt, Peter Bailey, Tommy Bowers, Joe Gill and Harry Phillmore.



The match report read:- Sharlston Rovers have an unbeaten side captained by George Goldie, the former Leeds Full Back, and a blend of youth and experience which is carrying all before them, in 11 league games they have won 10, drawn 1, and scored 180 points to their 25, their try line having been crossed once in the cup qualifying rounds, they have conceded only 10 points. In a hard fought match Barrow deserve their victory of 28 points to 3, Hudson scoring the Sharlston try.

The next appearance in the First Round proper (now the 3rd Round) was in 1938/39 season against Bramley at Sharlston.

The squad:- Georgie Wilson, Cyril Eccles, Ernie Barraclough, Frank Dooler, Johnny Worth, Raymond Speight, Albert Wilson, Doug Bradley, Jack Simpson, Eric Adams, William Gidman, Alvin Oldroyd, Sam Speight and Doug Davis.



The match report read:- There will be plenty of excitement in the Sharlston district this afternoon when Sharlston Rugby Club will receive a visit from Bramley, unfortunately they will be without Henry Dooler, their class scrummage half (Carl Dooler's father). The report went on to say "Juniors beaten but not disgraced" Sharlston Rovers 5 points Bramley 23 points.

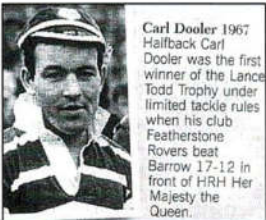
On the Third occasion in the 1st round proper of the Rugby League Challenge Cup (now 3rd round), in the 1945/46 season it was a different ball game. Team squad:- Dennis Chalkley, Walt Booth, Les Bailey, Frank Dooler, Benny Lingard, Henry Dooler, Wick Riley, Doug Bradley, Paddy Golding, Tommy Fox, George Green, Mick Stott and Henry Booth.



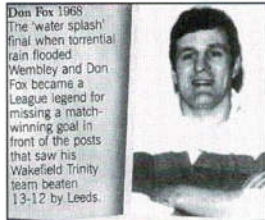
There's one result which has remained the focal point of Sharlston Rovers for many years (until last season Sharlston Rovers 30 Dewsbury Rams 28 more about that later).

In this 1945/46 season Sharlston Rovers a strong but only amateur team took on the professional might and organisation of Workington Town and won a result unheard of at the time Sharlston Rovers 12 points Workington Town 7 points. In a two leg affair it was only by the slimmest of margins the Workington progressed to the next round after beating Sharlston in the return leg at Workington by 16 points to 2.

Sharlston "Lance Todd" Trophy Winners.



Carl Dooler 1967
Halfback Carl Dooler was the first winner of the Lance Todd Trophy under limited tackle rules when his club Featherstone Rovers beat Barrow 17-12 in front of HRH Her Majesty the Queen.



Don Fox 1968
The 'water splash' final when torrential rain flooded Wembley and Don Fox became a League legend for missing a match-winning goal in front of the posts that saw his Wakefield Trinity team beaten 13-12 by Leeds.



Neil Fox 1962
The legendary goal-kicking international centre, Neil Fox kicked three-drop goals and scored a try to clinch the trophy as his club Wakefield Trinity beat Huddersfield 12-6.

SHARLSTON ROVERS OF TODAY THE HISTORY MAKING THE SIDE 2003/04

"MARTIN WOOD DRIVES ROVERS TO CUP TRIUMPH"

"DREAM TEAM"



Sharlston Rovers were today dreaming of a glamour tie against a top super league club after ousting Dewsbury Rams 30 points to 28. Martin Wood's contribution cannot be over stated, he was immense, involved in everything and directly responsible for three of the five tries. Try scorers:- D. Ferris, S. Smith, D. Grimshaw, G. Leake, N. Shoesmith and L. Lingard (5) goals. That night the team made history for the club going further in the Rugby League Challenge Cup than any other previous Sharlston team.



Powergen Rugby League Challenge Cup 4th Round

Sharlston made the trip to Oldham to take on Steve Molloy's men the "Roughyeds" though beaten by 24 points to 4 the Rovers gave a gallant performance to make everyone at the club so proud. They have now set down a template that the current Sharlston team has to follow with passion, the Sharlston Rovers of 2004/05 still perform at that very high standard, due to the efforts of John Agar and Gordon Long being surrounded with good players.

The "Whole Sharlston Rovers Club" sends out a defiant warning to Oldham, "BEWARE"

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Wishing Sharlston all the best from Stan & Ann

OLDHAM TEAM PLAYERS

GARY MERCER (head coach): One of the most consistently good and honest forwards of the past 20 years. Record proves his durability – 21 Tests for New Zealand, ex-captain of Leeds, former player-coach of Halifax. Won most of the honours available after spells with Bradford, Warrington (twice), Leeds (twice) and Halifax. Was No 2 and then head coach at Castleford last year and now coaching at National League level for the first time.

