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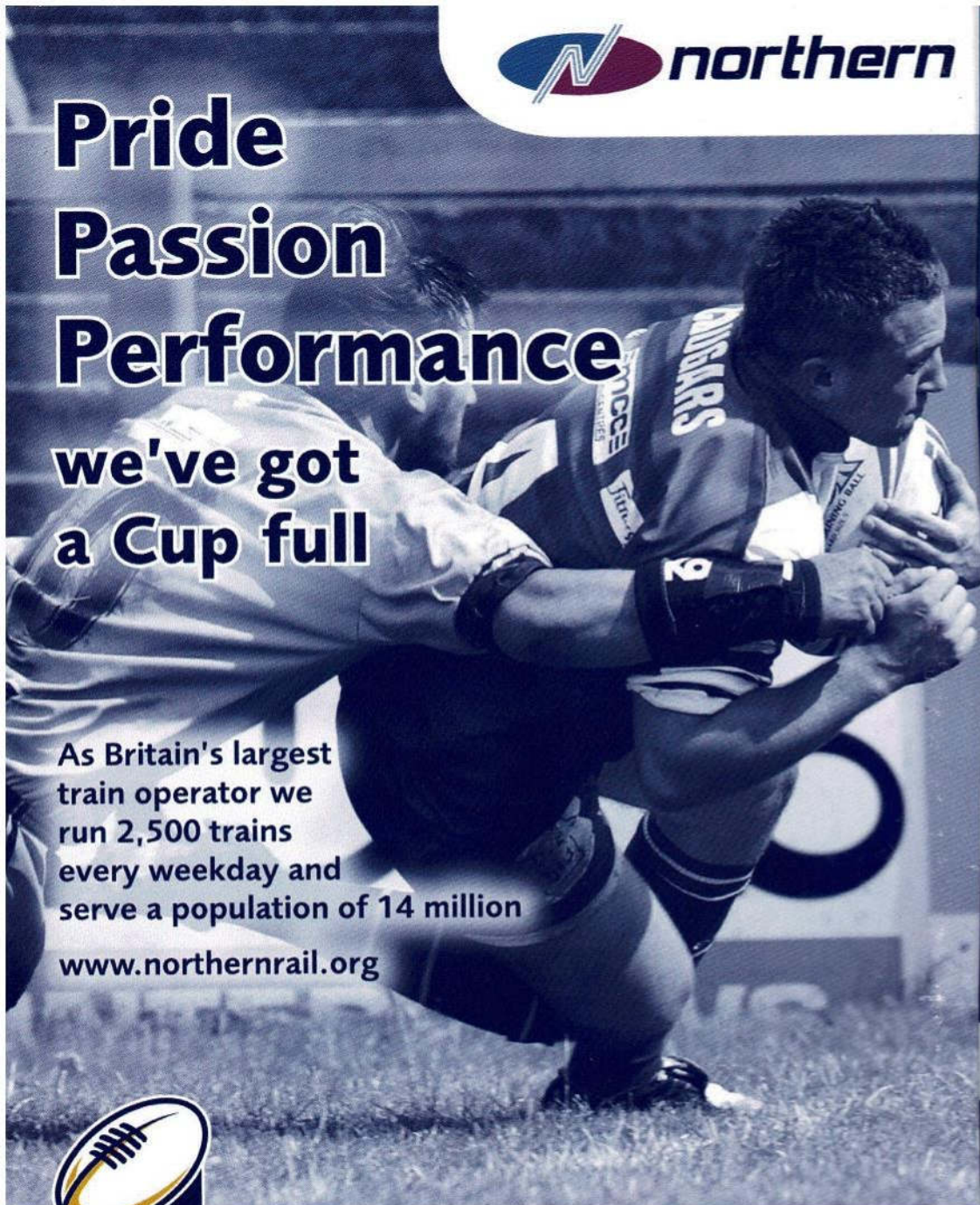
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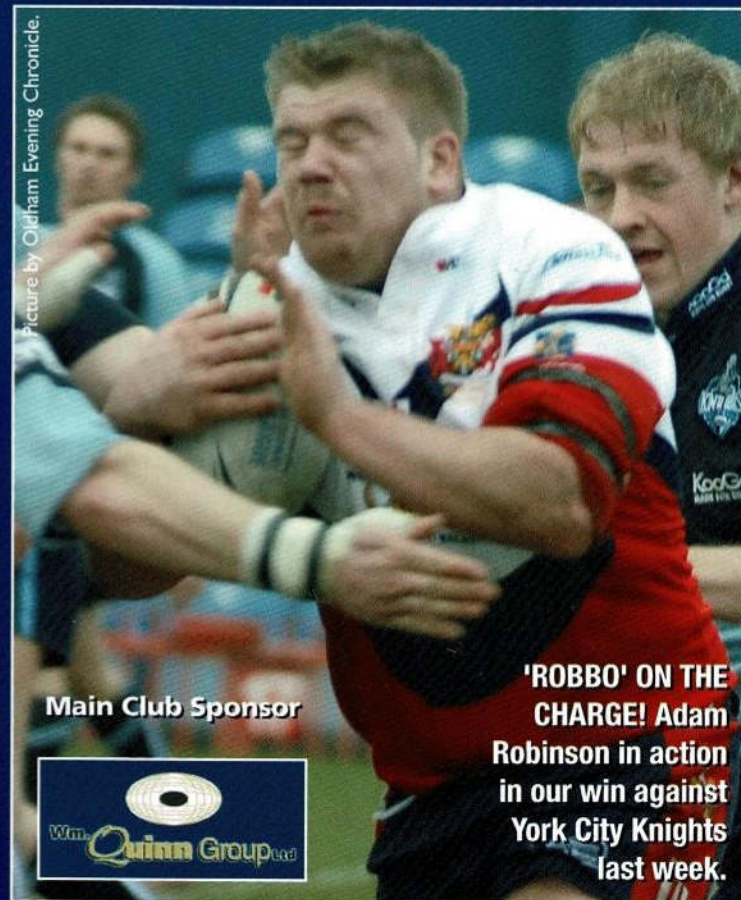


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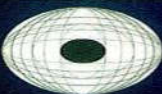
v Whitehaven

Northern Rail Cup

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Kick-Off 3.00pm





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ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE



At the end of Round 3 and the first month of the competition we again saw some big changes in

league positions.

