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COACH'S COMMENTS by Jon Sharp



This afternoon will provide another stiff test as Scott Naylor's Oldham side visit The Big Fella's Stadium following a great victory over Dewsbury Rams last weekend. It is always a big step up for promoted teams and Sunday's win will certainly give Oldham a massive boost coming into the game and it will take an eighty minute performance from ourselves to ensure we take the points and maintain our good start to the season.



Following our good performance against Batley Bulldogs, particularly our defensive effort in the last 30 minutes, it was disappointing to see the Whitehaven fixture postponed due to a waterlogged pitch as I was keen for the team to maintain its momentum, although a trip to Cumbria on a Saturday night may not be everyone's cup of tea. Had the game gone ahead then we would have been without two of our three dual registration players who had played in our opening fixtures but the squad we recruited in the off-season is good enough to compete at this level, the dual reg players simply enhance it. Hopefully we can re-arrange the game for a blank weekend later in the season but failing that if we do need to travel midweek I'm confident that the squad we have is more than capable of gaining a positive result up there.

I'm hoping today that both Jamie Cording and Colton Roche will be available for selection having recovered from injury. Steve Snitch continues to make progress following recent surgery and should be available for selection in a few weeks. One player who will be out for longer is hooker Matty Wildie who recently underwent surgery and everyone at the Club wishes him well with his recovery. We hope to see him back in a Rovers shirt before the end of the season. We do have cover for Matty in the shape of John Davies, Sam Day and even Danny Craven but if a player becomes available that will suit our needs then we will make every effort to bring him to Featherstone.

As well as the disappointment of last Saturday's game at Whitehaven being postponed it was also a shame to lose the Reserves fixture against a Castleford Tigers XIII the following day. Our reserves have only had one opportunity to play this season and that was eight weeks ago in torrential conditions against Featherstone Lions. Brian Kellett, Craig Bower and Shaun Jewitt have been working hard with their squad and they get their season underway next Thursday at Keighley Cougars. Whilst we only have a 22 man first team squad in 2016 it is important that those players not featuring on a game day have the opportunity to play regular football, whether that be in the reserves or on dual registration with Hunslet Hawks. With the opportunity for our reserves to play against a number of Super League sides, starting down here with the visit of Hull FC on March 17th it is a great chance for the youngsters to test themselves and show to the coaching staff that they warrant a place in my first team squad.



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We have lots of events coming up in the club house over the next 12 months.

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Friday April 15th – Ladies Night
Friday April 29th – The Total Stone Roses
Saturday July 2nd – Definitely Oasis
Saturday July 30th – Beautiful Sound
Saturday September 24th – Billy Pearce
Saturday October 29th – The Fabs
Friday November 11th – The Benidorm Beatles
Saturday December 31st – Rough Diamond

There is lots more to be announced over the coming weeks.

If you are looking for a venue for an upcoming family occasion why not consider The Cappers Bar, we have some availability throughout 2016, please ask behind the bar for details or contact me on the details at the top of the page.

Thank You

David Farrar (Bar Manager)



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SUNDAY CLUB

CAPTAIN'S LOG by Tim Spears



Hi everybody and welcome to today's game against the newly promoted Oldham. The boys were all really disappointed to lose last week's fixture to the weather, but it gave us an opportunity to carry out individual reviews with the coaches, get some hard training done and also work as a team on some areas where we felt we could improve from the tough win against Batley.

Whilst we weren't at our best with the ball in that game, I thought the desire shown by the boys to get the job done was first class, particularly in the last 20 minutes. As a player, they are the most enjoyable wins and they are the games you need to win if we are to be the hard-nosed, successful team we want to be.

Last week's threw up some really interesting results and I'm sure today's opposition will have drawn a lot of confidence from their comprehensive victory over Dewsbury. Elsewhere, London ran Leigh very close and Batley's comfortable win over Sheffield underlined their quality, after beating Leigh and running us close in previous weeks. It all goes to show what a tough division we have in what promises to be a really close and exciting season.

Elsewhere, I was disappointed to see our top teams so comfortably beaten in the World Club Series. It's not long since our teams were regularly beating Australia's best and whilst some of our top teams are probably not as strong as they have been in recent years, I still hoped we'd do better. I'm not sure I buy in to the "intensity" of the NRL argument being the difference, I just think at the moment, they are plain and simply a lot better than us!

Enjoy the game and thanks for your support. Get behind the boys, it's appreciated!

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MARK'S MESSAGE by Mark Campbell Featherstone Rovers Chairman



We extend a warm welcome to Chris Hamilton, his fellow directors, the Oldham fans and the Oldham team, who had a great win last week at their new home against the Dewsbury Rams, one of the fancied teams in the competition. They didn't just beat them, I thought they thoroughly out-played them!

We have are only three rounds in to the season and we are getting upsets every week, which as fans makes for a great competition and if teams aren't on their game they will get beaten. I'm hoping our lads have taken this on board as I'm sure Jon will have been reminding the boys all week how important it is to prepare well and give the opposition the respect they deserve.

I'm certainly looking forward to our visit to Stalybridge as it looks like a great stadium for Rugby League and appears to generate a fantastic atmosphere plus there are some great pubs along the way once you come off the M62! I'm sure that sure Gary Crompton will have already mapped out the route!

I've just booked all the family in at Blackpool for the summer bash which again should be a great weekend where we will be facing Halifax who surprised everyone in the 8s with some outstanding displays.

Enjoy the game

Mark



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PAT'S POSTING by Pat Cluskey Featherstone Rovers CEO



This afternoon we once again welcome a side on the back of a great victory last weekend. Oldham's comprehensive win over Dewsbury may have come as a surprise to many but looking at the Kingstone Press Championship table after the first three rounds it's plain to see that the 2016 season is going to be every bit as tight as 2015 with only Bradford with a 100% record.

