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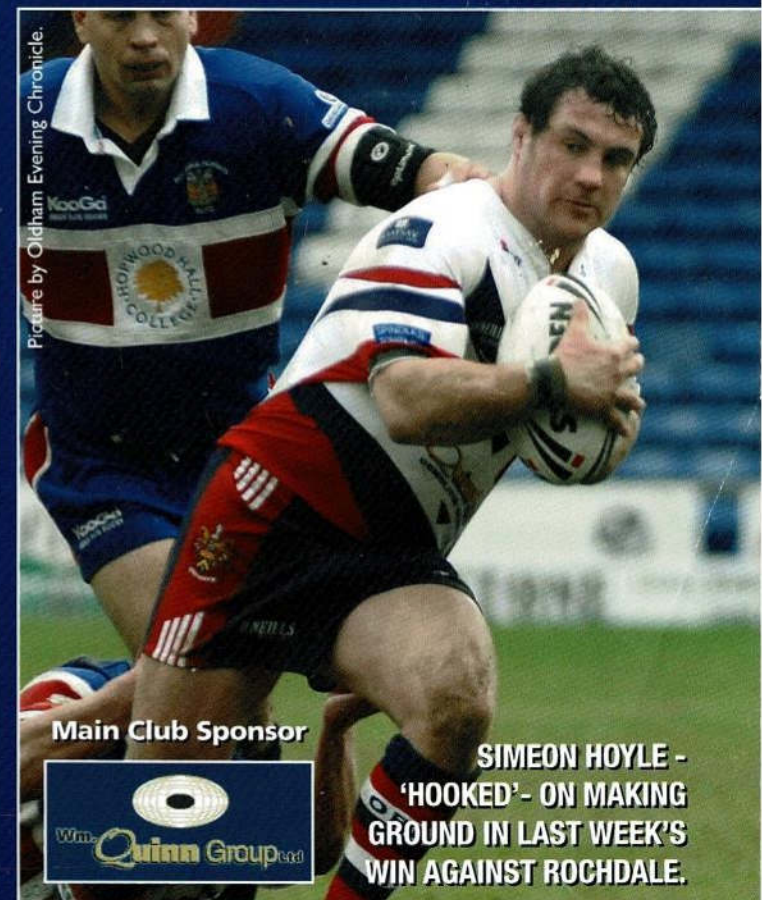
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WIN AGAINST ROCHDALE.**

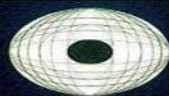
v Blackpool Panthers

**Co-operative National League 2**

Monday 5th May 2008

Kick-Off 3.00pm





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# ORLFC PREDICTION LEAGUE



**Some really big scores this round with Maxonian, who only got 14 points in last round jumping from third bottom to second with a massive 66 points.**

He didn't, however manage to overall Mr Consistency this season, Nobchance, who is definitely not keeping to his nickname as he is proving he has every bl---y chance and is this month's winner as well as topping the overall league table. David Lord followed a superb 35 points in the last round when two games weren't played with a mighty 57 points this round. He can choose between Directors Box seats and places in the Boardroom for the Blackpool game or a place at the next 5 Alive Lunch.

| I  | Nobchance               | 220 |
|----|-------------------------|-----|
| 2  | Chanimar                | 207 |
| 3  | Pie Eater               | 190 |
| 4  | Maxonian                | 189 |
| 5  | Thanksforallyou'redoing | 188 |
| 6  | Jack & Gill             | 186 |
| 7  | Coldotcom               | 185 |
| 8  | Yorkshire Boys          | 185 |
| 9  | Batport                 | 183 |
| 10 | Ash on the Lash         | 182 |
| 11 | Back to Basics          | 181 |
| 12 | Four Red Lions          | 177 |
| 13 | Colonel Kitman          | 175 |
| 14 | J J & Mega              | 175 |
| 15 | Wine Drinker me         | 174 |
| 16 | Sminute4ward            | 172 |
| 17 | Av-a-go                 | 172 |
| 18 | Wastead                 | 168 |
| 19 | Apothecary              | 167 |
| 20 | Fatbusgoughie           | 165 |
| 21 | Immaculate Pasta        | 160 |
| 22 | Excelsior               | 159 |
| 23 | Jane M                  | 158 |
| 24 | westwalesshark          | 158 |
| 25 | Cromwell                | 156 |
| 26 | Roger I                 | 152 |
| 27 | Stillturningup          | 151 |
| 28 | WATERLOO                | 151 |

|    |                        |     |
|----|------------------------|-----|
| 29 | Steady Eddie           | 150 |
| 30 | Yonner                 | 146 |
| 31 | Owt Fresh              | 144 |
| 32 | Brickie                | 142 |
| 33 | Pumpkin Eater          | 141 |
| 34 | John Cogger's Headband | 139 |
| 35 | Pinche                 | 137 |
| 36 | Johnny Mac             | 123 |

