

FACE TO FACE

21st MARCH 2008 • KICK OFF 3.00 pm

Rochdale Hornets

Oldham

Carl Sneyd		Marcus St Hilaire
Mark Roughneed		Gareth Langley
Mark Brochlehurst		Craig Littler
Chris Spurr		Mick Nanyin
Eric Andrews		Paul O'Connor
Simon Svabic		Neil Roden
Chris Hough		James Coyle
Dave Newton		Jason Boults
Todd O'Brien		Phil Joseph
John Cookson		Richard Mervill
Mike Stout		Danny Halliwell
Craig Farrimond		Rob Roberts
Wayne Corcoran		Chris Baines
Sam Butterworth		Said Tamghart
Craig Robinson		Adam Robinson
Chris Forster		Alex Wilkinson
Andrew Marsh		Simeon Hoyle

THE OFFICIALS

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			Brennan Nield

HORNETS WEBSITE

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CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS	1921-22	MOST TRIES			
LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS	1911-12	IN A CAREER	103	J. WILLIAMS	1931-37
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	1918-19				
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	1919-20			J. WILLIAMS	1933
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	1990-91			M. BILLY	2001
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BBC2 FLOODLIGHT TROPHY	1971-72	IN A CAREER	733	W. GOWERS	1922-36
BEATEN FINALIST		IN A SEASON	150	M. STRETT	1994-95
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CLUB RECORDS		MOST POINTS			
DEBUT SEASON	1895-96	IN A CAREER	1481	W. GOWERS	1922-36
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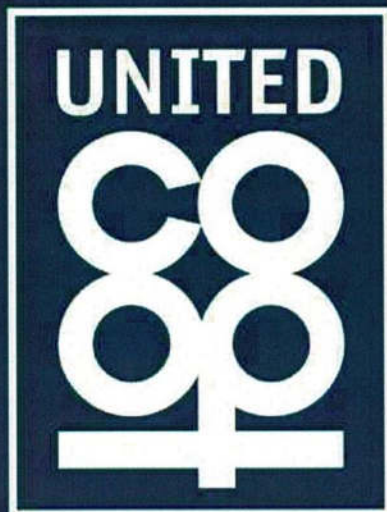
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Views expressed in this programme by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors of Rochdale Hornets



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BOBBIES VIEW

Good afternoon,

And a warm welcome to Oldham who we meet for the 4th time this season.

I was delighted to get through the early rounds of the Northern Rail Cup and pleased to get a home draw in what will no doubt be a tough encounter against Dewsbury Rams,

I was really disappointed with the news of Paul Alcock's injury which could mean he will be out for up to 6 weeks and he will be sorely missed but the league starts now which is what we've all been waiting for and the squad and I are looking forward to getting the campaign underway.

Absolutely delighted to get a home draw for the next round of the Challenge Cup against a top 4 Superleague side in Hull who I hope will bring a bumper crowd with them and who knows, on the day a shock could be on the cards.

Enjoy the game.

Bobbie

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CHRIS CAMPBELL

WING

Player Profile



Chris returned to the Club during closing stages of last season and was delighted to extend his stay when Bobbie Goulding was appointed coach. In-between spells at the Club Chris has been playing for the highly successful Warrington Wizards outfit. After an excellent pre-season Chris will be hoping to recapture the form he showed during the 2004/05 seasons. Chris scored 1 try in 6 appearances on his return. In our last match against Oldham he scored two tries in our 32-22 success.s.

	Played	Sub	Tries	Goals	Drop Goals	Points
Chris Campbell	3	0	2	0	0	8

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ROCHDALE HORNETS PLAYING SQUAD

Craig Robinson (Prop);

During the tough times of the 2007 season Craig always led from the front, never allowing his head to drop. His battling qualities and loyalty to the cause have been rightly rewarded with Craig named Vice Captain for the 2008 season, a fitting tribute to the former Wakefield man. All Craig's 15 appearances came from the bench scoring 4 tries.

Wayne Corcoran (Half Back/ Loose Forward);

Wayne was another player that showed loyalty beyond the cause during the 2007 season. Despite requiring a shoulder operation for the majority of the season Wayne bravely played on showing immense courage which was all too lacking during 2007 but Wayne chose to fight on unselfishly delaying his operation. Wayne should be back in fitness for the start of February and will be hoping to back up 2007 with another big season. Wayne made a total of 23 appearances 12 from the bench scoring 3 tries.

Eric Andrews (Wing);

The highlight of 2007 for Eric was the magnificent solo matching winning try he scored in the Challenge Cup verses Celtic Crusaders. That try gave everyone a glimpse of just what Eric is capable of given the space and a chance to run at the opposition which in 2007 was limited. Eric has enjoyed his stay at Hornets and was only too willing to pen a deal for 2008. No-one made more appearances than Eric's 28 in 2007. He scored 10 tries in all competitions.

Danny Samuels (Loose Forward)

Danny successfully made the transition from U21 to First Team Grade during 2007 and will now be hoping to push on and make a real impact in 2008. Danny was one of the mainstays of last year's successful U21's team making a significant contribution at that level despite suffering a number of injuries.

Todd O'Brien (Hooker)

A consummate Professional Todd found First Team opportunities limited in 2007 but got his reward for some brilliant U21 performances by featuring regularly in the First Team towards the end of last season. Todd's leadership qualities earned him the Captain's role in the U21's last term but Todd's goal this season will be to cement a place in the First Team. Todd

played the final 3 games of 2007 2 of the appearances being from the bench.

