

game line-up

OLDHAM R.L.F.C

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

OLDHAM SQUAD	Played	YORK CITY KNIGHTS
PAUL ASHTON		GEORGE RAYNER
CHRIS BAINES		LEE MAPALS
JASON BOULTS		DAN POTTER
GENO COSTIN		CHRIS SPURR
ANDY CRABTREE		ALEX GODFREY
ANDY GOREY		SCOTT RHODES
IAN HODSON		MATTY BROOKS
JOHN HOUGH		DANNY GRIMSHAW
DREW HOUSTON		DAVE BUCKLEY
SIMEON HOYLE		JAMAIN WRAY
GARETH LANGLEY		ADAM SULLIVAN
CRAIG LITTLER		ROB SPICER
RICHARD MERVILL		NATHAN PRIESTLEY
PAUL O'CONNOR		JONNY LIDDELL
STUART OLDHAM		RYAN MACDONALD
LUCAS ONYANGO		JIMMY ELSTON
NEIL RODEN		IAN BROWN
WES ROGERS		TOBY WILLIAMS
LEE SANDERSON		NEIL LOWE
IAN SINFIELD		RYAN ESDERS
KRIS SMITH		ANDY GARGAN
MICHAEL STOUT		STEPHEN GRUNDY
SAID TAMGHART		LEE LINGARD
TONY TONKS		JOHN SMITH
ALEX WILKINSON		JOHNNY WALDRON
LEE WINGFIELD		LIAM WATLING
ADAM HUGHES		ANTHONY THACKERAY
ADAM ROBINSON		

match officials

REFEREE: Mr J LEAHY TOUCH JUDGES: J Darbyshire, C Leatherbarrow
4TH OFFICIAL: C Waywell

Designed & produced by DijiGroup 08444 775 008

SUNDAY 10 JUNE 2007 • K.O. 3.00pm

ROUGHYEDS

Price £2.50

V YORK CITY KNIGHTS

SUNDAY, 10th JUNE, 2007

K.O.3.00PM

SEDGLEY PARK

MAIN SPONSORS

**THE WILLIAM
QUINN GROUP**

Official Kit Supplier

IMPACT RUGBY



**NEW-BOY ADAM TOUCHES
DOWN TO ANNOUNCE HIS
ARRIVAL IN STYLE**

(see page 9)

(picture by Oldham Evening Chronicle)



**NATIONAL
LEAGUE**

co-operative

OLDHAM RLFC OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



demolition



remediation



validation



asbestos



knotweed



Bennett Street, Ardwick, Manchester, M12 5NL

T 0161 276 8160 F 0161 276 8167 E info@wmquinn.co.uk



Developments of Commercial, Residential & Land Purchases
Remediation • Earthworks • Aggregates

CONTENTS

Oldham RLFC v York City Knights

FEATURES

- 4 **Boardroom View** with Chris Hamilton
- 6 **Deeks's Coach Approach** A look at the preparation for today's game
- 9 **Meet the new boys**
- 10 **Cooke-ability** With Geoff Cooke
- 12 **Player Profile** Gareth Langley
- 14 **Heritage Trust** with Brian Walker
- 17 **The Boys and their backers**
- 18 **Community Challenge**
- 19 **Bootroom pen pics**
- 20 **Roughyeds Roar** by Ian Wilson
- 23 **Roden's top award**
- 24 **Our Visitors - York City Knights**
- 25 **Player Statistics**
- 27 **National League Talk**
- 29 **Keeping the dream ALIVE!**
- 31 **Journalistic license** by Matthew Chambers
- 33 **Players' Association**
- 34 **Fixtures and Sponsors**
- 36 **Today's Teams** View both of today's teams in full, plus match officials

The bucket collection at Sedgley Park during the Harlequins game raised £138,41p for Breakthrough Breast Cancer

Trans-Penine Cup
Finalists - 1998

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

MOST APPEARANCES: John Hough, 228 - Jan 1998 - Sep 2006

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

TRIES IN A SEASON: Nick Johnson, 25 - 2004

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOALS IN A MATCH: Simon Svalic v Swinton Lions, 10 - Apr 6th 2003 at Boundary Park

POINTS IN A MATCH: Gareth Barber v Dewsbury Rams, 26 - Apr 2nd 2002 at Hurst Cross
(7 goals, 3 tries)

DROP GOALS IN A MATCH: Neil Roden v Workington Town, 2 - Dec 17th 2000 at Derwent Park
John Braddish v Hull KR, 2 - Dec 16th 2001 at New Craven Park

HIGHEST SCORE/WINNING MARGIN: v Yorks Wasps, 70-6 - Apr 1st 2001 at Huntington Stadium
v Queensbury (am), 64-0 - Jan 28th 2001 RLCC 3rd Rnd at Boundary Park

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

CLUB DIRECTORY

The Roughyeds
Oldham Rugby League
Football Club (1997) Limited

Lansdowne Road, Chadderton,
Oldham OL9 9EF

Telephone: 0161 628 3677

Fax: 0161 627 5700

Club Shop: 0161 627 2141

CHAIRMAN

Bill Quinn

DIRECTORS

Bill Quinn
Christopher Hamilton
Sean Whitehead

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Christopher Hamilton

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sean Mellor

HEAD COACH

Steve Deakin

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Phil Hayward

TIMEKEEPERS

David Lord
John Wynne

KIT MAN

Paul Hulbert

LOTTERY

John McAndrew

PROGRAMME EDITOR

Nigel Marland

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

(SPONSORED BY J. W. LEES, BREWERS)

Arthur Lees 1891-1907

Joe Ferguson 1899-1923

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
Oldham Evening Chronicle, League Publications
Ltd, Phil Burdge and all concerned for the use
of photographs. (www.digisport.co.uk)

www.roughyeds.co.uk

boardroom **view**

with Chris Hamilton



Welcome to "Roughyeds on the road 2007" here at Sedgley Park.

A big thank you must go once again to Geoff Roberts and everybody here for their assistance in helping us out whilst pitch work is taking place at Boundary Park.

Our visitors today, York, were also one of our visitors during our enforced absence last year. In fact it was exactly one year to the day when we were roundly drubbed 62-0 by the City Knights at home in what was probably the lowest point of a low season!

As the saying goes however, hope springs eternal, and one year on we have repaid all of our debt to the Revenue and Customs, have assembled a fantastic squad of players, and already this season have made a lot of people sit up and take notice of a resurgent Oldham club with performances on the field and events off it.

Another fantastic defensive performance against a giant Workington team last Sunday saw the lads add another scalp to their belt but they are well aware that they need to keep the consistency in their performances week in week out to maintain our current strong league position.

York will provide stiff opposition today as they are getting over some of their injuries which affected their form earlier in the season and we know only too well that they will be well prepared for the game and that we will need to play well to get the three points out of the game.

Mentioning earlier our difficulties of a financial nature, I for one, will be keeping a close eye on what the RFL does, in terms of sanctions to those clubs

who have managed to get rid of debt, either by going into a CVA, or administration, given the struggle we had to keep the club going.

I hope that the RFL Board of Directors will send out a strong message to those clubs and any others that may face a similar situation that conveniently parking debt and carrying on again will incur stiff penalties - but watch this space.

Today will also see Sean Mellor, our new Community Development Manager, organising curtain raisers to the game for the first time since his appointment.

Sean comes highly recommended and we feel his arrival at the club is a great opportunity for both him and us. His position, like all other Community Development Managers at National League clubs is funded for an initial two years by the RFL via a grant from the National Sports Foundation for which we are very grateful.

Finally a big thank you for all your recent support - both home and away. The following at both London and Workington was noticeable for both its size and noise and the atmosphere at the game against Barrow was the best we have had for a long time and long may it continue.

Thanks to First Bus for their help with free transport from various parts of the town this week and I hope today's attendance is worthy of the effort the team has put in over the season so far.

Enjoy the game

Chris

Adamsons CRASH REPAIR CENTRE

MOTOR BODY ACCIDENT REPAIR SPECIALISTS

Approved repairers to all
leading insurance companies

Telephone
0161 627 4001
0161 624 1904

Cross Street Bottom o'th Moor
Oldham OL4 1JG

24 HOUR RECOVERY SERVICE
• QUALITY WORKMANSHIP ALWAYS •

LEVER'S FISH & CHIP RESTAURANT

UNITS 2 & 3

MARKET HALL

OLDHAM

MON - SAT 10.30-5.30

0161 633 0074



Totalplus Communications Ltd specialise in the design, installation and management of structured cabling systems for all types of environments, ranging from single outlets to full site cabling and roll out programmes. We place a strong emphasis on designing clients specific systems to meet both existing and future needs.

for further information or quotations contact



Northern House, Moss Street East, Ashton-u-Lyne
Manchester OL6 7BX

Tel: 0161 343 8181 Fax 0161 343 8181

alternatively call **Bob Thompson** on 07973 684 299 or **Paul Gough** on 07973 764 938

deek's coach approach

with Steve Deakin



WE go into today's game against York City Knights in vastly different circumstances to last year's and you can rest assured that I, for one, hope the outcome will be equally as different!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: for the record the City Knights won 62-0 here at Sedgley Park exactly one year ago today).

We have won six Co-Operative NL2 games on the bounce, including wins against Celtic Crusaders, Barrow and Workington, and it is also interesting to note that our hard-earned victory at Derwent Park last Sunday was our seventh win in a row away from home.

We last slipped up on the ground of opponents three months ago... so now you know exactly what I mean when I say we go into today's game on the back of a completely different set of circumstances to those which applied last time the City Knights came to Sedgley Park.

As I said to reporters shortly after our win at Workington, the league table doesn't lie. It didn't lie last year, when we were relegated without a single win, and it doesn't lie now when it shows that we are as good as any of the other teams in this division.

Workington was always going to be a massive test for us, and so it proved. Don't forget, they were seeking their eighth win in a row and they had already turned over up there the likes of Crusaders and Featherstone.

Our completion rate wasn't as good as it should have been, but our defence was absolutely outstanding and that was the biggest single factor in our 27-18 win.

Two-thirds of the game was played in our half of the field so the fact that Town scored only three tries -- the second on 67 minutes and the third in the dying seconds -- speaks

volumes for what we did when they had the ball.

It was an outstanding team performance and it would be unfair to single out any one player but suffice to say I was proud of each and every one of them and I am sure the fans who made the trip enjoyed similar feelings on the way home.

The character of the players came up trumps, just as it had done in all the previous games. They put up their hands defensively to frustrate and deny a big and powerful Workington team, thus keeping their scoring chances to a minimum.

All that, of course, is in the past. Today we have a new challenge awaiting us in the shape of the City Knights and you can rest assured that York will be coming here determined to knock us off our pedestal.

AT THIS JUNCTURE, A FEW WORDS OF WARNING. YORK THEMSELVES ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GOOD RUN, HAVING WON THEIR LAST FOUR MATCHES, AND NOBODY APPRECIATES MORE THAN MYSELF AND THE PLAYERS THAT IF WE ARE TO GET ANYTHING OUT OF TODAY'S GAME WE WILL HAVE TO DO IT THE HARD WAY.

Injuries have been hitting us hard of late and at the time of writing these notes we were down to 16 fit players, although I am sure that whoever takes the field today will continue to give their all in our efforts to get out of this league at the first time of asking.

Once again, in this column, I would like to thank the fans who went to Workington, many of them making their third long trip in four weeks after hitting the road to follow us to South Wales (for the Celtics game), to London (Skolars) and latterly up to Cumbria.

There is a lot of expense involved in trips like that, but the players were particularly chuffed at Skolars and at Workington to see that their support at least equalled, if not surpassed, that of the home crowd.

