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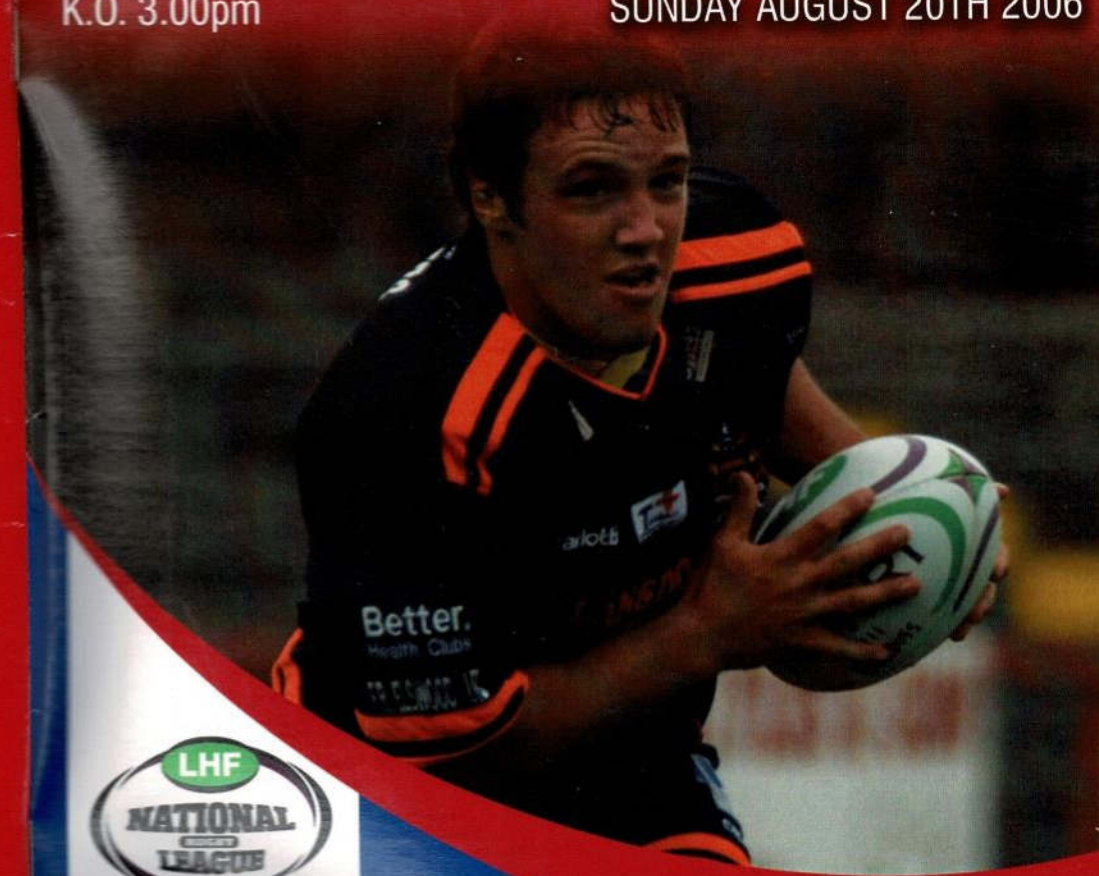
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SUNDAY AUGUST 20TH 2006



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p18

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Oldham RLFC v Widnes Vikings

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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. Jukes, 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: v York 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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LOTTERY

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Nigel Marland

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Herman Hilton 1913-26

Jack Read 1925-40

Fred Ashworth 1926-39

Alex Givvons 1933-42, 1949

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
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in the chair

with Chris Hamilton

Fifteen down and three to go. That's the message this week after we again showed lots of effort against Batley but made costly mistakes.

The most pleasing aspect of last week was the effort for eighty minutes but we do like making it tough for ourselves.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the lads are putting in the effort both in training and on a Sunday but - at present - for no reward.

Today's opponents Widnes will, without stating the obvious, provide a big test but we are only too well aware that all of the teams in the division are capable of beating each other and last week was another example of this when Widnes beat Leigh, who the week before had beaten Hull KR and York turned over Whitehaven. The week before Rochdale had gone to Widnes and won so we know anything can happen.

Nobody at the club wants to go through the season without winning a game and you can rest assured the players will again be giving it their all today.

It's ironic that we are still looking for our first league win when this year has seen the club come within sight of its biggest victory yet since the new club was formed in 1997 with the situation nearly resolved with the crown authorities.

£258,000 of anybodies money in rugby league would have an adverse effect on the strength of any club in the game and we take a lot of

positives from the battle we are coming to the end of off the pitch.

It remains to be seen if the Revenue accept our latest proposals for the payment of the remaining amount but regardless of that we have certainly not come this far to fail now.

Looking at the last four games of the season we will play the teams in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th in the division and that is a tough run in no matter which team you are but we have shown in patches this season that we are not as bad a team as the table would suggest and we have certainly seen some improvements as the season has gone on and more of the same today would be most welcome.

We have a number of players in the team who will benefit enormously from the experience of this year and like them we ask that you please keep up your tremendous support for the team in the next three games.

Enjoy the game

Chris



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direct from the dug out

with Steve Deakin



Today is the penultimate home fixture and I am conscious of the fact that, if I am not careful, these programme notes could become unduly repetitive as last week we were the "nearly" boys once again – impressing at times and then shooting ourselves in the foot, which resulted in another defeat. A defeat I must add that was much larger than our overall performance deserved.

Enough of the past, I want to sincerely thank all of you who have stuck by us and always applauded the lads off the field no matter how heavy the defeat. It does mean a lot to the lads and me. I must also thank a great set of lads who I have to say you should all be proud of. They have stuck together, trained hard and built up a great camaraderie despite everything that has been thrown at them.

This must be a good starting point for next season and some of the young lads will have gained valuable experience. I am pleased that our plans for next season are already under way and what better start could we have than Alan Hadcroft signing a new contract? I was happy to have him as my assistant coach again next year but Alan

feels he has a lot more rugby still in him and as he says, "You're a long time retired". He will provide vital experience to the squad next season and is respected by his fellow players. He is a true professional whom it has been a privilege to work with and I am convinced that with an injury free season he will play a vital part for us.

As I write this column the injury situation has again reared it's ugly head and I am struggling to find 17 fit players – but as always something will turn up and we will manage somehow. Although in many ways it will be a blessing to get this season over with our efforts and commitment will not cease until the final whistle blows at Whitehaven on the 10 September. We do not want to go through the league season without a win.

Even then there will only be a brief cessation in activities as I am already well into detailed plans for our pre season training schedule and putting together my preferred squad for what will, no doubt, be a very competitive league, where, like this season, every game will be a tough one.

Keep up your support and as always – enjoy the game,
Deaks

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ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE

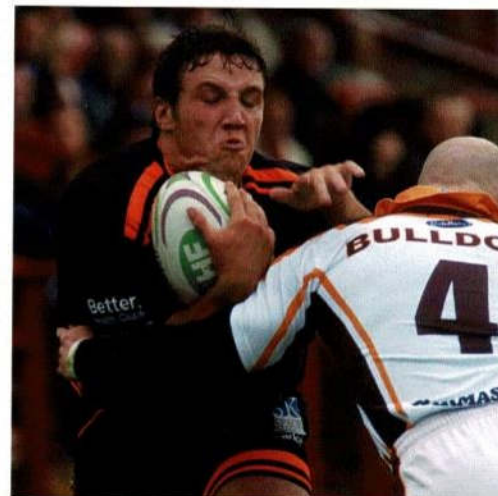
Week 15 Overall

1	Nigel Marland	9	190
2	Paul Hulbert	7	188
3	Ian Wilson	14	182
4=	Peter Buckley	11	181
4=	Colin & Dorothy Johnston	15	181
6	Matthew Chambers	9	177
7	Michael Ackroyd	9	174
8	Wayne Halstead	8	170
9	Geoff Cooke	11	167*
10	Jeff Bates	16	166
11	Brian Walker	17	165
12=	Tim Boycott	4	164
12=	Ashley Baxter	11	164
14	Roger Ivens	14	163
15=	Harry Whitehouse	7	162
15=	Roger Halstead	13	162
15=	Four Red Lions	16	162
18	Sara Jackson	10	160
19=	Chris Hamilton	9	157
19=	David Webster	9	157
21	Steve Baldwin	4	153
22	Terry Bailey	11	152
23=	J Hulmes	7	151
23=	Frank Pullen	12	151
25	David Lord	7	144
26=	Nick Henry	8	140
26=	David Stephens	13	132
28	Val Webster	6	130
29	John McAndrew	2	120
30	Janet Yewdale	NR	115
31	Paul Gough	NR	113
32	Iain Ashworth	2	110
33	Peter Illing	8	90

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

Mixed fortunes this week with the top two scoring badly and the situation at the top getting even tighter. The Johnston's returned to top form and Brian Walker got top score with 17 to put in a late challenge for the main prize as did Jeff Bates.

