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SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP.

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The Rugby Football League



SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP.

1986 Semi-Final

CASTLEFORD

18

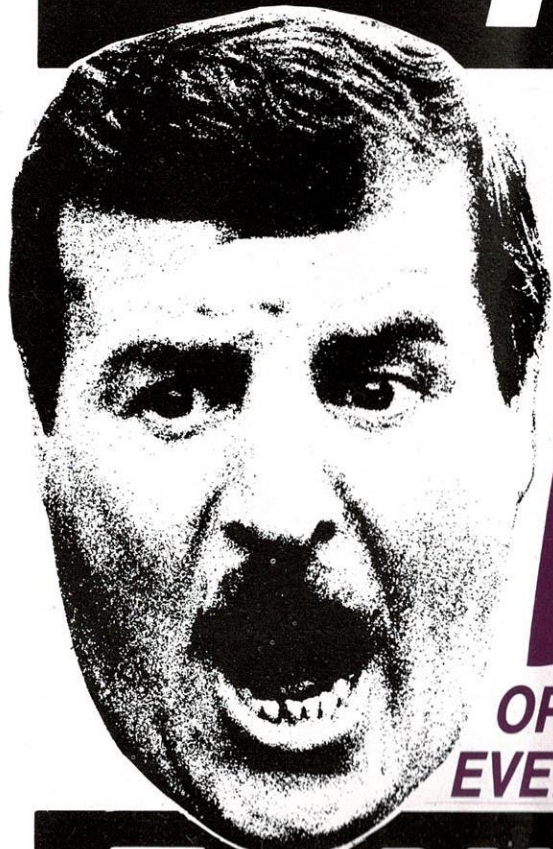
v

OLDHAM

7

Central Park, Wigan, 22nd March 2.15 p.m. 60p

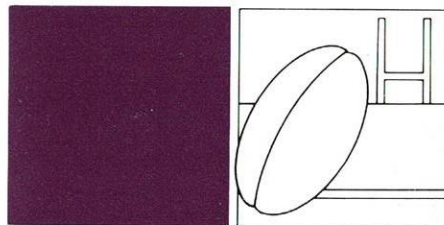
Murphy



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DAILY Mirror



MEMO

A winner's cheque for £16,000 - Rugby League's richest prize - and an investment of £57,600 into ground safety schemes are the main features of the 1986 Silk Cut Challenge Cup sponsorship.

This season's Silk Cut injection of £140,000 is the second of a three-year agreement totalling £420,000.

The annual increase of £10,000 has been allocated to the League's Capital Development Fund to help fund the massive costs of ground safety measures imposed by the Government after the Bradford City tragedy last May.

The £82,400 prize structure provides a minimum of £1,100 to participants in the four-tie Preliminary Round, and to the losing clubs in the First Round, through to the Wembley prize money of £16,000 to the winner of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and £9,000 to the runners-up.

Mr. Leonard Owen, a Director of Silk Cut, said: "We are pleased that this year's extra £10,000 sponsorship money is being put into the League's Capital Development Fund. We are all aware of the extra expenditure necessary to maintain and up-grade facilities and hope that the extra finance put into the Fund, rather than

into prize money, will ease the Club's financial burdens."

SILK CUT AWARDS

From the Preliminary Round to the Third Round, a Silk Cut award of £75 and a Silk Cut sweater has been presented to the Man of the Match from either side, the choice being made by the Press. The Silk Cut award winner in today's Semi-Final will receive £100 and an inscribed memento.

SILK CUT SWEATERS

For the first time, a limited supply of top quality Silk Cut Challenge Cup sweaters are available. The grey lambswool sweater features the official full colour Silk Cut Challenge Cup symbol with the words "Silk Cut Challenge Cup". Priced £14.95 + £1.00 postage and package, this new collector's item is available from:

The Public Relations Department
The Rugby Football League
180, Chapeltown Road
LEEDS LS7 4HT

WEMBLEY TICKETS

The 1986 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final will be staged at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, 3rd May, kick-off 3.00 p.m. Following last year's sell-out, tickets are in great demand and the £13.00 bracket have been sold out for several months. Still available are seats at £20.00, £15.00, and £9.00, plus standing tickets at £5.00. Please forward orders and remittance - together with a stamped and addressed envelope to:

The Ticket Office
The Rugby Football League
180 Chapeltown Road
LEEDS LS7 4HT

SILK CUT PRIZES

Round	Per Round	Total
Preliminary	8 x £ 1,100	£ 8,800
First	16 x £ 1,100	£17,600
Second	8 x £ 1,500	£12,000
Third	4 x £ 2,500	£10,000
Semi-Finals	2 x £ 4,500	£ 9,000
Runners-up	1 x £ 9,000	£ 9,000
Winners	1 x £16,000	£16,000

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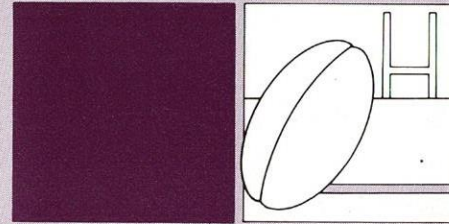


CASTLEFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE, WF10 2JT
Telephone: (0977) 556565



John Joyner feeds teammate Kevin Beardmore on the 1984 tour.

