

Today's Teams

Barrow Raiders v Oldham

	T	G	DG		T	G	DG	
Mike Backhouse	☐	☐	☐	1	☐	☐	☐	Paul O'Connor
Nick Beach	☐	☐	☐	2	☐	☐	☐	Gareth Langley
Liam Harrison	☐	☐	☐	3	☐	☐	☐	Marcus St Hilaire
Adam Hughes	☐	☐	☐	4	☐	☐	☐	Mick Nanyn
James Nixon	☐	☐	☐	5	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Cardiss
Darren Holt	☐	☐	☐	6	☐	☐	☐	Neil Roden
Brad Nicholls	☐	☐	☐	7	☐	☐	☐	James Coyle
Brett McDermott	☐	☐	☐	8	☐	☐	☐	Jason Boults
Andy Ellis	☐	☐	☐	9	☐	☐	☐	Phil Joseph
Mick Cassidy	☐	☐	☐	10	☐	☐	☐	Richard Mervill
Mike Whitehead	☐	☐	☐	11	☐	☐	☐	Ian Hodson
Martin Ostler	☐	☐	☐	12	☐	☐	☐	Danny Halliwell
Dave Armitstead	☐	☐	☐	13	☐	☐	☐	Rob Roberts
Liam Finch	☐	☐	☐	14	☐	☐	☐	Matty Brooks
Jamie Butler	☐	☐	☐	15	☐	☐	☐	Chris Baines
Lee Dutton	☐	☐	☐	16	☐	☐	☐	Tommy Goulden
Paul Raftery	☐	☐	☐	17	☐	☐	☐	Said Tamghart

Coach: Dave Clark

Coach: Steve Deakin

Today's Officials

Referee: M Dawber
 Touch Judges: P Wharton, B Armstrong
 Reserve R: D Sharpe
 Touch Judge Coach: B Sharrock
 Match Commissioner: C Hodgson

Next at the Craven Park "Tiny Toes" Stadium

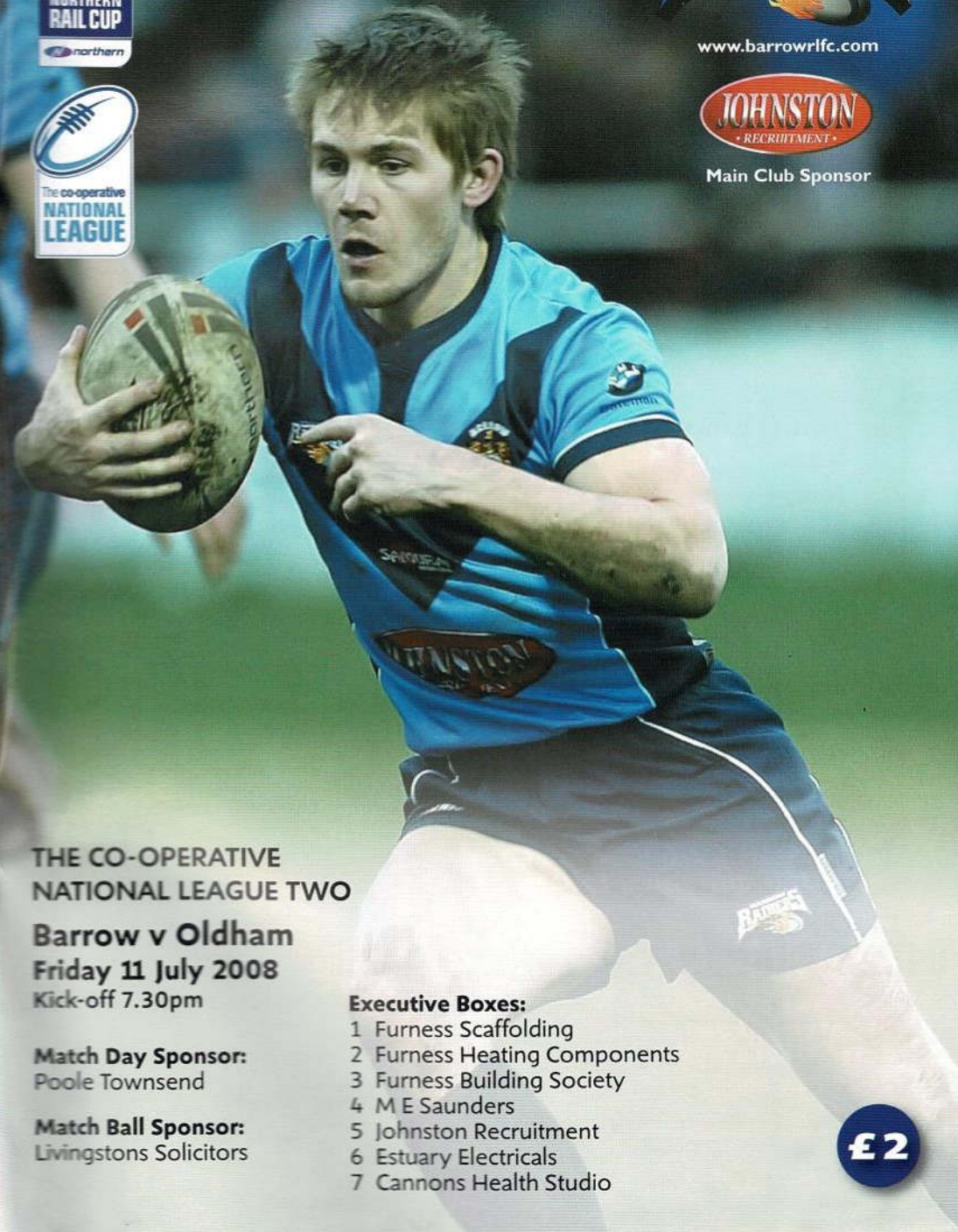
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BARROW RAIDERS v GATESHEAD THUNDER
 SATURDAY 2 AUGUST 2008 7.30pm



