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9. Alan McCurrie
10. Mick Morgan
11. Andy Goodway
12. Mick Worral
13. Terry Flanagan

Subs:

14. T.B.A.
15. T.B.A.

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Touch Judges:

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D. Russell (Rochdale)

HALIFAX

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- Mick O'Byrne 2.
- Malcolm Ager 3.
- Tony Anderson 4.
- Bob Hudson 5.
- Michael Hagan 6.
- Ron Ryan 7.
- Martin Bella 8.
- Nigel Whitehouse 9.
- Keith Neller 10.
- Steve Bond 11.
- Bob Arnold 12.
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T.B.A. 15.

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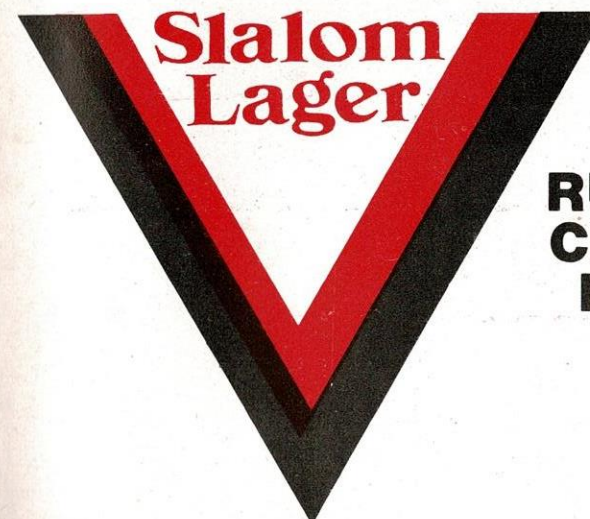
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NEXT MATCHES AT WATERSHEDDINGS

