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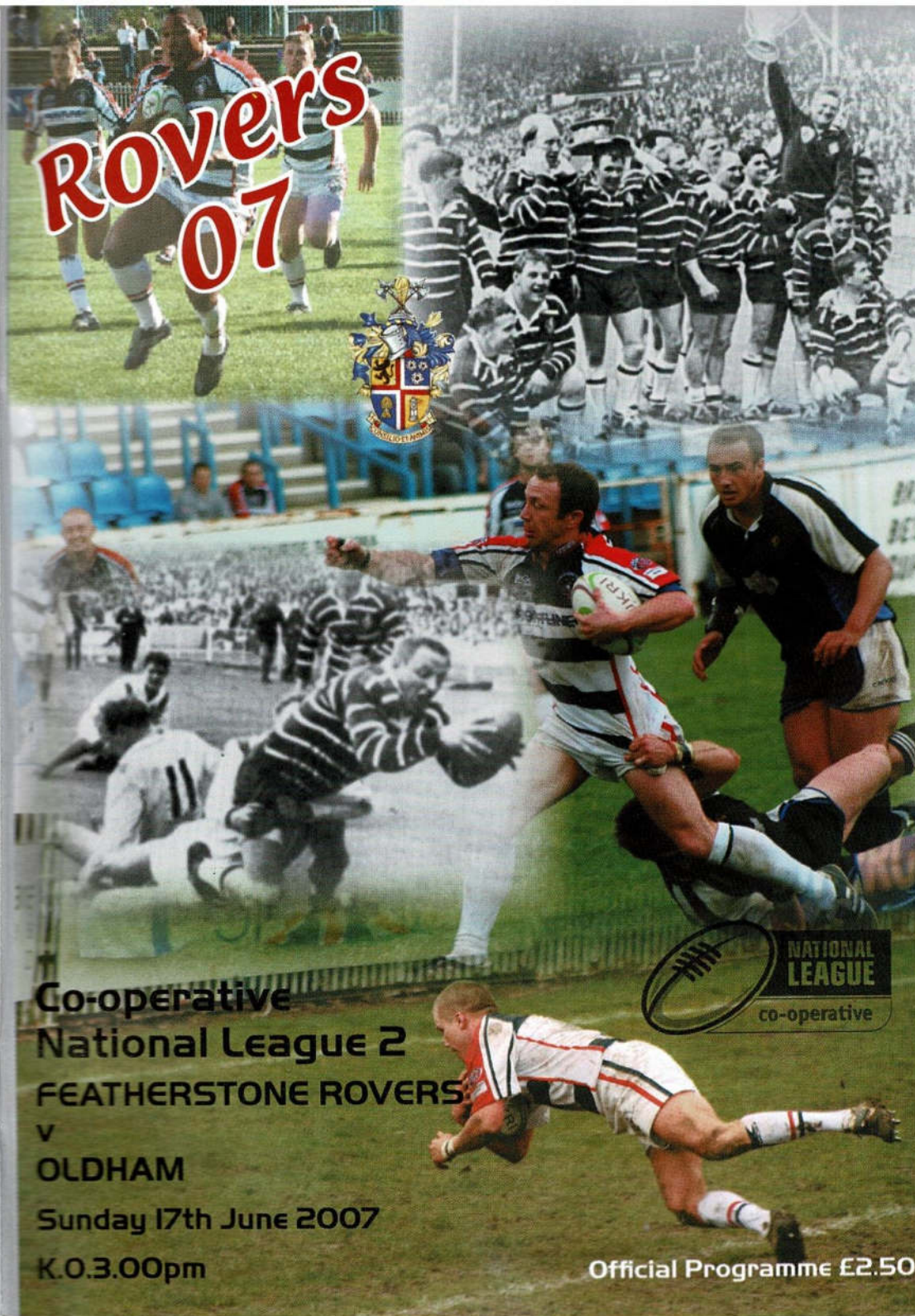
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FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

WELCOME . . from the Chairman



Championship
Medal Winner

A warm welcome to the fans, officials and players of a rejuvenated and very much in form Oldham Roughyeds. In particular I'd like to pay tribute to their sometime Chair and now Chief Exec Chris Hamilton. The club seems to have a new look and feel to it, and looks as though it's here to stay.

It's been a while since we talked, and there have been events involving the three professional Rugby League clubs in the district, and Wakefield Metropolitan Council. These events leave me hugely disappointed.

There is a strong and definite feeling that Rovers are being left out, ignored and left behind in matters concerning stadium development. I've touched on this before, when I told you of the way that initiatives started by us have been adopted by other clubs and passed off as theirs - the sports village for example.

We've had meetings, meetings that you've been kept up to speed on, with the Council for a number of years. Promises have been made, and then things have gone strangely quiet.

At a recent sports strategy meeting none of the 'power points' in the presentation mentioned us - our only mention was by way of a throw away comment by the lady doing the presentation.

Let me paraphrase: 'there are three clubs in the area - the two major clubs need a new stage to play and train. All three clubs have importance to their local communities and are key elements in regeneration. Glasshoughton has been identified as the site for the Tigers, and a sports village for Wakefield Trinity. Featherstone Rovers have access to a pool'.

So that's just fine then. Rovers' needs, as far as the council is concerned, is access to a pool. That pool is at Featherstone High School and we pay for its use. All our initiatives have been funded by our own efforts, and our reward for this is to be ignored.

I urge you to lobby your councillors. That's what they are there for.

Finally I'd like to put on record our gratitude to Andy Goose, alias 'Bluebeard'. Andy can no longer spare the time to fulfil the role, so if you fancy it let's be hearing from you.



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS CLUB OFFICIALS - Season 2007

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Elected to NR FL: June 1921

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Chief Executive: Glyn Robinson

Club Directors:

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Mr S Lingard, Mr G Robinson,
Mr S Robinson, Mr S Wagner

R.F.L. Representative:

Mr S Wagner

Friends Of Featherstone Rovers:

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Mr A Nicholls

Administration Manager:

Mrs V Bridges

Facilities Manager: Mr A Hunter

Football Director: Mr S Lingard

Team Manager: David Hobbs

Football Manager: Kevin Hobbs

Under 21's Coach: Brian Kellett

Under 21's Asst Coach: Mr D Evans

Club Doctor: Dr S Nuttal

Hon Dental Surgeon: Mr JG Milne

Physiotherapists:

Ms E Cliffe, Mr S Leake

Groundsman: Mr R Smith

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Talking Rugby

ROVERS

It's good to be back after consecutive games on the road.

