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S. O'Neill	8.
K. Elwell	9.
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OLDHAM

versus

WIDNES

WEDNESDAY
12th SEPTEMBER, 1984
at
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Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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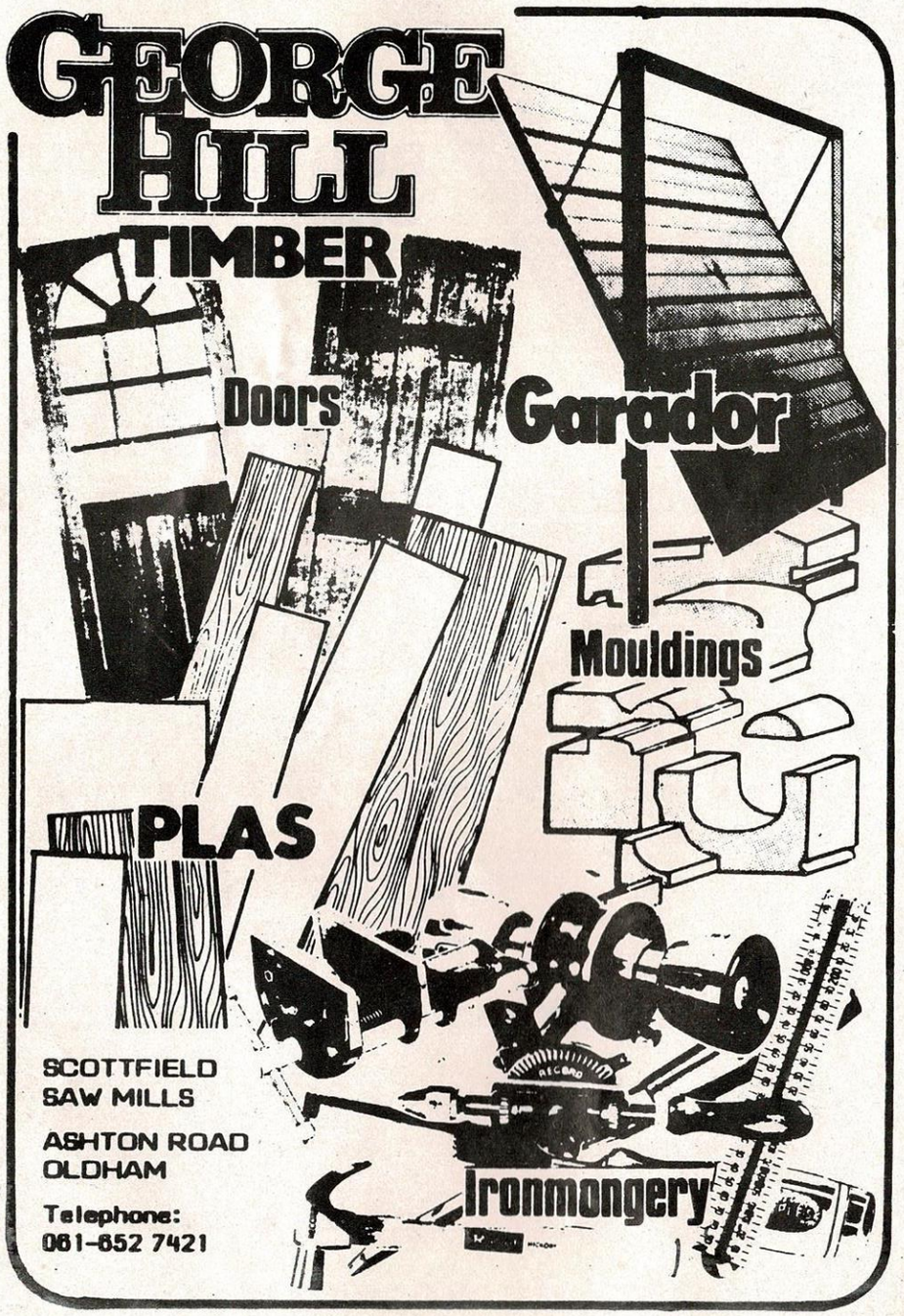

