

## MATCH DETAILS

### ROVERS

Team Manager: ALLAN AGAR  
Colours: BLUE & WHITE

### OLDHAM

Team Manager: FRANK MYLER  
Colours: RED & WHITE

#### FULLBACK

NIGEL BARKER 1 ALAN TAYLOR

#### THREEQUARTERS

BRIAN WAITES 2 GREEN VIGO  
STEVE QUINN 3 MICK PARRISH  
JOHN GILBERT 4 DES FOY  
CALVIN HOPKINS 5 MICHAEL TAYLOR

#### HALF-BACKS

IAN SLATER 6 PAUL TAYLOR  
DERYCK FOX 7 RAY ASHTON

#### FORWARDS

GARY SIDDALL 8 WALT JONES  
TONY STANFORTH 9 ALAN McCURRIE  
MICK GIBBINS 10 MICK MORGAN  
DAVID HOBBS (Capt.) 11 ANDY GOODWAY  
KEITH BELL 12 CHRIS PHELAN  
PAUL LYMAN 13 COLIN HAWKYARD

#### SUBSTITUTES

ALAN BANKS 14 MICK WORRALL  
NEIL CLAWSON 15 TERRY FLANAGAN

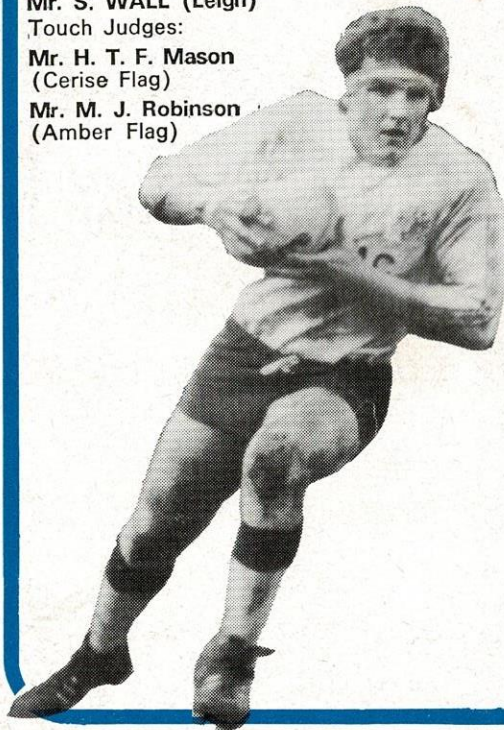
#### Referee:

Mr. S. WALL (Leigh)

#### Touch Judges:

Mr. H. T. F. Mason  
(Cerise Flag)

Mr. M. J. Robinson  
(Amber Flag)



GOALS				TRIES				PTS.			
Scrum											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			

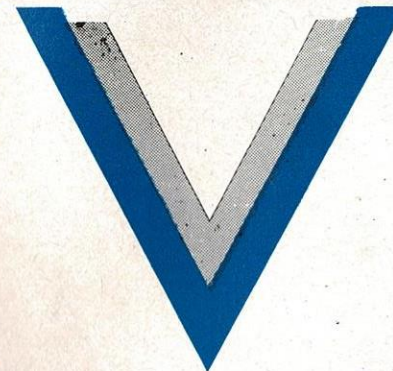
Penalties											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			

#### VISITORS

GOALS				TRIES				PTS.			
Scrum											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14		15	16	17		18	19	20	

Penalties											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			

Man of the Match sponsored by  
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**CHAMPIONSHIP**

# Featherstone Rovers

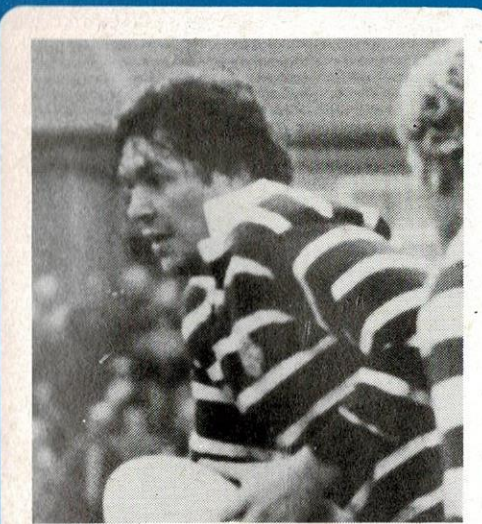


**SUNDAY**  
**6 JANUARY**  
**1985**



**OLDHAM**

Kick-off 3-30 pm  
PROGRAMME  
30p.





# Team Talk

## KEITH'S COLUMN

For this the first match of 1985 may I wish you, the supporters and our Club a very happy and successful new year.

Today it is my pleasure to welcome to Post Office Road, Frank Myler and the players of the Oldham Club who are at present enjoying quite a successful season in division one, having lead the table for a considerable period during the early part of the campaign. Oldham are always a 'tough nut' to crack and will certainly provide formidable opposition today in order to maintain their push for the Championship. However, if Rovers can sustain their recent form, especially that shown at home over the first half of the season, then our own chances of lifting the title will be enhanced greatly.

At long last it appears that the days when teams feared the trip to Post Office Road are returning as only Leeds have gone away with the points this season. Victories over the likes of Wigan, Halifax, Castleford and Hull since the start of the season were tremendous

efforts and worked wonders for confidence and team spirit, and who will forget that fantastic win over Leeds at Headingley. The players now know what I have been preaching for a long time, and that is that Featherstone Rovers, when having a go, can match the best in the game.