THE RIGHT STUFF



RESULTS

1986

SILK CUT

CHALLENGE CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Carlisle	20	Mansfield M.	14
Hull	38	Dudley Hill (Bradford)	10
Hunslet	20	Kells (Cumbrian)	8
Swinton	8	Leeds	30

SILK CUT AWARD

- Carl Sanderson, (Mansfield M.)
- Gary Brentley (Dudley Hill)
- Paul Messenger (Kells)
- Kevin Rayne (Leeds)

FIRST ROUND

Blackpool B.	30	Runcorn H.	10
Bradford N. (at Leeds)	10	Wakefield T.	8
Bramley	8	Batley	6
Dewsbury (at Leeds)	19	St. Helens	22
Doncaster	18	Salford	12
Featherstone R.	14	Widnes	18
Fulham (at Wigan)	14	Barrow	26
Halifax	4	Leeds	24
Huddersfield B.	4	Rochdale H.	10
Hull K.R.	22	Hull	6
Hunslet	6	Castleford	60
Keighley	2	Leigh	24
Oldham	56	Carlisle	10
Warrington	62	Sheffield E.	11
Workington T.	12	Wigan	56
York	18	Whitehaven	6

- Tommy Frodsham (Blackpool B.)
- Dick Jasiewicz (Bradford N.)
- Peter Lister (Bramley)
- John Moore (Dewsbury)
- Mick Gibbon (Doncaster)
- Paul Lyman (Featherstone R.)
- Dave Brown (Barrow)
- Kevin Rayne (Leeds)
- Steve Nash (Rochdale H.)
- John Dorahy (Hull K.R.)
- Ian French (Castleford)
- Phil Fox (Leigh)
- David Liddiard (Oldham)
- Brian Johnson (Warrington)
- Graeme West (Wigan)
- Peter Martin (York)

SECOND ROUND

Barrow	6	Castleford	30
Bradford N.	20	Bramley	20
Doncaster	10	Leeds	28
Leigh	31	Blackpool B.	10
Oldham	13	Warrington	6
Widnes	36	Rochdale H.	20
Wigan	24	St. Helens	14
York	6	Hull K.R.	34

- Ian French (Castleford)
- Paul Fletcher (Bramley)
- Kevin Jones (Doncaster)
- Simon Brockwell (Leigh)
- Ray Ashton (Oldham)
- Noel Cleal (Widnes)
- Steve Ella (Wigan)
- Andy Kelly (Hull K.R.)

REPLAY

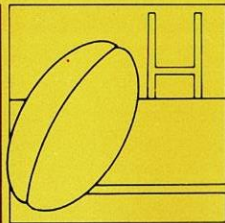
Bramley	2	Bradford N.	36
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- Heath Godfrey (Bradford N.)

THIRD ROUND

Hull K.R.	25	Leigh	10
Oldham	6	Bradford N.	1
Widnes	10	Leeds	10
Wigan	2	Castleford	10

- David Watkinson (Hull K.R.)
- Brendan White (Bradford N.)
- Paul Medley (Leeds)
- Kevin Ward (Castleford)



FORUM

The Big Match Forum for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final focuses on two new Rugby League chiefs to hit the scene.

At the start of this season Fred Wood found himself made Chairman of Second Division Rochdale Hornets after steering a boardroom takeover. But in a short space of time he has established himself as an forward-looking adventurous administrator with definite opinions on the game.

Today he takes centre stage as the latest subject of the Big Match face-to-face interview with Sunday Mirror columnist JOHN HUXLEY.

Q: What prompted you to help in the takeover at Rochdale?

A: I was already on the board at Hornets and felt that the existing administration did not look forward enough to adopt an adventurous attitude. I decided to do something about it and, together with Ian Brennan, set about ringing the changes.

I had been with the club as both Under-17 and Colts team coach and then went on to help with the commercial side at the Athletic Grounds. Basically I felt that with crowds of just 200 to 400 professional Rugby League could not continue at Rochdale. And even today with a 500-per cent increase the future is still not assured. We need an average gate of 2,500 per game.

We had planned to accelerate club affairs so that things were happening at 100 miles per hour and then slow it down to a manageable pace. That way we hoped to create an interest in the club that would be sustained.

Of course we made decisions that with hindsight we wish we could reverse but at least they weren't too expensive to the club.

