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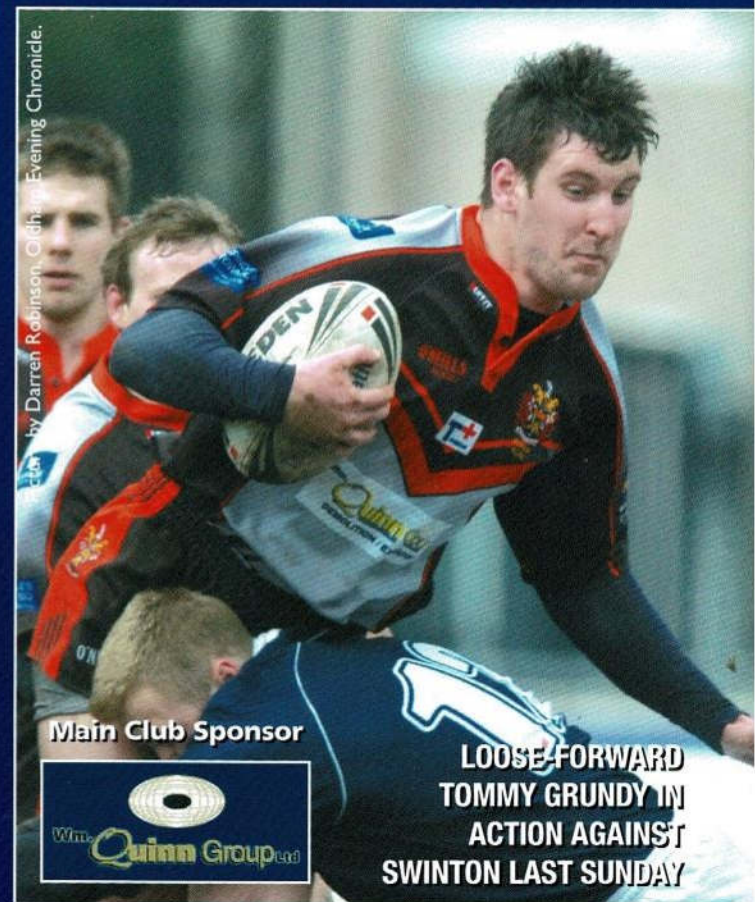
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LOOSE FORWARD
TOMMY GRUNDY IN
ACTION AGAINST
SWINTON LAST SUNDAY

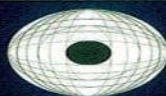
v Rochdale Hornets

Co-operative National League 2

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Kick-Off 3.00pm





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ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE



These are the League tables for April and overall.

Today's game is the last in April so we will have another monthly winner to announce. As you will see the April leaders are not necessarily doing well overall which just goes to show how quickly things can change

OVERALL LEAGUE TABLE

1	Nobchance	163
2	Chanimar	162
3	Ash on the Lash	153
4	Pie Eater	150
5	Colonel Kitman	149
6	Wine Drinker me	148
7	Coldotcom	146
8	Back to Basics	145
9	Thanksforallyou'redoing	145
10	Av-a-go	144
11	Jack & Gill	143
12	Batport	140
13	Four Red Lions	140
14	Yorkshire Boys	140
15	Immaculate Pasta	137
16	Apothecary	133
17	westwalesshark	131
18	Excelsior	126
19	5minute4ward	125
20	Roger I	125
21	J J & Mega	124
22	Jane M	123
23	Maxonian	123
24	Wastead	121
25	Brickie	120
26	Fatbusgoughie	118
27	Owt Fresh	117
28	WATERLOO	114
29	John Cogger's Headband	112
30	Stillturningup	112
31	Cromwell	111
32	Steady Eddie	111

33	Yonner	104
34	Pinche	96
35	Pumpkin Eater	96
36	Johnny Mac	95

APRIL POSITIONS

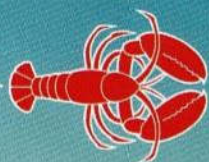
1	Jane M	35
2	Nobchance	35
3	Av-a-go	29
4	Fatbusgoughie	29
5	Ash on the Lash	26
6	Back to Basics	26
7	Wastead	26
8	Apothecary	25
9	Owt Fresh	25
10	5minute4ward	24
11	Immaculate Pasta	24
12	Pinche	23
13	Four Red Lions	22
14	J J & Mega	22
15	WATERLOO	22
16	Wine Drinker me	22
17	Yorkshire Boys	22
18	Coldotcom	21
19	Pumpkin Eater	21
20	Stillturningup	21
21	Brickie	20
22	Chanimar	20
23	Jack & Gill	20
24	westwalesshark	20
25	Batport	18
26	Excelsior	18
27	Pie Eater	18
28	Roger I	18
29	Steady Eddie	15
30	Colonel Kitman	14
31	Cromwell	14
32	Johnny Mac	14
33	Maxonian	14
34	John Cogger's Headband	10
35	Thanksforallyou'redoing	10
36	Yonner	9

Nigel



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From the Boardroom

With Chris Hamilton...



