

# game line-up

OLDHAM R.L.F.C

| OLDHAM SQUAD   | Played | DONCASTER SQUAD  |
|----------------|--------|------------------|
| ANDY BAILEY    |        | SHAD ROYSTON     |
| CHRIS BAINES   |        | DEAN COLTON      |
| GARETH BARBER  |        | KANE EPATI       |
| MIKE CALLAN    |        | RICHARD NEWLOVE  |
| GED CORCORAN   |        | DANNY MILLS      |
| WAYNE CORCORAN |        | GRAHAM HOLROYD   |
| ANDY GOREY     |        | SHAUN LEAF       |
| DEAN GORTON    |        | GARETH HANDFORD  |
| DANNY GUEST    |        | DARREN JORDAN    |
| ALAN HADCROFT  |        | ANTONY TONKS     |
| GARETH HAYES   |        | PETER GREEN (C)  |
| IAN HODSON     |        | ADAM ROBINSON    |
| CHRIS HOUGH    |        | ROB LUNT         |
| JOHN HOUGH     |        | MICHEAL MARTINEZ |
| JAMES KIRKLAND |        | YUSUF SOZI       |
| CHRIS MAYE     |        | CRAIG LAWTON     |
| DANNY NANYN    |        | ADAM CUFFE       |
| CHRIS PERCIVAL |        |                  |
| MICK REDFORD   |        |                  |
| MARK ROBERTS   |        |                  |
| SIMON SVABIC   |        |                  |
| ALEX WILKINSON |        |                  |
| LEE WINGFIELD  |        |                  |

DONCASTER LAKERS

## match officials

REFEREE: G Hewer TOUCH JUDGE: P Meadows & A Dugdale  
4TH OFFICIAL: C Neilson

TEAM  
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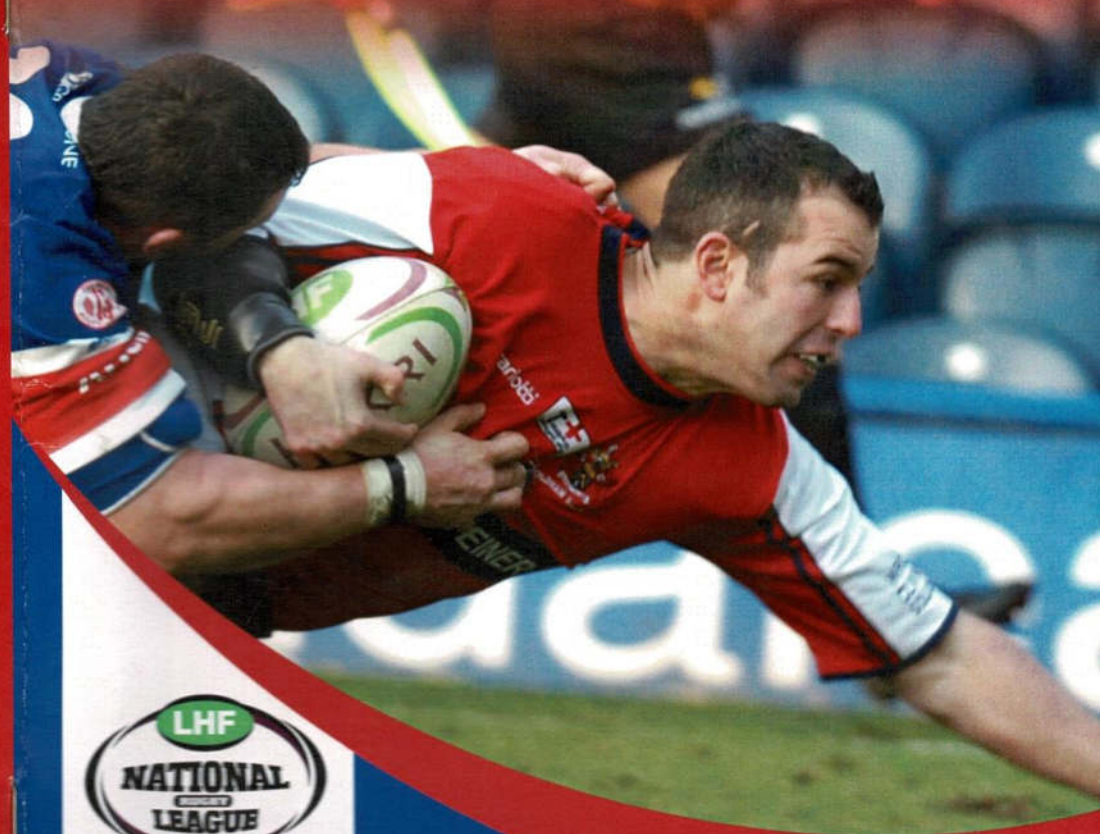
# THE ROUGHYEDS

BOUNDARY PARK

V DONCASTER LAKERS

K.O. 3.00pm

MONDAY APRIL 17TH 2006



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## mike callan

Getting into the thick of things • p18

# NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A BEER BELLY.



JOHN WILLIE  
TO HIS MATES

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Oldham RLFC v Doncaster Lakers

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### Club Records - 1998-2005

**Trans-Penine Cup**  
Finalists - 1998

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

**MOST APPEARANCES:** John Hough, 209 - Jan 1998 - September 2005

**CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES:** Phil Farrell, 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 Svrabic 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

The views expressed in this matchday magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the management and staff of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd.

## CLUB DIRECTORY

The Roughyeds  
Oldham Rugby League  
Football Club (1997) Limited

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Oldham OL1 1SQ

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### CHAIRMAN

Christopher Hamilton

### DIRECTORS

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Sean Whitehead

### HEAD COACH

Steve Deakin

### ASSISTANT COACH

Keith Brennan

### PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Todd Williams

### TIMEKEEPER

David Lord  
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### PROGRAMME EDITOR

Nigel Marland

### HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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Harry Ogden 1940-56

Alan Davies 1950-62

Frank Stirrup 1950-62

Bernard Ganley 1950-61

Sid Little OBE 1951-59

John Etty 1954-59

Derek Turner 1955-59

Kevin Taylor 1962-77

Mike Elliott 1962-79

Bob Irving 1964-74

Martin Murphy 1966-82

Terry Flanagan 1979-89

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

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. (www.digisport.co.uk)

www.roughyeds.co.uk



# in the chair

with Chris Hamilton

We are well and truly into the swing of things as far as the League campaign goes now having played two matches and today playing our second game in four days.

Like ourselves Doncaster did not get off to the best of starts in their first game of the season but as we all know there is always plenty of twists and turns in this division.

Doncaster are a club who are working towards a very bright future with their new stadium (council funded) due to be finished early next year and I know that John Wright, their Chairman, is confident that they will grow into a Super League outfit within a couple of years.

With their name change and a very pro-active PR campaign they are certainly building the anticipation up ahead of their move.

