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Official matchday magazine of the Co-operative Championships

GAMEON

February 21, 2010 Vol 2 No 4 £2.50

**48
PAGES**

**A matter of pride: the
Cumbrian derby!**

**The Big Kick-Off 2:
League campaign previewed**

**Robbie Paul has
'grounds' to worry!**

**NEWS
VIEWS
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STATS &
MORE!**

MATCHES IN FOCUS

barrowvkeighley
dewsburyvleigh
doncastervblackpool
featherstonevhornets
gatesheadvbatley
halifaxvhunslet
oldhamvsheffield
swintonvwidnes
workingtonvwhitehaven
yorkvskolars



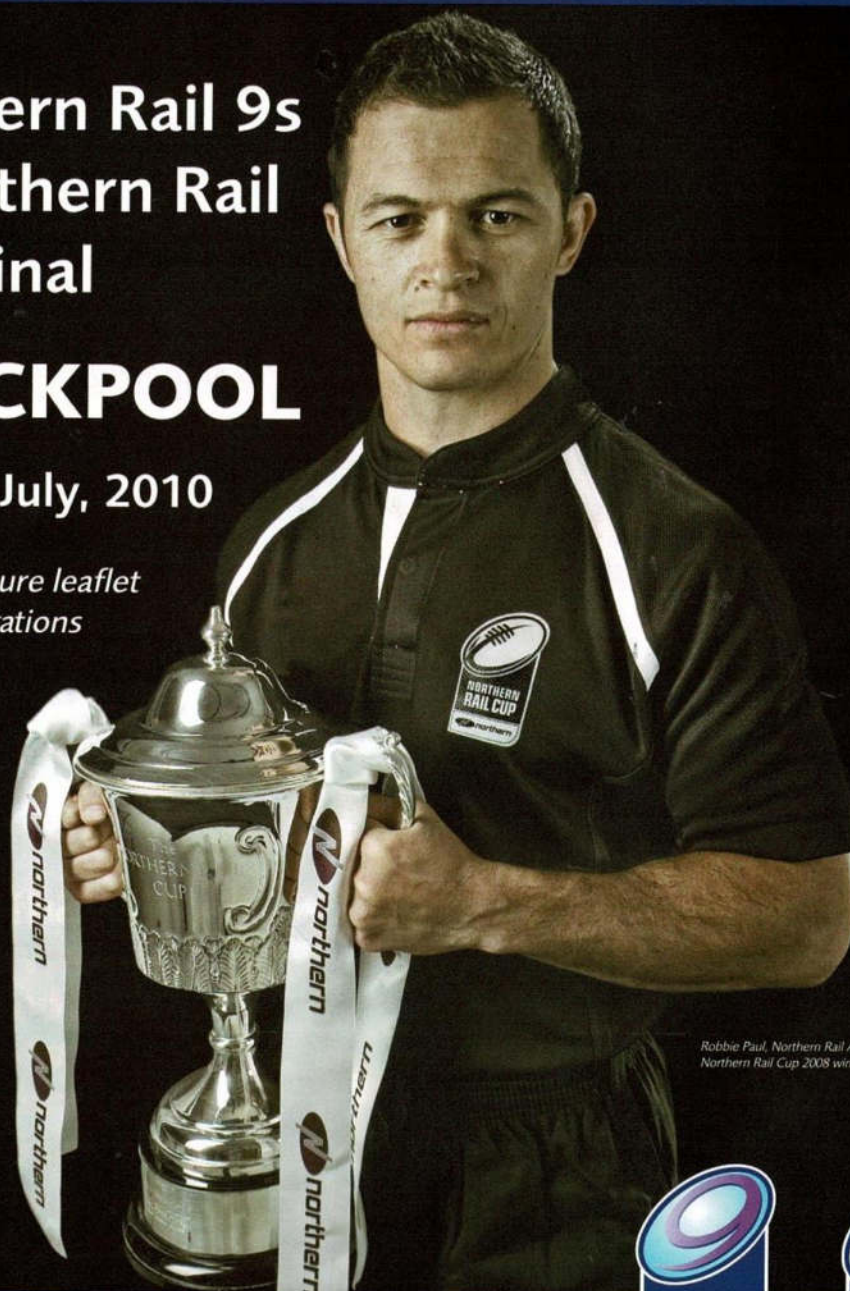
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CONTENTS

Vol 2, No.4
February 21, 2010

Comment.....	3
Cumbrian derby profile.....	4/5
Championship preview.....	6/7
Championship1 preview.....	8/9
Robbie Paul is Down the Line.....	11
News round-up.....	12/13

MATCHDAY

Barrow v Keighley.....	14/15
Dewsbury v Leigh.....	16/17
Doncaster v Blackpool.....	18/19
Featherstone v Hornets.....	20/21
Gateshead v Batley.....	22/23
Halifax v Hunslet.....	24/25
Oldham v Sheffield.....	26/27
Swinton v Widnes.....	28/29
Workington v Whitehaven.....	30/31
York v London.....	32/33

Eye On The Ball.....	35
Man in the Middle: Jamie Leahy.....	37
News extra.....	38/39
Player Profile: Andy Bracek.....	41
XIII Questions.....	43
Round-up & tables.....	44/45
Diary.....	46/47



It's good to share in RL

ON THE basis that it's good to share, the news that another four Engage Super League players have joined the growing list of players to be dual registered with a Co-operative Championship side is to be welcomed.

Leigh Centurions have snapped up Warrington Wolves youngsters Matty Blythe, Lee Mitchell and Tyrone McCarthy along with St Helens front row, Jacob Emmitt, in a deal which can only enhance the quality of the competition in the Northern Rail Cup and Co-operative Championships.

Promising back rower Tyrone McCarthy was a member of the Wolves' Carnegie Challenge Cup-winning side at Wembley and these four signings will prove great additions to the Centurions squad.

Moreover, following their impressive 36-6 victory over Featherstone Rovers, the Centurions have certainly put down a marker of their intent in the Northern Rail Cup competition.

Another club who have enjoyed a flying start to the competition is Halifax who prior to the Sheffield game were yet to concede a point after scoring 92 of their own in two victories over Dewsbury and London Skolars.

Keighley Cougars are also in strong early-season form and are setting the pace in Pool A with their 38-10 win over Workington putting them one point clear at the top.

This week saw the Carnegie Challenge Cup draw taking place in Gateshead and teams in the Co-operative Championships now know who they will face in the third round of this historic competition on March 6 and 7.

To coincide with the draw the RFL have launched a search to find supporters' favourite giant killing memories: for more details check out the Carnegie Challenge Cup section of the RFL website.

As well as a round of Northern Rail Cup fixtures this weekend also sees South Wales Scorpions playing their first ever game on Sunday against Wigan Warriors before they debut against Workington Town in Co-operative Championship One a week later.

Speaking to staff at the Scorpions this week the local community certainly seems to be getting behind the new side with some good support from local businesses and the local media taking a keen interest which is all positive news for the competition.



Nick Boothroyd
Editor

RFL – official notes

RESPECT

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

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

ANTI-RACISM POLICY

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

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PITCH

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

A matter of PRIDE



Joint Workington coach and former player Gary Charlton has fond memories of his tussles with 'Haven over the years. "They've always been full-blooded with no holds barred," said Charlton who, with Martin Oglanby, has succeeded Dave Rotherham as head coach at Dewent Park. "Everything's full on and everyone gets stuck into each other."

Today's game is his first taste of derby action as a coach but local lad Gary is well aware of how much this game means to the supporters. "I've played in plenty of derby matches and it's special because you're playing against people who are your mates off the pitch," said the Town boss. "It gives you more of a buzz to go out there and play well. The bragging rights that come with victory mean this game does have special meaning to supporters so we'll be looking to do them proud."

Workington have endured a tough few seasons since the break-up of the Northern Ford Premiership in 2003. But, following a positive close-season recruitment drive, Charlton is optimistic about Town's future.

"We're looking to get Workington up and running and playing well. We've spent a few years in the doldrums but hopefully, if we can string a few results together, the crowds will start coming back."

Liam Finch has been brought in from Barrow and could prove to be a shrewd signing, while Mike Backhouse, Joe McKenna, Lee Dutton and Scott Kaighan have followed him from Craven Park to bolster the Town ranks.

"Because of where the club's been over the last few years, the derbies been a bit one-sided but we think we've got a great chance of putting that right this year."

"If we can prepare our troops right, we'll be in for a good game," said Charlton.

Despite the importance of the match to everybody involved at Workington, he insists he won't be giving the game any special treatment as far as training is concerned.

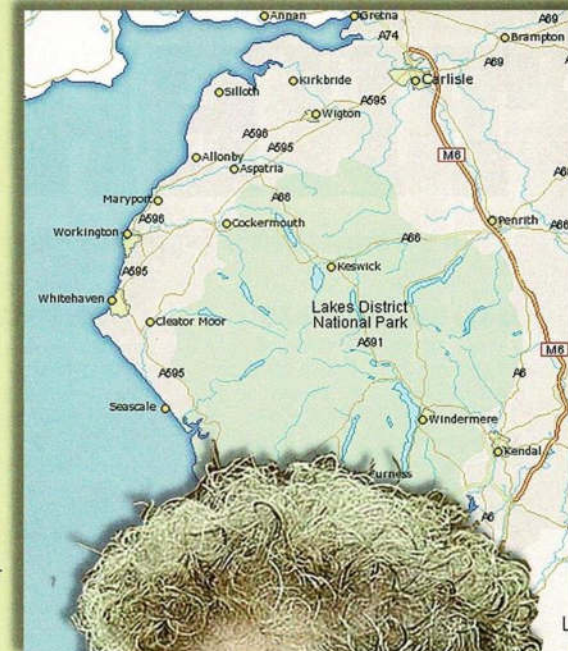
"We won't be preparing any differently, it is just another game in that respect but, with the derby, form goes out of the window."

"With that in mind, we're just going to go out there and see what we can come up with."



Photo courtesy of Times & Star

One of the great features of the Northern Rail Cup is that it often pits two sides together that otherwise would not meet. A prime example of that is the Cumbrian derby between Workington and Whitehaven this weekend. Less than 10 miles separate the two towns making this a bona fide battle for local bragging rights. TOM COATES spoke with both camps ahead of the big game



Ged Stokes' first job on British shores was with Workington. He was offered the vacant coaching position at Derwent Park while on tour with the New Zealand A team and took over in time for the 2004 season.

Stokes brought the likes of Taani Lavulavu, Lusi Sione and John Tuimauluga to Workington, along with outstanding hooker Jonny Limmer as the club attempted to rebuild following a dramatic fall from grace since being relegated from Super League.

"I really enjoy living in Cumbria, that's a given really," said Stokes. "I've spent time with Workington and Whitehaven and have been made to very welcome at both clubs."

Having spent time with both rivals, Stokes is under no illusion about what this derby means to the fans.

"The derby to me is as important as it is to the supporters, it's an important date in everyone's calendar up here. Obviously there are bragging rights at stake and we'll be looking to do the business on the pitch for the fans, but also for ourselves" said Stokes.

"We won't be preparing for the game any differently. We're confident we can pick up a result so training will be as normal in the build-up."

Whitehaven's start to the campaign has seen them win one out of their first three matches – an emphatic victory over Doncaster last weekend helping put the midweek defeat against Batley behind them.

"Sunday's performance was an improvement, although I didn't think we played too badly against Batley," said Stokes.

"They're a good side and I'm satisfied with our performance aside from a few glitches. We were ahead for part of the game and it could have gone either way," he added.

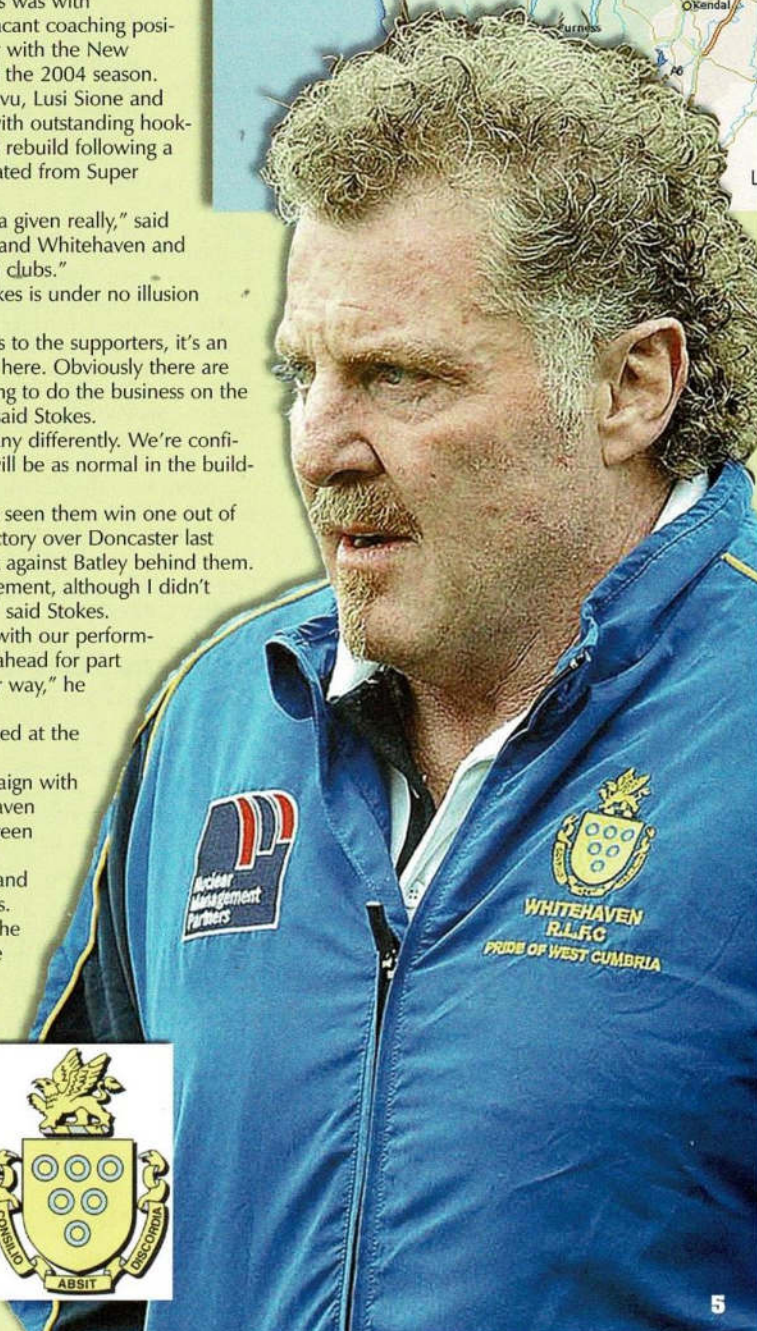
"It's close matches like that that you need at the start of the season."

The loss of Leroy Joe early in the campaign with a fractured ankle is a blow to the Whitehaven cause, but Stokes hope to have the evergreen Kiwi back on the park before too long.

"We're two weeks down the line now and recovery looks to be on track," said Stokes. "We'll keep an eye on him but hopefully he can be back in action for us in four or five weeks."

As for the derby, Stokes is confident that his players have the desire and hunger to win the match.

"The players are quite capable of building themselves up, they don't need to be told what's at stake in this game."



THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE

It's a brave man who predicts the fortunes in what promises to be the most competitive Co-operative Championship we've seen. But Game On's TOM COATES is that man!

Barrow Raiders

Steve McCormack has an almighty task on his hands if he hopes to emulate Barrow's success over the last two seasons. The Raiders have won two consecutive league titles and gone from Championship 1 also-rans to genuine contenders for Super League license.

Andrew Henderson has replaced Andy Ellis, who has joined Harlequins, and is joined at Craven Park for 2010 by fellow Thunder team-mate Michael Knowles and experienced second-rower Richard Fletcher.

Jamie Rooney has committed himself to Barrow cause for 2010 and will, once again, play a vital part in the Raiders' on-field push for a franchise spot in two years' time. With clubs around them recruiting strongly during the close-season, last year's grand final winners cannot afford any slip-ups if they hope to retain their crown.

Prediction: 2nd

Key Man: Jamie Rooney

Batley Bulldogs

The Bulldogs' great escape in 2009 saw them embark on an end-of season run that included victories over Barrow, Halifax and Featherstone. Karl Harrison's arrival at Mount Pleasant galvanised the squad and, by the end of the season, his side looked capable of turning anybody over.

The club has recruited well during the close-season. Winger Eddie Kilroy joins after spending several years with Bradford academy. Sean Hesketh has been brought in from Featherstone and Jason Walton, with a string of Super League appearances to his name, has been drafted in from Salford.

They are joined in 2010 by ex-Rhinos youngster Gareth Moore, James Martin and Lee Greenwood, along with three dual-registered players from Huddersfield: Kyle Wood spent 2009 with Sheffield, while threequarters Josh Griffin and Alex Brown will be hoping to catch the attention of Giants coach Nathan Brown with a spell at Championship level.

With Harrison at the helm, and some bright young players ready to explode on to the scene, Bulldogs supporters should be able to look forward to a tilt at a play-off place this season.

Prediction: 6th

Key Man: Paul Handforth

Dewsbury Rams

Having swept all before them in 2009, Warren Jowitt and his side face an altogether different task this time around. With the Championship stronger than ever, any club promoted from the division below faces a daunting challenge in making the step-up and holding their own.

With this in mind, the club has recruited heavily over the winter. Anthony England, Luke Menzies and Luke Stencheon will add size to the Rams pack and, in Dominic Brambani, Dewsbury have a ready-made replacement for the departed Liam Finn.

Big things are expected of local lads Alex Bretherton, Andy Bostock and Pat Walker while new signing Ayden Faal should be fit for the start of the league campaign. The club were forced to pay a fee to prise the ex-Rhinos academy star away from Hunslet and Jowitt will be keen to get him back on the pitch as soon as possible, following a close-season hernia operation.

The Rams will find the going tough in the Championship but will improve as the season progresses. Dewsbury fans can expect a real scrap for survival this year, but it's one they should win.

Prediction: 8th

Key Man: Alex Bretherton

Featherstone Rovers

Daryl Powell will be hoping to continue the season-on-season progression that's been taking place at Post Office Road since promotion to the Championship in 2007. 2010 marks the Rovers' best opportunity to date to mount a title challenge and tick the box for a license application.

In Kyle Briggs, Featherstone have one of the sport's hottest prospects and a player expected to make the step up following the retirement of Iestyn Harris. Andy Kain and Liam Finn will give the side further attacking spark with the likes of Tommy Saxton and Jon Steel providing that finishing touch.