Batley arrived here full of confidence two weeks ago and it took a sterling display from Rovers to take the points. With victories over Leigh Centurions and Sheffield Eagles the Bulldogs have got off to a great start this season and but for some excellent defence from ourselves they could well be sitting at the top of the table with Bradford Bulls.

I'd like to thank all those who turned up on what was a bitterly cold and wet day - it was great to get over 2,000 fans here - and in particular I'd like to thank the work of the Rovers Foundation who contributed to these numbers with their Ambassadors project and the Dance Academy. Despite not receiving the Sky Try funding that some of our local clubs receive, both geographical and league wise, we endeavour to work hard in the community and I thought the picture of the side with the Lions youngsters as their mascots summed up our commitment to this area. We plan to work with the Lions to hold a celebration of their Club at the game against Sheffield Eagles on Good Friday of which there will be more details in next Sunday's programme.

It was disappointing that last Saturday's game at Whitehaven couldn't go ahead. Early in the week a picture was circulating on social media of the Recreation Ground under water and with the rain continuing to fall a pitch inspection by local match official, Gareth Hower, ruled out any chance of the fixture taking place. There was a suggestion of moving the fixture to Sunday afternoon but the state of the pitch coupled with the forecast of incessant rain put paid to this. At the time of writing the rearranged date has not been confirmed but we have proposed to Whitehaven and the RFL the weekend of 7/8 May which is scheduled for the 6th round of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup. Obviously we'd like to be taking on Super League opposition that weekend and if so we would then be faced with a midweek trip to Cumbria later that month.

On the business side of the Club we have written to all shareholders with details of the AGM which will take place on Wednesday 30th March at 6.30pm in the Clubhouse. Andrew Charles from our accountants Sochall Smith will be on hand to discuss the 2014 accounts and we are seeking nominations for Board Members with details of the meeting on page 39 of today's programme.

Finally the 2016 handbook should be on sale at this afternoon's game. Compiled by Mark Kirby and Chris Heinritz it is a preview of the forthcoming season whilst also detailing the results from 2015. Priced £5 it is a limited edition publication and available from the Club Shop or online.

PAUL'S PAGE by Paul Taylor Featherstone Rovers Commercial Manager

Welcome to our match day sponsors, commercial partners and guests in the 1921 Suite for this afternoon's Round 2 Kingstone Press Championship against Oldham. **Executive Match Sponsor** this afternoon is Millennium Care Services who are based in Featherstone. Millennium Care Services Ltd is a family run company which was set up in 1998, when the first home Sunnydale was opened in Featherstone, West Yorkshire. Through the successful delivery of high quality outcome based services they have grown considerably since this time and now offer a range of services to meet the variety of needs of adults, young people and children with a learning disability and complex needs. With the help of a dedicated team of around 270 people they now support over 180 people through our specialist services. For more information please visit their website at <http://www.mcare.info/>. We hope Managing Director Steven Clough and his guests have an enjoyable afternoon.



Man of the Match Sponsor is **Print and Stitch UK** who are based in Castleford. They are a growing Printing and Embroidery shop specialising in Work-wear, Sports kits, retro t-shirts and canvas prints. The company has recently rebranded and expanded to new premises due to business growth over the last 12 months. We hope proprietor Terry Bilsbrough and his guests enjoy the game have any plenty of candidates to choose for their man of the match!

Match Ball Sponsor today is **RV Rugg Limited** are regular sponsors of Featherstone Rovers and one of the longest established businesses in the town. Since 1945 they have manufactured bespoke wire products including product design, fabrication and metal finishing services at their factory just off Station Lane, near the Big Fellas Stadium. Working with mild and stainless steel, the majority of their products are made to meet customers' own specifications including domestic appliance components, shopfittings and heating and ventilation products. For more information please visit their website at <http://www.rvrugg.co.uk>.

Celebrating his 80th birthday this afternoon is former Rovers player **Garry Waterworth** who played for the club in the early 1960s, is joined by his family for a surprise treat organised by his daughter, Lisa. Garry played 68 matches for Featherstone scoring 33 tries and hat-trick on three occasions. We hope that you enjoy your first visit to Featherstone for a number of years and it brings back some happy memories for you!

Our next game at the Big Fella's Stadium is Sunday 6th March against West Yorkshire neighbours Dewsbury and Pre-match hospitality is available in the 1921 Suite from only £30 for season ticket holders (£45 for non-season tickets holders).

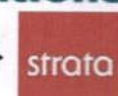
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RESERVES' REPORT

By Brian Kellett and Shaun Jewitt



A big welcome to you all for today's game against Oldham.

Due to the recent adverse weather and the respective pitches not being playable, both our arranged friendlies, away at Salford Red Devils and at home against Castleford Tigers, have had to be cancelled. This is a great shame as the reserve team squad and staff had been looking forward to seeing how we, as a group, would perform against two Super League teams.



Over the next two weeks the coaching staff will be asking and pushing the squad to increase the intensity in our sessions, both on the field and in our conditioning work in the centre of excellence. This will help the players to focus on the performances required during the season and hopefully relieve some of the frustration from not having any hit outs against any opposition.

I am sure you have all been watching the World Club games last weekend, what a great benchmark for any young player to try and emulate the performances of those fantastic professionals.

Role on Keighley Cougars who we play away on the 3rd of March. We cannot wait!!

Enjoy today's game.

Enjoy your R.L.