## APRIL LEAGUE TABLE

|    |                         |    |
|----|-------------------------|----|
| 1  | Nobchance               | 92 |
| 2  | Maxonian                | 80 |
| 3  | Fatbusgoughie           | 76 |
| 4  | J J & Mega              | 73 |
| 5  | Wastead                 | 73 |
| 6  | Sminute4ward            | 71 |
| 7  | Jane M                  | 70 |
| 8  | Yorkshire Boys          | 67 |
| 9  | Pumpkin Eater           | 66 |
| 10 | Chanimar                | 65 |
| 11 | Pinche                  | 64 |
| 12 | Jack & Gill             | 63 |
| 13 | Back to Basics          | 62 |
| 14 | Batport                 | 61 |
| 15 | Coldotcom               | 60 |
| 16 | Stillturningup          | 60 |
| 17 | Apothecary              | 59 |
| 18 | Cromwell                | 59 |
| 19 | Four Red Lions          | 59 |
| 20 | WATERLOO                | 59 |
| 21 | Pie Eater               | 58 |
| 22 | Av-a-go                 | 57 |
| 23 | Ash on the Lash         | 55 |
| 24 | Steady Eddie            | 54 |
| 25 | Thanksforallyou'redoing | 53 |
| 26 | Owt Fresh               | 52 |
| 27 | Excelsior               | 51 |
| 28 | Yonner                  | 51 |
| 29 | Wine Drinker me         | 48 |
| 30 | Immaculate Pasta        | 47 |
| 31 | westwalesshark          | 47 |
| 32 | Roger I                 | 45 |
| 33 | Brickie                 | 42 |
| 34 | Johnny Mac              | 42 |
| 35 | Colonel Kitman          | 40 |
| 36 | John Cogger's Headband  | 37 |

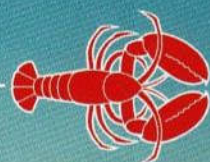
*Nigel*

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# From the Boardroom

With Chris Hamilton...



**As predicted last week our last two games have been just as tough as any we have played this season so to come away with two wins, one cup and one league is obviously satisfying.**

With both Keighley and Gateshead losing their unbeaten records last week it just underlines what we have said before in that the second division will not be a one horse race this season and all of the teams are capable of beating any of the others.

One of the big differences that can win you matches- even when you don't play particularly well - is attitude- and the ability of players to be mentally strong, especially when things are going against you, is one which can take you a long way.

I think we have a number of players who have this ability and others who are making their way in the game will be finding out about this for the first time and hopefully learning quickly. With the extra games we will play due to the Northern Rail and Carnegie Challenge Cup we will need this extra dimension to our game maybe more than normal.

There will be times when players are tired, carrying knocks etc and this is when mental toughness comes in to play.

We have perhaps been a little bit unlucky in so much as the two games we have had to move as a result of progression in the cup are two of the longest distances we have to travel for away games, namely London and Gateshead, and these games now obviously become midweek matches which means more pressure on players and fans with work commitments etc.

With regards to the Carnegie Challenge Cup draw most people have had mixed feelings towards it and Dewsbury away is not necessarily a tie we would have picked - indeed it is the only tie not involving a Super League side. Once again, as with the two previous rounds, we certainly won't be masking the bank managers pulse race

when we bank our share of the gate and so in that respect it is important that we try to get something result wise. We had two tough battles with them in the Northern Rail Cup last season and their form so far this year has not been as good as they would have liked. They will be looking at the game as a great opportunity to progress into the last 8 and hopefully to then get a lucrative draw - but so will we and our games so far this season against teams from a higher division have not been too bad have they? More of the same would do very nicely wouldn't it? As far as today goes though we need to maintain the momentum in the league and put pressure on other teams by picking up another three points if possible.

The Blackpool side that came to us late last season were no mugs and for thirty minutes in the first half gave as good as they got and I think most people would agree that this years team is better and having broken their long losing sequence a couple of weeks ago will come in a mood which is sure to make it hard for us. Having suffered a heavy home defeat last week against York this will only make them more determined today and we must stay patient and dig deep to gain control of the match.

Finally a word about a major event taking place before the game when several of our players will be taking place in a game of touch rugby against the Village Spartans to recognise the role we all have to play in kicking out homophobia. We as a club are once again showing others the way forward and are delighted to be taking part in this initiative to raise awareness of the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO).

Congratulations are also due to Sean Mellor our Community Development Manager after the recent success of our sexual health awareness initiative which got the club a mention in the Houses of Parliament last week - another first for us here at Oldham and long may it continue.

Your support today is just as vital as ever so please get behind the lads.

**Enjoy the game**

*Chris Hamilton*

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# CoachesComments

With Steve Deakin...



**Welcome to  
my old mate  
Martin  
Crompton  
and to his  
Blackpool  
side, hope  
they have a  
great year  
and get  
some  
success on  
the pitch**

**(today and our away fixture  
apart).**

From their recent results one can see that there has been a big improvement in both performances and results this season and this helped them to their first win in almost 50 games when they beat Workington, a result that will have given them a massive shot in the arm and let them play with a lot more freedom than previously. We know full well the ability of our opponents to raise their game and cause problems for us so we need to make sure of our approach to this game and do what we need to do to get a positive result.

Coming in to this game we have beaten both Rochdale and Swinton in our last 2 games and I think that the major influence on the team was without a doubt 2 Bobs. The effect that he has on the side cannot be overstated and when we need leadership, a carry, a big effort or a steady influence he has come up with it. Have no doubts that the enforced absence of 4/5 weeks was good for him and that he came back all the better for missing all that

contact. In the next few weeks we will see more players returning and I am hoping that they will have the same effect on the squad that he had.