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CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory	67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
Record defeat	11-67 by Hull K. R. Sept. 78
Record attendance	28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
Record receipts	£9,100 v Wakefield 24th Feb. 1980
Record transfer fee paid	£18,500 to Hunslet for Mick Parrish Sept. 1980
Record transfer fee received	£11,002, 10s. from Workington for Ike Southward Jan. 62
Record try scorer	Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Record goal scorer	Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Record point scorer	Bernard Ganley 28 points v Liverpool City April 59
First game	October 21st, 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of points scored	Bernard Ganley 2,881
Most appearances	Joe Ferguson 685
Most tries	Pre 1900 Jack Hirst 233. Since 1900 Alan Davies 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners:	1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57
Runners-up:	1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55
First Division Champions:	1904-05
Second Division Champions:	1963-64 and 1981-82
Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners:	1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners-up:	1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26
Lancashire Cup Winners:	1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Lancashire Championship Winners:	1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners:	1975-76 and 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

YOU will all have read by now of our Lifeline Appeal, but we would like to take this opportunity of telling you more about it for the benefit of those supporters who were unable to be present with us at the Queen Elizabeth Hall the other night.

First of all, we must pay tribute to the magnificent response we received. It warmed the hearts of manager Frank Myler and the committee to see so many members and supporters packing the large hall, and it certainly proved that there is a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in the town for the Oldham club.

Very few clubs these days can continue to survive, let alone make progress, on turnstile receipts and the clubs that do well over the next few years will be those which can surmount financial problems.

We estimate that nearly 1,000 supporters turned up at the crisis meeting and judging by their reaction on the night they were more than eager to back the club to the hilt. Thankyou to everyone concerned.

Frank Myler earned loud cheers and applause when he outlined his views on buying and selling and his ambitions for the club "trophies on the sideboard".

We received, on the night, more than 600 pledges of support for our Lifeline scheme and it is now up to us, as a club, to build on that foundation as quickly as possible in our bid to reach 2,000 members of the Lifeline Society.

Members pay £2 per week and there will be a weekly draw for £1,000. You can, of course, share the cost by taking out Lifeline membership between a few friends or workmates.

If the club is to succeed we are all in the fight together — committee, players, members, supporters club, lottery agents. We all form what we know as the Oldham club and we are delighted to report that the coaching and playing staff are leading from the front in the Lifeline Appeal.

A lot of work now has to be put in, not only in recruiting new Lifeline members, but in organising collections from the different areas, and literally spreading the Lifeline gospel throughout our vast catchment area that spreads from the edge of Manchester to Saddleworth and from Ashton-under-Lyne to the Rochdale boundary.

If you are not a Lifeline member, could we please ask you to consider it. If you are, could you please follow up your pledge of support by trying to recruit others who may be interested.

The response has been extremely encouraging so far as we have worked hard to build on what was a highly-successful launch. To see the players mingling with the supporters in the Queen Elizabeth Hall to "sell" the club and give it a future showed exactly what can be achieved if we all pull together for the long-term benefit of the Oldham club.

Membership has also gone exceedingly well over the past few weeks and there was a late rush before the Hunslet match which gave us our best returns for many seasons.

As this is only our second home game of the season it is still not too late to become a member if you have not already done so.

This evening we welcome the Widnes club to Watersheddings and it is always a pleasure to act as hosts to a club which, like Oldham, is one of the few remaining members clubs in the Rugby League.

There should be a great game in prospect and one which will wet the appetite for our first round Burtonwood Brewery Lancashire Cup tie against Second Division Blackpool Borough here at Watersheddings on Sunday.

We have not done too well in cup competitions over the last few years apart from our progress, under Frank Myler, to the semi-final of the John Player Trophy two seasons ago. Since then, we have had a few disappointments in the Lancashire Cup and the Challenge Cup, so let's hope Sunday's game against Blackpool will be the start of better fortunes on the cup trails.

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON WIDNES

by Tom Webb

OLD timers will recall the tremendous contribution that John H. Smith of the Widnes Rugby Football Club made to the game in general and to the Widnes club in particular. He played for the Chemics from 1880 to 1891 inclusive which was before breakaway clubs left the Rugby Union to form the Northern Union.

He became a Rugby Union referee when his playing days ended after being the club captain. When the Northern Union was formed he became a referee under the new body. As the Northern Union played under Rugby Union rules for a couple of seasons referees and players had no difficulties in making the transition.