Sam Butterworth (Stand Off)

Had three great seasons with Hornets from 2004-06 before linking up with former Coach Darren Shaw at Leigh where Sam had an exceptional season and was instrumental in Hornets downfall on both occasions the sides met last term. Sam will have benefited from his time away from the Club but is really pleased to have re-signed for his home town team. Sam played 21 times for Leigh last term scoring 3 tries.

Paul Alcock (Second Row)

Paul (25) started his career at Warrington Wolves a product of their youth system and spent four seasons there before moving to neighbours Widnes Vikings. Widnes gave Paul his Super League debut v Wakefield in 2001 and he went onto make 15 Super League appearances for the Cheshire Club. His next move took him to Swinton in 2006 having previously had a spell on loan with the Club in 2005. Moved to Hornets in Autumn 2007 citing Bobbie Goulding as the main reason for his decision to switch clubs. In 2007 Paul made 15 full appearances and a further 2 from the bench scoring 4 tries.

Andrew Marsh (Prop)

Andrew is a product of the highly successful Widnes Vikings youth set up and has also been involved with both the England and Great Britain students' Rugby League teams. Although only 19 Andrew has figured in a number of high profile matches including two Senior Academy Grand Finals and taking part in the Carnegie Students Ashes Series v Australia. His performances in these matches have now earned him a chance in the Professional ranks.

Chris Spurr (Centre)

Chris (27) has spent his entire career playing in Yorkshire before deciding to take up Bobbie Goulding's offer to refresh his career across the Pennines at Hornets. Another product of the Great Britain Students set up Chris signed professionally for Featherstone in 1997 before moving onto Batley and then York from where Hornets secured his signature. Has always featured prominently in the try-scoring column for all the clubs he has played for. Chris featured 28 times for York last term scoring a healthy 12 tries in the

process.

Martin Ainscough (Standoff)

Product of the Widnes Academy Martin (22) played for both the Junior and Senior academy at Widnes and was awarded junior academy Player of the year in 2002. Another player who has played against Australia for Great Britain Students and also toured Australia in 2003. Martin also played for England Students in the World Cup that was held in Australia. With chances limited at Widnes Martin signed for Leigh for the 2007 season playing 18 times scoring 10 tries.

Mike Grady (Wing)

Mike is the type of Club man coach Bobbie Goulding enjoys having in the squad. At 26 he has already played at 7 different clubs including French outfit Albi. English clubs he has features for include Warrington Wolves, Whitehaven, York, Oldham and Warrington Wizards. Mike will feature predominantly in the under 21's were the young heads will benefit from his vast experience.

Jimmy Elston (Hooker)

Jimmy will be the Captain for the 2008 season as his leadership qualities were quickly spotted by the coaching staff. Jimmy is relishing the new challenge presented to him across the Pennines having spent the early part of his career in Yorkshire playing for Wakefield, Dewsbury and latterly with York City Knights. Jimmy's career has been a rewarding one so far having played Super League for Wakefield, made a Grand Final appearance for Dewsbury and gained promotion with York. He will be hoping to continue his successful career in Lancashire. Jimmy operated predominantly from the bench last term. His 12 full appearances were backed up with a further 17 from the bench, ending with a total of 6 tries.

Chris Foster (Half Back)

A product of Ryland Sharks Chris was taken to Doncaster by John Stankevich during the 2007 season where he impressed, turning in a Man of the Match performance against Hornets at the Keepmoat. Chris won the BARLA player of the year in 2006/07 having picked up the Man of the Match award playing against Australia u18's during the 2007 season. Chris is eager to continue his progress under Bobbie Goulding during 2008. Chris featured 6 times for

Doncaster last year notching 4 tries.

David Newton (Prop)

Dave re joins Hornets after having a spell away from the club at Swinton and there is no doubt that that he returns to the Club a better player for it indeed he was very highly regarded at Swinton and they were bitterly disappointed to lose him. Dave made a Grand Final appearance for Swinton in 2006. 10 full appearances with a further 10 from the bench was Dave's record last year scoring 2 tries.

David Best (Prop)

Another player that is in his second spell at the Club having spells at Oldham and more recently Batley in between. David has really matured as a player and his power and toughness upfront will be a major asset to Hornets this season. Dave is a player who feels that he has got unfinished business at Hornets. David's appearances last term were limited to 9.

Chris Campbell (Wing)

Chris returned to the Club during closing stages of last season and was delighted to extend his stay when Bobbie Goulding was appointed coach. In-between spells at the Club Chris has been playing for the highly successful Warrington Wizards outfit. After an excellent pre-season Chris will be hoping to recapture the form he showed during the 2004/05 seasons. Chris scored 1 try in 6 appearances on his return.

Ian Sinfield (Second Row)

Ian left the Club in 2003 to join Keighley where he made the first of his two Grand Final appearances. Ian then had two highly successful seasons at Keighley before moving onto Swinton and then to his hometown team for a second time Oldham, where he was a Grand Finalist in 2007. His leadership qualities will be invaluable and his knowledge of National League two a great asset for Hornets in 2008. Ian played 24 times for Oldham last season scoring 2 tries.

Chris Hough (Half Back)

Although only in his mid twenties Chris can be best described as a much travelled seasoned pro. Along with a previous spell at Hornets Chris has played for Oldham, Swinton, Doncaster, Batley and also had a loan spell at Leigh last season. Chris has been a constant thorn in Hornets side over the years and his organisational qualities and kicking game will give Hornets a new dimension this season. Chris was mainly used off the bench last term for Swinton he made a total of 17 appearances scoring 2 tries and 3 goals. At Leigh he made 7 full

appearances scoring 1 try.

