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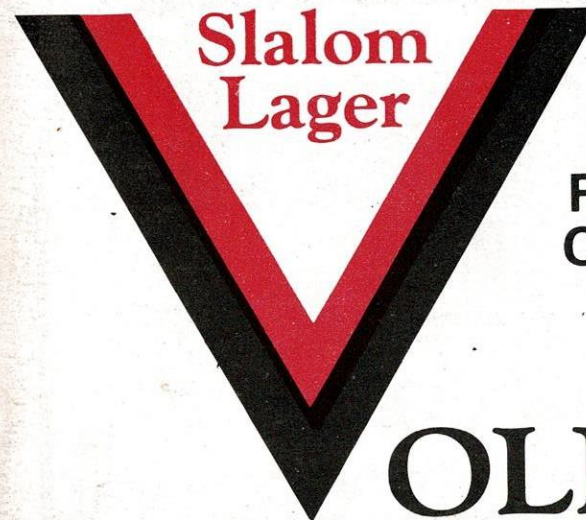
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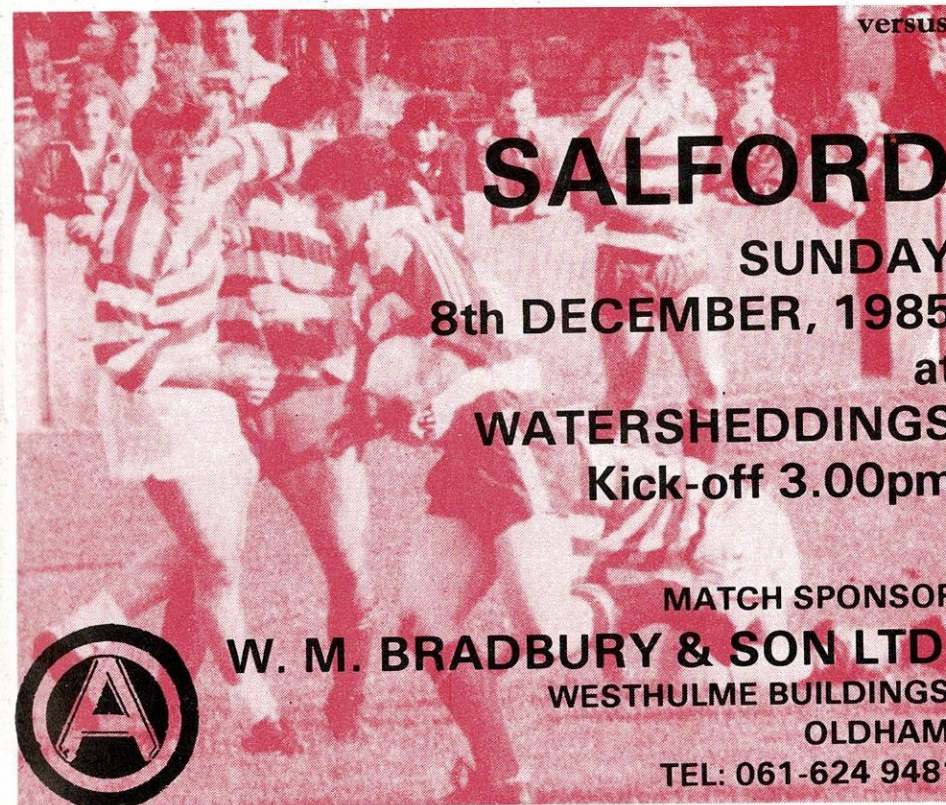
OLDHAM

versus

SALFORD

SUNDAY
8th DECEMBER, 1985
at
WATERSHEDDINGS
Kick-off 3.00pm

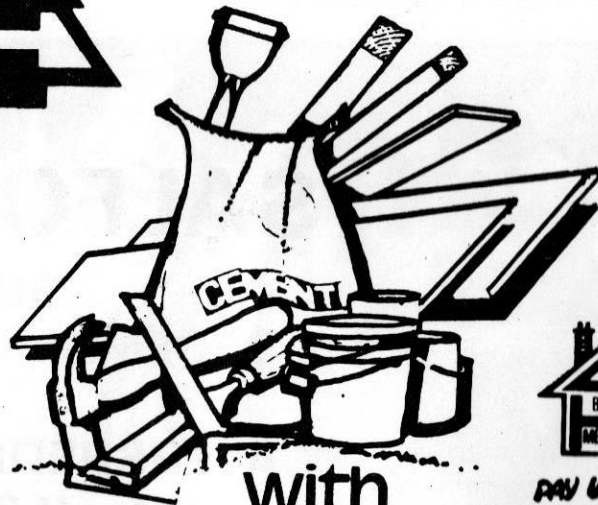
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Social Club Manager: J. Gallagher : Groundsman: J. Walker