J.H. Smith became the club treasurer after a spell on the committee of the club, then graduated to secretary and later chairman. He was also representative on the Norther Union Council at the same time that he was a leading referee in the game. He was a president of the Council just following the turn of the century. When he resigned from the club committee in 1920 after 40 years with the club, he was made a vice-president in recognition of his outstanding services to the Widnes club.

Another long serving official was R. Jones, a player in his youth who subsequently became club chairman. After 26 years service with the Chemics he was made a life member. He died in June 1936 having helped to organise the Widnes tour of France a few months earlier. Unhappily he did not live to see Widnes win the Rugby League Challenge Cup in 1936-37 but he had been there when Widnes defeated the powerful St. Helens side in May 1930 at Wembley.

It was in 1930 that the club was threatened with the loss of their ground in Lowerhouse Lane. As Widnes had earned money by their cup success, the officials began negotiations with the local Town Council for the purchase of the ground. Efforts to raise the purchase price included a soccer game between West Bromwich Albion and a "Mersey-Widnes" team which raised a welcome sum of money. The fund raisers led by Roland Robinson finally achieved the £3,250 necessary to buy the ground which was helped by a 10% contribution to that sum by the Rugby League Council. From facing extinction one year previously, the club was safely entrenched for its future successes.

In 1932-33 Jimmy Hoey became the first man in the history of the game to score in every one of his club's games during a season. His total was 84 goals and 21 tries. In those days penalty kicks at goal were far fewer than today. Sometimes in his record making season he only had one shot at goal. He also led the club try scorers. His contemporaries in that season included Walter Bradley, Harry Owen, Tommy Shannon, George Stevens, Peter Topping and Billie Roberts. Paddy Douglas was just coming to the end of his career and Tommy McCue was just claiming his place in the team.

The ground was named Naughton Park in honour of a former secretary, Tom Naughton who gave valuable service to the club. There was a misconception that the brothers Naughton who played for the club, three of them, gave their name to the but this was not so.

Jack O'Garra, one of two brothers who played for Widnes in due course became Mayor of Widnes and he served on the club committee for some years. He had a great interest in amateur Rugby League in the town.

Present day players have been in the forefront with Mick Burke, Joe Lydon, Tony Myler, Andy Gregory, Mike O'Neill and Mick Adams going on tour to Australia, New Zealand and Papua-New Guinea quite recently where they played against another Widnes favourite, Kevin Tamati who performed well for New Zealand in the test matches.

Keith Elwell, the regular Widnes hooker since 1977 holds the world record for consecutive appearances for a player in senior Rugby League with 239 stretching from May 1977 to October 1982. This broke the previous record set up by Gilbert Austin of Hull Kingston Rovers which was set up sixty years previously.

Jimmey Hoey was quite humorous and he "Scored" a try against Oldham in an abandoned game. The referee ran up with Jimmy and pointed for a sliding try. As it happened Jimmy "scored" with a clod of earth and the game was being played at the other end of the field.

WELCOME TO WIDNES

WIDNES come to Watersheddings this evening boasting the best trophy-winning record in the game over the last few seasons.

In the past seven seasons, going back to 1977-8, they have won no fewer than ten major trophies with success in every competition in which they have competed.

Under Frank Myler, now Oldham's full-time general manager, they won their first league championship in 1978 and that was to launch them on a triumphant run that has made them Rugby League's top team over the last few years.

Since 1978-79, they have won the Challenge Cup three-times at Wembly, lifted the Premiership title three times, won the Lancashire Cup twice and the John Player Trophy once.

Despite the ever-constant threat of Hull K.R. and Hull, many good judges still regard Widnes as the team to watch in the hunt for honours.

Like Liverpool in the soccer world, nothing seems to knock them off balance as they go on winning trophies year after year despite changes on the coaching and playing staff.

Indeed, there have been several such changes at Naughton Park since the end of last season when young Joe Lydon inspired the Chemics to a brilliant Challenge Cup final victory over Wigan.

Soon afterwards, seven Widnes players were representing Great Britain in Australia — Mick Adams, Mick Burke, Joe Lydon, Tony Myler, Andy Gregory, Mike O'Neill and John Basnett.

The Chemics possess one of the strongest all-round squads in the First Division, though two of their finest stalwarts over the last decade - loose-forward Adams and stand-off or centre Eric Hughes - have recently announced their retirements.