On the home front I hope that by the time you are reading this we will have been successful in bringing in some new players even if it is only on loan initially.

There has been a lot of work put in to try and increase the numbers of the squad but this year it has proved especially hard and not only for us but for other clubs as well. Speaking to them everybody is in the same situation - ie trying to bring players in rather than reduce numbers and this is compounded by the fact that a lot of clubs seem to have injury problems as well. That basically means that there is a supply and demand problem with too many clubs wanting a finite number of

players.

We have been in this situation before however and we will continue to work hard to remedy the position.

With only one more payment to the Inland Revenue we have done remarkably well to hang on in there and once that debt is removed it will make a tremendous difference to the whole future planning of the club both on and off the field.

I would also like to thank those of you who have stuck with us through this difficult patch and I can assure you that nobody is more disappointed than me when performances don't match expectations but we have an honest bunch of players who responded well in difficult circumstances against Hull KR and who will have hopefully carried that on against Rochdale. They are working hard to meet the demands of Steve Deakin and over the next few games they and you will see the results of that in very real sense.

Thanks for your support and enjoy the game.

*Chris*

Chris Hamilton



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# direct from the dug out

with Steve Deakin



Welcome back to Boundary Park for today's game against Doncaster Lakers.

This will be our second game in 3 days and therefore will be a big test of our stamina.

Games like this have a tendency to throw up more errors and mis-tackles than in normal games due to the fatigue of players and tiredness both physically and mentally.

At the time of writing we are hopeful we will have at least two new players for the Easter programme and are confident of the return of at least two of our injured players. So I really hope we can make this a "HAPPY EASTER" for all concerned with Oldham Rugby League Club from the committee to the spectators.

This will be our last game for two weeks as we have not qualified for the later stages of the Northern Rail Cup and this should give us the opportunity to better prepare for the following fixtures in the league. We should be able to recover injured players and concentrate more on team and group organisation on the training park.

I am sure you will all agree that the game against Hull K R was a big improvement on the week before and showed we are going in the right direction. With a little more consistency and concentration we can translate the performances into positive

results.

On a personal note I was much encouraged and would like to thank the Oldham fans for the way they supported the team against Hull K R and would ask you all to continue with your vocal support at today's game and I am sure that together we can create a successful season for the club.

I would finally like to thank the St Annes Club for allowing us to use David and Jason Best against Hull K R. Mindful of the fact that they had two important games coming up including a Standard Cup Final last Sunday this was a very generous gesture and there is no doubt the lads did Amateur rugby proud with their performances.

Enjoy the game,  
Deaks



## OLDHAM REPLICA AWAY SHIRTS

ALTHOUGH Roughyeds' replica away shirts are on sale elsewhere in the town, the club is reminding fans that they are only helping the club they support if they buy from the club shop in Waterloo Street.

Furthermore, and to clear up any confusion caused by message board notices over the weekend, Roughyeds point out that the retail outlet which was initially offering Oldham RL replica away jerseys at a considerably reduced price did so in error.

A trade agreement is in place and forms part of the club's sponsorship agreement with manufacturers Carlotti, common procedure for clubs and manufacturers the sporting world over.

When the club pointed out the error, the wrongly priced replicas in question were immediately taken off the shop's shelves for re-pricing.

While a small number of supporters may have got a bargain, the Roughyeds wish to point out that they have acted in accordance with the agreement on pricing and that the outlet concerned, a retail arm of manufacturers Carlotti, accepted they had erred as soon as the club made contact.

The Roughyeds shop in Waterloo Street is now selling away strip replicas in black and tangerine, as worn by the players against Hull KR on Sunday, and is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 1pm on Saturday.

Away shirts are chiefly sponsored by Lansdowne Roofing Supplies Ltd, while home jerseys, which should arrive soon, are backed by John Willie Lees, the Middleton-based brewery.

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# roger and out

by ROGER HALSTEAD

WHAT an absolute pleasure it was at the Hull KR game to see so many old Watersheddings faces in the hospitality suite as well as the many rugby league nuts from the local amateur game.

That's twice now in recent weeks that the suite has been sold out.

It was full for the Powergen Challenge Cup tie against Saddleworth and it was heaving again last Sunday for the visit of the Rovers.

On behalf of Chris and Sean, and all at the Roughyeds, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who joins us for the pre-match lunch, and a bit of fun, for their backing and support. This club has a lot of very good friends --- a point that has come across to me very clearly since I became more involved a few weeks ago.

From the outside it is easy to get the impression that not enough people care. Certainly, you need only to look at recent attendances -- the Hull KR game apart -- to wonder if the town is serious about supporting a professional rugby league club at this level.

It's only when you have access to some of the things that are going on behind the scenes that you realise what a wealth of goodwill and practical support is available for Chris and Sean.

More people than you would perhaps imagine fully appreciate the enormity of the task confronting them and applaud their unbelievable determination and unwavering commitment to the cause.

I neither wish nor intend to turn this column into a party political broadcast, but it is time for somebody at the club to start proclaiming its positives and to begin promoting its plusses.

Too much is heard of the doom mongers; not enough is heard about the many, many people who back the club in a wide variety of ways, be it as season-ticket holders; regular fans who come on a match-to-match basis; contributors to the lottery and fund-raisers like the Prediction League; buyers of replica kit; sponsors; corporate backers and those who use the hospitality suite; not to mention the many, and I do mean MANY, fans who willingly devote their time and energies in a voluntary capacity to give the club a lift. Some of the "good" things about the Roughyeds are almost a closely-guarded secret.

Take the match-day programme: one of the best and most readable outside Super League and all done voluntarily, a real credit to editor Nigel Marland.

Take the Roughyettes -- they've been down on numbers in the past, but they've bounced back full of life this year with Kathryn at the helm and with the sponsorship of F R Elswood Ltd and Mark Anthony Kitchens behind them.

Take the website. From humble beginnings it is starting to make steady and unmistakable progress as a direct link between club and fans -- and only last week Paul Gough and Totalplus came up with sponsorship to improve it even further and to make the task of dedicated webmaster Steve Baldwin so much easier.

Take the social club. Okay, so it's not the Ritz. But it's homely, it's comfortable, it's ours. And ask yourself this: of the clubs that don't own their own grounds, how many have a facility like we've got at Alfred Street?

John Willie Lees are on board now and what did the company say when the sponsorship deal was announced last week? Referring to the fact that they had been with the club before, they said this: "You don't go back unless you know you are going back to something GOOD."

Take the hospitality suite. No, it isn't ours, it's Athletic's. But it enables Roughyeds to offer their corporate guests and sponsors a facility that, with the possible exception of Widnes, is second to none in the National Leagues.

Take the Support Group -- a dedicated band of willing workers, marshalled by Sheila Somerville, who help out whenever possible, will turn their hands to anything, and stage their monthly quiz evenings in the social club.

