

Today's Line Up

Gateshead Thunder v Oldham Roughyeds

Stuart Kain
Stewart Sanderson
Ben McAlpine
Kevin Neighbour
Robin Peers
Neil Thorman
Daniel Russell
Jason Payne
Dan Smith
Tabua Cakacaka
Michael Knowles
Dylan Nash
Dean Jamieson
Ryan Clarke
Netani Suka
Matt Barron
Chris Parker

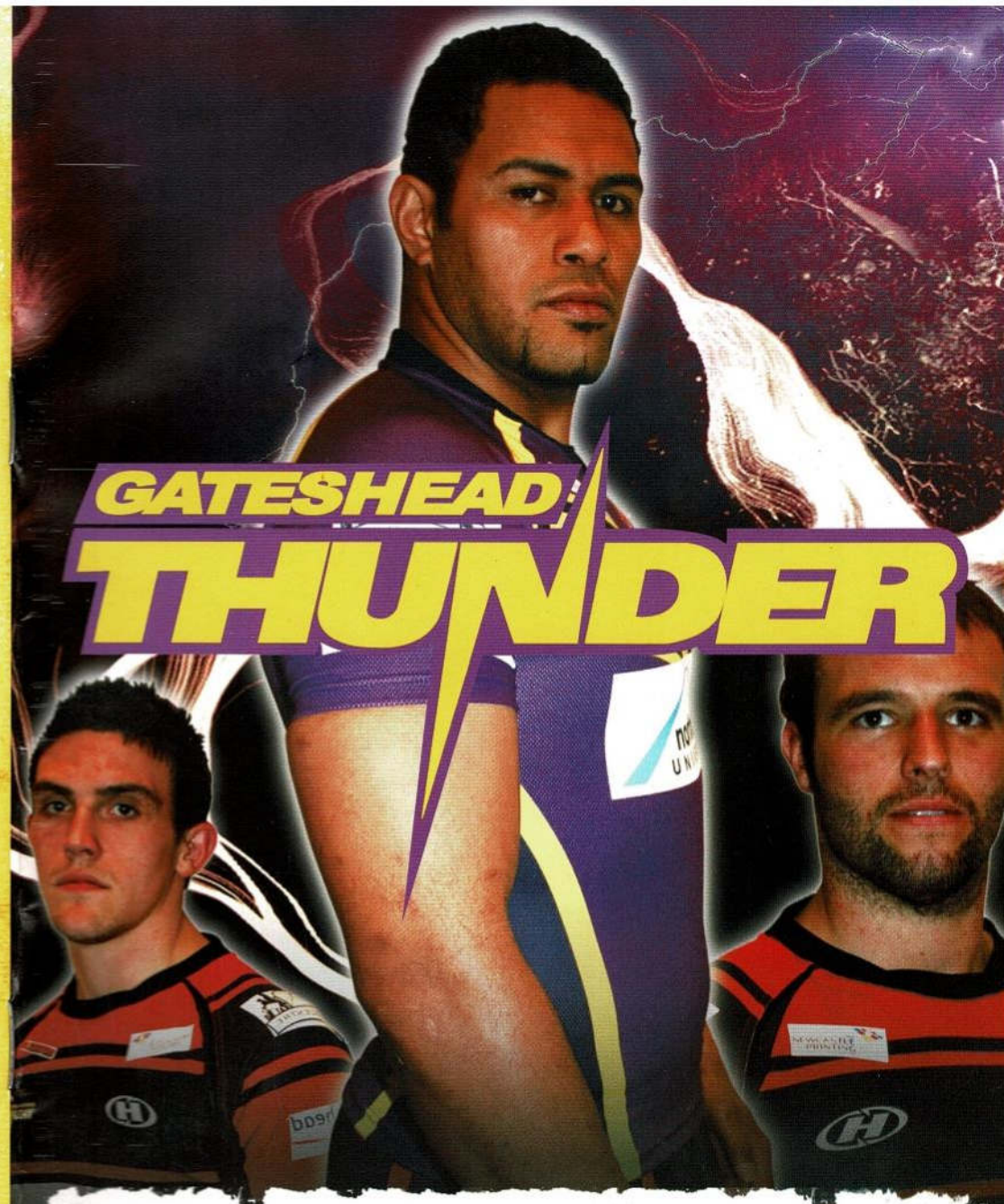
Head Coach - David Woods

Paul O'Connor
Marcus St Hilaire
Danny Halliwell
Mick Nany
Lucas Onyango
Neil Roden
James Coyle
Jason Boults
Matty Brooks
Richard Mervill
Tommy Goulden
Rob Roberts
Adam Robinson
Phil Joseph
Tommy Grundy
Said Tamghart
Chris Langley

Head Coach - Steve Deakin

Ref R Hicks TJ B Armstrong TJ S Barrie RR R Cowling
TJ Coach B Sharrack MC P Gilmour

