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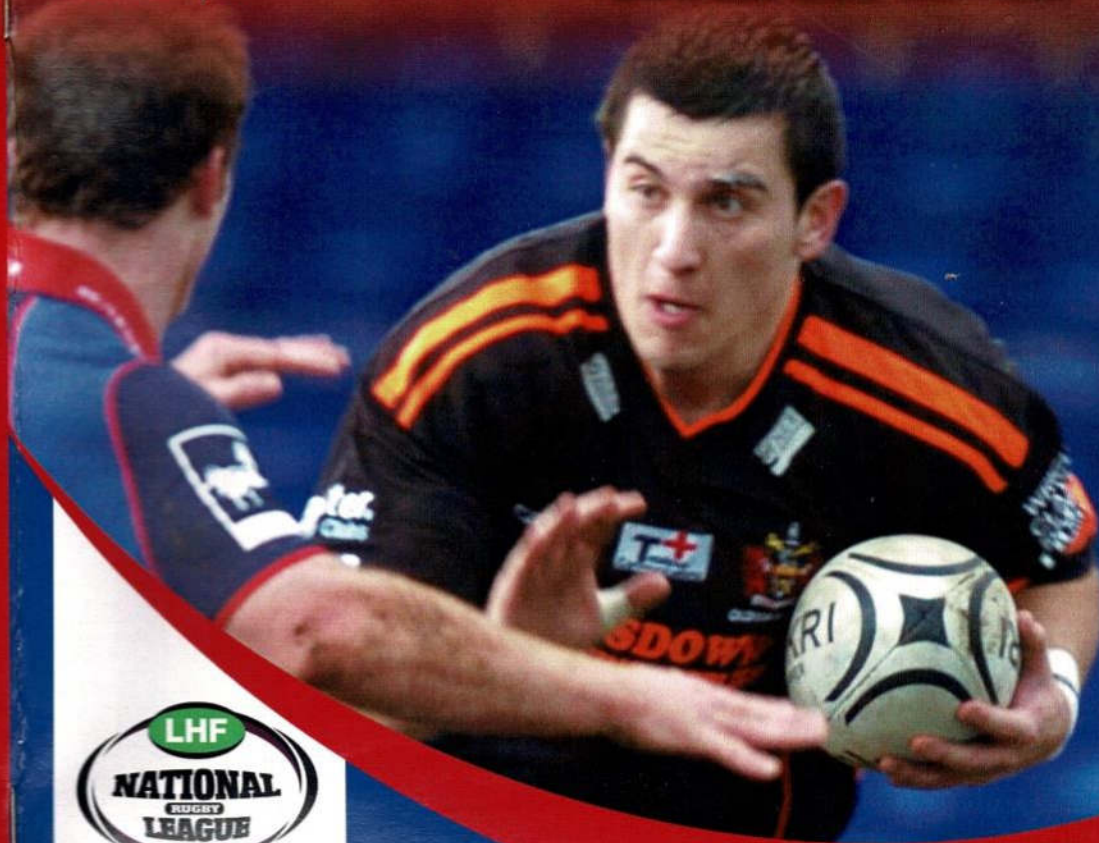
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Oldham RLFC v York City Knights

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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 Farrel, 67 - *April 2nd 2000 - March 15th 2002
*John Hough was on the team for every match February 1st 1999 - April 16th 2001 (82)

TRIES IN A SEASON: Nick Johnson, 25 - 2004

GOALS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, 146 - 2000-2001

POINTS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, 320 - 2000-2001

DROP GOALS IN A SEASON: Neil Roden, 7 - 2001-2002

TRIES IN A CAREER: Mark Sibson, 60 - 1999-2002

GOALS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, 254 - 1999-2001

POINTS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, 576 - 1999-2001

DROP GOALS IN A CAREER: Neil Roden, 18 - 2000-2003

TRIES IN MATCH: Mark Sibson v Wigan St. Judes, 4 - Feb 8th 2000 at Boundary Park
Mark Sibson v Queensbury, 4 - Jan 28th 2001 at Boundary Park
David Gibbons v Chorley Lynx, 4 - Jan 30th 2001 at Boundary Park
James Bunyan v Featherstone Rovers, 4 - Apr 12th 2004 at Boundary Park

GOALS IN A MATCH: Simon Svabic 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: 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.

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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

Welcome to our latest home game which is of course being played at Sedgley Park. Our thanks go once again to Geoff Roberts and everybody here for inviting us and we hope to build on the good relationship we formed with them last season.

There are a lot of similarities on the playing side to our situation last season when we went to Sedgley Park and although this year we are only playing two games as opposed to last season's three, we are again without a win and suffering an injury crisis. Although it has to be said that the injury situation this season has certainly been the worst since the club was reformed in 1997.

Continuing the theme of similarities we will all be hoping that we can repeat last year's success here at Sedgley Park in that we won two out of three games we played and started the run of results that ultimately got us away from the relegation spots. More of the same this time would be very welcome!

It would be remiss of me not to comment on last week's performance at Halifax. Given that the week before at Hull KR we had put up a display that left many people, including our own fans, thinking relegation was a certainty, we bounced back with a display that was full of effort, determination and bags of character.

People who saw the match have commented on our second half performance but we shouldn't forget that for 30 minutes of that first half we had at least matched Halifax. That mad 10 minutes at the end of the first half showed how cruel sport can be and at 28-0 down at half time it looked as if we were in for a good hiding.

To say sport is a roller coaster of emotions is to underestimate what happened in that second forty and we certainly took the game to Halifax and played them off the park, scoring some

great tries in the process and although we eventually lost the game by six points it was a moral victory and should give the squad the belief to kick on from there. We are acutely aware however that it was still not a win but the mood after the game from coaches, players and spectators alike was like a breath of fresh air.

We have thrived over the years in proving people wrong and this season is no different. Everybody at the club knows all the hard that goes in and hopefully today we can see the first reward for that on the field. Our visitors today, York, have found it tough coming up from the second division and that has surprised me and although they too have injuries they will be disappointed not to have any points yet. Already at this early stage in the season people will view today's game as a four pointer and must win game for both teams, but whilst certainly important so is every other game as all teams are capable of taking points off each other – just ask Batley and Leigh players!!

Thank you, as ever for your continued support and please get behind the lads today as you did in the second half at Halifax.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



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direct from the dug out

with Steve Deakin



So here we are playing a home game on the road in Whitefield at Sedgley Park.

You never know a change of venue might bring a change of luck, certainly in terms of results. I thought last week brought about a change in performance where, one ten minute spell apart, we were without doubt the better team. A lot of praise has got to go to the players whose attitude and commitment very nearly brought us our first league win of the season.

Despite such a large deficit at half time I was not unduly perturbed as our defence for 30 minutes in that half had been better than it had all season. It is always difficult to identify individuals especially when the whole team worked so hard as they all did last weekend but Paul Ashton certainly added some spark in the middle of the field and Carl Jones showed why we so keen to sign him as he is undoubtedly an outstanding utility player and should go from strength to strength as he gains experience in the professional game.

But there were other performers as well who

perhaps don't stand out so prominently, notably Gareth Hayes who, not for the first time this season, played prop for almost seventy minutes. This is an outstanding achievement especially in one so young (20 years).

I would like to thank the loyal supporters who followed us to Halifax. They must have been devastated at half time and expecting a similar score line to that at Hull K R, but the noise they made in the second half when they got behind the team was incredible and must have spurred the players on. I would like to think we can give them something positive to cheer about today.

There are still eleven games to go and we are still in control of our own destiny and remain confident that we can make it a successful season. Get behind the lads from the start today and most of all:-

Enjoy the game.