Phil Farrell (Back Row)

Returns to the Club as Assistant Player Coach to Bobbie Goulding having had spells away at Oldham and Batley. Phil is extremely eager to get onto the coaching ladder and sees the position at Hornets as an excellent opportunity to do this. When called upon Phil's on field experience will be an added bonus and his input with the younger players will be typically positive. A mid season departure from Batley only allowed Phil to make 11 full appearances 1 more as substitute scoring 1 try.

Mark Brocklehurst (Centre)

An 'Oldhamer' Mark played his junior rugby at Waterhead where he was picked up by Wigan. Mark played a couple of seasons in the junior ranks at Wigan before he joined Swinton at the start of the 2007 season. He scored four tries in 14 appearances last term for the Lions.

Alex Brown (Wing)

A powerful winger who joined Keighley at the start of the 2006 season from the amateur game he was playing for the Huddersfield Sharks club. He became soon became a crowd favourite at Keighley scoring a number of long range tries which earned him the 'most improved player' award at the end of the 2007 season. Alex scored six tries in 14 starts last season. Alex was looking for a new challenge in 2008 and was delighted to become one of Bobbie Goulding's first signings.

Craig Farrimond (Back Row)

Craig played his junior rugby at Warrington Wolves where he captained their Senior Academy and gained a promising reputation earning himself a place in the Super League U21s select squad. He has since played for Oldham and Swinton where he has been extremely unlucky with injuries over the past couple of seasons. Now fit and raring to go Bobbie will be hoping for big things from him in 2008. Craig was restricted to 4 full appearances last term with 7 more from the bench.

Andy Gorey (Wing)

An extremely quick outside back Andy spent the early years of his career at Oldham where he became a first team regular after coming through the Academy where he was coached by current Hornets U21's coach Shaun Gartland. Andy started 7 games last season for Oldham scoring two tries. He has been playing for Oldham Rugby

Union Club during the closed season.

Wesley Lawton (Hooker)

One of the four players signed in the close season from NL3 team Warrington Wizards, after a string of impressive performances when being watched by Bobbie. He comes with a reputation as a tough tackling number nine and will be looking to take his chance when it is presented to him.

Danny Shaw (Wing)

Speedy winger who was in the National League Conference team of the year last season scoring 25 tries for Warrington Wizards. Danny has age on his side being able to play in the U21's but he will be hoping to take his first team opportunity when it comes along. He will be one of the quickest players in Hornets 2008 squad.

Tom Wild (Prop)

A Scotland B international Tom was also a member of the NLC team of year last season and is now looking to make the step up to NL2 after a big pre season.

Mike Callan (Prop)

After coming through the ranks at Warrington Wolves where Mike made four Super League appearances for them off the bench in the 2002 season, he moved onto Leigh where he played in the promotion year of 2005. Mike's career then took him to Blackpool then on to Oldham. After taking a year out of the game Mike is now looking forward to making a big impact in 2008.

Mike Stout (Centre/Second Row)

Another player renowned for having a quick turn of foot, Mike has played for Swinton, Blackpool and Oldham after coming through the academy at Widnes. Mike started last season at Oldham where he scored one try in 4 appearances, he then moved on to Blackpool where he scored seven tries in 17 appearances in what was a struggling campaign for the Panthers. Mike is relishing the new challenge presented to him at Hornets.

Mark Roughneen (Full Back)

A goal kicking utility back, Mark is in his second spell with Hornets after playing in the club's academy in his early years. The fourth recruit from the successful Warrington Wizards team of last season whom Bobbie is keen to have a closer look at.

Simon Svabic

Hornets would like to extend a very warm welcome to our guests and local rivals today Oldham Roughyeds and to all our supporters also to players, directors and travelling supporters we hope that you all enjoy your day at Spotland.

As always Hornets would like to thank all club/player and match day Sponsors – your support is invaluable.

We look forward to welcoming all our guests back to Spotland

Last 16 of the Northern Rail Cup Hornets V Dewsbury KO 3.00pm 6 April 2008

Fancy sponsoring this match? Contact the club for further details – we are looking for a Main Match Sponsor / Associate and Match Ball Sponsor.

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Challenge Cup 4th Round Super League Clash Hornets V Hull KO 3.00pm 20 April 2008

Again – the club is looking for vital sponsor for this exciting clash. As with the Dewsbury game please contact the club.

Community Update – Update from Mat Gartland – Community Development Officer

Cardinal Langley Triumph in Inaugural Hornets Sevens!

Middleton based Secondary School Cardinal Langley Sports College took home the spoils in Wednesday afternoons Inaugural Rochdale Hornets 7's!

The lads got off to a tough start to the afternoon having to play their first two games of the group stage back-to-back. But they overcame St. Anne's Academy and then Siddal Moor without conceding a single point!

In the other group Springhill and St. Cuthbert's RC got off to flying starts by overcoming strong Matthew Moss High School and Wardle outfits. Springhill and St. Cuthbert's then went head to head with St. Cuthbert's emerging victorious in a tightly fought affair!

After a tough afternoon's Rugby all teams then entered the play off stage of the competition! After some highly entertaining and frantically paced seven's rugby the two finalists were Cardinal Langley and St. Cuthbert's RC High.

St. Cuthbert's appeared to have the upper hand with good field position in the early stages but the Cardinal Langley defence held firm and then went onto break the deadlock just after the half way stage of the final. St. Cuthbert's hit back to set up a nail biting climax to the tournament but Cardinal Langley went on to score another try and take the crown as Rochdale Hornets 7's champions overcoming St. Cuthbert's with a final score of 10 – 4.

