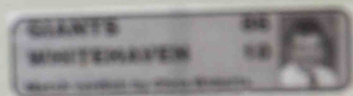


2002




and

2003





On the run! — in-form Giants full-back Paul Reilly, who proved elusive for much of the contest, bursts his way through the Oldham defence, leaving centre Gareth Barber clutching thin air and winger Joey Hayes struggling to keep up. In fact, all their efforts proved in vain as Reilly raced all the way to the line for a superb solo try
 Pictures by Paul Welch (0373561902)

OLDHAM GIANTS	30	
	32	
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts		



Reasons to be cheerful! — a delighted Earl Crabtree is congratulated by teammate Hefin O'Hare after scoring his try which helped open up a seemingly unassailable 26-8 lead by the 31st minute (0373561902)



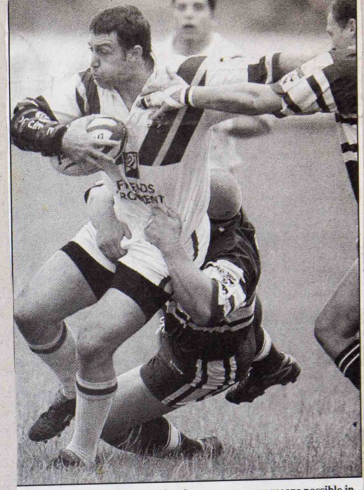
Tony Smith — focus fully on promotion

Smith signs deal


By CHRIS ROBERTS

TONY SMITH is ready to lead the Giants back into Super League as head coach!

The Australian yesterday ended weeks of speculation by signing a new one-year contract to remain in charge until the end of the 2003 season — as long as his side are back in the top flight.



Ouch! — Keighley prop Phil Stephenson uses every means possible in an attempt to stop opposite number Heath Cruickshank (0373561902)

KEIGHLEY GIANTS	10	
	34	
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts		





Unstoppable! — fit-again hooker Paul March, who has missed the last two games through tonsillitis, crashes through the despairing tackle of Keighley full-back James Rushforth to score the Giants' second try during their victory at Cougar Park. The score helped the visitors open up a 12-4 lead up a 12-4 lead up the slope. Pictures by Simon Morie (0373561919)

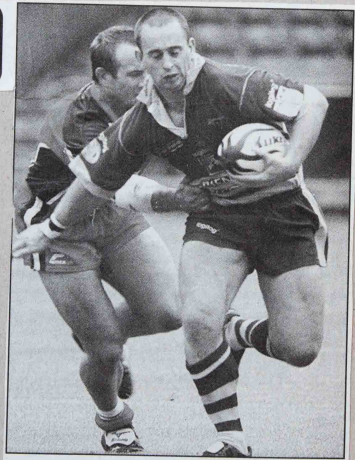
Magnificent masterclass

Leading from the front — Huddersfield Giants prop Mick Slicker takes on Hull KR duo Richie Hayes (No8) and hooker Mike Dixon during yesterday's McAlpine Stadium clash. The home side's pack, in which Slicker was again a major player, helped lay a solid foundation for the nine-try triumph. Pictures by Peter Coille. (08439-0420)

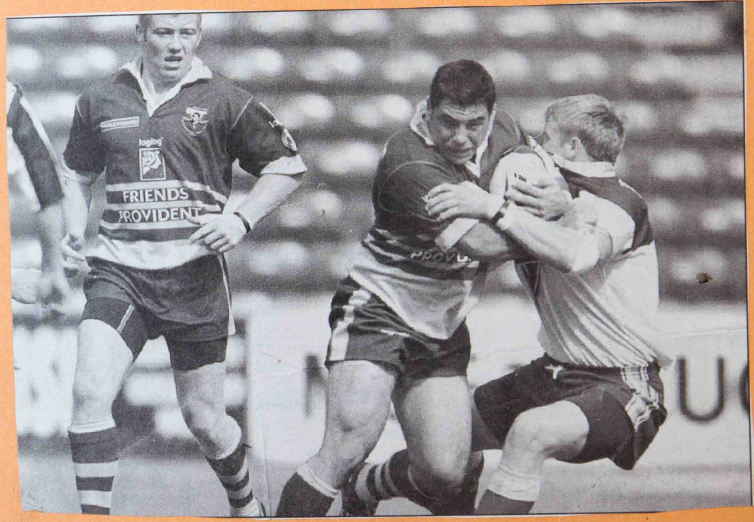


GIANTS	64	
BULLDOGS	4	
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts		

GIANTS	50	
HULL KR	16	
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts		



Captain Fantastic! — Giants skipper Steve McNamara beats his marker during an inspirational performance against Hull KR. (0843421/02)




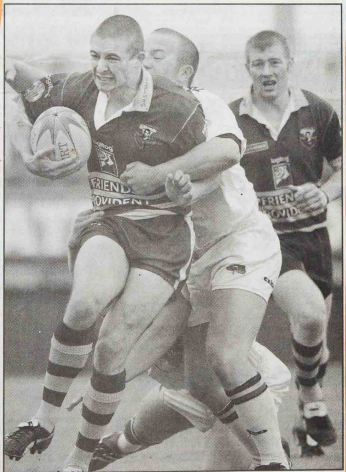


Down the line — Giants winger Hefin O'Hare races around the Gateshead defence as he embarks on a try-scoring run. The 24th-minute try was his side's third of the contest and signalled the end of Thunder's brave challenge

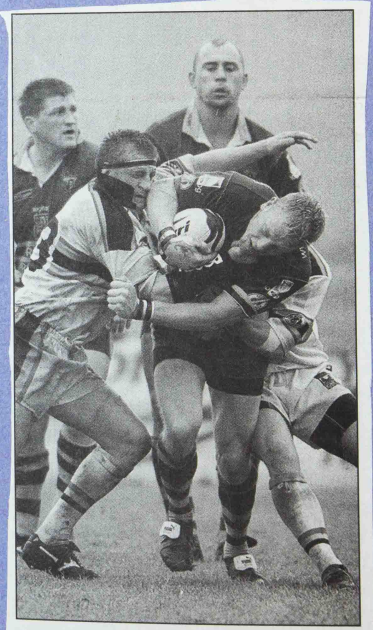


It's there! — referee Julian King is right on the spot to see Jeff Wittenberg plant the ball over despite the despairing challenge of Dewsbury full-back Jamie Benn as the Giants extend their lead at the start of the second half
 Pictures by Simon Morley
 (08/09/09)


GATESHEAD	16	
GIANTS	50	
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts		



Getting to grips — Giants half-back Chris Thorman is held by the spirited Gateshead Thunder defence during his side's 50-18 victory



Battling hard — Giants full-back Paul Reilly attempts to maintain the attacking momentum as Dewsbury duo Richard Slater and Paul Hicks try to keep him at bay
 (08/09/09)

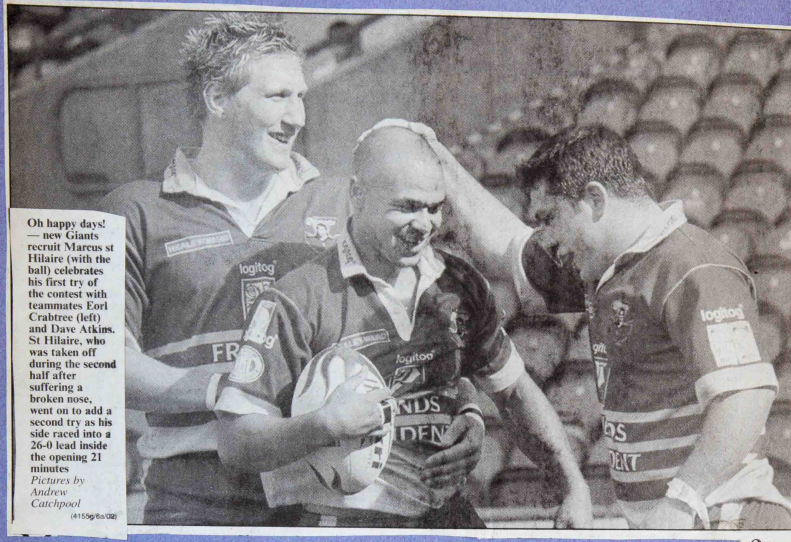
DEWSBURY	0	
GIANTS	22	
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts		

Heath Cruckshank



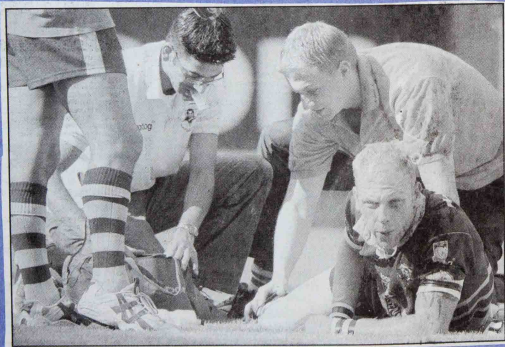


Record breakers



Oh happy days!
— new Giants recruit Marcus St Hilaire (with the ball) celebrates his first try of the contest with teammates Earl Crabtree (left) and Dave Atkins. St Hilaire, who was taken off during the second half after suffering a broken nose, went on to add a second try as his side raced into a 26-0 lead inside the opening 21 minutes
Pictures by Andrew Catchpool

(41159p/6a/02)




Sorry sight
— Giants full-back Paul Reilly looks away as the club's medical team treat the player after he suffered a suspected broken ankle in the 27th minute. Until that point he had been in excellent form

(4155h/11/02)



The legendary Team of All The Talents (top) are pictured with a clean sweep of the trophies during the season in which they won 23 consecutive matches, while this season's Huddersfield side (above) could beat that remarkable achievement with the expected victory over Batley at the McAlpine Stadium tomorrow

GIANTS 42
DEWSBURY RAMS 4
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts






We won the league... Giants captain Steve McNamara with the Northern Ford Premiership Championship trophy
Picture by Andy Catchpool (4155w/28w/02)

clinched second trophy

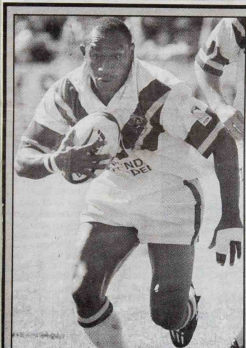
HUDDERSFIELD Giants completed the second part of a possible rugby league treble by collecting the Northern Ford Premiership League Championship trophy.

It was presented yesterday after they finished top of the table at the end of their game against Dewsbury.

With one match remaining at Sheffield on Sunday the Giants remain unbeaten in the League, with 25 wins and one draw from 26 matches.

They won the Buddies Cup in May and now set their sights on lifting the NFP Grand Final crown on October 12.

- Match — page 15
- Another record — Back Page



Stanley Gene — feeling confident

No Giant gamble for upbeat Gene!

STANLEY GENE has dismissed claims that he has taken a massive gamble to pledge his Super League future to the Giants.

With several options open to him, the 28-year-old could already be planning for a life back in the top-flight.

But instead, he has opted to sign a deal for next season that is dependent on the Giants returning to Super League.

That will not be

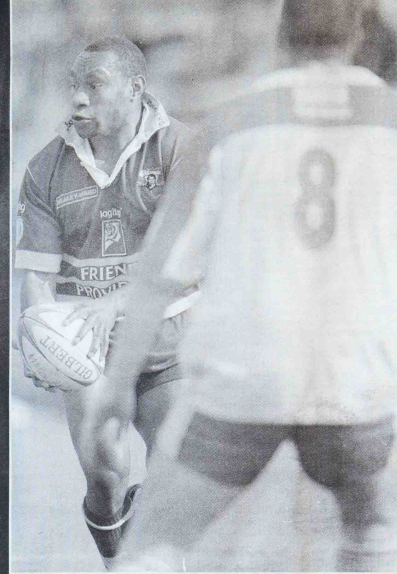
decided until after the NFP Grand Final at Widnes on October 12, should the Giants get there.