www.thunder-rlfc.co.uk



Gateshead Thunder vs. Oldham Roughyeds

The Co-operative National League 2

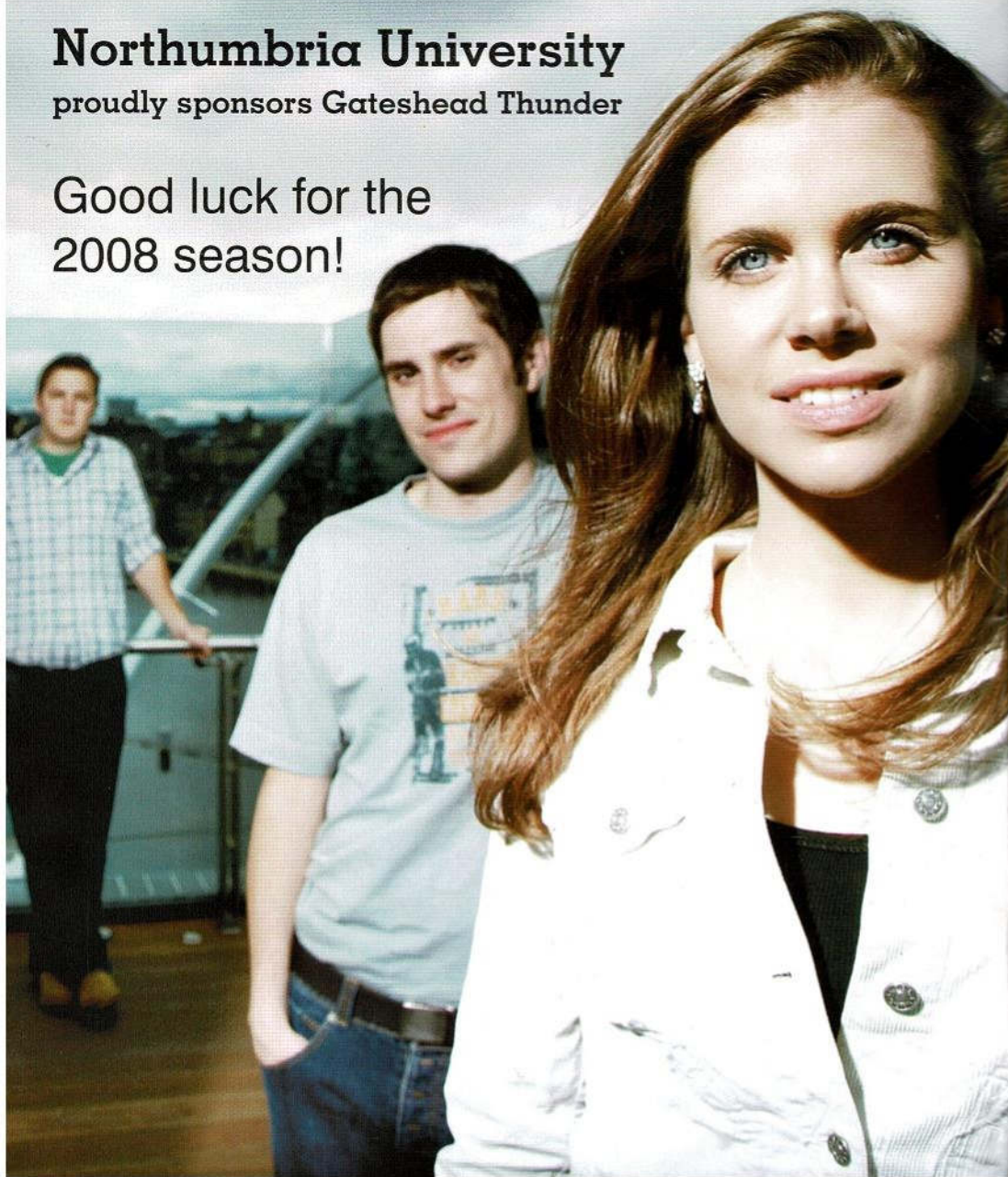
Wednesday 4th June 2008 7.30pm Kick Off

Official Match Programme £2.00

Northumbria University

proudly sponsors Gateshead Thunder

Good luck for the
2008 season!



www.northumbria.ac.uk



CHAIR NOTES

The board, players, coaching staff and fans would like to extend a very warm welcome to our friends from Oldham for what will be our 1st game against them this season.

I would also like to congratulate them for their passage through the 2008 Carnegie Challenge cup that ended this weekend.

We are coming into this game on the back of two great wins last week with the hope of keeping the momentum going.

The Thunder, and its season's success this far, should show the area that Rugby League in the North East has a winning team. This must be the best season we have had in recent history!

The board and indeed the coaching staff have been stunned at our season this far and with it brings its own difficulties. The club needs more support through the turnstiles and indeed from sponsorship as we must be the poorest top of the league team of all time.

So please get behind the lads and let's hope the the Thunder and its fans grow stronger at every game and we keep seeing new faces week in week out.

Sarah Garside

**Gateshead Thunder
Rugby League
Football Club**

Board of Directors

Chairperson
Sarah Garside

Directors
Steven Garside
Neil MacPherson
Janice Neighbour

Personnel

Head Coach
David Woods

Assistant Head Coach
Chris Hood

Club Doctor
Dr. Roger Checketts

Kit Man - Neil Coombs

Video - Jim Neighbour

Club Photography - Paul Clayton

Super Hero - Captain Thunder

Webmaster - Chris Hood

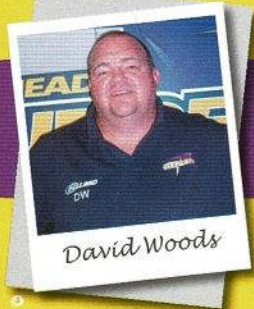
Merchandise - Mick Jones

Club telephone numbers :
0191 433 5710
0191 477 7161

Club website:
www.thunder-rlfc.co.uk

Club e-mail:
info@thunder-rlfc.co.uk

Merchandise e-mail:
merchandise@thunder-rlfc.co.uk



SHOUTING FROM THE SIDELINES

Welcome to Steve Deakin, the Oldham board, players and spectators. I hope you have had a good trip up to the North East on what would be described as a tough day to travel.

I'd like to start by saying a big thank you to all our supporters, and especially those that have travelled to Rochdale last Tuesday and then Blackpool on the weekend, we really do appreciate the support you give the boys. Again, though, I must let everyone know how important it is for the club to survive that we get bodies through the turnstiles, we need many more people coming in and if they do, I can assure each and every one of you that you will be entertained. We have a great product up here in the North East and the boys are really working hard to produce some good wins.

The start that we have had this season far exceeds my wildest dreams but at the same time is very pleasing to be apart of. The performance of the boys last Tuesday was very good when you consider most of them worked during the day and then set off for a tough trip and game. Then to repeat it against a very committed Blackpool on the weekend was suburb.

We now face a very good, well coached side in Oldham tonight and another test of strength for the boys. We spoke a few weeks ago about how tough this period was going to be and tonights game is just another example of this. We are going into the game full of confidence so lets hope that we can come away with another 3 points.

I must again stress, due to us achieving higher than everyones expectations, we really need the support of everyone in the North East, so bring some friends along to the greatest game that is played.

All the best and hope you have a good night and safe trip home.

David

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DEVELOPMENT 2008

"Rolling with Thunder" – It's Off!!

Gateshead Thunder is pleased to announce that our "Rolling with Thunder" programme started on Monday 2nd June. Schools from across the Newcastle area began their 6 week programme which will cover all aspects of the game such as catching and passing and playing the ball. Development Officer Michael Knowles, alongside Coach Gareth Barron and Tyne & Wear Community Sports Coach Simon Flynn, are working with the schools to prepare them for their festival, which is due to take place on Sunday 8th June before the Thunder v Keighley game on the same day.