Asst. Groundsman: W. Caine : Official Time Keeper: J. Roscoe

CLUB RECORDS

Record victory 67-6 against Liverpool City, April 1959
Record defeat 11-67 by Hull K.R., September 1978
Record attendance 28,000 v. Huddersfield, February 24th 1912
Record receipts £9,100 v. Wakefield, 24th February 1980
Record transfer fee paid £40,000 to Featherstone for David Hobbs, February 1985
Record transfer fee received
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 1959
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 and 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

ALL good things come to an end...and our run of nine consecutive games without defeat finished at Hull KR last Sunday in the second round of the John Player Special Trophy.

But didn't our boys put up a magnificent show? To lose 8-7 at Craven Park with only 12 men in the second half was a terrific achievement and all the more creditable when you consider that we came so close to winning in the late stages.

Even in defeat, therefore, a pat on the back is in order for all the players who took part and you can rest assured that the players are determined to build on their experience in the three remaining competitions that are open to us — the championship, the Challenge Cup and the Premiership.

Over the past two months, of course, we have enjoyed a marvellous run of success, but the irony of it was that seven of the games in the unbeaten run were away from home.

This put a tremendous drain on the finances, as you will have read in the press, and we have now reached the stage where every penny is important so that we can try and maintain the very high standards we have set, not only for the rest of this season but for next season and the year after that.

If you are a keen fan you may very well ask yourself...how can I help?

Right. Here are several ways in which you can do your bit for the club you support. You won't be able to contribute to all of them but, depending on your time and your circumstances, you can perhaps find something from the following ideas to appeal to you.

1. It goes without saying that we need your support on match days — all the more so now to make up for that run of 10 away games out of the last 12. But as well as coming along yourself, try to bring a friend, a colleague, or a neighbour, or merely encourage others to come from the people you meet in your day-to-day life.
2. The lottery is a vital source of income. It would be greatly appreciated if you could volunteer to sell a few tickets each week. Failing that, you can do your bit by buying a ticket when asked or buying one from your local outlet — possibly a shop or public house.
3. The Lifeline Appeal is also a great way of helping the club and at the same time giving yourself a chance of winning £1,000 every week. It costs £2 per week, but many fans have a syndicate of four at 50p a week only. As well as bidding for the £1,000 a week there are many other benefits, such as free use of the multi-gym and fitness club, the use of match-day facilities in the social club, etc, etc. Last week, for instance, we had a make-up and beauty demonstration for the Ladies.
4. The social club is not only open on match days but on every night of the week. As Oldham RL fans let's use it as our local, meet regularly with our rugby friends, chat about the match and the players, and all in the knowledge that at the same time we are spending money with the club and helping it maintain its standards.
5. The Ambassador Club is another money-raising venture which has attractive cash prizes every month.
6. We will be appreciative of any interest-free loans from £50 upwards which we can use to offset the overdraft. Donors can withdraw their money whenever they want. It will always be available. But in the meantime it could save the club a lot of money.

Some fans may be saying already that we are only moaning again. We are not moaning. We are merely asking for your support in real terms because without that support we will find it difficult to keep pace with our chief rivals, most of whom are limited companies with boards of directors.

We will never get the crowds they get at Wigan and as the strong get stronger and the weak get weaker we have to try and ensure that we keep up with the leading pack.

We are in the entertainment business, and these days people want value for their money in their leisure time and they also want to see the best. They do not want to watch second-grade stuff.

Financially, the time has come when it must be a question of all hands to the pump. Your generous support — however small or great — will be deeply appreciated in the knowledge that we, as the club management, have a responsibility to repay that generosity by putting a side on the field which the supporters and the town can be proud to call their own.

We believe we have that team now...but to keep it that way in the foreseeable future we need YOU!

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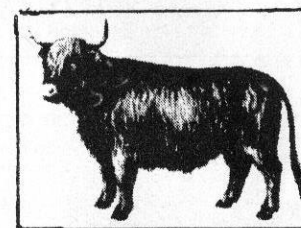
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The computer age, and yet another American influence have entered Rugby League.

