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• Todays Teams •

Whitehaven *64v4* Oldham *(HT 30-14)*

T G DG T G DG

G Broadbent

1

D Williams

CONVERT J Lebbon

2

2

A Gorey

R Jackson

3

D Gorton

D Eilbeck

4

A Wilkinson

S Maden

5

A Hadcroft

L Joe

6

I Hodson

J Duffy

3

7

P Ashton

S Trindall

8

D Best

A Smith

9

J Hough

D Fatialofa

10

G Corcoran

S Miller

11

L Wingfield

M Leafa

12

C Baines *S. WILLIAMS*

C Rudd

13

M Roberts *FRABELL*

G Mattinson

14

G Hayes *BARBER*

H Hill

15

T Kilgannon *BAYNES*

JACKSON S Teare

2

16

M Bottom *HAYES*

BAYNES R Wright

1

17

C Maye *ROBERTS*

Dave Rotheram

Coach

Steve Deakin

Scrum

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20

Penalties

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20

Todays Officials

Referee: Mr P Taberner

Touch Judges:

Mr P Smith, Mr M Worrall

Fourth Official:

Mr C Sharrad

Match Commissioner: Mr C Hodgson

Scrum

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20

Penalties

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20

Progressive
Scores

HAVEN

VISITORS

Next Home Match -

LHF National League One 'Play Offs'

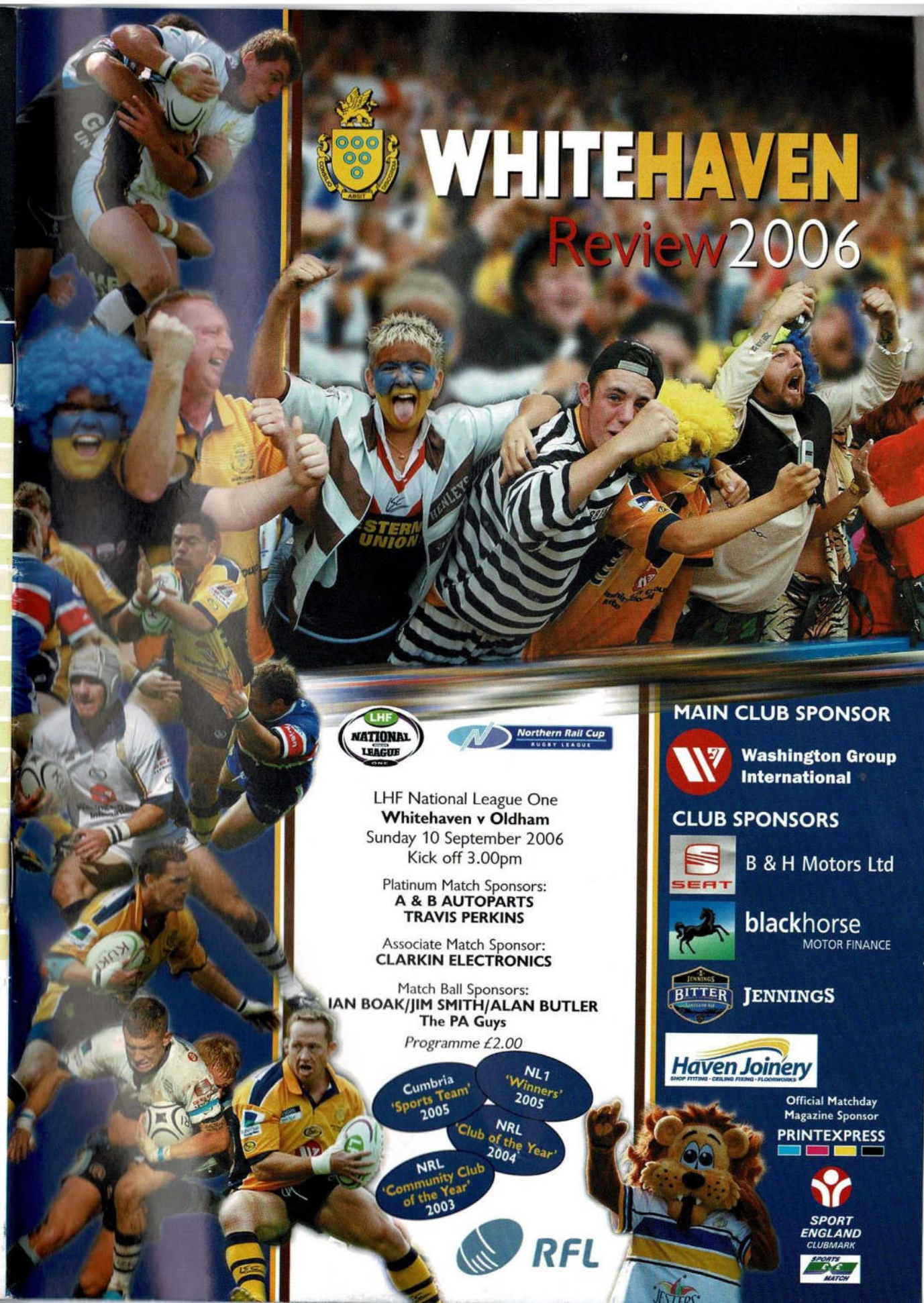
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Attendance 1,796



WHITEHAVEN

Review 2006



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Whitehaven v Oldham
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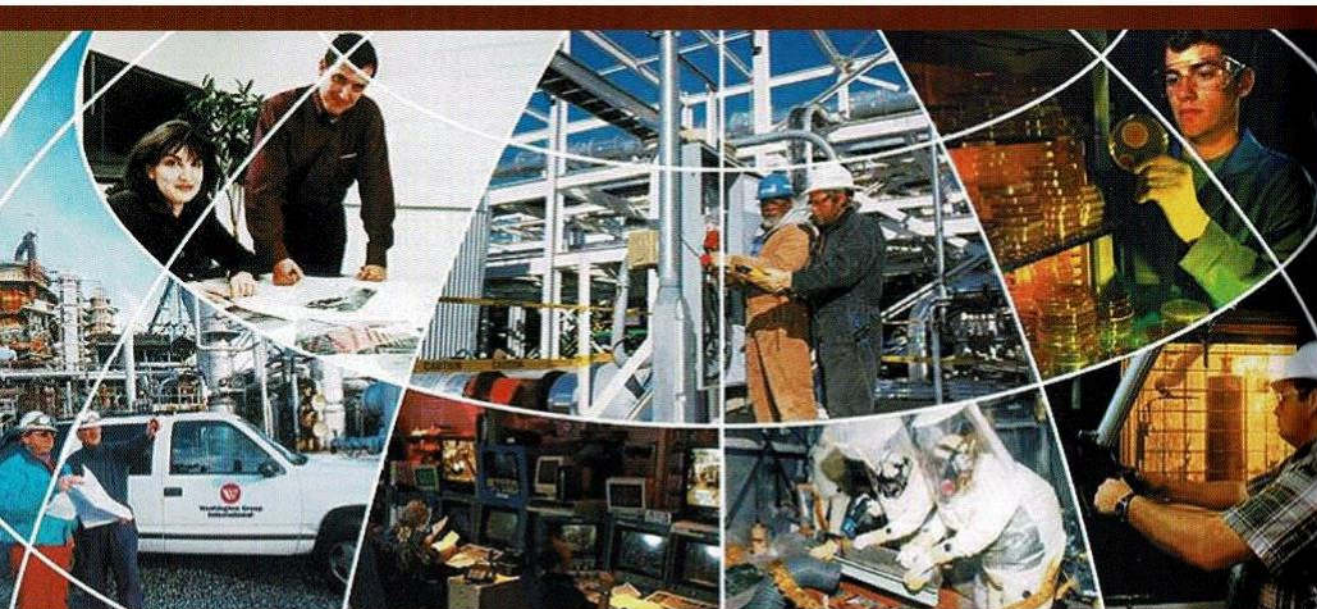
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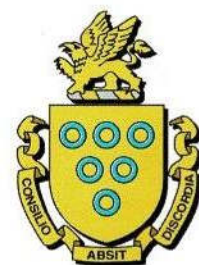
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Ron Batty