Yet Gene remains confident the Super League target will be achieved.

"Several other teams fancy their chances in a one-off game against us," said Gene.

"But when we play to our best, we kill teams, and the signs suggest that we'll be back to our best in time for the play-offs.

"I'm very confident things will go well."



■ **BACK IN THE GROOVE:** Giants stand-off Stanley Gene looks to set up an attack during his two-try return against the Eagles



■ **ON THE CHARGE:** Giants forward Rob Roberts prepares to take on Sheffield defenders Darren Callaghan (left) and Andy...

GIANTS	38
SHEFFIELD	18

Giant effort brings back the trophy

Huddersfield Giants have been crowned National League Cup champions.

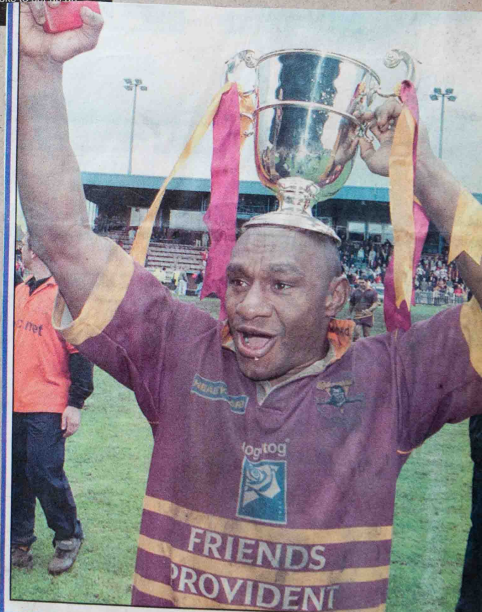
The town's high-flying professional rugby league team swept aside Hull KR 32-6 in the Buddies Cup final, to collect their first piece of silverware since lifting the Divisional Premiership trophy against Hull FC at Old Trafford in 1997.

The Giants also remain unbeaten in this season's Northern Ford Premiership competition and have set their sights on making a return to the elite Super League at the first attempt.

More than 2,500 Huddersfield supporters made the trip to Featherstone to watch their side.

And Giants favourite Stanley Gene is pictured proudly showing off the trophy after his side had been crowned the inaugural Buddies Cup champions.

● Cup of joy — Page 16 and back page (2419w/02)






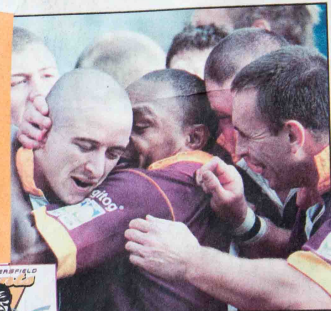
Giant delight — grounded Huddersfield captain Steve McNamara is pounced on by an equally happy Chris Thorman after McNamara had raced in for the Giants' second try in the semi-final triumph over Leigh Centurions. McNamara again led his side by example with a try and five goals to help book his team a trip to the Grand Final at Widnes on October 12. Picture by Andy Catchpool (453118a/02)



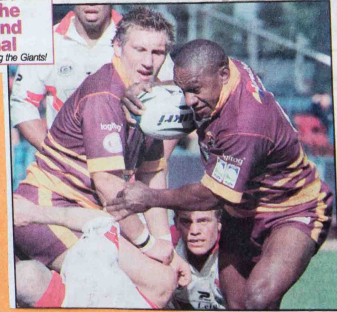
Time to celebrate — former Leigh favourite Heath Cruickshank is the first to congratulate Marcus St Hillaire after his first-half try, while in comparison Centurions winger Leon Fulton reflects the mood of his side. (4531175a/02)

GIANTS	36	
LEIGH	10	
Match verdict: by Chris Roberts		

Giants set sights on final glory



Key moments — delighted Giants players mob the shaven-headed Chris Thorman after scoring a try (above), while Stanley Gene prepares to race clear to score the opening touchdown. (453119/02 & 453114/02)





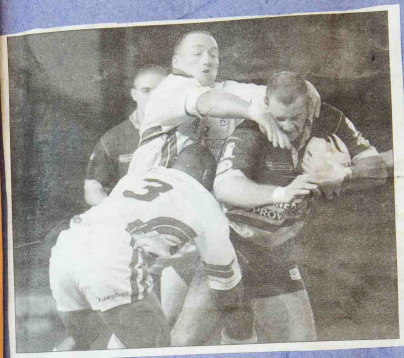
■ STAYING PUT: Steve McNamara has unfinished business at Huddersfield



Man on a mission — Giants' pocket battleship Dave Atkins is aiming to lead by example tomorrow



NFP Grand Final at Widnes
Giants 38 Centurions 16



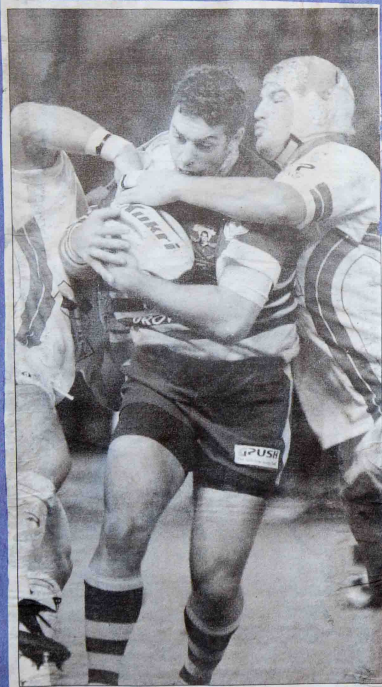
Huddersfield clinch Super League place



HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS 38 LEIGH 16

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: COOPER, O'HARE, CRABTREE, HALLAS, ST HILAIRE, GENE, THORMAN, SLICKER, MARCH, WITTEBERG, ATKINS, ROBERTS, MCNAMARA, SUBS CRUCKSHANK, MOLYNEUX, TURNER, RICE.
LEIGH CENTURIONS: TURLY, FELTON, CARDOZA, ROPER, MARNS, SWANN, GOULDING, MATAUTIA, ROWLEY, BRADBURY, BALDWIN, ISHERWOOD, BRISTOW, SUBS PRICE, DUFFY, HAMILTON, WHITTLE.

REFEREE: KARL KIRKPATRICK (WARRINGTON).



● LEFT: Huddersfield Giants forward Jeff Wittenberg tries to break through the Leigh Centurions defence in the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final.
 ● ABOVE: Huddersfield's Heath Cruickshank goes on the rampage as the Leigh defence converges towards him.
 PICTURES: DAN OXTORY

THE SEASON SO FAR

Dec	9 Doncaster	A	20-4
Dec	16 Sheffield	H	30-10
Dec	27 Featherstone	A	21-20
Jan	1 Keighley	H	66-0
Jan	6 Whitehaven	A	12-12
Jan	13 Barrow	H	36-12
Jan	20 Batley	A	34-2
Jan	27 Wath Brow (C Cup)	H	44-4
Feb	3 Hunslet	H	68-6
Feb	10 Doncaster (C Cup)	A	10-30
Feb	17 Swinton	A	48-4
Mar	3 Oldham	H	28-18
Mar	10 Hull KR	A	6-2
Mar	17 Rochdale	H	58-4
Mar	24 Leigh	A	37-4
Mar	29 Hunslet (LCC)	H	60-4
April	1 Batley (LCC)	A	20-12
April	7 Oldham (LCC)	H	44-16
April	14 Rochdale (LCC)	A	30-10
April	21 Dewsbury (LCC)	H	52-14
May	12 Oldham (quarter-final)	H	30-10
May	19 Doncaster (semi-final)	A	45-30
May	26 Hull KR (final)	N	32-6
May	29 Hunslet	A	40-0
June	9 Dewsbury	A	22-0
June	16 Chorley	H	76-12
June	23 Workington	A	54-12
June	30 Gateshead	H	50-10
July	7 Whitehaven	H	86-10
July	21 Swinton	H	54-10
July	28 Oldham	A	32-30
Aug	4 Keighley	A	34-10
Aug	11 Hull KR	H	50-16
Aug	18 Batley	H	64-4
Aug	25 Gateshead	A	50-18
Sept	1 Dewsbury	H	42-4
Sept	8 Sheffield	A	38-18
Sept	22 Leigh (NFB)	A	10-10

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL

Huddersfield Giants 38
 Giants: 1 - O'Hare 2, St Hilaire 2, Thorman, Gene,
 G - McNamara 7
 Centurions: T - Cardoza, Marns, Hamilton; G - Turley 2
 Half-time 14-10
 Played Saturday, Halifax Stadium, Wigan
 Att 9,051



O'Hare tries to shrug off the attentions of Leigh's Simon Baldwin. See report, centre pages

Huddersfield back in Super League



Party time! — Giants players celebrate a Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final final success and a place back in Super League which has been equally well received by the Huddersfield faithful



Champions 2002

Huddersfield Giants
 Northern Ford Premiership
 Champions 2002



'It's a Giant step forward'

HUDDERSFIELD Giants are today feeling on top of the world after winning a place back in British rugby league's elite competition.

The McAlpine Stadium club beat Leigh Centurions 38-16 in front of over 3,000 of their fans in the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final at Widnes on Saturday.

And the glittering prize for success is a place in

Fans' delight **Page 3**
Bright future **Back**
Match Repo. **14 and 15**

Super League next season, when the Giants look forward to welcoming the likes of Bradford, Leeds, Wigan and Helens to the McAlpine.

Huddersfield like their return after suffering flight from the top flight last season — with

delighted Giants' chairman Ken Davy predicting a much brighter future this time around.

"What we have achieved during this magnificent season will stand us in good stead for our return to Super League," he said.

"Our win over Leigh has crowned a remarkable season and I'm delighted that Super League will once again be played in the birthplace of rugby league.

"This is a fantastic time."



Time to celebrate — Dave Atkins proudly holds the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final trophy aloft after the end of a pulsating clash at the Hallam Stadium, much to the delight of Giants teammates Mick Slicker (left), Rob Roberts and coach Lee St Hillaire, while (inset) chairman Ken Davy salutes the Huddersfield faithful. Saturday's showdown, which the Giants won 38-16, was watched by 9,051, a Grand Final record. Pictures by Andrew Catchpool. (4887/53A/02)



Seeing job through is major aim



■ **TOP TEAM:** Budding coach Steve McNamara, left, believes he can benefit from continuing to work alongside Giants supremo Tony Smith, right. "I think everybody knows how highly I rate Tony Smith as a coach," said McNamara



That winning feeling... Huddersfield Giants' fans celebrate the team's return to Super League status

(48968/7/07)



Smith gets top award!

Giants in haul of honours

By CHRIS ROBERTS

TONY Smith has been rewarded for guiding Huddersfield to the brink of Super League promotion by picking up the Northern Ford Premiership Coach of the Year award.

The Giants' supremo, whose unbeaten minor League champions take on Leigh in Saturday's Grand Final at Widnes (6.15), received his award at a presentation dinner at Eiland Road.

Victory for Smith's Giants this weekend would equal Wigan's record winning run of 29 — with their 28 wins on the trot helping earn the McAlpine club the NFP Merit Award to mark outstanding services to the game and exceptional performance.