A warm welcome back to Boundary Park after a couple of weeks on the road and mixed fortunes.

Our first league defeat of the season at Keighley was followed up last week with a Carnegie Challenge

Cup Fourth Round win at Swinton.

The upshot of those two results is that we know just how tough the second division will be this season and more teams than us will go to Cougar Park and come away empty handed this year. We must also make sure we get, as quickly as possible, a level of consistency into our game. In doing so we will make it harder for teams to compete with us. In respect of the cup we are now into the fifth round of the Challenge cup and by the time you are reading these notes we will know our opponents for the weekend of 10/11 May.

By having had some relative success in cup competitions so far we are finding out the knock on effects of that situation by having to re arrange some of our scheduled league fixtures. In our case it could not have been worse with away games against London Skolars and Gateshead now becoming midweek games which will make those games even harder and place more demands, not only on the players, but on fans as well who may be hoping to make the trips.

The Gateshead match has already been arranged for 4th June and as we speak we are awaiting alternative dates from London.

You will not, however, find people at the club moaning too much about this situation as there are a number of other teams - including a few in the First Division who would gladly swop places and this is merely a consequence of success and I am sure everybody

connected with the club would want more and more of that!

Today though we are back to League duty and are faced with a fixture against our local rivals which will be the 5th game between us since the New Year. With this already being the return league game so early in the season Rochdale will be out to avenge their opening day home defeat and they have already shown that they will be no pushovers with their displays so far this season.

We need to concentrate on our own performance however and we need to try to maintain what is becoming an impressive home record - something which all teams who want to be successful talk about prior to the start of the season.

With this being the first of two successive home games we again have an opportunity to put down a marker and to establish ourselves in the upper reaches of National League Two. The players are aware of this and hopefully with your support we can gain another three points today after what will be, without any shadow of a doubt, a tough, physical game, where local pride for the next few months will be the prize. With the score at two two in this season's games this is the decider and we all know Rochdale will come today wanting to prove a point and as with all local derbies players on both sides will raise their game.

Let's hope the size of today's attendance reflects the progress the club is making and that we start to see more and more new faces in the stands each week.

Please keep up your support to the team and get behind the lads today as we try for another three points.

Enjoy the game

Chris Hamilton

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CoachesComments

With Steve Deakin...



Welcome to Boundary Park for today's game with our neighbours from Rochdale in what will be the fifth game between the

two clubs this season and with the results showing two wins each I guess that the season's bragging rights are on the line as well.

If the previous games are anything to go by then today should be another great game between two teams that are in a lot of peoples' list of teams to be in the end of season play offs so we expect to be challenged all the way.

Coming in to today's game we recently lost at Keighley and it was good to get back to winning ways last week at Swinton where I thought that we played with a lot more composure and determination defensively, being good value for the win. Another big factor in the performance was the return to the side of 'Two Bobs', a big loss for the last 4 weeks and certainly one that we don't need again as his influence on the side is massive, not just in terms of playing but with his leadership too. That said James Coyle made a great impression on me with his potential to be a future leader and will be so much better for the experience,

though he is glad that he can now concentrate on just his own game and get back to the form that he showed earlier in the season.

The injuries just keep on coming and though we got Lucas back last week we lost Tommy Grundy and Craig Littler in the game and both are doubts for today. We carry on with our efforts to get players in and the medical team are working almost full time to get the other players back asap. So every effort is being made to have as full a squad as we can from which to pick a team but we cannot legislate for the number of injuries that we are getting, a point that seems to be missed when assessing where we are at in terms of performances some times. I prefer to be optimistic and look at the fact that we are still in control of our own destiny, have a fair number of good players to come back and anticipate that the bad luck that has cursed us may well catch up with other clubs at some point. Let's leave the negative stuff alone and focus on the positives.

Get behind the team today, they both need and deserve your vocal efforts

All the best

Enjoy the game

Deaks

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WHAT'S THE LAW INFIRMARY CUP ALL ABOUT?

The first match took place on 7th May 1921, finishing in an inauspicious 0-0 draw. Oldham were the first holders, winning the replay 12-2 at Watersheddings on 13th May.

Rochdale Hornets biggest win came in 1999 when Derrick Fox's side won 48-10 (also 1933 48-08).

Oldham's biggest win was 53-13 in 1961.

Oldham have won the trophy 36 times to Hornet's 22 times (3 draws).

Hornets' win in 1999 ended Oldham's longest winning sequence of 7 consecutive victories, the longest in the Cup's history.

Hornets best run of consecutive victories was between 1947 and 1952.

Oldham were the first team to win the trophy away from home, at the tenth time of asking. In those first 10 years the away team failed to reach a double figure score 9 times!