George Rowlandson

Ken Shepherd

Club President:

Mr R Woodall

Chief Executive Officer:

John Cox

Head Coach:

Dave Rotheram

Assistant Coach:

Peter Smith

Player Performance

Manager/Under 21 Coach:

Gary Hewer

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Phil Crosby

Club Physio:

Laura Hocking

Timekeeper:

Brian Mossop

Official colours:

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Programme designed and printed by:

Printexpress (Cumbria) Ltd

Photographs courtesy:

Mike McKenzie
& Cumbrian Newspapers

Whitehaven RLFC Welcome

This afternoon sees the final LHF National League One game of the season and gives us the pleasure of welcoming the players, supporters and officials of Oldham to the Recreation Ground. We know they traditionally enjoy visiting Whitehaven and spending a couple of nights here enjoying the town, I hope this year is no exception and they enjoy their weekend apart from the game this afternoon. This season has been a poor for Oldham and one that will see them go into National League Two next season, we hope this is a temporary blip and they can come back up at the first attempt. It was with sadness that we learnt this week of the death of one of the great names in the history of Whitehaven RLFC, John J. McKeown. John will be remembered as one of the greatest goal kickers and a fullback that was ruthless in defence. He is a legend in the club's history and remains so. Details of his career can be found on another page in the programme. JJ was a gentleman off the field and our thoughts and condolences go to his family. His funeral will take place on Tuesday the 12th September 2006 at St Nicholas Church, Flimby followed by cremation at Distington Crematorium. There will be a minute's silence before kick off today in respect to a great servant of Whitehaven RLFC, great player and gentleman. Our season still has a bit to go with the

play offs starting next weekend when we will have a home game against possibly Batley or Rochdale depending on results this afternoon. If York can continue their recent run of form and beat Leigh we may well end up with two home games if we win this afternoon. Let's wait and see I am sure the Oldham players will have a lot to say about us winning and will want to finish their season with all guns blazing. At the start of the league season most people would probably have tipped us to occupy fourth place with three full time clubs occupying the first three positions but when you look back at the damage the first game of the season against Workington did then without that we may well have been sitting at least second in the table. That is all behind us now and we should look forward to the play offs with confidence and certainly fear no one.

Thanks to all those too numerous to mention who have helped out at the club in any way however small during the season. We have a great set of volunteers who do a marvellous job for the club and we really appreciate the help you give. Thanks to Bob Sewell and John Barnes at Printexpress for their invaluable help in publishing the programme. Finally a special thanks to all our sponsors and supporters who have again been tremendous this season. Your support and loyalty has been amazing, enjoy the game today and over the following weeks and thank you from everyone at Whitehaven RLFC.

Des Byrne



Whitehaven RLFC fully supports 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 within our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable - allow everyone to enjoy the game.



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Marra's OF Fact!

I have always maintained that it is how you finish the season that counts. Our form as we approach the end of the second half of the National League season has been the best in the league and this is something that we must maintain and improve upon in the play offs.

Our last two wins have provided great confidence and self belief amongst the players in the knowledge that we now fear no one.

Today we welcome an Oldham team who despite their league position will want to finish the season on a positive note. They have been besieged by injury to key men throughout the year and this has hampered their ability to perform on the pitch. Believe me, they are certainly well coached by Steve Deakin who I have considerable admiration for, having been a mentor for myself over the last few years.

It is good to see a number of players hitting top form, none more so than Spencer Miller. Spencer was facing a career threatening injury which he has now overcome. This adversity has helped him to come back a stronger and improved player.

Next week will see us play at Home in the first round of the play offs. After viewing last years Castleford play off game on video it was very clear that the Recre crowd became a fourteenth man for Whitehaven. Get behind us and cheers us all the way to Warrington. After this match, the end of season presentation night will take place. This is an evening to recognise the achievements and efforts of our players throughout the 2006 season. This would be held at the Calder Club commencing at 7:00 pm, tickets available from the club priced £12. All players and staff will be in attendance resplendent in their shirt and ties.

Dave Rotheram

Good afternoon and welcome to the Recreation Ground for this afternoon's National League One game with Steve Deakin's Oldham. David Seeds has asked me to remind everyone that the players are holding their end of season presentation night in the Calder Club on Sunday 17th September and tickets are available from the club office. All supporters are welcome so please try and get along for what should be a great night. On behalf of the players David wishes to thank everyone for their continued support both home and away this season. A support, which as always has given the players a lift through what, has been a somewhat indifferent season.

Shortly before going to press the club heard the sad news that John J McKeown, one of the greatest players ever to wear the chocolate, blue and gold had passed away. I never saw John play competitively, but I was lucky enough to meet him on several occasions, one of which was to interview him for the match day programme in 2000.