Afternoon with East Hartford School, Cramlington

Development Manager Chris Hood and Development Officer Michael Knowles went along to East Hartford Special School's "BOUNCE 100" Day at their school in Cramlington. Along with player Ryan Clarke and Rugby Football League Development Manager for the North East, George Taylor, the pupils had to complete 100 Bounces through the day in a range of different activities to help raise money for their chosen charity who is paying for their day trip to Lightwater Valley, and the gang from Gateshead Thunder were their to help!

Teacher Amy Snowdon commented: "Our event would not have been as successful without the support of the Gateshead Thunder coaches and staff, and most of all the infamous 'Captain Thunder'! The children not only appreciated the activities provided but the understanding your staff showed and their patience with our pupils."

– KEEP WATCHING www.thunder-rlfc.co.uk
FOR THE FULL REPORT ON THIS GREAT DAY!!!

Northern Art Competition – The Winner!

We are pleased to announce that SARA TEMPLE from Dunn Street Primary School, Jarrow won the Gateshead Thunder / Northern Rail art competition, which is part of Northern Rail's "Northern Art" initiative. The competition was focused around designing a piece of art which had to combine the themes "Gateshead Thunder" and "Momentum".

Sara's winning design will now be put onto canvas and will be on show at Gateshead Stadium in the near future. Sara is pictured with Thunder players (L to R) Michael Knowles, Ryan Clarke and Danny Wilson.



KEEP WATCHING www.thunder-rlfc.co.uk FOR THE FULL REPORT ON THIS STORY!!!



Mencap in 2008-09

About Mencap

Mencap is the UK's leading learning disability charity. There are 220,000 people with a learning disability in the north alone. People with a learning disability find it harder than others to learn, understand and communicate.

All funds raised from this event will support people with a learning disability in the north.



Events Diary 2008-09

2008 – 2009 Events

Girls Night Out

27 March 2008, Derwent Manor Hotel
An evening of therapy and indulgence

Mencap Annual Ball 2008

3 October 2008, Gosforth Marriott Hotel
Following on from the success of 'A touch of the Moulin Rouge', Mencap will be hosting another spectacular in 2008! Details TBC

Carols by Candlelight 2008

December 2008, St. Andrews Church
Join us for an evening of Carols at St. Andrews Church, the oldest church in Newcastle!

2008 – 2009 Challenges

Trek Peru

20 September - 1 October 2008

Great North Run 2008

5 October 2008

New York Marathon

2 November 2008

Argentina and Chile bike ride

13 - 23 February 2009

Coming Soon

- Greek Dinner 2008
- Chinese Dinner 2008

MENCAP

Understanding learning disability



FANS PAGE

Thunder Storm Announcement!!!

Re-scheduled games mean we are now part-way through an extremely congested late May/early June that will test the Thunder squad to the full. But at the time of writing the lads have made the best possible start to this important part of the season, with back-to-back 52 point victories putting us second (for a while, first!) in the table. Our last home game, against London Skolars, was encouraging off the field too. The crowd of 364 might not sound much, but put that in context of an evening game against the Skolars and it was actually very encouraging. Here's hoping for more here this evening, and then more still for the big clash with Keighley on Sunday 8th June.

Behind the scenes meanwhile, Thunder Storm are gearing up to raise funds to allow us to better support the club. Firstly we would like to return Thunder Storm to being a paying members' association. Membership remains as it always used to be at £5, with members receiving a Thunder Storm newsletter keeping you up to date with the supporters club's activities. You should hopefully find membership forms around the stadium, including the club shop.

Secondly we would like to remind you of the special offer on John Proud's book about Newcastle RLFC, 'Cherry and White'. Again there are order forms available at the club shop allowing you to order a copy at the special offer price of £9.00. Proceeds will go to Thunder Storm.

Finally, can we encourage all fans to consider contributing to the Squadbuilder scheme? Supporters can buy 'blocks', each block priced at £5. All monies raised will be provided to the club solely for the purpose of retaining players, recruiting new players or funding existing players' wages. Squadbuilder has been extremely important to the club in the past and is a great way of ensuring that every penny you contribute is spent on the field. Fans wishing to join Squadbuilder can do so by picking up a form from the Thunder shop. For further information please contact Paul Clayton - paul.cl@orange.net

Mark Wightman
Thunder Storm Media Officer

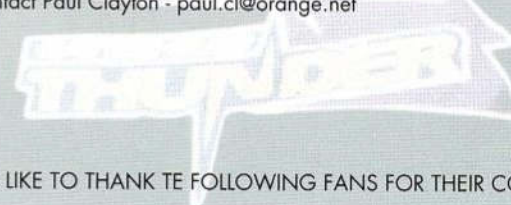
GATESHEAD THUNDER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FANS FOR THEIR CONTINUAL SUPPORT OF OUR CLUB -

PREMIER PARTNERS

Peter & David Lown
Steven Mosley
Bill Morrell
Jeff Parker
Peter Bowen
Tracey Ainsley
Kevin Barlow
Marjorie Coupe
John Coupe
Tony Carter
Paul Wilson

CAPTAINS CLUB

Jane Davidson
Lynne Davidson
Emma Carter
Connor Lye
Jonathon Mitchell
Mathew Stewart



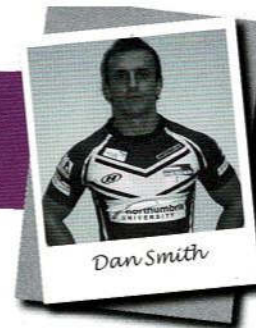
Contact Us

Mencap North East & Yorkshire

Churchill House
12 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DE

Tel. 0191 230 8101 Fax. 0191 230 8100
Email. northeast@mencap.org.uk

PLAYER INTERVIEW



This is your second season with Gateshead Thunder - what has changed since last year?

Pretty much everything from the coaching staff down to the players. There are a few new faces here, the atmosphere at the club is a lot more professional and we are training a lot better. It seems to be paying off in the results on the field as well.

There seems to be a good feel about the club at the minute - why is that?

There's always a good feel at the club when your winning games. That has a lot to do with it, as well as how close we all are as a group of mates right through the club.