The trouble was that we took people and situations at face value and then found out

there was much more to life than we imagined. I've always wanted Hornets not just to be among the survivors but to be a superclub.

Q: Have you been surprised by the response of both the Rugby League and Rochdale public?

A: To be brutally frank the Rugby League fans in general have shown us more interest than our own folk in Rochdale. I believe their view has become cynical because they have not had a successful professional sports team in the town for years.

They have become used to second best and it's our job to persuade them that things have changed at the Athletic Grounds. There is a great sporting tradition in Rochdale to build on.

There's nothing in this world for people who won't get back up off their knees and fight back. We at Hornets believe in an aggressive approach to life and want to follow clubs like Hull, Hull KR and Wigan who wouldn't accept second best.

Q: What have been your biggest problems?

A: My answer can be summed up in three words... the Athletic Grounds. We have got to find a way of making sure our ground is used for 365 days a year. It's simply got to pay for itself otherwise it becomes 13 acres of useless ground.

We have already made a commitment to athletics and will have a running track laid. The club is entering the motor sports scene by staging stock car racing on Friday nights throughout the summer. The Stock Car control organisation, BRISCA, couldn't find anybody to take over the nights used by the former Odsal track and we aim to fill that gap.

We want a super stadium at Rochdale. We're having talks with a merchant bank and our local council with the idea of building a two million pound super sports set up.

If that means tearing down the Athletic Grounds and starting again, so be it. We must have the worst designed stadium in the whole of Britain. It's all lop-sided. But, on the other hand, I bet not too many other stadiums have our potential.

Q: Do you think there is a future for Second Division Rugby?

A: When I first joined the Rochdale board I used to think that the extra competition and local derbies of one division would be the saviour of our game. Now I've changed my mind. I believe lots of clubs just don't want to

compete. They need a shake up or shake out!

I still think there is a case to be made for three divisions with our top clubs playing each other in a super competition. That would help create the right conditions for a successful Great Britain Test team too. I think that if we adopted that system then BARLA would follow suit and the whole game would benefit.

There is still a great opportunity for success in the Second Division. The problem is that we don't play the game in the same way as the First Division. I don't blame the coaches for that and think that the real problem lies in the board and committee rooms of the clubs involved.

Too many of us are prepared to accept two training nights and a match day as the be all and end all. Now it goes far beyond that. We've all got to adopt an aggressive attitude and pull away from the 1898 mentality.

Q: Do you think it is possible for other Second Division clubs to follow Rochdale's example?

A: Most certainly it is. But it requires the courage of their convictions.

I believe every club has that potential. But you've got to have the will to succeed. Sure it takes money and it's there if you want to find it. All it takes is the will to go out and find that financial backing.

It's not easy... what is in life these days? But if you're going to make a go of it then you need a seven-day-a-week commitment to the game. There's no other way.

Q: What are your favourite Challenge Cup memories?

A: Basically, I was brought up as a Warrington Fan and I can't get that 1974 win over Featherstone Rovers at Wembley out of my system. It was all down to Alex Murphy's influence on the team and if he hadn't come back we would have lost. Really the crunch came when Featherstone hooker Keith Bridges was injured and that seemed to spur the Wire on to success.

The Cup has that special magic and just to be there on the day is something special for the fans never mind the players.

When I was an 'A'-team player at Swinton the Cup draw sent a shiver round the club and even at Rochdale today the very mention of the Cup is something extraordinary. Long may it be so!

Conducted by JOHN HUXLEY, of the

**SUNDAY
Mirror**

OPEN RUGBY

Magazine

**TURN ONTO THE WINNING TEAM ...
THE BEST MONEY CAN BUY!**

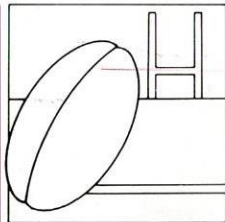
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Rochdale Hornets



Football Club Co. Ltd.



PROFILE

IAN PROCTOR meets DAVID LIDDIARD

DAVID LIDDIARD

The seemingly endless, dark days of his first English winter are mercifully over for David Liddiard. Spring holds decidedly more promise for Oldham and one of the fastest men in Rugby League with May 3rd provisionally pencilled in as a red-letter day in the club's long history.

It has been a bitter-sweet debut season in the English first division for 24-year-old Liddiard, but when the Silk Cut Challenge Cup competition got under way, somewhat stutteringly, in February it added vigour to the step of a player renowned for his phenomenal, naturally-gifted pace in Sydney.

Oldham's 1986 Challenge Cup campaign was but 18 seconds old when Liddiard tore over for one of the fastest touchdowns in the competition's long history against Carlisle at Boundary Park, with the Australian taking his tally to four tries in a 56-10 rout of the second division outfit.