Brian Kellett (Reserve Team Head Coach)

RESERVE TEAM FIXTURES 2016

03 March 2016	Keighley Cougars	Away	Cougar Park	7:45pm
10 March 2016	Hull FC	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
31 March 2016	Warrington Wolves	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
07 April 2016	Dewsbury Rams	Away	Tetley's Stadium	7:30pm
21 April 2016	Halifax RLFC	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
01 May 2016	Sheffield Eagles	Away	Sheffield Hallam Park	
19 May 2016	Dewsbury Rams	Away	Tetley's Stadium	7:30pm
05 June 2016	Sheffield Eagles	Away	Sheffield Hallam Park	
30 June 2016	Keighley Cougars	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
14 July 2016	Halifax RLFC	Away	Huddersfield YMCA	7:30pm
21 July 2016	Keighley Cougars	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
04 August 2016	Halifax RLFC	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
11 August 2016	Sheffield Eagles	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
18 August 2016	Dewsbury Rams	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm
11 September 2016	St Helens	Home	The Big Fellas Stadium	7:30pm



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS LADIES TEAM by Brenda Dobek



Featherstone Ladies have been busy in the off season recruiting many junior players, who are now aged 16, and so able to compete in the open age competition.

The latest is 16 year old Amelia Crossland, better known to her friends as Meely.



Meely, who lives in Pontefract, and attends Kings High school, will be furthering her education at the New College, where she will be studying Law, Biology, PE and English Literature. Her other interests are Netball, and she is also a very good sprinter at 100, 200 and 400 metres. As there were no junior Rugby League teams in the local area, Meely decided to try Rugby Union, and had immediate success with Castleford Juniors. There she represented her county, and had trials with the North of England. Wishing to follow in the footsteps of her twin brother, Tom, Meely's passion for Rugby League, has now brought her to the Featherstone Ladies.

Tom plays for the local team Featherstone Lions, and aspires to go on to have a professional career in RL.

Tom and Meely were born on January 1st 2000, the first twins in the area to be born in the new Millenium. They are both fierce competitors in many sports. They are keen on training together most days, sprinting, gym work or anything that gives them a sporting challenge.

Coach Dobek says that Meely, who has only trained 3 times with the open age team, has a great attitude, and is already showing much potential.



Amelia 'Meely' and Tom Crossland

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LET'S GET QUIZZICAL by James Greenwood

Quiz of the week: Greek islands, Brendon Tuuta and not-so-successful Super League clubs
Featuring famous bridges, Rovers record holders and a coaching saviour



- Q1 Which two current Super League clubs have never finished as Rugby League Champions?
- Q2 Born on 30 July 1963, which member of the 'Friends' cast is the oldest?
- Q3 Who beat Melbourne Storm 40-0 in the 2008 NRL Grand Final?
- Q4 Which is the largest Greek island?
- Q5 From which Australian club did Rovers sign Brendon Tuuta in 1990?
- Q6 What do the letters P and O stand for in the ferry company P&O?
- Q7 Who replaced Kevin Hobbs as Rovers head coach three months into the 1999 season?
- Q8 The longest runway in the world is at an airport in which country?
- Q9 Who holds the Rovers record for most points in a single season with 391 set in 1992-93?
- Q10 The Bridge of the Americas spans which waterway?



You will find the answers on page 43

Standing Off by Mark Kirby

Our first great stand-off was Jimmy Williams (#13), who was one of the 'Original Thirteen' that played in Featherstone Rovers' first ever senior match. As so often happens, when Jimmy retired he left a hole in the team that was hard to fill.

1930 Billy Stott (Heritage Number 93)



Billy Stott

Local youngster Billy Stott got the chance to fill Jimmy's shoes, and there can be no doubt that if he had stayed at Featherstone for a little longer in his career, he would have gone on to become one of the club's great players too. Originally signed as a seventeen year old from our own junior set-up, Billy made his debut in March 1930. He had quick feet, good hands, a kicking game and a great step. He was obviously destined to become a very good stand-off indeed. Thrown straight into a struggling first team as a youngster presented no problems for Billy and he stood out as a future star. In his first full season he partnered the veteran Charlie Annable (#58) at half-back and managed 10 tries and 22 goals from 37 matches. The following season Rovers tried a new half-back combination with Wilf Evans (#95) partnering Billy Hayes (#106). Billy simply slotted into the centres and continued to develop his game there. In the summer of 1933 after another successful season, Featherstone fans wondered how long they could hold onto the prized asset that Stott had become. Manchester giants Broughton Rangers moved in and offered Rovers a (then) mammoth £750 and our club was in no position to turn down that kind of money. No sooner had he left Featherstone than he was rewarded with his first county cap, the first of seven appearances he made for Yorkshire.

Stott served Broughton well but as the 1930s came to a close they too had financial problems of their own and Billy was sold to Oldham to help balance the books. The story of the decline of professional RL in Manchester continued as they moved to Belle Vue, changing their name in the process. By 1955 the club was defunct. Billy continued to offer Oldham good service, and when the war was on he even found time to come back to his hometown team at Featherstone and play three games as a guest in 1940 and a further two more in 1944. Once the war was over, Billy made his final move, nearer home, when he left Oldham for Wakefield. Now in his 30s and after seventeen seasons in the game, Billy was destined to have his finest hour and write his name into the record books forever. Wakefield won through to the first post-war Challenge Cup final and faced Wigan at Wembley. Cometh the hour, cometh the man. Stott scored two tries, converted one of them and then landed a dramatic late penalty to win Trinity the Challenge Cup against the odds. He was named man of the match and was awarded the newly inaugurated Lance Todd Trophy. The list of great players who have won that honour since May 1946 is long and glorious, and there at the top is Featherstone born-and-bred Billy Stott.