There seems to be a really competitive edge at the club for places - how does it feel to be in the middle of it all?

That's definitely something we lacked last year when i got here. Its a good feeling because you know everyone is working a lot harder on improving their game on and off the field, which means the club is only going to improve as the season goes on.

Personally, you've made a good start the season - has the hard work you've put in started to pay off?

Yeah definately. Its hard in the pre-season when your getting flogged, but when your winning games and playing good footy its all worth it. I've missed a fair few games through injury as well, which isn't much fun but i'm getting on top of them now.

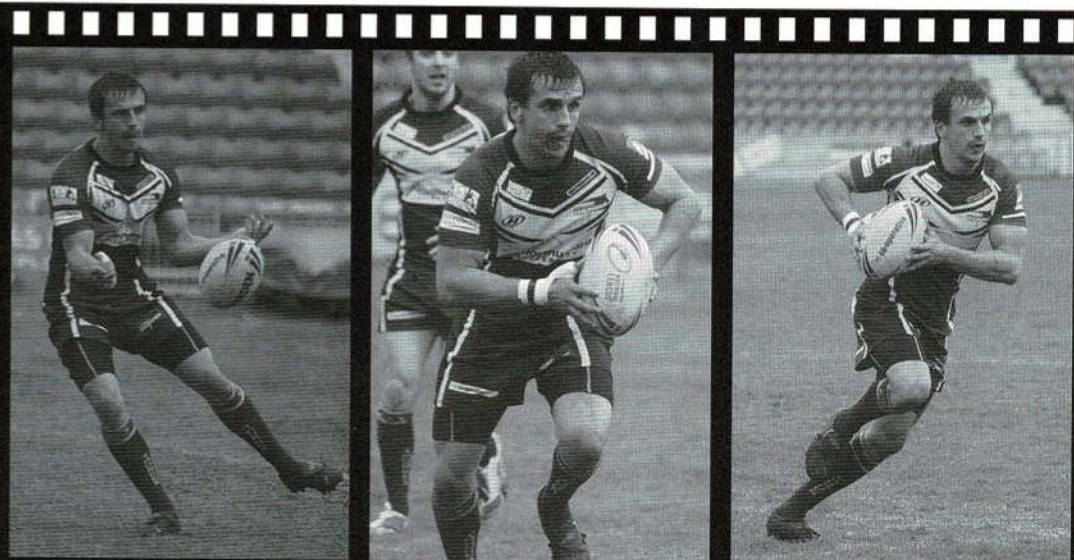
What are your hopes for the rest of the season?

We've been setting goals every few weeks on individual and team performance which is going to put us in a good position for play offs. Making play offs is a minimum for me.

DAN SMITH IS SPONSORED BY GATESHEAD COLLEGE ACADEMY FOR SPORT

CHECK OUT THE LAB'S FIGURES... SQUAD STATS

2008																	Gateshead Thunder Career																
Name		Debut	Apps	Sub	Total	T	G	GO	PG	Ph	Apps	Sub	Total	T	G	GO	Total																
1	Stu Kain	03/2/08	14	0	14	13	0	0	0	32	14	0	14	13	0	0	52																
2	Daniel Russell	03/02/08	15	0	15	5	70	0	0	160	15	0	15	5	70	0	160																
3	Dylan Nash	11/02/07	5	3	8	7	0	0	0	28	16	8	24	14	0	0	56																
4	Nelson Suko	03/02/08	8	3	11	2	0	0	0	8	8	3	11	2	0	0	8																
5	Kevin Nighbour	10/06/01	17	0	17	5	0	0	0	20	154	4	158	47	17	0	222																
6	Robin Peers	17/02/02	7	0	7	5	0	0	0	20	133	9	142	52	0	0	208																
7	Neil Thomson	17/02/02	13	3	16	4	0	0	0	16	96	48	144	38	43	1	239																
8	Tobias Czekotka	13/02/05	5	7	12	1	0	0	0	4	56	14	70	6	0	0	24																
9	Stewart Sanderson	27/03/07	13	0	13	16	0	0	0	64	18	0	18	17	2	0	72																
10	Jason Payne	1/07/07	16	1	17	1	0	0	0	4	28	1	29	2	0	0	8																
11	Michael Knowles	7/07/07	16	0	16	3	0	0	0	12	27	0	27	10	22	0	84																
12	Dean Jamieson	03/02/08	16	0	16	10	0	0	0	40	16	0	16	10	0	0	40																
13	Don Smith	21/07/07	11	0	11	3	0	0	0	12	19	1	20	3	0	0	12																
14	Ryan Clarke	22/08/04	5	10	15	2	0	0	0	8	15	25	40	7	11	0	50																
15	Chris Parker	15/04/07	12	4	16	0	0	0	0	0	12	8	20	0	0	0	0																
16	Michael Walton	03/02/08	4	2	6	1	3	0	0	10	4	2	6	1	3	0	10																
17	Lewis McPhail	03/02/08	9	7	16	2	0	0	0	8	9	7	16	2	0	0	8																
18	Graham Stephenson	1/02/04	7	3	10	2	0	0	0	8	66	12	78	14	0	0	56																
19	Matt Barron	11/02/07	0	8	8	2	0	0	0	8	2	20	22	2	0	0	8																
20	Johnny Scott	11/02/07	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	9	2	11	3	0	0	12																
21	Darryl Wilson	25/02/07	14	0	14	6	0	0	0	24	22	0	22	9	0	0	36																
22	Rhithie Metcalfe	11/02/07	1	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	3	14	17	0	0	0	0																
23	Andrew Pybus	9/04/07	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	0	0	0	0																
24	Benjamin McAlpine	03/02/08	10	2	12	10	3	0	0	46	10	2	12	10	3	0	46																
25	Andrew Moroney	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																
26	Dave Vernon	24/02/08	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0																
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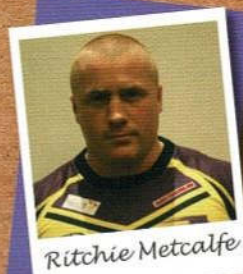