Jack and Gill after a superb second round which saw them go to the top of the table failed to get any bonus points in Round 3 despite getting all 6 results correct. On the other hand Thanksforallyou'redoing who had a poor two weeks previously got the Doncaster result spot on and those 20 points meant he had the top score of the round with 55 points which saw him rise from a lowly 23rd place to 8th.

The change in the scoring system this year is having the desired effect of making it a much more open competition with positions changing round by round and everybody still in with a chance. Although points will accumulate for the stage results and the end of season overall winners, we start again for the April prize so everybody has the same chance starting from scratch again.

Stage winner and end of season prizes have yet to be finalised but it has been decided that month winners will get the choice of a lunch place at the next 5 ALIVE luncheon or 2 Boardroom tickets and seats in the Directors' Box for a home game.

Embarrassingly I have to say that the March winner is a certain Nigel Marland who has already received immense "stick" from a selection of individuals who will remain nameless.

1 Chanimar	46	42	50	138
2 Colonel Kitman	42	45	46	133
3 Pie Eater	46	40	46	132
4 Nobchance	43	45	42	130
5 Coldotcom	29	62	37	128
6 Ash on the Lash	40	45	42	127
7 Wine Drinker me	44	44	38	126
8 Thanksforallyou'redoing	35	35	55	125
9 Jack& Gill	37	56	30	123
10 Batport	42	43	37	122
11 Back to Basics	33	50	36	119
12= Four Red Lions	48	39	31	118
12= Yorkshire Boys	39	44	35	118
14 Av-a-go	35	45	35	115
15 Immaculate Pasta	29	40	44	113
16 westwalesshark	25	56	30	111
17 rlexpert	38	35	36	109
18=Apothecary	20	57	31	108
18= Excelsior	40	41	27	108
20= John Cogger's Headband	31	40	31	102
20= JJ & MEGA	31	37	34	102
22 Abates	35	28	38	101
23 Brickie	30	44	26	100
24 Cromwell	48	26	23	97
25 Wastead	29	36	30	95
26 Steady Eddie	27	35	32	94
27 yonner	44	29	20	93
28= Owt Fresh	31	39	22	92
28= WATERLOO	37	31	24	92
30 stillturningup	29	37	25	91
31 Fatbusgoughie	19	33	37	89
32 Jane M	29	33	26	88
33 Johnny Mac	22	39	21	82
34 Roger I	44	34	29	78
35 Pinche	20	28	30	78
36 Pumpkin Eater	20	22	33	75

Nigel

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From the Boardroom

With Chris Hamilton...



Welcome once again for our weekly run out at Boundary Park!

This week is a little different for us in so much as it is new territory, having qualified for the Knock Out

stages of the Northern Rail cup for the first time in its present format.

We were also delighted to be drawn at home for the game which gives us an opportunity to test ourselves against what has been a very good First division side over the last few years.

Whitehaven are good friends of this club and in the recent past they have had relative success in both this competition - reaching the final - and in the first division having played in a Grand Final. With that in mind there is no doubt that today will be a stern test and although they have recently announced some financial problems which will no doubt affect their retention and recruitment of players they will be out to prove a few people wrong and again make their mark on a competition where they have performed consistently over a number of years.

It would be remiss not to also mention our best wishes to Paul Crarey who has had to relinquish his post recently due to ill health and we obviously wish him a full and speedy recovery.

That event, however, has led to the appointment of Ged Stokes as Head Coach and there is no doubt whatsoever that players will be out to impress him in the

next few weeks (as borne out by the narrow loss at Widnes last week) and that the Cumbrians will be no less uncompromising than they ever are.

With that in mind we must raise our own game accordingly but there is no reason why we cannot not only put on a good show against opposition from a higher division but possibly cause an upset.

If that happens there will be several factors involved but already this season the players have shown that they have the stomach for a battle and today again presents a great opportunity for the players to demonstrate their skills to a bigger audience.

With a place in the last eight of the competition at stake there will be no shortage of commitment on display from both teams and we are expecting a tough and close game.

The Whitehaven support will be behind their team as usual and we must all play our part in raising the volume to get behind the lads right from the start of the game.

This is the last home game for three weeks so we all want to put on a good show so please help us to do that by getting behind the lads.

Enjoy the game

Chris Hamilton

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CoachesComments

With Steve Deakin...

Welcome once again to Boundary Park for today's game, this time in the knock out stages of the Northern Rail Cup against last year's beaten finalists, Whitehaven.

They are a team that has had it's fair share of success in recent years and have managed to retain quite a few of the side that saw them contest grand finals as well as cup finals so we are competing against a good number of players with big game experience, something our players are certainly relishing and it is a challenge that has got us motivated and ready to showcase our own potential, hopefully to the same levels as we displayed against Salford earlier in the season.

We come into today's game having won 8 of 10 competitive games so far counting the group stage games, the Challenge Cup game and the 3 league games so we are not going too badly, I guess as a school teacher you could say "got plenty of potential, just needs to concentrate a bit harder". The problem of concentration is one that we think we have got a handle on and know the answer to but physically solving it is not the easiest of things. Any true fan has seen that over the past 5/6 weeks we have been depleted of players and despite the best efforts of all at the club we have not yet managed to secure any reinforcements. The consequences are that the players are just a bit jaded but have still to go out and perform with no respite. I feel that we have done this and have been punished for any defensive lapses yet have still been good

enough to get the win, not an ideal scenario when everybody is seeking perfection but non the less a situation that is acceptable at this stage of the year. Safe in the knowledge that injuries will occur at every club, one just hopes that we have had more than our fair share on to date and that we can get the troops back into the squad and then get the consistency that we are looking for and indeed that we need.