Rochdale Hornets Community Development manager Mathew Gartland was on hand to oversee the afternoon; he said "This has been a great afternoon's rugby in some terrible conditions! Firstly I need to thank Hopwood Hall College for allowing us to use their fantastic facilities. May I also congratulate Cardinal Langley on overcoming some really strong teams and winning this competition? The Cardinal Langley lads have really dug deep and ran out deserved winners, to only concede two tries in a whole afternoon of seven-a-side rugby is an outstanding achievement by any team!"

Northern Rail & Rochdale Hornets

This week (Wednesday AM) has seen Rochdale Hornets and Northern Rail join forces together and deliver the "Northern Rail: Momentum" project to over 180 Year seven pupils

at Matthew Moss High School.

The project allowed Northern Rail Community Liaison Manager Chris Leech MBE to deliver the company's rail safety message to the children. Whilst at the same time allowing Hornets, currently lying in third place in their Northern Rail Cup group, to provide some of their young fans with the opportunity to meet and greet some of the Hornets players. The Hornets players took along the Northern Rail Cup to the school and provided the children with the opportunity to have their photograph taken with the trophy and the players.

An additional incentive for the pupils was the launch of the Hornets and Northern Rail 'Northern Art' competition. Each budding artist has been invited to design a work of art taking inspiration from Hornets and Northern Rail. The winning design will be sent to a graphic designer who will be tasked with putting the artwork onto a canvas and the artwork will be displayed at the stadium for all to see!

Saturday Yankee – Support the Hornets for as little as £1 per week

Any one interested in joining the lottery should contact the club

Rochdale Mayfield Mustangs under 10's v Milnrow Cobra's under 10's

Hornets welcome all players, fans and families of the two teams. We look forward to welcoming you all back to Spotland and hope that you enjoy today's Senior Match.

Good luck to both teams

Onward Hornets Onwards, Karen



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Memories of the Athletic Grounds

On Good Friday 1st April 1988 Rochdale Hornets played their last game at the Athletic Grounds v Oldham. It had been Hornets home for over 90 years with many a team competing at this once great venue.

The match statistics for this historic occasion were:

Hornets team

Sanderson, Diamond, McGinty, Vaafusu, Stokes, Sawyer, Hitchen, Byron, Ruane, Cowie, Nanyin, Idle and Williams: Subs used Marriott and Barrow.

SCORERS: TRY - Sawyer : GOAL - Hitchen

OLDHAM team

Burke, Atkinson, Foy, McAllister, Meadows, Walsh, Ford, Sharrett, Sanderson, Waddell, Casey. Graham and Warneke: Subs used Irving and Hawkyard.

SCORERS: Tries - Foy 3, Ford 2, Walsh 2, Casey, Atkinson, Graham, Irving : GOALS - Atkinson 6, Walsh

The final score was Hornets 6 Oldham 58. The referee was Mr D Drinkwater from Warrington and the attendance was 3,260. For the rest of this page and beyond, we will reminisce looking at some Hornets team photos, and match day memorabilia from the past.



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The gate for the match amounted to £1,380 but after our visitors had taken their share (60 per cent of the gross gate) we were left with only £500 from which we had to meet all expenses, wages, etc. Nevertheless, it was a great day for the club financially, for we made well over £200 clear profit from the sale of the special souvenir programme and half-time draw. We would like to thank most sincerely anyone who helped in any way to make the day such a success and particularly the advertisers in the programme.

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Vol. 4 No. 52 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1949 Price 7d

ROCHDALE ATHLETIC GROUNDS

By CLIFFORD BEAL, of the "Rochdale Observer"



View of Rischdale Athletic Grounds from embankment ("HR 40") at entrance to the Ground. Male stand on right of picture.

RUGBY League adherents in Rochdale, and probably elsewhere, will tell about the stranger try over scored on the Ashfield Ground, the first of the season, that was a near miss. The players who took the try was A. Van Hinder, who was named as the player who was playing wing for Wigan against Oldham. Van Hinder, Lauper and Lauper. (See page 10.)



ROCHDALE HORNETS NEW ZEALAND



E. SNOWDEN
Captain, New Zealand



J. NOON
Captain, Rochdale

Saturday, 16th Oct., 1965
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SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

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Aug. 10 - 6th Place	Aug. 10 - 6th Place
Aug. 10 - 7th Place	Aug. 10 - 7th Place
Aug. 10 - 8th Place	Aug. 10 - 8th Place
Aug. 10 - 9th Place	Aug. 10 - 9th Place
Aug. 10 - 10th Place	Aug. 10 - 10th Place
Aug. 10 - 11th Place	Aug. 10 - 11th Place
Aug. 10 - 12th Place	Aug. 10 - 12th Place
Aug. 10 - 13th Place	Aug. 10 - 13th Place
Aug. 10 - 14th Place	Aug. 10 - 14th Place
Aug. 10 - 15th Place	Aug. 10 - 15th Place
Aug. 10 - 16th Place	Aug. 10 - 16th Place
Aug. 10 - 17th Place	Aug. 10 - 17th Place
Aug. 10 - 18th Place	Aug. 10 - 18th Place
Aug. 10 - 19th Place	Aug. 10 - 19th Place
Aug. 10 - 20th Place	Aug. 10 - 20th Place

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**HORNETS
v.
AUSTRALIA**
Tuesday, 15th September, 1959

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 3d

**ROCHDALE
HORNETS
AUSTRALIA**

A. HUMPHREYS
Captain, Australia

J. FROSTICK
Captain, Rochdale Hornets

**SATURDAY, 19th OCTOBER, 1963
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 1/-**

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

**1st Division
Match**

1st DIVISION
MATCH

**ROCHDALE
HORNETS
v
LEEDS**

SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER 1974
Kick-off 3.00 pm

PROGRAMME 6p

Slalom Lager
RUGBY LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP
DIVISION TWO

HORNETS

FULHAM

Sunday 13th October, 1985
K.O. 3.00 p.m.
PLAYER OF THE MATCH SPONSOR
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40p

By CLIFFORD BEAL, of the "Rochdale Observer"



THRILLING FINAL
The explanation for the presence of bones on the piling pier is that the man who was found to be apparently on the trail throughout this tempest-

The task ahead is daunting but Ray and myself are confident that by the end of the season the "NETS" should have developed into a respected workmanlike outfit — JUST BEAR WITH US!

