

THE ROUGHYEDS

V HULL KR

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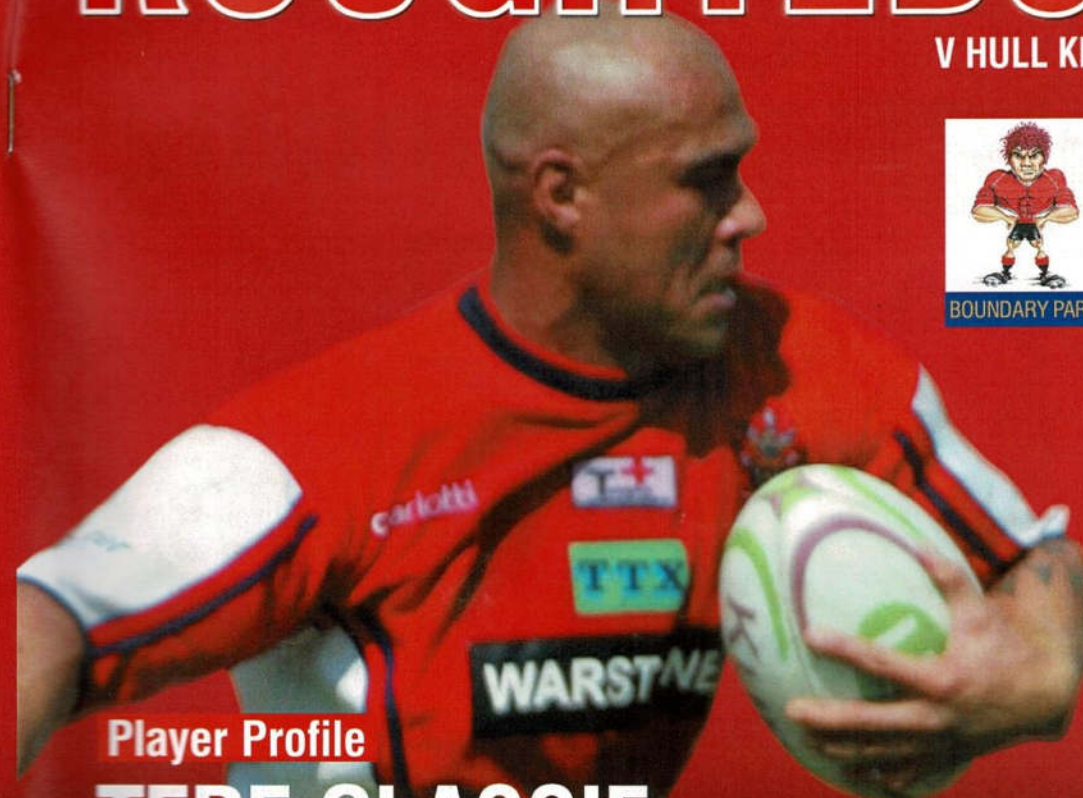
SUNDAY 31st JULY 2005
KICK OFF 3.00pm

THE ROUGHYEDS

V HULL KR



BOUNDARY PARK



Player Profile

TERE GLASSIE

Striving hard for a top 6 finish- Page 17

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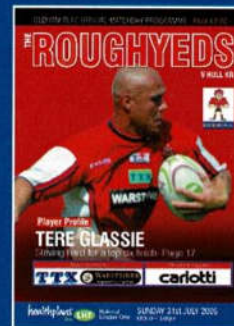


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Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

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We would like to express our thanks to the Oldham
Evening Chronicle, League Publications Ltd,
Phil Burdge and all concerned for the use of
photographs.

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Club Records - 1998-2004

Trans-Penine Cup
Finalists - 1998

Northern Ford Premiership
Club of the Year - 2000
Grand Finalists - 2001

MOST APPEARANCES: John Hough, 189 - Jan 1998 - September 2004
CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES: Phil Farrel, 67 - *April 2nd 2000 - March 15th 2002
*John Hough was on the team for every match February 1st 1999 - April 16th 2001 (82)

TRIES IN A SEASON: Nick Johnson, 25 - 2004
GOALS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, 146 - 2000-2001
POINTS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, 320 - 2000-2001
DROP GOALS IN A SEASON: Neil Roden, 7 - 2001-2002
TRIES IN A CAREER: Mark Sibson, 60 - 1999-2002
GOALS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, 254 - 1999-2001
POINTS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, 576 - 1999-2001
DROP GOALS IN A CAREER: Neil Roden, 18 - 2000-2003

TRIES IN MATCH: Mark Sibson v Wigan St. Judes, 4 - Feb 8th 2000 at Boundary Park
Mark Sibson v Queensbury, 4 - Jan 28th 2001 at Boundary Park
David Gibbons v Chorley Lynx, 4 - Jan 30th 2001 at Boundary Park
James Bunyan v Featherstone Rovers, 4 - Apr 12th 2004 at Boundary Park
GOALS IN A MATCH: Simon Syabic v Swinton Lions, 10 - Apr 6th 2003 at Boundary Park
POINTS IN A MATCH: Gareth Barber v Dewsbury Rams, 26 - Apr 2nd 2002 at Hurst Cross
(7 goals, 3 tries)

DROP GOALS IN A MATCH: Neil Roden v Workington Town, 2 - Dec 17th 2000 at Derwent Park
John Braddish v Hull KR, 2 - Dec 16th 2001 at New Craven Park

HIGHEST SCORE/WINNING MARGIN: v Yorks Wasps, 70-6 - Apr 1st 2001
at Huntington Stadium
v Queensbury (amt), 64-0 - Jan 28th 2001
RLCC 3rd Rnd at Boundary Park

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The Chairman's Thoughts

with CHRIS HAMILTON

After what seems an eternity we are again at Boundary Park for our last three home games of the 2005 season.

With league positions as they are, these three games will, more than ever, determine our fate this season. Today we have a tough test against the form team of the division at the moment Hull KR and we congratulate them on their achievement in winning this years Northern Rail final a couple of weeks ago.