In the face of a stirring Warrington rally in the second round, at Watersheddings, Liddiard stood firm, and in the quarter-final against Bradford Northern he was, fittingly, on hand to take 16-year-old brother Glen's inside pass to score the game's only try. This was his 12th of the season at the rate of almost one per match, giving the Roughyeds a 6-1 passage into their first Challenge Cup Semi-Final in 22 years . . . and the dream of that elusive first Wembley appearance.

"That try will live with me forever," reflected affable Liddiard, particularly for the great joy it brought to our spectators and players. Mick Morgan was absolutely ecstatic and everyone wants to make it to Wembley so that he can crown his career with the honour that's eluded him.

"As for brother Glen? I'm not sure that he quite

realises that he could become the youngest player to appear in a Wembley Final. Of course, Castleford bar the way, and they produced the result of the last round to remove Wigan from the competition. We're happy with the draw and quietly confident. On a personal note I'm sure a fine Wembley performance would give me an early opportunity to catch the eye of any Kangaroo tour selectors.

"The dream of Wembley is matched only by the ambition of returning to England as a member of that 1986 tour party."

Liddiard's desire to make the Kangaroo touring team as a full back led to the most agonising decision of his life last September, when he chose to leave the most star-studded club back division of the modern era - Taylor, Grothe, Cronin, Ella, Kenny and Sterling - to join hometown Penrith, a club which has yet to produce its first international player after 19 years.

Ironically Penrith turned down **The Warrington Rocket** following trials in 1981, and Parramatta's under-23 coach Billy Rayner spotted his potential shortly afterwards. Liddiard starred in the Eels Under-23 team which reached the 1981 Grand Final, scored 10 tries in his opening dozen first-grade games for Parramatta, and became an integral, versatile, but often overshadowed member of, firstly, Jack Gibson's, and John Monie's glamorous back division.

Paul Taylor, a totally different style of full back - and the Eel who preceeded him at the Watersheddings - usually won the vote for the blue-and-gold number one jersey, a selection which might mystify many of the knowledgeable Oldham spectators. This enforced Liddiard to alternate between centre and wing, with only an occasional outing in his favourite full back role. Indeed, whilst Taylor was playing for Oldham in 1985, Liddiard's outstanding full-back displays for Parramatta earned him representative selection in the annual City-Country clash.

"I've the highest regard for Parramatta as a club, and utmost respect for Paul Taylor's ability as an all-action footballer, but my decision to leave Parramatta was based simply on my desire to play full back. It broke my heart to leave the club, yet I'm from the Penrith area and the move could prove highly beneficial for me.

Full back is a position I love, being able to time my incisions into the line and having so much space and room to utilise my best asset - my

pace. Garry Jack is a certainty for the Kangaroo tour as first choice full back, but the second choice spot is wide open, and my chances are better if I'm first choice at an up-and-coming club like Penrith.

"It's something of a disappointment to miss out on the start of a new era at Parramatta, with their new stadium being recently officially opened by the Queen, but I'd be prepared to have with a Wembley appearance as compensation!"

Liddiard's all-too-brief sojourn at Watersheddings has impressed all at Oldham, with his arrival in late September coinciding with a run of only one defeat in 13 league and cup matches, following the club's disastrous start of five games without a win. That sole defeat - an 8-7 John Player Second Round setback at Craven Park, Hull - still rankles with Liddiard as the worst memory of his spell in England. A player with an unblemished disciplinary record in Sydney, he was controversially dismissed in that pulsating cup-tie, and Oldham fought bravely for almost an hour with only twelve men, going down by the odd point. He was beyond comforting afterwards, feeling that his tackle had not been illegal and that the first dismissal of his career

had cost his team-mates and supporters dearly.

"It was the turning point of a tremendous cup-tie" he reflected ruefully and "when I was exonerated by the disciplinary committee a week later it only intensified the feelings of frustration, and made it harder to bear. In the following game I sustained a broken jaw against Salford - the tackle was so late that the ball was two passes away - and I became more frustrated than ever, feeling that Oldham weren't getting value for money and that those marvellous supporters were being let down. I've only played some 13 or 14 games, and hardly any in front of our home supporters, but if I can help the club into their first-ever Wembley Final then all the misery of Christmas and New Year will be forgotten. It wasn't easy to get in the festive spirit with my jaw wired!"

Contractual obligations to Penrith will keep Liddiard, who likes the football but not the cold weather, away from the British Scene for at least two years, although Oldham devotees are convinced that the pacy full back will be making two return flights to England during the next five months - for Wembley on May 3rd, and with the Kangaroos in September.