During that interview we talked about his early days in the game and how he achieved a unique double when he became the only player to feature in both Workington's first game in 1945 and Haven's first

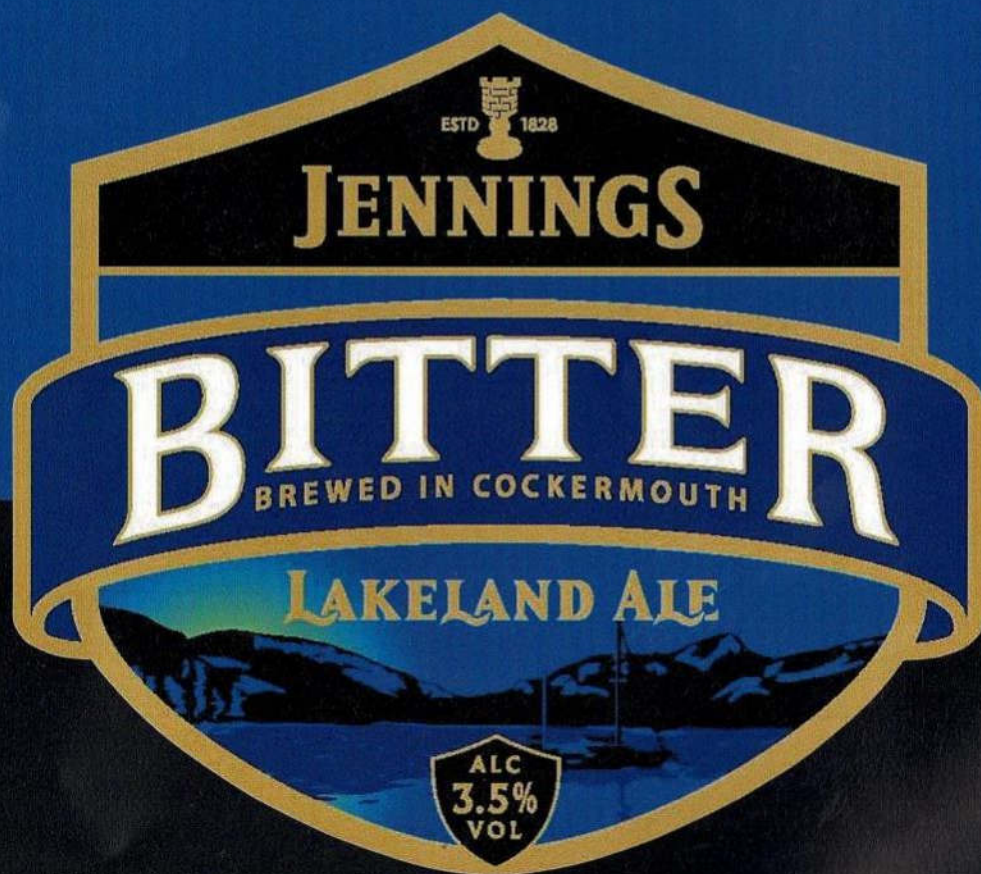
game three years later. He mentioned the fact that he nearly missed the start of Haven's one-and-only RL cup semi-final appearance against Leeds in 1957. It turns out he was talking to some lads from his native Flimby outside Odsal ten minutes before the start of the game and hadn't realised what time it was! We also talked about his 15 caps for the Cumberland County team and his proudest moment in the game when he represented England against France in 1956. John, being the modest unassuming man that he was though, failed to mention the records he created in thirteen years and 417 games as a professional at the Recreation Ground, or the fact that his loyalty to one of the league's unfashionable club's of that time undoubtedly cost him further international appearances.

The name of John James McKeown will always be synonymous with Whitehaven RL Club and a minute's silence will be held in his honour ahead of this afternoon's game.

Enjoy the game
Bob Sewell



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Our Platinum Match Sponsors today are **A & B AUTOPARTS** and **TRAVIS PERKINS**. We would like to welcome back Adrian Morgan and Brian Faraquar from **A & B AUTOPARTS** and thank them for their continued support of the club. The guys have previously sponsored games this season and we are grateful for their continued support. This is a local business operating from the Pelican Garage on Low Road, Whitehaven and we hope they and their guests have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with us.

Our second Platinum Match Sponsor this afternoon is **TRAVIS PERKINS**, Builders Merchants who are based at Leconfield Street, Cleator Moor. We are delighted to welcome them to the Recreation Ground this afternoon and hope that they and their guests have an enjoyable afternoon with us. We thank them for their support today.

Our Associate Match Sponsor today is **CLARKIN ELECTRONICS**. We welcome back Phil Clarkin and his guests and thank them for their continued support of the club. Although the company is based in Workington Phil is a big Haven fan and apart from sponsoring other games this season he also sponsored Mark Leafa's flight over from Australia. We hope Phil and his guests enjoy their afternoon with us and thanks again for your tremendous support.

We have two Match Ball sponsors this afternoon, the first being three regular Haven supporters **IAN BOAK, JIM SMITH AND ALAN BUTLER**. These guys also sponsor Jimmy Clements and we thank them for their continued support. Hope you have a great day and thanks again for your tremendous support.

Our second Match Ball sponsors this afternoon are **THE PA GUYS**. These guys work hard every game on the PA system and do a tremendous job. It is a job that everyone thinks is easy to do but is far from it. Enjoy your afternoon guys and thanks for all the hard work you put in over the season.

Our sponsor's man of the Match will be announced over the PA near the end of the game.

FOR SUPPORTING HAVEN IN 2006

Our pre-season shirt sponsorship draw proved more popular than ever and we would like to thank all the following who took part in the draw for their generous donations. We would urge all our supporters to support these and all other club sponsors as a thank you for helping the club to go forward.

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Dean Gorton
21 year old 2nd Row or Loose Forward signed from Salford City Reds for the 2006 season. He was on the books at Salford for five years of which 3 were as a full time professional. Did not manage to break into the Salford Super League team even though he was recommended for a Super League squad number by former coach Steve McCormack. He joined Salford from the Folly lane junior club.

Ian Hodson
Ian signed originally on loan from Swinton Lions during an early season injury crisis in 2005. After a number of impressive shows the Roughyeds completed his capture with a contract for the rest of the season. He is equally at home in the second row or his favoured Loose Forward position. Ian has a top quality work rate. Signed a new twelve month contract for the 2006 season on his 24th birthday.

Mick Redford
Signed for the Roughyeds to start the 2006 season from Blackpool Panthers. Originally from the Leigh East amateur club, has also served Chorley Lynx as well as the Panthers. Mick was a major crowd pleaser at Blackpool where he filled either prop Forward/Second Row or Centre. He weighs in at 15 and half stone and is 6'3" tall.

Desi Williams
20 year old winger from London who has played two games in Super League for Wigan as well as for Hull KR whom he joined us from on loan for the remainder of the 2006 season. Desi has pace to burn and has been clocked over 40 metres at 4.9 seconds. Will add much needed pace to the 2006 Roughyeds line up.

Ged Corcoran
23 year old signed for the Roughyeds for the 2006 season after spells with Dewsbury Rams and French outfit Limoux. Is more famed for his time with Halifax where he had over 30 first team outings including some in Super league. A Prop Forward who has a fair bit of experience for someone so young. He played his junior Rugby at Royton Tigers.

Chris Hough
Chris joined his hometown club from Blackpool after the start of the 2005 season. He has struck up a good halfback partnership with Marty Turner and has proved to be a very good motivator on the field. Chris was one of the first to sign on the dotted line for the 2006 season. He is well travelled for his 24 years, having had spells with Rochdale Hornets, Swinton, Doncaster, Batley as well as Blackpool.

