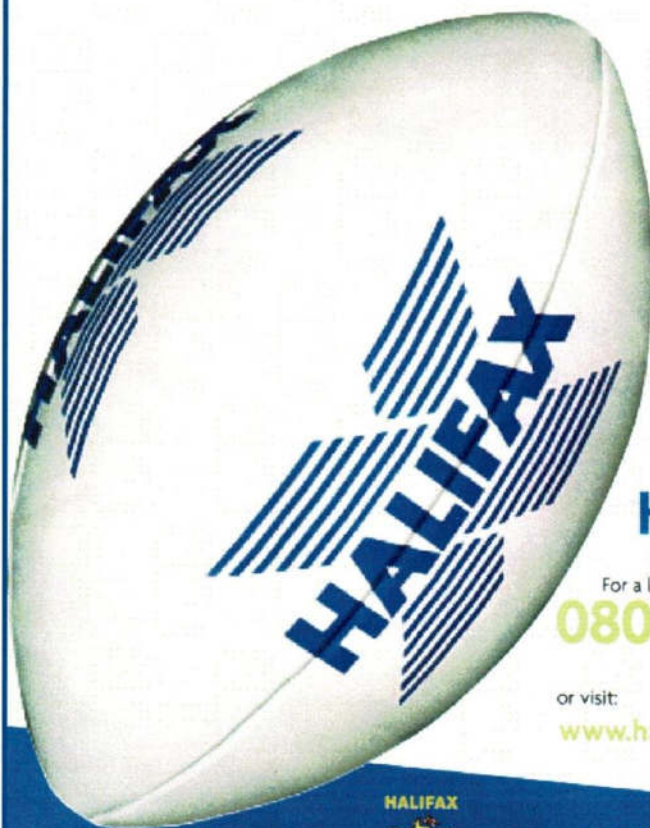


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The Official Halifax RLFC Matchday Magazine

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HALIFAX RLFC V OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS



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# welcome



To say that last week's result against Rochdale was disappointing is an understatement. Whilst the club currently have what the press like to call an "injury crisis" (we certainly missed a number of key players against Rochdale) the overall performance was far below what I would expect to be seeing from a Fax side – with one or two notable exceptions. We set out to try and win the Northern Rail contest, even if our main target remains the league, and we need to get back on track with a win today against the Roughyeds.

We welcome everyone associated with the

Boundary Park Club and whilst they too have suffered a crop of early season injuries, I know it will be a tough game. This will be especially true, because a win for them would give them the whip hand in qualifying for the knockout stages of the contest. I particularly welcome John Pendlebury to the Shay. John's time at the Club was amongst the better of our recent years and I am sure he will be sharing a drink or two after the game with Paul Dixon and Mick Scott, both of whom played with John.

There are also a number of other current playing links to the Oldham club. Alan Hadcroft and Ged Corcoran – who both may miss out through injury today – where here last year, whilst Wayne Corcoran, Craig Dean and Chris Mayberry have all also featured for Fax.

You may have seen over the weekend, that the RFL announced new rules on club solvency, rules our representative supported at the RFL council vote. All clubs will now be required to regularly demonstrate to the RFL that their statutory duties are being carried out with "due probity". It will not stop clubs having financial problems, but it will set up an early warning mechanism allowing early intervention, penalties and sanction. Provided it is policed properly by the RFL, this is a big step forward for the game.

Finally I would like to say a word or two about referees. It is only three weeks into the season and already we are having some controversy. At Super League level The RFL Match Officials Director, Stuart Cummings, has admitted that Ashley Kline made a mistake that cost Harlequins the game against Bradford. Mistakes happen and no referee will be perfect, but Mr. Cummings clearly needs to sit down and look more closely at the performance of all his referees and try and see the games as we spectators see them.

At present, failures by referees to get their message across in a clear and consistent way, linked to a lack of understanding about what is actually going on, is spoiling the game. Did our match last week really merit 20 penalties. The Oldham game against Keighley had 30 (as did the Dewbury v Doncaster match), whilst the Sheffield v Hull KR saw referee Robert Kicks award 36, almost one every two minutes. The number is more than the average Rugby Union game, which has been criticised for years by some league fans as being too technical and spoilt by the penalty count!!

We are also told that five referees failed pre-season fitness tests, but were allowed to continue with their whistles. Perhaps the fact that many are so unfit and thus unable to keep up with play, results in them having to award penalties so they can have a rest! I simply do not think Stuart Cummings is doing his job properly and that he appears more concerned with water carriers whilst detracting from the core values of the sport. His priorities need to change quickly.

I hope you will be able to enjoy the game today and that Fax will get their act together and produce a win.