After today we have games to come against Batley and Barrow and without any doubt they are must win games. Against Castleford last week we put up a great show and with an even amount of possession we could have even won the game. What we did underline once again was the fact that this division is very tight and anybody can beat anybody else.

With that in mind we have no reason to fear any teams we play and although some of our remaining fixtures look very difficult on paper we are more than capable of picking up a decent number of points between now and the end of the season.

I have said on more than one occasion this year that the only team we need be wary of is ourselves and if we can find the right amount of self belief we are still capable of making the top six and then anything can happen.

Last weeks game also saw the team welcome back a number of players who have been out long term and certainly the injury situation this season has been chronic at times and you could certainly count on one hand the number of times Gary has been able to put out his strongest 17.

We will certainly have to be on song today to get the two points as Hull KR will be full of confidence after their

recent run and I have no doubt that they will also bring with them a big and vocal following so lets hope we can rely on the same.

Our present financial situation must not be forgotten and we are constantly striving to find ways of raising funds for the club. Our thanks go out to everybody who has organised or taken part in numerous events held so far and we ask you once again to please support the fund raising activities in any way you can.

The way the last few fixtures have fallen has certainly not helped our cash flow and I hope we have a good turnout today to welcome the team back "home".

Thank you to all of you who supported our games at Sedgley Park and a special mention today must go to Oldham Athletic Football Club who as you will no doubt be aware have agreed to our request for a rent reduction which starts from today's game and this gesture will hopefully be one of many that put together will provide the pathway forward for our club.

As ever, thanks for your support and enjoy the game.

Chris

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From The Touchline

with Gary Mercer

Q&A

WITH GARY MERCER

Paul D Marshall asked:

How confident are you of fighting off the threat of relegation this season? With the Roughyeds still to play the likes of Hull KR, Whitehaven, Rochdale and Halifax there are still plenty of tough games left in store. Would it be a travesty if we had to join the second division play-offs and win their Grand Final to stay up? However, looking at the situation from a more positive point of view, a top six place is still within our reach. I suppose it is a case of taking one match at a time, generating maximum effort and the results will take care of themselves. I can appreciate it Gary if you say you're not one for making predictions. We'll leave that one for Nigel as he is top of the Predictions League!

Gary says:

You've really answered the question yourself Gary. Let's just say the word relegation is never mentioned and we are only thinking of a top 6 place. Nigel tells me we will have no problems so let's hope his last six predictions are as good as his last 12 have been.

Thinboyfat asked:

Gary, how much time do you generally dedicate weekly to tactical planning ahead of each game, especially identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition and how you plan to attack/defend and develop any specific set plays. What information do you use and where does it come from (providing it's not to confidential)

Gary says:

I spend a lot of time studying the videos of the opposition in recent games. One of the first things I pick up on is which of their players are weak defensively and then set up a plan to play to their weaknesses. Every game plan is different be it penalty taps, kick offs, scrums, defensive and attack. Often a part of your plan goes astray because of circumstances. For example a lot we had planned in attack against Castleford didn't get used because of the 16-4 penalty count.

One Mal Graham asked:

Sometimes we look a little bit disorganised when we have the ball. Does Gary believe in having a 'general' who calls the plays and organises the line or does he believe in a more 'off the cuff' style?

PS Great effort from the boys at Cas!

Gary says:

Our playmakers are Marty Turner and Chris Hough and they are now beginning to make a great out half pairing. The problem at Cas was the penalty count meant they had very little momentum going forward to work off but still did a good job. What we must work on this week is that we don't put ourselves under the cosh giving away so many penalties. Whatever people say about the referee and the touch judges in the end we made the mistakes and I will be looking again at the lying on penalties and addressing the situation.

Unfortunately at the time of going to press I haven't seen the video of the Castleford game and therefore cannot give you the stats information I usually include.

In a way that is fitting as almost from 1 to 17 I thought we were very strong and Keith and I were proud of the boys. To play against a penalty count of 16-4 and to only get two of those four in the last five minutes when the game was all but over was phenomenal. In a situation like that when everything seems to be going against you it is easy to give up with an attitude of "What's the point?" But that was never in the lads' minds there was no way they were going to lie down and die.

This took a phenomenal effort and great mental strength and it was great as a coach to see how these lads have developed, especially mentally over the past few months. The negative defensive sets we had to withhold on our own line in the first 20 minutes meant in the end fatigue set in and we conceded two tries, but with hindsight I think this helped us in the end as we got our second wind quicker and moved on to be only 2 points behind at half time.

Perhaps we were a little nervous in the first 20 and didn't really get a roll on until the second 20 despite scoring the first try. But in the end we realised there was no pressure on us and we kept to our game plan despite all else even though we couldn't try a lot we had planned in attack as we were so starved of the ball. But can I add again it was all very pleasing as a coach, especially the way we worked the tackle. This was the best we have done all season and the lads followed the work Keith and I have done to the letter. It was not lying on but working the tackle and you must do this to full time teams like Castleford if you are to have any chance of competing.

Talking of full time players, if anyone had come to Sunday's game not knowing which was the full time team I venture to suggest they would have found it impossible to tell. Our fitness level was fantastic. The side played well in general but I have to mention Gareth Barber who had been replaced by young Jimmy Kirkland. Unfortunately he had to go off after 12 minutes and Gareth came on and led the side brilliantly. His head hadn't gone down at not being picked in the 13 and he has immediately got his spot back after a great display in defence and attack. Ricky Bibey led superbly from the front, always looking for the ball and giving us invaluable momentum up the centre, which we then played off.

And isn't it great to have Paul Norman back? It's going to be a godsend to have some one with his experience back in the side for the run in. He came through the game with flying colours, giving his all for 26 minutes despite going through the pain barrier with this being his first game for so long. What a winger's try Nick's was and this is where a natural winger like Nick is so important for a side. He is a natural try scorer and few could have touched that one down like Nick did. I will back him 9 times out of ten in such a situation. What is also pleasing is that he is looking for work far more now and his work rate has improved significantly.