Both of these games represented major, but differing challenges to the players; the sheer effort of taking on one of the best teams in the competition on their own turf, and the reinforcement of the 'no more Mr Nice Guy' ethic I've been trying to instil into the players when we take on theoretically weaker teams. I thought we stood up well on the whole. The key, as ever, being defence. We slipped up against Crusaders, but we determinedly nilled the Panthers in blistering conditions, maintaining our resolve until the hooter.

I'd like to welcome Andy Kain to the squad. He's on loan from Widnes for the season, with at present no option to keep him for 2008. I'm sure if Andy is made especially welcome, and fits in well - it certainly looks that way, then he'll want to be a Rovers next year. Who knows?

Andy already knows Tiger Handford and the two understand each other's game. He's a good organiser and calls

the shots well. Andy has made a good start and will get better and better. I like to see players expressing their ability. With that in mind Andy and Paul have pretty much a free role as far as tactics are concerned.



*Lance Todd
Trophy Winner*

There's been a bit said about our discipline. In reply I'd ask you to look at the reasons for the sendings off that we've incurred this year. I can't think of one that was for 'dirty play', including gaz handford's 'effort' at Halifax.

We are a competitive side at the top of the table. Oppositions will try to wind us up. Our only indiscipline is to react to that provocation.

Yet again you, our superb fans, came up with the goods in Bridgend and Blackpool. Your loyalty and passion is humbling. I don't care how often I say it, and I'll keep on doing so. If there isn't an award for that kind of loyalty, then there should be. Thank you yet again.

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**Ahead
of the
game**

with PAUL BENNETT of League Weekly

COULD Brian McClennan be the man for Leeds Rhinos then?

Well, if Gary Hetherington isn't seriously considering bringing the New Zealand Test coach to Headingley for 2008 then he certainly should be.

I first met McClennan just before the 2005 Tri-Nations Series when I had the privilege of heading down to London to join the Kiwis on an open-top bus tour (that was an experience, let me tell you!). McClennan struck me not only as a confident, determined character – but also as an approachable, down-to-earth kind of bloke. It was quite obvious then that he was a coach that did not command the respect and admiration of his players, but instead earned it.

When I spoke to him about the strengths of his Kiwi side, he spent less time talking about the size of the pack, or the skills of the backs, and more time talking about the close-knit nature of the group. His emphasis was firmly on morale within the camp and on building a 'family' ethic. He was as white as I am, but he spoke about the 'Maori nation' that the modern-day Kiwi side felt they represented and had bought into.

We all saw how McClennan's approach worked in that year's tournament – at least I think we did, because I still can't quite make up my mind whether I actually saw Australia humiliated 24-0 at Elland Road or whether it was just an incredibly pleasant

dream, (though my usual pleasant dreams about beating Australians do tend to involve Kylie Minogue and a paddle).

Then, in 2006, he almost did it again, this time dramatically losing to the Aussies in the final in golden point extra time. His record, given Australia's wealth of talent and past dominance of the international game, is superb. Now imagine the guy getting a shot with a club with the size, power and reputation of Leeds Rhinos.

Gary Hetherington says he ideally wants to see an Englishman get the job, and that's admirable. But, like the GB job, that may just not be practical right now.

Karl Harrison seems the only realistic home-grown candidate. The problem is not Harrison's talent, but convincing supporters that, whatever the unfortunate circumstances, a coach sacked by Salford could be the man to take the Rhinos forward.

McClennan seems ideal for a club coaching post in Super League. Potentially, I reckon he could be the next Daniel Anderson. He's already had his finest achievement so far in the city of Leeds ... will there be many more to come? Watch this space.



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ROVERS

Sunny Side Up with Mark Las Palmas

Stuart Dickens and the race to 1000 points.



Stuart is now coming to the end of his truncated benefit season, as you will have noticed by the various fund raising events that have been organised by the club and its supporters recently. Apparently he did not qualify for a full season-long benefit having had a short spell at Salford in the 2005 season. Nevertheless, his wholehearted approach to the game has won him many admirers here at Post Office Road.

At the start of the season Stuart had scored 776 points, so he must have had half an eye on a reasonable injury-free season with plenty of goal-kicking opportunities to score the 224 points needed to take him to the 1,000 point mark. He scored 266 points last season, and this year after a slowish start, Rovers recent scoring burst has given him an excellent chance of making that figure. I'll include an updated "Stuart Dickens 1,000 points watch" in every home programme until he reaches that milestone.

Only ten players in the history of the club have ever reached a thousand points, underlining just what an achievement it would be. The first player to reach four figures was Jim Denton back in the early 1930s. It took him a dedicated decade of points scoring to reach that figure and set the benchmark for the rest, in an age when rugby league games saw far less points scored in general, therefore opportunities were more limited. The thousand-point club remained very exclusive, with a membership of just one, until the late fifties and early sixties when first Don Fox, then Jackie Fennell, then Terry Clawson all got there. After that, veteran Cyril Kellett still had enough petrol in the tank after some phenomenal scoring exploits at Hull KR to notch another thousand for his home town team (Cyril is 5th on the sport" all-time scorers list. In the 1970s Harold Box managed 1,000 points from fullback, a player who would have scored far more if his career had not coincided with firstly the end of Cyril Kellett's career, and then the prime of Steve Featherstone Rovers RLFC Official Programme

Quinn's. Quinn's figures of course leave all other players in the shade, he is 8th just behind Kellett on rugby league's all-time list. Since Quinn, Deryck Fox, the quiet achiever, then Martin Pearson got to 1,000 points, and most recently Jamie Rooney who achieved the feat in just four seasons of prolific scoring.

Here's the full list:

Steve Quinn 2656	Deryck Fox 1145
Don Fox 1492	Jim Denton 1141
Martin Pearson 1338	Harold Box 1123
Jamie Rooney 1247	Terry Clawson 1089
Cyril Kellett 1159	Jack Fennell 1000

For any fans who would like to contribute to Stuart's testimonial, an excellent DVD Of the highlights of the first part of this season has been put together by Terry Mullaney. There also is a brochure celebrating Stuart's contribution to the club. Both items are available from the club shop. **Stuart Dickens 1000 Points watch:** Scored 926 points. Needs 74 points. 12 league fixtures remaining

Last week's quiz question: How many players have scored 1000 points for Featherstone Rovers? The answer, as above, was ten.