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Photographs courtesy: North West Evening Mail

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Chairman's Column



Well it had to happen. Our first defeat of the season happened at Hunslet last Sunday. I know it's disappointing but we have to be realistic and to ask a team to go unbeaten through the season is a massive ask and lets be honest unrealistic given the calibre of National League Two. The chief executive of Oldham said it all on Channel M this week when he said any team is capable of beating any other team in this league and he is correct. This is probably the most competitive and fiercely contested division in the whole of rugby league. That being said, it doesn't take the hurt away and our lads and everyone at the club were hurting after Sunday. Having said all that training and preparation for tonight's game have gone really well this week and every one is determined to get back on track and start winning again. Today's game is a big test for both teams. Oldham didn't have the best of games last week up at Workington only scrapping home in the last minute. Both clubs have realistic ambitions of winning automatic promotion to National League One and this game will be a measure of how good they really are. We welcome Oldham their supporters, directors and team. Everyone here at Barrow hope they enjoy their time here. We always get on well with Oldham so lets hope for a good game and a nice Barrow win.

The club through our community development manager Dave Clark are running two junior development camps this summer. The camps are run over three days but you can book in for single days if you wish. Dates are July 23rd to 25th and July 30th to August 1st and is just £30 for 3 days or £15 a day and half price for Junior Raider members. Excellent value, top class coaching by Dave and the players and a fun time as well. A really enjoyable way to improve youngsters - boys and girls, rugby skills. Book early because places are limited and going fast. Call in at the Rugby Shop Scott Street to book. Finally a big thanks to our groundsman Dick for all the work he's been doing down at the ground its well appreciated as is all the work done by all our friends in the bars, snack bars, ticket sellers, board room. Thank you all. Enjoy the game and I hope you've brought a friend. Here's to a win.

Dave



Paddy McAteer

North West Evening Mail

The main talking point this week on the streets is the defeat at lowly Hunslet, however you can't go on forever without losing and it was no big deal, just go back a few weeks and look at Super-League bottom side Castleford beating the top two, St Helens and Leeds, so the show goes on.

Tonights game is important for both clubs so I am sure we are in for an enthralling 80 minutes.

But then again we don't know what the future holds, we all await D DAY July 22nd to see which clubs go into Super League, and what the structure will be in the National Leagues.

I would like to see it go back to one division and maybe cut back on the Northern Rail Cup set up, not do away with it but look at a different format. Then all clubs in the one division could play each other home and away.

Congratulations to Dave Armitstead on being named Cooperative player of the month for June. Dave is listed in the team of the month alongside Liam Harrison, James Nixon, Darren Holt and Andy Ellis.

Did you see the attendance at the third State of Orange clash between NSW and Queensland? Won by the latter over three games, 78,851. They really love this competition down under, but when the Aussie's meet Great Britain it would probably be less than half.

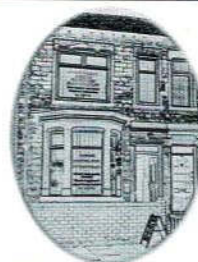
It will be interesting to see what the gates are for the forthcoming World Cup in October, will the interest be there, it should be.

Paddy

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GROUND REGULATIONS

1. All matches are played in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Rugby Football League (RFL).
2. Play cannot be guaranteed to take place on any particular day or at any particular time and the club reserves the right to change its advertised fixtures without prior notice and without liability.
3. No refund of any cash admission charge paid at the ground turnstile will be made.
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5. Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play.
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7. Only persons/organisations with the specific authorisation in writing from Barrow RLFC will be permitted to offer/distribute literature inside or outside of Craven Park, Barrow-in-Furness.
8. Unnecessary noise such as, but not limited to, radio sets, air horns, klaxons, whistles and behaviour likely to cause confusion, annoyance or nuisance of any kind, including foul, racial and abusive language, is not permitted in any part of the ground.
9. The unauthorised climbing onto floodlight pylons, stands or other buildings at Craven Park, Barrow-in-Furness, is strictly forbidden.
10. Bottles, glass or metal containers and other similar items including anything that could or might be used as a weapon or used to cause annoyance, are not permitted within the ground.
11. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object onto the playing area or anywhere within the ground boundaries.
12. The Club Management reserves the right of admission.
13. The Club Management reserves the right for it's servants and agents and for members of the Police Force to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with ground regulations and with the rules and regulations of the RFL or whose presence at the ground is or could reasonably construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.