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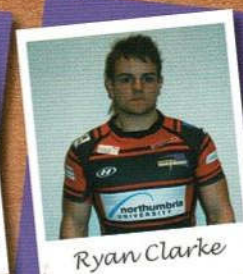
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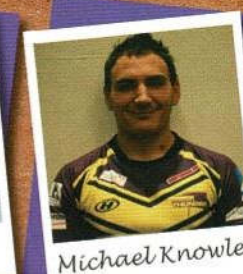
Ritchie Metcalfe

Thunderstorm



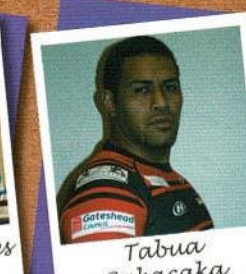
Ryan Clarke

Michaela Jones &
 Maria Ramsey



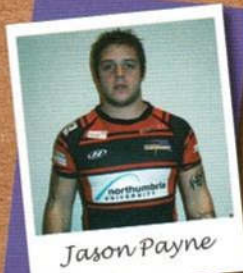
Michael Knowles

Andy Devlin



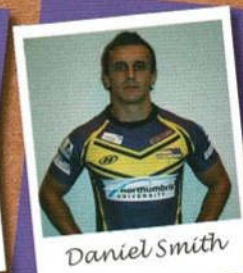
Tabua
 Cakacaka

Kevin Barlow



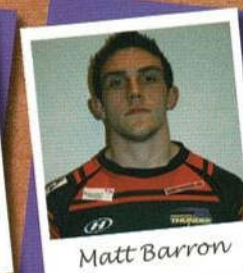
Jason Payne

Zoe Anderton



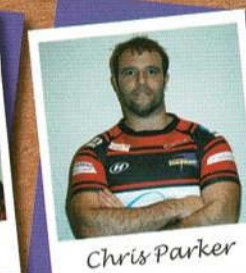
Daniel Smith

Gateshead College
 Academy For Sport



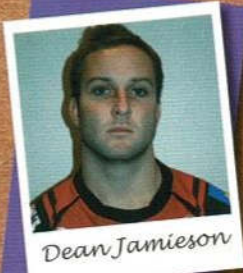
Matt Barron

Gateshead Panthers
 ARLFC



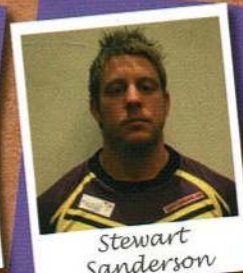
Chris Parker

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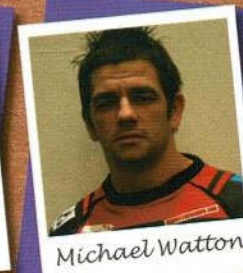
Dean Jamieson

Wallsend Eagles
 ARLFC



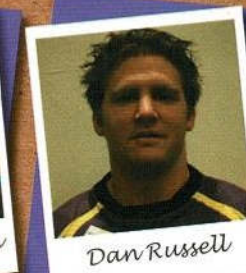
Stewart
 Sanderson

Thunderstorm



Michael Watton

Lauren & Dylan
 Slater



Dan Russell

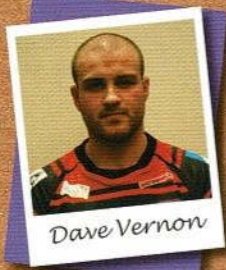
Hobson MOT

Fixtures and results

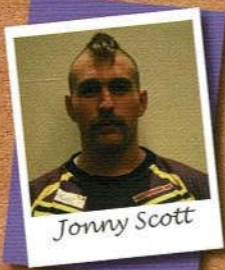
2008 Season

Date	Home Team		Away Team	K.O.	Result	Attendance
Sunday 3rd February	York City Knights	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	16 - 24	767
Sunday 10th February	Gateshead Thunder	v	Hunslet Hawks	15:00	58 - 6	388
Sunday 17th February	Featherstone Rovers	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	48 - 6	1037
Sunday 24th February	Hunslet Hawks	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	22 - 30	308
Sunday 2nd March	Gateshead Thunder	v	York City Knights	15:00	26 - 18	389
Sunday 16th March	Gateshead Thunder	v	Featherstone Rovers	15:00	24 - 48	438
Friday 21st March	York City Knights	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	20 - 26	696
Monday 24th March	Gateshead Thunder	v	Workington Town	15:00	28 - 26	323
Sunday 30th March	Gateshead Thunder	v	Hunslet Hawks	15:00	48 - 8	342
Sunday 13th April	Rochdale Hornets	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	8 - 52	361
Sunday 27th April	Gateshead Thunder	v	Barrow Raiders	15:00	22 - 27	386
Monday 5th May	Swinton Lions	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	20 - 36	340
Sunday 11th May	Hunslet Hawks	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	28 - 44	432
Saturday 17th May	Gateshead Thunder	v	London Skolars	18.30	52 - 22	364
Saturday 24th May	Gateshead Thunder	v	Oldham Roughyeds	18.30		
Sunday 1st June	Blackpool Panthers	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00	6 - 30	280
Sunday 8th June	Gateshead Thunder	v	Keighley Cougars	15:00		
Friday 13th June	Doncaster RLFC	v	Gateshead Thunder	20.00		
Sunday 22nd June	Gateshead Thunder	v	Swinton Lions	15:00		
Sunday 29th June	Oldham Roughyeds	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00		
Sunday 6th July	Gateshead Thunder	v	York City Knights	15:00		
Sunday 13th July	Keighley Cougars	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00		
Sunday 20th July	Gateshead Thunder	v	Rochdale Hornets	15:00		
Saturday 26th July	London Skolars	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00		
Saturday 2nd August	Barrow Raiders	v	Gateshead Thunder	18.30		
Sunday 10th August	Gateshead Thunder	v	Blackpool Panthers	15:00		
Sunday 17th August	Workington Town	v	Gateshead Thunder	15:00		
Sunday 24th August	Gateshead Thunder	v	Doncaster RLFC	15:00		

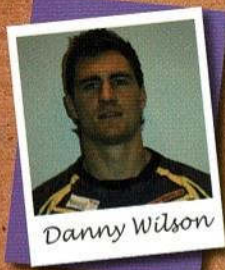
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Dave Vernon