In a game between Balmain and South Sydney, early in the season, the referee was fitted with a device that enabled him to transmit his voice directly to television and explain any controversial refereeing decisions. It is an innovation that has been used in the American Gridiron matches for some time. The referee carried the equipment in specially designed pockets in his shorts and collar.

The shorts contained a transmitter and an off/on toggle that guaranteed no "unwanted noises," swearing etc., would reach viewers.

The general manager of the N.S.W. Rugby League explained that it was intended purely for the purposes of television, and also an additional bonus for the crowd on grounds where a big television screen was provided.

He argued that a lot of people get confused with referees' decisions, and that this would help to eliminate controversy.

The referee who acted as the first "guinea-pig" said that he could see advantages in the system, but he could also envisage serious disadvantages — what if the switch was left on at the wrong moment? Would we hear what the players said to each other? or to the referee?

Many of us have seen our own referees carry the "black box" strapped to his waist, in order that his heart rate can be monitored and his reactions to varying situations on the field, noted. On these match days, the referee is "wired up" at home hours before the match, and indeed, referees have had their heart rates tested during their normal employment, and on training runs, so that a comparison can be made with their performance on match days.

If the Australian idea were to be introduced here, one can imagine the reason for a decision being relayed to the announcer, and from him to the spectators.

Does the technological buck stop here? And if so, where will it all end?

WELCOME TO SALFORD

SALFORD, our visitors today, come to Watersheddings as one of the sides that were promoted at the end of last season.

The management at the Willows, plus coaches Kevin Ashcroft and Tom Grainey, have worked hard to put together a side that can hold its own in the first division, and they are striving hard on the field to justify it.

We won at the Willows during our unbeaten run of nine matches but that alone does not entitle us to believe that Salford will be easy opposition at Watersheddings today.

Indeed, that is something they will certainly not be and it is worth recalling that only recently the Reds beat Hull KR at the Willows in what was a remarkable achievement.

Several of the Salford players have Oldham connections of one description or another.

Scrum-half Darren Bloor is an Oldham lad, who has played here many times for the St Anne's amateur club.

Steve Herbert, at prop, was an Oldham player for many years until he departed here for Barrow and has now arrived at Salford.

David Major, in the second-row, is the son of one of our former players, Harry Major, and he did in fact attract our attention before he turned pro for Salford some years ago.

Kieron O'Loughlin in the centre needs no introduction for he is one of the most experienced inside backs in the game and a player with Great Britain international honours.

Clive Griffiths, on the wing, came north to St Helens from Welsh RU which makes him a topical player in view of Bradford's link with the current Welsh RU scrum-half Terry Holmes.

It is interesting to note that, while Griffiths was reported to be a record £25,000 Union signing a few years ago, Holmes is now reported to be getting between £80,000 and £100,000 over the next three years. How times change!

Perhaps Salford's biggest strength lies at half-back where Bloor has been getting rave notices in partnership with Australian star Noel Baker.

Baker was voted Sydney's top stand-off last season Down Under and he had a splendid game when we won at the Willows. He is an astute passer of the ball, who works the run-around intelligently with his centres. He is also an excellent tactical kicker and has become renowned for his kicks and chases which often produce tries.

Another Aussie is found in the second-row. He is Brian Battese, a big forward from Sydney, who by all accounts had a good game in their John Player Trophy defeat at Hull last Sunday.

Loose-forward John Pendlebury is another player who needs no introduction, having played for Wigan for several seasons and appearing for them at Wembley.

A team like this will represent a hard challenge to our boys after their efforts at Hull KR last Sunday, so to all Oldham fans on the terraces we urge you to get behind our side in this our first home game for several weeks.

Indeed, we have not played at home since October so we have a lot to make up for both in terms of crowd figures and volume of support for the team.

Salford could line up something like this: Fletcher; Marsh, O'Loughlin, Byrne, Griffiths; Baker, Bloor; Herbert, Moylan, Disley, Battese, Major, Pendlebury.