Mark Roberts
Mark joined Oldham on loan from Warrington Wolves at the end of the 2004 season. He was then the first player to commit to the Roughyeds for the 2005 season. Initially used in 2004 as a centre, where he can display his devastating turn of pace, he also has the upper body strength to enhance the back row of the pack. After an injury plagued season in 2005 is keen to put things right in 2006.

Lee Wingfield
24 year old Second Row Forward, signed from amateur team Leigh Easts. He has been selected for the BARLA Great Britain team for three successive seasons, and toured both Australia and Russia with them. Signed a two year contract beginning with the 2006 campaign.

Alan Hadcroft
A robust centre who is renown for his solid defence and strong running. Signed from Halifax for the 2006 season. Alan's previous clubs also list Wests, as well as his hometown Leigh Centurions where he provided many years service. Played representative Rugby for the National League against the New Zealand A team whilst he was at Leigh. Alan has been chosen as the Roughyeds 2006 team captain.

John Hough
The first player to sign for his hometown club when the new Roughyeds were formed by Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors in the autumn of 1997. He has signed a contract to take him to the end of the 2007 season, which will allow him to complete 10 years with the club. John is an

hooker well renown now in National League circles, he originally joined the Roughyeds from Warrington Wolves. An astute worker from acting half back, he is also capable of filling in at Loose Forward.

Chris Maye
21 year old 2nd Row or Centre signed from Swinton Lions for the 2006 season. Chris started his pro career at Wigan before moving to St Helens where he was on the verge of being selected for England Academy side, but was thwarted by a wrist injury. Had a loan spell at Halifax where he got some Super League experience. He is 6'2" and weighs 14 and a half stone. Chris had a really good try scoring record at Swinton.

Simon Svabic
Began his career with the former Oldham Bears club Academy side, where is half back partner was Bradford's Paul Deacon. Since those days he has played Super League with Salford and also at the top in the National League with Leigh Centurions. He signed for the Roughyeds to begin the 2003 campaign. His preferred position is stand off, where he can demonstrate his silky smooth ball skills, but he is also at home in the full back position. During the 2005 campaign was used effectively by Gary Mercer as a loose forward, where his guile added an extra dimension to the Roughyeds play. Will be completing his fourth season with the club in 2006.

Paul Ashton
26 year old half back son of former Oldham favourite Ray. Paul has played for

Keighley Leigh and Rochdale Hornets, but was at local amateur club St Annes when Steve Deakin brought him back into the professional ranks at Oldham. He comfortably wears the cheeky half back tag and has demonstrated this in the past by back heeling goal kicks over.

Dave Best
27 year old Prop Forward. Plucked from local amateur side St Annes, Best has had two previous spells as a professional. In his first spell he played for Rochdale Hornets and Keighley Cougars before being reinstated as an amateur with St Anne's. In his second stint he went across the Channel to play under Steve Deakin for UTC in France's Elite League. A robust forward with a good set of hands will not be found wanting at this level.

Andy Gorey
Andy was the first player to sign a contract for the 2006 season, after John Hough who was already entering the second year of a 3 year deal. A versatile back who has played most of his rugby in the academy at full back. But he is also a competent half back. He managed 8 first team appearances in the 2005 season on the wing, and he is enjoying the more demanding training rigours of the first team squad.

Gareth Hayes
20 year old Prop Forward signed from Salford City Reds for the 2006 season. Gareth was offered a one year contract with a further one year option. He was voted Salford's under 21 Players Player of the Year in 2004. Leigh born Gareth stands at 6'3" tall and weighs 17 stone.

Alex Wilkinson
Local born Alex, toured with the Great Britain schoolboys to Australia in 1999 and with the England Academy to New Zealand and Australia in 2001. He played his junior rugby with the Royton Tigers club and was snapped up by Super League giants, Bradford Bulls. Whilst at the Bulls he had a loan spell with London Broncos where he chalked up 6 Super League appearances, before going on loan to Huddersfield where he added another 13 SL games to his tally, he had a similar amount of games on loan at Hull F.C. where he impressed the Humber side high flyers enough for them to offer him a two year contract. Alex decided he wanted to complete his degree and when part time rugby was the only option he chose his home town club. Primarily a centre he produced many barnstorming runs as well as stern defence last season. Signed another twelve month deal to keep him at Oldham for 2006.



Oldham

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Community and Player Development

JOHN JAMES MCKEOWN

Ask anyone to name a great player in Haven's history and one of the first names on anyone's list would be John James McKeown. JJ or Mac as he was called signed for Haven in 1948 from Risehow ARLFC. He made his debut for Whitehaven on the 21st August 1948 against Hull in the clubs very first game which they won 5-0. He became a regular in the team and although he did not score in that first game he went on to kick 1050 goals in his thirteen years at the Recreation Ground. During that time he also made 417 appearances for the club which remains a record today. It should be remembered that he kicked those goals in an age of winter rugby when they played with a leather ball that would soon get heavy in wet conditions and without the aid of any kicking tees. The qualities of JJ McKeown were probably best described by Walter Thompson in the Whitehaven News in 1956 who wrote, "Remorseless in defence, impeccable in fielding, astute in touch finding and at times devastating in linking up McKeown may not be the fastest full-back playing football but he wouldn't be boasting to call himself the best all rounder." In 1949 he made his debut for Cumberland against Lancashire on the 12th October at Derwent Park. He was the only Haven player in the team and as in his debut for Haven he failed to kick a goal in a 22-11 win. Over the next eleven seasons he kicked 39 goals for Cumberland in 15 games. In his last game for the county he set a record by kicking eight goals in a game against Yorkshire in a 43-19 win at the Recreation Ground. John McKeown was the first Haven player to receive international honours when he was selected for the Great Britain team to play France in a floodlit match at Bradford on the 11th April 1956. He kicked three goals in an 18-10 victory for Great Britain. John was selected as member of the Haven Immortals Team in 1998 and was the first player to be inducted into the Haven Vice Presidents Hall of Fame. He played his final game for Whitehaven at Rochdale on 11th November 1961. His total of goals kicked is a club record as are the number of appearances he made for the club. He topped the hundred mark during a number

of seasons and the most goals he kicked in a game was nine against York in a 51-12 win at the Recreation Ground on the 16th August 1958.

John was a quiet spoken, proud gentleman who died in the West Cumberland Hospital this week aged eighty years. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time, no doubt John will be looking down on the Recreation Ground today shouting the lads on. He will be remembered as one of the favourite sons of Haven, a club legend.