Prop Les Gorley has also decided to call it a day which means that Widnes have lost three of their most experienced men.

There have also been changes behind the scenes. The great Vince Karalius continues as team with Hughes having landed the coaching job to follow the Widnes tradition of appointing from within. His right-hand man is another former Naughton Park stalwart of many successful cup campaigns, Mal Aspey.

Bill Hartley, a former international athlete, is in charge of fitness and sprinting as the Chemics bid to continue their fabulous run of success.

They began the 1984-5 season with a narrow win at Warrington, now coached by yet another Widnes star of yesteryear, Reg Bowden. Missing from the Chemics line up at Wilderspool were Tony Myler (knee), Joe Lydon (groin) and Mick Burke.

With that trio out, and Hughes, Adams and Gorley having retired, the team on the opening day of the season included young full back David Lyon, Ralph Linton in the centre, David Hulme partnering Gregory at half-back, John Myler at loose-forward, and Duncan Platt and Fred Whitfield on the bench.

Platt, another youngster, is the brother of Andy Platt, the St Helens forward, while David Lyon is the son of the former Wigan forward Geoff Lyon.

Tony Myler will be out for a week or two yet, but Lydon is expected to be fit to return to the side by now, so long as he suffered no setback in the match against Hull last weekend.

Gregory will be missing, however, because of holidays, but no matter who wears the black and white of Widnes this evening you can rest assured they will have a well-drilled and thoroughly professional side on the meadow.

There has been much speculation that they might add to their playing strength by recruiting New Zealand forwards Kurt Sorensen and Hugh McGahan.

They already have at Naughton Park one of New Zealand's leading forwards in front-row man Kevin Tamati, anchor man in a stong pack which also includes Steve and Mike O'Neill, the evergreen Keith Elwell, and former Fulham and Salford forward John Wood.

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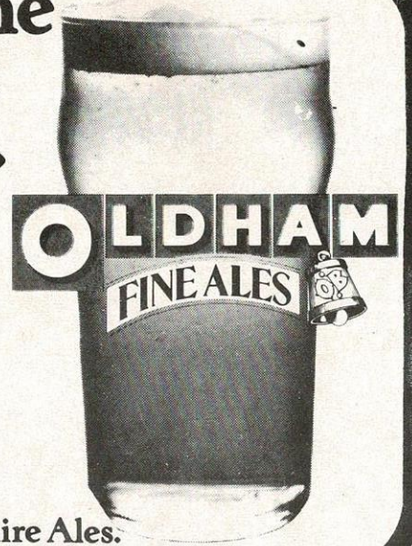