A topic on almost everyone's lips at this moment in time is the one regarding referees and my only take on the subject is that we need to make sure that we do not get influenced by things out of our control. We have to be strong enough and indeed professional enough to accept that mistakes will happen and that we just have to move on and deal with the next situation. That is the message I will be giving our players on a regular basis and it is one that we all need to remember.

Lastly I would like to mention that in the main the vast majority of fans were great in the games we have played and really give of their best to lift the players especially when we are under the pump, so to speak. Please give your best vocal support today and help the players, they deserve it as much as you deserve a successful team, one goes hand in hand with the other.

Enjoy the game

Deaks

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We are very pleased to welcome our friends from Whitehaven. I am certain that I speak for a lot of Roughyeds fans and all at the club when I say that since we have been in different divisions we have really missed our weekend in Cumbria where we were always treated right royally by you all and even the residents began to recognise us as regular visitors. We hope you have had a pleasant journey down to Lancashire but I wouldn't be honest if I didn't add I hope your return journey is tinged with the same regret of defeat as most of ours from Whitehaven have been recently.

We at Oldham were very sad to hear of the difficulties you have had over the last week which just seems to compound a difficult time overall for you. We have been there and know how you all must be feeling and are sure you'll come out of it all fine in the end. Obviously we wish Paul Crarey all the best and hope a period of rest and a release from the stresses of coaching a rugby league club in this day and age will lead to a full recovery. We also wish Ged Stokes all the best for the future but once again hope his first game in charge is not too successful.

Nigel

Editor

Gary Broadbent age 31 (Fullback): Club captain.

Gary signed for Haven in 2003 after five years at Super League level with Salford, where he represented 'The City Reds' in 137 games. A product of the Barrow based Walney team, he signed for the Widnes Academy side as a 16-year-old, before progressing through the ranks to 1st team. During his time at Widnes Gary played for the GB academy side that toured New Zealand in 1996. As the outstanding fullback in NLI Gary was named in the 2005 NLI team-of-the-year and was short-listed for the prestigious player-of-the-year award in the same season. As well as representing the Emerging England side in 1998 he captained the revamped Cumbrian County team since it was reformed in 2003. Gary has qualified for a well deserved testimonial this year having played in excess of 340 first class games for his three clubs. 2007 playing record: Played 33, 11 tries.

Craig Calvert age 24 (Winger): Former Wath Brow amateur who signed for Haven mid way through the 2004 season. Craig represented the BARLA U18 team on their tours of Australia in 2001 and New Zealand in 2003. He has also

represented the BARLA U23 side in 2003 and the BARLA open age side that played in Russia in 2004. A prolific scorer in the amateur game, Craig played in the Wath Brow team that won both the National Conference premier league and the GMB National Cup Final in 2004. As well as being named the National League's young-player-of-the-year in 2004, Craig became the official second fastest man in British Rugby League, when he finished second behind St Helens winger Darren Albert.

Craig is averaging almost a try per game in his professional career, which includes tries in both the 2004 and 2005 NLI Grand Finals. 2007 playing record: Played 33, 26 tries.

Rob Jackson age 26 (Centre): Signed from Leigh Centurions at the start of the 2006 season. Rob is a former graduate of the Wigan development programme who signed for the Warriors in September 1998. He failed to break into the Wigan first team and moved to London in 2002, where he made 40 appearances for the Broncos over a three-year period. In 2005, Rob moved to the Coliseum where he became a regular for the Centurions in Super League, playing mainly at centre but occasionally on the wing. In the latter stages of the season, he found a rich vein of form scoring tries in three successive away encounters. Rob was no stranger to Whitehaven having spent a loan period with the club in 2002 and where his sensational last minute try against Oldham will long be remembered by the Recreation Ground faithful. 2007 playing record: Played 23, 3 tries.

Derry Ellbeck age 23 (Centre): Former Wath Brow Hornets junior who signed along with teammate Carl Rudd at the end of the 2004 season. Derry is a former BARLA GB Young Lion and U21 international who is seen as a long-term replacement for veteran David Seeds in the centre position. Can also play at stand-off and wing. 2007 playing record: Played 24, 10 tries.

Sala Makisi age 25 (Centre): Tongan International who signed for Haven in the close season. At 19-yrs-of-age Sala, a former New Zealand International Basketball player was a relatively late starter to the game. He has played reserve grade rugby with Cronulla, Canterbury Bulldogs and West Tigers in Australia.

Leroy Joe age 33 (Halfback): Leroy played for the Auckland district team of Otahuhu and Australia's North Queensland Cowboys prior to signing for Haven in 1997. A cut in the overseas quota for the 2000 season meant him spending a season with Hull KR before returning to the Recreation Ground in 2001. During his season away from the Recre Leroy represented former Haven coach Stan Martin's Cook Island's in the 2000 World Cup. The 2003 season was his most successful season to date when he scored 26 tries in his 30 appearances. Despite the emergence of Junior International Carl Rudd Leroy has defied the critics to become an integral part of the Haven squad. Along with fellow Kiwi's Aaron Lester and David Fatialofa, Leroy has been granted a well-deserved testimonial for 2007/08. 2007 playing record: Played 16 (+13), 3 tries.

Marc Bainbridge age 20 (Scrum Half): Former Hensingham amateur who joined the St Helens scholarship

scheme as a 14-yr-old before returning to sign for his hometown club in 2005. Marc, a former English Schools representative is an accomplished goal kicker and a pivotal member of the club's U21 Academy Side. With the departure of regular scrum half John Duffy to Widnes, Marc is expected to be given his big chance at first team level in 2008. 2007 playing record: Played 3, 1 try.

Marc Jackson age 28 (Prop): 27-yr-old Marc joined Haven at the start of the 2001 season after a distinguished career in the amateur game with Wath Brow Hornets. As well as representing the BARLA GB side at U21 & U23 level, Marc represented the GB Young Lions on their tour of Australia in 1997. The highlight of his career to date though has undoubtedly been his inclusion in the England team that clinched the emerging nations championship with a 20-14 victory over Italy in November 2000. A renowned goal kicker in the amateur game he is a fine exponent of the 40:20 kick-to-touch. Marc, no nonsense prop who tends to use as an impact player of the bench has had a couple of brushes with the league's disciplinary committee. He's currently out of the side with an arm injury, but may make his re-appearance this weekend. 2007 playing record: Played 7(+14), 3 tries.

