TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP FIFTH ROUND
LEIGH CENTURIONS v FEATHERSTONE ROVERS
SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2014
AT LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE • KICK OFF 3PM

ISSUE 6
PRICE £2.50
WHO’S WHO
AT LEIGH CENTURIONS

Hon Life President: Mr Tommy Sale MBE
Hon Vice President: Mr Andy Bumham MP
Hon Life Members: Mr Brian Bowman, Mr Tommy Coleman, Mr Frank Taylor, Mr John Massey
Chairman: Mr John Riddy
Board of Management: Mr Michael Morris, Mr Derek Beaumont, Mr Andy Mahey, Mr Alan Platt, Mr Steve Openshaw, Mr Neil Wilcock, Ms Jackie Mottonhead, Mr Trevor Barton MBE, Ms Julia Bradley
Head of Rugby: Mr Derek Beaumont
First Team Coach: Mr Paul Rowley
Assistant Coaches: Mr Neil Judes, Mr Simon Finnigan
Conditioner: Mr Nathan Perington
Training Assistant: Mr Thomas Wood
Masseur: Mr Rob Stewart
Statistician: Mr Cliff Satter
Kit men: Mr Frank Taylor, Mr Sean Fairhurst, Mr Tommy Mathur
Under 20’s Coach: Mr Paul Anderson
Under 20’s Assistant: Mr Steve Mayo
Conditioner: Mr Dan Ogden
Physiotherapists: Ms Emma Fletcher, Ms Hannah Lloyd, Mr John Stafford (Under 20’s)
Club Doctor: Dr Maurice Doublet-Stewart
Club Ambassador: Mr Alex Murphy OBE
General Manager: Mr Bob Parker
Lottery Manager: Ms Christine Brown
Lottery Co-ordinator: Mr Johnathan Simkin
Finance Manager: Ms Jane Smith
IT & Ticket Sales: Mr Andrew Parkinson
Club Accountants: Styles & Co
Joint Programme Editors: Mr Allan Rowley and Mr Mike Latham

HONOURS

Championship Winners: 1905-06
Division One Champions: 1981-82
Division Two Champions: 1977-78, 1985-86, 1988-89
Challenge Cup Winners: 1920-21, 1970-71
BBC2 Floodlit Trophy: 1965-67, 1972-73
Promotion To Top Division achieved (Not as Champions): 1963-64, 1975-76, 1991-92
Other Promotion season: 1997 (Division 3 to Division 2)
Northern Ford Minor Premiership Winners: 2001
Trans-Pennine Cup Winners: 2001
Ariva Trains Cup Winners: 2004
LHF National League 1 Champions: 2004
LHF National League 1 Grand Final Winners: 2004
Northern Rail Cup Winners: 2006, 2011, 2013

CLUB RECORDS

Biggest Victory: 92-2 vs Keighley (1986)
Biggest Defeat: 4-96 vs Rochdale (1996)
Highest Home Attendance: 31,326 at St Helens (1993)
Lowest Post War Home Attendance: 451 vs Hull (1975)
Most Tries in a game: Jack Wood 6 v York (1947), Neil Turley 6 v Workington Town (2001)
Most Goals in a game: Mick Stacey 15 vs Doncaster (1976)
Most Tries in a season: Neil Turley 25 (2001)
Most Tries in a career: Mick Murphy 189 (1954-67)
Most Goals in a career: Jimmy Ledgard 1043 (1948-58)
Most Points in a career: John Woods 2492 (1976-85, 1990-92)
MostAppearances: Albert Worrall – 503 (1920-38)

FROM THE TOP

BY CHAIRMAN JOHN RODDY

May I first of all welcome to Leigh Sports Village, the Home of Leigh Centurions RFC, the Directors, Officials, Players and Supporters of Featherstone Rovers, for this eagerly awaited Tetleys Challenge Cup Fifth Round – Tie.

Both teams are currently in fine form, sitting at the top of the Kingstone Press Championship and I expect that we will see a close game this afternoon with all the magic and atmosphere that the Challenge Cup brings to Rugby League.

May I take this opportunity to thank Simon Toon, Chief Executive of the Leigh Sports Village and our Head of Rugby Derek Beaumont for working very hard to ensure that this fixture could go ahead today!

BLAKE SOLLY

I know that this afternoon we have Blake Solly from the RFL joining us and accepting our offer to speak to our Touchdown Club on the new league structure from 2015. It is really good to have you here, Blake, no doubt you will be asked some probing questions from the audience – nothing I wouldn’t expect you to have heard before during the past few months.

BRIAN BARWICK – CHAIRMAN OF THE RFL

It was good to meet with Brian Barwick during Good Friday’s match versus Swinton Lions and it was clear from our speaking to Allan Rowley in the Touchdown Club – have you seen Brian being interview ed yet by Mike Latham on Leigh Centurions conversation that Brian was very impressed with the standard of our Club on the new league structure from 2015. It is really good to have you here, Blake, no doubt you will be asked some probing questions from the audience – nothing I wouldn’t expect you to have heard before during the past few months.

KEVIN ASHCROFT

Also a massive thank you to Kevin Ashcroft who today will be speaking to Allan Rowley in the Touchdown Club – have you seen Kevin being interviewed yet by Mike Latham on Leigh Centurions TV? If not please tune in via our website, this one of the best Rugby League interviews I have seen for a long time, packed with some great stories by Kevin.

KEVIN

Kevin was one of our Wembley heroes in 1971 against Leeds and three years later won another Challenge Cup-winners’ medal by playing a huge part in Warrington’s Wembley victory over today’s visitors Featherstone Rovers. No doubt Kevin will be recalling his memories of those two great occasions in the Touchdown Club.