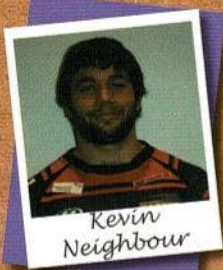


Jonny Scott



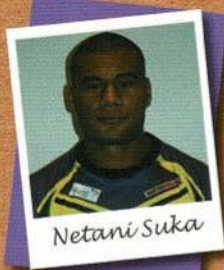
Danny Wilson

Thunderstorm



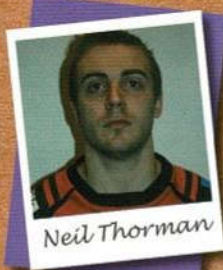
Kevin Neighbour

Tommy & Maureen Marshall



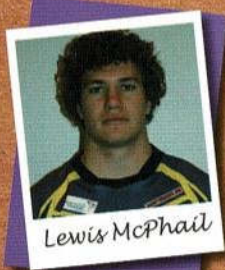
Netani Suka

Thunderstorm



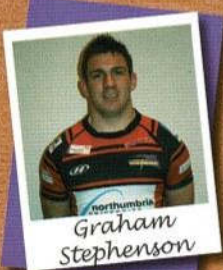
Neil Thorman

Thunderstorm



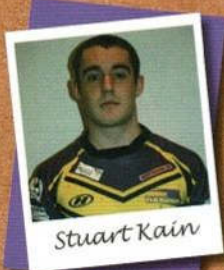
Lewis McPhail

Reece & Daniel Atkinson



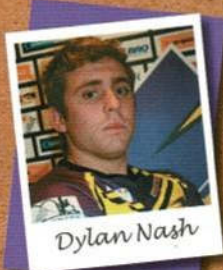
Graham Stephenson

Paul Wislon



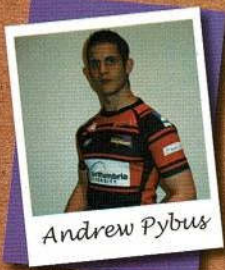
Stuart Kain

Pete Ramsey



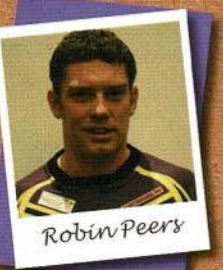
Dylan Nash

Michaela Jones

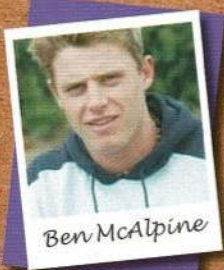


Andrew Pybus

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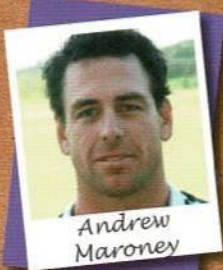


Robin Peers



Ben McAlpine

Thunderstorm

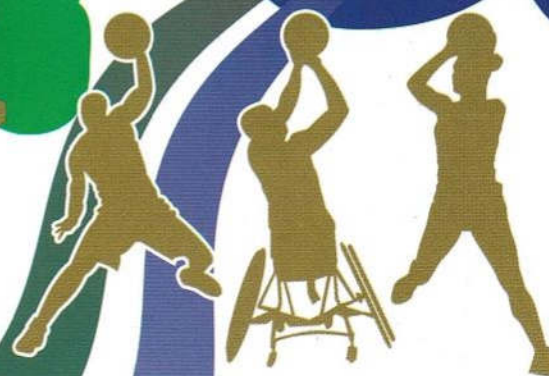


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CLUB RECORDS

Category	Record	Opponents	Venue	Date
Highest Score	66	Wakefield Trinity Wildcats (66-6)	H	Sun 05/09/1999
	58	Swinton Lions (58-10)	H	Sun 14/08/2005
Biggest Margin of Victory	60	Wakefield Trinity Wildcats (66-6)	H	Sun 05/09/1999
	52	Hunslet Hawks (58-6)	H	Sun 10/02/2008
	48	Workington Town (54-6)	H	Sun 16/04/2006
Highest Points Aggregate	112	Salford City Reds (12-100)	A	Sun 23/03/2003
Highest Winning Points Aggregate	89	Swinton Lions (57-32)	A	Sun 12/06/2005
Most Points Conceded	100	Salford City Reds (12-100)	A	Sun 23/03/2003
Biggest Margin of Defeat	88	Salford City Reds (12-100)	A	Sun 23/03/2003
Lowest Points Conceded	4	Dewsbury Rams (22-4)	H	Sun 15/08/2004
Lowest Points Aggregate	18	Hull Kingston Rovers (0-18)	H	Sun 03/12/2000
Games Without Defeat	8	19th May to 29th June 1999		1999
Consecutive Wins	6	30th May to 29th June 1999		1999
Outside Super League	5	5th May 2008- 1st June 2008		2005
		14th August to 3rd September		2005
		6th to 20th August		2006
Games Without a Win	47	27th May 2001 to 30th March 2003		2001 - 2003
Consecutive Defeats	39	6th January 2002 to 30th March 2003		2002 - 2003
Record Attendance (h)	6,631	Bradford Bulls	H	Sun 16/05/1999
Outside Super League	2,332	Hull Kingston Rovers	H	Sun 03/12/2000
Record Attendance (a)	12,492	Bradford Bulls	A	Sun 08/08/1999
Outside Super League	3,105	Widnes Vikings	A	Wed 09/05/2001
Lowest Attendance (h)	172	Salford City Reds	H	Wed 19/03/2003
Lowest Attendance (a)	164	Chorley Lynx	A	Sun 02/05/2004
Appearances (Career)	158	Kevin Neighbour		2001 -
Points (Career)	365	Paul Thorman		2000 - 2004
Tries (Career)	44	Robin Peers		2002 -
	42	Kevin Neighbour		2001 -
Goals (Career)	137	Paul Thorman		2000 - 2004
Drop Goals (Career)	7	Chris Birch		2005 -
Points (Season)	246	Chris Birch		2005 -
Tries (Season)	25	Matt Daylight		1999
	20	Wade Liddell		2006
Goals (Season)	105	Ian Herron		1999
Drop Goals (Season)	6	Willie Peters		1999
Points (Match)	26	Ian Herron (v Wakefield)	H	Sun 05/09/1999
	25	Chris Birch (v Swinton Lions)	A	Sun 12/06/2005
Goals (Match)	11	Ian Herron (v Wakefield)	H	Sun 05/09/1999
Tries (Match)	5	Andy Walker (v London Skolars)	H	Sun 22/06/2003
Hat-tricks	3	Wade Liddell (3 v Swinton Lions)	A	Sun 12/06/2005
		Wade Liddell (3 v London Skolars)	A	Sat 03/09/2005
		Wade Liddell (3 v Workington Town)	H	Sun 16/04/2006
	2	Jim Carlton (3 v Hunslet Hawks)	A	Sun 13/05/2001
		Jim Carlton (3 v Whitehaven)	A	Sun 24/06/2001
		Stewart Sanderson (3 v Hunslet Hawks)	A	Sun 24/02/2008
		Stewart Sanderson (4 v Hunslet Hawks)	H	Sun 10/02/2008
	1	Deon Bird (3 v Huddersfield Giants)	A	Sun 25/07/1999
		Andy Walker (5 v London Skolars)	H	Sun 22/06/2003
		Mike Hobbs (3 v Swinton Lions)	H	Sun 14/08/2005
Appearances (Consecutive)	65	Kevin Neighbour		Aug 2002 - Mar 2005
Scoring Matches (Consecutive)	23	Wade Liddell		2006
Try Scoring Matches (Consecutive)	7	Nathan Black		2006