* Lost in e mail received average score last week.



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roger and out

by ROGER HALSTEAD

ALTHOUGH the Roughyeds are nearing the end of a season that will be recalled in future only for its trouble and strife, it is a strange paradox that they are better placed than they have been for years to set out their stall to make a big impact in 2007.

Not since Mike Ford's days as coach have Roughyeds known before the end of one season who was going to be in charge the next.

Ford stabilised the top job on the playing side in 2000 and 2001, but he still had nearly three years left on a new contract when he left the club to join the Irish RU on the last day of 2001 and only two games into his third season as Roughyeds boss.

Mark Knight was caretaker boss for the next four games; John Harbin came in as boss for the next 19 matches before joining Iain Dowie at Latics; and then Steve Molloy saw out the last 14 games of the season as a player-coach on trial.

Molloy did a good job and was rewarded with a one-year contract as player-coach for 2003.

A fifth-place finish earned Molloy a new one-year deal for 2004, but fourth place at the end of that season was not enough to keep him in the job after three defeats in the last four games, including a loss to Featherstone in the club's first-ever play-off clash on home soil.

Gary Mercer came next, but he wasn't appointed until October 22, 2004, by which time most of Molloy's lieutenants had also gone, among them his No 2, Andy Proctor, to Huddersfield; Phil Farrell and Lee Doran to Rochdale; Ian Watson and Paul Southern to Swinton; Neil Roden, Martin McLoughlin and Iain Marsh to Batley and Jon Roper to Workington.

By the end of October, Mercer had recruited only one player, Damian Munro.

By the end of November, he had another 13, including new boys Paul Norman, Alex Wilkinson and Marty Turner, but the Christmas fairy lights were twinkling all over town before the likes of Carlos Mataora, Simon Houghton put pen to paper.

The festive season had come and gone before the capture of Tere Glassie was announced; Dana Wilson wasn't unveiled until January; Ricky Bibbey came in February; and Mercer was still recruiting well into the 2005 season with the signings in April of Ian Hodson, Chris Hough and Rob Mills.

A year on Mercer chose to join the coaching exodus into rugby union after rejecting a new Roughyeds offer -- and the process started all over again.

By this time the financial crisis was at its height as the club faced up to Inland Revenue debts approaching £200,000 and the very real threat of being closed down. Lesser men than Chris Hamilton and Sean Whitehead would have buckled.

A year on we can see that the rugby league community in the town owes a great debt of gratitude to Chris and Sean for keeping the flag flying.

They were determined there would be no repeat of 1997 when the Bears went bust -- and I have no hesitation in describing

their awesome achievement in keeping the club afloat as one of the most remarkable success stories in the sporting history of this town.

Amidst it all, there was a new team to be put on the field -- there had been another mass exodus -- and a new coach to be found. It was well into October last year before John Pendlebury was recruited, but he was to last only five months and five games before he left to re-emerge as a member of Wigan's coaching staff a few weeks later.

Again, there was only a handful of players signed on when Pendlebury took command, ostensibly for two years. It was towards the end of last October when Mick Redford and Alan Hadcroft signed and we were well into November before the Corcorans, Chris Percival, Chris Maye and Dean Gorton came on board.

November had turned into December when Lee Wingfield and Danny Guest joined the club -- and there were more signings after that.

Only now, oddly near the end of a relegation season, is there a real sign of some stability on the coaching and playing front, and the best opportunity the club has had for years to put its plans for a new season into place with plenty of time to spare. Coach Steve Deakin and the board are already planning their strategy for striving to get back into division one at the first attempt -- and while we are still playing out the 2006 season no fewer than five players are already committed to the club for next year, not to mention Deaks, who has the full support and backing of the board.

The club is already in the process of offering new deals to the players Deaks wishes to keep, and it is already known that, although Alan Hadcroft has signed as a player for next year, he will not be continuing in the caretaker assistant coach role he has filled for the past few weeks.

Intriguingly, the club says the coaching structure beneath Deaks could depend on the results of the recruitment drive, a broad hint that he has already someone in mind to be his next right-hand man.

The club has also announced publicly that it has already identified which players it wants to keep; which it will be prepared to release; and which new ones it would like to sign. So far, so good. The board and Deaks are taking a positive stance on relegation and, as ever, I'm sure we can rely on the Roughyeds to come out of their corner fighting no matter what is thrown at them.

Do you know what? I'm looking forward to 2007 already -- and I'm deadly serious.

ROGER AND OUT.

with Ian Wilson

When you are a member of an organisation, you operate under its rules. There may well be ways set down by which the rules can be altered, but equally there are penalties laid down for cases where the rules are infringed. This applies to Rugby League just as it does elsewhere.

Thus, for example, players who are found to have taken performance-enhancing drugs are banned for a period - the most notable recent example in RL being Ryan Hudson. Players who are found to have gambled on the outcome of games have broken the rules too, and receive corresponding punishments - as messrs. Long and Gleeson found out.

There are also rules which apply to clubs. Failure to field the strongest possible side is an infringement - though sometimes not one which is particularly well policed perhaps! Qualification for promotion to Super League is also supposed to be according to clearly-established rules - though Whitehaven may dispute this one, I suspect. And, of course, there are now also rules established about how much money clubs are allowed to spend - the so-called salary cap regulations.

Those of us who are RL supporters naturally have our views on the desirability or otherwise of the rules. I personally, for example, happen to think that the salary cap is in principle a good rule, and potentially of great benefit to the development of the game. However, I also think that it is a complete waste of time unless it is operated properly - and this in particular means with a clear link to what might be regarded as natural justice.

It does not seem to be much like natural justice if Wigan were to be relegated this season as a result of a 2 - point deduction resulting from their failure to obey the salary cap rules last season. But it would be even less just for Wakefield, say, to be relegated this season, with all that that could imply, as a result of Wigan spending more than they should in 2006, but only being discovered to have done so in August 2007. Wakefield may have ceased to exist by then! And where's the justice for Whitehaven in Castleford having just been announced to have broken last season's NL1 salary cap rules? If Cas had abided by the rules, Whitehaven may have been promoted last year.

My conclusion? Failure to operate a salary cap on an ongoing, continuous basis is unacceptable. It yields too many chances of gross unfairness - for example to Wakefield and Whitehaven in the above cases. The RL, therefore, HAS to establish a system which enables the cap to operate according to natural justice. Otherwise, cheats will prosper, and the whole game be brought into disrepute.

40/20VISION

in^{yer}face

with Geoff Cooke

Referee Steve Ganson is to be congratulated for his determination to cut out lying-on and interference at play-the-ball in the Wakefield v. Catalan Dragons fixture.

Having set the standard it is to be hoped that he and other referees are as decisive for the rest of the season because there is no doubt that in the modern game of rugby league the ruck area (a term I hate because of its connotations with the other code) is the part of the game which causes spectators most concern. Coaches of course cannot be blamed for trying to get their players to slow down the play-the-ball as there is no doubt that quick plays really help a team gain momentum.

However they cannot complain if the referee decides the team are deliberately offending and hammers them with penalties and sin-bins as happened to the Catalans. Watching the Wakefield game provoked the thought that a day earlier Wigan got away with murder at play-the-ball and that if Ashley Klein had been as strict as Mr. Ganson the result might well have gone the other way. Why, even Eddie, Stevo and Phil Clarke were moved to say that the Leeds play-the-ball was a second slower than Wigan's. Seems like Coach Tony Smith missed a trick there!