Rugby

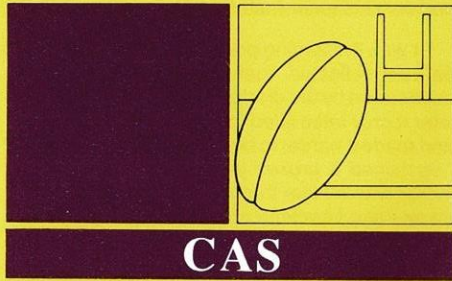
ALL FOR THE
GOOD OF
THE GAME

Leaguer

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164 College Street
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CAS

Having conquered favourites Wigan in the third round, Castleford this afternoon bid for only their fourth Challenge Cup final.

Since their first season in 1926-27, the Glassblowers have reached Wembley three times and brought the coveted trophy back on each occasion. In 1935 they defeated Huddersfield 11-8, in 1969 disposed of Salford 11-6 and a year later fended off Wigan 7-2.

The Lance Todd Trophy winner in that 1969 triumph was a 21-year-old packman who is now coach of Castleford, Mal Reilly having held the post since December 1974.

The holder of nine caps for Great Britain, all earned in 1970, Reilly enjoyed recognition in Sydney club football with Manly Warringah before returning to the player-coach role at Wheldon Road.

His famous knee injury curtailed the latter end of a distinguished playing career and although he has officially resigned, Reilly still threatens to return to a playing jersey!

Castleford this afternoon enter their fourth Challenge Cup semi-final in five years. In 1982 they met Hull at Headingley going down 15-11 to the eventual winners. A year later Hull again provided the opposition, this time at Elland Road, the result still going Hull's way at 14-7. Last year, it was yet again Hull, this time back at Headingley.

In a thrilling semi-final double encounter each watched by 21,000 fans, Castleford drew 10-10 before going down 22-16 in the replay four days later, Hull skipper Lee Crooks inspiring the Airlie Birds to yet another Wembley appearance.

Castleford have already reached one

final this season, staging a thrilling comeback against Hull K.R. in the John Smiths Yorkshire Cup final at Headingley but too late to prevent the Robins lifting the trophy.

On the individual front, young centre Tony Marchant gained his Test debut for Great Britain in their victory over France at Wigan earlier this month. A try scorer, his strong running and tackle count of 22—remarkable for a threequarter—made a great impression on coach Maurice Bamford.

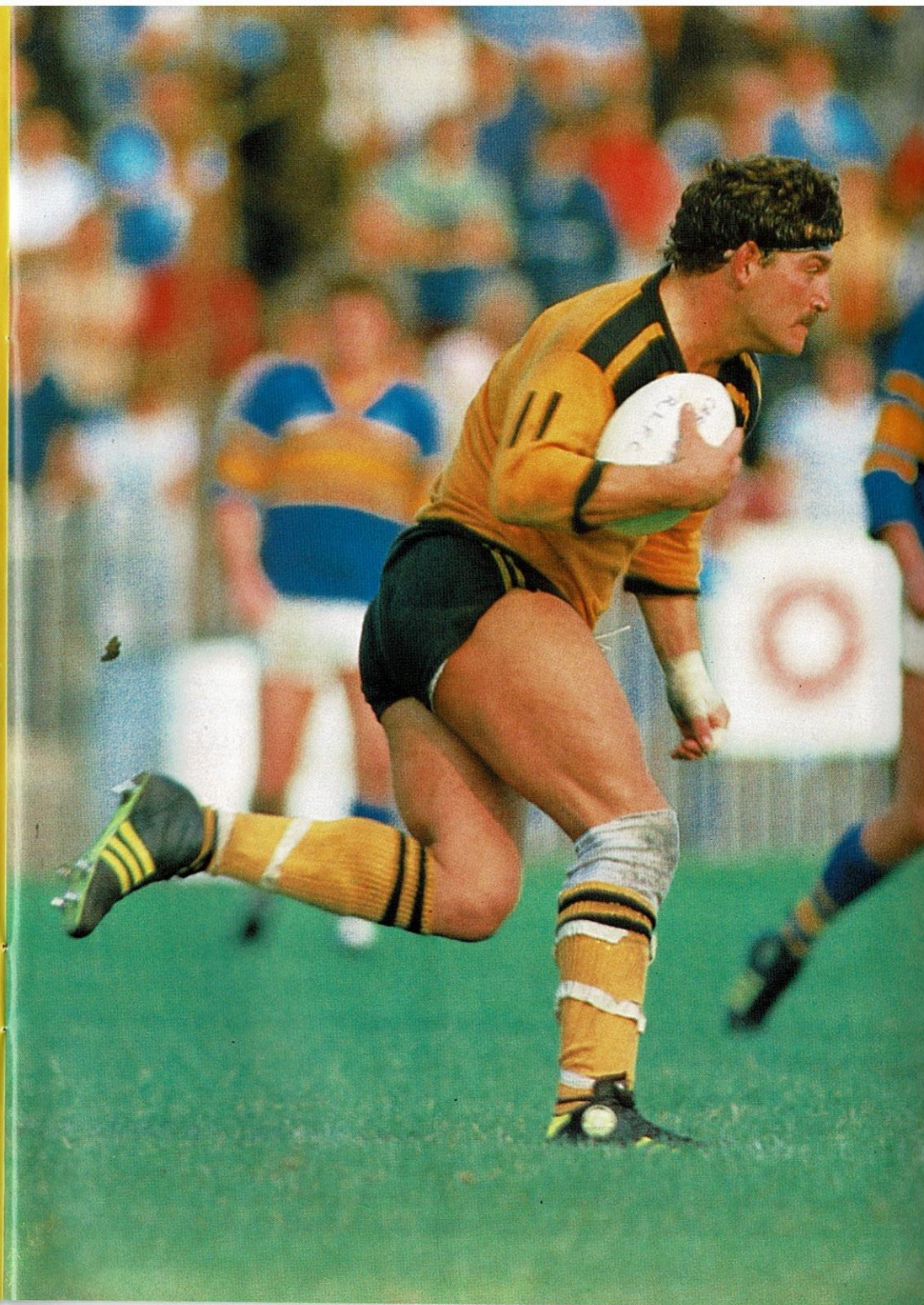
Earlier in the season, Bamford selected the Beardmore twins, scrum half Robert and hooker Kevin, in his 17-man squad for the first Whitbread Trophy Bitter Test. The Beardmores are prolific scorers for the club, points record holder Bob contributing 43 goals and six tries for 110 points last season, Kevin adding 15 tries for 60 points. Kevin was considered unfortunate to claim the hooking role in the 1984 Tests Down Under, being restricted to a substitute appearance against New Zealand, although England honours followed in the autumn against Wales. Currently injured, his hooking role is with former Colts International Stuart Horton.