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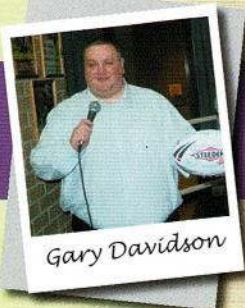
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Gary Davidson

HALFTIME QUIZ

1. Last weeks victory at Rochdale was the 3rd time Gateshead Thunder have scored over 50 points on their travels. Name the opponents on the other 2 occasions?

2. It was also only the 2nd time since Super League that Thunder have kept the home team in single figures. Who were the opponents on the other occasion?

3. Who scored their first try for Thunder in last seasons 36-12 defeat at Oldham?

4. Thunders first fixture following the Yorkshire exodus in 2002 was a trip to Oldham. Who briefly kicked Thunder in front in a 54-2 defeat that day?

5. Which current Oldham favourite scored a try in the reformed Thunders first ever victory against Wigan St Judes in January 2001?

6. Who were the last team from outside of Super League to reach the semi finals of the Challenge Cup?

7. Which Rugby League club were the subject of a 1981 TV documentary, Another Bloody Sunday?

8. Rugby League legend Billy Boston made his name during an illustrious 15 year spell at Wigan, but for which other club did he play during his career?

9. Recent Hull KR signing Micahel Dobson played for which 2 clubs in a previous stint in Super League?

10. Prior to becoming home of the Bradford Bulls in 1934, what was the use of Odsal Stadium?

* Answers on Rusty's Rant page



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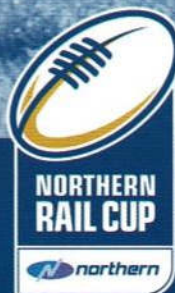


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OPPOSITION HISTORY

by Paul Wilson

It was 1876 when Oldham Football Club was founded as a result of a meeting in the Prince Albert Hotel. A playing field was organised at Sugar Meadow, Gartside Street, adjacent to Glodwick Spinning Mill and changing facilities were provided at the nearby Shakespeare Inn. The first match, on 21st October, was against Stalybridge. After 2 seasons they joined Oldham Cricket Club at the new Clarksfield ground before moving to their permanent home at Watersheddings. They were one of the original 22 clubs that formed the Northern Rugby Football Union in 1895. In 1899, Oldham were the 2nd club to win the Challenge Cup by beating Hunslet 19-9. (Batley won the first 2 finals). It was in the 1st round of the competition that the club had their record victory of 63-0 against Goole. They lost in Challenge Cup finals in 1907, 1912 and 1924 but defeated Hull KR in 1925 and won it for the 3rd and last time in 1927 when in their 4th consecutive final they beat Swinton. In the first title race in 1895/6 they finished 4th. A year later, 2nd and won it in 1904/5. They won the Lancashire League in 1897/8, 1900/1, 1907/8, and the Lancashire Cup 1906/7. Title success followed in 1909/10 when they also won the Lancashire League and Lancashire Cup. In 1910/11 they again won the title and in 1912 the record attendance was set when the visit of Huddersfield drew 28,000 spectators.

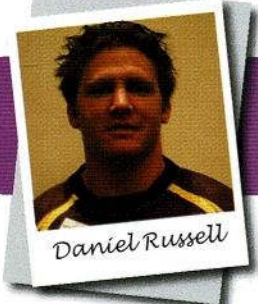
POST WAR YEARS

If pre-war results were successful, and they were as this brief synopsis suggests, then the 1950's were the glory years with some record breaking players wearing the club shirt. On Monday, 15th September, 1952, record receipts were taken when Watersheddings hosted the Kangaroo tourists before a crowd of 19,370. Some of the player statistics are as follows, bearing in mind it was 3 points for a try: Alan Davies, 391 appearances, 174 tries, 1 goal, 524 points. John Etty, 150 appearances, 90 tries, 270 points. Frank Pitchford, 305 appearances, 105 tries, 1 goal, 317 points. Bernard Ganley, 341 appearances, 1,358 goals, 2,761 points. While they were Division 2 champions in 1963/4 in the 1970's the club were not fortunate enough to win any honour but in 1979 the club recruited Terry Flanagan, who became the youngest captain at 19. In 1987/8 and 1989/90 the club won the Divisional Premiership but the 80's may be remembered by rugby league followers by former Oldham player and schoolteacher, Phil Larder, effectively introducing whole new coaching criteria to rugby league after watching 'The Invincibles' tour and then going to Australia and USA to learn first-hand what had made the Australians so superior. Both he and former Oldham player and coach, Mike Ford have been successful defence coaches in the other code.