KEITH BRENNAN (assistant coach): Retired as a player at the end of the 2004 season after five seasons with the Roughyeds. Initially appointed academy coach, but then upgraded to Mercer's No 2 when the club decided to go without an under-21s side in 2005. One of the club's most loyal and dedicated players since he first signed from local amateurs Shaw Rhinos in 1999. His elevation to the coaching staff was richly deserved.

GARETH BARBER: Now one of the longer serving Oldham players, local lad Barber began his rugby league career at Warrington and joined the Roughyeds in the early days of the Mike Ford era. Basically a stand-off, but also able to play at hooker in the 'new' game, Gareth has played more than 100 senior games for his home-town club. He holds the club record for the most points in a single match – 26 from three tries and seven goals in a 47-12 defeat of Dewsbury at Hurst Cross in April, 2002.

RICKY BIBEY: Former Wigan and St Helens prop. Signed for Oldham just before the start of the 2005 season. He has also had a spell on loan at Leigh, for whom he played in a National League first division grand final. Aged 23, he has more than 50 Super League appearances behind him and he has the rare distinction of having won a Challenge Cup winners' medal for Wigan against St Helens and also for St Helens against Wigan.

WILL COWELL: Somewhat unlucky with injuries, yet this popular Cumbrian – a native of Whitehaven and reared in rugby league at Kells – has still played 60 senior competitive games for the Roughyeds after joining the club from Warrington at the start of the 2002 season. He has scored a total of 16 tries for Oldham, mainly from the wing. Works hard from defence in helping his pack to carry the ball forward.

GAVIN DODD: Favourite position, full-back, but also able to play centre and wing. Played mainly wing in the last two seasons because of the outstanding form at No 1 of Jon Goddard. Strong runner, quick too and capable of scoring tries from deep inside his own half. Made his debut five years ago and has an excellent try-scoring record – 44 in 110 senior appearances.

MARTIN ELSWOOD: Another local lad, and yet another who came 'home' via a Super League club. Only 20, he signed for Huddersfield Giants from Royton Tigers and is now starting his second season with the Oldham club that he and his family have supported all their lives. Originally a centre, he is now a back-row forward. A dislocated shoulder restricted him to 21 senior games in 2004, but he is looking for better luck, and more game time, in 2005.

CRAIG FARRIMOND: Aged 22, Craig is a versatile player who can operate equally well at hooker or loose-forward. A Wiganer, he was snapped up by Warrington as a youngster and it was from the Warriors that he joined Oldham for the start of the 2004 season. Injury restricted him to eight senior games last season, but he hopes for better luck in 2005 under a new coach and with a new-look squad.

TERE GLASSIE: The most experienced of Oldham's three new Cook Island internationals, 27-year-old Tere has played all over the park in his years in Australia. These days he will operate mainly at prop or second-row. Auckland-born, he has lived in Australia for most of his life and has played at various levels in various competitions in New South Wales. Recommended to Oldham by ex-Kiwi Test star Kevin Iro after he helped Cook Islands to a Pacific Cup victory over NZ Maoris in the final of the 2004 competition.

JON GODDARD: Walked off with all Oldham's major player-of-the-year titles in 2004 after a brilliant season. Was also named as one of the LHF Healthplan National League first division's top three full-backs. Played in 32 of Oldham's 33 games that season and was man of the match in many of them. A Castleford lad, he signed originally for his hometown club, but he joined Oldham three seasons ago and he has never looked back after being switched from centre to his favourite No 1 job.

ANDY GOREY: One of the youngest members of the squad, 19-year-old Andy is still waiting for his first-team debut. A scrum-half who has also done well at full-back in under-21s rugby, he too has been unlucky with injuries. In fact, he was due to be given a run in one or more of the 2005 pre-season warm-up matches until he badly gashed an arm at work and ended up in a micro-surgery unit at a Manchester hospital. Now fighting back to full fitness.

SIMON HAUGHTON: Formerly with Wigan Warriors and then Orrell RU Club, Simon won many medals and honours with the crack Wigan side, often playing second-row alongside Denis Betts and matching Betts in the try-scoring charts. Joined Oldham in mid-December, 2004 and was certainly Mercer's highest-profile capture. He played mainly in the backs with Orrell, but Mercer plans to use him as Wigan did – as a wide-running second-row forward with a thirst for tries.

JOHN HOUGH: A hooker, John is unique in Roughyeds folklore. He made local rugby league history in early December, 1997 when he signed for the newly-formed club as a free agent from Warrington Wolves to become the Roughyeds' first ever signing. Since then he has been a magnificent servant which was rewarded in November, 2004 when he was offered and accepted a three-year contract to take him up to retirement. He has played in 194 senior games for the Roughyeds – more than any other player.