Giants scrum half Chris Thorman was named Players' Player of the Year, while teammates Paul Relfy, Hefin O'Hare and Steve McNamara, who was also nominated for the Player of the Year award, were named in the NFP Dream Team.

Smith and his players were all delighted to pick up their awards.

But the Australian immediately turned his attentions back to the main objective.

"I'm honoured and delighted to pick up this award," said Smith.



"But my players and myself would gladly swap it for a win on Saturday!"

"From day one, winning the Grand Final has been our sole objective; picking up accolades along the way is just a bonus."

The Giants are continuing their countdown to the Grand Final by holding a panel night at the McAlpine tomorrow night (7.30).

Guests include Brandon Costin and Sky TV's Eddie Hemmings.

The Grand Final Draw also takes place, with tickets needing to reach the club offices by 5.00pm tonight.

● Former Giants to lead Leigh charge — Page 20.



Top honours — Robert Ruffler of sponsors Northern Ford presents the Coach of the Year award to Tony Smith (top left) and the Merit Award to Giants chairman Ken Day (top right), Paul Relfy (left), Hefin O'Hare (centre) and Steve McNamara were named in the Dream Team



The NFP Roll of honour

Players' Player of the Year: Chris Thorman (Huddersfield).
 Young Player of the Year: Johnny Woodcock (Doncaster).
 Coach of the Year: Tony Smith (Huddersfield).
 Referee of the Year: Colin Morris (Huddersfield).
 Club of the Year: Batley Bulldogs.

NFP Merit Award: Huddersfield

Player of the Year: Glen Tomlinson (Batley).
 Dream team: Relfy (Huddersfield), O'Hare (Huddersfield), Calland (Rochdale), Beverley (Barrow), Powell (Hunslet), Tomkinson (Batley), Rooney (Featherston), Moley (Criccieth), Rowley (Leigh), Hay (Hall KR), Isherwood (Leigh), Smith (Pichead), McNamara (Huddersfield).

By CHRIS ROBERTS

DELIGHTED Giants chief executive **Ralph Rimmer** believes he is building a squad full of winners.

Besides holding on to the nucleus of the team that secured record-breaking NFP Grand Final glory for Huddersfield last season, Rimmer has snapped up new overseas players who have demonstrated a genuine hunger for success.

The returning Brandon Costin comes back to the McAlpine after helping Bradford Bulls reach the Super League Grand Final, while latest recruit Jarrod O'Doherty and Julian Bailey both tasted a great deal of success with 2001 Australian champions Newcastle Knights.

Huddersfield have, of course, also signed up Jim Gannon and Anthony Colella - players who have shown with Halifax and South Sydney respectively that they hate losing.

And Rimmer believes this type of winning mentality bodes well for his club as the Giants prepare for a Super League return.

"There are a lot of things to consider when you invest in overseas players," explained Rimmer.

"It's a decision you can't afford to take lightly, and I can assure everyone that a great deal of time and effort has gone in to making

sure we recruit the players we believe are right for Huddersfield Giants.

"And primarily what we have done is gone for players who we believe have demonstrated a winning mentality.

"They are players who go onto the field with the sole purpose of winning games, not simply to compete.

"They are men who are prepared to go that extra yard when it really matters.

"Both our head coach, Tony Smith, and myself firmly believe that all live of our overseas players possess those qualities."

O'Doherty fills the Giants' final overseas slot, coming in to replace Ivan Cleary, who has announced his retirement to take up a coaching position at Sydney City Roosters.

Although Huddersfield appear to have wasted little time filling the Cleary gap, Rimmer admits that the 25-year-old back-row forward has been tracked by his club for some time.

"Tony spoke with Jarrod some months ago and he was a player we always had in mind," added the Giants chief.

"Fortunately, we were now in a position to follow the deal through and both sides are delighted about that."

"That's why the negotiations went so smoothly. We already knew he had the requirements we were looking for.

"Besides possessing the winning mentality,

GIANTS SQUAD SO FAR



THE GIANTS SUPERLEAGUE VIII SQUAD

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STEVE MCNAMARA
Hudders Bakers & Confectioners



JARROD O'DOHERTY
Marsh House and the Cullaghan's



HEFFIN O'HARE
Howard L. Matthewman



PAUL REILLY
Farcom Flynn



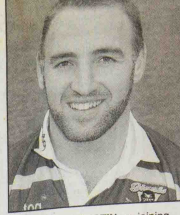
MICK SLICKER
Geoff & Richard



MARCUS ST HILAIRE
The Huddersfield Examiner



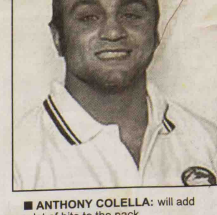
DARREN TURNER
Sue Adams



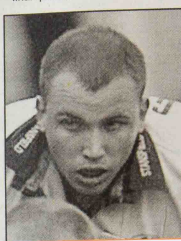
BRANDON COSTIN: re-joining from Bradford Bulls



JARROD O'DOHERTY: a good final quota man for Giants



ANTHONY COLELLA: will add a lot of bite to the pack



Jarrod is versatile and has a high degree of toughness.

"Those are other qualities that Tony likes in a player - qualities that Tony believes are vital to guarantee success in Super League.

"And I would definitely go along with that."

"We've already got over the disappointment of losing Ivan Cleary and are continuing to work in a very positive manner."

"I genuinely believe that by the time we have finished our recruitment drive we will have a stronger squad than the one that originally included Ivan."

As well as recruiting a senior squad, Giants officials are also in the process of signing up players for the Senior and Junior Academy set-up.

Development manager is well on the way to finalising contracted juniors, and is recruit more top local players.



JEFF WITTENBERG
K.P. Motor Engineers



MATTHEW WHITAKER
Marshall Woodridge



PAUL WHITE
7 L



DARREN FLEARY
The Ripewick



PHILIP JOSEPH
Pat & Tony Wilkinson



JONATHAN GRAYSON
Gareth Stephenson



TONY SMITH
Rocar Moores



JASON DAVIDSON
Trevor Kaye



LEE ST HILAIRE
Integrated Information Techniques



STEVE MOSLIN
The Burhouse Family



TREVOR COMMONS
G-Push



MARTIN HIGGINS
Dave Heaton



STEVE DEAKIN
Mark Westvill, Dave Blacker



BRIAN MCDERMOTT
Despachos UK



FRANK DOYLE
Armitage Arms

GIANTS AGAINST RACISM

Rugby League is a family sport. Its spectators have earned the reputation of being the fairest and best behaved in any sport. There is no place in our game for racism in any shape or form. Please do not use racist language or chants at our matches.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

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Tony Lloyd



Giants

Squad numbers season 2003

1



PAUL REILLY

Huddersfield-born full-back who started his career with Moldgreen as a junior. A popular figure with the fans, Reilly is one of the best full backs around. His aggressive defensive and attacking game makes him a threat to any opposition.

Height 6'1; Weight 95kg; DOB 10.5.76.

2



HEFFIN O'HARE

O'Hare hails from Wrexham where he played rugby union. His pace and elusive running are his star qualities and he finished last season as the NFP's top try scorer. He also scored a try for Wales in last year's game against New Zealand.

Height 5'10; Weight 80kg; DOB 2.6.79

3



BEN COOPER

Cooper is still only 23 and made his mark last season as a centre. A hard-hitting solid player, he is equally at home in the full-back position. As the Giants enter Super League again Cooper looks to have a big future in the game.

Height 6'; Weight 87kg; DOB 8.10.79.

4



JULIAN BAILEY

A close-season signing from Newcastle Knights, the Australian is a strong running centre with great hands who is equally at home in defence. He arrives with a big reputation and is looking to make a positive impact in Super League.

Height 6'1; Weight 83kg; DOB 17.11.78.

5



MATTHEW WHITTAKER

Still only 20, Whittaker is a giant winger at 6ft 4in and 105kg. Signed as a junior from West Bowling, he adds physical presence to the back line, with the ability to switch on a bright future. A young player with a bright future.

Height 6'4; Weight 105kg; DOB 6.3.82.

6



BRANDON COSTIN

A returning Giant after his successful spell at the Bradford Bulls where he appeared in last season's Super League Grand Final. The Australian goalkicker brings bags of experience, as well as his skill and versatility as a player.

Height 6'; Weight 98kg; DOB 23.6.74.

7



JARROD O'DOHERTY

Another close-season signing from the Newcastle Knights. O'Doherty has represented the Australian schoolboys and is a hard working forward who adds aggression to the pack and is a real grafter. He will be a key figure this year.

Height 5'11; Weight 96kg; DOB 16.9.77.

8



MICK SLICKER

Slicker is a strong running forward who can make the 'big hits' in defence. Still only 24, he made a big impression last year in the NFP and hopes to carry his success into Super League. He is also a member of the Ireland Squad.

Height 6'2; Weight 101kg; DOB 16.8.78.

9



PAUL MARCH

Paul is a young scrum half and an intelligent reader of the game with bags of enthusiasm. A reliable defender Paul is equally at home in the hooking position and his versatility makes him a key member of the Giants squad.

Height 5'10; Weight 83kg; DOB 25.7.79.

10



JIM GANNON

Australian-born Gannon is a close season signing from local rivals Halifax who he joined from the Newcastle area in 1988. A strong, hard-tackling forward who always gives 100% from start to finish and is equally at home at prop or second row.

Height 6'3; Weight 107kg; DOB 16.6.77.

11



EORL CRABTREE

Crabtree is a giant of a player who can play in the second row, prop or centre position. A prolific try scorer last season and still only 20 years of age. A local lad who signed from amateur side Underbank, he is a player with a massive future.

Height 6'5; Weight 121kg; DOB 2.10.82.

12



ANTHONY COLELLA

A close-season signing from South Sydney, Colella is a second row forward who plays with plenty of passion and his defence is a key strength to his game. In attack he is a strong runner and displays straight above his size.

Height 5'9; Weight 93kg; DOB 12.7.73.

13



STEVE McNAMARA

Former Hull, Bradford and Wakefield player who has represented England and Great Britain. The Giants captain and first choice in intelligence of the game whose experience will be vital.

Height 6'; Weight 95kg; DOB 18.9.71.

15



DARREN TURNER

'Rocky' Turner is in the middle of a transitional year with the club. A fiery hooker who is a threat to any team and whose defence is second to none. His work ethic on the pitch will be crucial to making the Giants pack a formidable force.

Height 5'10; Weight 94kg; DOB 13.10.73.

20



MATT CALLAND

A close-season signing from Rochdale Hornets where he made the NFP 2002 dream team and has former Super League experience with the Bradford Bulls. As solid as a rock in defence, his style of play makes him a real danger.

Height 6'; Weight 98kg; DOB 20.8.71.

21



PAUL WHITE

White has previously represented BARLA Great Britain U-18s and his impressive form with the U-19s earned him his debut against Gateshead Thunder last year, which he marked with a try. A skilful, pacy player who has an eye for the gap.

Height 6'; Weight 70kg; DOB 7.12.82.

25



DARREN FEARY

A local lad who has played at the highest level with Leeds, Yorkshire, England and Great Britain. Signed from the Rhinos in the close season, Feary is an experienced 30-year-old prop forward who his hard in defence and runs strong in attack.

Height 5'10; Weight 102kg; DOB 2.12.72.

26



JAMIE BLOEM

Unfortunately, the South African international suffered a broken leg in the pre-season clash against Leeds Rhinos. The 30-year-old is noted for his aggressive style of play and when he returns in April will fill a variety of roles on the field.

Height 6'1; Weight 94kg; DOB 26.5.71.