I could go on . . . and on. . . and on. There are many reasons why supporters of the Roughyeds can be happy to get behind their club, not least the knowledge that in Chris and Sean, the co-owners, they have a couple of leaders who don't know the meaning of the words GIVE IN.

Wear your Oldham shirts with pride, because with so much goodwill around and more emerging daily there is only one way to go -- UP.

ROGER AND OUT.

with Ian Wilson

With what seems to me like the first phase of the RL season now completed, prior to the Easter weekend, it is quite a good time to investigate how attendances are going.

We have had 8 full rounds of Super League, Challenge Cup Rounds 3 and 4, the full preliminary stage of the Northern Rail Cup and the first set, except for one Div. 2 game, of National League matches. We are regularly being told that the season is the greatest ever, etc., etc. Do the attendance figures support such a claim?

In one respect, there is no doubt that there is certainly good news. I have it

on good authority that TV viewing figures are ahead of forecasts, and that both Sky and the BBC are very happy with them so far. In turn, that can only be good for the game as a whole, in terms of sponsorship attractiveness and future broadcasting deals, provided the trend is maintained. [Perhaps someone should tell ITV? Maybe they might get a bit more interested in taking a National League highlights package?]

What about attendances at the grounds, though? The figures for the nine weekends of matches are as follows:

|   | Super League | Other  | Total                                                                                            |
|---|--------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 65 634       | 18 038 | 83 672                                                                                           |
| 2 | 66 530       | 14 220 | 80 750                                                                                           |
| 3 | 53 893       | 12 532 | 66 425                                                                                           |
| 4 | 56 911       | 16 118 | 73 029                                                                                           |
| 5 | 48 720       | 15 342 | 64 062 [includes Cup Round 3]                                                                    |
| 6 | 56 032       | 14 040 | 70 072                                                                                           |
| 7 | 46 280       | 11 375 | 57 655                                                                                           |
| 8 |              |        | 40 422 [Cup Round 4]                                                                             |
| 9 | 46 314       | 13 678 | 59 992 [start of National Leagues, though one NL2 fixture, Blackpool v Hunslet, was not played]. |

As is to be expected whenever statistics are being interpreted, there are several problems in trying to draw conclusions. In the first place, the weather has hardly been 'typical', even of the first couple of months of 'summer rugby?'. Secondly, variations from week to week depend on which sides happen to be at home, playing whom. And thirdly, 2006 has seen two additional sides in operation - in France and in Wales - so that comparisons with the recent past need to allow for this.

However, even allowing for these complications, there does indeed

seem to be grounds for some cautious optimism. The fall-off after the first couple of weeks? excitement is clear - yet the Super League average is still 55 039, which compares with 44 262, 49 128, 52 998 and 53 862 in the years 2002-2005 respectively. And the '02 - '05 average crowds for National League games were 1179, 1080, 1104 and 1400, compared with an average for Other so far this season of 1311.

So far, so good, then. It will be interesting to observe how things develop from here as the season progresses.

40/20VISION

# in yer face

with Geoff Cooke

Every newspaper column and letter to the press I have read has been supportive of John Kear.

How Hull F.C. can fire a Coach who broke the big four monopoly of the Challenge Cup and delivered the club its first trophy for 23 years is beyond me and, I am glad to say, is beyond a lot of journalists and Hull supporters. Good enough to coach England but not Hull F.C.? Had Bradford Bulls taken that attitude a year ago where would Grand Final winning Coach Brian Noble be now? The worst of it is that we'll end up with yet another Australian in charge at Hull. When will Directors ever learn? And isn't it true that every time you sack a Coach you're saying you made the wrong appointment in the first place: and whose fault is that?

Early season attendances have been woeful, none more so than for the Challenge Cup third round where just over 7,000 at Odsal was the best gate of the round. And while 10,958 for Hull v. Leeds and 11,136 for Bradford v. Warrington might look good at first glance both these clubs are capable of drawing 15,000. In fact the most encouraging gate on April 9th was 6,109 at Catalan Dragons for the visit of Castleford. Who said the French can't hack it?

They might be bottom of National Conference League Two but Saddleworth Rangers have



consistently raised their game in cup competitions. Their performance at Leigh Miners Rangers was outstanding and is a credit to everyone at the club.

Also a credit to their club are the Coach, players, committee and supporters of Oldham St. Anne's. Their willingness to help Oldham out of a hole for the Hull K.R. game is worthy of high praise. And didn't the Best twins do themselves proud? With ex-Waterhead players Darren Nixon and Mick Fogerty and ex-St. Anne's hooker Eric Johnson doing well at Keighley Oldham's amateur clubs are still producing good players for the pro. ranks. While everything in the garden may not be rosy - is it ever? - long may all Oldham's amateur clubs continue to flourish. Now if only we could get some investment into the town to improve facilities for our youngsters. The government keeps telling us it wants to increase participation among the young, so where's the solid financial commitment?



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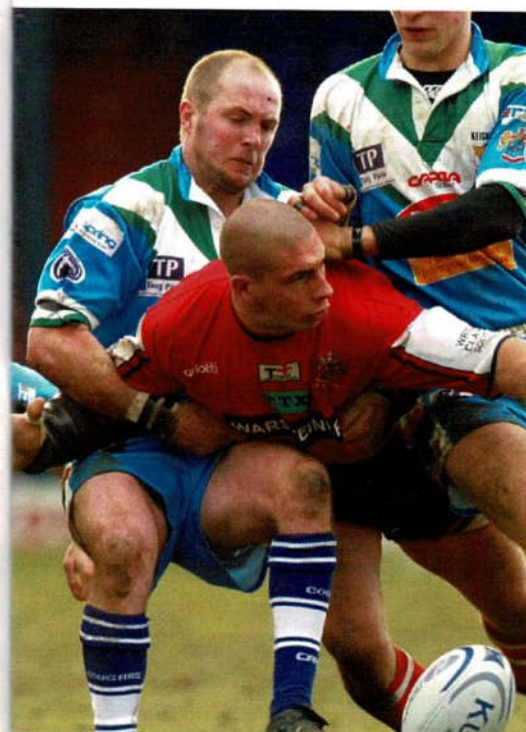
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# LTS

# club corner

with Nigel Marland

Well still the injuries mount up and on the Saturday before the game against Hull KR we had 15 men only who could be considered for the game. As you know the Best brothers were brought in from St Annes and did a superb job.

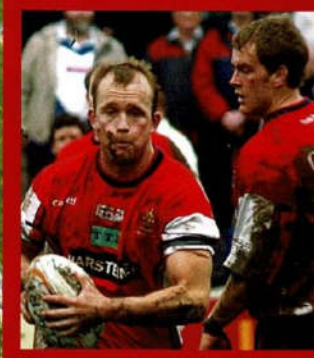
Alas Mark Roberts has a suspected broken thumb but it was good to see Ged Corcoran back and doing 80 minutes. He certainly tested out his eye socket with a third minute right hook from a Hull KR player. All in all I thought it was a much better performance and thought the score flattered Hull KR. Some of our defence, especially on our own line was terrific and certainly gives us hope for the future. Hopefully when you read this there will have been some new additions to the squad, players will be back from injury and no further casualties giving competition for places which is always a healthy situation. The rest of the column will be given up to the Prediction League, which I hope even more of you will join.

## ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE

Week 1

|     |                          |    |
|-----|--------------------------|----|
| 1   | Tim Boycott              | 24 |
| 2=  | Jeff Bates               | 22 |
| 2=  | Wayne Halstead           | 22 |
| 2=  | Terry Bailey             | 22 |
| 5=  | Colin & Dorothy Johnston | 20 |
| 5=  | Geoff Cooke              | 20 |
| 7   | Four Red Lions           | 19 |
| 8=  | Paul Hulbert             | 17 |
| 8=  | Ian Wilson               | 17 |
| 8=  | Ashley Baxter            | 17 |
| 8=  | Roger Halstead           | 17 |
| 8=  | Harry Whitehouse         | 17 |
| 8=  | Roger Ivens              | 17 |
| 14  | Nigel Marland            | 16 |
| 15= | Peter Bailey             | 15 |
| 15= | Sara Jackson             | 15 |
| 15= | J Holmes                 | 15 |
| 18= | Chris Hamilton           | 14 |
| 18= | Val Webster              | 14 |
| 20= | Frank Pullen             | 13 |
| 20= | David Lord               | 13 |
| 22= | Iain Ashworth            | 12 |
| 22= | David Webster            | 12 |
| 22= | John McAndrew            | 12 |
| 22= | Matthew Chambers         | 12 |
| 22= | Michael Ackroyd          | 12 |
| 27  | Brian Walker             | 10 |
| 28= | Peter Illing             | 8  |
| 28= | Janet Yewdale            | 8  |

Clarice Stevens and Gordon Kent have both paid £20 but will not be taking an active part in the competition.



Despite some shock results there were some excellent results and Tim Boycott, runner up last year has got off to a great start, which is more than can be said for last year's winner who is languishing in fourteenth place. I am sure this is being celebrated by quite a few, especially one Ashley Baxter in some quiet corner of Wales. Janet is nothing but consistent and holding us all up again whilst the "experts" are faring differently. Geoff Cooke is highest with Roger Halstead in eighth place (6 places below his son) along with Ian Wilson. Unfortunately new 'Chron' rugby reporter Matthew Chambers and ORLFC historian Brian Walker are languishing in the bottom 5. But as we saw last year much can change and everybody is still in with a chance.

Don't forget it's still not too late to join as you have until April 25. Whatever games you have missed up to that date you will receive the average score (Week 1 - 16) so you will still be in with a chance of all the prizes. It would be great if we could get it up to 40 this year so come on

All of you who have been meaning to join but just haven't bothered. Remember you can pick up a form from the office or on line on the website [www.roughyeds.co.uk](http://www.roughyeds.co.uk). Entries can be either weekly (only by e mail) or for the whole season or half season. Entries cost £20 and cheques should be made payable to ORLFC.

NIGEL

P.S I have just learnt that Mark Robert's thumb isn't broken so that's good news for a change and that the new away shirts and possibly the home kits are available now (see page 7). Hopefully too, there will be at least two new players available for selection for today's game.

## BREAKING NEWS

Just heard we have signed Chris Baines (21) from Warrington a 6ft 16 stone back row forward on a month's loan who will be available for Easter matches.

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# AROUND & ABOUT

with The Heritage Trust

**Received a surprise 'phone call this week from Oldham's former winger, Welshman, Mike Bird, who now lives in the Chester area. Mike played for the club in the early 60's and is looking to contact former playing colleague Roger Duffy.**

I seem to remember that the former London-Irish forward emigrated to Australia after spells playing for Blackpool and Barrow but should anyone have any information of his whereabouts please ring

Brian Walker on 01457 875084. The photograph is of the 1960/61 side and obviously includes both Mike and Roger.



Back Row: Alf Mumberson, Geoff Robinson, Bill Payne, Dave Parker, John Rae, Roger Dufty, Jack Pycroft  
Seated: Alan Kellett, Johnny Noon, Frank Pitchford, Mick Bird, Vince Nestor  
Kneeling: Keith Holden, Geoff Sims, Len McIntyre

Recently came across an interesting Aussie rugby league website [www.eraofthebiff.com](http://www.eraofthebiff.com) Lots of good stuff but what caught my eye was a list of the world's 'toughest players' which visitors to the site are invited to contribute. It's a long list and on the Oldham front Derek Turner's name was there but didn't notice mention of Frank Foster!

There was also a section on players and officials from throughout the rugby league world who had received awards such as the MBE or OBE or perhaps had statues commissioned in their honour, stands named after them, commemorative plaques struck to mark their achievements or perhaps remembered by roads or streets adopting their names. Brian Bevan, Willie Horne and Clive Sullivan were amongst the British

contingent. On the Oldham front we've now added to the site Jos. Platt, who was an important cog in the breakaway from the English Rugby Union (commemorative blue plaque), George Hutchins who was joint tour manager in both 1928 and 1932 (stand at Watersheddings), Sid Little, former Great Britain international forward - who was recently included in the Oldham RLFC Hall of Fame and who attended the induction just before Christmas - (OBE for service to youth), Welsh international stalwart Alex Givvons, Great Britain forwards Charlie Winslade and Ken Jackson, England captain Joe Ferguson and again George Hutchins (who all have streets on the former Watersheddings site named in their honour).



Gallery Oldham is now showcasing a fascinating exhibition of notable objects and artworks that have recently been added to the borough's permanent collection. Included is the Oldham club's Roll of Honour, commemorating those former officials and players who took part in the Great War. Older supporters will remember that it used to be sited on the wall behind the bar in the old pavilion but in later years was re-sited to the landing of the stairs leading to the upper floor. The Heritage Trust (purely because of its size and difficulty finding a site in which it could be displayed) donated it to the borough on behalf of the club. The sign writing was upgraded prior to it being handed over.

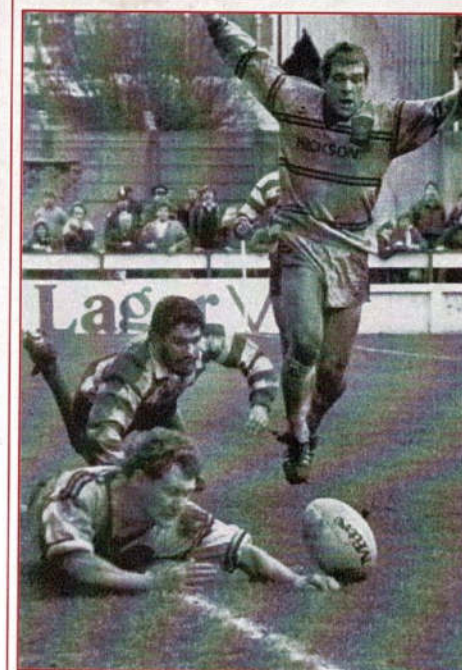
The new exhibit was used by the gallery to promote the exhibition in the press and because of the club then being known as Oldham Football Club I noticed that it was mistakenly attributed it to the 'Latics!