Perhaps you are not aware that we also have a reserve team that is playing good football too. I say that because I went to watch them play at both Salford and Rochdale recently and without a doubt they are improving out of sight. Now I know that although the diehards go to watch them there has been no shortage of people telling me that the club needed to get a reserve team up and running and that we needed to do all manner of things to improve and yet these same people are sadly missing from the terraces, shame because this is a golden moment in what will be a big future for the club. Get out there and put your body on the line so to speak, get behind the kids and cheer them on. They deserve it and so does the club. Lastly congratulations to Tommy Goulden who was winner of the player of the month for April, rightly so, and just rewards for a player that comes up with 100% effort every game.

**Enjoy today's game and get behind  
the team**

*Deaks***HEAD OFFICE**

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# BlackpoolHistory

## BLACKPOOL PANTHERS HISTORY



Blackpool Panthers were formed in 2005 following the demise of Chorley and played the opening two seasons at Bloomfield Road before moving to their present home at The Woodlands, the home of Fylde RUFC.

The task of re-establishing professional Rugby League on the Fylde Coast has not been easy, but the warmth of support shown for the perennial strugglers has been best illustrated by the number of messages of congratulation made on the RL fans website by supporters of many clubs after their recent win. Blackpool is not a Rugby League Heartland and the efforts of the valiant few who keep the club going deserve support and success.

## BLACKPOOL PANTHERS NOW

Blackpool Panthers arrive at Boundary Park in a confused mood having rid themselves of the unwanted record of losing 46 successive games by defeating Workington Town 24-20. at The Woodlands three weeks ago, they then produced a dreadful performance to lose 10-50 at home to York City Knights a week ago. Although the win the first in nearly two seasons created unbridled joy amongst the Fylde Coast faithful. In all honesty this win had been coming for sometime and the much improved displays under new coach Martin Crompton have seen some narrow defeats in the opening ten games of the season. Last weeks result shows that the former Oldham favourite still has much work to do on the Fylde Coast.

Former Widnes junior John Leather will start at full back, his 5 tries and 15 goals make him the Panthers leading scorer. On the wings will be BARLA International John Gillam and David Kirby. The centres will be former Widnes, Leigh and

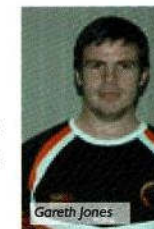


Doncaster player Damien Munro and the club captain Paul Anderson a very experienced player with Super League experience Kiwi Junior international Matt Ashe will be paired with the experienced Paul

Ashton with long serving Martin Gambles lurking in the wings on the replacement bench. The prop forwards are John Warriner and ex-Wigan St Pats player Peter Fairhurst who has impressed on his debut season. Former Widnes hooker John Clough completes the front row, The experienced John Boland joins long serving



Kris Radcliffe in the second row. Former Oldham St Anne's player Andy Wallace completes the line up. Joining Gambles on the bench will be long serving props Gareth Jones and Danny Barton together with ex Leigh utility player Darryl Kaye.



  
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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  |
|         | <b>Sun 20th</b> | <b>HULL KR</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>3:00pm</b> | Postponed   |
|         | Sun 27th        | ROCHDALE       | A        | 3:00pm        | 20-26 1,108 |

February

|                     |                 |          |               |           |       |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| <b>NRC Fri 1st</b>  | <b>SWINTON</b>  | <b>H</b> | <b>8:00pm</b> | 22-20     | 848   |
| NRC Fri 8th         | SALFORD         | A        | 8:00pm        | 12-40     | 4,224 |
| NRC Sun 17th        | ROCHDALE        | A        | 3:00pm        | Postponed |       |
| <b>NRC Fri 22nd</b> | <b>SALFORD</b>  | <b>H</b> | <b>8:00pm</b> | 18-14     | 1,350 |
| <b>NRC Fri 29th</b> | <b>ROCHDALE</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>8:00pm</b> | 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 |
| <b>NL Mon 24th</b> | <b>HUNSLET</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>3:00pm</b> | 40-12 | 1,168 |
| <b>NL Sun 30th</b> | <b>YORK</b>    | <b>H</b> | <b>3:00pm</b> | 36-26 | 1,049 |

April

|                    |                   |          |               |       |       |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|-------|-------|
| <b>NRC Sun 6th</b> | <b>WHITEHAVEN</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>3:00pm</b> | 16-6  | 966   |
| NL Sun 13th        | KEIGHLEY          | A        | 3:00pm        | 26-12 | 1,276 |
| CCC4 Sun 20th      | SWINTON           | A        | 3:00pm        | 20-8  | 591   |
| <b>NL Sun 27th</b> | <b>ROCHDALE</b>   | <b>H</b> | <b>3:00pm</b> | 24-14 | 1,107 |