Senior Coach

Einfache Buchstabe

Amounts in my hundreds

1	STEVE TIERLE
2	PHIL STOTT
3	STEWART WILLIAMS
4	NIG SHAW
5	PAUL BURNS
6	STEVE MAGUIRE
7	DEAN MARWOOD
8	ANDY MOSSOP
9	PAUL CRANET*
10	STEVE CLAYTON
11	GARY KENDALL
12	NICK DUDGY
13	RUSSELL WALKER
14	Subs To be announced
15	

Referee: Mr. KEN SPENCER
Touch Judges: Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Mr. J. FALLON

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Saturday next, on this ground, Hornets 'A' v. E'dale & Dist. League. Kick-off 2.30
Sat. Jan. 11th, on this ground, Hornets 'A' v. St. Helens Rovers 'A'. Kick-off 2.45

Hornets added Sam Butterworth to the mix and took the kick-off possession deep into Oldham territory. Marsh was sin-binned for holding down Andy Gorski; Hornets took the ball close to the Oldham posts; Butterworth picked up from

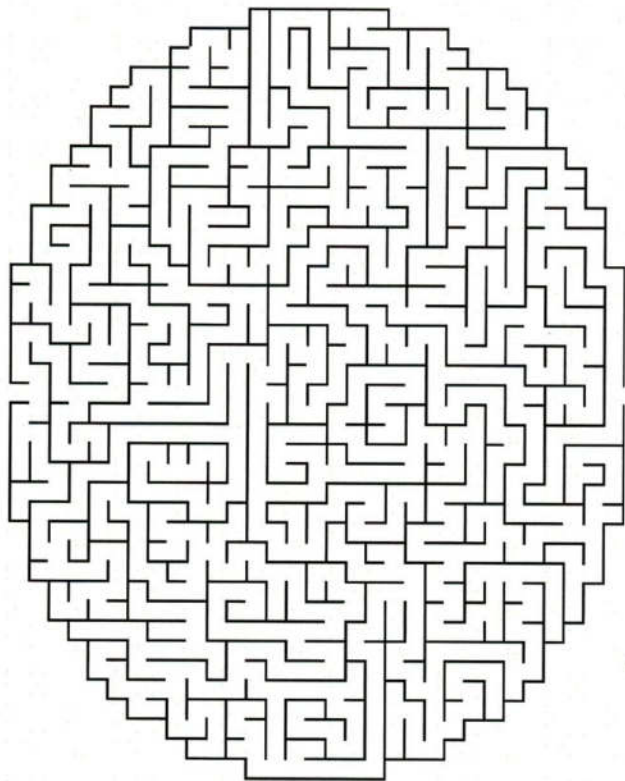
Once again, Bobbie Goulding's Rochdale Hornets have proven that playing with spirit, commitment and no little nous is everything you could ask for. The sheer elation on the faces of the players showed how much it means to win in the red, white and blue - and showed that, not only can this side stand the heat; it can serve up superb Rugby League too.

*Magazine of the
Rochdale Hornets
Supporters & Shareholders Assn.
Season 1948-49
Onward, Hornets, Onward!*

ROCHDALE HORNETS JUNIORS PAGE

Hi Kids welcome to our home game v
Oldham

Easter Maze Help the Chicken get to the egg



Easter Greetings

How many smaller words can you make using the letters
above? Words must be at least two letters long. We have
found three words to start you off.....

taste

ring

tear

ROCHDALE HORNETS RESERVES FIXTURE LIST

Day	Date	Opposition	Venue	KO	Result	W/D/L
Saturday	29-Mar-08	Workington Town	H	14:30		
Saturday	12-Apr-08	Oldham	A	14:30		
Saturday	26-Apr-08	Oldham	H	15:00		
Saturday	10-May-08	Dewsbury Rams	H	14:30		
Saturday	17-May-08	Barrow Raiders	H	14:30		
Saturday	24-May-08	Whitehaven	H	14:30		
Saturday	7-Jun-08	Sheffield Eagles	A	14:30		
Saturday	14-Jun-08	Salford City Reds	H	14:30		
Saturday	21-Jun-08	Whitehaven	A	14:30		
Saturday	28-Jun-08	Widnes Vikings	A	14:30		
Saturday	12-Jul-08	Workington Town	A	14:30		
Saturday	19-Jul-08	Salford City Reds	A	14:30		
Saturday	26-Jul-08	Barrow Raiders	A	14:30		
Saturday	2-Aug-08	Sheffield Eagles	H	14:30		
Thursday	7-Aug-08	Dewsbury Rams	A	19:30		
Saturday	16-Aug-08	Widnes Vikings	H	14:30		

Dates and times are subject to change



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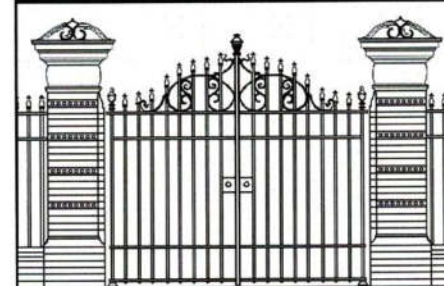
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WORLD CUP

Hello and welcome to the Latest "Build Up to the World Cup".