This week's quiz question: How many players have received a benefit season for ten years service to Featherstone Rovers?

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ROVERS

Under 21s with Brian Kellett

Since my last column, we have played three games. The last one against the Vikings last Thursday, being by far the toughest. We have arguably the youngest, most inexperienced side in the competition, so we will have done well to compete with them.

Youth and inexperience, combined with enthusiasm, were key elements in the games against Whitehaven and Sheffield Eagles: particularly against Whitehaven who are another big, strong experienced side, who had several first teamers in action. Predictably we went down 36-6.

We've signed another young guy from Normanton Knights. John Smith has gone well since he left St Johns and joined us, and now we welcome Scott Hutton to our ranks. Scott is a three quarter...an area in which we need reinforcements, and he went well against Sheffield, given that he'll need time to get used to the pace and intensity of the game at this level.

I'd like to welcome aboard PRO STAR as our new kit sponsors. They are a well known name in Rugby League circles, and their support is highly valued.

Our performance against the Eagles was much better, and the game was there for the winning. But we blew it early in the game through not being mentally switched on from the start. 24-20 could have, and should have, been the score the other way round...a lesson learned.

Rovers Supporters Club are running a coach to York City Knights on Sunday 24th June. Bookings and deposits are been taken at today's game in the portacabin. Please note bookings will only be confirmed on payment of a deposit



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ROVERS



In the Pontefract and Castleford Express the other week you may have seen the FRISA organisation donating the princely sum of £10,000 to the club for players contracts. We caught up with the treasurer of FRISA Stephen Parker at the recent Celtic game to find out a little more about the group.

What is F.R.I.S.A.?

The Featherstone Rovers Independent Supporters Association (FRISA) is a supporter's fund-raising group that operates independently from the club itself. It was formed in 1999 and has had a membership of around 100 since that time.

What is the aim of F.R.I.S.A.?

To generate a fund the club coach can use for the sole purpose of buying and retaining players. F.R.I.S.A. Members have total control of the fund, not the Rovers directors. Since our formation we have donated in excess of £80,000 to the club.

How are funds raised?

Mainly from regular monthly donations from the members together with a significant donation from the lads who run the Blue Lagoon Bar. We also have other fund-raisers such as the spread and save campaign run by Richard Taylor (the jam jar man) and the pledge a try run by Jon and Sharon Thatcher. We also occasionally operate the car park and run the after match quiz in the clubhouse.



Featherstone Rovers RLFC Official Programme

How's the money spent?

The club's coach will approach FRISA asking for money to support the signing or retention of a player. If we have the money then the coach gets his man. This year Dave Hobbs asked us to help retain Stuart Dickens and Ian Tonks at the club. In the past we have assisted with retaining and bring such as Richard Chapman, Michael Rhodes, Mea David and Brendan O'Meara to the club.



Photo by Mark Ashton

How do I join?

Simply e-mail your details to sp.fev@btopenworld.com or contact any of the FRISA committee which currently consists of Stephen and Susan Parker, Richard Taylor, Paul Hewes, Dave Handley and Frank Slater. If you don't recognise any of these names simply ask behind the bar in the clubhouse and they will direct you to myself.

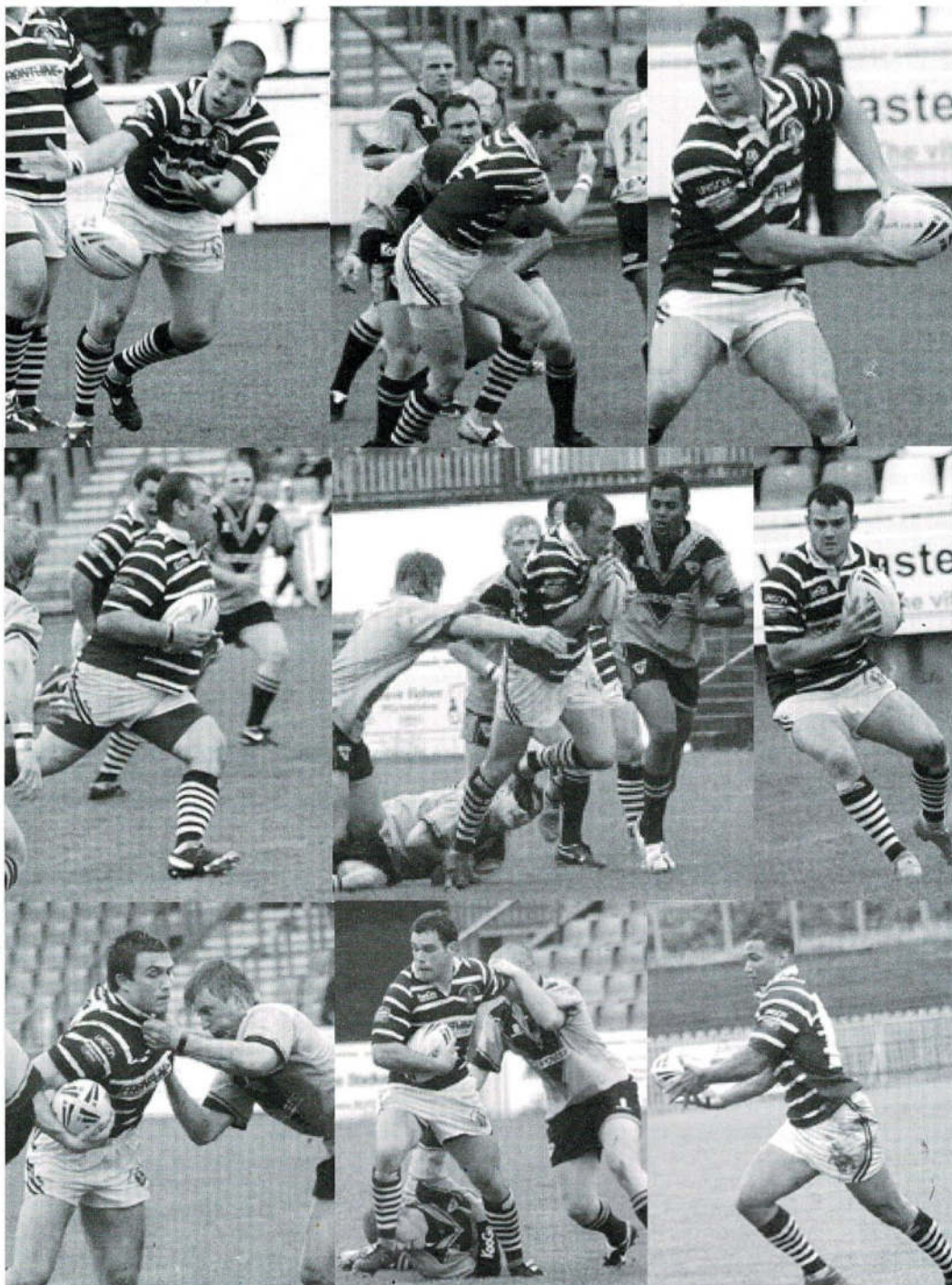
What if I already donate money in other ways?