January 13th Oldham v Bradford

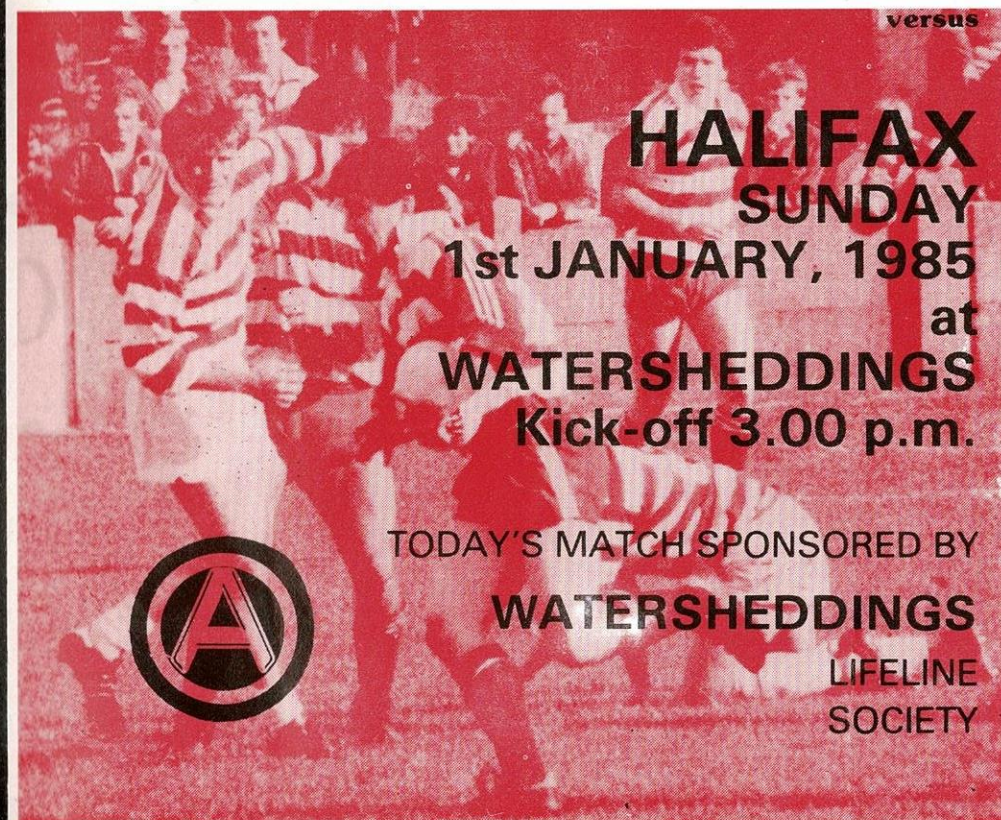
January 20th Oldham v Castleford

Printed by 'The Charlesworth Press', Manchester Road, Mossley. Tel: Mossley 3551
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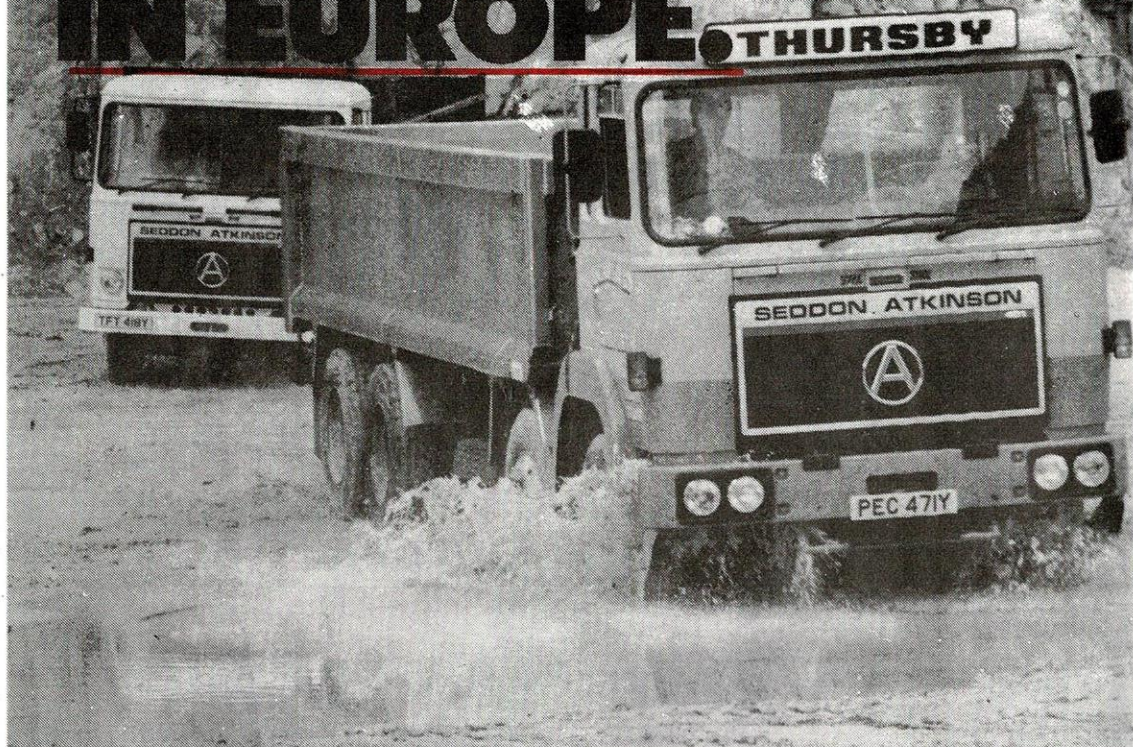
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CLUB RECORDS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| Runners-up: | 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 |
| Lancashire Championship Winners: | 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69 |
| Runners-up: | 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58 |
| Lancashire Shield Winners: | 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55 |
| Colts Premiership Trophy: | 1975-76 and 1979-80 |

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

AS we ring in the New Year today we can all look back with a good deal of satisfaction on the exciting events of 1984 which see us enter '85 as one of the leading teams in the Slalom Lager championship.

Five of our players toured Down Under last summer — Ray Ashton, Terry Flanagan, Des Foy, Andy Goodway and Mick Worrall — and our manager Frank Myler was out there as Great Britain coach.

It was while the tour was in progress that we were able to confirm Frank's appointment to a full-time managerial appointment at Watersheddings as soon as the tourists returned home in August.

Since then we have made steady progress both on the field and off it and we can surely look forward to 1985 as a year in which we can continue to move forward in the right direction towards our goal of winning trophies and proving that we are one of the best teams and clubs in the Rugby League.

Our record on the field speaks for itself. You have only to look at the Slalom Lager championship table to see how well we have done. There were disappointments in the Lancashire Cup and the second round of the John Player Special Trophy when we lost at Hull (though it is no disgrace to lose there), but who would have tipped us to be one of the First Division pace-setters at the start of the season?

Off the field there have been several significant events, not least the appointment of Frank Myler followed by the successful launching of the Lifeline Appeal Fund and, more recently, the signing of the £35,000 major sponsorship deal with Seddon Atkinson.