WHAT WAS ROCHDALE'S PRE WAR HISTORY?

A Rochdale Athletic Club was formed in 1866 and held its first festival on the cricket ground at Merefield. Rugby football first took place as an organised game about 1866 or 1867, when the Rochdale Football Club was formed by a magistrate and numerous business owners and self-employed men. Within a year they were all playing alongside new members when working class men were allowed to join as well. Other clubs quickly followed, among them Rochdale Wasps and Rochdale Juniors. In 1871, Rochdale Juniors and Rakebank merged to form Rochdale United.

On 20 April 1871, the directors of Rochdale Wasps, Rochdale United and Rochdale Football Club met at the Roebuck Hotel in the town centre to form a senior team that would represent the town. Rochdale Wasps, Rochdale Butterflies and Rochdale Grasshoppers were suggested as names for the new club before Rochdale Hornets was agreed on. At first Hornets played on the old Athletic Grounds, and afterwards on the Rochdale Cricket Ground in Vavasour Street. The club very quickly took a leading

position in the game in Lancashire. Hornets had an open door approach to membership and were able to insist on gate money as they played on an enclosed field. In 1879, Rochdale Rovers threw in their lot with the Hornets, and it was in this year that the club first adopted the white jersey. A ground was taken at Oakenrod for the 1879-1880 season. Subsequently the Rochdale Cricket Club ground was leased. In 1881 no fewer than 57 rugby clubs played in Rochdale and district, fielding 80 teams regularly. By the eighteen nineties, the players were almost all working class. Rochdale moved to the Athletic Grounds, in Milnrow Road in 1894. They were founder members of the Northern Union in 1895. Hornets made a poor start under the new regime and for a good number of years lost many more matches than they won. Hornets won the Lancashire County Cup in 1911 and 1914. In the half-season of the spring of 1919, they not only won the Lancashire League but also carried off the Lancashire County Cup.

Hornets won the Northern Union Challenge Cup in 1922 by beating Hull 10-9 at Headingley, Leeds. That was Hornets' one and only Challenge Cup final. Due to the ferocity of their play, their pack of forwards was known as "The Terrible Six". Hornets dropped out of the wartime Lancashire League, their last match a 12-4 defeat against Salford at the Athletic Grounds on 11 May 1940.

DID THINGS IMPROVE POST WAR?

An appeal went out to supporters in July 1945 for help in renovating the ground, pitch and premises so that rugby league could restart at the Athletic Grounds after the war. On 25 August 1945, the Hornets resumed with an away game at Craven Park which they lost 5-14. The first Infirmaries' Cup game since 1938 was played at the Athletic Grounds on 24 August 1946, and Hornets were beaten by Oldham. In 1947 and 1958, Rochdale Hornets made it to the semi-finals of the Challenge Cup but both times Wigan ended their hopes of a Wembley final. Hornets played their first game at Spotland in 1954 when a one-off game against Keighley was played there. In 1965, Hornets appeared in the final of the Lancashire Cup when a 19,000 crowd saw them lose to Warrington at Knowsley Road, St Helens. They reached a Players No 6 Final in 1974.

In 1987 both Rochdale Hornets and Rochdale A.F.C. were in financial trouble. Deep in debt, Rochdale could not resist Morrison's £2.7m offer for the Athletic Grounds and following the sale of the land moved to Rochdale A.F.C.'s Spotland stadium in 1988. The stadium became jointly owned by Hornets, Rochdale Council and Rochdale A.F.C. In 1989, Hornets got promoted from the Second Division to the top tier. The club's record attendance at Spotland was set at 8,150 on Boxing Day 1989. In September 1990 Neil Holding briefly coached Hornets. In 1991, Hornets appeared in the final of the Lancashire Cup.

DID HORNETS ADAPT TO SUMMER RUGBY?

On May 9 1996, Rochdale sacked their coach, Steve Gibson, after taking just one point from their first six games of the First Division season. Deryck Fox became player-coach in May 1998, and made an immediate impact. A ten-match losing sequence was ended as Hornets won at Featherstone, in Fox's first match in charge. However, Hornets ended that 1998 campaign in next to bottom position in Division One. Hornets struggled early in the campaign when they occupied bottom spot for a couple of weeks. They recovered slightly and had moved up to 15th position, fourth bottom, by late June.