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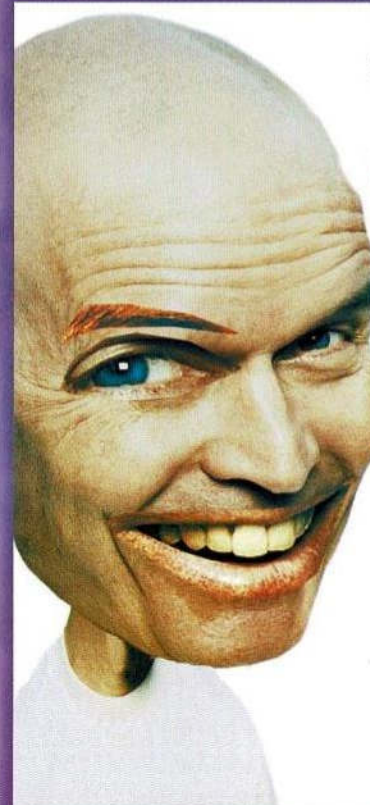
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WEIGHT: 12st 7lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB:
SALFORD

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STEVE MADEN
DOB: 13/09/82
HEIGHT: 5' 10"
WEIGHT: 13st 7lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: LEIGH

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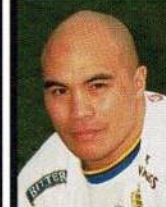
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DOB: 23/06/74
HEIGHT: 6' 0"
WEIGHT: 13st 7lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB:
KELLS ARL

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CRAIG CALVERT
DOB: 10/02/84
HEIGHT: 6' 0"
WEIGHT: 12st 10lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB:
WATH BROW ARL

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PREVIOUS CLUB:
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HEIGHT: 6' 0"
WEIGHT: 17st 0lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: PALU

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WEIGHT: 16st 7lbs
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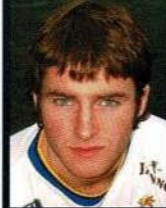
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MATCH TO REMEMBER

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2002, the final season of the Northern Ford Premiership brought mixed fortunes for Haven. Notable achievements saw David Seeds break winger Bill Smith's 40-yr-old try scoring record of 148 career tries, whilst an injury hit side came within seconds of beating Leigh in the RL challenge cup at Hilton Park. A victory that would have set up a quarter-final tie at home to Wigan. However, indifferent league performances meant that qualification for the end of season play-offs and the new National League One in 2003, meant that the 2002 season would go down to the wire. As we can see from the following edited match report, written and reproduced by kind permission of Martin Morgan, today's visitors Oldham very nearly put paid to Haven's chances.

Forget EastEnders, Haven produced drama today the like of which no TV soap could match. Rob Jackson, on-loan from Wigan via London Broncos, in the last minute of possibly his final game for Haven produced a try that Martin Offiah in his pomp would have been proud to claim. When Jackson collected the ball from Leroy Joe deep in his own half, 30 seconds remained on the clock, as confirmed later by the timekeeper. Faced with a wall of Oldham defenders and one point down, it appeared all was lost for the hosts. However, Jackson had failed to read the script and in a flash went outside the defence and sprinted down the touchline. Still, it seemed he would not make it, with former St Helens flyer Joey Hayes among those haring after him. But Jackson had the pace to hold off the cover to cross in the corner for a scintillating 70-metre effort.

The Haven crowd erupted and even coach Paul Cullen jumped up and down in joy. No one could blame him; it was a try out of the top drawer. As Steve Kirkbride's conversion attempt went wide the hooter sounded and another round of crowd celebrations started. Such a close finish had looked unlikely in the opening half-hour, with Haven well on top, but unable to turn possession into points. Warren Stevens put Haven in front after 10 minutes, following an Aaron Lester pass from dummy-half

on their first major attack. Steve Kirkbride added the extras.

Due to injuries, Lester has not enjoyed the best of seasons by his own high standards, but there were positive signs today that he is on the way back after creating Haven's next try on fourteen minutes. He drew two defenders on an arcing run to the right, his inside ball to Spencer Miller putting the back-rower into space to score. Chances for both sides were scarce. Lester was unable to hold a difficult over-the-shoulder pass from Joe in the shadow of the Oldham posts. While Bryan Henare produced a 50-metre break to put the hosts under pressure, but stand-off Neil Roden, involved in most of Oldham's better moves then lost the ball three metres out. The

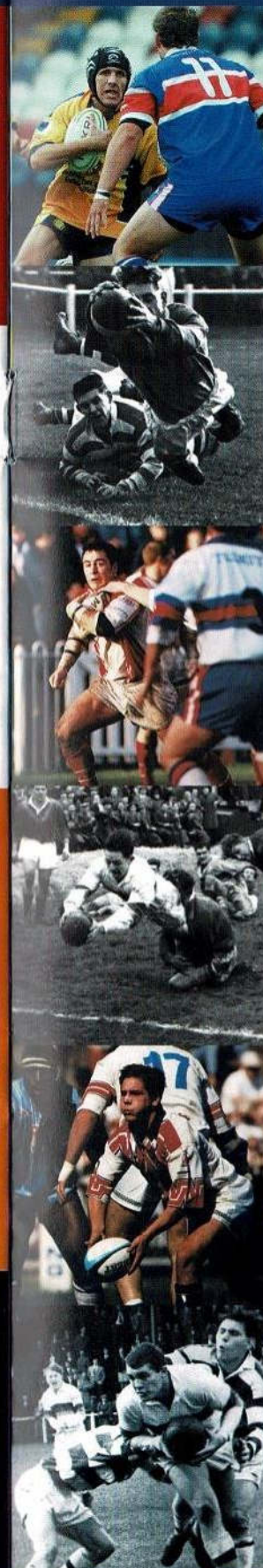
visitors finally crossed five minutes before the break, second-rower Lee Doran touching down after good work around the ruck by hooker John Hough. Gareth Barber converted and Haven were soon under the cosh again, but a Lester break relieved the pressure to maintain their lead at half-time. A great effort from Joe, Paul O'Neil, Gary Purdham and Howard Hill early in the second-half to force an Oldham attacker back behind his try line paid off for Haven, when Lester produced a try from dummy-half. Kirkbride converted to make it 16-6.

However, Oldham showed character to bounce back. Hayes crossed in the corner on 63 minutes with Barber adding the extras. Winger Joe McNicholas then injected pace down the short side for Jon Goddard to score and level the scores at 16-16. The conversion attempt was missed, but Roden's 76th minute drop-goal had appeared to win it until Rob Jackson popped up with his wonder try. Rough on the Roughyeds, but heavenly for Haven.

Haven: - O'Neil, Wallace, R Jackson, Hill, L Smith, Joe, Kirkbride, Cox, Lester, Stevens, Miller, Sturm and Lupton. Subs. Kiddie, M Jackson, McKinney and Purdham.

Oldham: - Sibson, Hayes, Barber, Goddard, McNicholas, Roden, Brennan, Molloy, Hough, Norton, Farrell, Doran and Gibbons. Subs. Cowell, Guest, Henare and Clegg.

Referee: M Dawber (Wigan).





