

HOUGH REVEALS HIS CLASS OF 2009

by ROGER HALSTEAD

In year two of Roughyeds' reserve-team rugby, which starts soon, coach John Hough and his assistant Leo Casey hope to build on their achievements in 2008 when they laid down foundations and

saw five young hopefuls sign professional forms for the club.

Ben Heaton, Mark Smith, Anthony Bingham, Chris Clarke and Scott Mansfield will continue their development in the reserves this year, although Bingham, Smith and Mansfield have already had a taste of senior action in pre-season warm-up matches.

They will be joined in the reserve-team squad by 15 amateurs (there might be two more soon) who aspire to go down the professional path taken by Heaton, Smith, Bingham, Clarke and Mansfield.

Of those 15, five will be starting their second season with the Roughyeds; namely Dale Lowe, David Orwell, Phil Jagger, Alex Eyres

and Michael Ward.

The ten new boys are as follows:

Todd O'Brien, ex-Rochdale Mayfield and Rochdale Hornets, for whom he has had a handful of first-team games.

Jamie Knight, a product of the Waterhead club, formerly with Rochdale Hornets and a player with Great Britain youth honours.

Anthony Morrison, son of former Oldham forward Tony Morrison. Oldham, Lancashire and Great Britain Community Lions under-18 honours, played at prop last week against France. Currently with Saddleworth under-18s.

Matty Moores, second-row or centre, ex-Waterhead, Rochdale Hornets and Rochdale Mayfield.

Sean Robinson, 18-year-old winger from Saddleworth Rangers, already with senior experience at Shaw Hall Bank Road.

Danny Knight, elder brother of Jamie, formerly with Waterhead and Rochdale Hornets and, interestingly, works full time in rugby league as the Oldham borough's rugby league development officer.

Jacob Kinney, scrum-capped back-row forward from Leigh. Great Britain youth honours. Known popularly as 'Tank'.

Ben Hinsley, loose-forward and another out-of-towner, this time from Rishworth. A teenager who has sampled reserve-team rugby with Halifax.

Brett Durkin, similar background to Ben. Also from Rishworth and with Halifax experience behind him.

Dave Levinson, from the same Latchford Albion (Warrington) stable as Mark Smith and with hopes of following Smith into the pro ranks at Oldham.

Lowe, Orwell, Morrison, Ward and Robinson were all in the Oldham Service Area under-18s squad which went through their latest campaign with an unbeaten record.

Unlike last year, the youngsters expect to be strengthened in each match this time by members of the senior squad, as in their 28-6 pre-season win at Hunslet when Craig Littler, Neil Roden, Simeon Hoyle, Jason Boults and Luke Sutton all played.

Of the six tries Oldham scored two of the best were finished cleverly by Mansfield and spectacularly by Bingham.

Team: Heaton; J Knight, Moores, Littler, Bingham; Smith, Roden; Eyres, Hoyle, Boults, Levinson, Sutton, Mansfield. Subs: O'Brien, Kinney, D Knight, Hinsley, Jagger.

Said Hough: "Last year was the first for Leo and I in a pro coaching capacity, and we had a lot to learn. It was a learning curve for everybody.

"Hopefully, the five who turned pro will go on and enjoy careers in the first team. The plan is that within the next two or three years we will be so well structured that we will have a conveyor belt of young professionals coming through each year.

"That's our job --- to prepare the lads to move up to the next level and to pass them through as soon as we can."

Fixtures are not yet confirmed but, starting in April, Houghie expects to face a 16-match league campaign with home and away matches against Hunslet, Widnes, Leigh, Dewsbury, Barrow, Keighley, Whitehaven and York.

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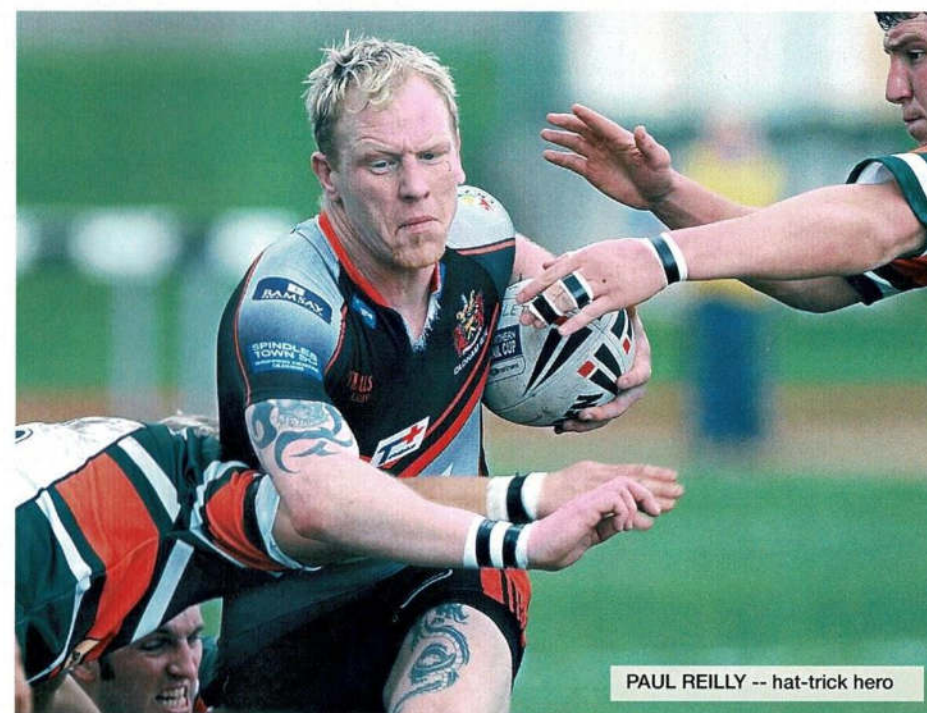
The official programme of Oldham Rugby League Football Club (1997) Ltd



v **Sharlston Rovers**

Carnegie Challenge Cup Round 3
Sunday 8th March 2009 Kick-Off 3.00pm

FULL STEAM AHEAD ON THE BLACKPOOL LINE



PAUL REILLY -- hat-trick hero

Picture courtesy of www.rlphotos.fotopic.net

AT the conclusion of the pool stages in the Northern Rail Cup it's full steam ahead for Oldham with the ultimate destination - the final at Blackpool in July - still in our sights.

Having picked up ten points from a possible 12 in Pool One we topped the table early in the week, although that perhaps changed as a result of Wednesday's outstanding games, and we were guaranteed a safe passage into the last eight.

By taking maximum points from games against Widnes, Rochdale Hornets and Hunslet Hawks, and collecting a one-point bonus from the Sheffield Eagles game, we can look back with satisfaction on what has been achieved up to now. It's certainly a case of so far, so good.

We had the Northern Rail round two man-of-the-round winner in our captain Robert Roberts, for leading us to victory at Widnes Vikings, and we cemented our place in the sudden-death quarter-finals with a 32-14 win at Hunslet last Sunday in which centre Paul Reilly celebrated his full debut

with a glorious hat-trick.

The next day's trade papers showed us on top of the pile in Pool One - and Paul was able to reflect on a job well done at the South Leeds Stadium.

"We can play better," he said, "but on a personal note it was very satisfying to score three tries.

"Let me say, though, that I have to thank Andy Ballard for putting me in for two of them. He's a great winger and he very unselfishly gave me the scoring passes that counted.

"I would have liked to repay the compliment, but the opportunity never arose. Still, it was good for my own confidence to score three. I'm still building up my confidence after the serious neck injury I sustained at Wakefield last season.

"Things are coming along for me nicely now and to score three in my first start of the season was just what the doctor ordered."



ROBERT ROBERTS -- man of the round

View from the inside...



Hello and welcome to Roughyed Stadium for our Carnegie Challenge Cup third round tie.

Once again we say hello to our visitors from over the hill in Sharlston with this being our third game against them in the last 6 years.

At least we have a little prior knowledge of them as a result although both clubs will not have many survivors from those previous games.

The two previous matches were as tough as you would expect and there will be no quarter given or asked today.

There have been some fairly significant changes to the format this season with both Championship clubs and the amateur clubs reaching this stage being given a more attractive financial package.

There will still be one or two clubs (Saddleworth particularly) who would rather have had the old system of a shared gate but the changes were born out of dialogue between clubs at all levels of the game and the RFL, with clubs stating that the reality of the situation is that a lot of the ties in the earlier rounds of the cup don't attract enough fans to make enough money for clubs.

I think the present solution whereby we all receive a fixed sum for this round of the competition is fairer and clubs can budget accordingly.

As I mentioned above there will always be one or two exceptions where clubs feel worse off but to take away the gamble of trying to make sufficient money on these matches should make the occasions more enjoyable for all concerned.

I have long been an advocate of the "big day out" aspect of the cup for amateur teams and hopefully this year's changes will strengthen that position.

The changes also once again reflect well on the game of rugby league which really does have a pro active nature in its executive.

Our game is clearly viewed from outside as being forward thinking in many ways and rightly so and although it is easy sometimes to focus on negatives we sometimes can't see the wood for the trees and should

appreciate the good things more.

Talking of good things, our achievement in reaching the last 8 of the Northern Rail Cup competition from a hard group of matches should not be underestimated.

The win at Hunslet secured that place and although it was not pretty last week we did what we needed to and before the start of the season we would have taken 10 points from 12 given the quality of the opposition.

The players and coaching staff have worked hard to achieve that and I thank them for their efforts and look forward to more success as the season progresses.

One of the pleasing things about our early form has been the fact that we have a lot of improvement in us and once our training patterns become more settled with better weather and light nights we will all see the benefit of that.

As a club we have been really pleased with the level of support so far both home and away and that is one of the reasons why we dropped admission prices for today's game - to show our appreciation and understanding of the current economic situation we all find ourselves in.

In these difficult times we all have to dig in and help each other and that is a strength we have in abundance at Oldham.

Enjoy the game this afternoon and let's hope we are in the hat for the next round draw on Monday when the Super League teams enter the competition.

Be vocal and get behind the lads.

Enjoy the game

Chris Hamilton

Chief Executive

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ROUGHYEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

By "Two Bobs"

As I've said in the past I'm really enjoying my time at the Roughyeds, and not just leading the lads on the field of play.

I've got a role developing relationships in the community, especially through the Primary Schools. I visit two schools a day, five days a week and I think I've covered almost all of the primary schools in the Borough over the last twelve months. It's pleasant to walk around the town and hear kids shouting "Hi Two Bobs." Initially I tend to do basic rugby league and drill skills, but our community work is about a lot more than that. If some of the children were to get involved in rugby league that would be brilliant, but I go out there to try to introduce them to other things such as teamwork, team spirit, comradeship and how to have fun in sport. It's hard work but I enjoy every minute of it. It's fantastic to see the joy a child gets from mastering how to pass or catch. I try and ensure the sessions don't get over competitive, more of a fun thing. Often the children start off very shy, but as the weeks go by you can see them gaining in confidence and starting to encourage each other. I've got to say I enjoy the sessions just as much as the children do, it's brilliant. I am hoping this will culminate in a mini tag tournament at the end of term.

I usually take the older primary pupils in Year 6 who are soon to progress into secondary education, but at one school I've been taking the five to six year olds who also were very keen.

I really enjoyed half term when I was working with the town's Asian community at the Greenhill Community Centre. Between 30 and 40 children turned up every day and they really enjoyed the sessions. We didn't confine it to rugby league but also played some soccer and cricket for a bit of variety.

We invited a lot of the children to the Sheffield Eagles game recently; they were introduced to the crowd at half time and then did a lap of honour. I intend to do a similar thing with other children at our opening league game against Blackpool. I'm pretty certain some of them will become hooked on rugby league either as players or supporters.

A ROUGHYEDS THANK-YOU!

Roughyeds office staff were pleasantly surprised at the Sheffield game when guests of Eagles player Tommy Trayler picked up complimentary tickets left for them from the allocation given to the visiting club's players.

In this instance Tommy's guests insisted on making a donation to the Oldham club in lieu of the tickets.

Roughyeds later sent the following message to Eagles coach Mark Aston: "It is pleasing to know that there are people around who appreciate that all clubs have to maximise income on match days and we would be grateful if you could pass on our thanks to the people concerned."

"Gestures like that are not made very often, as you will know, and we would like them to know that we at Oldham very much appreciated the thought."

WHERE AND WHEN WE PLAY

Date	Comp	Opponents	V	Time	Res	Score	Att
Fri, Feb 13	NRC	Widnes Vikings	A	7.30pm	W	22-20	2,783
Wed, Feb 18	NRC	Rochdale Hornets	H	7.30pm	W	54-4	1,028
Sun, Feb 22	NRC	Sheffield Eagles	H	3.00pm	L	22-34	1,173
Sun, Mar 1	NRC	Hunslet Hawks	A	2.00pm	W	32-14	582
Sun, Mar 8	CCC3	Sharlston Rovers	H	3.00pm			
Sun, Mar 15	CC1	Blackpool Panthers	H	3.00pm			
Sun, Mar 22	CC1	Keighley Cougars	A	3.00pm			
Sun, Mar 29	CC1	Workington Town	H	3.00pm			
Sun, April 5	Carnegie CC (4)						
Fri, April 10	CC1	Rochdale Hornets	A	3.00pm			
Mon, April 13	CC1	Dewsbury Rams	H	8.00pm			
Sun, April 26	CC1	Swinton Lions	H	3.00pm			
Mon, May 4	CC1	London Skolars	A	3.00pm			
Sun, May 10	Carnegie CC (5)						
Sun, May 17	CC1	Hunslet Hawks	H	3.00pm			
Sun, May 24	CC1	Swinton Lions	A	3.00pm			
Sun, May 31	Carnegie CC (Quarter-Final)						
Sun, June 7	NRC (Quarter-Final)						
Sun, June 21	NRC (Semi-Final)						
Thurs, June 25	CC1	York City Knights	A	7.30pm			
Sun, July 5	CC1	Workington Town	A	3.00pm			
Sun, July 12	NRC Final (Bloomfield Road)						
Sun, July 19	CC1	Keighley Cougars	H	3.00pm			
Sun, July 26	CC1	Dewsbury Rams	A	3.00pm			
Sun, Aug 2	CC1	Rochdale Hornets	H	3.00pm			
Thurs, Aug 6	CC1	London Skolars	H	7.30pm			
Sun, Aug 16	CC1	Blackpool Panthers	A	3.00pm			
Sun, Aug 23	CC1	York City Knights	H	3.00pm			
Sun, Sep 6	CC1	Hunslet Hawks	A	3.00pm			
Play-offs start Friday, Sept 11							
Grand Finals Day Sunday, October 4							

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PLAYER PROFILE

No 3 ANDY BALLARD



Roger Halstead talks to the Oldham new boy who has been kicking goals all his life

BALLARD THE BOOT AIMS TO BEAT NANYN'S CLUB RECORD

ANDY Ballard loves a challenge... and when people tell him he has no chance of smashing Mick Nanyin's new-club Oldham record of 362 points in a season it's like waving a red rag to a bull.

"If there's anything to motivate me into going for it, it's that," said Andy this week during the build-up to the Roughyeds' third-round Carnegie Challenge Cup tie against proud Yorkshire amateurs Sharlston Rovers.

"I like to prove people wrong, so I've already nailed that down as my personal goal for the season.

"Obviously, you've got to keep fit and you've got to keep your place in the side, and you rely a lot on your team mates and the tries they score to provide conversion opportunities. But it will always be there in the back of my mind, as will the total number of goals Nanyin scored last year - 139."

Nanyin failed by eight to beat Pat Rich's goals tally in 2001, but while Rich added seven tries in the same year for a points total of 329, Nanyin went in for 21 tries to take his overall points tally to 362.

With four games played so far, Ballard is doing okay. He has kicked

21 goals and scored four tries for 58 points, or an average of 14 a match compared with Nanyin's average per match haul over a full season of between 11 and 12 points per game. So far so good, but there is a long way to go and Ballard may not have as many games this year as Nanyin did in 2008.

Whatever happens, though, you can gamble that Ballard won't be losing any sleep. He's a laid-back guy who loves his rugby and has done ever since he started out at Ashton Bears when he was seven and his older brother Paul, now at Celtic Crusaders, was nine.

Now aged 22, Andy is the middle one of three rugby-playing brothers. The youngest, 19-year-old Mark, is a loose-forward at Leigh East.

Born in Wigan and with a mum and dad, Carol and Mike, who loved league, Andy and his brothers were destined to take up the game at an early age. Andy has fond memories of his days with Ashton Bears and then with Wigan St Jude's, and he recalls that he has

been kicking goals since he was knee high to a grasshopper.

"I think I was seven when I started banging them over with my left foot," he said, "and I've been doing it every since. But the best of my earliest memories was actually scoring a try at Twickenham of all places."

Twickers? Some will recall that back then, when the League-Union barriers were just starting to be dismantled, Wigan played Bath at Maine Road in a game of league and then had a return game of union at that sport's famous HQ.

As a curtain-raiser to that game Ashton Bears took on St Jude's and, playing for Ashton (that's Ashton of the Makerfield variety, near Wigan), the ten-year-old Ballard scored the winning try.

"I can always say I've scored the winning try at Twickenham," he mused, "and not so many people in rugby league can say that."

By the age of 16 he had joined his brother Paul on scholarship with Wigan, but whereas Paul moved on to Widnes, Leigh and then down to South Wales, Andy was snared by Salford scout Jim Reader and spent three successful seasons at The Willows.

Before he joined Wigan, Andy had enjoyed a trip of a lifetime with NW Counties under-15s and under-16s on a 2001 tour which took in Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. Also on tour were his current Roughyeds colleagues James Coyle and David Allen.

It was touch and go, though, whether he would make it. In the season leading up to the summer trip he broke his kicking leg in an accidental clash with team mate Harrison Hansen while playing for Lancashire under-15s against Yorkshire.

As the tour's media manager, I recall that the tour management, and particularly head coach Terry Byrne, was keen to give the young Ballard every possible chance of travelling, such was the regard in which he was held.

He made it, but it was some weeks into the schedule before he was able to play his first game and get on with the business of kicking goals.

He played fewer games than many of his fellow tourists - Coyle was a joint player-of-the-tour and Allen was named as one of three 'men of steel' - but what he did he did well and it was shortly after his return that he joined Wigan's famous academy.

There, he learned his trade alongside three Roughyeds colleagues in James Coyle (Thomas was a couple of years behind), David Allen and Gary Sykes - little wonder, then, that he describes being at Oldham now as "home from home".

By 2008 he had worked his way through the academy system at Salford and

into the first-team squad, but his progress at The Willows was hindered by a hernia operation and before the end of that season he was looking for pastures new.

Step in Oldham, and James Coyle - or, as Andy calls him, "Coyley".

Said Andy: "Coyley told me it was great at Oldham and I could do a lot worse than come here. I spoke to Deaks (Steve Deakin, last year's coach) and to Chris Hamilton (chief executive) and they convinced me Oldham was the

place to be. I thought they were going to win promotion and that we would be in the higher division, so that's all the more reason why I am determined to do all I can this year in the hope that we can win the promotion that everybody at the club is striving for."

He pays no heed to suggestions that left-footed goalkickers are perhaps not as accurate and reliable as those who use their right foot and points out in his usual matter-of-fact manner that left-footed kickers of some repute, past and present, include the likes of Andy Farrell, Frano Botica and Jonny Wilkinson of the other code.

"I don't practice much these days," he added, "because you don't get much time for that sort of thing when you are part time and just training at nights, often in gyms or on all-weather pitches.

"But, as I say, I've been goalkicking since I was seven so I reckon I've put in a fair bit of practice over the years." The proud father of a three-year-old daughter, Grace, he lives in Ashton-in-Makerfield and, by trade, he is an electrician.

Needless to say, he aims to make the sparks fly up Oldham's right flank over the course of the next few months.

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THIRD TIME LUCKY?

Sharlston Rovers are hoping it will be third time lucky as they meet Oldham in the third round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup at Boundary Park today.

The draw has once again paired the two sides, who first clashed in the 2004 fourth round after Rovers took the scalp of Dewsbury Rams in the previous round. The match was finally played after a postponement due to bad weather on Wednesday March 4th.

The amateurs certainly put up a good show and were only 8-4 down at half time. The second half was a different matter, however, and Oldham pulled away with 3 unanswered tries and two goals to win 24-4.