On Wednesday 30 June 1999, it was announced that Deryck Fox was no longer Rochdale coach. During his thirteen months as Hornets' coach, the club played 38 matches. They won 12, drew one and lost the remaining twenty-five. Bob Eccles took over as caretaker coach. Steve Linnane became head coach in December 1999 but quit in June 2000 to become assistant coach at Super League club Halifax. Roughyeds' Steve Deakin, joined Rochdale Hornets as head coach in August 2000 before rejoining Keighley Cougars as head coach in October 2000 when incumbent Karl Harrison left to become assistant coach at Bradford Bulls. Martin Hall took up the position of coach at Rochdale Hornets in November 2000. He stepped in after the shock resignation of Steve Deakin who returned to Keighley after a few months in charge. He took Rochdale to two consecutive third-place finishes in the Northern Ford Premiership. Hall departed along with all the players after not renewing his contract after his failed bid to take over

the club. Bobbie Goulding arrived as player-coach in December 2003. He was in charge of Rochdale Hornets for two seasons, twice being nominated for coach of the year. He left in November 2005, citing frustration at the club's financial problems and his lack of a proper contract.

Darren Abram was appointed head coach two weeks later. Darren Abram was dismissed on 9 July 2007 after a run of defeats which left the club facing relegation. Shaun Gartland was placed in temporary charge. Bobbie Goulding was appointed as Rochdale Hornets coach for the second time in September.

IS IT TRUE THE CLUB HAVE BEEN UNLUCKY WITH FATAL INJURIES?

Yes and two of these unfortunate incidents have involved Oldham. On 4 October 1930, Stanley Baldwin, Hornets' wingman was fatally injured during a match with Oldham and on 24 October 1953, Hornets' second row Ralph Slater, was fatally injured in an A-team game at the Athletic Grounds also against Oldham A. In October 1998, Karl Marriott died following a training session, and a couple of months later Roy Powell died in similar circumstances.

SINCE 1972 HOW MANY COACHES HAVE THERE BEEN AT HORNETS?

26, but present coach Bobby Goulding has been there twice. Longest serving was the first coach in this era, Frank Myler who lasted three years and five months. The only other coach to look like equalling this spell was Martin Hall who lasted three years exactly. The shortest incumbent discounting caretaker coaches is a toss up between Neil Holding in 1991 and Steve Deakin in 2000 who according to various sources lasted between 2 and 3 months. On average in this period a coach has reigned for one year and four months.

Nigel Marland


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Oldham Fixtures '08



Oldham's score always appears first

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	16-6	966
NL Sun 13th	KEIGHLEY	A	3:00pm	26-12	1,276
CCC4 Sun 20th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	20-8	591
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		
NRC Sun 25th	BATLEY	A	3:00pm		
NL Fri 30th	DONCASTER	A	8:00pm		

June

Sun 1st	CHALL CUP QF				
NL Wed 4th	GATESHEAD	A	7.30pm		
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				

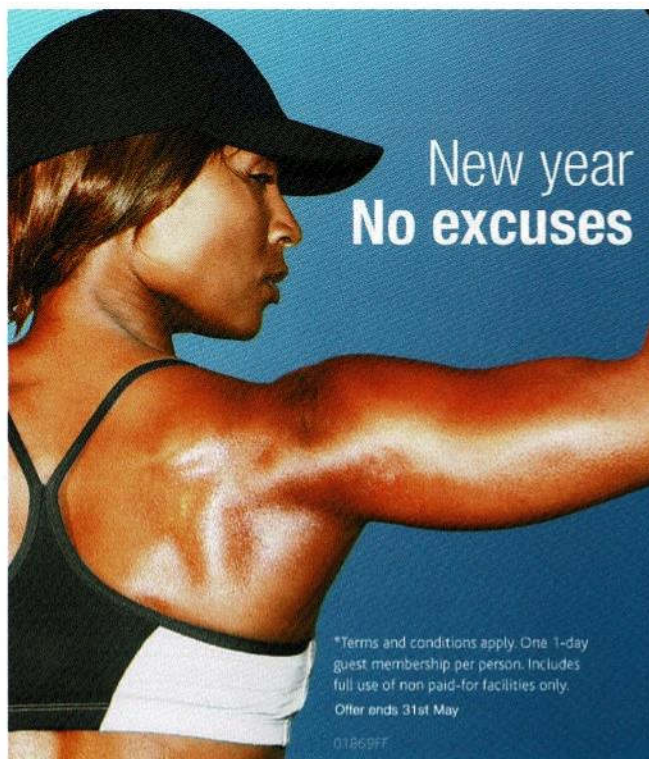
September

Sun 7th	ELIMINATION PLAY OFFS				
Sun 14th	QUALIFYING/ ELIMINATION SEMI-FINALS				
Sun 21st	FINAL ELIMINATOR				
Sun 28th	N L GRAND FINAL				

October

Sat 4th	S L GRAND FINAL				
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LEIGH-LAD TOMMY WON EVERY HONOUR AS AN AMATEUR

Now he's causing sparks in the pro game after beating a serious wrist injury

Player Profile: TOMMY GOULDEN

by ROGER HALSTEAD

RESPONSIBILITY on the rugby field rests easily on the broad shoulders of Tommy Goulden, Oldham's popular back-row forward who is proving quite a hit in his first season with the Roughyeds.