Last time out we crossed the English Channel to the look at the French Rugby League, this time we look across the Irish sea at our near neighbours Irelands history in the game.

IRELAND

The seed of modern-day Rugby League in Ireland was sown when in 1989 the Dublin Blues were formed and founded by Brian Corrigan. They consisted mostly of rugby union players who wanted to stay fit over the summer.

The Blues competed against touring teams from Britain and surprised many of the touring sides with the quality of their play, scoring many memorable victories over British amateur teams.

In early 1995 the British Rugby Football League marketing arm financed the position of a Development Officer for Ireland, providing a massive boost to the growth of the game.

In the same year Ireland formed its very first competitive team to play against the USA in Washington on St. Patrick's Day. Ireland won 24-22 with Wigan legend Joe Lydon coming on as a replacement. He had gone out there as a manager but was drafted in to play. Terry Flanagan, Huddersfield Coach and former Great Britain player and Niel Wood, Director of British Student Rugby League, coached the team.

Competitive matches were established between teams in Leinster and Ulster: Schoolboy matches were played between Dublin and Belfast schools, Open Age Clubs competed against each other in the All-Ireland Challenge Cup. Teams included Belfast Wildcats and Bangor Vikings from Ulster. From Leinster, there were Dublin-based Dublin Blues, North Side Saints, Tallaght Tigers, Churchtown Warriors and Bray-based East Coast Panthers. From Munster the Cork Bulls were formed under the guidance of Ex-Dublin Blues stalwart Peter McNamara. Northside Saints and Cork Bulls had their successes but the long-established Dublin Blues were always pre-eminent and there or thereabouts when it came to the trophy presentations.

In August 1995 Ireland beat Scotland at the RDS in Dublin. The game was played as a curtain raiser to the British Charity Shield encounter between Wigan and Leeds. The Irish team that day included former Great Britain player Des Foy.

In 1997 more England-based Super League players made themselves available for Ireland by use of the grandparent rule. The Irish team improved its standards but this development gave less opportunity for Irish-based players to get a chance to play. However, Irish-based players were included in the Irish squad for the triangular tournaments in 1998 against France and Scotland and 1999 against Scotland and Wales.

Their success was enough to earn a place in the 2000 World Cup. Finishing top of their group, the Irish eventually lost 26-16 to England in the quarter-finals, but the performance set the scene for future developments in Ireland.

In 2006 the Leinster and Munster conferences were abandoned in favour of an all-Ireland league. This had great difficulties while it attempted to compete with the Rugby Union season and unfortunately the end of the season was scrapped in order to get to the play off finals. Hard lessons were learnt as a result of this. At the AGM in 2006 the league structure was again reviewed and this time the shorter season was agreed on but with a tiered system. The tiers would allow newer teams and less experienced teams to play against one another and continue their development while the more established teams would compete against each other and enhance the players skills for games against other representative teams.

And in 2007 a three league approach with the Elite league and two conferences based on geography gave the game a terrific boost. The newly elected executive also set about making the product more recognised and developing new relationships with potential sponsors. The Leeds Rhino's brought their pre season training camp to Dublin. The leagues each had a major sponsor and all results were published in various media outlets. The wolfhound draw was converted to the Wolfhound Supporters Network.

Ireland has played in 22 full internationals, winning 14 and losing seven with one draw. As it is not a full member of the Rugby League International Federation, these matches are not considered to be tests. Ireland has also played friendlies against Australia and Scotland that are not included in these results.

The Ireland A Wolfhounds team is selected from players in the Irish domestic competition. This team is administered by Rugby League Ireland.



Rugby League Ireland

The Enterprise Centre
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Co. Dublin, Ireland
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Fax: +353 1230 1044
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OLDHAM PEN PICS

CHRIS BAINES (back-row): Signed on a two-year deal for 2008 and 2009 following the good impression he made on Roughyeds in the previous two seasons. Aged 23, he joined the club originally on loan from Warrington. Toured New Zealand with Great Britain Young Lions in 2003 after representing his country at youth level against Australia and France. A product of Wigan St Pat's.

SIMON BALDWIN (prop): One of the most experienced forwards in the squad, formerly with Leigh, Halifax, Sheffield, Salford, Rochdale Hornets and Whitehaven. Having ended last season at Whitehaven and having had two spells with hometown Leigh, Simon has made his seventh move in a long career to sign a one-year Roughyeds deal. Made 127 Super League appearances, mainly in the second-row, but now widely regarded as a prop.

JASON BOULTS (prop): This 24-year-old former Bradford and Halifax workhorse was a real stalwart of the Oldham pack in 2007. He played in 25 games and for much of the season he was first-choice No 8 after producing an outstanding performance in the win at Celtic Crusaders in May. A wholehearted grafter with a huge engine, Jason never takes a backward step.

MATTY BROOKS (half-back/hooker): Joined Roughyeds last season on loan from Hull KR, scoring two tries in 17 appearances and ending the campaign with a terrific show as a substitute in the NL2 Grand Final against Featherstone at Headingley. Now a fully-fledged Oldham player on a one-year deal he will have to make the adjustment from full-time pro with Rovers to part-time footballer with Roughyeds. Turned pro for Bradford, then on to Hull KR. A native of East Hull.