The exhibition "Oldham New" runs until June 4th.

It's three seasons since speedy Roughyeds' winger Chris Campbell scored rugby leagues fastest recorded try. Scored on today's visitors ground just seven seconds after the kick-off!



Chris Campbell



Is it really 20 years since referee Ron Campbell, allowed a Bob Beardmore controversial try that turned the 1986 Challenge Cup semi-final Castleford's way? Played on March 22nd 1986 at Wigan's Central Park ground, Castleford beat the Roughyeds 18-7. Beardmore was said to have crossed the dead-ball line before touching down. The photograph would appear to confirm that this was the case.

Heritage Trust

# visiting today

## DONCASTER LAKERS

### Neil Lowe

The 27 year old Former Salford and Featherstone Second Rower, who has full international honours for Scotland, has been an impressive close season recruit for the Lakers. Equally at home at prop, Lowe is a regular try scorer who is also strong in defence.

### Craig Lawton

A former Doncaster Toll Bar Junior, Lawton who is 25 years of age regularly features at prop, second row and his favoured loose forward position. He also combines his on field commitments with his Community Development post with the club.

### Adam Robinson

The 19 year old Second Rower, who has experience with Super League's Wakefield has made the no.12 shirt his own this year as a result of his impressive form to date.

### Karl Mills

22 year old Prop, Mills is looking to force his way into the Lakers starting 13 this season. The former Huddersfield Academy player is also another former Doncaster Toll Bar junior.

### Chris Ross

In his second spell with the club, Ross has featured in every position along the back line for the Lakers and is also a reliable goal-kicker. He lists both Hunslet and York as his former clubs.

### Shaun Leaf

Among the longest serving of players at the club, Shaun has been a regular in the Doncaster first team since the 2002 season having joined from Hull KR

the close season before that. Shaun has played at scrum half for the club for the majority of the season, despite being more used to playing at stand-off and loose forward for the club.

### Richard Newlove

22 year old centre, Newlove has Super League experience with Wakefield in between two spells with his hometown Featherstone. Richard is the brother of former Great Britain centre Paul.

### Gareth Handford

Larger than life prop forward, Gareth is another long-serving member of this Doncaster team despite only being 26 years of age. Listing Bradford Bulls and Castleford Tigers as his former clubs, Handford possesses a first rate passing and kicking game that often causes surprise in the opposition's defence.

### Mark Castle

At 20 years of age, the former Castleford Panthers junior is another forward looking to become a regular in the first team starting line-up.

### Ryan Holt

18 year old Holt is a former Castleford Lock Lane junior who is sure to have a big future in the game.

### Danny Mills

This well travelled winger has plied his trade abroad with New South Wales based Lasino of Australia. Back home the former Milford junior has experience with Huddersfield, Batley and Sheffield. At 24, Mills is in good form for the Lakers and never shirks from the hard work in his own half. Yusuf Sozi

Former London and Huddersfield prop, Yusuf originates from Uganda and last season was a promotion winner with the York City Knights before joining the Lakers in the close season.

### Adam Cuffe

Equally at home on the wing or at centre ad full back, 18 year old Adam is a potent attacking threat for the Lakers who possesses lightening speed.

### Peter Green

This year Pete has taken on the added responsibilities of the club captaincy in his stride, and combines his on field duties with his Community Development post. Second Rower Green holds the clubs record for most consecutive appearances with over a hundred.

### Caldon Bravo

Another youngster in the Doncaster ranks, Caldon is a centre who has also featured at Super League level with the Castleford Tigers.

### Micheal Martinez.

Hull based Second Rower; Micheal joined the Lakers from the KC Stadium during the close season and has made a good account of himself at first team level. Martinez has international honours with the BARLA U18's and was a Grand Final with Hull FC's u21's.

### Dean Colton

Affectionately known as 'China' among the Doncaster faithful, Dean is another product of the Doncaster Toll Bar Amateur club and the Lakers own Academy system. A regular on the wing for the last 2 seasons, Colton is among

the fastest in the team.

### Graham Holroyd

30 year old stand-off Graham Holroyd has a wealth of experience and is after the clubs Assistant Coach. A game-breaker, Graham is the Lakers main play-maker and goal kicker.

### Shad Royston

Shad has made the no.1 shirt his own this year, reliable in defence and deceptive in attack, the Australian is likely to be the Lakers top try scorer this term. Royston's former clubs include the Cronulla Sharks and Batley Bulldogs, from whom he joined from in the close season.

### Anthony Tonks

On loan from Bradford, the young prop is a regular starter with the Lakers and has become an important member of the Doncaster team.

### Darren Jordan

With the recommendation of Leeds and Great Britain star Rob Burrows, the Lakers were quick to snap up the Hooker who was playing for the Ackworth Amateur side. Darren wowed the Belle Vue crowd with a brace of tries on debut vs Batley and has been a consistent performer since.

### Kane Epati

Recent recruit from French Rugby Union, Kane impressed with Hull KR last year and having joined the Lakers is looking to make the no.3 shirt his own. With 16 touchdowns last year for the Robins, watch out for the Cook Island RU International's electric pace and tough tackling.

# journalistic license

by Matthew Chambers

I'M swiftly coming to the conclusion that some terrible curse has been placed on Oldham Roughyeds this season.

Never mind the horrendous catalogue of injuries to the playing squad – just look at the Biblical weather.

It took around ten seconds for last Sunday's pitch to turn from green to white, as a truly fierce hail and snow storm descended from the heavens.

Perhaps it was revenge from above on former Chronicle rugby league correspondent Roger Halstead, who recently suggested in this publication that the press' men who sit behind the screen at Boundary Park are softies.

You can imagine the big feller sat upstairs, saying, "I'll show you, Mr Halstead."

Still, despite all the adversity that has been heaped upon the team of late, the players did themselves credit against a Hull KR side expected to be amongst the top three come the end of the season.

Some supporters may have initially taken a glance at the team sheet and winced, but Mick Redford's transition from prop forward to centre was pretty seamless, and Ian Hodson (as usual) worked his socks off in the unfamiliar role of stand-off.

Up until his hand injury Mark

Roberts was outstanding, while Mike Callan certainly didn't play like a man unable to train with back trouble; the former Blackpool prop was flying into tackles as fit as a fiddle.

All in all it was a good, gutsy effort against Rovers, and the scoreline didn't reflect the play nearly as much as was the case in the Challenge Cup debacle up at Barrow – even the very mention of that strange, isolated place should send shudders up the spine of those who were there two weeks ago.

Hopefully the run of bad luck will have changed by now, and the club's management can start focusing on winning games rather than arranging hospital appointments.