Castleford recruited two Australians this season in utility back Jamie Sandy and loose forward Ian French, who has blossomed of late and commanded two Silk Cut Awards in the present Cup run.

Capped 16 times for Great Britain and a double tourist, John Joyner has recently enjoyed a lucrative benefit at Wheldon Road, while prop Gary Connell has been awarded a three-month Testimonial having been forced to quit because of a neck injury.

Master ball distributor Barry Johnson is back in the side after injury, having received Great Britain Under-24 honours in 1982. Fellow prop Kevin Ward is on the verge of a British recall after being capped against France in 1984.

Giant killers Castleford, featuring former Great Britain Colts Keith England and Neil Greatbatch and ex-Doncaster winger David Plange, today seek a Wembley appearance in their quest for their first trophy success since lifting the Yorkshire Cup in 1981.



Castleford's Kevin Ward

The Rugby Football League
 offers a very warm welcome to
 the Directors, Management
 and staff of Silk Cut
 and takes the opportunity
 of thanking the company
 for their sponsorship of
 The Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP.

LINE UP

CASTLEFORD

Amber and black jersey

Coach: **MALCOLM REILLY**

- David Roockley 1
- Neil Greatbatch 2
- Tony Marchant 3
- Philip Payne 4
- David Plange 5
- John Joyner 6
- Bob Beardmore 7
- Kevin Ward 8
- Stuart Horton 9
- Barry Johnson 10
- Martin Ketteridge 11
- Keith England 12
- Ian French 13
- Jamie Sandy 14
- Dean Mountain 15

OLDHAM

Red and white jersey

Manager: **FRANK MYLER**

- David Liddiard 1
- Hussein M'Barki 2
- Des Foy 3
- Gary Warnecke 4
- Mike Taylor 5
- Glen Liddiard 6
- Ray Ashton 7
- Wally Jones 8
- Ian Sanderson 9
- David Hobbs 10
- Mick Worrall 11
- Mal Graham 12
- Terry Flanagan 13
- MICK PARRISH 14
- TOM NADIGLE 15

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

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

SILK CUT AWARD

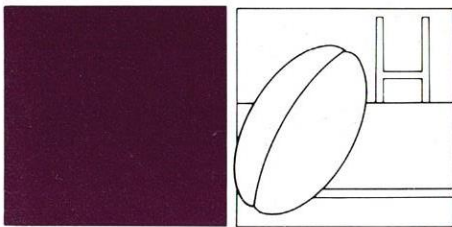
Today's Silk Cut Award winner, judged by the Press for the most outstanding performance, will receive £100 and an inscribed memento.

Referee: **RON CAMPBELL**, Widnes

Touch Judges:

J. E. Lloyd, Warrington (red flag)

J. C. Stanton, Warrington, (yellow flag)



HISTORY

Rugby League historian **ROBERT GATE** reviews the semi-final stage of the world famous Rugby League Challenge Cup.



This year marks the 85th Rugby League Challenge Cup competition, a tournament which was born in 1897 and has been contested in every year since, excluding the war years 1916-19 and 1940.