He was only 19 when he first captained the Leigh Miners Rangers open-age team and he went on to lead them to National Conference premier division Grand Final glory before accepting the captain's armband in the Great Britain open-age side for a couple of tournaments in Russia and a tour of Australia. On the way to reaching that pinnacle of his amateur career he played for his country on every rung of BARLA's stairway to the stars — Great Britain under-18s, under-21s and then the full open-age side. Selection as captain of the Aussie touring party gave him just about every honour there was to be had under the BARLA banner.



PICTURE BY DARREN ROBINSON, OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

Sadly — and certainly through no fault of Tommy's or, for that matter, his fellow tourist and Leigh lad Lee Wingfield — it was an ill-fated tour that is now consigned to history. Suffice to say here that after beating a regional Aboriginal rep team in Newcastle, the Great Britain boys were beaten in two Tests against the Aborigines national side and the final tour game never took place.

Having had an amateur career that was littered with medals and honours at every level, Tommy Goulden deserved far more than that, and he will forever be remembered in BARLA circles not only as a talented loose-forward but as a player who wore the shirt of his club, county and country with pride and one who could genuinely lay claim to be among the finest amateur players of his era.

Few know their amateur rugby league better than Trevor Hunt of Radio Manchester fame, and Trevor had this to say of Tommy: "He captained Miners to two Grand Finals and their 2005 triumph was the club's first for 20 years. He was an outstanding BARLA international and captain and he followed in the footsteps of previous top-quality Miners loose-forwards such as Paul Dowling in the 70s and former Oldham favourite Jimmy Reynolds in the 80s. "Jimmy played during the club's most successful period in its history in its North-West Counties days and Tommy emulated him by leading Miners to two National Conference premier division Grand Finals."

So how did it all begin, and how did 26-year-old Tommy come to leave his BARLA background behind and arrive on Oldham's doorstep last autumn via a stay of two and a bit seasons with our derby

rivals and visitors today, Rochdale Hornets?

An electrician by trade, Tommy has been making the sparks fly on the rugby field since he first toddled down to Leigh Miners as a seven-year-old. Like so many young 'Leythers' he was perhaps born to play rugby league. In his formative years at Miners he played in the centre, but he was switched to loose-forward in the under-15s and he was to wear No 13 on his back throughout his rise to the very pinnacle of the amateur game and then in his first two seasons in the pro game at Spotland.

It's only since he joined Oldham on a two-year contract at the start of this season that he has been playing regularly in the second-row. He even turned out regularly at loose during a five-month stint with Wollongong Bulls in the Illawarra country competition in Australia. He enjoyed that Aussie experience (he was invited by an Australian who had been playing at Leigh Miners) and felt it stood him in good stead when he took the professional ticket with Rochdale.

As for playing in the second-row on Oldham's left side, he loves every minute of it. Said Tommy: "Steve Deakin (coach) likes his loose-forwards to play more up the middle whereas I had always played that position more as a ball handler with a free role. Playing second-row I still have lots of defensive duties to do, and I like to think I can pride myself on that, but I am wider out and I get more attacking opportunities. I really enjoy that."

Big influences on his early career were his under-18s coach at Miners, Kevin Drury, and later his club open-age coach Warren Ayres. His early heroes were Ellery Hanley and Mal Meninga, while Tommy still has fond memories of the days when he played twice against France for GB under-18s and then qualified for the under-21s and helped them to win a tournament also featuring the Prison Service, the RAF, the Army and the Navy.

Open-age international rugby came next. He made his debut against France at Whitehaven and then went on two trips to Russia before earning selection as captain for the trip to Australia. He had already had talks with Rochdale Hornets before embarking on that trip and as soon as the party returned home he signed for Bobbie Goulding for what remained of the 2005 summer season. In fact, it was only about

eight games, but in those eight games he did enough to earn a deal for 2006 despite Goulding's departure and the arrival as new boss of Darren Abram.

Tommy was to spend 2006 and 2007 at Rochdale under Abram's tutelage. At the back end of 2005 he was regularly winning man-of-the-match awards and there was even talk of Super League interest, but in his second year at Spotland he suffered a serious setback when he smashed his left wrist and was out of the game for a long time while he had what was virtually a wrist reconstruction.

He still picked up a fans' player-of-the-year award for his efforts on Hornets behalf last season, but he is the first to agree that even when he was back in the side after his injury it took him a long time to overcome psychological barriers and reach his best form again. Said Tommy: "I think that only now I am starting to hit my best form again, but I am certainly enjoying my rugby at Oldham, just as I did at Rochdale."

"Nevertheless, I was looking for a change after more than two seasons there and when Oldham approached me and told me of their plans for the club and for the future I wanted to be part of it. I've signed a two-year deal and the aim, as everyone knows, is that we should go all out for automatic promotion this time."