LEIGH CENTURIONS PLAYERS’ ASSOCIATION

The recently-formed Players’ Association has been going from strength to strength under the dynamic leadership of Jason Donohue. It is wonderful to see so many past players enjoying visiting LSV and supporting the team. Last Friday I had the pleasure of meeting Paul Topping and Mark Sheals who were both very impressed by our facilities and the display of the current Centurions side.

Jason informs me that he now has 56 players who have paid their membership fee of £20. On top of this, Mike Latham has sponsored the membership in memory of five players from the early 1990s and Derek Beaumont has agreed to do the same. Andy Mazey had sponsored one of his heroes, the late John Westhead. We also had supporters making contact and wanting to remember some of their favourite players who are no longer with us, sponsoring John Lewis Nobby Cleworth, Charlie Pawsey, Mick Hogan, Dave Macko and Mal Yates. This is a wonderful initiative and supporters wishing to follow suit can contact Jason on leighcpa@gmail.com.

IAN WATSON

Talking of past players, it was great to see a presentation made by Paul Rowley to the Swinton Lions Player-Coiach Ian Watson after the game on Good Friday. Ian was a popular Leigh player and recently reached the incredible landmark of 500 career appearances. Paul presented him with a specially-designed poster and t-shirt to mark this achievement and in his acceptance speech Ian spoke very well of his admiration for the Centurions and his time with the Club.

TODAY’S GAME

We expect a good crowd this afternoon with Featherstone reporting over ten coaches booked. If correct I suspect that LSV will be jumpimg with plenty of noise from our stands. Without doubt this match will provide us with a flavour of how large crowds at the LSV can make a huge difference to the atmosphere and it will really give us the opportunity also to test our full capability and to learn from the experience.

Rob Parker our General Manager, myself and Steve Openshaw this week have been working hard in the background, ensuring that we are ready for the game. Most importantly we hope our supporters enjoy their experience and want to come back for more. Hopefully this will be just one of many big games we can look forward to at LSV in the future.

Best wishes
John
John Roddy - Chairman.
Dave Parkinson caught up with Centurions head coach Paul Rowley after the Swinton game to look back on the Good Friday encounter.

DP: Congratulations on the win, it was a really high scoring game, what did you make of it?

PR: That game and Halifax one made for a good start to a difficult month. I thought we played some really fantastic rugby. It was really enjoyable to play and really enjoyable to watch. Our fans were outstanding and it was a good turnout at over two thousand, two hundred. We are showing what a big club we are. We enjoyed it and it’s hard to play like that. It takes a lot of skill and we are delighted to come up with a win against a very good and very confident Swinton side.

Swinton certainly had a star performer there in Kev Penny. How he isn’t breaking into that Warrington side regularly I will never know, he’s a fantastic player and was pretty good. They make a break and kick it forward and he’s down the ground to pick it up. I was disappointed with the ruck speed in the first half. It was extraordinarily slow but it did quicken up in the second half. Overall we played some good rugby.

DP: I think that shows with the number of tries scored by the threequarters, Paul.

PR: We spotted a weakness and stayed on it. That was good and it was good that we didn’t get bored of doing something that was working well. We were meticulous in our execution and as I’ve said, it’s hard to play like that but it’s certainly entertaining and I think that everyone from a Leigh perspective will be pleased.

DP: It was nice to see Liam Kay get a bit of ball and show what he can do with it?

PR: Absolutely, and that man again Penny was chasing him down on that long range one. He took a bit of ground off him but that just shows how quick Liam is, he certainly held his own and got in there at the corner and supported Ryan Brierley well on one occasion, too. Brierley had the presence of mind to pop the ball up.

We scored some superb long range efforts and some good close range ones through building pressure.

DP: Your play-making spine also seems to be coming too at the moment.

PR: It is, but everyone has got a particular role in the team and the way that we play, if someone loses that role we break down. We are really pedantic and specific on what everyone’s job is. Each and every one of those jobs is crucially important to our shape and structure. When we get it right, it’s pretty impressive and good to watch.

DP: And particularly in that first half it was pretty clinical wasn’t it?

PR: Yes, and it was fast. It looks good, it looks sharp. I keep talking about Kevin Penny, but he stopped a couple of short-side plays by being defensively very good. I just thought overall it was a good game. We defended well and identified some areas of improvement we needed within our group and I thought we ticked all the boxes.

Adrian Jackson also gauged Paul’s thoughts about the cup-tie with Featherstone Rovers.

AJ: Are you happy with the home tie?

PR: Definitely, the first thing you look for is to be at home. Featherstone is a good draw. It’s two of the top sides in the Championship, it’s quite mouth-watering. It’s also two sides that fancy their chances of progressing.

AJ: And at the end of it there is a quarter-final place up for grabs?

PR: Yeah, and the cup has thrown out some more interesting routes for teams. A Championship side could find themselves with a semi-final berth and when you get to that spot, well it’s the bounce of a ball. Back in the present, we are looking forward to our game with Featherstone.

Regular interviews with the Centurions Coach can be seen on Leigh Centurions TV.
First of all, Olly, your thoughts on Rochdale in the last programme have been vindicated haven’t they?
Yes, they’ve had two good wins since they gave us two really hard games in the league and cup, so their form stacks up. I said the league table didn’t reflect their ability as a side and they’re a potential banana skin for any team.

Ever been involved in a comeback like the Halifax game?
I was involved in a very similar one playing for Huddersfield-Sheffield Giants in 2000 at Wilderspool. We were losing 24-6 at half-time to Warrington but ended up winning 44-24. The Halifax game came as a reality shock to us as a team and the way we fought back showed real character. It was another improbable comeback, like that game 14 years ago, but it shows they do happen. All credit to the boys for really digging in.