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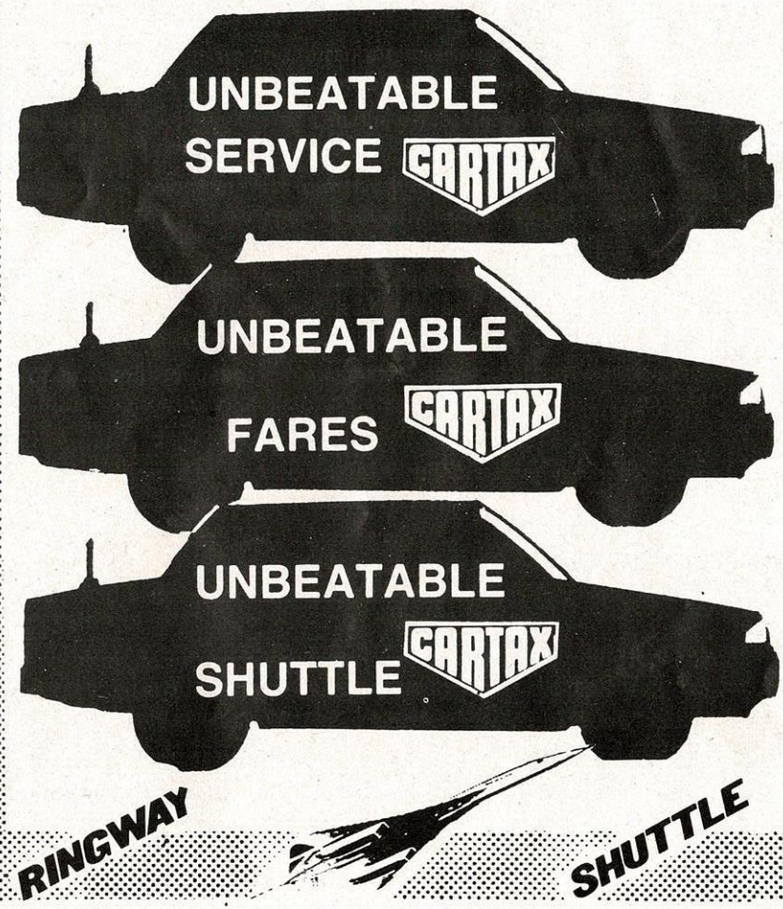
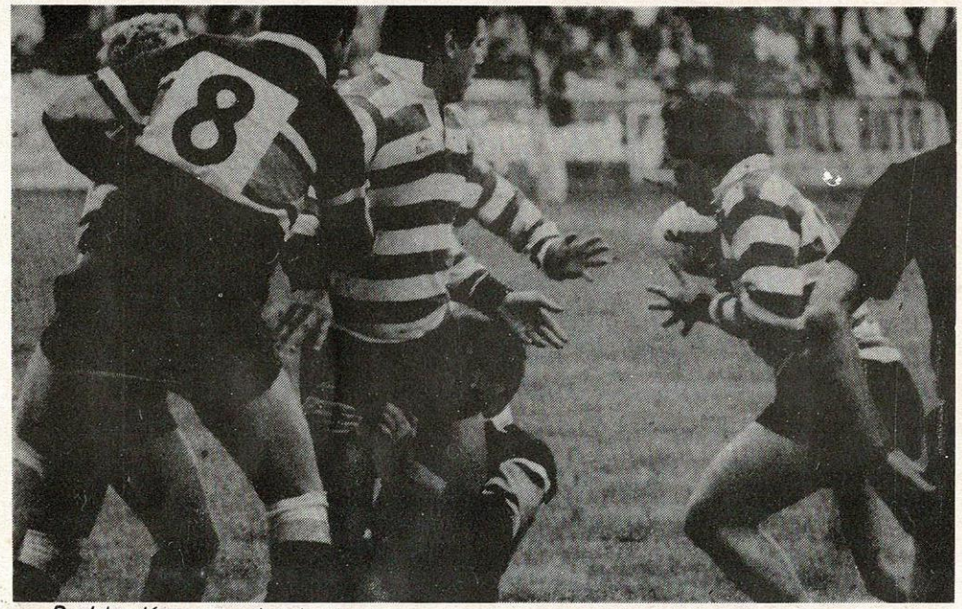
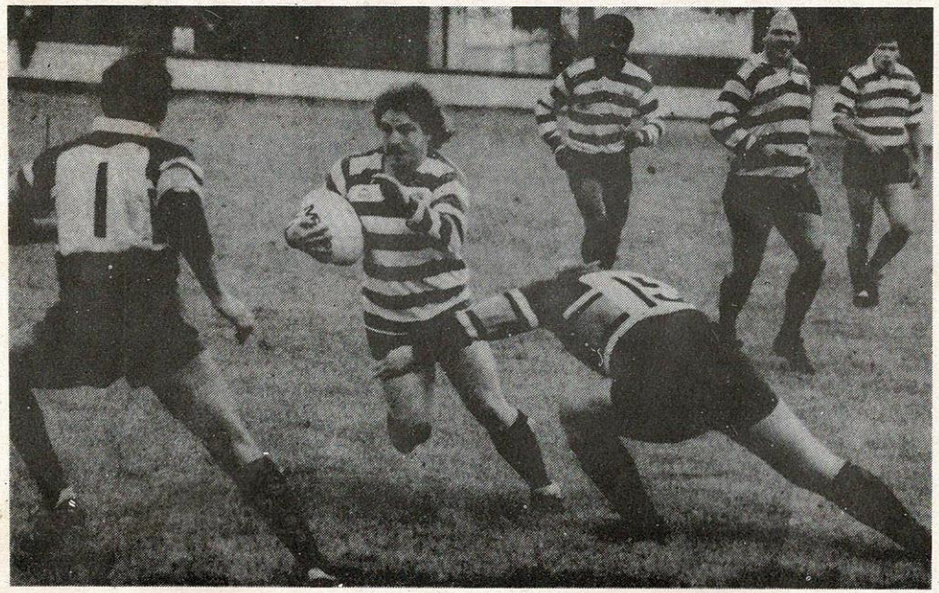
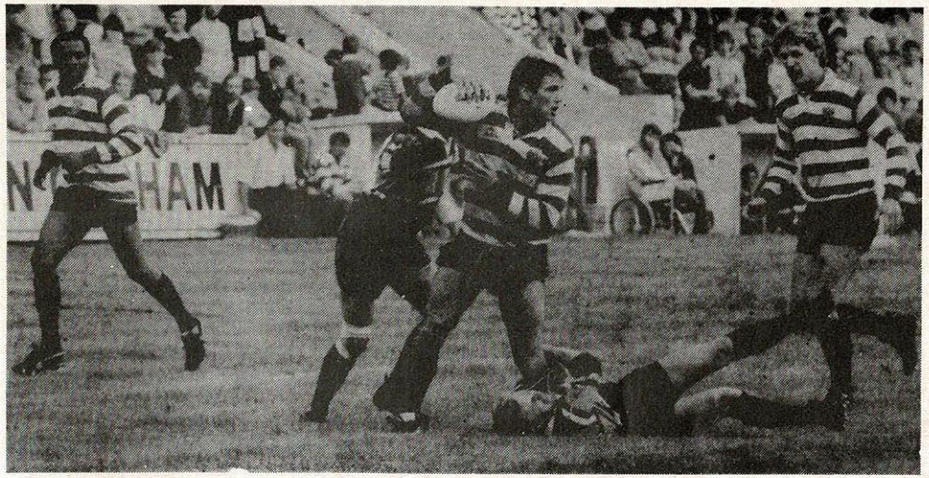