Ryan McDonald age 29 (Prop): Tough, much, travelled Cumbrian who signed for Haven in the close season from York City Knights. Ryan signed for the Leeds Academy side when he was 17-yrs-of-age before moving onto Dewsbury, Widnes and Halifax. He played in Dewsbury's NLI Grand Final winning team in 2000 and has represented Widnes in Super League. 2007 playing record (York Knights) played (+17), 1 try.

Karl Edmondson age 25 (prop): Native Cumbrian who moved to New Zealand as a youngster before returning to sign for Haven in the close season. Karl played for the Waitakere side in the New Zealand Barter Card Cup competition in 2006. A former Junior Kiwi he also toured Europe in 2003 with the New Zealand A side.

Carl Sice age 27 (Hooker): In his sixth season at the Recreation Ground after signing from neighbours Workington Town in 2003. Carl is a former Kells amateur who tends to be used as an impact player with great effect off the bench. Carl's versatility allows to play him in a variety of positions including cover at fullback.

Before signing professionally for Workington Carl was player-of-the-year in the Haven academy side of 1997. 2007 playing record: Played 5(+21) 14 tries.

Graeme Mattinson age 22 (Hooker): Another member of Wath Brow's victorious National Cup winning teams of 2004 and 2005. Graeme came to the Recreation Ground at the end of the 2005 season after winning the prestigious man-of-the-match trophy in the Brown's defeat of Skirlaugh. Graeme toured France with the BARLA U18 side and represented the BARLA Young Lions on their tour of New Zealand in 2003. In 2002 he represented Great Britain in a three-match series against the Australian Schoolboys. One of three hookers at the Recre, Graeme was described by

former coach Dave Rotherham as having the best tackling technique at the club. His versatility allows him to cover at loose forward and fullback.

2007 playing record: Played 12(+17), 3 tries.

Howard Hill age 33 (Prop): Former Hensingham amateur who signed for Oldham in 1993. Howard played 34 times for Oldham in Super League before moving on to Hull KR and Swinton. Howard played most of his early rugby at Centre but was moved into the pack with great effect in 2004. One of the first names on the Haven team sheet, Howard's biggest threat to opposition defences is when he runs out wide with the ball. Represented Cumbria in 2003 and 2004. 2007 playing record: Played 2(+18), 3 tries.

Spencer Miller age 27 (Second Row): A former Kells junior, Spencer quickly matured to become a first team regular and went on to gain representative honours with the Cumbrian open age team that won the county championship in 1999 and the BARLA U23 side that played the Combined Services in the same year. Spencer signed for Haven during Kevin Tamati's reign at the Recre and made his 1st team debut in April 2000. He played in the National League side that played a two match series against the Super League U21's in 2002 and has represented Scotland in 2003, 2004, and 2006.

A serious eye injury sustained on the opening day of the 2006 season threatened to prematurely end Spencer's career. 2007 playing record: Played 29, 4 tries.

Scott McAvoy age 21 (Second Row): Former Hensingham amateur who joined Haven last season. He was a member of the BARLA Young Lions tour of Australia in 2004 and captained the Lions the following year in a two game series against the French.

Scott played a couple of trial games with the Wigan U21 side before committing himself to a career with his hometown club. Scott, who is equally at home in the centre position missed a fair part of the 2007 season due to injury, but early indications are that he will play a key part in Haven's 2008 NLI season. 2007 playing record: Played 13(+1), 9 tries.

Carl Rudd age 25 (stand-off / loose forward):

Signed for Haven at the end of the 2004 season after a highly successful career with Wath Brow Hornets. Carl is a former BARLA International who has represented his country at U18, U21 and Open age level, which included tours of France, Russia and Australia. In his final game as an amateur he won the prestigious man-of-the-match award when Wath Brow defeated Oldham St Annes in the 2004 GMB National Cup final. As a measure of Carl's progress in the game he was named in April 2005's Rugby League World National League One team-of-the-month after just 10 matches as a professional. Carl is a formidable goal kicker, who registered 6 goals from 6 in last weeks defeat at Widnes. 2007 playing record: Played 32, 17 tries, 125 goals.