*Howard*



Halifax Rugby League Football Club Ltd.  
Shay Stadium, Halifax, HX1 2YS

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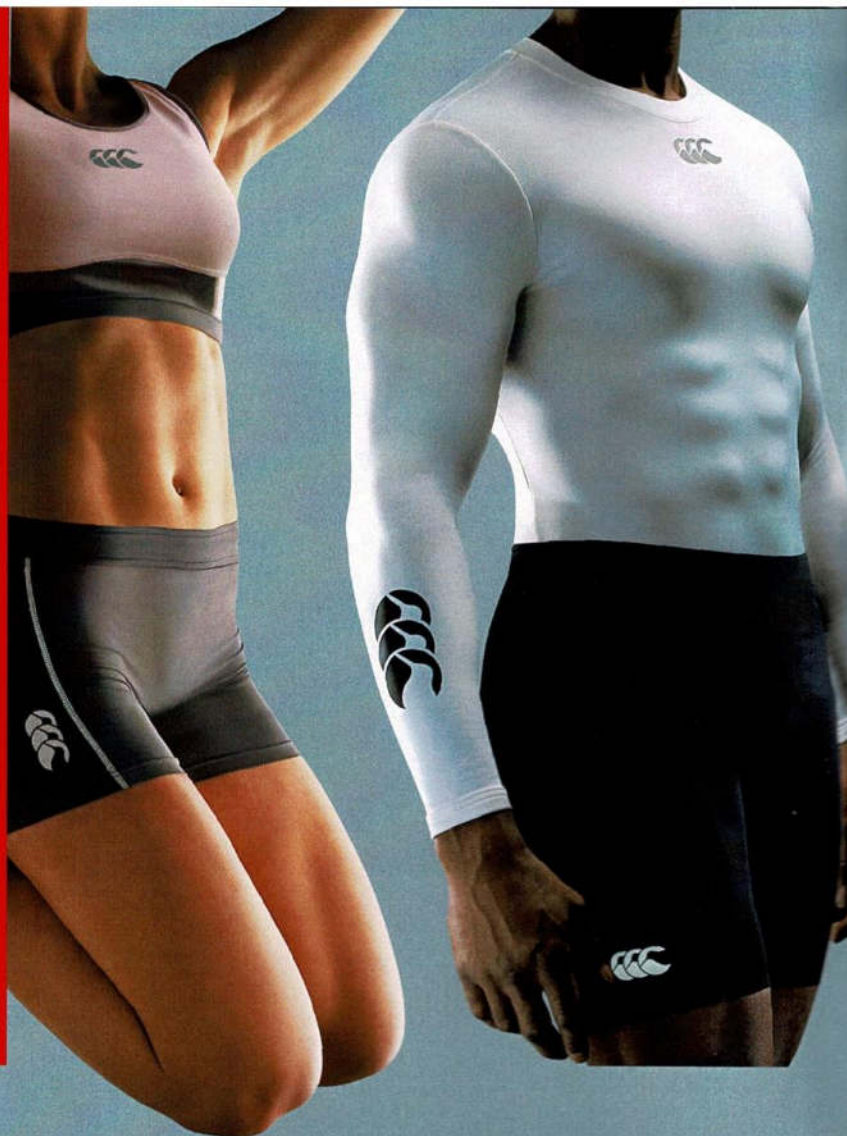
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## Player profile



HALIFAX RLFC

### Andy Kirk

- Age** 23
- Any Nicknames?** Kirky
- Height** 6ft
- Previous Clubs** Leeds, Wakefield, Salford
- Favourite Foods** Indian, Curries
- Favourite Drink** Whisky – Jim Beam
- Favourite Type of Music** Hip Hop R 'n' B
- Favourite Song** Wham – 'Bad Boys'
- Favourite Film/DVD** Green Mile
- Spare time Hobbies** Golf, fishing, socialising, rubicks cube
- Interesting fact about you** Once gave Jensen Button a driving lesson
- Ambitions** Get into Super League with Halifax.
- Team Mate gossip?** (the juicier the better) Know one or two things that Anthony Blackwood likes doing in his spare time, but you may have to buy me a drink to get that out of me!

## Ask Faz...



**Q.** Liz asks "The Players didn't seem too enthused last weekend. . . What sort of things can you do to get them motivated?"

**A.** Every week we watch a video edit of the oppositions last few games, and we also have individual and team sessions after every game where we watch the previous games high & lowlights. But professional players shouldn't really need motivating pre games but obviously we do spend a lot of time before games motivating the team. Music plays a big part too.

**Q.** Matt asks "After a defeat do you change your training routines or your game strategies?"

**A.** We are constantly changing our training routines and adapting them to the needs of that week's opposition. Game strategies too change week to week again dependent on who we are playing. And of course game strategies have to change dependent on who's in the team. We have to play to those players' strengths and weaknesses.

**Q.** Lee wants to know "When things go wrong on the pitch who do you look for amongst the players to get things put right or to motivate the players?"

**A.** As a coach there's not a lot you can do once the team is out there playing. You can, of course, change tactics by passing messages out and obviously again at half time you can change things you've identified. But on the field you have to look to your Captain and senior players to help get us back to the game plan.

**Q.** Sue asks "I see Jamie Bloem is generally at Match Days as the water carrier, but obviously that's not his main role... What do you use him for?"

**A.** Jamie wanted to stay on being involved with the Club after his retirement last season, and given his previous involvement with the Club and his familiarity with the players, he's the ideal person to act as a water carrier but also to help communicate messages onto the field. He knows most of the players as well and that allows him to help with players' individual needs too.



**R**OCHDALE, it seems, are the team that Halifax just cannot beat.

Having lost twice to the Hornets last season, both times on the last play of the game, Anthony Farrell's side managed to turn in a performance so lacklustre there was only ever going to be one winner.

Rochdale scored the only two tries of a torrid opening period and then resisted Fax's second-half comeback to claim the spoils.

Rochdale had taken the lead after an opening 11 minutes which had seen no fewer than six scrums as both teams struggled to string two passes together. Brad Attwood, standing in at full-back for the injured Damian Gibson, stopped Paul Owen's burst through the middle, but there was little he could do when the ball was swept left to where Richard Varkulis bludgeoned his way through a short-handed defence.

Mark McCully's touchline conversion was an ominous omen as the Hornets began to physically dominate their hosts, with Fax's best hope of a response coming from Joel Penny, the Australian sending both Boult and Birchall to within inches of the whitewash.

Centre Andy Kirk looked dangerous, although when his scything break just past the half hour ended with a penalty for not playing the ball correctly it was indicative of Fax's out of sorts afternoon.