Larsen Marabe and Jesse Joe Nandye have been flown in from Papua New Guinea and are expected to make a big impact once they settle. Iain Morrison is another player who'll be looking to make his mark after developing a reputation as one of the divisions top young props during his time at Widnes.

Featherstone's success in 2010 hinges

1-Halifax
2-Barrow Raiders
3-Sheffield Eagles
4-Featherstone Rovers
5-Widnes Vikings
6-Batley Bulldogs

7-Leigh Centurions
8-Dewsbury Rams
9-Toulouse Olympique

10-Whitehaven
11-Keighley Cougars

on how quickly the squad, which undoubtedly has the talent, gels on the field. At worst, Rovers fans can expect a play-off challenge but, if things click straight away, there's no telling what this team could achieve.

Prediction: 4th

Key Man: Kyle Briggs

Halifax

2009 will live long in the memory of Halifax supporters for a variety of reasons. A blistering start to the league campaign saw them race clear at the top of the Championship, winning their first seven matches, and staking an early claim for a franchise spot in the near-future.

The second-half of the season brought with it a dip in form, however, and Matt Calland's men were unable to recapture their early season form – despite eventually making the Grand Final and coming up just short.

In Ben Black and Luke Branighan, Calland has one of the division's most lethal half-back combinations at his disposal and, with Stanley Gene and Makali Aizue arriving during the close-season, a visit to the Shay in 2010 will be a tougher prospect than ever.

Halifax have class all over the park and it's difficult to see anyone derailing their quest for silverware this season.

Prediction: 1st, Grand Final winners

Key Man: Ben Black

Keighley Cougars

The Cougars are another side that has enjoyed a season-on-season progression on the field. Barry Eaton has overseen Keighley's evolution from a struggling Championship 1 outfit into promotion challengers and then play-off winners.

The form of young half-back pairing Jon Presley and Danny Jones was the catalyst behind the team's success with Scott Law, Andy Shickell and Will Cartledge taking on the fight up front.

The step-up to the Championship is a massive one though and the Cougars will find the going tough at this level. Chris Baines is the club's marquee signing and is joined at the club by a smattering of Super League academy starlets with a point to prove.

Keighley face a massive challenge but, with Eaton at the helm, there'll be no shortage of passion and effort from the players. The club's tumultuous pre-season will see them begin the season with nine points deducted, which may give the Cougars too big a mountain to climb.

Prediction: 11th

Key Man: Chris Baines

Leigh Centurions

Having regained their Championship status following Gateshead's dramatic decline, the Centurions will be keen to put last season behind them.

New coach Ian Millward needs no introduction to British Rugby League supporters and will be eager to implement his own way of thinking at the Leigh Sports Village.

Robbie Paul's decision to join the club for 2010 was a massive boost to a club with one eye on a Super League application and, with Ricky Bibey, Tommy Goulden and Tim Hartley signing-on, Leigh look in a much stronger shape ahead of the league campaign than last time around.

John Duffy returns to the club after spells with Whitehaven and Widnes and will be looking to recapture the form that helped the Centurions to victory in the Grand Final and promotion to the Super League in 2004.

The decision taken by the RFL to reinstate Leigh's place in the Championship may well prove to be the shot in the arm the club needed.

Prediction: 7th

Key Man: Robbie Paul

Sheffield Eagles

The recent bad weather may have put the brakes on the Eagles' planned move to Bramall Lane but, on the field, the team will be eager to pick up from where they left off last season and mount a serious challenge for silverware this term.

Sheffield's ability to take points from every single match in 2009 secured a third place finish that has threatened to turn the South Yorkshire club's distant Super League dream into a realistic ambition.

Aaron Groom and Brendon Lindsay's blossoming partnership is crucial to the side's fortunes – there's certainly no shortage of flair and finishing power elsewhere on the pitch. The mere sight of an Eagles team-sheet containing names like Menzie Yere, Misi Tualapapa, Jonny Woodcock and Ashley Thackeray is enough to strike fear into the hearts of most opposing fans.

Everything's slowly coming together for the club off the field and, if the move to the home of Sheffield United can help bring people through the turnstile, the stage will be set for an Eagles title charge.

Prediction: 3rd

Key Man: Aaron Groom

Toulouse Olympique

The Championship's new boys endured a tough start to life in the English league last season before hitting form mid-way through the season. They registered victories over Barrow, Whitehaven and Featherstone but defeats against Leigh and Gateshead towards the end of the campaign meant Gilles Dumas' side finished up in the 'relegation' spot.

Having found their feet in a new competition, the men from the Stade de Minimes will be looking to find some consistency and mount a challenge for a play-off place.

The Wynn brothers, Tim and Nathan, will again be looking to lead from the front in 2010 along with the exciting Constant Villegas. Brendan Worth and ex-Catalan Dragons man Matthieu Griffi will provide the muscle in the pack, whilst new signing Simon Worrall will be looking to make a big impression after rising through the ranks at Leeds.

Toulouse will be looking to improve on last year's 10th placed finish and are well equipped to upset a few teams.

Prediction: 9th

Key Man: Constant Villegas

Whitehaven

Ged Stokes' men enjoyed a relatively successful campaign last time around, finishing in the play-off places and, once again, proving extremely difficult to beat at the Recreation Ground.

Giants starlet Gregg McNally, who grew in stature as the season progressed, has returned to his parent club and his inventiveness from first receiver will be missed.

Kyle Amor, who earned a contract with Leeds in 2008, will again feature for 'haven' in 2010 though and continue his development at Championship level. Australian Dylan Skee has made the long trip from London, having spent last season with Quins, and is the man charged with plugging the gap left by McNally.

The news that Leroy Joe will miss the first month and a half of the league season with a fractured ankle is a massive blow. The experienced Kiwi swept the board at the club's end of season awards last year and, despite his age, is a vital cog in the 'Haven machine, capable of slotting into almost any position on the park.

Prediction: 10th

Key Man: Dylan Skee

Widnes Vikings

The Vikings' close season recruitment has seen them secure the services of several young Super League stars, with Paul Cullen taking advantage of the RFL's new dual-registration initiative. Shaun Ainscough, Ben Davies and Liam Farrell have arrived from Wigan along with Chris Dean from St. Helens.

James Ford, having spent 2009 with Cas, will be hoping he can get back into Super League with the Vikings while young half-back Thomas Coyle will have a point to prove having been released by Wigan two years ago.

James Webster and Anthony Thackeray will, once again, guide the side around the park and look to the likes of Gareth Haggerty and Steve Pickersgill to make the hard yards down the middle and provide them with a platform.

Widnes' Northern Rail Cup triumph last season has helped build momentum in the club's push for a Super League place. The players' job is to ensure that standards on the field remain high as the club prepares for what it hopes will be the step-up to the promised land.

Prediction: 5th

Key Man: James Ford

HAWKS SET TO FLY IN 2010

Now it's the turn of Co-operative Championship 1 and the intrepid TOM COATES has a fancy that the new boys from Neath could surprise a few more established clubs

Hunslet Hawks

After a much-improved season in 2009, the Hawks will be going all out this year to seal promotion from Championship 1. New head coach Paul March, who joined towards the end of 2009, has brought in a number of players from his former club York – including brother David, John Oakes and Danny Grimshaw.

Tommy Haughey and Stuart Kain have joined from Featherstone and should prove to be shrewd signings at this level, while the centre/wing partnership of Wayne McHugh and Michael Mark will undoubtedly wreak havoc this season.

Hawks fans can expect a serious challenge for promotion this season, whether they are successful or not will depend on how well they harness the obvious talent in the squad.

Prediction: 1st

Key Man: Tommy Haughey

Blackpool Panthers

A 5th place finish last year represents the Panthers' best ever return from a season. It was also the year that Martin Crompton's men picked up their first piece of silverware as a club, winning the Northern Rail 9s and giving everybody at the Woodlands Memorial Ground a great morale boost.

The campaign ultimately ended in disappointment though, with the side crashing out of the play-offs at the first hurdle.

Since then, Martin Crompton, with the help of new chairman Bobby Hope, has brought in players of proven quality, as the Panthers aim to launch a serious challenge for silverware this time around.

Tom Hemingway, Andy Hobson and Paul Ballard all have experience of playing at a higher level and these are the players that Crompton will be depending on to lead the club's promotion charge.

Prediction: 4th

Key Man: Tom Hemingway

York City Knights

The major story coming out of Championship 1 during the close season was the news that Chris Thorman had

decided to drop down two divisions and join York as player/assistant coach.

Thorman's undoubted quality will see him become one of the division's star men and it is around the former Huddersfield and Hull FC stand-off that the Knights will aim to climb the table.

Joe McLocklan has been brought in from Featherstone and will give York that added spark around the ruck, with the club also excited about some of the young talent recruited from the local amateur scene.

An impressive victory over Leigh in the Northern Rail Cup group stages has set the tone for what looks like being a great season for everyone at the Huntington Stadium.

Prediction: 2nd

Key Man: Chris Thorman

Hornets RL

Having struggled against a nine-point deduction last season, the Hornets will begin their league campaign this time around with a clean slate under new coach John Stankevitch.

The capture of Wayne English from Swinton over the winter may prove to be one of the deals of the season.

English enjoyed a distinguished career with the Lions, earning a reputation as one of the best full-backs outside Super League.

The young half-back pairing of Ste Roper and Ryan Powell will improve as the season progresses, with most supporters at Spotland eyeing a potential play-off spot come Autumn.

Prediction: 8th

Key Man: Wayne English

Doncaster

After enduring a torrid time in 2009, head coach Tony Miller's aim for the Championship 1 season will be to remain competitive on the pitch.

The club as a whole will be looking to get its house in order off the field this year so a title challenge may be a couple of years away yet.

Craig Lawton has returned after a spell at Oldham, along with Craig Fawcett from Hunslet and Grant Edwards from Sheffield.

1-HUNSLET

2-YORK

3-SWINTON

4-BLACKPOOL

5-OLDHAM

6-SOUTH WALES

7-WORKINGTON

8-HORNETS

9-DONCASTER

10-GATESHEAD

11-LONDON

All three have Championship experience and, in David Bates, the Don's have a man well capable of organising things and leading from the front.

2010 will be a season of consolidation for the Don's but supporters can look forward to their side upsetting a few of the title pretenders at the Keepmoat

Prediction: 8th

Key Man: Craig Lawton

Swinton Lions

Swinton's ambitious recruitment over the last few months has signalled their intentions of getting among the front-runners this season.

Paul Kidd has been 'moved upstairs' and takes of the role of head of coaching, with Paul Smith replacing him as first team coach.

Ian Watson will assist Smith and there'll no shortage of experience on the field with Graham Holroyd, Phil Joseph and Dana Wilson all still capable of making a massive impact, particularly at this level.

Swinton fans will see an improvement on last season's finish and can expect to have a say in who finishes where come October.

Prediction: 3rd

Key Man: Ian Watson

Workington Town

Workington endured a difficult year last season, picking up just two wins and finishing second bottom.

With a new season comes new hope though and, with ex-players Gary Charlton and Martin Oglanby filling the vacancy left by the departed Dave Rotherham, Town fans can look forward to the league campaign with renewed optimism.

Liam Finch, Scott Kaighan and Lee Dutton are among the players to make the trip up to Workington from Barrow and will be part of a Town squad that will be looking to prove a point in 2010.

With the division stronger than ever this year, Workington may find the going tough at first but, with time, can push for a place in the play-offs.

If they manage it, it'll represent a marked improvement on the previous year.

Prediction: 7th

Key Man: Liam Finch

Oldham

After coming up just short yet again, the Oldham supporters must be wondering just what there side has to do to win promotion from Championship 1.

A less than ideal second-half of 2009, combined with a tumultuous close season has seen a number of Oldham's star names depart for pastures new.

As we go to print their 'home' for 2010 is still less than certain.

However, with a new season comes another chance to prove that rugby league in Oldham is alive and well.

In Matty Ashe and Neil Roden, the Roughyeds have a mixture of youth and experience that has the ability to unlock any defence in the division.

Joe Chandler's arrival from Leeds will excite the Oldham faithful and big things are expected of young Saqib Murtza, who has endured a difficult time with injuries recently.

The Roughyeds will surprise a few in 2010, but may have to wait another season at least for promotion.

Prediction: 5th

Key Man: Neil Roden

South Wales Scorpions

The division's new boys won't be expecting their opponents to roll out the red carpet this season.

Chairman Phil Davies has plans to take the club to Super League in the future, but everyone at the Neath-based Scorpions is well aware that the side must first prove their worth in Championship 1.

Loz Wildbore is the stand-out name in a squad littered with exciting, young Welsh talent.

The term 'unknown quantity' has never been more appropriate and coach Anthony Seibold will be looking to use the tag to his advantage.

The Scorpions will be aiming to put a competitive side on the field for the first few weeks of the season.

Once they've done that, who knows how far they can go? The rest of the rugby league world will be watching with interest.

Prediction: 6th

Key Man: Loz Wildbore

London Skolars

The RFL's dual-registration initiative may well present perennial strugglers London with a golden opportunity to climb up the league ladder in 2010.

The club's relationship with the Harlequins could blossom into something that can benefit not only the Skolars, but rugby league in the capital as a whole.

Lamont Bryan, featured heavily in this magazine already this season, is the obvious man to look out for but Skolars coach James Massara will be keen to highlight the potential of the younger talent coming through the ranks.

Welshman Curtis Cunningham and his wing partner Smokie Junor will be looking to cause problems for defences this season, along with the experienced Paul Thorman and Matt Thomas.

With everybody else in the division improving, this season could be another long one for the Skolars, but coach Massara will be keen to get his side playing to their full potential.

Prediction: 11th

Key Man: Lamont Bryan

Gateshead Thunder

Twelve months ago, the Thunder were preparing for life in the Championship after being crowned National League Two champions.

Gateshead finished 2009 outside of the relegation spots but a financial meltdown off the pitch resulted in the Tynesiders being relegated and forced to release the bulk of their squad.

Club legend Kevin Neighbour has stayed faithful to the club with whom he's spent his entire career and has been joined at the Thunderdome by highly rated youngster Richard Lopag, on a dual-registration deal from Huddersfield, along with Jamaican international Michael Brown.

Gateshead are another team who, under head coach Chris Hood, will consolidate in 2010 and aim to be competitive every week.

With the 'Thunder Army' behind them, the lads have the potential to shock a few teams.

Prediction: 10th

Key Man: Kevin Neighbour



Kevin Neighbour - key for Thunder

Robbie down the line

ROBBIE PAUL IS NORTHERN RAIL'S RUGBY LEAGUE AMBASSADOR

This weekend brings the Northern Rail Cup into even more sharp focus as Quarter Final places come up for grabs. We at Leigh have lost one game and won two: and we also top the Pool Two table. But it'll count for nothing if we don't make it to the quarter finals.

At the start of the season we indentified being in the mix when it came to the Northern Rail Cup and our match against the Rams on Sunday is a real big deal for us. We need to win it to assure our place in the draw.

And we're not taking anything for granted because Dewsbury are running joint second in the qualifying table and under coach Warren Jowitt the men from the Tetley's Stadium are a real threat.

We'll be playing at their place and do you know that kind of thing makes a real difference at this level of Rugby League.

In the Engage Super League all the stadia are becoming generic so it's not that different wherever the game is played.

But it's not like that in the Co-operative Championship and Championship One. The changing

rooms are all different;

some stadiums like the Tetley's are like postage stamps and come in on top of you, while there are there are tracks like Whitehaven's that are wide open to the elements.

It affects the way players prepare for their games and it's not without coincidence that Championship games are harder to predict.

The conditions are so much different and it's much tougher for the players for the away teams than it is in Super League.

The key game this weekend will be Keighley Cougars' trip to Barrow Raiders. Barry Eaton's Cougars are sitting proudly on top of Pool A with a 100 per cent record. They're assured of their place in the Quarter Finals already.

But Barrow have a win and a narrow defeat against Widnes to show from their Cup outings and that's got to leave an element of doubt in Steve McCormack's team, especially as they were expected to do so well after taking the Championship honours and reaching the Northern Rail Final last year.

At this season it's all about building success. And Karl Harrison's Batley Bulldogs are barking up the right tree already, whilst early pointers suggest Halifax are going to take some stopping in both the League and Cup.

All clubs work hard with schools both coaching and marketing the game. I recently discovered this week that Northern Rail is taking the Cup to primary schools in partnership with the clubs.

Not only is rugby league on the agenda on these Momentum Tours, the kids also get to learn about rail safety and the dangers of trespassing on railway tracks.

The special assemblies are for pupils aged 7-11, which is just the right age for their impressionable minds to learn lessons for life.

Well done Northern Rail on a cool idea.

At this level the grounds are very different from Super League and that affects the way players prepare



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Barnett back from drug ban with Sheffield

SHEFFIELD Eagles coach Mark Aston believes winger star Richie Barnett can rebuild his career at the Championship club.

The ex-Hull, Warrington and Salford winger has signed a one-year deal at the Eagles after his two year doing ban ended at midnight on Sunday.

Aston says the player – who blamed confusion over a herbal supplement for his ban – has a point to prove.

"What has happened in the past doesn't take you forward and we are looking at what is happening now and going forward," said Aston.

"Richie wants to go back to the Super League and if we can help him do that and he can help us along the way then everybody wins."

Barnett tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug in 2007.

A sample taken when he was playing for Warrington revealed higher than normal testosterone/epitesterone level – similar to that found in the 2006 Tour de France doping scandal.

The player blamed a herbal supplement he was taking and he was allowed to carry on playing, joining Salford Reds, while further tests were conducted.

An innocent explanation was not found and he was banned following an RFL hearing on 15 February 2008. The



Richie Barnett pictured in action for Salford before his drugs ban

ban ran out at midnight last Sunday.

Aston said: "I don't want to dwell on the rights of the case against Richie – I want to look at what Richie can do for Sheffield Eagles."

"The opportunity has come up to sign a player who has played in the Super League and scored plenty of tries – we're delighted that Richie has

agreed to sign."

Barnett, now 28, had a high tries-to-games ratio – 40 tries in 69 Super League appearances for Hull, Warrington and Salford.

Barnett has been working as a personal fitness trainer. He was due to train this week and could make his return at Oldham today.

League appearances for the Wolves.

"I'd like to thank both Warrington and St Helens for their co-operation, in making these players available to us," said Centurions boss Millward.

"The four players are going to be training with us and their clubs. Obviously our depth isn't long so they could be vital to us in having them available."

The dual registration contracts mean the youngsters can still play for either team this season. They will turn out for the Centurions when not included in Mick Potter or Tony Smith's Super League sides.