Deaks

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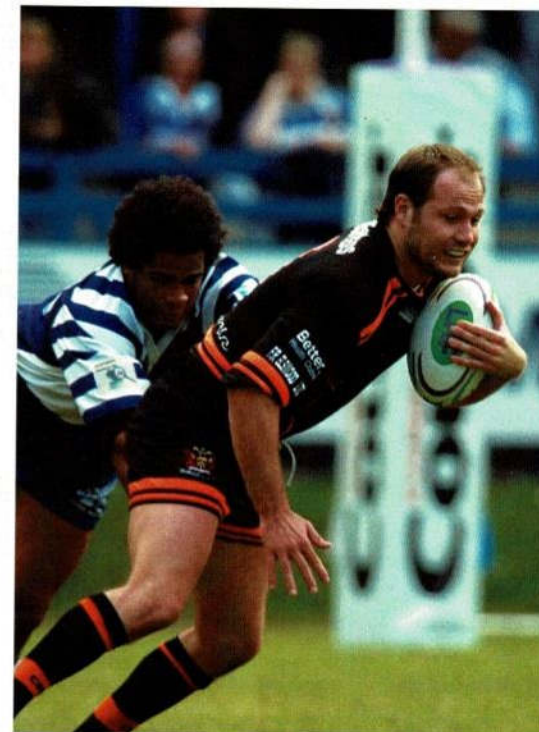


club corner

ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE

	Week 7	Overall
1	Colin & Dorothy Johnston	13 96
2	Paul Hulbert	6 92
3=	Nigel Marland	4 89
3=	Tim Boycott	6 89
3=	Peter Buckley	6 89
6	Harry Whitehouse	4 86
7	Ian Wilson	6 85
8=	Four Red Lions	4 84
8=	Wayne Halstead	6 84
8=	Steve Baldwin	9 84
11	Sara Jackson	6 83
12	Michael Ackroyd	9 81
13=	Ashley Baxter	4 77
13=	Roger Halstead	4 77
13=	Jeff Bates	6 77
16=	Chris Hamilton	2 76
16=	Matthew Chambers	9 76
18	Geoff Cooke	4 75
19	Brian Walker	6 72
20	Terry Bailey	4 71
21=	Paul Gough	4 69
21=	Roger Ivens	6 69
23	J Holmes	4 68
24	David Webster	8 67
25=	Frank Pullen	4 66
25=	Nick Henry	4 66
27	David Stephens	6 65
28=	David Lord	6 62
28=	John McAndrew	4 62
30	Val Webster	4 60
31	Janet Yewdale	6 58
32	Iain Ashworth	2 56
33	Peter Illing	4 34

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



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roger and out

by ROGER HALSTEAD

The recent revelation that the Roughyeds have paid £230,000 to the Inland Revenue in little more than 12 months puts firmly into context the extent to which the directors are determined to see this club survive and, hopefully, go on to better and brighter things.

"Less committed and courageous men than Chris Hamilton and Sean Whitehead would have thrown in the towel years ago.

The Bears went under in 1997 and Chris and Sean have never flinched from their avowed intent not to let that happen again.

To find £180,000 in tax arrears was an unbelievable achievement in itself, given the current problems all clubs outside Super League seem to have --- and even some inside the upper echelon --- in attracting half decent attendances.

To be then told there was another £50,000 liability in interest must have been a body blow that seriously threatened the future of professional rugby league in the town for the second time in less than ten years.

Still undeterred, the Roughyeds directors were then told there was a final payment of another £20,000 and at that point they asked for a review of the situation and turned to local MP Phil Woolas for assistance.

At the time of writing the club had still not heard anything back from Mr Woolas and from his talks with the Paymaster General. Pending the outcome, further comment at this stage would be inappropriate.

Speaking in general terms, however, one has to marvel at the battle Chris and Sean have taken on in order to keep the club up and running, especially when you take into consideration the huge obstacles that forever seem to be planted in their path.

To take on a battle of this magnitude with no ground of their own, with poor attendances, with a club shop that could never be described as customer friendly and with a hundred and one other barriers to surmount day on day, shows a devotion beyond the call of duty.

They deserve a change of luck; a change of fortune; and the continued support of the loyalists who back them through thick and thin. A pity there were not a few more.

It was interesting to hear what Chris had to say when interviewed after the Halifax game at The Shay last Sunday by Radio Manchester's vastly-experienced and highly respected rugby league journalist Keith Macklin.

A veteran of more than half a century's work in the

rugby league media, Keith was astounded when I told him before the game that the club had paid off tax debts and interest demands of £230,000 since last June last year.

His jaw dropped. He couldn't believe it. "Marvellous," he observed.

Later, when interviewing Chris, he observed that, as such vast amounts had been met, things off the field must be looking up.

Was it still an uphill battle, he asked. Said Chris: "It's always an uphill battle at Oldham, Keith, but we do it because we love the club and we love rugby league."

Later, in the Halifax boardroom, he talked of the club's "undying character" and said there would always be a club while directors, coaching staff and players showed the sort of character that had typified what the club was all about in the eight and half years of its existence.

That "character" will be needed in huge doses in the weeks, months and years ahead as the club battles to pick itself off the floor again following a year of absolute financial strife and hardship.

The immediate objective is to pick up some league wins to avoid the threat of relegation to the second division. From now to the end of the season --- 11 games left --- it will be a dogfight. Every game will be a cup tie.

And although it is crucial that as many points as possible are taken off fellow toilers like York, Batley and Doncaster, we must not fall into the trap of talking up those matches to the extent that we almost accept that nothing will be gained from other games.

The Roughyeds were unlucky not to win at Halifax last week --- and hopefully their second-half fightback, full of fire and quality rugby, will kick-start the campaign and give everybody at the club a major boost.

Off the field, there is light at the end of a very long and dark financial tunnel.

And that should be the cause of great celebration. Well done Chris, well done Sean. You deserve a slap on the back from all with the club at heart.

ROGER AND OUT.

with Ian Wilson

How unlucky can a club be! On top of all the other well-documented problems, we lose two of this season's new signings who look to be at least of a standard to be able to hack it properly at the level of NL1- and neither of them to what might be called genuine rugby injuries.

Ged Corcoran's loss will hopefully not be a long one, but if I were Mick Redford I would be thinking seriously of taking legal action against Tere Glassie; let's hope that the injury does not prove to be as bad as has been reported.

When things get really depressing, I occasionally turn to an old video, and after Hull KR my hands happened to alight on one from 20 April, 1996. It was the fifth round of games in the first year of Super League, and we were at Cas in the televised Saturday night match - and our 24-20 victory, the first for 11 years at Wheldon Rd., took us to third position in the table [which also included Halifax, Paris, Sheffield and Workington!]. It is difficult to believe now that that was only a few weeks more than ten years ago. How have the "mighty" fallen indeed - though it would be perhaps exaggerating a little to class us as being among the mighty even then. Nevertheless, there may be some here today who don't recall that we finished eighth in Super League that year. The fact that we are now in the position we are, Paris no longer exist, and Sheffield and Workington are below us in the pecking order, at least for this season, just shows how quickly things can change in sport. There is a book to be written, I am sure,

which analyses the impact of the RL Super League revolution on individual clubs, winners and losers, and attempts to identify causative factors.

It was interesting to note just how few of the 34 players from that game are still active in the pro game. Only 4 are still playing - Adrian Flynn, Lee Harland, Francis Maloney, Howard Hill; whilst Tony Smith and Darren Abram are, of course, head coaches. No doubt many others are still involved at lower levels - and Graham Steadman is in RU. But it represents a surprisingly large drop-out rate, I thought.

There is one more survivor from that night - the ref, Colin Morris! In those days, he was regarded as of Super League standard - and he used to give rather more penalties than he does now. I actually have a sneaking regard for him, ever since a game at Chorley when we were the much superior side and he seemed to spend most of the game trying to encourage them and to give a few coaching tips! In fact, I am not sure why he is not at the top level now - he certainly seems to me to have a better feel for the game than some of the current supposed elite; Mr. Kirkpatrick, for example.

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in^{yer}face

with Geoff Cooke

Many congratulations to Hull K.R. on defeating Warrington in the Powergen Challenge Cup and reaching this year's semi-finals.

Their victory proves just how good a side the Robins are and, although Oldham's 80-6 defeat at Craven Park was a body blow, we now know it was a defeat suffered at the hands of a very good team indeed. So, demoralising though such a scoreline may be, at two week's distance the perspective is slightly different. And this is particularly so in view of Oldham's second half performance against Halifax at the Shay last Sunday. This was undoubtedly the Roughyeds best performance of the season so far. The team moved the ball around with confidence since at 28-0 down they had nothing to lose and they proved to themselves as much as anyone that they can score points and some of them spectacular points at that. In addition, as Steve Deakin rightly said, the team's defence of its own try line was much improved in the second forty minutes rectifying a major failing throughout the season so far. All of which means that just in time for a game billed as 'must win' by both Oldham and York the Roughyeds can enter the fray confident they can do a job. With the panel of players available for duty also beginning to expand Oldham can, hopefully, throw off their 'patched up' tag and show us what they are really capable of. It's now two crucial weeks so here's hoping for a repeat of



2005's heroic pattern which set Oldham on the road to survival in NL1.