Mark Kirby's previous articles can be found on the internet at <http://marklaspalmas.blogspot.co.uk/>



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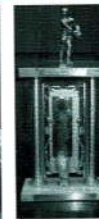
FEATHERSTONE ROVERS: Records & Trophies



Challenge Cup



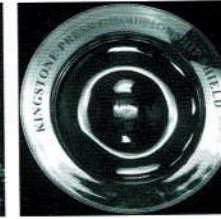
Yorkshire Cup



First Division Championship



Championship Trophy (2011)



Championship Shield (2015)



ALL TIME RECORDS

		Match Records	Season Records	Career Records
Tries	6	Mike Smith Chris Bibb	13.04.68 17.09.89	Doncaster Keighley
Goals	13	Mark Knapper Liam Finn * Liam Finn *	17.09.89 25.03.12 12.08.12	Keighley Hunslet Old Boys Swinton Lions
Points	40	Martin Pearson	26.11.95	Whitehaven
Tries	48	Paul Newlove	1992-93	includes 2 Drop Goals
Goals	183	Liam Finn *	2012	
Points	436	Liam Finn *	2012	
Tries	162	Don Fox	1953-65	
Goals	1,210	Steve Quinn	1976-88	
Points	2,654	Steve Quinn	1976-88	
Appearances	440	Jim Denton	1921-34	
Highest Score	96	Castleford Lock Lane *	08.02.04	96-0 (CC3)
Highest Winning Margin	96	Castleford Lock Lane *	08.02.04	96-0 (CC3)
Highest Score Against	80	Bradford Bulls *	03.04.05	14-80 (CC4)
Highest Losing Margin	70	Saint Helens *	22.05.11	0-70 (CC5)
Highest Home Attendance	17,531	Saint Helens	21.03.59	CC3

SUMMER ERA RECORDS (1996 ONWARDS)

		Match Records	Season Records	
Tries	5	Wayne McHugh Ian Hardman Tangi Ropati	12.03.06 16.08.09 12.08.12	Skirlaugh Doncaster Swinton Lions
Points	34	Liam Finn Liam Finn	25.03.12 12.08.12	Hunslet Old Boys Swinton Lions
Tries	30	Andy Kain	2012	
League Attendance	6,346	Bradford Bulls	01.03.15	C
Challenge Cup Attendance	4,165	Castleford Tigers	14.04.12	CC4
NLC Attendance	6,353	Castleford Tigers	20.02.05	NLC:Pool 4

* Denotes both 'All Time and 'Summer Era' Records

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS TROPHIES

Summer Era and Continuing Competitions		Pre 1996 Competitions	
Challenge Cup	1966-67, 1972-73, 1982-83	Division One Winners	1976-77
Championship	2011	Division 2 Champions	1979-80, 1992-93
Championship League	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013	Divisional Premiership	1992-93
NL2 Play-Off	2007	Yorkshire Cup Winners	1939-40, 1959-60
European Club Champions	2012		
Championship Shield	2015		

The Amateur Scene



Sharlston Rovers by Jamie Hobbs

The Sharlston Rovers Pennine League open age side were without a fixture last weekend, they did however progress to the Semi Finals of the Wakefield cup after CK Vikings were unable to raise a side. The fixtureless victory was even more disappointing as the match had already succumbed to the weather twice previously despite the option to switch it to Sharlston's playable pitch. The Pennine Division One side are already 4 weeks behind the majority of the division only playing 6 fixtures out of 12 with the end of season fast approaching.

The Yorkshire Men's League Premier side are starting back pre-season training in preparation for the start of the summer season, with opening fixtures starting April 9th. The division consists of 9 other teams including : Hull Wyke, Siddal A, Mirfield Stags, Norland Sharks, Beverley, York Acorn A, Doncaster Toll Bar and West Bowling replacing Scarborough after a last minute withdrawal.

The reborn Sharlston Junior set-up moves from strength to strength. Next week the Under 7s, 8s and 10s start playing in the Yorkshire Junior League. It has been just under a year since the juniors started training in the early workshop sessions and with a lot of hard work from Gordie Long (head of coaching) and Mick Taylor (club chairman) it's great to see three age groups of players, coaches and volunteers all ready to start the season. The club will be looking to start more age groups and any interested parents can contact chairman@sharlstonrovers.co.uk for more information on age groups and training.

Finally news of an upcoming event. On Sunday 13th March the club are holding a fundraising event in aid of club stalwart and A' team coach John Brewerton who has sadly suffered a serious back injury at work, breaking it in six places. An ex-Sharlston XIII will take on the current Sharlston squad on Sunday March 13th at 12:00. Following the match there will be live music in the clubhouse along with an auction of sporting memorabilia. Tickets for the Grand Raffle are available from the clubhouse with the star prize of a VIP trip to Dubai along with many other fabulous donations. Your support to help John who will obviously be out of work for some considerable time would be very gratefully received.



Sharlston's 2013 BARLA National Cup Winning Team

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Sam Day (Hooker)
Heritage Number: 1,027
Rovers Career: 2015-
Appearances 6; Tries 2; Points 8



Sam started his rugby league career playing for Westgate Redoubt in Wakefield. He played for them until he was 16 at which point he signed for Featherstone. He is looking to stake a regular first team place this season after Andy Ellis left the club to concentrate on his studies. Last season, Sam made 6 appearances from the bench and scored one try. He says that the trip to Catalans in the cup has to be the highlight of his career so far, especially as he scored a try in this game. Jon Sharp says that Sam is one of a crop of youngsters that he was impressed with when he came to the club last season.



Sam Day

Sam has recently completed his apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering. He currently works for Challenger Hydraulics in Dewsbury.

Sam says that his favourite film is "Blind Side" which stars Quinton Aaron, Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw. It talks about a young boy who, after being traumatized and homeless, becomes a star in the NFL thanks to being helped by a caring woman and her family. In any spare time he gets away from rugby and work, he likes to go out socialising with friends and likes to play pool.

Growing up, Sam says that his favourite player was James Lowes. His current favourite is Issac Luke. The best places he has played so far are Langtree Park or Headingley and the best game he has played in has got to be that late dramatic win against Batley last season. Sam says that no other game compares to that in his career as yet.