DARYL CARDISS (utility back): Aged 30, this hugely experienced utility back has played for Wigan, Halifax, Warrington and Widnes. Joined Wigan from Hunslet Boys Club in 1994. Made a total of 142 Super League appearances and scored 46 tries in the elite competition. Enjoyed a fine stay at Halifax, for whom he scored 39 tries in 99 outings.

JAMES COYLE (scrum-half): Now contracted to Roughyeds until November, 2009, this talented 22-year-old joined the club from Wigan midway through last season and made an immediate impact. His 14 appearances yielded six tries, but it was the vast number of tries he made for others that underlined his real potential. Another product of Wigan St Pat's, he was a shooting star in Wigan's academy system before spending the whole of the 2006 season on loan at Widnes.

TOMMY GOULDEN (back-row): Equally at home in the second-row or at loose, 26-year-old Tommy was a key member of the Rochdale Hornets pack in 2006 and 2007, having been signed from amateur rugby in Leigh by Bobbie Goulding in 2005. Leigh born, he picked up every possible honour as an amateur, including captaincy of BARLA Great Britain, before turning pro for Rochdale.

TOMMY GRUNDY (back-row): Aged 22, Leigh-lad Tommy is one of the younger members of the Roughyeds squad. Can play equally well in any of the back-row spots as well as centre. Turned pro for Warrington as an 18-year-old, then played for Leigh and Blackpool before returning to his hometown club, Leigh, for 2006 and 2007. Joined Roughyeds on a two-year deal.

DANNY HALLIWELL (centre): One of eight new signings, 26-year-old Leighborn Danny was on loan at Leigh, from Salford, last season and he has also worn the colours of Halifax, Warrington and Wakefield. Can play anywhere across the back division and, like many of his Oldham colleagues, has considerable Super League experience. His 43 top-flight outings comprise three for Wakefield, 10 for Wigan, 25 for Halifax and five for Leigh.

SIMEON HOYLE (hooker): Edinburghborn Simeon is half-way through a two-year contract with Roughyeds. Aged 28, and formerly with Keighley Cougars and Halifax, he is a hooker of the old school, tough in defence but with an ability to make things happen from dummy half. In 2003 he helped Keighley to win promotion to NL1 by beating Sheffield in the NL2 Grand Final.

PHIL JOSEPH (utility): Turned pro with Huddersfield Giants and, as a teenager, played 14 Super League games for the Giants in 2004. Moved to Swinton Lions in 2005, scored 11 tries in 29 games, and was named NL2 player of the year. Suitably impressed, Hull KR signed him on a two-year deal, but after one season at Craven Park he left the Super Leaguebound Robins to join Halifax, from whom Oldham signed him on a two-year contract.

GARETH LANGLEY (wing): Pacy, and a good finisher, 'Gaz' joined Roughyeds prior to the 2007 season after five seasons 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. In 30 games for Oldham last season, he scored 13 tries and kicked 35 goals for a points haul of 122.

CRAIG LITTLER (centre): Aged 22 and, like Langley, a product of the St Helens Academy system. Both played several seasons at Knowsley Road and developed a fine understanding as a centre-wing partnership. Craig headed off to Australia on an extended holiday at the end of last season, but he signed a new two-year deal on his return after proving to coach Steve Deakin and his staff that he had kept himself in good shape while he was away.

RICHARD MERVILL (prop): Formerly with

Halifax and Keighley, Richard had a superb season in his first for the Roughyeds in 2007. Walked off with two major awards at the end-of-year Awards Night and was rewarded with a two-year contract for 2008 and 2009. Suffered a broken hand in one of his early games in 2007 and was similarly unlucky in the build-up to the 2008 campaign when he dislocated an elbow in training. There will be no complaints from the fans if he bounces back this year like he did last.

MICK NANYN (centre): A points machine -- one of the best goalkickers in the English game -- Mick has starred for Swinton, Rochdale Hornets, Whitehaven and Widnes and has smashed club scoring records wherever he has been. He took the Widnes record off Jonathan Davies in 2006. He played 29 games for Widnes last season, scoring 28 tries and kicking 161 goals for a points haul of 434. Also has the distinction of having played in each of the last four NL1 Grand Finals, two for Whitehaven and two for Widnes.

PAUL O'CONNOR (full-back): A Great Britain Students international, Widnesborn Paul played briefly on loan for Oldham in 2006, then returned in 2007 on contract having let it be known to the club that, in the May, he would be leaving for a pre-arranged sabbatical in the southern hemisphere. He had a great first half of the season but he didn't play again for the club until he reappeared in the first pre-season friendly of 2008 at Leeds. Having signed a new two-year deal he is set fair for a long association with the Roughyeds.

LUCAS ONYANGO (wing): A real flier, aged 26, Lucas grew up in rugby union in his native Kenya. Has played for Sale Sharks, Manchester and Leigh in rugby union, and Widnes Vikings in League. He had a great season for Oldham in 2007 when he scored 18 tries in 23 outings only to damage a shoulder at the end of the year. He entered the 2008 season waiting for an operation on that shoulder and was expected to be sidelined at least until the start of the NL2 campaign at Easter.

ROB ROBERTS (back row): Joined Roughyeds in late July, 2007 and landed a match-winning drop goal at York in a 15-14 win on his debut. Played Super League with Hull, Halifax and Huddersfield and also represented several clubs in the National League. Known as 'Two Bobs' -- for obvious reasons -- he put his career back on track with Oldham after a difficult time at Leigh and revelled in his new responsibilities as captain.