Doncaster enjoyed a good start to the season in the Northern Rail Cup but were unexpectedly hammered by Rochdale, a team Oldham ran close in their opening NRC clash.

If coach Steve Deakin can locate enough willing players, this is the sort of game Roughyeds have got to start winning.

Alternatively, it might be time to call in a priest to bless the ground...

Matthew



# halstead's choice

by Roger Halstead

WHEN Mike Callan hurt his back in a car crash and was forced to miss the Powergen Challenge Cup tie at Barrow it wasn't the first time an off-the-field accident had laid him low.

He will never forget the time he jumped over a brook, landed in a rabbit hole and broke a leg.

"I was 11 at the time," recalled Mike, "and the injury forced me out of rugby for two years and ended my playing days with Grappenhall Griffins.

"My dad used to coach at the club, so I started to play there when I was ten. I scored a try in my first game, and I was hooked. I loved it."

Born and bred in Warrington, 22-year-old Callan still lives there and still talks with a good degree of pride of the day the then Wilderspool coach Daryl van de Velde watched him play once --- and then signed him up for the Wolves on a pro contract the very next day.

But back to the beginning. From the age of 11 to 13 he couldn't play rugby while his leg healed and when he did start out on the long road back it wasn't with the Griffins, but with the better known Woolston Rovers.

A pacy second-row forward in those days, he was in the Woolston under-14s team that won the Lancashire Cup in that age group as well as becoming champions of the NW Counties Youth League (under-14s).

Rugby was starting to become a very important part of the young Callan's life and it became even more important to him when he was picked for Warrington Schoolboys.

Paul Derbyshire, a primrose and blue man from head to toe, doubled up as town-team boys' coach and a key figure in the renowned Warrington youth policy.

mike  
callan

PLAYER PROFILE



## mike callan

Continued...

It was only a matter of time before Derbyshire spotted something in the young Callan and invited him down to Wilderspool to train with the Wolves' under-18s.

About the same time Callan again got itchy feet, so he left Woolston to join yet another Warrington amateur outfit, Crosfields.

And it was while he was playing for Crosfields under-18s that the renowned van de Velde, presumably acting on a tip from his right-hand man Derbyshire, went along to watch.

Said Mike: "I had no more than half a dozen games with Crosfields -- a 16-year-old in an under-18s side -- and then one day Daryl van de Velde came to watch me. He must have thought I had something because he signed me up the next day on a professional contract. I was made up."

Callan didn't disappoint, either. In his second year at Wilderspool he was named Academy player of the year and from there he graduated to the club's Super League side, still at the tender age of 18.

Later he was to be named in a Super League under-21s representative side for a match against the under-21s of the Northern Ford, only to withdraw because of a recurring back problem.

Once that was cleared up he was on his travels again, this time to nearby Leigh where he helped the Centurions to win promotion to Super League at the end of the 2004 summer season.

Said Callan: "They offered me a contract to be part of their 2005 Super League squad, but we couldn't agree on the terms so I decided to leave it alone."

"Willie Swann persuaded me to join the new set-up at Blackpool, but things didn't work out there for a lot of the lads.

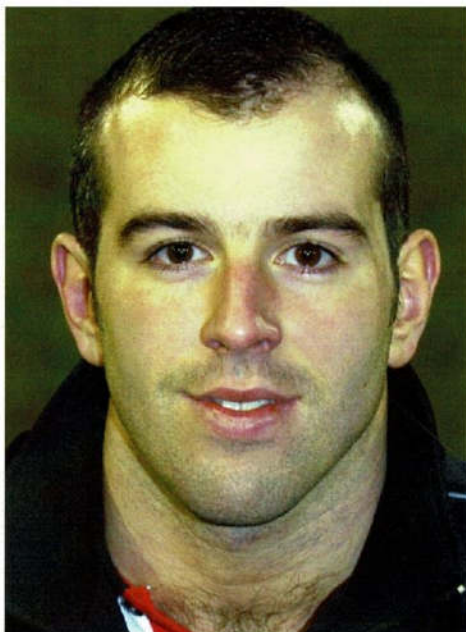
"Steve Molloy, Chris Hough and Mick Redford were all at Blackpool when I was there, but I only played about five games for them.

"In one of them we played Oldham on the Preston Grasshoppers RU ground and I won the man-of-the-match award, playing in the front-row.

"But a parting with Blackpool was inevitable and I spent the rest of that season out of the game, training hard and keeping myself in good condition.

"By the time John Pendlebury came in for me I had enjoyed my 'rest' and I was all ready to go again. It was great to get a chance to play in the first division again. It's a better standard than the second division, and although it is going to be tough I am really looking forward to it."

Callan settled quickly into the Roughyeds scheme of things, and it helped because he knew Chris Percival from the days when they were at Leigh



together and he remembered Chris Hough and Mick Redford from their short stays at Blackpool.

Callan was thrilled to be named the Roughyeds' man of the match against Hull KR last Sunday, not merely for being No 1, but also because his no-nonsense performance against a significantly bigger pack proved once and for all that his suspect back was on the mend.

He added: "The car accident was nothing too drastic, but it's still nice to know that you can play again within two weeks of it happening. I reckon my performance on Sunday proved that my back is now okay."

Callan has enough confidence in coach Steve Deakin and his fellow players to believe passionately that the Roughyeds can start to string a few wins together. "Success breeds success," he said. "We are not a million miles away and if we can work hard to improve our concentration levels we will be able to turn things round."

"We are working hard each week under Steve now. He is forward thinking with good ideas and he got Catalans Dragons into Super League, so he clearly knows what he is talking about."

"As for my own slant on team selection, I'm happy to play anywhere to be in the team, but I'm mainly regarded as a prop or as a second-rower."

"I particularly like playing prop because I like the physical side of the game. And I like to get into the thick of things down the middle."

It's a fair bet that, in the tough season ahead, Callan will get plenty of opportunities to do just that.

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# on this day

Don Yates looks back to April 17th yesteryear

This afternoon's visit from Doncaster comes exactly 37 years after a particularly thrilling visit which the Dragons, or should we say the Lakers, paid to Oldham on Thursday 17th April 1969.

That match was played on the old Watersheddings ground where the Roughyeds just scraped home by nine points to seven. Scrum-half Tommy Canning scored the Oldham try that evening with full-back Derek Whitehead (2) and centre Jim Crellin adding goals. The Doncaster try was claimed by free-scoring winger Graham Arrand and there were goals from forwards Ian Fortis and player-coach Cyril Sykes. It was a vital win for the Roughyeds who, as a result, pipped Warrington for the final place in the end-of-season Championship play-off.

Oldham did not enjoy such a successful day on Saturday 17th April 1943. That day the Roughyeds visited Dewsbury in the second leg of the Challenge Cup semi-final. Oldham went into the match twenty-two points adrift from the first leg so prospects of a final appearance were not high. They soon disappeared altogether as Dewsbury gave the Roughyeds the run-around. The final score was 43-5 with centre Walkley scoring the Oldham try and full-back Tommy Rees kicking a goal.