When he gets chance to watch TV, his favourite show is Luther and he loves to watch the NRL when he gets the chance. His favourite food is spaghetti bolognese and his place is Australia. After working his way up through the Academy, he made his first team debut for Rovers in the challenge cup game at Catalans last season when Rovers went close to pulling off a shock result.



Willis Fawley (Hooker)
Heritage Number: 323
Rovers Career: 1951-1967
Appearances: 371; Tries 59;
Goals 9; Points 195



When Featherstone Rovers played their first RL Cup Final at Wembley in 1952, he choice of hookers rested between veteran Bill Bradshaw and young Willis Fawley. Fawley had been signed in 1950 from the juniors but after a bright start, his form dipped and it was Bradshaw who got the nod. Fifteen years later, when the Rovers reached Wembley again, Willis Fawley travelled with the cup squad in a gesture to acknowledge his career which had just ended after a record-breaking 16 years and 9 months - the previous record being set by Frank Hemingway with 16 years.



Willis Fawley

His temporary lapse in form prior to Wembley 1952 was unfortunate because from taking over from Arthur Wood in 1951 to 1964 he was generally regarded as Rovers' premier hooker. He made his senior debut against Keighley (away) on 10 March 1951 and scored his first try against Doncaster (home) on 22 August 1951, the first of many tries to be scored by this agile and speedy player. Indeed, during the 1950s, arguments raged as to who was the fastest hooker in the loose - Tommy Harris of Hull or Willis? Harris gained the representative honours which Fawley's form richly deserved but never came. In encounters between the two clubs, their qualities seemed evenly balanced, particularly in 1959 when Hull beat Rovers in the RL Cup semi-final in April, but Featherstone were victors in the Yorkshire Cup Final later that year.

In the opening game of 1957/58, Fawley scored a hatrick against Leigh, a feat he was to repeat against Keighley in September 1960. His try-scoring exploits reached their peak in 1959/60 when he set up a new club try-scoring record by a forward of 17 in one season. One of the most important tries was in the epic third round RL Cup encounter on 19 March 1960. Lambert's astute back pass was taken by Fawley to score under the posts and seal an incredible 11-7 victory over the powerful Lancashire side.

One of the most dramatic events was on Boxing Day 1954 in the derby clash with Castleford at Post Office Road. Half-way into the second half Castleford were leading 6-3 and exerting pressure though a kick-through. Fawley chased back and in attempting to clear, stumbled and crashed heavily into the goal post. He was carried from the field on a stretcher and a gloom descended which was reflected in Rovers play. Ten minutes later, there was a tremendous cheer as Fawley re-appeared and promptly inspired Rovers to an 8-8 draw - yes, 'Boy's Own' stuff!

He was certainly a hard player, but with his exceptional hooking skills and speed in the loose, he was also talented and very popular. He had a well-deserved testimonial season in 1960/61, when he missed only four games. The following season he was in the reserves, captaining them to the Yorkshire Senior Championship, and in November he out-hooked John Shaw, the reserve Test hooker, when he was brought back to play in the Yorkshire Cup Final against Halifax. He played the remainder of his games with the reserves and in a fitting gesture played one half of a senior game against Bramley on 5 April 1967, prior to Wembley at the age of 37 years and 5 months. What a rousing reception he received, testimony to the esteem in which he was held.

fevnut's musings

It's a miracle!

The miracle I refer to is the survival of a professional sports club over a period of 95 years when it is based upon such a very small population. That would be problematical enough but there are additional factors that compound the difficulties.



For a start we are not the most affluent of communities, and the town still hasn't really recovered from the closure of the pits. That has a big bearing on the ability to find and attract directors with money to put into the club and to generate revenue through sales, sponsorship and advertising. Nor do we any longer have the means which held the club together over many years which is the ability to grow our own players and then sell them on. That ended in 2003 when Hull FC took two promising Fev youngsters (Richard Whiting and Andy Bailey) and what the RL deemed to be satisfactory compensation was a ludicrous pittance. There is also the fact that for the vast majority of the summer era we have had to compete for resources with two clubs close by in Super League. Put all that together and it really is a miracle.

That we have survived I put down to the incredible way in which supporters volunteer to help the club. Obviously the most outstanding example is the work accomplished by the stand gang over the last few years, but there are many others as well such as the tireless work by a few people in running the club shop. And aside from the volunteers is the remarkable work done by our commercial manager in attracting sponsors and advertisers.

We all want to help and sometimes fans with little spare cash find it hard to find the best way of doing so. Well, I've got a suggestion. Look carefully at the advertisements in the matchday programmes. If we can do a little to make them believe that paying for advertising in this way is beneficial to them they are all the more likely to continue using Fev for advertising and thus assist the money coming into the club.

Over the last few years I have had to employ people to do some landscaping work in my garden, to replace fencing damaged by the appalling storms we have had, to fit some blinds and I also needed a skilled decorator. Each time I have turned to the programme and found advertisers who fitted my needs. And I must say that each of them not only carried out the work I required but did so to a very high standard. That's not so surprising because most of the advertisers are Rovers fans themselves and they clearly wanted to do a really good job for fellow supporters.

So, if you ever need something and you can find an advertiser in the programme that fits the bill, you will get a high standard work or goods and you will be finding yet another route of continuing the miracle!

Please note that 'fevnut's musings' are the thoughts of one individual and should not be taken as the official view of Featherstone Rovers.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SIMON HICKS THE LUCKY WINNER OF THE ULTIMATE SEASON TICKET.

Simon will be enjoying a pair of season tickets to see his favourite club, Widnes Vikings, expenses and accommodation for Summer Bash, Magic Weekend, Ladbrokes Challenge Cup Final, First Utility Super League Grand Final - plus an England game at this autumn's Four Nations! All washed down with Kingstone Press Cider of course!