Wolves boss Smith said: "We are pleased with the arrangement in place with Leigh, and look forward to seeing these young players develop through the dual registration system."

Leigh swoop for four 'dual' signings

LEIGH have taken full advantage of the new dual registration rules by signing four Super League starlets on loan.

The Centurions have swooped for three of Warrington Wolves' top young talents, including 2009 Challenge Cup final winner Tyrone McCarthy.

The young loose forward is joined at the Leigh Sports Village by fellow back rowers Matty Blythe and Lee Mitchell. Coach Ian Millward has also raided former club St Helens for prop forward Jacob Emmitt.

The four players, all aged 21, add real strength to the Centurions' pack for the upcoming Championship campaign, although Blythe has also been known to operate in the centres.

Of the quartet, Mitchell is the most experienced having already racked up 30 top flight Super

Knight Thorman picks up first Player of the Round award

York City Knights' star Chris Thorman was named the Northern Rail Cup Player of the Round after his match-winning performance against Leigh Centurions in the first full week of fixtures – round 2.

The 29-year old former England international produced a fine display which included a drop-goal three minutes from time to secure victory for the Co-operative Championship One side.

Chris said: "Receiving the Player of the Round award shows that the team has played well and puts us in a good position for the start of the season."

"We have showed our progression from pre-season to the game against Leigh where defensively we were very good."

"Leigh have notable former Super League players in their ranks and a coach in Ian Millward who has a big reputation in both NRL and Super League, so it was a positive start for us."

Thorman's creativity proved decisive in a first half which saw York race into a 12-2 lead but Leigh came out in the second half a different side with two scores levelling the game at 12-12.

However, it was Thorman who stole the show with a 20-metre field goal which crept over the posts in the dying minutes.

Thorman added: "It was planned, not the best I've ever struck, but it was straight and I had every confidence it would make it."

Chris will be presented with a specially engraved award by sponsors Northern at the York City Knights v London Skolars match today.

Cup tour steams ahead with school work



Chris Thorman and Norris the Knight (above) with pupils of Barlby Bridge Primary School in Selby, and (left) Northern Rail MD Heidi Mottram with prize winners from Osbaldwick Primary in York.

Primary school pupils in York and Selby were given the chance to see the Northern Rail Cup as part of the Northern Rail Momentum Tour programme.

Now in its third year, the Momentum Tour which is run in partnership with teams competing in the Northern Rail Cup encourages children to be aware of the dangers of playing near railway lines as well as learning more about rugby league.

Over 600 children aged 7 to 11 years at Robert Wilkinson and Osbaldwick primary schools in York and Longman's Hill and Barlby Bridge schools in Selby took part in the initiative involving York City Knights. The children were shown a rail safety DVD and highlights of last year's Northern Rail Cup Final as well as hearing about the benefits of playing sport from Knight's acting coach Chris Thorman.

Steve Butcher, Area Director, Northern Rail said: "Rugby League is important to the communities we serve and working in partnership with clubs is a fun way of getting across important safety messages to children."

Pupils at the York schools were given the chance to design a rail safety poster or leaflet to win family match tickets.

Chris Evans, Deputy Headteacher at Robert Wilkinson school said: "The children enjoyed their special assembly. Not only did it make them think about the dangers around railways, but it also stimulated much discussion back in their classrooms. Trains run through the heart of Strensall, so it is vital the pupils are aware of potential dangers."

The Momentum Tour will be visiting various primary schools across the North of England during the Northern Rail Cup competition.

Barrow Raiders v Keighley Cougars



Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 2pm. FURNESS HEATING COMPONENTS STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Ged McDermott.....	Gary Broadbent	1
Nuffield Health.....	Andy Ballard	2
		3
BAE Global Combat Systems.....	Liam Harrison	4
Furness Heating Components.....	James Nixon	5
Johnston Recruitment.....	Jamie Rooney	6
	James Coyle	7
RF Miller Accountants.....	Andy Bracek	8
Carefree Travel.....	Andy Henderson	9
Advance Roofing.....	Chris Young	10
Estuary Electrical.....	Michael Knowles	11
Neil Martin Group.....	Martin Ostler	12
Premium Solutions.....	Zeb Luisi	13
Optech Fibres.....	Ned Catic	14
Trelleborg Engineering.....	Rob Roberts	15
Saunders Transport.....	Brett McDermott	16
Ross Estate Agents.....	Paul Noone	17
Infield Hotel.....	Liam Campbell	18
Darren Wilson.....	Nathan Mossop	19
Plastic Man.....	Danny Halliwell	20
Kev Hodgson.....	Chris Larkin	21
Plastic Man.....	Ruairi McGoff	22
	Jamie Butler	23
Tony Bayliff Carpets.....	Richard Fletcher	24

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: LLWW-WL
LAST SIX HOME: WWWLW-W
2009: TRIES: Nixon 31, Ballard 21,
Ellis 18, Coyle 17, Harrison 14
GOALS: Ballard 103, Rooney 44
DROP GOALS: Rooney 3, Holt 2
MAN TO WATCH: Jamie Rooney

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: C. Halloran
Touch: G. Wallace, B. Armstrong
Reserve Referee: R. Dolan

THE INSIDE TRACK

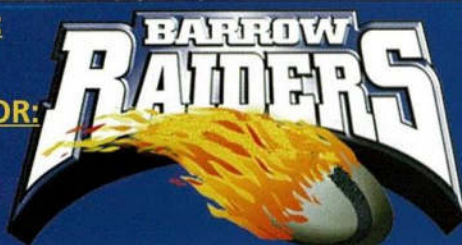
"Raiders to bounce back from last week's narrow defeat. Barrow by 16"

MATCH SPONSOR:

MW Flooring

MATCHBALL SPONSOR:

MW Flooring



EXECUTIVE BOXES:

- 1: Club Mechanics
- 2: Trelleborg Engineering
- 3: BAE Global Combat
- 4: ME Saunders
- 5: Johnston Recruitment
- 6: Tony Bayliff Carpets
- 7: Carefree Travel

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	George Raynor.....	Frank Atkins
2	Craig Moss.....	Mr & Mrs Bardgett
3	Tom Burton.....	Rob Weir Property Maintenance
4	Daley Williams.....	David Padans
5	Gavin Duffy.....	Mr & Mrs Fisher
6	Jonny Presley.....	Joyce Barrett Mobile Hairdresser
7	Danny Jones.....	Phoenix Trophies
8	Andy Shickell.....	Frank Atkins
9	James Feather.....	Mr & Mrs Procter
10	Scott Law.....	Mr & Mrs Fisher
11	Will Cartledge.....	Mr & Mrs Rothera
12	Olly Pursglove.....	Mr & Mrs Glover
13	Carl Hughes.....	Mr & Mrs Rothera
14	Jamaine Wray.....	The Clarksons
15	Greg Nicholson.....	M Croft & T Pycroft
16	Brendon Rawlins.....	Cougar Pride Centre
17	Ryan Benjafield.....	Owens Barbers
18	James Haythornthwaite.....	
19	Sam Crowther.....	Go Colour
20	Dan Belcher.....	
21	Richard Jones.....	The Bayliss Family
22	Ben Sagar.....	
23	Chris Baines.....	Phil Lund Ltd
24	Tom Hall.....	

COACH: BARRY EATON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWW-WWW
LAST SIX AWAY: WWWWW-W
2009: TRIES: Presley 25, Williams 12,
Mapals 11
GOALS: Danny Jones 106
DROP GOALS: Jones 1, Presley 1
MAN TO WATCH: Chris Baines

CLUBCALL

Barrow v Keighley

Injuries at Widnes hit our options but still positives

Steve McCormack Coach

Welcome to Barrow for our final Northern Rail Group game against Keighley. Last week saw us visit the Stobart Stadium and come away with a disappointing defeat against Widnes Vikings.

Even though we didn't get the three points on offer, we did come away from the game with a lot of positives to take into today's game and the next few weeks.

Our support at Widnes was excellent and I think they appreciated the effort the players put in.

We are looking to improve on all areas of our play and it is important that we learn from some of the mistakes made in the first few games and look to up our overall intensity during games.

Last week we lost James Coyle and Liam Campbell leading up to the game through illness and injury along with Andrew Henderson early in the game.



Nathan Mossop who took over after Andrew Henderson (inset) was injured at Widnes Vikings

This did effect our options a little but it was good to see the other players filling into the positions and giving the team direction.

Keighley come into today's

game with excellent form. They have won their last nine games in a row which is a fantastic achievement.

They will provide us with a stern test and we are aware

that we have to be at our best to get anything out of the game.

Enjoy the game

Steve Mack

Have to accept ref's decision

GOOD afternoon all and welcome especially to our guests Keighley Cougars - leaders of our Northern Rail Cup league at the time of writing.

Last week was a game that gave us every emotion going, excitement, disappointment, elation and then utter heartache. For all the lambasting comments of the match official's performance the credit must go to Widnes's attitude of never-say-die.

If they were not putting pressure on us at a constant rate we would not have been in the position to make the penalty offence.

Some of the decisions were open to scrutiny but when the game is played at a fast pace and there is no video referee he only has a split second to make his judgement. Sometimes they fall in your favour

and sometimes they don't.

On a positive side from the trip to the very impressive Halton Stadium was the display posted by our new recruits and also the one by Nathan Mossop who covered for the injured Andy Henderson.

After cutting his teeth last season he is now showing he has the ability and attitude to serve our town well and continue the famous Mossop name.

By the time this article is being read by you we will know two things. The first thing is that we will know if we are in a position to qualify for the next round of this Northern Rail competition and the second being who our opponents in the third round of the Challenge Cup are.

We all remember the glorious occasion when we pushed the mighty Wigan all the way - well to really live the dream of

making that step up into Super League you need to be competing and beating a Super League side to prove that with a collective effort dreams can be made to come true.

The third round also offers the amateur teams' players the same opportunity. If they aspire to become professionals within our great sport then a strong performance on the big stage is their perfect opportunity to put themselves in the shop window.

So no matter who we draw the encounter will not be taken lightly.

Hope you enjoy the game and may the best team win.

Jon Livesey
Vice Chairman



Dewsbury Rams v Leigh Centurions



Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. TETLEY'S STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
John & Gwen Sawyer.....	Lee Lingard	1
Sue Walford.....	James Haynes	2
The West Riding.....	Stewart Sanderson	3
Mr & Mrs Humphrey.....	Rob Lunt	4
	Andrew Tillotson	5
	Ryan Smith	6
	Tom Wandless	7
John Calvert.....	Dominic Brambani	8
	Mike Emmitt	9
	Scott Turner	10
Matthew Dudding.....	Adam Robinson	11
	Scott Watson	12
Mount Tabor Church.....	Pat Walker	13
	Luke Stenclion	14
Sam & Peggy Hill.....	Bryn Powell	15
	Austin Buchanan	16
The Buzz Room.....	Alex Bretherton	17
Dewsbury Central Station Public House.....	Chris Spurr	18
Elaine and Peter Holyoake.....	Adam Hayes	19
Jack Addy & Pat Hayward.....	Rob Spicer	20
The Grayson Family.....	Andrew Bostock	21
Viv Calvert.....	Kane Epati	22
Peter Brooke & David Kirby.....	Keegan Hirst	23
Phil & Rhoda Andruchow.....	Anthony England	24
	James Lockwood	25
The Three G's.....	Ayden Faal	26
	Allister McMaster	27
	Liam Crawley	28
	Danny Richardson	29
BW Print.....	Luke Menzies	30
	Josh Tonks	31
	Martin Woodhead	32
	James Walker	33
	Matthew Tebb	34
	Sam Dalby	35
	Paul Hughes	36
	Luke Blake	37

COACH: WARREN JOWITT

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWW-WLW
 LAST SIX HOME: WWWWW-W
 2009: TRIES : Bostock 22, Epati 21,
 Powell 16, Finn 15, Bretherton 14
 GOALS: Walker 146
 DGs: Finn 2
 MAN TO WATCH: Adam Robinson

No.	TODAY'S TEAM	No.
	Full back	
	Right Wing	
	Right Centre	
	Left Centre	
	Left Wing	
	Stand off	
	Scrum half	
	Prop	
	Hooker	
	Prop	
	2nd row	
	2nd row	
	Loose forward	
	Interchange 1	
	2	
	3	
	4	

SCORERS

Tries

Conv

Pens

DGs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J. Leahy
 Touch: P. Ward, I. Curzon
 Reserve Referee: D. Butler

THE INSIDE TRACK

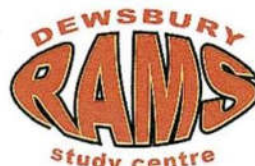
"Rams to squeeze past improving Centurions. Dewsbury by 2"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Stuart Donlan.....	L.I.S.A
2	Steve Maden.....	Corlett Electrical Engineers
3	Dave Alstead.....	Prof & Mrs Dale
4	Mick Nanyin.....	C&S Tyres UK Ltd
5	Nicky Stanton.....	Hamilton Fabrications
6	Tim Hartley.....	Ken Bates Associates
7	Robbie Paul.....	Corporate Club
8	Chris Hill.....	Civil Solutions Ltd
9	John Duffy.....	Hattons Solicitors
10	Ricky Bibey.....	Corporate Club
11	James Taylor.....	Brick Design
12	Macgraff Leulual.....	TWS Removals
13	Dave Armitstead.....	Ask Platt Office Supplies
14	Tommy Goulden.....	Dr Doublet-Stewart
15	Dave McConnell.....	Mr John Lawton
16	Mike Morrison.....	O'Neills Sportswear
17	Stephen Nash.....	Padken
18	Adam Higson.....	Message Board
19	Danny Meekin.....	Ask Platt Office Supplies
20	Ian Mort.....	Prof & Mrs Dale
21	Jamie Durbin.....	Ask Platt Office Supplies
22	Martin Ridyard.....	Integrated Control Solutions
23	Dale Cunniffe.....	Wilmar Engineering Ltd
24	Andy Ainscough.....	SuperLeigh Lottery

COACH: IAN MILLWARD

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLW-WLW
 LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLL-L
 2009: TRIES: Durbin 13, Mort 11,
 Donlan 10
 GOALS: Ian Mort 75
 DGs: Ridyard, Watson, Hemingway 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Mick Nanyin

ERIC FRANCE
 SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS



CLUBCALL

Dewsbury v Leigh

Team came back to put things right at Rochdale

Warren Jowitt Coach

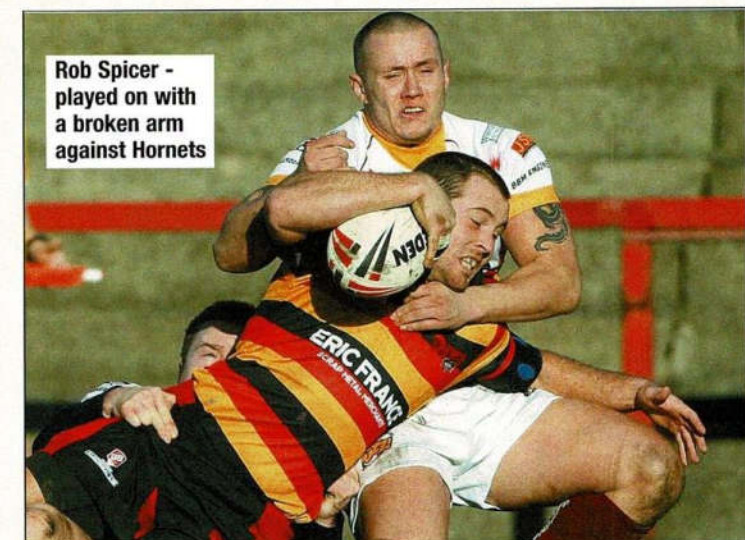
Hello and welcome to the Tetley's Stadium. I would like to welcome our visitors this afternoon, Leigh Centurions. I would also like to welcome Ian Millward back to coaching in the country, Ian is a great coach and his success over recent years in the UK surpasses itself.

On last week's game against Rochdale I would like to congratulate the team on responding in the right manner after the Halifax game the previous week, especially Dominic Brambani and Patrick Walker who had come under a lot of criticism from myself, and the outside backs who had worked hard all week to put things right against Rochdale, which they proved with their performance.

Brambani's organisational skills and Patch Walker's finesse was outstanding, accompanied by Rob Lunt, which showed they will be a good combination for us. Obviously there is a lot of work still to be done and learning between the players about how each other play.

It was also great to see Ayden Faal getting his first game under his belt after 10 months off. I wasn't expecting a great deal from Ayden after being out of the game for so long but I thought he stood up well and showed what he is going to bring to the team, with a couple of glimpses of magic from him.

I'd also like to mention Scott Turner, our close season signing from Castleford, who is proving to be a valuable asset to



Rob Spicer - played on with a broken arm against Hornets

the team. I know it's early days but I think there are going to be big things to come from Scott Turner.

Having him and Ayden on the flanks gives us many more options in offense.

We still have a lot of things to put right from the Rochdale game and we will be working hard to do that this afternoon.

On a negative note Rob Spicer suffered a double fracture on his forearm and has to have an operation to have it pinned and plated, we will probably miss Rob for up to eight weeks.

I think special praise should go to Rob as he actually broke his arm in the first half but continued to play on and when

asked to go back on the field there were no qualms, he was ready to go and put himself back out there and despite having a broken arm came up with some special plays for us.

There aren't many players in this game who would have done what he's done, and they're the sort of players I want here at Dewsbury.

Today's visitors pose a big threat but I'm quite sure if we're on song and we execute the little things right we can come up with the spoils.

Thank you and enjoy the game.

Warren

Rail Cup quarter final place at stake

GOOD afternoon and welcome to the Tetley's Stadium for our final group match of this year's Northern Rail Cup against our friends from across the pennines Leigh Centurions.

A win today for either team should see them through to the quarter finals which bodes well for an exciting and entertaining encounter today.

Leigh have an excellent coach in Ian Millward who will be looking to make his first season back coaching in England a successful one.

I'm sure you were all as pleased as I was with how well the lads bounced

back at Rochdale last week after a disappointing result the previous week at Halifax. I know Warren had them working hard in training through the week to put things right and that certainly showed with an impressive display against the Hornets.

I'm sure he will feel there is still lots of work to be done and will have been working hard to keep the momentum going into the league season.

Speaking of the league season, a trip to sunny Toulouse awaits us next week to start our Championship campaign, and although it's an awkward time of

year to travel there I hope our travelling supporters are as vocal as ever to help the team kick off the league with a win and keep up our unbeaten league run from 2009!