Many people support the rovers in a variety of ways and supporters should not cancel their lottery subscription or stop buying golden gamble tickets or any other fund-raiser to join FRISA. Simply if you want increase your support by around £5 a month to strengthen the team then please join.

How are members kept informed?

We publish a 10/12 page quarterly newsletter which is posted to each member and contains full details of all the income and expenditure. Any member is free to come and look at the books at any time.

..... *A little more Action courtesy of Bob Nunn*



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Middle..Tony Smith, Jon Whittle, Tommy Haughey, Ian Tonks, Richard Blakeway, Steve Dooler, James Ward, Gareth Handford, Brian Kellett.
Front...Jamie Benn, Craig Moss, Chris Ross, Paul Handforth, David Hobbs, Stuart Dickens, Nathan Larvin, Paul Hughes, Andy Speake.
Missing from photo.....Carl Hughes, Gavin Swinson, Jamie Field..

ROVERS

Welcome to my World with Gareth Handford

I heard that there was a bit of a mix up on teletext when we played Blackpool last week. They got me mixed up with Tiger, and so the score up date kept saying 'try Handford, goal Handford', and that sort of thing. It must have made a few people who know me and my game sit up a bit.

I am a PROP, always have been. I've never had any ambitions, fantasies, dreams or whatever to be anything else. That kind of carry on is for others. My job is to take the ball in hard and defend. I wear defences down so that other people can rack the points up.

Morale is sky high amongst us at the minute. A team that is united and has good morale is a winning team, but it works the other way - a team that's winning is bound to be flying high as a group. That's why when things aren't going well you need the people who can give you a lift, who can see the funny side, who make you feel that things aren't so bad after all, and who can basically act daft.

To my mind, Gavin Swinson is a super star when it comes to breaking the ice, or getting people in a good mood, or seeing the funny side of bad times. Every team needs a Gavin Swinson.



Forwards need to share the work, when a forward gets 'spelled' it's really important that there is no drop in work rate and intensity. In the past there might have been too much expected of Stu Dickens and Ian Tonks. Stu is still an 80 minute forward, but Rovers did need that extra body up front. That was where I came in. Now up front we are real force to be reckoned with, and people like Tiger can get on with scoring the points.

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A Blast from the Past

with Terry Jones

Featherstone are pipped in thrilling final

By Nigel Askham

Featherstone Rovers 26 Oldham 28

FEATHERSTONE went agonisingly close to pulling off a remarkable recovery in a truly memorable Second Division Premiership final.

Rovers fans must have been rubbing their eyes in disbelief as Oldham stormed into a 22-0 lead on the half hour but their side's stunning revival won the admiration of thousands of neutrals in the 35,000 plus crowd

Featherstone woke from their first half nightmare to turn the tables on champions Oldham and looked to have pulled off mission impossible when Steve Quinn's fifth goal saw them take a 26-22 lead with only ten minutes left.

But the game took a cruel twist four minutes from time when Oldham got up off the floor to deliver the knock-out punch.

Man of the match, centre Des Foy, used his pace to slice through and winger Kevin Meadows joyfully took his pass to dive between the posts.

Scraped

Maori centre Charlie McAlister's conversion scraped over the bar and that was enough to snatch the trophy from Rovers' grasp.

Earlier, Rovers had looked like second class citizens as Oldham showed the sort of form which had taken them to the title.

Paul Hughes was tackled into touch by Mick Burke inches from the line after a barnstorming run but Rovers soon began to look pedestrian in comparison to their slick moving opponents.



After 13 minutes it looked all so easy for Oldham as Foy finished off slick handling to grab the first of his two tries.

McAlister tagged on the conversion and four minutes later the speedy Meadows sent loose forward Terry Flanagan dashing for the line.

There was no goal but it hardly seemed necessary as Oldham continued to rip holes in

the Rovers defence.

The dashing Foy finished off a glorious move after a rare slip by Peter Smith on half-way and Rovers were grasping at thin air again when stand-off Peter Walsh romped over for the fourth try.

McAlister sent both goals between the posts to add to the humiliation and Rovers must have wished they were already on their summer vacation.

Graham Steadman went over for a try almost apologetically from Dave Sykes' pass two minutes before the break and although Quinn was on target with the first of his sweetly struck goals there was little indication of what was to follow.

But, with Rovers substitutes John Cressley and John Bastian joining the fray soon after the re-start, Oldham quickly began to look vulnerable.

Featherstone were unfortunate when Deryck Fox's grubber kick hit a post and narrowly failed to go to hand but the lively Steadman then re-gathered his own smart kick for the touchdown which set the ball rolling.

Winger Andy Bannister, only in the side because of the absence of the injured Chris Bibb, showed pace and confidence as he finished superbly from 40 yards after initially it looked as though he had nowhere to go.

With Quinn adding two more vital goals the deficit was down to four points and Oldham appeared to be paying the penalty for their first-half exertion in the energy sapping heat.

In contrast Rovers found new reserves of energy and after Hughes was felled inches short by McAlister they forged ahead after 67 minutes.

Good passing by Keith Bell, Fox and Karl Harrison created the opening on the right and although Paul Lyman looked to have slipped up by going for line himself he eventually fed the supporting Sykes for what seemed certain to be the match winning try.

But heartbreak followed for Rovers as another defensive lapse was seized on by Foy to set the seal on a pulsating match which for sheer excitement must rank as the game of the season.

Featherstone Rovers 26 Oldham 28

Scorers – Featherstone: tries Steadman (2), Sykes, Bannister. Goals: Quinn (5)

Oldham: tries Foy(2), Flanagan, Walsh, Meadows. Goals McAlister (4)

Featherstone – Quinn; Bannister, Sykes, Banks, Marsh (Crossley); Steadman, D. Fox; Siddall (Bastian), Bell, Harrison, Hughes, Smith, Lyman.