I hope the feel-good factor will be reflected in the size of support we get for the lads today. Once again, get behind us, stay patient and give us as much vocal support as possible.

Enjoy the game,
Deaks

RYDER & DUTTON

Opening up the world of property

Branches at: Oldham, Chadderton, Glossop, Shaw, Middleton, Heywood, Saddleworth, Mossley, Ashton-U-Lyne, Wakefield, Halifax & Huddersfield

Telephone: 0161 652 1234
www.ryder-dutton.co.uk



Official Suppliers of sports medical products to the Roughyeds



Kit out your club, school, clinic or fitness centre with the very latest in sports medical care

To contact us, either drop into our Oldham office, (individual purchases welcome) or call us on 0161 633 5533 or log on to www.fit4sportltd.com

Fit4Sport Ltd, Unit 2 Milking Green, Hartshead Street, Lees, Oldham, OL4 5EE

mann's furnishers

112/114 Yorkshire Street, Oldham



**Fantastic range of
Fireside, Manual
and Lift and Rise
Recliner Chairs**



**Beech-effect
Wardrobes ...**
choose from hinged,
folding or sliding doors

Tel: 0161 624 1779

www.mannsfurnishers.co.uk



Easy access for the disabled

mann's sleep shop

Electric and Adjustable Bed Specialists



**Fantastic range of Silentnight Miracoil Beds
Metal and Wooden Bedsteads
Pocket and Memory Foam Beds
Dunlopillo Beds and Mattresses
Sealy Mirrorform and Posturepedic Beds**

Tel: 0161 627 5592

53 Union Street, Oldham
(behind Spindles Shopping Centre)



FREE PARKING AT THE REAR
ON SILVER STREET

www.mannsfurnishers.co.uk



WRIGLEY
CLAYDON
SOLICITORS since 1795



John Armstrong, Clerk Of The Peace, Oldham and Lancashire rugby player, early pioneer of both Oldham Rugby Club and solicitors Armstrong, Whitticker and Ogden forerunners to today's Oldham RLFC solicitors Wrigley Claydon.

29/33 UNION STREET OLDHAM OL1 1HH
DX 23607 OLDHAM EMAIL@wrigleyclaydon.com WEBSITE www.wrigleyclaydon.com
FAX 0161 624 3743 TEL 0161 624 6811

SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...SPECIAL OFFER...

**Better
come and
see for
yourself**

Better.

**FREE
DAY PASS**

**Better Health & Fitness
for all Oldham Rugby Club's supporters**

To claim your free pass call us on
0161 628 9897

Featherstall Road South, Oldham OL9 6HL

Please produce this advert at reception to claim your free day pass at Better Health Club. One advert per person.

MEET THE NEW BOYS

Roger Halstead introduces you to Adam Hughes and Adam Robinson

Experienced centre ADAM HUGHES has started his Oldham career in blistering form with a total of four tries in his first three outings.

He crossed for two on his debut against Barrow, added another at London Skolars and scored an absolute gem at Workington --- one of the best centre's tries seen from an Oldham player in many years.

What isn't widely known about 29-year-old Adam, who lives in Leeds with his wife Charlotte, little girls Phoebe (5) and Alanna (8) and baby boy Rory (2), is that he first left amateur club Milford to sign for Sheffield, but was there for only a couple of weeks!

"I was only 16," he recalls, "and I hated the travelling to Sheffield. I had made a mistake. So I gave them the money back... and signed for Leeds."

It was the start of a journey that has taken Hughes from Leeds to Wakefield and on to Halifax, Widnes, Leigh and now Oldham.

He has made 162 Super League appearances --- nine with Leeds; 46 with Wakefield; 16 with Halifax; and 91 with Widnes.

In Super League he totalled 78 tries (four for Leeds, 21 for Wakefield, eight for Halifax and 45 for Widnes) and 85 goals (34 for Wakefield and 51 for Widnes) for a total Super League points haul of 482.

On average he scored a Super League try every other game and now he hopes to match, or surpass, that ratio with the Roughyeds in NL2.

"We have a squad that can do well," said Adam, who insisted on a permanent move to the Roughyeds when Leigh boss Darren Shaw, the former Roughyeds player, said he could come on loan.

Now, this very experienced campaigner is contracted to the Roughyeds for the rest of the season, and he expects it to be a successful one.

"Roughyeds are aiming for promotion and it's a good club to join," said Hughes. "Hopefully, I can help to give the team the sort of experience that will come in handy."

"Things are going well on a personal note, too. I am getting good-quality ball from the halfbacks and hopefully that will continue."

Still bedding in, but young back-row forward ADAM ROBINSON says he is "loving every minute" of his time with



the Roughyeds.

The Wakefield-born 20-year-old, a joiner by trade, is blessing the day he chose to sign for Oldham, instead of opting to stay in his native Yorkshire with one of the other clubs who were interested in signing him, such as Featherstone, Keighley and Hunslet.

His record with Roughyeds so far is played three, won three --- and that includes wins against Barrow and Workington.

He is currently battling to overcome a calf injury, but when I spoke to him early in the week he was confident he would be okay by weekend.

"At a pinch I could have gone back on at Workington, but Deaks (coach Steve Deakin) didn't want to take any risks," said Robinson.

Adam spent five years at Wakefield, whom he joined on a scholarship when he was 14. He ultimately spent two years as a full-time pro in the Wildcats' Super League squad when Shane McNally was coach.

A burning desire for more first-team rugby led him to Doncaster where, in the 2006 season, he played regularly in the same pack as another recent Roughyeds recruit, prop Tony Tonks.

Robinson played in 22 of Doncaster's 29 games and Tonks figured in 27, and Tonks was to play his part in bringing Robbo to the Roughyeds. "He had good things to say about the club, about coaching and training, and about standards generally," said Adam.

He added: "I also played regularly for Doncaster in the early part of this season, but things began to go pear shaped and a lot of players were leaving. It was time for me to move on as well."

"I talked to one or two clubs, but I arranged a meeting with Deaks. He said a lot of good things and basically sold the club to me."

Noted for his strong defence and powerful bursts, Robbo scored a last-minute try on his debut in the win over Barrow at Boundary Park and then figured off the bench in the wins at London Skolars and Workington.

Like the other Adam, he has signed for the rest of what he hopes will be a memorable season. "We've got size up front, plus experience and pace out wide, so it's looking positive at the moment," he added.

with Geoff Cooke

cooke-ability!

The press pundits have been busy choosing their Great Britain side to face France at Headingley on June 22nd.

Trying to second guess new Coach Tony Smith is not exactly easy but he has given an indication that he is thinking to the future and is likely to blood a lot of new, young talent. Some observers argue this can't be done without a leavening of experience but I'm not so sure. I doubt if there's much point in selecting the proven performers and those who have been the backbone of recent Great Britain sides. Therefore, I do not expect to see Jamie Peacock, Keith Senior, Paul Sculthorpe, Kevin Sinfield, Stuart Fielden or Adrian Morley. Indeed it may well be that some of these can kiss goodbye to their international careers altogether. Similarly, there is a group of players who have been tried and found wanting. Such men are Martin Gleeson, Terry Newton, Richard Horne, Lee Gilmour, Paul Deacon and Danny Orr. Then there are those on whom the jury is out, maybe having been tried but having left an uncertain impression. These players are good but are they good enough to take on New Zealand and Australia as well as France? In this category I count Sean O'Loughlin, Gareth Hock, Ryan Bailey, Paul Cooke, Danny Ward, Gareth Carvell, Lee Radford and, possibly Paul Johnson, although the latter was impressive on his last outing.

This brings me to my absolute bankers for selection for Great Britain, players who there would be little point picking now as they are certain starters in the Autumn. I have only three of these. Firstly, there's Paul Wellens our best fullback by a country mile, not just because he scores great tries but because he's also a magnificent defender, a true 'last line of defence' unlike Leeds' New Zealand number one Brent Webb who I always think is poor in defence. Secondly there's Gareth Ellis, one of the best tackling and foraging forwards in the world game today. And thirdly, Paul Sculthorpe, a worthy Captain of his country and one of the modern 'greats' of the game.

At this point I've eliminated a good proportion of my 56 strong list of possibles but there are still some awkward choices to be made. In the threequarters there is a dearth of talent and at hooker we don't seem to have anyone who plays more than twenty minutes at a time. At half back the decision is whether to go for a club pair with Danny McGuire and Rob Burrow to the fore here, especially as they are Coach Smith's club pairing. However, with New Zealand and Australia in mind I'd go for a big pair of half backs in Leon Pryce and Jamie Rooney. After being asked to play all over the place it's time to give Pryce, our most penetrative linebreaker, his head in the middle of the park. Put that together with the masterful kicking game of Rooney, a skill sadly lacking in recent internationals, and you have a combination that will pose some questions. What's more these two can tackle as well. In the forwards, funnily enough I find myself spoiled for choice. However, recognising that to take on the best we need size and power I'd go for big men with a bit of 'devil' (hopefully controlled aggression rather than the Adrian Morley 'rush of blood to the head'). Which is where the likes of James Graham, Andy Lynch, Andy Coley and my wildcard pick Richard Moore come in.

So, here goes with my team:

1) Michael Platt (Bradford Bulls) 2) Ade Gardner (St. Helens) 3) Paul Sykes (Harlequins) 4) Kirk Yeaman (Hull F.C.) 5) Gareth Raynor (Hull F.C.) 6) Leon Pryce (St. Helens) 7) Jamie Rooney (Wakefield Wildcats) 8) James Graham (St. Helens) 9) James Roby (St. Helens) 10) Richard Moore (Wakefield Wildcats) 11) Sam Burgess (Bradford Bulls) 12) Gary Purdham (Harlequins) 13) Jon Wilkin (St. Helens) 14) Steven Wild (Huddersfield Giants) 15) Andy Coley (Salford Reds) 16) Andy Lynch (Bradford Bulls) 17) Mickey Higham (Wigan Warriors) Reserves: Eorl Crabtree (Huddersfield Giants) Martin Aspinwall (Huddersfield Giants) Ryan Atkins (Wakefield Wildcats) Danny Washbrook (Hull F.C.) That isn't necessarily Great Britain's best side but it sure gives a few deserving lads a chance to stake a claim.



Sports Injury?

Capio Oaklands Hospital is a leading private hospital situated in Salford, Greater Manchester offering a range of treatments for Pain Relief, Physiotherapy and Sports Injuries.

Conveniently situated for the A580 and the M602, other treatments available include:

- Cosmetic Dentistry • Cosmetic Surgery • Dermatology • Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery
- Gastro-Enterology • General Surgery • Maxillo-facial Surgery • Orthopaedic Surgery
- Ophthalmic Surgery • Podiatry • Urology • Vascular Surgery
- X-ray, MRI and Ultrasound

For more information please call 0161 787 3461 or visit www.capio.co.uk



Capio Oaklands Hospital

Your health in good hands.

Capio Oaklands Hospital
19 Lancaster Road
Salford
Manchester, M6 8AQ

halstead's choice

by ROGER HALSTEAD

FROM WIGAN ATHLETIC TO THE ROUGHYEDS

.... VIA BLACKBROOK AND THE SAINTS

'No regrets' Langley waved farewell to football to pursue a career in rugby league

RICHARD Mervill isn't the only current Roughyeds player to have turned his back on soccer in pursuit of a career in rugby league.

Man U fanatic Gareth Langley, still a visitor to Old Trafford whenever he can get there, dreamed of soccer stardom when he was growing up as a boy in St Helens. From the age of seven he was football daft and he was still only 12 when a Wigan Athletic scout, Dave Crompton, introduced him to the world of big-time soccer.