32



JEFF WITTENBERG

A key figure in the Giants NFP squad last year, the experienced Australian's physical dominance on the pitch makes him a tough forward to play against. A solid reliable player whose front-row know-how will be vital to the Giants this year.

Height 6'3; Weight 111kg; DOB 19.3.73.

33



STANLEY GENE

A Papua New Guinea international who is a crowd favourite at the McAlpine. Recently returned from the World Sevens in Australia, Gene is a handful for any defence. A strong, quick player who has the ability to create the openings.

Height 5'6; Weight 85kg; DOB 11.5.74.

34



MARCUS ST HILAIRE

Signed last season from the Leeds Rhinos, St Hilaire has just returned from the World Sevens in Australia where he represented England. A deceptively quick back, the Huddersfield-born player is a proven finisher and looking to make a big impact.

Height 5'10; Weight 85kg; DOB 26.1.77.

crash out in Cup shocker



Hunslet 18

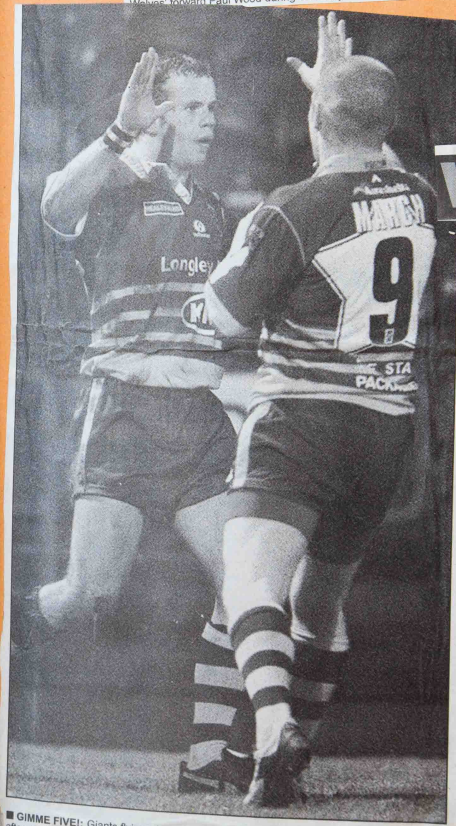
Giants 14



■ HUNCH TIME: Giants second-rower Jim Gannon is halted in his tracks by Hunslet forwards Paul Seal (No13) and Danny Fearon



■ GOING NOWHERE: Giants duo Steve McNamara (left) and Eorl Crabtree join forces to halt Warrington Wolves' forward Paul Wood during Saturday's McAlpine clash



Giants 8

Wolves 20

■ GIMME FIVE! Giants flying winger Hefin O'Hare is congratulated by hooker Paul March after scoring Huddersfield's first try back in Super League

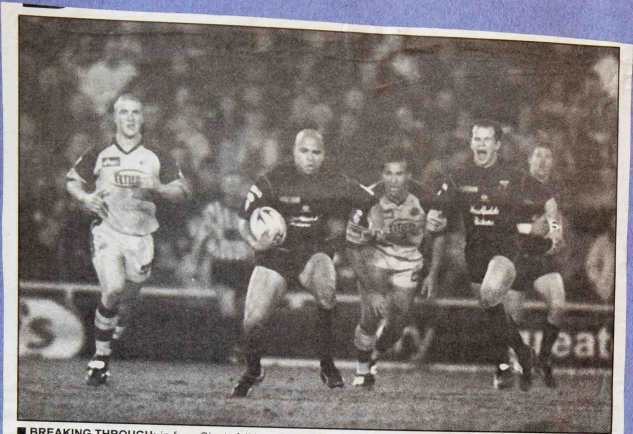


Huddersfield Vs Warrington Wolves

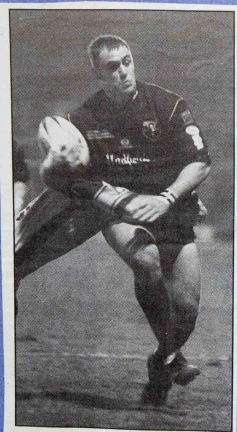
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Examiner

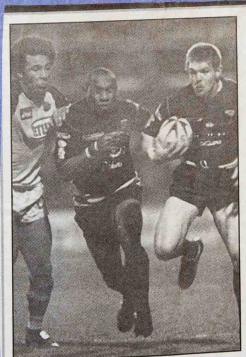
Includes colour
GIANTS poster



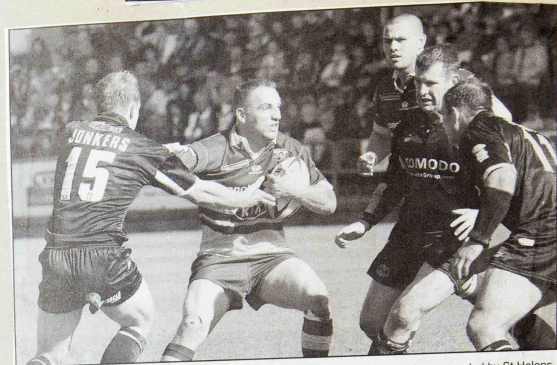
■ **BREAKING THROUGH:** in-form Giants full-back Marcus St Hilaire breaks clear of the Leeds Rhinos defence to set up a break for his side, with Hefin O'Hare providing vocal support (1277/0/03)



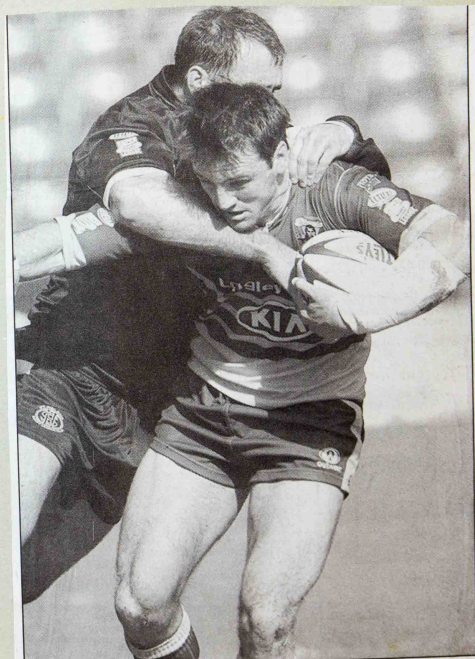
■ **MAGICAL MOMENT:** Alex Wilkinson powers towards the Leeds line on his way to scoring the Giants second try which helped make it 16-8 (1277/0/03)



■ **SUPPORTING ACT:** fit-again Stanley Gene follows a break by Ben Cooper during his successful return top action at Leeds Rhinos (1277/1/03)



■ **SIGNS OF AGGRESSION:** determined Giants acting captain Brandon Costin is surrounded by St Helens trio Tim Jonkers, Darren Britt and Chris Joynt, with Mick Slicker watching on (1422/2/03)



■ **ALL WRAPPED UP:** in-form Giants centre Julian Bailey, who grabbed a vital second-half try, is halted by Saints skipper Chris Joynt (1422/8/03)

SO Proud Day salutes Giants

'TIME TO BUILD ON MAGNIFICENT WIN'

By CHRIS ROBERTS

OVERJOYED Huddersfield Giants chairman Ken Davy today admitted yesterday's stunning 36-22 Super League victory over reigning champions St Helens will go down as one of his proudest moments in rugby league.

His side's thoroughly-deserved triumph rates as one of the biggest shocks in Super League's eight-year history.

It was also his club's first win of the season after defeats in their opening three games.

But a delighted Mr Davy believes the stunning nature of this win over the reigning Super League champions has helped erase the memory of the earlier setbacks.

And he believes it could act as the launchpad for even greater times. "This has to be one of the finest victories that the claret and gold has achieved for many, many years," he said.

"I really am proud of each and everyone of those players who were out there yesterday.

"We have a very special group of people working at this club, both on and off the field, and it is a credit to them that this win was possible.

"Beating the reigning Super League champions at home is without doubt a very proud moment for me as chairman of this famous club.

"And I also think it was fitting that such a fine win was achieved



the day we held a minute's silence for Russ Penryrell, who led us to victory over St Helens in the 1953 Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

"I just hope that a win like yesterday's can help set us on the way back to such former glories."

"It's obviously important that we don't get too carried away after just one win, albeit against St Helens, because there are some very tough matches ahead.

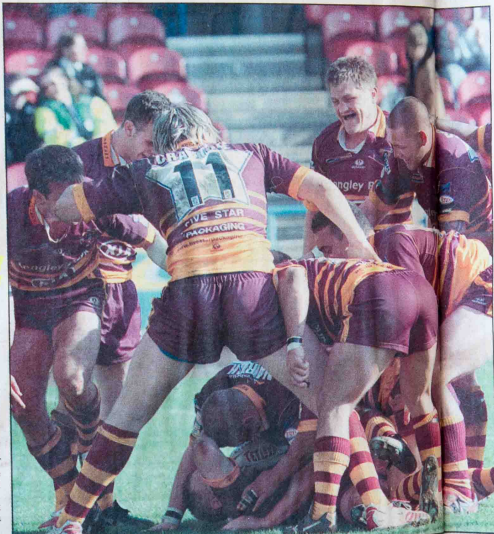
"But under Tony Smith I believe we have the right coach to continue to take us forward and build on this magnificent achievement."

What made yesterday's win even more notable was that it was secured without the services of influential captain Steve McNamara, who was struggling all week with a knee injury.

Smith also decided not to risk Jamie Bloem, who suffered a broken ankle two months ago.

Both men could be back for Sunday's trip to Wakefield when the Giants will obviously be looking to build on this memorable triumph.

chris.roberts@examimer.co.uk

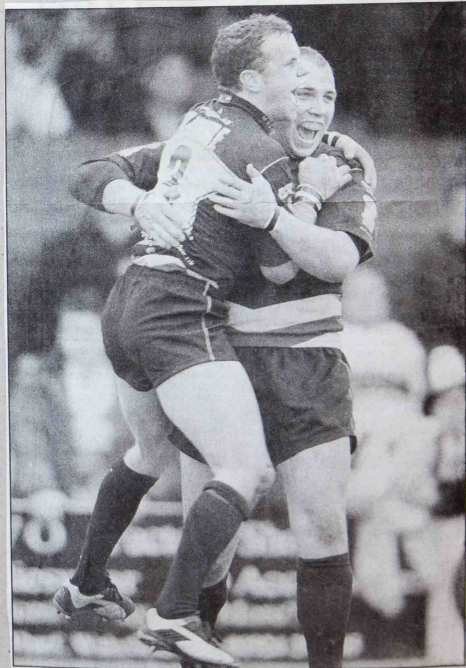


■ DREAM TIME! a mass of delighted Huddersfield Giants players swamp Brandon Costin of the inspirational stand-off had scored his last-minute try to seal a stunning 36-22 triumph over reigning Super League champions St Helens at the McAlpine Stadium yesterday. Picture by Peter Cattle (142191/16/03)

Giants 14



■ BREAKING FREE! exciting Giants centre Julian Bailey breaks clear of the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats defence, with Brandon Costin in support and Ian Knott giving chase. Picture by Paul Welch (156185/03)

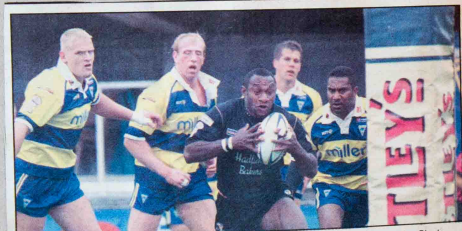




■ **GET IN THERE!** inspirational Giants hooker Darren Turner celebrates the scoring of his try which helped bring Huddersfield back into the contest at 23-10. That signalled a thrilling final quarter of the match



■ **GIANTS JOY:** Huddersfield's players gather to celebrate Darren Turner's try during his side's superb second-half fightback at Wigan. From left: Brandon Costin, Jim Gannon, Turner, Paul March, Anthony Colella, Marcus St Hilaire and Erol Crabtree



■ **MAIN MAN:** the pressure will now be on Stanley Gene to score more tries for the Giants — starting tomorrow with the McAlpine derby against Wakefield Trinity Wildcats



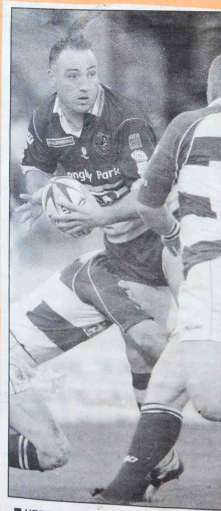
■ **THE EYES HAVE IT:** the excellent Brandon Costin, who again led his side's attack by example, is a model of defensive technique as he prevents another attack during last night's excellent encounter

CLINCHER!