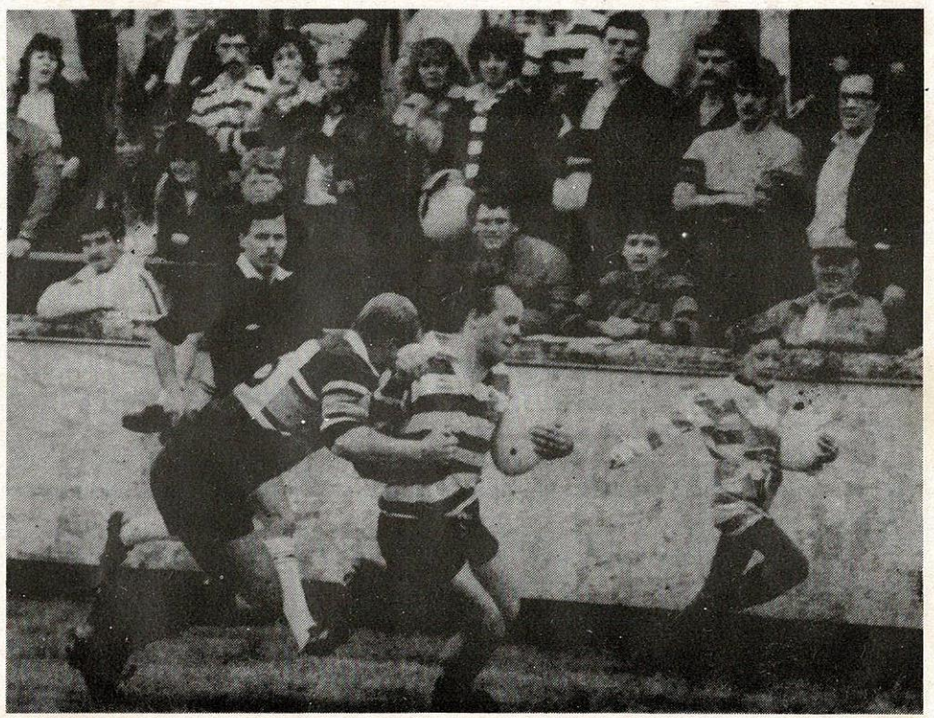
Paddy Kirwan who had an excellent game against Hunslet, races away off Andy Goodway.



Gary Bishop was a late substitute in our 32-10 opening day win over Hunslet.



Andy Goodway looks for support as Mike Parrish closes in. Incident from the Hunslet game on September 2.



Paddy Kirwan on a great touchline dash against Hunslet . . . with the ball boy in hot pursuit!

BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

IT is going to seem a strange season for many Rugby League fans - and players - without the smiling, skilful Mick Adams to grace the scene.

Not long after that other great loose forward Ray Price bowed out of the international arena with Australia, Mick decided the time had to come to call it a day.

He is off to live in Australia with his lovely wife Christine, who hails from Tamworth, so we are not only losing a fine player but a character who won so many friends on and off the field.

Mick always remained one of the most modest stars and made his mark on this tough sport with a quiet unassuming style, setting the perfect example.

I can recall talking with rival players who had been mesmerised by the subtle handling skills of Mick and yet they were always full of praise for his ability and his attitude.

Even in defeat Mick could be equally generous . . . often the first in the opposing dressing room to congratulate the opposition and wish them all the best.

I have always counted it a privilege to not only have known Mick but to have shared his company in this country and as far afield as Australia, spending some happy hours on the golf course.

I was bitterly upset at the attack so unfairly launched on him by Bobb Fulton on the last Great Britain tour when manly forward Paul Vautin suffered a fractured cheekbone in the Second Test and yet video recordings showed it was an accident.

Mick has taken more than his fair share of knocks throughout his long and successful career with Widnes and when he was guesting with Canterbury Bankstown in Sydney for a spell.

Many is the time I've seen frustrated opponents trying to take it out Mick but he has merely responded by climbing to his feet with a smile and patting the rival player on the head.

Not that he was able to do that when he had his head ripped apart by an Australian Test star while playing for Canterbury and then had his cheekbone fractured in another game in Sydney.

There was the incident last season which upset his team mates and fans when he had his cheekbone fractured yet again but typical of the man he fought his way back and helped Widnes lift the Cup again in a record equalling seventh Wembley appearance.

His contribution to the game cannot be measured in mere words or deeds and he is going to be sadly missed. So long Mick, it has been good to know you!

1984-85 RUGBY LEAGUE GUIDE

The new edition of Rugby League's "bible" - the Official Guide - is now available. The 250 pages are packed with essential Rugby League information, highlighted by 1984-85 fixtures for the Slalom Lager Championship, Second Division, Rugby League Alliance, and Colts League.

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Available also is the International Laws of the Game, priced £1.00 + 25p p. & p., and "In the Middle" providing explanatory notes on the Laws, priced 75p + 25p p. &p.

PAUL TAYLOR

IT is with a great deal of pleasure that we officially announce the capture of one of Sydney's leading players, the Parramatta utility back Paul Taylor.

Frank Myler is keen to keep his promise to supporters on the night of the Lifeline Appeal that the Oldham club will move forward despite its difficult financial position, and he sees the signing of Taylor as a distinct move in the right direction.

Though Taylor has never represented his country, he is widely tipped to do so before very long. Indeed, he was only narrowly beaten to the Australian Test jumper for the recent series by Gary Jack, and he has an excellent chance of pressing his claims for selection for the 1986 Kangaroo tour of Great Britain.

We hope to be able to introduce Paul to Oldham fans by showing video recordings of his performances, so watch the press and listen to club announcements for the details. There will be a 50p admission charge to cover costs, but Lifeline Appeal members will gain free admission.

Paul has played for the Parramatta club in Sydney for the past few years. Parramatta are one of Australia's leading clubs, and they are soon to appear in their fourth consecutive Grand Final, a measure of their standing in the extremely tough and competitive Sydney League.

Paul has played in each of Parramatta's Grand Finals, along side such great Australian players as Peter Sterling, Eric Grothe, Ray Price, Steve Ella, Brett Kenny and Mick Cronin.

He is known throughout Sydney as one of the city's greatest tacklers. He is also rated as one of Australia's top six footballers, and it is said that he has played a major role in the rise of his team mate Sterling to the world rankings.

We are absolutely certain that Paul will make a big impact at Watersheddings. He is due to arrive about October 16, and we know we can rest assured that you will give him a big Oldham welcome.

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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

How many of our supporters remember the corresponding day 5, 10, 15 years ago?

FIVE YEARS AGO

Sunday, September 9th, 1979

Oldham 3 3 15 Huyton 0 1 3 (Division Two)

Oldham: Hogan (on loan from Leigh); Munro (try), Larder (try), Ward (try), Fitzsimons; Francis, Arnold; Fiddler (3 goals), Martland, Forster, Hall, Walcacz, Hawkyard. Substitutes Paterson for Arnold and Herbert for Martland.