Yes, we have good reason to remember '84 with pleasure and pride but that does not mean that any of us — and that means you as members as well as the committee, manager, coaching staff and players — can afford to rest on our laurels.

Events on the field are in the hands of the manager, coach Brian Gartland and the players, so, as supporters, it is backing the off-field activities that you can help out best and support your club in a practical way.

The 7,500 crowd for the Hull K.R. game was very pleasing indeed, yet sadly our next home match attracted less than half that figure and most fair-minded people would take the view that we have done enough this season to warrant a better crowd than that.

We have a terrific away following, but it is still proving hard work to attract crowds of 5,000 unless the opposition bring good support with them and the match can boast a special appeal.

Perhaps it would help if you, the loyal and trusted supporter, could try and encourage a friend or workmate to come with you. That is one practical way to help. You can also join the £2-a-week Lifeline Society, or the Ambassador Club, volunteer to sell tickets for the lottery, or merely use the Social Club as your local.

There are many ways in which you can play your part and do your bit towards making 1985 a very special year for Oldham R.L.F.C., and we feel confident we can rely on you to do it.

We still have eight home league matches to come, including today's game against Halifax, and they include some of the most attractive games in the programme such as Hull, St. Helens, Bradford Northern, Wigan, Castleford and Leeds.

Bradford, with try-scoring machine Ellery Hanley, are here on January 13th followed by Castleford on January 20th. February 3rd, the Sunday before the first round of the Challenge Cup, sees the star-spangled Hull side come to town, while St. Helens with Mal Meninga will be here on March 10th.

Wigan, with exciting Australians Brett Kenny and John Ferguson, are due at Watersheddings on April 8th, while the match against Leeds, who will be able to include Aussie Test winger Eric Grothe among their batch of Down Under men, has still to be re-arranged, having been postponed on December 23rd because of Leeds' involvement in the John Player Special Trophy quarter-finals.

All that is not even to consider the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, the first round draw for which is due to be made soon. We should have four wonderful months of Rugby League football from now until the end of the season.

Let's raise our glasses to '85, therefore, and trust that we enjoy just as much success in the second part of the season as we did in the first.

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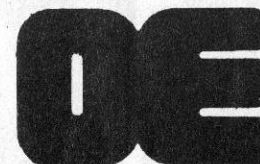
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HISTORICAL NOTES ON HALIFAX

by Tom Webb

I am indebted to Mr Robert Gate of Halifax for these notes which have been taken mainly from his informative articles in the Halifax programmes over the past few years. Robert and I have been exchanging Rugby League information for many years and we are both foundation members of the Rugby League Record Keepers' Club.

In season 1936-37 on New Year's Day, 17,000 people assembled for the Halifax v Leeds game in which George Nepia, the famous Maori full-back made his debut. George signed for the Thrum Hall club from Streatham & Mitcham as did his fellow Maori Charlie Smith. The London club folded and as Halifax had only played one fixture against the South London side, the two match points were awarded to Halifax for the unfulfilled fixture.

That season Halifax lost to Warrington at home by 26-0, after playing a scoreless draw at Wilderspool earlier in the season. This was the worst defeat by Thrum Hall since Wigan won 34-3 in 1930-31.

Hubert Lockwood the full-back scored 54 goals and he was club captain. Later he joined the Huddersfield board and as their representative on the Rugby League Council became Council Chairman from 1970 to 1972. What was most remarkable was that his father had been Council Chairman in 1945-46. It is worth noting in passing that Halifax provided three other Council Chairmen over the years, Messrs. J. Nicholl, W. J. Lingard and C. E. Horsfall while the late Harry Womersley also occupied the position although when so honoured he had left the Halifax board to join the Bradford Northern directorate.

Incidentally George Nepia led the Halifax try scorers with 14 from 13 games in 1936-37, with Jack Treen 11 and Jack Watson 10, the only other players to reach double figures.

Jumping to 1944-45 which was the last season of the War Emergency League, Halifax played 38 games winning 30, losing 5, drawing 2 with 1 game being abandoned. Of those games 10 were played in the Yorkshire Challenge Cup which were played on a two-leg basis. Wakefield, Batley, Bradford Northern, Wigan and Hunslet were met and nine wins were recorded, Bradford forcing a draw in the remaining game. Wigan, Oldham, St. Helens and Barrow the only Lancashire clubs functioning were admitted into the wartime Yorkshire Cup competitions.