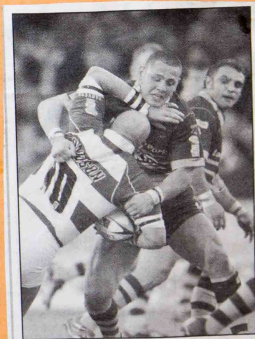


■ **BURSTING THROUGH:** lively Giants loose forward Stanley Gene escapes the clutches of former Huddersfield teammate Andrew Frew (right) and outpaces fellow ex Giants colleague Heath Cruckshank (left) during last night's game

Halifax . . . 20

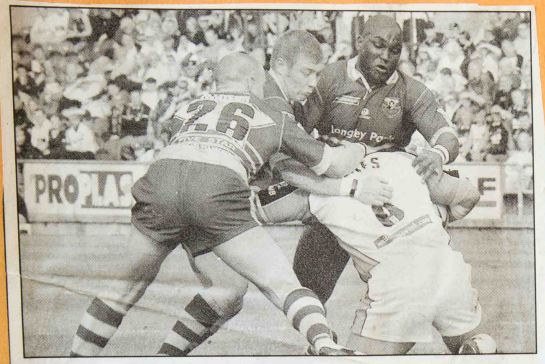


■ **HERO OF THE HOUR:** inspirational Giants half-back Brandon Costin looks to set up another attack during last night's Super League clash at The Shay. But it was the Australian's last-minute drop goal to seal a 21-20 triumph which proved to be his major contribution to the contest

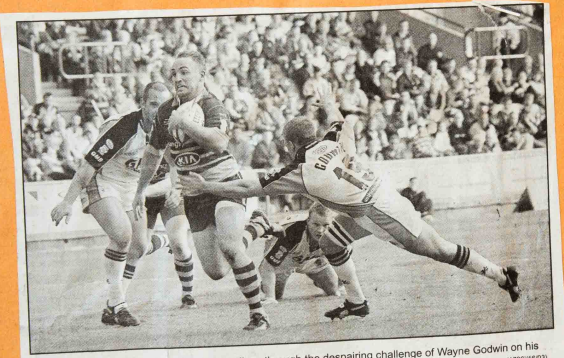
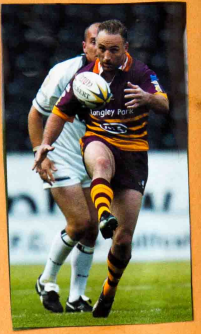


■ **THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!** Mick Slicker adopts a copybook approach to halt Paul Davidson, but Halifax coach Tony Anderson has criticised the Giants' defensive technique

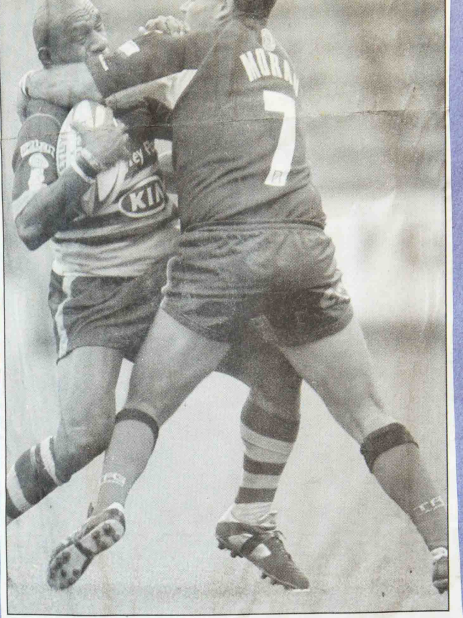
Giants 16 Tigers 29



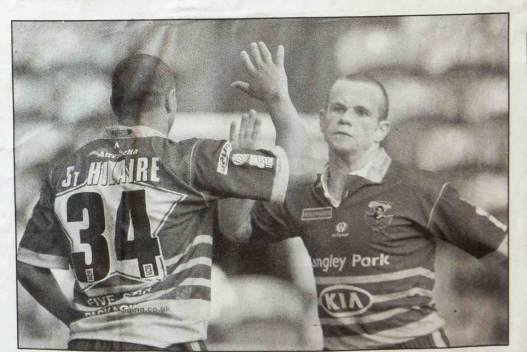
■ **GOING DOWN:** Giants trio (from left): Jamie Bloem, Paul March and Darren Fleary make sure that Castleford's Huddersfield-born prop Nathan Sykes is going nowhere (1796/10/03)



■ **RACING THROUGH:** Brandon Costin slices through the despairing challenge of Wayne Godwin on his way to helping set up Jamie Bloem for his try at the start of the second half (1789/16/03)



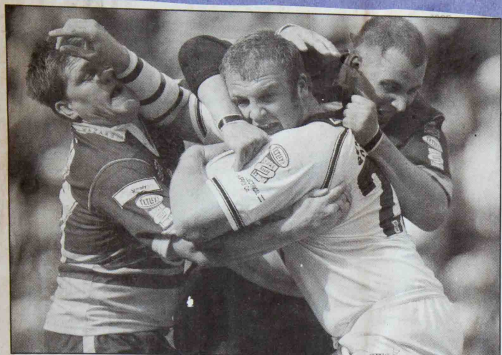
■ **OH NO YOU DON'T:** London scrum half Dennis Moran makes sure Giants star Stanley Gene is unable to make further progress (2009/3/03)



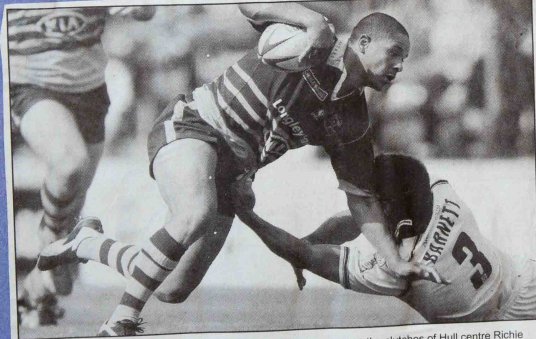
■ **GIMME FIVE!** Marcus St Hilaire and Hefin O'Hare congratulate each other after they had combined to enable St Hilaire to score the try of the game (2009/2/03)

Giants 22 Broncos 30

Vikings 42 Giants 30



■ **TAKING NO PRISONERS:** Giants forwards Darren Turner (left) and Jim Gannon halt the progress of Hull prop Gareth Carwell



■ **BREAKING THROUGH:** Giants full-back Marcus St Hilaire escapes the clutches of Hull centre Richie Barnett as he attempts to set up a Huddersfield attack

Hull 34 Giants 6

Double trouble for shirty March dad

By Charlotte Parker

DIVIDED loyalties when it came to the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats v Huddersfield Giants derby last month saw one father solve the problem by having a special shirt made for him. Chris March on Sunday April 6 at Belle Vue saw sons Paul and David make rugby league history when they were the first set of twins to go head to head in the Telly's Super League.

With the normal goings on between sets of twins, ie looking alike, sounding alike and wearing the same clothes, the March boys also run out in the number nine shirt and they both started their professional careers with Wakefield.

Chris, who has watched the twins come through the amateur ranks at Thornhill Trojans, wondered for weeks in advance of the game how he would react when seeing the two lads in opposition, so he opted to support both and cheer them each time they were in possession and made a great tackle.

The shirt, apart from an airing for League Weekly, is now on a hanger in the wardrobe ready for the next time the Wildcats and Giants meet on June 15 and August 24 at the McAlpine Stadium.

Chris, who never played rugby himself and has always enjoyed watching Leeds United, had the shirt made by a very kind lady by the name of Jean from Huddersfield.

Dad, and mum Janet, are hoping that he gets plenty more opportunities to watch his sons go head to head as both clubs aim for a more successful Super League season.

David, married in November 2001 to Corina and has a 6 month old son called George, has just signed another two-year deal with the Wildcats which will take him to his testimonial with the club.

Brother Paul's number one fans are his friend Jessica.

Paul has another 18 months left on his contract at the Giants and is very pleased so far with the progress they are making.

"We have started pretty well, it was a bit disappointing in the opening game against Warrington but we are improving week in week out. I know David is looking for a better season at Wakefield and I think that Vue this time."

Salmon is ready

PAUL SALMON, the England A squad member and former Barrow full-back who had his contract cancelled by mutual consent at



Paul, dad Chris and David ... Marching on together

Witness in November without even playing a game, has moved in to halls of residence at Manchester University to begin a three year course on nursing and social work.

The 22-year-old however is almost ready to make his bow back in the game and Barrow coach Cameron Bell wanted him against Salford City Reds yesterday in the Arriva Trains quarter final.

"I think Cameron was pushing it a bit but after I have trained with them this coming Friday night when I return home for the weekend, then I will probably be one week off my comeback," enlightened Salmon.

My ankle is fine now, but while working on the upper body I still need some more work in my legs.

It's murder watching, I just want to be out there, but I don't want to go back in under cooked.

"I feel I can help Barrow work towards a promotion spot but in saying that I haven't put pen to paper with them as yet," he added.

MX9s to be staged

The London Skolars will host a high-profile 9-a-side rugby league tournament in early July.

This will be one event in a week long jamboree of rugby league. The Harrogate Council MX9s, (Middlesex Nines) a sister tournament of the York International 8s, will be played at the New River Stadium on White Hart Lane, Wood Green on Sunday July 6, will feature 16 teams from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Invites to great rugby league sides and guest invites to high profile rugby union clubs will make this a unique event.

The tournament will be organised by offi-

cials of the York tournament and the London Skolars and will be the second 9-a-side tournament to become part of the European 9-a-side circuit.

The 16 team tournament will follow the format of last year's tournament in York and will see a development initiative for rugby league teams in the south of England.

The MX9s is supported by Harrogate Council, who have worked closely with the Skolars since their move to New River Stadium in 1997.

It is aimed that in future years, the MX9s will become an annual event to rival the Middlesex Sevens and attract teams from all over the world and will become part of the European 9s circuit.