I cannot finish without giving a mention to Gavin Dodd. He came into the match with a slight shoulder injury, hurt his hand badly, twisted his ankle and received a

head injury. But when I told him he would have to continue because of the injuries on the bench he never blinked an eye and continued to play a significant part in attack and defence. He has been a revelation for us this season and shows a brilliant attitude.

Simon Houghton needs a little more contact work so we are targeting the Whitehaven game for his return. Turning to today we will need to work hard against a very competent Hull K R team with a new coach. We have to set the Castleford game as our starting point and move on from there. We cannot afford to take backward steps as points are now vital and we have sat down as a team and discussed this. To gain two points we need to enjoy our rugby and with sheer effort and collective teamwork we will succeed.

Cheers, Gary

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As Ian Sees It!

It has been interesting in recent weeks to read of both players and coaching staff emphasising that the aim remains firmly to make the end-of season play-off series.



With exactly one third of the regular home and away fixtures still to play, I wonder how realistic that objective really is.

We have so far managed to accumulate just 7 points, of course, and as I write stand in 7th. place. Immediately below us are Batley and Featherstone, each on 6 points, and above us Rochdale on 11. So to make the play-offs would require us to make up 4 points on Rochdale out of the 12 points still to be played for - and also to reverse the 62 points difference deficit we have on them. Alternatively we would need to make up more than that on at least one of the sides currently standing in the top 5 in the table. In reality that means either Doncaster or Halifax, both of whom we have recently lost to.

Is this really feasible? I suppose we should look at the remaining fixtures to come to a sensible view. Today of course is one of 3 home fixtures we have left - the others being against the apparently doomed Barrow and our fellow strugglers Batley. We also have to travel to Whitehaven, Halifax and Rochdale, meanwhile, have two difficult away fixtures and four at home, including Featherstone as well as us, whilst it seems to me that the others in the top 5 all have enough games that they should win to put them out of our reach.

Sport is unpredictable, of course, and it is not impossible that we could end up with 19 points and a position in the top half of the table. I would suggest, though, that realism would make that

about as likely as England going on to thrash the Aussies in the 4 remaining cricket tests of the summer! If we didn't have significant weaknesses as a RL side in the division we play in, we wouldn't be where we are now. And though it is quite right for the coaching staff to stress how well we are capable of playing when we play at our best, the unpalatable fact is that we simply do not seem to have the ability to eradicate the errors which stop us from playing at our best all the time. Last week's game at Cas is a good illustration. We competed very well, tried very hard and did lots of good things, against the only full-time side in the competition, on their ground - but we lost, by twelve points.

To me, the crucial issue is motivation. What will motivate the players to fight to their last ounce of strength and stamina when the going gets tough - the target of reaching 6th. or the aim of survival in NL1? I have to say that I suspect that it may be the latter. I suspect that we have to win 3 games to guarantee ourselves 7th. place and so avoidance of even the possibility of having to win some potential banana-skin game to stay in NL1 next season; 2 might do. I think we should focus entirely on that target, and only when it has been secured should we start to think about what we need to do to restore ourselves to the position we have held in the recent past as a genuinely challenging play-off side.

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In Yer Face!

with GEOFF COOKE

A crucial fixture for Oldham takes place today when Featherstone Rovers, under new Coach David Hobbs, take on Batley Bulldogs at the Lionheart Stadium. Both sides trail Oldham by a single point so, should Oldham lose today to Hull K.R. (which we all hope they don't) either one could drop the Roughyeds down the table into a play-off or relegation spot.

I suppose ideally a draw would be the best result although Batley have a better points difference than Oldham, but with the Bulldogs having to visit Boundary Park a result their way is preferable to a Featherstone victory.

All that said, Gary Mercer and his players will be plotting the downfall of the recent Northern Rail Cup winners who currently hold third spot and who entertain hopes of a Grand Final appearance and promotion to Super League. As the 'business end' of the season is now well and truly upon us all kinds of permutations open up. For example a Rovers' victory today and a Whitehaven defeat at Doncaster (by no means an impossibility) would elevate the Robins to second in the table. Oldham, however, have not given up on a play-off place and a win on their return 'home' would be a tremendous fillip. Given the Roughyeds recent form in close defeats against Castleford, Doncaster and Halifax a win against the Robins is not out of the question. Coach Mercer's options are improving with the return of

players from injury and previous experience shows that teams playing with confidence and hitting form at the right time can make a real impact in the closing weeks of the season. It is vital therefore that Oldham convert chances into points and start to emerge on the right side of close scorelines. Keep your nerve, cut down the penalties and errors, and don't rush the decision making and suddenly a six point deficit or more can be turned around or a slim lead be consolidated.

Meanwhile, at the top of the table everyone's pre-season favourite for a quick return to Super League, Castleford, have stuttered in recent weeks. Before a ball was kicked this year I suggested Cas. would not necessarily fulfil their ambitions. As the season comes to a climax I would suggest that any one of Castleford, Whitehaven, Hull K.R. or Halifax could win the Grand Final, with my instinct telling me it won't be the Tigers. Mind you whether being promoted is a blessing under current circumstances is open to question as Leigh have found to their cost this year. Already Super League clubs are signing up players for next season and by the time the N.L.1 winners are known quality players will be in short supply making the promoted side favourites for the drop even before the close season begins.

From Oldham's point of view I suppose the ideal scenario is that Whitehaven are promoted with Widnes and Leigh relegated. And if York were to come up from N.L.2 to replace Barrow that would both cut down on travelling but, more importantly, provide a competitive division with clubs which have decent travelling support and can boost the all important gate receipts. That's all assuming of course that Oldham stay where they are!


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In The News



Unfortunately the last two results have been disappointing but not the performances. The team really seem to be gelling and we are getting some of the long term injured back, which can only be a good thing. You can tell from Gary's up beat column that he is a lot happier and let's hope that now we are back at Boundary Park we can start picking up the vital points needed to get us into that top six.

Last Saturday at Melrose playing fields was a great day and the supporters' team really did us proud. What a difference this was to the first game, which was really just a bit of fun. This one was a "friendly" in the same way that the Law Cup game against Rochdale Hornets is a "friendly". I'm told the Hollinwood team was actually an Oldham BARLA 17 so that makes the performance even more pleasing. We picked up a few injuries but they weren't, in the end, as bad as we thought they might be. However there were a few aching bodies at Cas on Sunday.

