

SOLDIER BEN LINED UP FOR HIS ROUGHYEDS RETURN

by Roger Halstead

WINGER Ben Seru, out for nearly a year with a serious injury to his left knee, will be back in full training at Oldham within the next few weeks.



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More Rugby in your Chronicle

Since his knee was smashed on his senior Roughyeds debut in last year's Carnegie Challenge Cup quarter-final defeat at Wakefield, the soldier has had a major reconstruction and has spent the last few months working hard on an Army rehabilitation programme. He contacted the club last week to say the time was fast approaching for his return to rugby and he had further talks with club officials when, proudly sporting a Roughyeds replica jersey, he turned up to watch last Saturday's Carnegie Challenge Cup clash with Gateshead Thunder at Darlington.

Said Ben: "I'm running again now, but I am still working hard on building up the strength in my leg. The Army physios have told me I could be back in full training at Oldham in three to four weeks, but then I would probably need a couple more weeks to get up to speed." The British Army's dual-code Fijian winger did enough in his first-ever game for Oldham, a reserve team match at Widnes, to earn an immediate first-team call-up at Wakefield a few days later, but the tie was only 17 minutes old when he was forced to limp out of the action. His signing by Oldham in May, 2008 on a contract that would run to November, 2009 successfully concluded two months of talks with Army and player.

Aged 31, and a sapper with 15 Field Support Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ben is a serving soldier with the Royal Engineers, stationed at Ripon in North Yorkshire. He came to Oldham's attention with a stunning performance for the Army when Roughyeds beat them 56-10 at Aldershot in a third-round Carnegie Challenge Cup tie on March 9, 2008. Club officials made their interest known when the tie was over and he signed ten weeks later to become the club's first-ever signing from the Armed Forces.

He was a prominent player for the Army in both codes of rugby, having twice played for the union side against the Royal Navy in front of massive Twickenham crowds ---40,000 in 2007 and 50,000 in the early part of 2008. Shortly before signing for Oldham he spent two weeks in South Africa with the Army's rugby union squad on a special training exercise. Married with two small daughters, Ben was devastated when he was so seriously injured on his Oldham debut, but a year on he is delighted with his recovery and is determined to be back in a Roughyeds jersey as soon as he gets the all-clear.

Chris Hamilton, the Roughyeds chief executive, said this week: "Ben is back running again, still in straight lines but he will start stepping again in the next few days. "He is a very determined character and we know he has a lot of ability. "It was a huge blow to us as well as to him when he suffered an injury like that on his Oldham debut, but he is keen to get back now and we are looking at him being up to full fitness in about five to six weeks."

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BALLARD THE BOOT IN RECORD POINTS HAUL

Club history rewritten as Benson's boys put on a capital show to win 78-10 in London

by ROGER HALSTEAD

RAMPANT Roughyeds smashed THREE all-time club records when beating the struggling Skolars 78-10 in London in their most recent league game. Congratulations to all concerned in the rewriting of more than 100 years of club history.

Individually, the toast was Andy Ballard, whose 13 goals and two tries gave him the distinction of having scored more points in one game - 34 - than any other Oldham player going back to 1895 and beyond.

But that wasn't the only Roughyeds record to tumble on a day when coach Tony Benson's boys rattled up Oldham Rugby's highest-ever match score and also recorded the club's biggest-ever winning margin - achievements that bettered anything produced by the great Oldham sides of the Roaring Twenties and the Fabulous Fifties.

Later, a delighted Benson revealed how Ballard kicked his way into Oldham Rugby folklore despite having to use a couple of marker cones of different sizes as a make-do-and-mend kicking tee.

"Andy rarely uses a proper kicking tee," he said.

"Instead, he will make do with two marker cones, but they went missing at London and he was forced to improvise by using cones of different sizes.

"Being the laid-back character that he is, it didn't bother him one little bit. Amazing really."

The former Wigan and Salford winger had equalled Abe Johnson's 81-year-old record haul of 30 points in a match with nine goals and three tries in a 66-14 win against Workington Town at Boundary Park five weeks earlier.

This time, on a sunny May day in the unlikely setting of a North London athletics stadium, he claimed the record for himself by scoring two tries in the first half and producing a faultless display of goalkicking to land 13 conversions from 13 attempts.

Only the legendary Bernard Ganley ever kicked more goals than that in one game for Oldham and that was 50 years ago when he kicked 14 against Liverpool City on April 4, 1959.

A small crowd - most of those from Oldham - witnessed the moment seven minutes from the end when Ballard converted Neil Roden's try from under the posts to take his total for the match to 32 and thus cause 81 years of Roughyeds history to be rewritten.

Seemingly unaware of the significance of his achievement, Ballard said later: "Sure, it's nice to know I've broken the record, but really I should have scored a few more points than I did.

"Looking back, I think I should have had two more tries in the first half - once when I put the ball back inside to Thomas Coyle and on another occasion when I kicked inside. Thomas scored himself thankfully, but looking back I think I should have backed myself in both instances and gone for the line.

"But that's the way I play. I'm not greedy, I just do what I can for the team. Still, it's good to keep the points pot bubbling."

Ballard has now kicked 75 goals and scored 13 tries so far this season to amass 202 points in his attempt to smash Pat Rich's record for the new Oldham club of 146 goals in 2001 and Mick Nanyin's best of 362 points in 2008.

If he achieves either of those he will then be striving to beat Ganley's all-time club record hauls of 200 goals and 412 points in a season, both set in 1957-58.

Surprisingly, Andy doesn't practise his goalkicking other than in the warm-up before matches.

"There are no rugby posts where we train," he explained, "but I've been kicking goals since I was about seven years old and it just comes naturally. To be honest I don't think about it all that much. I just go out and do it."



Pictures in this programme courtesy of Dave Murgatroyd.

View from the inside...



Welcome to Roughyed Stadium for our last game before our enforced break due to pitch work.

The events of the last few days have certainly made for headlines and the club has received some unwelcome attention following events after the hooter last Saturday.

That said, the club has dealt with the matter and you can rest assured that everybody is focussed on what we want to achieve this season and our determination is even stronger than before.

On the pitch the defeat at Darlington was even harder to take because we showed that, despite the fact that Gateshead were from a division above, we were more than capable of matching them and there were long periods where we dominated the game.

That game is gone now and its no good looking back and in today's opponents, Hunslet, we know we have a tough test. Hunslet have been a beacon to a lot of other clubs in the way the club has been turned around and the rewards are also now coming on the pitch also with a strong looking squad.

Their position in the division is not a false one and today we will have to get back to winning ways in the league.

The lads have worked hard in training this week to ensure we keep on improving and hopefully we will see the rewards of that this afternoon.

Following today's game we will not have a "true" home match until 19th July

and that will place a burden on the club on several fronts from cash flow to the playing side with the team having to play at least 4 matches in that period and possibly more if we can progress in the Northern Rail Cup.

That is one of the many unique challenges that the club face and I personally feel that, because it is an annual event, it gets underestimated. The effort that everybody connected with the club puts in should not go unrecognised and it is those things that make our club special.

Whilst far from ideal we accept the situation we are in and do our best to get on with things.

You the fans back us in those circumstances and we are all trying our best to bring success to the club.

The support at Darlington last week was again great and much appreciated and please continue it today by getting behind the team.

Enjoy the game.

Chris Hamilton

Chief Executive

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April

Friday 17th HUNSLET HAWKS H L 30-50
May

Friday 1st LEIGH CENTURIONS H L 0-56
Friday 15th HUNSLET HAWKS A 8:00pm
Thursday 21st DEWSBURY RAM A 7:30pm
Saturday 30th BARROW RAIDERS H 2:30pm
June

KEIGHLEY COUGARS H TBC
Saturday 20th WHITEHAVEN A 2:30pm
Saturday 27th YORK CITY KNIGHTS H 2:30pm
July

Saturday 4th WHITEHAVEN H 2:30pm
Thursday 9th WIDNES VIKINGS A 7:30pm
Thursday 16th KEIGHLEY COUGARS A 7:30pm
Saturday 25th DEWSBURY RAMS H 2:30pm
August

Saturday 1st WIDNES VIKINGS H 2:30pm
Saturday 8th BARROW RAIDERS A 2:30pm
Saturday 15th LEIGH CENTURIONS A 2:30pm
Thursday 20th YORK CITY KNIGHTS A 8:00pm

Teenage new boys in tough baptism for the Reserves

A YOUNG Roughyeds reserve side, which included three 17-year-old debutants, was beaten 56-0 by a strong Leigh Centurions side at Sedgley Park, following their 50-30 defeat by Hunslet Hawks in their opening game of the league season at the same venue.

First-team squad members Jason Boults, Craig Littler and Luke Sutton were in the Oldham side, as well as the three 17-year-old new boys - Ross Coates, who has been playing rugby union at Littleborough; Luke Clegg from Oldham St Anne's; and Austin Barraclough from the Newsome amateur club in Huddersfield, recommended by Phil Joseph.

Coach John Hough said that, despite the defeat, Oldham showed more commitment and enthusiasm than they had in the first game and kept going against heavy odds until the end of the match.

He said Leigh fielded an exceptionally strong side and would be expected to be one of the leading sides in the competition. Oldham had an opportunity to get a second crack at Hunslet Hawks on Friday evening and their next home game, at Sedgley Park, will be against Barrow on Saturday, May 30, with a 2.30pm kick off.

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	W	26-8	800
Sun, Mar 15	CC1	Blackpool Panthers	H	3.00pm	W	36-18	880
Sun, Mar 22	CC1	Keighley Cougars	A	3.00pm	L	26-34	1,021
Sun, Mar 29	CC1	Workington Town	H	3.00pm	W	66-14	819
Sun, April 5	CCC4	Lézignan	H	3.00pm	W	60-30	863
Fri, April 10	CC1	Rochdale Hornets	A	3.00pm	W	26-18	1,249
Sun, April 19	CC1	Dewsbury Rams	H	3.00pm	L	12-36	1,147
Sun, April 26	CC1	Swinton Lions	H	3.00pm	W	52-36	1,010
Sat, May 2	CC1	London Skolars	A	3.00pm	W	78-10	273
Sat, May 9	CCC5	Gateshead Thunder	A	3.00pm	L	16-34	929
Sun, May 17	CC1	Hunslet Hawks	H	3.00pm			
Sun, May 24	CC1	Swinton Lions	A	3.00pm			
Sun, June 7	NRCQF	Featherstone Rov.	H	3.00pm			
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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JAMIE HOPES TO BLAZE THE PROMOTION TRAIL NOW EARLY-SEASON KNOCKS ARE BEHIND HIM

PLAYER PROFILE

No 9 JAMIE I'ANSON

Roger Halstead talks to a Top Gun who shoots from the hip.

AT the age of 21 Jamie I'Anson is one of the youngest players in Oldham's first-team squad, yet he has already experienced many of the ups and downs associated with life as a professional rugby league player.

In recent weeks he has been doing battle in the Roughyeds' front-row despite a wide variety of bumps, bruises, twists, sprains and knocks which would have sidelined many a player who did not have a disposition that was as hard as granite.

"I've been carrying lots of little injuries," he revealed. "They weren't bad enough to keep me out for any length of time, but they were enough to hinder my performances, and I'm the first to know that."

"Hopefully, and with a bit of luck, they are all behind me now and I can kick-on and start to show the sort of form I produced early in the year."

The young Yorkshireman, raised in the

Leeds Rhinos Academy set-up and developed further in two seasons with Celtic Crusaders down in Wales, hopes to be blazing the promotion trail with the Roughyeds over the course of the next few months.

He is enjoying his rugby here at Oldham - "more than at any other club I've been at" - and his goal for the remainder of this season is to help Roughyeds to achieve their aim of climbing out of the sport's third tier at the third time of asking, following Grand Final defeats in 2007 and 2008.

"Promotion is the goal, no matter how we do it," said Jamie. "We've suffered a couple of setbacks in the league and the automatic spot might now be out of our

hands, although its early days yet and anything can happen over the course of the season."

"We've just got to concentrate on each game as it comes up, and see where it takes us. But promotion is the goal, and there are more ways than one of achieving it."

Jamie was born and bred in the same area of Leeds as his Roughyeds captain and mentor, Robert Roberts. Jamie is from Whinmoor, 'Two Bobs' from Seacroft, but both are in the south-east of the city where they breed 'em tough, and they breed 'em for rugby league.

Jamie's grandad and uncle played league and by the age of 11 he was following in the family tradition and turning out for Whinmoor Warriors under-12s.

He didn't always play in the front-row, but he was always somewhere in the pack -- a big, strong lad who liked to play his weight.

Honours came quickly, and easily . . . Leeds service area, Leeds and District, Yorkshire Boys, and the biggest of them all, the offer of a Rhinos scholarship at the age of 11. By the time he was 15 he was signing pro forms for one of the most famous clubs in world rugby league. "I signed for Rhinos on a four-year contract," he recalled, "and it was great to be at a club like that while I was so young."

"They had great coaches, fantastic facilities and everything about the place was professionalism at its best."

In his early days at Leeds,



Jamie couldn't go wrong. Playing for the Rhinos junior sides as well as for Hunslet Parkside under-15s and under-16s, he represented England under-16s and England Academy as well as being named Top Gun at a national development squad.

During his apprenticeship with Rhinos he had a brief spell on loan with Featherstone Rovers and it was while he was at Post Office Road that he came up against a team that was just starting to make a name for itself in South Wales, Celtic Crusaders.

He must have made a big impression on Celtic because coach John Dixon was soon keen to inquire about the future plans of the young, energetic and robust front-rower who didn't know how to take a backward step.

Jamie takes up the story. "When I was 19 I realised it was time to move on from Leeds. Crusaders were interested in taking me down to South Wales and although it was a massive move for me, which involved uprooting and going to live down there, I saw it as an ambitious club that would be right for me."

In his first year in Bridgend, things couldn't have worked out any better. He got a lot of first-team football; quickly became a fans' favourite; and learned a lot from team mates, several of whom had played NRL football in Australia.

At the end of his first year there, Crusaders won promotion to what was then National League One. They strengthened the squad, and Jamie discovered in his second season that he was getting fewer opportunities at senior level.

"I still played about 17 first-team games," he recalled, "but nothing like as many as the year before and I found myself in the Reserves a lot more than I had been in 2007."

"Things were not working out for me as I had hoped, and I tried to get a move back to the North on loan. A few clubs were interested, including Oldham, but Crusaders were asking for too much money so I had to wait until the end of the season when I had negotiated a settlement for my release."

"Once I was free to move I talked to Oldham again, and signed, and I am glad I did because I am really enjoying my time here."

He has no regrets about moving to Wales, though, and he is firmly of the belief that there is a great

future for the sport in the south of the Principality.

He opined that the RFL should stick with Crusaders and continue to encourage them and added: "To push the game down there is one of the best things the Rugby League has done in recent years. "Now that Crusaders are in Super League, they can only get stronger and I am sure that eventually the game down there will flourish. I hope so anyway. They deserve it."

Jamie, who was only 11 when he used to watch Marcus St Hilaire playing for Leeds at Headingley, looks to 'Junior', 'Two Bobs' and the other senior professionals at Oldham for guidance, just as he sought help from his more experienced colleagues at Leeds and at Crusaders.

"I don't have a hero within the game," he added, "but I respect every single person who plays this game and I am learning all the time from players who have been around for a lot longer than I have."

Jamie has recently joined forces with 'Two Bobs' in representing Roughyeds on community work in primary schools right across the Oldham borough.

Each day of the week they do morning and afternoon sessions in the schools, and Jamie is learning the rudiments of community work from his club captain, just as he takes guidance from him on the field.



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ST ANNES - GUESTS FOR THE DAY

Oldham RLFC are pleased to welcome St Annes ARLFC as their guests for today's game against Hunslet.

The Roughyeds are keen to further improve the relationship with the local amateur rugby league game. It is hoped that representatives of the St Annes club will be presented to the crowd at half time.



Dave Charles now gives us a brief insight into the St Annes club. Oldham St Annes ARLFC are one of Oldham's oldest and most established amateur rugby league clubs, with an abundance of history. Over the years, many professional players such as Kyle Eastmond, Iestyn Harris, Steve Molloy, Leo Casey have earned their spurs playing for the 'Saints', and have gone on to make successful careers out of the sport. The Saints are one of the few sides to dispose of professional opposition in the Challenge Cup.