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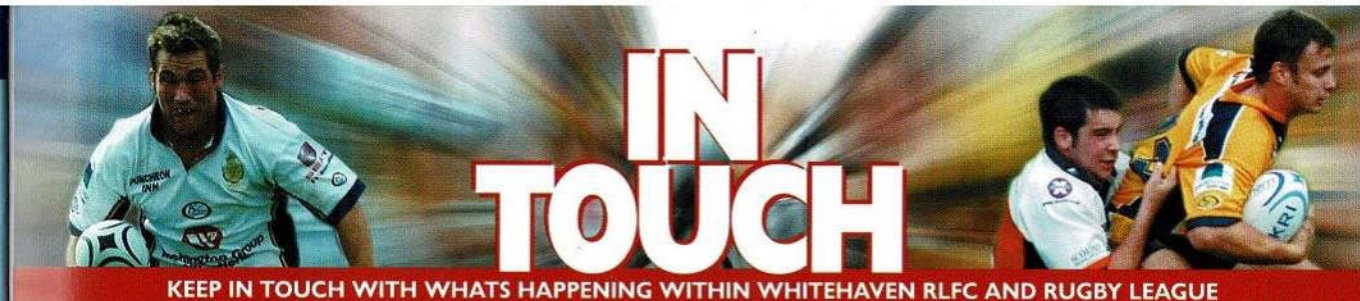
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KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHATS HAPPENING WITHIN WHITEHAVEN RLFC AND RUGBY LEAGUE

TODAY'S MASCOTS:

Our mascots today are Jack PATRICKSON, Ryan BAINBRIDGE, Chloe THORNILY and Cameron WOOD. Jack is six years old and from Parton. His favourite Haven player is Mark Leafa and he enjoys rugby and football and supports Liverpool. Ryan is nine years old, from Whitehaven, is a keen Haven fan and his favourite player is Spencer Miller. Chloe is five years old today and attends all Haven home games with her parents and baby brother Luke. Her favourite player is David Fatialofa and she has some extra support today as her nana, uncle and great aunt have all travelled up from Stratford upon Avon to today's game. Cameron is also a big Haven fan and attends games with his parents. His favourite player is Spencer Miller. Happy birthday to Chloe and we hope that Jack, Ryan, Chloe and Cameron thoroughly enjoy their afternoon as mascots.



MINUTES SILENCE:

The minutes silence before kick off this afternoon will also be in memory of former Haven physio from the seventies, Cyril Bell who died tragically in a road traffic accident recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

ENTERTAINMENT:

Half time entertainment is again provided by the award winning Joanne Dougan STEP BY STEP DANCERS.

RACE NIGHT:

There will be a Race night in the J.J. McKeown bar after the game organised by the Support Group. Get along and enjoy a flutter and a laugh.

AN EVENING WITH IAN MILLWARD...

The J.J. McKeown bar will host An Evening with Ian Millward at 8-0pm on Friday the 29th September 2006. The evening will be compared by David Howes and there will be a Pie and Peas supper. This will be one of the last chances to hear the former Leigh, St Helens and Wigan coach before he returns to Australia in October. Not afraid to speak his mind Ian will also answer questions from the floor on any subject. Tickets for this night are priced at £12 although Vice Presidents can get them at a

discounted rate of £10. They are available from the office and make sure you get them early as it is sure to be an excellent evening.

PLAYERS PRESENTATION EVENING:

The player's presentation evening will be held on Sunday the 17th September 2006 at the Calder Club, Mirehouse starting at 7-0pm. There will be a buffet and top class group and tickets are priced at £13. If you want a ticket contact the office as soon as possible.

RUSSELL MAY:

The bucket collection at the Hull KR game for funds for Russell May raised £670 for which the organisers and club would like to thank you. Your generous support will help them towards their target to enable Russell, who has Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia, to swim with the dolphins in Florida. Once again many thanks for your generous support.

SHIRT DRAW 2007:

We are holding our popular shirt draw again for next season and invite companies (and individuals) to enter. A donation of £100 will enter you into a draw where the winner will have their name and logo on the home shirt for 2007 (playing strip and replicas), second will have their name and logo on the away shirt for 2007 (playing strip and replicas) and third to fifth will each receive two season tickets for next season. All those entering will also receive two tickets for a game of their choice next season (does not include any games that are all to pay) and their names in the match day magazine. The draw will take place in the J.J. McKeown bar at 8-0pm on Wednesday the 27th September 2006. If you are interested please contact the office.

FORTHCOMING GAMES:

Next weekend sees the start of the LHF Healthplan National League One play offs when we will be at home. Our opponents will not be known until this afternoon's results are known but as we will finish third or fourth we will definitely have a home game. This will be played next Sunday with a 3-0 pm kick off.

Looking further ahead December sees the return of the Christmas Derby game against our old enemy Workington Town. The family of the late Ike Southward will be presenting a trophy which will be played for annually by the clubs. The venue will alternate with the first game being played at the Recreation Ground at 7-0 pm on Friday the 29th December 2006. The gate will be shared between the clubs. Something to look forward to over the Christmas period.

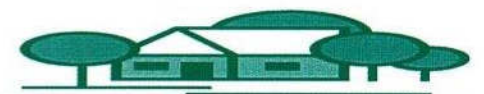
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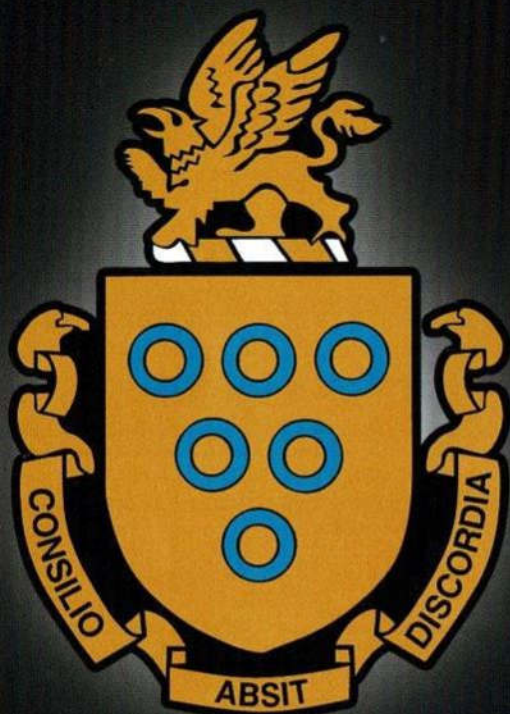
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Saturday Sport 2.05-6.00pm

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TALKING TO... Spencer Miller

Spencer, when did you start playing rugby league and which clubs have you played for?

I started playing with the Kells ARL club when I was about ten-yr's-of-age. I played right through the age groups at a time when Ian Gainford and Alan Boadle were the youth coaches at the club. I remember making my debut as a sixteen-yr-old for the second team against Egremont, in the 1997/98 season. The fixture was played on a Friday night and I must have impressed, because Alan Davidson called me up for the first team the following day.