Compiled by Bob Sewell


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Comp Opp V KO Res Att

January

Sun 13th LEEDS RHINOS A 3:00pm 4-50 6,340

Sun 20th HULL KR H 3:00pm Postponed

Sun 27th ROCHDALE A 3:00pm 20-26 1,108

February

NRC Fri 1st SWINTON H 8:00pm 22-20 848

NRC Fri 8th SALFORD A 8:00pm 12-40 4,224

NRC Sun 17th ROCHDALE A 3:00pm Postponed

NRC Fri 22nd SALFORD H 8:00pm 18-14 1,350

NRC Fri 29th ROCHDALE H 8:00pm 38-8 1,350

March

CCC3 Sun 9th BRITISH ARMY A 1.30pm 56-10 500

NRC Sun 16th SWINTON A 3:00pm 52-10 549

NL Fri 21st ROCHDALE A 3:00pm 46-32 1,003

NL Mon 24th HUNSLET H 3:00pm 40-12 1,168

NL Sun 30th YORK H 3:00pm 36-26 1,049

April

NRC Sun 6th WHITEHAVEN H 3:00pm

NL Sun 13th KEIGHLEY A 3:00pm

CCC4 Sun 20th SWINTON A 3:00pm

NL Sun 27th ROCHDALE H 3:00pm

May

NL Mon 5th BLACKPOOL H 3:00pm

NL Sat 10th LONDON A 3:00pm

Sun 11th CHALL CUP 5th ROUND

NL Sun 18th SWINTON H 3:00pm

NL Sat 24th GATESHEAD A 6:30pm

Sun 25th NORTHERN RAIL CUP QF

NL Fri 30th DONCASTER A 8:00pm

June

Sun 1st CHALL CUP QF

NL Sun 8th LONDON H 3:00pm

NL Sun 15th HUNSLET A 3:00pm

Sun 15th NORTHERN RAIL CUP SF

NL Sun 22nd BLACKPOOL A 3:00pm

NL Sun 29th GATESHEAD H 3:00pm

July

NL Sun 6th WORKINGTON A 3:00pm

Sun 6th NORTH RAIL CUP FINAL

NL Fri 11th BARROW A 7:30pm

NL Thur 17th DONCASTER H 7:30pm

NL Sun 27th KEIGHLEY H 3:00pm

Sun 27th CHALLENGE CUP SF

August

NL Sun 3rd YORK A 3:00pm

NL Sun 10th BARROW H 3:00pm

NL Sun 17th SWINTON A 3:00pm

NL Sun 24th WORKINGTON H 3:00pm

Sat 30th CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

September

Sun 7th ELIMINATION PLAY OFFS

Sun 14th QUALIFYING/
ELIMINATION SEMI-FINALS

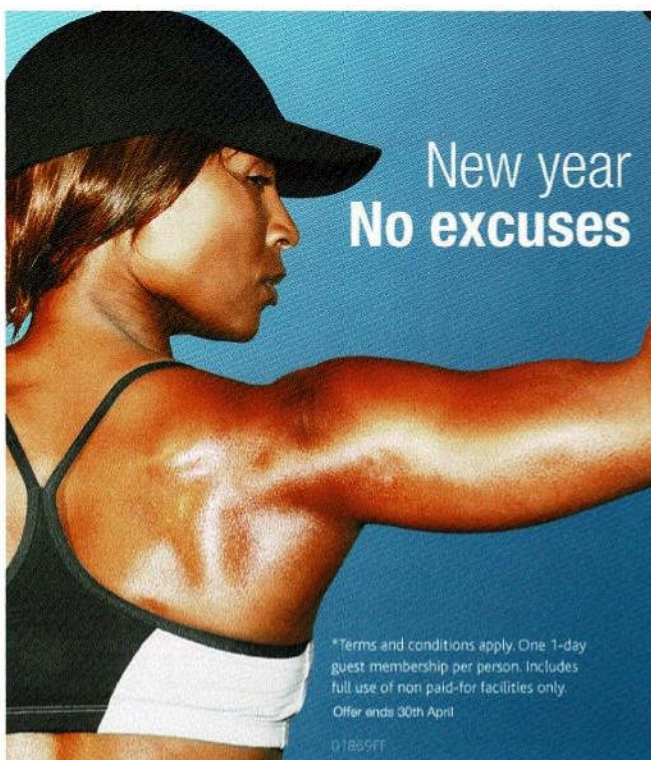
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Sun 28th N L GRAND FINAL

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Sat 4th S L GRAND FINAL

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SPEED CAME IN HANDY FOR DODGING BULLY BOYS IN DOWNTOWN NAIROBI

Lucas on the run... from 'Mean Machine' to Commonwealth Games - and then to rugby league and Oldham Roughyeds

Player Profile: LUCAS ONYANGO

by ROGER HALSTEAD

The wide grin and the flashing eyes suggest that might have been a slight exaggeration. But on a more serious note he did explain that as a kid in Kenya it was extremely helpful to be able to burn up the metres when the bully boys came looking for a fight. In fact, he first took up rugby on the advice of his Mum. She told him: "Lucas, you can run my boy. But rugby will toughen you up as well."

And just to give something of an insight into the sporting life of the young Lucas some ten or 12 years ago in Nairobi, the very first club he joined to play rugby union on leaving High School was aptly called 'The Mean Machine'.

Aged 26 now, Lucas has a fascinating story to tell, as some of you may already know if you watched the last edition of Channel M's weekly rugby league show, Code XIII. Built around sport, which has

opened up a whole new world for him, it is the story of a young man who realised he could run faster than most of his schoolboy pals, but who wasn't quite sure where he was expected to run to, or what would be expected of him.

Lucas talks fondly of his early life in Africa. "I was an all-rounder at school," he said, "Football, athletics, basketball. I liked them all. But I liked sprinting best. At High School I reached the nationals and won. But there was a lot of bullying and fighting among High School boys of a certain age. Mum didn't want me to get into that, or to be a victim of it, so one day she sat me down and talked to me and urged me: 'Try Rugby'.

"That's how it all began. I signed up for 'The Mean Machine', but they didn't try me out as a winger. They said, after a week or two there, that full-back would be natural position. I played all my rugby for a year or two at full-back and then, when I was around 20 years of age, I got called up by Kenya to the

national RU team for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002."

It was to be the start of his love affair with England, and with the English girl, Julie, whom he first met on that Commonwealth Games trip to Manchester and who is now his wife and mother of their three-year-old daughter Martah.

Once back home in Nairobi, it wasn't long before Lucas was making the necessary arrangements and visa applications etc to enable him to continue his business and computer studies in London. It was difficult for him to master all the red

tape and form filling, but he arrived here eventually only to find he had similar difficulty attempting to sell himself to rugby union clubs in the London area.

"I didn't have an agent," he recalled, "and I got little or no response from Union clubs down there. I did eventually start training with London Welsh, but just

at that time I was still attempting to get international clearance to play Union in England. I didn't have it at that stage, so I trained with London Welsh, but I didn't get any game time."

His love of Manchester and his deepening relationship with Widnes girl Julie caused him to travel north as often as he could and when he finally got clearance to play the 15-a-side code it wasn't long before he moved to this area permanently and joined the Manchester Rugby Union Club. While there, he smashed club and divisional try-scoring records and did more than enough to arouse the interest of Sale Sharks, who invited him for trials and asked him to play for them in a sevens tournament.

There was talk of a dual contract involving him playing for both the Manchester and Sale clubs, but Lucas feared burn-out and actually TOO MUCH game time while trying to serve two employers. It was Jason Robinson, no less, who suggested to him that he might be advised to try his hand in rugby league, whereupon Julie's Mum phoned an acquaintance of the family whom she knew was involved somewhere along the line in rugby league. You might have heard of him: Bobbie Goulding.