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MATCH SPONSORSHIP 2008

TEAM	DATE	MATCH DAY	MATCH BALL	10 PERSON BOXES						
				BOX 1	BOX 2	BOX 3	BOX 4	BOX 5	BOX 6	BOX 7
BLACKPOOL NR Cup	Sunday 10 February									
LEIGH NR Cup	Sunday 2 March	Premier Risk Consultants								
WIDNES NR Cup	Sunday 16 March	Wilcock Consulting	Wilcock Consulting	Chequers Hotel	Tudor Car Services	BAE Systems			Gap Scaffolding	Cannons Health Studio
YORK CNL 2	Monday 24 March	Plastic Man	Plastic Man			Strand Timber & Fibreglass			BAE Systems	BAE Systems
BATLEY NR Cup (last 16)	Thursday 3 April	Premier Risk Consultants	Little Tony's Tyres		Rob Baker	Burlington Slate Limited			BAE Systems	
HUNSLET CC 4th Round	Sunday 20 April				Chequers Hotel	BAE Systems			Mike Mulgrew	
WORKINGTON CNL 2	Saturday 3 May	Evening Mail	Theatre Bar	Chequers Hotel	Cumberland Building Soc.	BAE Systems			Tiny Toes	BAE Systems
WAKEFIELD T CC 5th Round	Sunday 11 May	Premier Risk Consultants	Optech Fibres	Plastic Man	Review the Haircutters	Snap-on-Tools			R F Miller & Co	Tiny Toes
ROCHDALE CNL 2	Friday 16 May	Pooler Townsend	BAE Systems	Edmundson Electrical	Finger prints	Cannons Health Studio			Marine Travel	BAE Systems
HUNSLET CNL 2	Friday 23 May	BAE Systems	BAE Systems	Wicks Recycling	Club Mechanics	Brammer			Abbey House Hotel	Premier Risk Consultants
DONCASTER CNL 2	Friday 6 June	Speedy Hire	Finger prints	Cross Keys	Optech Fibres	Barclays Bank			Pooler Townsend	BAE Systems
LONDON S CNL 2	Saturday 14 June	BAE Systems	BAE Systems	Marsh Plant Hire	G R Painting & Decorating	Estuary Electrics			A J Hartley Ltd	Hospital Porters
BLACKPOOL CNL 2	Wednesday 18 June	BAE Systems	Pooler Townsend	Premier Risk Consultants	Chiefton Insulation	The Ambulance Crew			BAE Systems	Abbey House Hotel
SWINTON CNL 2	Saturday 28 June	BAE Systems	BAE Systems	Accounting 4 Safety	Albion Hotel	BAE Systems			MW Flooring	Brammer
OLDHAM CNL 2	Friday 11 July	Pooler Townsend	Livingstons Solicitors	Furness Scaffolding	Furness Heating Components	Furness Building Society			Estuary Electricals	Cannons Health Studio
GATESHEAD CNL 2	Saturday 2 August	BAE Systems	BAE Systems	Travis Perkins	Review the Haircutters	BAE Systems			Tiny Toes	MW Flooring
KEIGHLEY CNL 2	Friday 15 August	Wincanton Logistics	Little Tony's Tyres	Pooler Townsend	City Electrical Factors	SITA			BAE Systems	BAE Systems

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DAVE CLARK Head Coach

Welcome to you all. Tonight is as big a game as we can have this season. And we have got more key games to come – the visit here by Gateshead in three weeks plus the return fixture with Oldham and the visit to Doncaster will also be severe tests.

Tonight we have to prove that we are up to it after the disappointment at Hunslet last Sunday. I suppose a first defeat had to come some time but I wasn't very happy with the way it came about. Fortunately nor, too, were the players.

The small pitch was against us – but that is no excuse. We were just not up for it. We never got started.

Hunslet played with enthusiasm; they played a low risk game; and they put us under pressure. When you have to do a lot of defending, the breakthrough usually does come.

Hunslet deserved the points. They were the better side. Not the better team but, on the day, the better side.

They didn't give the ball away as easily and as often as we did.

One good thing was that we learned a lot about some of the players. Disappointments can also be eye openers.

Now we have to put that all behind us. That has been the message in training this week. And the players have responded.

Oldham will be a big challenge tonight. Coach Steve Deakin has got a good squad together with a big forward pack and some excellent players such as Rob Roberts, James Coyle and Mick Nanyn.

But our players know they must change the way we play. We must stick to our game plan and play as a team, not as individuals.

The lads know they must stand up and be counted. After last week they know they owe it to themselves, they owe it to the club and they owe it to all the disappointed fans who made the trip with them to Hunslet.

We will be up for it. So enjoy the game.



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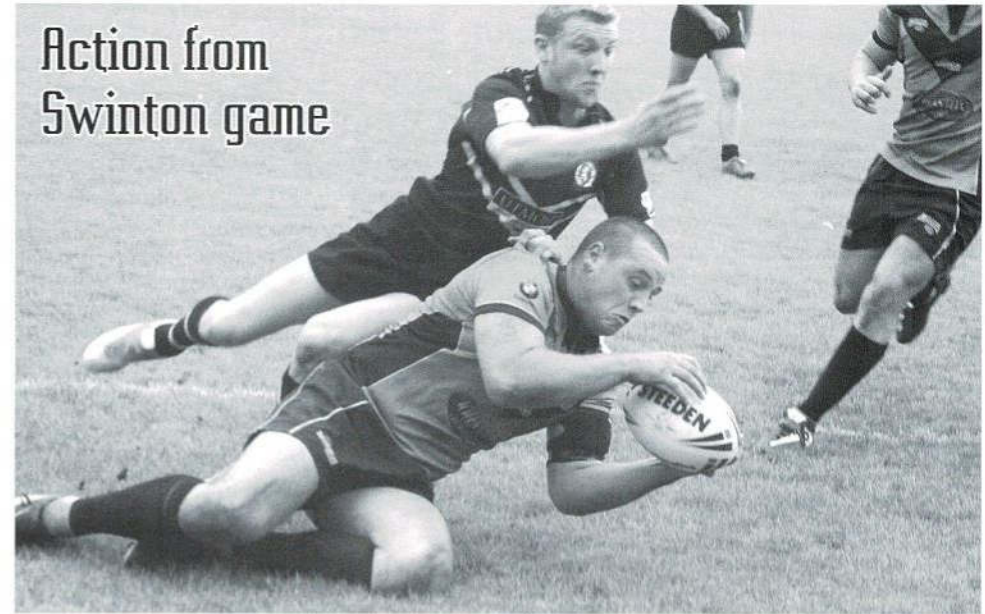
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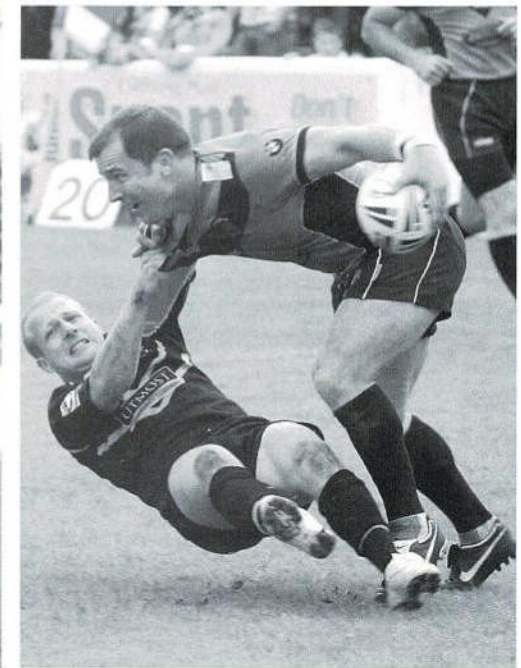