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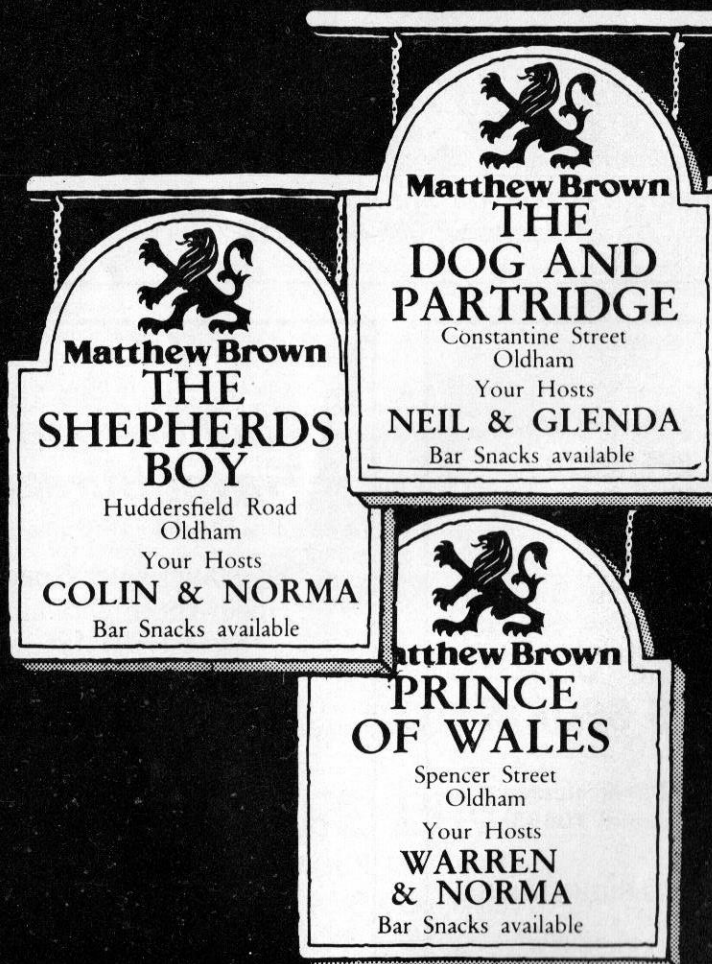
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BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

Welcome back, chaps! That is the general reaction to the decision to allow the amateur clubs back in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup competition this season.

This time we have two clubs coming in with the encouraging news that more clubs could be taking part in future seasons.

This will depend on how the feeling is when next year's annual general meeting takes place. It would be great to see even more amateur clubs taking part in this premier competition.

Maurice Oldroyd, the national administrator of the British Amateur Rugby League Association, could not disguise his delight at the re-admission of clubs.

They will be playing for the first time since 1981, the year when Pilkington Recs were beaten 18-7 by York in front of a crowd of 6,000.

'This is one of the most progressive decisions in the history of the game,' claimed Oldroyd. The opportunity is now there for every one of our 500 clubs to qualify for the most important knock-out competition in the world.

This seasons two sides will come from the winners of the Lancashire, Cumbria and Yorkshire competitions among the amateurs.

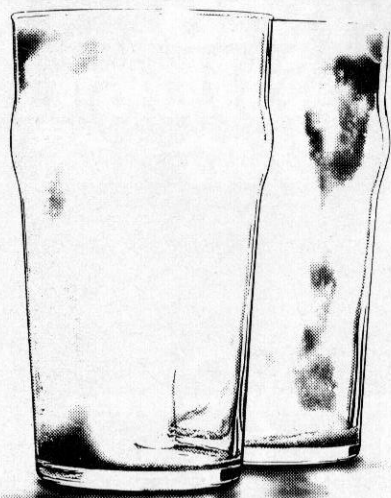
It has long been a tradition for these clubs to participate in the Challenge Cup since they were in the first competition in 1896-7 but they have missed out a lot in recent seasons.

The last instance of an amateur side removing a professional team from the Cup was in 1909 when Beverley defeated Ebbw Vale, who had finished eighth in the League that season.

Since then there have been some high scoring reverses for the amateurs but also some mighty close encounters as Castleford once experienced to their cost against the mighty Pilkington Recs side.

But the recognition for the efforts of BARLA is sound reward and certainly not overdue.

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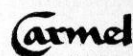
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SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

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The Supporters Club and Committee would like to welcome all the players and officials of Salford to today's match, hoping we have a good clean and entertaining game. Also we invite the supporters to our Canteens and Souvenir Shop situated at different parts of the ground.