Let us hope that 1985 sees a continuation of this self belief and that the success of which we are capable is achieved.

As you will all know by now, our trialist winger who scored that great match winning try at Workington and who has played so well since, was snapped up by the club a couple of weeks ago. He is 23-year-old Brian Waites who hails from Pontefract and has previously played with Knottingley R.U. and more recently with Kellingley Welfare A.R.L.F.C. Brian's natural pace and enthusiasm for the game make him a fine prospect and I am sure we all wish him well for a successful career in the blue and white jersey.

KEITH GOULDING



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# Club Page

**Club Founded:** 1902 and Reformed 1908. Elected to Northern Rugby Football League June, 1921.

**Ground:** Post Office Road

**Patron:** The Earl of Swinton.

**Club Honours:** RL Cup—Winners 1967, 1973, 1983; Runners-up 1952, 1974

RL Championship—Winners 1977; Runners-up 1928, 1976.

RL Championship 2nd Division—Winners 1980

Arrowfast Try Scoring Trophy—Winners 1980

Yorkshire Cup—Winners 1940, 1959; Runners-up 1928, 1963, 1966, 1969; 1970, 1976, 1977

Yorkshire League—Runners-up 1928, 1962

YSC Cup—Winners 1946 1974; Runners-up 1955, 1960

YSC Shield — Winners 1946, 1962, 1972

**Ground Records:** RL Cup—Attendance 17,531 v St. Helens, 1959; Receipts: £12,287 v Widnes 1981

Yorkshire Cup—Attendance: 10,700 v Leeds, 1959; Receipts: £8,681 v Hull, 1980

League Attendance 14,990 v Wakefield Trinity, 1962; Receipts: £6,001 v Hull, 1981

**Representative Players:** Great Britain—T. Askin, J. H. Bridges, T. Clawson, M. Dixon, S. Evans, D. Fox, D. Hobbs, G. Jordan, M. M. Morgan, S. Nash, P. Smith, J. Thompson;

Under 24s—K. Bell, S. Evans, D. Fennell, V. Farrar, M. Gibbins, J. Gilbert, D. Hobbs, T. Ramshaw, P. Smith, V. Thomas, J. Thompson, L. Tonks; England—J. H. Bridges, M. Dixon, S. Evans, V. Farrar, J. Hirst, A. Morgan, J. Mullaney, P. Smith, R. Stone, J. Thompson, A. Wood; Wales—P. Banner, H. Box.

**John Jepson Player of the Year —** 1983-4: Robert Spurr.

## RECORDS TO LOOK OUT FOR

**Tries**—Match: 6 M. J. Smith (1968)

**Season:** 31 C. Woolford (1958-59)

**Career:** 162 D. Fox (1953-1966)

**GOALS**—Match: 12 D. Fox (1964)

**Season:** 163 S. Quinn (1979-80)

**Career:** \* S. Quinn (1976- )

**POINTS**—Match: 29 S. Quinn (1979)

**Season:** 375 S. Quinn (1979-80)

**Career:** \*S. Quinn (1971- )

**APPEARANCES**—Season: 46 C. Woolford (1959-60)

**Career:** 440 J. Denton (1921-34)

**FASTEST CENTURY OF POINTS —**

T. Smales (1966-67) and S. Quinn (1976-77 and 1979-80)—9 matches.

**MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS —** 12 (1972-73).

**MOST CONSECUTIVE LEAGUE WINS —** 11 (1979-80).

**HIGHEST SCORE —** v Whitehaven 1971 — 65 points.

\*See current players' records

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# Rovers round up

## TODAY'S GAME

**Oldham** who are currently placed in the top four in division one after their New Year's Day home victory against **Halifax**, will provide Rovers with a stern test today. Under the guidance of ex-Great Britain manager, **Frank Myler** the Watersheddings outfit have become a very difficult side to beat and Rovers will have to be at their best in order to make progress towards their top four target. Supporters will notice a prominent 'A' on the front of the Oldham jerseys which is the logo of their new sponsors. **Seddon Atkinson** who will be ploughing £35,000 into the club over the next three years.

## KEITH BELL

The Keith Bell benefit year raised just over £5,000, a total that Keith is very happy with considering the industrial situation in the area over the last ten months. Thanks for their efforts go from Keith to Judy Smith, Sandra Causier, Anne and Wilf Morris, John and Tracy Flynn, Mick Belcher, Mark and Bev Shaw, Janice and Kev Bickerton and to Keith's family and everyone else who contributed over the year.

## THE SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP 1985

The draw for the Preliminary Round and First Round of the **1985 Silk Cut Challenge Cup** will be staged live on **B.B.C. local radio** on Monday, January 7th at 7.40 a.m. Thereafter, the draws will be made live on B.B.C. T.V.'s **'Breakfast Time'** on the Tuesday following each round at 7.40 a.m. The Silk Cup Challenge Cup this season is being sponsored to the tune of £130,000 in the first of a three year deal valued at a total of £420,000.

## PLAYERS

A serious fracture of the ankle has unfortunately ruled out that fine forward prospect, **Alan Dakin**, for the rest of the season, after sustaining the injury during the recent alliance game at Castleford. **Steve Quinn** came off the field at Hull last Sunday with ankle trouble but is expected to be fit for

today, as are hooker **Bob Spurr** after a two-match lay-off and **Nigel Barker** after a leg injury.