From the age of 12 to 15 Langley played centre-forward in a Wigan Athletic academy side that also included, at left back, a certain Leighton Baines, now a key man in Wigan's Premiership side and an up-and-coming 22 year old who can boast England under-21 honours.

Baines had the distinction, in the soccer season just ended, of scoring for Wigan against Manchester United. Former team mates or not, that wouldn't go down well with the Roughyeds winger, who has supported the Reds since he was first taken to Old Trafford as a boy by his best friend's dad.

Gareth, or 'Gaz' to everyone who knows him well, was a promising young footballer who was expected to push on in pursuit of a job in pro soccer.

From the age of seven he had developed his skills in the round-ball game with Bold Miners AFC and later, as a young teenager in the junior ranks at Wigan Athletic, he was fully expected to press on and fulfill his early ambitions.

He was offered an apprenticeship by Wigan when he was preparing to leave Parr High School in St Helens, aged 15, but after much soul-searching and to the surprise of many he rejected the offer and then walked away from the sport that had been such a huge part of his life from his early junior school days.

Recalls Gareth: "It was a big step to take, but it was an equally big one to sign apprentice forms. A lot of people warned me of the pitfalls and all of a sudden, after three years at Wigan, a life in football didn't appeal to me any more. That's it, I decided. It's not for me."

Like thousands of young soccer hopefuls --- those who make it to the highest level represent merely the tip of a very large iceberg --- Langley was lost to football. A year on and rugby league became the beneficiary of the decision that was to turn the youngster's sporting life upside down.

It was no big surprise that he should look to the well-known amateur club Blackbrook to provide his new sporting kicks given that most of his pals in Parr were steeped in the sport and were regular followers of the Saints at Knowsley Road.

He was nearing his 16th birthday when he handled a rugby ball seriously for the first time, but his potential was soon recognised by Eric Saunders, then coach of Blackbrook under-16s, and in his first season under Saunders --- as a full back --- he scored more tries than anybody else on the team.

He also walked away with player-of-the-year and players' player-of-the-year awards --- and if that wasn't enough recognition in his first season as a rugby league player he did enough to arouse Salford's interest.

The boy who had been courted by Wigan Athletic was now a target for Salford's then Academy coach Steve McCormack, son of former Oldham centre Jim McCormack, and in those days a bright young coach who was later to make a name for himself in the National Leagues with first Whitehaven and currently Widnes Vikings.

Steve had seen and heard enough about Blackbrook's latest discovery to lure him to The Willows and so it came to pass that, aged 16 and after only one year in the sport, Gareth found himself playing at centre for Salford's under-18s academy side.

He finished the season and was invited to stay another year, but by this time St Helens were on the trail of the boy who had initially escaped the Knowsley Road net, and once Mike Rush made his approach on behalf of Langley's hometown club there was only ever going to be one winner.

In his time at Blackbrook and then at The Willows, Gareth had become something of a Saints fan and, as such, he didn't need much persuading to thank Salford for their interest and to sign on for Saints.

John Myler and David Lyon were his first coaches in the junior academy side at Knowsley Road and he was to set out on a very happy five-year stay with his hometown club, starting at 17 and ending at 21 when he signed for Roughyeds.

Now aged 22, he looks back fondly on the time he spent at Saints and the people with whom he rubbed shoulders at the famous Super League club.

"I had a great time there," recalls Gareth, who worked his way through the system from junior to senior academy and crowned his Super League debut in the south of France with a try against Catalans Dragons.

He was senior academy player of the year in 2005 and runner-up to Ian Webster, now playing scrum-half for Widnes, in 2006.

Added Gareth: "There were a lot of people at Saints of whom I can't speak too highly. Daniel Anderson was one. He always had loads of time for the young players. He

had us training with the first team and went out of his way to make us feel an important part of the set up.

"He taught me loads, improved my game and I can't thank him enough. The same goes for Keiron Purtell, who is now at Huddersfield, and Ian Talbot. They all had a big influence on me.

"Funnily enough, the first time Daniel Anderson saw me play I was at hooker. The next game I was on the wing. I also played full-back and centre. I think Daniel liked the idea of young players learning how to play in several positions -- and it certainly came in handy when I went to hooker in the Roughyeds' game against Swinton early this season."

Langley is loving every minute of life with the Roughyeds. He went on: "There is a good atmosphere; the lads are great; there are no cliques; we are well coached; we are looked after well by the club; and we are starting to come together as a unit.

"Providing we don't cop for many more serious injuries, having already lost Alan Hadcroft, Lee Wingfield and Wes Rogers for the rest of the year, we should do well and the signs are good after our wins against Celtic Crusaders, Barrow and Workington.

"It's a toss-up which was the better of those three performances. We did everything right against Barrow; at Celtic we didn't concede a single penalty and we came back from behind against a very strong team."

Gareth works as a scaffolder in St Helens; lives alone; and has a girl friend, Sharon, whose best friend goes out with Workington Town and former Leigh stand-off Carl Forber, another St Helens lad with whom Gaz is "very close".

He was happy to be switched from wing to full-back initially when Paul O'Connor left to go on his travels, though he conceded "they were big boots to fill."

"Wing is probably my favourite position," he said, "but I have played full back a lot in my younger days and at London Skolars I like to think I did all that Deaks asked of me. He said I did okay and that's good enough for me."

Those early days playing football in Wigan seem a lifetime away, but occasionally Gareth stumbles across Leighton Baines, now a wealthy Premiership soccer star, and wonders what might have been.

"He's always in a flash car. He earns megga bucks. Loaded. I'm happy for him, but I've no regrets. Soccer wasn't for me and now I love my rugby league."

He likes scoring and making tries and, like everyone associated with the Roughyeds, his goal this year is to help the club out of Co-Operative NL2 at the first attempt.

"It is a very competitive division," he concluded, "and although we have made a good start there is an awful long way to go.

"But we have a feel-good factor in the camp and, as I say, if we can stay clear of more serious injuries there is no reason why we shouldn't be there or thereabouts when it comes to the final push. In the meantime, we just have to concentrate on one match at a time.

"Significantly, I think, we started to gel and improve when we got a settled side together. That counts for a lot and that's why injuries can be so damaging. We are playing much better now than we were in the Northern Rail Cup, but I think Deaks used that to plan ahead and now we seem to be reaping the benefits."



AROUND & ABOUT

with The Heritage Trust

SEAN QUINLAN

The 18th of May has come and gone. Many of the Oldham club's old timers got together – probably for the last time – at a splendid event organised jointly by Rugby Oldham and Oldham RL Heritage Trust which was attended by over 400 guests to celebrate exactly 50 years to the day since together they helped bring the Championship Trophy back to town. Sid Little, Johnny Noon, Vince Nestor, Alan Davies, Frank Stirrup, John Etty, Alan Jones, Ian Carruthers, Des McKeown, Lew Lavery & Co were joined by the wives and family of Charlie Winslade, Jack Keith, Don Vines, Frank Pitchford and Ken Jackson. A wonderful time was had by all and the town had the chance to say one last big thank-you for putting Oldham for a time on top of the rugby league tree.

This article meanders back to when the wind of change was blowing through Watersheddings in the late 50's and ends just prior to the start of this season's Six Nations competition.

The fabulous side of the 50's was beginning to be broken up. Forwards Don Vines and Derek Turner – both at the peak of their careers – were sold to Wakefield Trinity and Oldham's great wingers were coming to the end of their playing careers. Dick Cracknell chose to retire and John Etty joined Turner at Wakefield where, to his surprise, he enjoyed a short but spectacular finale to his playing career.

When replacing these great wingers it was thought that Oldham had broken the bank when they doled out a world record transfer fee for Workington's international winger Ike Southward. But, not a bit of it. They were soon back in the headlines when they announced the signing of Irish rugby union international winger Sean Quinlan.

The records say that Sean Vincent Joseph Quinlan played



**OLDHAM COACH GRIFF JENKINS INTRODUCES
IRISH UNION INTERNATIONAL WINGER SEAN
QUINLAN TO LEAGUE**

just eleven matches for Oldham over a three season spell. Rugby league is littered with similar examples of speculative signings from union that never worked out but to judge Quinlan on his statistics alone would not give a true picture of his time at Oldham.

He was a big capture for the Roughyeds having been tracked by a number of league's big clubs. The 24-year-old Blackrock College wingman had played for his country and was classed as one of the finest wingers in union.

He made his Oldham debut during the 1958-59 season and whilst it was obvious to all that he had speed and style it was equally obvious that he needed some time in

the 'A' team to learn the intricacies of league wing-play.

Quinlan was soon back in the first team but after a couple of games picked up a knee injury which kept him out of the game for the rest of that season. The winger played in the opening fixture of 1959 – 60 but suffered a recurrence of the injury which kept him sidelined for another few weeks. On his return he injured his other knee. After corrective surgery to both knees he started the 1960 – 61 season brightly until one of his knees failed again.

It would have been easy for Sean Quinlan to pack his bags and head back to Ireland but he didn't. He persevered with knee strengthening exercises but had to undergo a second operation which was unsuccessful. Only then did he throw in the towel. He certainly had speed, style and guts but did he have the physique to survive in league or was it just bad luck?

Earlier this year on the lead up to the Six Nations tournament, Sean, now 72, and who lives in Shankill, Co Dublin was the subject of a question and answers interview in one of the Irish magazines, a copy of which was brought back to Oldham his old pal and former playing colleague Des McKeown.

It reads as follows:

Did you play rugby at school?

I went to school in Cork where I played both hurling and Gaelic football. The first rugby match I played was when I was about 14. The instruction that I was given was to kick the ball into touch. I found this very strange because in Gaelic you never gave up possession! I went to Blackrock College for the last three years of my education where there is a great tradition of rugby and I was selected to play on the wing. I loved running. I won the Leinster 220 and then the All Ireland 220 in Taurm.

When were you selected for Ireland?

In 1956 when I was capped four times. Each player wore their own club's socks and I was allowed to keep my international jersey at the end of the international season! The Irish side was selected from the whole island. It was not uncommon for the wing three-quarters to have little contact with the ball ending the match with their shorts as clean as when the match kicked-off. In those days the wingers threw the ball into the line-out (lifting was not allowed) but I never got any instruction as to where, or to whom I was to throw the ball. So different from today.

Why did you become a professional?

The pro clubs in England were on the lookout for Irish players and their scouts regularly attended matches. I was approached by Oldham. It was a big change moving to England.

Did you have an agent?

You must be joking! I didn't know what an agent was. My signing on fee was £2000 sufficient to buy a house! The

team practised on Tuesdays and Thursdays and played matches on Saturdays. One thing I remember was that practice was more arduous than the games. Training in league was totally different than in union. We started each session on a cinder track wearing spikes and sprinting for about 30 minutes. Weights were not used. We spent an hour on tactics, moves and ball handling. There are only 13 players in league and so the winger is much more involved than in union.

We earned £15 for a win away and £10 for a win at home win. An away loss netted us £10 and we got £6 for losing at home. Players had a full time job besides playing rugby. I suffered knee injuries and in 1961 I had an operation to remove the cartilage from my knee. Unfortunately the operation was not a success and my playing days were over.

Are there many changes in the game since you played?

There are huge changes especially in the size of the players. In my day wingers were only 12 or 13 stone (I was 12). Today the players train with weights, which was unheard of then. Some of today's league wingers resemble tanks.

You had knee surgery recently?

Yes and I was dreading it in view of the terrible pain I had to endure after the previous knee operations. This time it was miraculous, two replacement knees and I had no pain. Thankfully the operations have been a success and I'm now able to play golf again.

What are your ambitions now?

I cannot wait to see rugby being played in Croke Park and I have already invited some of my friends from Oldham to enjoy the spectacle. It will be a wonderful showcase for both the country and sport in Ireland.