When Batley fell to the Higginshaw Road side in 2000, the result sent shockwaves around the rugby league scene. Today is no different.

Apart from running two open age sides, they can boast a vibrant youth section with teams operating from Under 7s straight through to Under 18s. With over 200 players within the youth ranks, the future of rugby league in Oldham couldn't be stronger.

Even though their playing days are over, past professional players such as Tony Morrison (Oldham, Castleford & Swinton), Richard Russell (Wigan, Oldham & Castleford), Leo Casey (Oldham & Featherstone), Neil Flanagan (Oldham, Huddersfield & Rochdale) can be found giving back their experience, enthusiasm, knowledge and time to the stars of tomorrow.

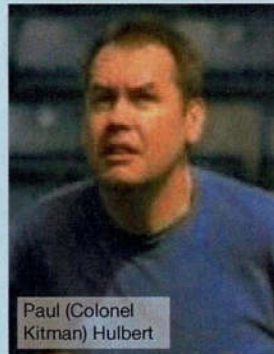


All coaches within the club are fully qualified to a minimum of Level 1, and are fully CRB checked. This all complies with the Clubmark standard the club is accredited to.

No matter what experience players have when they arrive at the club, they are all treated equally and coached in the same manner.

If you require any further details, please contact the Youth Section secretary, Steve Baldwin 07824632454 or the Coach Co-ordinator, David Charles 07986761556.

Whilst we have been celebrating records of late, this is one that has surely been missed. Paul (Colonel Kitman) Hulbert has been kit man for 7 years and not missed a single match, home or away. Congratulations Paul, its voluntary workers like you that keep our club alive.



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For a community more active, more often



by ROGER HALSTEAD
Northern Rail and Roughyeds joined forces in a meet-the-children event at an Oldham primary school.

Roughyeds captain Robert Roberts and prop-forward Jamie I'Anson, as well as representatives from Northern Rail, were at Alt Lane Primary School, Alt Lane, Oldham to deliver a joint presentation.

Object of the exercise was twofold - to promote the Northern Rail Cup competition (and in particular Oldham's televised quarter-final clash with Featherstone Rovers at Leigh on Thursday, June 4) and also to talk to children about railways and rail safety.

The presentation to the children involved an introduction by Northern Rail; film of last year's final; a talk about rail safety and the dangers of playing near railway lines; a chat about the Oldham-Featherstone tie by the Oldham captain; and an opportunity for children to express themselves in writing with their thoughts on anything relative to railways, rugby league and/or the Roughyeds.

A highlight of the visit was an opportunity for children to be photographed with the Northern Rail Cup.

Oldham reached the quarter-final last year and they will be hoping to go one better this time when they take on Featherstone - and their Oldham-born star Iestyn Harris - at the new Leigh Sports Village stadium on Thursday, June 4 (7.30pm kick off) in a match to be televised live by Sky Sports.

As part of the club's community work Jamie I'Anson and Chris Baines are now working alongside club skipper Robert Roberts, who has been a regular visitor into Oldham's primary schools for more than a year.

Hardly a day goes by when 'Two Bobs' does not go into local schools and he is now being joined by Jamie, while Chris has been working in secondary schools.

Club coach Tony Benson said in an interview on Oldham Community Radio: "The event with Northern Rail was not a one-off thing as far as the Roughyeds' work in schools is concerned.

"We are only too pleased to help in any way we can, and not just on rugby but on other matters such as healthy eating and healthy life style and on other matters as well.

"Robert, Jamie and Chris are out today, as they are every day. The community is very important to us."

In the player profile on Jamie I'Anson on pages 4 and 5 of this programme you can read how the young prop is now working in tandem with 'Two Bobs' on community work and is enjoying every minute of it.

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and Championship One clubs

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Recents results suggest standards are improving

IT IS always unwise to read too much into one result.

After last weekend Halifax fans may well be thinking Matt Calland has put together a squad capable of holding their own in the Super League.

They might be right but as impressive as drawing at Castleford was - only to lose in extra time - they shouldn't get too carried away.

Had they won and then beaten another Super League team in the quarter-final... well then you might have good reason for believing they are that good.

One swallow doesn't make a summer and all that, but do it twice and it all but takes away the 'freak result' element.

What is without question is that Halifax have been magnificent this year, blowing away teams in great style and also winning when things have been on a knife edge. It shows they have skill and character.

They are great ambassadors for the Co-operative Leagues and while they will have grabbed the majority of the national headlines with their display at The Jungle, what was more significant was they were not alone in doing brilliantly against Super League opposition.

Sheffield Eagles did fantastically well to only lose 34-24 at a virtually full-strength Hull KR. There was only one score in it when Ben Fisher touched down in the 80th minute to finally seal it for the Robins.

The men from Don Valley deserve as many plaudits as Halifax for pushing the team second in Super League so close. Mark Aston was very proud of his team and so he should be.

It is arguably their best and most surprising result since winning the Challenge Cup more than 10 years ago.

Also a big well done to Darren Shaw and the Hornets boys for holding Huddersfield to 38-12. Yes the Giants gave a few fringe players a run out but it was still a formidable side put out by Nathan Brown and one that, if it was playing in the division below, would run away with the title (sorry Halifax).

Throw into the mix the performance of Barrow in round four running Wigan close and then you have a serious argument for suggesting that not only are Halifax a fantastic side but those currently beneath have seriously stepped up their game.

All season coaches have been talking about the improving standard of play in the Championship and Championship One.

And now we have had, not one, but a series of results to back up their beliefs.



GAME ON EDITOR
MARK FLANAGAN

RFL - official notes

RESPECT

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the world according to **SCULLY**

Paul reflects on the Magic weekend, the Challenge Cup fifth round/quarter-final draw, the news of record attendances at Co-operative Championship matches and his thoughts on who will win this weekend's round of matches

MAGIC Weekend is over for another year and it was fantastic this time around. I think for those that made it up to the new venue in Scotland you will all agree it lived up to expectations.

It's obviously a different kind of weekend for me this year, not playing, but it was still great to watch. I got the chance to see exactly what it was like from a fans' point of view and it is a superb event in my opinion.

I thought the pitch held up well. There were some concerns it would tear up with seven matches being played consecutively and I did notice when I was doing a presentation on the pitch beforehand with Gavin Hastings how long the grass was! I think that was done by the groundsmen to protect it and it seemed to work.

I won't talk too much about some of the results though! Last weekend I have upped my training for the 'extended triathlon' I am doing with 20 other ex-players.

At the moment we are training really hard, practising our Dragon boat skills every Tuesday at Liverpool docks, which is proving tricky to begin with but we will get the hang of it.

On Sunday we did a 50-mile bike ride from Huddersfield to St Helens as a bit of training which went really well, so we are all confident that we can raise a lot of money for the Steve Prescott Foundation, which Steve set up himself following his diagnosis with stomach cancer in 2006.

We need to raise as much money as possible for this great cause so I know me and the boys will continue to train hard.

The Challenge Cup matches themselves this weekend were fantastic and special mention to Halifax for taking Castleford all the way to a golden point! The magic of the competition is so strong and the beauty of the format means that anyone can win.

Gateshead have done fantastically well to be in with a chance against St Helens.

Saints will have to play well again as Thunder are a good team and this has shown by them getting so far in the competition.

This weekend sees round ten of the Co-operative Championship with some great match-ups. We've got teams in form taking on each other. Halifax against Sheffield is going to be a good game, which I think Fax will just edge despite their disappointment last weekend against the Tigers.

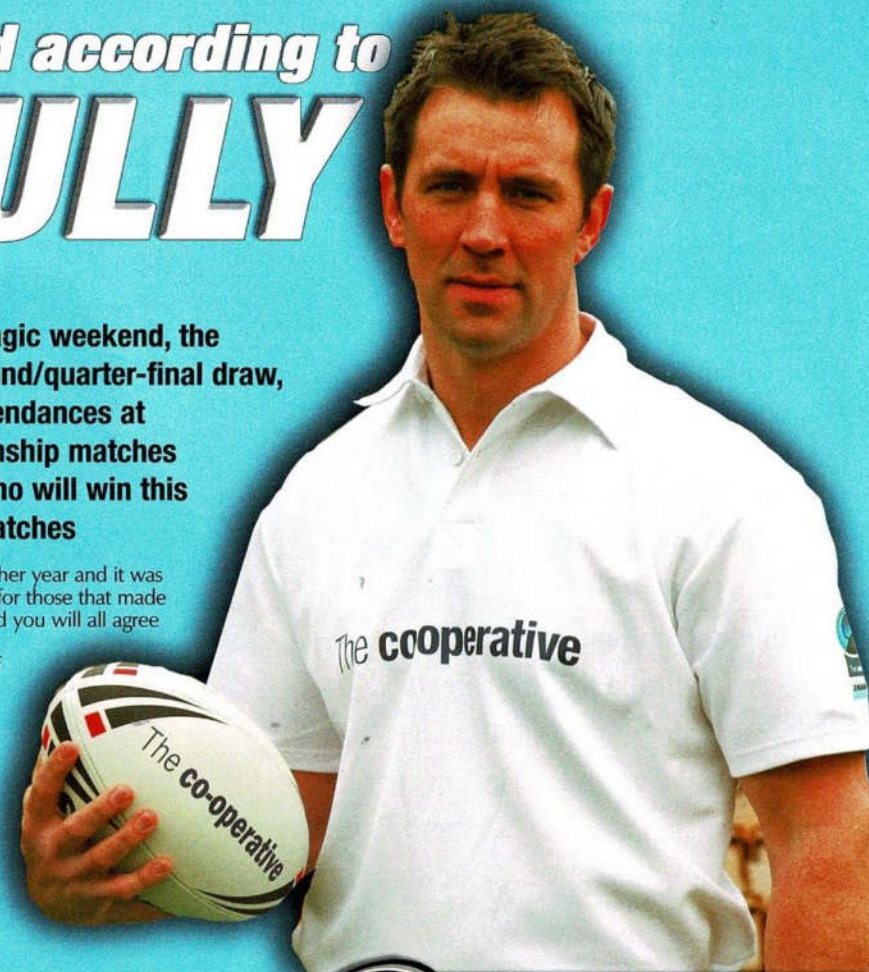
We also have Gateshead against Whitehaven. Thunder will be looking to get some momentum up ahead of their Challenge Cup clash so I wouldn't bet against them running the Cumbrians all the way. Again, though, my head says Haven will just be too strong.

On a final note I think it's great to hear we have seen attendances rising for Championship matches; especially those that are televised on Sky on Thursday nights.

For six out of the eight games to show record attendances is fantastic. This is down in part to the new professionalism brought into the Championship, the added prize money, new look trophy and title and ultimately you the fans for supporting your club.

Don't forget to support your team even more and vote for the player of the month for May!

To register your vote for April's Co-operative Championship player of the month please email your entry to: playerofthemonth@generatesponsorship.com – please include your name, contact details and favourite team.



**Paul Sculthorpe is a Co-operative
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Harrison to stay at Bulldogs

KARL HARRISON is to remain in charge of the Batley Bulldogs until the end of the season.

The former England and Salford coach took over at Mount Pleasant on a temporary basis last month.

He replaced long-time boss Gary Thornton, who parted company with the Championship strugglers after losing 60-22 at home to Toulouse on April 13.

The Bulldogs have only won one league game this season and are facing a desperate fight



Coach Karl Harrison

for survival. The club have also been ravaged by injuries and were hit by the suspension of star player George Flanagan on a drugs charge.

Harrison will be supported by his brother Paul and Joe Berry.



Heidi Mottram of Northern Rail with the promotional posters

Hoping to get Blackpool rocking

NORTHERN Rail Managing Director Heidi Mottram has revealed the new station poster, which will be used to promote the eagerly anticipated Northern Rail Cup and Northern Rail 9s weekend in July.

The eye-catching "Rugby League Rocks Blackpool" themed poster is being displayed at 100 stations across the train operator's coast-to-coast rail network.

Heidi said: "Linking the Northern Rail Cup final to a first ever 9s tournament for Championship and Championship One clubs gives the fans a great opportunity to come together and enjoy a two-day rugby league extravaganza in the biggest seaside resort in Europe."

Northern Rail 9s tickets are now available from clubs on a first come, first served basis.

Sky's the limits for Thursday night clashes

WHITEHAVEN became the latest club to post their highest league attendance of the season in front of the Sky cameras with their Thursday Night thriller against Widnes attracting a record 2,102 supporters.

From the eight Co-operative Championship games that have appeared on Sky Sports this season, six of the clubs have reported their highest attendance figures of their 2009 league campaign.

Chris Thair, Community Partnership Manager, said: "The clubs are supported by the RFL in ensuring Thursday nights on SKY are one of the main focus games of the season for the home side."

"Credit obviously has to go to everyone at the clubs involved for getting the fans in and also to the players for putting on such good entertainment. Each Co-operative Championship club receives

guidance, resources and a budget to turn the game into a big event and to help ensure the competition is well represented while appearing on camera."

Widnes posted a crowd of more than 5,000 for their opening game of the league and with 17 gates breaking the 2000 barrier already this season, the Co-operative Championship is proving to be a big hit with the fans.

Widnes, Halifax, Gateshead, Leigh, Featherstone and Whitehaven have all posted their highest Co-operative Championship attendances of the season live on Sky Sports on a Thursday night.

Meanwhile spectators have been on the edge of their seats this season with half of the Thursday night games finishing with a final scoreline of five or less points separating the two teams.

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ACTIONREPLAY

Halifax's Mark Gleeson just fails to get away from the Tigers and (inset) Bob Beswick scores one of his three tries at The Jungle



Challenge Cup agony for brilliant Halifax



A COACH'S nightmare or a fantastic advert for rugby league? Take your pick but Saturday's fifth round tie at The Jungle was a real thriller and saw history made in the Challenge Cup as HALIFAX and Castleford drew 34-34 in normal time.

The Tigers won through to the quarter-finals but were pushed all the way by the Championship leaders in the first cup tie to be decided on the golden point rule.

A game of high drama and 12 tries in the end boiled down to a superb drop goal from 40 metres out by Brent

Sherwin just 55 seconds into extra-time. Castleford coach Terry Matterson praised his opponents' performance.

He said: "We spoke about the threats and the fact we needed to respect the football, but from the first two sets we didn't complete and that set the tone for the game.

"We worked really hard on our defence in the week, though you wouldn't have thought so looking at the game.

"We are lucky because at 34-30 with five minutes to go it wasn't looking great. But the belief is there and we are in the

draw, that's the main thing."

HORNETS played out of their skins at the Galpharm where they lost 38-12 to the Huddersfield Giants but it was not a representative scoreline.

The Super League side seemed to be just going through the motions whereas the Hornets, inspired by Martin Ainscough and Mick Fogerty, really tested the Giants' defence.

The duo lifted the side when it appeared they may be in for a drubbing after the first 15 minutes.

This one's for you... Ryan Hepworth hands off to Matty Brooks for the Eagles at Hull KR



As of last Thursday the Hornets only had 15 players available but Widnes came to the rescue and by Friday morning the Rochdale side had taken Brett Robinson, Dave Houghton and Matt Strong on loan. Also making his debut was recent signing from Leigh, Adam Thomas.

A very pleased Darren Shaw said: "They were absolutely fantastic. Their character was immense. In the first half the execution was a little flat and the completion rate was low, but in the second half they were outstanding.

"I think we asked some pretty good questions. We can take a lot of positives from this and we are looking forward to next week already."

GATESHEAD made history twice on Saturday when they staged their first ever game at the Darlington Arena and reached the quarter-finals for the first time thanks to a 34-16 win over OLDHAM.

And with Steve McCormack now on board as the newly-appointed head coach – and the arrival of five new players in the pipeline – the future looks encouraging for the resilient Gateshead club.

"We can box the Challenge Cup off and put it in the drawer for a while now and get into our bread and butter and make sure our league position starts to improve," said McCormack.

"It's a fantastic competition and a great achievement for Gateshead. The fans were brilliant today and while they're not the biggest in number the noise they make is as good as any in the game." FEATHERSTONE made a great start against Warrington but eventually lost out 56-8.