May

|                   |                  |          |               |  |  |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|--|--|
| <b>NL Mon 5th</b> | <b>BLACKPOOL</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>3:00pm</b> |  |  |
| NL Sat 10th       | LONDON           | A        | 3:00pm        |  |  |
| CCC4 Sun 11th     | DEWSBURY         | A        | 3:00pm        |  |  |

|                    |                |          |               |  |  |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|---------------|--|--|
| <b>NL Sun 18th</b> | <b>SWINTON</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>3:00pm</b> |  |  |
| 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 |  |
| <b>NL Sun 8th</b>  | <b>LONDON</b>    | <b>H</b>             | <b>3:00pm</b> |        |  |
| NL                 | Sun 15th         | HUNSLET              | A             | 3:00pm |  |
|                    | Sun 15th         | NORTHERN RAIL CUP SF |               |        |  |
| NL                 | Sun 22nd         | BLACKPOOL            | A             | 3:00pm |  |
| <b>NL Sun 29th</b> | <b>GATESHEAD</b> | <b>H</b>             | <b>3:00pm</b> |        |  |

July

|                     |                  |                      |               |        |  |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------|--|
| NL                  | Sun 6th          | WORKINGTON           | A             | 3:00pm |  |
|                     | Sun 6th          | NORTH RAIL CUP FINAL |               |        |  |
| NL                  | Fri 11th         | BARROW               | A             | 7.30pm |  |
| <b>NL Thur 17th</b> | <b>DONCASTER</b> | <b>H</b>             | <b>7.30pm</b> |        |  |
| <b>NL Sun 27th</b>  | <b>KEIGHLEY</b>  | <b>H</b>             | <b>3:00pm</b> |        |  |
|                     | Sun 27th         | CHALLENGE CUP SF     |               |        |  |

August

|                    |                   |                     |               |        |  |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------|--|
| NL                 | Sun 3rd           | YORK                | A             | 3:00pm |  |
| <b>NL Sun 10th</b> | <b>BARROW</b>     | <b>H</b>            | <b>3:00pm</b> |        |  |
| NL                 | Sun 17th          | SWINTON             | A             | 3:00pm |  |
| <b>NL Sun 24th</b> | <b>WORKINGTON</b> | <b>H</b>            | <b>3:00pm</b> |        |  |
|                    | Sat 30th          | CHALLENGE CUP FINAL |               |        |  |

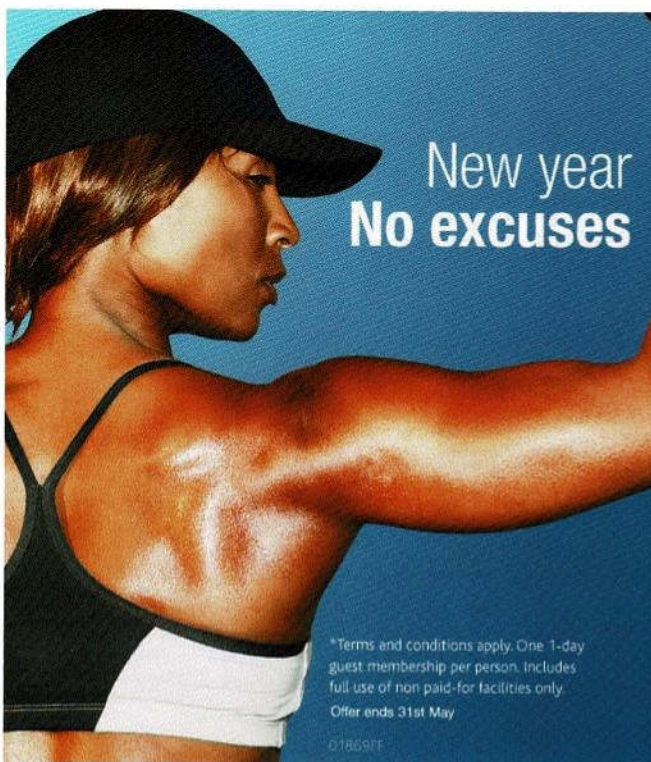
September

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

October

|  |         |                 |  |  |  |
|--|---------|-----------------|--|--|--|
|  | Sat 4th | S L GRAND FINAL |  |  |  |
|--|---------|-----------------|--|--|--|

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## TOMMY HAS FOLLOWED A WELL- TRODDEN PATH

*Bright future beckons  
for 23-year old back-  
rower*

### Player Profile: TOMMY GRUNDY

by ROGER HALSTEAD

TOMMY Grundy is crystal clear in his mind about personal and team objectives for the remainder of the season that stretches ahead through the lazy (anything but), hazy days of summer 2008.

Personal -- to have a good summer and to stay injury free; Team - - to get out of Co-operative NL2 by the automatic route, finishing top of the pile.

It's fingers crossed for the former, but 23-year-old Tommy, one of the younger members of the Oldham squad, has more than enough confidence in his team mates and the coaching staff to feel sure that the Roughyeds can gain promotion this year as divisional champions of NL2.

"If we have to do it through the play-offs,

so be it," said the young back-row forward this week. "But play-offs can be tricky things at the end of a long, tough season and factors come into play over which you have no control, like injuries. Far better to go up automatically, and that's what we are striving for, although we know it is going to be a big ask in a very competitive division.

"We've found that already, but I think we have had it tougher than some other teams in recent weeks because we are still in the Northern Rail Cup and the Carnegie Challenge Cup. Some teams have had a week off while we've been playing in the cup competitions, and we've more cup ties to come at Dewsbury and Batley.