Things went from bad to worse in the 34th minute, Attwood again saving Fax's bacon with a fine stop

## HALIFAX 12 - 16 ROCHDALE

Report by James Roberts, Halifax Courier



on Tommy Goulden, only for centre Lee Patterson to cross in almost exactly the same place as Varkulis had done earlier on.

The sight of a 12-0 scoreline seemed to give Fax a belated gee-up, with returning skipper Damian Ball and Kirk both going close – the latter slipping on the greasy surface with only Owen to beat – and Penny being pushed into touch inches from the corner flag.

Fax dominated the opening exchanges of the second-half, with Dean Lawford and Penny both forcing Hornets to concede drop outs that, eventually, yielded a breakthrough.

Dominic Brambani hoisted the diagonal bomb and Anthony Blackwood soared above the defence to touch down.

Lawford slotted over a fine conversion, and pressure continued unabated, with Lawford and Brambani taking the drop out count to four, albeit without reward on the scoreboard.

Unfortunately, Hornets were soon over in the corner through winger Chris Giles and Fax were staring down the barrel of a 10-point deficit. To their credit, the home side did not give up the ghost.

Winger James Haley was tackled into touch by the flag, before Larder got some reward for 80 minutes of industry when he slid under the posts from Brambani's pass.

With seconds remaining, Fax's go-for-broke approach set Blackwood free down the left flank only for the move to fail due to a lack of support.

**HALIFAX:** Tries: Blackwood, Larder  
Goals: Lawford (2)

**ROCHDALE:** Tries: Giles, Patterson, Varkulis  
Goals: McCully (2)

ATTENDANCE: 1,479

REFEREE: Gareth Hewer (Whitehaven)

DON'T MISS OUT!

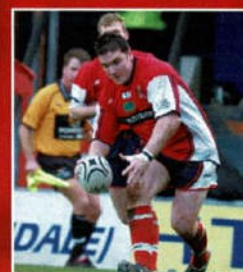
HALIFAX RLFC

# OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

James Roberts reports

**H**ALIFAX will be looking to complete their first double of the season against Oldham today. But they will know it won't be easy against John Pendlebury's side, who opened their account for the season when they edged home against Keighley last weekend courtesy of Chris Hough's drop goal. Although the Roughyeds were comprehensively beaten by Fax at Boundary Park a fortnight ago - courtesy of Joel Penny's blistering hat-trick - they still scored 26 points. That alone should ward off any complacency on Fax's part, even allowing for the injuries that have reduced Pendlebury's paper-thin squad to the bare bones. Without Fax old boys Alan Hadcroft, who has a dislocated shoulder, and Ged Corcoran, who is nursing a fractured cheekbone, Oldham will be trying to plug the gaps. But Pendlebury will be encouraged by the way his forwards, led by outstanding back-rowers Mark Roberts and Andy Bailey, took the game to Fax the last time the teams met. If they can do that again, and substitute Paul Wingfield comes up with the same kind of impact from the bench, then Oldham will entertain hopes of following in Rochdale's footsteps.

And with Craig Dean, the sole playmaker for most of the game at Boundary Park, getting support from the fit-again Hough and the impressive Gareth Barber, the Fax defence will no doubt be subjected to another searching examination today.



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# Commercial corner

Welcome to today's game against Oldham Bears. Hopefully another exciting game against one of our local rivals and hopefully one we can win for a second time this season. The Northern Rail Cup is definitely something we want to win, so after last weeks set back against Rochdale we need to get back to winning ways.

Our Match Day host today is Briggs Priestley of Halifax. Their involvement with the Club goes beyond just providing us with trophies and plaques. They provided us with the vinyls that you see around Calderdale on the A Frame trailer, showing our next fixture here at the Shay. They've also provided us with some new post pads and corner flags. So a really warm welcome to David Armitage and his guests and we hope you all have a tremendous day out here at the Shay.

Our Match Ball Sponsor today is Acorn Stairlifts. I'm sure you will know that they are one of the worlds leading Stairlift Manufacturers (the equipment that assists disabled people to cope with stairs). Perhaps Acorn's Sponsorship will help us to climb back up our stairs today. Acorn sponsored us last season, so it's especially nice to welcome Joanne Kennedy and her guests, back here again today.

Our thanks as ever, go to Darren Leach of Cutting Edge Carpets, who is continuing his Hit Man award again this season and also to John and Linda Kitson, who are sponsoring our new award "Champagne Moment", which as you now know, is to commemorate anything really special or different that happens during the game. Last weeks winner of the award was Dominic Brambani for the crossfield kick which helped Anthony Blackwood score his try.

Some of the new Canterbury leisure wear can now be viewed on the Club's web shop which you can find at [www.halifaxrlfc-shop.co.uk/store](http://www.halifaxrlfc-shop.co.uk/store) It's our plan to keep updating the range regularly, so keep an eye on this web page and be the first to be seen in those hoodies, polo shirts, rain jackets etc.. You can also order this leisure wear from The Halifax Independent Supporters Trust shop (close to the entrance from the Weavers car park). The shop opens every Saturday morning between 10am and 12 Noon. The shop is also open for 90 minutes before and one hour after, each home game.

Finally, just a couple of dates for your diary;

Friends of Fax are holding a Sportsman Dinner at Bertie's Banqueting Rooms in Elland on Thursday April 6th.

There will be a first rate line up to entertain you, with Ian Millward as Guest Speaker, John Stiles the Comedian and Eddie Hemmings from Sky TV, the compare. It will be a great night out and you can get tickets ( £35 per person ) by ringing the Club on 01422 342792

In addition, for the Lady supporters, there will be another Ladies night at the Weavers on Friday June 30th. More details of this event, later.

Enjoy the game.