Rovers were 4-0 ahead after 20 minutes but any hopes of an upset faded when Warrington recovered from a slow start to lead 20-4 at the break.

With scrum-half Michael Monaghan in outstanding form, the Wolves made their class tell in the second half to finish with a 10-try victory.

Featherstone coach Daryl Powell admitted he was a "bit disappointed" with their display.

"For the first 20 minutes I didn't think there was anything between the teams," he said. "I thought we started well and put some pressure on Warrington but we were unable to sustain that.

"That is the disappointing element but I suppose

the difference between Super League and the Championship is the consistency of effort.

"The physical element is probably the biggest difference. I thought physically they outlasted us significantly in both halves and I think that's the difficulty of being part-time players."

SHEFFIELD outscored Hull KR in the second half at Craven Park as they went down 34-24.

The Red and Whites had built up a 22-6 lead at the break but the Eagles fought back superbly and only a late Ben Fisher try ended the tie as a contest.

Sheffield boss Mark Aston was understandably delighted with his side's display, and expects to see them kick on for the rest of the season.

"We've been outstanding of late, in patches, but we put it together for 80 minutes out there, which is great," Aston said.

"The last 10 minutes we had no subs left, but credit to the boys, they dug in and we asked to walk off the field proud and I think we can. The pleasing thing for us is that we can move on now.

"We scored 24 points against one of the top teams in Super League and we out-scored them in the second half, so all we've got to do is put it together consistently."

BATLEY managed to avoid total humiliation against Salford.

A three-figure score was a possibility as Salford roared out of the blocks but the Bulldogs stuck in there and managed to hold the Reds to a 66-4 defeat at Mount Pleasant.

The 11-try triumph was never in doubt following two touchdowns in the opening nine minutes from John Wilshe and Richie Myler and by half-time it was 48-0.

Batley caretaker coach Karl Harrison said: "We showed Salford too much respect in the first half. We came out of the arm wrestle first and every time we made a mistake Salford scored and put us to the sword.

"We tightened things up at half time and changed a few things technically. We were outstanding in the second half and I'm really pleased. There were a lot of positives to take that we can work on for our next game."



Haven salute returning heroes

WHITEHAVEN ended a run of four straight defeats as they won a fantastic game against WIDNES at The Recreation Ground 26-22.

There were so many fairytale stories in this game for the Cumbrian side.

John Patrick, who had made himself unavailable after his job as a plumber left him working in Scotland, answered an SOS to dash home and play after Rob Jackson joined a crippling injury list.

Then there was John Lebbon, playing his first game for Haven's first team in two years and his first back from a shocking double leg fracture suffered while playing for the second string last season.

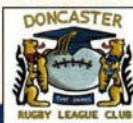
And perhaps most enjoyable for Haven fans was the ever-popular Howard Hill's first appearance at the Recreation Ground since a bug left him fighting for his life towards the end of last season.

All three played their part; Patrick proved to be the match winner, scoring the decisive try late on, Lebbon – also playing for the first time ever at full back – was impeccable and Hill took on the Widnes forwards with the drive and determination of a man who, having won the biggest battle of his life, was afraid of nothing.

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Featherstone v Dons



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No. PLAYER

1 Tom Saxton
2 Waine Price
3 Ian Hardman
4 Andy Kirk
5 Jon Steel
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: WWWLL

LAST SIX HOME: WWLWL

TRIES: Andy Kain 12, Tommy Haughey 8, Jon Steel 7, Waine Price 5, Matt Dale 5, Ian Hardman 5.

GOALS: Stuart Dickens 42,

Iestyn Harris 18. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Tommy Haughey

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 1

2

3

4

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R Hicks

Touch: S Moss, A T Smith

Video referee: M Hague

BENNETT'S BET

"Struggling Dons face an uphill battle - Featherstone by 28"

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
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25 Kevin Eadie
26 Gareth Carey
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COACH: TONY MILLER

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LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLLL

LAST SIX AWAY: WWLWL

TRIES: Craig Cook 5, Michael Coady 4, Gareth Carey 3.

GOALS: Kyle Briggs 17,

Andy Speake 8, Josh Weeden 6

DGs: Paul Handforth

MAN TO WATCH: Ross Divorty

CLUBCALL

Featherstone v Doncaster

A great occasion and hugely beneficial

HOSTING the Super League superstars Warrington Wolves last week in the Carnegie Challenge Cup was a great boost for us in many ways.

The Wolves fans made their way down Post Office Road in their thousands and rattled through the turnstiles putting some much needed monies into our coffers.

The spin off from the large attendance was we sold refreshments in massive quantities too and thereby generated extra revenue. May I say a big thank you to everybody who helped in anyway last week and ensured we grasped the opportunity and made the most for the club.

It was also fantastic to see the legends back at the ground from both the Featherstone and Warrington teams who

STEVE EVANS Chairman

played in the Wembley final in 1974.

They were given a great reception when introduced to the crowd and many reminiscing stories were told throughout the afternoon and long into the night.

This week it is back to the Co-operative Championship and I know everyone connected with the playing staff will want to get back to winning ways.

Doncaster will provide a stern test and their lowly league position belies the effort and hard work that has gone into the newly promoted team this year.

I have been astonished at the efforts our coaching staff have put into developing a winning team - at all levels.

The scholarship in particular has seen a resurgence this year and Robin Sharp and Steve Armitage have brought their experience gained in Super League environments and used it to our advantage.

All the young players are monitored and watched regularly to see if they are improving not only their skill levels but fitness and attitude. This information is then recorded so we have a thorough understanding of the players we are grooming.

In the medium term this should strengthen our first team squad as the youngsters will be pushing for their own spots in the team. This will take time but you will have already seen good quality youngsters signing for the club.

Hopefully the start of things to come.

Gutsy effort but back now to the priority

AFTER our Challenge Cup journey ended last week we now turn our focus to our main priority for the season which is of course the Co-op Championship.

We were all disappointed we let the game slip away from us last week. It started very well for us and we were very close to Warrington for the first 20 minutes, we all know however that is not long enough in a game of rugby league and after we had gifted a try we were hit with a sucker punch of back-to-back scores.

Having said that with two minutes to go before half time we were 14-4 down and that half time score would have been acceptable. A poor error and late try saw us trailing by a further six points which dented confidence a little. The second half ran away with us a bit but the boys kept working hard to put in a gutsy effort we know we need to improve on.

In the other Challenge Cup games it was great to see a couple of Championship clubs put in

high quality efforts against Super League opposition with both just falling short.

Halifax were the closest and it must have been a high quality game to watch and it sounds like Fax deserved to win the game.

Sheffield were close too, having a couple of tries disallowed and just losing out by 10 points.

After Barrow's narrow reverse to Wigan earlier in the competition it augurs well for the development of teams at our level. Well done to both those teams.

Today we play a team big on spirit who we have already faced twice. Tony Miller and his men will present a strong challenge with a tough forward pack.

Our home form needs to improve on what we have shown to date and the players are fully focused on getting back to our league campaign and driving consistency of performance.

Enjoy the game.

Daryl Powell
Head Coach



Tim Spears is caught by Warrington's Garreth Carvell

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Gateshead v 'Haven



Sunday May 17th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

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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 Russ Aitken
14 Ryan Clarke
15 Matt Barron
16 Puna Rasaubale
17 Chris Parker
18 Robin Peers
19 Nick Youngquest
20 Dave Vernon
21 Ryan McBride
22 Jamie Russo
23 Jonny Scott
24 Paul Franze
25 Kris Kahler
26 Crawford Matthews
27 Scott Woods
28 Mark Dack
29 Rhys Clarke
30 Stephen Welton

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 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: STEVE McCORMACK

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWLWW
LAST SIX HOME: WLLWWW
TRIES: Stewart Sanderson 15,
Luke Branighan 12, Dylan Nash 7
GOALS: Michael Knowles 41
DGs: Neil Thorman,
Rhys Clarke
MAN TO WATCH: Stewart Sanderson

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R Laughton
Touch: P Ward, M Beadle
Fourth official: D Butler

BENNETT'S BET

"Thunder to up their game for new boss
McCormack - Gateshead by 4"

No. PLAYER

1 Craig Benson
2 Ade Adebisi
3 Rob Jackson
4 Derry Eilbeck
5 Craig Calvert
6 Carl Rudd
7 Leroy Joe
8 Marc Jackson
9 Greame 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 Lavu Lavu
22 Matt Tunstall
23 Marc Shackley
24 Greg McNally
25 Jamie Theoharous

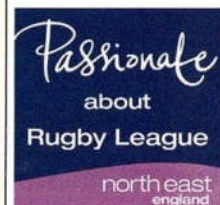
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Whitehaven RL
Support Group

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLLW
LAST SIX AWAY: LLLWLL
TRIES: Gregg McNally 21, Ade Adebisi
6, John Patrick 5, Derry Eilbeck 4, Andy
Gorski 4.
GOALS: Gregg McNally 41,
Carl Rudd 6, Marc Jackson 5. DGs: -
MAN TO WATCH: Gregg McNally

Getting behind Gateshead...



CLUBCALL

Gateshead v Whitehaven

History in the making at Thunder

Gateshead Thunder have been making history of late. We have played the first professional rugby league game in Darlington at the fantastic Darlington Arena.

I think players, staff and fans all enjoyed the experience. The match was the first time Thunder have ever reached the fifth round of the Challenge Cup.

Thunder have now gone one step further by reaching the quarter-finals. And what a tie that should be. It doesn't get much bigger than St Helens at home. The BBC were disappointing in referring to the match as a "bye" for Saints, but they have now apologised.

ROD FINDLAY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We recognise that this will be a difficult tie but Saints still need to come and beat us if they want a place in the semis. We want to reach that landmark too and the team will be giving their all to produce an upset.

I would like to welcome Steve McCormack to his first home match at Gateshead International Stadium.

I hope he has an enjoyable and suc-

cessful day. I would also like to welcome Whitehaven. We had a cracking match here in the third round of the Challenge Cup - winning 41-38.

We were disappointed not to record a victory at The Rec a week later and will be looking to gain the points and move up the table today. But please, lads, no more close, last-minute matches!

Depending on international clearance (not known at the time of writing) we could have three debutants from the French League and Paul, Kris and Nick are keen to show everyone their worth.

I know the fans will make all of our new boys very welcome.

Great to be in hot seat again says Steve

First of all I would like to say how pleased I am to be back coaching again at Gateshead. The club reminds me very much of my first year at Whitehaven.

Good people, a good chairman, great supporters and a club that is very ambitious.

When approached to take up the coaching position at the club I had no hesitation of accepting the position.

Chris Hood and Alan Dickinson have provided the club with a strong base to work from and the priority now is to improve our league position and to start climbing up the league table.

Last weekend's performance against Oldham was excellent. I felt that for most parts of the game the players defended very well and we will be looking for another improvement today.

The quarter-final tie against St Helens is a fantastic draw for the club and it is one we are really looking forward to. It is a tremendous reward for our supporters.

Finally, welcome to Ged Stokes and his Whitehaven team.

Last week's performance against Widnes was impressive and we know we will have to perform to our full capabilities if we are to get the three points on offer today.

Steve McCormack
Head Coach



No laughing matter ... the BBC's Dave Woods called the St Helens cup tie "a bye" for the holders

Blast for the Beeb after TV 'bye' insult

The club blasted the BBC after the Carnegie Challenge Cup draw on Sunday. Thunder were drawn at home to Cup holders and favourites, St Helens on the weekend of May 30/31. The BBC's rugby league reporter, Dave Woods, stated that the draw was "a Bye for St Helens".

Rod Findlay said: "We are the only Co-operative Championship club left in the competition and playing St Helens will be a tough ask but we are still in the cup and if St Helens want to get to the semi-finals they will need to come and beat us."

"The BBC are the primary broadcaster for the Challenge Cup and to announce live on TV that one of the ties is a 'Bye' is degrading to the competition and shows a lack of respect for Gateshead Thunder. The BBC needs to review its

coverage of rugby league and clubs out of the heartlands. If this was an FA Cup tie, the BBC would never state that a match was a bye.

"In fact they would probably show it as there would be a chance of a giant killing.

"We struggle to get any coverage on BBC Look North even when we have such a great story ... We give the BBC tapes of our games every week but they rarely even mention the scores. ITV, on the other hand, regularly give Gateshead Thunder coverage and they aren't even the competition broadcaster.

"Both Gateshead Thunder and the Co-operative Championship get excellent coverage from Sky and all we ask is for the same level of respect and coverage from the BBC."



Halifax v Sheffield



Sunday May 17th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY STADIUM

HALIFAX RLFC

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

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Halifax Past Players Association
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Sue Illingworth
Complete Building Materials
Calderdale Service Area
Chadwick Lawrence

No. PLAYER

1 Miles Greenwood
2 Lee Paterson
3 Jon Goddard
4 Shad Royston
5 James Haley
6 Dwayne Barker
7 Ben Black
8 Matt James
9 Sean Penkywicz
10 Dana Wilson
11 Dave Larder
12 Paul Smith
13 Bob Beswick
14 Mark Gleeson
15 Mark Roberts
16 Said Tamghart
17 Frank Watene
18 Andy Bowman
19 Mick Govin
20 -
21 Neil Cherryholme
22 David Wrench
23 Rob Worriency
25 Anthony Bowman

AA Moving Solutions,
A Mogford

Elizabeth Posner
Calderdale Service Area

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWWWW

LAST SIX HOME: WWWWWW

TRIES: Ben Black 13, Shad Royston

12, Sean Penkywicz 10, Miles

Greenwood 9, Said Tamghart 8.

GOALS: Paterson 45, Govin 24, B;ack

12. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Shad Royston

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 1

2

3

4

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J Leahy

Touch: B Armstrong

Fourth official: G Wallace

BENNETT'S BET

"Fax are looking almost unstoppable

- Halifax by 36"

No. PLAYER

1 Jonny Woodcock
2 Bolu Fagborun
3 Menzie Yere
4 Mike Roby
5 Ashley Thackeray
6 Brendan Lindsay
7 Gavin Brown
8 Jack Howleson
9 Grant Edwards
10 Mitchell Stringer
11 Alex Szostak
12 Ged Corcoran
13 Dane McDonald
14 Andrew Boothroyd
15 Sam Barlow
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
34 Eddie Battye
35 Dan Hawksworth

SPONSOR

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OSI
Walkabout Sheffield
AMCO
Village Shop, Oughtibridge
HAS Consultants Ltd
Jack & Laura London
Corus Infrastructure Services
Hancock & Todd
Modis
Richard & Andrea Brook
Jill Swire
Mr & Mrs Lee

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLLL

LAST SIX AWAY: WLLLLL

TRIES: Jonny Woodcock 6, Tangi

Ropati 6, Menzies Yere 5, Ryan

Hepworth 4.

GOALS: Jonny Woodcock 37.

DG:-

MAN TO WATCH: Tangi Ropati

CLUBCALL

Halifax RLFC v Sheffield



TIGER FEAT - Dana Wilson drives the ball forward against Castleford

SO VERY PROUD

GOOD afternoon everyone.

I'd like to welcome the players and staff of Sheffield Eagles to The Shay this afternoon.

The two clubs have had some great battles in the last couple of years and I am sure today's game will be just as closely contested.

Mark Aston has some quality players in his side, as you can see by the way they played at Hull KR last weekend.

And we will need to approach the game in the right way if we want to maintain our winning run in the Championship.

As I am sure everyone is well aware, we lost our first match of the season at Castleford last week after a fantastic Challenge Cup tie that I am sure no one will forget in a hurry.

To lose in the way we did on golden point, to a very well taken drop goal by Brent Sherwin, was hard to take, but that's rugby league.

While everyone was disappointed with the final result though, there were still a lot of positives to come out of the game.

As I said in the press, the players were fantastic from start to finish and could easily have come away with the win against a side that has won seven out of 12 Super League games this season.

To see us push a very good Castleford team all the way, playing the kind of attacking football that we produced that night, made me proud to be associated with this club.

I'd also like to say a big thank you to the supporters who went to Wheldon Road.

I think it is a long time since a Halifax side had backing like that and myself and the players appreciate it.

The key for us now is to take the momentum we have generated from that game into the rest of the year.

If we can do that, there are exciting times ahead.

Enjoy the game.