The Souvenir Shop at the Pavilion End of the ground has sweaters, sweatshirts, ties, badges, pens etc. The programme shop is situated near the scoreboard in the old bar.

The Supporters Club

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The Supporters Club are once again holding their Christmas Eve Social and New Years Eve Family Social in the Social Club. Anyone wishing to attend these will they please give their names to Mrs J. Pilkington as soon as possible as tickets are limited.

We would like to thank Mrs Fay Bowden for today's After the Match Raffle Prize and anyone who would like to donate a prize to a match will they please put their names on the match list on the notice board in the Social Club.

The Supporters Club subscriptions are now due. Come and join the Supporters Club membership £1.00 (including diary). Please pay at any canteen. Also to all our Junior Reds, their membership to Mr J. Gallagher in the Social Club.

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4. Keiron O'Loughlin
5. Clive Griffiths
6. Neil Baker
7. Darren Bloor
8. Steve Herbert
9. Steve Moylan
10. Brian Battese
11. Nigel Lamb
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SALFORD 1985-86

PAUL FLETCHER (Full Back)

Local lad, signed from the colts side in 1980 after representing his country at that level. Tricky player, with a fantastic sidestep. Voted Club "Player of the Year" last season. Also played in both half back positions.

IAN MARSH (Winger)

Joined the club from Wigan St. Patricks A.R.L. side in February 1984. Marked his debut against Sheffield Eagles by scoring three tries, a post war record. Fast, elusive winger, who is a great favourite at the Willows.

PETER GLYNN (Centre)

Former G.B. international who joined Salford in a straight swap for full back Steve Rule, who went to St. Helens in July 1983. Classy player who has toured "Down Under". Peter has won many games with his alertness, and is lethal at finishing off a move.

KEIRON O'LOUGHLIN (Centre)

Vastly experienced player signed from Widnes for £14,000. In the G.B. test squad for the visit of the Kiwis, but was ruled out because of suspension. Former Wigan and Workington Town player.

GERARD BYRNE (Centre)

Wigan born. Another former Wigan St. Patricks A.R.L. signing. Speedy customer who has regularly topped the club try scoring list since signing in the summer of 1981.

CLIVE GRIFFITHS (Winger)

Superb goalkicker, who topped the 100 goals mark in his first season for Salford. Former Llanelli R.U. player who was a record £27,000 signing for St. Helens in 1979. He was originally taken on loan at Salford just over 12 months ago and later signed for the club on a permanent basis. He has represented Wales R.L. side.

NEIL BAKER (Stand Off)

Top Class Aussie star, voted best stand off in the Sydney League. Was on contract to South Sydney in his native country. Tactical kicking is his strength and his intelligent play has been the springboard for many of Salford's attacks. King pin of the side he has scored many sensational tries this season.

DARREN BLOOR (Scrum Half)

Joined the side from Oldham St. Annes A.R.L. club in August 1983. Aggressive player who is leading try scorer this season. Represented G.B. amateur open age side.



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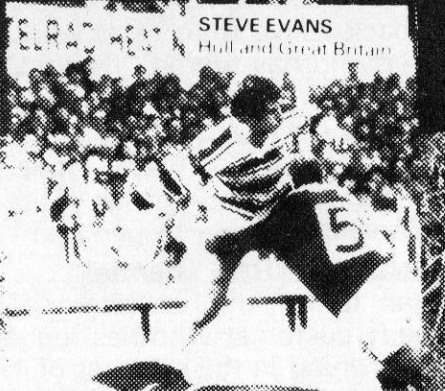
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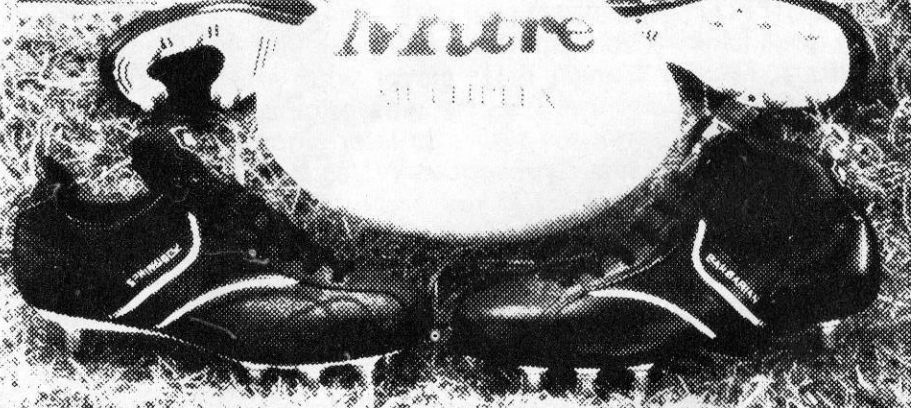