## THANKS

The players would like to convey their gratitude to the **Featherstone Carpet and Upholstery Centre** of Station Lane who very kindly donated presents for their children at the recent Rovers Christmas party and also to **Phil Cookson** who provided his premises at the **Railway Hotel**.

## SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEWS

Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas draw which was a great success. Special thanks also go to those who donated prizes and sold tickets and to Allan Agar who drew the winning numbers, details of which appear on the Inside Scene page. Claims should be made to Beryl Bouskill on Pontefract 704865 after 1 p.m. or Barbara Walker on 704325 after 5 p.m., who will also take bookings for next Sunday's game at Wigan. The coach will leave the ground at 1 p.m. The correct score forecast was not predicted for the Castleford match and was suspended over Christmas which means a prize of £30 for today's game. Finally, welcome to the supporters of Oldham who we hope may visit our souvenir and collectors' programme shop.

## OPEN RUGBY

The January edition of the world's top Rugby league magazine is now available from your newsagent. Features this month include an exclusive interview with Aussie ace, **Peter Sterling**, an assessment of your team's prospects for '85, a double page feature on **Oldham** and the chance to win a holiday in the Isle of Man.

## RUGBY LEAGUER

Rovers are now featured weekly in the only newspaper dedicated solely to the 13-a-side code. Available from newsagents every Thursday, price 30p.



# In town today...

OUR visitors today, **Oldham**, have had an excellent first half of the season, always being amongst the first division pace-setters and having won 11 of their 16 fixtures. They must stand a very good chance of winning the Championship for the first time since 1957.

In our match in late October at the Watersheddings, Oldham beat the Rovers fairly comfortably 26-8 in a game which saw Aussie newcomer Paul Taylor and Mick Worrall (returning after injury) star for Oldham. Green Vigo, Worrall, Andy Goodway, Mick Taylor and Mick Parrish scored tries with the latter landing three goals.

The current Oldham success is based upon the foundation of a **strong pack** in which former Rover favourite **Mick Morgan** is a leading light. Mick, who is playing as well as ever, commenced his long career with Wakefield Trinity and in addition to his spell with the Rovers also figured in the York team and with Carlisle when he was second-in-command to present Rovers' coach Allan Agar. In the match at Oldham Mick was very prominent with his ball-playing skills. Another skilful ball-playing forward in the Oldham pack is hooker **Alan McCurrie** who hails from Cumbria formerly having played with Whitehaven and Wakefield Trinity.

Oldham also have pack aces in Gt. Britain forwards **Andy Goodway** (who was signed from Castleford junior rugby), **Mick Worrall** and **Terry Flanagan** who all visited Australasia with the 1984 Tourists.

In addition to these internationals Oldham have an Australian recruit in forward **Chris Phelan** who comes from Brisbane and in the last Australian season represented Parramatta in the Sydney competition. He also toured Britain with the Queensland team in 1983 and played in all three games, scoring one try.

The Oldham pack could also contain prop-forward **Tony Ogden**, **Tom Nadiol** and big **Wally Jones**.

Oldham have recently suffered a blow in scrum-half **Paddy Kirwan** receiving a fractured hand which will keep him out of the game for six weeks. However Gt. Britain tourist **Ray Ashton** will no doubt step in and Ray has been a thorn in the Rovers' side in many past encounters between the teams.

At stand-off Aussie **Paul Taylor** has been playing exceptionally well and we all remember his superb tackling in his debut game against us in the game at the Watersheddings and he also had a hand in three of the five Oldham tries. Paul is a team-mate of Chris Phelan at Parramatta in Sydney and can play equally well in one of several positions and was tipped in his homeland as a full-back at Test level.

Amongst the threequarters we will see centre **Mick Parrish** who was Oldham's record signing for £18,500 from Hunslet in 1980. Mick is a prolific goal scorer (he scored over 100 last season) and must be one of the hardest tacklers in the game. His co-centre could be another Gt. Britain tourist in **Des Foy** who was Oldham's leading try-scorer with 13 tries last season along with Ray Ashton.

On the wings it is likely we will see South African **Green Vigo**, who formerly played with Wigan and speedy **Mick Taylor**. Reliable **Alan Taylor** has been the occupant of the No. 1 jersey in recent games although **Brian Caffery** has also played in this position.

In charge at Oldham is General Manager **Frank Myler**. Frank was coach to the 1984 Gt. Britain tour to Australasia and has been with Oldham since May 1981, having previously been connected with Rochdale Hornets, Widnes and Swinton. **Brian Gartland** is the Club Coach and has also been the Lancashire Colts Coach. Oldham have been well represented at Colt International level and their playing register includes Internationals Ashton, Kirwan, Flanagan, Mike O'Rourke, Steve Dobb, Alan Platt and Paul Lowndes.

LAND RECLAMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POLICE, FIRE,

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Many people involved in running buses believe that if the Government's plans go through, we will have fewer buses, not more, a poorer service, not a better one, with more people turning to their cars — if they can afford one.