Matt Calland, head coach

What a day. For rugby league fans in Halifax and Calderdale May 9 was a little special. After Service Area wins over Bradford and District, the club's party set off for Castleford and soon learnt of a brilliant win by Siddal in the National Conference League Grand Final.

And so to Cas. We went to win but also to demonstrate that this is a club on the way forward.

The support was tremendous, in its numbers, in its enthusiasm and in its blue and white! Thank you all.

And the team didn't let you down. My apologies to those who were confused by the Castleford club announcements before extra time. It was always going to be golden point, and we needed the ball from our own kick off.

For once we didn't get it, and the rest is history!

I will remember for a long time the players' bus driving down Wheldon Road after the match, with applause from Cas (and Fax) fans outside the pubs. That is the spirit of this game.

So now we concentrate on our bread and butter, the Co-operative Championship and a match against a Sheffield Eagles team who, themselves, put in an outstanding performance in narrow defeat at Hull KR.

Despite our present league position, everyone in Halifax is conscious that the Championship isn't just the home of the most attractive professional rugby in the country, it's also extremely competitive, and we will need to be at our best to maintain our 100% record.

Get behind the lads, as you did at Cas, and you rank as an extra man. With that advantage we'll hope to send all our supporters home smiling, again.

Michael Steele, chairman

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Leigh v Widnes

Thursday May 14th, 2009. Kick off 7.30pm. LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE



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David Lloyd, Bolton
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Hamilton Fabrication

Not allocated a squad number: Andy Ainscough,
Danny Jackson, Danny Meekin, James Richies,
Macgraff Leulal, Ryan Powell, Kurt Haggarty

COACH: NEIL KELLY

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLLLW

LAST SIX HOME: WWWLL

TRIES: Jamie Durbin 10, Ian Mort 8,
Stuart Donlan 8, Martyn Ridyard 4,
Steve Maden 4, Sam Reay 4, Ian
Watson 4. **GOALS:** Ian Mort 41, Martyn
Ridyard 10. **DGs:** Martyn Ridyard
MAN TO WATCH: Martyn Ridyard

WIDNES VIKINGS

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

John Mather & his many sons!
Barbara Spence
Widnes Supporters Club
Widnes Supporters Club
Kath Filkin
VIQI
VIQI
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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 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS

TRIES

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

(sponsored by CMS Intelligent Banking)

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G Hewer
Touch: P Marklove, G Stokes
Video referee: R Hicks

BENNETT'S BET

"About time the Vikings returned to winning
ways - Widnes by 8"

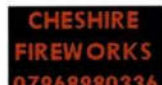
LAST SIX RESULTS: LWWWLL

LAST SIX AWAY: WLLLWL

TRIES: Paddy Flynn 8, Gavin Dodd 6,
Jim Gannon 5, Mark Smith 5, Loz
Wildbore 5.

GOALS: Scott Yates 33, Tim Hartley
14, Gavin Dodd 10. **DGs:** -
MAN TO WATCH: Paddy Flynn

We're supporting Leigh!



CLUBCALL

Leigh v Widnes

Small changes help bring improvements

NEW head coach Paul Rowley reflects on his first game in charge - the cup win at Batley - after taking over from new Director of Rugby Neil Kelly.

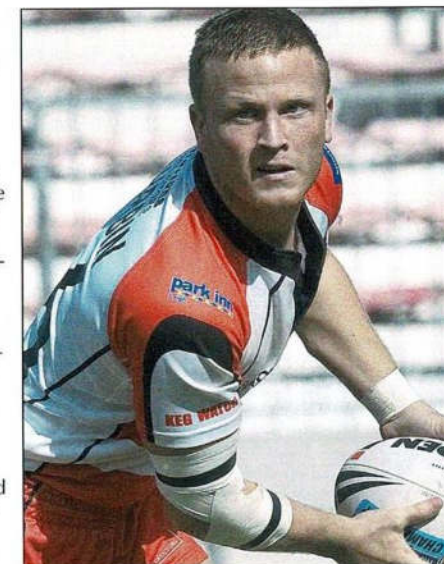
IT WAS a short week for me. There wasn't too much that I could change for the game but there were one or two little subtle changes in our defensive shape and maybe our pattern of play but mid season isn't really a time where you can come in and make massive changes.

I've tried to get more of an intensity into training along with a bit of fun and enjoyment. Hopefully the wins will follow and pressure for places.

You saw Macgraff Leulal come in and he fitted in perfectly. He held our shape. I feel we've struggled to play with width and wide runners and I think our squad does lack in that area.

Macgraff fitted in and did all I asked of him. Big raps to him. He's only an 18-year-old youngster and a lot of pressure from the name Leulal can fall on young shoulders, but he's a cool customer and well done to him on his full debut.

I did change things round in selection and put a more experi-



Jamie Durbin - coped well

enced feel on things out wide. Second half Batley came out to send traffic down Jamie Durbin's way.

He coped with it but we got him out of the way and put Tony Stewart out there and he, Stuart Donlan and Macgraff was a pretty strong line-up on an edge.

We were pretty strong, we were verbal, that's what I asked. Alstead, Maden and Aaron Smith were on the other side - three strong defensive players, three verbal players and someone always told me a good talker doesn't need to tackle.

We showed signs, especially that first 20 minutes. I think we were near on 100 per cent completion, it was pretty clinical and fantastic rugby by our boys.

We really played on what was probably their recent lack of confidence. We wore them down and were patient.

We had a lot of poise and discipline and then, well the rest of it tells a story. But what we did show was great grit and determination.

They dealt with adversity and came through it, albeit not as convincingly as we perhaps feel we could have won but we came through it and got the points.

Exciting times at our go-ahead club

Good evening and welcome to tonight's televised Co-operative Championship game against local rivals Widnes Vikings.

The Vikings, like ourselves, will be looking for an improved performance, following a little bit of inconsistency.

And if we can show the level of commitment and concentration for 80 minutes that we showed in the first 30 against Batley, we will be in with a fighting chance.

There is one thing for sure; whatever the result the winners will be the spectators, if our previous encounters with the Vikings are anything to go by. As per usual we will be in for a pulsating game.

There is a lot going on at the club at the moment. We've had the change around with Paul and Neil with the sole purpose to strive for excellence on and off the field as we bid to put the club on a firm footing with a clear pathway.

As part of this objective I am delighted

**Allan Rowley
Chief Executive**

well run club, that is offering quality coaching and sports development.

Tonight we are delighted that the Leigh Miners Rangers committee is joining us for a meal and are having a bucket collection.

We usually allow three collections a year and this year they are Guide Dogs for the blind (game to be confirmed), the Mayor's charity (Toulouse) and the Miners today.

We do not usually allow collections for rugby clubs, usually opting for out and out charities, but this year we have built a great working relationship with the Miners, who have very generously offered us their facility at Twist Lane, to play our reserve games completely free of charge.

This is a fantastic gesture by them and we feel that this is our way of giving a little bit back so please support them.

Enjoy the game.



Toulouse v Barrow



Saturday May 16th, 2009. Kick off 7pm. STADE DES MINIMES

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No. PLAYER

1 Rory Bromley
2 Sebastien Payan
3 Sebastien Planas
4 Damien 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 Pramit
17 Yohan Barthau
18 Adrien Viala
19 Nicolas Delgal
20 Sylvain Houles
21 Bruno Ormeno
22 Nicolas Faure
23 Cedric Gay
Clement Bienes
Jean-Christophe Borlin
Teli Pelo

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 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS

Tries
Conv
Pens
DGs

COACH: GILLES DUMAS

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWWW

LAST SIX HOME: LWW

TRIES: Rory Bromley 5, Nathan Wynn 4, Damien Couturier 4, Bruno Ormeno 3, Constant Villegas 3.

GOALS: Nathan Wynn 38, Couturier 1
DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Nathan Wynn

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C Halloran
Touch: T Blanchy, J Pereira
Fourth Official: J Vincent

BENNETT'S BET

"French are on a roll and will be strong at home - Toulouse by 6"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLWWWW

LAST SIX AWAY: L-WLWW

TRIES: James Nixon 11, Andrew Ellis 8, Liam Finch 7, Liam Campbell 6, Liam Harrison 5, Mike Backhouse 4.

GOALS: Paul Noone 39, Darren Holt 15. DGs: Darren Holt 2.

MAN TO WATCH: Liam Finch

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 Catic
23 Waisale Suka
24 Alipate Tani
25 Sevania Koro
27 Darren Holt
28 Michael Darby
32 Ruairi McGoff
35 Matt Storey

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E.P. Access
Jimmy Redfern Associates
S & M Leisure (Kit)
Nigel and Alison Atkinson
Alastair McGregor

COACH: DAVE CLARK

CLUBCALL

Toulouse v Barrow

Je crois qu'on peut faire le six principal I think we can make a top six place

Sébastien PLANAS, jeune centre international du Toulouse Olympique XIII répond à nos questions...

Quelles sont tes impressions sur ce début de saison ?

Sébastien Planas: Je suis agréablement surpris. Franchement, je ne pensais pas que nous serions performants et compétitifs aussi vite. L'implication de tous a permis de progresser rapidement autant sur le plan individuel que collectif.

Ton équipe, à la fin de la saison tu la situes où ?

SP: J'espère que nous serons dans les 6 premiers. De faire les play-offs dès la première saison serait une très belle performance. Après 7 matchs joués, je pense que c'est possible mais nous devons continuer à travailler dur et ne pas avoir trop de blessés.

Le match de Batley (1ère victoire du TO) a-t'il été le déclic pour les Toulousains ?

SP: Je ne pense pas, avant Batley, nous perdions mais il y avait des signes positifs. Les entraînements étaient bons et match après match, nous progressions et nous gagnions en rythme de match. Au fur et à mesure, notre jeu s'est mis en place et comme nous n'avons pas eu de blessés, nous avons pu travailler sereinement... Cela a fini par payer.

Selon toi, quelle est la force majeure de l'équipe du TO aujourd'hui ?

SP: Nous avons une bonne charnière et une grosse défense. Nous travaillons très dur à l'entraînement et en équipe. C'est justement l'esprit d'équipe notre plus grosse force je pense.

A contrario, dans quel secteur en particulier ton équipe doit progresser pour atteindre son meilleur niveau ?

SP: Premièrement, nous devons faire moins de fautes, nous sommes trop pénalisés. La discipline est un élément clé. Ensuite, nous devons garder la balle et aller au bout de nos chaînes de tenus. Enfin, nos attaques doivent gagner en fluidité afin de déstabiliser les défenses.

Pour finir, quelle ambiance règne-t-il au sein du groupe ?

SP: Il y a une très bonne ambiance. Nous prenons du plaisir sur et en dehors du terrain. Les nouveaux joueurs se sont bien intégrés. Nous avons même créé une association des joueurs ce qui nous permet de souder encore plus le groupe.



Sébastien PLANAS, young French international centre of the Toulouse Olympique XIII, answers some questions...

After 7 games in the Championship, what are your feelings?

Sébastien Planas: I am a bit surprised. Honestly, I didn't think we would be competitive so quickly. The involvement produced by all the players has allowed us to improve both individually and as a team.

At which position do you think your team will end the Championship?

SP: I hope we'll be in the top six. To make the play-offs in our first year in the Championship would be great.

After seven games, I think we can make it but we have to keep on working hard and keep free of injuries.

Do you think the game in Batley (first victory for Toulouse) has really launched your season?

SP: I don't think so, before Batley we lost three games but there were some positive signs. We did good training and game after game, we improved and we gained some match experience. Our play was starting to set up and as we didn't have many injuries, we could work well... finally, we got our first victory.

For you Sebastien, what is the main strength of your team this season?

SP: We have good half backs and a strong defence. The whole team works very hard at training. I believe that's our main strength, the team spirit.

On the other side, what does the team have to improve to reach its goal?

SP: First, we must give fewer penalties. The discipline is a key factor at this level. Then, we have to keep the ball and to complete our sets. Finally, we must improve in attack, especially out wide, in order to be more dangerous for the opponents' defence.

Lastly, how is the atmosphere inside the team?

SP: The atmosphere is great. We really enjoy being together on and off the pitch.

Fortunately, because with 10 trips to England we spend a lot of time together. We even created a players association which allows us to increase the links between us.



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Rams v Blackpool



Sunday May 17th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. TETLEY'S STADIUM

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The Three Gs

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The West Riding

John Calvert

Jack Addy/Pat Heywood

The Grayson Family

Vivien Calvert

Peter Brooke/David Kirby

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Rams Travel Club

Rams Squadbuilder

Lauren & Lucy Hall

Rams Squadbuilder

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Ken & Pat Humphrey

Eric France Scrap Metal

Elaine & Peter Holyoake

No. PLAYER

1 Tom Colleran

2 Morgan Starkey

3 Lee Lingard

4 Craig Bower

5 Andrew Tillotson

6 Ryan Smith

7 Gareth Greenwood

8 Jimmy Elston

9 Mike Emmett

10 Luke Haigh

11 Adam Robinson

12 Taron Wildey

13 Pat Walker

14 Ian Tonks

15 Bryn Powell

16 Austin Buchanan

17 Alex Bretherton

18 Chris Spurr

19 Liam Finn

20 Rob Spicer

21 Andy Bostock

22 Kane Epati

23 Keegan Hirst

24 Simon Cook

25 Gary North

26 Jake Willson

27 Chris Grice

28 Liam Crawley

29 Allister McAllister

30 Chris Hall

31 Chris Green

32 Martin Woodhead

33 James Walker

34 Josh Tonks

35 Adam Hayes

COACH: WARREN JOWITT

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 1

2

3

4

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

No. PLAYER

1 Johnny Leather

2 Damien Munroe

3 Tom Woodcock

4 Mark McCully

5 Chris Mugan

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

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23 Daryl Kaye

24 Chris Campbell

25 Wes Lawton

26 Craig Tunstead

28 Gareth Langley

30 Dean Hatton

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Morris and Oxley

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Morris and Oxley

John Chadwick Insurances

John Chadwick Insurances

John Chadwick Insurances

COACH: MARTIN CROMPTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWW

LAST SIX HOME: WWWWWW

TRIES: Kane Epati 11, Andy Bostock

8, Alex Bretherton 6, Liam Finn 6,

Bryn Powell 6.

GOALS: Pat Walker 60, Liam Finn 14

DGs: Liam Finn 2.

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Bostock

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G Dolan

Touch: C Hancock, L Todd

Fourth Official: D McNeice

BENNETT'S BET

"Rams will be rampant on home turf

- Dewsbury by 26"

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLWLW

LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLLW

TRIES: Johnny Leather 9, Mark

McCully 6, David Llewellyn 5, Gareth

Langley 5, Dean Hatton 5, John

Clough 4. GOALS: Johnny Leather 21,

Gareth Langley 12. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Mark McCully

ERIC FRANCE

SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS

DEWSBURY RAMS

study centre

CLUBCALL

Dewsbury v Blackpool

Seeds of a good season are being sown by Bossy and Co

Good afternoon and welcome to the Tetley's Stadium for today's clash with Blackpool Panthers for what could be a very tricky fixture as Blackpool are a much improved side this season, which is complemented by a good coach in Martin Crompton.

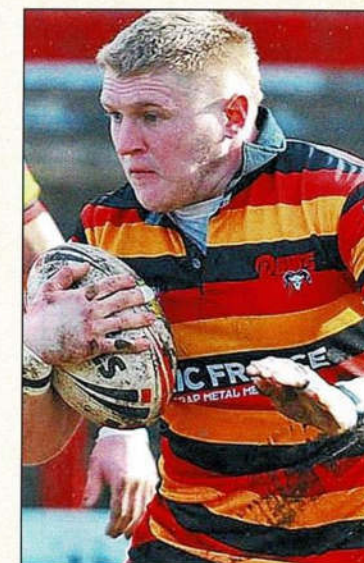
They are not the pushovers they have been perceived as in recent years, their results and performances speak for themselves. They have made quite a few quality signings and have the basis of being a very good squad so it is imperative that we approach this game in the right manner and be thorough in what we do.

It was great to get a win a couple of weeks ago against another top-of-the-table side in Swinton, even moreso stopping them from getting a bonus point with Liam Finn's one pointer.