As well as a good spectacle the day was successful financially with over £700 going into Club 180 and £50 to the club from a bucket collection. Thanks must go out to all who helped on stalls, collections, games etc and all those who organised the BBQ at the club afterwards. Also thanks to the girls who raised £800 in the cycle ride to Doncaster. They couldn't have picked a hotter day and certainly worked hard for the money they raised.

The next big Club 180 do is the Bernard Manning evening on Friday 5 August, tickets £10 from the office 6283677. Please make every effort to get yourselves and all your friends at what promises to be a great evening.

On the right you will see the results of the Prediction League at the 2/3 stage.

PREDICTION LEAGUE ROUND 12

What a high scoring round this was, lots above 20, which is rare. NM got the Oldham v Cas. score spot on and quite a few were only 1 or 2 points away.

The joint winners of Rounds 7 - 12 are Chris Hamilton and Nigel Marland so I think there is a fair chance the prizes will be donated back to the club.

		Total	Round 6 score	Total (7 - 12)
1	Nigel Marland	181 (27)	88	93
2	M Ackroyd	162 (18)	74	88
3	Chris Hamilton	160 (21)	67	93
4	Brian Walker	152 (21)	76	76
5	D Schofield	143 (22)	69	74
6	T Boycott	141 (22)	71	70
7	Ashley Baxter	140 (14)	69	71
8	P Gough	137 (20)	53	84
9	G Cooke	136 (17)	51	85
10	J Davies	129 (16)	62	67
11=	R Halstead	128 (16)	51	77
11=	Paul Hulbert	128 (12)	60	68
13	G Cheetham	127 (22)	51	76
14	Paul Norman	125 (10)	58	67
15	Michael Kivlin	123 (15)	65	58
16	Nick Henry	118 (22)	40	78
17	S Somerville	117 (12)	52	65
18	David Lord	115 (8)	55	60
19	S McDonagh	119 (12)	62	58
20	S Jackson	118 (20)	57	61
21	D King	113 (17)	60	53
22	D Else	112 (10)	60	52
23=	D Stevens	111 (15)	46	65
23=	S Whitehead	111 (17)	56	55
25	S Hague	103 no entry	43	60
26	Susan Kivlin	93 (6)	45	48
27	Ann Marie Kivlin	92 (6)	46	46
28	S Crossley	89 no entry	56	33
29	John McAndrew	86 (12)	50	36
30	Janet & Carole	66 no entry	44	22

() Last weeks score.

OLDHAM INDEPENDENT SUPPORTER'S TRUST



Firstly, the steering group would like to thank everybody who turned out for the recent public meeting held at the Pennine Way Hotel. The evening was a great success and the place was packed with the attendance over 300. The Trust was ratified by an overwhelming majority who confirmed that they will become members. There were also over 70 volunteers for the Working Party - the team of people who will set up and run the Trust - which was a magnificent response.

Since the meeting many people, who, for one reason or another, couldn't attend, have been in touch to either indicate their intention to become members or to offer a hands-on role. A meeting with everybody who would like to be part of the Working Party was held at the Social Club on Thursday night. Due to printing deadlines this article was written before that meeting but by now the name of the Trust, the basis of membership fees and the Trust's Acting Officers will have been decided. The legal work to establish the Trust will now be underway and an official launch and membership drive will follow.

The feedback we have received from our potential members has been very clear - that the main objective for the Trust should be to work hand-in-hand with OMBC to look at all angles of funding a new Community Stadium in Oldham. OMBC are in the process of running a feasibility study on some six or seven sites around the borough, the outcome of which should be known soon.

Community involvement is critical to the Trust's success. Therefore, it's vital that any ground development should be progressed with the Oldham Amateur League and to that end there have already been a number of exploratory discussions with a meeting arranged for early August.

We can't stress enough that the hard work starts from here!! As soon as the

Trust constitution is established, it can then be registered as a non-profit Provident Association. A bank account can then be opened and the membership drive can start in earnest. We will also be developing a business plan, Marketing strategy, Trust Logo and Website, Junior section etc, etc.....see what we mean by hard work!

It couldn't be more crucial that as many people as possible get involved, that everybody's voice is heard and that the Trust is never, ever perceived as a closed shop. The door will always be open to anybody who wants to play an active part and we urge anyone that cares to come and join us.

Anyone who wants to get involved or simply find out more about what we are doing, then please contact Simon Winnard on 0791 753 4918 or by email at simon.winnard@tesco.net. In the meantime, we will of course endeavour to keep supporters up to date via various media sources.

Finally, we would just like to say a big thank you to the Club for giving us this space in the programme - another great example of working together and a good example of the help we have received to date. Together we make all the difference!

Trust Steering Group



“Community involvement is critical to the Trust's success. Therefore, it's vital that any ground development should be progressed with the Oldham Amateur League”

Walkerbout

With Brian Walker



Walkerbout



OLDHAM RLFC

Oldham is a proud club with a great tradition. Founded in 1874 as a rugby union side, it grew rapidly and during just its third season, 1876-77, it won the first of many of its players to gain representation honours when it was selected for Lancashire. Oldham were the first Lancashire team to lift the Challenge Cup when they won it in 1896. The beginning of its rich golden era in the history of the club. For the next thirty years it would never be far from the honours and the period included a sensational spell during the 1920s when it won the four greatest Challenge Cup titles.

The adult side of the 1920s is still fondly remembered, the names of Davies, Griffiths, Gurney, Whittaker, Jackson, Little and Co. etched into the memory of those supporters who were amongst the £2,000 crowd at Oldham to watch the 'fourth' team beat Wigan 13-12 to win the 1927 Championship. Immediately, the team from the old system team has not won a major trophy since, despite, in 1996, being a founder member of Super League and the following year playing in Australia in the World Club Championship. Unfortunately, in 1997 pressing financial problems forced the club into liquidation.