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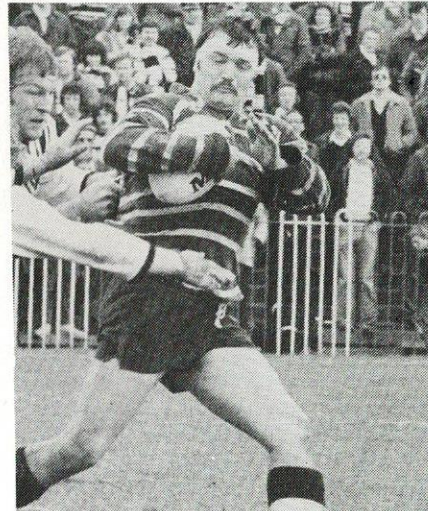
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## FIXTURE FACTS 1984-85

	Result	Attendance	Scrum	Penalties	Referee	Man of the Match	Scorers
Sep 2 Su	10-25	3790	12-7	4-5	K Spencer	D Fox	Tries: Lyman, Spurr; Goals: Quinn 1
9 Su	30-4	1800	8-6	11-13	J McDonald	D Hobbs	T: Hobbs 3, Lyman, Marsh; G: Quinn 5
12 We	18-28	2160	6-2	11-7	J Kendrew	D Fox	T: Hopkins; G: Quinn 3
16 Su	18-17	1586	8-2	11-12	E Robinson	M Gibbins	T: Hopkins, Hobbs, Dakin; G: Quinn 3
19 We	0-14	3060	3-9	15-8	G Berry	N Barker	T: Hobbs; G: Quinn 2
23 Su	8-26	3200	13-7	13-10	G Tickle	D Hobbs	T: Fox, Quinn, Hopkins; G: Quinn 3
26 Su	18-2	1503	12-5	7-14	J Kendrew	D Fox	T: Hobbs, Barker, Siddall; G: Quinn 4
30 Su	20-34	3600	7-6	9-11	S Wall	D Fox	T: Woolford, Bell; G: Quinn 5 dg, Fox 2
Oct 7 Su	20-10	3514	3-3	13-11	J Smith	G Siddall	G: Quinn
14 We	14-16	3700	8-9	9-6	T Beaumont	K Bell	T: Spurr, Quinn; G: Quinn 3
17 We	2-22	4354	11-10	12-7	D Kershaw	K Bell	T: Hopkins; G: Quinn 4; dg Bell 2
21 Su	14-10	3007	6-7	12-16	J Holdsworth	M Gibbins	T: Banks, Gilbert; G: Fox 2, Siddall, Bell
28 Su	8-26	4194	5-6	9-13	D Fox	M Gibbins	T: Fox; G: Quinn 2
Nov 11 Su	20-2	1845	12-6	10-14	S Haigh	C Hopkins	T: Siddall, Barker, Dakin; G: Quinn 2 dg Quinn
18 Su	17-12	1616	6-10	10-5	D J Croft	R Handscombe	T: Clawson, later; G: Quinn 2 dg Hobbs
25 Su	13-6	1804	13-9	10-14	P Volante	M Gibbins	T: Siddall, Banks; G: Quinn
Dec 2 Su	10-28	3850	8-6	11-12	J Holdsworth	D Fox	T: Fox, ANO; G: Quinn 2 dg Hobbs
9 Su	13-10	797	9-12	9-9	J McDonald	K Bell	T: Slater 2, Quinn; dg: Bell
16 We	13-12	3065	4-11	5-7	J R Whitfield	The Team	T: Gilbert 2, Stanforth, Lyman; G: Quinn 2
26 Su	20-4	3214	4-7	7-5	K Spencer	C Hopkins	T: Hopkins 3; G: Hobbs 1
Jan 30 Su	14-18	8122	8-4	12-15	G Berry		
Feb 10 Su	3-00						
17 Su	3-00						
24 Su	3-00						
Mar 3 Su	3-00						
10 Su	3-00						
16 Su	3-00						
23 Su	3-00						
30 Su	3-00						
Apr 6 Su	3-00						
13 Su	3-00						
20 Su	3-00						
27 Su	3-00						
4 Mo	3-00						
11 Su	3-00						

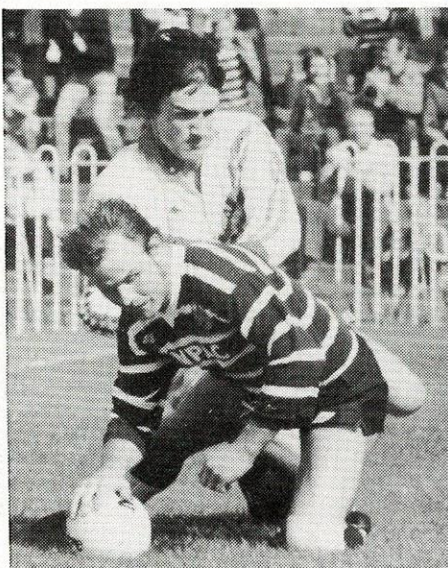
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# Cup Clashes

Each week in this column we feature a famous 'cup clash' from the history of our opponents of the day.

Although **Oldham** have lifted the challenge cup on 3 occasions in 7 final appearances; like that other great club, Hull, they have never done so at Wembley, nor have they appeared there. Ironically the 'Roughyeds' appeared in four consecutive cup finals immediately prior to the Wembley era and have been unlucky in 3 semi-finals since this time. Perhaps their most unfortunate cup year was 1964, after drawing 5-5 with Hull K.R., they led 17-14 in extra time of the replay when bad light stopped play. They lost the 3rd game 12-2.

**Oldham** were however involved in one of the most dramatic of cup finals. That is to say dramatic as much for scenes off the field as much as on it. A massive crowd of 40,000 plus crowded into **Rochdale** to see **Oldham** take on old rivals **Wigan** and before the game started the pitch was invaded several times. Mounted police, officials and the famous disciplinarian referee, **Rev. Frank Chambers**, with herculean efforts ensured the game took place, touchlines having to be cleared throughout the game. **Wigan** proved the better side on the day on the field and scored a superb try through Springbok International Van Heerden (reputed to be paid extremely generous fees by the club) who handed off several defenders after kicking from his own half and rounded a mounted policeman before touching down between the posts.