The 1990's were a difficult decade for the club. Australian Peter Tunks was appointed captain and coach but with the club close to relegation he resigned and was replaced by the man he brought to the club, fellow Australian Rob Lindner, who was assisted by Andy Goodway, who had left the club for Wigan in July 1985, for £60,000, where he enjoyed a hugely successful playing career. The last game Goodway played for Wigan was here at the GIS, in the Charity Shield in 1992 against St. Helens. With Lindner in charge the club avoided relegation and Goodway succeeded Lindner in May 1994. He remained in charge before going to Paris St. Germain. The club avoided merging with Salford to become Manchester for the purposes of Super League. Instead they became Oldham Bears. They were relegated the following year, 1997, went bankrupt and they sold Watersheddings. In December Oldham Roughyeds were formed and they were to share Boundary Park, home of Oldham Athletic AFC.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Mike Ford, was coach when he left the club one month into a new 3 years contract in December 2001 and Alliance coach Mark Knight was put in temporary charge. The club just missed out on promotion to Super League losing to Widnes in the Grand Final. In January 2002 John Harbin took over as coach and that year the club played at Hurst Cross, Ashton Under Lyne, following a dispute with the other club sharing Boundary Park. In July Harbin left to be replaced by Steve Molloy. They won 7 and drew 2 of their remaining 14 games meaning that when the Northern Ford Premiership split they gained entry to National League 1. In 2003 they reached the last 4 play-offs. In 2004 they made the play-offs but Molloy parted company with the club in September that year and in October Gary Mercer was appointed coach. In March 2005 the club entered a Creditors Voluntary Agreement (CVA). In October that year John Pendlebury replaced Mercer but he left in March 2006 after only 3 games and current coach, Steve Deakin took over. The season finished with only 1 win and they were relegated to National League 2 although the club paid its final payment of the CVA and would stay at Boundary Park for 2007 season after reaching agreement on a sliding scale rent. After a few games into the 2007 season, excavation and demolition firm, The William Quinn Group acquired a large stake in the club. Bill Quinn became the new chairman, with previous owners Chris Hamilton and Sean Whitehead remaining as directors. On 4th May and 30th August last year, the games against Celtic Crusaders were both televised by Sky Sports. In the match at Oldham's Boundary Park, 4,327 fans attended to make it National League 2's highest crowd. Oldham lost the Grand Final to Featherstone and this season were recently beaten in the quarter finals of the NRC and come to us tonight having just played Wakefield Wildcats in the quarter finals of the Carnegie Challenge Cup. For those wondering what a 'Roughyed' is the definition I have means a wearer of a rough felt hat worn mainly in Oldham. It is a nickname for a person from Oldham and is derived from the rough felt used in the hatting industry which was once a major employer in the town.



RUSTY'S RANT

Daniel Russell

G'Day

Well done to the boys on making it 5 wins in a row with a good win over Blackpool away at their ground. This was twinned with a comfortable win over Rochdale in the week before, notching up another 50+ game with a score of 8-52. It was also good to make Bobby "I might quit again" Goulding eat his words after he was talking trash about our team, so it was good to see the boys stick together and prove him wrong.

After the win against Blackpool, it has us sitting in a good position on the ladder and with games against Oldham, Keighley and Doncaster, it will certainly be a test to see how well we're going, and to test us even more, we play these three games in a two week period.

Also, I'd like to thank our fans who are at our games week in, week out, especially at the away games. It's nice to hear you all cheering when were going well.

Lets hope we can make it 6 in a row (which hasn't been done since Super League), with a good win tonight against Oldham to keep our momentum going. However, we know it's going to be a really tough game, as Oldham are a strong side and a good coach, but we've trained really well this week so I'm confident we can come away with the points.

Over & Out

Quote of the Day - "The pain of discipline is far less than the pain of regret"

This weeks answers

1 - Swinton Lions (57-32, 12/6/05) London Skolars (54-24, 3/9/05) 2 - Blackpool West Coast Panthers (24-6, 25/6/06) 3 - Stuart Sanderson 4 - Neil Thorman 5 - Richard Mervill 6 - Toulouse 2005 7 - Doncaster Rovers 8 - Blackpool Borough 9 - Catalan Dragons, Wigan Warriors 10 - It was a council tip

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Gareth Walker

NATIONAL LEAGUES TALK

with Gareth Walker

Flashback Time

As an interesting experiment, this week's column will take a look back to the first summer season, and what each current National League club was doing on the third weekend of May back in 1996.

Three clubs are ineligible of course, with Celtic Crusaders, London Skolars and Gateshead Thunder not having been formed 12 years ago. But for the rest of the clubs, there are some interesting facts to look back on - this week we'll deal with current NL1 clubs, and next week NL2.

Salford, coached by Andy Gregory and on their way to the old Division One title, won 32-10 at home to Featherstone in 1996. A crowd of 3,130 saw six Salford tries, including two to Nathan McAvoy and one for Sam Panapa.

Featherstone finished the year in a credible fourth placed, and on that day scored tries through Neil Summers and Martin Pearson. They were coached by former Great Britain international David Ward.

Halifax were in super league back then, and on the third Sunday of May 12 years ago, were winning 32-18 away at Leeds Rhinos. Craig Dean scored two tries and John Schuster slotted six goals in front of 10,028 supporters.

Also in the top flight then were Sheffield Eagles, and May 19, 1996 saw them beat Oldham Bears 23-10 at home. Current coach Mark Aston kicked three goals, while Keith Senior was among their try scorers as the Eagles moved to fourth in the top flight that day.

In contrast, Leigh Centurions were a mid-table Division Two team then, and on this particular weekend, lost 15-14 at Chorley. Two men who have gone onto coach at the club, Dave Ingram and Alan Hadcroft, crossed for tries at Victory Park.

Batley Bulldogs would finish 1996 at the foot of Division One, and went down to a 34-8 home defeat to Keighley Cougars in front of 2,148 fans. Club legend Glen Tomlinson scored their only try.

Whitehaven, then nicknamed the Warriors, would end the year one place above the relegation positions, and on May 19, 1996 gave Hull FC a run for their money before losing 19-22 at the Recreation Ground. Halfback Steve Kerry, on loan from Huddersfield, scored a try and kicked a drop goal in defeat.

The two remaining current NL1 clubs, Widnes Vikings and Dewsbury Rams, played each other on that same day.

The Vikings, still coached by Doug Laughton, won 36-24 in an exciting contest at the old Naughton Park, with Shane Cooper, Steve McCurrie, Mark Preston, Stuart Spruce and Darren Wright among their try scorers. Among Dewsbury's responses were tries from Kevin Crauthers and the club's young player coach, a certain Neil Kelly, while Barry Eaton kicked four goals.