There were a couple of surprise results in NL1 last week. Who'd have thought Batley would overturn Leigh (except a Bulldogs diehard, of course) and who would have tipped Rochdale to wallop Whitehaven by a score as wide as 32-6? It just goes to show there's a lot of rugby to be played yet and a lot of twists and turns to come before the current NL1 season reaches its climax. Anything is still possible given an injury free run and some self-belief.

The pattern is similar in NL2. Although Dewsbury have been favourites for some time their comprehensive defeat at Featherstone proves nothing can be taken for granted. Fev. and Swinton are beginning to turn up the heat with a clutch of clubs not far off the pace. And with Gateshead enjoying their best season for some time everything is in the melting pot. The only real blot on the NL1 and NL2 seasons is the woeful attendance levels at the games which in no way reflect the quality of the football played.



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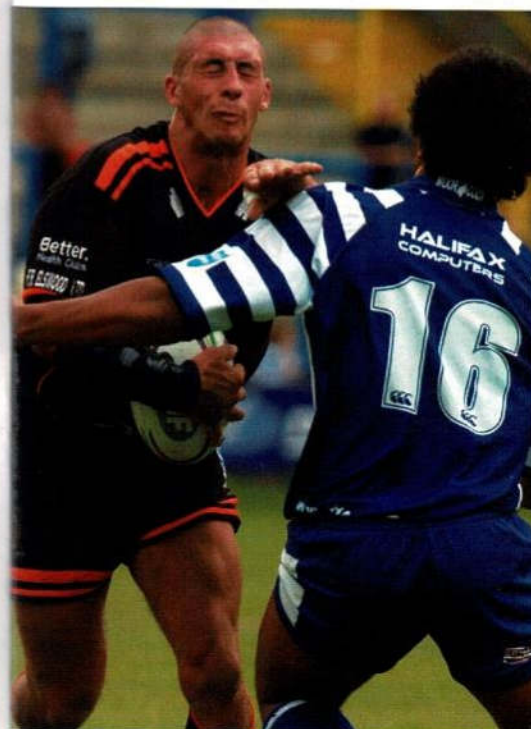
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chit chat

from around the club

with Roger Halstead



THE Roughyettes, our increasingly popular dance troupe, will represent the Roughyeds in Oldham Carnival on Saturday, June 24.

Led by their choreographer and organiser, Kathryn Mottram, the girls will parade in the carnival before performing on stage in Alexandra Park as back-up dancers to vocalist Kevin Lee Britt.

"He apparently looked at a few troupes before inviting us, so we are thrilled to bits," said 26-year-old Kathryn, who is currently battling to regain full fitness after surgery on her toes.

Despite six weeks on crutches -- "I'm just learning to walk again," -- you will probably see Kathryn leading the Roughyettes in pre-match and half-time routines here at Sedgley Park this evening.

Like most of the girls -- and boys -- in the troupe she is a Roughyeds fanatic: a supporter all her life and so keen to assist in any way she can that she and friends cycled all the way to a game at Doncaster last season to raise funds for the club when the cash crisis was at its height. On match days she supervises the main entrance at Boundary Park -- and still finds time to dash around and look after the Roughyettes.

"I haven't done much dashing recently," she remarked, "but with two weeks still to go I'm hoping to be reasonably fit by the time we get to the Carnival."

Assisted by 16-year-old Amy Bowers and with huge support from her family, Kathryn took over the Roughyettes last October. Dancing in the blood and when she was given the opportunity to take them over she didn't hesitate.

"I snapped their hands off," she said. "I used to be a cheer leader for Oldham Bears in my early teens and it was great to get involved again."

The two boys in her troupe are her 14-year-old brother Bryan and his pal Josh Brierley, aged 13.

Kathryn, her mum Caroline, her five-year-old niece Lois, brother Bryan, Josh and Charlotte, one of the cheer leaders, all perform Latin and Ballroom regularly at the Jaymar School of Dancing in Oldham.

"It's a family thing," said Kathryn. "I love it. I also love the Roughyeds and to combine the two is brilliant. All the girls think like that -- they are real fans and they are keen to get some fund-raising done on behalf of the club. We'll be doing that this summer."

The girls are aged eight to 16, namely Amy, Anne-Marie, Charlotte, Carla, Helena, Danielle, Abigail, Lauren, Katie, Vicky, Lorissa, Natalie, Jess, Sasha and Sarah.

Their track suits are sponsored by F R Elwood Ltd, run by Frank, the father of former Oldham player Martin Elwood, and their other kit is sponsored by Mark Anthony Kitchens and Bathrooms.

Said Kathryn: "On behalf of everyone connected with the Roughyettes I would like to thank the club and our sponsors for helping to make it all possible. Everybody is very supportive."

"The crowd, too, have been brilliant recently. They seem to appreciate what we are doing and what we are trying to do."

"Cheer leaders love to dance in front of an audience and they get a buzz from crowd reaction. We feel we have been getting that reaction recently and it's very much appreciated."

The feeling is mutual -- and when the Roughyettes step on stage in a packed Alexandra Park in two weeks time the best wishes of everyone at the Roughyeds will go with them.

ON a more sombre note, it is with sadness that we extend condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of the late Harold Lomas, who passed away recently at his home in Waterhead, aged 74.

Harold fulfilled a boyhood dream when he signed for Oldham, his hometown club, in the mid-1950s at a time when Watersheddings was packed with Test stars and Great Britain players.

He scored three tries from the right-wing spot on his first-team debut against Bramley at Watersheddings when he played outside another local boy, Roland Barrow. On the other flank were Alan Davies and Terry O'Grady, but for once that illustrious twosome were upstaged: Lomas and Barrow scored five tries between them, Davies and O'Grady only three.

Another memorable match for Harold came four years later when he played in the second-row at Hull alongside Sid Little and with Derek Turner at loose-forward.

The scrum-half that day was another local lad, Lou Laverty. Lou and Harold played most of their rugby together in the 'A' team.

Says Lou: "With Harold's passing I've lost a great pal and a terrific former team mate. We had some great times and I know that if we had been at any other club but Oldham at that time we would have had a lot more first-team rugby than we did. The talent they had available was awesome and it was terrific just to be part of the squad and part of the club."

Harold, a widower, leaves a daughter, Jean, and a son, Peter, both of whom are Roughyeds supporters.

OUR supporters team may get a visit from the Channel M cameras when they train on Monday night at Clayton Playing Fields.

Just a reminder, then, to all the players -- Monday night is not one to be missed. A few spectators would also be welcome to provide some atmosphere. Time to get there, 6pm.

Dave Charles is currently coaching the team. Dave, a keen supporter of the club and of all things rugby league in Oldham, is the Roughyeds representative on the Service Area. He is a coach in the St Anne's youth section and he also coaches one of the Service Area town teams -- a handy man to have around, indeed, to knock our supporters team into shape.

Dave is also one of our three "stats" men who provide coach Steve Deakin with match facts and figures.

FINALLY, a "well done" to our mascot Rob Goodinson, Rob the Roughyed, who took part on the club's behalf in the Manchester 10k and earned glowing praise from British Red Cross officials, whom he also represented.

Despite torrential rain which turned his Roughyeds costume into a ton weight, Rob did a bucket collection on his run, raising £170 for the Red Cross. His other sponsorship money, about £350, was split between Roughyeds, Breakthrough, the Red Cross and the Kirsty Howard appeal.

"He was a real super trooper," said a Red Cross official.

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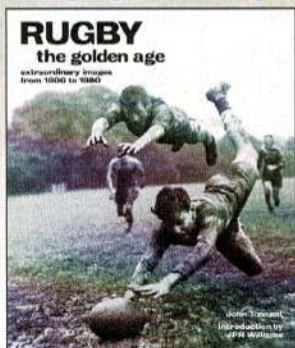
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AROUND & ABOUT

with The Heritage Trust

How things have changed on the rugby league book scene. It doesn't seem too many years ago that all fans could look forward to was Eddie Waring's Rugby League Annual. Today's book review - which is the second this season - covers five recent publications and the quality - both content and presentation - just gets better and better. All five books are worth every penny of the asking price. For example, **Rugby - the golden age** (a collection of extraordinary league and union photographs), ranks as one of the best coffee-table books I've come across and for both content and quality of writing Tony Collins's (hot off the press) **Rugby League in 20th Century Britain** takes some beating. So, here then are five more of the best:

Rugby - the golden age.