The following season in the final staged at Headingley, **Oldham** put on a display of real class to sweep away **Hull K.R.'s** challenge by 16 points to 3, thus giving themselves consolation for the previous years disappointment v **Wigan**.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Oldham**, with four, had the worst record for players "sent to the sin bin" last season. For the record the culprits were Parrish, Goodway, Sinclair and McCurrie.

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160 goals in league games	£3,000
10 wins in a row	£5,000
8 tries in a league game	£1,000
15 goals in a league game	£1,000
WIN AT WEMBLEY	£10,000



Steve Quinn scored 163 goals  
in the 1979-80 Season

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## DIVISION ONE PREVIEW

ROVERS' Great Britain test ace, **David Hobbs**, is our tipster for today's other first division games. Due to **Hull** and **Leeds** being involved in yesterday's John Player semi-final, Dave has been let off lightly with only five games left to predict. Our last tipster, **Peter Smith** forecast four out of six correctly. Dave says . . .

"Even though today's division one programme is depleted there looks to be some cracking games in prospect and none more so than the game taking place at Knowsley Road, where high-flying **St. Helens** take on Humberside giants, **Hull K.R.** The **Saints** after looking almost invincible at one stage have slipped recently with successive home defeats at the hands of **Halifax** and **Wigan**. Whereas **Hull K.R.** will be cock-a-hoop after gaining a **John Player** final place and winning their league game against **Hunslet** on New Year's Day. However, I cannot see **Saints** losing another home game so I'll go for a narrow victory for **Billy Benyon's** men.

Another good game looks likely at Thrum Hall where **Halifax's** Aussies take on in-form **Wigan**. The **Halifax** forwards look a formidable outfit but I feel that the **Cherry** and **Whites** with **Brett Kenny** finding his best form may have too much pace and an away win is my tip, while up at Derwent Park our local rivals, **Castleford** have the usual difficult task



Dave Hobbs, today's tipster.

of beating **Workington** on their own ground. Although **Castleford** have not yet reached their best form I think they will be too good for the **Cumbrians**.

Over at Hilton Park another fierce contest is on the cards where **Leigh** will be hoping to halt their slide towards the second division against **Widnes** who whilst not being the force they were, should have too much all-round ability for a side who is badly missing their skipper, **John Woods**. The final clash is at Odsal Stadium where **Northern** face a much improved **Barrow** side since the signing of Aussie stand-off **Mark Cannon**. However I expect their recent successful run to come to a halt against a competent **Bradford** outfit.

Dave's selection: Leigh v Widnes  
Bradford v Barrow St. Helens v Hull K.R.  
Halifax v Wigan Workington v Castleford

## \* STAR QUIZ \*

Try to beat **Brian Waites** when answering the following questions on **Oldham R.L.F.C.**

- 1 What is the nickname of Oldham R.L.F.C.?
- 2 Which team defeated Oldham in last season's Challenge Cup?
- 3 Oldham are the only present day 1st division team never to play at Wembley. True or false?
- 4 Who inflicted Oldham's heaviest defeat in September, 1978?
- 5 Oldham's present Aussies, Phelan and Taylor, both play for the same club in Australia. Name the club.
- 6 Who were the first team to defeat Oldham in league football this season after six successive wins?
- 7 Oldham paid a club record £18,500 for Mick Parrish in 1980. To which club?
- 8 Who holds Oldham's goals in a season record of 200 set in 1957/58 season?

ANSWERS ON THE INSIDE SCENE



# Facts & figures

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## RUGBY LEAGUE SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP Results — Season 1984-85

Home Team	Away Team	BARROW	BRADFORD	CASTLEFORD	FEATHERSTONE	HALIFAX	HULL F.C.	HULL K.R.	HUNSLET	LEEDS	LEIGH	OLDHAM	ST. HELENS	WARRINGTON	WIDNES	WIGAN	WORKINGTON
BARROW			36-24	26-8	30-20					12-38	16-34	12-34		7-14			27-8
BRADFORD N.				20-10	28-8			6-34	72-12			14-23	30-10		17-10		26-16
CASTLEFORD	10-14	16-2			16-14				22-20		32-0			16-14	34-8	12-20	
FEATHERSTONE R.			13-12			14-10	20-4			0-14	13-6			30-4		20-10	20-2
HALIFAX		26-8	11-10						32-18		23-16			36-12	6-16		40-12
HULL F.C.	44-14			18-14	32-4					6-10				34-12			46-2
HULL K.R.			26-14			26-17		38-6	5-14	38-20	14-0	32-6				10-30	
HUNSLET	40-41	12-12				13-6	10-26			2-29			14-32		18-29	16-48	
LEEDS	38-12		20-14	4-8		10-24				38-4	14-18	2-21		43-10			
LEIGH		28-30				33-30	18-27	44-14	22-34				12-19		24-10	44-12	
OLDHAM	44-8			26-8	24-12		5-31	32-10		12-8			15-16	18-2			
ST. HELENS	59-2	28-6	30-16	25-10	42-14					48-16		32-5				22-30	
WARRINGTON						21-14	21-14					12-18	14-20		18-20	8-22	42-30
WIDNES			20-18	34-20		11-10	4-18	24-23		32-6	14-10	16-8					24-5
WIGAN	40-24	2-9			26-24				30-14	37-16			24-8				
WORKINGTON T.		5-3		10-13			12-20	6-9			2-44					2-28	