Lee Dutton touching down



Liam Harrison going in for a try

Pictures courtesy
of North West Evening Mail



Darren Holt



From: Peter Wilson ex-Daily Star

The old saying that "there's nowt so queer as folk" certainly applies to some of 'the folk' who follow Rugby League.

Having just watched what can be rated up among the best gamessince the arrival of Super

League - Wigan's 23-22 win over Leeds last Friday - what hogs the space on many of the web sites?

How about messages drooling over the dazzling performances of some of sport's finest athletes? Or even the re-emergence as a top prop of Stuart Fielden? Or the leadership skills of Trent Barrett? Maybe the heart-thumping fightback from the Rhinos that fell just a point short because of a last kick missed penalty?

No? Then you must have read the same message board as I did ... complaints about the referee. For heaven's sake what's the problem? A game of all the thrills, spills, skills and aggression that Rugby League is famous for and some people can find nothing to talk about but the referee.

A day later Sky TV showed a match played in a near deserted stadium which one team won 54-0 without conceding a single penalty. An almost perfect performance of attacking, entertaining Rugby League, wasn't it?

Says who? Certainly not those regular webbies or letter writers who love nothing more than a good moan. No, the referee and the size of the crowd got as much attention as Saints.

Another referee was branded a pantomime villain by a Super League coach after his team lost by a single point on Sunday and no doubt at every ground at the weekend fans were yelling abuse

at the man in the middle.

It's probably been the same since referees and umpires were introduced to keep some sort of order. And they must all have some in-built masochistic streak to put up with it every week.

But why can't the bulk of Rugby League supporters just enjoy the game like followers of some far less entertaining sports? How often do you hear soccer fans moaning about the number of free kicks in a game? Or Rugby Union spectators bleat about how many rucks, mauls, scrums and line-outs they had to endure in 80 actionless minutes?

Does the average Rugby League fan just enjoy a good moan? It's a great sport to watch (and not only Super League). Let's all enjoy it.

Ray French wrote last week that he was worried by the total silence coming out from Rugby League HQ regarding the future of the National Leagues when the revolution comes of July 22nd. Since he wrote his piece in League Weekly we have had ... a long, deafening silence.

I'm sure clubs like Barrow and Oldham would have liked to know exactly what they are playing for before tonight's game. Finishing top will mean automatic promotion but what else is up for grabs? When two teams are moved up will the National Leagues be running two divisions of ten, One of 12 and one of eight, or one of twenty?

Super League clubs know there will be 14 of them in their elite band next season ... shouldn't National League clubs at least be offered the same information about their own future?

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As usual the winner receives two tickets for a future Barrow home game or a £15 voucher to be spent in the Rugby Shop, Scott St., Barrow.

All entries to be sent to Rugby Quiz No 16, 9 Oxford Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14-5JA.

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BARROW RAIDERS

Attend

Up to and including Hunslet game 6/7/08 **RAIDERS STATS 2008**



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Chris Archer	0	9	1	1	0	0	4	67	52	119	1	17	0	0	68	7.00		0.57				
Dave Armitstead	19	6	0	8	0	0	32	53	6	59	0	8	0	0	32	7.38		0.54				
Matt Ashe	3	1	0	2	9	0	26	3	1	4	0	2	9	0	26	2.00		6.50				
Backhouse	22	0	0	9	0	0	36	22	0	22	0	9	0	0	36	2.44		1.64				
Nicky Beach	10	1	1	2	8	0	24	58	7	65	1	36	21	0	186	1.81	3.10	2.86				
Andrew Beattie	18	1	0	6	0	0	24	18	1	19	0	6	0	0	24	3.17		1.26				
Craig Bower	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	1	49	0	22	0	0	88	2.23		1.80				
Jamie Butler	3	21	0	2	0	0	8	6	46	52	0	2	0	0	8	26.00		0.15				
Mick Cassidy	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	16	0	0	0	0	0			0.00				
Brett Carter	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0			0.00				
Richard Chatfield	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0			0.00				
Mike Darby	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0			0.00				
Lee Dutton	17	5	0	4	0	0	16	33	40	73	0	8	2	0	36	9.13	36.50	0.49				
Andy Ellis	22	1	0	15	1	0	62	56	1	57	0	32	1	0	130	1.78	57.00	2.28				
James Finch	7	0	0	2	0	0	8	60	12	72	0	32	0	0	128	2.25		1.78				
Liam Finch	3	7	0	6	0	0	24	49	9	58	0	31	1	0	126	1.87		2.17				
Gordon James	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	1	0	0	0	0			0.00				
Liam Harrison	17	0	0	13	0	0	52	83	0	83	0	45	0	0	180	1.84		2.17				
Darren Holt	16	0	0	3	71	2	156	272	3	275	0	62	928	56	2160	4.44	0.30	7.85				
Antony Horton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	23	38	0	5	1	0	22	7.80		0.58				
Adam Hughes	14	0	0	8	0	0	32	14	0	14	0	8	0	0	32	1.75		2.29				
Scott Kaighan	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	7	5	12	1	2	1	0	10	6.00	12.00	0.83				
Chris Larkin	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	4	4.00		1.00				
Brett Law	6	0	0	1	0	0	4	6	0	6	0	1	0	0	4	6.00		0.87				
Jamie Marshall	1	1	0	1	0	0	4	113	55	168	6	79	0	1	317	2.13	168.00	1.89				
Brett McDermott	22	0	0	4	0	0	16	127	9	136	1	32	0	0	128	4.25		0.94				
Joe McKenna	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7	0	0	0	0	0			0.00				
Brad Nicholls	20	1	0	9	0	0	36	20	1	21	0	9	0	0	36	2.33		1.71				
James Nixon	22	0	1	24	0	0	96	101	3	104	1	74	0	0	296	1.41		2.85				
Lee Norman	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	11	0	1	0	0	4	11.00		0.36				
Ostler	23	0	0	8	0	0	32	43	3	46	0	11	0	0	44	4.18		0.96				
Mike Ostick	0	5	0	2	0	0	8	0	5	5	0	2	0	0	8							
Jack Pedley	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	4	1	0	1	0	2		4.00	0.50				
Paul Raftery	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	61	33	94	0	7	0	0	28	13.43		0.30				
John Warriner	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0			0.00				
Pat Weisner	7	4	0	2	13	1	35	29	4	33	0	9	22	4	84	3.67	1.50	2.55				
Mike Whitehead	20	4	0	5	0	0	20	217	41	258	0	59	0	0	236	4.37	8.25	0.91				
Paul Whireock	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	59	54	113	0	9	0	0	36	12.56		0.32				