Back to today, I'm sure the match will be hard fought and if we play like we are capable of I feel confident we will come away with the three points.

Enjoy the match and see you all in the Royal Suite after the match.

Mark Sawyer
Chairman



Doncaster RLFC v Blackpool Panthers

Matchball: The Walkabout
Match Sponsor: Pipers Car Sales

Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. THE KEEPMOAT STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
	Tommy Griffiths	1
	Aaron Henry	2
Sue Wilford.....	Lee Gomersall	3
Dons Supporters Club.....	Shaun Leaf	4
	Ben Collins	5
Simon Davo.....	Simon Brown	6
	Craig Fawcett	7
	Scott Johnson	8
	Paul Brown	9
P. Bird, France.....	David Bates	10
	Liam Brown	11
	Ryan Steen	12
	Grant Edwards	13
	Jake Bassinder	14
	Danny Stanley	15
	Paul Shaw	16
	Jarryn Osborne	17
	Jonathan Winter	18
	Garry Ellery	19
	Jack Ely	20
	Scott Howlett	21
	Scott Wilson	22
	Craig Lawton	23
	Jamie Bovill	24

COACH: TONY MILLER

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLL-LL

LAST SIX HOME: LLLLLL

TRIES: Coady 5, Weeden 4, Divorty 4

GOALS: Josh Weeden 11, Andy

Speake 9

DGs: Jones 1, McKinley 1

MAN TO WATCH: Shaun Leaf

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: T.Roby

Touch: A.Sweet, J.Downham

Reserve Referee: M.Beadle

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Blackpool to further outline their title credentials. Panthers by 22"

No.	PLAYER	No.
1	Jonny Leather.....Sue Townsend & Blackpool Supp. Club	
2	Damien Munro.....Derek Way Roofing	
3	Casey Mayberry.....TLC UPVC Double Glazing	
4	Mark McCully.....John Barlow - Timekeeper	
5	Tom Woodcock	
6	Carl Forber	
7	Tom Hemingway.....The Colonial Hotel	
8	Dave Best.....Brennan & Best Joinery & Const	
9	John Clough	
10	Andy Hobson.....Shelf Village Bakery	
11	Kurt Haggerty	
12	Paul Alcock.....Interbake	
13	Lee Marsh	
14	Martin Keavney	
15	Paul Anderson.....AGS Mortgage Solutions	
16	Simon Svabic.....Rema Tip Top	
17	Kris Ratcliffe.....RR Yates Drafting & Design Services	
18	Martin Ainscough.....Recruitment Solutions	
19	Adam Thomas	
20	Marlon Miller	
21	Peter Fairhurst.....RR Yates Drafting & Design Services	
22	Dave Llewellyn	
23	John Boland	
24	Paul Ballard	

COACH: MARTIN CROMPTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLL-LLW

LAST SIX AWAY: LWLWW-L

TRIES: Leather 15, Munroe 11, Woodcock 10

GOALS: Forber 46, Leather 45

DGs: McCully 1, Leather 1

MAN TO WATCH: Casey Mayberry

CLUBCALL

Doncaster v Blackpool

Gap getting wider between leagues

I would like to welcome Martin Crompton and Blackpool to the Keepmoat. On today's game I think it will be very tough on the lads - I write this before our midweek game against Barrow.

Blackpool have made no secret on what they are going for this season (promotion) and I feel they have every chance.

Martin Crompton was very smart as a player in his day and it was only a matter of time and a bit of financial support and he was always going to turn things around at Blackpool - all the best to them.

On our team we don't seem to be having much luck on the injury front with seven possible starting players out injured for the game against Whitehaven but even after coming in 40-nil down at half-time the young lads never give up when they could have thrown the towel in.

Like I have already said we play Barrow before this game so all we hope is that we haven't picked up any more injuries in that game.

Looking at the results in this NRC there seems to me three definitive levels of rugby league now as most Championship 1 clubs playing Championship clubs last week lost in the region on 25 to 35 points.

I think apart from maybe the top two in each division the difference in the leagues is getting a lot bigger. Maybe we should look at a Championship 1 and Championship NRC comp so Championship 1 clubs at least get a chance to win another cup, as I can't see a repeat of what we achieved in 2008 by getting to the NRC Final as a second division club - only my opinion!

Today we also welcome Les Belshaw to the game, Les played in the first ever Dons team in their first season then going on to Barrow where he won a Wembley Challenge Cup Final winners medal.

We have great pride in inducting Les as the inaugural member of our Hall of Fame and also giving him life membership to the Dons, well done Les from us all.

Today we are also having a minute silence for Ken Burt. R.I.P. Ken.

COME ON U DON'S.

Carl Hall
Chief Executive Officer



Back row forward Danny Stanley has joined a growing injury list

A WARM welcome to Blackpool for today's NRC game

Blackpool are a side that are on the up, they had a strong finish to the season last year and have strengthened this year.

They are among the favourites for the league this year and rightly so; although this game is in the NRC it will be a good indicator as to where we are, going into the league.

I am confident that once our injuries ease we will be a match for any side in our division.

We have especially been lightweight in the front row and have picked up

another injury against Whitehaven, Danny Stanley has broken his hand which needs surgery, this is hard luck on the team as well as Danny who has had a strong start to the season.

Having said that myself and Carl are busy trying to bring in a couple of new faces, by Sunday we might have them on board.

Thanks for your support and enjoy the game
Regards,

Tony Miller
Head Coach

Featherstone Rovers v Hornets RL



Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. BIGFELLAS STADIUM

PLAYER	No.
Ian Hardman	1
Tommy Saxton	2
Sam Smeaton	3
Liam Welham	4
Jon Steel	5
Kyle Briggs	6
Andy Kain	7
Iain Morrison	8
Liam Finn	9
Stuart Dickens	10
Matty Dale	11
Jon Grayshon	12
Jamie Field	13
Danny Allan	14
Jessie Joe Nandye	15
Dane Manning	16
Tony Tonks	17
Tim Spears	18
Ross Divorty	19
Tommy Lynch	20
Michael Coady	21
Jack Lee	22
Jodie Sheriffe	23
Larsen Marabe	24
Gareth Swift	25
Zak Hardaker	26
Aaron Dobek	27
Thomas Carr	28
Gareth Williamson	29

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: DARYL POWELL

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLW-DL

LAST SIX HOME: WLWLL-D

2009: TRIES: Kain 18, Hardman 17, Steel 17, Haughey 16

GOALS: Dickens 87

DROP GOALS: -

MAN TO WATCH: Kyle Briggs

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G.Dolan

Touch: R.Stokes, D.McNeice

Reserve Referee: P.Huck

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Featherstone to bounce back from disappointing defeat. Rovers by 24"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Craig Johnson	Aztek Safety
2	Andy Saywell	
3	Dean Gorton	Lion Springs
4	Adam Bowman	Waldorf Business Services
5	Bolu Fagborun	SG Mortgage Solutions
6	Dale Bloomfield	Brian & Irene Edwards
7	Steven Roper	Dave & Sue Butterworth
8	Gareth Hayes	Grant & Dougie McEndoo
9	Phil Wood	
10	Paul Raftery	
11	Mark Hobson	
12	Danny Smith	
13	Craig Ashall	Heywood Magic Market
14	Liam Bostock	
15	Dayne Donoghue	
16	Danny Samuels	
17	Michael Ostick	
18	John Cookson	
19	Ryan McPaul	
20	Semisi Cocker	
21	Jay Duffy	
22		
23	Wayne Corcoran	
24	Paul Crook	
25	Andy Hore	
26	Andy Taylor	
27	Craig Tunstead	
28	Chris Hough	
29	Ryan Powell	
30	Dean Hatton	
31	Adam Wayne	
32	Wayne English	

COACH: JOHN STANKEVITCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLLW-LL

LAST SIX AWAY: LLWLL-L

2009: TRIES: Ainscough 19, Gillam 10, Mayberry 9

GOALS: Liam McGovern 44

DGs: McGovern, Ainscough 1

MAN TO WATCH: Phil Wood

BIG FELLAS
NIGHTCLUB

harris
construction management

UNISON

GMB

wdh
Wakefield and District Housing

SSC

ARMY
BE THE BEST
REGULAR & TERRITORIAL

CLUBCALL

Featherstone v Hornets

Crucial game as we bid to keep Rail Cup hopes alive



Tommy Saxton gets the ball away under pressure during our last home match against Sheffield - he's been in great form

We have a really crucial game in front of us today. Last week's game against Leigh was a big disappointment to us all.

We have a situation now where qualification to the next stages of the Northern Rail Cup is in the hands of other results as well as us winning our two remaining fixtures against Rochdale and Hunslet.

Last season we always responded well to defeats in our next games and we are looking to do the same here today.

A high quality performance is important to the whole group as we are totally com-

mitted to being successful over the course of the season.

I thought Leigh were very very good last week as they responded to a loss against York, they outplayed us in every facet of the game and we have to learn from the things they were able to do to us and move on quickly and develop our game.

We have tried hard to build a squad of depth and quality at the club and sometimes it takes a bit longer than you have in pre-season to gel the group and find the best combinations and team unit.

It also takes time for new players to fit in and some players to find their groove in

the games. It is however my job to make that happen and I have to take responsibility for last week and work within the group and with the coaching staff to grow us as an outstanding team.

Our two standout players over the last two weeks have been Ian Morrison and Tommy Saxton.

Tommy was superb against Sheffield where he broke them up or got penalties for the team with his dummy half running and footwork.

Last week against Leigh Ian was tough and aggressive. He ruptured a tendon in his hand during the warm up and had stitches in a head wound after

the game but there was never a mention of not playing or coming off and it's these kind of things that define our game, and the people that play it.

Rochdale today will be a stiff challenge, I have watched them over the last few weeks and they look well organised and have some sharp players who we need to be aware of, they also have some size and ability up front so today promises to be a tough encounter.

Enjoy the game.

Daryl Powell
Head Coach

Gateshead Thunder v Batley Bulldogs



MATCH SPONSOR: GMC TRANSPORT

Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Querido & Davidson Opticians.....	Kevin Neighbour	1
Lorne Campbell/MoreThan Mortgages.....	Robin Peers	2
Dean Taxis.....	Tom Wilson	3
The Schooner.....	Michael Brown	4
O'Briens (Team Valley).....	Joe Brown	5
Rob Gardener (Matthew Wells).....	Liam Duffy	6
The Schooner.....	Rod Attard	7
Brack Office Solutions.....	Jason Payne	8
The Wheatsheaf.....	Ryan Clarke	9
Rob Gardener (James Wells).....	Tabua Cakacaka	10
Neil & Christine Hutchinson.....	Johnny Scott	11
CLA Risk Solutions.....	Rhys Clarke	12
Accent Magazine/North East Times.....	Matt Barron	13
GMC Transport.....	Will Bate	14
Sampson Hall Ltd.....	Dan O'Sullivan	15
Monitor Coatings.....	Mark Dack	16
John Bloomfield IFA.....	Chris Parker	17
Peters Pies.....	Stephen Welton	18
La Gabbia Restaurant.....	Crawford Matthews	19
ERW Joinery.....	Phil Wall	20
Gateshead Fot for a City.....	James Hall	21
Gateshead College.....	Rob Harvey	22
Hilton Newcastle Gateshead.....	Karl Brandt	23
IT Guide.....	Mark Walker	24
Back Group.....	Gareth Barron	25
St Wilfrid's School.....	David Cash	26
Go Beyond Training/Peterlee Pumas.....	Luke Watson	27
NHS.....	Jason Elliott	28
North-East Rugby League.....	Jimmy Atkinson	29
Jordan Engineering.....	Richie Humphries	30
Evening Chronicle Sunshine Fund.....	Matt Garside	31
Newcastle Gateshead Initiative.....	Ade Aderiye	32
Gateshead Football Club.....	Richard Lopag	33

MAN OF THE MATCH SPONSOR
GATESHEAD FIT FOR A CITY
MATCH BALL SPONSOR
GATESHEAD FC

COACH: CHRIS HOOD

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWW-LL
LAST SIX HOME: LWWDW-L
2009: TRIES: Sanderson 22,
Branighan 19, McAlpine 17
GOALS: Knowles 102
DROP GOALS: Thorman 1, Clarke 1
MAN TO WATCH: Tabua Cakacaka

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	Ian Preece.....	Hopkins Family
2	Lee Greenwood.....	Leyland Paints
3	Mark Barlow.....	Batley Rock'n Roll
4	Danny Maun.....	Stephen & Mandy Fletcher
5	Johnny Campbell	
6	Paul Handforth.....	Brian Hooley
7	Gareth Moore.....	Batley Nash
8	Byron Smith	
9	Kris Lythe.....	Benson Family
10	Sean Hesketh.....	Mick Lockton
11	Tommy Gallagher.....	Eddie Toronczak & Family
12	Mark Toohey	
13	Ash Lindsay.....	Amy Fletcher
14	John Gallagher	
15	Anthony Henderson	
16	John Simpson	
17	Craig Potter.....	Johnstone Paints
18	Jack Watson.....	Tracey Grundell & Katie Penn
19	Eddie Kilroy.....	Tracey & Brian Winner
20	Dave Toothill	
21	James Martin	
22	Josh Griffin	
23	Chris Buttery	
24	Alex Brown	
25	Kyle Wood	
	Jason Walton	
	Waterboy.....	Peter's Foods

COACH: KARL HARRISON

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWW-DWW
LAST SIX AWAY: WLDLW-W
2009: TRIES: McGilvary 21, Preece,
11, Mennell 10, Maun 10
GOALS: Mennell 52
DROP GOALS: Handforth 1
MAN TO WATCH: Gareth Moore

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Bulldogs to continue their excellent start to the season. Batley by 24"



CLUBCALL

Gateshead v Batley

Batley typify our great game

WELCOME to Batley players, coaches, staff, directors and fans.

We enjoyed two fantastical-close matches last season against Batley – the only 2 draws in the Co-operative Championship; 20-20 away and 32-32 at Gateshead.

Is it asking too much for another draw?

Those matches were played against the backdrop of relegation and in those times

Batley showed what a fantastic club they are and how much they remember it is about the sport.

Thunder's victory over Toulouse piled on the pressure for Batley with our remaining games leaving it in our hands to avoid the drop.

Despite this we still received a note of congratulations from Batley.

That fantastic gesture reminded me that this is about

the sport more than anything. There will be winners and losers and a team will finish top and another bottom.

But rugby league is a fantastic sport and we need to remember that and ensure that we enjoy the sport for what it is: two competitive teams battling for the victory.

Thunder have undergone many changes since the 2009 season but more than ever we are about providing an oppor-

tunity for fans, players and everyone else connected with the sport to enjoy participating in rugby league in the North East.

I am really looking forward to the game and to renewing our friendship with the Bulldogs. I hope you enjoy it too.

Rod Findlay
Chairman

Tough at Blackpool but we won't panic

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Karl Harrison, the players, officials and fans from Batley Bulldogs.

Batley have had a fantastic start to the season, including a high scoring draw with the current Northern Rail Cup holders, Widnes Vikings and a convincing victory away at Whitehaven.

Karl is a great coach and a thoroughly good bloke too. We recently spent time together on a residential coaching course, and his passion and commitment to our game is a trait that I have picked up from him.

He was very encouraging of myself and I'd like to think I have a good friend in him. Both Karl and the Batley club deserve all the best of luck and I'm sure that they will have a great season.

Last weekend at Blackpool Panthers was tough, but not unexpected. We have a club that is in a very embryonic state and something that is part of a natural evolution of a "new" club.

I was recently asked after our defeat at Widnes if I would be bringing in many new faces and dropping many of the players that took part from the first team all together. My reply was simple – I don't want to follow a trend that has seen this club continue to have to reinvent itself, and ship in players to represent an area they have no affinity to and have no relationship with. I want players who want to play for Gateshead Thunder, that have been produced by the game in the North East.

For the long term good of our club,



Kevin Neighbour attempts to get the ball away against Batley last season

Chris Hood Director of Rugby

and the professional game in the region, we must invest in the players that we have, both in the first team now and in our under-18s. We are working closely with the RFL on their new Regional Talent Groups at ages 13 – 16 to develop talented players to become the next Gateshead Thunder players, and our three new Community Sports Coaches start very soon, going out to work with schools and community clubs to take rugby league to the masses.

It will be this detailed, well-structured, long term approach that will finally give a solid base to form our club around.

A practical example of this is Ryan Clarke – I believe that he is the best hooker in this division. However, it is only this year that he has hit his peak in performance, but he made his debut back in 2006. It has taken four years of quality coaching, and a lot of personal sacrifice, for him to get to the top of his game.

However, all of this takes patience in abundance. As we are all aware of, there are no quick fixes. Our strength comes from unity and support, and a realisation that the easiest thing is to highlight somebody's weaknesses and what needs to be corrected – the hardest thing is actually doing it.

As the saying goes, we must weather the storm before we can reach the port.