Oldham – Burke (Irving); Round, Foy, McAlister, Meadows, Walsh, Ford; Sherratt (Warnecke), Sanderson, Waddell, Hawkyard, Graham, Flanagan.

Referee – Mr R Whitfield (Widnes)

Attendance – 35,252 **Half-time** – 6-22



Oldham

2006 stats

NL1 Played 18, won 0, drawn 0, lost 18-10th.

Challenge Cup: round 4.

Northern rail Cup: 3rd in group 5

Average attendance: 942-down 330

Paul Ashton: half back. Paul is 27 and started out at saddleworth ARLFC, before moving to Halifax, Rochdale, then The Cougars before joining the Roughyeds.

Geno Costin: Forwards. Geno is a 22 year old non quota Queenslander and comes to Oldham via Wynnum Manly and Logan Souths.

Alan Hadcroft: centre. Alan 29, had a long career with Leigh Centurions, including rep honours for The National League team that took on the Kiwis.

Drew Houston: Utility. 23 year old Drew, joins the Roughyeds after learning his football with Queensland Norths and New South Wales outfit Dapto.

Adam Hughes: centre. Adam is from Leeds, but turned pro, for a brief spell with The Eagles after starting out with Milford marlins. Adam soon moved to the Rhinos, then had spells with Wakefield, Halifax and Widnes.

Richard Mervill: prop. Richard turned pro with Halifax, before moving to Keighley Cougars. He played in Australia with Dapto, where he met Drew Houston

Lucas Oryango: wing. 25 year old Lucas played Rugby Union for Kenya at 7 a side. He had spells with Sale Sharks and Manchester RU, before joining Oldham via Widnes.

Wes Rogers: prop. Wes is 29 and in his second spell with Oldham. In between times he has played for Rochdale and Swinton

Kris Smith: utility. Kris is 28 and has played for the Rhinos, Salford, London Broncos, and Halifax. Wes has played in France for Carpentras and Pia. Wes started out at Eccles ARLFC.

Tony Tonks: prop. 22 year old Tony, started out with Normanton Knights, moving on to the Wildcats Academy, The Bulls coming to Oldham on loan from Doncaster initially, but now signed a contract with the Roughyeds.

Chris Baines: second row. Chris is another loan player who stayed, joining Oldham from Warrington. Chris is a former Wigan St Pats player.

Andy Crabtree: hooker. Andy signed this year from Swinton Lions.

Ian Hodson: back row. Ian took a break from Rugby in 2006 after getting married. Now he's back with a new deal.

Simeon Hoyle: hooker. Simeon forms a trio with Paul Ashton and Richard Mervill who joined Oldham from the Cougars this year. Simeon turned pro with Halifax.

Paul O'Connor: full back. Signed from Widnes after a loan period. Paul is an Ireland and GB student international.

Neil Roden: half back. Neil came through the Wigan academy set up. Now back at Oldham for a second spell having played for Leigh and Batley in the meant time.

Lee Sanderson: utility. Turned pro with Leigh, played Super League with the Broncos, and had stint with Hornets before becoming a Roughyed.

Michael Stout: utility. Played for Warrington and Widnes Academy, signed for 2007 from Swinton.

Alex Wilkinson: winger. And England Academy tourist who first played for Royton Tigers. Alex turned pro with the Bulls, then went on loan to London. He played for Huddersfield and had a loan spell with Hull FC.

Andy Gorey: winger. Andy is another former Royton Tigers player.

John Hough: hooker. 29 year old John has been with his home town club for ten years in 2008 and has been granted a well earned testimonial. He joined Warrington from Waterhead ARLFC before signing for his home town club.

Craig Littler: centre. Craig is 21 years old and signed this year from saints.

Ian Sinfield: second row. Ian is in his second time at Oldham. Meanwhile he has turned out for Salford, Keighley and Swinton.

They Coached the Rovers with Mark Las Palmas

Peter Fox: January 1971 – June 1974 (First Spell).



In many ways Peter Fox re-defined modern rugby league coaching, and the impact of his style and charisma was felt not only at Featherstone Rovers, but across the whole game. An abrasive and forthright speaker, he began coaching at Featherstone at a

time when the power of a first team coach was limited in that a selection committee chose the team. Fox was the first man to change that, and put that power into his own hands. Just as forceful characters like Brian Clough were beginning to emerge in football, so Fox and Alex Murphy brought a new cult of personality to RL coaching. A keen student of psychology and man management, Fox put this to good effect on the teams he managed. He had been a modest player, very much in the shadow of his two hugely talented younger brothers Don and Neil, but as a shrewd tactician, motivator and team builder he proved to be the brightest of his generation.

Given his later success, it's hard to believe his coaching career could have been over before it had hardly started. His first half season with Featherstone was a disaster, having taken over mid-season from Laurie Gant. The team immediately nose-dived and won only six games of his first 22 in charge. Luckily for him and the club, the board kept faith with this fiery character and within a couple of seasons his obvious skills had begun to bear fruit. Fox inspired awesome loyalty in his players, a quality which went a long way, giving

youngsters the self confidence to develop and old hands the desire to keep going. By the time Featherstone reached the 1973 Cup final the side bore the indelible stamp of "manufactured by Peter Fox" right through it.

In his first full season in charge Rovers recovered to finish seventh in the league, and followed that with a best ever (at the time) finish of second in 1973, just two points behind league leaders Warrington. The following season Rovers dropped back to eighth but enjoyed a Wembley return to the 1974 Cup final.

Peter Fox was in charge a total of three and a half seasons, a relatively short time compared to his predecessors, but his impact was undeniable. No other coach would remain in the head coach position for even this modest length of time until Fox returned in the late eighties. Indeed, the club embarked on a coaching merry-go-round for much of the rest of the 1970s and early 1980s.

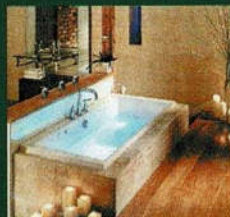
In May 1974 after a Wembley defeat against Warrington, Fox quit Featherstone for the first time and left to coach local rivals Wakefield, where he had less success. Whilst coach of Bradford during eight seasons, he brought them two Championships built on a familiar foundation of ex-Featherstone players, and coached Great Britain for just a single series against Australia. He probably trod on too many officials' toes to be invited to remain as national team coach. After a short stint at Leeds he came back to Featherstone in 1987, a period to be covered later in this series.