Oldham

Chris Baines - made 22 appearances in 2007, but missed out at the business end of the season when he was 18th man in the three play-off games and then the Grand Final. A product of Wigan St Pat's, he toured New Zealand with Great Britain Young Lions in 2003 after representing his country at youth level against Australia and France.

Matty Brooks - the pocket-battleship from Hull KR who made such a big impression while on loan to Roughyeds in 2007. A midfield dynamo who can operate at half-back or hooker. Brooks scored two tries in 17 appearances last season and he signed off in style with a terrific show as a substitute in the NL2 Grand Final.

Tommy Goulden - new signing for 2008 from Rochdale Hornets. Equally at home in the second-row or at loose forward, 26-year-old Goulden was a key member of the Hornets pack in 2006 and 2007.

Richard Mervill - Prop had a stunning season in 2007 - his first for the Roughyeds. Before joining Oldham Mervill played for Halifax and Keighley and also had a spell in Australia. He returned to England to join the Roughyeds.

Neil Roden - A competent and highly-skilled half-back, he has all the know-how required for these two specialist positions. Aged 27, he first joined Oldham from Wigan Academy in 2000 and he was to remain with the club until the end of the 2004 season when he departed for Batley Bulldogs and ultimately on to Leigh Centurions, he returned to Roughyeds for the start of the 2007 season.

Marcus St Hilaire - ex Bradford Bulls and former Leeds Rhinos and Huddersfield Giants star. St Hilaire, aged 30, played 24 first-team games for the Bulls in the 2007 season 19 of them on the right wing, one as a substitute and four at full-back. Born in Huddersfield in 1977, Marcus signed for Leeds in July, 1996 as a 19-year-old. Then he moved to Huddersfield in 2003, adding another 37 tries in 74 outings. In two seasons at Bradford he ran in 14 tries in 39 games.

Daryl Cardiss - signed for 2008, a vastly-experienced former Wigan, Halifax, Warrington and Widnes player. Aged 30, Leeds-born Cardiss will play anywhere across the back line and provides cover for centre, wing, full-back, stand-off and even hooker.

Phil Joseph - Yorkshireman Joseph, who can play hooker, second-row or loose-forward, turned pro with Huddersfield Giants and, as a teenager, played 14 Super League games for the Giants, his hometown club, in 2004. He moved to Swinton in 2005 then Hull KR, and Halifax.

Mick Nannyn - Points-machine Mick Nannyn, one of the sport's biggest names outside Super League, Mick has played for Swinton, Rochdale, Whitehaven and Widnes and has smashed club points records at every club he has been with. He took the Widnes record off Jonathan Davies in 2006.

Rob Roberts - a Welsh international known as 'Two Bobs' throughout rugby league. Leeds-born Roberts has played at Super League level for Hull, Huddersfield and Halifax and

has also played for Keighley and Leigh as well as having a stint in Australia.

Said Tamghart - A Frenchman, he made a big impression in his first season in English rugby league with Roughyeds in 2007. Used mainly by coach Steve Deakin as an impact forward coming off the bench. A French international, who has represented his country at ever level, including fully-fledged Test matches against Australia and New Zealand.

Jason Boult - The 24-year-old former Bradford and Halifax front-row man played in 25 games, in 2007.

James Coyle - Oldham believe they have one of the most talented and gifted scrum-halves outside Super League in James Coyle. To get him in the first place they had had to compete with NL1 clubs Whitehaven, Leigh and Batley, plus NL2 rivals Swinton Lions. He had clearly built himself a reputation as one of the shooting stars of Wigan's academy teams, confirmed when he stepped up to Super League and underwritten when he went out on loan to Widnes Vikings where, in 2006, he played in every game except the NL1 Grand Final.

Danny Halliwell - Experienced centre Danny Halliwell is one of many new signings for 2008. The 26-year-old Leigh-born Halliwell was on loan at Leigh, from Salford, last season, but he has also worn the colours of Halifax, Warrington and Wakefield, some of them while on loan. A player with a lot of Super League experience, he can play anywhere in the back division and he is equally at home in both centre positions.

Paul O'Connor - A small man with a big heart and courage galore, the Widnes-born full-back starred for the Roughyeds in the early part of last season when he scored four tries in 14 games before he headed off on a pre-arranged three-month sabbatical to the other side of the world, taking in Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia. He returned three or four weeks before the end of the season and immediately resumed training with Steve Deakin's squad.