I'd love Wakefield to avoid relegation. Partly it's because I feel they've been badly done to and



partly because I rate John Kear as a top class coach. Belle Vue is possibly the poorest ground in Super League and conspiracy theorists would argue that the rest would like to get rid of Wakefield if only because of that. However the strong action taken over breaches of the salary cap - which is much to be applauded - rather gives the lie to that idea so Wakefield will have to battle on in an effort to save themselves. It all makes the last match of the season against Castleford a real crunch tie.

And bearing in mind that two years ago a last day victory by Wakefield at the Jungle sent the Tigers down Belle Vue will definitely be the place to be for drama and tension.

On a slightly different note Ray French this week pointed out that the last Castleford - Wakefield fixture a fortnight ago saw 20 out of 34 players involved come from overseas. As he rightly went on to point out all this in rugby league's 'golden triangle' of Wakefield, Castleford and Featherstone, an area renowned as a production line of R.L. talent. And the reward for this heavy investment in overseas 'talent'? Both teams had won just 15 of their last 44 matches. Now if the money paid to these 'stars' of the game were instead invested in home grown talent how much brighter might the future of British R.L. be and how much bigger a pool of talent would Brian Noble have to select from for the international side?



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chit chat

from around the club
with Roger Halstead



(for fans who don't see daily bulletins on the club's official website at www.roughyeds.co.uk)

POPULAR Alan Hadcroft, currently filling the role of head coach Steve Deakin's No 2, has signed a new one-year deal to play for Roughyeds in the LHF Healthplan National League second division in 2007.

The 29-year-old former Leigh and Halifax centre, one of the most experienced men on the Roughyeds books, is now fully recovered from the shoulder injury which needed an operation and kept him sidelined for most of this season.

He is viewed by Deaks and by the board as a player whose vast experience will be invaluable next year as the side strives to win promotion at the first time of asking.

However, he will concentrate entirely on playing -- and although his know-how will be tapped into when required, he will NOT fill the role of Deaks's assistant beyond the end of this season.

Explained chairman Chris Hamilton: "Alan doesn't think the time has arrived for him to give up playing to be a coach. He has done really well as Steve's right-hand man while he has been getting over his shoulder operation, but he still wants to play."

"He is a big admirer of Deaks and his coaching methods -- that's important and a big plus for all concerned -- and he is raring to get on the field again. He will have a big role to play, but he won't be assistant coach."

"The coaching structure for next season has still to be determined -- it may well depend on how our recruitment plans go."

He added: "In terms of commitment and attitude you couldn't wish for anyone better than Alan Hadcroft. We signed him last year for his professionalism, experience and ability to guide and influence younger players, and those are the reasons why we wanted him again in 2007."

"He has a lot of qualities to bring to the table and Deaks and the board are delighted that he was happy to sign another deal."

"He is fully recovered now from the shoulder injury that restricted his appearances this season to a handful of games early on, and we know a lot of his expertise and experience will rub off on the rest of the squad."

With three games to go to the end of the current campaign, no fewer than five players are now contracted for 2007 -- Hadcroft, John Hough, Lee Wingfield, Carl Jones and Chris Baines.

CHRIS Hamilton's annual fund-raising Challenge will this year take the form of a gruelling 200-mile walk over six days from South Wales to Oldham in October.

In 2004 he ran three half-marathons on a route from Blackpool to Oldham, taking in all the grounds on which the Roughyeds had played home games.

In 2005 he cycled 342 miles in four days, touching base at each ground in the LHF Healthplan National League first division.

In 2006 he will walk back to Oldham from the Celtic Crusaders ground in Bridgend, South Wales, spending 8 to 9 hours a day on the road and timing his challenge to finish on October 13 at the Roughyeds social club where there will be a Pink Party in aid of the breast cancer charity Breakthrough.

He will set off from Bridgend on October 8, having chosen this starting point because it will be the longest trip the Roughyeds make in division two next year, always assuming Celtic Crusaders do not win promotion to division one.

He will average around 35 miles a day. "I suspect it will be my toughest challenge yet," said the 43-year-old Roughyeds chief, who will be raising money from sponsorship which will be split equally between the Roughyeds and Breakthrough, the club's official charity.

Sponsorship forms will be available soon from the club office in Waterloo Street, from the social club and from the Oldham Advertiser, for whom Chris will be writing a weekly column as he prepares for his biggest ever challenge over the course of the next few weeks.

His three half-marathons in 2004 raised £5,500, topped up by another £2,200 at the last-night Pink Party -- a total of £7,700, all for Breakthrough.

His four days in the saddle in 2005 raised £4,000 (split between the club and Breakthrough) plus another £1,500 for Breakthrough at the Pink Party.

The first Pink Party in 2003 pulled in £1,600 and thanks to the proceeds of various other fund-raisers -- a swear box in the Roughyeds offices, for instance -- the club has already raised in the region of £14,000 for the breast cancer charity.

Added Chris: "I'd like to make this challenge the best yet in terms of money raised. If anyone would like to donate prizes for the Pink Party or sponsor the Challenge as an event we would like to hear from them."

THE Roughyeds have a new long-distance fan... a business man in Scotland who has been following the club's financial plight on the internet and who has been impressed with our battle to find £230,000 for the Inland Revenue in the past year.

Roughyeds have described as a "tremendous gesture" the support of 32-year-old Huddersfield-born Nigel Thorpe, who

runs a couple of businesses in Portsoy, a small coastal town 50 miles north of Aberdeen.

He rang the club on Monday to sponsor today's match-day programme and also the programme for the Leigh game on September 3, backing worth around £250. His sponsorship of today's programme goes in the name of NGT Stores, a convenience store, while his backing for the Leigh programme will be in the name of another company, www.neatplants.co.uk.

Said club chairman Chris Hamilton: "This is a tremendous gesture and one which is really appreciated. Apparently, he has been following the club's plight on the website, and he was impressed with what we have done so far."

"He wanted to do his bit to help so he rang the club and spoke to our lottery manager, John McAndrew. His sponsorship was the result of their talks."

Nigel told me from Portsoy: "I miss my rugby league up here. I used to play amateur in Huddersfield. I surf the rugby league websites and I know that Oldham have had a battle on their hands."

"I used to get loads of enjoyment out of rugby league, so I felt I would give them a little bit of help. I might be looking to get a bit more involved with Oldham next year if I can do anything to assist."

On a similar theme there was high praise last weekend for what Roughyeds have achieved in paying the Revenue £230,000 from the chairman of Batley, Kevin Nicholas.

Speaking at the official match presentations in the Mount Pleasant hospitality suite after our game there, Mr Nicholas said Oldham could be proud of the way they had faced up to their responsibilities and had found such a huge amount of money to pay their way.

He went on: "I feel for Oldham -- I really do. They could have walked away, as other clubs have done in the past, but by paying their debt to the Revenue they have helped every other club in the Rugby League."

"We at Batley wish them well in the future, both on and off the field."

THERE will be a special event in the Roughyeds social club after today's game in the form of big-screen snail racing, starting at 6.45pm.

Similar to horse and dog racing on the screen, Funder Snail Racing is a lot of fun and will appeal to anyone who likes a flutter and a laugh.

"It's competitive, but it's also a hoot -- great fun," said David Lord, who is running the event with the help of Maureen Aldridge.

There are seven sponsored races, plus an eighth which goes up for auction. Each race will be introduced by Peedy the Parrot.

It's something different, and it sounds to be a good laugh, so give it a try -- you might be captivated by the speed of it all!

There's another big social club date for your diary, too. Pencil in next Saturday, August 26 for a great day in the club on the occasion of the Powergen Challenge Cup final between St Helens and Huddersfield.

Who said you needed to fork out a lot of money to sample the atmosphere of a major Twickenham occasion? You can do it for little outlay by watching the big game on our big screen -- and anyone who watched the soccer World Cup games in our club will vouch for the great atmosphere generated.

We even have our own version of the big-match build-up. The ever-popular Michael 'Braddy' Bradshaw will MC a programme of events, including raffles, stand-up bingo and Braddy's very own brand of humour, all leading up to the cup final on our big screen.