The Oldham try scorers that day were Iain Marsh 2, Lee Marsh,

Nick Johnson with Simon Svabic kicking 4 goals.

Oldham lined up as follows:- Gavin Dodd, Will Cowell, James Bunyan, Jon Goddard, Nick Johnson, Simon Svabic, Ian Watson, Steve Molloy, Keith Brennan, Dane Morgan, Lee Doran, Iain Marsh, Lee Marsh. Subs Gareth Barber, Neil Roden, Martin McLoughlin, Paul Southern.

The following season Sharlston made the round 3 stages and once again the luck of the draw paired them with Oldham, this time with Rovers gaining home advantage. The game was played at Featherstone and an improved Oldham side took its toll on the hosts despite an early bright spell being only 18-14 down with 30 minutes to go. In retrospect the game is remembered for probably the only bright spark in Simon Haughton's disappointing season with the Roughyeds, as he scored 4 tries.

It also marked the first team debut of Andy Gorey who scored a try, the other 5 coming from Gavin Dodd, Will Cowell, Mark Roberts, Martin Elsworth and Gareth Barber. Turner kicked one goal and Svabic 2 for

a convincing 46-14 victory for the Roughyeds.

Oldham lined up as follows:- Dodd, Cowell, Munro, Barber, Johnson, Svabic, Turner, Norman, Hough, Wilson, Haughton, Elsworth, Roberts. Subs (all used): Mataora, Glassie, Kirkland, Gorey.

'RATTY' ONLY ONE LEFT

Interestingly Neil Roden is the only present member of the Oldham squad to have played in either of the previous games.

Despite Oldham's good run in the Northern Rail Cup Sharlston Player/Coach Lee Bettison remains optimistic saying "There could have been easier ties for us to face but at the end of the day its 80 minutes of rugby and anything can happen, and the Dewsbury victory is testimony to that. It will be a tough ask for us but I'm sure Oldham won't be counting their chickens just yet. It's a massive achievement that we are in this position and its testament to all the hard work the players have put in."

ROUGHYED'S PREDICTION LEAGUE 2009

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN BEFORE THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON NEXT SUNDAY AGAINST BLACKPOOL. APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UP TO SATURDAY 14 MARCH.

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'FANTASTIC' DAY OUT FOR THE WINNER OF OUR SEASON-TICKET COMPETITION

STEPHEN Slater, the lucky winner of the draw that was open to all adult season-ticket holders, spent a "fantastic" day with six guests when Sheffield Eagles were here at Boundary Park for a Northern Rail Cup game a fortnight ago.

His party included his son Michael; his nephew Simon Slater, a local rugby league referee; Margaret and Graham Worthington and their son Phillip; and another friend, John Clarke.

They were picked up at Stephen's home in Rydal Avenue, Chadderton by a Lady Jayne limousine and driven in style to Boundary Park, arriving around one hour before kick-off and with plenty of time to relax in the vice-presidents' bar under the main stand and chat to various people at the club as they moved to and fro going about their pre-match business.

Those members of the party who were not season-ticket holders were guests of the club for the day.

After the game they reboarded the limo for the short journey to Mario's in Yorkshire Street where they dined and wine in style to make it a perfect end to a day that was nearly perfect and would undoubtedly have been so had Roughyeds managed to pull off a win.

"The result was the only slight downside to the day," said Stephen, "but we got a valuable bonus point at the end, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the game."

"I thought we could have won it. In the

second half our heads were up and Sheffield heads were down and I feel sure that if the Wayne Kerr 'try' had stood we would have gone on to win it.

"Some refereeing decisions were a little bit of a puzzle, but I guess its swings-and-roundabouts in these things."

"Despite the defeat, 'Two Bobs' led from the front and I was very impressed with the boys and the way they fought back in the second half."

"As far as I'm concerned this team of ours is of first division standard and I will be very surprised if we don't go up this time."



Steven Slater (centre front row) pictured with his party

"We were impressed with the limo and we had a terrific time at Mario's. They couldn't do enough for us and when we left for home around 8.30pm we all agreed that it had been a fantastic day."

"We are now working on my friend John Clarke to get him interested in watching the team on a regular basis. I think we are winning and I feel sure that by the time the season is over we will have him hooked."

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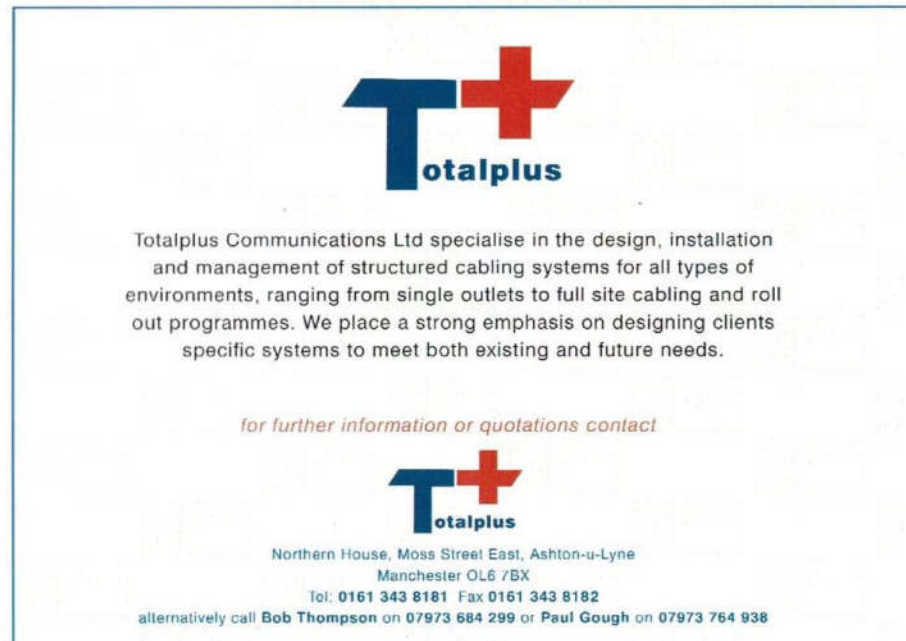
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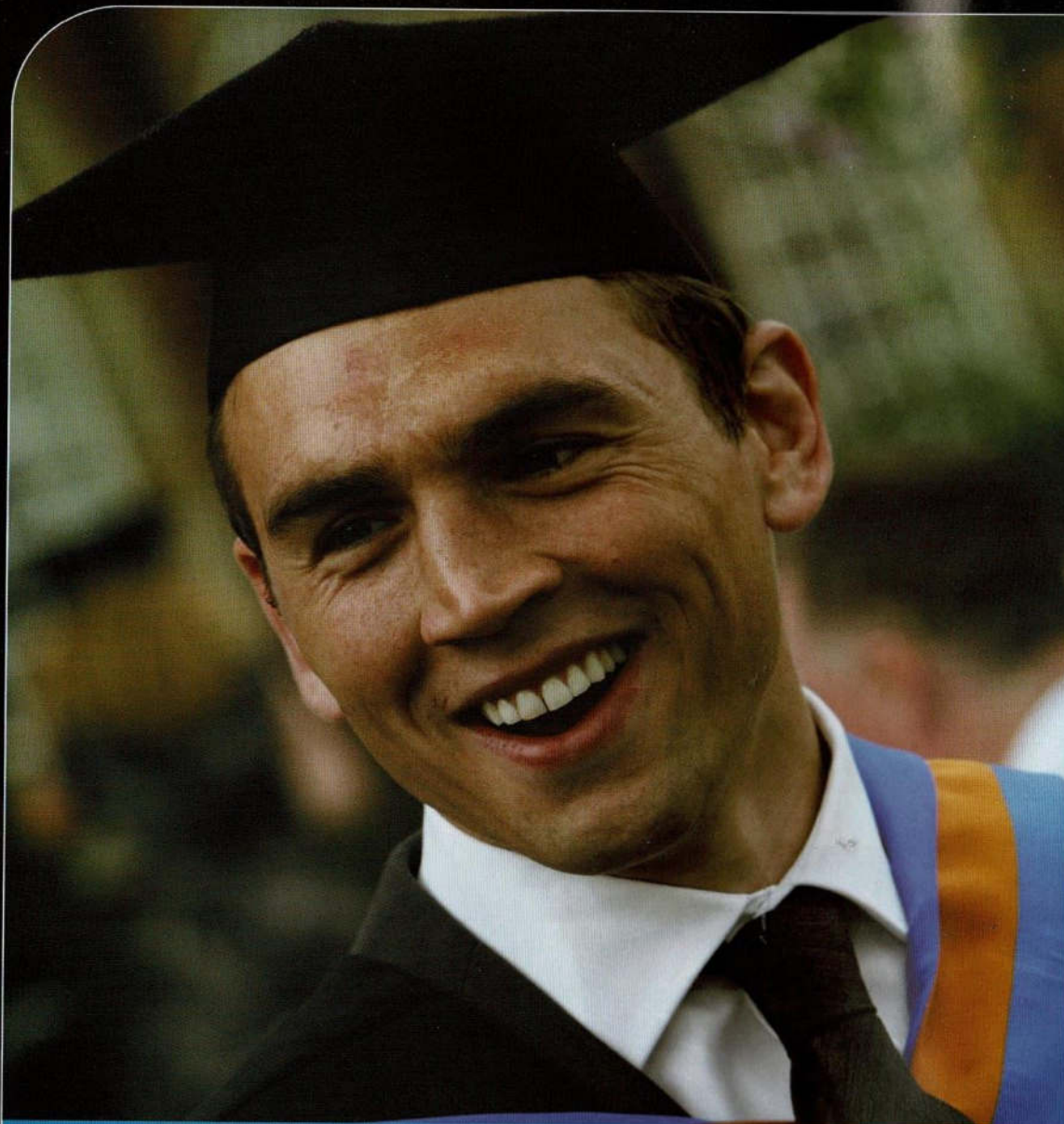
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NEXT WEEK

We preview the
start of the
league season



Fantastic weekend for rugby league

Rugby league is a sport that has been accused of getting many things wrong over the years. Take your pick from initiatives and decisions that didn't work.

We all make mistakes... that's life.

However praise where praise is due and the sport has really got it right with the Challenge Cup and the way the third round is arrived at.

Look at the draw for this year and you are faced with some mouthwatering but particularly intriguing ties.

There is a great sense of the unknown with visitors from France and Russia and some of the British amateur teams are packed with talent.

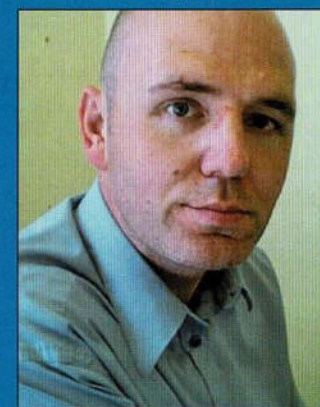
The likes of Kells, Pilkingtons and Queens may ply their trade outside the National Conference League but they have proved time and again they are among the best non-professional sides in the country.

Of course what may help some of the professional boys is familiarity. The Cumbrian duo of Kells and Wath Brow are using Whitehaven's Recreation ground so for their visitors - Hunslet and London Skolars - it will not be a complete shock to the system.

I know many seasoned watchers will be keeping their eyes on events in Cumbria for shocks with the Hawks and Skolars having started relatively poorly this season.

Pilkingtons are tackling Batley at Knowsley Road while Siddal are using The Shay for the visit of Swinton. Again these are examples of rugby league helping their own. Other sports must look at the co-operation shown in the sport with envious eyes.

A special word for The Army (pictured below) who face a daunting task against Featherstone. I say daunting but is it really because what these boys go through in just doing their job puts everything into perspective. Rovers and the rest... beware.



MARK FLANAGAN, EDITOR

The Army Squad that takes on Featherstone



RFL - official notes

RESPECT

Rugby League is passionate and prides itself on being a family game. Please behave responsibly at all times.

family sport and, with this in mind, action will also be taken against spectators who use foul and abusive language.

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The RFL's 'Tackle It' policy states it will not tolerate racism of any kind and will take specific action against spectators who engage in racist chanting, abuse or intimidation. Rugby League is a great

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PITCH

The RFL requests that spectators do not venture onto the pitch during or after the game. Such action is against ground safety regulations and the RFL reserves the right to take action against any person infringing these regulations.

Amateurs that rose to the Challenge

Shocks are rare in the third round of the Challenge Cup but there have been a few notable ones in recent years.

GAME ON looks back through the record books to examine recent upsets and see whether there are any pointers to possible amateur victories this weekend



TROJAN EFFORT... Craig Holmes kicks the goal that secured Thornhill's victory over Workington in the Challenge Cup in 2006

Since the Challenge Cup was revamped in 1994, the third round has been the time for amateurs to grab their moment of glory.

It is their chance to get one over the professionals of the National League - now the Championships - and earn the opportunity of potentially facing Super League stars in the fourth round.

There have been many surprises along the way, and the amateur club with perhaps the best giantkilling pedigree is Thornhill Trojans.

The Dewsbury-based side produced the main upset of recent years when they beat Workington 16-12 in 2006 before losing 66-0 against the Catalans Dragons in their first year in Super League.

Thornhill also pulled off the biggest third-round giantkilling in recent memory in 2000 when they claimed a 16-14 victory over Sheffield Eagles, who themselves had pulled off one of the biggest shocks in the competition's entire history just two years earlier by beating the mighty Wigan to win the 1998 final.

The upset of the round in 2001 saw Warrington-based Woolston Rovers take advantage of a wretched losing run by Chorley Lynx to win 22-4.

The 2004 competition saw East Hull enjoy a 26-12 victory over Swinton while Bradford Dudley Hill beat Keighley 16-14. There was also a 30-28 win for Sharlston Rovers over Dewsbury at Featherstone and of the 11 British amateur clubs to reach the third round of this year's competition, it is Sharlston and Wath Brow Hornets that have claimed recent scalps.

Sharlston will call on all the experience of that Dewsbury triumph as they visit Oldham this year and the Wakefield outfit will travel with high hopes as they are unbeaten in the Pennine League as well as being in the latter stages of the BARLA National Cup and the Pennine President's Cup.

Wath Brow heaped more cup misery on Dewsbury in 2005 with a 32-30 win in a game staged at Whitehaven's Recreation Ground, which is again the venue as the National Conference Division One leaders play host to London Skolars on Sunday.

With the Skolars pointless after three games in the Northern Rail Cup, the Hornets will fancy their chances of making the Championship One side their next cup victim.

Wath Brow's Cumbrian neighbours



THEN.... Sharlston celebrate their heroic victory over Dewsbury Rams in 2004

Kells will also be playing at the Rec on Saturday and the unbeaten Cumberland League leaders will be optimistic of an upset against Hunslet - pointless after four Northern Rail Cup games.

Swinton have lost their three games and may be wary of another defeat by amateur opposition after being dumped out by East Hull in 2004.

The Lions visit Siddal, joint leaders of the Conference Premier Division, with the tie played in Halifax at The Shay on Saturday, with the tenants hosting Loughborough University the following day.

Previous third-round victims Dewsbury, Keighley and Workington may be relieved to have avoided British amateurs but defeat at home to teams from the French championship will only highlight their unwanted place in the record books.



NOW... The Sharlston squad that travels to Oldham this weekend

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the world according to **WILKO**

This week Jon looks at the launch of the new look Co-operative Championships, the added prize incentive and what The Co-operative means to rugby league. He also highlights a couple of players from the Championships to watch out for this season.

This week saw the launch of the Co-operative Championship at Leigh Sporting Village. What a place that is by the way, it's been magnificently built and can hold up to 10,000 people.

It is great for sport in the wider Manchester area and for the club of Leigh. Furthermore it was a great setting to unveil the new-look 2009 Co-operative Championships which have new logos, a new trophy and a fresh dynamic identity.

This year the Co-operative has put up a total prize fund of £200,000 for both leagues to compete for, which will serve as an added incentive for the clubs as they look to build for the future with the Super League franchises constantly on the horizon.

Alongside the new look, the Co-operative Championship now has an international flavour with the arrival of Toulouse. The ambition of the teams competing in the league has been more than matched by the title sponsor, which is so great to see.

The Championships are a real breeding ground for young players to make their mark and develop their skills; historically as well it has been an environment where older players have finished their careers in the game they have given so much to.

This year sees the introduction of names and shirt numbers in The Championship which will help make players stand out and gives the league an even more professional feel. With the Co-operative signing until 2012 this development can only increase exponentially.

With this dedicated Co-operative involvement guaranteed for the next few years the onus now is on the clubs to build up the Championships from within. I mentioned some of the teams I expect to do well but there are a few players that I expect to do well individually this season.

Batley's Tim Spears is an exciting player, with GB junior experience and age on his side still.

He is what I'd call a 'grafter' who's not afraid to get his hands dirty. Halifax's Bob Beswick is a great creative player who can always create opportunities for them. It's players like Bob that can help change games and create something out of nothing. Another Halifax player who has Super League experience is Sean Penkywicz, so again Halifax are looking strong going into the 2009 season.

So with the Championships looking more professional and with added incentives up for grabs as well as a brand new trophy, I'd urge everyone to get behind the sport this season.

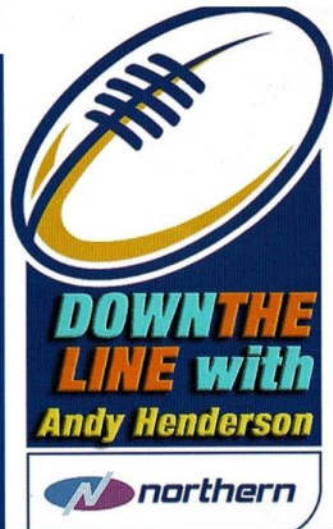
It's up to the players to put in strong and skilled performances and it's up to you the fans in the communities to shout and scream your team on and show them as much support as possible.



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THERE'S been a levelling out of the talent available to Co-operative Championship clubs and that's made for a much more unpredictable Northern Rail Cup this year, which is great for the competition.

In fact, it's possible to make an argument that the Championship One clubs have shown the biggest improvement so far in 2009.

Look at Oldham in Pool One. Tony Benson's men are sitting proud on top of the table and, while I expect Halifax to win the group – they've still got a game in hand, it doesn't take anything away from what Oldham have achieved.

Who qualifies in fourth place depended upon Wednesday's clash between Barrow Raiders and Widnes at Craven Park.

Playing at home Barrow have a good chance against a Widnes team that has had its fair share of problems following the departure of coach Steve McCormack, but caretaker coach John Stankevitch looks to have steadied the Viking ship.

Widnes should start as favourites but I hope my old club Barrow can make it through but if they don't Keighley go through.

York City Knights have proved to be the surprise side in Pool Two. They're top of the qualifying table with ten points ahead of Championship teams Leigh Centurions and Featherstone Rovers.

That's no mean achievement for the Knights who have obviously been making real progress during the winter and signing the right kind of players to move forward.

Dewsbury Rams could eventually win

the group because they've got nine points and a game in hand. Warren Jowitt's working wonders with the Rams and for them to top out the qualifying group would be a real feather in his coaching cap.

Bring on the Quarter Finals, let's go for it!

Hendo



PLAYER OF THE ROUND WEEK 4

**Chris Hill –
Leigh Centurions**

CHRIS HILL has collected the Northern Rail Cup Player of the Week award for round four after playing a central role in guiding his team into the last eight of the competition.

The Centurions confirmed their place in the hat for the Northern Rail Cup quarter-final draw after beating Whitehaven 24-22 in front of a bumper crowd of 1,789 at Leigh Sporting Village Stadium on Sunday.

Chris Hill, pictured above in action against Whitehaven, said: "It was a great match against Whitehaven. They came down and played really well and I think we picked their pocket in the last minute."

"But if we can get a result even when we're not playing our best we have a good chance this year."

"I'm very pleased to have won the award, I just got on with my job and it was an excellent team performance which sealed the win for us – the most important thing is that we're through to the quarter-finals."

"From the start of the season we thought that we could make the semi finals at least and we want to make the Northern Rail Cup Final which would be a great day out for our supporters."



Dewsbury forward Taron Wildey won the official player of the week award for round three following his man-of-the-match display in the Rams' 28-26 victory over Featherstone.

The forward played the second half with a broken bone in his hand to help Dewsbury come out on top.

Taron Wildey said: "We have had massive pre season preparation which is now showing through on the pitch. It's been very tough but we've come through it as a team and are getting stronger and stronger every week. It's an honour to receive an award like this but I would never have won it if it wasn't for the rest of the lads around me. Hopefully we will continue this season as we have started."