"I had already been convinced by different people that I would like rugby league because I would get more of the ball and more opportunities to run," said Lucas. "When it was suggested to me that we should speak to Bobbie Goulding it was a case of nothing to lose. He was coach of Rochdale in his first spell there. I was invited down there to watch a match and to talk to Bobbie, but the game was cancelled so it didn't happen.

"Instead, I got a call from Widnes. I was still playing for Manchester while looking at options and Widnes said they would watch me at Waterloo. I was nervous because Widnes were a big club and they told me the man who would be coming to watch me was their coach, Frank Endacott. I didn't get much ball in a scrappy game, but in the second half I picked up a stray pass and went from my own 20 to score near the posts.

"I was made up. Then while the conversion was being taken I saw that Frank was leaving. I thought he wasn't interested in me, and that was how it was when I left soon afterwards to play for Kenya in the Hong Kong sevens.

"In actual fact Frank WAS interested and he was trying to get hold of me in Hong Kong, but I was having trouble with my phone. Manchester were also striving hard to keep me, but in the end I signed for Widnes."

Lucas was to score six tries in eight early-season appearances for the Vikings in 2006, playing in the same side as Mick Nann, Daryl Cardiss and James Coyle, but he smashed a knee in a home game against Batley. After nine months out, he was told that due to salary cap restrictions he would not be offered a new deal.

He had a brief stay at Leigh RU Club before Oldham, acting on a tip-off, made their move. The kid from Kenya was an immediate hit with the Boundary Park fans and during the weeks and months of 2007 which saw him notch up 18 tries in 23 appearances, he became a firm favourite of the Roughyeds faithful. We have still to see him this season because of a shoulder injury. But he is due to return soon and the fans who have grown to love his style and panache can't wait to see him back on the wing in Oldham colours as he starts out on a new two-year deal covering this year and next.

Said Lucas: "I had no hesitation in signing for Oldham. All the feedback I got was that Oldham was a great club to be at. Then I talked to Mr Bill, the chairman, and to Chris (chief executive Chris Hamilton) and I knew how much ambition there was. I am happy here and I was happy to sign on again for two more years.

"I have heard people say I remind them of Martin Offiah. But I don't model myself on anybody. To be honest, when they first said it at Widnes, I had never heard of Martin Offiah. I know now what a great player he was. And it is an honour to be talked of in the same breath. But I just play the way I play, the way I have always played.

"And I hope that, one day, I can achieve things in the game, not just for Lucas Onyango but for Oldham Rugby League Club. I can't wait to get back."

Roger Halstead



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GuestWriter...

No 6: Ian Wilson

Roughyeds match reporter for League Express and lifelong Oldham fan.

There is widespread agreement in the game at the moment that the overall quality of the entertainment on offer, both in Super League and in the National Leagues, is being harmed as a result of the number of penalties which Stuart Cummings' team of officials is giving.

Our game v York last week was certainly a case in point, with 28 penalties and lots of other infringements spotted by the eagle-eyed referee, causing the contest to be very much a stop-start affair. Apparently Ian Smith had actually given 32 penalties at Wigan two days earlier, and there have been lots of media comments about the issue during the first couple of months of the 2008 season. Should anything be done to rid the game of the problem? And if so, what?

The first point to make is that it is not referees or touch-judges who stray offside at the play-the-ball, or indulge in high tackles, or who lie on in the tackle. I have no problem at all with such offences being penalised. And if one of the causes of this season's penalty glut is the new interpretation of what constitutes 10 metres [ie two feet or back foot only], then presumably it will not be too long before the players get used to the new ruling. However, other reasons for the proliferation of whistle could, and indeed should, be addressed immediately.

One specific problem, it seems to me, concerns the technical training of referees. Some of them simply do not seem to be able to interpret laws correctly during the inevitably very quick in-game circumstances that they face. For example, the old-fashioned offence of 'crossing' still exists - but it applies only when the player carrying the ball runs behind one of his own players during play, thereby giving rise to an obstruction. Several refs - including the one at Boundary Park last Sunday - seem to think the law applies when a player simply passes the

ball behind one of his own team-mates. So clarifying this through better training - and the same applies to other contentious issues such as ball-carrying players being lifted and carried backwards or towards touch - may well have some impact on reducing penalty counts, as players as well as refs gain greater grasp of what is acceptable and what is not.

More important, though, I suggest, is that the mindset of referees needs to be addressed. Instead of having a philosophy in which they seem to be looking for any possible reason they can find to blow their whistle, it should rather be to be consistently looking to find a reason NOT to blow up. For example, many dropped balls clearly go backwards - but it sometimes seems that ANY dropped ball is automatically blown up as a knock-on; and Stevo's momentum rule, though it has served to cause some mickey-taking on TV, DOES exist, and if properly applied would remove some more incorrect stoppages in play.

Of even bigger impact, though, would be a more imaginative application of the law on advantage. How often have we seen recently the whistle blown immediately an offence is committed, only for a mere couple of seconds later, a clear advantage to be visible for the non-offending side - but too late for continuity of play, which is such a crucial attribute of our game, to occur. But equally, once a potential advantage is permitted - eg a passing movement allowed to continue in the opponents' quarter - let us not see the whistle blown some time later for the original offence, particularly when, as usually seems to be the case these days, this is a marginal offside on the opposite side of the field from where the play next stops.

I am sure it is not the individual refs who have caused the recent problem. So let us beg Mr. Cummings to do something about it before attendances begin to be affected by the whistle-happy experience we are all currently not enjoying.

Ian Wilson

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

GOULDEN AND TAMGHART OPEN THEIR ACCOUNTS

'No socks' Said says he is 'built for comfort'

FIFTEEN players have now scored at least one try this season following last Sunday's win against York City Knights in which Said Tamghart and Tommy Goulden got on the score sheet for the first time this season. In Tommy's case, it was his first try for the club; in the case of Said it was his fifth overall, following the four he notched last year in 29 appearances.