During this time 168 semi-final ties have been fought, no fewer than 31 clubs having reached this penultimate stage of the competition. The most frequent semi-finalists have been Wigan (28), Leeds (27), Warrington (23), Halifax (19), Hull and Wakefield Trinity (18).

The first semi-finals resulted in Batley defeating Warrington 6-0 at Fartown, while St. Helens overcame Swinton 7-0 at Wheater's Field, Broughton. The crowd for the Fartown semi was only 5,500, the lowest-ever recorded at this stage in the competition. A healthy return of 20,000 was recorded for the Broughton semi-final, however.

In 1914 Cup fever was such that the Huddersfield-Hull semi-final drew 30,000 to Headingley. The first semi to attract a crowd in excess of 40,000 was the 1936 clash between Warrington and Salford which drew 41,538 spectators, a figure which was shattered three years later when Halifax and Leeds attracted a crowd of 64,453 to Odsal Stadium, staging its first semi-final.

It was Odsal which subsequently housed the current largest crowd for a semi-final with 69,898 for the Leeds-Warrington game of 1950. The largest attendance for a semi-final staged in Lancashire was 44,731 for the Barrow-St. Helens replay at Wigan in 1956.

Excluding the semi-finals of 1941-45 which were played on a two-leg basis, all Challenge Cup semi-finals have been staged on neutral grounds, Station Road, Swinton and Headingley having been most employed. The following venues have staged semi-finals or replayed semi-finals.

	Semi-finals	Semi-finals replays
Station Road, Swinton	28	2
Headingley, Leeds	25	2
Odsal Stadium, Bradford	19	—
Fartown, Huddersfield	18	5
Central Park, Wigan	18	3
Belle Vue, Wakefield	9	1
Wheater's Field, Broughton	8	1
Athletic Grounds, Rochdale	6	1
Thrum Hall, Halifax	6	—
The Willows, Salford	5	1
Watersheddings, Oldham	4	—
Wilderspool, Warrington	4	—
Elland Road, Leeds	3	—
Belle Vue, Manchester	1	—
The Cliff, Broughton	1	—
Park Avenue, Bradford	1	—
Parkside, Hunslet	1	—
Knowsley Road, St. Helens	1	—
Mather Lane, Leigh	—	2

HIGHEST SCORES IN SEMI-FINALS

Only three scores of 30 or more points have been made:

1913	Huddersfield	35	Wakefield Trinity	2
	at Halifax			
1924	Wigan	30	Barrow	5
	at Salford			
1933	Huddersfield	30	Leeds	8
	at Wakefield			

HIGHEST SCORE BY A LOSING TEAM

1985 Replay Castleford 16 Hull 22 at Headingley.

N.B. Oldham led Hull K.R. 17-14 in a replayed semi-final in 1964 at Swinton but the game was abandoned 12 minutes into extra time. Oldham lost the subsequent second replay).

HIGHEST AGGREGATE

41 points: Barrow 28 Leeds 13 at Fartown, 1951 replay.

SCORELESS SEMI-FINALS

1903	Salford-Oldham	at Wheater's Field, Broughton.
1923	Barrow-Leeds	at The Cliff, Broughton.
1937	Keighley-Wakefield Trinity	at Headingley.
1968	Huddersfield-Wakefield Trinity	at Odsal

HIGHEST SCORING DRAW

1951 Barrow 14 Leeds 14 at Odsal

BOTH SEMI-FINALS DRAWN

This has only occurred once. In 1964 Widnes and Castleford drew 7-7 at Swinton whilst at Headingley Hull K.R. and Oldham tied 5-5. The replayed Oldham-Hull K.R. game was abandoned necessitating a third game. Thus the 1964 semi-finals comprised five games which aggregated an attendance of 139,106. No other semi has ever gone to a second replay although Barrow and St. Helens found themselves deadlocked at 0-0 in their 1956 replay at Central Park. Extra time was played, however, which saw Saints end up winners by 10-5.

The following table is a complete record of the clubs who have participated in the semi-finals of the Rugby League Challenge Cup:

	App.	Won	Lost	Most recent
Barrow	12	5	7	1967
Batley	6	3	3	1911
Bradford/Bradford N.	14	8	6	1983
Broughton Rangers*	5	2	3	1914
Castleford*	1	—	1	1901
Castleford	10	3	7	1985
Dewsbury	9	3	6	1974
Featherstone Rovers	12	5	7	1983
Halifax	19	10	9	1980
Huddersfield	16	8	8	1971
Hull	18	12	6	1985
Hull K.R.	10	5	5	1985
Hunslet	10	4	6	1965
Keighley	5	1	4	1976
Leeds	27	14	13	1984
Leeds Parish Church*	1	—	1	1900
Leigh	8	2	6	1974
Oldham	15	7	8	1964
Rochdale Hornets	7	1	6	1958
St. Helens	16	10	6	1981
St. Helens Recs*	1	—	1	1929
Salford	12	7	5	1969
Swinton	9	5	4	1965
Wakefield Trinity	18	8	10	1979
Warrington	23	12	11	1981
Whitehaven	1	—	1	1957
Widnes	17	12	5	1984
Wigan	28	17	11	1985
Wigan Highfield†	1	—	1	1926
Workington Town	3	3	—	1958
York	2	1	1	1984