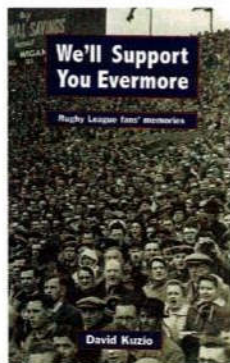
Firstly, don't let the £30 price tag turn you off. This is a monster of a book, a collection of almost 300 breathtaking rugby images from throughout the last century. Most are offbeat, all are big - a wonderful double-page close-up of Oldham supporters at Watersheddings taken back in 1954 for instance. John Tennant who has worked for both The Sunday Times and Observer Magazines as well as being the Creative Director of the Daily Express, has designed and directed art magazines for over 25 years and it shows here. This book delivers a fresh take on the game; a definite keepsake for all time.

ISBN 1 84403 290 6. Hardback with dust cover. Available/orderable at £30 from most bookshops.

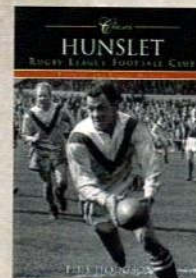
We'll Support You Evermore

A collection of rugby league fan's memories compiled by sport's journalist and former amateur player David Kuzio. Supporters of both big and small clubs and people who just enjoy the game, outline both their memories and what rugby league means to them. Ray French introduces a book that provides easy but fascinating reading.

ISBN 1 903659 26 4. Soft-back available post free from London League Publications, PO Box 10441, London, E14 8WR. £11.95. Credit card service via website www.lipshop.co.uk or orderable from most bookshops.



Hunslet RLFC



This latest addition to the excellent Tempus Publishing's '50 of the finest matches' series has been compiled by rugby league journalist and Hunslet supporter of over 40 years' standing, Phil Hodgson.

Although in recent times the club has been in the doldrums it was once one of the biggest names in the game and like Oldham one of the sports' founder members. The Parksiders were the first club to win all four cups in one season (Championship, Challenge Cup, County League Championship and County Cup) and over the years have had some rousing encounters with the Roughyeds - a fact born out by the author, who has selected four matches against Oldham in his top 50.

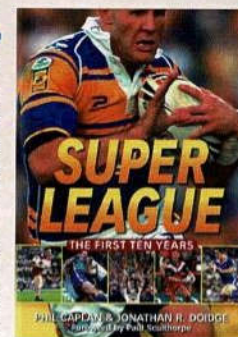
ISBN 0 7524 3709 7. Soft-back available/orderable from most bookshops at £12.99 or visit www.tempus-publishing.com for direct purchase.

Super League - - - The First Ten Years.

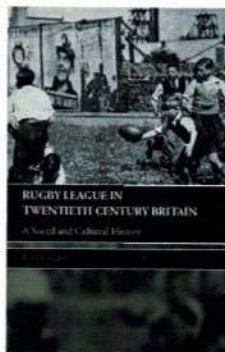
An extremely well written book from joint authors Phil Caplan and Jonathan Doidge - both rugby league writers and broadcasters - who plot the key elements from both on and off the field in what is a remarkable and controversial story. This is an in-depth look at the radical re-branding of a professional sport that in the mid-90's was supposedly in decline. Whilst the book will not make easy bedtime reading for many Oldham supporters most fans of the sport would agree that the transformation has been quite remarkable.

As well as providing a unique analysis of what's gone before the authors also give their views on what happens next. The RFL unveiled its 'Super League Strategy' just a year ago, setting out its aims for the elite competition up to when the current deal with Sky Sports expires at the end of 2008 and thereafter. Two of the most important proposals are to consider expanding Super League to 14 teams in 2009 (if appropriate) and amend the method by which clubs are promoted/accepted into the competition from that season onwards. The authors point out that whilst it seems that franchising is back on the agenda the RFL plan to scrap promotion and relegation and that from 2008 Super League membership would then be based on different criteria. If Oldham fans want to know more about how this will affect their club they should buy a copy of this excellent book but don't read it late at night.

ISBN 0 7524 3698 8. Soft-back available/orderable from most bookshops at £14.99 or visit www.tempus-publishing.com to purchase direct.



Rugby League in 20th Century Britain.



Tony Collins - author of the award winning Rugby's Great Split - can expect similar accolades surrounding his latest publication. This new book doesn't just chart the progress of rugby league; it uncovers the hidden history of the game - both amateur and professional - through two world wars, economic depression, post-war boom and the rise of today's consumer society. Using unprecedented access to official RFL and RU archives as well as those of the BBC and Sports Council the book is a unique social history. And, for the first time ever, the author uses previously secret documents to tell the full truth about rugby union's century-long campaign against league.

But, most of all, the book tells the story of what the game meant to the communities that nurtured it - and of the players, officials and fans all of whom helped rugby league become the greatest game of all. Essential reading for anyone the least interested in sports history.

ISBN 0 41 539 6158. Soft-back available/orderable from most bookshops at £23.99. Special price of £22.79 if ordered through Amazon: www.amazon.co.uk

Brian Walker

MICHAEL TURNER'S NEW OLDHAM BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE AUTUMN.
DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE CLUB'S MATCHDAY PROGRAMME.

visiting today

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

Matt Blaymire. Played for the Knights in their inaugural season before heading overseas to Australia. He played for the Coogee Dolphins in Sydney, and rejoined the Knights on his return to the U.K. Matt was also an integral part of the team that helped to secure the Knights promotion to Division 1 last season.

Dan Potter. Although formerly a key member of Leigh Centurions promotion-winning squad of 2004, Dan Potter chose to join his hometown club of York City in that same year. Having had previous experience within Rugby League with Widnes, he reads the game accurately combining excellent attacking options with crunching defence.

Jonny Liddell. A find from Leeds Rhinos Academy, Jonny Liddell was an off-season capture for the Knights from Hunslet. Although he is evidently a true utility player, he can easily adapt to playing stand-off, hooker or at loose forward.

Scott Rhodes. Although Rhodes spent most of the 2004 season dealing with a shoulder injury; the talented stand-off overcame this to be named in the 2004 NL2 Team of the Year two seasons ago. He has had the honour of being selected to play for Scotland, and also had an integral role as part of the Knights team that secured promotion to Division 1 in 2005.

David Bates. David Bates scored his first try for the Knights in a pre-season friendly against Leeds Rhinos. This Irish International is a powerful prop that produces some excellent offloads.

Dean O' Loughlin. Dean O' Loughlin is just one of the many new additions to the Knights squad. He comes to the

Knights from Hull F.C and judging by his performance with them, we can be sure to expect a lot from him this season.

Joe Helme. Young Joe Helme started for the Knights in 2003 at the age of 19. He was absent for the majority of the 2004 season due to fire-service commitments, but made an outstanding comeback in July 2005 at the Gateshead Thunder game by scoring a try on his first game back.

Neil Law. A widely experienced player, Neil Law is in his fourth season with the Knights for the 2006 season. He is a powerful centre who helped the Knights on their way to promotion success.

Lee Paterson. Remembered by the fans for his eye-catching display at loose forward against Leeds Rhinos, Lee Paterson joined the Knights from Keighley Cougars. One highlight of his Rugby League career is winning the Grand Final with Keighley to gain promotion to Division One and there is no doubt that the Knights' recent promotion will be another achievement to add to his career profile.

James Elston. Jimmy Elston is brilliant from acting half back, with an excellent dummy pass and step and an ever-improving kicking game.

Craig Farrell

Rob Spicer. Rob Spicer has had previous experience within Super League Rugby during his time with the Wakefield Wildcats. He joins the Knights on their NL1 campaign in the 2006 season.

Christopher Spurr. Chris Spurr joined the Knights mid-way through the 2004 season from Batley Bulldogs and proved himself to be an excellent

defensive centre.

Adam Sullivan. The Knights fought off several NL1 clubs to re-sign this powerful young prop, who originally joined the club from Hull K.R in the 2004 season.

Paul Thorman. Paul Thorman joined his younger brother Neil at the Knights on successfully completing a move from Gateshead Thunder in 2005. Thorman exercises both excellent vision and organisation whilst on the pitch and is a prolific goal-kicker.

James Ward. Ward made such a lasting impression whilst on trial from top amateur club Sharlston Rovers that the Knights signed him fully in April 2005. He is an ever-improving player with an excellent attitude to the sport.

John Smith. Equally at home at prop or second row, Smith made the transition from the amateur to the professional game look easy last season. Never one to take a backwards step, he will do the hard yards and tackle all day.

Mark Blanchard. Mark Blanchard enters the Knights camp from Hull K.R. He is another new face who will be joining the team on their NL1 campaign for the 2006 season.