In the Rugby League Challenge Cup, also played on a two-leg basis, Halifax accounted for Castleford, Wigan (losing one of the games with Wigan but winning on aggregate scores) and Dewsbury before losing again on aggregate to Huddersfield in the semi-final when both clubs won on their own grounds.

The 1944-45 Championship top four play off saw Halifax defeat Wakefield Trinity in the semi-final, only one game being played, and then a home win over Bradford Northern in the first leg of the final 9-2 raised the club hopes. These however were dashed when Northern won 24-11 at Odsal to take the trophy with a combined score of 26-20.

Friend Taylor who also played for Oldham scored 38 goals, followed by Hubert Lockwood 24 and Jack Ingham 19, with Mel Meek, later the coach at Huddersfield leading the try scorers with 13 which exceeded the tries scored by Tommy McCue (guesting from Widnes), Irving Hudson and Arthur Bassett who held joint second place with 11 tries.

In the 1944-45 league tourney Halifax only played 17 games including an abandoned match while their cup exploits plus the championship play-off accounted for the remaining 21 games.

It was a great season, Yorkshire Cup winners, runners-up in the League and semi-finalists in the Challenge Cup.

WELCOME TO HALIFAX

NEW-LOOK Halifax come to Watersheddings today, for the first fixture of 1985, with far-reaching changes having been made both on the field and behind the scenes since our last clashes in the First Division.

The blue-and-whites from Thrum Hall won promotion at the end of last season and have certainly been the most successful side of the four that came up, earning some victories that have made the whole of the Rugby League sit up and take note.

Early last summer Harrogate business man David Brook, a Halifax man by birth, took over as Club President and immediately set off for Australia to follow Great Britain on the tour which was sponsored by his firm, Modern Maintenance Products.

He returned with a large contingent of Australians in a bid to give Halifax the strength in depth needed to survive the club's first season in the First Division. There are now 13 men from Down Under on the Halifax books and no fewer than nine of them played at Hull shortly before Christmas.

In mid-December coach Colin Dixon and Halifax parted company and in as coach came another Australian — test star Chris Anderson, who toured here with the 1978 and 1982 Kangaroos, and who had previously played for Widnes in a Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

This time Anderson came to England to play with Hull K.R., but he accepted Halifax's invitation to succeed Dixon at Thrum Hall where the Aussies have become an influential force.

The first to arrive was 18-year-old scrum-half Kevin Moore, son of the Australian team manager Peter Moore, but it would be fair to say that the trio who have made the biggest impact are half-backs Ron Ryan and Mike Hagan and loose-forward Paul Langmack, who is widely tipped as a future loose-forward star for Australia.

Ryan and Hagan, both youngsters, have been likened to Halifax's most famous half-back pair in post-war football, Ken Dean and Stan Kielty, who ripped defences apart in the great Halifax side of the early and mid-1950's.

Ryan is 20 and comes from Sydney club, Balmain. He is said to be a player of exceptional pace.

Hagan, only 19, can play in either half-back spot. At the time of writing he was Halifax's leading try scorer with seven — one more than his partner Ryan.

He also comes from Sydney where he plays for Canterbury Bankstown, whom he represented as substitute in the recent Sydney Grand Final which Canterbury narrowly won against a Parramatta side that included our two Australians, Paul Taylor and Chris Phelan.

Langmack, aged 19, played for Canterbury in that final on Sydney Cricket Ground and is now established as his club's senior loose-forward despite his tender years.

He has progressed from schoolboy Rugby League to first-grade in two years which is an enormous achievement in the Sydney League.

Other Aussies to look out for are left-centre Tony Anderson and left-wing Bob Hudson, another 19-year-old, and both from Queensland where they represent the Eastern Suburbs club in Brisbane.

Yet another Eastern Suburbs man is a big prop Martin Bella (20), while his fellow front-row man, Keith Neller (22) is also from Brisbane, but from the Valleys club.

In the second-row could be the most experienced of all the Australians, 26-year-old Bob Arnold, from Valleys, while player-coach Chris Anderson could himself turn out in one of several positions, with full-back perhaps the most likely spot for him.