"Playing NLI teams in cup competitions is a demanding challenge. Don't get me wrong. We wouldn't want it any other way. And we

have the squad to meet that challenge. "On our day I would back us to beat anybody in NL2 and in NLI. I definitely think we are a top-four NLI side --- we've just got to get out of this division so that we can prove it next year."

Tommy, like most of the Oldham players, is on a two-year contract and he is more than happy to be part of a team and part of a club that is striving hard to make its way up the rugby league ladder. How did he get here? It's a long story. Let's start at the beginning.



PICTURE BY DARREN ROBINSON, OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

As a Leigh lad, yes ANOTHER Leigh lad, Tommy journeyed down a well-trodden path into the professional ranks. It took him to Leigh East from the age of six to under-15s, followed by a comparatively short stay at Leigh Miners, from whom he jointed Warrington a week before his 16th birthday. Having won player-of-the-year and players' player-of-the-year awards at both Leigh amateur clubs, the teenaged Tommy was always destined to dip a toe in the waters of one of the "big" clubs.

Jim Reader, who has scouted many of the best players in the business, took young Tommy to Wilderspool where he spent three years in the Academy sides, first on scholarship and then as a fully-fledged pro.

Daryl van de Velde was head coach of Warrington at the time, with Paul Darbyshire his right-hand man. But Tommy's coach at Academy level was Gary Chambers, and Tommy has no hesitation in naming Chambers as the man who had the biggest influence on him in his formative years as a young rugby league pro.

"Gary's a great bloke," he recalled, "and he was massively influential to my career in rugby league. I was with him for three years at a time in your life when you've a lot of learning to do, 16 to nearly 19, and he taught me a lot. As a forward himself, he was very forward-minded and for somebody like me, who played mainly in the back-row, that was really useful."

All good things come to an end and after three years at Warrington, and still not 19, Tommy moved on to his hometown club, Leigh, where he spent 12 months in the under-21s before he was loaned out to Blackpool in order to advance his development with regular first-team rugby against seasoned professionals.

The young Grundy had figured prominently in a Leigh under-21s side which "won everything" under the coaching of Mark

Bailey and David Ingram, but it was felt he would benefit from regular open-age rugby and as Willie Swann had recently left Hilton Park to take over as coach at Blackpool the seaside club was an obvious choice.

"I knew Willie Swann well because I had been in the first-team squad with him at Leigh," explained Tommy. "I learned a lot at Blackpool. It toughened me up. Playing at that level is a lot more physically demanding than playing in the under-21s and it was for that reason that I moved there."

Come 2006, it was back to Leigh for Tommy, but his progress was hit by a massive setback when he smashed his left shoulder, which required a full reconstruction. It limited him to 14 NLI appearances in 2006 and 16 in 2007, at the end of which he had a comparatively minor "clean up" of the same shoulder before heading for Oldham to take a further step in a sporting career that promises much for him in the years to come. And who played a part in his arrival on the Roughyeds' doorstep? A certain Robert 'Two Bobs' Roberts, the club captain. Explained Tommy: "I bumped into 'Two Bobs' in the crowd at a Leigh v Castleford match, and I think he must have mentioned my name to Deaks (Oldham coach Steve Deakin) because things moved on from there."

"I was pleased to sign, and I'm glad I did because I'm really enjoying my time here. I hurt my spine in the cup tie at Swinton, but it is nothing serious and I'll be back soon. As for the shoulder, it's absolutely fine now - no problem at all."

Away from rugby, Tommy has a long-term girl friend Robyn; he lives in Leigh; and he works as a quantity surveyor for Barratt's the Builders, splitting his time between work on site anywhere in the North-West and office duties at his Manchester base.

*Roger Halstead*



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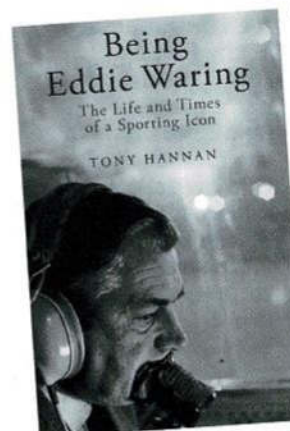


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# GuestWriter...

## Being Eddie Waring. The Life and Times of a Sporting Icon.

The Eddie Waring-led wartime Dewsbury side won the RL Championship, Challenge Cup and Yorkshire Cup and in his youth he was a reasonable player himself.



As well as once being secretary-manager of Leeds, Waring was a well-read columnist writing for both the Sunday Pictorial and Sunday Mirror who covered several Lions' tours down-under. But, first-and-foremost, to those of us from a certain era, he was the BBC's voice of rugby league.

In what overall is a warm and

tremendously well written biography, Tony Hannan says that to his critics, Waring's comical on-screen persona was an embarrassing regional stereotype. The BBC, they claimed, wasn't laughing with Eddie, it was laughing at him. So infatuated was the Corporation with rugby union - the establishment code - that it took every opportunity to paint the 13-a-side game in an unfavourable light.

Back in 2001 Martin Kelner, TV reviewer for the Guardian, commented that thanks to the BBC, rugby league established a reputation which it had still not quite shed, that of a quaint northern pastime like clog-dancing, underlined by the presence for many years of Eddie Waring as the voice of the sport. He was, of course, one of television's great 'characters' for whom we were supposed to be ever grateful,

but, Kelner went on to say, that he couldn't remember the BBC asking Magnus Pike or the Two Ronnies to front what was then the Five Nations competition!