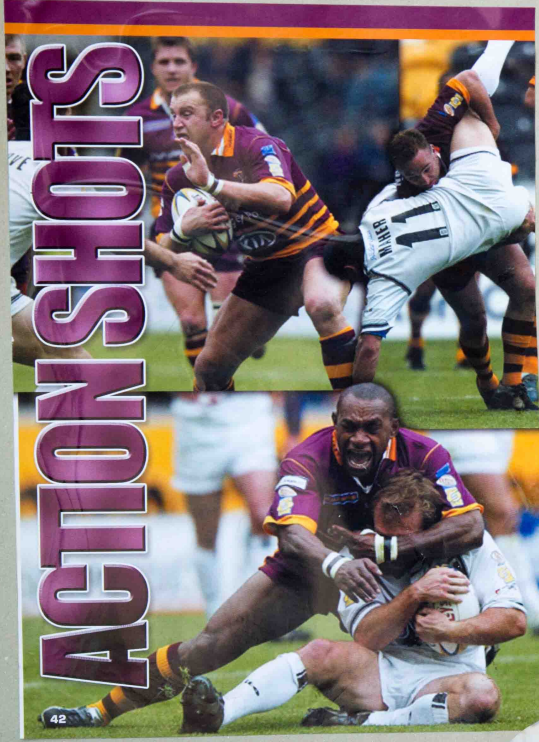
Applications are invited from suitable, established teams to compete.

Hector McNeil, chairman of the London Skolars Rugby League club, who will be hosting the event said: "The staging of this high-profile tournament is a major part of the Skolars' strategy to bring major rugby league events to North London.

"We are confident that the MX9s will grow to be a high-profile as the York 9s in future years and be an integral part of the European Federation strategy to grow and develop the game in Europe."

On the evening of Friday July 4 the inaugural 'Capital Challenge' will be held as a match up between representative teams from Dublin and London.

This will be a great curtain raiser to the MX9s. It will be preceded by a corporate dinner and healthy crowds for all the events are expected. McNeil said "London has never had such a great opportunity to show case such great rugby league events. The Skolars are very proud to be part of such ventures."



ACTION SHOTS

42



Giants primed to charge

By CHRIS ROBERTS

GIANTS coach Tony Smith today predicts his players through their paces in the opening Super League clash against Bradford Bulls (6.30) and declared: "We'll be ready and waiting!"

One-day Bradford Bulls, Huddersfield's Wilkinson — he picked up a hip injury at the end of last season — Smith from drawing up his final battle plan for his side's biggest home game of the season.

But the eager Australian is confident his

team will be ready to meet the challenge of a Bradford side who are unbeaten in their last five home games.

"It's the chance to play the likes of Bradford Bulls that makes me think the work of last season in the SPL was worth it," said Smith. "It's every player's aim to test themselves against the very best."

"But we won't be daunted. The team has applied themselves excellently in training all the time and they're really looking forward to the challenge."

"We'll obviously be going into action



without Steve McNamara, who's recovering from minor knee surgery, and will be giving late fitness test to Alex Wilson. "I'm confident in my faith that we'll be up for the challenge."

Smith will delay naming his substitutes until the team has had a possible debut.

So far, the Bulls will face a special article from chairman Ken Doo, outlining his involvement in plans to rescue cash-strapped Huddersfield Town.

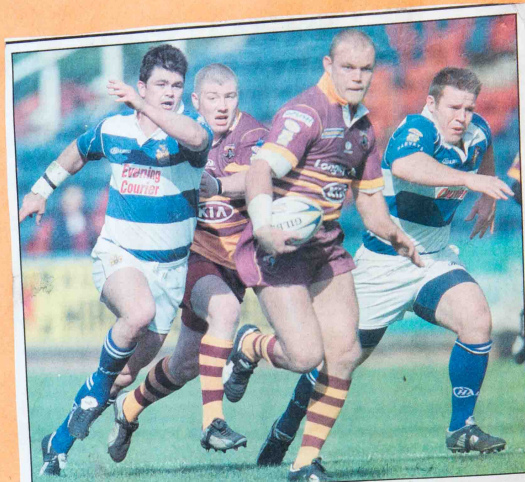
• Huddersfield Giants Super League squad, back row, from left: Martin Higgins (physio), Jon Grayshon, Earl Crabtree, Ben Wilson, Steve McNamara, Tony Smith, Brandon Costin, Graham Holroyd, Brian McKelvey, Steve Moslin (masseur), Brian McDermott (staff coach).
 Front row, from left: Steve Dinkin (assistant coach), Darren Fines, John Bailey, Matthew Whitaker, Jeff Wirtten-Hillier, Dave Bicen, Paul Kelly, Marcus St. Front: Lee St. Hillaire (Academy coach), Stanley Gene, Hefin O'Hare, Paul March, (captain), Darren Turner, Alex Wilkinson, Paul White, Jason Davidson (staff coach).



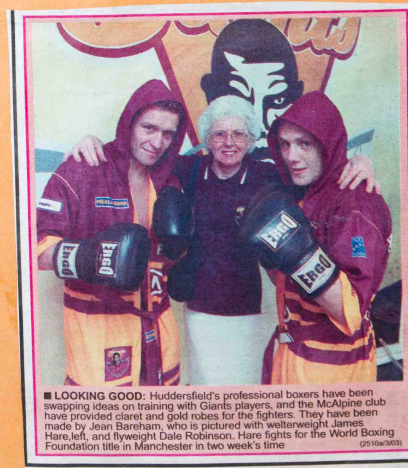
■ DEFENSIVE DUTY: Giants players (from left) Hefin O'Hare, Ben Cooper and Brandon Costin work overtime to halt Castleford's Michael Smith last night



■ STAMP: Giants stand-off Brandon Costin looks to find a colleague after being brought down during a Super League contest



■ DREAM START: exciting Australian signing Ben Roarty breaks clear of the Halifax defence to score a try inside six minutes of his Giants' Super League debut. Picture by Simon Morley (2181a/1303)

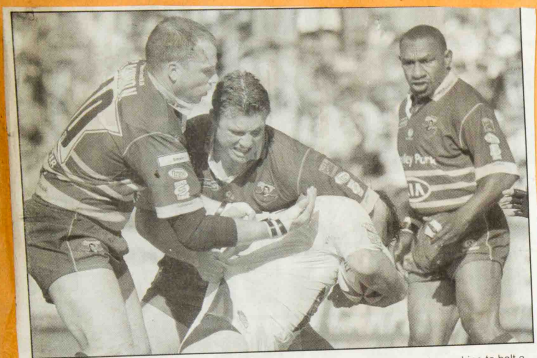


■ LOOKING GOOD: Huddersfield's professional boxers have been swapping ideas on training with Giants players, and the McAlpine club have provided claret and gold robes for the fighters. They have been made by Joan Barreham, who is pictured with welterweight James Hare, left, and flyweight Dale Robinson. Hare fights for the World Boxing Foundation title in Manchester in two week's time (2010a/303)

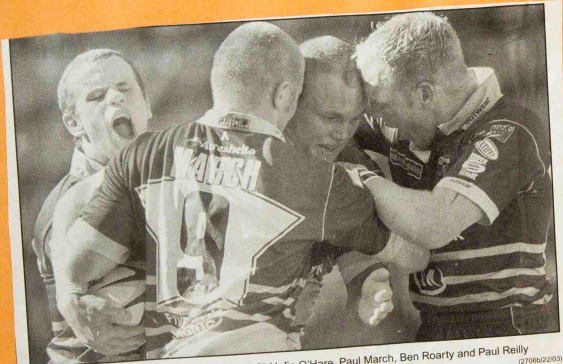


Giants 26

Wildcats 4



■ DEFENSIVE DUTY: Giants forwards Jim Gannon (left) and Jarrod O'Doherty combine to halt a Wakefield raid, with Stanley Gene looking on. Pictures by Julian Hughes (2706e1103)

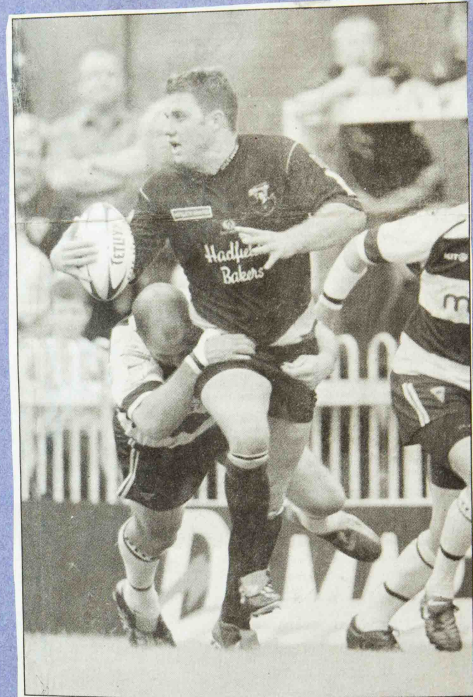


■ OH HAPPY DAYS!: Giants players (from left) Hefin O'Hare, Paul March, Ben Roarty and Paul Reilly celebrate after Roarty had scored to give his side the lead against Wakefield (2706b2203)



Wolves 32

Giants 28



■ ON THE RUN: Warrington second-rower Darren Burns desperately tries to halt opposite number Jarrod O'Doherty, who anxiously looks around for support (300473103)



■ **GOLDEN MOMENT:** Giants full-back Paul Reilly takes two Wigan players over the line with him after scoring his second-half try
Picture by Andrew Catchpool (31458/2303)

Huddersfield Giants
THE Giants
DIRECTORS BOX

Giants v Wigan
 On Sunday 6 July 2003
 Row 5 Seat 13

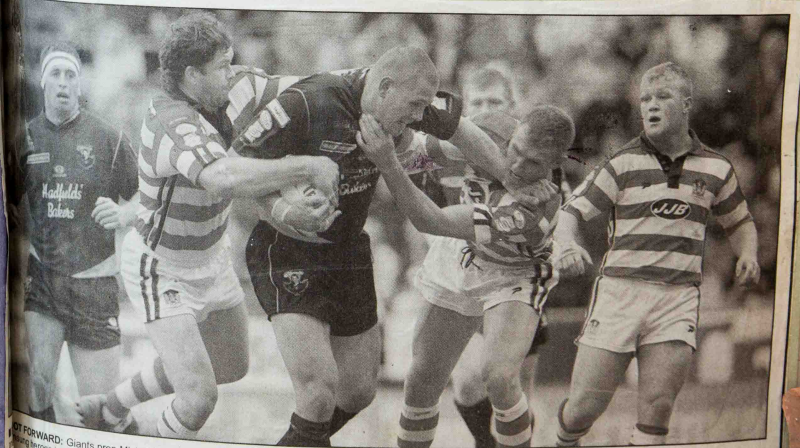
Enter the Stadium via Main Entrance of the Lawrence Batley Stand.
 This Ticket admits one person to Directors' Box and Football Trust Suite

FOCUS ON GIANTS

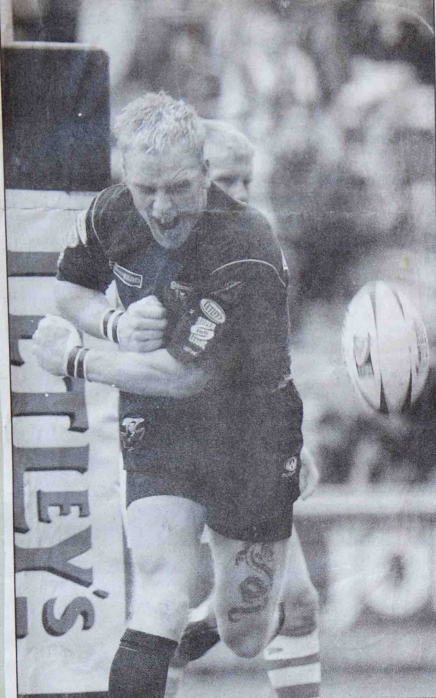


He's on his way — Man-of-the-match Brandon Costin leaves Wigan fullback Sham Briscoe in his wake as he sprints to the tryline to score one of the Giants' tries of the season