And if you want the hospitality treatment you can book brunch in the form of full English breakfast for only £5. However, to help with catering, you must book by 5pm next Thursday on 0161 628 3677 (club office) or on 0161 627 2128 (social club).

The club opens at noon, brunch will be served at 12.30pm, the pre-match build up will start shortly after that and the match kicks off at 2.45pm.

Admission is FREE, but the bar will be at your disposal and if you want brunch it will be yours for £5 if pre-booked by Thursday.

■ **Thursday 7.00pm & 9.30pm**
Repeated Friday 12.30 & 9.00pm, Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 1.00pm



The weekly Rugby League programme from Channel m

Highlighting Salford City Reds plus features on Swinton, Oldham, Rochdale, Leigh, Wigan and the local BARLA clubs. Including a mix of match action, big game previews and reviews, player chat, club history and community activities.



Free in Greater Manchester, just tune a spare channel into frequency 39 or **ntl: Digital Cable** Channel No 26

channel m

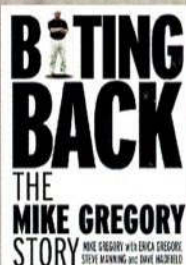
AROUND & ABOUT

with The Heritage Trust

About to hit the bookshops

BITING BACK, The Mike Gregory Story

by Mike Gregory, Erica Gregory, Steve Manning & Dave Hadfield



A true Rugby League hero, Mike Gregory's deeds of bravery, courage, and valour despite injuries on the playing fields of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and France gave him the ultimate honour of any sportsman, to captain both club and country.

Playing for Great Britain, Warrington, Salford, Cronulla and Wigan St Patricks, never giving less than 100%, he is respected worldwide by his peers and fans alike for never taking a backward step.

At the end of his superb playing career Mike took the same ethos into coaching and following initial setbacks, he landed his dream job in charge of his home town club Wigan. Battling against a devastating illness resulting from an insect bite whilst undertaking international coaching duties in 2003, he guided the Wigan team to the Challenge Cup Final in 2004 before temporarily standing down to commence treatment in the USA. But on his return found he had to fight with the club to resume his work.

Mike lost that battle for reinstatement but in a high profile legal case, gained recompense from the Wigan club. His path now, proving his doubters wrong and winning this final match against his illness with his loving wife, two young sons and supporters all behind him.

Visit www.verticaleditions.com for further details. Order from any good bookshop. Published 14th Oct 2006. 224 pages. £17-99. ISBN 1-904091-18-0

CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS, The Chris Hesketh Story

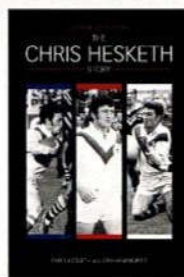
by Chris Hesketh and Graham Morris

The story of Rugby League great Chris Hesketh is a heartwarming one, his sporting life being one of triumph over adversity, reaching its pinnacle as the first Wigan-born captain of a British Lions Rugby League touring team when leading the party that flew to Australia and New Zealand in 1974. That honour, and many more, was achieved after overcoming polio as a child and the shattering experience of being discarded by his first professional club, Wigan, who he had followed since being a youngster.

His transfer to Salford sparked a new beginning as an integral part of a team that reached the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley and twice won the Rugby League Championship in the 1970s. A classy centre and dominating presence on the rugby field, he was destined to become skipper of a Red Devils outfit littered with star names such as Paul Charlton, Colin Dixon, Keith Fielding and David Watkins. A tourist twice, he also took part in two World Cup tournaments, including the 1972 triumph in France. His renaissance received official recognition through the awarding of the MBE in 1976 for his services to Rugby League.

In this book, Chris, and co-author Graham Morris provide the reader with a fascinating account of his trials and tribulations as a professional sportsman as he rose to the top in the toughest of all team sports, including many inside stories and humorous anecdotes. Its pages reveal the life and times of a player who proved himself as a true Captain Courageous, offering an essential read for all lovers of sport and Rugby League in particular.

Visit www.verticaleditions.com for further details or order from any good bookshop. Published 30th Sept 2006. 192 pages. £10-99. ISBN 1-904091-19-9.



LOOKING AHEAD

Geoff Cooke's In Yer Face and Gareth Walker's National League Talk articles featured in the match programme for the recent Oldham vs. Halifax game brought to the surface a number of worrying factors. Geoff said, that in his opinion, N.L.1 had been a big disappointment this season, and Gareth pointed us in the direction of the Chris Heintz article - published in this month's Rugby League World magazine - highlighting decreased match attendances for N.L.1 and N.L.2 matches.

Geoff pointed out that it wasn't good enough that full-time clubs should compete in the same league as part-timers. That it wasn't good enough that cup and league fixtures had been formulated in such a way that this season had become a stop-start affair and that supporters could go weeks without being able to watch a home match. That it wasn't good enough that some clubs had been scheduled to play each other on at least four occasions.

In his survey, Chris Heintz focused on the fact, that whilst after ten years of summer rugby, attendances at Super League matches had increased, those in the lower divisions showed an alarming decline - in real terms somewhere in the region of 35% - and that during the same period we had lost the likes of Bramley, Carlisle, Prescot Panthers, York Wasps, Paris St. Germain and South Wales clubs (he missed out Oldham) and that a long list of other clubs had survived only by entering creditors agreements.

He makes the point that Super League and Rugby League are not synonymous and that the health of the latter can't be judged simply by what's going on in Super League. In his article Heintz also says that when he looks around at the crowds who attend N.L. 1 & 2 matches there is a dearth of youngsters watching and that whilst many former supporters have taken to watching Super League many have stopped attending matches altogether.

He also questioned the health of the professional game in Cumbria and used the example of Barrow's crowd figures to highlight his argument. Ten years before Super League started Barrow were in the old second division and had been out of the top flight for three years but still averaged almost 2,000 at their home matches. Now it's below 1,000 and in some years has been less than 650.

So, what's the remedy? Geoff Cooke reminded us that after next season the doors of automatic promotion to Super League would be slammed shut. He advocates one division (combining all the clubs in N.L.1 and 2), kicking-off the campaign with league

matches and not cup-ties at Easter instead of in the depths of winter (but does not rule out a return to playing in winter). Full-time squads would be banned for the benefit of all and the Northern Trains Cup would become a more prestigious end of season knockout affair. Chris says that the RFL should take the National Leagues much more seriously and make a big effort to improve their lot. More exposure on television would be as good a place to start as any. At the same time he says that those clubs that haven't done so already should formulate a well thought-out strategy to develop local youngsters.

Here here to all that.

The RFL has GOT to address the problem of the National Leagues and quickly. We've got to reverse the downward spiral or we all go out of business. I don't know exactly what the situation is regarding the RFL's contract with Sky but National League matches shown live by the BBC on a Saturday afternoon seems a cracking idea to me.

What is equally as important is that those National League clubs that haven't done so already, get closer to the town's rugby league fraternity. Here in Oldham - I think it's fair to say - almost all kids who play for their school or with one of the local amateur club's youth sides aspire to play in Super League and perhaps eventually for their country. Clubs like ours hardly gets a look-in.

We've got to re-establish the Oldham club as the bastion of the rugby league community. To do that we've got to improve our image, we've got to get the kids wanting to play for their own town club again, even if its seen as just a stepping stone to a higher level. We've not just got to work closely with the Service Area, the local amateur clubs and their coaches but make them feel that it's together that we're making a difference to rugby league in Oldham. We've got to get people involved in making it happen. Because it's the only way.

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

WIDNES

Daryl Cardiss

Daryl joined the Vikings having impressed whilst on trial at the start of the season. A payer with bags of Super League experience he will be on hand to guide his young line this afternoon.

Adam Bowman

Adam has progressed through the Vikings' World Class Scholarship Programme and made a try scoring debut at Whitehaven last month. Adam's performances have been rewarded with a new two year contract.

Mick Nanyin

A record breaking points scorer Mick followed former Haven coach Steve McCormack to the Halton Stadium in the Autumn. Renowned for his try scoring exploits Mick is also a useful goalkicker and recently broke Jonathan Davies' record of being the fastest Widnes player to score 100 points for the Club

James Coyle

James signed for the Warriors in 2001 and in training has certainly impressed new conditioner Andy Haigh who, like James, was at Wigan in 2005. A nippy half back who has the ability to 'stand up' defenders.