I was lucky to play alongside some good players during my early days in the first team. The likes of Stuart Seagar and ex Haven player Billy Fisher were still playing at that time and they were a great help to me as a young player. As an amateur, I represented the Cumbrian open age team that won the county championship in 1999 and the BARLA U23 side that played the Combined Services at York in the same year.

I signed for Haven midway through the 2000 season and made my first team debut, under Kevin Tamati away to Featherstone in April of that year. Along with ex team-mate Rob Purdham, I played in the National League side that played a two match series against Super League U21's in 2002 and have represented Scotland on four occasions during the 2003 & 2004 seasons.

You've battled back from a career threatening eye injury sustained earlier in the season. How did it happen and did you fear your playing days were over?

It happened in the first game of the season against Workington. I've been told it could have been due to either a blow to my head or eye, but I can't recall a specific moment in the game when it may have happened. The injury didn't cause me any problems during the game, it was only afterwards when I couldn't see out of one eye that I realised I had a problem. At first, and due to the amount of blood in my eye the specialist was unsure as to the extent of the injury. He didn't know if it was a burst blood vessel behind the eye, or whether it was a detached retina that was causing the injury. It later turned out to be a burst optic nerve and I was advised at that time to give up any physical activity that may make the situation worse. I ended up taking four months off, a time in which I didn't do any training, going to the gym or playing. After three months there was no change at all and I was beginning to fear that my career was over, but all of a sudden I started to regain my sight. As the eye started to recover the specialist was able to make a more accurate diagnosis. However, he still recommended taking the rest of the season off with a view to coming back next year. I've been back for regular scans, which haven't revealed any long-term weakness and I'm one of those people who hates watching from the sidelines, so I made the decision to start playing again.

Your brother Dexter is now a regular in the Workington Town side. Do you share a healthy rivalry?

Of course we do! The only time that we've played against each other

professionally though was in this year's derby game at the Recre, the game in which I got the eye injury. This was also the game that Fats and Aaron Lester picked up broken arms and I believe Aaron broke his on Dexter's head. It just goes to prove how thick his head is!

I went through to watch him play a few times when I was injured, but generally he's found his own way in the game and he's really enjoying it. He went up there at the end of last season when his Kells commitments were finished and he done enough to earn a contract. We've both had great support off Mam and Dad who now watch both teams, but would never admit it. Some people ask if we'd like to play in the same team together, but hopefully he'll stay there for a bit and guarantee me the bragging rights in the family!

Who's the best player(s) you've ever played with and against?

The best player I've played with has to be Aaron Lester. He's got a great all-round game and has probably been the player with the biggest influence on how we've played, during my time at the club. It was no surprise to me that our form has picked up since he came back from injury. He's the sort of player that commands respect in the dressing room, a player that others will sit up and listen to. Even when he's not at his best the fact that he's on the field gives the team a lift.

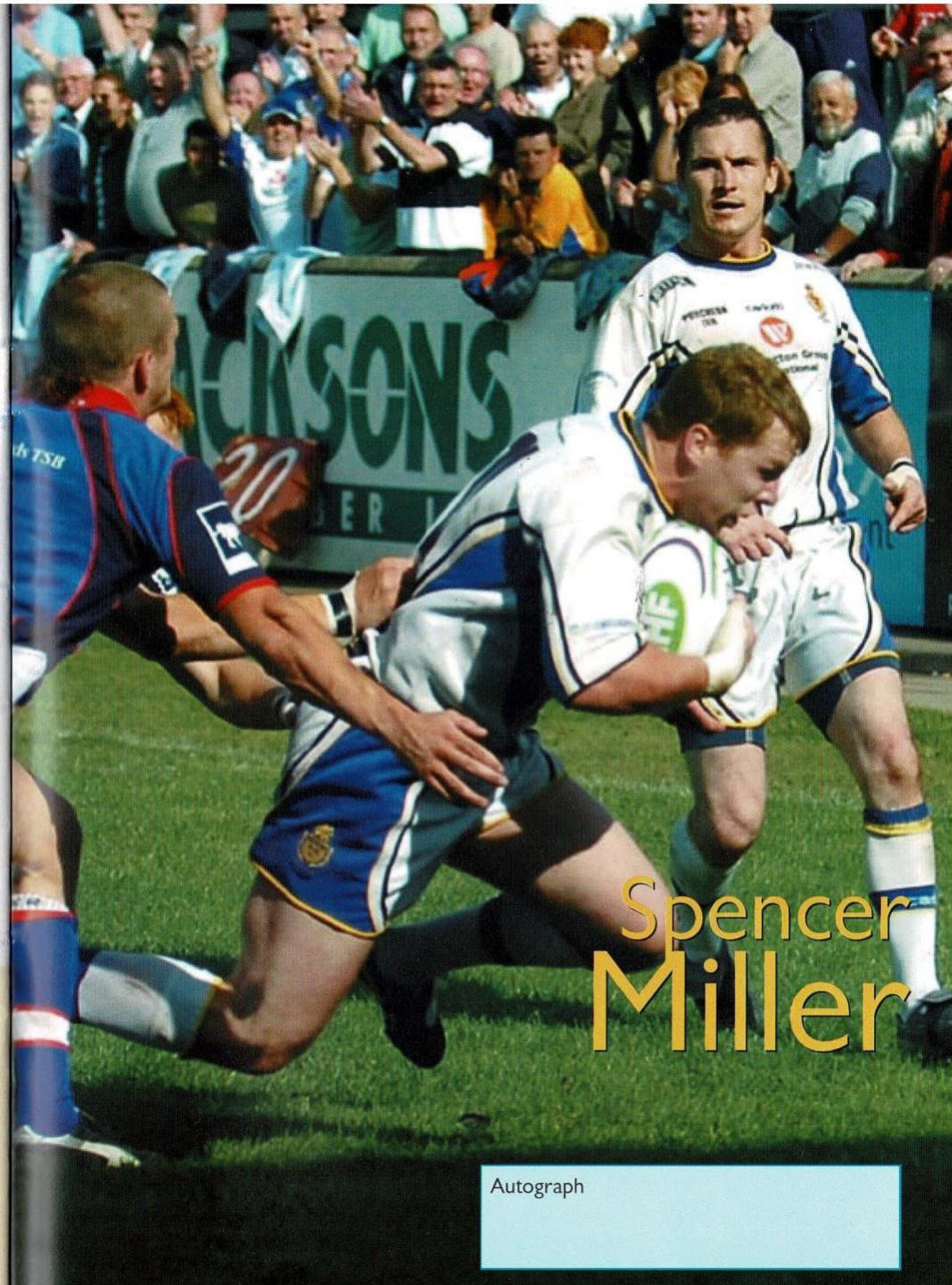
The best, or certainly the most skilful player that I've ever played against would probably be Stanley Gene at Huddersfield. It was 2002; the year they'd dropped out of Super League and we'd drew 12-12 with them at the Recre earlier in the season. When we played them at the McAlpine Stadium they hammered us 86-10 and Stanley got four tries, all of which came through me!