As a coach, I was pleased with the result but I was not pleased with the performance collectively as a team. We have to learn, as a team, that we must start our games at a high level and finish at a high level because we can't afford to keep coming alive for the last quarters of games. This must be and will be addressed or else we will find ourselves getting caught out. There is always room for improvement in this team.

I'd just like to congratulate Andrew Bostock for winning the in-house Player of the Month award which was closely contested by Liam Finn and Rob Spicer.

Bossy has been in fine form this season and as you will all agree his performances



Andrew Bostock - in form

speak for themselves. His defensive efforts are outstanding and his running capabilities with the ball cause the opposition more than enough problems. He's also not shy of the tryline, always a bonus.

I'd also like to congratulate one of our youngsters, Billy Maxwell, on being promoted from the reserve team to the first team squad. He is a full back/wing/centre who has bags of talent and ability and is a

very aggressive defender and never takes a backwards step carrying the ball.

He also has bags of pace and is very good at competing in the air for the ball. Billy has been a product of Stanley Rangers and of Huddersfield Academy.

I'll also congratulate our groundsman, not mentioning any names, for his 24/7 round the clock work, to get the pitch into the same condition that it already was! Please feel free to come to the office after the game if you have any information on the whereabouts of our groundsman as we are all very concerned!

The last sighting was in Gloucester! On that note, we have also had reports of an unknown gentleman disguised as Dick Turpin, entering the office and holding Vivien to ransom for grass seed, if you have any information please come forward.

We have had a few names mentioned and one recurring name has been Paul Moore, if you have any information leading to the detainment of this man, please let me know. As you are all aware our pitch is in serious need of attention!

Hopefully today Ryan Smith will be back on duty after he suffered an ankle injury in training after the Oldham game. Hopefully Adam Robinson and Taron Wildey will also be back on duty as well.

Enjoy the game

Warren Jowitt
Coach

Plenty of fun at the Tetley's Stadium

IT'S GOOD to be back at the Tetley's Stadium after our hard earned win at Swinton a couple of weeks ago.

This is our only home game this month and it is important that we pick up maximum points this afternoon in order to keep our momentum going at the top of the table especially with a couple of tough away games to follow this one.

Blackpool will pose a tough test for us and they already look as though they will be play-off contenders this season having won three of their seven games to date.

With an attractive looking match ahead of us we are hoping for another four figure attendance which hopefully will contain a following from Blackpool who we would like to invite to join us in

Mark Sawyer, chairman

the Royal Suite after the game.

We were delighted to get more than 1,400 for our last home game and this has encouraged us to try another new initiative with this afternoon being labelled as the "Charity Fun Day".

Weather permitting there will be plenty going on both before the game and at half time with entertainment to suit both the young and the not so young!

With the ongoing battle to attract sponsors to the games not getting any easier because of the credit crunch we are looking to attract more people through the turnstiles.

We need to engender a vibrant match day atmosphere at the Tetley's Stadium to try to encourage potential spectators

to come along and see what we can offer. I think we have a great product in the Co-Operative Championship and we have already seen some excellent games featured on Sky TV that give Super League games a run for their money in terms of excitement and endeavour.

The first of our televised games is now on the horizon with our home game against the Keighley Cougars on June 11.

We are hoping that we can again create a good impression for the cameras.

The majority of our televised games have been pulsating encounters and we aim to continue this in a month's time and it would be great if we could get somewhere approaching 2,000 here to watch us which I think is well within our capabilities.



Hornets v York



Sunday May 17th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. SPOTLAND

HORNETS RUGBY LEAGUE

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

SPONSOR

Aztek Safety
John & Julie Clarke
Ray Walton
Lion Springs
Peter Rush
J Heaton & Son

No. PLAYER

1 Chris Giles
2 John Gillam
3 Mick Fogerty
4 Casey Mayberry
5 Andy Smith
6 Martin Ainscough

7 -

Interbake Ltd

Sue & Dave Butterworth

Ian Coop

Ray & Maureen of Heywood Market

Hartley Thomas Wright

The Loyalists

Victor Mills

John Mac & Company

Claire Murgatoryd

Grant & Dougie

The Loyalists

Megan Tann

Tin2net Ltd

Ian Nield

8 David Best

9 Janan Billings

10 Paul Raftery

11 David Cunliffe

12 Ian Sinfield

13 Wayne Corcoran

14 Sam Butterworth

15 Martin McLoughlin

16 Mark Brocklehurst

17 Andy Isherwood

18 John Walker

19 Craig Johnson

20 Liam Bretherton

21 Tommy Gallagher

22 Martin Gambles

23 Liam Grundy

24 Chris Hough

25 Dayne Donaghue

Shaw Mitchell & Co
Accountants

33 Dale Cunliffe

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 1

2

3

4

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

COACH: DARREN SHAW

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWL

LAST SIX HOME: L-LWLLW

TRIES: Martin Ainscough 7, John Gillam 5, Mick Fogerty 5, Chris Giles 4, Ian Sinfield 3, Casey Mayberry 3.

GOALS: Liam McGovern 14, Chris Giles 9. DGs: McGovern

MAN TO WATCH: Martin Ainscough

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: W Turley

Touch: S Tordoff, K Povah

Fourth Official: R Jones

BENNETT'S BET

"Knights will have just enough to see off Hornets - York by 4"

COACH: PAUL MARCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWWW

LAST SIX AWAY: WLLLLW

TRIES: John Oakes 9, Paul March 8, Paul Hughes 7, Danny Ratcliffe 6, Tom Haberecht 6.

GOALS: Adam Mitchell 18, Wayne McHugh 13, Richard Knight 11. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Paul March

SPONSOR

The Raylor Centre

Jinnah Group

Rodney Gee

Team Electric Services

James Dixon

Smith Wilson

Delta Training & Consulting

Millers Famous Fish & Chips

Stabler International

Ken Walker & Co Accounting

Pam & Martin Calvert

Cue Ball Snooker Club

Sheard Packaging

Chris Hearld

British Thornton

Evolution Tattoo Studio

Yorkshire Building Society

Claire & Steve Harbron

D&M Building & Paving

Julie's Bakery

Balfour Beatty

Acupuncture For Health

HC Engineering

Brian Watson

Mrs Watson

Laura Dixon

Monk Bar Model Shop

CLUBCALL

Hornets RL v York

What a fantastic turnout at Huddersfield - thanks!!

A WARM welcome to Spotland for today's game against the York City Knights. It's good to get back to our 'day job' of the Co-operative Championship One on the back of an outstanding performance in the Carnegie Challenge Cup at Huddersfield Giants last week.

After a slow start, the lads got to grips with the pace of the game and gained plaudits for their gritty, battling show. As Darren commented afterwards, if we take that attitude and confidence into our league programme, we can look forward to climbing up the ladder.

Thanks too to the Hornets fans who made the early start at the Galpharm last week - it's always good to hear us out-sing the home support. All in all it was a terrific day for the club as a whole, and we can use it as a springboard to kick on through the season.

As a supporter-owned IPS, Hornets does depend on its fans for its continued success and we do need some help on the lottery front at the moment. The new lottery provides a vital source of income for the club and we need volunteers to help collect a couple of established rounds in the Rochdale area.

If you could spare a couple of hours a week to help - and would like to earn a generous 15% commission - please call in at the club office or give us a call on 01706 648004.

Also, don't forget your tickets for the Northern Rail 9s tournament scheduled to take place at Fylde RUFC, the home of Blackpool Panthers, on the weekend of July 11-12.

Hornets' participation in the nines has to be funded from the revenue we raise from ticket sales so every ticket we can sell is vital to offset our costs.

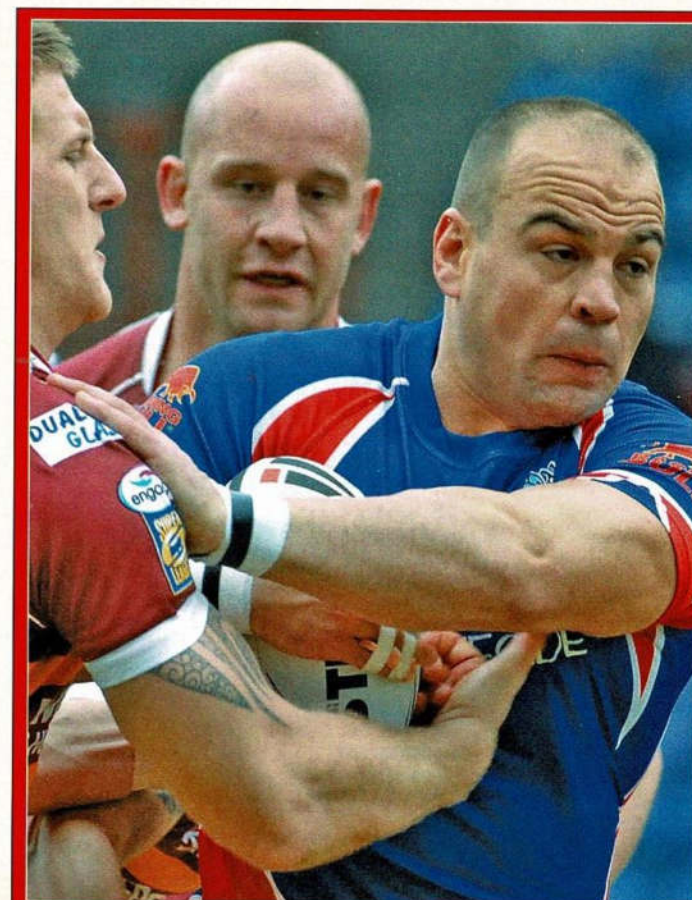
Weekend tickets for the Northern Rail 9s event are priced at just £9 for adults and £5 for concessions. This includes all of the qualifying and knock-out games at Fylde on Saturday and Sunday - and £9 for two days' rugby league is fantastic value.

And don't forget that the Hornets' Curry Nite is back on the menu. In addition to some fantastic Indian food, we offer an evening of top entertainment with a tribute to the King by top Elvis Tribute artist Lewis Gates. The whole evening is compered by Paul Chance and promises to be a cracking night.

The event takes place at Raj's Indian Restaurant, Edenfield Road Rochdale on Monday June 15. Tickets are selling like hot... er... vindaloo. So, make sure you get one before there's 'naan' left.

Call Wendy on 07961 935914.

**Jim Stringer, Rochdale Hornets
RL Society trustee**



Ian Sinfield in action for Hornets against Huddersfield in the cup

We can build on Giant effort

AFTERNOON to everyone.

I hope the character the players showed against the Giants will be taken into our Championship One campaign for the rest of the season.

We had a great day in Huddersfield and it was wonderful to hear this from their assistant coach Paul Anderson: "Rochdale's endeavour was outstanding."

After that display I believe we can start to gain on the teams above us. The effort we showed against the Giants was absolutely fantastic and the

character we showed was immense.

In the first half we may have given them too much respect - but the second half was outstanding.

Our completion rate increased and we asked some questions. It was nice to come up with a few tries.

There were a load of positives for us and we've got to build on these in the league.

If we do, then we could make a very positive impression.

Darren Shaw, coach

Today's Match Sponsors

SPC Fabrications Ltd

Fishers Cleaning Services Ltd

Today's Matchball Sponsor

Rochdale Observer Group

2009 Hornets Rugby League's Main Sponsor



Main Match Sponsor: Towler & Staines, Keighley
Man of the Match Sponsor: B&W Planthire Ltd, Bingley



Keighley v Swinton



Sunday May 17th, 2009. Kick off 3pm. COUGAR PARK

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

SWINTON LIONS

SPONSOR

Cutting Jungle Hairdressers
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
Cutting Jungle Hairdressers
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

20 Daley Williams
21 Ryan Smith
22 Lee Mapals
23 James Hutchinson
24 Luke Sutcliffe
25 Wayne Sutcliffe
Non-numbered:
Dan Belcher,
James Haythornthwaite
Tim Bibby,
Tom Hall
Ben Saga
Jack Copperwaite
Karl Gunney

COACH: BARRY EATON
(sponsored by the Cox family)

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLWLW

LAST SIX HOME: WWWLW

TRIES: Jon Presley 16, Lee Mapals 9

Gavin Duffy 4, Daley Williams 3,

George Raynor 3, Oliver Pursglove 3.

GOALS: Danny Jones 41. DGs: Danny

Jones, Jon Presley

MAN TO WATCH: Jon Presley

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 1

2

3

4

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

No. PLAYER

1 Wayne English
2 Barry Hamilton
3 Dave Hull
4 Dean Gorton
5 Marlon Billy
6 Graham Holroyd
7 Richard Hawkyard
8 Paul Southern
9 Phil Wood
10 Bruce Johnson
11 Mike Wainwright

12 Danny Heaton
13 Marty Moana
14 Craig Ashall
15 Gary Hulse
16 Alex McLurg
17 Tommy Grundy
18 Gareth Hayes
19 Neil Rigby
20 Adam Bibey
21 Rob Line
22 Darren Bamford
23 Ben Williamson
24 Paul Crook
25 Matt Ashe
26 Chris Frodsham
27 Chris Tyrer

28 Dave Newton
29 Carl Sneyd
30 Andy Saywell

SPONSOR

Elizabeth Taylor (Grandma English)
Daniel Croston
Premier Building Ltd
Dave Roberts
Mike & Kath Tyldesley
Muscle & Fitness Gym
Junior Lions
Heartland M27 - Rob Dunford
Egan Contractors Ltd
Bill Shepherd
& Warren Mottram
Chris & Viv Tyldesley
Geoff Hewitt USA
In Memory of Peter Walker
Lethbridge & Co
John Spellman
MS Lottery Services
Ray Bowdler
Burrow & Humphries
PhysiO2
In Memory of Graham Berry
Moorside Autos
Lethbridge & Co.
Premier Building Ltd
Mike & Sarah Dagnan
Phil, Ann & Josh Walker
Barbara & Emma Cathcart,
Sue Buckley & Joyce Shannon
In Memory of Frank Scanlon
Redsentinal
Northline Business Consultants

COACH: PAUL KIDD

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D Merrick

Touch: M Craven, J Downham

Fourth Official: A Sweet

BENNETT'S BET

"Lions to defy Cougars' home advantage - Swinton by 6"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWL

LAST SIX AWAY: LLWWL

TRIES: Dave Hull 10, Andy Saywell 5,

Tommy Grundy 4, Carl Sneyd 4

GOALS: Carl Sneyd 38,

Graham Holroyd 10.

DGs: Craig Ashall

MAN TO WATCH: Graham Holroyd



CLUBCALL

Keighley v Swinton

Thanks to helpful Lions

GOOD afternoon and welcome to everybody from Swinton for today's league fixture.

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chairman of Swinton (Jon Kidd) for the assistance with the oxygen chamber for some of our injured players.

Although we had already played them in the league the way the fixture format is this year we play a number of teams twice in a short space of time. That means for Jon to offer help with the rehabilita-

tion knowing we play them this week is testament to the relationship clubs in the Championships have.

Of course we don't wish to offer any favours to the Lions today although I hope and am sure they will be a massive force this year with the squad they have.

There is not much separating teams at all this season and sides that can string together a few positive results will find themselves right on the heels of early pacesetters Dewsbury.

The start of the campaign seems only a few weeks ago now but we are already a third of the way through the league fixtures.

We've only got 12 games to go as we have fewer league matches this year so a good run will give us a chance of being right up there among the top few towards the end of the year.

In just under a month's time we will feature on Sky in our away game versus Dewsbury and then we will be on Sky

again in our home game against the Rams.

It is something we are all looking forward to immensely as we continue to raise our profile on and off the field so it is really an exciting time to be part of this great game at the moment. Clubs from our level don't often get national exposure in this way so we intend to capitalise on it as much as possible.

Enjoy today.

Coach, Barry Eaton

Positive signs off the pitch

By Helen Carter
General Manager

Good afternoon and welcome to Cougar Park for our Co-operative Championship One fixture against Swinton. It promises to be a fantastic match as the Lions have been in impressive form this year. We will be going flat out for revenge for our defeat at Park Lane on March 29.