Aaron Summers

Having played for both North and South Sydney, Aaron joined Whitehaven in 2004 and has followed Steve McCormack to the Vikings. A strong front-rower Aaron was a qualified lifeguard in Australia and has recently

passed his British lifeguarding qualifications

Mark Smith

Having spent 6 years at Wigan Mark joined the Vikings in 2005 but was limited to the bench until an injury to Shane Millard gave Mark the opportunity he grasped with both hands. A tremendous worker in both attack and defence Mark is destined for a good season in 2006 and became a father for the first time 10 days ago with the birth of his son Kyle.

Barrie McDermott

When fellow prop Ryan Tandy was ruled out for up to three months with a shoulder injury the Vikings' Board moved swiftly to capture McDermott who officially retired from the game last October although played a few rugby union matches for Marple 2nd XV. A formidable sight going forward, his power, pace and aggression will add to an already impressive Vikings pack.

Mick Cassidy

A firm 'fans' favourite' with outstanding work ethic, experience and toughness. Widnes Vikings' Player of the Year in 2005 his first year at the Club following 14 years at Wigan.

David Allen

The Widnes youngster has returned to the town following three years at Wigan Warriors. Having gained Super League experience in the back row at the JJB David will be looking to realize his potential at the Halton Stadium.

Bob Beswick

Another recruit from the JJB, Bob has proved to be a great trainer since his arrival at the Vikings and his ability to play in the pack or at half-back was a factor in his recruitment.

Steve Nash

Joined the Club from West Bank and represented England U18 on their tour to Australia in 2004. Broke into the first team towards the end of 2005 but injury at London in the final game of Super League saw a lengthy period of rehabilitation and Steve's 2006 was delayed until last month.

Terry O'Connor

Following spells with Salford and Wigan, Terry joined his hometown Club in 2005 and as was gain the Super League 'Metre Maker' award and the Man of Steel Awards in October

Ian Watson

The Welsh international is in his second spell with the Vikings, his first resulting in their promotion to Super League in 2001. A renowned organizer and kicker his partnership with Dennis Moran has helped turn the Vikings season around.

Dennis Moran

Dennis joined the Club last month and has scored five tries in his two appearances. A livewire halfback who has also had successful spells at fullback Dennis' Super League experience could prove vital as the season progresses.

journalistic license

by Matthew Chambers

It seems strange that at this exciting stage of the season, with only four regular rounds remaining in Super League and three in the National Leagues, most of the talk in rugby league circles (translation: public houses of the north) should revolve around how much cash teams hand their players.

But rugby league's salary cap is about the only thing anyone wants to discuss over a pint at the moment.

The issue has certainly polarised opinion. While some believe the minor breaches that have hit the headlines lately to be nothing much more than minor accounting errors, others suspect clubs are wilfully breaking the rules for their own benefit.

The current situation, where offenders receive punishment for the previous year's misdemeanours some 36 weeks into the following season, certainly isn't ideal.

That Bradford have been docked two points at this juncture is almost inconsequential considering their position in the table.

That doesn't sit too well with the offence occurring in the process of winning the biggest prize in Super League last time around... Still, it's all water off a duck's back now for the victorious Bulls players, officials and spectators.

As for Leeds Rhinos, inter-city rivals and beaten Grand Finalists, they are busy polishing their halo as the only squeaky-clean club from the 'Big Five' not to have overspent in 2005.

At least Wigan's (virtually identical) punishment seems to have hit them right where it hurts. That's mainly due to their lowly league position, true, but the chances of seeing the Warriors in National League One next year have marginally increased as a result and their punishment therefore seems just about right.

Wigan don't plan to appeal, but that hasn't stopped them having a good old bleat at the injustice of it all.

"At one stage last year we had seven players out, including Sean O'Loughlin and Gareth Hock, who were out for the season," owner Dave Whelan told the local press, backed by the sound of a violin.

"We went to the RFL and asked for dispensation. We wanted their wages not to count on the salary cap as they couldn't play for a year.

"The RFL just said no. We had no option because we had to put a team on the field."

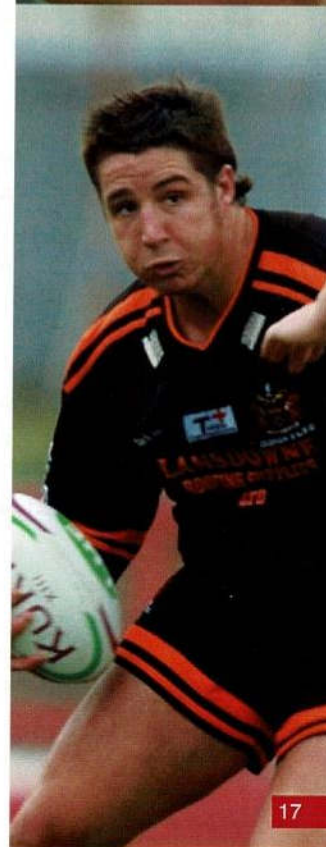
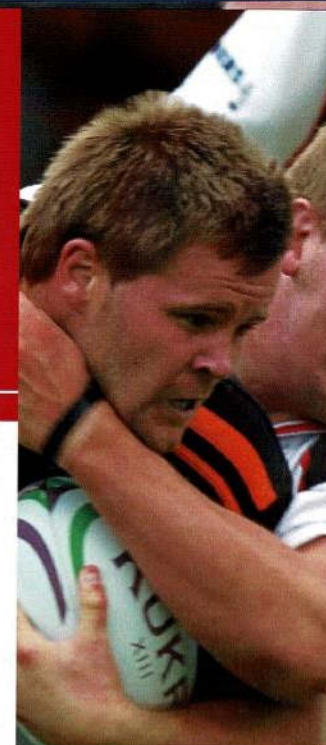
As excuses go, it isn't the most convincing you have ever heard. It is on a par with Bulls chairman Peter Hood's assertion that the signing of Great Britain forward Adrian Morley on a six-game contract towards the end of the season was completely divorced from the salary cap issue.

"I can tell you absolutely it was nothing whatsoever to do with Adrian Morley," said Hood, who was presumably paying Morley in bags of sweets to get around the rule.

Back to the present day, it will certainly be interesting to see whether further finger-pointing at Wigan over 'Fieldengate' amounts to anything concrete. As the prop forward himself stated at the time, he didn't move to the JJB Stadium for the weather.

But of course, if there's any wrongdoing we'll have to wait a whole year from now to find out about it. By which time, the Warriors will probably have saved their collective skin - and the financial rewards that go hand-in-hand with Super League status.

Matthew



halstead's choice

by Roger Halstead

CHRIS Baines didn't need twice asking when he was invited to sign a Roughyeds' contract to the end of the 2007 season.

Although relegation was, at the time, a distinct possibility (now a mathematical certainty), the former Warrington Wolves youngster and BARLA Great Britain Young Lions' tourist had no hesitation in signing up for another year with Oldham.

The 21-year-old back-row man has still to sample an Oldham win --- that's how tough it has been for the Roughyeds players this term --- but he grabbed the opportunity to stick around in 2007 at the club which gave him a break when he was looking to leave the Wolves.

He was in his third year of under-21s rugby at Warrington when he began to feel edgy and unsettled.

Chris takes up the story. 'I wasn't getting as much game time as I had done previously. The rules were changed to allow eight first-teamers in under-21s rugby, instead of two over-age players, and the first-teamers were usually given priority in team selection.

'When the chance came to join Oldham on loan I was more than happy to take it. I saw it as an opportunity to advance my career. Three months on, I am sure I made the right move --- and I am equally sure that I have made a wise move in signing to stick with Deaks and the boys here at Oldham for 2007.

'I had three separate and continuous one-month loan spells here before Warrington said they would release me and before Deaks took me on one side to say he would like me to sign a contract covering the rest of this season and then next season.