Peter Fox's coaching record:
70/1: Won 6-Lost 16 (part season only)
71/2: Won 25-Drew 1-Lost 14
72/3: Won 35-Lost 10
73/4: Won 23-Drew 2-Lost 20

Total: Won 89-Drew 3-Lost 60= 59.5%

Next Week: Tommy Smales (the loose forward).

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Arrrrrrr mi little

Buccaneers



TODAYS MASCOTS

Kimberley-Danielle Baxter who is 6 tomorrow and **Adam Gosney** who's nearly 2 are today's mascots and they both get a **FREE** home shirt, a certificate, a signed, framed photo, signed program and vouchers for a McDonald's Happy Meal with an Adult Meal for mum or dad as well! Kimberley's shirt is sponsored by **ALN Property Services** and Adam's shirt by **Top Cat Design Ltd.** The mascot at the Blackpool away game was **Chloe Cottingham** and **Shindigz Party Shop** in Pontefract sponsored her shirt. The mascot at Celtic Crusaders away game was **Hannah Willoughby** and her shirt was sponsored by **ALN Property Services**, so a huge thank you to all our shirt sponsors.

A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Harry Potts who was 6 on May 31st, **Alfie Evans** who was 5 on June 1st, **Megan Large** who was 8 on June 6th, **Tom Davison** who was 13 on June 8th, **Joshua Elliott** who was 5 on June 8th, **Alexander Halman** who was 5 on June 10th and **Benjamin Bowes** who was 6 on June 14th. Don't forget to call into the Den for your piece of birthday cake.

WHAT'S COMING UP...

On Thursday July 26th at the Celtic Crusaders home game we are having another of our Dress as a Pirate days. We want all you Buccaneers to dress up like pirates for the game. So get your costumes out and see if you can be the best-dressed pirate around! Remember we are on the telly that game so if you get dressed up the whole world may see you. **Due to holiday commitments we are sorry to say that the Den will not be open on July 15th, Gateshead at home.** Don't worry about missing out on your passport stamps as everyone is going to given a stamp, even if they don't come to the game! The Den will be open for the Barrow home game on the 22nd.

WELL DONE!

Our latest Match Day Draw winners this week are **No.77 McKenzie Barlow** who wins the McDonald vouchers, **No.11 Lauren Roebuck** who wins the Pizza Hut vouchers, **No.22 Joe Powell** who wins the Cineworld vouchers and **No.68 Stephanie Lingard** who wins the Nando's vouchers. We just about have all the sponsor money collected and as soon as it is in and counted we will let you know how much we have raised for charity and our Club. Again, thank you and well done to all of you who took part.

THANKS TO...

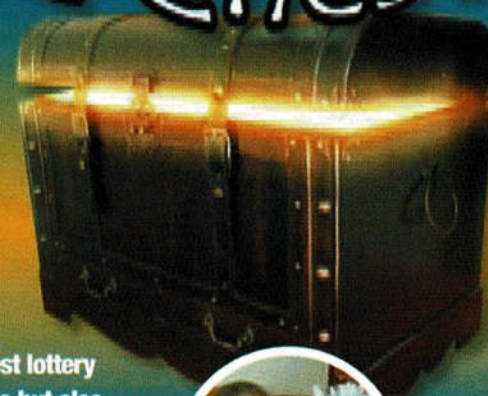
Thanks to all of our business sponsors this season, and they are: - **SHINDIGZ** of Pontefract, **Blue Lagoon Bar**, **Nando's @ Wakefield**, **Cineworld @ Wakefield**, **ProDec**, **ASDA**, **SCS**, **McDonalds @ Freeport & Pontefract**, **Rovers Study/ImpRovers Centre**, **ALN Property Services**, **Top Cat Design Ltd**, **Pizza Hut @ Freeport**, **Wakefield Superbowl**, **Choose at Home Blinds**, and **Rovers Travel Club**. We really appreciate all their help and we hope you in turn can support them this year.

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FEATHERSTONE Rovers Treasure Chest £500 to be won EVERY day*



Join the new Featherstone Rovers Treasure Chest lottery and not only could you win fantastic daily prizes but also help support the The Prince of Wales Hospice and the development of the club too.

The Prince of Wales Hospice cares for people from the five towns area who are in the advanced stages of a terminal or life-limiting illness such as cancer, motor neurone disease or chronic heart disease. The hospice can't make its patients better, but it can make a patients remaining time the best it possibly can be.

The hospice's homely atmosphere combined with specialist medical care helps people experiencing traumatic pain, side effects and deep fears about their future. But they rely on public support to do this. By joining the lottery you will make a difference to the final days of someone's life.



"I've been a Rovers supporter for many years and I'm so glad the club is supporting our local charity - the hospice. I'm a volunteer and director there and I know the care for local people with serious illness is second to none. But the hospice relies on local donations. Please lend your support today by joining the lottery. You might even win!"

IAN DRANSFIELD



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STATISTICS

Player stats for season 2007

ROVERS HIGH ACHIEVERS

Most Goals in a Match:

13 by Mark Knapper, v Keighley
17th Sept 1989

Most Goals in a Season:

165 by Jamie Rooney, Season 2002

Most Goals in a Career:

1210 by Steve Quinn, 1975 to 1988

Most Tries in a match:

6 by Mike Smith v Doncaster,
13th April 1968 and by Chris Bibb v Keighley,
17th September 1989

Most Tries in a Season:

48 by Paul Newlove, Season 1992/93

Most Tries in a Career: 162 by Don Fox,
1953 to 1966

Most Points in a Match:

40 by Martin Pearson, v Whitehaven
26th November 1995

Most Points in a Season:

429 by Jamie Rooney, Season 2002

Most Points in a Career:

2654 by Steve Quinn, 1975 to 1988

Highest Score For: 96 - 0

v Castleford Lock Lane 8th February 2004

Highest Score Against: 80-14

v Bradford Bulls 3rd April 2005

Most Appearances in a Career: 440 by
Jim Denton 1921 to 1934

Representative Players:

Great Britain: T Askin, J Bridges,
T Clawson, M Dixon, S Evans, Deryck Fox,
Don Fox, D Hobbs, G Gordon, S Molloy,
A Morgan, S Nash, P Newlove, P Smith,
J Thompson.