*Mike*

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# Playing for Success

Once again we have been inundated with enquiries as to who we are and what do we do here at the Blue Base. This is pretty good really, as this is only the third match programme of the season, the article for the Keighley

Match certainly provoked considerable interest in our programmes.

The easy answer to all these queries and questions would be to tell everyone to have a look at the display in the Southdale Homes Lounge. There in the display case is a large scale version of our Annual Report, it is quite a comprehensive account setting out what we are about and how we go about achieving our goals.

We are constantly looking at ways in which we can improve the quality of our service with schools and other young peoples' organisations.

As part of our strong links with the Rugby Club, the Playing for Success team have been able to help with the delivery of some of the community

initiatives that Halifax RLFC are trying to implement. Likewise the club are making coaches and players available for the study support sessions, the young people are beginning to build up a nice collection of autographs.

The players are subjected to a series of question and answer sessions led by the young people. With some of the groups who visit us for daytime sessions, the lads carry out coaching drills, whilst we deliver indoor activities. Good working partnerships are the key to success, here at The Blue Base Study Centre, we are fortunate to have the backing of a cracking team, so today and for the rest of the season let's give that team our cracking support.

Enjoy the game.

*Mick Moffatt*

Study Centre Manager  
Blue Base Study Support Centre



Group picture of a school that we have worked with recently



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# FAN ZONE



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SHAY  
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | C | T | F | H | X | B | K |
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| P | C | A | F | I | N | A | L |
| E | U | H | A | H | E | T | A |
| I | R | S | C | R | U | M | H |

## FAX FACT

In season 1956-57 prop forward John Thorley played 48 first-team matches. And there were no substitutes in those days to give him a breather. It's the record number of appearances in a season for a Halifax player.

## SUPPORTERS' STUMBLES

How much do you remember about last season? Here's a few teasers for you

- Which team finished top of the Super League Table BUT didn't qualify for the Grand Final?
- Which club finished in the top six of Super League for the first time ever in 2003?
- Which player scored 796 tries in 688 games between 1945 - 1964?
- Which club did Jamie Thackray leave to join Hull?
- Ian Millward was coach at which Club before he joined St Helens?
- Which was the Last Rugby League Club Martin Offiah played for before he retired?

All these anagrams are players connected with either Halifax or Oldham.

- evil crap
- purley bend
- slow tact
- notably ok cowhand
- so win link
- job as on lust

ANAGRAMS: a Percival (Oldham) b Pendlebury (Oldham) c Scott Law (Halifax) d Anthony Blackwood (Halifax) e Wilkinson to Jason Boult  
1. St Helens 2. Wakefield 3. Brian Bevan 4. Castleford 5. Leigh 6. Salford



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## The Dave Fleming column

### Funny thing, smoking

Once upon a time, 20 or so years ago, fans at rugby league matches were barred from smoking mainly due to the fire risk. Grandstands like the ones at Thrum Hall, Watersheddings, Spotland, Fartown and the Boulevard were considered to be tinder kegs because of their wooden composition. All those grounds have gone, to be replaced by modern structures and yet you still can't light up. Not because you can set fire to concrete and steel but on health grounds these days. Although you still wouldn't want to strike a match in the dressing room corridors at either The Willows or The Jungle. The latest stadium to issue a no-smoking ban is that at Warrington and you wouldn't have thought there was anything remotely flammable there except Ben Westwood's disposition. That's purely and simply on health grounds. Poor old Stan Hardy has it down to victimisation after being accosted at Boundary Park the other week. Perhaps the solution would be to have "Smoking" and "No Smoking" areas? A Halifax player who has also represented Scotland told me of the polite way that they put their case across at a rugby union ground in Glasgow. They have a large sign as you enter the grandstand which says "We would prefer it if you didn't smoke".... How's that for style?



It's always distressing to see old friends in trouble so it wasn't pleasant to see Eddie Riddlesden on the front page of the "Evening Courier" last week. Our former winger is accused of profiting from the sale of drugs and has been ordered to pay his alleged proceeds to the courts. Apparently when police raided his house they found £15000 in notes stuffed into an Ali Baba type washing basket. I suppose it's an obvious way of getting money laundered.....

### Welcome to John Pendlebury this afternoon.

He is a man dear to the heart of Halifax fans and staff after the many things he has done for the club both as a player (the Elia tackle at Wembley and all that for example) and as a coach (remember that great 1998 season?).

One thing that he is seldom given any credit for however is the way that he insisted on overhauling the club's youth policy in 1998/99.

He persuaded the board to appoint Lancashire based Derek Standish as a scout and Pendlebury, Standish and Mick Scott spent many a Sunday morning prowling up and down the touchline at junior games.

He also cajoled the board into signing top youth players even if they cost a little more and the fruits of his labours only began to show after his departure in June 1999.

We're talking names like Danny Tickle, Sean Penkywicz, Danny Halliwell and Ged Corcoran here and don't forget that David Hodgson had also arrived a few months previously.

All came through to the first team and, if nothing else, the massive fees received for Tickle and Hodgson helped to keep the club afloat three or four years ago. That doesn't mean that it was all plain sailing with that particular group of Lancastrians.

One of them astounded his coach by saying that he was a "professional gambler" when asked what he did for a living.

And their names became a name for unpredictability!

One of the many stories popular at the time (perhaps apocryphal) told how coach Steve Linnane decided to clamp down on discipline by imposing large fines for things like unpunctuality.

So when two of them missed their lift to training one morning they decided to hire a taxi from Leigh.

Said vehicle got stuck in traffic on the motorway and then got lost though. And the eventual fare cost more than the fines would have done.....