NEWSROUND-UP

Replica tops available

OLDHAM'S new replica home jerseys in red and white hoops have arrived from the manufacturers and are now on sale at the club shop (tel: 0161 628 3677), priced at £45 for adults and £40 for children.

Other new Roughyeds merchandise is also available.

Meanwhile the club's John Hough and his No 2 Leo Casey have each signed new one-year deals

to carry on the good work they started last year when running Oldham's reserve team. They opened up with a 28-6 pre-season friendly win at Hunslet.

The Roughyeds are also still negotiating to get a licence so they can use the Chadderton FC ground off Broadway as a base but they will not be playing first-team games there.

Steel eyes a return

FEATHERSTONE hope winger Jon Steel will be

back in action by the end of the month.

It was last week discovered the former Hull KR flyer had played the previous two games with a broken foot – an injury sustained in training.

The Scotland international is now in plaster but hopes to be back in action within four weeks.

"He hasn't made it any worse by playing on it," Rovers boss Daryl Powell told League Weekly.

"He's in a cast at the moment and he just needs to give it time to rest. Hopefully he'll be available at the back end of the month."

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ACTIONREPLAY

Ominous signs from big two



POOL ONE

The big boys re-asserted their power as Halifax and Widnes enjoyed big wins. Last season HALIFAX went to the Don Valley and produced a display to forget – this time around it was SHEFFIELD who hit the buffers as the visitors won 50-18 to qualify for the quarter-finals with a game to spare.

Eagles' boss Mark Aston admitted he was glad the league season is a couple of weeks away and said: "I was very disappointed – for 25 minutes we were in an arm wrestle and we competed – it was 6-6 but for the last 15 minutes we started giving penalties away, went sloppy and they scored the tries."

Halifax's coach Matt Calland was pleased with the result but still feels his side has room to improve.

"It was definitely a better performance than last time around. It was still a bit loose with ball in hand, we looked a bit disjointed but are going to be like that at this stage of the season," he said.

WIDNES, who were due to play at Barrow on Wednesday night, took a giant step towards qualification as they beat BLACKPOOL 46-16.

The co-operative Championship outfit led their opponents from the division below by 18-12 at the half-time hooter, and they had been in a game with the



Oldham's Dave Allen attempts to pass the ball out of the tackle at Hunslet

hosts, enjoying passages of good possession as the half wore on.

But the Vikings scored 28 points in a seamless second half display at the Woodlands Memorial Ground.

The other team definitely through in Pool One are OLDHAM as a hat-trick by centre Paul Reilly claimed the spoils for the visitors in a 32-14 victory at HUNSLET.

Twenty-two unanswered second half points settled this clash and coach Oldham coach Tony Benson was satisfied with the victory, but not the manner in which his side claimed the win.

He said: "I did not expect a performance of that level, particularly in the first half. I thought we would go a lot better. Credit to Hunslet though, they had a game plan and played well."

"We have trained for three months on a certain pattern

and our predicament was that we didn't stick to what we knew. The first 20 minutes of the second half was pretty good and we got close to our game."

"Rob Roberts led us well again. Gary Sykes picked out the right opportunities to use the ball or go himself. Paul Reilly finished well and, as ever, Paul O'Connor was instrumental in our comeback. O'Connor took us forward whenever we needed it."

KEIGHLEY, before Wednesday night's games, were hanging onto fourth but needed Widnes to do them a favour against BARROW after the Cumbrians beat the Cougars 34-7.

The Cougars went in at the break with a one point lead at 7-6 and thoroughly deserved it. However, it was all Barrow in the second period running in 28 unanswered points.

The game at GATESHEAD was as a dead rubber – and it certainly lived up to its billing as Thunder beat HORNETS RL.

A last minute Andrew Henderson try gave Gateshead a slender 14-6 half-time lead as the unfancied Hornets gave as good as they got.

If the first half had been less than memorable the second gave greater value for money for a 452 crowd at the Thunderdome.

Casey Mayberry cut the gap to two points but after that National League Two champions Gateshead stepped on the gas.

The Hornets, however, contributed to their own downfall with some unforced errors to leave coach Darren Shaw frustrated.

"I was very happy with the first half when we executed a lot better," said Shaw. "But after that we dug a hole for ourselves with basic errors"



GAME, SET AND QUALIFICATION... Dave McConnell touches down for Leigh against Whitehaven to win the game

Whitehaven shattered by last-gasp Centurions try

LEIGH claimed their place in the quarter-finals of the Northern Rail Cup with a narrow victory over WHITEHAVEN in the winner-takes-all clash of Pool Two.

Down the years these two adversaries have played out some classic encounters and this tie can take pride of place alongside them.

Leigh were trailing 18-10 and then 22-18 but never gave in, Dave McConnell touching down with two minutes to go and Martin Ridyard adding the extras.

Victorious coach Neil Kelly: "It was a very hard-earned win, and it's nice to get a win, albeit by two points against such a tough side."

"It says a lot about our players' heart and team spirit that they toughed it out in the end."

From the moment Danny Ratcliffe sliced through the LONDON defence with just four minutes gone the writing was again on the wall for the Skolars as the pool leaders YORK qualified for the last eight.

The visitors were no match for a Knights side who ran in 11 tries and built up a lead by half-time of 28-0 with David March at the hub of most of their moves.

It was never going to be a classic from a Knights side who wanted to score off every play and a Skolars side

who sometimes even failed to cope with the basics.

But despite scoring those 11 tries there was still no pleasing Knights Director of Rugby James Ratcliffe who can still, like any coach, be looking for further improvement from his side. The Knights would love to have kept the Skolars to nil but to their credit they did manage two converted tries.

Ratcliffe said: "I'm disappointed we didn't keep them from scoring, our defence was better but still not to the standards we are looking for this season. "I think we were impatient with the ball in attack but that said we did score eleven tries, however the quality of our play has to improve."

York maybe top now but DEWSBURY are to take first spot.

The Rams' final qualifying game is at London on March 15 and they look set to make it four wins from four after beating BATLEY 34-14.

Their 100 per cent record looked under threat as Batley surged into a 10-0 lead.

But Dewsbury, led superbly by the inspirational Liam Finn never panicked and quickly gained near parity before surging clear in the second half.

DONCASTER are the team hoping for Skolars miracle as they currently sit fourth

The Dons fought back from 10-0

down after a pulsating first 20 minutes from SWINTON, who, if anything, should have been further ahead after the first quarter.

Full-back Richard Hawkyard was tearing the Doncaster defence apart and it seemed he was involved in just about everything that troubled the Dons.

Dons coach Tony Miller was also very impressed with the Lions, adding: "Big credit to Swinton. I am sure they are going to have a big say on who wins the second Division title this season. They we're outstanding in the first 20 minutes but credit to our lads for coming back, it could have been a lot worse"

"I thought we we're very lucky to go in at half time in the lead, but I knew we we're going to be in a battle today after watching them against Leigh last weekend. We were very patchy at times today, sometimes our defence was very good and at other times we just stood off them"

Meanwhile FEATHERSTONE and WORKINGTON once again renewed their rivalry with Rovers showing their higher division credentials in 38-6 success.

From the start of the game their excellent speed of line in defence ensured every yard made by Town was hard earned with Dickens and Tonks leading the charge for Rovers, making excellent metres.



Barrow v Blackpool



Sunday March 8, 2009. Kick off 2pm. CRAVEN PARK

BARROW RAIDERS

BLACKPOOL PANTHERS

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Alastair McGregor

No. PLAYER

1 Gary Broadbent
2 Mike Backhouse
3 Ian Bell
4 Liam Harrison
5 James Nixon
6 Liam Finch
7 Liam Campbell
8 Brett McDermott
9 Andrew Ellis
10 Lee Dutton
11 Andrew Brocklehurst
12 Martin Ostler
13 Andrew Bracek
14 Paul Noone
15 Chris Young
16 Jamie Butler
17 Scott Kaighan
18 James Finch
19 Chris Larkin
20 Nicky Beach
21 Joe McKenna
22 Ned Catie
23 Waisale Suka
24 Alipate Tani
25 Sevania Koro
27 Darren Holt
28 Michael Darby
32 Ruairi McGoff
35 Matt Storey

No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

Full back

Right Wing

Right Centre

Left Centre

Left Wing

Stand off

Scrum half

Prop

Hooker

Prop

2nd row

2nd row

Loose forward

Interchange

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: DAVE CLARK

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WLW

LAST SIX HOME: WWWLW-W

TRIES: Liam Finch 4,

Mike Backhouse 3, Andrew Ellis 3

GOALS: Paul Noone 15

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Mike Backhouse

MATCH OFFICIALS

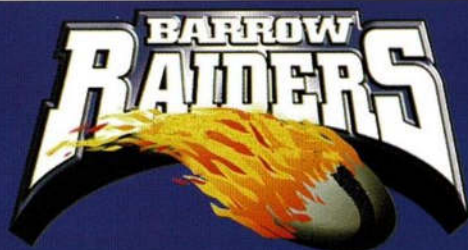
Referee: M Thomason

Touch: C Leatherbarrow, G Stokes

Fourth Official: J Callaghan

BENNETT'S BET

"Raiders to edge battle of the Championship
rivals - Barrow by 10"



No. PLAYER

1 Johnny Leather
2 Damien Munroe
3 Tom Woodcock
4 Mark McCully
5 Chris Muga
6 Simon Svabic
7 Chris Forster
8 Peter Fairhurst
9 John Clough
10 John Hill
11 Paul Alcock
12 Kris Ratcliffe
13 Rob Draper

14 Martin Keaveney

15 Mel Alker

16 Ian Hodson

17 David Llewellyn

18 John Boland

19 Liam McGovern

20 Tom Wild

21 Andy Marsh

22 Keiron Tucker

23 Daryl Kaye

24 Chris Campbell

25 Wes Lawton

26 Craig Tunstead

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Morris and Oxley

COACH: MARTIN CROMPTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWL-WLL

LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLW-L

TRIES: Mark McCully 4,

Damian Munroe 2

GOALS: Johnny Leather 6

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Mark McCully

CLUBCALL

Barrow v Blackpool

Dangerous Blackpool have stung us recently

BLACKPOOL Panthers cannot be underestimated and will prove a real challenge in today's game. They have had mixed results in the Northern Rail competition but have claimed the scalp of Championship side Gateshead Thunder.

They have become somewhat of a bogey team for Barrow and always seem to raise their game against the Raiders. An enthusiastic Blackpool team beat an underperforming Barrow outfit on the Fylde last year, a match which according to all the pundits we should have won but instead nearly cost the club automatic promotion.

On paper Barrow will be the favourites to win this Challenge Cup tie but games are played out on the park not on paper, and we will need to give of our best to progress through to the next round.

The Panthers have recruited well during the off-season and under the guidance of coach Martin Crompton will be a team to be reckoned with.

Against the Cougars last Sunday we were once again slow to get into the game.

It was a superb Keighley effort particularly in the first half but our completion rate or should I say incompletion rate meant we had a lot of defending to do in the red zone. Our guys did exceptionally well in defence to restrict the Cougars to only one try in a first half which saw them acquire squatters rights on our try line.

But we simply cannot keep on putting in tackles as a result of turning the ball over or it will cost us in the end. That is something the team is all too well aware of and which I am trying to address.



Coach Dave Clark

Martin Crompton - he's done a great job at Blackpool

Opening crowd was massively encouraging

A crowd of just over 1,300 for our first home game last Sunday against Keighley in the Northern Rail was a pleasing start to the season.

The local soccer team had been at home on the Saturday - they are playing three games in a week - and the Carling Cup final on the box will all have impacted on the numbers through the turnstiles.

So all in all to get 1,300 into the ground was not a bad effort.

The first game last season was against today's opponents Blackpool. That saw an attendance of 825 so we are moving in the right direction.

Andrew Ellis once again put in a man-of-the-match performance last week.

The stats show his tackle count and ball carries, as well as a couple of tries, justified that award.

But on this occasion the part of his game that most people have commented

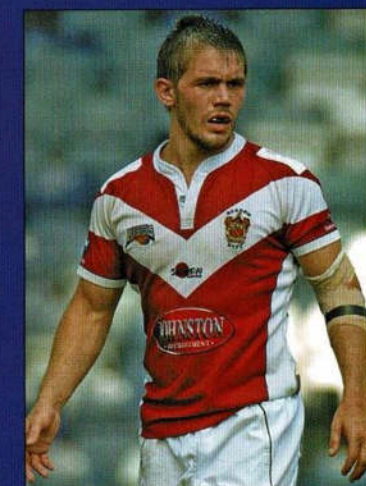
By Vice-chairman DAVID SEAR

to me about was his reaction when he was substituted to make way for debutante hooker Nathan Mossop.

As they passed on the pitch he stopped to issue a few words of advice to the newcomer. Everybody in the ground seemed to notice and appreciate that small gesture.

Blackpool had to visit Barrow twice in the league last season as the first game was called off due to a minor fire in the floodlight control panel. The last week has seen the lights repaired again as one set had turned round on the stanchion during the winter gales.

They are of considerable age and are OK for matches but not up to it for televised games. We are desperately trying to find the finances to replace them.



Great example... Andrew Ellis



Rams v Carcassonne



Sunday March 8 2009. Kick off 3pm. TETLEY'S STADIUM

DEWSBURY RAMS

SPONSOR	No. PLAYER
Herbal Life	1 Tom Colleran
	2 Morgan Starkey
John Sawyer	3 Lee Lingard
Joe G Fitness	4 Craig Bower
	5 Andrew Tillotson
Sue Walford	6 Ryan Smith
	7 Gareth Greenwood
Ken & Elizabeth Crabtree	8 Jimmy Elston
Rams Study Centre	9 Mike Emmett
The Three Gs	10 Luke Haigh
Subway	11 Adam Robinson
	12 Taron Wildey
Mount Tabor Church	13 Pat Walker
	14 Ian Tonks
Peggy & Sam Hill	15 Bryn Powell
The Buzz Room	16 Austin Buchanan
Steve Johnson	17 Alex Bretherton
The West Riding	18 Chris Spurr
John Calvert	19 Liam Finn
Jack Addy/Pat Heywood	20 Rob Spicer
The Grayson Family	21 Andy Bostock
Vivien Calvert	22 Kane Epati
Peter Brooke/David Kirby	23 Keegan Hirst
Rams Cheerleaders	24 Simon Cook
	25 Gary North
	26 Jake Wilson
	27 Chris Grice
	28 Liam Crawley
Lauren & Lucy Hall	30 Chris Hall
KBS Associates	32 Martin Woodhead
Ken & Pat Humphrey	33 James Walker
	34 Josh Tonks
Elaine & Peter Holyoake	35 Adam Hayes

COACH: WARREN JOWITT

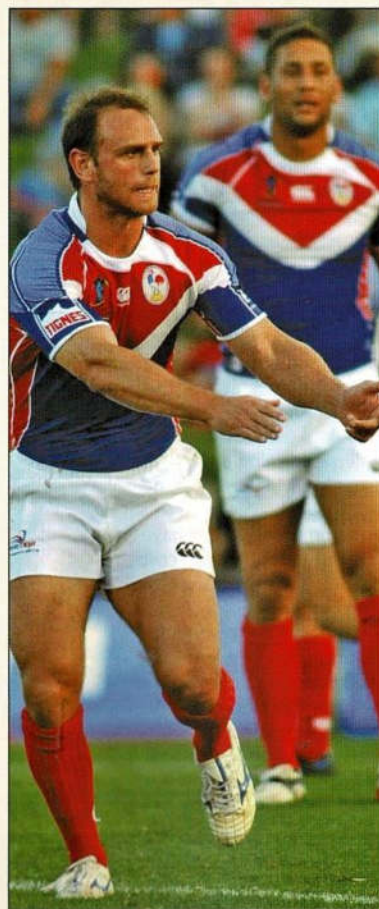
LAST SIX RESULTS: LLL-WWW
 LAST SIX HOME: LLWL-WW
 TRIES: Kane Epati 5, Austin Buchanan 2, Alex Bretherton 2
 GOALS: Pat Walker 18
 DGs: -
 MAN TO WATCH: Pat Walker

CARCASSONNE

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SCORERS

Tries
 Conv
 Pens
 DGs



Christophe Moly throws out a pass for France during the last World Cup. He was one of two Carcassonne players who took part. The other was Terry Sadaoui

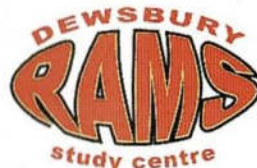
MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R Hicks
 Touch: C Dean, C Hancock
 Fourth Official: P Huck

BENNETT'S BET

"In-form Rams to rise to French challenge - Dewsbury by 12"

ERIC FRANCE
 SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS



CLUBCALL

Dewsbury v Carcassonne

Great win but it came at a price

BONJOUR madames et monsieurs and welcome to the Tetley's Stadium for today's game which has the makings of a very exciting third round draw against our French neighbours Carcassonne. It was great for us to get the result against our local arch rivals Batley Bulldogs last weekend. It was also very entertaining for our fans.

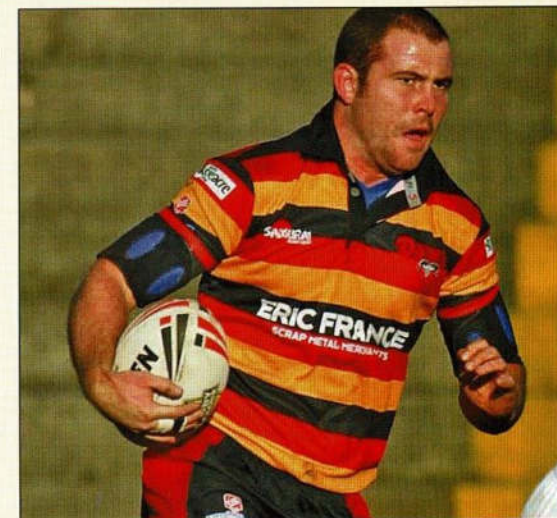
Unfortunately the local derby came at a price for us as we lost Adam Hayes with a fractured cheekbone. His leadership on the field will be missed. Adam Robinson put his body on the line and turned out for us to help us secure the win but unfortunately Adam's ankle is far too severe for him to play this week, also Taron Wildey's hand took a few knocks and stamps which has flared it up again. It would be nice to have all these three players on duty, but it's going to be a long season and I need these players to be ready for the league campaign.

The good news is that Rob Spicer is back in full training and is available for selection, James Walker is also available for selection after a stomach bug illness along with the rest of the squad.

Although it would be nice to have Hayesy, Robbo and Taz on the pitch, the players who are up for selection are quality players and can more than do a job for us. This just goes to show the strength in depth of our squad.

I want to congratulate Alex Bretherton on a big performance as he played a vital role in defence and attack and led from the front along with Adam and Taron.

Also nice to see Andrew Bostock show what he can do, moreso



Rob Spicer's set to return for the in-form Rams

in the second half. Chris Grice, who came off the bench, also put in a solid performance which will see him on duty today again.

Like I said last week, while ever the players are performing they will keep their shirt. Chris (Spud) is a product of the academy system here and has come up through the ranks and it's nice to see the young players developing at this club. There's also many more young players who aren't far off taking a first team spot.

One of these players who is pushing all the time is young Josh Tonks who will have a big future in this game. Hopefully if he carries on the way he is training and keep his positive attitude up, you may see him feature in the near future, along with Morgan Starkey who has impressed all pre season.

Finally, hope you all enjoy an entertaining afternoon and hope we can keep rolling forward with you, the fans, behind us. Your support is always appreciated and very important towards the team's success on the field, so get behind us and give us a lift.

Warren Jowitt, Head Coach

Need to get things motoring off pitch

Mark Sawyer, chairman

After three weeks of the Northern Rail Cup it's cup action of another kind this afternoon with the visit of Carcassonne in the Carnegie Challenge Cup. It's only the second time we've had Challenge Cup opponents from France.

The last time was when we entertained Villeneuve back in 2000. We won that game 35-10 and there were 1,326 here to watch the game, a figure we'd be more than happy with today.

For those of you with longer memories we did also play XIII Catalan back in 1994 a game which we also won 22-4 on a swamp of a pitch.

That game was in the Regal Trophy and was infamous for the fact that at one stage Catalan had 14 players on the pitch with our coaching team desperately trying to bring it to the attention of the referee!