Jamie Bovill. After being a Hull K.R favourite for so long, Jamie Bovill decided that it was time for a change of scenery. Where else would you head other than York with its picturesque moors and beautiful weather, Jamie will join the Knights on their NL1 campaign during the 2006 season.

David Buckley. David has come to the Knights from Australia and 2006 will be his first season with the club. Although still a very young player, he is widely experienced

and has also had the honour of being selected to represent New South Wales U19's and Combined Catholic Colleges. David's grandfather Bill Buckley was also the President of the New South Wales Rugby League and Chairman of the Australian Rugby League.

Paul Clarke. Paul Clarke will be joining the Knights on their 2006 NL1 campaign. He comes to the Knights from Bradford Bulls, where he played at both Junior and Senior Academy level. Clarke was also a member of the Academy Grand Final winning Bulls side against the Rhinos in 2004. He has also had the privilege of playing for both the English and Yorkshire Academy in 2003.

Craig Forsyth. A powerhouse prop who suddenly developed an offload two seasons ago, confusing the opposition yet equally delighting his teammates and fans alike.

Mark Cain. Mark Cain is the current holder of the club's record for 'most tries scored in a match', having come off the bench to score 5 during last season's playoff against Workington Town. A local York boy, he is flexible and can easily adapt to almost any position asked of him.

Phil Hasty. Phil Hasty joins the Knights from Hull K.R and reunites with his old Hull teammate Bovill. Phil is also embarking on his first season with the Knights.

Jason Golden. The Knights have been lucky enough to capture Golden on a loan period from Leeds Rhinos. Although he is still only 22, Golden is a widely experienced player. He won the Junior Academy Grand Final with the Rhinos in 2003 and captained the Senior Academy to the First Division Title last season.

journalistic license

by Matthew Chambers

BY now I'm sure everyone is sick to death of soccer World Cup fever, so I won't bother to mention England's sad capitulation to Paraguay earlier today – or indeed their remarkable victory against the same opponents, which has sent the whole nation into raptures (delete as applicable).

Print deadlines prevent such a luxury, so instead let's get down to the nitty-gritty of the LHF Healthplan National League One basement battle: a sporting contest of the grittiest kind, between two clubs battling to preserve their current status.

The Roughyeds put on an excellent show during the second-half at The Shay last week, looking for all the world like a side aiming to nudge Halifax out of the way for a play-off spot come the end of the season.

As it stands, the league table tells a different story.

Seven games and seven defeats tells the tale of a side ripped apart by injuries to a multitude of key figures throughout the season.

Only one player, Ian Hodson, has managed to take part in every game Oldham have played in this season, with the average number of starting appearances standing at just six out of a possible 15 (including the cup competitions).

No wonder continuity has been difficult to find, and no wonder it is so difficult to determine what the Roughyeds could be capable of doing given a full-strength team.

What a luxury that would be...

But with all due respect to York – who, by all accounts, have been unfortunate not to chalk up a victory or two themselves so far this

campaign – this is a game in which Steve Deakin's men will be looking to pick up their first two points of the season.

Looking to the other end of the table, what a boost Hull KR gave the National Leagues with their sensational 40-36 win over Warrington in the Challenge Cup last weekend.

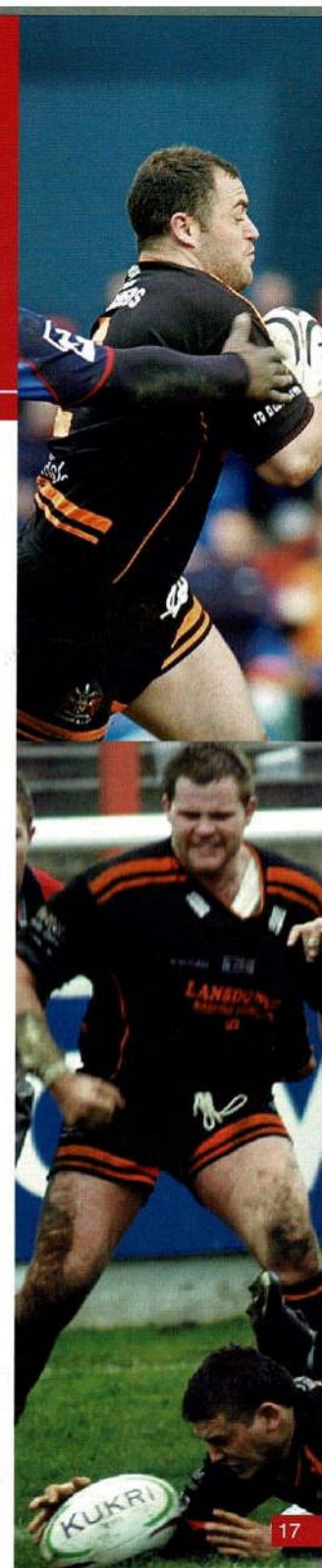
The display from Justin Morgan's men showed that outstanding rugby league does exist outside the top flight – take note, Sky Sports – and the passionate crowd of 7,012 lapping it up at Craven Park was over 1500 more than Leeds managed for their own home tie against Harlequins.

Right now it appears that, give or take a few ground improvements, the Robins are rightfully headed for Super League.

Should National League One's crazy fixture format remain in place next year, with each club having only nine guaranteed home league games, there may be a few rival chairmen secretly cheering on the East Hull side.

That is, with one eye keenly trained on the coffers, as Wigan's relegation bandwagon gears up to pass by Rovers' on the way out of Super League...

Matthew



halstead's choice

by Roger Halstead

IT will be a long time before Gareth Hayes, the young Oldham prop, forgets the summer of 2006.

On June 15, next Thursday, he celebrates his 21st birthday; on July 14 he will enjoy graduation from Bolton University with a degree in sports rehabilitation; and if that isn't enough to fill his hazy -- but hardly lazy -- days of this summer of 2006 he is playing rugby league regularly at professional and first-team level for the first time.

"It's a bit hectic, for sure, but I'm enjoying every minute of it," said the Leigh lad, who was excused one night's training last week because he had an important exam in Bolton a couple of days later.

As a 20-year-old -- six years younger than David Best, for example -- he is still a learner in the rudiments of front-row forward play at this level and that is something that is perhaps overlooked by fans in the cases of players who arrive from other clubs as opposed to those, such as Adam Sharples and Danny Nannyn for instance, who were always referred to as 'youngsters'.

Hayes, too, is still in the 'youngster' bracket -- just as he was when he was picked for the North-West Counties under-16s Oceanic tour in the summer of 2001.