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FEATHERSTONE ROVERS FOUNDATION

by Amy Hardman

Welcome back Everyone!

I hope you all enjoyed the Batley game and being back at The Big Fellas Stadium for the season. As pleased as I was with the result, I was super impressed that all the hard work that goes off behind the scenes all came together and the pitch hosted lots of community activity. Huge thanks to the community team staff that work tirelessly to provide these

opportunities for young people. Look out for our All Stars Dance Academy performances with Starlights performing pre match and All Stars performing at half time. We also welcome Ambassador Clubs Brotherton Bulldogs, Kippax Welfare and Hemsworth Dragons to take part in half time games.



Finally, I have some exciting news to share with you all. The Foundation has been awarded a grant of £24,410 to support our current Parent & Toddler group 'Rovers Tots'. The programme will provide more opportunities to families in Featherstone and surrounding areas by running 2 sessions per week, bi monthly events, coffee cake and chat sessions, volunteer opportunities, ASDAN Volunteer awards & more! We would like to welcome on board Amy Dobson who will take on the role as project leader for this new programme. Amy has been running the Tuesday sessions as a volunteer for quite some time and will be a great addition to

our team here at the Foundation. To find out more about the programme join us on Facebook at 'Rovers Tots' or email Amy at amy.dobson@featherstonerovers.net

People's Health Trust is an independent charity addressing health inequalities across Great Britain. It works closely with each of the 51 society lotteries and makes grants using money raised by the society lotteries through The Health Lottery.

Foundation contact details ☎ 01977 781674 📞 07584 684327

Amy email: amy.hardman@featherstonerovers.net

Joe email: joe.barker@featherstonerovers.net

Many thanks to the Foundation Funders for 2016



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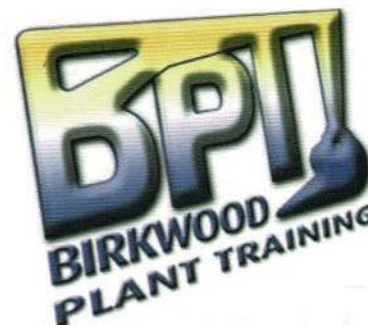
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Photos from the Batley match

by Carol Austerberry



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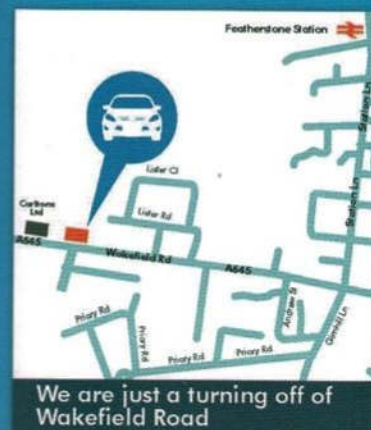
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Featherstone Rovers Past Players Association



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NOTICE OF FEATHERSTONE ROVERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on
Wednesday 30th March 2016 at the Big Fellas Stadium, Post Office
Road, Featherstone WF7 5EN commencing at 6.30pm.

The agenda will include the declaration of the election of both 'A'
and 'B' share directors, the 2014 accounts and the provisional
2015 accounts.

All Shareholders are urged to attend.

Gareth Walker's



CHAMPIONSHIP TALK

in association with **League Express**

Heavyweight Clash

THEY provided some of the most memorable clashes of 2015 at any level, and this weekend the Championship's two heavyweights Bradford and Leigh collide for the first time this year.

It's a contest that plenty of neutrals will be keeping a keen eye on from afar, alongside the faithful support of both clubs.

The two teams enter the game having experienced differing fortunes in the opening three rounds.

The Bulls have gone quietly about their business, following up a gritty opening victory over Featherstone with accomplished 40-point wins at Whitehaven and Swinton.

There has undoubtedly been more focus on the Centurions following a chequered couple of months.

They were already strong pre-season favourites to top the league again this season following a winter of high profile arrivals at the club.

And whether it has been predictions of an unbeaten season, the sudden departure of coach Paul Rowley or a shock defeat at Batley, headlines have again followed Leigh around in recent weeks.

They were in danger of falling to a second loss from three last Sunday when they trailed 6-20 at home to London Broncos, only for a stirring second half comeback to secure back-to-back wins, with them having accounted for Oldham the previous Sunday.

Perhaps that Broncos win will prove a turning point for them under new coach Neil Jukes - who will be under no illusions that he faces his toughest test to date at the Provident Stadium.

Both clubs have made eye-catching signings in recent weeks as they look to bolster their promotion bids.

The Bulls pulled off a significant shock by bringing vastly experienced fullback Richie Mathers out of retirement, and added to that with the arrival of respected Australian forward Rhys Lovegrove.

Leigh - who have suffered a host of injuries to date - signed former Grand Final winner Lee Smith on the eve of that season, and followed that by recruiting Richard Whiting on loan from Hull FC.

The majority of players on display this Sunday will have some sort of top flight experience, and while the outcome of the match isn't going to decide anybody's season, it should provide a decent insight into both teams' prospects for 2016.

Elsewhere in the Championship this weekend, Halifax against Batley looks an intriguing prospect given recent results, while League One clubs get their Challenge Cup campaigns underway with a host of fascinating ties.

There has been much to be positive about outside the top flight so far this season and this weekend should be no different.