Wigan come to grief at the McAlpine



GET FORWARD: Giants prop Mick Slicker takes on Wigan duo Andy Farrell (left) and Gareth Hock during the magnificent McAlpine Super League triumph. Slicker is a leading hero in the Huddersfield pack, but was more than a match for the illustrious Warriors at the weekend



■ **GIANT DELIGHT:** full-back Paul Reilly bangs the ball down in celebration after scoring his side's vital second-half try which helped level up the scores midway through the second half

(3145x267)



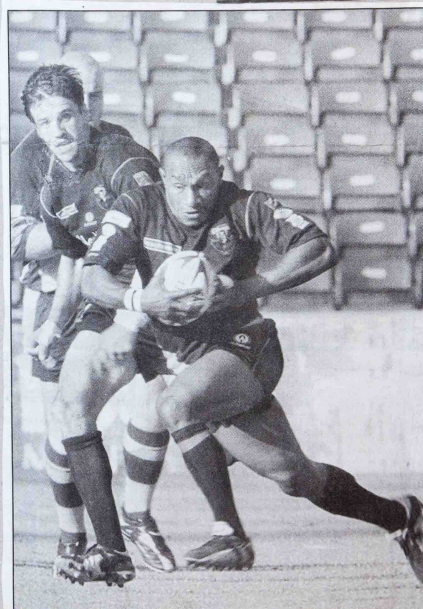
Giants 30

Rhinos 24



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	19	13	2	3	471	365	28
Widford	17	13	0	4	530	536	26
Wigan	18	11	1	6	475	388	23
St Helens	18	10	1	7	603	330	19
Warrington	18	8	1	9	438	453	17
Castleford	18	8	1	9	408	400	17
London	18	8	1	7	373	465	17
Worcester	18	9	2	7	399	443	16
Huddersfield	17	7	0	10	371	476	14
Wakefield	18	4	0	14	299	483	8
HullFC	18	1	0	17	262	733	0

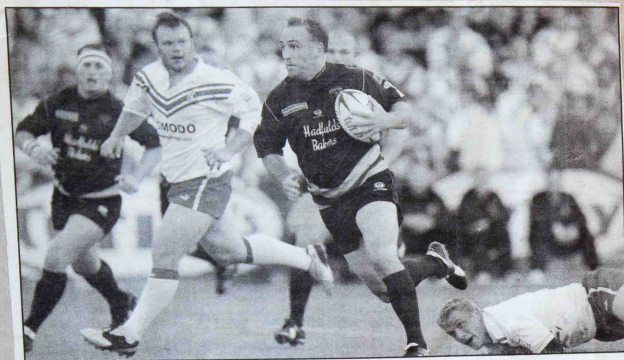
■ **GREAT STUFF:** the Giants fans celebrate (top) as the scoreboard records the remarkable win against Leeds Rhinos, clinched with a last-minute try by inspirational Brandon Costin (above).
Pictures by Paul Welch. (3272x & 3272x)



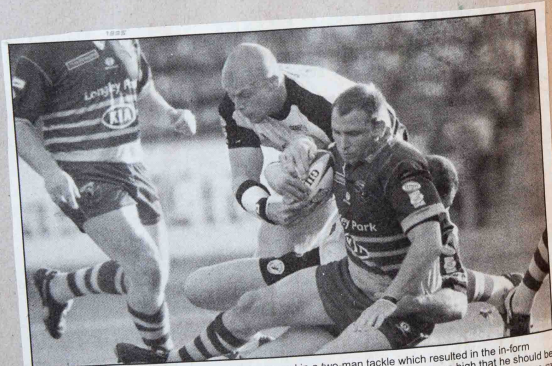
■ **MAN OF THE MOMENT:** man-of-the-match Stanley Gene races away, supported by Julian Bailey, to set up another Giants attack against Leeds Rhinos

(3272x1263)

Huddersfield Giants ... 18



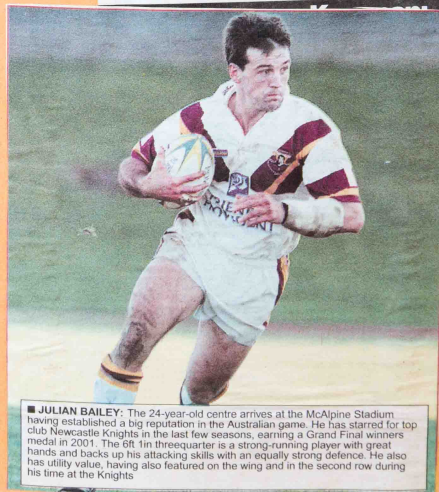
■ **NO STOPPING HIM:** Brandon Costin gallops through the cover for his second try of the night and 16th of the season



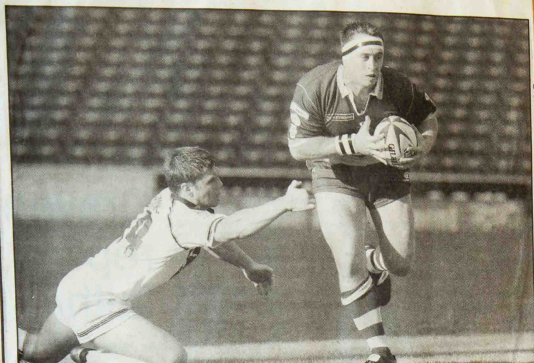
■ **READY FOR PAIN:** big Jim Gannon falls to ground in a two-man tackle which resulted in the in-form Huddersfield Giants prop having to retire from the field with an elbow injury. Hopes are high that he should be fit to resume against Warrington on Friday (821920400)



■ **MAIN MAN:** Giants man-of-the-match Darren Turner sets off on one of his many scoots from the acting half-back position which brought his side so many easy metres (09/10/2009)



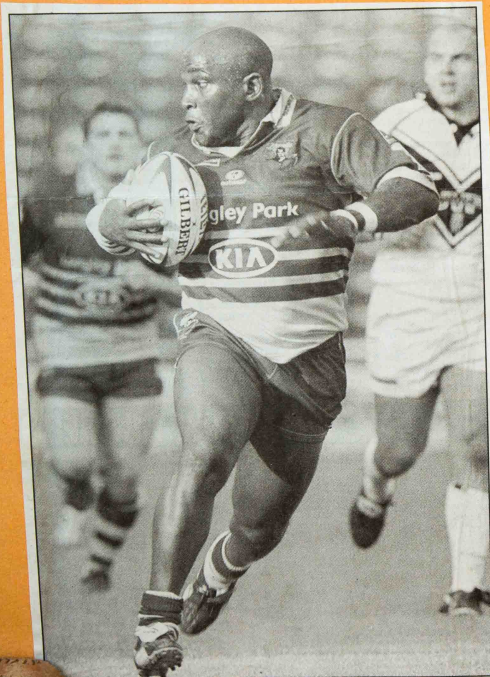
■ **JULIAN BAILEY:** The 24-year-old centre arrives at the McAlpine Stadium having established a big reputation in the Australian game. He has starred for top club Newcastle Knights in the last few seasons, earning a Grand Final winners medal in 2001. The 6ft 1in threequarter is a strong-running player with great hands and backs up his attacking skills with an equally strong defence. He also has utility value, having also featured on the wing and in the second row during his time at the Knights



■ **SUPER STEVE:** Inspirational Giants star Steve McNamara outrisps second row Sean Ryan to set up another attack against Hull, the club who offered him a job as assistant coach last winter (15/09/15/03)



■ **TRY TIME:** with 25 minutes on the clock, full-back Paul Reilly forces his way over for the first of play-off chasing Huddersfield's five touchdowns against Hull at the McAlpine yesterday. (30/09/21/03)



■ **ON THE RUN:** prop-forward Darren Fleary checks on the chasing pack as he charges through for his crucial 56th-minute try which helped put the Giants 22 points up (30/09/21/03)



■ **JAMIE BLOEM:** Unfortunately, the South African international's start at the Giants couldn't have been any worse, suffering a broken leg in the pre-season clash against Leeds Rhinos. The 30-year-old is noted for his aggressive style of play and has the ability to play in a whole variety of positions, most notably centre, second row or scrum half. He has gained top-flight experience at Halifax, Widnes and Doncaster, and has moved to the McAlpine after a highly successful spell at The Shay.

GIANTS SHOCK AS TOP MAN QUILTS

By DOUG THOMSON
News Reporter

Huddersfield Giants rugby league club were today rocked by the shock revelation that their coach is to quit at the end of the season.

Tony Smith has breathed new life into the Giants and the decision will stun supporters.

The ambitious Australian coach says the decision is down to his budget for new signings.

The Rugby League's salary cap rules limit spending on players' wages to half a club's relevant income, up to a maximum of £1.8m.

That means the Giants cannot provide the cash that 36-year-old Smith believes is needed to continue the progress made during this season's Super League campaign.

Even though he has been linked with Wigan and a number of clubs in his native country — most prominently Cronulla Sharks — Smith says he does not have a new job lined up.

But the fact that he is to leave Huddersfield will be bad news for the fans, who have been thrilled by victories over big clubs St Helens, Wigan and Leeds this season.

And yesterday they watched the Giants maintain their top six play-off hopes by taking another notable scalp, that of Hull, who were beaten 30-14.

Smith, appointed in August, 2000, said today: "Of course I've got mixed feelings about moving on, but sometimes you just think the time is right."

"I've had good times and some not so good times here. But I've always had a great relationship and rapport with all my players and staff, the directors and the fans."

"Once I'd made my mind up, I was keen for it to be known, as I've always been upfront and honest in all my dealings, as have Huddersfield Giants."

"The club, like others, is under huge restraints in terms of the salary cap that they are working under, and I just felt



■ **SHOCK DECISION:** Coach Tony Smith at yesterday's game, when Hull lost 30-14

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Bulls 30 Giants 10



■ **WHITE HOT:** young Giants scrum half Paul White eludes the challenge of Bradford Bulls' Jamie Langley during a typical lightning burst on his Super League debut

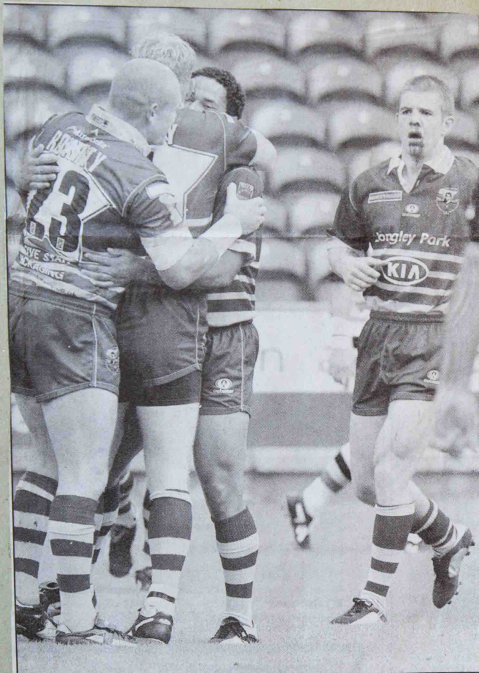


■ **NO WAY THROUGH:** former Bradford favourite Brandon Costin is held up by the Bulls' defence on this occasion. But he did have the consolation of scoring a try which made it a record-equaling ninth Super League score on the trot, joining an elite band which only includes Paul Newlove, Anthony Sullivan and Paul Sterling