Home Scores First

## AND HOW THEY STAND

### SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St. Helens	14	11	0	3	383	197	22
Hull KR	13	11	0	2	319	152	22
Wigan	14	11	0	3	357	208	22
Oldham	16	11	0	5	328	209	22
Leeds	16	10	0	6	338	236	20
Widnes	16	10	0	6	264	272	20
Feath. R.	17	9	0	8	233	249	18
Bradford N	15	8	1	6	283	240	17
Hull	13	7	0	6	305	187	14
Castleford	16	6	0	10	276	268	12
Halifax	15	6	0	9	278	294	12
Warrington	15	6	0	9	234	312	12
Barrow	15	6	0	9	281	455	12
Leigh	17	5	0	12	335	417	10
Hunslet	16	2	1	13	237	493	5
Workington	14	1	0	13	124	386	2

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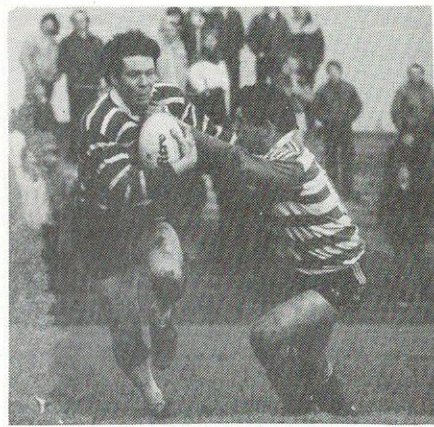
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## In focus



Dave Hobbs launches a Rovers' attack during last year's home game with Oldham



Steve Quinn tries to evade the attentions of the Oldham defence



Paul Lyman in typical try-scoring action during last season's game with Fulham

# THE HOME TEAM

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# Colliers Corner



AROUND this time last season, fellow scribe Irvin Saxton, with Whitehaven's miserable league position in mind, made an article in this programme on "the futility of promoting four clubs from Div. 2". His argument is strengthened yet again this season when one considers the position of Workington and Hunslet, newly promoted, yet languishing, almost certain relegation candidates halfway through the season.

With due respect to the two clubs, they will add to the ever-increasing list of failures. As follows:—

Season	4th in Div. 2	Next season
1973-74	Halifax	Bottom
74-75	Swinton	Bottom
75-76	Leigh	Relegated
76-77	N. Hunslet	Relegated
77-78	Huddersfield	Bottom
78-79	Blackpool	Bottom
79-80	Barrow	Missed rel by 2 places
80-81	Whitehaven	Bottom
81-82	Halifax	Relegated
82-83	Whitehaven	Bottom

It is apparent that 4 up 4 down is a nonsense, so what's to be done? The suggestion that there should be automatic promotion for the top 2 in Div. 2 and a play-off between the 3rd and 4th from bottom of Div. 1 and 3rd and 4th from top of Div. 2 does make sense. After all the play-off idea has been tried before with some measure of success. Hull KR and Barrow came into the League at the turn of the century via this system. Perhaps the Rugby League will do well to consider the alternatives, otherwise certain teams might continue to 'yo-yo' for ever.

IAN CLAYTON,



Player of the Season 1983-84  
**BOB SPURR**

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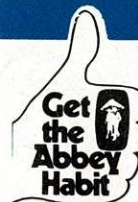
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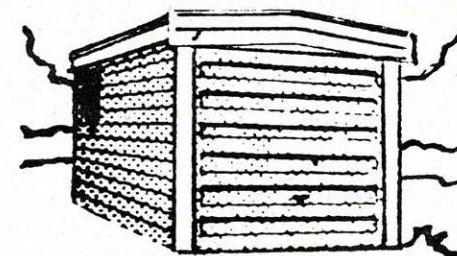
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## APPEARANCES AND POINTS SCORERS

NAME	Season 1984/85						SENIOR RECORD				
	Ap	Sub	T	G	dg	Pts	App	T	G	DG	Pts.
BANKS ALAN	15	2	2	—	—	8	74	10	—	—	38
BARKER NIGEL	16	1	2	—	—	8	116	16	—	—	52
BELL KEITH	11	1	2	—	3	11	308	47	8	45	199
CHAPMAN TONY	1	4	—	—	—	—	16	2	—	—	8
CLARKSON PETER	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
CLAWSON NEIL	8	7	1	—	—	4	22	1	—	—	4
DAKIN ALAN	1	10	2	—	—	8	16	3	—	—	12
FOX DERYCK	21	—	2	2	2	18	53	9	21	9	87
GIBBINS MICK	19	1	—	—	—	—	299	11	—	—	33
GILBERT JOHN	17	—	3	—	—	12	216	72	—	—	220
HANDSCOMBE RAY	1	—	—	—	—	—	125	17	—	—	51
HANKINS STEVE	5	2	—	—	—	—	128	12	—	—	38
HOBBS DAVID	18	1	6	1	2	28	197	64	102	15	443
HOPKINS CALVIN	21	—	7	—	—	28	25	8	—	—	32
HUNTER JOHN	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
LYMAN PAUL	13	1	3	—	—	12	39	7	—	—	27
MARSDEN JOHN	6	—	—	—	—	—	157	23	—	—	69
MARSH RICHARD	4	—	1	—	—	4	45	14	—	—	53
QUINN STEVE	21	—	3	46	1	105	281	61	890	7	1967
SIDDALL GARY	21	—	4	—	—	16	122	19	—	—	65
SLATER IAN	18	3	3	—	—	12	21	3	—	—	12
SPURR ROBERT	18	—	2	—	—	8	53	10	—	—	40
STANFORTH TONY	3	—	1	—	—	4	3	1	—	—	4
WAITES BRIAN	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
WOLFORD NEIL	7	—	1	—	—	4	7	1	—	—	4