I spoke to Sean earlier in the week. Whilst in his 73rd year he's still involved in a very successful family business now run by one of his three sons. Very much a family man he and his wife Clora also have two daughters (one of whom lives in New Zealand) and five grandchildren. He talks fondly of his time in Oldham and of how kind and helpful Oldham folk were when he and his wife first arrived. They lived in Turf Pitt Lane which was in walking distance from the old Watersheddings ground. He still remembers fondly how prankster and Oldham three-quarter Alan Davies hung a shillelagh on his dressing room peg to celebrate his arrival!

Sean Quinlan sends his greeting to all Oldham supporters and wishes the team well for the future.

Brian Walker

RECYCLING SYSTEMS • SHREDDING • CRUSHING • SCREENING • WASHING • WOOD CHIPPING • FORESTRY
• SPARES • SERVICE

Blue

Machinery Plc

Good Luck to Roughyeds

Waste Processing
Sorted!

Doppstadt

BACKHUS
Kompost - Technologie

GENERAL
KINEMATICS

KIVERCO
RECYCLING SYSTEMS

POWERSCREEN
A TEREX COMPANY

Materials
Processing Specialists

0845 230 4460

Appleton Thorn Trading Estate, Warrington WA4 4SN.
Fax: 0845 658 2314

www.bluemachinery.com

PRÉCIMÉCA
environnement

TEREX
PEGSON

the boys and their backers

(Sponsor a player -- and help the club)



PAUL ASHTON

SPONSORED BY
OLDHAM RLFC
SUPPORT
GROUP



CHRIS BAINES

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



JASON BOULTS

SPONSORED BY
M NEILD
(BUILDERS) LTD
0161 627 1662



GENO COSTIN

SPONSORED BY
TOTAL PLUS
COMMUNICATIONS
0161 343 8181



ANDY CRABTREE

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



ANDY GOREY

SPONSORED BY
NEATPLANTS.
CO.UK
01621 821535



ALAN HADCROFT

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



JOHN HOUGH

SPONSORED BY
MESSAGE BOARD
FAITHFUL



DREW HOUSTON

SPONSORED BY
NUTWERP AND
BOLTON
ROUGHYED



SIMEON HOYLE

SPONSORED BY
NIGEL
MARLAND



PAUL O'CONNOR

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



GARETH LANGLEY

SPONSORED BY
SADDLEWORTH
SPORTS LTD
01457 872515



CRAIG LITTLER

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



RICHARD MERVILL

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



STUART OLDHAM

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



NEIL RODEN

SPONSORED BY
H MULLANEY AND
SON (SKIP HIRE)
LTD 01457 832870



WES ROGERS

SPONSORED BY
F R ELSWOOD
LTD (CEILINGS
AND PARTITIONS)
0161 678 6306



IAN SINFIELD

SPONSORED BY
F R ELSWOOD
LTD (CEILINGS
AND PARTITIONS)
0161 678 6306



KRIS SMITH

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



MICHAEL STOUT

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



SAID TAMGHART

SPONSORED BY
JOHN AND
LYNDA
MCANDREW



ALEX WILKINSON

SPONSORED BY
JOHN BARRETT



LEE WINGFIELD

SPONSORED BY
O.R.I.S.A
0161 633 9578



IAN HODSON

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



LEE SANDERSON

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



LUCAS ONYANGO

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



TONY TONKS

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



STEVE DEAKIN

COACH
SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



PAUL HULBERT

KITMAN
SPONSORED BY
JOBLOTSAND
BARGAINS ON
EBAY



PHIL HAYWARD

PHYSIOTHERAPIST
SPONSORED BY
PENINSULA
ELECTRICAL
SERVICES LTD
0161 834 2773



GOAL KICKER

SPONSORED BY
OLDHAM
ELECTRICAL
SUPPLIES LTD
0161 652 8131



ADAM HUGHES

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160



ADAM ROBINSON

SPONSORED BY
WM. QUINN
GROUP LTD.
0161 276 8160

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Sean to forge links with Oldham Service Area

by ROGER HALSTEAD

SEAN Mellor, Oldham's new full-time community development manager, is a rugby league man from head to toe.

The 44-year-old Warrington man played professionally for Leigh, as an amateur for Croxfields and Latchford Albion, and is still involved in youth coaching at Latchford with that club's crack under-16s side.

In 1986 he captained Great Britain Students in the Students' World Cup in New Zealand and in the same year won a second division championship medal with Leigh in a professional career that was blighted with injury.

In more recent times he has worked for six years for Warrington Wolves, building a reputation as a slick and professional operator.

He lives in Warrington with his wife Linda, daughter Grace (14) and sons Ben (18) and Joe (16), both of whom are hoping to make a name for themselves in rugby league at pro level. Ben plays for Warrington academy and last week represented Lancashire in a junior academy county-of-origin clash with Yorkshire. Joe has recently signed for Wigan.

When Sean hung up his boots he went into coaching and currently helps with the running of the Latchford Albion under-16s side, premier league champions in North-West Counties, as well as assisting with the preparation of Warrington service area sides. He joined Warrington Wolves as commercial manager in 2000, later switching to community work and marketing at a time of great activity which involved the club's move from Wilderspool to the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

For three years out of four Warrington won a Super League award for the best community programme — accolades which Sean attributes to "team work by the entire backroom team"

ONE of Sean's more immediate tasks is to get the town's youngsters interested in Roughyeds and to forge links with the Service Area, the amateur clubs and amateur league, the local rugby league development officer and other partners.

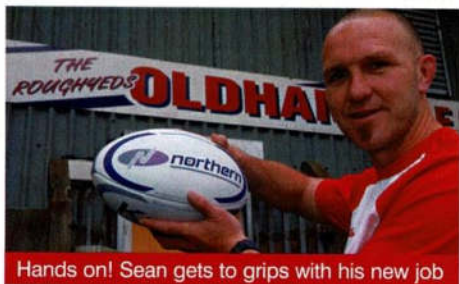
To that end he has opened talks with the Service Area. "Oldham can boast an excellent Service Area organisation and I am looking forward to building a fruitful working relationship with them," he said.

Before today's game there will be a curtain-raiser between the under-8s of St Anne's, coached by keen Roughyeds fan Steve Baldwin, who happens to be the webmaster for our official club website www.roughyeds.co.uk and the under-8s of Waterhead, coached by the former Roughyeds forward Martin Maders.

In 2004 Warrington also won a national award for their sport-in-the community programme — one of several highlights during a seven-year period in which average crowds rose from 5,000 at Wilderspool to 11,000 at the club's new stadium.

"These things don't happen overnight," said Sean. "It took seven years and a new stadium for the Wolves to show such significant gate increases, but it does show what can be done with a lot of hard work and patience."

"I'm a great believer in the power of an efficient community programme which can help a club in many ways."



Hands on! Sean gets to grips with his new job

He said he was excited by the challenge of starting and developing a community programme in a town like Oldham with its great rugby league traditions and strong and vibrant organisations at amateur, service area and grassroots levels.

"Knowing what I do about rugby league generally in the town I felt it would be an interesting job to tackle and an irresistible challenge."

"I'm still settling into the job, of course, but I will soon be talking to the amateur clubs, the local league, the Oldham service area, the town's rugby league development officer and relevant community groups. The job is very much about building bridges and partnerships."

"Things won't happen overnight, but it's true to say that to some degree success or failure will be measured by a graph of attendance figures on match days. The rewards of community work have to be seen in increased numbers of people attending matches."

"It's my job to get people going to Oldham games to see what's on offer, in the hope that they will like what they see and want to go back for more."

The contest kicks off round about 2pm and the boys may appear again briefly during the half-time interval.

This will be the first of several community initiatives which Sean hopes to launch on match days throughout the remainder of the season.

Pictured are the under-8s of St Anne's with the famous Rugby League Challenge Cup which was on display in the Roughyeds social club during the week of our Carnegie Challenge Cup tie with Super League club Harlequins last month.

The boys touched the cup and dreamed of Wembley glory. Today they and their rivals from Waterhead get a chance to show

you what they can do when they get a rugby ball in their hands. Give them a cheer. They are the stars of tomorrow.



the bootroom

THE MEN WHO CARRY ROUGHYEDS' HOPES AND AMBITIONS INTO 2007.

ASHTON, Paul (half-back): Aged 27, Paul learned his trade at Saddleworth before playing for Halifax, Rochdale, Keighley and Swinton. Got his big chance at Oldham in 2006, initially on a week-to-week basis, and did enough to earn a full contract for 2007. Can play at scrum-half or stand-off.

BAINES, Chris (back-row): A young forward who also did enough for coach Steve Deakin last year, while on loan from Warrington, to win a contract for the latter part of 2006 and then for 2007. Toured New Zealand with Great Britain Young Lions in 2003. Product of Chorley Panthers and Wigan St Pat's.

BOULTS, Jason (prop): One of many new boys in the Roughyeds squad for 2007, 23-year-old Jason arrived on the recommendation of two of his former Halifax team mates, Jamie Bloem and Alan Hadcroft. Spent four years as a young pro with Bradford and then had two seasons at The Shay, missing only a handful of games.

COSTIN, Geno (prop or back-row): A 22-year-old Aussie, Geno first established himself in the Queensland Cup with Wynnum-Manly, but last year played in the same comp for Logan Souths. A rugby workaholic, he puts in overtime on defence and, in possession, always runs strong and straight.

CRABTREE, Andy (hooker): Won Great Britain academy honours in his Wigan Warriors days. Came from Swinton this year. A tidy footballer with good hands and game awareness, he can also play loose-forward. Alert and alive at dummy half.

GOREY, Andy (winger): A scrum-half in his Royton Tigers days, Andy became a good full-back in the former Roughyeds academy side. It was as a winger, however, that he finished 2006 as the club's top try scorer with ten — no mean feat in a losing side.

HADCROFT, Alan (centre): A robust middle back, 29-year-old Alan signed from Halifax for the 2006 season, but his campaign was marred by a series of shoulder injuries, notably at Barrow and Whitehaven. Future as a player in some doubt, but highly regarded as coach Steve Deakin's acting No 2.

HODSON, Ian (back-row): Initially rejected new offer for 2007 due to work commitments, but the Roughyeds door remained open and he re-signed in March after playing the odd game or two for Tyldesley RU Club. One of the club's better performers in 2006, he always gave maximum input, even when asked to play at stand-off.

HOUGH, John (hooker): First player to sign for the 'new' Roughyeds club. Still here nearly ten years later — that's loyalty with a capital L. Joined Warrington from Waterhead as a boy, but carved himself a niche in the annals of the new Oldham club when he signed as a free agent on December 2, 1997. Has played more than 230 games.

HOUSTON, Drew (second-row or centre): Once a youngster linked with Melbourne Storm, Drew had two seasons in the Queensland Cup with Storm feeder club Brisbane Norths before heading south to join Dapto whom he helped to

become champions of the Illawarra competition last year.

HOYLE, Simeon (hooker): Formerly with Keighley and Halifax, Simeon is a hooker of the old school — tough in defence yet able to make things happen from dummy half. Helped Keighley to win promotion in 2003 in the same team as Paul Ashton, Richard Merrill and Ian Sinfield.

LANGLEY, Gareth (winger): Pacy, and a good finisher, 'Gaz' joined Roughyeds this year after five years at St Helens. He was Saints academy player of the year in 2005 and runner-up in 2006. Played at Salford as a teenager before joining his hometown club at Knowsley Road.

LITTLER, Craig (centre): Another Saints old boy, Craig was Langley's centre for four years at Knowsley Road. A year younger, he had the chance of another year with St Helens academy, but opted to sign for Roughyeds and continue his centre-wing partnership with Langley.