Professional rugby league was not allowed to die in the town, however, and due to the efforts of a group of enthusiasts a new Oldham club was formed and entered the Second Division Championship of 1998.

The story continues right up to the present day. With over 100 photographs, many international and club honours, this book brings to the fore again many of Oldham's heroes. This is a limited edition of a Super League club that has won over 100 international papers, and is a must for any supporter living or not.

ISBN 0-7524-3066-6

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TODAY'S OPPONENTS

Hull KR

Alasdair McClarron joined Rovers midway through the 2001 season from Driffield Rugby Union having impressed then coach Gary Wilkinson with his speed and playing abilities.

Andy Raleigh. A strong running and fast second rower Andy is one of the fittest players at the club and an 80-minute player who is hungry for success.

Craig Poucher. A strong running, tough tackling player who combines a strong defensive game with fast paced attacking play and a safe pair of hands under the high ball.

David Tangata-Toa. A powerful unit who has an uncompromising style in the Robins front row. Is likely to be a huge hit for the Robins this season with ambitions of playing in the Super League in 2006.

James Garmston. A former Embassy Longhill and Myton Warriors junior, James is highly rated by many at the club and will be looking to continue his successful start to 2005 with more appearances in the team.

Jamie Bovill. Jamie became the youngest ever Rovers player to make his debut for the club when he played against Rochdale Hornets in 1999 capping his debut with a fantastic try and continued his progress with the first team during 2000.

Jimmy Walker. His speed and skill added a new look to Rovers side and his quick thinking proved to be decisive on a number of occasions. Lightening speed off the mark, Jimmy collected the Best Newcomer Award for the 2001 season.

Kane Epati joined the Robins towards the end of 2004 having been recommended to the club by former New Zealand International Kevin Iro.

A powerful and pacey three-quarter, Epati has spent his first few months with the Robins playing on the wing but is more accustomed to a place in the centres.

Loz Wildbore. Loz, a goal-kicking fullback can also adapt himself to centre, half back or loose-forward and has impressed coach Harvey Howard immediately with his positive attitude and hunger for success.

Mark Blanchard. Mark made a try scoring debut for the Robins in 1999 when he played against Oldham on the wing having risen to prominence with the Hull Kingston Rovers Academy side being a member of the all-conquering sides of 1999 and 2000.

Neil Harmon As well as a wealth of experience playing in the Super League Harmon has also gained international honours being a part of the Great Britain tour to New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea in 1996.

Paul Mansson Mansson will be looking to continue his excellent form into 2005 and after a series of breathtaking performances for the Robins in the last couple of years it hasn't taken long for the Rovers faithful to find a new hero as they look for Mansson to produce his silky skills in a red and white jersey.

Paul Pickering. Paul burst onto the scene in 2002 with the Robins when he joined the club from local Amateur side Embassy and became an integral part of the clubs Academy team with a string of impressive performances.

Andy Ellis. Very fast from dummy half and a smooth passer of the ball. Good support player who has an excellent try scoring record and one of the brightest young talents at the club.

Byron Ford. Byron Ford became one of the Robins first new signings of the New Year joining fellow countryman Kane Epati in East Hull. A former basketball star Ford can play in the three-quarter line or at fullback and has already shown his excellent handling qualities and electric pace.

Dale Holdstock. Dale's versatility saw him feature at centre, second row and as an impact player from the bench for the Centurions and combining excellent strength, speed and fitness he proves a handful for opposition defences.

Dwayne Barker Former Leeds Rhino's Academy starlet Dwayne Barker joined the Robins on a two year contract after a loan spell at Craven Park towards the end of last season.

James Webster has become an instant success with the Robins fans in his outings in the clubs pre-season friendlies fitting into the team at both half-back and hooker and already finding his way across the try line for a brace on his Rovers debut.

Jason Netherton A tough tackling, strong running player who has all the correct attributes to be a top class second rower and will be a key figure in the Robins pack in 2005.

Leroy Rivett Leroy joined the Robins in April 2005 after a spell playing in the French leagues. A renowned try scorer who adds pace and experience to the Robins three quarter line.

Makali Aizue The Robins will be hoping that Makali continues his excellent form this season having come off the overseas quota due to new rules set down and signed a new one year deal despite interest from a number of Super League clubs.

Michael Smith Michael is renowned for his sheer aggression and power, is a superb off loader in the tackle and brings real quality, experience and competition to an already formidable forward pack.

Paul Fletcher The biggest and most experienced member of Rovers squad, Paul strikes fear into the hearts of all his opponents but is also one of the true fans favourites at the club. Paul scored his 100th try for the Robins in 2004.

Paul Parker Paul adds pace and strength along with excellent defensive and attacking abilities to the Rovers three-quarter line.

Phil Hasty Having gained crucial experience in National League One last season big things are again expected from the young scrum-half and Rovers will be hoping he continues his rise in Rugby League.

Player Profile by Roger Halstead

TERE GLASSIE

HOW the season has flown by! It seems like only yesterday that Marty Turner and the Cook Islands boys were flying in from the other side of the world and into the rigours of a northern winter.

Remember the Chronicle picture of Marty, Dana Wilson (we called him Jonathan in those days), Carlos Mataora and Tere Glassie romping around in the snow at Moorside, some of them having touched the white stuff for the first time?

Carlos nearly froze to death in his early outings... and the four of them must have wondered what they let themselves in for when training took place in wind, hail and sleet at sundry outdoor venues in the Oldham area.

Throughout those early hardships, however, the men from warmer climes never stopped smiling and never stopped giving of their best on the rugby field — and nobody smiled more than Tere Glassie.

It's hard to accept that those early, winter days and nights for the men from Down Under were nearly seven months ago; seven months in which Marty and the "Cooks" have become key members of the Roughyeds squad. They are popular guys within the squad and firm favourites of the Oldham fans.

Nobody has a bigger fan club than Tere and it is the 27 year old utility forward from Australia whom we will spotlight here in our regular match-day programme feature on players who wear the Roughyeds shirt with pride.