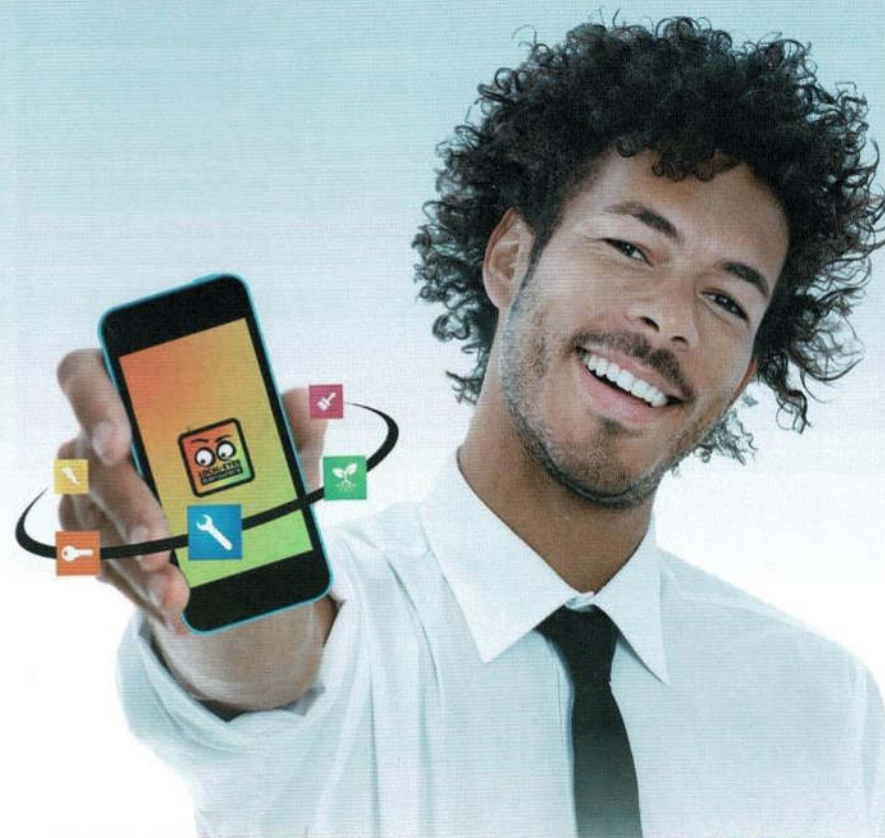
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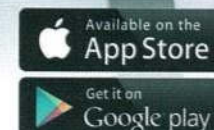
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Player Stats 2016



SEASON 2016						TOTAL ROVERS RECORD					
App	T	G	DG	Pts	Player	App	T	G	DG	Pts	
2 (1)	-	-	-	-	Mitch Achurch *	2 (1)	-	-	-	-	
2 (2)	-	-	-	-	Jordan Baldwinson *	35 (4)	1	-	-	4	
2	-	-	-	-	Andy Bostock	110 (81)	37	-	-	148	
2	-	5 (100%)	-	10	Kyle Briggs	83 (11)	45	141 (74%)	-	462	
2	-	-	-	-	Michael Channing	2	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	Luke Cooper	9 (9)	-	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	-	Jamie Cording	43 (1)	12	-	-	48	
-	-	-	-	-	Jack Coventry	7 (6)	1	-	-	4	
2	1	-	-	4	Danny Craven	2	1	-	-	4	
2	-	-	-	-	John Davies	2	-	-	-	-	
1 (1)	-	-	-	-	Sam Day	7 (7)	2	-	-	8	
2	-	-	-	-	Darrell Griffin	2	-	-	-	-	
2	1	-	-	4	Ash Handley *	2	1	-	-	4	
2 (1)	-	-	-	-	Ian Hardman	202 (6)	100	-	-	400	
-	-	-	-	-	Kyran Johnson	9 (1)	3	-	-	12	
-	-	-	-	-	Will Milner	16 (4)	7	-	-	28	
2 (1)	-	-	-	-	Jack Ormondroyd	23 (19)	5	-	-	20	
-	-	-	-	-	Colton Roche	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	Steve Snitch	10	2	-	-	8	
2	-	-	-	-	Tim Spears	176 (14)	20	-	-	80	
1 (1)	-	-	-	-	Brad Tagg	10 (9)	1	-	-	4	
2	1	-	-	4	Misi Taulapapa	2	1	-	-	4	
2	1	-	-	4	Anthony Thackeray	8	8	-	-	32	
2	-	-	-	-	Scott Turner	2	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	Matty Wildie	-	-	-	-	-	

* Dual Registration Player

Appearances figures are the total number of games played with appearances off the bench in brackets.

The percentage figure in the goals column is the percentage of successful goal kicks.

Let's Get Quizzical: The Answers

- Castleford Tigers & Catalan Dragons
- Lisa Kudrow
- Manly Sea Eagles
- Crete
- Western Suburbs Magpies
- Peninsular and Oriental
- Peter Roe
- China (Changdu Bangda Airport - 18,045 ft)
- Martin Pearson
- Panama Canal



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DOWN THE YEARS by Chris Heinitz



The fact that Oldham have won more games between the clubs than have Featherstone comes as a reminder that, despite being in the doldrums for the last few years, Oldham is a club with a proud and powerful history. One of the founding clubs of the Northern Rugby League they have won both the Championship and the Challenge Cup three times. Their Championship wins came in 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57. The Challenge Cup trophies were from the 1898-99, 1924-25 and 1926-7 seasons. During that 1924-25

Challenge Cup campaign they defeated Featherstone 26-0 in the third round. That was after Featherstone had had two draws with Halifax before beating them at Headingley in the first round and then knocking out Hunslet in the second round.

The most surprising venue for a match between Rovers and Oldham was when they met at Queens Park Rangers football ground in 1955 in a competition called the ITV Television Trophy. It was only played that year and all the matches were played in London. Oldham won by the narrowest of margins - 8-7.