Halifax RLFC v

Hunslet Hawks



Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. THE SHAY

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Fax Supporters Trust.....	Miles Greenwood	1
Windsor Yarns.....	Lee Paterson	2
Vision Express.....	Jon Goddard	3
Chadwick Lawrence.....	Shad Royston	4
Chadwick Lawrence.....	James Haley	5
Chadwick Lawrence.....	Luke Branighan	6
Harvey's Department Store.....	Ben Black	7
Also Wines.....	Makali Aizue	8
Riley & Co Accountants.....	Sean Penkywicz	9
AA Moving Solutions.....	Neil Cherryholme	10
Windsor Yarns.....	Dave Larder	11
Howard Posner.....	Stanley Gene	12
Complete Building Materials.....	Bob Beswick	13
David/Terry Kendall.....	Mark Gleeson	14
Steve Shurety - EMB Ltd.....	Mark Roberts	15
Liz Smith (Matthew Walker).....	Said Tamghart	16
Complete Building Materials.....	Frank Watene	17
The Kieley Family.....	Dylan Nash	18
Glenda Shaw.....	Dom Maloney	19
Glenda Shaw.....	Paul White	20
Calderdale Service Area.....	Anthony Bowman	21
Glenda Shaw.....	Dave Wrench	22
Griffin Sport & Work Wear.....	Rob Worrincy	23
Glenda Shaw.....	Stephen Bannister	24

COACH: MATT CALLAND

LAST SIX RESULTS: WLWL-WW
 LAST SIX HOME: WLLWW-W
 2009: TRIES: Royston 28, Black 18,
 Worrincy 17, Penkywicz, Greenwood
 16. GOALS: Lee Patterson 120
 DROP GOALS: Bob Beswick 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Stanley Gene

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	SPONSOR
1	Nathan Larvin.....	Mark Moore Ceramic Tiles
2	Michael Mark.....	Ron and Adie Jinks
3	Joe Howey	
4	David Clayton	
5	John Oakes.....	Rodney Gee
6	Danny Grimshaw	
7	Paul March.....	Delta Training & Consulting
8		
9	Richard Chapman	
10	Nicko Stain.....	Kenny Sykes & Big Al
11	Rob Kelly.....	Wet Dog & The Soggy Cat
12	Steve Dooler.....	Phil Ogg
13	David March.....	Delta Training & Consulting
14	Gareth Firm	
15	Adam Sullivan	
16	Neil Lowe	
17	Stuart Young	
18	Charlie Wabo.....	Eric Simon
19	Darren Robinson	
20	Joe Helme.....	Kath Ogg
21	Wayne McHugh	
22	Tom Sheldrake	
23	Jake Wilson	
24	Stephen Brook	
25	Danny Cook	
26	John Richardson	
27	Scott Childs	
28	Jason Hart	
29	Stuart Kain	
30	Richard Knight	
	Nathan West.....	TP Storey
	Louis Stead.....	Alcomet: JS Earthing Solutions

COACH: PAUL MARCH

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWWL-WW
 LAST SIX AWAY: LWLWL-W
 2009: TRIES: P. March 15, McHugh
 14, Faal 10, Mark 10
 GOALS: Darren Robinson 45
 DGs: Robinson, Chapman, Weeden 1
 MAN TO WATCH: Paul March

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Calland's men to end the Hawks' winning run. Fax by 26"

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: R. Laughton
 Touch: S. Daniel, C. Neilson
 Reserve Referee: M. Leach



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 COMPUTERS

CLUBCALL

Halifax RLFC v Hunslet

Plenty of positives from trip to London

Matt Calland Head Coach

Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to welcome the players and staff of Hunslet Hawks, our opponents in the Northern Rail Cup this afternoon.

Hunslet look to have made plenty of progress recently and I am sure they will be determined to present a stern challenge to us this afternoon.

I am writing this before Wednesday night's re-arranged game at Sheffield, but hopefully we will be starting today's game with three wins under our belt and knowing that another victory will secure first place in our group.

Last Sunday's game at London Skolars was a long day, but a good one as we came away with a 68-0 win and, just as importantly, no fresh injury problems.

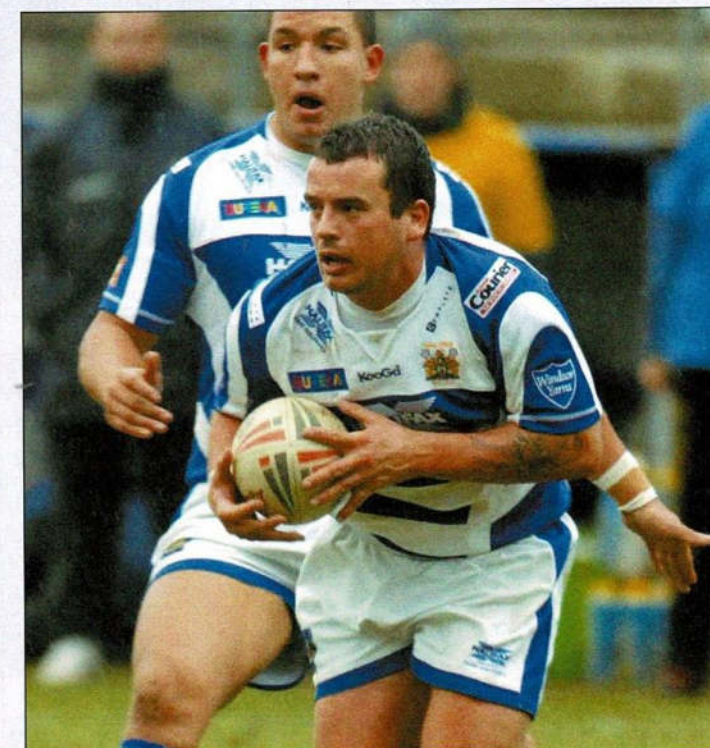
As I highlighted in the press after the game, I thought Sean Penkywicz's performance was a real bright spot for us. He looks like he is getting back to the form we all know he is capable of.

Young Anthony Bowman was also very good, and I am excited about his potential development over the next 12 months.

All in all, there are plenty of positive signs for us as we look ahead to this afternoon's game and the start of the league season, again against Sheffield, next weekend.

Enjoy the game,

Matt



Sean Penkywicz outstanding at Skolars and getting back to his best

'Nil' returns a credit to preparation

I AM writing these notes before the mid-week fixture at Sheffield. Hopefully, we still have a 100 per cent record in the Northern Rail Cup Pool Two.

While the wins over Dewsbury and London Skolars will not have surprised a student of form, the nil in the 'Points Against' column after two matches is remarkable, and indicates good work in the preparation for the season by the coaching staff and great application by the players.

That level of application in defence will certainly be needed, today.

Hunslet Hawks have scored 88 points in two matches, so scoring points is certainly not

a problem to them.

Like ourselves, Hunslet will feel that at least one win is needed from the last two fixtures in the pool to ensure qualification for the knock out stages of the competition.

As I said two weeks ago, our ambition is to win this competition, but for that to be possible we must first qualify!

I offer a warm welcome to the Shay to Graham Liles, Stephen Ball and the officials, players and supporters of Hunslet Hawks.

The support from Halifax in a crowd of 400-ish in London last weekend was remarkable. Thank you all for travelling.

While it was not the most entertaining game I have ever

seen, the team did get the opportunity to handle the ball, and you couldn't help feeling that the fluency of last season is returning.

Combine that with a mean defence, an improved kicking game and some better luck on the injury front, and a good season beckons.

Those of you who watch the social networks will be aware of the club's presence, thanks to Matt Turner.

The official messages he circulates are the reliable source of information for supporters.

They will be particularly important as the opening Co-operative Championship fixture, next weekend, approach-

es, because the arrangements for that match are scheduled to include use of the East Stand.

A meeting with Calderdale Council, tomorrow, should enable us to make an announcement on that.

Meanwhile, as whatever happens today, the open draw may not give us any more home fixtures in the Northern Rail Cup this season, I take the opportunity to thank Northern Rail for their continued support of the game, and this competition in particular.

Michael Steele
Chairman



Oldham RLFC v Sheffield Eagles



Monday February 22, 2010. Kick off 8pm. SEDGLEY PARK

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Mack Video Services.....	Paul O'Connor	1
Rob the Gardener.....	Lucas Onyango	2
	Craig Little	3
Jack Fogerty & Family.....	Mick Fogerty	4
Nigel Marland.....	John Gillam	5
Xpress recruitment.....	Neil Roden	6
Peter & Maureen Woodhead.....	Matty Ashe	7
Clayton Green Brewers Fayre.....	Jason Boults	8
	Martin Roden	9
	Dave Ellison	10
Paul Whalley & Kyle Cook.....	Saqib Murtza	11
John & Lynda McAndrew.....	Kashley Watkins	12
	Joe Chandler	13
	Gary Sykes	14
	Craig Robinson	15
	Wayne Kerr	16
	Danny Whitmore	17
	Chris Clarke	18
Wilscaff.....	Ben Heaton	19
John Barrett.....	Mark Brocklehurst	20
Whittles Pub.....	Valu Bentley	21
Pizza Hut, Oldham.....	Paul Reilly	22
Sharpflex.....	Ben Mellor	23
Levers Fish & Chip Restaurant.....	Marcus St Hilaire	24
	Scott Mansfield	25

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: TONY BENSON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-LWL

LAST SIX HOME: WWLWW-W

2009: TRIES: Coyle 16, Onyango 14, Greenwood 12

GOALS: Baines 33

DROP GOALS: Neil Roden 1

MAN TO WATCH: Mick Fogerty

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: D.Merrick

Touch: S.Moss, S.Barrie

Reserve Referee: J.Callaghan

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Oldham might not be quite ready for a strong Eagles squad. Sheffield by 10"

COACH: MARK ASTON

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWWL-DW

LAST SIX AWAY: LWLLW-D

2009: TRIES: Yere 14, Gibson 13, Ropati 12, Lindsay 12, Cook 12

GOALS: Johnny Woodcock 110

DGs: Cook 1

MAN TO WATCH: Aaron Groom

Supporting the Roughyeds!



CLUBCALL

Oldham v Sheffield



Action from the snowy NRC opener at Leigh

Still on an upward curve but we're getting there

Chris Hamilton Chairman

Welcome to Sedgley Park for tonight's match against a team in Sheffield who I feel will be there or thereabouts come the end of the season.

They had an excellent year last time and the biggest disappointment was probably their exit from the play-offs but having further improved the squad this time around they will be keen to do even better. As far as we are concerned it is a case of good progress made but can do better.

I think we have already surprised some people with our performances and if we can cut out some of the silly mistakes we have made there is no reason why we can't continue to surprise people all season.

We have a group of players who are keen to learn which is half the battle and there is no doubt there are some stars of the future among them.

The news surrounding our ground this week has been a boost for everybody involved with the club and we are all working hard to ensure it happens in the very near future.

It is too early yet to go into full

details but it was very necessary for me to let our fans know about what was probably the worst kept secret in Oldham over the last few weeks.

We had hoped it would have been concluded by now but due to circumstances beyond our control that was not to be.

However the fact that the light at the end of the tunnel is at least back on will be a major boost for our fans and those of us who deal with the ongoing problems on a daily basis!

Enjoy the match and get behind the lads as we try to pull off a victory.



Swinton Lions v Widnes Vikings



Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. SEDGLEY PARK

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
Heatland M27	Richie Hawkyard	1
Brian Ellam Accountants	Darren Bamford	2
Premier Building Services	Sam Reay	3
Dave Roberts	Carl Sneyd	4
Mike Tyldesley	Dave Hull	5
Muscle & Fitness	Graham Holroyd	6
In Memory of Jim and Doris Gettins	Ian Watson	7
Burrow and Humphreys	Paul Southern	8
Sporting Image/Michael Bradshaw	Phil Joseph	9
O'Rourke Glass/Kevin O'Rourke	Danny Heaton	10
Lethbridge & Co	Tommy Grundy	11
Phil Walker (in Memory of Peter Walker)	Paul Smith	12
Geoff Hewitt USA	Arron Smith	13
Accrington Panthers RLFC	Gary Hulse	14
Joseph Ryan	Lee Wingfield	15
Carousel Entertainment	Dana Wilson	16
Lethbridge & Co	Andy Isherwood	17
Premier Building Drainage Division	Bruce Johnson	18
Chris & Viv Tyldesley	Neil Rigby	19
Junior Lions	Chris Hull	20
Physio2	Chris Tyrer	21
John Spellman	Alex McClurg	22
Billy Ryan	Rob Foxen	23
Moorside Auto/John Hunt	Gavin Dodd	24
Redsentinel Studio LLP	Barry Hamilton	25
Peter Kidd	Dave Newton	26

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 SMITH

LAST SIX RESULTS: LWLL-WL
LAST SIX HOME: WWLLW-W
2009: TRIES: Hull 14, Saywell 11,
Sneyd 10, Bamford 9
GOALS: Carl Sneyd 86
DROP GOALS: Holroyd 1
MAN TO WATCH: Paul Smith

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: W.Turley
Touch: T.Owen, J.Page
Reserve Referee: N.Aspey

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Vikings to have enough in the tank to eventually see off Lions. Widnes by 12"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	James Ford	RJ Lewis
2	Dean Gaskell	Katie Kingsley
3	Richard Varkulis	The Spence Family
4	Toa Kohe Love	Widnes Vikings Supporters Club
5	Paddy Flynn	Reg and Lesley Warner
6	Anthony Thackeray	Applied Acumen
7	James Webster	Widnes Vikings Supporters Club
8	Steve Pickersgill	Alan Bruce
9	Mark Smith	Leann Fox
10	Jim Gannon	Widnes Vikings Supporters Club
11	Lee Doran	Colin Pheysey Swavesey Newsagents
12	Dave Allen	MB Hydrographic Ltd
13	Chris Gerrard	VIQI
14	Thomas Coyle	MWEL Electrical Ltd
15	Shane Grady	
16	Gareth Haggerty	Ace Film Catering
17	Ben Kavanagh	Ron Rowbottom
18	Scott Yates	Julie Coe - Merry Christmas from Neil xx
19	Matt Gardner	
20	Chris Dean	
21	Matt Strong	
22	Dean Thompson	
23	Dave Houghton	
24	Danny Hulme	
25	Anthony Mullally	Mullally's Butchers

COACH: PAUL CULLEN

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWL-WDW
LAST SIX AWAY: WWWLL-D
2009: TRIES: Flynn 20, Thackeray 14,
Varkulis 14, Dodd 12
GOALS: Tim Hartley 56
DGs: Smith 1, Hall 1
MAN TO WATCH: Mark Smith

Brian Ellam & Co
Accountants



The Christie
TOWARDS A FUTURE WITHOUT CANCER



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Website: www.huttonstravel.co.uk

Muscle & Fitness Gym



CLUBCALL

Swinton v Widnes

Widnes a test for 'Forrest' & friends!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the players, officials and supporters from Widnes Vikings for this much anticipated clash in the Northern Rail Cup.

This game has been eagerly anticipated by the Swinton Lions team, who will get the opportunity today to test themselves against a club with realistic Super League ambitions.

I am also sure that the current Cup holders Widnes Vikings will be eager to impress their own fans, and will not be looking to relinquish their crown in the group stages.

With Widnes still in need of at least a point to confirm qualification and Swinton also in with a chance of qualification into the quarter finals should they win today this has the makings of a classic game. Enjoy!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Executive Match Sponsor Huttons Travel who have taken up this sponsorship package for the first two games of the season.

The match ball has been sponsored by new sponsor Ogdens Holidays along with Muscle and Fitness. And Premier Building Services take up the Man of the Match sponsorship. Thanks to all our match day sponsors, along with all our diners in the restaurant who have participated in our match day Lunch & Crunch package!

We would also like to welcome today's special guest Frank Myler who has been associated with both clubs through his long and distinguished career.

Today marks the start of our season of theme day events with our Las Vegas style Casino in the restaurant after the match.

All the players from our 2010 squad will be there along with today's restaurant guests. There are still tickets available for this event. For just £5 why not join in the fun and meet the players?

With your £10,000 of 'fun money' you could have a great time on the roulette and blackjack tables. You can purchase your ticket from the turnstile staff or from the restaurant after the game.

It was a day of highs and lows for new signing Rob Foxen, who gave a man



Paul Smith stretches out to claim a try for the Lions at Batley Bulldogs

WELCOME to everyone from Widnes. I think today's game should prove to be of interest to all with a fair few ex-Vikings in the Lions' squad.

Playing at Widnes was a great experience for myself knowing that as long as you gave 100 per cent you would always have great support from the stands.

There is nothing like playing in front of a sizeable crowd so here's hoping that Widnes have brought a big follow-

ing as usual.

Today should provide us with our final test before the season, with Widnes sure to be among the top four in the Championship and ourselves hoping to be challenging in Championship 1.

Here's hoping for an entertaining and competitive game.

Ian Watson
Assistant Coach

of the match performance in our opening game of the season against Doncaster here at Sedgley Park a fortnight ago.

With Swinton trailing at the break 20-12, Foxen immediately cut the deficit to within a score just after half time with a good try.

With about 15 minutes left the Lions had been increasing the pressure on their Yorkshire opponents. Finally the opportunity to take back the lead presented itself, with a quality back line move that gave Foxen the chance to coast in at the corner. Foxen crossed the line with ease, but instead of grounding the ball in the in-goal area kept on run-

ning straight, and ran over the dead ball line having become confused with the pitch markings!

The look on Rob's face on realising his huge blunder was a real picture - it was just a good job that Swinton went on to win the match with a couple of late tries to save his blushes. However, it did not stop his teammates giving him some stick after the game with his Forrest Gump style display!

Andy Wilkinson
General Manager



Workington Town v Whitehaven



Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. DERWENT PARK

PLAYER	No.
John Lebbon	1
Mike Backhouse	2
Andrew Beattie	3
James Finch	4
Brett Carter	5
Liam Finch	6
Scott Kaighan	7
Lee Dutton	8
Jack Pedley	9
Kris Coward	10
Mike Whitehead	11
Jarrad Stack	12
Darren King	13
Jamie Marshall	14
Aaron Low	15
Scott Burgess	16
Neil Frazer	17
Martin Wilson	18
Joe McKenna	19
James Robinson	20
Paddy Coupar	21
Ryan Campbell	22
Phil Hewitt	23
Dean Bragg	24
Stewart Rhodes	25

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

COACHES: GARY CHARLTON &
MARTIN OGLANBY

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLL-WL
LAST SIX HOME: LLLLLL
2009: TRIES: Dawes 9, Marshall 6,
Beattie 5
GOALS: Frodsham 7
DGs: Roper 1
MAN TO WATCH: Liam Finch

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: M.Thomason
Touch: T.Mahar, W.Johnstone
Reserve Referee: B.Logan

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Workington to put in a determined effort but
come up just short. Haven by 14"

COACH: GED STOKES

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLL-LLW
LAST SIX AWAY: WWLLL-L
2009: TRIES: McNally 25, Calvert 17,
Adebisi 10
GOALS: McNally 74
DGs: Rudd 2
MAN TO WATCH: Dylan Skee



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Workington v Whitehaven

We must start well to match Haven

It's a pleasure to welcome all the players, officials and supporters from Whitehaven who have made the short journey this afternoon.

Haven have probably got off to a slower start than expected but normal service was resumed against Doncaster, and as we know from our past encounters, they will be at their best when playing us.

No matter what happens in the Northern Rail Cup I believe they will remain a force in Championship and as always will present a huge challenge to our players.

At the time of writing we should have played our re-arranged game against Swinton so this will be our third game in a week, which will undoubtedly stretch our squad.

So far we have played reasonably well at Gateshead, and apart from a disappointing first quarter of the game against the Cougars on Sunday, competed well to match our Championship opponents in the second half.

There is no doubt whatsoever that we will have to make a strong start to today's game if we are to stay in contention - I'm sure our players are more than capable of doing so.

I know both clubs have had their injury problems already with Haven stalwarts Leroy Joe and Howard Hill missing already and our own Stuart



Jarrad Stack (left) and Aaron Low combine to halt Keighley forward Scott Law's progress in the game last weekend

Dave Bowden Chairman

Rhodes suffering a tear to his Achilles.