This afternoon's game is a step into the unknown for us but it is important that we make cup progress.

There is a new prize money structure in place for this season and with season ticket holders also able to use their passes for these games the prize money becomes so much more important than what comes through the turnstile.

We're no different from any club at the moment in so far as the credit crunch has badly affected our sponsorship and we are extremely grateful to Carnegie for what they are putting into the game.

Our start to the season has been very good indeed and there seems to be plenty of interest in what we are trying to achieve.

Warren has one or two injuries to contend with following our excellent win over Batley last weekend but our strength in depth is looking a lot healthier this season and bearing in mind the budget the club

has to work to there is a lot of healthy competition for places.

The main areas we still need to address are off the field. The club needs more sponsorship which we've already touched on but also we need supporters to buy the replica shirts. We've quite a bit of money tied up in stock which is dead money until they are sold.

Most people have been affected one way or another by the recent financial problems but if you are thinking about buying a new shirt then there's no better time than now!

Equally if you also fancy winning money then we need more people enrolling into our lottery scheme and most season ticket holders will have received a letter from Warren asking for new members.

If you can't afford but know someone who can then please try and convince them that the Rams are a worthy cause!



Featherstone v The Army



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE CHRIS MOYLES STADIUM

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

SPONSOR

Peter Smith Motorcycles
Bev Coleman
Patrick & Gemma McNeil
The Buccaneers Club
Mark Hutchinson
Maureen Tennant-King
& Emily Harris
Shindigz
Terry King
Charlie Robinson &
Lynne Whitehouse
Vic & Sue Johnson
Doug & Barbara Wilford
Blue Lagoon Bar
Susan Parker
Blue Lagoon Bar
Study Rovers
Gary Crompton
Howard Lawton
John Lycett
Peter Smith Motorcycles
Rovers Scholarship
Hollie Bennett
Charlie Watson
Capro Contracts
Chelsey, Charlie & Megan Large

No. PLAYER

1 Tom Saxton
2 Waine Price
3 Ian Hardman
4 Andy Kirk
5 Jon Steele
6 Iestyn Harris
7 Andy Kain
8 Tony Tonks
9 Jack Lee
10 Stuart Dickens
11 Matt Dale
12 Jamie Field
13 Richard Blakeway
14 Tommy Haughey
15 James Houston
16 Joe McLocklan
17 Joe Hirst
18 Tim Spears
19 Sean Hesketh
20 Stuart Kain
21 Steve Dooler
22 Matt Handforth
23 Gareth Swift
24 John Fallon
25 Scott Wilson

Lorne Mosley

MASCOT Bluebeard

COACH: DARYL POWELL

LAST SIX RESULTS: WL-WWLW

LAST SIX HOME: WDLL-WL

TRIES: Waine Price 3, Andy Kaine 2,
Jon Steele 2, Sam Smeaton 2, Ian
Hardman 2

GOALS: Iestyn Harris 7, Stuart
Dickens 7. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Iestyn Harris

BRITISH ARMY

SQUAD (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Corporal Ceri Cummings
Captain Tim Brewer
Sapper Ryan Taylor
Lance Corporal Tim Tamani
Lance Corporal Sam Catak
Sergeant Paul Riley
Lance Corporal Stu Butters
Sergeant Dave Goddard
Corporal Rob Smart
Lance Corporal Rushi Naisau
Lance Corporal Dean Wildbore
Corporal Ben Taylor
Corporal Darrel Winn
Gunner Carl Saville
Lance Corporal Inoke Veikune
Private Max Vave
Corporal Dave Nunnerley
Sergeant Gary Debaughn
Corporal Neville Boyd
Corporal Andre Zwijnen
Lance Corporal Bruce Francis
Lance Corporal Modje Matau
Craftsman Komaisavai
Kingsman Kaiwaidau
Kingsman Sioni Tunisau

Royal Electrical
Mechanical Engineer
Royal Engineer
Royal Engineer
Royal Electrical
Mechanical Engineer
Royal Army
Dental Corps
Royal Artillery
Royal Engineer
Royal Engineer
Royal Army Medical Corps
Royal Electrical
Mechanical Engineer
Royal Engineer
Royal Electrical
Mechanical Engineer
Royal Artillery
Royal Engineer
Royal Logistic Corps
PARA
Royal Armoured Corps
Royal Engineer
Infantry
Royal Army
Medical Corps
Royal Engineer
Royal Electrical
Mechanical Engineer
Infantry
Infantry

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SCORERS

TRIES
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: RICHARD NAIVALURUA

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: W Turley
Touch: P Ward, S Matthews
Fourth Official: T Crashley

BENNETT'S BET

"Rovers have too much in their arsenal
- Featherstone by 50"

THE ARMY

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Featherstone Lions 12, The Army 30

Round One:

The Army 72, North Univ 0

Preliminary Round:

W London Sharks 10, The Army 22

CLUBCALL

Featherstone v British Army

Honour to tackle team of great defenders

Rovers find themselves in the last eight and into the knock-out stages of the Northern Rail Cup.

And that's the bottom line: it's all about getting there.

We have yet to reach our full potential on the field.

Our performance against a spirited Dewsbury Rams was an aberration but we moved on from it.

Anyone who saw the clinical, professional way Rovers dealt with Workington in a fine team effort last week will attest to that. The knock-out stage looks like being absolutely fascinating with some big games in prospect.

We now have our feet on the first rung (for us at any rate) of the Challenge Cup ladder. Our opponents - the Army - command huge respect. They are our defenders and they are a big, physical team.

STEVE EVANS
Chairman

They won the Combined Services World Cup, beating their hosts in their own back yard. It's the kind of thing they do in their day job! It will be an honour to welcome these men to the Chris Moyles Stadium.

The army has already played in Featherstone in the Challenge Cup: against our amateur neighbours and partners Featherstone Lions. I was there.

These boys can defend. The pitch was heavy that day. A drier track might see them use their outside backs more on Sunday.

The chances of a non Super League side getting to Wembley get slimmer every year.

However, and we know more about this than most at Featherstone, the Challenge

Cup is a dramatic arena for a sporting battle.

We've prevailed in the Challenge Cup as underdogs. It's part of our history.

We have to be very careful not to let today's underdogs prevail ... because doing so is part of their history as well: although not on the rugby field.

We want to make the game a special occasion. We have reduced ticket prices - the most you can pay is a fiver - and children will be allowed in free.

The Army will be bringing their recruitment squad and will be putting on their own entertainment.

Of course we want to be in the draw for the next round, but what is also very important in this game is that it is yet another significant development in the history and growth of defence services rugby league.

Consistency will come but we've shown promise

IT'S been a whirlwind couple of weeks recently with three games in a week in the Northern Rail Cup, today a Challenge Cup tie and next week the start of our championship campaign.

The first four games of the new season has given me a great insight into the playing staff and the capabilities of the group as a whole. I have been impressed with the durability of the players and the defensive elements of our game have really started to grow. To have competed in four tough games and to concede one try in three of those games augurs well for the season as rugby league games are built from the basement that is defence.

We have also worked really hard on the attacking side of our game to create a balance of defensive solidity and creativity and options with the ball. This will take time to come together as we develop consistency through performing on a weekly basis, but last week against Workington the signs were clear that big steps forward had been made.

I am looking for a strong display to provide consistency today, this is the start of a new competition but just as important we have the opportunity to further develop as a group, and in particular our fluency and togetherness in the way we play the game.

Today will be a step into the unknown for us as we are challenged by the Army rugby league team; they will also be taking their second visit to Featherstone as they played Featherstone Lions in the last round. There is no doubt they will compete fiercely in every department as they are trained to do in every aspect of their lives.

I have enjoyed playing against the Army veterans team in charity games over the last four years and know how much rugby league means to the people in our armed forces. Our game is certainly strengthened by their participation in the Challenge Cup.

It was great to see the Leigh ground earlier in the week where the launch of the championship took place. I was very impressed



Brian Sutton takes the ball forward for Featherstone Lions against The Army in the second round this year

with the quality of the set up, there is no doubt that the stadium and developments like Leigh and at Widnes add massively to rugby league's credibility as a sport and its value to the local community.

The plans for a new ground at our club look fantastic and will provide a centrepiece for the local community in Featherstone that everyone could feel a part of. There is a strong will and drive at the club to provide a top quality sporting environment that would be a pleasure to be a part of, I hope the hard work being done by so many people will come to fruition.

There is plenty to see today at the ground with the Army's recruitment people delivering all sorts of activities for fans to get stuck into, enjoy the pre match activities and hopefully a strong consistent effort from the team.

Coach Daryl Powell

Wakefield and District Housing

The Complete Bathroom

the public service union

YORKSHIRE AND NORTH DERBYSHIRE

OFFICIAL BEER



Gateshead v Whitehaven



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

GATESHEAD THUNDER

WHITEHAVEN

SPONSOR

No.	PLAYER
1	Ben McAlpine
2	Danny Wilson
3	Kevin Neighbour
4	Dylan Nash
5	Stewart Sanderson
6	Neil Thorman
7	Luke Branighan
8	Jason Payne
9	Andrew Henderson
10	Tabua Cakacaka
11	-
12	Michael Knowles
13	-
14	Ryan Clarke
15	Matt Barron
16	Puna Rasaubale
17	Chris Parker
18	Robin Peers
19	-
20	Dave Vernon
21	Ryan McBride
22	Jamie Russo
23	Jonny Scott
24	-
25	-
26	Crawford Matthews
27	Scott Woods
28	Mark Dack
29	Rhys Clarke
30	Stephen Welton

COACH: CHRIS HOOD

LAST SIX RESULTS: WW-LWLW

LAST SIX HOME: WWW-WW

TRIES: Stewart Sanderson 6, Dylan Nash 4, Joe Arundel 4

GOALS: Luke Branighan 8

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andrew Henderson

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D Merrick

Touch: N Darbyshire, S Moss

Fourth Official: D Griffiths

BENNETT'S BET

"Haven to secure passage to the fourth round - Whitehaven by 4"

No. PLAYER

1	Craig Benson
2	Craig Calvert
3	Rob Jackson
4	Derry Ellbeck
5	Ade Adebisi
6	Carl Rudd
7	Leroy Joe
8	Marc Jackson
9	Graeme Mattinson
10	Karl Edmondson
11	Howard Hill
12	Spencer Miller
13	Scott McAvoy
14	Danny Barker
15	Ryan McDonald
16	Andy Gorski
17	John Walker
18	John Patrick
19	Kyle Amor
20	Marc Bainbridge
21	Taani Lavulavu
22	Matt Tunstall
23	Marc Shackley
24	Gregg McNally
25	Jamie Theoharous

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: WL-WLWW

LAST SIX AWAY: WWL-LL

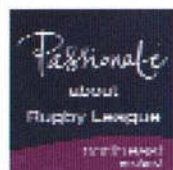
TRIES: Gregg McNally 4, Andy Gorski 3

GOALS: Carl Rudd 6, Gregg McNally 6

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Gorski

Getting behind Gateshead...



CLUBCALL

Gateshead v Whitehaven

Need to take home form onto the road

Unfortunately, despite tremendous displays at home to Sheffield and Rochdale, we were knocked out of the Northern Rail Cup last weekend.

Ultimately disappointing losses away to Keighley and Widnes were Thunder's downfall and we will need to ensure we pack our home form on the team coach when we go away for league matches.

The Co-operative Championship is a tough competition and we won't just be able to rely on our home form. Our first league match is away to Whitehaven on March 15.

Coincidentally that's our next home game - today in the Challenge Cup. This is the opportunity for the club to dream of

ROD FINDLAY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Wembley. While there were times I thought the stadium was never going to be built, anyone who has been there will agree that it is a tremendous stadium.

It is at its best for the Challenge Cup Final in August when fans of all amateur and professional clubs come together to celebrate rugby league's showpiece event - the competition has been played since 1897 and at Wembley since 1929.

It would be great if Thunder took a contingent down to the final. I'd like to welcome to Whitehaven for

the first time this season. We were nearly facing one of our old boys, Dan Russell, but all clubs were affected by the change in policy by the Home Office, and Dan wasn't able to join Whitehaven and is now back in Australia.

It might seem like old news now, but Puna Rasaubale is also now in Australia applying for his Visa, the club having been granted a Certificate of Sponsorship.

It seems odd that he wasn't allowed to apply from the UK when he is entitled to be in the country but hopefully he'll be back at training and his home at the Schooner Inn, today's match ball sponsors.

Enjoy the game and thanks for your support

With season in full flow we are ready for battle

GOOD afternoon and welcome everyone for today's Challenge Cup clash with Whitehaven.

The Challenge Cup is always special for any club and carries the glamour of the unknown and the possibility of drawing a Super League club.

However, to progress in this competition it's important to forget about all that and focus on the here and now, and that is exactly what we've discussed all week.

We are now at the business end of the season and we are ready for the weekly battles.

It's an extremely exciting time for everyone knowing that we are playing against the best opposition outside the Super League and that every game is a huge one.

We all at Gateshead Thunder believe this is where we deserve to be and embrace the task of staying here and, more importantly, winning here.

I'm extremely proud of the players and everyone associated with the club for getting us into this position, and thank them for their dedication.

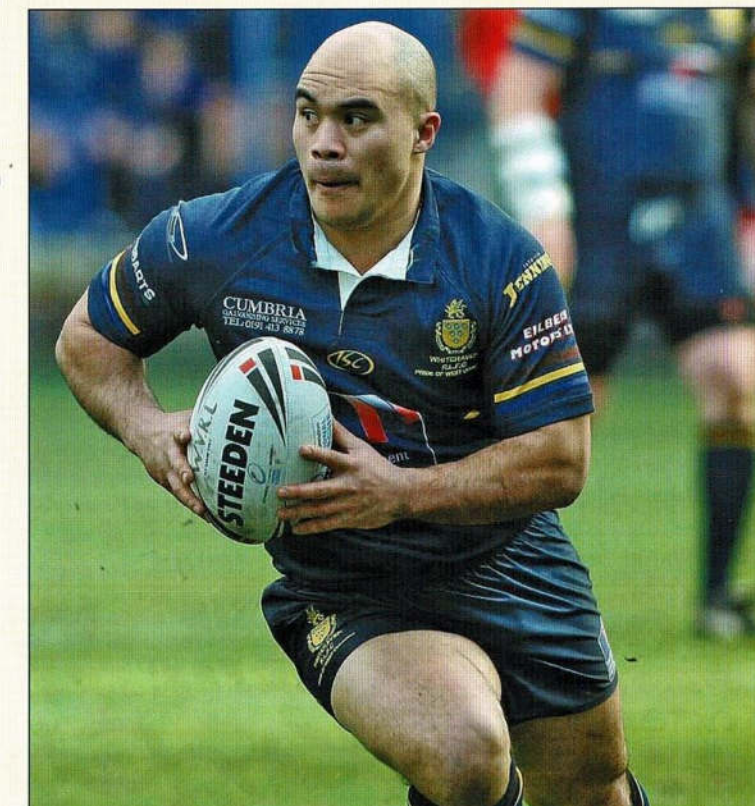
They are proof that great things can happen to good people if they work hard and never give up.

We've had a cracking pre-season, addressed our frailties and shifted our focus when required.

We've had a great build up this week and we're already to perform.

See you at the game.

Chris Hood, Head Coach



Whitehaven's Leroy Joe will pose a danger to Gateshead's progress today



Halifax v Loughborough



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY STADIUM

HALIFAX RLFC

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

SPONSOR

	No. PLAYER
	1 Miles Greenwood
	2 Lee Paterson
Vision Express Halifax Ltd	3 Jon Goddard
Chadwick Lawrence	4 Shad Royston
Chadwick Lawrence	5 James Haley
	6 Dwayne Barker
Roger & Sue Harvey	7 Ben Black
	8 Matt James
Riley & Co Accountants	9 Sean Penkywicz
Matthew Walker	10 Dana Wilson
Windsor Yarns	11 Dave Larder
	12 Paul Smith
Complete Building Materials	13 Bob Beswick
	14 Mark Gleeson
	15 Mark Roberts
Complete Building Materials	16 Said Tamghart
	17 Frank Watene
	18 Andy Bowman
	19 Mick Govin
Chadwick Lawrence	20 Graham Charlesworth
	21 Neil Cherryholme
	22 David Wrench
Howard Posner	23 Rob Worrincy
	24 Gareth Moore

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SQUAD

Luke Dexter
Jonny Farmer
Jon Riley
Martin Edwards
Rhys Wynn Morgan
Dan Kerr
Andrew Killerby
Simon Perry
Jimmy Davis
Ian Keevil
Tom Howley (c)
Steve Hall
Aiden Pritchard
Dan Ljazioli
Simon Greenwood-Haigh
Ed Branch
Hamish Locke
Nick Van Burren
Tim Thompson Essex
Harry Mostyn

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWW-WWW

LAST SIX HOME: DLLWL-W

TRIES: Sean Penkywicz 4,

Said Tamghart 3

GOALS: James Haley 10

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Sean Penkywicz

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: T Roby
Touch: S Johnson, R Jones
Fourth Official: M Kidd

BENNETT'S BET

"Fax to teach these students a big lesson
- Halifax by 68"

COACH: JAMES LEWIS

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIV

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Loughborough Univ 20, Navy 18

Round One:

Loughborough Univ 26,
Nottingham Outlaws 16.

EVENING
Courier
THE VOICE OF CALDERDALE

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linktelecom.co.uk

COMPLETE
building materials Ltd

BACKING
THE FAX!



KooGa
MADE FOR RUGBY

HALIFAX
HALIFAX
HOME INSURANCE

CLUBCALL Halifax v Loughborough University

Loughborough will be highly motivated



GOOD afternoon everyone.

I'd like to start by welcoming the players and supporters of Loughborough Students to the Shay. It will be a big day for them - their cup final if you like - and we're expecting to face an extremely motivated and enthusiastic team.

I hope they enjoy their day with us. At the same time, the Challenge Cup is the biggest knockout competition in rugby league and I know it's a tournament our players want to do well in too.

They thoroughly enjoyed the chance to play Super League opposition, in the form of Huddersfield, last season and would relish the chance to do something similar this time round.

As far as we are concerned, Loughborough are a bit of an unknown quantity. Everyone will be expecting us to win convincingly and probably run a few points in in the process, but we can't afford to get caught up in that.

We need to keep concentrating on our own performance and getting that right. If we do that, the results - not just today but for the rest of the season - will look after themselves.

We are at the end of a busy week, with the Northern Rail Cup games against Sheffield and Blackpool already under our belts.

We scored a lot of points at Sheffield, and it was certainly a much more encouraging performance than the one we produced last time we were there, but we still made too many errors.

It's a learning curve for us at the moment though, we are still working on our combinations in a few areas of the team, but we are definitely heading in the right direction.

As I write, the Blackpool game has not been played, but I would expect us to have taken another step forward.

I am not naive enough to think that those two matches will not have taken something out of us going into today's game and I don't think it is realistic to think we will be at our absolute best today.

But with the Championship opener against Widnes less than two weeks away, I know everyone will be focused on producing a strong team performance.

Enjoy the game,

Matt Calland



Halifax coach Matt Calland

No-one is thinking about favourites tag

It is pleasing to write this piece after three Northern Rail Cup Games with qualification for the knock-out stages already assured.

By the time this edition of 'Game On' reaches you, the postponed fixture with Blackpool Raiders will have completed the group stage.

I have seen various comments, including those of my predecessor, Howard Posner, indicating that we are bookies' favourites for that competition.

Fortunately the coaching staff and players will not take that too seriously.

Whichever of the other seven qualifiers we draw in the quarter-final will deserve, and receive full respect from all at Halifax.

And the same applies to Loughborough Students, our visitors this afternoon. Their University is well known for the quality of its sportsmen and

Halifax chairman
Michael Steele

women. Their record in Student Rugby League is second only to Leeds Mat Carnegie. They will have much the same approach to this game as we would expect to have drawn away to Leeds Rhinos or Bradford Bulls.

It is the season's biggest game to date, their 'Cup Final' and we can expect them to rise to the occasion.

Add that to the fact that they are used to winning, and we will need to be on our mettle to take a place in the 4th round draw, whichever Thursday that finally takes place on.

Mention of Carnegie is well merited, with their continued and welcome sponsorship of the Challenge Cup. Everyone in the game is grateful for it.

The three NRC matches to date have seen a progressive improvement in the team's performance.

Defence was a problem last season, but at this early stage it is much improved.