The truth was that Eddie Waring's knowledge of the game was unsurpassed and he loved it unsparingly and for 90% of the time that he was behind the mike those attributes shone through. It was the other 10% that provided the problems to us northern based league lovers! By example I refer to a televised match in which the former Swinton and Oldham three-quarter Peter Smethurst was being peppered by high balls kicked from the boot of the opposing full-back "That's Peter Smethurst. It's no use bombarding him like that he's used to heights - he's a window-cleaner". Who cared and the fact that at the time Peter was a butcher in Swinton seemed irrelevant to Eddie. "It's a grrrrrrrrrrruber" drove scores to the paracetamol bottle!

The 'Talking Trilby' was a 'star' in more ways than one. He was both rugby pioneer and showman co-hosting the smash-hit show It's a Knockout, at a time regarded as the golden age of light entertainment. And what would Mike Yarwood have done without 'Uncle Eddie' to impersonate?

During his research Tony Hannan has developed a genuine affection for Eddie and has written a thought-provoking, entertaining book which traces Waring's childhood years in poverty-stricken Dewsbury through to his final days blighted by illness and shrouded in mystery. In doing so, it reveals a talented and pugnacious administrator, journalist, publisher, showman and players' champion, who, throughout the course of his 45-year broadcasting career, took rugby league into the nation's living rooms like no one before or since.

Tony Hannan is a former editor of **Total Rugby League** and **Rugby League World**. Illustrated. 304 pages. Hardback. £14.99 from all good bookshops.



## PLAYER OF THE MONTH

by ROGER HALSTEAD

**Back-row forward Tommy Goulden won Oldham's April player-of-the-month award, sponsored by Spindles**



**Town Square Shopping, to follow in the footsteps of this season's previous winners James Coyle and Phil Joseph.**

Mike Flanagan, manager of Spindles, was a guest of the club at

the Rochdale Hornets game last Sunday to present Tommy with his award on the pitch before kick-off.

The former Rochdale back-row man has played in 12 of Oldham's 14 competitive games this season in all competitions, the last seven of them consecutively as left-side second-row.

Despite the defeat at Keighley on April 13, Goulden did enough in the wins against York City Knights on March 30, Whitehaven on April 6 and Swinton in the Carnegie Challenge Cup on April 20 to lift the monthly award, which is a new initiative this season, backed by Spindles as part of their overall sponsorship of the Roughyeds.

Said Tommy: "I think that only now I am starting to hit my best form again after a major reconstruction of my left wrist while I was playing for Rochdale. But I am certainly enjoying my rugby at Oldham. 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, but overall we have won 11 of our 14 competitive

games this season, we are unbeaten at Boundary Park and we are still in the Northern Rail Cup and the Carnegie Challenge Cup."

Coach Steve Deakin added: "Tommy has had an outstanding month for us. In fact, I would say he has probably been one of the most consistent players from the start of the season. This award is just reward for his efforts."

## MISSING MEDALS - FOUND!



**A chance meeting at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore has amazingly helped to unearth the four Challenge Cup medals won during the 1920's by Oldham's crack international three-quarter, Sid Rix.**

Former Oldham forward Ian Taylor, visiting the world famous hotel whilst on holiday in the Far-East, was chatting to a fellow Brit when the topic turned to rugby league. Almost unbelievably it turned out that Ian's fellow traveller owned the medals awarded to Rix from when Oldham appeared in four consecutive Challenge Cup finals, a record the club held until finally broken by the crack Wigan side of the 1990's

Only four Oldham players, including Rix, appeared in all four finals, two of which, were against this weekend's Challenge Cup opponents, Swinton. Sid Rix, a former club captain who played over 300 first team games for the Watersheddings side also played in nine Test matches, including all six on the 1924 tour to Australia and New Zealand, from which the Lions brought home the Ashes. His 155 tries is second to only fellow three-quarter Alan Davies on the all-time Oldham try list.

On his return from holiday Ian informed the Oldham RL Heritage Trust about the whereabouts of the medals, which happily, have now been added to the Trust's ever-growing collection of important memorabilia linked to the Roughyeds.

## APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Fourteen games played to date)

|                   | P  | T  | G  | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Chris Baines      | 9  | -  | -  | -   |
| Simon Baldwin     | 3  | -  | -  | -   |
| Jason Boults      | 14 | 3  | -  | 12  |
| Matty Brooks      | 4  | -  | -  | -   |
| Daryl Cardiss     | 3  | -  | -  | -   |
| James Coyle       | 14 | 11 | -  | 44  |
| Tommy Grundy      | 10 | 1  | -  | 4   |
| Tommy Goulden     | 12 | 2  | -  | 8   |
| Danny Halliwell   | 13 | 5  | -  | 20  |
| Simeon Hoyle      | 8  | -  | -  | -   |
| Phil Joseph       | 14 | 6  | -  | 24  |
| Gareth Langley    | 10 | 2  | 6  | 20  |
| Craig Littler     | 11 | 6  | -  | 24  |
| Luke Menzies      | 1  | -  | -  | -   |
| Richard Mervill   | 13 | -  | -  | -   |
| Mick Nanyin       | 13 | 9  | 57 | 150 |
| Paul O'Connor     | 13 | 6  | -  | 24  |
| Lucas Onyango     | 2  | -  | -  | -   |
| Rob Roberts       | 10 | 3  | -  | 12  |
| Adam Robinson     | 11 | 1  | -  | 4   |
| Neil Roden        | 14 | 6  | -  | 24  |
| Warren Stevens    | 6  | -  | -  | -   |
| Marcus St Hilaire | 13 | 7  | -  | 28  |
| Said Tamghart     | 12 | 1  | -  | 4   |
| Alex Wilkinson    | 5  | 3  | -  | 12  |