We are working hard to ensure we get Stuart back (he's desperate to get back playing!) as soon as possible,

including getting him into an oxygen chamber to aid a quicker recovery - I wonder what our players of the 50s would make of that!

Enjoy the game and please get behind the lads - it really does make a difference.

Mistakes cannot be repeated

GOOD afternoon and welcome to Derwent Park for this Northern Rail Cup derby match against our neighbours and rivals Whitehaven.

We were beaten by Keighley at the weekend and for the first 20 minutes its a game me and Martin would like to forget, errors and penalties seem to be our downfall lately and it's a thing we know we have to sort out fast.

Three errors and four penalties and

we are 20 points down and its game over.

We can't afford to make the same mistakes this week against Whitehaven because they are a good side and will punish us.

Haven have some really good players in their team and its up to us to try and match them in every department.

If we don't it could be a long afternoon.

Gary Charlton
Coach



York City Knights v London Skolars

Match Sponsor:
AJHSS



Sunday February 21, 2010. Kick off 3pm. HUNTINGTON STADIUM

SPONSOR	PLAYER	No.
The Raylor Centre.....	Danny Ratcliffe	1
Smith Wilson.....	Wayne Reittie	2
Marica Watson.....	Mike Mitchell	3
Ken Walker & Co Accounting.....	Lee Waterman	4
	Tom Lineham	5
R U Sure Referee R U Sure.....	Chris Thorman	6
Brian Watson.....	Jonathan Schofield	7
Millers Famous Fish & Chips.....	Mark Applegarth	8
The Insurance Partnership.....	Joe McLocklan	9
	Alex Benson	10
ASL Specialist Garage Equipment.....	Jordan Ross	11
Michaela Harper & Daniel Peace.....	Chris Clough	12
Chris Hearld.....	Richard Blakeway	13
	Ian Bell	14
	Luke Hardbottle	15
	Carl Barrow	16
Monk Bar Model Shop.....	Nathan Freer	17
	Matthew Duckworth	18
	Kris Peacock	19
Clare & Steve Harbron.....	Chris Williams	20
	Aidie Hampshire	21
	Tom Stancliffe	22
	Luke Helliwell	23
	Dan Walton	24
Hull Resin Floors.....	Brett Waller	25
Not allocated numbers		
Balls'n All.....	Casey Bromilow	
Pam & Martin Calvert.....	Jon Fallon	
John Barron Plastering.....	Joe Dey	
Novotel York Centre.....	Danny Wilson	
Simon Gill.....	Eddie Smith	
Stabler International.....	Paul Stamp	
	Danny Hill, Danny Bell, Jymel Coleman,	
	Chris Clarke, Steve Lewis, Mark Falkingham	

ACTING COACH: CHRIS THORMAN

LAST SIX RESULTS: WWLL-WL
LAST SIX HOME: WLWLL-W
2009: TRIES: Ratcliffe 18, Hughes 15, Oakes 14, Haberecht 12
GOALS: Adam Mitchell 65
DROP GOALS: Wildbore 1
MAN TO WATCH: Chris Thorman

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: C.Sharrad
 Touch: M.Mannifield, C.Dean
 Reserve Referee: S.Johnson

THE INSIDE TRACK

"Another harsh lesson for the Skolars.
 Knights by 48"

No.	PLAYER	SPONSOR
1	Joshua Welsh	
2	Dave Arnot	
3	Matt Thomas	
4	Jason Cook.....	Code XIII Sports Media
5	Austen Aggrey.....	Alan Greenwood
6	Jermaine Coleman	
7	Paul Thorman	
8	Liam Roach.....	Lanes Coaches
9	Gareth Honor	
10	Tony Williams	
11	Oliver Purslow	
12	Matthew Carter	
13	Stephen Ball	
14	Luke May.....	Code XIII Sports Media
15	Oliver Fountain	
16		
17	Chad Isles.....	One Personal Training
18	James Simon	
19	Liam Prescott	
20	David Williams.....	Woodlands Public House
21	Jamie O'Callaghan	
22	Curtis Cunningham.....	Canavan Builders
23	Olu Iwenofu	
24	Lamont Bryan.....	Stag Sports
25	Smokie Junor.....	Optimal Life Fitness
26		
27		
28	Ben Jones.....	Woodlands Public House

COACH: JAMES MASSARA

LAST SIX RESULTS: LLL-LLL
LAST SIX AWAY: LLLLL-L
2009: TRIES: Thomas 11, Paxton, Iwenofu 6
GOALS: Paul Thorman 37
DROP GOALS:
MAN TO WATCH: Lamont Bryan

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York v London

Come on kids - time to make lots of noise!

GOOD afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's Northern Rail Cup Match against the London Skolars and on behalf of everyone at the Knights may I take this opportunity to wish a warm welcome to all of their players, coaches, directors and supporters and wish you all the best for the season.

I would also like to welcome children from the York area who were given tickets to today's match as part of a project with Cup Sponsors Northern Rail.

Some of the children are likely to be making their first trip to the Huntington Stadium and we hope that you have an

enjoyable afternoon and that the Knights can be victorious. Make sure you make plenty of noise and support the players.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Alfie Brown and his team of matchday volunteers who give a large number of hours each season to help the club. Without their support matchdays would simply not function and we really do appreciate your support.

The club are also selling Reserve Grade Season Tickets at just £25! This includes all 8 home matches and is fan-

tasitic value for money. We are also looking for Reserve Grade Player Sponsors. Contact Simon at the Knights Office on 01904 641724 for more details.

Don't forget that you can book a two course pre-match meal for just £9.95 each matchday and take advantage of happy hour in Bar 13 between 12:30 and 1:30pm.

Remember this is open to ticket holders only.

Ian Wilson
General manager

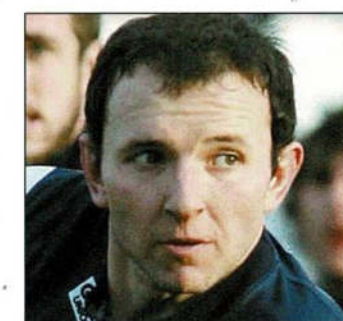
Defence must be tighter as we aim to bounce back

The Knights have made arguably their biggest ever signing this season in Chris Thorman from Super League club Hull FC, and having played at a number of top clubs in the world, it's no secret that there's big expectations at the Huntington Stadium this year.

To further strengthen the squad, quality players such as Joe McLocklan, Alex Benson and Nathan Freer have also joined, all with aspirations to take the club forward.

After a disjointed training schedule over the Christmas period, the players have all shown up very well in the pre-season games and the first team started their Northern Rail Cup campaign with a battling home win over Leigh.

We were extremely pleased with the team spirit which was shown during that game, particularly in defence, where the players fired up in numbers continually throughout the game to pressurise the Leigh attack. We also



New arrival Joe McLocklan

controlled the ball very well and Chris Thorman's drop goal three minutes from time ensured what we felt was a very deserved win.

That said, it just shows how things can change in a week, having now been taken apart by 12 Sheffield Eagles players in the second half on Sunday. The players know that they let them-

selves down in the second 40 minutes of that game and we were looking forward to getting back on track with our game against Rochdale Hornets on Wednesday. The players will be working hard to re-tighten their defence and this will certainly be one of our strengths this year.

Despite that setback against the Eagles, we are very confident that the club is moving forward and if the players continue to put in the hard work, we'll qualify in the Northern Rail Cup and certainly be a big threat in Championship 1 this year.

The Knights faithful continue to follow us with great enthusiasm and we hope we can offer entertainment and value for money this year, and we look forward to seeing you at Spotland and at the Huntington Stadium this weekend.

Mick Ramsden
Assistant Coach

Supplement firm's sponsorship boost for the Knights

A VERY good afternoon, and a warm welcome to all attending today's fixture, let me express an especially warm welcome to today's match sponsor AJHSS Ltd.

AJHSS are York's leading supplement suppliers and are enjoying their second year of sponsoring the Knights. AJHSS are unique in the area in offering a free same day delivery service and will not be beaten on price, quality, and value for money.

Andrew Haws of AJHSS, and his team, provide supplementation to seri-

ous and recreational sports people, and offer expert advice and knowledge of all their product range so you can be sure that the product you are recommended fits exactly the purpose and specification of your needs.

Let's hope Andrew and his guests enjoy a thoroughly enjoyable encounter this afternoon, and a Knights victory.

Looking ahead to the season, we still have one or two players in need of sponsorship.

Player sponsorship is a great, cost effective way of promoting your busi-

ness, or for a supporter or group of supporters to back their favourite player, so let's try and get all the players their own sponsor.

If you yourself, or you know of anybody who you consider would be interested in player sponsorship, or any other form of sponsorship, simply give me a call at the Knights office 01904 641724.

Enjoy the afternoon.

Simon Moat
Commercial Manager

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KEEP AN EYE ON THE BALL



Danny Lockwood

I CAN'T say that I know much about the Freemasons, although I used to be a member of Dewsbury Rotary Club, by virtue of being the editor of the local paper.

I do remember being chuffed to bits at such an honour for a lad who lived in a back-to-back terraced house with an outside lavvy for his first six years, before moving into the plush environs of a council house.

We did lots of charity work and good deeds in Rotary, something which I understand is at the heart of Freemasonry, when they're not rolling up their trousers legs and giving each other funny handshakes. I've probably been a bit too outspoken in my newspaper career to attract an invite from them.

But then again I never had to, because by virtue of my first bust nose, fat lip and black eye, I was an honorary lifetime member of the biggest and best fraternity of them all – the Rugby family. What a far-flung family it is, and what a charitable bunch of people we are too – anyone can have a black eye or fat lip!

This morning I was doing my usual Monday chores of reminding the various coaches and chairmen of the coming weekend's home clubs to send in their notes for Game On, which for today's edition features the Cumbrian derby between Workington and Whitehaven (and strictly on the 'QT' I suspect the pair of them kind of look down their noses a bit at the noisy upstarts from down the coast in Furness). It reminded me of just how widespread a family we are.

A few years ago I went along to Wrexham – long before they dreamed of having a Super League side in town – as a guest to judge the North Wales Newspapers' annual awards. My two fellow judges were men of high regard and independent mind (one of the reasons the other editor and I nearly came to blows over one of the awards!) and the diplomat between us was one David Bowden – chairman of Workington Town and coincidentally a newspaper man through and through, a time-served stalwart of Cumbrian Newspapers.

Once we realised our shared love of TGG, a friendship was forged immediately. Rugby League has that effect.

And then this morning, into my email in-box dropped some pictures kindly loaned to us by the News and Star in Carlisle, of Workington coach Gary Charlton, for the feature you can see today on pages four and five. The most 'recent' photo we have in our library of Gary were of him playing back in 2001/02 and with respect to his youthful disposition, I expect he may have changed slightly over the past eight years.

And then I got to thinking ... when I played a season in the Winfield Cup in Perth, Western Australia, in about 1991, there were very few Englishmen in the competition. Former Hull FC and Featherstone Rovers great Steve Evans had been at my club the season previous, but I was a lone Pom that year. But through the murky mists of time, I seem to recall that one of our title rivals had a rather uncompromising Cumbrian bloke in their ranks by the name of Charlton.

The dates work out about right. Gary had a bit of run-in with the disciplinary in 1989 if memory serves – a sine die ban subsequently overturned – and while Britain had stopped deporting 'convicts' to Botany Bay by then, if you were going to play Rugby League anywhere other than the side of a Lakeland Fell, then Perth is about as fabulous a place as I can think of.

Anyway, I'll email Gary to check if our paths did cross. Although looking at the mush that's just dropped into my email, I was probably wise to stay on the wing out of harm's way. You can overdo the bust noses, fat lips and black eyes if you ask me...

**Gary Charlton
circa 2001 ...
but did he cross
swords with our
author in Oz,
nearly 20 years
ago?**

PS: Got a reply – and he did play down in Perth. His club Belmont beat mine in the Grand Final that year!



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man in the middle

Jamie Leahy

They are in the game every minute – fans rarely agree with their decisions but they have the final word – it's the Man in the Middle. Each week Game On will be putting the referee in the spotlight and seeking answers

BACKGROUND

NAME: Jamie Leahy
AGE: 29
BORN: Dewsbury
OCCUPATION: High School Teacher
MARITAL STATUS: Married, two children

FAVOURITES

HOBBIES: Any type of fitness training, spending time with the family.
TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID: I used to go watch Dewsbury.
FAVOURITE SOCCER TEAM: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Football. I enjoy cricket too but don't get much chance to watch it.

REFEREEING CAREER

PLAYING EXPERIENCE: Played for Dewsbury Moor, Hunslet Parkside and signed for Wakefield academy aged 16. I also played at university and for Ireland students.

TOOK UP REFEREEING: I started in 1995 when I was 13.

FIRST EVER MATCH: Dewsbury Moor u8s.

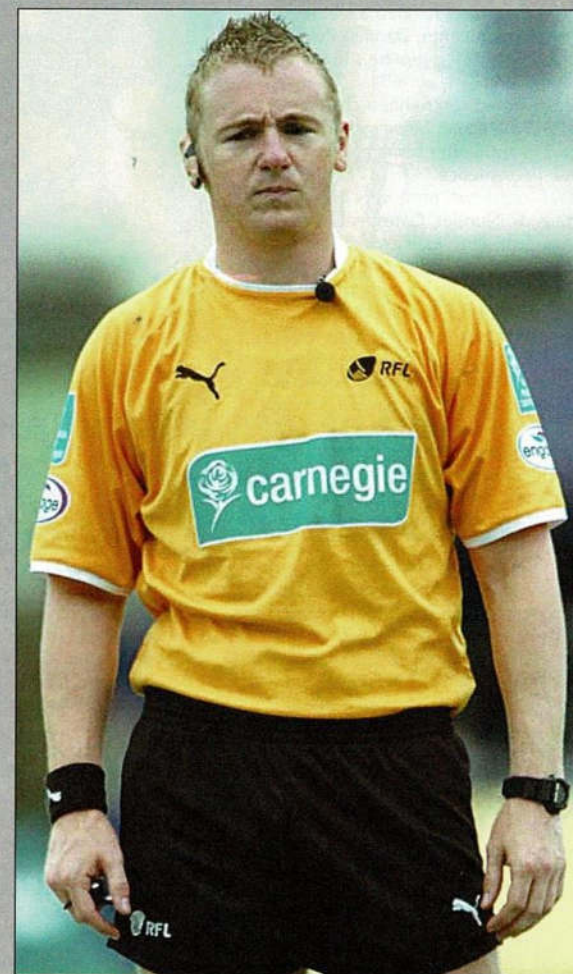
FIRST MATCH IN THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Gateshead Thunder vs. Workington Town in 2004.

HARDEST PART ABOUT BEING A REF: Getting organized off the field. Going through performance assessments can be quite time-consuming.

RULE YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE: One I thought might be interesting, is if the team conceding a drop-goal had to restart the game with a drop-out. It would give the attacking team territorial advantage as well as the point.

HEROES AND VILLAINS

PRE-MATCH SUPERSTITIONS: I like get there as early as I can, which can sometimes be a problem when travelling with touch judges who want to get



there nearer kick-off time!

FAVOURITE GROUND TO REF AT: Castleford. It's a really intense atmosphere because the fans are so close to the pitch.

LEAST FAVOURITE GROUND TO REF AT: I'll dodge that one!

DREAM MATCH: I'd love to do a State of Origin match
REFEREEING HERO: When I was younger, I used to look up to Russell Smith.

Much-travelled Damien is given 'final chance'

Hornets have handed a trial to journeyman centre Damien Reid – but have warned him he's in the last chance saloon.

The talented centre has a chequered history in the game, being sacked by Salford in 2008 after being handed a 12-month jail sentence.

Reid – who had previously had spells with Leeds, Hunslet, Gateshead, York, Barrow, St Helens, Halifax, Castleford, Widnes, Keighley and Sheffield – rejoined the Eagles following his early release in May that year and then spent time with Batley Bulldogs last season.

Now the 25-year-old, who had been convicted of breaking a friend's jaw on a night out in April 2007, has been given the chance to earn a contract at Spotland.

Hornets coach John Stankevitch, who knows Reid from his time with the Vikings, says he expects the player to keep out of trouble if he wants to have a future in the game.

"I know Damien personally from my time at Widnes and he's a quality player," Stankevitch said. "It's well documented the personal problems he's had off the pitch. This is probably his last chance and I have made him aware of that."

Hornets have also handed a trial to outside back Chris Humphreys, who is a free agent following his release from Bradford Bulls. At 21, he is now too old to play in the new Super League Under 20s academy competition.



Damien Reid is action for Keighley Cougars last season one of his many clubs

"They have both got to impress me in training and wait for their chance," said Stankevitch, who says he plans to give his full 31-man squad a run out before the start of the Championship 1 season.

LONDON SKOLARS could be without winger Austen Aggrey for up to three months.

The Championship 1 club confirmed

last week that the speedster had suffered a badly broken hand in the opening Northern Rail Cup match at Dewsbury.

Coach James Massara told League Weekly: "It's a bit of a blow. At the moment we hope he won't need surgery, but the hand is too swollen to tell."

Aggrey's misfortune was at least offset by the return to fitness of prop James Simon following a knee reconstruction.

Play-off place is the target for Toulouse boss

By Gordon Derbyshire

TOULOUSE Olympique boss Carlos Zalduendo tips his side for sixth place in this year's Co-operative Championship.

He believes his side will just qualify for a play-off place recognising the strengthening of sides like Widnes, Leigh and Featherstone with dual-license signings.

He appears to have agreed with the Catalans Dragons to take some of their players but their policy presently is only to take up that option when injuries occur. Zalduendo has faith in their present line-up to deliver the goods.

Coach Gilles Dumas said that on last season's showing only seventeen or so of his players were of the required level. He brought on board Yoan Tisseyre a young back rower from Lezignan and the winger Carlos Mendes from Lyon towards the end of the last campaign and in the close season has added another back rower Simon Worrall on loan from Leeds, three

quarter Vincent Duport from the Dragons and another Catalan prop Romain Mencarini from St. Esteve.

Both Worrall and Duport are young players with Super League pedigree. The Leeds loanee played against Catalans in last year's semi final as did Duport who grabbed a hat trick of tries at Headingley.

The powerful former Avignon junior played nearly fifty games for the Dragons since his debut in 2007 but wants to play more regularly as does the Yorkshire lad. Mencarini is a very promising 20-year-old front rower who just couldn't get a look in at the Dragons. He like the other two should benefit hugely playing Championship football on a weekly basis.

Additionally Toulouse believe that the experience acquired in their debut season plus these new faces will make the difference in 2010. They've already had two tough pre-season games under their belt and are some distance ahead of where they were twelve months ago. Dewsbury at home will be a good first test.