MERVILL, Richard (prop): Formerly with Halifax and Keighley, Richard joined Roughyeds for 2007 after playing Down Under in the same Dapto side as Drew Houston. Suffered a broken hand in one of his early games for Roughyeds, but goes into Co-Operative NL2 action in a good seam of form.

O'CONNOR, Paul (full-back): Signed for hometown Widnes after winning students' international honours for Ireland and for Great Britain. Looked good in three loan games for Roughyeds in 2006 and returned on a more permanent basis in 2007, although he will be away for 14 weeks on a pre-arranged trip Down Under.

OLDHAM, Stuart (winger): Formerly with St Helens and Swinton, Stuart played his first serious rugby with Sedgley Park and Liverpool St Helens RU clubs before switching codes to join Saints. Had two seasons with Swinton and became one of six Lions to sign for Roughyeds for 2007.

ONYANGO, Lucas (winger): A real flier, aged 25, Lucas grew up in rugby union in his native Kenya. Has played for Sale Sharks, Manchester and Leigh in Union, and also Widnes Vikings in League. Did well at Vikings before damaging a knee. Over that now and keen to make the most of his chance at Oldham.

RODEN, Neil (half-back): Neil rejoined Roughyeds from Leigh for 2007 after leaving the club initially to go to Batley in 2004. In his first stint here he scored 290 points (68 tries and 18 drop goals) in 142 games over four and a half seasons. Has overtaken Mark Sibson as the 'new' club's leading all-time try scorer.

ROGERS, Wes (prop): Aged 29, and club captain. Like Neil Roden and Ian Sinfield, has rejoined Roughyeds for a second spell. Signed for Widnes as a 15-year-old, then had three years at Swinton, one here, three at Rochdale and three more at Swinton before coming 'home' for 2007.

SANDERSON, Lee (halfback, hooker): Signed in March after a difficult period with Barrow. Roughyeds paid an undisclosed transfer fee for the Leigh lad, whose uncle, Ian, was an

accomplished Oldham hooker in Watersheddings days. Lee has previously played for Leigh, London Broncos, Rochdale and Barrow.

SINFIELD, Ian (back-row): Another experienced forward who has returned to his hometown club for a second stint. Brother of Leeds captain, Kevin Sinfield, Ian played in the first ever Roughyeds game at Rochdale on New Year's Day, 1998. Had four years here, then moved on to Rochdale, Keighley and Swinton.

SMITH, Kris (back-row or centre): Kris, aged 28, has been on the books of four Super League clubs, namely Leeds, Salford, London and Halifax. A product of the Eccles amateur club, he was snapped up by Leeds while still a teenager. Joined Roughyeds after four seasons at Swinton.

STOUT, Michael (second-row or centre): Signed from Swinton, Michael has a good turn of speed for a forward and likes to use it while breaking wide out. Played at academy level for both Warrington and Widnes. Chose to join Oldham after rejecting a Swinton offer for 2007.

TAMGHART, Said (utility): A French international, Said has represented his country at every level, including full Test matches against Australia and New Zealand. Came under Steve Deakin's influence when both were at UTC, better known now as Perpignan-based Catalans Dragons.

TONKS, Tony (prop): Roughyeds have high hopes of the 22-year-old Yorkshireman, signed from Bradford Bulls just prior to the start of the Co-Operative NL2 season. One year at Wakefield academy, then six at Bulls as a full-time pro, including last season on loan at Doncaster.

WILKINSON, Alex (centre, wing): Played his early rugby with Royton Tigers and toured with GB schoolboys to Australia in 1999 and with England academy to New Zealand and Australia in 2001. While a young pro at Bradford Bulls, he had loan spells with London Broncos, Huddersfield and Hull before going part-time with Roughyeds to continue his studies.

WINGFIELD, Lee (second-row): Played for GB at amateur level in Russia, France and Australia, but desperately unlucky with injuries since he turned pro for Roughyeds on a two-year deal covering 2006 and 2007. In top form early this year, but then broke a hand before suffering a serious knee injury against Swinton on his first game back.

HUGHES, Adam (centre): The massively experienced 29-year-old boasts over 150 Super League appearances during spells with Leeds, Wakefield, Halifax, Widnes and Leigh. A powerful, pacy centre who knows where the try line is, he signed for Oldham in preference to several other clubs.

ROBINSON, Adam (second row): A tough and uncompromising player who relishes his defensive duties, the 20 year-old Yorkshireman turned down Featherstone in order to sign for the Roughyeds from Doncaster. Formerly of the Stanley Rangers amateur club, he started his professional career at Wakefield.

with Ian Wilson

roughyeds'

roar!

Was John Wilkinson at Salford right to sack Karl Harrison the other week? The usual law of post-coach performance inevitably applied, of course! Salford followed their 60-point thrashing by Les Catalans by a first game under Steve Simms in which they played their best rugby of the season so far in defeating a side in Huddersfield who were on the crest of a wave at the time. Their coach, Jon Sharp, meanwhile, who had had to live through a 7-game losing sequence to begin the 2007 season, had not been sacked by his Chairman Ken Davy, and had then masterminded a fantastic run of wins until his side met Salford! Which chairman had it right? It is a particularly interesting question as I write, given the Paul Cullen situation at Warrington.

Salford quite clearly had serious playing problems - but then so had Huddersfield earlier, and Harrison had taken Salford into the top six play-offs for the first time just a few months previously, just as Sharp had taken Huddersfield to the Challenge Cup Final in 2006. It is presumably just a question of judgement by the man at the top. So last season most people agreed with the Whelan/Lindsay judgement that Ian Millward was unable any more to motivate his Wigan players, so that his replacement - by Brian Noble, as it happened - was essential; and who is to say they were wrong, given how things turned out? This season's equivalent judgement calls so far have been that Karl Harrison had lost it, but that Jon Sharp hadn't. The latter one is already justified - we shall see

whether the former was, perhaps, by the end of the season.

The situation at Warrington, of course, is the latest to come under media scrutiny. The club's dire second-half capitulation to a weakened St. Helens side two weeks ago must have added to any pressure which already existed on Paul Cullen's position - and for it to happen soon after the coach's rather dangerous "the second half of the season belongs to us" quote cannot have done much to strengthen the club owner's faith in Cullen!

The line is always wheeled out when coaches are sacked that you can't dismiss all the players, so a chairman has no choice other than to make the coach the unfortunate scapegoat of a run of on-field failures. But I suppose that that depends on the time-frame which is considered. Our own board's treatment of Steve Deakin is a good example here. The fact that the long view was taken during last year's horrendous run of results has resulted in the current position, where the coach was trusted to assemble his own squad, given the financial constraints which applied, and his ability has been allowed to be demonstrated by the current playing success. How much more healthy an atmosphere must such an approach generate than one in which everyone is always looking for the latest short-term fix.

co-operative



FOOD • TRAVEL • CARS • HEALTH CARE • FUNERALS

Thank you for Shopping,
Trading & Booking with us.
We look forward to your
continued custom
in the future.

Your Community Retailer

www.united.coop

Carnegie Great Student Run TAKING SUPPORT BEYOND BOUNDARIES

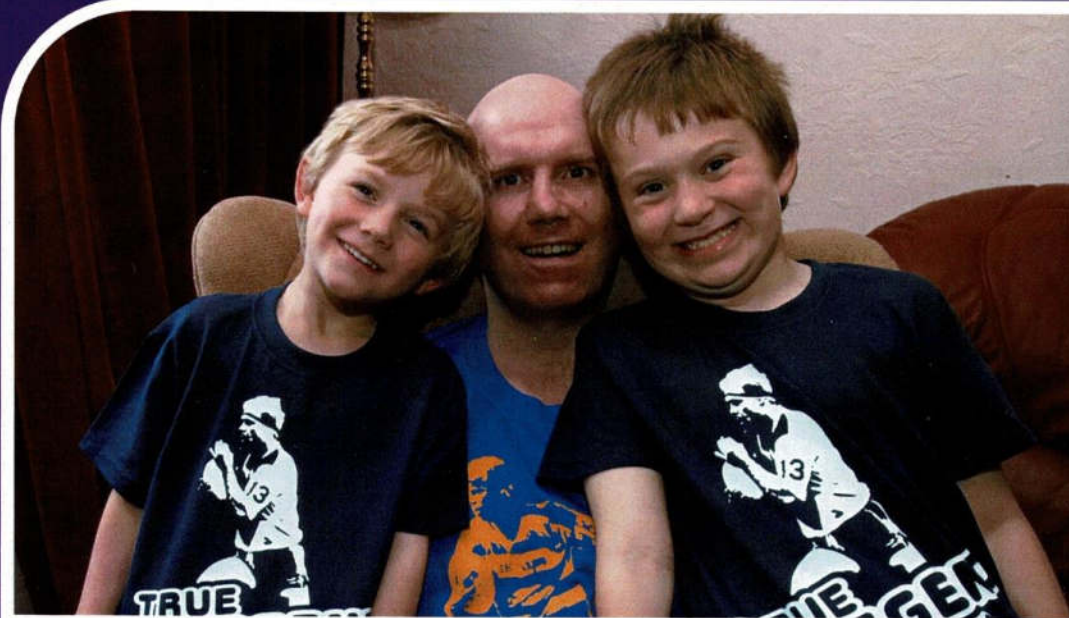
When Leeds Met launched the Carnegie Great Student Run 2007, leading the way was former Widnes, Wigan and GB star Joe Lydon. Joe declared his intention to run the 5km race to raise money for the Mike Gregory Trust Fund. Mike is one of rugby league's most popular, respected and courageous stars who captained Warrington and his country with such distinction.

The Mike Gregory Trust Fund was formed by friends and supporters from the rugby league community who knew

of Mike's battle against Motor Neurone Disease and felt compelled to do something to help.

It is Mike and his family's intention that the trust's funds will be used to cover his ongoing medical expenses and help raise awareness about the effects of Borrelia/Lymes Disease.

Through the Carnegie Great Student Run and the Carnegie Challenge Cup, Leeds Met Carnegie provides a unique opportunity for the whole of the rugby league community to participate and support the Mike Gregory Trust Fund.



Entry forms and the Mike Gregory Trust Fund sponsorship forms are available from Leeds Met at www.leedsmet.ac.uk/greatstudentrun or by calling 0113 283 8686

For more information on the Mike Gregory Trust please visit www.mikegregorytrust.co.uk



leeds
met
carnegie

greatrun

BE PART OF IT - RUB SHOULDERS WITH CHAMPIONS - SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE

Take a bow, Neil Roden Top award for Roughyeds half-back

THE return to Roughyeds this season of Neil Roden, after spells away with Batley and Leigh, has worked like a charm --- and nobody was more pleased for him than coach Steve Deakin when he was named Rugby League World magazine's Co-Operative NL2 player of the month for May.

An official citation read: "Oldham's turnaround over the last month has been remarkable -- and stand-off Neil Roden has been at the hub of it all. The former Batley player was pivotal in NL2 wins over Keighley, Celtic Crusaders and Barrow, as well as in the Carnegie Challenge Cup defeat by Harlequins, earning plenty of praise from his coach, Steve Deakin".

Roden, the new club's top overall try scorer, saw off challenges for the accolade from rival half-backs Paul Handforth (Featherstone), Liam Campbell (Workington) and Carl Forber (Workington) as well as from his Roughyeds colleagues Richard Mervill and Alex Wilkinson.

Roughyeds had FOUR players in the form team ---- Roden, winger Gareth Langley, prop Mervill and Wilkinson, who was named at loose-forward.