And certainly from my place in the stand, the attacking play has been exhilarating, if at times a little over ambitious.

Last season Halifax gained a reputation as the National Leagues entertainers. The class of 2009 seem determined to maintain that accolade.

All it needs to complete the effect is the support of the people of Calderdale. Please encourage your friends to give the Club a chance.

Get them down to the Shay for the league opener against Widnes on Thursday March 19.

It's sure to be a thriller.
Enjoy the Game.



Keighley v SM Pia



Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 7pm. COUGAR PARK

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

SALANQUE MÉDITERRANÉE PIA

SPONSOR

Frank Atkins
Dolphin Stairlifts
The Clarksons
Mr & Mrs Glover
J&M Fisher
Joyce Barret Hairdressers
Phoenix Trophies
Mr & Mrs Philips
D & M Procter
Swaggs Hair Studio
Mr & Mrs Rothera
Phil Lund Motor Engineers
Mr & Mrs Rothera
Oddities Giftware
Mr & Mrs Bardgett
Cougar Pride Centre
J&M Fisher
M Croft & T Pycroft
R Weir Property
Maintenance
Rex Procter & Partners
Frank Atkins
Emily & Flynn Walker

No. PLAYER

1 George Raynor
2 Sam Gardner
3 Dan Potter
4 Oliver Pursglove
5 Gavin Duffy
6 Jon Presley
7 Danny Jones
8 Andy Shickell
9 James Feather
10 Simon Bissell
11 Will Cartledge
12 Neil Lowe
13 Carl Hughes
14 Jermaine Wray
15 Craig Brown
16 Brendon Rawlins
17 Scott Law
18 Greg Nicholson
19 Craig Fawcett

Non-numbered:

Dan Belcher,
James Haythornthwaite
Tim Bibby,
Tom Hall
Ben Saga
Jack Copperwaite
Karl Gunney

Mike Aitchison

Fresh Radio
Cougar Cubs

The Cox family

COACH: BARRY EATON

(sponsored by the Cox family)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WLWL

LAST SIX HOME: WWW-WW

TRIES: Jon Presley 7, Lee Mapals 2,

Gavin Duffy 2, Oliver Pursglove 2

GOALS: Danny Jones 12

DGs: Danny Jones

MAN TO WATCH: Simon Bissell

No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

Full back

Right Wing

Right Centre

Left Centre

Left Wing

Stand off

Scrum half

Prop

Hooker

Prop

2nd row

2nd row

Loose forward

Interchange

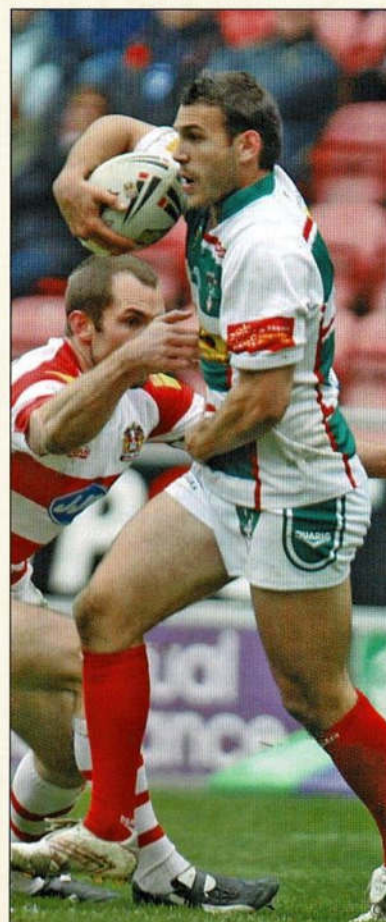
SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs



Pia comes unstuck against Wigan in the fourth round of the Challenge Cup last season. The French side beat Gateshead 26-24 in the third round before losing to the Warriors 74-4

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G Hewer

Touch: B Armstrong, B Leze

Fourth Official: S Barrie

BENNETT'S BET

"Pia to prove they're no Donkeys in defeat
- Keighley by 4"

We're with the Cougars!

Park Lane
College Keighley
FitnessFirst

Sue Ryder Care
Manorlands Hospice

RP
&P

SUNWIN

in
communities

CLUBCALL

Keighley v SM Pia

Warm welcome to Pia, Freddie and Gary



GOOD afternoon and welcome to Cougar Park for tonight's Carnegie Challenge Cup round three tie against Pia. I would like to welcome Pia's players, Directors and staff and I hope you enjoy your stay in Keighley.

It will be interesting to see how playing the game on a Saturday affects our normal match day events and crowd attendances and I would like to apologise to all our fans who couldn't make the game tonight due to the game having to be played on a Saturday.

Today's game is sponsored by Carnegie and we thank them for their support. We have with us today Link Telecom who are today's Man of the Match Sponsor and Gary is enjoying the day's match hospitality.

We have had a busy couple of weeks since my last piece none more so important than Freddie reaching his target weight and has managed to keep his job as the club mascot. Freddie embarked on a healthy eating plan that was supported by his army of fans sending him great healthy eating tips and to keep eating his 5 a day plus a gruelling fitness regime at Fitness First.

He also measured his stamina by pulling my sponsored Sunwin Nissan Quashqia, a Joda freight wagon and a Northern Rail train so he really has put himself through the paces. Last week saw the new lean and muscular Freddie unveiled and not only did he get to keep the job he loved but Head Coach Barry Eaton rewarded Freddie with his very own squad number, so really is a part of the team.

As I mentioned last time Gary Fawcett has joined Neil & Colin on the board of Directors and since then we have developed a workable strategy that will really see the club build on the work we



Freddie's fighting fit and raring to go

have done over the last two years and make a realistic assault on the promotional ladder as well as putting the Pride back into Keighley.

Talking of the Pride of Keighley you may have all noticed the new logo and branding, this is part of a new aggressive marketing campaign we are launching in order to get the brand back into the town. You will start to see over the next few months the Cougar logo everywhere you look, as always I am happy to have your feedback on it and if any of you have any ideas of how we can market the club even more than please let me know.

Watch out Sir Alan Sugar - you have a rival as 'Sir' Freddie Cougar replaces the electronics tycoon for Keighley Cougars' own version of the BBC TV series 'The Apprentice'.

Students attending the club's 'Cougar Pride' Study Support Centre in recent weeks have been taking part in a project based on the pop-

ular TV programme featuring Sir Alan. It will see them take part in various tasks during the eight weeks when they attend the Centre developing their marketing, research and team-work skills.

The 13 and 14-year-olds from Oakbank and Beckfoot Schools will, as a finale to their time at the Centre, be invited to set up shop and sell to supporters a new range of Cougar promotional items that they have designed and produced themselves at the Cougars' 'Family Fun Day' before the opening Co-operative Championship One fixture against Oldham on March 22nd.

Among their early tasks the students formed their own 'companies' giving themselves an opportunity to reflect on their own personal skills and create an identity for their group, through logo and slogan design.

As most of the students were unfamiliar with the Rugby League club, they have also used differing information

sources such as the Cougars' website, match day programme and displays around Cougar Park to learn more about the team and its players.

As the weeks progress, the students' tasks will include costing, design and production of their chosen products, market research, advertising and promotion, with Cougar Pride Centre staff being joined by the club's Sales and Marketing team to provide some expert advice along with Cougars' prop forward Brendon Rawlins, who is employed as a Centre Mentor.

With an overall aim of increasing students ability's in the Centre's core subjects of numeracy, literacy and ICT skills, as well as developing personal skills such as confidence, self esteem and motivation to learn, each group is given personal feedback straight from the boardroom at the beginning of each week from 'Sir' Freddie. He highlights their successes in the previous week's task, with one team being crowned 'The Cougar Apprentices' for their overall performance at the end of the eight-week course.

With final production looming of their articles, our budding Apprentices are looking to be selling Cougar calendars, key rings, baby grows and fridge magnets on the 22nd with any profit made split between Manorlands and a charity nominated by themselves. Please if you are at the game, support them and pick up some unique Cougar merchandise at the same time!

Our home form has been great so far this season so I am hoping tonight's game will stay true to form and I am looking forward to hearing that cougar rooarr cheer our boys onto victory.

See you soon.

Helen Carter
General manager



Leigh v Lokomotiv



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE

LEIGH CENTURIONS

SPONSOR

LISA
Professor & Mrs Dale

Hattons Solicitors

CS Tyres

O'Neils
Ask Platt
Brick Design

Professor & Mrs Dale
Leythers Messageboard
Civil Solution

JR Taxis

No. PLAYER

1 Stuart Donlan
2 Dave Alstead
3 Steve Maden
4 Tony Stewart
5 Nick Stanton
6 -
7 Ian Watson
8 Andy Hobson
9 Dave McConnell
10 Mike Morrison
11 Dave Armitstead
12 James Taylor
13 Aaron Smith
14 Ian Mort
15 Adam Higson
16 Chris Hill
17 -
18 Sam Reay
19 Adam Rudd
20 John Cookson
21 Dale Cunniffe
22 Jamie Smith
23 Martyn Ridyard
24 Dean Hatton
25 Adam Thomas

Not allocated a number: Andy Ainscough,
Danny Jackson, Danny Meekin, James Richies,
Lee Marsh, Macgraff Leualai, Ryan Powell.
Triallists: Brett Longstaffe,
Jamie Durbin, Lee Wingfield

COACH: NEIL KELLY

LAST SIX RESULTS: WL-WLWW
LAST SIX HOME: LWL-WW
TRIES: Jamie Durbin 5, Martyn
Ridyard 3, Steve Maden 3
GOALS: Martyn Ridyard 10,
Ian Mort 9
DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: Aaron Smith

LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW

No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

Full back

Right Wing

Right Centre

Left Centre

Left Wing

Stand off

Scrum half

Prop

Hooker

Prop

2nd row

2nd row

Loose forward

Interchange

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

SQUAD

Evgeny Bozhukov
Denis Meshkov
Andrey Medvedev
Georgy Vinogradov
Andrey Kolytkhov
Roman Ovchinnikov
Nikolay Zagoskin
Andrey Zdobnikov
Mikhail Nisiforov
Sergey Sidorov
Fedor Komov
Oleg Smirnov
Denis Korolev
Sergey Dobrynin
Alexander Lysenkov
Valentin Baskakov
Alexander Klebanov
Sergey Matveev



CUP PEDIGREE.... Lokomotiv
Moscow tackle the then
National Two Celtic
Crusaders in the third of the
Challenge Cup in 2006

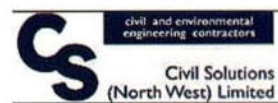
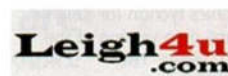
MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J Child
Touch: D Sharpe, J Farrell
Fourth Official: B Logan

BENNETT'S BET

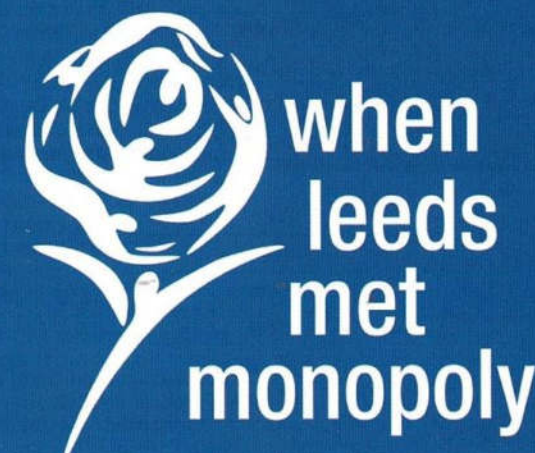
"Centurions should keep their cup ambitions
on track - Leigh by 36"

We're supporting Leigh!



MONOPOLY

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Play Monopoly with Leeds Met and you could win a fabulous holiday in St Lucia...

Leeds Metropolitan University has launched the Leeds Met Monopoly Challenge, and is attempting to break a world record in support of local and international volunteering initiatives.

Take part in this Monopoly tournament and have a chance to win a £6000 holiday for four at the Coconut Bay Resort & Spa in St Lucia!

Heats begin on 28 February 2009, and we want as many people to register as possible...

Register a team of 5 and you'll receive a limited edition Leeds Monopoly board.

Register as an individual and you'll get a limited edition 'When Leeds Met Monopoly' t-shirt.

There are hundreds of prizes to be won...
so what are you waiting for?

Visit www.leedsmet.ac.uk/monopoly to sign up now!



Oldham v Sharlston



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. BOUNDARY PARK

OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

SHARLSTON ROVERS

SPONSOR

Sporting Image
Premier Signs UK
Totalplus Communications
Totalplus Communications
Tech Doors
Office Supplies Now
Nigel Marland
John Barrett

Rudy Wilkes and Bev Mayall

John and Lynda McAndrew

Clayton Green Brewers Fayre
Karen and Paul Gough

Cagney and Lacey

Maureen and Peter Woodhead

Totalplus Communications

No. PLAYER

- 1 Paul O'Connor
- 2 Andy Ballard
- 3 Danny Halliwell
- 4 Paul Reilly
- 5 Lee Greenwood
- 6 James Coyle
- 7 Thomas Coyle
- 8 Paul Highton
- 9 Gary Sykes
- 10 Jamie l'Anson
- 11 Dave Allen
- 12 Tommy Goulden
- 13 Rob Roberts
- 14 Richard Merrill
- 15 Jason Boults
- 16 Wayne Kerr
- 17 Craig Robinson
- 18 Neil Roden
- 19 Craig Littler
- 20 Simeon Hoyle
- 21 Lucas Onyango
- 22 Phil Joseph
- 23 Chris Baines
- 24 Marcus St Hilaire
- 25 Luke Menzies
- 26 Luke Sutton

No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: TONY BENSON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WWLW

LAST SIX HOME: WWLL-WL

TRIES: Andy Ballard 4, Danny

Halliwell 3, Paul Reilly 3

GOALS: Andy Ballard 18

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Ballard

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: B Robinson
Touch: A Sweet, S Williams
Fourth Official: M Mannifield

BENNETT'S BET

"Roughyeds ought to power to victory on home turf - Oldham by 30"

COACHES: LEE BETTISON
AND GORDON LONG

SHARLSTON ROVERS

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Sharlston Rovers 20

Leigh East 10

Round One:

Crosfields 10, Sharlston Rovers 36

SQUAD

Geoff Hick
Chris Hill
Gareth Davies
Dale Potter
Thomas Wandless
Lee Bettison
Andy Booth
Carl Saville
Tommy Crowther
Chris Bingham
Jonathan Waddle
Craig Miles
Carl Spencer
Sean Emblem
James Lockwood
Bart Thompson
Brad Chatfield

CLUBCALL

Oldham v Sharlston

Good cup run would be no distraction

TODAY we welcome Sharlston Rovers to Boundary Park for what will probably be the biggest game of the season for them. From what we know about them they will be up for giving us a real battle.

Once again we are on the Challenge Cup trail - on the road to Wembley. After our exploits last year in reaching the quarter final stages we will be looking for a good run although many people thought our cup runs last season affected our league campaign.

But from a players point of view every game you play in is one you want to win.

Our form so far this year has been patchy to say the least so it is important today we concentrate on the job in hand. At times we have deviated from our game plan but I am sure once we stick to this for a full 80 minutes we will start putting teams to the sword.

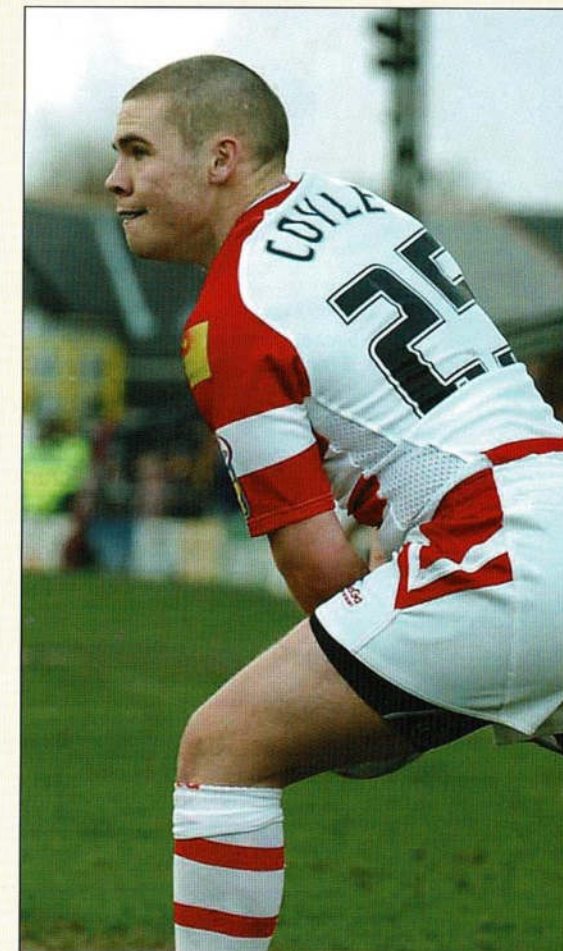
On the players that have come on board this year Dave Allen has been very good in every game he has played so far defending very strongly and offering the ball every time he makes a carry. Andy Ballard will go close to breaking Mick Nany's points scoring record this season I am sure, Jamie l'Anson once fully match fit will be putting the fear of God into the opposition and Thomas Coyle is just your old school cheeky, very vocal half-back but with all the skills that go with it.

Hope you all enjoy the game today and get behind whichever team you are supporting.

See you soon.

Bob Roberts, captain

Wigan old boy Thomas Coyle is an old-school half-back



Spying mission also proved entertaining

First of all a big welcome to the Sharlston team, directors and their supporters to Boundary Park for what will be a fantastic occasion.

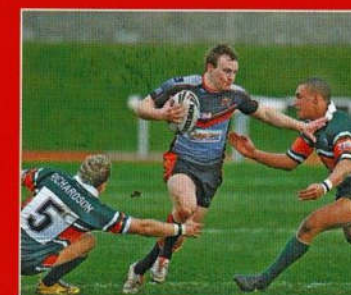
Challenge Cup fixtures are always special and in the do-or-die situation these games present anything can happen, and it usually does.

Mark Cass and I went over to watch Sharlston last weekend in their match against Drighlington.

Although I was working, and there on a spying mission, I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, it was a very tough physical game played in a fantastic atmosphere created by two groups of very passionate supporters.

Down by a few points at half time Sharlston's tenacity, superior skills and strength came through for them and they finished up winning convincingly.

I know they will be bringing that plus some to Boundary Park today so we're in



Paul O'Connor tears into Hunslet

for a big and entertaining game.

Last week's win against Hunslet taught us a lot about ourselves in particular how we reacted under pressure.

The Hawks played particularly well in the first half and we allowed them far too much time and room and forgot what our response as a team should have been.

I felt our second half was much closer to the mark, and obviously got us the result we needed. On behalf of the team I must thank our loyal support; once again you were brilliant and really lifted us in that second half.

Considering the quality of the group we are in for the Northern Rail Cup we are very happy to have qualified for the quarter finals on June 7.

Although we are excited about making the Quarters we know that 10 points from a possible 12 tells us that if we continue to improve, we should be a chance of going all the way. Personally I don't have a preference for who we draw but personally I wouldn't complain if we got another crack at Leigh Centurions.

Once again thanks for your support, please get very vocal and enjoy what should be a very entertaining game.