## POINTS-MACHINE MICK REACHES 150 MILESTONE

by ROGER HALSTEAD

**MICK Nanyin's sixth goal against Rochdale Hornets at Boundary Park last Sunday took him to 150**

**points for the season, accumulated by his scoring of nine tries and 57 goals.**



The big centre, second in our try-scoring list this season behind James Coyle, is now nearly half way to smashing

Pat Rich's club record of 320 points, from 146 goals and seven tries, in the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final season of 2001.

After 14 games played we have four ever-presents only in prop Jason Boults, definitely the Mr Consistency of the front-row, half-backs Coyle and Neil Roden and hooker Phil Joseph.

Now that Robert 'Two Bobs' Roberts is back as skipper after his hand injury, Coyle will no doubt be keen to pick up his try-scoring habits again following a lean spell which coincided with his extra responsibilities as captain in Roberts's absence. After racing to 11 tries in nine games, James hasn't crossed the whitewash for the last five matches.

That's all part of the ups and downs of sport, but James is far too good a player to be kept off the score sheet for much longer. He, like others in the side, should benefit enormously when the drier, firmer pitches come along soon.

*Roger Halstead*

Oldham R.L.F.C.

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## NATIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE FIXTURE LIST 2008

|                  |            |                                    |   |        |         |
|------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---|--------|---------|
| <b>April</b>     |            |                                    |   |        |         |
| 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 | L 28-38 |
| <b>May</b>       |            |                                    |   |        |         |
| 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 |         |
| <b>June</b>      |            |                                    |   |        |         |
| 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 |         |
| <b>July</b>      |            |                                    |   |        |         |
| 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 |         |
| <b>August</b>    |            |                                    |   |        |         |
| NLR              | Sat 9th    | BARROW RAIDERS                     | A | 2:30pm |         |
|                  | Sat 23rd   | PLAY-OFF WEEK 1                    |   |        |         |
|                  | Sat 30th   | CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL       |   |        |         |
| <b>September</b> |            |                                    |   |        |         |
|                  | Sat 6th    | PLAY-OFF WEEK 2                    |   |        |         |
|                  | Sat 13th   | PLAY-OFF WEEK 3                    |   |        |         |
|                  | Sat 20th   | FIRST DIVISION RESERVE GRAND FINAL |   |        |         |

### Oldham's young reserves team put up another battling performance against derby rivals Rochdale Hornets at Castleton before slipping to a 38-28 defeat.

With a large sprinkling of Oldham lads in both teams the game was played in a great spirit. A few opponents would be team mates at amateur club level on another day and there was something of the State of Origin "mate v mate" scenario, as witnessed when Rochdale's Eric Johnson floored Oldham's Phil Jagger with a fantastic bit hit, and then patted him on the back with a smile, writes ROGER HALSTEAD.

Jagger shook himself down, played the ball and got on with the game. It was that sort of match -- a credit to both teams and to both sets of coaches, as was the previous game between the clubs at Sedgley Park a fortnight ago.

Oldham conceded 14 penalties to Rochdale's 11, but they were nearly all for offside, slowing down the play-the-ball or ball stealing on a night when the referee certainly got his money's worth out of his whistle.

The visitors were also prone to err in possession, with the result that they spent long periods of the game camped out in their own territory and defending back-

to-back sets on their own line. This they did admirably, while also finding time and energy to score five tries by Chris Baines, winger Dale Evans, centres Gareth Schofield and Adam Jeffries and Ian Hodson.

With Lee Wingfield, Baines and Hodson all in the Oldham pack from the start, there was a fair amount of experience in the Roughyeds forwards and this undoubtedly helped to hold the side together during the many periods of almost constant Hornets pressure.

Baines and Hodson completed the full game, Hodson starting in the second-row and finishing at stand-off. Wingfield had a breather in mid-match before returning for a second spell in the second half.

Oldham were unlucky to trail 22-10 at half time, but they kept battling away in the second half and by scoring two converted tries in two minutes they pulled back the deficit to 36-28 with ten minutes still remaining.

Baines scored the first Oldham try after charging down Chris Hough's clearing kick; Evans scored the second in the corner after intelligent use of the short side by hooker Scott Mansfield and centre Gareth Schofield; and Schofield himself grabbed the third by cutting infield and rounding the full-back after good approach work earlier by Hodson and Ethan Langhorn.

Jeffries scored the fourth with a solo burst for the line, while Hodson went over in the corner for the fifth as Oldham began to sniff a late surge to victory.