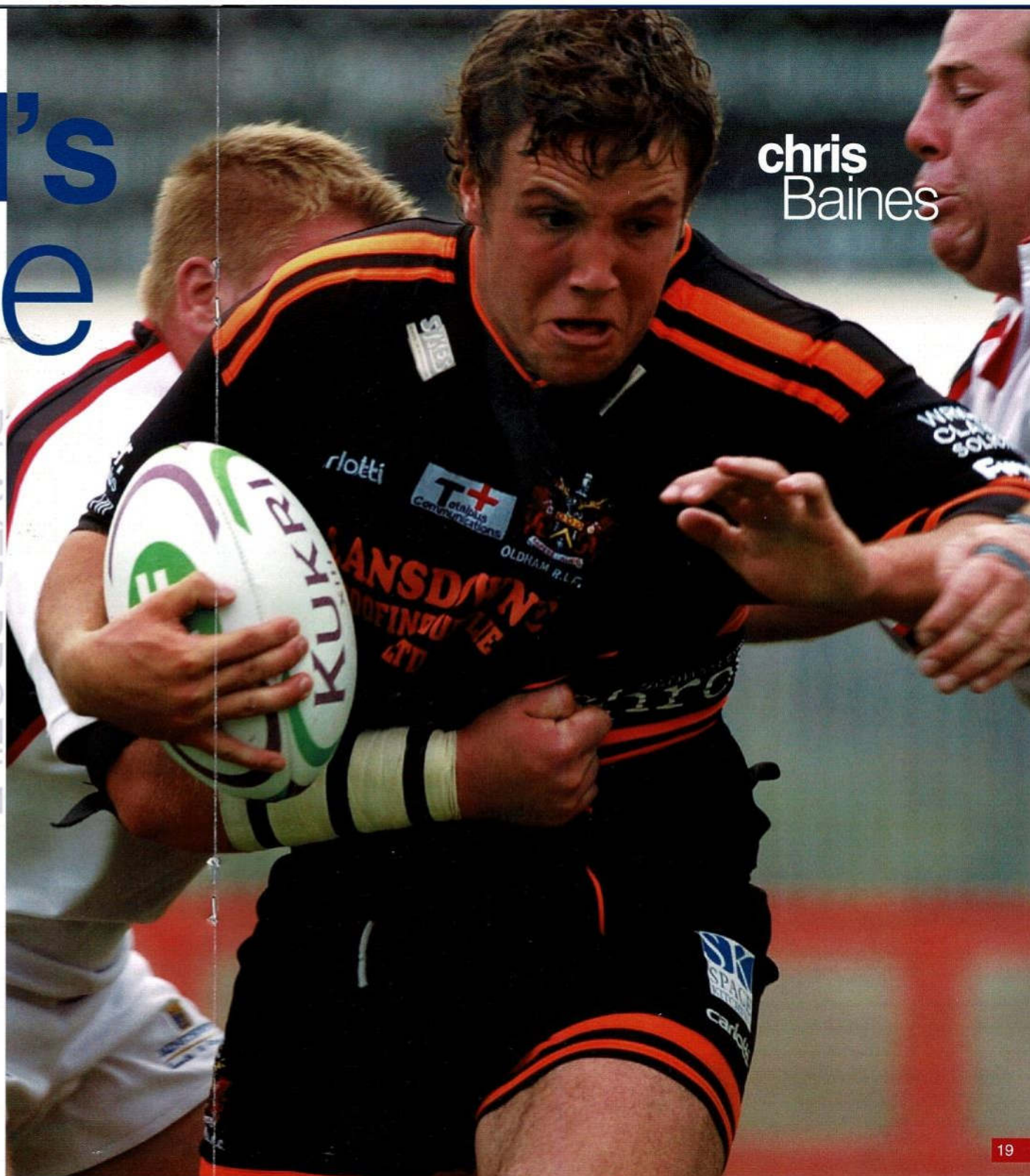
'He was starting to build for next year in the second division and I wanted to be part of it so I signed. Hopefully, we can bounce straight back. That will be the aim of everyone at the club.

'Despite all our adversity this season, I have to say the lads are brilliant. The team spirit and the camaraderie is fantastic. It really is. We have never been low. The season hasn't gone as we would have wanted -- everybody knows that --- but we have always stayed positive as a group as much as we possibly could.

'By signing for another year I see this as an opportunity to better myself in terms of rugby league experience. We've had a tough time this year, but I feel sure we will be all the stronger for it next season --- myself and the other younger

chris
Baines

PLAYER PROFILE



chris Baines

Continued...

50-50 calls seem to have gone against us; sometimes our discipline has let us down; but throughout it all we have remained positive and upbeat as a squad, and that has really impressed me.

"Now, although the season isn't over yet, I'm already looking forward to 2007.

"I think four of us are signed on so far. Hopefully there will be more as well as some new signings.

"After all our trials and tribulations in the past few months, we owe it to the club, the directors, the coaching staff, the fans and ourselves to do well in the second division, and I feel confident we will do well.

"It isn't going to be easy. In fact, it will be very tough to get back up at the first time of asking. Whoever wins promotion from division two this time will be leaving behind a very strong division.

"The division has a lot of very experienced players who have been to the top and are perhaps on the way down. Then there will be all the travelling. Depending on who goes up, we could be travelling to Cumbria twice, to the North-East, to London, to Sheffield and down to South Wales if the Celtic Crusaders are still in the division."

A bricklayer's labourer, Chris lives in Coppull, between Wigan and Chorley, and has a girl friend, Laura, who comes from Wigan.

Away from rugby and work, he loves most sports and is particularly keen on golf.

I caught up with him after a Saturday morning training session in Oldham, followed by a few holes of golf near his home in Coppull.

His story is typical of hundreds of young rugby league hopefuls who start to play for fun aged seven or eight and follow through their interest to professional or semi-professional levels.

In Chris's case, a pal at primary school in Chorley persuaded him to try his hand at rugby with Chorley Borough juniors under-8s. He took to the game, enjoyed it and remained with the juniors up to under-13s level.

That year, the Chorley club didn't have a team in his age group, so he moved to Hindley where he played until he was 16.

They turned him from a centre into a prop, but when he transferred to Wigan St Pat's under-18s (still as a 16 year old) coach Carl Briscoe thought his best position was in the second-row.

Though still young to play in a crack under-18s side, he figured prominently in a Pat's side that won the National Youth Cup. He was starting to make a name for himself.

First came selection for the Wigan and Leigh service area town team at under-18s, followed by a Lancashire call-up and then a place in the Great Britain Young Lions squad to tour New Zealand in the English summer of 2003.

In the previous November he was in a GB youth squad that was beaten 3-0 here in England by the powerful Australians, and then he went to France in the following summer (won one, lost one over there) before embarking on the trip of a lifetime to New Zealand.

players will be stronger both physically and mentally after all we've gone through this season.

"It's been a blip-year. We've been disrupted by one injury crisis after another; referees



Said Chris: "We had four games and won one, against the Pacific Islanders. But what a fabulous experience! I loved every minute of the adventure. Our first match was against a side that was more or less made up of the New Zealand Warriors academy squad.

"We played on the famous stadium where the Warriors play most of their home games in Auckland, and our last game was down in Wellington. What a trip. I would love to do it again.

"A few of the lads went on to turn pro, among them Craig Calvert and Gary Eilbeck at Whitehaven, James Taylor at Leigh and David Ashton at Swinton."

Returning from the tour, Baines joined the Leigh academy under-19 side, then coached by Darren Abram. He was still eligible for under-17s rugby, but he got a considerable amount of game time, often coming off the bench, in a side that went through the season unbeaten.

About the same time he represented Lancashire Origin under-17s against Yorkshire. The Red Rose lads were coached by Gary Chambers, who doubled up as under-18s coach at Warrington and it was at Chambers's invitation that Baines left Leigh behind to try his luck with the Wolves.

He went on: "I saw Warrington as a bigger club with bigger opportunities. I started off in the under-18s and then I had two full seasons of under-21s rugby, during which I played for the first team against Widnes and Barrow in pre-season friendlies around Christmas 2004.

"I started the game against Widnes in the second-row, but I was on the bench for the Barrow match because Mike Wainwright returned from injury."

One more season of under-21s rugby followed for Chris before he began to get itchy feet and came to Oldham on a month's loan initially while club and player took a look at each other and weighed each other up.