The Good Friday game against Swinton contained some superb football, didn’t it?
It was a really good attacking performance and the excellent week’s preparation we had for the game paid off. We had a lot to work on after the Halifax game and we came up with a comprehensive victory, especially when you consider that Kevin Penny scored two tries for Swinton that wouldn’t have been scored by virtually any other player. His pace is exceptional.

This afternoon is all about the Tetley’s Challenge Cup. Have you happy memories of the competition?
I’ve been involved in some great games in the Cup, but the furthest I’ve got was reaching the semi-final with Wakefield in 2008. We played Hull FC at Doncaster on one of the hottest days of the year and in no time were 18-0 down. We fought back well but ended up losing 32-24 which was obviously a big disappointment.

How do you view the Cup-tie?
The rewards for the winners are huge, potentially a quarter-final against a top Super League side with the profile and revenue for the Club that would bring. All the players want to progress as far as we can in the competition and we’re all looking forward to the game. Featherstone always have a good following and there’s talk that they’re going to bring one thousand fans to the game so that should help create a great atmosphere. Our fans are fantastic and their support will be vital today and for the rest of the season.

Doncaster, but at the moment I’m not looking beyond the cup-tie. There’s a really positive feel about the Leigh Centurions club at the moment with some great people involved on and off the field. It’s a pleasure to come training and play in such a positive environment and everyone is buzzing and enjoying their rugby. The fans are fantastic and their support will be vital today and for the rest of the season.

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Paul Rowley says Tommy Goulden has something of which every player dreams: the respect of his fellow players.

“He may not be in the limelight very often,” said the Leigh coach. “But he is so valuable to our club.”

The Leigh Miners Rangers product has been outstanding in recent weeks for the Centurions, an integral part of a pack where competition for places is fierce. He played a leading role in Leigh’s remarkable fight-back at Halifax earlier this month, scoring a vital try early in the second half as Centurions overturned a 24-0 deficit to eventually win 36-28. This was despite them being down to 12 men for half-an-hour. “We showed some great character to come back at Halifax,” said Goulden. “It was a crucial try from Sam Barlow just before half-time and that spurred us on.

“We are a side which has great determination to turn things round when they’re not going our way and that was illustrated at Halifax.

“Our completion rates let us down and we just weren’t smart enough. When we started to get some possession we had the energy to do something with the ball.”

Goulden has been a virtual ever-present at his hometown club since joining from Oldham for the 2010 season. He first turned professional with Rochdale Hornets in 2005 and spent three years at Spotland.

But he jumped at the chance of joining Leigh and his industry and reliability quickly endeared him to the fans.

“I think he’s under-rated but not by us,” said Rowley. “Some people don’t actually realise how skilful he is. He has the ability get passes away in tackles and his timing on angled runs is exceptional.

“He is a leader on the field and respected by his team-mates which for me is the greatest accolade you can receive as a player.”

Goulden has tasted success in the Northern Rail Cup with Leigh in recent years and is confident of more big days ahead at the club.

“We tend to raise our game for the big matches,” he said. “But sometimes a game can be an arm wrestle and it’s about just getting the win.

“Every week is a different challenge but the new players have certainly improved the squad in 2014. There is a pressure for places which everyone thrives on.”

TO M M Y G O U LDEN

A CAREER IN STATISTICS

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196 20 88 0 0 352
Continuing our series looking at Leigh players who gave their lives in the First World War, this week we remember Harry Ward.

Eight years on from winning the Championship in 1906, Leigh’s fortunes had declined as many of their star players had either retired or moved on to other clubs. Generally the Leigh Directors pursued a policy of signing locally born players and building up a team that could compete with the best in the Northern Union.

Sadly the onset of the First World War put those plans on hold and the harsh realities of the war years soon put other things, including battles on the rugby field into perspective. The weekly pages of the Leigh Journal at that time make for harrowing reading as the grim news of the rising death toll of local servicemen was relayed from the front.

Harry Ward was a collier who joined Leigh as a professional player just before Christmas 1913. He had impressed playing for Parkside Rangers in the local league. Rangers were one of many Leigh-based amateur teams that sprang up around this time. I am indebted to local historian Alf Ridyard for informing me that they sourced most of their players who lived in the Windermere and Walmesley Road areas. Their home ground was most likely where Windermere Road School or where Leigh CE Infants School was built upon at a later date. Much later Rangers moved to within the fenced off area of Parsonage Colliery just over the railway line. Alf adds that this ground was still there in the 1950s as he has a record of a charity game being played there in which Gerry Helme featured. The ground later was used for school sports.

Ward soon became a regular in the Leigh A team, impressing in the role of hooker. But his first-team opportunities were limited as Leigh had one of the best hookers in the game in Joe Cartwright, who went on to earn international honours and who toured Australia in 1920.

Like Harry, Joe was a miner, earning his living in the local pits. It was an occupation followed by virtually all the Leigh players at that time. Harry would have played alongside and trained with players like Joe Darwell, Ernie Boardman and Walter Mooney who were all colliers who formed part of the successful Leigh side of the early 1920s. He became professional just after his Parkside Rangers team-mate Tom O’Neill.

Harry was one of the first men locally to enlist in the Forces and was a Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. Sadly he met a tragic end and never got the chance to fulfil his ambition of playing for Leigh’s first-team. As with so many of his contemporaries he was cut off in his prime.

Ward served in the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division which was an infantry division originally formed as the Royal Naval Division at the outbreak of the war. The division comprised men from the ranks of Royal Navy and Royal Marine reservists and volunteers who were not needed for service at sea and fought at Antwerp and at Gallipoli and later as an Army unit. It fought on the Western Front for the remainder of the war.

There were eight battalions named after past naval commanders and Ward was in the Anson Battalion. The division was shipped to Egypt prior to serving in the Battle of Gallipoli. Casualties before the hostilities included the officer and poet, Rupert Brooke, who died at sea on 23 April 1915.