Rumours were around last December that Roughyeds were talking to a southern hemisphere forward with the initials TG and, sure enough, the Chronicle reported on December 29 that Gary Mercer had ended a four-month chase by snapping up Tere on a one-year deal.

He was, it was reported, a Cook Islands international who had played most of his rugby league in Australia after leaving behind his native New Zealand (he was born in Auckland) at the age of two.

He was Mercer's second signing under the Kolpak

Cont over...

Player Profile

TERE GLASSIE

“He will definitely be one of our leaders up front. It is vital for any side to have, in the forwards, guys who are leaders”



Cont...

agreement, following that of 21-year-old Carlos, and he was coming with a sound reputation.

Said Mercer at the time: "I've been talking to Tere for ages and I'm very happy to land him after long and protracted negotiations.

"There was a lot of interest in him, not only from Leigh, but also from other National League first division clubs, but we have convinced him he will be doing the right thing to have a go with Oldham.

"He will definitely be one of our leaders up front. It is vital for any side to have, in the forwards, guys who are leaders and I will be looking to Simon Haughton, Andrew Isherwood and Tere Glassie to do that job for us.

"Tere is aggressive, powerful and strong. He has aspirations to play in Super League and he will be looking to make a name for himself in this country with his performances for Oldham."

Like Carlos and Dana, he was recommended to Mercer by the Oldham boss's former New Zealand Test colleague Kevin Iro, who guided the Cook Islands to a Pacific Cup success in the final against New Zealand Maori 18 months ago.

Dana, Carlos and Tere all played for the Cooks. They were all born in Auckland but qualified for the Islands either through parents or grandparents.

In Tere's case, he had played in the NRL with South Sydney and, briefly, with Wests, but most of his rugby in more recent seasons was in reserve grade in Sydney football or in the Queensland Cup, a similar background to that of Marty Turner.

We didn't know it at the time, but Mercer's plans were to take a knock when the unlucky Isherwood broke down in pre-season training and reluctantly accepted that he would be unwise to carry on after playing only in the warm-up friendlies against Rochdale, Leeds Rhinos and Halifax.

A new side took a long time to gel in the Northern Rail Cup group games and as the Northern Rail made way for the start of the LHF Healthplan National League first division there were further pack problems for Oldham with injuries to Haughton, Paul Norman, Danny Naryn and Martin Elswood on top of Adam Sharples's knee injury, which had kept him sidelined from day one.

This threw a lot more pressure on Glassie, Wilson, Ricky Bibey and new recruit Ian Hodson and there is no doubt that throughout the league campaign up to now that quartet has carried the pack's heavy, physical work on its shoulders.

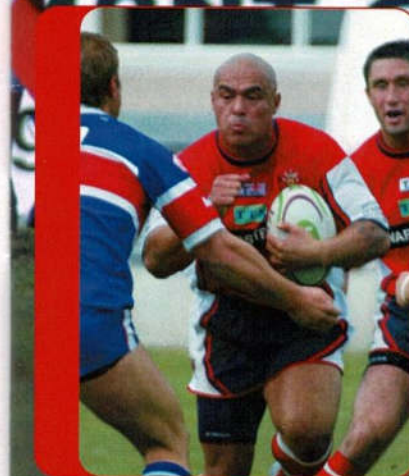
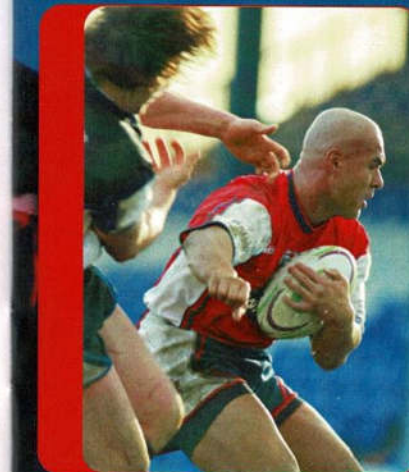
For his part, Glassie has played in 16 of a possible 19 matches since he made his debut in the second row against Blackpool at Boundary Park in mid-February and he is going from strength to strength as he showed with that superb first-minute break at Castleford last Sunday which led directly to Chris Hough's early try.

Although unlucky with hamstring and calf-muscle injuries, he has rarely allowed these setbacks to keep him away from where the action is hottest.

He does his tackling and his share of the graft, but he can also be flamboyant: there is no finer sight than Tere in full flight before getting in a useful offload.

As we approach the business end of the season you can rest assured the Oldham squad will strain every sinew in their bid to reach the top six or, if not, to make sure they are outside the bottom three.

You can be equally sure that none will be striving harder than Tere Glassie.



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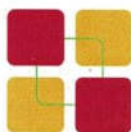
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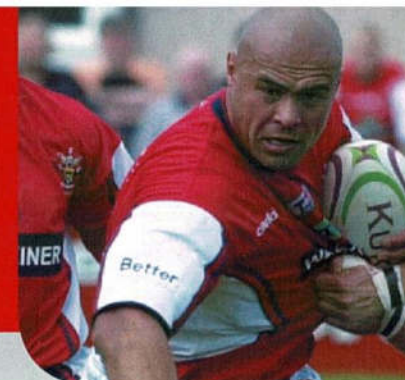
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On this day

Don Yates looks back to July 31st yesteryear



Tuesday 31st July 2001 was a busy night of international rugby in which players with Oldham connections figured prominently both here in Britain and 'down under' in Australia.

One of those players was Adam Sharples, the young prop who has been so impressive since joining the Roughyeds. Four years ago Sharples was with Royton Tigers and a member of the North West Counties under-16 squad which toured the Pacific region. The squad met Penrith that day and suffered their biggest defeat of the tour, going down 38-10. Other local lads who appeared against the outstanding Penrith team were scrum-half Ryan Collins (Waterhead), loose-forward Wayne Corcoran (Royton Tigers) and substitute Ross Tindall (also Royton Tigers).

Further up the Australian east coast, at Carina, a Combined England High School team met South East Queensland. The tourists won a thrilling encounter 32-30. One of the substitutes in the English team was Craig Vines of Stanley Rangers whose father, Don Vines, was a member of that great Oldham team of the late 1950s.