Well done, guys! Now here's to a few more over the rest of the season. One man who has certainly taken to scoring tries this year is prop Jason Boults. You will recall that last year Jason went through 25 games without scoring once. Not that he's expected to score too many tries, of course, as a front-row forward. Nevertheless, he was determined to "cross the whitewash" this time round and with ten games played he has done so THREE times - against the British Army in the Carnegie Challenge Cup, against Swinton at Sedgley Park in the Northern Rail Cup and against Hunslet at Boundary Park in Co-operative NL2.

He would have had a fourth, too, against York last week, but he got over the line in a two-man challenge only for the touchdown to be ruled improper. Boults would love to keep on scoring, but he assures us there is no truth in the rumour that he and James Coyle are going head to head on who will score the more this year!

As for Said, he has explained that he doesn't wear socks any more because he feels a lot more comfortable without them - simple as that. A lot of fans had been asking why, so we put the question to the man himself. He said: "I like to be built for comfort - and I feel a lot more comfortable without socks. They either feel tight, or they fall down. I

would rather be without them."

Though James Coyle failed to score last week - and thus missed out on setting a record for the new club of having scored a try in eight matches in a row - he still leads the try charts with 11, with Mick Nanyn in second place on eight.

Together with his 43 goals the big centre has accumulated 118 points in his pursuit of Pat Rich's record of 320 points from 146 goals and seven tries in the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final sason of 2001.

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Ten games played to date)

	P	T	G	Pts
Chris Baines	7	-	-	-
Simon Baldwin	3	-	-	-
Jason Boults	10	3	-	12
Matty Brooks	4	-	-	-
Daryl Cardiss	3	-	-	-
James Coyle	10	11	-	44
Tommy Grundy	7	-	-	-
Tommy Goulden	8	1	-	4
Danny Halliwell	9	3	-	12
Simeon Hoyle	4	-	-	-
Phil Joseph	10	6	-	24
Gareth Langley	6	2	6	20
Craig Littler	8	6	-	24
Richard Mervill	9	-	-	-
Mick Nanyn	9	8	43	118
Paul O'Connor	9	4	-	16
Rob Roberts	8	2	-	8
Adam Robinson	7	1	-	4
Neil Roden	10	4	-	16
Warren Stevens	6	-	-	-
Marcus St Hilaire	10	6	-	24
Said Tamghart	8	1	-	4
Alex Wilkinson	5	3	-	12

PRESENTING OUR MARCH PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Phil Joseph takes the accolade

First, James Coyle, now Phil Joseph. Those were early-season winners in our new SPINDLES TOWN SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRES' player-of-the-month awards for February and March respectively. In each case the monthly winner receives £100 as part of the SPINDLES sponsorship of the club this year; the second year in a row in which SPINDLES have backed the club, but the first in which their support has included the player-of-the-month and player-of-the-year initiatives.

The manager of SPINDLES, Mike Flanagan, is becoming quite a Roughyeds' fan. The club has already had two promotions in the shopping centre this year; first the official launch of all our commercial activities with our various sponsorship partners, followed some weeks later by the visit of our players on a busy Saturday afternoon when Mike's staff had to put up crush barriers to enable the meet-the-fans event to go ahead.

Mike also makes a point of being here at Boundary Park to present personally the monthly top-player awards. He was here for the second time last week to present Phil Joseph with his award on the pitch before kick-off and then to do an encore after the game at the official presentations, which also included man of the match (Tommy Goulden) and champagne moment (Mick Nanyn).

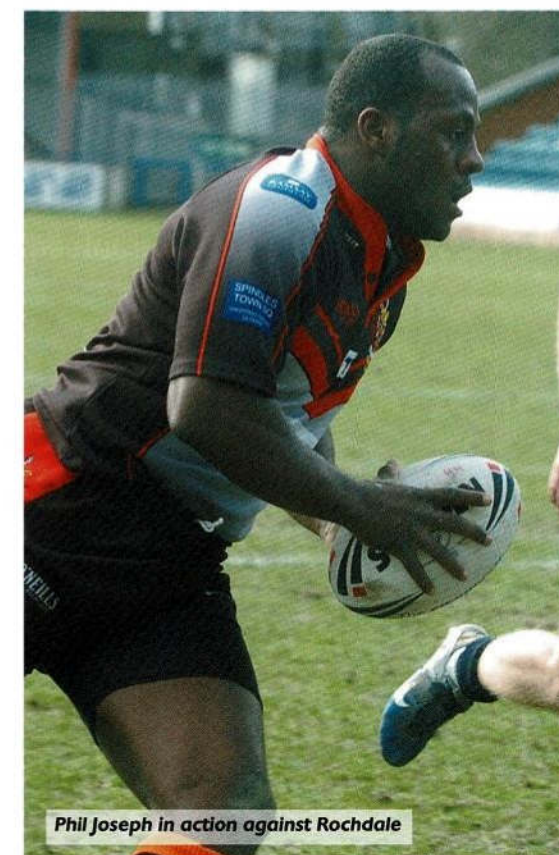
Phil thanked his team mates for their loyal support on and off the pitch and said that, without the team effort, nobody would ever win individual awards. He said he was pleased that he made the decision to sign a two-year deal with Roughyeds at the start of the season and that, under the coaching of Deaks, he realised there was always plenty of new things to learn about rugby league.

Phil, though still only 23, has been learning for a long time. He played 14 Super League games for

Huddersfield in 2004 and then in 2005 he scored 11 tries in 29 games for Swinton, winning the NL2 player of the year award. He played 19 times for Hull KR in 2006 as they headed for promotion to Super League and then in 2007 he scored nine tries in 28 games for Halifax in NLI.

Roughyeds played six games in March and Phil scored in five of them, posting six tries in total --- three of them in two outings against derby rivals Rochdale Hornets.

Roger Halstead



Phil Joseph in action against Rochdale

Oldham R.L.F.C.