The Leigh Journal of 21 July 1915 reported under the headline: ‘Another Leigh Footballer Killed’:

On 21 June 1915 Able Seaman Harry Ward, RNVR was reported as missing in Gallipoli. His parents, who reside at Norbury Street, Leigh have just received word that he was killed on that date. Able Seaman Ward was with the second draft of men that landed in Gallipoli and was with the ‘Anson’ Battalion.

He enlisted on 4 September 1914 when he was working at the Plank Lane Collieries. He was a single man, 23-years-of-age. A man of fine physique he played as a forward with the Leigh A Team.

With thanks to Leighlife.com and John Taylor for their tremendous assistance in researching these articles.
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01934 384070
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1. In which country is the Bartercard competition played?

2. Can you name Halifax’s Trinidadian player when they won the Championship in 1985-86?

3. Which RFL Club used to play at Knotty Ash?

4. In what year did Featherstone Rovers win the Challenge Cup for the first time?

5. What nickname was given to the 1982 Kangaroo tourists?

6. Who founded the pioneering RL magazine Open Rugby?

7. Which leading British athlete trialled with Castleford in 2007?

8. The film Once We Were Warriors has RL references. In which city was the story located?

9. Wigan and Bath RUFC played cross-code fixtures in what year?

10. What was the name of Hull FC’s previous home ground?

Answers in the next Programme
**IN TOWN TODAY**

We welcome Featherstone Rovers to LSV this afternoon for a mouth-watering fifth round tie in the Tetley’s Challenge Cup.

The competition holds special memories for Rovers fans and their amazing victory in the Final 31 years ago still holds a special place in the hearts of not only people in Featherstone but Rugby League supporters in general.

Rovers’ 14-12 victory over highly-fancied Hull FC on 7 May 1983 was the biggest Cup final upset for over 50 years and was the last time a small-town team has tasted success in the competition. David Hobbs was Rovers’ hero with two tries that day and that brilliant goal-kicker Steve Quinn kicked four goals, including the match-deciding penalty with three minutes to go. Allan Agar’s side had started the campaign as 33-1 outsiders.

The Rovers team that day was: Barker, Mansden, Quinn, Gilbert, Kellett, Banks, Hudson, Gribbins, Handscombe, Hankins, Hobbs, Slater, Smith. Subs: Lyman, Siddall.

Some years later Hobbs recalled that famous day to me. “For little more than a village, with a population of 15,000, the success that Rovers has had is incredible,” he said. “Of the 15 players that played at Wembley that day, eleven of them were miners and lived within a two-mile radius of the ground.

“They used to say that you could put a bubble over Featherstone. You lived there, worked there, bosed there and played or watched their rugby there. Within a three-mile radius of the ground there would be a dozen collieries and lots of small communities. That helped produce a rivalry, at school, at rugby and in the pit. Rugby League was a way of life, a fierce passion for so many people. There would be hundreds of miners playing the game for local teams. Featherstone had three amateur open age teams plus a professional club and that was a huge proportion of the male population engaged in playing the game.”

These days Rovers set the standards on and off the field and spark a remarkable revival with the Tigers. Bastian played as a prop for Rovers between 1987-1991 and since then has built up a formidable reputation for bringing young talent as Head of Youth Development at Leeds Rhinos and Warrington Wolves.

“I think we need to be patient on the playing side of things,” he told Gareth Walker in pre-season. “We’ll certainly improve as a club and as players because of these facilities that are now in place. Long term, we all have ambitions of wanting to play at the next level and challenge the teams in Super League.”

Rovers have a number of new faces in this squad this year. The list includes Gareth Moore, George Flanagan, Keegan Hirst and Liam Walsmey who all came from Batley Bulldogs. James Mendeka (ex-Warrington), Jamie Cording and Joe Fox (both ex-Huddersfield), James Lockwood, Luke Teasdale (both ex-Leeds), Matt Nicholson (ex-York), Cotton Roche (ex-Sheffiled) and Tongan international Etuate Uaisele who arrived from Australia having played in the NRL with both Penrith and Parramatta.

Since signing for Rovers from Doncaster RU part-way through last season Will Sharp has become a firm crowd favourite. Last season he scored 19 tries in 19 appearances and he is again among the tries this year, scoring a 45m effort in the Good Friday win over Keighley. He has previous league experience with Hull FC and Halifax RL.

**HOMES VENUEs as follows:**

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Results so far in 2014:

- Dewsbury (a) L 10-11
- Hunslet (a) L 28-20
- North Wales (a) W 36-6
- Rochdale (a) W 6-6
- Doncaster (a) W 16-22
- Swinton (a) W 36-22
- North Wales (a) W 66-0 CUP
- Barrow (a) W 38-18
- Keighley (a) W 36-12

David Hobbs scores his first try in Rovers’ 1983 Cup Final victory over Hull FC.
Leigh and Featherstone Rovers have met on nine previous occasions in the Challenge Cup, Rovers running out winners on six occasions, including semi-final triumphs in 1952 and 1974.

The teams first met in the competition in February 1948 when first round ties were played over two legs. In the first leg Leigh won 18-3 at Post Office Road, getting on top in the forwards in the second half. Standoff Jimmy Rowe scored Leigh’s first try just before halftime and Frank Daley, Harry Dagman and Jack Wood added second half tries. The return leg was dominated by Leigh giving a debut to their new record signing Jimmy Ledgard. The ex-Dewsbury fullback kicked two penalty goals and Wood scored two fine tries on a pitch that resembled a sea of mud in Leigh’s 10-6 victory before a crowd of 10,000. Leigh lost at Warrington in the next round.