"I don't think we have hit our best form yet. We have shown it in patches, but we are aiming for more consistency. If we can get that, and stay clear of too many injuries, I see no reason why we can't get that automatic spot for going up."

"It was a disappointment to lose at Keighley in our last league game, but overall we have won ten of our last 13 games and we are still in the Northern Rail Cup and the Carnegie Challenge Cup. It wasn't a particularly enjoyable game last Sunday in the cup at Swinton because conditions were difficult and it was just an arm-wrestle. Neither side was giving any leeway. It was a typical cup tie. It was a case of toughing it out, but we are through to the next round and hopefully we will draw a big pay day for the club."

Roger Halstead



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

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GuestWriter...

No 7: Ian Wilson

Roughyeds match reporter for League Express and lifelong Oldham fan.

It is perhaps best to say little about the performance at Keighley ; suffice it to comment that it sits easily into my pantheon of nightmarish away trips which is highlighted - or rather lowlighted - by Leigh in 1957 and Whitehaven in 1984!

So let us simply note that we are at least still there competing in the last 16 of the Cup, the last 8 in the Northern Rail, and of course the NL2 competition, to which we return today, and turn to thoughts of the international aspects of our game.

Before looking forward, let us first recall briefly the end of the 2007 season. One huge negative was the appalling promotion by the RFL of the centenary match at Warrington. Once the match got started, it was excellent entertainment, and a genuine contest. But the pre-match programme of events, and the attendance, were, in all honesty, a disgrace. I hope that some-one in Red Hall has been asking themselves what they did wrong and what lessons can be learned ; but the sadness is, of course, that there will never be another centenary of international RL ; maybe they will do better in 2107!

Another event which is unlikely ever to recur was perhaps one of the most surreal experiences I have had - Samoa v Lebanon at Post Office Rd, in a World Cup qualification final eliminator! It was an enjoyable experience too, though I felt a bit sorry for the Lebanese as they went behind on the back of some slightly dubious refereeing decisions by Ashley Klein, and then just couldn't quite get back into it.

The performance of Tony Smith's GB side against the touring New Zealanders, of course, was the real positive note to end last season on. They not only overwhelmed their opponents, but also played some quality rugby, with a much more adventurous and so attractive side than has been the case in recent years under Brian Noble's guidance. Maybe there are some decent prospects after all for the autumn World Cup tournament in Australia!

Just how important is it that we do well in the World Cup? (I suppose that I mean England by 'we' - though I

am still not convinced that it was right to throw out the GB tradition.) In my opinion, it is very important, if the national status of the game is to grow. How annoying is it that Shaun Edwards is getting more column space and air time now, on the back of making himself into the top so-called defensive coach at kick-and-clap international level, than he ever did when he was actually operating as one of the best players in either code. And how equally irritating is the 'RU has got a higher international profile' line, as an explanation of why yet another of 'our' players switches codes. It is particularly irritating, of course, because it is absolutely true!

And the only way we have a chance of raising RL's international profile is to do well in, and preferably win, a World Cup tournament. This year, too, with the England soccer supermen spending their summers on scattered exclusive beaches, and the cricketers not competing for the Ashes until '09, would be the ideal time to do it. What odds on a treble of us for NL2 champions, the Catalans for Super League Grand Final winners and England for the World Cup?!

Ian Wilson

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

CHALLENGE CUP 5th ROUND DRAW

Not a great draw for us as far as an "earner" goes but we must look at it positively and say that it gives us a real chance of making the last eight.

Hull K R v Huddersfield
Barrow v Wakefield Trinity
Dewsbury v Oldham
Bradford v Catalans
Wigan v Whitehaven
Widnes v Hull
Harlequins v Leeds
St Helens v Warrington





THE Oldham Players' Association, going from strength to strength, visited the Leeds home of Joe Warham recently to present him with a certificate of life membership, bestowed to recognise the fact that, at 88, he is the oldest member of the association, which was formed last year.

Treasurer Bob Henthorn (left) and secretary Dave Walker (right) are pictured presenting Joe with his certificate while spending an enjoyable couple of hours going through Joe's scrapbooks and reminiscing about his long and distinguished career as player, coach and manager with Oldham, Rochdale Hornets and Leeds.

"We had a fabulous time with him," said Dave. "He has a terrific collection of old photographs, newspaper cuttings and scrapbooks, many of them covering his time as a player at Watersheddings."

Joe scored 69 tries in 124 appearances for Oldham between 1949 and 1953 before

leaving to become manager at Rochdale. From there he began a long association with Leeds, whom he coached and managed before becoming a director and leading administrator.

At Watersheddings he finished top try scorer in his first full three seasons with the club. His best total was in 1951-52 when he scored 25 tries as Oldham finished fifth in the table -- the club's highest placing for 20 years.

Added Dave: "He went on to spend many, many years with the Leeds club and he had a lot to do with the signing of many of that club's greatest players such as Hynes, Seabourne and Shoebottom to name but three. He had a fantastic time in our sport at every level -- player, coach, manager and director."