Leading by eight points with six minutes remaining, Hornets showed Oldham the greatest respect by going for goal on a penalty to finish worthy winners 38-28.

Oldham had contributed much to an excellent game, but coach John Hough was looking for an improvement in the next game, which was scheduled to take place at Sedgley Park last Thursday night against Leigh.

Hornets: Tucker; Grady, Highton, Knight, Lloyd; M Brown, Hough; Wild, O'Brien, Samuels, Charlesworth, Dewhurst, Hale. Subs: J Brown, Sweeney, Johnson, Cookson.

Oldham: Taylor; Evans, Schofield, Jeffries, Wildman; Langhorn, Lowe; Eyres, Mansfield, Wingfield, Jagger, Hodson, Baines. Subs: Garratt, Clarke, Sarsfield, Orwell.

The match was watched by head coach Steve Deakin, who commented afterwards that in terms of their structure, skill levels and team understanding Oldham were more than a match for the Hornets, whom he felt edged it because they were older, more experienced and physically stronger.

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## KICKING HOMOPHOBIA OUT OF OLDEHAM

The Roughyeds are proud to be running Rugby League's first gay rugby event at today's Co-operative National League game against Blackpool.



Rugby League has an enviable tradition of being a welcoming and inclusive sport, and our activities form part of a new campaign to Kick Homophobia out of Oldham.

We start the afternoon with a touch rugby curtain raiser between the Roughyeds 'A' team and Manchester's gay Rugby Union team The Village Spartans.

Warm and cuddly host Barbara Nice will host the half-time events, where The Mayor of Oldham will officially launch the campaign with pink rugby balls galore!

In recognition of the work started at Oldham the RFL are launching the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered) supporters and their friends association at this match. If anyone would like to join or help run the association then please contact Sarah Williams at RFL on sarah.williams@rfl.uk.com. The RFL are also planning another first – to have a rugby league presence at the Leeds and Oldham Pride events this summer.

Today's events are part of a long-term commitment by the Roughyeds to the Kicking Homophobia Out of Oldham campaign.

We will be playing an active role in International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO Day) in Oldham Town Centre on Friday 16th May.

And look out for us parading later in the season at Oldham Pride on Saturday 26th July.

Thank you to everyone, especially Sean Mellor, involved in organising today's events. Enjoy the day and help us to Kick Homophobia out of Oldham.

### COMMENT FROM BARRY McDERMOTT

Born in Oldham Barrie McDermott is one of the town's most successful sons, having won all the major honours in the game of Rugby League. He began his playing career with Oldham before going on to play for Wigan and Leeds. With the Rhinos he spent ten successful years, winning the Challenge Cup, Grand Final and the World Club Championship. He also gained representative honours with Great Britain and Ireland, amassing over 30 caps, and continues to be one of the sport's leading ambassadors. Speaking ahead of today's game McDermott showed his support for the initiative "Young man there's no need to feel down because discrimination in any form has no place in modern society. The beauty of our game is that it is all about inclusion rather than exclusion. As Oldhamers we should learn to relax, tolerate and accept all colours, creeds and sexualities and today's event is a positive step to in making that possible, after all we're all united in our love for our great game of Rugby League. Today's game is a chance for us to break free from stereo types and as rugby players we don't have to be so macho. Enjoy the game, drinks are free there's enough for everyone."



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# Today's Squads



## Oldham

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chris <b>BAINES</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Simon <b>BALDWIN</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jason <b>BOULTS</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Matty <b>BROOKS</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Daryl <b>CARDISS</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | James <b>COYLE</b>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tommy <b>GOULDEN</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tommy <b>GRUNDY</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Danny <b>HALLIWELL</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ian <b>HODSON</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Simeon <b>HOYLE</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Phil <b>JOSEPH</b>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gareth <b>LANGLEY</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Craig <b>LITTLER</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Richard <b>MERVILL</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mick <b>NANYN</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul <b>O'CONNOR</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lucas <b>ONYANGO</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rob <b>ROBERTS</b>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Adam <b>ROBINSON</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Neil <b>RODEN</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lee <b>SANDERSON</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Warren <b>STEVENS</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Marcus <b>ST HILAIRE</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Said <b>TAMGHART</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lee <b>WINGFIELD</b>     |

## Blackpool Panthers



|                          |                         |                          |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul <b>ANDERSON</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Matt <b>ASHE</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Danny <b>BARTON</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | John <b>BOLAND</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Martyn <b>CHEETHAM</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | John <b>CLOUGH</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deon <b>DUEL</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pete <b>FAIRHURST</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Martin <b>GAMBLES</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Craig <b>GRAHAM</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tommy <b>HODGKINSON</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Simon <b>HOLDEN</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gareth <b>JONES</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Darryl <b>KAY</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eddie <b>KILLGANNON</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jonny <b>LEATHER</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Casey <b>MAYBERRY</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Damien <b>MUNRO</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Luke <b>MURFIN</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Scott <b>O'BRIEN</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kris <b>RATCLIFFE</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Keiron <b>SEEDS</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Craig <b>TUNSTEAD</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Andy <b>WALLACE</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mike <b>WALLACE</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jon <b>WARRINER</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lewis <b>WENHAM</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## OFFICIALS

Referee: D Merrick Touch Judges: J Farrell J Downham

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