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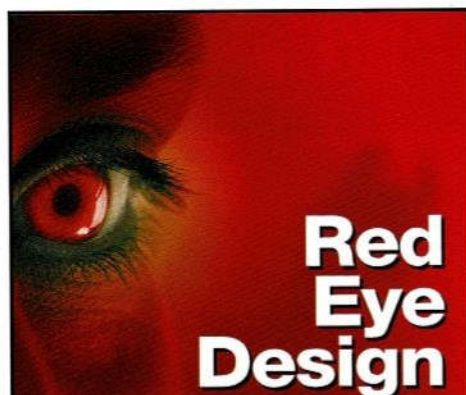
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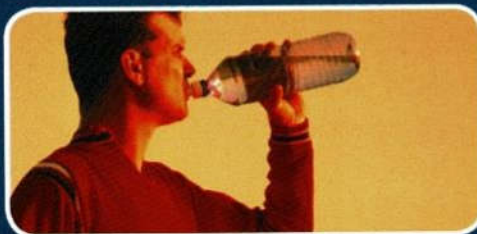
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NATIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE FIXTURE LIST 2008

March

NL	Monday 24th	SALFORD CITY REDS	A	12:30pm	POST
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April

NLR	Wednesday 2nd	LEIGH CENTURIONS	A	7:30pm
NLR	Saturday 12th	ROCHDALE HORNETS	H	2:30pm
NLR	Thursday 24th	ROCHDALE HORNETS	A	7:30pm

May

NLR	Saturday 10th	SALFORD CITY REDS	H	2:30pm
NLR	Saturday 17th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	2:30pm
NLR	Thursday 29th	WIDNESVIKINGS	A	7:30pm

June

NLR	Saturday 7th	WORKINGTON TOWN	A	2:30pm
NLR	Saturday 14th	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	2:30pm
NLR	Saturday 21st	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	2:30pm
NLR	Friday 27th	HUNSLET HAWKS	A	7:30pm

July

NLR	Saturday 5th	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	2:30pm
NLR	Saturday 12th	BARROW RAIDERS	H	2:30pm
NLR	Thursday 17th	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	A	7:30pm
NLR	Saturday 26th	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	2:30pm

August

NLR	Saturday 9th	BARROW RAIDERS	A	2:30pm
	Saturday 23rd	PLAY-OFF WEEK 1		
	Saturday 30th	CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL		

September

	Saturday 6th	PLAY-OFF WEEK 2
	Saturday 13th	PLAY-OFF WEEK 3
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HARRY IS THE MASCOT WITH THE MIDAS TOUCH



When Chairman Bill Quinn became major shareholder in the Roughyeds at the start of last season he probably had no idea the extent to which his immediate family and that of his partner Suzanne, would become involved. Bill's dad can be seen at almost every game as can Suzanne's mother and father and Bill's sons. One of those sons however, nine year old Harrison

(Harry), has taken this support one step further by becoming the club's mascot at home and away games.

Harry plays rugby for his school team, "The Ryleys" at Alderley Edge and very soon after attending his first Roughyed game told his father he wanted to be the club's mascot. And according to Bill he's certainly been a success. Since taking over the job last season every game he was mascot resulted in a Roughyed win. Harry believes it was no coincidence that when he was refused permission to lead the team out in the Grand Final he witnessed his first Roughyed defeat.

This season the trend has continued as the only competitive match he couldn't make, away at Salford, as he was in a school play resulted in a defeat. So Harrison, who loves his role as mascot, and seems to get a different Roughyed favourite every match to lead him out onto the pitch, really seems to be a good luck token for the team.

Without wanting to end on a pessimistic note, Harry won't be leading the team out today as he is on holiday in Dubai with his dad, but he has told the players they had better do well as he wants to lead them out in the Northern Rail Quarter final in May.

IDAHO 2008

On 17 May 1990, the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) removed homosexuality from their list of mental disorders. The anniversary of that event is now known as IDAHO.

IDAHO stands for the International Day Against Homophobia.

The International Day against Homophobia is an important landmark recognising the lesbian and gay communities' struggle to achieve equal rights and legal recognition.

Oldham has a history challenging intolerance and celebrating diversity. This year's IDAHO event will launch the "Kick Homophobia out of Oldham" campaign supported by a wide range of partner organisations including your Oldham Roughyeds.

We all have a responsibility to challenge homophobic hatred and violence towards lesbians and gay men in our communities, our schools and our workplaces. IDAHO provides an opportunity for the people of Oldham to show that there is no place for discrimination of any kind in our community.

Details of future events in support of IDAHO and will be publicised in your matchday programme.

For further information about IDAHO please go to <http://www.idaho.org.uk/>

Today's Squads



Oldham

☐	Chris BAINES
☐	Simon BALDWIN
☐	Jason BOULTS
☐	Matty BROOKS
☐	Daryl CARDISS
☐	James COYLE
☐	Tommy GOULDEN
☐	Tommy GRUNDY
☐	Danny HALLIWELL
☐	Simeon HOYLE
☐	Phil JOSEPH
☐	Gareth LANGLEY
☐	Craig LITTLER
☐	Richard MERVILL
☐	Mick NANYN
☐	Paul O'CONNOR
☐	Lucas ONYANGO
☐	Rob ROBERTS
☐	Adam ROBINSON
☐	Neil RODEN
☐	Lee SANDERSON
☐	Warren STEVENS
☐	Marcus ST HILAIRE
☐	Said TAMGHART
☐	Lee WINGFIELD
☐	
☐	



Whitehaven

☐	Ade ADEBISI	☐
☐	Gary BROADBENT	☐
☐	Craig CALVERT	☐
☐	Karl EDMONSON	☐
☐	Derry EILBECK	☐
☐	David FATIALOFA	☐
☐	Liam FINCH	☐
☐	Richard FLETCHER	☐
☐	Howard HILL	☐
☐	Marc JACKSON	☐
☐	Rob JACKSON	☐
☐	Leroy JOE	☐
☐	John LEBBON	☐
☐	Saia MAKISI	☐
☐	Graeme MATTINSON	☐
☐	Craig McAVOY	☐
☐	Scott McAVOY	☐
☐	Ryan McDONALD	☐
☐	Spencer MILLER	☐
☐	Carl RUDD	☐
☐	Carl SICE	☐
☐	Scott TEARE	☐
☐	Ricky WRIGHT	☐
☐		☐
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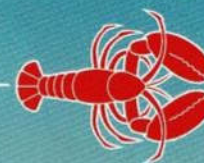
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