Promotion rivals Featherstone and Workington each had three players selected, but no club matched Oldham's four and, in addition, Lee Sanderson was one of three scrum-halves nominated for the No 7 shirt that went to Handforth.

Team: Lunt (Workington); Kirmond (Featherstone), Beattie (Workington), Whittle (Featherstone), Langley (OLDHAM); Roden (OLDHAM), Handforth (Featherstone); Buckley (York), Ellis (Barrow), Mervill (OLDHAM), Knight (Keighley), Kmet (Workington), Wilkinson (OLDHAM).

Oldham boss Deaks was thrilled for the four Oldham players. He said of Roden: "He had an outstanding month. On and off the field he gives us such a lot of leadership."

"I haven't seen a better prop in this comp than Richard (Mervill) and I believe both Langers (Langley) and Alex Wilkinson will each score 20 tries this season."

"Langers is good enough to play at Super League level, while Alex has benefited from a change of role. He was in great form against Crusaders and Barrow when used as an impact player off the bench whether at centre, second-row or even loose-forward."

"He is ideally suited to that role and you can put him on early because you know that he'll last out the game."



NEIL RODEN with a previous award

++Roughyeds have had two meetings with Oldham Council about a new stadium and a third get-together is planned soon.

++Tune in to Mike Latham's Rugby League Show on Radio Lancashire from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesday night and you may hear something to capture your attention from people whose voices you recognise.

++Michael Stout's loan agreement with Blackpool has been extended by Roughyeds until the end of the season.

++First Bus carried fans to Sedgley Park today free of charge. "We are exceedingly grateful to First Bus for their help in this matter," said club chief executive Chris Hamilton.

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

Firstly, congratulations to the players, coaching and support staff for their tremendous commitment and enthusiasm resulting in the recent successes on the field.

As witnessed by so many when the match against Celtic Crusaders was televised, the spirit throughout the squad is second to none, and is equalled by the overall skills and ability of the squad as a whole.

We can only hope that the message gets across to the 'absent' fans that this IS a team WORTH WATCHING AND THE EXCITEMENT IS BACK.

Secondly, I wish to thank all who have supported my Quiz Nights at the Social Club. Due to family commitments I am taking a break from arranging and presenting these good natured and fun evenings.

The goodwill and generosity shown by all those who have given their support has been outstanding. I am certain however, that Quiz Night will return in one form or another, so watch this space.

Sheila.

REUNION DINNER

Only limited places now remain for the Roughyeds' ten-year Law Cup reunion dinner in the social club on Friday, June 22. Tickets and tables have gone well and there is now the added attraction that all the current Oldham players, plus coach Steve Deakin, will be in attendance.

If you want to book --- and please note that time and availability are both running out --- you can do so with a call to Janet at the Roughyeds office on 0161 628 3677.

David Fairclough, better known as the former Liverpool FC super-sub, will be guest speaker and Bobby Bender will be the comedian. Tickets are priced at £25 a head or £250 plus vat for a corporate table of ten.

The 18 players and two coaches who were on duty when the Roughyeds won the Law Cup at Rochdale on January 1, 1998 in the 'new' club's first-ever game have been invited to the dinner, one of several events to be held this summer to recognise ten seasons of operation by Oldham Rugby League Club (1997) Ltd.

Another is the formation of a Players' Association (details elsewhere in this match-day magazine) which will be launched publicly at the Oldham v Hunslet game at Boundary Park on Sunday, July 22.

TEE TIME FOR JAMAINE AS HOOKER SEEKS TO STRIKE THE GOAL TRAIL

by ROGER HALSTEAD

Knights look to Lowe to power-up their pack

ROUGHYEDS have the opportunity today to put down a marker in terms of how far the team and the squad have progressed since this time last year. Exactly 12 months ago to the day -- on June 10, 2006 to be precise -- York City Knights came here to Sedgley Park on a balmy Saturday evening and, in a basement battle at the bottom of NL1, thumped the living daylight out of Oldham by winning 62-0.

Fifteen days later, in the return game at York, the Knights completed a league double with a 56-14 victory.

If any Oldham fans had still cherished hopes of NL1 survival going into June, those two games against fellow strugglers like the City Knights removed all traces of optimism.

Ultimately the Knights followed Roughyeds down into NL2 and since then many changes have taken place in the playing personnel at both clubs.

Of the Oldham team that played in the first of the two games under the spotlight only Alex Wilkinson, Paul Ashton, John Hough, Chris Baines and Ian Hodson are still at the club. In the return game at York Andy Gorey came into the side.

York have had a smaller turnover of players, but even so many of the players on duty in the two Oldham games last year have now left the club. Among those still playing for the Knights are Chris Spurr, Scott Rhodes, Adam Sullivan, Jamaïne Wray, John Smith, Dave Buckley, Jon Liddell and Dan Potter.

Mick Cook is coach in charge, ably assisted by Jason Ramshaw, whose father Terry gave Oldham sterling service for a couple of seasons in the mid-1970s.

They recently lost Fijian prop Tabua Cakacaka, formerly of Canberra Raiders, South Sydney, Newtown Jets and French club Pia, who returned to his former club Gateshead Thunder because he struggled with the travelling from the North-East.

Another prop, Joe Helme, transferred to Dewsbury but by way of compensation the Knights won the race to sign Doncaster and former Featherstone second-row forward Neil Lowe, who has also had a short spell in Super League with Salford.

Lowe was also wanted by Keighley Cougars, but he opted to sign for the Knights for whom he made his debut off the bench in a recent 24-12 win at Blackpool.

Coach Mick Cook said: "Neil is hoping to make an impact here. He has settled in well. He's quite aggressive, strong and skilful and he has plenty of experience as well."

But does he kick goals? He can do, yes, and the question is asked because Knights scored six tries in the recent win at Blackpool and failed to land a single goal.

First choice is a key member of the side, hooker Jamaïne Wray. He, Alex Godfrey, Liddell and Lowe were all off target, leaving Knights with a problem that Cook is hoping to address with the acquisition of a new kicking tee.

By all accounts Wray didn't like the tee Knights used, so after the Blackpool

game the search was on to find one to his liking.

Said Cook: "We scored six tries at Blackpool, but no goals. That's always going to give the opposition a chance. We were made to work hard and credit must go to our defence."

Prior to last week's game against Keighley Cougars, the Knights had won three of their eight league matches, but had also picked up two bonus points to hold joint sixth place with Swinton.

Winger or full-back Lee Mapels, full-back George Rayner, utility man Ian Brown, Aussie Dave Buckley and half-back Anthony Thackeray have been among the tries so far this year in a squad that relies on a nice blend of youth and experience.

They don't come any more experienced than new guy Lowe, centre Dan Potter, who once had a brief spell at Oldham while making a more lasting

name for himself at Leigh and Widnes, and 33-year-old centre or second-row man Brown, who can number Castleford, Sheffield, Featherstone, Gateshead and Hunslet among his former clubs.

Winger Alex Godfrey (28), who has previously played for York Wasps, Dewsbury and Hull KR, also comes into that category.

Aussie Buckley, who plays prop or second-row, played previously for Newtown Jets, South Sydney and Balmain Tigers.

Others who have made quite an impression this season include ever-reliable utility man Jonny Liddell

(formerly with Leeds Rhinos Academy, York Wasps and Hunslet), former Charlton Rovers man Lee Lingard, second-rower Nathan Priestley, once of Hull Academy, stand-off Scott Rhodes, who has seen service with Leeds, Hull, Sheffield and Dewsbury, and centre Chris Spurr, who has played also for Featherstone and Batley.

Props Buckley, Ryan McDonald, Adam Sullivan and Toby Williams form the engine room of the Knights pack. McDonald and Sullivan are the biggest, and arguably the most experienced, McDonald having played for Halifax, Whitehaven, Widnes, Dewsbury and Bramley and Sullivan having learned his trade with East Hull, Hull KR and Bradford Bulls.

Between them they prop for one of the liveliest hookers in this division in 23-year-old Jamaïne Wray, the former Leeds Academy, Hunslet Hawks and Castleford Tigers No 9.

The diminutive Wray, 12 stone and only 5ft 4in, plays well above his height and weight and he is a player Oldham will need to watch carefully this afternoon . . . irrespective of whether or not he can use a kicking tee to his liking.

Knights squad: George Rayner, Lee Mapels, Dan Potter, Chris Spurr, Alex Godfrey, Scott Rhodes, Matty Brooks, Dave Buckley, Jamaïne Wray, Adam Sullivan, Rob Spicer, Nathan Priestley, Jonny Liddell, Jimmy Elston, Ian Brown, Toby Williams, Neil Lowe, Ryan Esders, Andy Gargan, Danny Grimshaw, Stephen Grundy, Lee Lingard, Ryan McDonald, John Smith, Mark Spurr, Johnny Waldron, Liam Watling, Anthony Thackeray.



JAMAINE WRAY . . .
key man hoping to put a kick in it

Oldham RLFC Appearances and Scorers, 2007

players statistics

[up to and including June 3]

NAME	PLAYED	TRIES	GOALS	POINTS
P.Ashton	10	3	24	60
C.Baines	12	2		8
J.Boults	13			
G.Costin	10	2		8
A.Crabtree	14	1		4
A.Gorey	5			
I.Hodson	8	3		12
J.Hough	2			
D.Houston	16	2		8
S.Hoyle	15	1		4
A.Hughes	3	4	16	
G.Langley	16	7	5	38
C.Littler	12	2		8
R.Mervill	12	1		4
P.O'Connor	14	4		16
M.Ogden	5	1	10	24
S.Oldham	1			
L.Onyango	6	4		16
A.Robinson	3	1		4
N.Roden	15	7	1d-g	29
W.Rogers	10			
L.Sanderson	6	1	18	40
I.Sinfield	12	1		4
K.Smith	10	5		20
M.Stout	4	1		4
S.Tamghart	14	2		8
T.Tonks	5	1		4
A.Wilkinson	15	12		48
L.Wingfield	4	1		4

Visit our website today! www.roughyeds.co.uk

SADDLEWORTH SPORTS

93 CHEW VALLEY ROAD • GREENFIELD
OLDHAM • OL3 7JJ • 01457 872515
e-mail: sadsports@lycros.co.uk

GUMSHIELDS
STICK MITTS
KICKING TEES
RUGBY BALLS
TRAINING LADDERS
ARMGUARDS
HELMETS
PROTECTIVE VESTS
TACKLE SHIELDS
SHIELD CONES

**OLDHAM'S PREMIER STOCKIST
OF RUGBY KIT and
EQUIPMENT**

OPTIMUM
KOOGA
CANTERBURY
GILBERT
CLASSIC
PUMA
RUGBY-TECH
MITRE
CATRASPORT
HALBRO
WALSH

LTS
Landsowne Road
Chadderton
Oldham
OL9 9EF



Tel: 0161 626 1141
Fax: 0161 628 7078
www.ltshaulage.co.uk

**LOW LOADER HIRE
EXTENDABLE TRAILERS
ESCORTED LOADS**

LTS

01706 880884

BELVOIR!

the lettings specialist

www.belvoirlettings.com

**View all our properties at
www.belvoirlettings.com/oldham
or call us on 01706 880884**

**R! KEYHOLE
SURGERY!**
for landlords

Belvoir Oldham
A Shirt Sponsor of Oldham
Roughyeds RLFC

70 Market St, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8NP
T: 01706 880884 F: 01706 881884
Email oldham@belvoirlettings.com

- > NO LET NO FEES!
- > Free Property Appraisal
- > Full Management
- > Rent Collection Only
- > Tenant Find
- > Property Insurance
- > Rent & Legal Protection
- > Rent Guarantees
- > Full Inventories
- > Property Inspections
- > Accompanied Viewings
- > Referenced Tenants
- > Innovative Website
- > Buy to Let
- > Property Sourcing
- > Open 6 Days a week

NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



A real bonus?