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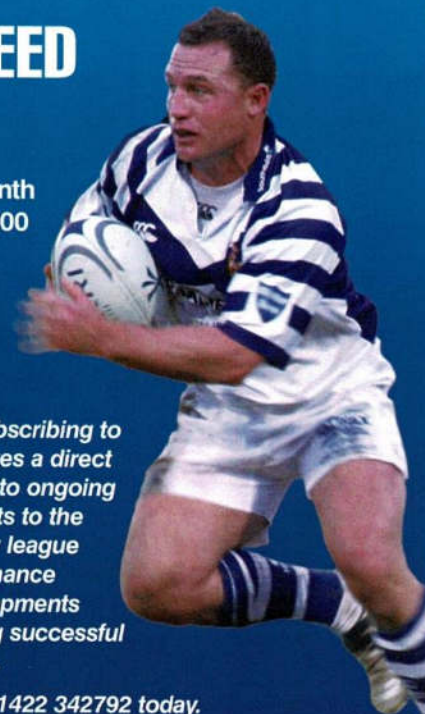
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# HOT G OSSIP

Not too much actual gossip for you today – well not that we can print in the programme!! We hear stories all the time from various sources, but you will have to become a volunteer in the office to hear them!! We have started getting players coming in and telling us stories, but until we have received some verification, we will not print them.

As you know we have recently had a lot of the players going into hospital for various operations. We get the initial telephone requests for insurance details etc., when we take the opportunity to ask them to look after our boys. Often as not, we also get calls from the nursing staff, such as "what a sweetie he was", "you can send that one back again – especially if he wears those little shorts" and "God he can flirt can't he"! One call that surprised us though, was to tell us that a Player had left his teddy!!! His name may appear in a later programme.

Some of our players possibly need hearing aids when it comes to listening to the Coaching Staff. One especially is Stringbean. He was asked to go a fetch the two bags of cones from the car and came back with two bags of charcoal!!!! What he thought they were going to do with them in training I do not know.

We have already had a request from a player to tailor his

playing shirt to his body!! Apparently this would mean he could run faster and couldn't be tackled as easily! This could prove difficult when we have numbered, not squad shirts. Can you imagine, if we tailored a shirt to fit one of our " slim jims " to unpick it before the game, to fit " a beefy forward.

At last weekend's game, a couple of Matchday staff couldn't work at the game and our Lottery Sales Manager, Richard Watmough, helped out by selling Golden Gamble tickets. He actually did very well (who would argue with a big lad like Richard), until he called in to the Weavers and only managed to sell one ticket to four people – Dave Fleming plus our three Bagmen !!

Update on the "Damian" household – Damian No 2 is only just realising how bad it can be living with Damian No 1. He has only just found out about his pre-match rituals. They couldn't be different to his own. No 1 stays up the night before and rises late on the day of the game, with loud music being the order of the day. Some investment in soundproofing for "Damian Towers", may now be a necessity.

The next programme we will be doing a piece on Players' superstitions before a game. We would have printed it this week but apparently some of them are superstitious about telling us their superstitions! Don't worry we will get it out of them.



# Community Coaching Trust

The newly formed **Calderdale Coaching Forum** was brought into its conception recently, with 'an evening with John Kear' in the Southdale Lounge.

For those interested in the 'Skills Course' (at the next meeting on 27th March), please contact Malcolm Kieley on 07946 510900. The course is relevant to coaches for ALL age groups.

## CALDERDALE RL SERVICE AREA

Within the early part of this month, letters of invitation will be going out to youngsters at age groups Under 12/13/14/15, to form the 'train on' squads for this years representative games. ALL squads will be training Monday nights at Old Brods, Hipperholme from 6.30pm to 8pm with this years games being played at various venues. There will be at least one game per age group at the Shay. Further details will be available during the month of March.

## LET'S TACKLE IT TOGETHER PROGRAMME

A programme of Lifestyle and Sports training for youngsters started on Thursday 23rd February, with Damien Gibson and his fellow players, assisting Community Coach, Pete Richardson. Part of the course shows children the gym facilities (punch bag and all!!!), showing them the various pieces of equipment and their uses. They were also told what the 6 weeks course would include, including the chance to keep their 'Hx Kit' if they're successful within their course work. The participants were given a tour of the Shay, receiving information on healthy eating and its impact on your body. This was followed (obviously), by a healthy meal in the Weavers, to underpin the messages of simple, but healthy food.

## NEW RUGBY LEAGUE ACADEMY FOR HALIFAX

If you're aged 16 to 18 and enjoy playing rugby league football, you may be a candidate for the new Calderdale College Rugby League Football Academy which is being launched this September in a partnership between Halifax Rugby League Football Club, Calderdale Rugby League Service Area and Calderdale College. The Academy will combine eight hours of top level rugby league coaching and weekly fixtures in the Student Rugby League with A-levels and vocational qualifications, leading to employment in sports and related sectors. There will also be an optional route into higher education. The two-year full time programme

will kick off in September following trials and interviews to take place in the spring. There are 25 places on offer to young people from Calderdale and neighbouring towns and students can apply for an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of up to £30 a week. Candidates are invited to ring Matt Fawcett at Calderdale College on Halifax 357357 for more information. "This partnership between the club and Calderdale College is a major community initiative, one in which the club will put every effort to ensure its success", said Howard Posner, chairman of Halifax RLFC. "I am certain that there are a lot of local youngsters who can benefit

and perhaps we can help some on their way to a successful professional rugby career". Matt Fawcett, programme manager for sport at Calderdale College said "At the moment there are limited progression routes for players aged 16. The only scholarships in place are for Super League and talented local players are either picked up by them or not at all. The new Rugby League Academy allows young players the chance of reaching their full potential while keeping open other options for further study or specialised employment. We're looking forward to hearing from them to take part in trials over the coming weeks".