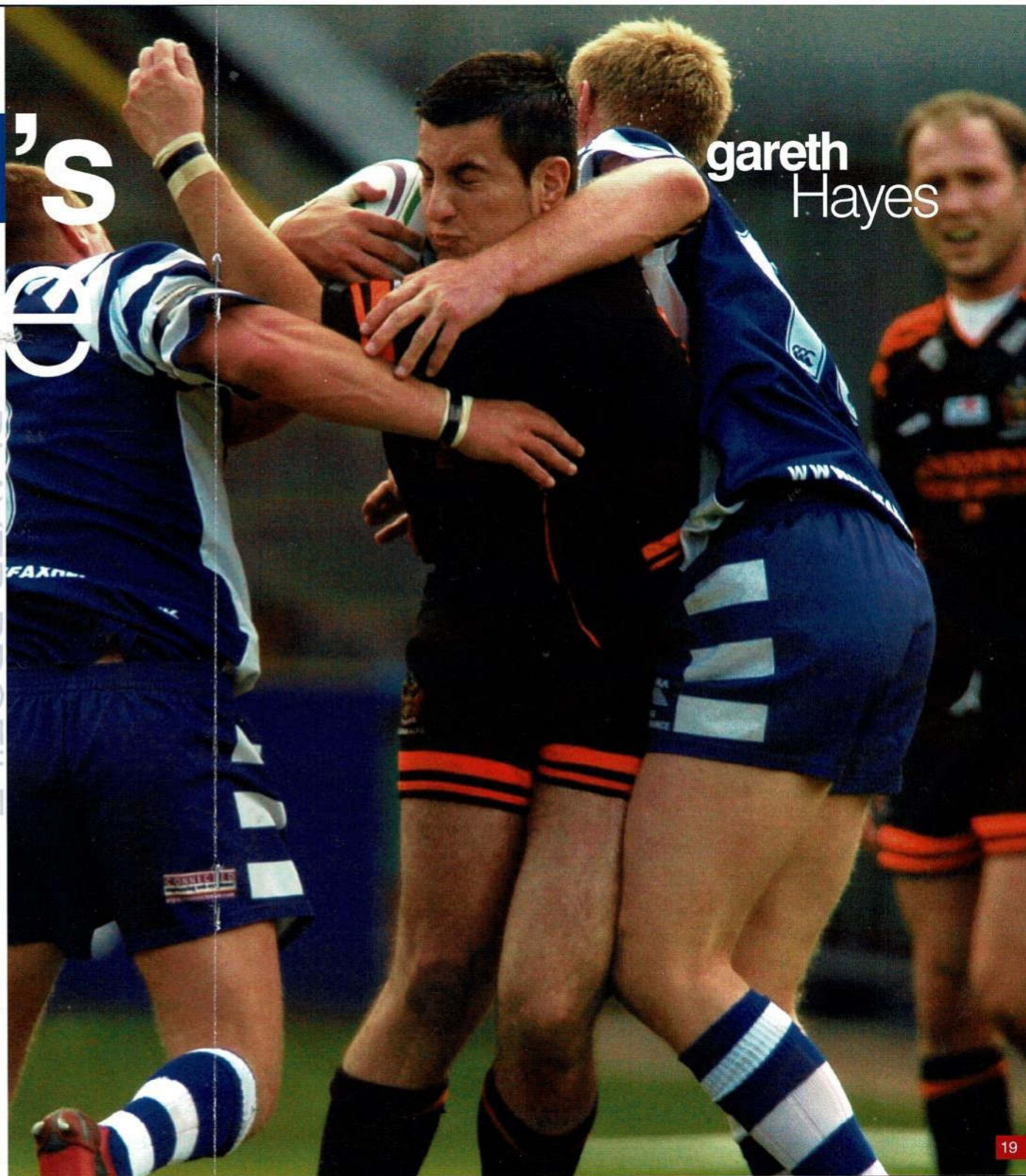
He had only just made up 16 three weeks before the party left for games in Fiji, Auckland and Australia, but he was to make a big impact on a tour which included many young hopefuls who, five years on, are now making names for themselves in the pro game.

To name but a few they included Dave Allen (Widnes, ex-Wigan); James Roby (St Helens); Adam Bibey (Leigh, ex-Widnes); Ian Hardman (St Helens); Harrison Hansen (Wigan); James Coyle (Widnes, ex-Wigan); Carl Forber (Leigh); Tim Hartley (Harlequins) and our very own Wayne Corcoran (Oldham), who was named at the end of the tour as one of three 'men of steel'.

There were also four other boys on the tour from the Oldham area -- namely Adam Sharples, Michael Rowe and Brad Tindall, all from Royton

PLAYER PROFILE

gareth
Hayes



gareth Hayes

Continued...

privileged to go along as media and public relations manager.

Half-backs Collins and Coyle were judged by a ten-strong coaching and managerial team as players of the tour, but each of the 42 boys (17 matches -- ten wins, two draws and five defeats) played his part in what was undoubtedly an outstanding tour.

Hayes had an outstanding game in an 18-0 win against Ipswich at Burleigh Heads, Surfers Paradise. I wrote: "The match was a personal triumph for prop Gareth Hayes, whom Ipswich officials picked as their man of the match -- a verdict that brought nods of approval from Counties coaches and management."

In the next match Counties beat Parramatta under-16s 16-12, Hayes setting up a try for Hardman after Coyle had sent him roaring through a midfield gap -- all watched by Parramatta assistant boss Rod Reddy and Aussie RL youth development officer Tas Batiera.

Hayes was prominent, too, in a 22-18 win against Penrith youth in the famous Penrith Panthers stadium, 90 minutes from Sydney and out near the Blue Mountains.

Coyle's perfectly-timed pass set up the winning try for Hayes to score with a determined dash to the corner two minutes from time.

"It was a fantastic tour," recalled Gareth this week, "and looking back on it five years later I think we all realise how much good it did us in terms of developing us as players and as people."

"Just to get picked was something that came as a surprise, really."

"I had played for Leigh East since I was seven, but apart from town-team selection I didn't get any honours until I heard on the grapevine that I was in with a chance of the NW Counties tour."

"I missed the first trial because I had damaged my cruciate ligament, but the coach, Terry Byrne, said there was to be another trial a few months later. I played in that and I was made up when I got the letter saying I had been selected, but most of the lads were chosen after the first trial so I was a late call-up."

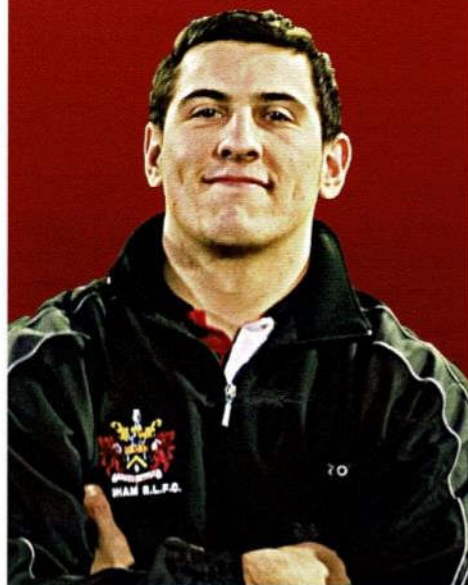
"I really enjoyed the trip --- in some ways I wish I was still out there!"

Back in Leigh, he had a couple of seasons with East's under-18s, followed by a season with the Leigh under-18s academy side at Hilton Park and then two and a half years at Salford.

He was full-time at The Willows for one of those years and although he was paid professionally he wasn't under contract --- a status that gave him plenty of freedom of choice when former Roughyeds coach John Pendlebury got in touch to offer him the opportunity of regular first-team rugby as a part-time pro.

Tigers, and Ryan Collins, from Waterhead.

Other locals who toured were Steve Bithell (manager), Garry Highton (team manager) and yours truly, who was



Despite the trials and tribulations of this difficult, injury-ravaged season for the Roughyeds, Hayes has never regretted the decision to make the move.

He added: "The results have been disappointing, but as everyone knows the injury situation has been unbelievably bad."

"The scores, too, have not always reflected what we have put into games. Okay, least said, soonest mended as far as our performance at Hull KR was concerned, but there was no way either Leigh or Whitehaven were 40 points better than us on the day."

"Hull KR were the best side we've played this year by a country mile. We got a hiding, but we were not the first in this division to do so and we won't be the last."

"We've played them twice now and we've also played Leigh and Whitehaven once each. All is not lost. We have some crucial games coming up and hopefully, by then, we will have some of the injured back in the side again."

"We've had some really good lads on the casualty list, but some of them will be back soon and hopefully we can kick on from there."

"On a personal note, I have probably got a lot more game time as a result of injuries to other props. I was a sub more often than not in my early games at Oldham, but I think I've made a starting shirt my own now and I want to work hard to make sure I keep it."

"Away from rugby, I have a lot of things coming up like my 21st and then graduation, but it's going to be a vital few weeks ahead for the Roughyeds as well and that will always be uppermost in my mind."

"Deaks (Steve Deakin) has put a lot of faith in me over the past few weeks and if I can repay that and at the same time help the squad to kick-start the season nobody will be happier than me."

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on this day

Don Yates looks back to June 10th yesteryear

Three years ago, on Tuesday 10th June 2003, a National League under-21 team met a Super League under-21 team at Hilton Park, Leigh.

The semi-professionals did well against their full-time opponents for 50 minutes but the Super League youngsters then got well on top to eventually win 52-12. The scores were level at 12-apiece just before half-time as the National League side responded magnificently to their noisy supporters in the crowd of 690. Oldham had one player involved in that match, substitute Jon Goddard, although in the second-row for the National League side was Andy Bailey, the current Oldham forward who was then with Featherstone Rovers. The top performer in the match was former Oldham junior Chris Bridge who was then with Bradford but who is now with Warrington. The former Royton Tigers utility back played in the centre and scored a hat-trick of tries as well as landing eight goals from nine attempts.

The 1975 World Championships were a long, drawn out affair which began in March and continued until November. Each of the five competing nations played the other four both home and away. Except Wales. Although Wales played Australia and New Zealand in Swansea, their home match against France was played at Salford and their home match against England, believe it or not, was played in Brisbane! That match took place on Tuesday 10th June 1975 when a pitifully small crowd of 6,000 saw a contest which was punctuated by nasty fouls and several unsightly skirmishes. A try from Oldham stand-off David Treasure gave Wales a 5-2 half-time lead which they maintained to eventually win 12-7. All the English points, incidentally, were scored by George Fairbairn of Wigan, who just happens to be a Scot! It proved a costly defeat for England who finished

runners-up to Australia by a single point.