Continued on page 14



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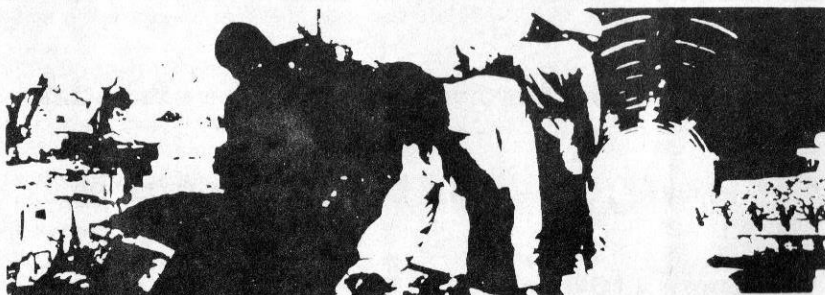
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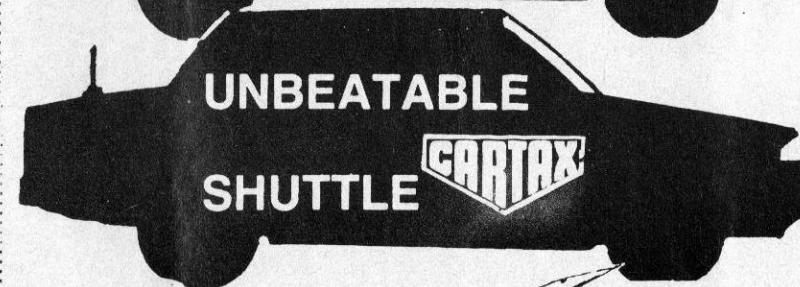
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He made his reputation, of course, as a wingman, but the versatile Anderson can play in several positions with equal ability, notably full-back or stand-off half.

It has been reported that the cost of the Aussie operation has been no more than £20,000, but it has not met with universal approval at Thrum Hall, and it has led to the £9,000 transfer of John Carroll to Batley a few weeks ago — £1,000 more than the fee Halifax paid Leeds for his services a few months ago.

This was followed by a mass 23 transfer requests from the English boys on the books, but these were withdrawn after talks with club officials and an assurance that all players, whether Australian or English, would be picked on merit.

Halifax won four of their first six First Division games to reach fifth place in the Division and they had ill luck in losing only 26-24 at Wigan. They have not fared too well in league games away from home, but they did superbly to win 17-5 at Warrington in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy and they followed this up with victory at Castleford to reach the last eight — proof enough that Oldham will have to be on their mettle today.

NEWSROUND

OUR Aussie forward Chris Phelan is making steady progress after his knee injury and, hopefully, will be ready for action soon.

HALF-price season tickets are on sale to cover the remainder of the season and these represent excellent value for money for the regular customers with considerable savings on match-day prices.

MICK MORGAN, our pack leader, will be granted a testimonial by the Rugby League at the end of this season when he has completed 20 years as a player.

WE were delighted to receive an invitation to take part in an expenses-paid trip to the south of France to play Catalan of Perpignan next April, but we have declined because of our commitments in our domestic competitions.



Mick Morgan in action at Hull K.R.



Mike Taylor brings down Hull K.R. scrum-half Paul Harkin.



Andy Goodway on the break at Hull K.R.

BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

Watching the Wallabies completing the Grand Slam must have brought back certain memories of another Australian side for followers of Rugby League.

The speed, power and fine supporting play produced by the Wallabies bore a resemblance to the style of that wonderful, record breaking Kangaroo side of 1982.

Perhaps that is not surprising when so many of the Wallaby stars have had a taste of League in their formative years and that Union players in Sydney and Brisbane are set such a fine example by League men.

As Mark Ella admitted, he has played League as a youngster and so have so many members of his talented family.

The same goes for winger David Campese, who looks so good as many wingers in League but would not get into an Australian Rugby League Test side.

Not with the likes of Eric Grothe, John Ferguson and Kerry Boustead — to name but three — around.

What Ella did for the Wallabies and so staggered Union people in Britain was simply to run with the ball and not attempt to kick it out of play with a negative outlook.

I have enjoyed watching the Wallabies because of their refreshing approach to Rugby Union in contrast to so many sides over here — the French excepted of course.

The fantastic coverage afforded the full tour by the BBC has been marvellous for Union fans and sports followers in general.

But it only brings home the tragedy of how the BBC so badly neglected the 1982 Kangaroos who could have captivated the same audiences given half a chance.

Some of the exciting mid-week displays by the Kangaroos would have gone down so well in mid-week sports programmes — the clashes with Hull, Wigan and Leeds for example.

But in comparison the Kangaroos were largely ignored and that must go down a lot, I believe, to the politics involved when we examine the projection of Union and League.