Nearer home that evening, at the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham, Wales entertained an England team that had two former Waterhead juniors in their ranks. Both played in unfamiliar positions, Paul Sculthorpe at stand-off and Kevin Sinfield in the second row. After 20 minutes Wales led 16-0 and they were still 23-10 in front at half-time. England recovered to eventually win 42-33 with both Oldham lads playing significant roles in the success. Sculthorpe ended the match with three tries to his name.

In 1966 the British Lions toured Australasia under joint managers Wilf Spaven of Hull Kingston Rovers and Oldham's Jack Errock. Although the Ashes were left in Australia, Great Britain won the New Zealand series and the tour showed a handsome profit. So much so that each professional club received a £500 shareout, a useful sum in those days. The final match of the Australian leg of the tour took place in Cooma, about 50 miles south of Canberra, on Sunday 31st

July. A crowd of 6,500 saw Great Britain defeat Monaro 33-12. The home side were well looked after by the referee with their points coming from six penalties. Hull Kingston Rovers' hooker Pete 'Flash' Flanagan appeared in that match but failed to get on the scoresheet. The nine British tries were scored by wingers Geoff Wrigglesworth (3) and Berwyn Jones (2), half-backs Willie Aspinall and Carl Dooler and centre Ian Brooke (2). Full-back Arthur Keegan landed three goals.

Centre three-quarter Mike Smith made more appearances for the Robins than any other player, 489. He also enjoyed a lengthy representative career, representing Yorkshire, England and Great Britain. Smith played all over the World, in Australia, New Zealand and France as well as Britain but it was on this day in 1982, Saturday 31st July, that he broke new ground when he played in Italy. Great Britain met France that day in the St. Elema Stadium, Venice. Also included in the British line-up was another Hull Kingston Rovers hero, full-back George Fairbairn. He landed a couple of goals but it was not enough, France won 8-7.

On Thursday 31st July 1997, following extensive canvassing from the Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust, a blue oval plaque was unveiled outside 11, Queen Street, Oldham to commemorate the work of Joseph Platt to the Rugby Football League. Platt was involved with the Oldham club from 1880 and was amongst the officials who attended the meetings which brought about the breakaway from the Rugby Football Union in 1895. He was appointed as the game's first honorary secretary, a position he held until 1920. Platt ran both his own business interests and also those of the Rugby Football League from those offices in Queen Street. Joseph Platt was an outstanding visionary whose true value to the game during its formative years must never be underestimated.

ROUGHYED KIDS + Co

Hi KIDS

Schools out now and we hope you are all enjoying a nice long break. Be good for all your Mums and Dads and don't get up too much mischief. If any of you are going to France over the holidays take last weekends referee back with you.

Thanks to all of you who came and spent your pocket money at our fun day/spectators match.

Today's mascot is 5 year old Connor Fletcher, he loves Oldham rugby, trains and playing out. Although mascots usually have a favourite player Connor's special team member is coach Gary Mercer, and again it is his first time as mascot so we hope he has a great time.

Once again a big thank you to all our sponsors who now appear under our new heading.

As always good luck to Gary and the Lads.

See you soon

Carole and Janet

TODAYS MASCOT

Connor Fletcher

Age: 5-year-old

OLDHAM RUGBY SUPPORT GROUP

Big raps are due on the exceptional efforts of 2 groups of young people who have been raising money for the Club's fighting fund.

The first group - Kathryn, Kirsty, Susan and Christopher, all inexperienced cyclists, did a sponsored cycle ride to the match at Doncaster. They raised around £800, in what was a remarkable achievement on the hottest day of the year. Well done!

The second group - the Supporters' Rugby Team. Last Saturday, in what was their second match against the local Hollinwood team, they performed with great courage and pride against a large and aggressive side, helping to raise over £700 for the cause. Well done!

Many thanks to our sponsor for the generous supply of fruit for the players' post match refreshments - JIMMY CLARK of TOMMYFIELD MARKET.

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For this season the format for this page will be to take a look at players who have represented both Oldham and the opposition of the day.

from the pen of MICHAEL TURNER

Today we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Hull Kingston Rovers. There have not been that many players who have represented both clubs but they do include some quite remarkable characters.

Such luminaries as Terry Ramshaw, Brian Lockwood, the great, Frank Foster and the legendary, Clive Sullivan have all graced the colours of the Roughyeds and the Robins. However it is two quite different types of loose forward that will be featured today.

Bryn Goldswain was born in Merthyr Tydfil. His transfer to Oldham came in July 1949, after he was experiencing difficulties travelling from his domicile in Liverpool to Hull. He was immediately installed as club captain. A superb footballer, Bryn was a skilful ball handler and possessed a fine kicking game. His own enthusiasm and leadership qualities provided the perfect example for his colleagues to follow. These talents did not go unrewarded and he was to add to the Welsh caps he had already won while at Hull K.R. Under Goldswain's captaincy Oldham began to gain a reputation for an entertaining style of play, not that he was alone responsible for this development, and he himself was quick to acknowledge the influence of

Stirrup, Daley, Keith and others among his contemporaries.

As Bryn approached the end of his career Oldham again looked to Craven Park for a replacement. **Derek "Rocky" Turner**, came to Oldham in September 1955. A forward of immense power and fearless determination, Derek was seen by many as the last piece required to complete the puzzle that became the great team of the 1950's.

A born leader, with never a backward step, he demonstrated a terrific work rate on both attack and defence, giving everything in the eighty minutes while inspiring others to do the same and was always a thorn in the side of the opposition. Although it is interesting, if not mystifying, to note that he was never captain while at Watersheddings. A position he fulfilled with distinction later at Wakefield Trinity.