TONY BENSON, COACH



Eagles v Toulouse



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. DON VALLEY STADIUM

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE

SPONSOR

AMCO
Tolent
OSI
Jim Haworth, Suzanne Atkin
Anne Collins
Pennine Business Forms
Sheaf Telecom
Hanlon & Wright
Barnsley Industrial Training College
Jayne Whaling
Jack Smith
Hanlon & Wright
Bethany, Ian & Jackie Swain
G4S Events
Albion Detection Systems Ltd
Buckingham Insurance
Zeenaat Restaurant
OSI
Walkabout Sheffield
AMCO
Village Shop, Oughtibridge
HAS Consultants Ltd
Jack & Laura London

Hancock & Todd
Modis
Richard & Andrea Brook

Jill Swire
Mr & Mrs Lee

No. PLAYER

1 Jonny Woodcock
2 Bolu Fagborun
3 Menzie Yere
4 Mike Roby
5 Ashley Thackeray
6 Brendon Lindsay
7 Gavin Brown
8 Jack Howieson
9 Grant Edwards
10 Mitchell Stringer
11 Alex Szostak
12 Ged Corcoran
13 Dane McDonald
14 Andrew Boothroyd
16 Trevor Exton
17 Tom Buckenham
18 Saqib Murtza
19 Kyle Wood
20 Matty Brooks
21 Aaron Groom
22 Ryan Hepworth
23 Tangi Ropati
24 Matthew Whitaker
25 James Morrow
26 Nick Turnbull
27 Tommy Trayler
28 Damian Gibson
31 Sam Barlow
34 Eddie Battye
35 Dan Hawksworth

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLW-WLWL
LAST SIX HOME: WLWLW-WL
TRIES: Matty Brooks 3, Andrew Boothroyd 2, Ryan Hepworth 2, Grant Edwards 2, Jonny Woodcock 2
GOALS: Jonny Woodcock 16
DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: Ryan Hepworth

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J Leahy
Touch: J Greenwood, L Todd
Fourth Official: T Bell

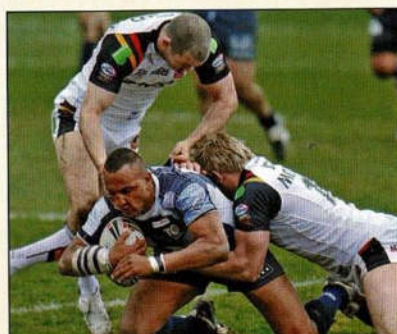
BENNETT'S BET

"Eagles are usually strong at home, and should be battle hardened - Sheffield by 18"

No. PLAYER

1 Rory Bromley
2 Sebastien Payan
3 Sebastien Planas
4 Damian Couturier
5 Joris Canton
6 Constant Villegas
7 Nathan Wynn
8 Brendan Worth
9 Martin Mitchell
10 Mathieu Griffi
11 Timothy Wynn
12 Mathieu Almarcha
13 Eric Anselme
14 Antoni Maria
15 Jerome Gout
16 Olivier Pramill
18 Adrien Viala
20 Sylvain Houles
21 Bruno Ormeno
22 Nicolas Faure

COACH: GILLES DUMAS



Adel Fellous is tackled by Glenn Morrison of Bradford in last year's fourth round tie. The Bulls won 98-6. The French side won through from the third round by beating Keighley 17-14

PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHEFFIELD EAGLES!

HANLON & WRIGHT
KUKRI
AMCO
Sheaf Telecom Ltd.
modis INTERNATIONAL
Tolent
Burdens
Maun Motors
SIG INSULATIONS

CLUBCALL Sheffield v Toulouse Olympique

Clash that neither team wanted

CARDS on the table and no disrespect to our guests from across the channel but this isn't the draw I wanted.

And I'll bet the guys in Toulouse weren't too happy that they were on their way to Sheffield.

On the afternoon of the third round draw we were talking in the office and saying just let's hope that it isn't a French club again!

Maybe there's something about the Eagles and French sides. We were the first club to face Paris Saint-Germain when the Super League began in 1996. Well it's like buses for ages you don't see one they come together.

Last season we faced Lezignan at this stage and got beat 37-22 - I don't want a repeat of that today.

But it's not about 1996 or last season - it's about today. This is a tough game - for both sides. I know very little about Toulouse or how they will play.

But then again I doubt if Toulouse have had spies at Oldham or Gateshead in recent weeks just to watch the Eagles in the Northern Rail Cup!

Toulouse is a club with a great tradition and has been a successful side in France and it says a lot about the competition in the UK that they are joining the Co-opera-

tive Championship this season.

Like us all they have their sights set on a place in the Super League.

In 2005 Toulouse made a big impact on the Challenge Cup before going out to Leeds in the semi-final.

So we're warned - Toulouse will be coming here determined. But it's really about us. How we perform not the way Toulouse performs.

For the last few weeks in the Northern Rail Cup group games we have been making progress.

Those games were our first of the year - it was bit like coming out of the deep freeze. Each game we have thawed out a bit more.

Being out there playing competitive games could just give us the edge today.

Last year Lezignan were in the middle of their season and were firing but Toulouse hasn't had a game yet. It's all very well training but you need to play games to get that sharpness.

This is the Challenge Cup - it's a one-off, winner takes all game. At this point we can all dream of Wembley - but first we have the reality which is facing Toulouse. It's going to be interesting.

Enjoy the game

Mark Aston Toulouse player Constant Villegas



We are used to these French firsts

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the directors, officials, players and supporters from today's visitors Toulouse.

This will be Toulouse's first competitive game against English opposition since their inclusion in the Co-operative Championship and completes a double for us because we were also the first team to play Paris when they were handed a place in the Super League.

And we will complete a treble in a few weeks time when we become the first team to play Toulouse in France in the Championship.

We have had a mixed season so far and it is not surprising with 12 new additions to the side this season.

JOHN WHALING DIRECTOR

We are also still waiting for two players to arrive in the UK they are Trevor Exton and Aaron Groom.

Trevor has had some problems with his visa but we hope that these will be soon resolved, Aaron's paperwork should be completed imminently.

I am confident that Mark has recruited well and once these new players get to know each other we will be a formidable team in the league campaign.

The current economic climate is not helping any sporting club therefore it was good to see over 400 people attend-

ing an evening with boxing star Ricky Hatton last week which was part of our fundraising calendar for this season.

Our next event is a luncheon with Stevo at Baldwin's Omega on March 27. This is followed by our Silver Anniversary Dinner at the same location on May 14.

We also have three golf days organised for April 27, July 6 and September 14. It is events like this that help keep rugby league alive in Sheffield.

We are hoping for a good crowd for today's game because, with the kind permission of Toulouse and the RFL, we have opened the gates to all supporters free of charge.

We are collecting email addresses from all fans who attend and these will be used to keep them informed about activities at Sheffield Eagles and hopefully, help to increase our fan base.

We will also be having a bucket collection for the Sheffield Regional Rugby League Development Trust who carry out community work in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, they are working with the Eagles to help spread the game to a wider audience.

Finally I would like to congratulate everyone involved with the Game On matchday magazine, which is well put together and very informative. Enjoy the game.



Widnes v Saddleworth



Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 6pm. STOBART STADIUM

WIDNES VIKINGS

SADDLEWORTH RANGERS

SPONSOR

John Mather & his many sons!
Barbara Spence
Widnes Supporters Club
Widnes Supporters Club
Kath Filkin
VIOI
VIOI
Museum Visitors
R J Lewis
Widnes World
Swavesey Newsagents, Cambridge
Widnes Supporters Club
Robert Johnson
James Owen
Marcus Booth
The Dennett Family
Uncle Jack
Fraser Family
Halton Borough Council
Leam Fox
SDP Landscapes
Lesley & Reg Warner
West Bank Bears ARLFC
Riverside College Sports Dept.
Mullally's Barbers
North West Contracts
SDP Landscapes

No. PLAYER

1 Loz Wildbore
2 Dean Gaskell
3 Richard Varkulis
4 Toa Kohe Love
5 Danny Mills
6 Anthony Thackeray
7 James Webster
8 Iain Morrison
9 Mark Smith
10 Jim Gannon
11 Lee Doran
12 Richard Fletcher
13 Lee Paterson
14 John Duffy
15 Tim Hartley
16 Gavin Dodd
17 Ben Kavanagh
18 Matt Strong
19 Michael Ostick
20 Sam Thompson
21 Scott Yates
22 Paddy Flynn
23 Shane Grady
24 Josh Simm
25 Anthony Mullally
26 Steve Bannister
27 Brett Robinson

No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

Full back	
Right Wing	
Right Centre	
Left Centre	
Left Wing	
Stand off	
Scrum half	
Prop	
Hooker	
Prop	
2nd row	
2nd row	
Loose forward	
Interchange	

SQUAD

Danny Attersall
Fraser Coley
Tom Lever
Gareth Davies
Shaun Robinson
Dave Hewitt
James Whalley
Michael Coates
Lee Charlesworth
Liam Hall
Liam Coates
Jimmy Rogers
Emerson Jackman
Jason Best
Simon Parrish
Adam Walker
Ben Walters
Dale Lowe
Adam Jefferies
Tom Dransfield

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: JOHN STANKEVITCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLL-LWW

LAST SIX HOME: LWWW-L

TRIES: Toa Kohe-Love 3,

Jim Gannon 3

GOALS: Scott Yates 13

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Mark Smith

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Leatherbarrow
Touch: G Phillips, S Kilpatrick
Fourth Official: T Mahar

BENNETT'S BET

"Vikings should ease to victory on home turf -
Widnes by 48"

COACH: KEITH BRENNAN

SADDLEWORTH

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Saddleworth 20, Ca Lock Lane 16

Round One:

Hull Isberg A 12, Saddleworth 36

Preliminary Round

Eccles & Salford 6, Saddleworth 22



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE VIKINGS



Huttons
SOLICITORS

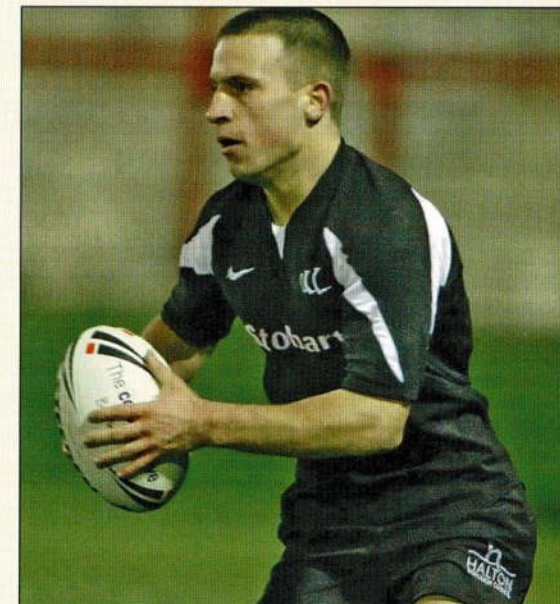


Stobart

CLUBCALL

Widnes v Saddleworth Rangers

Players are responding to feedback



Scott Yates, showed up well against Gateshead

The last three weeks have been both eventful and enjoyable in my role as caretaker coach here at Widnes Vikings.

The first week involved sitting down with the players individually and discussing where they felt we were underperforming and how best to change things. The feedback I had from the players was positive and this was replicated on the training pitch as I noticed an upturn in effort and enthusiasm.

The visit of Gateshead was one I really looked forward to and whilst not getting carried away with the win it was certainly a step in the right direction. I was pleased to see the performances from Scott Yates and Paddy Flynn, who combined well for what was the try of the game and as individuals gave the team a lift when in possession.

They continued this good form at Blackpool last Sunday and although I thought the performance was good, we will always expect better. We have some very exciting players who know their way to the try-line but the game is not all about scoring tries. We need to be smarter in defence, more ruthless with possession and show patience with and without the ball.

Wednesday night's trip to Barrow was set to be a tough encounter, especially as a victory for the home side would put them into the knock-out stages while victory or a defeat by less than 21 points would see us into the last eight as well. By the time you're reading this then the outcome will be known but I will be very disappointed if we're not in next Thursday's draw.

The Carnegie Challenge Cup is, in my opinion, the best knockout competition the sport has to offer and one that brings back some bitter sweet memories for me both as fan and a player.

John Stankevitch

Cup evokes great Saturday afternoon memories

On behalf of all the board, players and staff I would like to welcome the players and officials from Saddleworth Rangers for this afternoon's Carnegie Challenge Cup third round tie.

Following the recent off-the-field activity it was good to get back to the business on the pitch and with it the improved performances against Gateshead, Blackpool and hopefully Barrow last Wednesday evening!

As a relative newcomer to the sport, my initial exposure, like most outside the game's heartland, was via BBC TV and the Saturday afternoon Grandstand programme with its regular rugby league coverage and unique commentary style of Eddie Waring.

It seemed to me that Widnes were always on TV with names like Mills, Dutton, Bowden, Adams and Hughes followed in later years by Myler, Gregory,

Alex Bonney
Chief Executive Officer

Lydon, Davies and Offiah. The Challenge Cup final at Wembley was one of the sporting events of the year and probably the only time the sport got the national coverage it deserved.

One of the positive aspects of the Carnegie Challenge Cup is the role of the community clubs within the sport. Starting in December they battle it through the early stages for their chance of a crack at a professional side.

Unlike their association football counterparts there is seldom an upset at this stage but in general the amateur side gives their professional counterparts a good game for the best part of an hour before the professional's superior fitness sees them through - at least that's what

I'm hoping for this evening!

It's been a busy time for our playing, coaching and medical staff with this being our third game since last Sunday and the opening Co-operative Championship game against Toulouse taking place this Thursday evening at the Stobart Stadium, Halton.

I have to pay credit to all involved behind the scenes on the playing side for the professional way they have gone about preparing the side for such a hectic schedule.

It would be remiss of me not to give fans an update on the coaching situation. The closing date for applications was yesterday and now it is time for us to sit down and discuss the applications before short-listing and beginning the interview process.

However, we must ensure we select the right candidate for this role and fans can rest assured that it is not a decision we will rush into.



Workington v Lezignan



Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 4.30pm. DERWENT PARK

WORKINGTON TOWN

FC Lezignan-Corbieres

No. PLAYER

1 Jay Duffy
2 Neil Frazer
3 Andrew Beattie
4 Jason Mossop
5 Jamie Marshall
6 Carl Forber
7 Steve Roper
8 Ryan Benjafield
9 Jack Pedley
10 Dean Burgess
11 Mike Whitehead
12 Craig Hodgson
13 Mark Hobson
14 Brett Smith
15 James Robinson
16 Thomas Brindle
17 Peter Dobsob
18 Kris Coward
19 Scott Burgess
20 Stephen Dawes
21 Mark Routledge
22 Patrick Coupar
23 Martyn Wilson
24 Jarrad Stack
25 Harry Kaufman

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No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

Full back
Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Stand off
Scrum half
Prop
Hooker
Prop
2nd row
2nd row
Loose forward
Interchange

No. PLAYER

1 Jarred Taylor
2 Grégory Mazard
3 Luke Hession
4 Cédric Bringuier
7 James Wynne (c)
8 Christopher Beattie
10 Adel Fellous
11 Philippe Laurent
13 Aurélien Cologni
14 Nicolas Manessi
19 Yoan Tisseyre
21 Franck Rovira
23 Alaster Brown
25 Cédric Lacans
26 Thibault Ancely
27 Aurélien Bourrel
30 Charly Clottes
34 Benoît Bienvenu

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: DAVE ROTHERAM

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLL-LLL

LAST SIX HOME: LLWL-LL

TRIES: Jarrad Stack, Stephen Dawes, Jack Pedley, Neil Frazer, Andrew Beattie

GOALS: Carl Forber 4. DGs: -

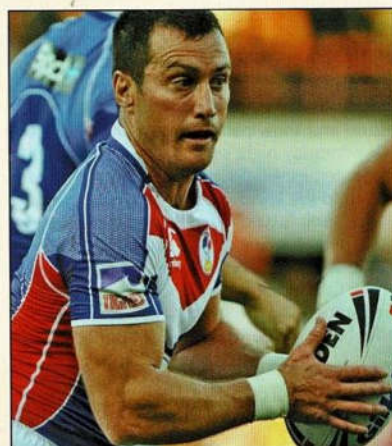
MAN TO WATCH: Carl Forber

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Halloran
Touch: G Wallace, C Neilson
Fourth Official: A Kirkbride

BENNETT'S BET

"Frenchmen could well spring a surprise - Lezignan by 2"



Lezignan captain James Wynn also played for France in the last World Cup

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Workington v FC Lezignan

World Cup experience in a dangerous team

By Dave Bowden

Workington chairman



Lezignan celebrate winning the French Championship

WELCOME to today's international fixture against Lezignan in the third round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup. We extend a very warm welcome to all players and officials from Lezignan Corbieres

I'm sure that when the draw was made some of our fans, not well up on French Rugby League, and would have little idea of the background of the club.

The club switched codes in 1939 and have won the French Championship four times, most recently last year where they achieved a

famous victory over Pia in the Elite Finale de Championnat de France de Rugby a XIII.

Currently lying fourth in the league, the club have been in tremendous form lately with their last game resulting in a 112-4 victory over Lyon, although it seems against an under strength Lyon side.

The side contains players who played in the World Cup against Scotland so Dave will have some knowledge of their quality.

Make no mistake this is a very tough draw and we will have to be at our best for the full 80 minutes. We have competed well against our NL1 opposition for the first half, if we can do that for the full game I'm sure we are in for a tremendous game today.

History suggests French will be ultra tough

The Challenge Cup is probably the best known rugby competition in the world. Growing up it was always everyone's dream to play at Wembley.

Our Challenge Cup journey begins this afternoon against our french rivals Lezignan. How times have changed - not too long ago I can remember the cup being restricted to 30 professional teams and just two amateur clubs.

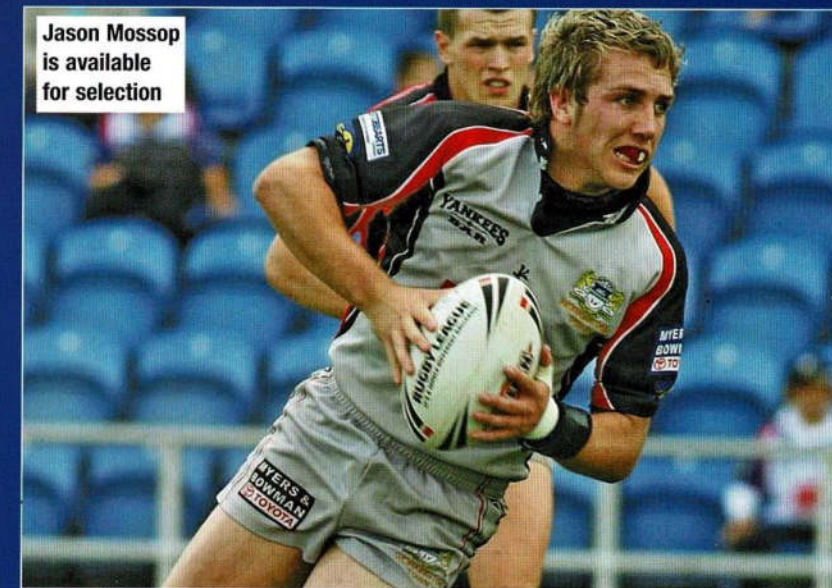
Now we have a Europe wide competition that includes all of the wider rugby league community.

It is often talked about that in round three pro teams bag an amateur team. How wrong that is and we face one of our toughest games of the season to date. Lezignan are enjoying great form at the moment and are rapidly climbing the French elite league.

They are well led by captain/coach James Wynne who is well supported by fellow World Cup stars Jared Taylor and Adel Fellous. Chris Beattie also makes up quite a formidable front row.

In this round last year all three French elite league teams advanced at the

Jason Mossop is available for selection



expense of National League clubs. First and foremost we are playing for ourselves and our club but also we have the reputation of our league to think about too!

This week we hope to welcome back Tommy Brindle from an eye injury, Jason Mossop (exams) and Paddy Coupar (moving house). Paddy

has now relocated himself to Lockerbie and has applied for a position at a gym in Carlisle. This will enable him to be obviously closer to us and this reflects his commitment and desire to push on his professional career.

Although disappointed with the final result last week some aspects of the perform-

ance I was pleased with.

Jamie Marshall's try saving tackle on Iestyn Harris summed up the good attitude of our players have shown throughout the season so far.

If we can play with that commitment each time then we will enjoy a good season.

DAVE ROTHERAM



York v Wigan St Pats



Sunday March 8th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. HUNTINGTON STADIUM

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

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Claire & Steve Harbron
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Balfour Beatty

Acupuncture For Health
Brian Watson
HC Engineering
Monk Bar Model Shop
Laura Dixon
Mrs Watson

No. PLAYER

1 Danny Ratcliffe
2 Steve Lewis
3 John Oakes
4 Dave Clayton
5 Johnny Waldron
6 Adam Mitchell
7 Paul March
8 Danny Eklis
9 Paul Hughes
10 Adam Sullivan
11 Rob Kelly
12 Tom Haberecht
13 Richard Knight
14 Tom Hodgson
15 Chris Clough
16 Jordan Ross
17 Scott Woodcock
18 Steve Grundy
19 Kris Peacock
20 Adam Jones
21 Dave March
22 Tom Stancliffe
23 Adam Endersby
24 David Leeke
25 Garry Green
26 Danny Grimshaw
27 Luke Watling
28 Wayne McHugh
29 Mark Applegarth
30 Mike Mitchell

COACH: PAUL MARCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWL-WWLW
LAST SIX HOME: WWWL-WW
TRIES: Tom Haberecht 4, John Oakes 4, Danny Ratcliffe 4, Paul Hughes 4
GOALS: Richard Knight 10, Adam Mitchell 9
DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: Tom Haberecht

WIGAN ST PATRICK'S

No. TODAY'S TEAM No.