The last Great Britain team to win a test series against Australia were the 1970 British Lions. They lost the first test but that was their only loss throughout the 24-match tour. The strength of the squad was spread throughout the team. All 26 players appeared in at least one of the six tests on tour. On Wednesday 10th June 1970 the tourists played a Combined Brisbane team before a crowd of 10,117. The Lions won that match 28-7 with Roger Millward scoring two tries and five goals. There was one Oldham player included in the tour party, second-row forward Bob Irving, who played in that match against Brisbane. He made 17 appearances on that tour and scored six tries.

The 1936 British Lions also won both test series against Australia and New Zealand. Oldham had no players involved on that tour but the York hooker Harry Field played a significant part in the success of the tour. The Lions lost only three of the 25 tour matches. Field played in 15 matches on that tour including one test against Australia and in both tests against New Zealand. He also played against the New South Wales Western Districts at Parkes on Wednesday 10th June 1936. The Lions won that match 33-16.

On Sunday 10th June 2001 Oldham were scheduled to entertain Swinton at Boundary Park but the match was brought forward so that the pitch could be re-seeded. On the same day York visited Barrow and must have wished that their match had been called off as well. Barrow scored eleven tries that afternoon to win 60-0.

the bootroom

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Roughyed

Kids & Co

Hi Kids

Hope you all had a nice half term holiday and didn't create too much havoc for your mums and dads.

Not long now before the big summer break (wish we got one).

Last Sunday at Halifax the lads put on a great display in the second half and although there wasn't many of you there to see it we did really well.

Thanks to Holly King who was our mascot for that day having a change from representing Hull K.R. Well done Holly.

Today's mascot is nine years old Maisie Deakin. Maisie loves rugby, jujitsu and David Best who is her favourite player. As it's her first time on centre stage, give her a great big Roughyeds Kids cheer.

See you all soon,

Carole and Janet

Today's Mascot

Maisie Deakin

Age:
9-year-old

Hobbies:
Jujitsu
Rugby

Favourite Player:
David Best

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

Tenacity, enthusiasm and pride are qualities that Chris and Sean have held in abundance since forming this Club. They have now performed a minor miracle in resolving the financial debt which, only months ago, looked like ending the existence of Oldham RLFC once and for all. We can only hope that their tremendous efforts are now rewarded by some better fortune both on and off the pitch.

Speaking of qualities, what a super performance by Hull K.R. against Warrington. The result certainly got our heavy loss of the previous weekend into perspective. It also fully supported my own view of the Hull side in that defeat, that we had been totally outclassed by a talented, well organised, powerful and confident side. Their televised win has certainly boosted the standing of National League 1, and should have opened the eyes of those who believe there is no life outside Super League.

Sheila

carlotti

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Oldham RLFC 2006 season's statistics

Oldham match stats upto June 1st 2006

NAME	PLAYED	TRIES	GOALS	POINTS
A.Bailey	8	0	0	0
G.Barber	11	5	19	58
M.Callan	9	0	0	0
G.Corcoran	5	1	0	4
W.Corcoran	7	1	2	8
C.Dean	6	0	0	0
A.Gorey	11	5	0	20
D.Gorton	11	2	0	8
D.Guest	5	0	0	0
A.Hadcroft	5	0	0	0
G.Hayes	12	1	0	4
I.Hodson	14	1	0	4
C.Hough	9	0	4[+1 d-g]	9
J.Hough	9	0	0	0
J.Kirkland	7	0	0	0
C.Maye	10	2	0	8
D.Nanyin	9	0	0	0
C.Percival	10	8	0	32
M.Redford	8	1	0	4
M.Roberts	8	1	0	4
S.Svabic	13	3	0	12
A.Wilkinson	8	2	0	8
L.Wingfield	11	4	0	16
C.Campbell	4	3	0	12
D.Best	4	0	0	0
J.Best	1	0	0	0
C.Baines	5	0	0	0
C.Redford	2	0	0	0
A.Wallace	2	0	0	0
S.Stephens	2	0	0	0
K.Kerr	1	0	0	0
D.Ligairi-Badham	1	0	0	0
D.Williams	2	1	0	4
T.Kilgannon	2	0	0	0
M.Bottom	2	0	0	0
C.Jones	1	0	0	0
S.Williams	1	0	0	0


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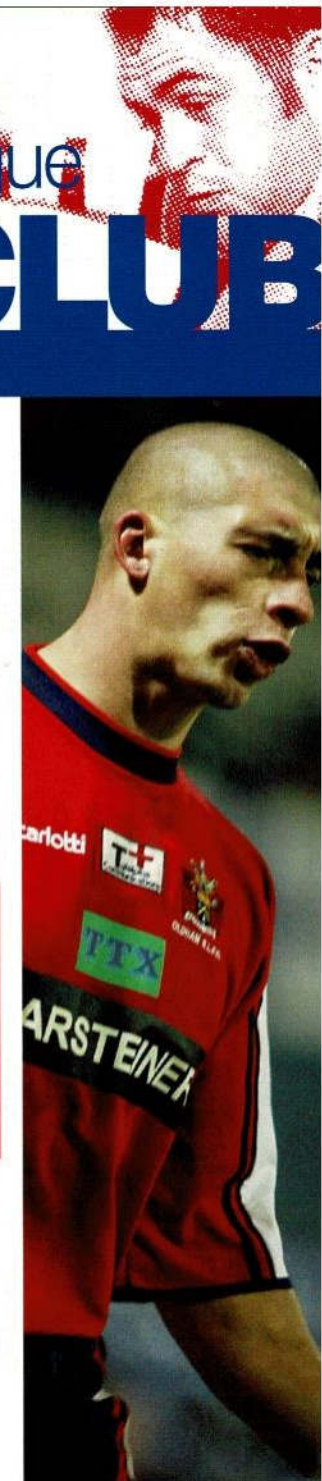
Games night snooker - every Thursday

Bingo - Friday, Saturdays and Sundays

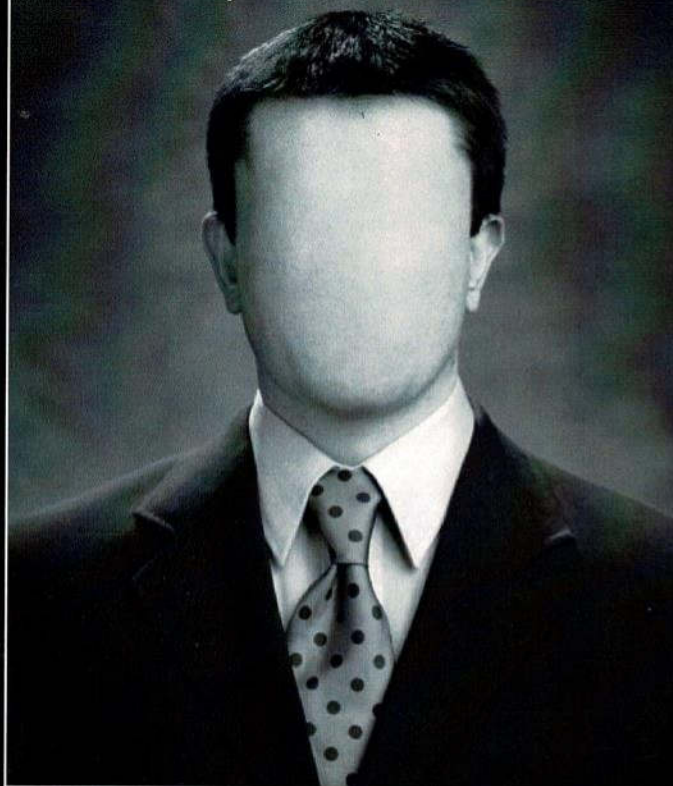
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All enquires to THE CLUB STEWARD on 0161 627 2128