On Sunday 17th April 1994 Oldham visited St.Helens for a vital First Division encounter. A couple of months previously the Roughyeds looked relegation certainties after seven consecutive league defeats. Oldham then lost coach Peter Tunks and former Australian test forward Bob Lindner stepped into the breach as player-coach. There was an immediate upturn in fortunes which brought four victories from eight matches. However, Oldham were running out of fixtures as another win was essential in order to maintain First Division status. The prospect of a win against St.Helens was slim, especially at Knowsley Road but the Roughyeds

went into the match with a positive frame of mind. Oldham made a great start to the match when second-rower Bob Lindner scored a try which was converted by scrum-half Steve Kerry. Next to score was centre Shaun Irwin. St.Helens pulled six points back with a converted try but then winger Nigel Heslop took advantage of a St.Helens slip to score a try which was converted by substitute Paul Topping. Late in the half stand-off Glen Liddiard dropped a goal to give Oldham a surprise 17-6 half-time lead. Spectators who expected St.Helens to turn the match around in the second half were given a further shock when Oldham opened the second half with another burst of scoring. Centre Darren Abram scored after only 57 seconds, Paul Topping converted, full-back Wally Gibson added a dropped goal and Nigel Heslop scored his second try. Amazingly Oldham led 30-6. St.Helens did eventually get into their stride. Four tries, two converted, reduced Oldham's lead to 30-26 but a great defensive stint prevented Saints from scoring again and Oldham maintained their First Division status with this memorable victory.

Dreadful weather conditions on Saturday 17th April 1937 reduced the attendance at the Northern Rugby League-Wales match to just 3,000. That match was staged at the north-east outpost of Brough Park, Newcastle and resulted in a 15-12 victory for Wales. Two of the three Welsh tries that afternoon were scored by Oldham loose-forward Alex Givvons, arguably the best forward never to gain a British test cap. Another Oldham player who represented Wales that afternoon was second-row forward Norman Pugh.

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# Roughyed

## Kids & Co

### Hi Kids

Did you all get a visit from the Easter Bunny? Did you all get lots of easter eggs?

Today we have 2 mascots representing us. They are Ellis Taylor who is 7 years old and Joeseeph Hough who is 6. Ellis attends Whittacker Moss Primary School while Joeseeph attends St Mary Primary School. They both play for the Under 8's team at Shaw Rhinos and their favourite players are John and Chris Hough.

We would like to wish a happy be-lated 30th birthday to John Hough. Good luck to the lads for todays game.

See you all soon,

Carole and Janet

### Today's Mascot

#### Ellis Taylor

**Age:**  
7-year-old

**School:**  
Whittacker Moss Primary School

**Favourite player:**  
John and Chris Hough

#### Joeseeph Hough

**Age:**  
8-year-old

**School:**  
St Mary Primary School

**Favourite player:**  
John and Chris Hough

## SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

What a difference a week makes in sport. The performance against HKR last weekend, was in sharp contrast to the one at Barrow, notably for the marked increase in morale and spirit. The final score did not represent the efforts of a team which to say the least, was down to the bare bones, but was able to prove to the stalwart fans that they are working hard to make progress with Steve Deakin at the helm. Let's hope the injury crisis eases and gives them a chance to further improve performances.

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*Sheila*

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# Oldham RLFC 2006 season's statistics

Oldham match stats upto April 10th 2006

| NAME        | PLAYED | TRIES | GOALS     | POINTS |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|
| A.Bailey    | 7      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| G.Barber    | 8      | 4     | 16        | 48     |
| M.Callan    | 7      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| G.Corcoran  | 2      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| W.Corcoran  | 5      | 1     | 2         | 8      |
| C.Dean      | 6      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| A.Gorey     | 6      | 4     | 0         | 16     |
| D.Gorton    | 7      | 1     | 0         | 4      |
| D.Guest     | 5      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| A.Hadcroft  | 5      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| G.Hayes     | 7      | 1     | 0         | 4      |
| I.Hodson    | 9      | 1     | 0         | 4      |
| C.Hough     | 4      | 0     | 1[+1 d-g] | 3      |
| J.Hough     | 7      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| J.Kirkland  | 7      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| C.Maye      | 6      | 2     | 0         | 8      |
| D.Nanyn     | 8      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| C.Percival  | 8      | 6     | 0         | 24     |
| M.Redford   | 5      | 1     | 0         | 4      |
| M.Roberts   | 7      | 1     | 0         | 4      |
| S.Svabic    | 8      | 3     | 0         | 12     |
| A.Wilkinson | 6      | 2     | 0         | 8      |
| L.Wingfield | 7      | 2     | 0         | 8      |
| C.Canpbell  | 4      | 3     | 0         | 12     |
| D.Best      | 1      | 0     | 0         | 0      |
| J.Best      | 1      | 0     | 0         | 0      |

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THE ROUGHYEDS

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# NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



## FIRST DAY LESSONS

AFTER an intriguing first round of LHF Healthplan National League fixtures, what have we learnt ahead of the rest of the season?

We've learnt that maybe the bookies were right (no real surprise there then) when they installed Welsh newcomers Celtic Crusaders as second favourite for the NL2 title.

On their league debut, the Crusaders comprehensively beat Workington Town 50-18 at Derwent Park, with Aussie Tony Duggan grabbing a hat trick of tries.

If that doesn't send out a message to the rest of the competition, then little else will.

We learnt that London Skolars will be nobody's easy beats – they pushed title favourites Dewsbury Rams all the way before going down to a 30-34 defeat.

Elsewhere in NL2, Barrow Raiders showed that their eye catching Northern Rail Cup form was no fluke, almost snatching a shock victory at highly-fancied Swinton Lions, who eventually prevailed 22-20.

And Featherstone fought out a tough battle with Gateshead Thunder to win 36-24.

In National League One, we learnt that Rochdale Hornets' status as possible underdogs looks well placed – they recorded the result of the round by thrashing Doncaster Lakers 44-0 at Belle Vue.

The defeat was a major disappointment for the Lakers, who presented their new pre-match entertainment programme to supporters before kick-off.

But Tony Miller's side simply could not break down the Rochdale defence, the meanest in the National Leagues to date.

Hull KR have been similarly solid in that department, and were far too strong for injury-hit Oldham, the Robins winning 48-8 at Boundary Park.

We also learnt that newly promoted York City Knights are ready for the challenge of NL1 – they led big guns Widnes Vikings in the second half before falling to a creditable 25-18 loss.

Favourites Leigh fought off the challenge of Halifax at the Shay, Paul Rowley scoring two tries against his former club in a 30-10 win.

And another hooker played a key role at the Recreation Ground, where Carl Sice's two tries were crucial in a gritty 26-8 win for Whitehaven against improving Batley.