We're almost halfway through the Co-operative National Leagues seasons now - so how is the controversial new bonus point system working out?

Under the new ruling, a losing team receives a bonus point if they are 12 points or closer to their opponents.

It is certainly something of a mixed bag to date. Dewsbury Rams have profited the most from the set-up, collecting a bonus point four times out of their five defeats so far.

That means that they currently sit fifth in NL1, above Doncaster Lakers, who have won one match more but have yet to pick up a bonus point in any of their games.

They are also above Batley Bulldogs, who have won the same number of games and drawn one.

And above Halifax and Rochdale Hornets, who have picked up just one bonus point between them - ironically when Fax lost to Dewsbury at home.

Halifax have twice seen bonus points slip away from them in the last couple of minutes of a game, while Rochdale had yet to pick up any ahead of Thursday night's meeting with Sheffield.

But despite the Rams profiting more from the system than anyone else, coach Andy Kelly still remains unsure about the pro's and con's of having a bonus point.

"I'm still mixed about it, even though we've got four now," Kelly said last week.

"I understand the reward for effort behind it, but still think that in some cases our effort hasn't been good enough to deserve a point.

"Having said that, I'm certainly not offended by it."

In NL2, the main beneficiaries so far have been the bottom two, London Skolars and Blackpool Panthers, who have picked up seven between them.

That has a major positive for Blackpool, as they don't remain pointless despite having lost each of their nine matches up to this weekend.

Also, Featherstone Rovers currently sit top of NL2 ahead of Workington Town, courtesy of having picked up one more bonus point than their Cumbrian rivals.

Several investigations into how the system would have worked on last season's games showed that the tables would hardly have changed.

But people are certainly starting to talk about bonus points a little more now, and while it's here, clubs might as well make the most of it.

Whether it stays long-term could depend on the impact it has on the final placings.

But for the meantime, staying within 12 points of your opponents is a definite factor between now and the end of the season.

FOR THE GREATEST COVERAGE OF THE GREATEST GAME...

League & League Express

EVERY MONDAY

SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE: 01484 401895

...OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT totalrugbyleague.com



HAVE A FLUTTER --- AND HELP US TO TAKE THE CLUB FORWARD

OLDHAM R.L.F.C CLUB CASH



**FOR £1 A WEEK
YOU CAN WIN**

£300 EVERY WEEK GUARANTEED

£100 EVERY WEEK GUARANTEED

£10 x 5 EVERY WEEK GUARANTEED

Plus

Jackpot last Friday monthly

* European holiday mini-break
(courtesy of Travelcare,
Henshaw Street)

* Meal for two at Clayton Green

Plus

* In June . . . £500 vouchers for
Mann's Furniture, Yorkshire Sreet

* In July . . . Dream Holiday
(courtesy of Travelcare,
Henshaw Street)

* In December . . . £500 vouchers
for Mann's Bed Store, Union Street

Automatic pay-out - no need to claim

RING JOHN 0161 628 3677

OLDHAM R.L.F.C

FIVE ALIVE



**FOR £5 A WEEK
YOU CAN WIN**

£500 A MONTH GUARANTEED

2 match-day SPONSORS SUITE PLACES

£25 VOUCHER FOR CLUB SHOP

Plus

Built-in benefits as follows:

* Season's car park pass

* Club tie for men

* Tymbuktu voucher for ladies

* mention in programme

* Lunches with speaker

* Use of BP lounge and bar

* 10% sponsorship discount

Subs paid by cheque (quarterly
in advance) or by standing order

Automatic pay out - no claim needed

RING JANET 0161 628 3677

Keeping the dream **ALIVE** --- **FIVE ALIVE!**

(Roll call of members -- fancy joining them?)

John McAndrew
Saddleworth Sports
FR Elsworth
Eddie Luckraft
David Webster
JFS Mortgage Services (John Smith)
J Aubrey
Chris Broadbent
Dorothy M Johnston
Mortgage Solutions (Dave Bassett)
Lansdowne Trading Services (Chris Stanley)
Michael Ackroyd
Clifford Bardsley
David Whitehead
David Lord
Janet Yewdale
Nigel Marland
Christopher Hamilton
Jeffrey Bates
Iain Ashworth
Roger Halstead
Steve Deakin
Nick Henry
Interior Door Systems (Joe Collins)
James Rochford
Noel Brady
Gareth Owen
Roy Wood

Denise Buckley
Moorside Electrical Contractors (Neil Haughton)
Valerie Wynn
Brian Tranter
Thomas Joyce
Mick Harrop
Terry Bailey
John Barrie Gallagher
Terry Kelly
Cheshire Telecom Ltd (Sean Lynch)
Robert Nixon
Derek King
Frank Taylor
Colin Pyke
Ernest Mayall
I and C Kershaw
Personal Tyres and Exhausts (Pete Beswick)
Savvas Eletheriou
Total Plus Communications
Total Plus Communications
Clarice Stevens
Sue and Mike Kilvin
William Hannen
The Bs
Promotional Print (Eric Bradley)
Tracey Bradley
Michael Bradshaw
Shirley Mullaney
Keith Mullaney

John Barrett
Raymond Sankey
Cyril Farnworth
John Heap
Mick Slicker
Terry Flanagan
Dave McGealy
Noise Killer Acoustics (Steve Bithell)
B Giddens
Gerald Fitzgerald
Nary Fitzgerald
Jack Buckley
Uitan McGovern (Oldham Electrical Supplies)
Mark Antony Kitchens (Mark Harrington)
Martin Hunter
David Macauley (Chartered Surveyors)
David Foden
Matthew Chambers
Oldham Advertiser
Paul Robinson
Mick Kilgannon
Ray Broadbent
Iain Taylor
Joseph Lawrence Perrins
Costin Electrical Services Ltd (Phil Costin)
Hans Bateson
John Kettleton

MARTIN Hunter, latest winner of the £500 monthly prize in Five Alive, hadn't a clue he had hit the jackpot until he opened the post behind the door of his Denshaw home.

"We had been away in Cornwall for a few days," he said, "so I didn't know anything about it, but it was a lovely surprise . . . and especially as I'm getting married to Mandy in August!"

Aged 45, lifelong Oldham fan Martin works for the Royal Bank of Scotland and is currently based at the Denton branch.

A season-ticket holder, he intends to put some of his Five Alive windfall away to meet the cost of next season's Roughyeds ticket, while the remainder will probably be swallowed up in the expense of getting married.

He said: "When I opened the post and the cheque was there for me I said to Mandy, 'Look at this. Nice one!' We always try to help out with Roughyeds fund-raising etc, but it's nice now and again to get something back."

"I've been watching Oldham for about 40 years. My grandad used to take me to Watersheddings when I was very small, and I've kept my interest ever since."

"I'll never forget those Watersheddings night matches under the floodlights. The ground was very atmospheric at night and, as a small boy, it left a lasting impression on me. The other thing I recall about those early days is watching the side in the BBC Floodlit Trophy and going to 'A' team games where we would get nearly as many fans as watch the first team today."

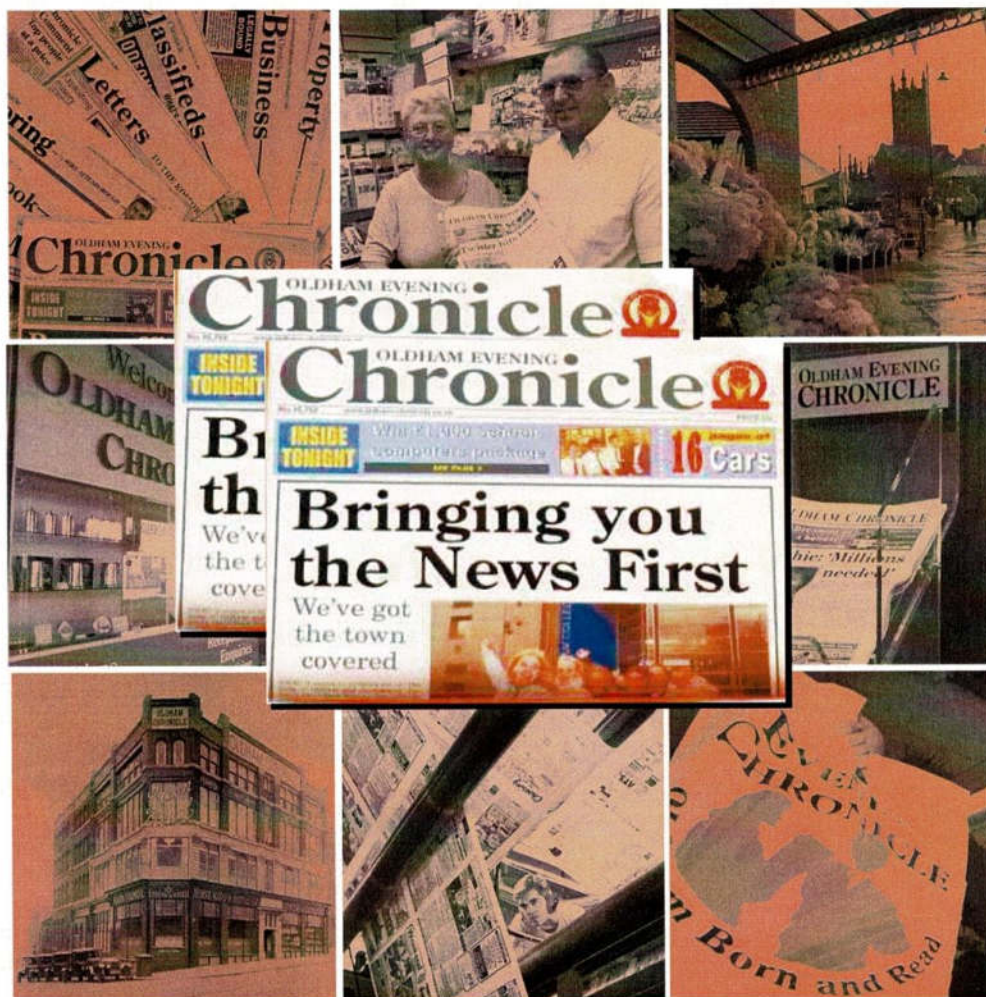
"Nowadays there is a big gulf between Super League and the rest, but I have to say what a pleasure it has been to watch the Roughyeds this season and particularly in the past few weeks. Keep up the good work, boys."

You too can be a £500 winner if you join Five Alive. Full benefits are outlined on the previous page and there are many in addition to the chance of winning in the monthly draw the £500 first prize, the second prize of two places in the hospitality suite on a match day or the third prize of a £25 voucher for the club shop.

And consider this: at present membership numbers 84, so the chances of winning a £500 cash prize are pretty good when compared with most other fund-raisers of this kind.

OLDHAM RLFC

LOTTERIES



Make the most *of your* evening!

News, sport entertainment,
houses, cars, travel and more.

OLDHAM EVENING
Chronicle



172 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1EQ

Tel: 0161 633 2121 Fax: 0161 627 0905 www.oldham-chronicle.co.uk

journalistic license

by Matthew Chambers

THE way some talk about it, you might be forgiven for thinking Sedgley Park is accessible only via a remote mountain pass, with the assistance of a Sherpa guide, rather than a few miles along the M62.

Still, here's hoping for a big turn-out from the 'home' supporters today.

The Roughyeds certainly deserve it right now, not least after the amazing effort up at Workington.

Rugby league types will always tell you that Cumbria is a tough place in which to get a result; they breed their lads sturdy up there and Town showcased that upbringing to full effect.

Oldham's pack is surely on a par with anything this division has to offer.