The process was repeated for month two and then for month three --- and all the while both parties were getting to like the arrangement: so much so that when Chris was invited to sign a contract covering 2007 he quickly put pen to paper.

He is a young forward who has done well to make the step up from academy rugby to open-age football in a rough, tough and demanding division like LHF Healthplan National League division one.

He knows, we all know, that division two will be equally demanding in many ways. But Baines is up for the challenge ... and the Roughyeds are delighted to have him on board.

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Oldham RLFC 2006 season's statistics

Oldham match stats upto July 10th 2006

NAME	PLAYED	TRIES	GOALS	POINTS
A.Bailey	9	0	0	0
G.Barber	16	5	24	68
M.Callan	9	0	0	0
G.Corcoran	12	1	0	4
W.Corcoran	16	3	5	22
C.Dean	6	0	0	0
A.Gorey	19	9	0	36
D.Gorton	20	6	0	24
D.Guest	5	0	0	0
A.Hadcroft	5	0	0	0
G.Hayes	21	1	0	4
I.Hodson	21	2	0	8
C.Hough	12	0	4(+1 d-g)	9
J.Hough	16	0	0	0
J.Kirkland	7	0	0	0
C.Maye	17	3	0	12
D.Nanyn	9	0	0	0
C.Percival	10	8	0	32
M.Redford	8	1	0	4
M.Roberts	12	1	0	4
S.Svabic	21	5	1	22
A.Wilkinson	13	4	0	16
L.Wingfield	12	5	0	20
C.Campbell	4	3	0	12
D.Best	12	0	0	0
J.Best	1	0	0	0
C.Baines	14	0	0	0
P.Ashton	8	2	1	10
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	8	3	0	12
T.Kilgannon	7	1	0	4
M.Bottom	11	2	0	8
C.Jones	6	0	0	0
S.Williams	6	0	0	0
A.Sharple	2	0	0	0
P.O'Connor	3	1	0	4
P.Farrell	4	0	0	0

the bootroom

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Kids & Co

Hi Kids

Are you all enjoying your long summer holidays? A few more weeks and it will be back to school.

All of our "Kids" move up to secondary school in September and we would like to wish them good luck as they change to being the younger ones instead of the "big kids"

Not many weeks either now until the season is over, but for all of you who play at junior level, your season will just be starting and it will be back to cold wet Sunday mornings stood on the touch line for a lot of mums and dads. Let's hope that there are some future Oldham rugby stars among you.

Our mascot for today is Owen Baldwin who is among those junior stars playing for St Anne's under 8's. Owen is a pupil at Thorp Primary School and will move up to year thress when he gets back. Rugby mad Owen's favourite player is Phil Farrell.

Enjoy the summer

See you all soon.

Carole and Janet

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

-----QUIZ NIGHT RETURNS-----
12TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Following our summer break, the monthly Quiz Night is due to resume in September. For a light-hearted and fun evening why not come and join us, and meet with fellow Roughyeds. Entry is £1 per person. Hope to see you there -----8.30 pm in the Social Club Lounge.

No doubt most of you solved the anagrams included in the last programme, but for those who did not (or are too young to know the names!) the former Oldham coaches were: Eric Fittsimmons, John Fieldhouse, Mick Coates, Frank Barrow, Bob Lindner, John Harbin, Jim Challinor, Peter Tunks, Dave Cox, Frank Myler, Tony Barrow, Steve Molloy, Paddy Kirwan and Andy Goodway.

Sheila

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Oldham RLFC v Batley Bulldogs

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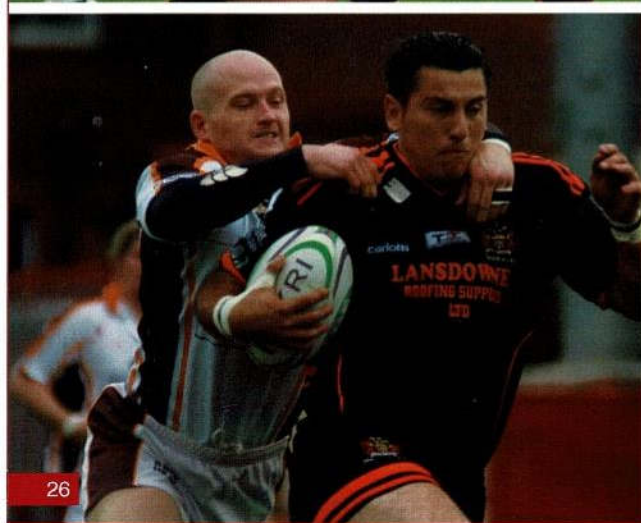
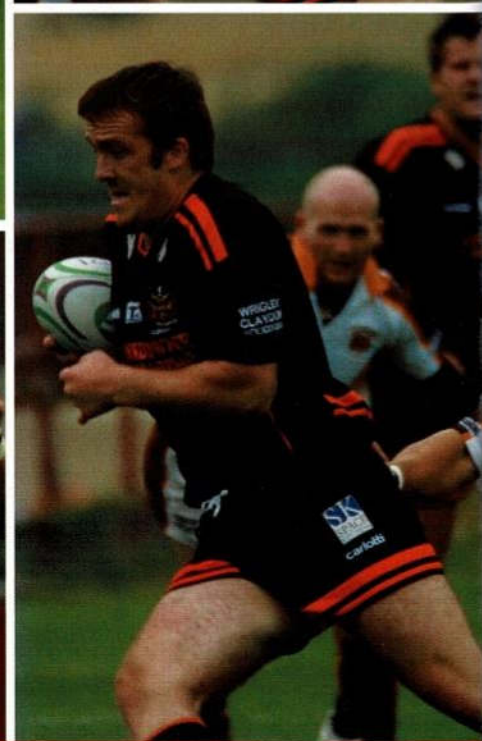
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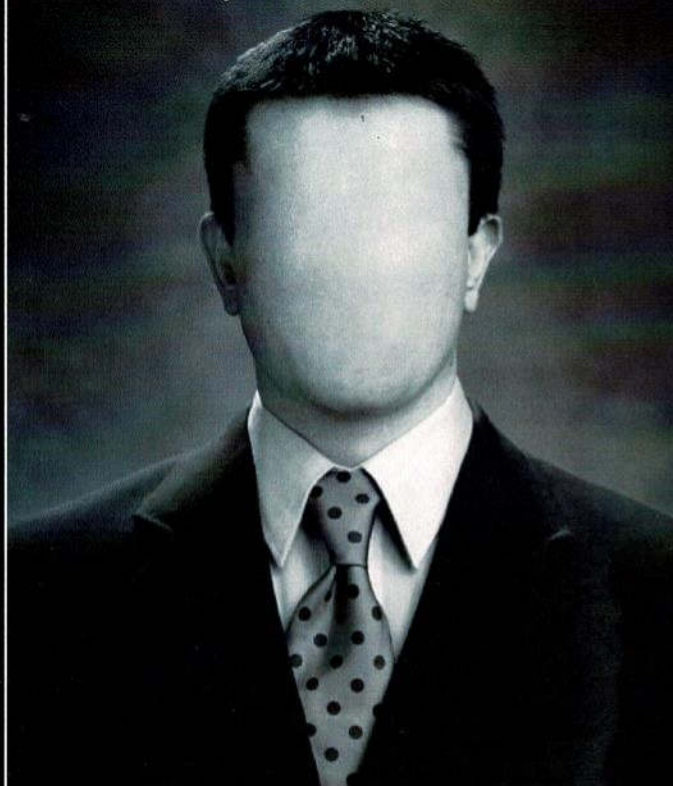
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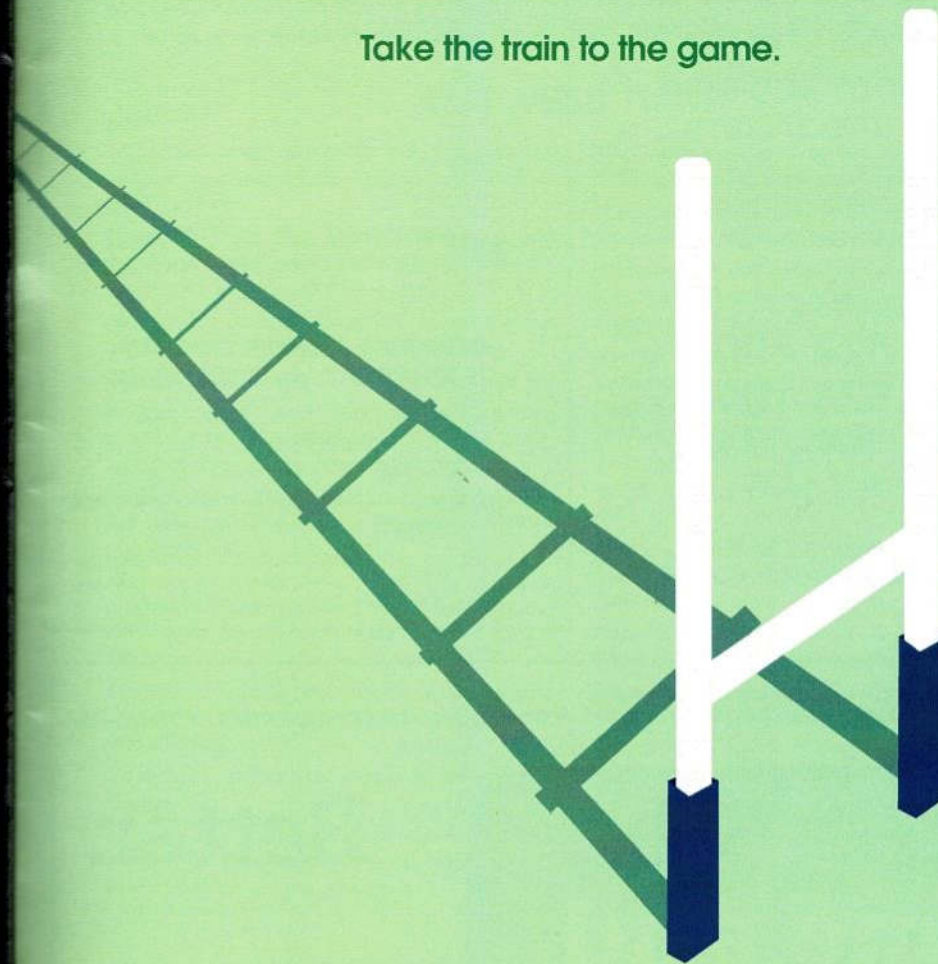
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with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