### NOTABLE SCORING ACHIEVEMENTS:

Consecutive games in which a try was scored—**Senior** W. Tennant 9 (1940); **Junior** Charlie Dutton 8 (1912/13)

Consecutive games in which a goal was scored—**Senior** S Quinn 48, May 1979, Dec. 1980

Consecutive games in which points were scored—**Senior** S Quinn 48, May 1979, Dec 1980

Most consecutive club wins—**Junior** 24 (1919/20); **Senior** 12 (1972/73)

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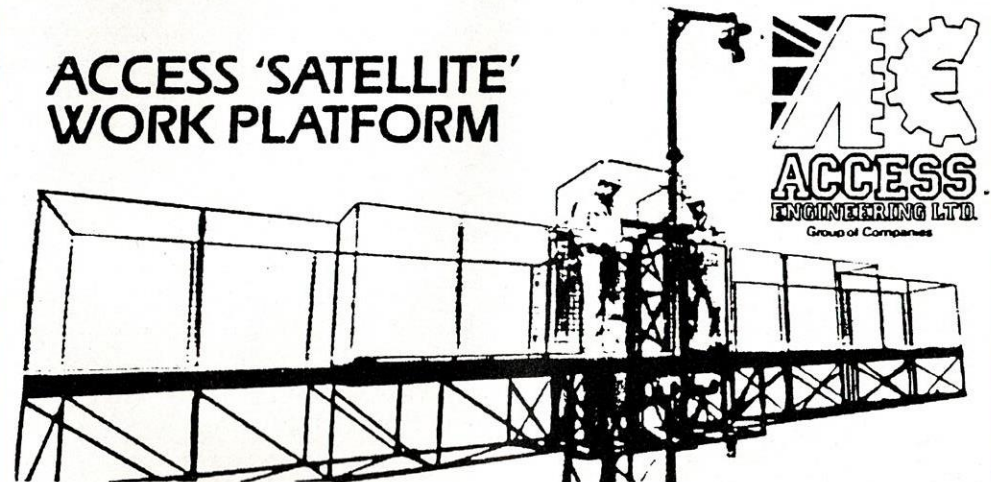
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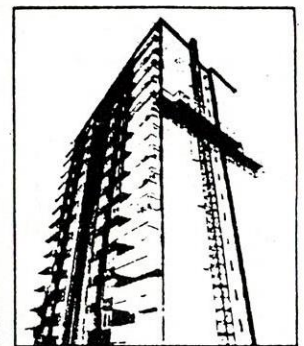
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## Off the record...

RUGBY LEAGUE is currently enjoying a welcome rise in crowds in certain areas of the game while some sections — mainly in the Second Division — suffer a slump. It is great that the game is picking up at the turnstiles in places like St. Helens and Wigan on one side of the Pennines and Halifax and Leeds on the other. We cannot continue to rely on the Humberside clubs to pull in the bulk of fans throughout the seasons.

But wherever the game is played — from Workington to Southend — the importance of the spectator to his club is vital and it is nice to know that this is now being officially recognised. It is with sound timing that the Rugby League and sponsors Traveleads are promoting a first ever official award scheme to select the Supporter of the Year. The BBC's commentator Ray French heads a five-man judging panel, who will select the finalists from whom the 1985 Top Fan will be named at a special presentation at Headingley on March 28. The winner will receive a £1,000 voucher towards the holiday of his or her choice, plus a framed citation. League spokesman David Howes says: "Rugby League is justly proud of its image as the man's game for all the family.

In an era when the spotlight is continually focused on crowd behaviour in all sports we feel that this new award scheme will recognise the true sporting character of the people on the terraces". There is no doubt that the fans in our sport have earned the game an enviable reputation for behaviour and knowledge.

This message is, of course, rammed home to us when we watch televised soccer names and see the disgraceful incidents which can tarnish a sport. It is unthinkable that Rugby League should suffer from the sort of problems that have hit Glasgow Celtic with their fans hitting a new low in that infamous Cup clash with Rapide Vienna at Old Trafford recently.

BRIAN BATTY.

### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

THE article opposite by Brian Batty of the Daily Mail refers to "the true sporting character of the people on the terraces" in our game and the "enviable reputation for behaviour" of Rugby League fans. Because we at Featherstone Rovers are anxious to maintain such an image at our club I feel that I have a duty to comment on the disgraceful and thoroughly sickening events that took place in the town after our last home game with Hull on Boxing Day.

Six coachloads of Hull supporters were attacked with stones and half bricks by a bunch of drunken thugs as well as elderly men being knocked unconscious and suffering broken limbs

To those responsible who do attend our games, the club and especially our players wish it to be known that they do not want to be associated with you in any way and the club will urge the Police to take the strongest action against anyone who is involved in any future acts of violence that take place on this ground.

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# Down memory lane...