Perhaps now the standards of home Union sides have been so cruelly exposed the merits of League as an entertaining sport will be better appreciated.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

President: Mr. D. Blackburn, **Chairman:** Mr. D. Pilkington, **Treasurer:** Mr. T. Heywood, **Secretary:** Mrs. J. Pilkington, **Committee Members:** Miss. A. Collinge, Mrs. H. Heywood, Mrs. L. Wolstencroft, Mr. I. Pilkington, Mrs. E. Crowther, Mrs. L. Chadderton, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. J. Gallagher, Mrs. S. Collinge, Mr. B. Doleman, Mrs. A. Doleman, Mrs. G. Doleman.

The Supporters' Club would like to wish all the Supporters, the Committee, and Players, a Happy and Prosperous New Year and to welcome all the Players and the Committee of our visitors from Halifax. Today's match, hoping we have a good, clean and entertaining match, we would like to invite all the supporters to our canteens situated at different parts of the ground, and our souvenir shop at the pavilion end and the programme shop at the waterhead end.

Souvenirs in our shop are Sweaters at £10.00 each, Sweatshirts at £8.50, and juniors £6.50, Scarves (Oldham) £2.75, Ties £3.50, Lapel Badges 65p, Blazer Badges £7.50, Patches £1.00, Gloves, small and large, £1.50, Pens 25p, Red and white shirts with Club Badges 24" to 42".

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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

5 YEARS AGO

Sunday 30th December 1979

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS 8 OLDHAM 8 (Second Division top of the table clash)

Rovers: Box, Coventry, Evans, Gilbert, Kellet, Quinn, Hudson, Anderson, Handscombe, Morgan, Vickers, Smith, Bell.

Subs: Robinson did not play and Hobbs for Handscombe after 50 minutes. Smith and Gilbert ties, Quinn goal.

Oldham: Murphy, Munro, Ward, Lund, Fitzsimons, Francis, Gwilliam, Alexander, O'Mahoney, Herbert, Mordell, Blackwood, Flanagan.

Subs: Ashton for Francis at half-time and Hall for Alexander after 74 minutes. Gwilliam try, Fitzsimons two goals and Ashton dropped goal.

Referee: Ronnie Campbell (Widnes). Attendance: 4,061. Half-time score 2-5.

10 YEARS AGO

Sunday 29th December 1974

HUYTON 12 OLDHAM 22 (Second Division)

Huyton: Lloyd, Leatherbarrow, Hammill, Grady, Tickle, Nuttall, Gorman, Watts, Walshaw (3 goals), Parry (try), Williams, Davies (try), Westhead.

Subs: Prescott and Wills both played.

Oldham: Murphy, Elliott (try), Larder (2 goals and try), Wainwright, Barton (2 tries), Treasure (try), Brown, Ashcroft, Taylor, Hughes, Hall, McCracken (try), Farrell.

Subs: Reynolds did not play and Blair for Wainwright after 76 minutes.

Referee: Peter Massey (Manchester). Attendance: 1,000. Half-time score not known.

15 YEARS AGO

Oldham's match with Batley was postponed and not played until March 15th 1970 at Mount Pleasant.

Matches played on New Year's Day 1970 resulted:—St. Helens 18 Swinton 18; Salford 36 Blackpool Borough 14 and Warrington 8 Wigan 25.

Leeds were clear of the rest in the one division structure we had. They had won 19 and lost only 2 of their 21 games and their 38 points were 6 more than Salford and 7 more than Hull K.R. and Castleford.



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1984

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|
| 2—Hunslet (3.00) | W 32-10 | H |
| 9—Workington (2.30) | W 44- 2 | A |
| 12—Widnes (7.30) | W 18- 2 | H |
| 16—COUNTY CUP | L 26-32 | |
| 23—Leeds (3.00) | W 18-14 | A |
| 30—Leigh (3.00) | W 12- 8 | H |

OCTOBER

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| 7—Barrow (2.30) | W 34-12 | A |
| 14—Warrington (3.00) | L 15-16 | H |
| 21—St. Helens (3.00) | L 5-32 | A |
| 28—Featherstone (3.00) | W 26- 8 | H |

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---|
| 4—Bradford (3.00) | W 23-14 | A |
| 11—Hull K.R. (3.00) | L 5-31 | H |
| 18—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v York | W 22- 6 | |
| 25—Warrington (3.00) | W 18-12 | A |

DECEMBER

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|
| 2—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v Hull | L 14-26 | |
| 9—Barrow (3.00) | W 44- 8 | H |
| 16—Hull K.R. (3.00) | L 0-12 | A |
| 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 |

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