In March 1952 Leigh met Rovers in the semi-final at Headingley, and a stern, forward duel took place on a cold and windy day before a crowd of 35,000. Ledgard gave Leigh the lead with a penalty goal in the ninth minute and they maintained that slender advantage well into the second half. With the elements at his back Miller levelled the scores with a penalty after 63 minutes and kicked two more in the final six minutes to send Rovers to Wembley for the first time in their history, where they lost 18-10 to Workington Town in the final.

Leigh rued missed chances when the sides met again in a third-round tie three years later. Rovers edged home 13-9 at Kirkhall Lane before a crowd of 20,000. Metcalfe scoring a crucial try and Fenell kicking four goals, Fox the other. Bill McFarlane gave Leigh hope with a late try and Ledgard kicked three goals. Rovers lost to Workington in the last four.

Leigh beat Rovers at home 17-11 in a first round tie in 1957 after another tough game. Jack Gibson, Bill Kindon and Brian Fallon scored tries and Joe Hosking kicked four goals before a 12,000 crowd. Leigh went on to reach the semi-final but lost to Barrow after a replay.


Forty years ago Leigh faced Rovers in the semi-final at Headingley before the smallest semi-final crowd in the competition’s history, just 7,971. Leigh were well in the game until Rovers took control in the second half with tries by Bridges, Dyas, Smith and Mason to run out winners by 21-14. Tommy Davies and Denis Boyd scored Leigh’s tries and captain Jimmy Fiddler kicked four goals. Rovers lost 24-9 to Warrington in the final at Wembley.

In 1978 player-coach John Mantle led from the front as then second division Leigh put up a stern fight against Rovers in a first round tie at Hilton Park. But Paul Coventry scored three tries as Rovers ran out 23-14 winners before a crowd of 5,539. Dave Macko and Mantle scored tries for Leigh, who had Paul Grimes sent-off late in the first-half. Rovers lost to Leeds in the semi-final.

It was to be 25 years before the teams met again in the competition, Rovers defeating the Centurions 28-22 in a fourth round tie in 2003. In a game of six sin-binnings, four against Leigh, the visitors staged a late revival with tries by Dale Cardoza, David Aistead and Damian Munro but Rovers held out in an exciting finish. Danny Seal scored two of Rovers’ four tries, Stuart Dickens kicking five goals. Rovers lost to Swinton in the next round.

Leigh v Featherstone Rovers in the Challenge Cup
Played 9, Leigh won 3, Rovers won 6, Points: Leigh 115, Rovers 134.
1948 First Round (two legs):
Rovers 3 Leigh 18 (5,000); Leigh 10 Rovers 6 (10,000);
1952 Semi-Final (at Headingley):
Rovers 6 Leigh 2 (35,000);
1955 Third Round:
Leigh 9 Rovers 13 (20,000);
1957 First Round:
Leigh 17 Rovers 11 (12,000);
1962 Third Round:
Rovers 23 Leigh 9 (11,000);
1974 Semi-Final (at Headingley):
Rovers 21 Leigh 14 (7,971);
1978 First Round:
Leigh 14 Rovers 23 (5,539);
2003 Fourth Round:
Rovers 28 Leigh 22 (2,257)

Tommy Davies’ try in the 1974 semi-final
Leigh Centurions have confirmed that two more of their promising young players have committed their immediate futures to the Club by signing extended contracts until November 2016.

Halfback or hooker Lewis Foster and centre or second row Chris Hankinson, both aged 20, have both impressed for Paul Anderson’s Reserves side so far this season and the Coach has worked closely with Head of Rugby Derek Beaumont and the Centurions board to secure the duo on contracts.

The dual signings follows on from the similar recent new deals handed out to young Reserve team players Sam Baggaley, Frankie Halton and Sam Peet.

Commenting on the signings Anderson said: “I am very pleased that the Directors have again backed my judgement and in recent weeks we have now signed up five players who all have the potential to become good players for Leigh Centurions.

“Lewis played for St Helens Under-19s and has a big future ahead of him. He prefers playing nine but could easily become a seven over time. He had a great pre-season and featured well in the first-team pre-season friendlies.

“Chris is a Wigan lad who can play in the pack or three-quarters and could even become a prop. He is a versatile player and got a taste of first-team action when he made a try-scoring debut off the bench in the Tetley’s Challenge Cup-tie against Wigan St Pats.”

Meanwhile the Centurions will break new ground when their Reserves team fixture against Midlands Academy on Saturday 28 June will be played at Leigh RUFC’s Hand Lane ground (2-30pm).

The move marks the latest move in the Centurions’ bid to establish and develop links with the Community Clubs in the area, having already staged fixtures at Leigh Miners, Leigh East and Golborne Parkside ARL Clubs.

The staging of the game at Hand Lane forms an integral part of the “Leigh Centurions Community Partner Club Scheme” which was launched in November 2013, with the aim to take a series of Reserve team fixtures out on the road and to create a host of all-day family fun events.

Centurions Director Andy Mazey said: “This initiative further strengthens our relationships with our community partner clubs. It breaks new ground in that it includes the local rugby union club, with whom we have an excellent relationship.

“The game also enables us to further publicise the Centurions club and to give our Reserve team players the opportunity to play in front of a large and appreciative audience at a great venue. Our Reserve Team manager Don Boyle and Coach Paul Anderson have fully embraced this initiative and our stars of the future will be on show as part of what will be a great day of fun.

* On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Leigh RUFC for making this event possible and would urge as many of our loyal supporters to get down to what is a fine venue and enjoy the day.”
2008 - A high-scoring National League One game at Hilton Park, but the Centurions finished on the losing end of a 36-42 score-line against Halifax, despite leading 24-6 at half-time. David Alstead scored two tries for Leigh with Dave McConnell, Dennis Moran, Mike Wainwright and Chris Giles also going over. Ian Watson kicked five goals and Lee Marsh one. Chris Hill was sent-off for a high tackle on the half-hour. Future Centurions Sean Penkywicz (two tries) and Paul Smith (one) were among the Halifax try-scorers.