Bryn Goldswain



Derek Turner

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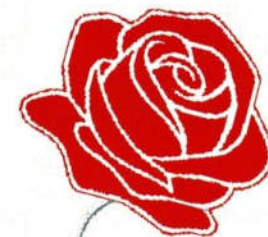
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OLDHAM RLFC PLAYER STATS 2005

Oldham match stats up to and including July 24th

NAME	APPEARANCES	TRIES	GOALS	POINTS
J. GODDARD	15	6	-	24
W. COWELL	10	4	-	16
D. MUNRO	11	4	-	16
A. WILKINSON	17	5	-	20
N. JOHNSON	19	10	-	40
S. SVABIC	19	6	6 (+ 2 d-g)	38
M. TURNER	19	6	63 (+ 1 d-g)	151
P. NORMAN	8	1	-	4
G. BARBER	16	3	1	14
D. NANYN	8	-	-	-
R. BIBEY	16	-	-	-
T. GLASSIE	17	4	-	16
C. MATAORA	18	2	-	8
C. FARRIMOND	4	-	-	-
G. DODD	20	14	-	56
M. ELSWOOD	8	2	-	8
J. KIRKLAND	13	-	-	-
J. HOUGH	15	-	-	-
J. WILSON	19	3	-	12
S. HAUGHTON	11	6	-	24
M. ROBERTS	13	2	-	8
A. GOREY	6	3	-	12
K. BRENNAN	2	-	-	-
I. HODSON	9	-	-	-
D. TOOTILL	2	-	-	-
R. MILLS	6	1	-	4
C. HOUGH	7	2	-	8
A. SHARPLES	7	-	-	-
A. SANDS	2	-	-	-

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A HUGE WEEKEND

THE National League seasons are certainly hotting up – with almost every fixture this weekend potentially having a crucial bearing on the final standings.

In National League One, a gap may have opened up between sixth placed Rochdale and Oldham in seventh (there is now four points between them), but everyone is still jostling for places.

Hornets are still hoping to finish fourth – which means a win away at Halifax, who currently occupy that position, is crucial to them today. But Fax have hit some form of late and will go into the contest as slight favourites.

Fifth-placed Doncaster are also seeking to climb the table, and have a tough home game with Whitehaven, who remain on the tails of leaders Castleford.

And Hull Kingston Rovers will be keen not to slip up when they travel to Oldham. It is still possible that the Northern Rail Cup winners can finish top of NL1.

Currently occupying that place are Castleford, who should have few problems overcoming the challenge of bottom-placed Barrow, now seemingly doomed to relegation despite some encouraging performances.

But potentially the biggest NL1 match of the day comes at the Lionheart Stadium, where Featherstone – under new coach David Hobbs – will be looking to climb out of the relegation places when they take on Batley, the team immediately above them.

Arguably the biggest game in either division comes at Ram Stadium, where second placed Dewsbury entertain leaders York. That clash could effectively decide the NL2 Minor Premiership – and with it, automatic promotion.

Third placed Hunslet – the surprise package of the campaign – take on fourth-placed Workington in another mouth-watering contest.

And Keighley's fading hopes of making the play-offs reach the cliché of a "must-win game" at home to Sheffield, two points and two places above them.

Elsewhere, Swinton will be expected to account for London Skolars despite the capital club's fine home win over the Cougars, though it might be closer at Blackpool, who continue to impress without picking up wins. The Panthers host Gateshead Thunder at Bloomfield Road.

So, much to play for this afternoon. Wherever you are, enjoy the game.

Read the best match reports from all today's matches in Monday's Rugby Leaguer & League Express

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Allow everyone to enjoy the game.

Fixtures 2005

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
09/01/05	Rochdale Hornets	Law Cup	Away	15.00	24-8	L	1,404
21/01/05	Leeds Rhinos	Testimonial	Away	20.00	22-10	L	5,196
30/01/05	Halifax	Friendly	Away	15.00	34-12	L	1,443
13/02/05	Blackpool Panthers	NT Cup	Home	15.00	22-20	W	1,446
27/02/05	Swinton Lions	NT Cup	Away	15.00	46-14	L	1,101
06/03/05	Swinton Lions	NT Cup	Home	15.00	30-37	L	1,116
13/03/05	Shariston Rovers	Powergen CC 3rd Rd	Away	19.30	14-46	W	852
16/03/05	Rochdale Hornets	NT Cup	Away	19.30	68-26	L	1,161
20/03/05	Blackpool Panthers	NT Cup	Away	15.00	16-35	W	250
25/03/05	Rochdale Hornets	NT Cup	Home	15.30	10-54	L	1,544
28/03/05	Featherstone Rovers	NL1	Away	19.30	20-20	D	1,463
03/04/05	York City Knights	Powergen CC 4th Rd	Home	15.00	28-32	L	1,282
10/04/05	Doncaster Dragons	NL1	Home	15.00	22-44	L	1,266
17/04/05	Castleford Tigers	NL1	Home	15.00	20-32	L	2,054
24/04/05	Hull K R	NL1	Away	15.00	32-19	L	2,474
15/05/05	Whitehaven Warriors	NL1	Home	15.00	6-60	L	1,284
22/05/05	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	Away	15.00	25-18	L	792
05/06/05	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	Home	15.00	25-24	W	827
12/06/05	Barrow Raiders	NL1	Away	15.00	22-40	W	1,073
24/06/05	Halifax	NL1	Home	19.45	14-28	L	1,221
03/07/05	Featherstone Rovers	NL1	Home	15.00	38-20	W	928
10/07/05	Doncaster Dragons	NL1	Away	15.00	34-26	L	896
24/07/05	Castleford Tigers	NL1	Away	15.30	32-20	L	4,600
31/07/05	Hull K R	NL1	Home	15.00			
07/08/05	Whitehaven Warriors	NL1	Away	15.00			
14/08/05	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	Away	15.00			
21/08/05	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	Home	15.00			
04/09/05	Barrow Raiders	NL1	Home	15.00			
11/09/05	Halifax	NL1	Away	15.00			
18/09/05	Play Offs	NL1	TBA	TBA			
25/09/05	Play Offs	NL1	TBA	TBA			
02/10/05	Play Offs	NL1	TBA	TBA			
08/10/05	Grand Final	NL1	TBA	TBA			

Key

NT Cup - Northern Trains Cup

Powergen CC - Powergen Challenge Cup

NL1 - National League Division 1

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