1908-09

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After two seasons in the wilderness, that is to say without a team, the Rovers returned to Featherstone and reformed as a club in December 1908. They had previously ceased to operate during the summer of 1906. Several theories have been put forward regarding the disbandment, the one favoured by myself and Rugby League statistician **Irvin Saxton**, is that Rovers suffered such depletion in playing personnel after bigger clubs 'creamed off' the best of their players that they had no alternative. It is certain that the club's 'head and front' **Geo. Johnson** had moved on to new pastures by taking charge of **Pontefract** club 'Grove Town'.

However the fresh start was made on Boxing Day of 1908 with a friendly at home to **Hunslet Albion**. Rovers ran out winners by 14-8.

The club were formed too late to join a league, but said they would apply to join the **Dewsbury, Wakefield and District League** and so were admitted to the Cup Competition. Rovers drew a bye in the first round and in the 2nd round beat **Normanton** 8-0. However **Normanton** objected to three players fielded by Rovers, the objection was upheld when it was found one of the players, namely **Pawson**, was ineligible to play. A replay was staged at **Streethouse** and this time Rovers went down 3-21.

Rovers debutantes this season included **Sam Goodwin, John Willie Higson, Bill Clay, Tommy Dixon, Dick Harris, Ron Johnson, Sam Southall, Walt Walker, Jack Roberts** and **Belp Ward**.

The above is extracted from "A History of Featherstone Rugby" to be published soon.

IAN CLAYTON

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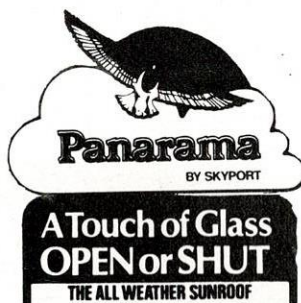


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## the inside scene

### ALLIANCE LEAGUE

STANDING among a crowd of regular supporters at games where young newcomers are making their debut, remarks of the nature "Whose this lad" and "Where did we sign him from", are often to be heard. One of the objects of this Alliance League spot in the programme will be to keep spectators informed on the progress of the team and also any promising young players. Of course the alternative way to find out about these players and the team is to come along and watch the Alliance team.

Most home games take place on Thursday evenings, k.o. 7.30 pm and already this season there have been several 'cracking' games tremendous value at 50.

One of the priorities of the coaching staff has been to get the 'A' team player production conveyor belt rolling again. With the obvious financial restraints on the club it is essential that players are developed in the second team capable of playing first division rugby.

Already this season players of the calibre of Neil Clawson, Neil Woolford, Brian Waites, Tony Stanforth and John Hunter have made impressive first team appearances and one or two others are knocking on the door.

ARNIE NICHOLSON.

### 'A' TEAM FIXTURES ALLIANCE LEAGUE

				M of the M
10 Aug	Th	v York	W10- 2 N Clawson	
6 Sep	Th	v Wakefield	L10- 6 D Downs	
14 Sep	Fr	v Halifax	W20- 0 C Hale	
10 Sep	Th	v Hull KR	L16-24 J Hunter	
17 Sep	Th	v Hunslet	L 2-25 N Woolford	
4 Oct	Th	YS Cup Rd 1	H7.30	
		v Dewsbury	W17- 7 N Woolford	
1 Oct	Th	v Castleford	L 8-21 Trialist No 9	
18 Oct	Th	YS Cup Rd 2		
		Hull	W16-14 T Stanforth	
5 Oct	Th	v Oldham	W22- 8 A Dakin	
2 Nov	Fr	YS Cup s-final		
		Castleford	L 7-16 S Hankins	
8 Nov	Th	v Leeds	L 8-41 J Hunter	
5 Nov	Th	v Hull	L12-22 A Banks	
13 Nov	Fr	v Bradford N	L 2-28 P Holey	
19 Nov	Th	v Batley	W 9- 8 A Dakin	
6 Dec	Th	v Hull	W24-16 D Downs	
4 Dec	Fr	v Castleford	L 2-32 J Rodgers	
10 Dec	Th	v Keighley	H7.30 Postponed	
19 Dec	Sa	v Batley	A2.30 Postponed	
5 Jan	Sa	v Hull KR	A2.30	
0 Jan	Th	v Wakefield	H7.30	
7 Jan	Th	v Dewsbury	A7.30	
4 Jan	Th	v Halifax	H7.30	
2 Feb	Sa	v Keighley	A2.30	
7 Feb	Th	v Bradford N	H7.30	
6 Feb	Sa	Alliance Cup		
		1st Round		
3 Feb	Sa	v Oldham	A2.30	
2 Mar	Sa	Alliance Cup		
		2nd Round		
9 Mar	Sa	v Hunslet	A2.30	
4 Mar	Th	v Dewsbury	H7.30	

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Brandy .....	7265
Lady's dressing gown (M & S) .....	3856
Gin .....	8364
Rum .....	6091
Box of Vegetables .....	0394
2 Bath Towels (M & S) .....	1556
Gent's leisure top (M & S) .....	4986
Chocolates .....	4978
Lady's nightdress (M & S) .....	3352
2 Bath Towels (M & S) .....	1306
Lady's skirt (M & S) .....	9726
Whisky .....	2107
Food Hamper .....	0264

### ANSWERS TO STAR QUIZ

1 The Roughyeds; 2 Wigan; 3 True; 4 Hull  
KR 67-11; 5 Parramatta; 6 Warrington; 7  
Hunslet; 8 Bernard Ganley.  
Brian Waites scored 5 out of 8. Incorrect  
answers 2, 4 and 6.

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