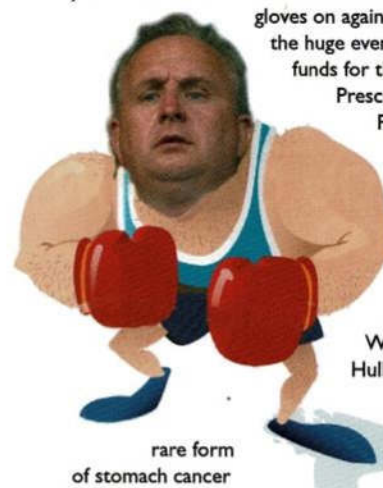
The Players' Association will hold their first major fund-raising event in November when they plan a sportsmen's dinner at the St Anne's club with a big-name line-up of after-dinner speakers, more details to be announced soon.



BILL Quinn, the Oldham chairman, will step into the ring and fly the flag for the Roughyeds in the Legends of League Boxing Evening at the Reebok Stadium on June 14.

A former amateur boxer in his teenage years, 42-year-old Bill will turn back the clock and put the

gloves on again as part of the huge event to raise funds for the Steve Prescott



Foundation in its fight against cancer.

Steve, the former St Helens, Wakefield and Hull star, is being treated for a

rare form of stomach cancer and has reacted positively to the challenge by spearheading a Foundation that will not only assist the Prescott family but will raise funds for Christies, the RFL Benevolent Fund and any other worthy cause approved by Steve.

Despite his illness he is himself taking part in fund-raising events, the latest being the London Marathon which he completed in just over four and a half hours.

Steve said later: "I ran the last three miles in pure agony. With 800 metres to go I was really going fast, but my groin cramped up. Somehow, I got there in the end, but I was absolutely drained. At least we raised some money for a worthy cause."

The money Steve raised from the marathon will go to Christies Hospital in Manchester, which is

currently treating Steve for his condition.

Among future fund-raising events will be the big one at the Reebok on June 14 when Bill Quinn will be among a line-up of "boxers" which will include Garry Schofield, Bobbie Goulding, Anthony Sullivan, Tim Street, Alan Hunte and Karl Kirkpatrick.

He is likely to be fighting either Goulding, the Rochdale Hornets coach, or Kirkpatrick, the former RL referee who is now officiating in the Union code.

Bill said today: "I went training with some of the other guys last night and signed on to take part. It's 25 years since I last stepped into a boxing ring, but this is for a very worthy cause and I intend to work hard on getting myself into some sort of shape over the course of the next few weeks.

"I don't think boxing technique will cause me too many concerns even though I haven't boxed for such a long time; my main focus will have to be on fitness and that's what I'll be concentrating on.

"I'm likely to be fighting either Bobbie Goulding or Karl Kirkpatrick and, either way, it should arouse a bit of needle. I suppose if its Bobbie it will be regarded by fans as Oldham v Hornets and if its Karl I think most fans would take a special interest in seeing a referee in the ring. It should be a great night, and the main thing is it will be raising funds for a very worthwhile cause and one which I am proud to be supporting in this way."

Bill is looking to be sponsored by Roughyeds fans to help to swell the fund on the night. Details of how sponsors can get involved will be announced later.



Oldham R.L.F.C.

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David Lord
Janet Yewdale
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NATIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE FIXTURE LIST 2008

April

NLR	Wed 2nd	LEIGH CENT.	A 7:30pm	L 6-48
NLR	Thurs 10th	ROCHDALE	H 7:30pm	L 6-18
NL	Fri 18th	SALFORD CITY REDS	A 7:30pm	L 8-46
NLR	Thurs 24th	ROCHDALE	A 7:30pm	

May

NLR	Thurs 1st	LEIGH CENT.	H 7:30pm	
NLR	Thurs 8th	SALFORD CITY REDS	H 7:30pm	
NLR	Thurs 29th	WIDNES VIKINGS	A 7:30pm	

June

NLR	Sat 7th	WORKINGTON	A 2:30pm	
NLR	Thurs 12th	HUNSLET HAWKS	H 7:30pm	
NLR	Thurs 19th	FEATHERSTONE ROV	H 7:30pm	
NLR	Fri 27th	HUNSLET HAWKS	A 7:30pm	

July

NLR	Sat 5th	WORKINGTON	H 2:30pm	
NLR	Sat 12th	BARROW RAIDERS	H 2:30pm	
NLR	Thurs 17th	FEATHERSTONE ROV	A 7:30pm	
NLR	Thurs 24th	WIDNES VIKINGS	H 7:30pm	

August

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

September

	Sat 6th	PLAY-OFF WEEK 2		
	Sat 13th	PLAY-OFF WEEK 3		
	Sat 20th	FIRST DIVISION RESERVE GRAND FINAL		

HOME fixtures for the new Roughyeds reserve team, backed by Rugby Oldham, are now being played at Sedgley Park and will remain so for the full season.