Tourists: T Askin, C Bibb, J Bridges,
G Cooper, C Dooler, S Evans, Deryck Fox,
Don Fox, D Hobbs, S Nash, P Newlove,
I Smales, J Thompson

World Cup Tourists: A Morgan, P Smith,
J Thompson

England: J Bridges, I Butt, M Dixon,
S Evans, V Farrar, J Hirst, D Hobbs,
A Morgan, J Mullaney, P Newlove, P Smith,
R Stone, J Thompson, A Wood

Wales: P Banner and H Box

Ireland: L Casey, L Child and Paul Darley

Scotland: N Lowe, J Houston, N Graham

France: F Banquet, D Divet,

Max Greseque and Freddie Zitter

New Zealand: B Tuuta

Great Britain Under 21's: C Bibb,

P Bonson, Deryck Fox, P Lyman, P Newlove,
M Pearson, I Smales

Great Britain Under 24's: K Bell, S Evans,
D Fennell, V Farrar, M Gibbins, J Gilbert,
D Hobbs, T Ramshaw, P Smith, V Thomas,
J Thompson, L Tonks

Academy Tourist: J Stokes

Academy Internationals: J Stokes, N Lowe,
K Pratt, S Dickens

Player Apps Sub Tries G D.G. Pts

Jamie BENN	1	-	-	-	-	-
Richard BLAKEWAY	14	2	4	-	-	16
Craig BOWER	4	2	1	-	-	4
Dale CARDOZA	12	1	5	-	-	20
Craig CAWTHRAY	-	2	-	-	-	-
Dean COLTON	13	-	6	-	-	24
Stuart DICKENS	18	1	3	71	-	155
Steve DOOLER	14	5	5	-	-	20
Gary ELLERY	-	1	-	-	-	-
Jamie FIELD	15	-	6	-	-	24
Scott GLASSELL	3	-	1	5	-	14
Gareth HANDFORD	12	3	3	-	-	12
Paul HANDFORTH	17	-	12	2	1	53
Tom HAUGHEY	17	1	10	-	-	40
James HOUSTON	3	13	1	-	-	4
Carl HUGHES	0	8	4	-	-	16
Paul HUGHES	16	2	5	-	1	21
Andy KAIN	2	-	3	-	-	12
Danny KIRMOND	18	-	12	-	-	48
Nathan LARVIN	8	-	3	-	-	12
Wayne McHUGH	12	4	14	-	-	56
Craig MOSS	5	1	-	-	-	-
Chris ROSS	12	5	6	10	-	44
Andy SPEAKE	1	-	-	1	-	2
Brian SUTTON	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gavin SWINSON	3	6	1	-	-	4
Ian TONKS	8	8	-	-	-	-
James WARD	-	7	1	-	-	4
Jon WHITTLE	15	-	10	-	-	40
Loz WILDBORE	4	-	1	-	-	4
Dale WYNNE	-	1	-	-	-	-

Man of the Match

May 27th

Swinton Lions

Jamie Field

Man of the Match

June 2nd

Celtic Crusaders

Paul Handforth

Man of the Match

June 10th

Blackpool Panthers

Paul Handforth

Fixtures and Results 2007

with Terry Jones

Note: () denotes subs
not used

February	Score	Att.	March	Score	Att.	April	Score	Att.	May	Score	Att.	June	Score	Att.	July	Score	Att.	August	Score	Att.	September	Score	Att.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
11th Sheffield E.	W54-22	1209	18th Castleford Tigers	L10-48	6871	25th Doncaster L.	W24-22	1336	4th Castleford T.	L16-22	3236	11th Drighlington	W52-10	1161	18th Doncaster L.	D18-18	1775	23rd Sheffield Eagles	L8-32	1196	31 Catalan Dragons	L12-70	1545	4th Oldham	W23-12	1162	9th Keighley C.	W36-22	1237	15th Workington Town	L16-13	846	22nd Halifax	L76-16	1318	29th Blackpool	W70-24	1151	6th London Scholars	W62-6	382	13th Hunslet Hawks	W36-12	1008	20th Gateshead T.	W74-16	385	27th Swinton Lions	W42-4	1014	2nd Celtic Crusaders	L36-28	931	10th Blackpool Panthers	W58-0	485	17th Oldham H 3:00			24th York City Knights			1st London Skolars			8th Keighley Cougars			15th Gateshead Thunder			22nd Barrow Raiders			29th Celtic Crusaders			August			30th Swinton Lions			12th York City Knights			19th Hunslet Hawks			September			2nd Workington Town																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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...in the Community

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This took place on Tuesday 22nd May from 10.30 am 'til 3.30pm
15 people came along to this drop in session and found out where they were with
Literacy and Numeracy. Everyone who participated was entered into a Rovers PRIZE
draw to win an IPOD or a pre-match meal voucher for two with Main Stand tickets
included. The winner of the IPOD was Moira Hughes and the winner of the meal voucher
and tickets was Sheila Davies. Many thanks to all who attended.

Study Rovers Schools VIP Awards

The most recent to benefit under the scheme
this season are:

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Jessica Machen
Ashley Waring



Photos show
clockwise
Jessica Machin,
Ashleigh Waring,
Amy Hall
and Marc West
with Paul 'Tiger'
Handforth



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Emily Murtough
Amy Hall



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Marc West



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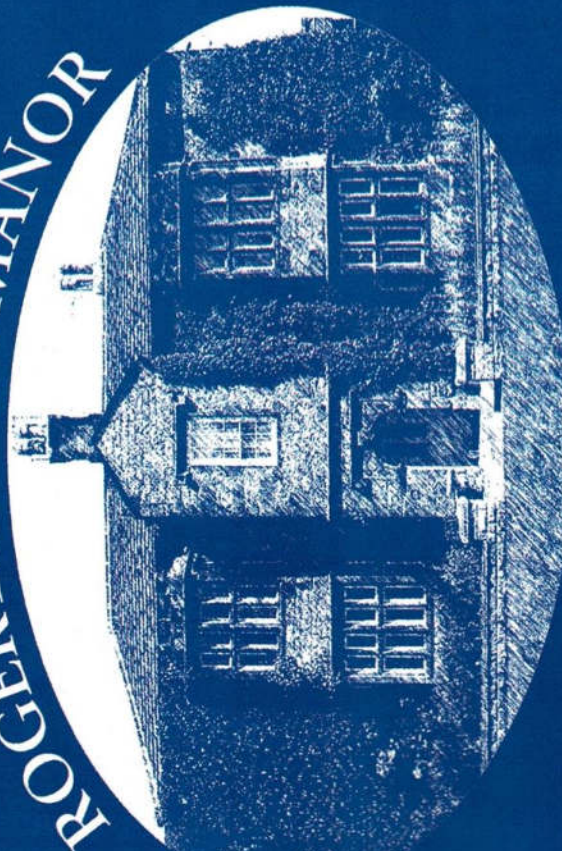
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ROVERS

Bits and Bobs with Bob Fowler

A happy Fathers' Day to all you exasperated dads. I am sure your children bought you a nice card and present, didn't they?