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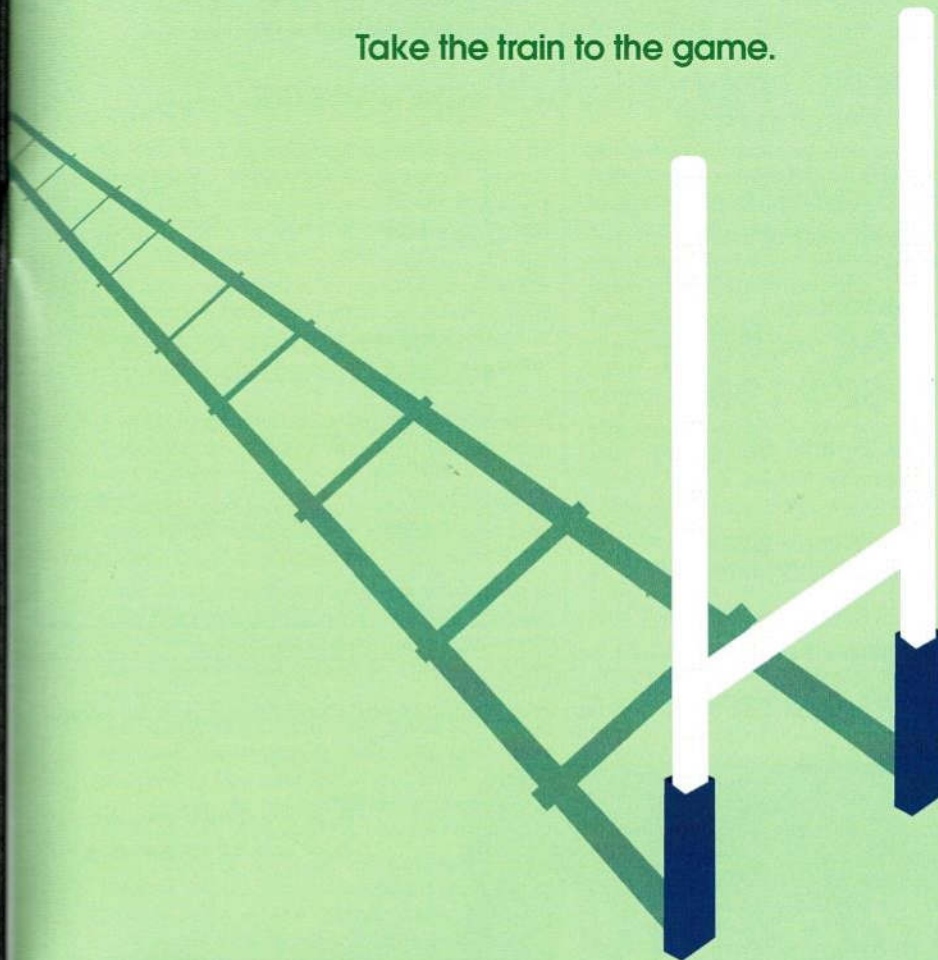
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ROBINS WIN PROVIDES NL BOOST

TEAMS that are successful can often be unpopular – but most National League supporters must have welcomed Hull KR's memorable Powergen Challenge Cup win over Warrington Wolves last week.

Just when it seemed as though the magic of the competition was dwindling to nothing, the Robins produced a stunning performance to defeat the Wolves, currently fifth in Super League.

To do it in such style, playing a thrilling brand of rugby live on national television, was the icing on the cake.

Rovers showed everybody in Rugby League that there is life outside Super League – and then some!

Justin Morgan's side constantly took the game to their higher division opponents, attacking them even in the desperate closing stages when lesser teams would have looked to close down the match.

An outstanding display from scrum half James Webster was central to their win, but names such as Ben Cockayne, Byron Ford and Ben Fisher – so familiar to those monitoring the National League scene – were thrust into the limelight.

That can only be good for NL1 as a whole. Perhaps those that feel modern day Rugby League ends at the bottom team in Super League will have sat up and taken notice.

There are some outstanding teams, and players, in the National Leagues, and Hull KR's performance showed exactly that.

While they were slaying the Wolves at Craven Park, there were plenty of shocks back in the league.

The biggest was Batley Bulldogs' superb 14-8 win over title-chasing Leigh, another result to cheer those Robins supporters.

Then Bulldogs started slowly this season, but three recent wins under coach Gary Thornton have transformed them from expected relegation battlers to top six contenders.

Elsewhere, Rochdale Hornets got back to winning ways with an excellent 32-6 win in a "home" game against Whitehaven, played at Leigh as work continues on the Spotland pitch.

Oldham almost recorded their first win of the year before going down with a gutsy display in a 34-28 defeat at Halifax, and Widnes started life with Dennis Moran with a 40-18 win at York.

In NL2, Swinton moved to the top of the table after their Friday night win over Hunslet was followed by Featherstone's win over Dewsbury, who drop to second.

Celtic Crusaders continued their formidable home form by thumping Keighley 58-18, while bottom two London Skolars and Blackpool Panthers fought out a thrilling 32-all draw in the capital.

Barrow Raiders and Gateshead Thunder also preserved their play-off positions with eye-catching wins over Workington and Sheffield respectively.

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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	1268
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	10-56	L	820
30/4/06	Leigh Centurions	NL1	A	15:00	44-22	L	2215
14/5/06	Whitehaven	NL1	H	15:00	10-48	L	813
28/5/06	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL1	A	15:00	80-6	L	2859
4/6/06	Halifax RLFC	NL1	A	15:00	34-28	L	1274
	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINALS	POWERGEN CC					
10/6/06	York City Knights	NL1	H	19:00			
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	POWERGEN CC					
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	POWERGEN CC					
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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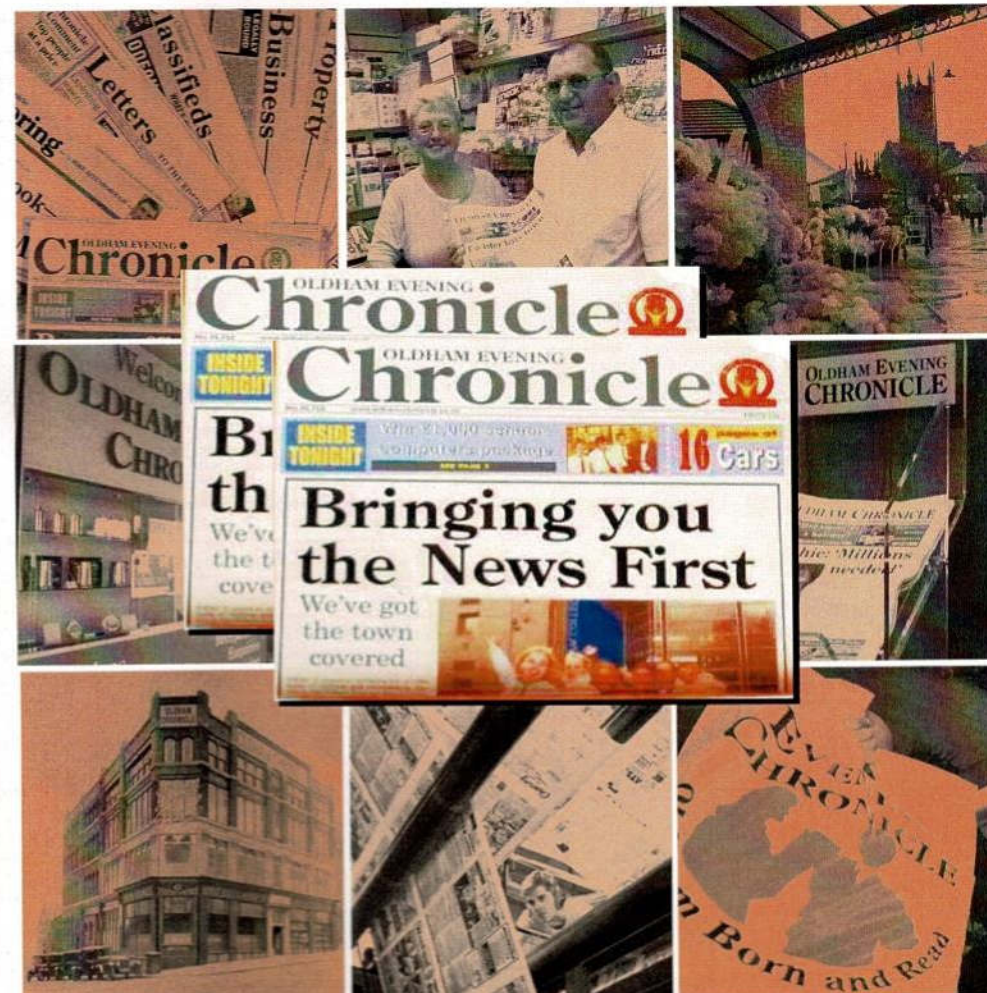
Please contact the office on

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for further information and pricing

Oldham RLFC fully support the Let's tackle Racism in Rugby League campaign and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable.

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