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ROLL CALL

NAME	PLAYED	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
Martin Ainscough	6	0	8	0	0	32
Paul Alcock	5	0	2	0	0	8
Eric Andrews	4	0	0	0	0	0
David Best	5	0	0	0	0	0
Craig Bower	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mark Brocklehurst	6	1	1	0	0	4
Alex Brown	6	0	3	0	0	12
Sam Butterworth	0	7	2	0	0	8
Mike Callan	4	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Campbell	3	0	2	0	0	8
John Cookson	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne Corcoran	4	0	1	0	0	4
Jimmy Elston	6	0	1	0	0	4
Craig Farrimond*	1	2	0	0	0	0
Chris Forster	2	1	3	0	0	12
Andy Gorey	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Hough	4	0	0	0	0	0
Benji Lloyd	2	0	0	0	0	0
Andrew Marsh	0	5	1	0	0	4
David Newton	4	1	1	0	0	4
Todd O'Brien	1	1	0	0	0	0
Craig Robinson	0	6	0	0	0	0
Mark Roughneen	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Sinfield	5	0	1	0	0	4
Carl Sneyd	2	0	0	4	0	8
Chris Spurr	7	0	5	0	0	20
Mike Stout	4	2	0	0	0	0
Simon Svabic	4	0	1	9	0	22
Tom Wild	1	2	0	0	0	0



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AMATEUR SCENE



Welcome to the latest Amateur Scene.

It's been a busy time locally for our Amateur Clubs and we will be doing a full review of the various teams progress in a later edition but today we are having a brief look at one of the towns newer clubs the Whitworth Spartans.

On and Off the field Whitworth Spartans are going from strength to strength progressing in the cup and on the verge of gaining promotion. But the biggest story for them is their intention to launch an 'A' team for next season which is quite remarkable progress as they looked a little shaky in the off season.



To quote the Spartans themselves, "The aims of the 'A' Team will be to introduce younger players into the game, develop them under the wing of a few older heads in order that they will eventually move in to the first team and allow sustainable organic growth of the Spartans club."

The Spartans benefit from a well run committee with Hornets C.E.O. Peter Whitehead in the thick of it. They also have a

superb website www.whitworthspartans.co.nr/ which is well worth a visit (take note some other clubs).

On a slightly disappointing note new boys Balderstone Warriors have had to temporarily suspend activity's but hope to relaunch next season with a bit more support with the running of the club which basically fell to one man and his wife who recently suffered a bad illness. Fingers crossed thing can get back on track for next term. Now onto the Hornets Supporters Tag Rugby League Team, The Rochdale Swarm.

The Swarm had their opening fixture of the season last Saturday away to the FevNet Rovers over at the Chris Moyles Stadium (Post Office Road), and the Swarm came away with the spoils winning 24-19 in the most appalling conditions.



Due to the bad weather the match itself took place on the training pitch next door to the main arena, even still it was a privilege to play at such a famous old ground with the Swarm being allocated the Home (Featherstone Rovers) changing rooms, and it must have been a first that the home dressing room at Featherstone resounded to the chant of "Ole, Ole, Ole, Ole, Hornets Hornets!!!!"

The Swarms next fixture is away to the Leythors MB XIII on Easter Sunday with a 12.30 KO at the new Leigh Sporting Village soon to be Home of the Leigh Centurions and current home of the leading Amateur side Leigh East.

The Swarm will be soon announcing all the details of their fixture with The Rochdale Fijian Association Rugby League side, which will be an incredible event, as they say "Watch this space."

Mark Wynn.

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ROCHDALE HORNETS FIXTURE LIST

NORTHERN RAIL CUP, CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP AND CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE 2

COMP	DATE	OPPOSITION	VENUE	KO	RESULT	W/D/L	ATT
NRC	3-Feb-08	Salford City Reds	H	15:00	54-12	L	1478
NRC	10-Feb-08	Swinton Lions	A	15:00	34-36	W	625
NRC	24-Feb-08	Swinton Lions	H	15:00	34-38	L	464
NRC	29-Feb-08	Oldham	A	20:00	38-8	L	1024
NRC	5-Mar-08	Oldham	H	19:30	32-22	W	682
CCC	9-Mar-08	York Acorn	H	15:00	50-8	W	408
NRC	14-Mar-08	Salford City Reds	A	20:00	0-68	L	3758
NL Two	21-Mar-08	Oldham	H	15:00			
NL Two	24-Mar-08	London Skolars	A	15:00			
NL Two	30-Mar-08	Workington Town	A	15:00			
NL Two	13-Apr-08	Gateshead Thunder	H	15:00			
NL Two	27-Apr-08	Oldham	A	15:00			
NL Two	5-May-08	Hunslet Hawks	H	15:00			
NL Two	11-May-08	Keighley Cougars	A	15:00			
NL Two	16-May-08	Barrow Raiders	A	19:30			
NL Two	23-May-08	Doncaster RLFC	A	20:00			
NL Two	1-Jun-08	York City Knights	H	15:00			
NL Two	8-Jun-08	Blackpool Panthers	H	15:00			
NL Two	15-Jun-08	Swinton Lions	A	15:00			
NL Two	22-Jun-08	Doncaster RLFC	H	15:00			
NL Two	29-Jun-08	Hunslet Hawks	A	15:00			
NL Two	6-Jul-08	Keighley Cougars	H	15:00			
NL Two	13-Jul-08	Workington Town	H	15:00			
NL Two	20-Jul-08	Gateshead Thunder	A	15:00			
NL Two	27-Jul-08	Barrow Raiders	H	15:00			
NL Two	3-Aug-08	Blackpool Panthers	A	15:00			
NL Two	10-Aug-08	Swinton Lions	H	15:00			
NL Two	17-Aug-08	London Skolars	H	15:00			
NL Two	24-Aug-08	York City Knights	A	15:00			