The league is beginning to look very intriguing now with any one of five teams capable of winning promotion outright. This of course, makes for an exciting competition and no doubt will leave an enthralling contest going throughout the season. Oldham fans must be elated after last season left many loyal fans drained, but like the spirit of old, they are re-emerging as a main player in this league. It makes the win at Oldham even more significant now and they have recruited well since then.

The trip to Bridgend left many Rover's fans drained but what a game, what a contest. That game could have gone either way, but more importantly to me was the number of Featherstone fans who made that trip. You were a credit to the club, and it was as always a pleasure to be amongst you. I always find the trip to Celtic's ground a bit mystifying, you go to a counter buy your tickets and then enter the main doors. I think perhaps a refreshment kiosk might be an investment in view of the long distances travelled by fans to get there, but that is something for the Crusaders to deal with, not us. Who knows? With a bit of luck neither of the two sides playing today will have to make the journey next season.

We are getting closer to the home game with Celtic which of course is due to be televised live from the Chris Moyles Stadium. Followed two days later by the Party on The Pitch. A lot of hard work has gone into bringing this event

to fruition and our facilities manager, Alan Hunter, is to be complimented on his heroics in getting it off the ground. Tickets priced at just £20 are available from the club office or behind the bar, and remember you can bring your own food and drink if you wish. Don't delay in getting your tickets though, as numbers are limited and this is not just for Rover's fans, it is for everyone to enjoy. I'm hiring a wig and drainpipes for the event and I hope my Zimmer frame lasts the night out.

Before that, on 19th July a World Record attempt will take place on the pitch. Tina Dransfield of Playing For Success, is hoping to break the World record for the Haka. I believe more than three thousand children, teachers and old fogies like me will take part. I hope to have more details a little later, but put the date in your diaries and come along to see a splendid initiative take place. Good luck to all concerned and it really does go to show the lengths the club have gone to raise the profile within the community. Kevin Hobbs is doing an excellent job with local school children, and I know from children at the school in my locality, how much the children enjoy his visits.

We travel to York next Sunday, the Huntingdon stadium is easy to reach by road. Follow the A 64 until you reach the end of the bypass and then turn first left towards Huntingdon, first exit at the next traffic island, then second exit at the next. When you reach Asda on your right then take the next left into the ground. It is signed Huntingdon Stadium. Let's make a noise for the lads.

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ROVERS

GEORGE ORR *knows the score*

2004 hadn't been a bad season for Rovers.

Apart from developing the habit of losing to York City Knights every two minutes, Rovers had put in some big performances, but ran out of steam-coming from fifth place. A final eliminator against Whitehaven was just that bit too much to ask.

There seemed no reason, on the surface that is, that Rovers shouldn't carry on from where they left off. The player budget was bigger, Gary Price had another year under his belt, and it looked like all systems go.

Revenge was taken against York, and a creditable performance in defeat, along with a pair of wins against the Hawks gave no hint of what was to come: the beginning of the dismantling of Rovers' season with its associated relegation. Rovers didn't even lose the game that started it all. It was a 20-20 draw.

The opposition was Oldham.

It was a night time game, and the Roughyeds had nothing going for them. They'd had big defeats against Swinton and Rochdale, and beaten Sharlston Rovers - not all that comfortably - at Featherstone in the Challenge Cup.

Oldham were coached by Gary Mercer at the time. There was dispute over the suitability of Oldham's away

strip and they took to the field wearing a Rovers' outfit. The injury situation was so bad that they had players on the bench who couldn't take the field.

The Roughyeds should have been mauled, but they weren't. The bond between Mercer and his players was plain to see as the team returned to the dressing rooms at half time, and after the final hooter with a point very much won for them, and much more-especially considering the rest of the season went, than a point lost for Rovers.

There were so many lessons to learn from that game: A team is more than the sum of its component parts. Expectation has no part in a rugby league game. The most important game is not necessarily the game that clinches a championship, wins a trophy, puts a local rival to the sword, or avoids relegation.

David Hobbs was Gary Mercer's assistant that night, and you can be sure that the significance of the whole dynamic of that game two years ago won't have been lost on him as we take on an Oldham team very much on the up.



ROVERS

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NATIONAL LEAGUE TALK

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS



NOT many Leigh Centurions supporters would have believed you, if a couple of months ago you'd said they would be winning at Whitehaven to put pressure on the top three in Co-operative NL1.

During their Northern Rail Cup campaign, the Centurions lost twice to NL2 side Celtic Crusaders to place their qualification in doubt. But since then, there have been steady signs of recovery week-on-week under football manager Darren Shaw.

The Centurions came close to toppling title favourites Castleford at Hilton Park, and had managed to accumulate four league wins by the time they travelled north to Whitehaven on Sunday.

It was at the Recreation Ground where Leigh really announced that they are back as a genuine NL1 force. Despite missing several players through injury, and with a host of inexperienced youngsters in their team, Shaw's side recorded a hugely impressive 28-12 win.

As anyone involved in the National Leagues will know, not many teams visit Whitehaven and come away with the league points.

But Leigh did it in some style, and with several home-grown players having a big say in the win. They fielded an incredibly youthful pack that got the better of their more experienced Whitehaven opponents.

The win moved the Centurions up to within two points of third placed Haven, and shows that they can no longer be underestimated.

This weekend they travel to Dewsbury for the third time this year - they drew them there in both the NRC and the Carnegie Challenge Cup - for what should be a fascinating game.

With Halifax showing signs of genuine progression - they won 58-8 away at Batley last Sunday - perhaps the top three of Widnes, Castleford and Whitehaven won't have it all their own way between now and the end of the season.

The way Shaw has turned matters around should also act as a spur to a handful of coaches under pressure elsewhere at present.

The race for top spot in NL2 is also hotting up nicely as well, with just four points separating first place from fifth, where in-form Oldham continue to impress and have games in hand on everyone above them.

And with Celtic Crusaders showing a number of games on S4C, there is much to be positive about, even if some crowds continue to be disappointing.

The pick of the games this weekend sees Featherstone host Oldham, so watch out for a few more twists and turns in an intriguing competition.

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