Full back	
Right Wing	
Right Centre	
Left Centre	
Left Wing	
Stand off	
Scrum half	
Prop	
Hooker	
Prop	
2nd row	
2nd row	
Loose forward	
Interchange	

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACHES: DAVE RUDDY AND
DARREN FLETCHER

WIGAN ST PATS

- CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR
Round Two:
Wigan St Pats 24, West Hull 12
Round One:
Wigan St Pats 24, Skirlaugh 18
Preliminary Round
Ellenborough 4, Wigan St Pats 20

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: T Mahar
Touch: M Craven, C Waywell
Fourth Official: M Hague

BENNETT'S BET

"In-form Knights should prove too powerful
for Pats - York by 28"

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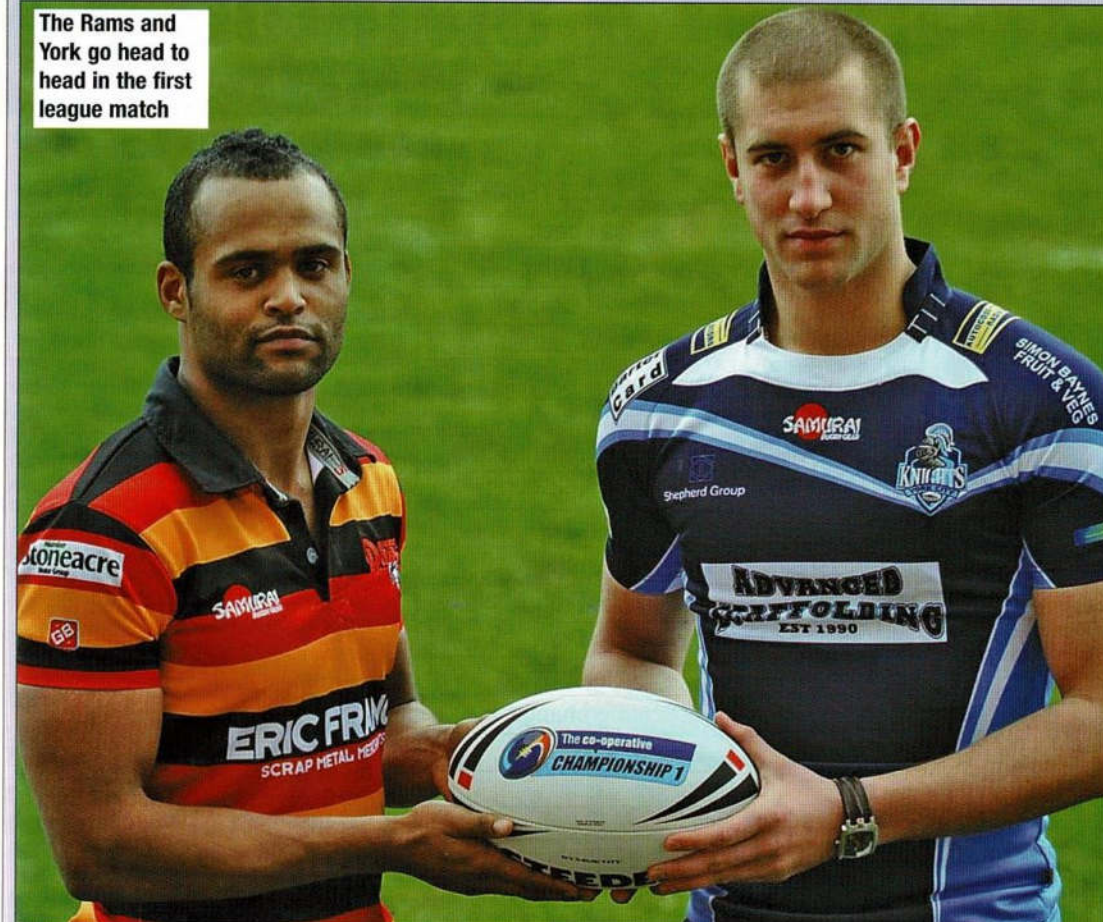
Shepherd Group



CLUBCALL

York v Wigan St Patricks

The Rams and
York go head to
head in the first
league match



It's important we maintain good start

Good afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's Carnegie Challenge Cup, third round match against Wigan St Pats.

May I start by welcoming the players, coaching staff, committee members and supporters from Wigan St Pats.

We hope you enjoy your afternoon in York and I'm sure your team will be thoroughly looking forward to the match.

The Carnegie Challenge Cup is world famous and over the years has provided many shock results.

Let's hope this afternoon the Knights can make sure that we are not added to

Ian Wilson
General Manager

that list. Following last weekend's victory against London the Knights qualified for the quarter-finals of the Northern Rail Cup.

We are very pleased with the way the season has started and after today's match we will all be looking forward to the first league game of the season at Dewsbury two weeks today.

The Rams have also started the season in great form and with a number of

former Knights in their ranks, will prove to be a stern test. It is important that we start the season well as we expect Championship One to be extremely competitive.

Prior to this afternoon's game will see the finals of the Selby Primary Schools tag rugby league competition, kindly sponsored by Drax Power Limited.

Ten schools will take part and for the vast majority this afternoon will be their first Knights game.

We hope the players can put on a good performance and you thoroughly enjoy your day.



Siddal v Swinton



Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 1pm. THE SHAY

SIDDAL ARLFC

SWINTON LIONS

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Billy Phillips
Arnie Thorpe
Eddie Golding-Smith
Steve & Sheila Donkersley
Mick Scott
Truarc
'Siddal Masters'
Gregg Robinson
Johnny Connell
Mark Dear
Dean Taylor

No. PLAYER

1 Brad Attwood
2 Shaun Blackburn
3 Scott Caley
4 Chris Marsh
5 Gareth Blackburn
6 Shaun Garrod
7 Lee Gudor
8 Jamie Wrigley
9 Gavin Sanderson
10 Gary Lewis
11 Nick Smith (c)
12 James Simeunovic
13 Luke Simeunovic
14 George Ambler
15 Mark Boothroyd
16 John Birt
17 Luke Garnett

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: LEE GREENWOOD

Sponsored by Philip Maguire

SIDDAL

– CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Siddal 34, West Bowling 10

Round One:

Siddal 36, Thatto Heath 12

Preliminary Round

Siddal 30, Normanton Knights 12

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Sharrad
Touch: W Johnstone, T Selby
Fourth Official: D Tindall

BENNETT'S BET

"Lions should prove too strong
– Swinton by 18"

COACH: PAUL KIDD

No. PLAYER

1 Wayne English Elizabeth Taylor (Grandma English)
2 Barry Hamilton Daniel Croston
3 Dave Hull Premier Building Ltd
4 Dean Gorton Dave Roberts
5 Marlon Billy Mike & Kath Tyldesley
6 Graham Holroyd Muscle & Fitness Gym
7 Richard Hawkyard Junior Lions
8 Paul Southern Heartland M27 – Rob Dunford
9 Phil Wood Junior Lions
10 Bruce Johnson Egan Contractors Ltd
11 Mike Wainwright Bill Sheppard & Warren Mottram
12 Danny Heaton Chris & Viv Tyldesley
13 Marty Moana Geoff Hewitt USA
14 Craig Ashall In Memory of Peter Walker
15 Gary Hulse Lethbridge & Co
16 Alex McLurg John Spellman
17 Tommy Grundy MS Lottery Services
18 Gareth Hayes Ray Bowdler
19 Neil Rigby Burrow & Humphries
20 Adam Bibey Physi02
21 Rob Line In Memory of Graham Berry
22 Darren Bamford Moorside Autos
23 Ben Williamson Lethbridge & Co
24 Paul Crook Premier Building Ltd
25 Matt Ashe Mike & Sarah Dagnan
26 Chris Frodsham Phil, Ann & Josh Walker
27 Chris Tyrer Barbara & Emma Cathcart
28 Dave Newton Sue Buckley & Joyce Shannan
29 Carl Sneyd In Memory of Frank Scanlon
30 Andy Saywell Redsentinal Northline Business Consultants

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CLUBCALL

Siddal ARLFC v Swinton Lions

I will rouse the players for Lions

IT'S certainly an interesting weekend for me. Today I'll be busy trying to convince my Siddal players that they can go out and do the 'impossible' and beat Swinton.

Tomorrow I'll be on the other side of the fence, hoping to ensure that myself and Oldham aren't on the wrong end of a giant-killing against Sharlston. I'd like to think my personal interest in this year's Carnegie Challenge Cup will not be ended this weekend, with two chances to progress.

As for Siddal, it's the first time in my coaching career that we have got this far in this competition and I'm looking forward to the challenge of attempting to compete with the professionals.

We will need to put in our best performance of the season to even come close against Swinton, who, even though they haven't started their season well, have a lot of quality players in their squad.

Team wise we are struggling slightly at the moment with the loss of Duane Tetley, Craig Pearson, Simon Longbottom and Mark Greenwood for various reasons, but whoever is selected will give it their all I'm sure.

We have many games left in a short space of time in the NCL Premier Division and the BARLA National Cup and it will certainly test the strength of our squad.

Even though this competition is in third place in our list of priorities, it doesn't mean we won't be having a good go at giving Swinton a fright.

Head coach
Lee Greenwood



Lee Greenwood is hoping to have two reasons to celebrate this weekend

Sums up fantastic progress of first team

Welcome to everybody for today's Carnegie Challenge Cup tie at The Shay, especially all those who have travelled over from Swinton.

I would like to thank both Halifax RLFC and Calderdale Council for their assistance and co-operation in making it possible for us to host the game here and in particular Sarah Morgan for all her advice.

Of course we would have preferred to stage the game on our own home ground but on reflection there are a few improvements we need to make and we are determined to do this over the Summer.

It is a few years since the club reached this stage of the Challenge Cup and naturally we are delighted with the progress of the first team. It is fantastic that we are once again playing against the professionals in what is our centenary season.

President

Eddie Golding-Smith

All the playing squad and the head Coach, former Halifax winger Lee Greenwood, deserve huge credit. Many of our older supporters speculate regularly about whether this side is among the best we have had at Siddal.

In fact all our open age teams are enjoying great success on the field at the moment. Our junior sides always perform strongly and this season is no exception.

Last Summer we launched both 'Siddal Ladies' and 'Siddal Masters' teams and as President it makes me very proud to be at the helm of a club that is certainly thriving at the moment.

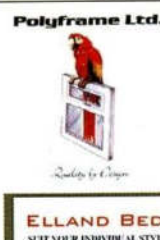
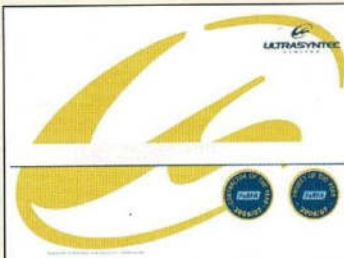
It's probably fair to say the catalyst for

the present mood within the whole club is the fantastic new facility we opened at Chevinedge last April.

Built by Graham Bradley and his team of contractors in record time, there is no doubt it has re-energised us all. I invite everyone to join us at our clubhouse after the game and sample the excellent atmosphere for the post match presentations and refreshments.

Sadly, I heard at the beginning of the week of the sudden death of one of our former players, David (Dickie) Dawson.

He was without doubt one of the most talented players to turn out for our club, before and after a spell with Halifax RLFC. I'm sure we will mark his passing with the usual respect at today's game and all at Siddal ARLFC send our sincere condolences to his family.



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Queens v Dons



Saturday March 7th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. KEEPMOAT STADIUM

QUEENS ARLFC

SQUAD
 Aaron Henry
 Omar Al'rawi
 Chris Munden
 Steve Morton
 Jonathan Winter
 Jonathan Milner
 Ryan Robinson
 Scott Houston
 Carl Luke
 James Brown
 Richard Hulme
 Craig Wright
 Robin Wilks
 Craig Boot
 Andrew Ali
 Matthew Stockdale
 Martin Slack
 Tom Priim
 Richard Russell
 Dean Townsend

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange	

SCORERS

Tries
 Conv
 Pens
 DGs

COACH: RICHARD MILNER

QUEENS

— CHALLENGE CUP 2009 SO FAR

Round Two:

Widnes St Maries 8, Queens 15

Round One:

Queens 13, Halton Simms Cross 0

Preliminary Round

Bank Quay 6, Queens 19

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: B Everitt
 Touch: P Huck, M Mannifield
 Fourth Official: J Asquith

BENNETT'S BET

"Dons have shown good form in Northern Rail Cup — Doncaster by 22"

DONCASTER

No. PLAYER
 1 -
 2 Dean Colton
 3 Andreas Bauer
 4 Shaun Leaf
 5 Wayne Reittie
 6 Kyle Briggs
 7 Paul Handforth
 8 Michael Haley
 9 Craig Cook
 10 Alex Benson
 11 Peter Green
 12 Craig Lawton
 13 Josh Weeden
 14 Scott Jones
 15 Mark Castle
 16 Nathan Freer
 17 Ross Divorty
 18 Craig Holt
 19 Ryan Steen
 20 Michael Coady
 21 Garry Ellery
 22 Andy Speake
 23 Scott Smith
 24 Jake Bassinder
 28 Jamie Bovill

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 Everlast Waterproofing
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TRIALISTS
 Albert Rounding
 Phil Crosby

COACH: TONY MILLER

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LAST SIX RESULTS: WW-LWWW

LAST SIX HOME: WWWL-W

TRIES: Michael Coady 4

GOALS: Kyle Briggs 8, Andy Speake 7

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Kyle Briggs

CLUBCALL

Queens v Doncaster

These matches are great for grassroots

Welcome to the Keepmoat Stadium, home of the Dons. A very warm welcome goes to our visitors from Queens. It's great the Carnegie Challenge Cup provides amateur clubs the chance to show their skills against Championship League opposition as amateur grassroots rugby is the foundation of every club.

From what I have been told Queens are a quality outfit. Just last week they came up against our local amateur club champions Thorne Moorends Marauders and proved too strong for them. I know the Moorends side are supporting in the crowd today so will be rueing their loss and backing the Dons all the way.

Let's hope we can continue with our

winning form through the Carnegie Challenge Cup and have a good run to the later rounds. It's always great for the profile of a club to make it to the Super League club stages so a win today will certainly be the first step towards that goal.

Last week's win against Swinton was our third successive win from four games in the Northern Rail Cup.

Disappointingly we weren't able to qualify for the later stages of the cup, which seemed quite bizarre to me, but I guess that's just how rugby league works sometimes.

It was good to see players back last week as well as Albert Rounding having an impressive trial which has led us to

offering him a contract with the Dons for the season. This week also gives star signing Paul Handforth the opportunity to return to playing and I'm sure every Dons supporter will be on the edge of their seat just like me.

A great show of appreciation has to go out to all the fans that supported the club in last weeks Poker Night and Race Night. As well as every one that watched the World Club Challenge at last weeks match sponsors Reds Bar.

All these events and your support really benefit the club, so keep your ears pinned for upcoming events.

Good luck to the boys today.

David Marshall, Dons CEO.

We are improving every game

A WARM welcome to Queens ARLFC for today's Carnegie Challenge Cup match.

Queens are an excellent amateur team who are in a rich vein of form and would fancy causing an upset today. We need to start well and match their enthusiasm, be professional and keep disciplined. If we do this then we should progress in this famous competition.

We have started the season reasonably well but must improve on our consistency. The boys were made to work hard for their win last week against Swinton.

Full credit to Swinton but I believe the boys must be more clinical at times.

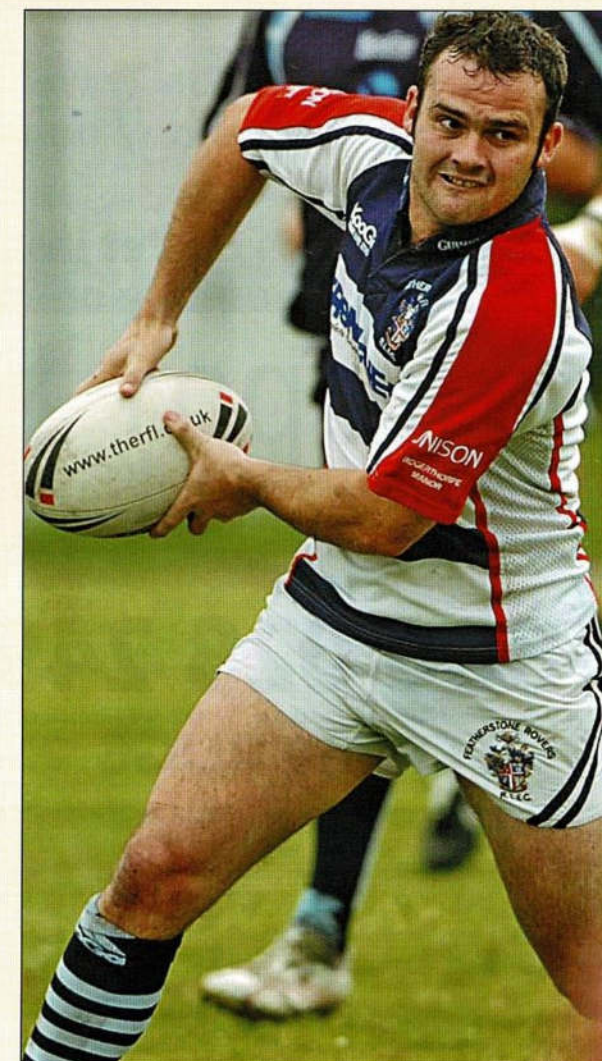
We have shown that we have the ability to play some class rugby but like I said before consistency is key. With our wins we are definitely on the right path and improving each week.

Today Paul Handforth will be making his debut in the Doncaster colours. He is an outstanding player with a lot of experience and his presence on the field will definitely be noticed by the players, the opposition and the supporters too.

I would like to thank our coaching team of Pete Bell (conditioner), Nick Cope (physio), assistant coaches Ian Tattersall and Pete Green along with Kev Jones and Pat Howdle who coach the U-21s. They all have worked extremely hard during the off season to get the players in top condition. They contribute a great deal to the team.

I wish everyone the best of luck for today's game and Queen's ARLFC players and fans safe travels.

Tony Miller
Cons Head Coach



Paul Handforth makes his debut having moved from Featherstone

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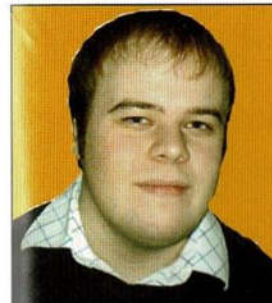


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Ruth, Leeds



AHEAD OF THE GAME

PAUL BENNETT gives his slant on life in 'the greatest game'

Manly
celebrate
their win
over
Leeds



Big effort required

A LITTLE over 12 months ago, Leeds Rhinos chief exec Gary Hetherington addressed the assembled British and Australian media corps at Elland Road; smugly proclaiming Super League to be the undisputed king of leagues following five consecutive World Club Challenge victories for English sides over their NRL rivals.

Gary's proclamation was, admittedly, a little tongue-in-cheek and no doubt designed chiefly to whip up enthusiasm for the annual cross-hemisphere contest Down Under. Still, we all enjoyed it.

Fast forward a year and now we're not so smug. If Gary's plan was, indeed, to motivate the Aussies then, well, it worked – a plan no doubt helped by the Kangaroos' failure to retain the World Cup.

Which all means that not only have we now been absolutely humiliated in the World Cup, but we've also lost the World Club Challenge straw we were clasp at in our efforts to convince ourselves we're anywhere near as good as the Australians.

See, you mess with the Aussies' pride and you get hurt. Beating them is enjoyable

at the time – but they inevitably suck it up, knuckle down, and come back bigger, stronger and meaner.

Think back to England's Ashes win in the cricket. We revelled in that for a good 18 months – then our boys jetted Down Under and got their comeuppance for daring to mess with Australia; a humiliating 5-0 series defeat, no less.

You can bet your bottom Aussie dollar that they're currently plotting how to steal the show in London 2012 after we crushed them in the Olympic medal table in Beijing. The Australians absolutely despise losing and losers and that fear of underachievement brings out the best in them.