## The Thoughts of Chairman Mal

The Independent Voice for Supporters of Halifax RLFC

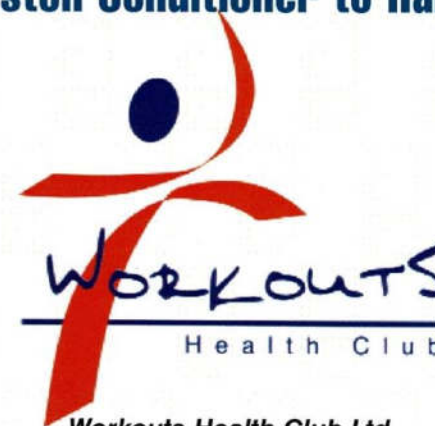
Over the last few months the Trust has been closer to the community. Malcolm Kieley is the Trusts Community Liaison Officer who has worked tirelessly to deliver coaching in Calderdale Schools. Working alongside Malcolm is a team of fully qualified sports coaches. These vary in number and sporting expertise depending on the programme being delivered. The CLO provides regular updates to the Supporters Trust, The Stadium Trust, Halifax RLFC and Halifax Town AFC. The following list highlights just some of the projects that Malcolm is taking into the community:

- Anti Social Behaviour (Senior WY Schools)
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Rugby Training Year (four Junior Schools)
- Mixed Sport Delivery
- Gym Development
- Dance Project
- Black and Ethnic Minority Rugby Day Experience

When you get Children involved in sport, who knows, one of them could be representing Great Britain at the 2012 Olympics. During June this year the Trust will be hosting the Northern meeting of Supporters Direct and at that meeting the Trust will be giving a presentation on Grant Application which we feel sure, will benefit communities across the north of England.



## Paul Royston Conditioner to Halifax RLFC



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Tel: 01535 690 645 Fax: 01535 661285

Email: [info@workouts.co.uk](mailto:info@workouts.co.uk) Web: [www.workouts.co.uk](http://www.workouts.co.uk)

# Cool Catz Corner

## Hey Cool Catz

This week the club has sent out the Cool Catz starter pack. This pack includes the Cool Catz member card, £5 money off voucher for the new home shirt, and a bag with loads of Club Goodies.

The Cool Catz are also arranging a Grand Opening Cool Catz Bowling Party, with our new sponsors 'Electric Bowl'. This will be a great chance to sign up to the club, meet some of the players, and get your picture taken with me 'Halicat'.

So keep an eye out for more info on this party and make sure to join up with me and the rest of the Cool Catz if you haven't already done so.

Enjoy the game and come and say hello to me!!!!

In Association with



## Match Mascots

If you would like to be a mascot for any of the home games at the Shay Stadium throughout this season, contact Mike Riley, Commercial Manager

on 01422 342792

## BIRTHDAYS



Abigail McDermot  
was 9 on the  
02/03/2006  
Happy Birthday  
to you!!



To join Halicat and the Cool Catz just download and fill in a form online at [www.halifaxrlfc.co.uk](http://www.halifaxrlfc.co.uk), or ring the club on 01422 342792. Join TODAY and be The Future of FAX!!!

HALIFAX RLFC

# ArtiFax

As you may well have read recently, the new Club mascot, Halicat, was conceived from the club's very first mascot, a black cat called Smut. The photograph below shows the Halifax team of season 1906/7, almost 100 years ago. What makes the picture particularly interesting today is that the picture was taken of the team that had won the Northern Rugby League play off against... Oldham, at Fartown.

The picture was taken at Thrum Hall and if you look carefully at the player to the left of the Cup you'll see he's holding Smut. This is, we believe, the only picture of that very first Club Mascot. And you'll also see from the picture that the winning score against Oldham in that play off 100 years ago, was 18 points to 3 points. A similar result today wouldn't go amiss.



Back Row (LtoR) J Midgley, (trainer), W W Williams, W Wedgewood, Coun T Dodd, J Bulmer, A ricketts(Sec), A Robinson, I Bartle, J Brearley, Col. L Foster, V W Morris.  
Middle Row (LtoR) J Swinbank, F Atkins, F Littlewood, Joe Riley (Capt), G Langhorn, W J Williams, E Ward, H Morley.  
Front Row (LtoR) T Grey (with Smut), Northern Rugby League Cup, J Hilton, A Eccles

Photo courtesy of Stephen Gee

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# On the Ball



Another game, another injury. That seems the only thing that is consistent in the colours of blue and white at the moment. The queue for the treatment table at the moment is probably worse than the local A & E department. I can assure everyone that the players are in safe hands with the medical staff at the club. The Doc and especially Helen (physio) have been working around the clock to provide treatment for the injured players. Devastating news to find out Spinky's thumb was in plaster only two

hours after leaving the shay last Sunday teatime. The way he's been applying himself in training over the last month, after missing out on selection from the team, has been awesome. Also on the injury front, Hecko also looks like he'll be spending a few weeks on the sideline. Another blow, because I know how much he was up for the game and it's really disappointing that his first run in the team ended after half an hour. There always seems to be a positive that can arise from a negative situation and these misfortunes have presented the fringe players with an opportunity to make themselves a permanent fixture in the side. It is sometimes difficult for certain players, especially those who play consistently well in the U21's competition, yet find their chances of getting a 1st team run few and far between. This can be in part at least, due to the sheer size of the squad. Now is the time for those players to stake their claim now. The performance against Rochdale was ordinary, there's no other way of putting it. We did demonstrate a ten minute period of quality play during the beginning of the 2nd half, but that needs to be sustained for prolonged periods if we are ever going to build pressure and ask questions of our opposition. However, the poor overall performance has been a wake up call for the boys. As Phil Gould once said "Lets do the basic things exceptionally well and the exceptional things basically well."