The Leigh side was: Moran; Giles, Thomas, Kohe-Love, Alstead; Marsh, Watson; Morrison, McConnell, Price, Taylor, Doran, Wainwright. Subs: Roberts, Smith, Hill, Hobson. The attendance was 2,212.

1997 - Leigh's fifth successive league win, 34-14 at home to York featured a brace of tries apiece by Paul Daniel and Dean Purtill with David Ingram and Jimmy Veikoso also crossing. Purtill added five goals, but the crowd was only 1,240.

1986 - Leigh had one of their hardest away games of the season on their way to the Second Division Championship, before defeating Doncaster 20-12. It was Leigh's 25th successive league win. Steve Halliwell took his tally for the season to 33 with two tries- he eventually scored a club record 49 tries. Des Drummond and Phil Fox also scored, Chris Johnson kicking five goals.

1980 - John Woods scored the only try of a hard fought and occasionally brutal Play-Off tie as Leigh beat Hull FC 8-0 before a crowd of 13,120. Woods’ try was a brilliant 90-yard solo effort early in the game. Duncan Scott added two goals and a late drop-goal. Leigh lost to Bradford Northern in the two-legged semi-final.

1973 - In the last season of one division Leigh finished in 13th place and visited Knowsley Road in the first round of the Top 16 Play-Off. St Helens won 29-14 before a crowd of 5,000 with Billy Melling and Frank Barrow scoring tries and Jimmy Fiddler kicking four goals. The game was marred by Leigh loose-forward Tony Barrow suffering a broken leg.

1969 - Leigh's season ended with an 11-9 Play-Off defeat at Derwen Park at the hands of Workington Town. David Ecker's converted try gave Leigh a 9-8 lead with five minutes remaining but Ian Wright scored an injury-time winner for Town in front of 3,663 spectators.

1964 - Leigh finished second in Division Two but as the RFL had decided to bring back one division for the following season their efforts went largely unrewarded. Mick Martyn celebrated the award of his Benefet cheque (£910) by scoring two tries to take his tally to 22 for the year, as Leigh wound up their campaign with a 21-7 home win over Champions Oldham (4,000).

1957 - Leigh's season had faded away with just two points in their last eight league games after the disappointment of a Challenge Cup semi-final replay defeat at the hands of Barrow. They finished 17th in the league and their final game was a 27-15 defeat at Warrington (8,000) after Leigh led 15-8 at one stage. But Bill Kindon was among the Leigh try-scorers, his 36th of a marvellous personal campaign- a new club record that lasted for 29 years.

1950 - Leigh finished sixth in the league, their best position for 26 years. Their season closed with a dour 6-2 success at Widnes, their eighth win in a row. Ted Kerwick and Jimmy Rowe scored their tries (9,000).
TO D AY’S G AM E
Good afternoon and welcome everyone to the fantastic Tetley’s Challenge Cup 5th round tie against Featherstone Rovers.

The Challenge Cup certainly holds some fantastic memories for both me personally when I was privileged enough to win it with Bradford Bulls back in 2003 and for the town of Leigh back in 1971, as not a day goes by when people stop me in the streets to talk about their experience at Wembley that memorable year. Our friends from Featherstone enjoyed Wembley success on three occasions in 1967, 1973 and 1983 which is a fantastic achievement.

Today it gives me great pleasure to welcome another new company to the Leigh Centurions family in Edgar Brothers, who are today’s Matchday Hosts. Edgar Brothers mastermind a highly successful calendar Hot Shots and contribute hugely to the “Help for Heroes” charity.

Hot Shots has risen from conception in early 2009 to become a true success story with a global following to match. Showcasing their gorgeous Hot Shots girls alongside some of the latest tactical kit, Hot Shots calendars have become a pin-up mainstay with serving Police and Military personnel as well as normal consumers, from all over the world. They proudly donate a percentage of each calendar sale to various war veteran charities including Help for Heroes. For more information please visit www.edgarbrothers.com.

Today’s ball sponsor is Atico’s Hair and Beauty. Gary Pollitt, who has run Atico’s so successfully for over 15 years, has been associated with the Club since starting in business and we truly thank him for his loyal support.

As a true indication that the club is growing from strength to strength I’m pleased to announce today that so is our backroom staff. We have appointed sales executive Amanda Lee, who will start with the club in May and she will be challenged with increasing our sponsorship sales and looking for new ways to generate extra income for the Club.

So if your business needs that extra advertising push or you are looking to entertain clients then please drop me an e-mail to rob.parker@leighrl.co.uk.

Be as loud as ever and enjoy the game.

Rob Parker
General Manager

LISA NEWS FROM LYNDA PIKE

LISA is an acronym for Leigh Independent Supporters Association, and as the name suggests is an Independent Supporters Group for the Leigh Centurions. LISA has been in existence for over 10 years, with the main goal of helping to finance new players to the club which is mainly achieved by members’ contributions.

Through generous contributions by LISA members and support by Leigh fans in general we have managed to help the club bring in players who would have not normally been signed. Please see the LISA Roll of Honour page on our website for the list of players the club have signed over the years with the help of LISA.

For the 2014 season LISA will be proudly sponsoring Tom Spencer.

The more members we have enables us Leigh fans to help make our great club the best it can be. It’s no coincidence that Leigh have been one of the most successful teams outside of Super League since LISA was formed.

COACH TO FEATHERSTONE
LISA will be running a coach to the away Kingstone Press Championship game v Featherstone Rovers on Sunday 4 May (3pm kick-off).

Pick up points are:
12.00 LSV ~ 12.05 St Mary's Way ~ 12.15 Atherton

COACH TO DEWSBURY
LISA will also be running a coach to the away Kingstone Press Championship game v Dewsbury Rams on Sunday 11 May (3pm kick-off).