If only we could say the same of ourselves, eh? When we win a major trophy (ashes, RL or footy World Cup), usually it takes us a good few decades to win it again.

But, as mentioned, the World Club Challenge was one trophy we really had made our own. Sydney's 38-0 thrashing of St Helens in 2003 was the last occasion the NRL side had come out on top until

Manly's impressive win at Elland Road last Sunday.

So we should make sure we make a real effort of winning it back in 2010.

But let's not just stack the odds in our favour by hosting it over here again. Let's absolutely insist that the game be played in the Australians' own back yard.

No excuses this time.

Even if we're only setting ourselves up for a fall, victory over in Australia (no matter how seriously they say they've been taking the games over here) is the only way we'll ever legitimately earn some very enjoyable bragging rights.

Let's be brave and make it happen ... Or will we just be content with looking to sneak back into our delusional little shell?

Paul Bennett is deputy editor of League Weekly



GET YOUR FIX...

Your guide to all the league and cup fixtures for 2009

NORTHERN RAIL CUP



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Keighley Cougars 40, Gateshead Thunder 20

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Sheffield Eagles 38, Hunslet Hawks 16

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Widnes Vikings 20, Oldham 22

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Doncaster RLFC 6, Featherstone Rovers 32

Gateshead Thunder 44, Sheffield Eagles 18

Leigh Centurions 74, London Skolars 6

Whitehaven 52, Batley Bulldogs 30

Blackpool Panthers 16, Keighley Cougars 14

Dewsbury Rams 50 Swinton Lions 0

Hunslet Hawks 10, Halifax RLFC 38

Hornets RL 12, Barrow Raiders 54

Workington Town 10 York City Knights 34

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Batley Bulldogs 18, Doncaster RLFC 22

Featherstone Rovers 10, Leigh Centurions 6

York City Knights 36, Whitehaven 6

Oldham 54, Hornets RL 4

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Widnes Vikings 40, Gateshead Thunder 18

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Batley Bulldogs 40, York City Knights 28

Featherstone Rovers 26, Dewsbury Rams 28

Halifax RLFC 40, Barrow Raiders 10

Whitehaven 26, Workington Town 12

Keighley Cougars 44, Hunslet Hawks 6

London Skolars 12, Doncaster RLFC 40

Oldham 22, Sheffield Eagles 34

Hornets RL 28, Blackpool Panthers 26

Lions 26, Leigh Centurions 34

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Barrow Raiders 34, Keighley Cougars 7

Gateshead Thunder 46, Hornets RL 22

Leigh Centurions 24, Whitehaven 22

Sheffield Eagles 18, Halifax RLFC 50

Blackpool Panthers 16, Widnes Vikings 46

Dewsbury Rams 34, Batley Bulldogs 14

Workington Town 6, Featherstone Rovers 38

Doncaster RLFC 36, Swinton Lions 28

Hunslet Hawks 14, Oldham 32

York City Knights 58 London Skolars 12

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Barrow Raiders v Widnes Vikings 19:30

Halifax RLFC v Blackpool Panthers 20:00

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP



SATURDAY, MARCH 7

THIRD ROUND

Keighley Cougars v Pia 19:00

Kells v Hunslet Hawks 18:00

Queens v Doncaster RL 15:00

Siddal v Swinton Lions 13:00

Widnes Vikings v Saddleworth Rangers 18:00

Workington v FC Lezignan-Corbieres 16:30

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

THIRD ROUND

Barrow Raiders v Blackpool Panthers 14:00

Dewsbury Rams v Carcasonne 15:00

Featherstone Rovers v British Army 15:00

Gateshead Thunder v Whitehaven 15:00

Halifax v Loughborough Univ 15:00

Leeds Met v Hornets RL 14:00

Leigh Centurions v Lokomotiv Moscow 15:00

Oldham Roughyeds v Sharlston Rovers 15:00

Pilkingtons v Batley Bulldogs 15:00

Sheffield Eagles v Toulouse 15:00

Wath Brow Hornets v London Skolars 14:00

York City Knights v Wigan St Patricks 15:00

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Swinton Lions v Workington Town 19:30

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

London Skolars v Dewsbury Rams TBC



CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Widnes Vikings v Toulouse Olympique 19:30

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders v Doncaster RLFC 18:30

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs v Featherstone Rovers 15:00

Sheffield Eagles v Leigh Centurions 15:00

Whitehaven v Gateshead Thunder 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Oldham v Blackpool Panthers 15:00

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Halifax RLFC v Widnes Vikings 19:30

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique v Sheffield Eagles 19:00

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers v Whitehaven 15:00

Gateshead Thunder v Barrow Raiders 15:00

Leigh Centurions v Batley Bulldogs 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Workington Town v Hornets RL 15:00

Blackpool Panthers v Hunslet Hawks 15:00

Dewsbury Rams v York City Knights 15:00

Keighley Cougars v Oldham 15:00

London Skolars v Swinton Lions 15:00

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Batley Bulldogs v Gateshead Thunder 19:30

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

CHAMPIONSHIP

Whitehaven v Toulouse Olympique 18:00

Barrow Raiders v Halifax RLFC 18:30

Widnes Vikings v Sheffield Eagles 18:00

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

CHAMPIONSHIP

Doncaster RLFC v Leigh Centurions 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v Dewsbury Rams 15:00

Swinton Lions v Keighley Cougars 15:00

York City Knights v Blackpool Panthers 15:00

Hunslet Hawks v London Skolars 15:00

Oldham v Workington Town 15:00

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Sheffield Eagles v Doncaster RLFC TBC

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax RLFC v Batley Bulldogs 20:00

Gateshead Thunder v Featherstone Rovers 18:00

Barrow Raiders v Whitehaven 15:00

Sheffield Eagles v Doncaster RLFC 15:00

Widnes Vikings v Leigh Centurions 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v Oldham 15:00

Workington Town v Hunslet Hawks 15:00

Blackpool Panthers v Swinton Lions 15:00

Dewsbury Rams v London Skolars 15:30

Keighley Cougars v York City Knights 19:30

MONDAY, APRIL 13

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers v Sheffield Eagles 15:00

Leigh Centurions v Barrow Raiders 13:00

Batley Bulldogs v Toulouse Olympique 15:00

Doncaster RLFC v Widnes Vikings 15:00

Whitehaven v Halifax RLFC 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Workington Town 15:00

York City Knights v Rochdale Hornet 15:00

Hunslet Hawks v Keighley Cougars 15:00

London Skolars v Blackpool Panthers 15:00

Oldham v Dewsbury Rams 20:00

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Gateshead Thunder v Sheffield Eagles 19:30

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

CHAMPIONSHIP

Widnes Vikings v Batley Bulldogs 19:30

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique v Leigh Centurions 19:00

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax RLFC v Doncaster RLFC 15:00

Whitehaven v Featherstone Rovers 15:00

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Leigh Centurions v Featherstone Rovers 19:30

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders v Batley Bulldogs 18:30

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax RLFC v Gateshead Thunder 15:00

Doncaster RLFC v Toulouse Olympique 14:00

Sheffield Eagles v Widnes Vikings 16:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v London Skolars 15:00

Workington Town v York City Knights 15:00

Dewsbury Rams v Hunslet Hawks 15:00

Keighley Cougars v Blackpool Panthers 15:00

Oldham v Swinton Lions 15:00

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Featherstone Rovers v Halifax RLFC 19:30

FRIDAY, MAY 1

CHAMPIONSHIP

Widnes Vikings v Barrow Raiders 20:00

Gateshead Thunder v Doncaster RLFC 19:30

SUNDAY, MAY 3

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique v Whitehaven 19:00

MONDAY, MAY 4

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs v Leigh Centurions 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Dewsbury Rams 15:00

York City Knights v Keighley Cougars 15:00

Blackpool Panthers v Hornets RL 15:00

Hunslet Hawks v Workington Town 15:00

London Skolars v Oldham 15:00

THURSDAY, MAY 7

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Whitehaven v Widnes Vikings 15:00

FRIDAY, MAY 8

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sheffield Eagles v Featherstone Rovers 20:00

SATURDAY, MAY 9

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders v Gateshead Thunder 18:30

SUNDAY, MAY 10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Doncaster RLFC v Batley Bulldogs 15:00

Leigh Centurions v Halifax RLFC 15:00

THURSDAY, MAY 14

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Leigh Centurions v Widnes Vikings 19:30

SATURDAY, MAY 16

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique v Barrow Raiders 19:00

SUNDAY, MAY 17

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers v Doncaster RLFC 15:00

Gateshead Thunder v Whitehaven 15:00

Halifax RLFC v Sheffield Eagles 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL v York City Knights 15:00

Dewsbury Rams v Blackpool Panthers 15:00

Keighley Cougars v Swinton Lions 15:00

Workington Town v London Skolars 14:00

Oldham v Hunslet Hawks 15:00

THURSDAY, MAY 21

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Doncaster RLFC v Halifax RLFC 19:30

SATURDAY, MAY 23

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sheffield Eagles v Toulouse Olympique 18:00

Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers 18:30

Widnes Vikings v Gateshead Thunder 18:00

SUNDAY, MAY 24

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs v Whitehaven 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Oldham 15:00

Workington Town v Dewsbury Rams 15:00

WHAT A RESULT!



NORTHERN RAIL CUP 2009

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

POOL ONE

Barrow Raiders 34

Tries: Ellis 2, Campbell, L Finch, Brocklehurst, J Finch. Goals: Noone 5.

Keighley Cougars 7

Tries: Presley. Goals: Jones. Drop Goals: Jones. Half Time: 6-7. Attendance: 1,311.

Blackpool Panthers 16

Tries: Munro, Alker, Forster. Goals: Leather 2.

Widnes Vikings 46

Tries: Kohe-Love 2, Doran, Hartley, Fletcher, Flynn, Duffy, Yates. Goals: Yates 7. Half Time: 12-18. Attendance: 864.

Gateshead Thunder 46

Tries: Sanderson 3, Hendeson, Peers, Arundel, Parker, Neighbour, Nash. Goals: Knowles 4, Branighan.

Hornets RL 22

Tries: Johnson, Cunliffe, Mayberry, Bretherton, Ainscough. Goals: Giles. Half Time: 14-8. Attendance: 452.

Hunslet Hawks 14

Tries: Faal, Larvin. Goals: Robinson 2, Chapman. **Oldham 32** Tries: Onyango, Reilly 3, O'Connor, Halliwell. Goals: Ballard. Half Time: 14-10. Attendance: 581.

Sheffield Eagles 18



Paul Reilly's on the charge for Oldham. The experienced centre scored three tries against Hunslet

Tries: Woodcock, Gibson, Barlow. Goals: Woodcock.

Halifax 50

Tries: Penkywicz 2, Tamghart 2, Worrincy, Beswick, Royston, Haley 2, Patterson. Goals: Haley 4, Govin.

Half Time: 6-28.

Attendance: 1,065.

POOL TWO

Dewsbury Rams 34

Tries: Epati, Bretherton 2, Wildey, Finn 2. Goals: Walker 5.

Batley Bulldogs 14

Tries: Preece, Stenchion, Armitage. Goals: Flanagan. Half Time: 8-14.

Attendance: 1,512.

Doncaster 36

Tries: Green, Weeden 2, Jones, Reittie, Rounding. Goals: Briggs 5.

Swinton Lions 28

Tries: Rigby, Billy, Hayes, Newton, Hulse. Goals: Sneyd 4.

Half Time: 12-10.

Attendance: 645.

Leigh Centurions 24

Tries: Ridyard, Haggerty, Durbin, McConnell. Goals: Ridyard 4.

Whitehaven 22

Tries: Eilbeck, McNally 2, Lavulavu. Goals: M Jackson 3.

Half Time: 12-10.

Attendance: 1,789.

Workington Town 6

Tries: Beattie. Goals: Forber.

Featherstone Rovers 38

Tries: Smeaton, Pryce 2, Harris, Hardman, Tonks, Blakeway. Goals: Dickens 3, Harris 2.

Half Time: 6-8.

Attendance: 650.

York City Knights 58

Tries: Ratcliffe 2, Clayton, Hughes, Mitchell, Haberecht 2, Oakes, P March, D March, Grimshaw. Goals: Knight 7.

London Skolars 12

Tries: Burke, Thomas. Goals: Thorman 2.

Half Time: 28-0.

Attendance: 1,003.

STATS SERVICE



NORTHERN RAIL CUP 2009 TABLES

POOL ONE										
	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Pts	
Oldham (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	130	72	58	10	
Halifax (Q)*	3	3	0	0	0	128	38	90	9	
Widnes Vikings*	3	2	0	1	1	106	56	50	7	
Keighley Cougars	4	2	0	2	1	105	76	29	7	
Barrow Raiders*	3	2	0	1	0	98	59	39	6	
Gateshead Thunder	4	2	0	2	0	128	120	8	6	
Sheffield Eagles	4	2	0	2	0	108	132	-24	6	
B'pool Panthers*	3	1	0	2	1	58	88	-30	4	
Hornets RL	4	1	0	3	0	66	180	-114	3	
Hunslet Hawks	4	0	0	4	0	46	152	-106	0	

POOL TWO										
	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Pts	
York C Knights (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	156	68	88	10	
Leigh Cent'ns (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	138	64	74	10	
Featherstone (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	106	46	60	10	
Dewsbury Rams	3	3	0	0	0	112	40	72	9	
Doncaster	4	3	0	1	0	104	90	14	9	
Whitehaven	4	2	0	2	1	106	102	4	7	
Batley Bulldogs	4	1	0	3	1	102	146	-44	4	
Swinton Lions	3	0	0	3	2	54	120	-66	2	
Workington Town	3	0	0	3	0	28	98	-70	0	
London Skolars	3	0	0	3	0	30	172	-142	0	

*Does not include Wednesday night's games

3 pts for win, 2 for draw, 1 for a bonus point for losing by 12pts or less

Leading points scorers

PLAYER/CLUB	T	G	DG	T
Andy Ballard (Oldham)	4	18	52	
Jonny Woodcock (Eagles)	2	16	40	
George Flanagan (Batley)	3	13	38	
Pat Walker (Dewsbury)		18	36	
Martin Ridyard (Leigh)	3	10	32	
Paul Noone (Barrow)		15	30	
Scott Yates (Widnes)	1	13	30	
Jon Presley (Keighley)	7		28	
James Haley (Halifax)	2	10	28	
Gregg McNally (White)	4	6	28	
Danny Jones (Keighley)		12	1	25
Stuart Sanderson (Gates)	6		24	
Iestyn Harris (Feath)	2	7	22	
Ian Mort (Leigh)	1	9	22	
Kane Epati (Dewsbury)	5		20	
Jamie Durbin (Leigh)	5		20	
Luke Branighan (Gates)	1	8	20	
Richard Knight (York)		10	20	
Andy Speak (Dons)	1	7	18	
Luke Branighan (G'head)	1	7	18	
Adam Mitchell (York)	9		18	

Leading try scorers

Jon Presley (Keighley)	7
Stuart Sanderson (Gateshead)	6
Kane Epati (Dewsbury)	5
Jamie Durbin (Leigh)	5
Gregg McNally (Whitehaven)	4
Sean Penkywicz (Halifax)	4
Mark McCully (Blackpool)	4
Andy Ballard (Oldham)	4
Mike Cody (Doncaster)	4
Liam Finch (Barrow)	4
Dylan Nash (Gateshead)	4
Joe Arundel (Gateshead)	4
Paul Hughes (York)	4
John Oakes (York)	4
Danny Ratcliffe (York)	4
Tom Haberecht (York)	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE 2008

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Salford City Reds	18	12	3	3	614	302	312	45
Celtic Crusaders	18	12	0	6	511	391	120	40
Halifax RLFC	18	11	1	6	634	514	120	38
Leigh Centurions	18	10	0	8	448	448	0	34
Whitehaven	18	10	0	8	420	399	21	32
Widnes Vikings*	18	10	2	6	453	410	43	30
Sheffield Eagles	18	8	1	9	425	530	-105	29
Featherstone R	18	6	1	11	452	515	-63	26
Batley Bulldogs	18	5	0	13	387	538	-151	23
Dewsbury Rams (R)	18	2	0	16	315	612	-297	13

*Widnes deducted nine points for going into administration

NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO 2008

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Gateshead Thunder (P)	22	19	0	3	767	415	352	59
Barrow Raiders (P)	22	16	0	6	703	375	328	52
Oldham	22	17	0	5	716	456	260	52
Doncaster (P)	22	15	0	7	672	426	246	48
Keighley Cougars	22	15	0	7	611	519	92	48
York City Knights	22	11	1	10	740	540	200	42
Rochdale Hornets	22	10	1	11	715	610	105	36
Workington Town	22	6	0	16	512	628	-116	28
Blackpool Panthers	22	7	1	14	472	828	-356	25
Swinton Lions	22	6	0	16	482	777	-295	22
London Skolars	22	4	1	17	449	823	-374	20
Hunslet Hawks	22	4	0	18	336	778	-442	17

NL TOP SCORERS 2008

TRIES (All matches)	
James Nixon (Barrow - pictured)	35
Paul White (Salford)	28
Martin Ainscough (Rochdale)	28
Luke Gale (Doncaster)	27
Richard Myler (Salford)	25

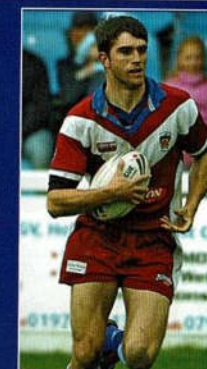
GOALS (All matches)

Graham Holroyd (Halifax - pictured)	156
Mick Nanyin (Oldham)	139
Dan Russell (Gateshead)	129 (1)
Carl Sneyd (Rochdale)	110

(1) Drop goals included in total

POINTS (All matches)

Mick Nanyin (Oldham)	362
Graham Holroyd (Halifax)	340
Dan Russell (Gateshead)	293
Carl Sneyd (Rochdale)	268
John Wilshire (Salford)	252
Carl Forber (Workington)	243



KNOW YOUR STUFF?

CHALLENGE CUP SPECIAL

1, In what year did Hull KR beat Hull FC 10-5 in the final of the Challenge Cup?

2, Who contested the first ever Wembley final in 1929?

3, How many times have Leeds won the Challenge Cup – 8, 10 or 12?

4, For how many consecutive years did Wigan win the Challenge Cup in the late 1980s and early 90s?

5, Which two teams contested both the 1996 and 1997 finals?

6, Broughton Rangers hold the lowest winning score for a Challenge Cup final, beating Wigan at Salford in 1911 by what score?

7, Which club holds the record for biggest winning score in a Challenge Cup final?

8, By what score did Sheffield Eagles beat Wigan to win the Challenge Cup in 1998?

9, Which player holds the record for most appearances in a Challenge Cup final?



10, Billy Stott was the first winner of the Lance Todd Trophy back in 1946 – for which club did he play?

11, Which New Zealander holds the record for most tries in Challenge Cup finals, having scored a brace in three separate finals?

12, Who did Halifax beat at Wembley to win the Challenge Cup in 1987?

13, Which current Super League club holds the record for highest ever score in a Challenge Cup match, beating Swinton Park 119-2 in 1914?

14, The three winners of the Lance Todd Trophy in 1947, 1948 and 1949 all played for which club?

15, The last Challenge Cup final to be replayed was in 1982 when Hull beat Widnes 18-9 – but at which ground?

ANAGRAMS

Rearrange the following phrases to form the names of five former Lance Todd Trophy winners (year won in brackets)

HURL MY APEX (1971)

I HEAR DAMAGE (1987)

HEY, LEARN YELL (1989)

TYRANT MOMMY (1997)

ONLY A LONG CRY (2003)

ANSWERS:
CHALLENGE CUP QUIZ SPECIAL: 1, 1996; 2, Wigan and Dewsbury; 3, 12; 4, Eight; 5, St Helens and Bradford; 6, 4-0; 7, Leeds (beat London Broncos 52-16 in 1999); 8, 17-8; 9, Shaun Edwards (11); 10, Wakefield Trinity; 11, Kevin Iro; 12, St Helens; 13, Huddersfield; 14, Bradford; 15, Elland Road, Leeds.

ANAGRAMS: 1, Alex Murphy; 2, Graham Eadie; 3, Ellery Hanley; 4, Tommy

Martin; 5, Gary Connolly.



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