Gareth Langley was the Roughyeds top points scorer in 2007, crowning his successful first season with the club with a points haul of 122 from 13 tries and 35 goals. It was a highly pleasing first season of senior rugby for the 23-year-old St Helens born winger or full-back, who filled both positions for the Roughyeds with panache and style. He had joined Oldham after spending five seasons in one of the most polished and professional development schools in rugby league - the St Helens Academy.

Lucas Onyango - A real flier and probably one of the fastest wingers outside Super League. Having joined the club in March, 2007, Lucas scored 18 tries in 23 outings for the Roughyeds that year and finished second to Adam Hughes, his centre, in the club's try-scoring charts. A showman and fans' favourite, whose high-stepping style is sometimes reminiscent of Martin Offiah. He first handled the oval ball in rugby union in his native Kenya and he first came to England in the Kenyan RU sevens squad for the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. He liked it here, returned to stay and played RU for Sale Sharks (briefly) and Manchester before switching codes to sign for Widnes Vikings in 2005.

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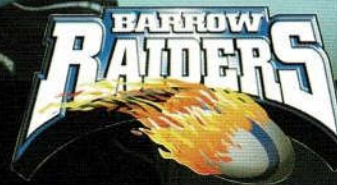
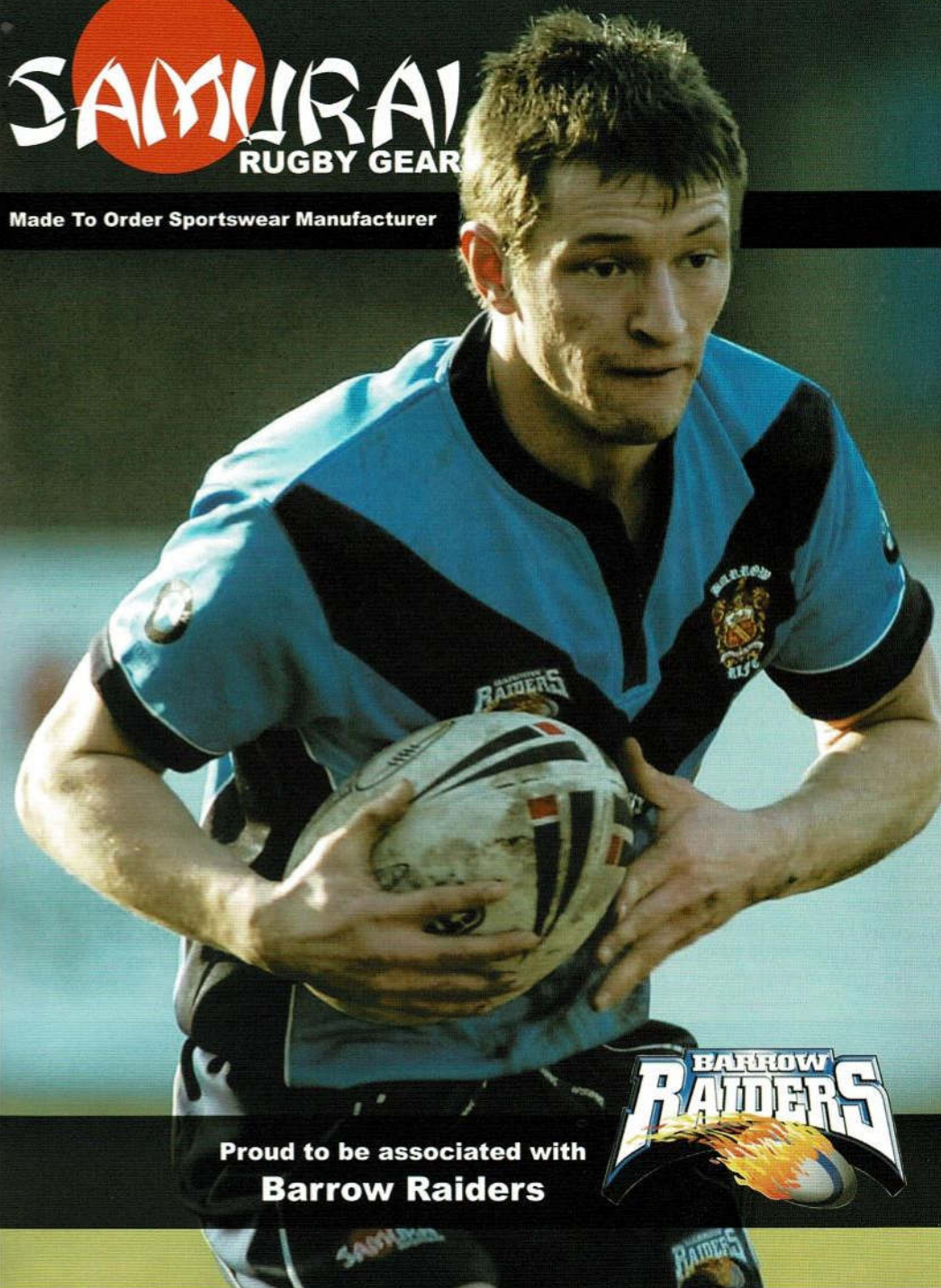
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NATIONAL LEAGUES TALK

with Gareth Walker - in association with LPL

NORTHERN RAIL CUP NEEDS A RETHINK

By GARETH WALKER of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

SALFORD City Reds clinched the Northern Rail Cup in the most clinical way imaginable with a 60-0 defeat of Doncaster. But while there was plenty to admire in their performance, there was also disappointment over the one sided nature of the final.

That is not to disrespect Doncaster and their noisy army of supporters, who tried everything they could to make the Bloomfield Road finale a memorable event.

But – as conceded by Dons coach and Rugby League legend Ellery Hanley – the gap between full-time and part-time teams proved just too big.

Which leads to the question – could the one-sided final have been avoided?