Six of the eight home league games are scheduled for the Whitefield venue on Thursday evenings, but those against Workington Town and Barrow Raiders will go ahead there as originally scheduled on Saturdays, July 5 and 12 respectively, with 2.30pm kick-offs.

Said chief executive Chris Hamilton: "We are delighted to announce Sedgley Park as our home venue for the reserves. We get on well with our friends over there and we have built up a good relationship with them during

the time we have been going there to stage first-team games.

"They have been very helpful in accommodating us on this. It has taken some time to sort things out because we have had to juggle things around a bit to fit in with their requirements.

"It's a good ground on which to play and watch rugby league and we know from past experience that our fans like the ground and the facilities on offer.

"It would be nice to think our fans will be going along to watch some stars of the future, hopefully in Oldham shirts."

Admission to reserve games is 4 for adults and 2 for children and OAPs. Secure parking is available inside the ground for 1 with all takings going to the Roughyeds and used to offset the costs involved in running the reserve team. Bars will be open at the ground and the Sedgley Park staff will make refreshments available.

The eight home fixtures at Sedgley Park are as follows: Thursday, April 10 v Rochdale Hornets (7.30); Thursday, May 1 v Leigh Centurions (7.30); Thursday, May 8 v Salford City Reds (7.30); Thursday, June 12 v Hunslet Hawks (7.30); Thursday, June 19 v Featherstone Rovers (7.30); Saturday, July 5 v Workington Town (2.30); Saturday, July 12 v Barrow Raiders (2.30); Thursday, July 24 v Widnes Vikings (7.30).

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Kicking Homophobia Out of Oldham

International Day Against Homophobia
(IDAHO) 2008

Oldham Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Forum are delighted to announce that Oldham Roughyeds will be taking a lead role in organising this year's International Day Against Homophobia events in Oldham.

Oldham Athletic are also signing up to the 'Kick Homophobia Out of Oldham' initiative and will be actively involved in a number of events, including this year's Oldham LGBT Pride.

Oldham Roughyeds are organising a touch rugby game on **5th May** with Village Spartans (Greater Manchester's gay men's rugby team). The game will precede their major rugby match that day.

Oldham Roughyeds and Oldham Athletic will have a presence at Oldham's IDAHO event on the **16th May**. Oldham Roughyeds Chief Executive will be speaking about the importance of Kicking Homophobia Out of Rugby, Out of Sport and Out of Oldham. The Chief Executive of Oldham Athletic is also likely to be speaking at the event (tbc). The event will be hosted by Jonathon Mayor, in full rugby tackle. Civic leaders will also be involved - signing a Roughyeds and Oldham Athletics shirt, kicking/throwing pink rugby balls, and demonstrating their commitment to 'Kicking Homophobia Out of Oldham'. These activities will take place in **Oldham Town Centre between 12.15pm and 2pm, with members of Oldham's LGBT Forum and partners being there between 11am and 3.30pm to promote the IDAHO campaign.**

This year's IDAHO events will launch the "Kick Homophobia out of Oldham" campaign supported by a wide range of partner organisations. Oldham Roughyeds will be placing adverts in their programmes for the rest of the year to promote the 'Kick Homophobia

Out of Oldham' message. In the run up to **Oldham LGBT Pride**, which takes place on **Saturday 26th July**, Oldham Roughyeds and Oldham Athletic will be working closely with Oldham LGBT Forum, Oldham Festival of Diversity and other partners to develop and deliver a programme of activities aimed at 'Kicking Homophobia Out of Oldham'. The work includes considerable support from Oldham Primary Care Trust.

"Oldham LGBT Forum is delighted with this development. To be working with Oldham Roughyeds and Oldham Athletic to develop work to Kick Homophobia Out of Oldham is a major step forward", said Susan Kirkham, Co-leader of Oldham's LGBT Forum.

The theme of this year's Oldham Pride (Saturday 26th July) is **'Flights of Fancy (A Way with the Fairies)'** - with birds of paradise, plane crews and 'fairy' stories - providing plenty of scope for imaginative and creative input and involvement from everyone. Acts, arts and activities will ensure that, like last year, this year's Oldham Pride will be a spectacular event with something for everyone. **"With the central involvement of Oldham Athletic and Oldham Roughyeds 'Kicking Homophobia Out of Oldham' will not be a flight of fantasy but several steps closer to reality"**, Susan added.

If you want to get involved or find out more about Oldham's IDAHO events, Oldham Pride or Oldham LGBT you can contact the Forum at oldhamlgbtforum@oldham.gov.uk.

Susan Kirkham

Co-lead Oldham LGBT Forum

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☐	Said TAMGHART
☐	Lee WINGFIELD



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