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In his 50 of the Best, Martin Offiah celebrates and analyses some of rugby league's great scores.

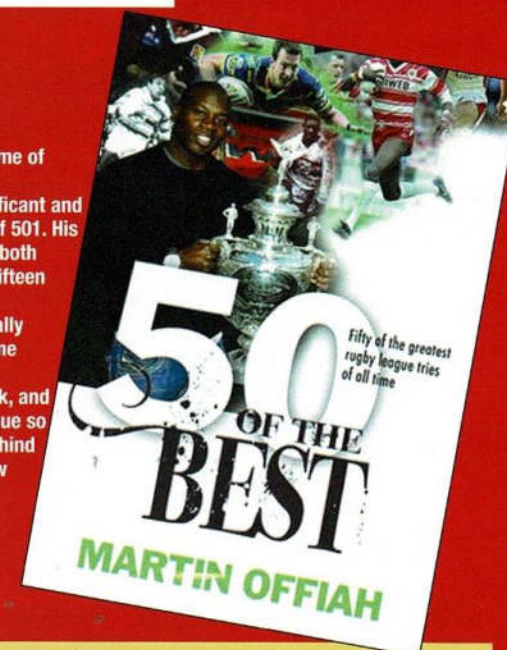
Martin relives some of his own tries, the spectacular, the significant and the memorable, a handful from his record-breaking career tally of 501. His fascinating selection also looks at great achievements of others, both team-mates and foes, players he played with and against in his fifteen years in the game.

From David Toppliss to Kyle Eastmond, from Clive Sullivan to Wally Lewis, he considers legends, rookies, a few lucky breaks and some great stories of the game's past and present.

He highlights the speed and strength, the tactics and teamwork, and especially the individual stealth that combine to make rugby league so spectacular, skilful and exciting. Martin Offiah tells the stories behind great moments from the last 30 years of the game, discusses how rugby league has developed and suggests some pointers for its future.

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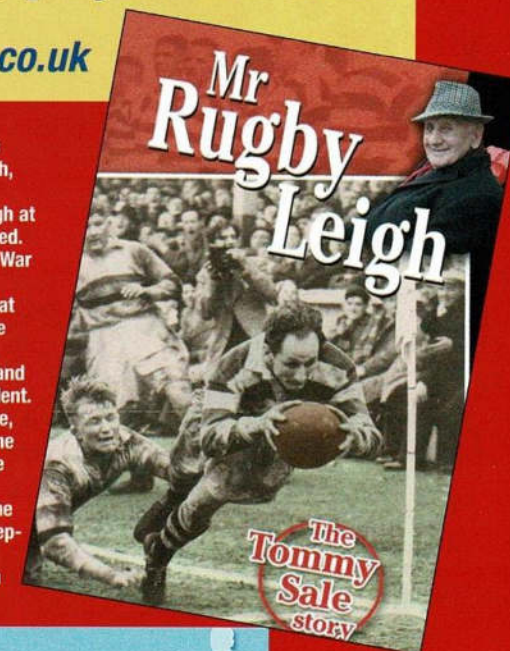
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'MR RUGBY LEIGH' is the story of Tommy Sale, a rugby league hero, who has devoted more than 80 years of his life to the sport whether as a player, coach, administrator or fan.

Since his initial involvement as a scoreboard operator for his beloved Leigh at the age of ten, Tommy's enthusiasm for the 13-a-side code has rarely wavered. He broke into Leigh's first team at the age of 20 and became their first post-War captain. Away from the playing action, he spent month after back-breaking month overseeing the construction of the club's stadium, Hilton Park. And that dedication continued after retirement when, among a string of other roles, he triggered the audacious coup that lured all-time great Alex Murphy to Leigh.

Tommy Sale has remained at the heart of the Leigh club into his nineties and still serves diligently as timekeeper, while providing a friendly face as president. Only the Second World War interrupted Tommy's love affair with rugby league, and his time at Leigh is punctuated only by a brief stint at Warrington and one glorious, career-defining spell at Widnes. Yet this is a story about much more than rugby. It is a tale of how one man came go from humble beginnings to being a pillar of society. Tommy Sale overcame an abusive father, survived the horrors of war and suffered intense personal tragedy. He has been a shopkeeper, council official, teacher and headmaster.

Told with characteristic warmth and remarkable modesty, Mr Rugby Leigh encapsulates the life of a true rugby league legend.



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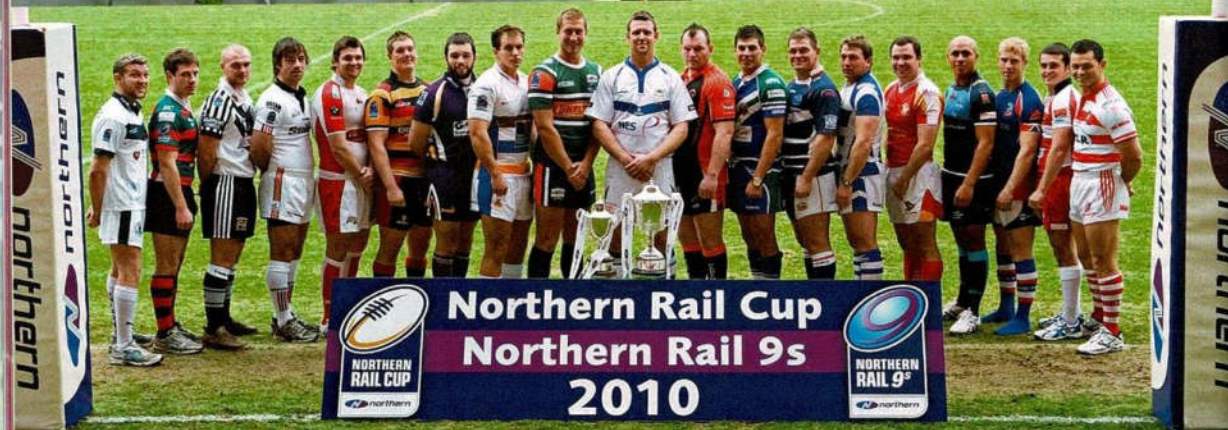
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inprofile

Andy Bracek
Barrow Raiders
Squad number: 8

PERSONAL

NAME: Andy Bracek
DOB: 21.03.87
POSITION: Prop
HEIGHT: 6' 3"
WEIGHT: 15st 8lbs
MARITAL STATUS: Girlfriend, one daughter
HOME TOWN: Leigh
AMATEUR CLUBS: Leigh Miners Rangers
SIGNED PRO: 2004
PREVIOUS CLUBS: St. Helens, Warrington
HOBBIES: Just generally socialising and spending time with my daughter.
CLUB SUPPORTED AS A KID: I didn't really support a particular team, although I did quite like watching Wigan when I was really young.



Andy Bracek – would love to be in SL with Barrow

bloke - he looked like he'd just been dragged out of the pub - but it was unbelievable what he could do! I also played against Greg Inglis at schoolboy level and even then he was brilliant. Could probably add Trent Barrett to that list too.

BEST PLAYER IN THE WORLD: Greg Inglis is definitely up there. I think Lockyer's still one of the best and Jarryd Hayne's a very good player. I should probably try and name an English player too so I'll go with Broady! (Gary Broadbent)

BEST COACH PLAYED FOR: For his people skills I thought Paul Cullen was faultless, he really made you want to play for the club. He was open, honest and just a great bloke. Technically, I think Steve Deakin is a really good coach. Steve McCormack's fantastic, I really get on with him. I haven't spent that much time with him yet as we've only

FAVOURITES

SOCCER TEAM: I'm not really a big follower of football but I watch Man Utd when they're on.
OTHER SPORT: Boxing.
FOOD: Got to be Chinese. Actually, either that or Dominos Pizza!
DRINK: Magnier's.
HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Orlando, Florida.
MUSIC: I like a lot of electro and house.
FILM: Casino.
TV PROGRAMME: Family Guy.
PRE-MATCH SUPERSTITIONS: I like to have 5 minutes on my own before matches.

PLAYING

BEST TEAMMATE: Andrew Johns. He could do anything with a ball and his kicking game was unbelievable. His attitude was infectious, I really wanted to impress him! When he was on the field everybody else played better.
BEST OPPONENT: Jamie Lyon was a good player and was deceptively quick. He wasn't the most athletic

played a handful of games but you can tell he's a good technical coach and a nice guy.

COACH I'D MOST LIKE TO PLAY FOR: Wayne Bennett. I bet everyone says that don't they?

PLAYING STRENGTHS: I think I'm quite fit for a front-rower and like to work hard on that, I've also got fairly quick feet.

WEAKNESSES: Probably defensively - I'd like to put a few more dominant hits in. Also I think I need to be a bit more selective with my offloads.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT: Definitely winning the Championship last year.

LOWLIGHT: Probably the Northern Rail Cup defeat last season, but we're looking to put that right and win everything this year. I don't think we gave ourselves a chance but it was definitely a game we could have won.

ULTIMATE WISH: I want to give my all for Barrow and help them with their license application - to do that we need to keep winning and prevent the other clubs from ticking boxes. I'd love to play in Super League again, preferably with Barrow.

PLANS AFTER RUGBY: Not really thought about it to be honest. I'm looking to get a couple of trades under my belt for when I retire. I did a bit of coaching last year with Askam and I really enjoyed it so that might be something I could look at too.

Every Monday one newspaper brings you the best news, the best views, the best writing and the biggest names...



Our regular columnists:
IAN MILLWARD
ANDY WILSON
SHAUN BRISCOE
RAY FRENCH
DAVE 'NOSEY' PARKER
DANNY LOCKWOOD
MAURICE BAMFORD

WE HAVE THE CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS COVERED - ALL THE NEWS, ALL THE MATCH REPORTS, EVERY WEEK - PLUS THE OFFICIAL PLAYER AND TEAM OF THE MONTH!

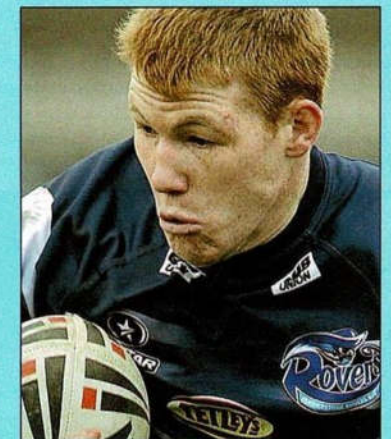
XIII



Do you know your stuff?

QUESTIONS

1. Which two Super League teams has Featherstone full-back Ian Hardman played for?
2. Leigh's last away victory in any competition came in May 2009. Who were their opponents?
3. Which Batley Bulldogs player was named in the 2009 Championship team of the year?
4. Which international side does Workington boss Ged Stokes coach?
5. With which club did former Bulls and Rhinos star Chris McKenna finish his career?
6. Which country won the 1995 Emerging Nations tournament?
7. In what year did Leigh Centurions win promotion from National League One?
8. Who was London Skolars' top points scorer in 2009?
9. Who were the winners of the 1998 Division One Grand Final?
10. In what year did London Skolars make their debut as a National League club?
11. Who did Martin Ogilby and Gary Charlton replace as head coaches of Workington Town?
12. Which club were deducted 9 points last season?
13. Who ended Hunslet Hawks' play-off campaign last year?



q1

1) St. Helens and Hull KR. 2) Batley Bulldogs. 3) Jermaine McGillivray. 4) Serbia. 5) Doncaster. 6) Cook Islands. 7) 2004. 8) Paul Thorman. 9) Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. 10) 2003. 11) Dave Rotherham. 12) Hornets RL. 13) Oldham.

How's hat-trick?

The third round of Northern Rail Cup matches produced some terrific encounters and will be remembered by supporters as a week when no fewer than seven players crossed for hat-tricks.

POOL A

Widnes Vikings were again involved in the tie of the round, edging out league champions Barrow Raiders 22-20. Shaun Ainscough's last minute score for Paul Cullen's side was enough to secure the three points and ensure that Steve McCormack's return to the Halton Stadium was not a happy one.

Barrow had led for the most of the game, with tries in the first half from James Nixon, Liam Harrison and Nathan Mossop helping last year's beaten finalists into a 16-6 half-time lead. The home side didn't look at the races in the opening 40 and can count themselves fortunate to be within two scores of their opponents at the interval - Liam Farrell's try just before the half-hour mark keeping them in contention.

The Vikings were a different team in the second half though, particularly during the final quarter, which saw the Vikings run in three tries to clinch a famous victory over a Barrow side that are likely to be among the front-runners once again this season. Dave Houghton's try got the comeback under way, before Thomas Coyle nipped over with little over two minutes remaining to pave the way for

Ainscough's game-breaking score.

Batley Bulldogs continued their impressive start to the season, eventually pulling away from a **Swinton Lions** side that worked hard to remain in the contest in the first half.

Ian Preece's early try got the Bulldogs off the mark with Paul Smith responding for the visitors shortly after. Holroyd's conversion gave the Lions a narrow lead but one that only lasted a matter of minutes. Tommy Gallagher and Jonny Campbell's scores giving Batley a 14-4 half-time lead.

It was in the second 40 that Karl Harrison's men were able to take the game away from their opponents. Ian Preece added two more tries to complete his hat-trick, Campbell added his second with further tries from Jonny Simpson, Ash Lindsay and Lee Greenwood ensuring a comfortable victory for the home side. Wingman Rob Foxen responded for the shell-shocked Lions who, despite the 46-10 scoreline, can take some positives from their performance against an in-form Bulldogs team.

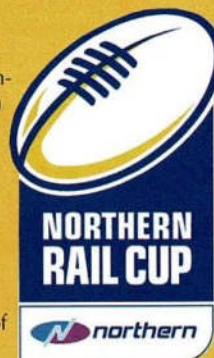
Blackpool Panthers picked up their first victory of the season in emphatic fashion, racing over for 13 tries on their way to 74-6 victory over **Gateshead Thunder**.

Martin Keavney's hat-trick was the highlight for the home side with Martin Ainscough (2), Kurt Haggerty, Damien Munroe (2), Carl Forber, John Clough, Jonny Leather, Paul Ballard (2) and Tom Hemmingway also getting over. Tabua Cakacaka's score was little consolation to a Thunder side that was out-classed.

Whitehaven were another side to register a win at the third attempt, here against **Doncaster**. Braces from Derry Elibeck and Spencer Miller along with further tries to Reece Fox, Craig Benson and Richard Farrer meant the game was quickly settled as a contest.

To their credit though, the Dons were able to restrict their hosts to just three scores after the break and managed to get off the mark themselves. Grant Edwards and Scott Wilson posted tries to give their travelling supporters something to cheer. The visitors' tries came after Craig Calvert's 45th minute score and before Kyle Amor's, with Elibeck's hat-trick try rounding things up.

Finally, **Keighley Cougars** secured a straight-forward victory over **Workington Town** thanks to tries from Dan Belcher, Brendan Rawlins, Ben Sagar and a Jonny Presley hat-trick. James Finch and Andrew Beattie responded for the visitors who will be looking to put in a stronger performance against local rivals Whitehaven this afternoon.



Swinton's Graham Holroyd admires his teammate's tackling technique in the game at Batley

photo: Peter Green

POOL B

Leigh Centurions' victory over Featherstone Rovers has all but extinguished Daryl Powell's side's chances of progressing. The Centurions bounced back from a shock defeat at York a week earlier to see off a Rovers side who had no answer to the home side's tenacity and enthusiasm.

Chris Hill got the ball rolling for Leigh in the fourth minute with MacGraft Leuluai and Dave Alstead also crossing to give Ian Millward's side an 18-6 advantage at the break - Liam Finn's try midway through the first half keeping the visitors in touch. Two quick-fire tries after the break from Mick Nanyin gave Leigh a cushion before debutant Lee Mitchell's try rounded things off.

Dewsbury Rams got their cup campaign back on track with a clinical performance against **Hornets RL**. Young centre Scott Turner chipped in with a hat-trick, with debutant Ayden Faal also getting on the



Town's Andrew Beattie on the charge at Keighley

score sheet after Pat Walker, Chris Spurr, Andy Bostock and Luke Menzies had helped build up Dewsbury's advantage.

The Hornets played well for periods of the game, scuppering the Rams attack on more than one occasion. Consolation tries came in the shape of a neat scoot and offload from Phil Wood, Danny Samuels the benefactor, and an individual effort from close range by scrum-half Ste Roper.

Hunslet Hawks' impressive start to the season continued with a hard-fought victory over an **Oldham** side that made a strong case for being considered genuine title contenders again this season. Wayne McHugh's early try for the hosts was cancelled out by Mick Fogerty's effort shortly after.

Michael Mark's score two minutes before the interval gave Hunslet a slender half-time lead, with Fogerty's second earlier in the second period regaining the lead for the visitors.

The Hawks' class told in the end though. Neil Lowe's try gave Hunslet a lead they would never relinquish, with Richard Chapman and Tommy Haughey (2) ensuring the Hawks continued their unbeaten start to the season.

London Skolars were predictably no match for an in-form **Halifax** side that is yet to concede a point. Rob Worrincy led the way with four tries, with Anthony Bowman, Frank Watene, Said Tamghart and James Haley also getting on the score-sheet. Sean Penkywicz and Bob Beswick completed late braces.

We round things up the Don Valley Stadium with a comfortable victory for **Sheffield Eagles** over **York**. Mitch Stringer was the star of the show, powering over a hat-trick, with Tangi Ropati, Dane McDonald and Joe Hirst also scoring. A double Craig Cook score in the final quarter put daylight between the sides.