*Damian*

# CLUB STATS & FIXTURES

All Sunday and Monday kick off times are 3pm, Friday night kick off time is 7:30pm

HALIFAX RLFC

## AWAY MATCH TRAVEL

### Kells ARLFC v Halifax RLFC

at The Recreation Ground, Whitehaven; Sunday 12 March 2006, KO 3pm

To get to the Recreation Ground:

M62 to M6, from M6 Junction 40 (A66/A592).

Follow signs Keswick A66. In one mile at roundabout take second exit. Junction with A591.

Forward (signposted Cockermouth) into Keswick bypass. Junction with A591/A5271.

At roundabout take second exit. Junction with B5289.

Forward (signposted Workington).

In 4.9 miles turn left A595 (signposted Whitehaven).

In 2.9 miles at roundabout take second exit. (Edge of) Distington.

In 3.4 miles branch right A5094 (signposted Town Centre).

By New Road enter Whitehaven.

Follow signs St. Bees B5345 for Whitehaven R.L. ground (on left).

### Keighley Cougars v Halifax RLFC

Sunday 19th March 2006, ko 3pm

To get to Cougar Park:

Take the A629 to Keighley. Upon entering Keighley turn right on to Haincliffe Road.

Turn left on to Hainworth Wood Road, Turn right on to Park Lane

Turn right onto Broom Street, Turn left on to Parkwood Rise

### Rochdale Hornets v Halifax RLFC

Sunday 26th March 2006; ko 3pm

To get to Spotland:

Exit the M62 at junction 20 signposted Rochdale, Oldham A627(M). At the roundabout take the 3rd exit marked Rochdale.

Follow the dual carriageway to a set of traffic lights, get into the left hand lane, should be a filter, this will take you under the Co-op bridge.

You will be on another dual carriageway for approx 30 seconds, until you reach another roundabout (with Tesco on your left hand side).

Get into the middle lane here, and take the second exit onto Roch Valley Way.

Follow this road to the top until you get to a set of traffic lights (with the Cemetery Inn facing).

Go straight through the lights which takes you straight onto Sandy Lane.

Follow the road round, and you will see the football ground on your right hand side.

### Official Supporters Bus Details

Kells Game - Departs The Shay Car Park 10am - Adults £12, Under 12s £5

All adults who travel on this bus will receive a £2 discount voucher on travel to the Whitehaven game on 28th May 2006.

Keighley Game - Departs Shay Car Park 11:55pm - Adult £6, Under 12s £3

Rochdale Game - Departs Shay Car Park 1pm - Adult £6, Under 12s £3

All who travel on both the Keighley and Rochdale buses will receive half price travel to the Batley game on 14th April.

To book please contact Neil Arber on 07714 488080.

|      |          |                   |             |
|------|----------|-------------------|-------------|
| FEB  | Sun 12th | Keighley Cougars  | H NRC 38-10 |
|      | Sun 19th | Oldham            | A NRC 26-42 |
|      | Sun 26th | Rochdale Hornets  | H NRC 12-16 |
| MAR  | Sun 5th  | Oldham            | H NRC       |
|      | Sun 12th | Third Round       | PCC         |
|      | Sun 19th | Keighley Cougars  | A NRC       |
|      | Sun 26th | Rochdale Hornets  | A NRC       |
| APR  | Sun 2nd  | Fourth Round      | PCC         |
|      | Sun 9th  | Leigh Centurions  | H NL        |
|      | Fri 14th | Batley Bulldogs   | A NL        |
|      | Mon 17th | York City Knights | H NL        |
|      | Sun 23rd | NRC KO 1st Round  | NRC         |
|      | Sun 30th | Hull KR           | A NL        |
| MAY  | Sun 7th  | Quarter Finals    | NRC         |
|      | Sun 14th | Rochdale Hornets  | H NL        |
|      | Sun 21st | Fifth Round       | PCC         |
|      | Sun 28th | Whitehaven        | A NL        |
| JUN  | Sun 4th  | Quarter Finals    | PCC         |
|      | Sun 11th | Oldham            | H NL        |
|      | Sun 18th | Batley Bulldogs   | H NL        |
|      | Sun 25th | Semi Finals       | NRC         |
|      | Sun 23rd | Doncaster Lakers  | A NL        |
| JUL  | Sun 2nd  | Leigh Centurions  | A NL        |
|      | Sun 9th  | Hull KR           | H NL        |
|      | Sun 16th | Final             | NRC         |
|      | Sun 23rd | York City Knights | A NL        |
|      | Sun 30th | Semi Finals       | PCC         |
|      | Sun 30th | Widnes Vikings    | H NL        |
| AUG  | Sun 6th  | Oldham            | A NL        |
|      | Sun 13th | Doncaster Lakers  | H NL        |
|      | Sun 20th | Rochdale Hornets  | A NL        |
|      | Sat 26th | Final             | PCC         |
| SEPT | Sun 3rd  | Whitehaven        | H NL        |
|      | Sun 10th | Widnes Vikings    | A NL        |
|      | Sun 17th | Play Offs 1       | NL          |
|      | Sun 24th | Play Offs 2       | NL          |
| OCT  | Sun 1st  | Play Offs 3       | NL          |
|      | Sun 8th  | Grand Final       | NL          |

## STADIUM RULES

The right to remain in the ground is subject to the following conditions: In the event of any match being postponed or abandoned, any refund of the admission charge will be at the sole discretion of the Club Management. Therefore persons entering the ground by means of a ticket should be advised to retain their ticket stub, as it may be required to be produced at a later date. Fireworks, flares, smoke canisters, knives, bottles, glasses, cans, poles, and any article that might be used as a weapon and/or compromise public safety are not permitted in the ground.