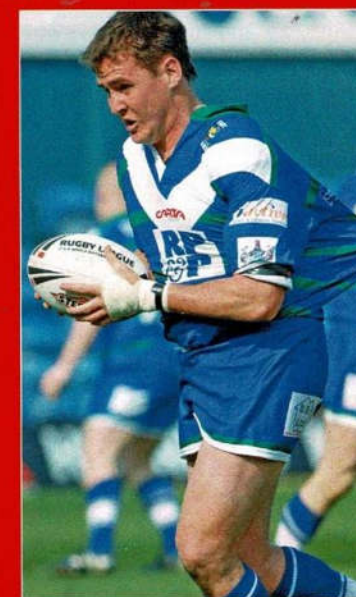
It's been an equally exciting time away from the pitch as we have stepped up still further our work in the community, not only within Keighley and district but also in Bingley, Wharfedale and neighbouring North Yorkshire.

An important visitor to Cougar Park on April 27 was former St Helens and Great Britain skipper Paul Sculthorpe. He took time out of his schedule on the St Helens community staff to journey across the Pennines and figure-headed the launch of our two 'Street Academy' programmes.

One of the academies is being written by 'Incommunities', the biggest supplier of social housing in the Bradford and Keighley districts while the other is supported by Bradford Metropolitan District Council's 'Building Capacity through Cohesion in the Community' programme and this latter project is aimed exclusively at Keighley's Asian community.

We had a wonderful day at Cougar Park with Scully and we really appreciated one of the best known former players in the engage Super League for taking time out of his working day to be with us.

Scully recalled that he had played just once during his career at Cougar Park and distinguished himself by being sent off.



WAIT AND HOPE: Brendon Rawlins

And that was a rare event during an outstanding playing stint.

We're delighted to announce the club has recruited yet another major sponsor and we're delighted to welcome aboard B&W Plant Hire. This Bingley-based company becomes the latest member of the club's sponsorship family and we're really pleased to welcome Mark and his firm to Cougar Park. Sponsors are vital to the successful running of any professional sports club and that applies to Keighley as it does to every other outfit.

We believe we provide great exposure for our sponsors' products and company

name and we very much hope that all our fans will support the companies who sponsor our club at every available opportunity. By using the companies you'll be supporting the Cougars too.

Many supporters keep asking us what is happening about our Australian forward Brendon Rawlins. Quite understandably people want to know when he is going to play for the club again.

The answer, when these notes were penned, was we simply don't know!

He's still waiting in Australia for his work permit to come through from the UK Border Agency. As a club we've done all in our power to aid the process and we've even gone as far as asking both the RFL and Keighley's MP Ann Cryer to lend their weight to the cause.

Brendon returned to Australia at the insistence of the UK Border Agency on February 27 and we understood that the process would take 25 days to complete.

But here we are in the middle of May and there's still no sign to the resolution of the blockage. We'll keep you up-to-date with all the latest developments via the local media and the club's website (www.keighleycougars.info).

By the way it might be worth buying a copy of 'The Times' on Saturday, May 23 because that's when we understand Alastair Campbell's article about his big day out at Cougar Park will be published.

You may remember the former spokesman for Tony Blair, who was brought up in Keighley in the 1960s, joined us for a day when we played Oldham at home on March 22.

Well Alastair has penned an article about his experience behind the scenes here at Cougar Park and it'll be interesting to see what he thought.



Oldham v Hunslet



Sunday May 17th 2009. Kick off 3pm. BOUNDARY PARK

OLDHAM RLFC

HUNSLET HAWKS

SPONSOR

Sporting Image 07894 122315
Premier Signs UK 01706 649267
Totalplus Communications
Totalplus Comms 0161 3438181
Tech Doors 0161 6265049
Office Supplies Now 0845 8333001
Nigel Marland
John Barrett
Rudy Wilkes and Bev Mayall
Greentree (Oldham) Ltd
Mack Video Services
John and Lynda McAndrew
Clayton Green Brewers Fayre
Karen & Paul Gough

Cagney and Lacey
Rob The Gardener
Maureen & Peter Woodhead

Totalplus Communications

H.Mullaney & Sons 01457 832870

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 I'Anson
11 Dave Allen
12 Tommy Goulden
13 Rob Roberts
14 Richard Mervill
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 Hillaire
25 Luke Menzies
26 Luke Sutton

Goalkeeper

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 1

2

3

4

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

1 Nathan Larvin
2 Scott Childs
3 Tom Sheldrake
4 Michael Brown
5 John Richardson
6 Darren Robinson
7 Stuart Young
8 Joe Helme
9 Richard Chapman
10 Ben Lawton
11 Joe Howey
12 Jason Hart
13 Mark McKinley
14 Chris Redfearn
15 Andy Robinson
16 Mark Moxon
17 Steve Brook
18 Ayden Faal
19 Ben Walkin
20 Antony Thewliss
21 Dan Cook
22 Scott Watson
23 Jonny Wainhouse
24 Charlie Wabo
25 Michael Mark
26 Nico Slain
27 Gareth Firm
28 Steve Dooler
31 Tony Williams

Elliot and Ewan Boiston Green

Adie and Ron Jinks

Eric Simon

GMB Union

Gary Martin-Selby Road Tyres

Paul Gray

Kenny Sykes

Phil Ogg

South Leeds & Hunslet Cars

Eric Simon

Skelton Skips

Bob Tate

South Leeds & Hunslet Cars

Geoff Gray

Skelton Skips

Wetheralds Ltd

Dennis/Hannah Butterfield

Tates Solicitors

Phil Ogg

Paul Gray

Wetheralds Ltd

GMB Union

The Dirty Dozen

COACH: CALLUM IRVING

COACH: TONY BENSON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLWWL

LAST SIX HOME: LWWWLW

TRIES: Andy Ballard 13, James Coyle

9, Thomas Coyle 9, Lucas Onyango

7, Lee Greenwood 6, Danny Halliwell

6. GOALS: Andy Ballard 75,

Danny Halliwell 3. DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Andy Ballard

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M Kidd

Touch: C Waywell, S Williams

Fourth Official: I Jefferson

BENNETT'S BET

"Roughyeds will be too strong for plucky

Hawks - Oldham by 12"

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWWLW

LAST SIX AWAY: LWLLWL

TRIES: Ayden Faal 6, Michael Brown 5,

Scott Watson 4, Darren Robinson 4,

Tony Williams 3, Steve Brook 3, Michael

Mark 3. GOALS: Darren Robinson 19.

DGs: Chapman, Robinson.

MAN TO WATCH: Darren Robinson

CLUBCALL

Oldham v Hunslet

The Hawks have made giant strides

HELLO and welcome to Boundary Park to all the directors, players and fans of Hunslet Hawks.

After our disappointing exit from the Carnegie Challenge Cup we have now to turn our attention back to the goal for the season and that is automatic promotion.

Today we are up against a team who have come on leaps and bounds from last season and we will have to be on the ball if we are to walk away with the three points from today's game.

The lads had their monthly



Hung out to dry - Luke Menzies

social night on Thursday at the Bower Hotel and we would like to thank them for making us welcome.

The social nights are a chance to present awards to individuals who may not otherwise see a trophy all season, with the Players Player of the Month, Idiot Of The Month

and the Player With The Worst Excuse Of The Month all having to sit through their meal in ladies clothes.

Andy Ballard's excuses always start "You'll never believe what happened to me..." and Luke Menzies' classic of losing his polo shirt after hanging it out of the car window on the M62 "hoping it would dry" have provided the entertainment in the past.

On the community front another addition to the team is Jamie I'Anson, who is serving his apprenticeship with me at the minute.

As a treat for the effort they put in during coaching sessions Alt Primary School recently had a visit from Northern Rail, who took the Cup into the school. The children had their photos taken with the trophy and the visit was a great success.

After this week we will be "on the road" for a while as Boundary Park carry out the pitch repairs.

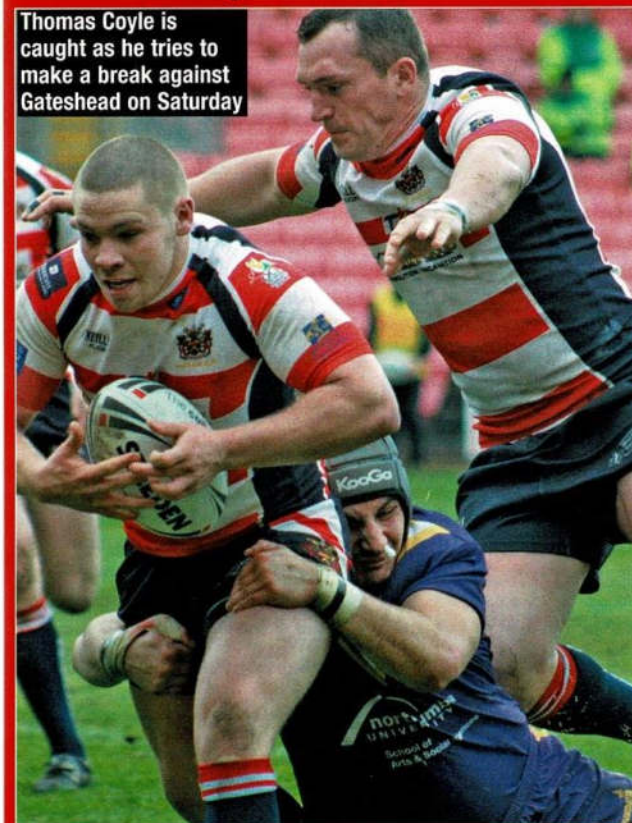
Please keep up the tremendous "away" support. It is really appreciated by all the lads.

See you soon.

Rob Roberts, captain

Challenge Cup agony compounded by draw

Thomas Coyle is caught as he tries to make a break against Gateshead on Saturday



I'd like to use a few well worn clichés like "now we can concentrate on our Championship run" or "distractions over now we can concentrate on what really matters".

But I'd be telling you porkies.

No question, we desperately wanted to progress to the next stage of the Challenge Cup.

What a fantastic achievement and experience that would have been, and it only makes it worse knowing we would have been at home to St Helens had the score been in our favour.

We had worked very hard since our disappointment against Dewsbury and our progress had given us an air of confidence that we just may have been able to cause an upset up in Darlington.

Although I feel we played very well for large parts of the game, and defended well as a team, we coughed up too much possession and to their credit Gateshead played extremely well.

They are a team capable of scoring plenty of points if you give them enough ball, and for 20 minutes after the half we did just that, they scored four quick tries and the rest is history.

Now we have no choice but to focus our attention on what really matters - our Co-operative Championship match against a club that has grown in leaps and bounds this season with the injection of a new squad - the Hunslet Hawks.

I'd like to offer a warm welcome to Graeme Hallas and his team and I trust that in true Roughyeds spirit you'll raise the remaining roofs and help us to ruffle a few feathers!

Enjoy your day.

Tony Benson, head coach



SUPPORTING OLDHAM



People caring for people





Workington v Skolars

Sunday May 17th, 2009. Kick off 2pm. DERWENT PARK



WORKINGTON TOWN

No.	PLAYER	POSITION	SPONSOR	No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
1	Jay Duffy	Myers & Bowman			Full back	
2	Neil Frazer	Appletree Inn			Right Wing	
3	Andrew Beattie	Jemcare			Right Centre	
4	Jason Mossop	To sponsor call 01900 603609			Left Centre	
5	Jamie Marshall	To sponsor call 01900 603609			Left Wing	
6	Carl Forber	Myers & Bowman			Stand off	
7	Steve Roper	Myers & Bowman			Scrum half	
8	Ryan Benjafield	Ian Barnes Plumbing & Heating			Prop	
9	Jack Pedley	Hare & Hounds			Hooker	
10	Dean Burgess	Bradley Cass			Prop	
11	Mike Whitehead	Beach Croft Sports			2nd row	
12	Craig Hodgson	To sponsor call 01900 603609			2nd row	
13	Mark Hobson	To sponsor call 01900 603609			Loose forward	
14	Brett Smith	The Ship Inn			Interchange 1	
15	James Robinson	Unblock Cumbria			2	
16	Thomas Brindle	To sponsor call 01900 603609			3	
17	Peter Dobson	To sponsor call 01900 603609			4	
18	Kris Coward					
19	Scott Burgess					
20	Stephen Dawes					
21	Mark Routledge					
22	Patrick Coupar					
23	Martyn Wilson					
24	Jarrad Stack					
25	Harry Kaufman					

COACH: DAVE ROTHERAM

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLLLLL

LAST SIX HOME: LLLWLL

TRIES: Stephen Dawes 7, Thomas Brindle 3, four players on two tries each. GOALS: Carl Forber 19, Steve Roper 2. DGs: Steve Roper
MAN TO WATCH: Stephen Dawes

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: P Brooke

Touch: S Kilpatrick, S Johnson

Fourth Official: M Woodhead

BENNETT'S BET

"Town to pick up rare win against poor Skolars - Workington by 32"

LONDON SKOLARS

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Frank Reid	
2	Corey Simms	Lanes Coaches
3	Oilly Fountain	
4	Oliver Bloom	
5	Austen Aggrey	Alan Greenwood
6	Jermaine Coleman	
7	Paul Thorman	No.1 City Road Bar & Grill
8	Dave Ellison	Code13 Sports Media
9	Gareth Honor	Code13 Sports Media
10	Glenn Osborn	
11	Matt Thomas	
12	Dene Miller	Craig Ackroyd
13	Jaymes Chapman	OnePersonalTraining
14	Graeme Spencer	
15	Bobby Wallis	
16	Tony Williams	
17	Chad Isles	Vibe Teaching
18	Orriesso Agbareh	
19	Leigh Nissen	
20	Paul Hyder	
21	Ben Joyce	
22	Danny Burke	The Gladys Aylward School
23	Andre Vine	
24	Smokie Junor	OnePersonalTraining
25	Jaroslav Obuchowski	
26	Olu Iwenofu	
	Keir Bell	
	Bernard Rule	
	Jy-Mel Coleman	
	Assistant Coach: Kevin Reith	Sportstraders

COACH: PAUL MARCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLLLL

LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLLL

TRIES: Matt Thomas 5, Austen Aggrey 3, Olu Iwenofu 3

GOALS: Paul Thorman 12

DGs: -

MAN TO WATCH: Matt Thomas



CLUBCALL

Workington v London Skolars

Break has given time for work and planning

After a break in the Championship last weekend we are back at home for the first of two home games in successive weeks.

Our players have worked extremely hard on the training field since the Hunslet game on Bank holiday monday. The gap in the fixtures has enabled us to work hard on fitness, the execution of a simple game plan and some hard self reflection of what has gone wrong recently.

Today the team should reap the rewards of the effort put in over the last two weeks. It is important now we look ahead positively and support the team enthusiastically with two thirds of the season still left to play.

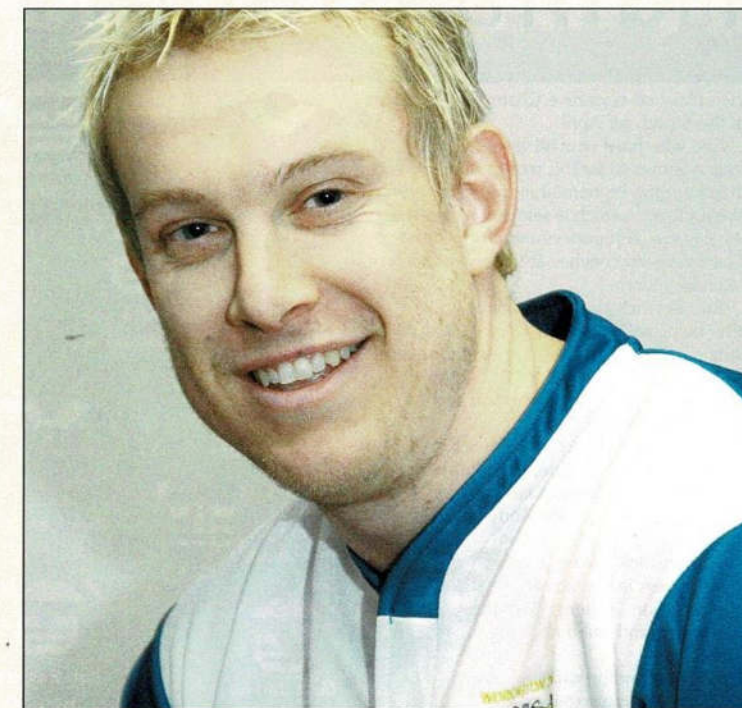
Back from injury today we hope to have Carl Forber, Stephen Dawes and Tommy Brindle. We have also completed the loan signing of Joe McKenna from Barrow. Joe can play either prop or second row and has had some first team experience with the Raiders this season. Welcome aboard Joe.