NICK JOHNSON: An old-style winger who loves to hug the touchline, Oldham-born Nick played in all 33 Oldham games in 2004 and scored 26 tries to set a club record for most tries in a season. Formerly with Bradford, last season was his first full campaign with the Roughyeds and he got off to a flier by scoring 15 tries in the first 13 games. In a purple patch last March and April he scored ten tries in five games against Warrington (cup), Chorley, Rochdale twice and Swinton.

JAMES KIRKLAND: Another 19 year old, James is a hooker who has worked his way up through Oldham's junior and senior academy teams of the past three years. Pre-season games apart, he made his senior debut as a substitute in the first Northern Rail Cup game of 2005 against Blackpool Panthers. Highly thought of by coach Mercer.

CARLOS MATAORA: Another Cook Islands international. Like Tere Glassie and Dana Wilson, he played in the Pacific Cup campaign for the Cooks, who beat Tonga and Fiji on their way to the final in which they conquered the Maoris. Another Kevin Iro recommendation, this 21 year old can play hooker, loose-forward or half-back, a very versatile performer of whom exciting things are expected in 2005.

DAMIAN MUNRO: Son of Geoff Munro, who made a name for himself with the old Oldham Bears club as a high-scoring and strong-running wing. Damian scored 32 tries for Leigh in 2003, mainly from the wing, and proved to be one of the most exciting finishers over distance outside Super League. He has come 'home' to Oldham to play essentially in the centre and there are some who feel he could rival Johnson this year in the race to become the club's top try scorer.

DANNY NANYN: A 19-year-old prop, pocket-battleship Danny has burst on to the Oldham scene this season and has impressed Mercer with his all-action performances in pre-season. He also won a man of the match award on the opening day of the season in the 22-20 win over Blackpool. Younger brother of Whitehaven points machine Mick Nanyin, he is expected this year to give Oldham's more experienced and established props a good run for their money when front-row places are up for grabs.

PAUL NORMAN: Back in his younger days, Paul used to play for the former Oldham club, mainly in the 'A' team in those formative days of his rugby league career. When that club went into liquidation in 1997, he moved on to Leigh where he had several good seasons and became one of the most reliable front-row forwards in the National Leagues. He was happy to come back to Oldham and has already showed himself to be a 100 per center. Mr Reliable, indeed.

MARK ROBERTS: Mark impressed at Oldham while on loan from Warrington at the end of the 2004 season. The management, and Mercer, had no hesitation in going for him again for 2005, this time on a more permanent basis. Like all the other senior players, with the exception of John Hough, he is on a one-year contract. Mark proved his value last year and he is expected to have a good season in the back row of the pack.

ADAM SHARPLES: Another young prop, Adam gave up a promising future in swimming to concentrate on rugby league. He toured Fiji, Auckland and Australia with NW Counties under-16s in 2001 and has come on in leaps and bounds since, already possessing more than ten senior outings. Dedicated, and a hard worker in the gym and the training field, he is currently battling back to fitness after suffering a recurrence of a knee injury in pre-season. A student of sports science at Alsagar College, Crewe.

SIMON SVABIC: Stand-off Simon began his career with the old Oldham club, moved on to Salford and then Leigh and then came back to Oldham for the start of the 2003 campaign. Now in his third year with the club, he is a midfield tactician with good hands, a rugby brain and a kicking game.

MARTY TURNER: A 23-year-old New Zealander, Marty is the club's overseas quota player for 2005. He will operate at scrum-half and will have the additional responsibilities of goalkicker. It will be his job to take the team around the field. He has played most of his rugby in Australia and comes to Oldham on the recommendation of his fellow Kiwi and Widnes coach Frank Endacott. The tip was so strong that Mercer felt he had no alternative but to unload Aussie forward Dane Morgan to make way for his playmaker on the quota.

ALEX WILKINSON: Another former Royton Tiger, Alex signed for Bradford as a youngster and he has a fair bit of Super League experience under his belt, having played out on loan for London Broncos and Hull FC, for whom he later signed permanently. Full time rugby and physiotherapy studies at Huddersfield didn't mix so he got his release and signed for his home town club, where his father used to be the club doctor. Younger brother also played for the Roughyeds until injury put paid to his hopes of a career in the sport.

DANA WILSON: A 21 year old prop from the southern hemisphere, Dana was born in Auckland of a Cook Islands mother and a Samoan father. He played for the Marist club in Auckland and then, last year, moved to Australia to play for a club in the Manly competition on the outskirts of Sydney. He made a big impression for the Cooks in the Pacific Cup and the Cooks manager, Kevin Iro, felt he was ready for the next stage of his development – a trip to the UK to try his hand with Oldham in the National League.

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