There have been calls to amend the format of the NRC even before the Reds' 60-point victory, most notably after the draw for the knock-out stages was made.

The main contentious issue for many people is the fact that teams can go through the entire group phase of the competition undefeated, and then be drawn away to a club with a similar record.

It happened this year when group winners Celtic Crusaders had to visit Halifax, and Leigh Centurions were forced to travel to Featherstone.

What rewards had those clubs have for putting together such outstanding group stage campaigns?

In contrast, eventual finalists Doncaster lost three of their five group matches (they played one less due to the farcical cancellation of their trip to Celtic), yet found draws against NL2

opposition in both of their first two knock out matches.

So what could provide a solution?

The most sensible one appears to be seeding the knock-out stages of the competition. As somebody who is completely opposed to seeding the Challenge Cup this may seem strange – but the two competitions are markedly different due to the presence of a pool element in the NRC.

The teams could be ranked from 1-16 based on their record in the group matches, and then split into two halves of a draw, much like the tennis at Wimbledon.

That way, the team with the best group results would have the most favourable run to the final, and any team that had just scraped through the qualification process would have to do it much tougher.

Had this system been in place in 2008, the top two seeded teams (who cannot meet until the final) would have been Leigh and Salford, and early matches such as Halifax versus Celtic would have been avoided.

The one complication would be the presence of Rugby League Conference teams Bramley and Warrington Wizards, who were in a two team "group" and therefore only played two matches.

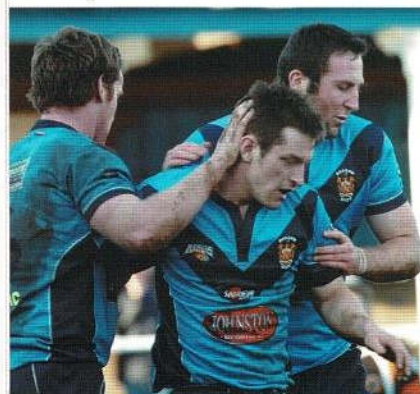
But that could be overcome – perhaps by extending the group, or by automatically giving the winners a specific, pre-determined seed.

It's certainly an issue that the Rugby Football League need to look into if they are to avoid the possibility of one-sided finals in the future, because the Northern Rail Cup has plenty of good things going for it that should ensure it remains a key part of the sport's calendar.

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PROFILE OF A PLAYER FROM THE PAST WHO PLAYED FOR BOTH
BARROW & OLDHAM

BOB IRVING

Bob Irving was one of Rugby League's great back row forwards in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Born at Huddersfield he became a top notch amateur star while playing for his local club St Joseph's ARLFC. Several professional clubs showed an interest in him but it was Oldham who managed to sign him in 1965. What a signing he proved to be. He played for the Roughyeds for eight years and became a Great Britain international whilst at the Watersheddings.

Bob played 296 times for the Oldham first team (scoring 80 tries) before transferring to Wigan in 1973. He had played for Yorkshire, Great Britain Under 24s, Great Britain (as a 19 year old) and had toured Australasia in 1970. This great second row man spent 3 years at Wigan and then moved to Salford for a couple more seasons and such was his standing that in 1978, some 13 years after his professional debut, Barrow were



willing to pay £9,000 for his services. This was a fair amount of money at that time but Bob proved to be worth every penny.

In 51 appearances for the Shipbuilders he scored 14 tries but also laid on many more for his team mates through his fantastic ball handling skills. After two years at Barrow he moved yet again - this time to Blackpool where he owned a hotel. After his days with Blackpool Borough he gave a season or so service to Swinton before eventually retiring from the professional game in 1983. Eighteen years as a professional says it all about Bob Irving. He was a great player, a durable player and a very, very skilful

player who, at his peak, was as good as anybody in the world.

After his playing days were over Bob ran his hotel at Blackpool but sadly died in early April, 1999.

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Tommy Dawes is one of that rare breed of Barrovians who has made the transition from successful player to successful coach. He was already certain of his place in the history of the club for his heroics as a player between 1958 and 1970, but that position was cemented in 1983 when, as head coach, he led his charges to success in the Lancashire Cup when his side defeated Widnes to lift the trophy. Born at Barrow on 11 October, 1938, Tommy first made his name with the local St Mary's ARLFC but had signed professional forms for Barrow well before his twentieth birthday. Indeed he was only 19 years old when he made his first team debut at Warrington on 15 February, 1958. Twelve and a half years later he would

play his final match for the club against Wakefield at Craven Park in September 1970. That was his 304th appearance for the first team, a remarkable achievement by any standards. He played 270 times as a full back, 7 times in the centre, 21 at loose forward and 6 from the bench. In addition, Tommy was an unused substitute on 8 occasions. Tommy Dawes was a very dependable defender but was much more than just a defensive full back as his 919 points for the club indicate (made up of 41 tries and 398 goals). At the peak of



his career he was unlucky to sustain a major back injury in the first round of the Challenge Cup in 1967 and so missed out on an appearance at Wembley later that year. In 1967/68 there was some consolation for that disappointment when he was granted a well-deserved benefit year. After his playing days were over, Tommy moved into coaching at a local level before moving on to coach Lancaster University with some success in the late 1970s. Tommy cut his professional coaching teeth at Whitehaven (1982/83) before became Head Coach at Barrow in 1983 (following in the footsteps of the great Frank Foster) and within months had guided the club to the famous Lancashire Cup final victory over Widnes.

Later in that season (1983/84) he saw his team crowned Division Two Champions. He was the Rugby League's coach of the season for his efforts in that campaign. He would remain with Barrow until February 1985 and a few seasons later he had a spell in charge at Carlisle (December 1988 to June 1990). Tommy, who is now living in retirement at Walney Island did return to Craven Park as A team coach in 1994/95 before retiring completely from the professional game.