Keighley continue their excellent start to the season and remain top of Pool A while Halifax continue to keep the pressure on Leigh at the top of Pool B

POOL A

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Keighley	3	3	0	0	79	48	0	9
2 Widnes	3	2	1	0	102	56	0	8
3 Batley	3	2	1	0	110	66	0	8
4 Whitehaven	3	1	0	2	96	61	2	5
5 Blackpool	3	1	0	2	104	64	1	4
6 Barrow	2	1	0	1	54	30	1	4
7 Workington	2	1	0	1	36	50	0	3
8 Swinton	2	1	0	1	40	66	0	3
9 Doncaster	2	0	0	2	30	84	1	1
10 Gateshead	3	0	0	3	24	150	0	0

ALL TABLES AND RESULTS ARE PRIOR TO MIDWEEK GAMES

POOL B

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Leigh	3	2	0	1	72	31	1	7
2 Halifax	2	2	0	0	92	0	0	6
3 Hunslet	2	2	0	0	88	26	0	6
4 Dewsbury	3	2	0	1	98	40	0	6
5 Sheffield	2	1	1	0	58	28	0	5
6 Oldham	3	1	0	2	48	66	1	4
7 York	2	1	0	1	23	52	0	3
8 Featherstone	2	0	1	1	24	54	0	2
9 Rochdale	2	0	0	2	26	70	1	1
10 London	3	0	0	3	16	178	0	0

RESULTS

POOL A

Batley Bulldogs 46
T: Campbell 2, Lindsay, Simpson, Greenwood, T Gallagher, Preece 3.
G: Moore 5
Swinton Lions 10
T: Foxen, P Smith
Half Time: 14-4 Attendance: 509

Blackpool Panthers 74
T: Ainscough 2, Haggerty, Munroe 2, Forber, Clough, Leather, Ballard 2, Hemmingway, Keavney 3. G: Hemmingway 9
Gateshead Thunder 6
T: Cakacaka. G: R Clarke
Half Time: 34-0 Attendance: 194

Keighley Cougars 38
T: Presley 3, Belcher, Rawlins, Sagar 2
G: D Jones 3, Belcher 2
Workington Town 10
T: J Finch, Beattie. G: Kaighan.
Half Time: 26-0 Attendance: 654

Whitehaven 54
T: Fox, S Miller, Calvert, Benson, Elibeck 3, Farrer, Amor. G: M Jackson, Skee 6
Doncaster 10
T: Wilson, Edwards. G: Fawcett
Half Time: 40-0 Attendance: 808

Widnes Vikings 22
T: Coyle, Farrell, Houghton. G: Grady 3
Barrow 20
T: Nixon, Harrison, Mossop. G: Rooney 4
Half Time: 6-18 Attendance: 3,432

PLAYED WEDNESDAY FEB 10
Whitehaven 26
T: R. Jackson 2, Thornley, Elibeck, Skee. G: Rudd 3
Batley Bulldogs 34
T: Campbell 2, Moore, Handforth 2. G: Moore 7
Half Time: 18-24. Attendance: 888

POOL B

Hunslet Hawks 24
T: Lowe, Chapman, McHugh, Mark, Haughey 2. G: McHugh 2
Oldham 14
T: Fogerty 2. G: Ashe 3
Half Time: 8-6 Attendance: 519

Leigh Centurions 36
T: Nanyin 2, Hill, Mitchell, Leuluai, Alstead
G: Hartley 6
Featherstone Rovers 6
T: Finn. G: Briggs
Half Time: 18-6 Attendance: 1,729

London Skolars 0
Halifax 68
T: Worrincy 4, Bowman, Watene, Goddard, Penkywicz 2, Tamghart, Haley, Beswick 2
G: Paterson 8
Half Time: 0-24 Attendance: 416

Hornets RL 12
T: Roper, Samuels. G: Roper 2
Dewsbury Rams 48
T: Menzies, Walker, Turner 3, Faals, Brambani, Bostock, Spurr. G: Walker 6
Half-time: 6-28 Attendance: 575

Sheffield Eagles 40
T: Ropati, Cook 2, McDonald, Hirst, Stringer 3. G: Woodcock 4
York City Knights 10
T: Reittie, Waterman. G: Waterman
Half Time: 8-6 Attendance: 840

DIARY 2010

KEY TO DIARY:

NORTHERN RAIL CUP
CHAMPIONSHIP
CHALLENGE CUP

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

SUNDAY JANUARY 31 - ROUND 1

Dewsbury Rams 50, London Skolars 4
Leigh Centurions 24, Oldham 12
Blackpool Panthers 22, Keighley Cougars 24
Workington Town v Swinton Lions pp - the

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - ROUND 1

Widnes Vikings 50, Gateshead Thunder 6

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - ROUND 2

Barrow Raiders 34, Blackpool Panthers 8
Batley Bulldogs 30, Widnes Vikings 30
Featherstone Rovers 18, Sheffield Eagles 18
Halifax RLFC 24, Dewsbury Rams 0
Keighley Cougars 17, Whitehaven 15
Gateshead Thunder 12, Workington Town 28
London Skolars 12, Hunslet Hawks 80
Swinton Lions 30, Doncaster RLFC 20
York City Knights 13, Leigh Centurions 12

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - ROUND 2

Oldham 22, Hornets RL 14

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 - ROUND 1

Whitehaven 35, Batley Bulldogs 34

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - ROUND 3

Batley Bulldogs 40, Swinton Lions 10
Keighley Cougars 38, Workington Town 18
Leigh Centurions 38, Featherstone Rovers 8
Sheffield Eagles 40, York City Knights 10
Whitehaven 54, Doncaster RLFC 10
Widnes Vikings 22, Barrow Raiders 20
Blackpool Panthers 74, Gateshead Thunder 8
Hunslet Hawks 28, Oldham 14
London Skolars 6, Halifax RLFC 88
Rochdale Hornets 12, Dewsbury Rams 48

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - ROUND 1

Sheffield Eagles v Halifax RLFC 7.30
Doncaster RLFC v Barrow Raiders 7.45
Hornets RL v York City Knights 8.00

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - ROUND 4

Barrow Raiders v Keighley Cougars 2.00
Dewsbury Rams v Leigh Centurions 3.00
Featherstone Rovers v Rochdale Hornets 3.00
Halifax RLFC v Hunslet Hawks 3.00
Doncaster RLFC v Blackpool Panthers 3.00
Gateshead Thunder v Batley Bulldogs 3.00
Oldham v Sheffield Eagles 3.00
Swinton Lions v Widnes Vikings 3.00
Workington Town v Whitehaven 3.00
York City Knights v London Skolars 3.00

THURSDAY MARCH 4 - ROUND 1

Hunslet Hawks v Featherstone Rovers 6.00

CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

Leigh Centurions v Barrow Raiders 7.30

SATURDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

Toulouse Olympique v Dewsbury Rams 7.00

SUNDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

Featherstone Rovers v Batley Bulldogs 3.00
Halifax RLFC v Sheffield Eagles 3.00
Widnes Vikings v Keighley Cougars 3.00
Hunslet Hawks v Gateshead Thunder 3.00
Rochdale Hornets v Doncaster RLFC 3.00
Swinton Lions v Oldham 3.00
South Wales RLFC v Workington Town 2.00
York City Knights v London Skolars 3.00

THURSDAY, 11 MARCH

Batley Bulldogs v Halifax RLFC 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 13 MARCH

Whitehaven v Toulouse Olympique 6.00

SUNDAY, 14 MARCH

Dewsbury Rams v Featherstone Rovers 3.00
Keighley Cougars v Leigh Centurions 3.00
Sheffield Eagles v Widnes Vikings 3.00
Blackpool Panthers v Rochdale Hornets 3.00
Doncaster RLFC v South Wales RLFC 3.00
London Skolars v Swinton Lions 3.00
Oldham v Hunslet Hawks 3.00
Workington Town v York City Knights 3.00

THURSDAY, 18 MARCH

Widnes Vikings v Halifax RLFC 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 20 MARCH

Toulouse Olympique v Keighley Cougars 7.00
Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers 6.30

SUNDAY, 21 MARCH

Leigh Centurions v Whitehaven 3.00
Gateshead Thunder v London Skolars 2.00
Oldham v Blackpool Panthers 3.00
Rochdale Hornets v Workington Town 3.00
Swinton Lions v Doncaster RLFC 3.00
York City Knights v South Wales RLFC 3.00

THURSDAY, 25 MARCH

Keighley Cougars v Batley Bulldogs 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 27 MARCH

Barrow Raiders v Toulouse Olympique 6.30

SUNDAY, 28 MARCH

Dewsbury Rams v Widnes Vikings 3.00
Featherstone Rovers v Whitehaven 3.00
Halifax RLFC v Leigh Centurions 3.00
Gateshead Thunder v Swinton Lions 3.00
Doncaster RLFC v York City Knights 3.00
Hunslet Hawks v Rochdale Hornets 3.00
South Wales RLFC v London Skolars 2.00
Workington Town v Gateshead Thunder 3.00

THURSDAY, 1 APRIL

Whitehaven v Barrow Raiders SKY

FRIDAY, 2 APRIL

Featherstone Rovers v Halifax RLFC 7.30
Keighley Cougars v Sheffield Eagles 7.30
Toulouse Olympique v Leigh Centurions 8.00
Batley Bulldogs v Dewsbury Rams 6.30
Hunslet Hawks v Doncaster RLFC 3.00
London Skolars v Blackpool Panthers 3.00
Sheffield Eagles v Barrow Raiders 3.00
Swinton Lions v Workington Town 3.00
York City Knights v Gateshead Thunder 3.00

MONDAY, 5 APRIL

Dewsbury Rams v Keighley Cougars 3.00 SKY
Halifax RLFC v Toulouse Olympique 6.00
Leigh Centurions v Batley Bulldogs 7.00
Sheffield Eagles v Barrow Raiders 3.00
Widnes Vikings v Whitehaven 3.00
Blackpool Panthers v York City Knights 3.00
Doncaster RLFC v London Skolars 3.00
Gateshead Thunder v Swinton Lions TBC -
South Wales RLFC v Hunslet Hawks 2.00
Oldham v Workington Town 3.00

THURSDAY, 8 APRIL

Halifax RLFC v Keighley Cougars 7.30

SATURDAY, 10 APRIL

Widnes Vikings v Toulouse Olympique 6.00
Barrow Raiders v Batley Bulldogs 6.30

SUNDAY, 11 APRIL

Dewsbury Rams v Whitehaven 3.00
Sheffield Eagles v Featherstone Rovers 3.00
Gateshead Thunder v Doncaster RLFC 3.00
Hunslet Hawks v Swinton Lions 3.00
South Wales RLFC v Oldham 2.00
Rochdale Hornets v London Skolars 3.00
Workington Town v Blackpool Panthers 3.00

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 17-18 APRIL

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP 4th ROUND

THURSDAY, 22 APRIL

Featherstone v Toulouse Olympique 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 24 APRIL

Barrow Raiders v Dewsbury Rams 6.30

SUNDAY, 25 APRIL

Leigh Centurions v Sheffield Eagles 3.00
Whitehaven v Halifax RLFC 3.00
Batley Bulldogs v Widnes Vikings 3.00
Blackpool Panthers v Doncaster RLFC 3.00
London Skolars v Hunslet Hawks 2.00
Oldham v Gateshead Thunder 3.00
Swinton Lions v South Wales RLFC 3.00
York City Knights v Rochdale Hornets 3.00

THURSDAY, 29 APRIL

Dewsbury Rams v Leigh Centurions 7.30 SKY

FRIDAY, 30 APRIL

Widnes Vikings v Featherstone Rovers 8.00

SATURDAY, 1 MAY

Toulouse Olympique v Batley Bulldogs 7.00

SUNDAY, 2 MAY

South Wales RLFC v Blackpool Panthers 2.00

MONDAY, 3 MAY

Keighley Cougars v Barrow Raiders 3.00
Sheffield Eagles v Whitehaven 3.00
Doncaster RLFC v Oldham 3.00
Rochdale Hornets v Gateshead Thunder 3.00
May Workington Town v Hunslet Hawks 3.00
York City Knights v Swinton Lions 3.00

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 8-9 MAY

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP 5th ROUND

THURSDAY, 6 MAY (SUBJECT TO CC CUP)

Barrow Raiders v Widnes Vikings 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 8 MAY

Gateshead Thunder v South Wales RLFC 7.00

SUNDAY, 9 MAY

Halifax RLFC v Dewsbury Rams 3.00
Leigh Centurions v Featherstone Rovers 3.00
Whitehaven v Keighley Cougars 3.00
Sheffield Eagles v Batley Bulldogs 3.00
Hunslet Hawks v Blackpool Panthers 3.00
London Skolars v Workington Town 2.00
Oldham v York City Knights 3.00
Swinton Lions v Rochdale Hornets 3.00

THURSDAY, 13 MAY

Leigh Centurions v Widnes Vikings 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 15 MAY

Sheffield Eagles v Toulouse Olympique 6.00
Blackpool Panthers v Gateshead Thunder 3.00

SUNDAY, 16 MAY

Featherstone Rovers v Keighley Cougars 3.00
Halifax RLFC v Barrow Raiders 3.00
Batley Bulldogs v Whitehaven 3.00
Oldham v London Skolars 3.00
South Wales RLFC v Rochdale Hornets 2.00
Workington Town v Doncaster RLFC 3.00
York City Knights v Hunslet Hawks 3.00

THURSDAY, 20 MAY

Dewsbury Rams v Sheffield Eagles 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 22 MAY

Toulouse Olympique v Featherstone Rovers 7.00

SUNDAY, 23 MAY

Keighley Cougars v Halifax RLFC 3.00
Whitehaven v Leigh Centurions 3.00
Widnes Vikings v Batley Bulldogs 3.00
Doncaster RLFC v Swinton Lions 3.00
Gateshead Thunder v Workington Town 3.00
Hunslet Hawks v Oldham 3.00
London Skolars v South Wales RLFC 3.00
Rochdale Hornets v York City Knights 3.00

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 29-30 JUNE

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINALS

THURSDAY, 27 MAY (SUBJECT TO CC CUP)

Sheffield Eagles v Keighley Cougars 7.30 SKY

SATURDAY, 29 MAY

Barrow Raiders v Whitehaven 6.30
Batley Bulldogs v Toulouse Olympique 6.00

SUNDAY, 30 MAY

Featherstone Rovers v Dewsbury Rams 3.00



No way through the Leigh defence for Rovers' Ian Hardman

Leigh Centurions v Halifax RLFC 3.00

Doncaster RLFC v Hunslet Hawks 3.00

Gateshead Thunder v Rochdale Hornets 3.00

Swinton Lions v London Skolars 3.00

Workington Town v Oldham 3.00

York City Knights v Blackpool Panthers 3.00

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, 6-9 JUNE

NORTHERN RAIL CUP QUARTER-FINALS

SATURDAY, 12 JUNE

London Skolars v York City Knights 2.30 (Stoop)

SUNDAY, 13 JUNE

Halifax RLFC v Featherstone Rovers 3.00

Keighley Cougars v Dewsbury Rams 3.00

Whitehaven v Sheffield Eagles 3.00

Widnes Vikings v Barrow Raiders 3.00

Batley Bulldogs v Leigh Centurions 3.00

Oldham v Doncaster RLFC 3.00

Rochdale Hornets v Hunslet Hawks 3.00

South Wales RLFC v Swinton Lions 2.00

Blackpool Panthers v Workington Town 3.00

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 20-21

NORTHERN RAIL CUP SEMI-FINALS

SATURDAY, 26 JUNE

Toulouse Olympique v Whitehaven 7.00

Barrow Raiders v Sheffield Eagles 6.30

Gateshead Thunder v York City Knights 7.00

SUNDAY, 27 JUNE

Dewsbury Rams v Halifax RLFC 3.00

Featherstone Rovers v Widnes Vikings 3.00

Leigh Centurions v Keighley Cougars 3.00

Doncaster RLFC v Rochdale Hornets 3.00

Hunslet Hawks v London Skolars 3.00

Swinton Lions v Blackpool Panthers 3.00

Workington Town v South Wales RLFC 3.00

SATURDAY, 3 JULY

Barrow Raiders v Leigh Centurions 6.30

Blackpool Panthers v South Wales RLFC 3.00

SUNDAY, 4 JULY

Dewsbury Rams v Toulouse Olympique TBC

Keighley Cougars v Featherstone Rovers 3.00

Whitehaven v Widnes Vikings 3.00

Batley Bulldogs v Sheffield Eagles 3.00

Gateshead Thunder v Oldham 3.00

London Skolars v Rochdale Hornets 3.00

Swinton Lions v Hunslet Hawks 3.00

York City Knights v Doncaster RLFC 3.00

SATURDAY, 10 JULY

Toulouse Olympique v Sheffield Eagles 7.00

SUNDAY, 11 JULY

Featherstone Rovers v Leigh Centurions 3.00

Halifax RLFC v Whitehaven 3.00

Widnes Vikings v Dewsbury Rams 3.00

Batley Bulldogs v Barrow Raiders 3.00

Doncaster RLFC v Blackpool Panthers 3.00

South Wales RLFC v Gateshead Thunder 2.00

Hunslet Hawks v York City Knights 3.00

Oldham v Swinton Lions 3.00

Workington Town v London Skolars 3.00

SATURDAY JULY 17

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

SUNDAY JULY 18

NORTHERN RAIL CUP FINAL

SATURDAY, 24 JULY

Keighley Cougars v Toulouse Olympique 6.00

Barrow Raiders v Halifax RLFC 6.30

Blackpool Panthers v Oldham 3.00

SUNDAY, 25 JULY

Dewsbury Rams v Batley Bulldogs 3.00

Whitehaven v Featherstone Rovers 3.00

Widnes Vikings v Leigh Centurions 3.00

Gateshead Thunder v Hunslet Hawks 3.00

London Skolars v Doncaster RLFC 3.00

Rochdale Hornets v South Wales RLFC 3.00

York City Knights v Workington Town 3.00

SATURDAY, 31 JULY

Toulouse Olympique v Barrow Raiders 7.00

Blackpool Panthers v London Skolars 2.00

SUNDAY, 1 AUGUST

Featherstone Rovers v Sheffield Eagles 3.00

Keighley Cougars v Widnes Vikings 3.00

Leigh Centurions v Dewsbury Rams 3.00

Batley Bulldogs v Keighley Cougars 3.00

Doncaster RLFC v Gateshead Thunder 3.00

Oldham v South Wales RLFC 3.00

Swinton Lions v York City Knights 3.00

Workington Town v Rochdale Hornets 3.00

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 7-8 AUGUST

CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINALS

SATURDAY, 7 AUGUST

Toulouse Olympique v Widnes Vikings 7.00

Barrow Raiders v Keighley Cougars 6.30

SUNDAY, 8 AUGUST

Sheffield Eagles v Halifax RLFC 3.00

Whitehaven v Dewsbury Rams 3.00

Batley Bulldogs v Featherstone Rovers 3.00

Gateshead Thunder v Blackpool Panthers 3.00

Hunslet Hawks v Workington Town 3.00

South Wales RLFC v Doncaster RLFC 2.00

Rochdale Hornets v Swinton Lions 3.00

York City Knights v Oldham 3.00

SATURDAY, 14 AUGUST

Leigh Centurions v Toulouse Olympique 6.00

Blackpool Panthers v Hunslet Hawks 3.00

SUNDAY, 15 AUGUST

Dewsbury Rams v Barrow Raiders 3.00

Halifax RLFC v Batley Bulldogs 3