Pick up points are:
12.15 LSV ~ 12.20 St Mary’s Way ~ 12.30 Atherton

Seats can be booked at the retail outlet on Leigh Market. For Featherstone the prices are £8.50 for members and £9.50 for non members. For Dewsbury it’s £8 for members and £9 for non members.

Thanks, Lynda
Seven Kingstone Press Championships clubs remain standing as we enter the last 16 of the Tetley’s Challenge Cup this weekend.

Leigh, Featherstone, Keighley, Swinton, Doncaster, Hunslet and Sheffield all have their own reasons to relish the challenges in front of them.

The pick of the ties, as far as the Championship goes, is undoubtedly at Leigh Sports Village, where the Centurions host Featherstone Rovers in a game many believe could be 2014’s Grand Final at this level.

Paul Rowley’s Centurions are now the only undefeated side in the professional game and will start as marginal favourites.

Featherstone have yet to fully hit their straps this season, but with a high turnover of players, an incoming coach in John Bastian, and a new style of play, that was always likely to take time.

There have been signs in recent weeks that they are beginning to gel, and the fact that they will be roared on by at least nine coach-loads of supporters will be a big boost.

It isn’t the only either all-Championship clash either – a fact that makes progression to the last eight even more enticing.

There will be at least two Championship clubs in the draw as Swinton Lions host Keighley Cougars on Saturday.

That will see a battle of the two player coaches in the competition in the shape of Ian Watson and Paul March, with both men integral to their respective side’s prospects.

Watson has done a terrific job in difficult circumstances after starting pre-season well behind his peers, while March has compiled a squad that should really make the play-offs in the Championship this year.

It should be a fascinating match – and the carrot of a major payday in the last eight is a big one for both clubs.

Elsewhere, that payday will come in Round Five for two other clubs in Doncaster and Hunslet, who have been drawn away at Warrington and Wigan respectively.

Both prudently-run clubs in recent years, those ties should ensure a financially stable 2014, as well as offer the Dons and Hawks players the chance to test themselves against some of Super League’s very best.

Last but not least, Sheffield Eagles travel to Castleford Tigers in a match that pits old friends Mark Aston and Daryl Powell against each other.

It finished one-all in Championship Grand Finals between the two, with Powell’s Featherstone winning in 2011 only to have that result reversed the following year.

This time Powell will start as strong favourite, but given the Tigers have been beaten by lower opposition twice in recent years – to Powell’s Featherstone plus Barrow – they should be fully on their guard for what should be an interesting clash.

Then the competition moves to the quarter-final stage. With at least two Championship sides in the last eight, that Challenge Cup magic is going to last a bit longer for clubs at this level of the sport.
LEIGH CENTURIONS
SQUAD & SPONSORS - 2014

1 GREGG MCNALLY
MARSTRUT

18 JAMIE ACTON
C S CIVILS AND GROUNDWORKS

4 TOM ARMSTRONG
JUNIOR CENTURIONS

23 JONATHAN FOWNALL
GRADA UK

5 ALEX BROWN
CORLETT ELECTRICAL

24 CRAIG BRISCOE
KRAMER AXA/BRIAN HILL FAMILY

7 RYAN BRIERLEY
O NEILLS

9 BOB BESWICK
ASK PLATT OFFICE SUPPLIES

19 MICK GOVIN
AB SUNDECKS

3 STUART LITTLER
MARSTRUT

20 ANDY THORNLEY
TOMMY SALE MBE

4 TOM ARMSTRONG
JUNIOR CENTURIONS

21 MATT GARDNER
LINIAR

8 TOM SPENCER
L.l.s.a.

25 MICHAEL OSTICK
LINIAR

3 STEVE MADEN
JMS INTERIORS

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HFL

29 JAKE IMMITT
EVANS HALSHAW

15 LIAM KAY
AB SUNDECKS

30 KURT HAGGERTY
E. EMBLETON & SON

16 MARTIN ASPINWALL
C & S TYRES UK

27 ANTHONY BATE
TAYLOR DRILLING

17 MATT GARDNER
LINIAR

13 SAM BARLOW
THE SHIELD GROUP

31 CAMERON PITMAN
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

10 OLIVER WILKES
PROF. BARRY DALE & MRS AUDREY DALE

28 JOE BULLOCK
FRUIT BAILEY DALE & MRS AUDREY DALE

11 MATTHEW SARSFIELD
PAM TIES

29 JAKE IMMITT
EVANS HALSHAW

12 TOMMY GOULDEN
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FRUIT BAILEY DALE & MRS AUDREY DALE

13 SAM BARLOW
THE SHIELD GROUP

31 CAMERON PITMAN
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SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2014
KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP
ROUND 11
CENTURIONS
V
DONCASTER
KICK-OFF 3.00 P.M.
SEASON TICKETS APPLY

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2014
KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP
ROUND 14
CENTURIONS
V
HALIFAX
KICK-OFF 3.00 P.M.
SEASON TICKETS APPLY

NEXT UP AT LSV

10 OLIVER WILKES
PROF. BARRY DALE & MRS AUDREY DALE

30 KURT HAGGERTY
E. EMBLETON & SON

14 SEAN PENKYWICZ
HFL

29 JAKE IMMITT
EVANS HALSHAW

15 LIAM KAY
AB SUNDECKS

28 JOE BULLOCK
FRUIT BAILEY DALE & MRS AUDREY DALE

16 MARTIN ASPINWALL
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27 ANTHONY BATE
TAYLOR DRILLING

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LINIAR

13 SAM BARLOW
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KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP
ROUND 14
CENTURIONS
V
HALIFAX
KICK-OFF 3.00 P.M.
SEASON TICKETS APPLY

www.leighcenturions.com
www.leighlife.com
www.leighcentre.com

28 THE CENTURION
29 THE CENTURION
Junior Centurions

WITH SHARON DILLON

JUNIOR CENTURIONS 2014
Junior Centurions now have 257 Junior members to date and this figure is increasing by the week.