Thing is, so is Workington's. A battle took place up front so mighty it could have come straight from the recent film '300' (about the invasion of Sparta by the Persian hordes).

Despite dropping plenty of ball and taking puzzling options at times with ball in hand, Oldham were up to the challenge of stopping the Workington charge and some terrific defence over long spells, coupled with sparkling play on the fringes, saw them home.

A seventh consecutive victory would of course be very welcome today, but nothing can afford to be taken for granted in a league as ultra-competitive as this one.

Throw a blanket over the top five in this division and barely a toe sticks out, it's so tight. The bookies feel that Featherstone and Celtic Crusaders are neck-and-neck in terms of their potential to finish first, but Workington, Barrow and the Roughyeds will definitely have a say in

it too.

It's a fascinating tussle at the top which will no doubt have lurched in yet another direction after last night's Celtic-Barrow clash.

With most sides having at least 13 games left in their regular season it is far too early to be making rash predictions. But here's one anyway: expect today's opponents York to start making their charge towards the summit some time soon.

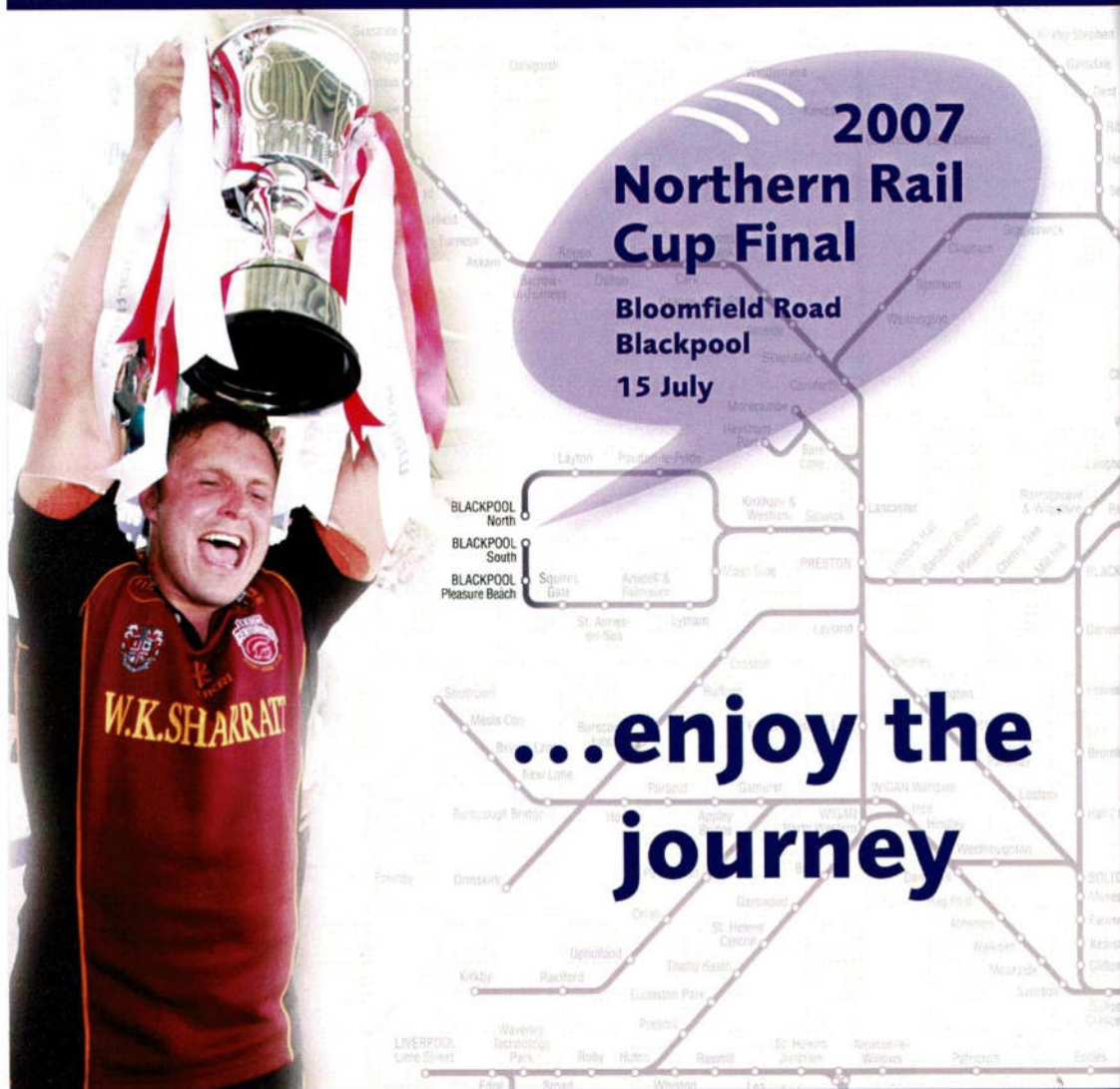
Despite a number of adverse results earlier in the season there appears to be plenty of class in Mick Cook's side, who have picked up good results in recent weeks.

Five defeats in the opening nine isn't a great record, but look at the example of Swinton — who lost eight league games last year, yet still reached the Play-Off Final — for an idea of what can yet be achieved.

With a bonus points system in place and the top five knocking seven shades out of each other each week, perhaps York's slowly-slowly approach will pay dividends come the season's end.

Matthew

Destination Blackpool



Proud sponsor of the Northern Rail Cup

www.northernrail.org



players association up and running

BY ROGER HALSTEAD

First steps towards the formation of an Oldham RLFC Players' Association were taken in the social club at an inaugural meeting attended by Martin Murphy, Adrian Alexander, Eddie Barton, John Blair, Joe Collins, Lyn Morgan and Geoff Munro.

Several others sent apologies while expressing interest, among them Colin Hawkyard, Eric Fitzsimons, John Ety, Norman Hodgkinson and Tony Wainwright.

Since that meeting many others have filled in membership forms such as Terry Flanagan, Paddy Kirwan and, from down south, Bob Mordell.

Another meeting will be held on June 19 in the social club and it is planned to launch the Association publicly at the Oldham versus Hunslet game at Boundary Park on July 22.

Joe Collins has volunteered to build a data base of members. You can read Joe's letter of introduction below --- and, if you qualify for membership, the form is there to be filled in.

"The Players Association" of Oldham R.L.F.C.

For too long now, Oldham R.L.F.C. has been without a formal link between its players of the present and those of the past. With your help we want to change that, with the formation of a new Association that will be open to all those who, at anytime during their career, have been closely associated with the proud and famous club.

It will be known as the "The Players Association," though, it has been agreed that membership will not be limited to players alone, but should include others, as not all the team "wore shorts."

If you currently play for the club, or have played, at any time since "1876," (A bottle of whiskey is on hold awaiting the oldest player to join) or your role was that of a Coach, Manager, Committee man, Physiotherapist, Sponge man, Reporter or loyal Back Room staff member, then this is for you.

The more who join, the stronger the proposed Association can become, thus providing opportunities for you to meet with old and new colleagues. It will also enable those of you living away from the town to keep abreast of developments within the local amateur and professional circles and greater members will help to generate bonds with possible sponsors and to develop links with local charities.

At this stage, all you need to do is to register your interest, by completing the Enrolment Form overleaf, although if you are aware of anyone else who might be interested in joining, copy the form for them, before you complete yours.

Do it now, don't leave it until tomorrow!

A further meeting to review the level of response and to develop the concept of the Association is to be held on Tuesday the 19th June 2007, at 7.00pm at the Oldham R.L.F.C. social club on Alfred Street, Werneth, Oldham.

The more people that attend, the more progress we can make, it's up to you.

Best Wishes,

TUP + One

31/05/2007

ENROLMENT FORM for "THE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION" of OLDHAM R.L.F.C.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel No: _____ Fax No: _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO: Joe Collins
Interior Door Systems Ltd
Hopton House
3 & 4 Rivington Court
Hardwick Grange
Warrington
WA1 4RT

Tel: 01925 813100
Fax: 01925 814300
E-mail: jc@interiordoorssystems.co.uk

2007 fixtures

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
31/01/07	Warrington Wolves	Friendly	Home	7.45pm	42-6	W	789
11/02/07	Rochdale Hornets	NRC	Home	3.00pm	8-24	L	1,145
18/02/07	Swinton Lions	NRC	Home	3.00pm	18-28	L	1,017
25/02/07	Dewsbury Rams	NRC	Away	3.00pm	22-32	L	819
04/03/07	Rochdale Hornets	NRC	Away	3.00pm	6-16	L	816
10/03/07	East Hull	CCC 3	Away	2.00pm	26-10	W	214
18/03/07	Dewsbury Rams	NRC	Home	3.00pm	8-32	L	622
25/03/07	Swinton Lions	NRC	Away	3.00pm	42-18	W	555
01/04/07	Keighley Cougars	CCC4	Away	3.00pm	26-16	W	1039
04/04/07	Featherstone Rovers	NL2	Home	7.45pm	12-23	L	1,162
09/04/07	Hunslet Hawks	NL2	Away	3.30pm	NEW DATE BELOW		
15/04/07	Blackpool Panthers	NL2	Away	3.00pm	40-20	W	501
29/04/07	Keighley Cougars	NL2	Home	3.00pm	32-20	W	847
04/05/07	Celtic Crusaders	NL2	Away	7.35pm	34-26	W	3441
13/05/07	Harlequins	CCC5	Home	12.30pm	6-66	L	559
20/05/07	Barrow Raiders	NL2	Home	3.00pm	50-18	W	848
26/05/07	London Skolars	NL2	Away	3.00pm	34-6	W	636
03/06/07	Workington Town	NL2	Away	3.00pm	27-18	W	1,231
10/06/07	York City Knights	NL2	Home*	3.00pm			
17/06/07	Featherstone Rovers	NL2	Away	3.00pm			
24/06/07	Keighley Cougars	NL2	Away	3.00pm			
01/07/07	Gateshead Thunder	NL2	Home*	3.00pm			
08/07/07	Swinton Lions	NL2	Away	3.00pm			
15/07/07	Barrow Raiders	NL2	Away	3.00pm			
22/07/07	Hunslet Hawks	NL2	Home	3.00pm			
29/07/07	York City Knights	NL2	Away	3.00pm			
05/08/07	Blackpool Panthers	NL2	Home	3.00pm			
12/08/07	Workington Town	NL2	Home	3.00pm			
19/08/07	Gateshead Thunder	NL2	Away	3.00pm			
22/08/07	Hunslet Hawks	NL2	Away	7.30pm			
02/09/07	Celtic Crusaders	NL2	Home	3.00pm			
09/09/07	London Skolars	NL2	Home	3.00pm			
TBA	Swinton Lions	NL2	Home	3.00pm	TO BE REARRANGED		

Play offs will take place on Sundays, September 16, 23 and 30 with the Grand Final on Sunday 7th October.
Home* venue to be arranged.

Key
NRC – Northern Rail Cup
NL2 – National League Division 2
CCC – Carnegie Challenge Cup

today's sponsors

PROGRAMME SPONSOR

NUTWERP

Sponsorship packages available.
All sizes catered for, large or small, individuals or party groups.

Please contact the office on
0161 628 3677
for further information and pricing

PLAYERS AFTER MATCH REFRESHMENTS

TAYLOR'S FRUIT AND VEG (OLDHAM MARKET) AND ASHWORTH'S BUTCHERS (OLDHAM MARKET) EXPRESS DAIRIES

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

Allow everyone to enjoy the game.

Impact

RUGBY APPAREL

SPECIALISTS IN THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF PERFORMANCE RUGBY EQUIPMENT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ANDREW : 07912842767