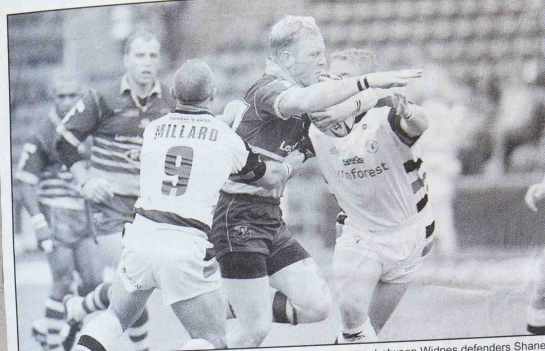


Giants 30

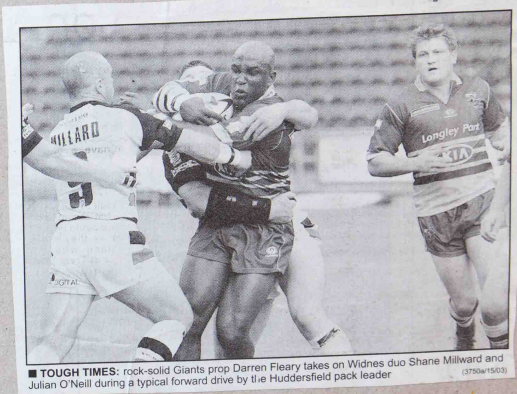
Vikings 30



■ **HAPPY TIMES:** Giants trio (from left) Ben Roarty, Paul Reilly and Marcus St Hilaire gather together to celebrate Reilly's 39th-minute try, with a bloodied Ben Cooper running up to join in the celebrations (3750w/1103)



■ **CHARGING THROUGH:** fit-again Giants full-back Paul Reilly squeezes between Widnes defenders Shane Millard and Dan Potter on his way to a superb solo try just before the break (3750w/3403)



■ **TOUGH TIMES:** rock-solid Giants prop Darren Fleary takes on Widnes duo Shane Millard and Julian O'Neill during a typical forward drive by t.i.e Huddersfield pack leader (3750w/1503)

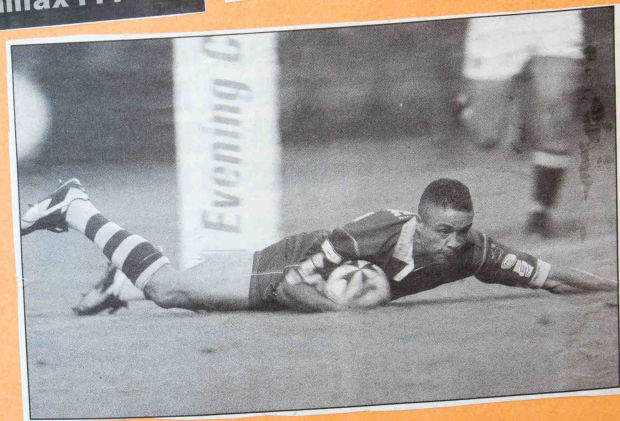


■ **WELCOME BACK!** Jon Sharp, right, who will take over from head coach Tony Smith at the end of the season, renews his acquaintance with Giants chief executive Ralph Rimmer after returning to the McAlpine following a two-year absence

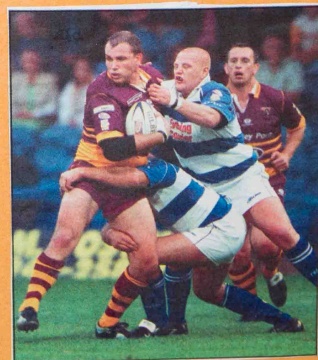
Picture by Peter Cottle (3/21/10)

Halifax . . . 12

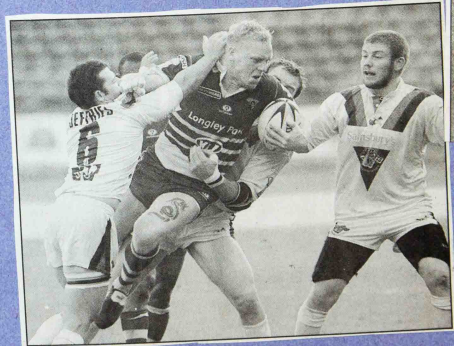
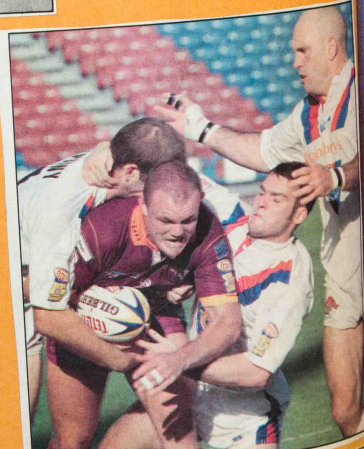
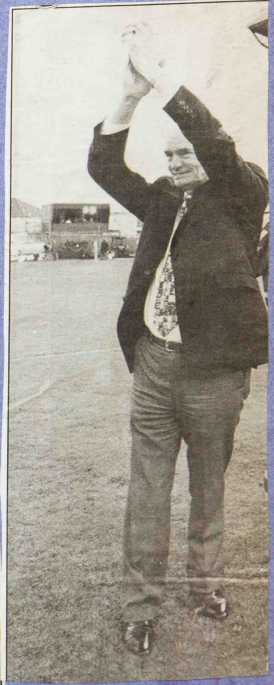
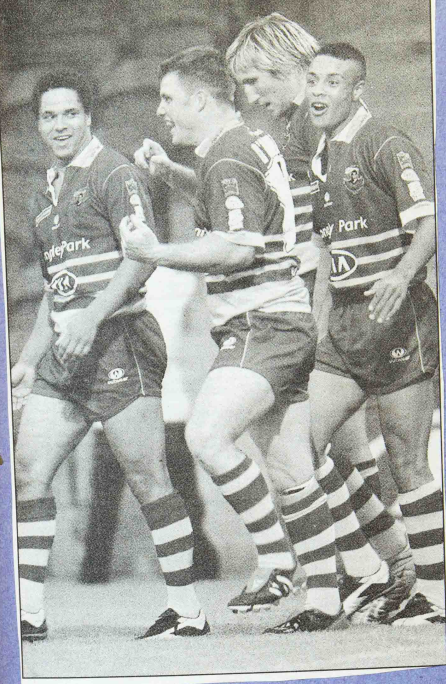
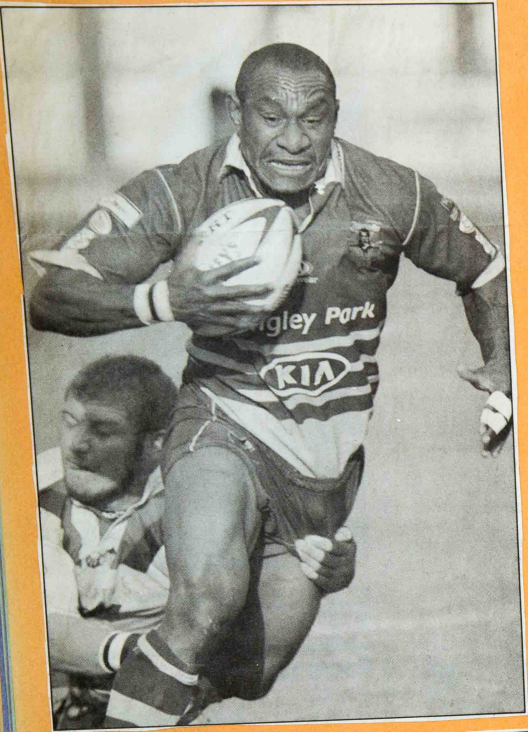
Huddersfield Giants . . . 54



■ **JIM GANNON:** the Australian-born prop or second-rower makes the short trip to the McAlpine Stadium from local rivals Halifax, the club he joined from the Newcastle area in 1999. The 25-year-old is a strong, hard-tackling forward who constantly works hard throughout the game. His physical presence — he stands 6ft 3in tall and weighs 107kg — will prove vital as the Giants look to match the big boys in Super League. At Halifax, he gained a reputation as a no-nonsense performer, and that's what he needs to become at Huddersfield



Giants 26 Wildcats 14

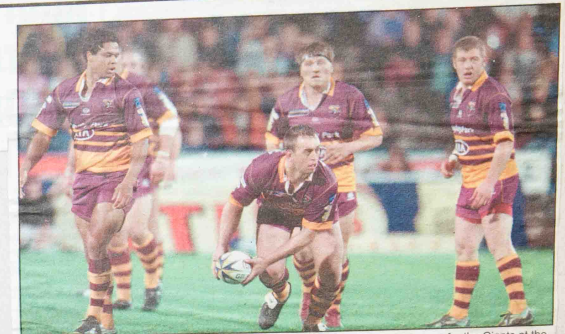




Dream is over!

WOLVES END GIANTS BID FOR GLORY

By CHRIS ROBERTS



■ FINAL ACT: Steve McNamara gets ready to send out a pass during his final game for the Giants at the Alpin Stadium, with teammates (from left): Marcus St Hilaire, Darren Turner and Paul March looking on. Picture by Simon Morley (14/10/09)

Huddersfield Giants . . . 18



■ DEFENSIVE DUTY: Darren Fleary and Paul Reilly combine to halt Wayne Price during last night's Castleford clash. (14/03/09) 18/03/09



■ BITTER BLOW: Stanley Gene's second-half injury hit the Giants hard last night and he could be out for the final three games. Picture by Paul Welch (14/03/09) 18/03/09

Giants 25 Widnes 12



■ LEADING THE WAY: Giants prop and captain Darren Fleary looks to get beyond Widnes duo Shane Millard and Robert Reff and set up an attack during yesterday's Super League clash which resulted in Huddersfield's 11th victory of the campaign. Picture by Andrew Gatchpool (12/13/14/03)



Broncos 22 Giants 12



■ FINAL CHAPTER: Steve McNamara bids off a side for the final time in his last match before hanging up his boots following a superb 14-year professional career. Picture by Julian Hughton (14/03/09)

Giants Glory!



Special moment — proud dad Stanley Gene gives his son Elliott a triumphant kiss after the Papua New Guinea had helped the Giants beat Leigh and secure a place back in Super League

Big smiles tell a Super story

HAPPINESS is... winning a Grand Final with the Giants!

The broadest of smiles are back on the faces of all those who have watched the NEP champions sweep all before them in an unbeaten march back into Super League.

Huddersfield's superb 38-16 Grand Final win over Leigh Centurions at Widnes completed an amazing season in which the McAlpine Stadium club picked up three pieces of silverware.

Besides the Grand Final trophy, captain Steve McNamara lifted the Buddies Cup and the minor championship trophy.

Along the way, the Giants have set many records, including a new club mark of 29 wins on the trot.

That total also equals the rugby league record set by the mighty Wigan 15 years ago.

Furthermore, the Giants' 26 wins and one draw from their 27 League games made them only the second club in the professional game to complete a League campaign unbeaten, matching Hull FC's achievement in 1980.

It's no wonder everyone associated with the Giants has been in such a great mood this week.

And as these pictures, following the Grand Final win show, the feelgood factor is back!



We've done it! — big centre Eorl Crabtree acknowledges the fans after Huddersfield's glorious Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final success over Leigh



LEFT: Giants captain Steve McNamara proudly holds the NEP Grand Final trophy aloft. ABOVE: The fans join up with Giants officials and Mayor of Kirkles Margaret Bates at the civic reception. RIGHT: Supporters celebrate at the Grand Final. BELOW: The players celebrate a try against Leigh



Pictures by Andrew Catchpool