TOM ARMSTRONG SHIRT SPONSORSHIP
Junior Centurions are proud to be shirt sponsor for Tom Armstrong in 2014.

JUNIOR LINKS
There are links to the Junior Centurions page on www.leighcenturions.co.uk and on www.leighlife.com for any news or information.
Follow @jncen on Twitter for the latest updates on the JC’s Club.

NEW MERCHANDISE
The picture shows our new merchandise, all of which is available at Leigh Retail.

April Birthdays
- Noah Bottomley 02/04/2012
- Ryan Morkmoon 03/04/2009
- Jazmine Sawyer 04/04/2007
- Leila Stringer 05/04/2003
- Travis Barrett 06/04/2008
- Leah Rowland 07/04/2009
- Lewis Boardman 07/04/2013
- Noah Lancelott 07/04/2003
- Sean Gallagher 10/04/2002
- Carrie Allison 12/04/2005
- Thomas Collins 12/04/2008
- Coby Fletcher 13/04/2002
- Ryan Calland 13/04/2003
- Emily Camm 14/04/2004
- Allan Gaskell 15/04/2004
- Shannon Jackson 17/04/2004
- Gabriel Backler 18/04/2007
- Abigail McCabe 20/04/2002
- Robert Sculthorpe 20/04/2002
- Alimee Garjil James 22/04/2007
- Josh Hitherall 22/04/2004
- Derelle Wildman 23/04/2006
- Matthew Bailey 24/04/2007
- Molly Barnes 25/04/2005
- Jack Ashworth 24/04/2004

Junior Links
There are links to the Junior Centurions page on www.leighcenturions.co.uk and on www.leighlife.com for any news or information.
Follow @jncen on Twitter for the latest updates on the JC’s Club.

New Merchandise
The picture shows our new merchandise, all of which is available at Leigh Retail.
Welcome to Astley Brook...

39 beautiful family homes now available.

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Buy now with just 5% deposit.

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A development of 39 homes built in a beautiful village setting...
STUART LITTLER

My Best characteristics
- Sense of humour
- Famous person I would hate to be stuck in a lift with and why
  Jamie Acton and Tom Spencer arguing over who knows more WWE wrestlers
- My most treasured item
  My family, especially my Son Caleb
- My hobbies
  I like to listen to fishing on the radio with Jonny Pownall
- Music I listen to
  A very eclectic mix (check my i-pad lol)
- Sport I like to watch
  All Sports – I am a Sports Nerd on the quiet
- Famous person I would most like to have dinner with & why
  Liam Gallagher, think it would be a good night and Oasis were immense
- Famous person I would hate to be stuck in a lift with and why
  Jamie Acton and Tom Spencer arguing over who knows more WWE wrestlers
- My best event at London 2012 would have been
  Gymnastics, due to my amazing flexibility
- Who I look up to
  - my Dad
- My Sporting hero
  - Eric Cantona
- My best event at London 2012 would have been
  Gymnastics, due to my amazing flexibility
- My motto in life
  Don’t die with the music in you

MY RUGBY LEAGUE DREAM TEAM

1. Billy Slater
2. Jason Robinson
3. Mal Meninga
4. Greg Inglis
5. Martin Offiah
6. Darren Lockyer
7. Andrew Johns
8. Adrian Morley
9. Cameron Smith
10. Sam Burgess
11. Sonny Bill Williams
12. Gorden Tallis
13. Ellery Hanley

Subs
- Andy Gregory, Jamie Peacock, Brad Fittler, Steve Renouf

Q&A

STUART LITTLET

Name: Stuart Littler
Date of Birth: 19 February 1979
Place of Birth: Billinge
Height: 6ft 3
Weight: 100kg
Chest size: 44"
Waist size: 35"
Boot size: 10
Eye colour: Brown

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## Facts & Stats

### Goal Kicking

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### TRY Tracker (Minutes)

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With thanks to Dave Parkinson
| No. | Month | Date | Opponents | F | A | FAV | Art | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 1   | Feb   | 16   | Batley     | bym | W | 5-2 | 1-4 | 2-19 | McNally | T | Little | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | Duffy | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 2   | 22   | Bari  | bym | T | 5-2 | 3-4 | 12-50 | McNally | T | Little | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | Duffy | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 3   | Mar   | 2    | Workington | bym | W | 5-3 | 0-4 | 20-86 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 4   | 9    | Workington | bym | W | 2-3 | 2-4 | 11-90 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 5   | 23   | North Wales | bym | W | 7-4 | 6-4 | 28-84 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 6   | 30   | Rochdale | bym | W | 3-4 | 2-4 | 17-56 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 7   | 6    | Rochdale (CC3) | bym | W | 3-4 | 2-4 | 17-56 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 8   | 13   | Halifax | bym | W | 3-4 | 2-4 | 17-56 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 9   | 20   | Halifax | bym | W | 3-4 | 2-4 | 17-56 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
| 10  | 27   | Halifax | bym | W | 3-4 | 2-4 | 17-56 | McNally | T | T | Armstrong | Brierley | Leff | Forbes | 55 | Barlow | Kay | 55 | Williams | Haggerty | Barratt | Betts  |
# Leigh Centurions Squad - 2014

**Head Coach - Paul Rowley**

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<th>No.</th>
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**Officials**

Referee: Mr. B. Thaler  
Touch Judges: Mr. P. Grundill, Mr. G. Jones  
Reserve: Mr. S. Ansell  
Match Commissioner: Mr. D. Asquith