Huyton: Woods; Birchall, Hunter (try), Fitzpatrick, Leatherbarrow; Tabern, Bishop; Fletcher, Walker, Goulding, Coop, Leadbetter, Heesom. Substitutes Prescott for Goulding and Hartley did not play.

Referee T.M. Beaumont, Huddersfield. Attendance 1,352. Half time score 10-0.

TEN YEARS AGO

Tuesday, September 10th, 1974

Oldham 1 2 8 Hull Kingston Rovers 2 1 7 (B.B.C. Floodlit Competition Preliminary Round)

Oldham: Blair; Elliott, Larder (2 goals), Wainwright (drop goal), Holland; Treasure (try), Paterson; Clawson, Taylor, Hall, Welding, Gregory, Farrell. Ashcroft went on for Welding and Barton the other substitute did not play.

Hull K.R.: Smithies; Sullivan, Watson, Neil Fox (2 goals), Dunn; Millward (try), Hudson; Ramshaw, Madley, Wallis, Moore, Rose, Brown. Hall replaced Sullivan but Holdstock did not play.

Referee R. Jackson, Halifax. Attendance 1,381. Half time score 5-2.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Saturday, September 13th, 1969

Wigan 8 8 40 Oldham 2 2 10 (The league had one division only)

Wigan: Tyrer (8 goals & 2 tries); O'Loughlin, C. Hill, Rowe, Francis; D. Hill (try), Parr (try); Stephens, Clarke, Ashcroft, Hogan, Standing, Laughton (2 tries), Eastham (2 tries) replaced Francis. Other substitute not known.

Oldham: Murphy; Elliot (try), Crellin (goal & try), Larder, Collins; Briggs, Sayer; Wilson (goal), Taylor, Russell, Irving, Fletcher, Hicks. Maders and Buckley replaced Fletcher and Irving respectively.

Referee D.T.H. Davies, Manchester. Attendance 8,450. Half time score 17-2.

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1984	
SEPTEMBER	
2—Hunslet (3.00)	H
9—Workington (2.30)	A
12—Widnes (7.30)	H
16—COUNTY CUP	
23—Leeds (3.00)	A
30—Leigh (3.00)	H
OCTOBER	
7—Barrow (2.30)	A
14—Warrington (3.00)	H
21—St. Helens (3.00)	A
28—Featherstone (3.00)	H
NOVEMBER	
4—Bradford (3.00)	A
11—Hull KR (3.00)	H
18—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY	
25—Warrington (3.00)	A
DECEMBER	
2—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY	
9—Barrow (3.00)	H
16—Hull KR (3.00)	A
23—Leeds (3.00)	H
26—Widnes (3.00)	A

1985	
JANUARY	
1—Halifax (3.00)	H
6—Featherstone (3.30)	A
13—Bradford (3.00)	H
20—Castleford (3.00)	H
27—Wigan (3.00)	A
FEBRUARY	
3—Hull (3.00)	H
10—CHALLENGE CUP	
17—Leigh (3.30)	A
24—CHALLENGE CUP	
MARCH	
10—St. Helens (3.00)	H
17—Hull (3.00)	A
24—Hunslet (3.30)	A
31—Workington (3.00)	H
APRIL	
5—Halifax (7.00)	A
8—Wigan (3.00)	H
21—Castleford (3.30)	A

'a' team fixtures

1984 (*Subject to change*)	
AUGUST	
31—Salford	A
SEPTEMBER	
8—Workington	H
15—Carlisle	A
21—Widnes	H
27—Leigh	A
OCTOBER	
12—Warrington	A
27—Featherstone	A
NOVEMBER	
2—Bradford	H
9—Salford	H
20—Wigan	A
23—Warrington	H
DECEMBER	
1—Carlisle	H
8—Barrow	A
14—Swinton	H
21—Widnes	A
28—Halifax	A

1985	
JANUARY	
5—Barrow	H
11—Bradford	A
18—St. Helens	H
25—Wigan	H
FEBRUARY	
2—Swinton	A
22—Featherstone	H
MARCH	
7—St. Helens	A
15—Halifax	H
22—Leigh	H
30—Workington	A

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