BUSINESS TIME!

WITH just three weeks to go, the National League campaigns are building towards a thrilling finale.

Admittedly, the NL1 Minor Premiership was effectively sealed weeks ago, with Hull Kingston Rovers heading the field all season.

And at the bottom, Oldham's relegation has been all but a formality for some time now.

But that aside there is so much more to play for. Widnes, Leigh and Whitehaven are still scrapping for that all-important second place, with just three points separating them.

Behind them, Batley, Halifax, Doncaster and Rochdale are all vying for the two remaining play-off places.

And underneath them, York City Knights' outstanding win over Whitehaven last week has given them the slimmest hopes of still avoiding the drop.

For that to happen the Knights would have to win each of their remaining games and Rochdale lose all three.

It's arguably even more exciting in LHF National League Two.

Sheffield Eagles' one-point win over the season's pace-setters Dewsbury Rams has ensured that the title race is anything but over.

The Eagles now trail by just two points, with both side's points difference relatively similar.

This weekend Sheffield travel to Keighley while Dewsbury entertain Swinton Lions.

With top spot bringing automatic promotion to NL1, it promises to be a nervous few weeks for supporters of both clubs.

At the bottom end of the play-off picture Workington can still pip Gateshead Thunder – though Town have a tough run-in, starting with Sunday's trip to Celtic Crusaders.

And even though there is no relegation to NL3 at the foot of the table, there is still much to play for.

It's a measure of the competitive nature of NL2 that the club currently at the bottom, Blackpool Panthers, have nine points.

Gone are the days when one team would flounder without winning a game all season.

Blackpool, London Skolars and Keighley Cougars all have nine points and Hunslet Hawks are just one ahead of them.

All four will be desperate not to finish bottom of the professional ladder.

It all adds up to an intriguing three weeks – and don't forget, the play-offs are still to come.

Enjoy today's game.

* The August edition of Rugby League World magazine is on sale now.

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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	28-10	L	1103
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
10/6/06	York City Knights	NL1	H	19:00	0-62	L	684
25/6/06	York City Knights	NL1	A	15:00	56-14	L	2220
2/7/06	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	H	15:00	18-22	L	713
9/7/06	Widnes Vikings	NL1	A	15:00	72-18	L	3213
21/7/06	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	H	19:45	8-40	L	729
30/7/06	Doncaster Lakers	NL1	A	15:00	58-10	L	712
6/8/06	Halifax RLFC	NL1	H	15:00	8-56	L	906
13/8/06	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	A	15:00	44-16	L	700
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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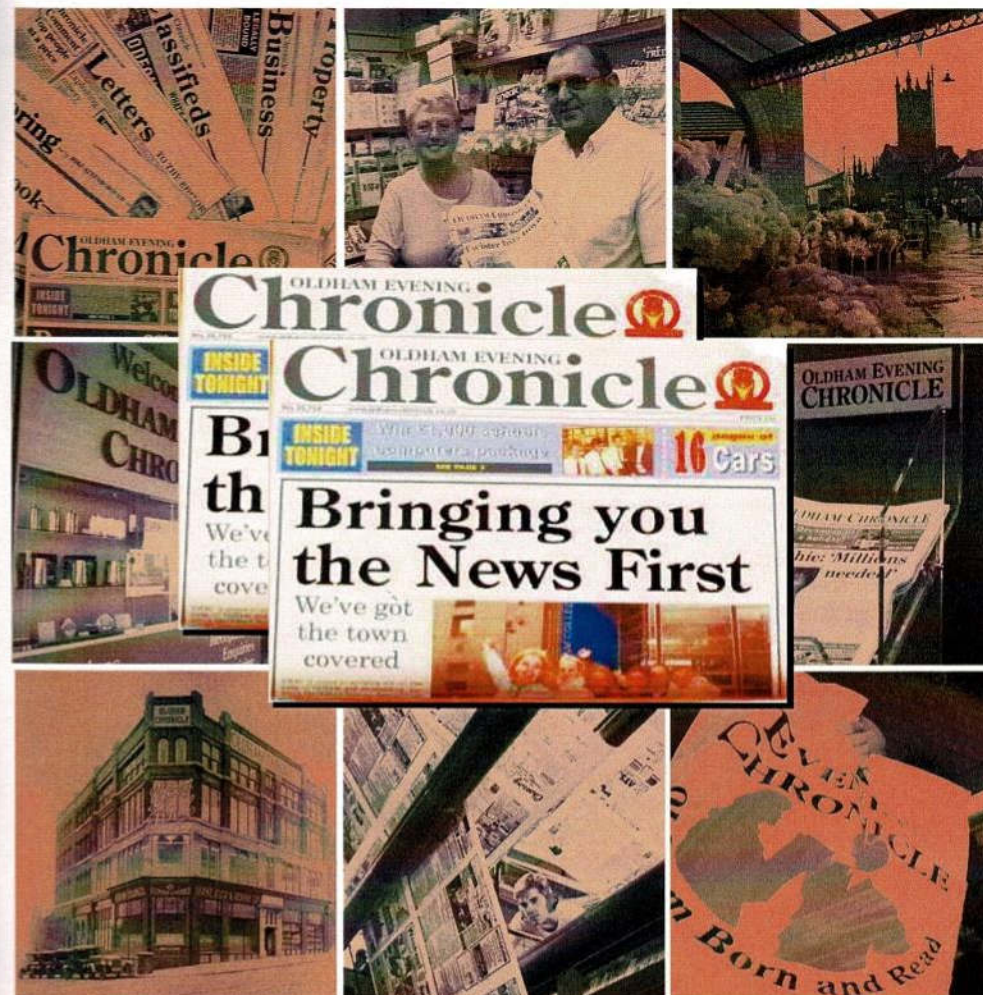
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