We've reached the NL1 final in the last two seasons. Are we capable of going one step further this year?

I wouldn't be playing if I didn't believe it. Ok, Hull KR have been the form team this season, but finishing top doesn't necessarily mean that you've an automatic right to anything, as we found to our cost last year. Bradford came from third last season to win Super League on the back of something like twelve victories, whilst Wests Tigers came from fourth to win the Australian Grand Final. As well as us, the one team that's hitting a bit of form at the moment is Widnes and in a one-off game any of the top for sides are capable of winning it.

Although I've missed the best part of the season, it's pretty evident that the full-time teams Hull KR, Widnes and Leigh have a big advantage over the others in NL1, even if it's just from a preparation point of view. What we've always found though, this is something that brings out the best in us. We consistently perform better against the top club's in the league.

Spencer Miller was talking to Bob Sewell



Autograph

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NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



TOP SCORERS!

LHF HEALTHPLAN NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE
(League matches only)

Tries

Mick Nanyn (Widnes)	23
Dennis Moran (Widnes)	17
Craig Lingard (Batley)	16
Danny Halliwell (Leigh)	16
Ben Cockayne (Hull K.R.)	15
Peter Fox (York)	13
Shad Royston (Doncaster)	13
James Webster (Hull KR)	13
Mark Smith (Whitehaven)	13
Chris Giles (Rochdale)	12
Joel Penny (Halifax)	12
Jon Steel (Hull KR)	12
Lee Greenwood (Leigh)	12

Goals

Mick Nanyn (Widnes)	94
Graham Holroyd (Doncaster)	63(2)
Carl Rudd (Whitehaven)	62
Gareth Morton (Hull K.R.)	49
James Haley (Halifax)	44
Kevin King (Rochdale)	37
Damien Couturier (Hull K.R.)	33
Steve Jones (Batley)	32
Mark McCully (Rochdale)	29
Julian O'Neill (Leigh)	28(1)
() Drop goals included in total	

Points

Mick Nanyn (Widnes)	280
Graham Holroyd (Doncaster)	140
Carl Rudd (Whitehaven)	132
Gareth Morton (Hull K.R.)	126
James Haley (Halifax)	116
Kevin King (Rochdale)	90
Damien Couturier (Hull K.R.)	78
Steve Jones (Batley)	68
Dennis Moran (Widnes)	68
Craig Lingard (Batley)	64

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viewpoint

ANALYSIS
ON RUGBY LEAGUE
BY PEOPLE INVOLVED
IN RUGBY LEAGUE



Last league game of the season – doesn't seem that long since that first mudbath against Town does it?

So much has happened since then.

The injuries picked up in that game were added to as the weeks went by and coach Dave Rotherham had a severe crisis to deal with as soon as he arrived.

One of the indicators of a good coach is how they deal with adversity. Anyone can coach a side which is winning all the time and is running on a low injury count. What happens when you have only 15 fit players? Dave Rotherham proved himself during that period. He handled the playing staff and team selection in such a way that Whitehaven gained more points that they could have reasonably expected in that period.

Dave's mantra was always the same, "The time to run into form is in September and October – that is when it matters". Whether Whitehaven finish third or fourth, you still have to beat the full time teams in the division to reach your goal and that is now the focus of attention.

It has been exciting this season to see the emergence of young players as stars on the big stage.

Derry Eilbeck in the centre has grown in confidence as the season has progressed. Craig Calvert was already established but now has John Lebbon as an emerging wing partner. Carl Rudd has matured into a fine prospect. He can play in several positions and his goal kicking has improved in proportion to the enormous amount of time he spends practicing.

I hope no-one has been surprised by the impact that Graeme Mattinson has made. I know I used to go on about him in his Wath Brow days but it is very satisfying to be proved correct! It was great to see him and Spencer Miller come back so well from major injuries.

There are plenty more youngsters to come – Deans, McAvoy, Smith, Bainbridge, Farmer, Hodgson and others. The playing staff are in good shape for several seasons to come and confidence is high.

Let's hope that this time it might just be third time lucky!

John Cox

Rugby League Reporter
BBC Radio Cumbria





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WHITEHAVEN STATS 2006

Date	Opposition	Comp	F-A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12 Feb	Workington Town	NRC H	10-0	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	D Black	S Madsen	Lie T	JDuffy	S Tindall	A Lester	D Fradette	O Wilkes	H Hill	S Miller	R Jackson	G Harrison	M Jackson	N Barnes
19 Feb	Barrow Raiders	NRC A	36-20	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	D Smith	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	G Harrison	N Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	C Seaton	S Madsen	M Jackson	M Barnes
26 Feb	Gateshead Thunder	NRC H	36-12	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
5 Mar	Barrow Raiders	NRC H	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
10 Mar	PCC R3 v Pia	PCC H	72-0	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
19 Mar	Workington	NRC A	48-0	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	S Madsen	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
26 Mar	Gateshead Thunder	NRC A	44-20	P O'Neill	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
2 Apr	PCC R4 v Batley	PCC A	28-16	S Madsen	D Smith	D Seeds	R Jackson	D Black	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
9 Apr	Batley	NRC A	26-8	S Madsen	D Smith	D Seeds	R Jackson	D Black	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
14 Apr	Doncaster	NRC A	32-32	S Madsen	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	D Black	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
17 Apr	Rochdale	NRC H	38-24	G Broadbent	D Black	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
23 Apr	NRC OR v Sheffield	NRC H	38-30	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
30 Apr	NRC OR v Sheffield	NRC H	16-38	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
7 May	NRC QF v Hull KR	NRC A	10-37	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
14 May	Oldham	NRC A	48-10	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
21 May	PCC R5 v Warrington	PCC A	2-46	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
28 May	Halifax	NRC A	30-20	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
4 June	Rochdale	NRC A	6-32	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
12 June	Hull KR	NRC A	12-74	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
25 June	Leigh	NRC A	32-22	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
2 July	Widnes	NRC A	12-26	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
9 July	York	NRC A	42-24	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
23 July	Leigh	NRC A	12-20	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
30 July	Batley	NRC A	22-12	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
6 Aug	Doncaster	NRC A	18-28	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
13 Aug	Hull KR	NRC A	48-12	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
20 Aug	Hull KR	NRC A	48-12	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
26 Aug	PCC Final	PCC H	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
3 Sept	Halifax	NRC A	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
10 Sept	Oldham	NRC A	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
17 Sept	NL1 Play Offs	NL1	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
24 Sept	NL1 Play Offs	NL1	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
1 Oct	NL1 Play Offs	NL1	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey
8 Oct	NL1 Play Offs	NL1	26-18	G Broadbent	C Carter	D Seeds	R Jackson	S Madsen	Lie	JDuffy	S Tindall	C Seaton	M Barnes	O Wilkes	H Hill	C Rudd	P O'Neill	M Jackson	C McKelvey	C McKelvey