So plenty to reflect on then. And the Easter weekend will provide an even greater insight, as the predominantly part-time teams prepare for the challenge of two games in the space of four days.

It promises to produce more fascinating action.

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# 2006 fixtures

| DATE    | OPPONENTS                                   | CUP                                   | VENUE | K. O. | RESULT | W/L | ATT   |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| 22/1/06 | Rochdale Hornets                            | Law Cup                               | A     | 14:00 | 42-8   | L   | 1,114 |
| 27/1/06 | Leeds Rhino's                               | Friendly                              | H     | 20:00 | 16-8   | W   | 3,191 |
| 15/2/06 | Rochdale Hornets                            | NR Cup                                | A     | 19:45 | 18-16  | L   | 920   |
| 19/2/06 | Halifax RLFC                                | NR Cup                                | H     | 15:00 | 26-42  | L   | 1,268 |
| 26/2/06 | Keighley Cougars                            | NR Cup                                | H     | 15:00 | 25-24  | W   | 764   |
| 8/3/06  | Halifax RLFC                                | NR Cup                                | A     | 19:30 | 66-8   | L   | 897   |
| 12/3/06 | Saddleworth Rangers                         | POWERGEN CC 3RD RD                    | H     | 15:00 | 32-10  | W   | 804   |
| 19/3/06 | Rochdale Hornets                            | NR Cup                                | H     | 15:00 | 10-22  | L   | 783   |
| 26/3/06 | Keighley Cougars                            | NR Cup                                | A     | 15:00 | 32-28  | W   | 946   |
| 2/4/06  | Barrow Raiders                              | POWERGEN CC 4TH RD                    | A     | 15:00 | 8-40   | L   | 975   |
| 9/4/06  | Hull Kingston Rovers                        | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 | 8-48   | L   | 1658  |
| 14/4/06 | Rochdale Hornets                            | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 17/4/06 | Doncaster Lakers                            | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 30/4/06 | Leigh Centurions                            | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 14/5/06 | Whitehaven                                  | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 21/5/06 |                                             | POWERGEN CC 5TH RD                    |       |       |        |     |       |
| 28/5/06 | Hull Kingston Rovers                        | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 4/6/06  | Halifax RLFC                                | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
|         |                                             | POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINALS |       |       |        |     |       |
| 11/6/06 | York City Knights                           | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 25/6/06 | York City Knights                           | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 2/7/06  | Rochdale Hornets                            | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 9/7/06  | Widnes Vikings                              | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 21/7/06 | Batley Bulldogs                             | NL1                                   | H     | 19:45 |        |     |       |
| 30/7/06 | Doncaster Lakers                            | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
|         |                                             | POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP SEMI FINALS    |       |       |        |     |       |
| 6/8/06  | Halifax RLFC                                | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 13/8/06 | Batley Bulldogs                             | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 20/8/06 | Widnes Vikings                              | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 26/8/06 |                                             | POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP FINALS         |       |       |        |     |       |
| 3/9/06  | Leigh Centurions                            | NL1                                   | H     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 10/9/06 | Whitehaven                                  | NL1                                   | A     | 15:00 |        |     |       |
| 17/9/06 | LHF Healthplan Play Offs                    |                                       |       |       |        |     |       |
| 24/9/06 | LHF Healthplan Play Offs                    |                                       |       |       |        |     |       |
| 1/10/06 | LHF Healthplan Play Offs                    |                                       |       |       |        |     |       |
| 8/10/06 | LHF Healthplan Grand Final & Play Off Final |                                       |       |       |        |     |       |

## Key

NR Cup - Northern Rail Cup  
Powergen CC - Powergen Challenge Cup  
NL1 - National League Division 1

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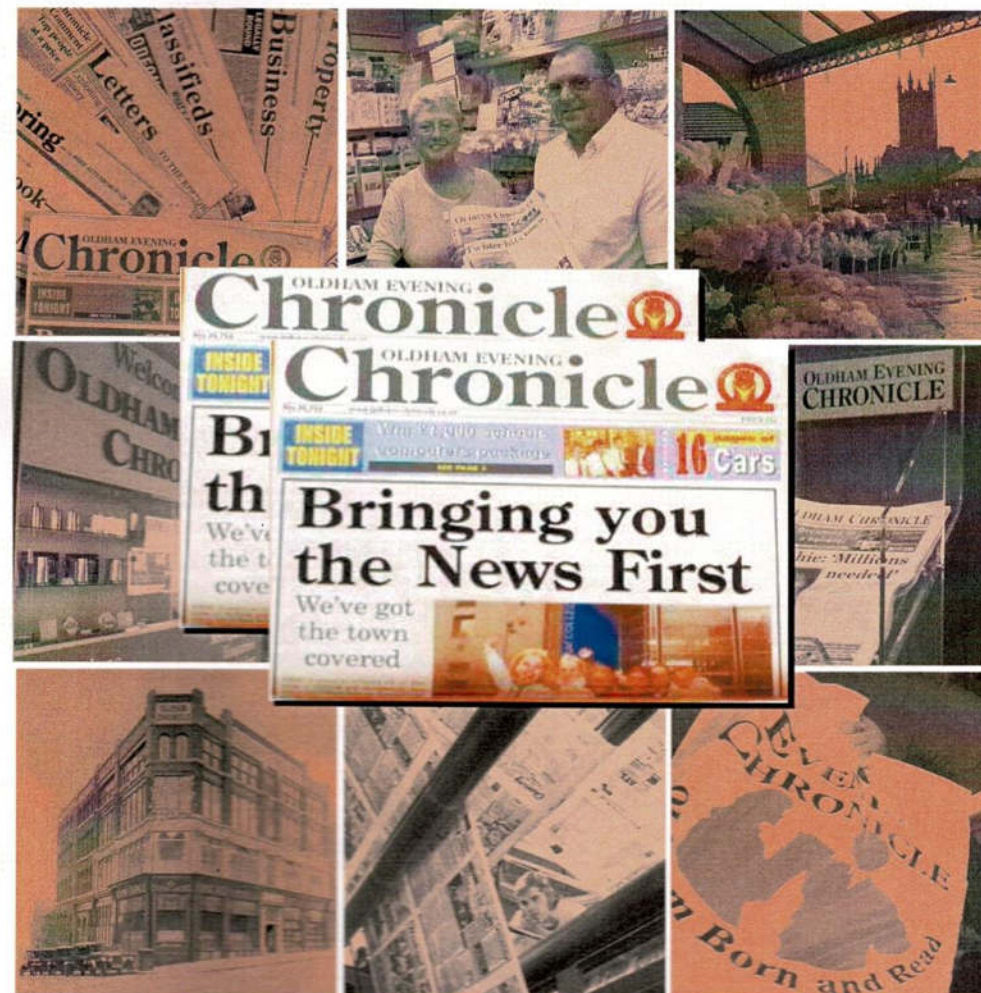
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