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COMING SOON

BARROW RFC COMPLETE WHO'S WHO A PROFILE OF EVERY FIRST TEAM PLAYER FROM 1897/98 TO THE PRESENT DAY

The first ever Barrow RFC Who's Who is to be published at the end of the current season. Expected to hit the streets in late-October 2008, this 'must have' publication will feature all the players who have appeared for the Barrow first team in a competitive match from 1897/98 through to the end of the 2008 season (110 years!). The book will contain a profile of every such player, with at least a third of a page being devoted to each. Wherever possible, there will be a photograph of each player, personal information (date and place of birth, etc) his career statistics for Barrow (and other clubs where appropriate) and some, very, very interesting reading. Although the book is still being researched, it is likely that there will be around 1,150 players featured in the book and to date the authors have unearthed photographs of around 960 of these. This is no mean achievement in a book which covers some 111 years. The book has been painstakingly researched over a number of years by Barrow RFCs Official Archivist Keith Nutter, Steve Andrews and Dave Huitson. And it contains everything you could wish to know about the players who have represented the club.

The book will be A4 size (twice the dimensions of this programme) and will be around 500 pages thick!! Because of the obviously high printing costs of a

book of this size, the initial print run will be small but you can ensure you get a copy (and your name in the book also) by subscribing in advance.

The book will cost £29.99 per copy (but believe me this is tremendous value) and will be delivered free of charge to addresses in Barrow-in-Furness. If you are outside of this area please add £5 for postage and packing.

To order your copy (or copies) of the book please send a cheque for the correct amount along with the delivery address to 9 Oxford Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 5JA. Please stipulate the name which you want to appear in the list of subscribers within the book.

Cheques can be made payable to any one of the three authors (Keith Nutter, Steve Andrews or Dave Huitson) and please note that your cheque will NOT be cashed until the book is available.

This really is a book not to be missed and promises to be a very popular Christmas present in 2008. Anyone who has ever played for, watch or simply had an interest in Barrow RLFC will want a copy. It will without question be the greatest who's who ever published in the sport of Rugby League, indeed it is doubtful if a better who's who exists for any sporting organisation in this country. If you can think of a Barrow first teamer then he is in the book!

IN TOUCH Raymond Fletcher Email: rayfletcher.try@tinyworld.co.uk

LEADING SCORERS

CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE CLUBS - ALL MATCHES

TRIES

James Nixon (Barrow)	24
Paul White (Salford)	23
Shad Royston (Halifax)	21
Luke Gale (Doncaster)	20
Martin Ainscough (R'dale)	20
Stewart Sanderson (Gatesh'd)	18
Stuart Kain (Gateshead)	18
Mick Nanyin (Oldham)	18
Lee Mapals (York)	18
Marlon Billy (Swinton)	16
James Coyle (Oldham)	16
Richard Myler (Salford)	16

GOALS

Mick Nanyin (Oldham)	117
Graham Holroyd (Halifax)	115
Dan Russell (Gateshead)	101(1)
Carl Forber (Workington)	78 (1)
Darren Holt (Barrow)	73(2)
Stuart Dickens (F'stone)	69
Johnny Woodcock (Sheff'd)	67
Kyle Briggs (Doncaster)	67 (2)
Andy Ballard (Salford)	63
Mark Lennon (Celtic)	63(1)
() Drop goals included in total	

POINTS

Mick Nanyin (Oldham)	306
Graham Holroyd (Halifax)	254
Dan Russell (Gateshead)	229
Kyle Briggs (Doncaster)	172
Carl Forber (Workington)	171
Andy Ballard (Salford)	162
Johnny Woodcock (Sheff'd)	162
Darren Holt (Barrow)	156
Mark Lennon (Celtic)	149
Stuart Dickens (F'stone)	146

TRY SCORING SEQUENCE

TONY DUGGAN of Celtic Crusaders has scored tries in five successive matches as follows: 1 - 3 - 1 - 1 - 1.

WINNING RUNS

CATALANS DRAGONS extended their club record winning run to six matches, all in engage Super League, with their 30-18 win at Hull FC.

ST. HELENS have won 13 successive matches, consisting of 10 engage Super League matches and three Carnegie Challenge Cup-ties. Their last defeat was 30-24 at Castleford Tigers on 6 April.

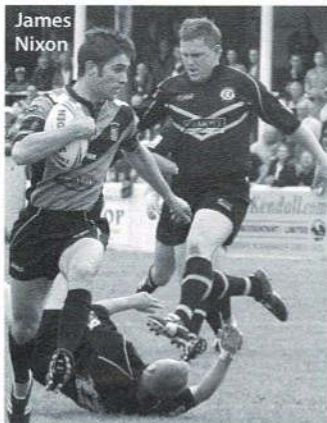
BARROW RAIDERS became the last team to lose their unbeaten League record for the season when they lost 15-10 at Hunslet Hawks after 13 wins in Co-operative National League Two.

MILESTONES

CHRIS THORMAN of Huddersfield Giants passed 1,000 career points for the club with a try and five goals, including a drop goal, in the 25-24 engage Super League home defeat of Bradford Bulls. His total of 1,004 points consist of 73 tries and 359 goals, including six drop goals.

PAUL DEACON of Bradford Bulls needs four points for a Super League career total of 2,000 (not including play-offs). His 1,996 points have come from 64 tries and 879 goals, including 18 drop goals. All the points were scored for Bradford, but he also made two substitute appearances for Oldham without scoring.

WAINE PRYCE of Featherstone Rovers needs one try for a career century of touchdowns with three clubs. He has scored 81 for Castleford Tigers, 5 Wakefield Trinity Wildcats and 13 Featherstone.



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Furness Building Society follows the Banking Code, copies of which are available on request. The Society has a complaints handling procedure and complaints we cannot settle may be referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service. A member of the Building Societies Association.