On a sadder note Neil Frazer had a shoulder operation last Wednesday. He may be out for some considerable time. This is a real pity for us as Neil was playing very well right across the backline.

We wish him a speedy recovery.

In our wider Rugby League community the junior players in Allerdale have been hitting the headlines in recent weeks. Saturday May 9 saw Allerdale Service area teams in action for the first time this season with Under 13, 14 and 15 teams all running out winners. Yesterday they all faced a stern test from Workington.

Congratulations to Broughton Red



Neil Frazer - needed shoulder operation

Rose under 16s for getting to the final of the National Youth Cup. Although the result didn't go their way the players and coach Dave Varty can hold their heads high for what is a tremendous achievement for a small club. They are our guests today so cheer them loudly when you see them around the ground.

Today's game sees us take on London

Skolars. They haven't had much to cheer about this year so far but knowing some of the players they have in their ranks it won't be long before they start picking up points, so long as it's not today!

Dave Rotheram
Head Coach

Good luck to the Skolars - but not today!

IT'S A pleasure to welcome our friends from London Skolars making their longest journey of the season.

The Skolars, like ourselves, have not had the best start to the season and will be determined to get their season up and running today.

From our part we simply must ensure that we do not slip up and everyone at the club will want to ensure that our first half performance last time out at

Dave Bowden
Chairman

Hunslet is developed for the full 80 minutes.

At the time of writing we're hopeful that some of our injured players could be back for today, and although it looks

like Neil Frazer may be missing for a fair chunk of the season we are all pleased his shoulder operation appears to have been a success.

Everyone at the club is disappointed at the start to the season but the only way to move forward is for everyone to get behind the club, it's now that it's needed the most.

If we can all do that today I'm sure the lads will respond on the pitch.

TEAM OF THE MONTH

In association with



Halifax's tour de four

LEADERS Halifax have the most inclusions in the official co-operative Championship Team of the Month for April.

Fax, who have won all seven of their league games so far this season, have no less than four players named in the imaginary 'dream team', which is selected by League Weekly match reporters and co-operative Championship coaches at the end of each calendar month.

Bob Beswick takes his place at hooker after being nominated by former Great Britain captain Paul Sculthorpe, and he is joined by on-loan Bradford Bulls prop Matt James, centre Lee Patterson and full back Miles Greenwood.

Second-placed Barrow Raiders have three players in the side, including wingers Chris Larkin and James Nixon along with loose forward Andy Brocklehurst.

Featherstone Rovers also have three players in the side in the shape of prop Stuart Dickens, second row Tim Spears and stand off Iestyn Harris.

The outstanding half back Andy Kain is unfortunate to miss out to Player of the Month Nathan Wynn, of Toulouse.



It's Wynn win for Nathan

TOULOUSE half back Nathan Wynn has made history by becoming the first French-based player to win the official co-operative Championship Player of the Month Award.

The Aussie playmaker has been outstanding for the men from across the Channel.

Rams playmaker Liam Finn has scooped the Championship One Player of the Month.

Finn had a tough job even to secure his place in the Team of the Month with York City Knights player-coach also outstanding from the scrum half position.

Rams trio included

PACE-SETTERS Dewsbury Rams have three players in the official co-operative Championship One Team of the Month.

Player of the Month Liam Finn is joined in the mythical 'dream team' by outstanding winger Bryn Powell and impressive hooker Mike Emmett.

Swinton Lions also have a trio of inclusions, with Graham Holroyd taking his place at stand off, Danny Heaton being named at prop and Richie Hawkyard retaining the full back position he earned in March. York City Knights and Keighley Cougars have two selections each. **CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP ONE TEAM OF THE MONTH - APRIL:** 1. Richie Hawkyard (Swinton), 2. Bryn Powell (Dewsbury), 3. Casey Mayberry (Hornets), 4. Daley Williams (Keighley), 5. Lee Mapals (Keighley), 6. Graham Holroyd (Swinton), 7. Liam Finn (Dewsbury), 8. Mark Applegarth (York), 9. Mike Emmett (Dewsbury), 10. Danny Heaton (Swinton), 11. Dave Allen (Oldham), 12. Steve Dooler (Hunslet), 13. David March (York).

Matt secures coach award

MATT CALLAND is the official League Weekly co-operative Championship coach of the month for April.

Halifax extended their winning start to the season to seven games with wins over Batley, Whitehaven, Doncaster, Gateshead and Featherstone.

Dewsbury coach Warren Jowitt was the Championship One Coach of the Month for the second time in succession.

Jowitt has enjoyed a dream start to his first full season in charge and Dewsbury are the only team in the division with a 100 per cent record.

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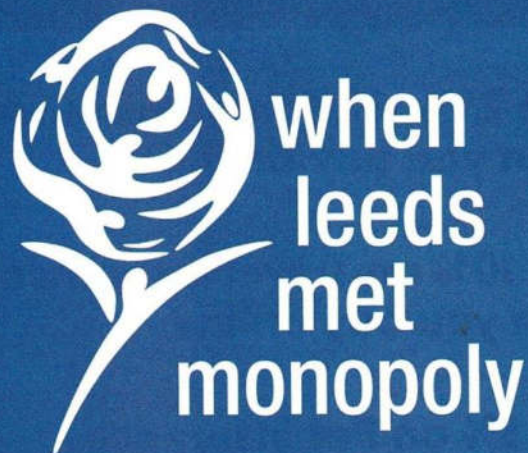


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Play Monopoly with Leeds Met and you could win a fabulous holiday in St Lucia...

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.

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

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



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

Come on Gateshead... anyone but Saints!

WHO picked it?
I know I did.

St Helens drawing Gateshead in the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup, I mean. I just knew it – just had this feeling, and still do, that Saints are marching unstopably towards Wembley yet again.

It's fair enough Saints landing a final eight gimme, I suppose, after disposing of two of last year's top three in the first two rounds.

Maybe they deserve an easy (apologies to Gateshead, but it's true) passage into the semi finals after smashing the Rhinos and the Dragons.

But I can't be the only 'neutral' observer of the game who wants to see Saints trip up in the cup.

No doubt fans from Wigan, Warrington etc would sell their own gran just to make sure the trophy doesn't go back to Knowsley Road this year, or for that matter ever again.

Personally, though, I've nothing against St Helens.

In fact, I greatly admire the club, its officials, its coaches and its players – all of whom I've enjoyed a very pleasant working relationship with.

But having said that I'm just about bloody sick of them winning the cup every year.

Let them win Super League again, I don't mind. They haven't done that for the past two seasons so maybe its time that such a superb, dominant side got their hands back on



Gateshead's Sam Crowther in action Oldham. Next up it is cup kings St Helens

that trophy. But hands off the Challenge Cup you greedy swine!

Not too long ago the comp looked wide open for anybody to win. There we were, thinking that not just one but two 'new faces' might grace Wembley come August.

The way it's shaping up now – unless the draw conspires against them – it looks like we could be heading for a Wigan-Saints showdown.

Noble's Warriors are the form team in Super League right now and Nobby also has a knack of getting the best out

of his players on big occasions.

Although Hull KR, Warrington, Huddersfield and Castleford all have good chances, I just have this feeling about the former cup kings going all the way.

And no doubt it'd be a great game – and you can bet your bottom dollar that, in these times of recession, it's exactly the final that the RFL want to guarantee a sell out (cold balls anyone?!).

But excuse me if the prospect of a Wigan-Saints final evokes a great big yawn from yours truly. It's just that

it's all been done before.

Hull KR v Castleford – now that's a dream final! Or at least the final that can breathe new life into a competition that in recent years has become just a little too predictable.

**Paul Bennett is
deputy editor of
League Weekly**



ON THE MONEY!

Challenge is to work out after effects

MIKE OXLEY of Totesport reviews the 5th round of the Challenge Cup and how those ties might have a knock-on effect in this weekend's round of matches



WHAT A weekend in the Challenge Cup for the Championship teams even though Gateshead are the only representative left from the lower leagues.

The performances of Sheffield, Hornets RL and Halifax against Super League sides deserve congratulating.

The Eagles did amazingly to only lose by 10 points and actually won the second half 18-12 against Hull KR.

The Rochdale club, who seem to be improving week by week, were beaten by 26 points and actually drew the second half against Huddersfield.

But the best display had to be Halifax's golden point loss (35-34) against Castleford.

Matt Calland's men were winning by four points with four minutes to go until Brent Sherwin gave Castleford a lifeline with a try to the right of the uprights. He failed to kick the goal but got the valuable one pointer in extra time.

People seem to dismiss Halifax's chances of getting into Super League in the next couple of years but if they finish their ground and keep improving their performances why shouldn't they be favourites to get into Super League?

On to this week's games and in view of what I have just said it is worth looking at the matches involving those who have played against the Super League outfits and how they might come out of those punishing clashes.



Andy Isherwood of Hornets takes on Huddersfield up front

There might be a few unusual scores this weekend and we will try and work out the value.

The two standout games of the weekend have got to be Leigh v Widnes and Toulouse v Barrow.

Even though on current form Widnes do not look the best betting proposition, what I saw in their second half performance against Whitehaven bodes well for the future and I can see them putting a winning sequence together starting at Leigh.

The Centurions have been in terrible form of late. Apart from scraping past a poor Batley side their home performances this year have been below par. I can see most bookmakers being scratch about this game, whereas on current form I make Widnes a four-point favourite.

Toulouse v Barrow is the game of the round to see how far the French have come in recent weeks and also to weigh up if the Cumbrians are true title challengers.

I make the game a scratch game and I would not punt on this fixture with the wife's money. This is one contest to weigh up for future investments.

Of the remaining games I think that Sheffield will put in a performance against a Halifax side who will still be reeling from the defeat against Castleford in mind as well as body.

I think some bookmakers will give Sheffield a 20-plus start whereas I think it should be nearer to 14.

The Hornets have improved considerably in recent weeks and they could win the handicap against a decent York outfit.

I think the Rochdale outfit warrant only a small start of around six points whereas looking at recent results, which include York beating them 44-14 just over four weeks ago at the Huntington Stadium, most bookmakers may not see it the same as me and may give the Lancashire outfit a double-digit start.

But I am of the opinion that, with a couple of new players, Darren Shaw's side are coming to hand and can put in a much improved display.

Good luck this week and let's hope we can continue with picking the winners and making a nice profit.



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KNOW YOUR STUFF?

AROUND THE CLUBS

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS WEEKEND'S HOME CHAMPIONSHIP CLUBS?

1 LEIGH – New Centurions first team coach Paul Rowley played in which position during his playing career?

2 TOULOUSE – Which Olympique star was named the official co-operative Championship player of the month for April?

3 FEATHERSTONE – At which club did Rovers' new signing Kyle Briggs begin his professional career?

4 GATESHEAD – New Thunder coach Steve McCormack coaches which side at international level?

5 HALIFAX – From which club did Fax sign full back Miles Greenwood in 2007?

6 OLDHAM – Who is the Roughyeds' chief executive?

7 WORKINGTON – From which club did Town sign hooker Jack Pedley?

8 KEIGHLEY – What is the name of the club's Cougar mascot?

9 DEWSBURY – At which ground did Dewsbury beat Leeds in the 1973 Championship play-off final?

10 HORNETS – From which club have Hornets signed three players on loan this month?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

DO YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR RL? HERE ARE SEVEN TOUGHIES TO TEST ALL RUGBY LEAGUE FANS

1 From which NRL club did Hull KR sign Kiwi centre Jake Webster (pictured bottom)?

2 Who is the current assistant coach to Nathan Brown at Huddersfield?

3 Which current Super League club won the first Challenge Cup after the Second World War?

4 Which former St Helens winger was born in Bethlehem?

5 Who was named as the stand off in Australia's 'Team of the Century' in February 2008?

6 In what year were Fulham – later to become London and then Harlequins RL – formed?

7 For which club did Brian Bevan play after leaving Warrington?



ANAGRAMS

Can you rearrange the following phrases to form the names of three hookers from the co-operative Championships...

1 VET BEING BOSS

2 SWANKY ZEN EPIC

3 MET MEEK TIM

ANSWERS: AROUND THE CLUBS: 1. Hooker, 2. Nathan Wynn, 3. Leeds Rhinos, 4. Scotland, 5. Leigh, 6. Chris Hamilton, 7. Barrow, 8. Freddie Cougar, 9. Odsal, 10. Widnes Vikings.
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: 1. Gold Coast Titans, 2. Paul Anderson, 3. Wakefield Wildcats, 4. Tom Van Vollenhoven (in Bethlehem, Free State, South Africa), 5. Wally Lewis, 6. 1980, 7. Blackpool Borough, 8. Fredie

GET YOUR FIX...

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
Swinton 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 12, Widnes Vikings 4
Halifax RLFC 50, Blackpool Panthers 28

CHALLENGE CUP

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

THIRD ROUND

Keighley Cougars 30, Pia 24
Queens 12, Doncaster RL 16
Siddal 6, Swinton Lions 10
Widnes Vikings 88, Saddleworth Rangers 0
Workington 6, FC Lezignan-Corbieres 18

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

THIRD ROUND

Barrow Raiders 44, Blackpool Panthers 12
Dewsbury Rams 18, Carcassonne 6
Featherstone Rovers 94, British Army 2
Gateshead Thunder 42, Whitehaven 38
Halifax 80, Loughborough Univ 16
Leeds Met 24, Hornets RL 38
Leigh Centurions 82, Lokomotiv Moscow 6
Oldham Roughyeds 26, Shariston Rovers 8
Pilkingtons 24, Batley Bulldogs 34
Sheffield Eagles 22, Toulouse 6
Wath Brow Hornets 14, London Skolars 12
York City Knights 50, Wigan St Patricks 10

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

THIRD ROUND

Kells 12, Hunslet Hawks 22

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Swinton Lions 31, Workington Town 24

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

London Skolars 14, Dewsbury Rams 42

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

CHAMPIONSHIP

Widnes Vikings 70, Toulouse Olympique 0

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders 34, Doncaster RLFC 14

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs 8, Featherstone Rovers 34
Sheffield Eagles 22, Leigh Centurions 23
Whitehaven 42, Gateshead Thunder 18

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Oldham 36, Blackpool Panthers 18

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Halifax RLFC 24, Widnes Vikings 14

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique 12, Sheffield Eagles 18

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers 26, Whitehaven 52
Gateshead Thunder 14, Barrow Raiders 38
Leigh Centurions 28, Batley Bulldogs 34

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Workington Town 21, Hornets RL 14

Blackpool Panthers 34, Hunslet Hawks 26

Dewsbury Rams 28, York City Knights 2

Keighley Cougars 34, Oldham 26

London Skolars 16, Swinton Lions 66

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Batley Bulldogs 20, Gateshead Thunder 20

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

CHAMPIONSHIP

Whitehaven 40, Toulouse Olympique 26
Barrow Raiders 24, Halifax RLFC 26
Widnes Vikings 28, Sheffield Eagles 20

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

CHAMPIONSHIP

Doncaster RLFC 18, Leigh Centurions 24

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL 31, Dewsbury Rams 33

Swinton Lions 36, Keighley Cougars 28

York City Knights 22, Blackpool Panthers 20

Hunslet Hawks 71, London Skolars 0

Oldham 66, Workington Town 14

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

Halifax 20, Widnes Vikings 16

Sheffield Eagles 28, Dewsbury Rams 18

Swinton Lions 22, Hornets RL 28

Wakefield Trin Wildcats 54, Leigh Centurions 0

Hull KR 32, Celtic Crusaders 6

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

Warrington Wolves 56, York City Knights 10

Harlequins RL16, Huddersfield 42

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

CHALLENGE CUP, FOURTH ROUND

Batley Bulldogs 28, Hunslet Hawks 24

Oldham 60, Lezignan 30

Featherstone 54, Wath Brow Hornets 16

Catalans Dragons 40, Bradford Bulls 28

Barrow Raiders 20, Wigan Warriors 32

Keighley Cougars 20, Castleford Tigers 64

Doncaster 18, Gateshead Thunder 32

Hull FC 18, Salford City Reds 22

Leeds Rhinos 18, St Helens 22

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sheffield Eagles 22, Doncaster RLFC 23