Other than the 1924-25 Challenge Cup match referred to above, they have been drawn against each other on two occasions. In March 1945 they met twice in the first round. During the war, and a few years following, first round ties were decided by the aggregate score of matches played both home and away. That year, Oldham won both, 18-4 as Post Office Road and 8-7 at the Watersheddings. The only other time they met in the Challenge Cup was in 1964 with Oldham at home. Yet another close match saw Oldham win 9-7. So, Rovers have lost all the Challenge Cup matches between the two teams.

There have been two play-off matches, both won by Fev. In 2004 Rovers won 22-8 in a National League One Elimination Play-Off at Oldham and then in 2007 Rovers won 24-6 in the National League Two play-off final at Headingley securing promotion back to National League One for the flat-cappers. In 1988 the teams met at Old Trafford in the Divisional Premiership final with Oldham winning 28-26 despite Rovers making a gallant second half effort clawing their way back from a 6-22 half-time deficit.

The record of league encounters is very close indeed. In 81 matches, Rovers have won 37, Oldham 38 and there have been 6 draws.

SCORING RECORDS

	Record	Comp	Result	Date
Highest Score: Featherstone Rovers	68	NRC-Pool 1	68-0	15 February 2012
Highest Score: Oldham	53	NRL	15-53	19 April 1924
Highest Aggregate Score	87	NFP	61-26	26 March 2000
Lowest Aggregate Score	3	NRL	0-3	15 March 1922
		WEL	0-3	11 December 1943
Highest Winning Margin: Featherstone Rovers	68	NRC-Pool 1	68-0	15 February 2012
Highest Winning Margin: Oldham	38	NRL	15-53	19 April 1924

NRC: Northern Rail Cup; NRL: Northern Rugby League;
NFP: Northern Ford Premiership; WEL: Wartime Emergency League;



ALL MATCHES

TOTAL	WON	DRAWN	LOST	PF	PA
91	41	6	44	1,600	1,492

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Bronze



Other Side: Oldham

Oldham	SN	Age	Pos	Oldham	SN	Age	Pos
Tom Ashton	25	23	C	Will Hope	24	22	LF
Jake Bibby *	-	19	C	Kenny Hughes	21	25	H
Craig Briscoe	23	23	2R	Phil Joy	8	24	P
Jamel Chisholm	5	23	W	Danny Langtree	12	24	2R
Adam Clay	2	25	W	Richard Lepori	1	24	FB
Adam Files	11	24	2R	Gareth Owen	20	23	H
Adam Files	19	23	H	Lewis Palfrey	6	25	SO
Jon Ford	3	22	B	Steve Roper	7	29	SH
Sam Gee	9	28	H	Jack Spencer	10	25	P
Danny Grimshaw	22	29	HB/LF	Liam Thompson	13	24	F
Jack Holmes	4	22	C	Michael Ward	26	25	P

* on loan from Salford City Reds

Oldham have a dual registration agreement with Huddersfield Gia

Head Coach: Scott Naylor

Scott Naylor began his playing career with Wigan, making his first team debut in the 1991-92 season. He then had four seasons at Salford followed by five at Bradford Bulls during their glory days and he picked up 3 super league winners rings there. He also received international honours for England while at Bradford. He ended his career with a final year back at Salford. After that he joined the coaching staff at Salford. He became head coach at Oldham at the start of the 2013 season. Last year he guided them to top place in League One and promotion via a promotion final with Keighley, thus avoiding having to go through to a Grand Final. That must have been a huge relief to the club after they had lost a whole host of grand finals in recent years.



Scott Naylor

Captain: Lewis Palfrey

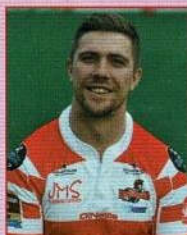
Lewis Palfrey also arrived at Oldham in 2013 after spells with Whitehaven and Batley. A prolific scoring halfback last season he scored 11 tries, 129 goals and 2 drop-goals.



Lewis Palfrey

New Signings for 2016

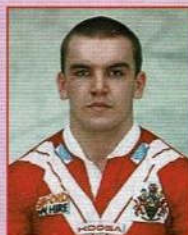
Oldham have chosen to stay with the vast majority of their 2015 League One winning squad for this year's campaign in the Championship. They have signed **Craig Briscoe** (back row) from Barrow, **Danny Grimshaw** (half-back) from Hunslet, **Jack Spencer** (prop) from Halifax and **Jamel Chisholm** (wing) from York. Jamel was at Rovers briefly in 2014 but played only one game. He has twice won the 'fastest man in rugby league' title.



Craig Briscoe



Danny Grimshaw



Jack Spencer



Jamel Chisholm

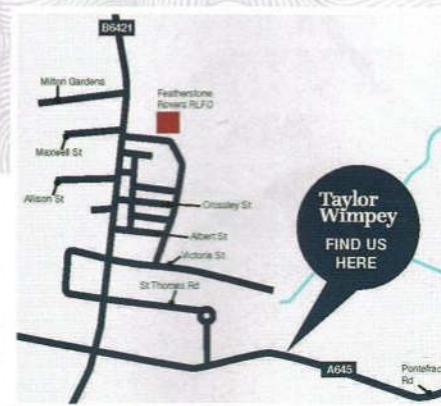
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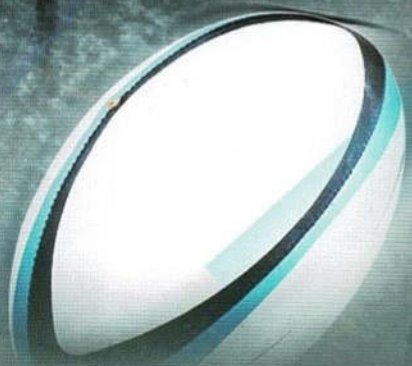


Images show a typical streetscene at Colliers Court.

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FIXTURES, RESULTS, TEAMS and SCORES

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HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

League Matches

Challenge Cup Matches

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS League matches

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