The following are STRICTLY FORBIDDEN: Trespassing on the field of play or surrounding area, except in an emergency. Throwing of any object in the ground. Use of foul or abusive language. Obscene chanting. Obstruction of gangways, access ways, exits and entrances. Unauthorised use of cameras or videos.

|          |         |      |             |            |              |         |          |       |          |          |       |             |          |          |          |        |
|----------|---------|------|-------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|-------|----------|----------|-------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Gibson 1 | Haley 2 | Kirk | Blackwood   | St Hilaire | Lawford 5G   | Penny 1 | Hobson   | Hoyle | Boults 1 | Larder   | Hirst | Holdstock 1 | Brambani | Sheriffe | McDonald | Law    |
| Gibson 2 | Haley 1 | Kirk | Blackwood   | Johnson    | Lawford 1/5G | Penny 3 | Sheriffe | Hoyle | Boults   | Larder   | Hirst | Holdstock   | Brambani | Birchall | Law      | Hobson |
| Atwood   | Haley   | Kirk | Blackwood 1 | St Hilaire | Lawford 2G   | Penny   | Birchall | Hoyle | Boults   | Larder 1 | Spink | Heckenberg  | Brambani | Ball     | Simpson  | Law    |



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# 2006 Team line-up

|                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>Brad ATTWOOD</b><br>Andrew Booth & Paul Highley    | <br><b>Damian BALL</b><br>Vision Express Halifax | <br><b>Chris BIRCHALL</b>                                       | <br><b>Anthony BLACKWOOD</b><br>Sam & Elizabeth Posner           |
| <br><b>Jason BOULTS</b><br>Northwram Diners               | <br><b>Radney BOWKER</b><br>Coates Marquee Hire  | <br><b>Dominic BRAMBANI</b>                                     | <br><b>Damian GIBSON</b><br>Peter & Gillian Clayton              |
| <br><b>James HALEY</b><br>John Blackburns Direct Mail     | <br><b>Lee HARLAND</b><br>C3S Securiglass        | <br><b>Adam HAYES</b><br>Andrew Parkinson                       | <br><b>Keith HECKENBERG</b>                                      |
| <br><b>Joe HIRST</b><br>Halifax Past Players Association | <br><b>Andy HOBSON</b>                          | <br><b>Dale HOLDSTOCK</b>                                      | <br><b>Simeon HOYLE</b><br>Halifax Independent Supporters Trust |
| <br><b>Nick JOHNSON</b><br>Mortgage Search UK           | <br><b>Andy KIRK</b><br>Steve Shurety          | <br><b>Dave LARDER</b><br>Chadwick Lawrence                   | <br><b>Scott LAW</b><br>Gary & Jacqueline Clifford             |
| <br><b>Dean LAWFORD</b><br>Gary & Gordon Ellis          | <br><b>Ryan MACDONALD</b><br>G J Sladdin       | <br><b>Dayne NEIRINCKX</b><br>John Blackburns Direct Mail     | <br><b>Joel PENNY</b><br>Windsor Yarns                         |
| <br><b>Jode SHERIFFE</b><br>Mortgage Search UK          | <br><b>Johnny SIMPSON</b><br>Liz Smith         | <br><b>Andy SPINK</b><br>Halifax Independent Supporters Trust | <br><b>Lee ST HILAIRE</b>                                      |

# Today's Teams

## HALIFAX

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| DAMIAN GIBSON     | 1  |
| JAMES HALEY       | 2  |
| ANDY KIRK         | 3  |
| ANTHONY BLACKWOOD | 4  |
| NICK JOHNSON      | 5  |
| DEAN LAWFORD      | 6  |
| JOEL PENNY        | 7  |
| JASON BOULTS      | 8  |
| SIMEON HOYLE      | 9  |
| ANDY HOBSON       | 10 |
| DAVE LARDER       | 11 |
| ANDY SPINK        | 12 |
| DALE HOLDSTOCK    | 13 |
| DOMINIC BRAMBANI  | 14 |
| RYAN MACDONALD    | 15 |
| SCOTT LAW         | 16 |
| JODE SHERIFFE     | 17 |
| JOHNNY SIMPSON    | 18 |
| JOE HIRST         | 19 |

## OLDHAM

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| A BAILEY   | 1  |
| G BARBER   | 2  |
| M CALLAN   | 3  |
| G CORCORAN | 4  |
| W CORCORAN | 5  |
| C DEAN     | 6  |
| A GOREY    | 7  |
| D GORTON   | 8  |
| D GUEST    | 9  |
| A HADCROFT | 10 |
| G HAYES    | 11 |
| I HODSON   | 12 |
| C HOUGH    | 13 |
| J KIRKLAND | 14 |
| C MAYE     | 15 |
| D NANYN    | 16 |
| C PERCIVAL | 17 |
| M REDFORD  | 18 |
| M ROBERTS  | 19 |

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 Barmy Army  
 John Hartley  
 David Durbin and Norah Schofield  
 Richard Kelsall and Jack Goult  
 Maureen Booth  
 Sue Patrick and Pat Fossett (full kit)  
 RLFA.COM and Julie Pugh  
 Eddie Fogden (full kit)  
 John Wainwright  
 Gary Whittaker (full kit)  
 Halifax Past Players (full kit)

## TODAYS OFFICIALS:

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Referee     | J Leahy   |
| Touch Judge | S Taylor  |
| Touch Judge | C Neilson |
| Reserve Ref | TBC       |
| Match Comm  | R Tennant |