Halifax RLFC 72, Batley Bulldogs 0

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Gateshead Thunder 2, Featherstone Rovers 23

Barrow Raiders 18, Whitehaven 12

Widnes Vikings 8, Leigh Centurions 10

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL 18, Oldham 26

Workington Town 16, Hunslet Hawks 24

Blackpool Panthers 12, Swinton Lions 16

Dewsbury Rams 70, London Skolars 0

Keighley Cougars 13, York City Knights 12

MONDAY, APRIL 13

CHAMPIONSHIP

Featherstone Rovers 20, Sheffield Eagles 12

Leigh Centurions 16, Barrow Raiders 25

Batley Bulldogs 22, Toulouse Olympique 60

Doncaster RLFC 18, Widnes Vikings 24

Whitehaven 18, Halifax RLFC 24

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions 42, Workington Town 28

Dewsbury Rams v Blackpool Panthers

York City Knights 44, Hornets RL 14

Hunslet Hawks 21, Keighley Cougars 18

London Skolars 10, Blackpool Panthers 48

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Gateshead Thunder 41, Sheffield Eagles 36

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

CHAMPIONSHIP

Widnes Vikings 40, Batley Bulldogs 18

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique 46, Leigh Centurions 10

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax RLFC 44, Doncaster RLFC 12

Whitehaven 16, Featherstone Rovers 44

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Oldham 12, Dewsbury Rams 36

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Leigh Centurions 16, Featherstone Rovers 30

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders 52, Batley Bulldogs 0

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax RLFC 72, Gateshead Thunder 28

Doncaster RLFC 18, Toulouse Olympique 48

Sheffield Eagles 20, Widnes Vikings 22

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Hornets RL 46, London Skolars 8

Workington Town 6, York City Knights 36

Dewsbury Rams 30, Hunslet Hawks 10

Keighley Cougars 42, Blackpool Panthers 22

Oldham 52, Swinton Lions 36

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Featherstone Rovers 26, Halifax RLFC 39

FRIDAY, MAY 1

CHAMPIONSHIP

Widnes Vikings 6, Barrow Raiders 27

Gateshead Thunder 45, Doncaster RLFC 42

SATURDAY, MAY 2

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

London Skolars 10, Oldham 78

SUNDAY, MAY 3

CHAMPIONSHIP

Toulouse Olympique 38, Whitehaven 12

MONDAY, MAY 4

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs 16, Leigh Centurions 18

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions 22, Dewsbury Rams 35

York City Knights 24, Keighley Cougars 22

Blackpool Panthers 24, Hornets RL 12

Hunslet Hawks 28, Workington Town 12

THURSDAY, MAY 7

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Whitehaven 26, Widnes Vikings 22

SATURDAY, MAY 9

CHALLENGE CUP, FIFTH ROUND

Castleford 34, Halifax 34 - Cas by golden point

Gateshead 34, Oldham 16

SUNDAY, MAY 10

CHALLENGE CUP, FIFTH ROUND

Huddersfield 38, Rochdale 12

Featherstone 8, Warrington 56

Hull KR 34, Sheffield Eagles 24

Batley Bulldogs 4, Salford City Reds 66

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

Widnes Vikings v Gateshead Thunder 18:00

SUNDAY, MAY 24

CHAMPIONSHIP

Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers 15:00

Batley Bulldogs v Whitehaven 15:00

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Swinton Lions v Oldham 15:00

Workington Town v Dewsbury Rams 15:00

Blackpool Panthers v Keighley Cougars 15:00

Hunslet Hawks v Hornets RL 15:00

London Skolars v York City Knights 15:00

THURSDAY, MAY 28

CHAMPIONSHIP (TV)

Featherstone Rovers v Leigh Centurions 19:30

SATURDAY, MAY 30

CHAMPIONSHIP

Gateshead Thunder v Toulouse Olympique 18:00

Barrow Raiders v Sheffield Eagles 18:30

SUNDAY, MAY 31

CHAMPIONSHIP

Batley Bulldogs v Widnes Vikings 15:00

Whitehaven v Doncaster RLFC 15:00

WHAT A RESULT!



CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Batley Bulldogs 4
Tries: Maun.
Salford City Reds 66
Tries: Wilshire, Myler, Henry 4, Ratchford, McGilvray, Alker, Paul, Adamson. Goals: Wilshire 10, Paul. Half-time: 0-48. Attendance: None given.

Featherstone Rovers 8
Tries: Saxton, Haughey.
Warrington Wolves 56
Tries: Grix, Mathers 2, Hicks 2, Riley, Bridge, Harrison, Monaghan, Wood. Goals: Hicks 8. Half-time: 4-20. Attendance: 3,127.

Huddersfield Giants 38
Tries: Robinson, Lunt 3, Patrick, Carlisle, Lolest. Goals: Cudjoe 5.
Hornets RL 12
Tries: Fogerty, Ainscough. Goals: Giles 2. Half-time: 26-0. Attendance: 2,859.

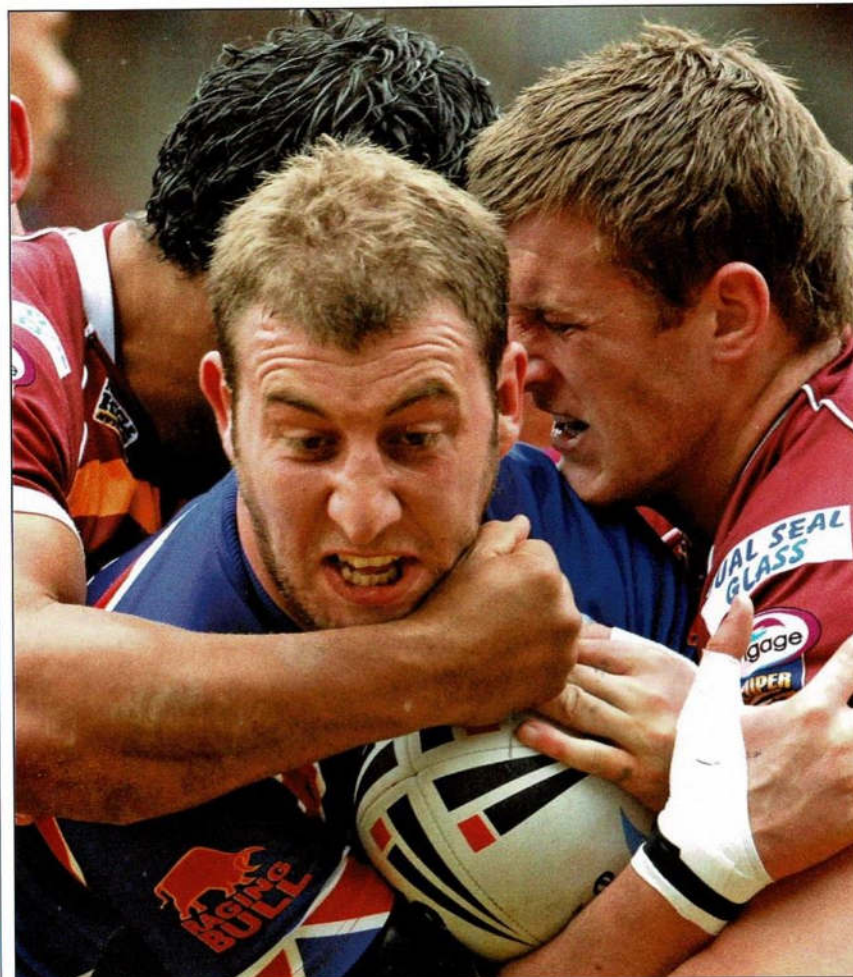
Hull Kingston Rovers 34
Tries: Webster, Fisher 2, Newton, Gene, Briscoe. Goals: Dobson 5.
Sheffield Eagles 24
Tries: Yere, Wood, Woodcock, Barlow. Goals: Woodcock 4. Half-time: 22-6. Attendance: 4,955.

SATURDAY, MAY 9
Castleford Tigers 35
Tries: Dixon, Sherwin, Shenton, Evans, McGoldrick 2, Chase. Goals: Dixon 2, Sherwin. Drop Goals: Sherwin.
Halifax 34
Tries: Royston, Barker, Beswick 3. Goals: Paterson 7. Half-time: 16-12. Attendance: 5,595.

Gateshead Thunder 34
Tries: Knowles, Barron, Branighan 2, McAlpine, Sanderson. Goals: Knowles 5.
Oldham 16
Tries: Allen, Halliwell, Goulden. Goals: Ballard 2. Half-time: 4-6. Attendance: 929.

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, MAY 7



Hornets tryscorer Mick Fogerty is held by the Huddersfield Giants

Whitehaven 26
Tries: McNally 2, D Miller, Calvert, Patrick. Goals: McNally 3.
Widnes Vikings 22
Tries: Bannister, Webster 3. Goals: Tyrer 3. Half-time: 12-8. Attendance: 2,102.

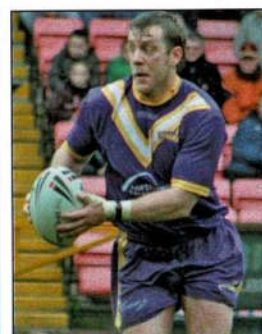
RESERVE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, MAY 7
Featherstone Rovers 38
T: Carr 2, Dobek 2, Bacon, Hesketh, Williamson, Falkingham
G: Dobek 3
Sheffield Eagles 30

T: Humphreys 2, Cottle, Pryce, Morrow, Battye.
G: Pygot 3.
Half-time: 10-12.

York City Knights 32
Doncaster 30
Saturday, May 9
Widnes Vikings 22
T: Thompson 2, Hartley, Mullally.
G: Hartley 3.
Whitehaven 24
T: Smith (D) 2, Fox, Martin.
G: Bainbridge 4.
Half-time: 6-14.

Leigh Centurions 48
Keighley Cougars 22



Gateshead's Stuart Sanderson scored his 15th try of the season against Oldham

STATS SERVICE



LEADING POINTS SCORERS

PLAYER/CLUB	T	G	DG	Pts
Andy Ballard (Oldham)	13	75	202	
Gregg McNally (White)	21	41	166	
Pat Walker (Dewsbury)	2	60	128	
Ian Mort (Leigh)	8	41	114	
Jonny Woodcock (Sheff)	6	43	110	
Lee Paterson (Halifax)	5	45	110	
Michael Knowles (G'head)	5	41	102	
Nathan Wynn (Toulouse)	4	38	92	
Carl Sneyd (Swinton)	4	38	92	
Stuart Dickens (Feath)	1	42	88	
Danny Jones (Keighley)	41	1	83	
Scott Yates (Widnes)	4	33	82	
Paul Noone (Barrow)	1	39	82	
Johnny Leather (Black)	9	21	78	
Ben Black (Halifax)	13	12	76	
George Flanagan (Batley)	7	22	72	
Jon Presley (Keighley)	16	1	65	
Darren Robinson (Hunslet)	4	24	1	65
Luke Branighan (G'head)	12	8	64	
Stuart Sanderson (G'head)	15		60	
Iestyn Harris (Feath)	5	18	56	
Liam Finn (Dewsbury)	6	14	2	54
Mick Govin (Halifax)	1	24	52	
Andy Kain (Feath)	12	1	50	
Shad Royston (Halifax)	12		48	
Carl Forber (Workington)	2	19	46	
Wayne McHugh (York)	5	13	46	
James Nixon (Barrow)	11		44	
Kane Epati (Dewsbury)	11		44	
Gavin Dodd (Widnes)	6	10	44	
Gareth Langley (Blackpool)	5	12	44	
Sean Penkywicz (Halifax)	10		40	
Dave Hull (Swinton)	10		40	
Jamie Durbin (Leigh)	10		40	
Adam Mitchell (York)	2	16	40	
Gareth Langley (Blackpool)	4	11	38	
Adam Mitchell (York)		19	38	
Martin Ridyard (Leigh)	4	10	1	37
Liam McGovern (Hornets)	2	14	1	37
Miles Greenwood (Halifax)	9		36	
John Oakes (York)	9		36	
Thomas Coyle (Oldham)	9		36	
James Coyle (Oldham)	9		36	
James Haley (Halifax)	4	10	36	
Tim Hartley (Widnes)	2	14	36	
Ben McAlpine (Gateshead)	7	3	34	
Chris Giles (Hornets RL)	4	9	34	
Kyle Briggs (Dons/Fev)	17		34	

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Pts
Halifax	7	7	0	0	0	301	122	179	21
Barrow	7	6	0	1	1	218	88	130	19
Widnes	9	5	0	4	3	234	163	71	18
Featherstone	7	5	0	2	0	203	145	58	15
Whitehaven	8	4	0	4	2	216	216	0	14
Leigh	8	4	0	4	2	145	199	-54	14
Toulouse	7	4	0	3	1	230	190	40	13
Sheffield	7	1	0	6	6	150	169	-19	9
Gateshead	7	2	1	4	1	168	271	-103	8
Doncaster	7	1	0	6	3	145	241	-96	6
Batley	8	1	1	6	2	118	324	-206	6

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Pts
Dewsbury	6	6	0	0	0	232	77	155	18
Oldham	7	5	0	2	1	296	166	130	16
Hunslet	6	4	0	2	1	180	110	70	13
York	6	4	0	2	1	140	103	37	13
Swinton	6	4	0	2	0	218	171	47	12
Keighley	6	3	0	3	3	157	141	16	12
Blackpool	7	3	0	4	2	178	206	28	11
Workington	6	1	0	5	1	97	210	-113	4
London Skolars	6	0	0	6	0	44	379	-335	0
Rochdale	6	1	0	5	4	135	164	-29	-2

*Hornets deducted nine points for entering administration

NORTHERN RAIL CUP 2009 TABLES

POOL ONE

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD	Pts
Halifax (Q)	4	4	0	0	0	178	66	112	12
Oldham (Q)	4	3	0	1	1	130	72	58	10
Barrow Raiders (Q)	4	3	0	1	0	110	63	47	9
Widnes Vikings (Q)	4	2	0	2	2	110	68	42	8
Keighley Cougars	4	2	0	2	1	105	76	29	7
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	4	1	0	3	1	86	138	-52	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
Dewsbury Rams (Q)	4	4	0	0	0	156	52	104	12
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
Doncaster	4	3	0	1	0	104	90	14	9
Whitehaven	4	2	0	2	1	106	102	4	7
Swinton Lions*	4	1	0	3	2	85	144	-59	5
Batley Bulldogs	4	1	0	3	1	102	146	-44	4
Workington*	4	0	0	4	1	52	129	-77	0
London Skolars	4	0	0	4	0	44	216	-172	0

*Across both the Northern Rail Cup and league campaign, teams will receive three points for a win, two for a draw and one bonus point for losing by 12 points or less

LEADING TRY SCORERS

21	Gregg McNally (Whitehaven)
16	Jon Presley (Keighley)
15	Stuart Sanderson (Gateshead)
13	Ben Black (Halifax) Andy Ballard (Oldham)
12	Andy Kain (Featherstone) Luke Branighan (Gateshead) Shad Royston (Halifax)
11	Kane Epati (Dewsbury) James Nixon (Barrow)
10	Dave Hull (Swinton) Sean Penkywicz (Halifax) Jamie Durbin (Leigh)
9	Jonny Leather (Blackpool) Miles Greenwood (Halifax) Lee Mapals (Keighley) Thomas Coyle (Oldham) James Coyle (Oldham) John Oakes (York)
8	Andy Ellis (Barrow) Andy Bostock (Dewsbury) Tommy Haughey (Feath) Said Tamghart (Halifax) Stuart Donlan (Leigh) Ian Mort (Leigh) Paddy Flynn (Widnes) Paul March (York)
7	George Flanagan (Batley) Jerrmain McGilvary (Batley) Jon Steel (Featherstone) Ben McAlpine (Gateshead) Dylan Nash (Gateshead) Martin Ainscough (Hornets) Lucas Onyango (Oldham) Stephen Dawes (Workington) Paul Hughes (York)



Luke Branighan - 3 tries in his 2 games for Gateshead