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STEVE HERBERT (Prop)

Strong, robust front row forward who was signed from Barrow in a swap deal involving Salford utility player Stewart Williams. Steve is the son of former star player Norman Herbert. Although he has not yet scored for Salford, he recorded many touchdowns from his appearances last season for Barrow.

STEVE MOYLAN (Hooker)

Recent signing from Warrington, where he was reserve hooker. On his debut against York in November he scored a crucial try.

BRIAN BATTESE (Prop)

Australian, who was playing top grade rugby with Canterbury-Bankstown in the Sydney League. He plays prop or second row and is well known for his tackling ability.

STEVE DICKENS (Prop)

Signed from Keighley for £10,000 in December 1981 after having previously been with Leeds. Product of the famous Shawcross junior side of Dewsbury. He is a clever ball playing forward who has moved up to the front row after joining the club as a loose forward.

DAVID MAJOR (Second Row)

Former Crosfields A.R.L. player (Warrington) who has been on the books since November 1979. Son of former Wires star Harry Major. David is one of the quickest forwards in the game and is now playing some of the best rugby of his career. Represented Lancashire youth side.

NIGEL LAMB (Second Row)

Tall, second row forward who joined the club from local amateur team Irlam Hornets. His long ranging runs have created havoc in many opposing defences.

JOHN PENDLEBURY (Loose Forward)

Club record signing from Wigan for a fee of £16,000, last December. Product of Leigh Miners Welfare, he originally joined Wigan in April 1979. Useful goalkicker, great ball distributor and tackler.

ROBY MULLER (Loose Forward)

Maori, who hails from the Takahiwai club in New Zealand. A strong running forward and powerful tackler whose previous experience in this country was with Warrington.

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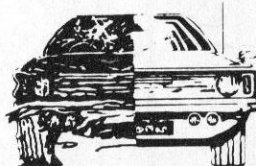
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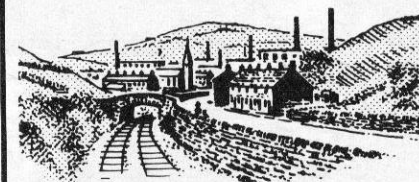
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OLDHAM R.L.F.C. FIXTURES 1985-6

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES (Kick-off 3.00pm unless otherwise shown)

(Home Team score first)

1985

SEPTEMBER

1—Halifax	D	12-12	A
4—Swinton (7.30)	L	12-16	H
8—Leeds	L	14-30	H
15—County Cup (1)	L	40-12	
22—Hull	L	54-12	A
29—Warrington	W	26-20	H

OCTOBER

6—Featherstone (3.30)	D	14-14	A
13—Salford	W	20-34	A
20—Castleford	W	46-22	H
27—Widnes	D	10-10	A

NOVEMBER

3—Bradford (3.30)	W	24-6	A
10—York	W	2-8	A
17—Dewsbury (3.30)	W	6-37	A
24—John Player Special (1)	W	8-46	A

DECEMBER

1—John Player Special (2)	L	8-7	A
8—Salford			H
15—Dewsbury			H
22—Hull K.R.			A
26—Widnes			H

1986

JANUARY

1—Leeds	A
5—Featherstone	H
12—York	H
19—Castleford (3.30)	A
26—St. Helens	H

FEBRUARY

2—Warrington	A
9—Silk Cut Challenge Cup (1)	
16—Halifax	H
23—Silk Cut Challenge Cup (2)	

MARCH

2—Hull K.R.	H
16—Widnes	A
23—Wigan	H
28—Swinton	A
31—Wigan	A

APRIL

6—Bradford	H
13—York (3.30)	A
20—St. Helens	A

Next Home Games to be Played at Watersheddings

Sunday 15th December K.O. 3.00pm Oldham v Dewsbury

Wednesday 18th December K.O. 7.30pm Oldham 'A' v Hunslet 'A'

Thursday 26th December K.O. 3.00pm Oldham v Widnes

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