*Defunct clubs

†Now Runcorn Highfield

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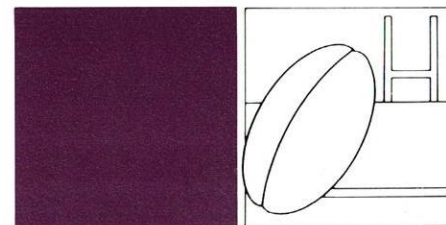
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INFO

NEW PUBLICATION

A major new historical Rugby League publication is now available reviewing the influence of the Welsh in the 13-a-side code.

Compiled by the Rugby League historian, Robert Gate, the 192-page book is entitled "Gone North - Welshmen in Rugby League".

Featuring extensive illustrations and statistics, the book spotlights Jim Sullivan, Billy Boston, Roy Francis, Tommy Harris, Wattie Davies, Trevor Foster, Jim Mills, John Mantle, Colin Dixon, Kel Coslett and many others.

There is a limited edition of 1,500 paperback copies and a collector's edition of only 100 hardback copies.

The paperback is priced at £6.50 (plus 75p post and packing) and the hardback at £11.00 (plus £1 post and packing) from the Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

GREENALLS MAN OF STEEL

The 1986 Greenalls Man of Steel awards - totalling more than £7000 - will be presented at a gala cabaret evening at Salford RLFC on Wednesday 14th May.

The personality judged to have made most impact in the 1985-86 season will receive Rugby League's top individual title of Greenalls Man of Steel, a cheque for £1500 and an inscribed silver champagne goblet valued at £300.

The Greenalls First Division, Second Division, Young Player, Coach and Referee of the Year each receive £500 and a silver wine goblet valued at £200.

The 10th Man of Steel award ceremony will be compered for the first time by ITV sports personality Elton Welsby.

A top line cabaret bill, including disco dancing, is headed by The Dooleys.

Tickets are now available for the 13-a-side code's top social occasion priced £4.50 for a reserved seat, or £12.50 including four-course dinner.

Orders and remittance, made payable to the Rugby League Football, should be forwarded to:

Public Relations Department
Rugby Football League
180 Chapeltown Road
LEEDS LS7 4HT

HEAD TO HEAD...

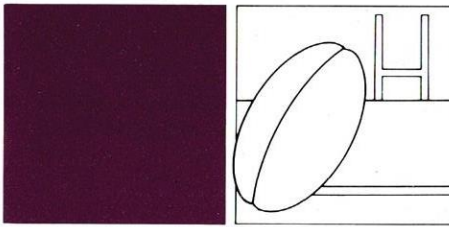
1986 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP SEMI FINAL

CASTLEFORD v OLDHAM

PREVIOUS RUGBY LEAGUE CUP MEETINGS

1938-39	(1)	OLDHAM	10	CASTLEFORD	3
1941-42	(2)*	OLDHAM	14	CASTLEFORD	3
		CASTLEFORD	0	OLDHAM	10
1972-73	(3)	CASTLEFORD	25	OLDHAM	11
1984-85	(1)	OLDHAM	8	CASTLEFORD	14

*Indicates Two Legs



OLDHAM

Oldham have reached seven Rugby League Challenge Cup finals, won the coveted prize three times and built up a record four consecutive appearances in the final.

Yet the illustrious Lancashire club has yet to play at Wembley!

This afternoon the Roughyeds are 80 minutes away from that Wembley debut having disposed of Carlisle, Warrington and Bradford Northern in three home draws.

That suggestion that Wembley is only 80 minutes away will bring wry smiles to the Oldham followers who remember the last time they contested a cup semi-final.

The year was 1964 and the opponents Hull K.R. at Headingley provided the venue for the Challenge Cup semi-final that was to become a marathon. Nearly 30,000 fans witnessed a 5-5 draw.

The replay was at Station Road, Swinton, and just over 27,000 people witnessed a thrilling 14-14 draw. Extra time was started and Oldham took a 17-14 lead before the match was abandoned after 12 minutes because of bad light.

The second replay took the encounter to Fartown, Huddersfield, where Rovers gained a 12-2 victory in front of nearly 29,000 spectators.

A try scorer for Widnes in the 1984 final that followed was Frank Myler, manager of Oldham since June 1984 on his return from Down Under as tour coach of Great Britain. Capped 24 times for Britain, Myler is in his second spell at Watersheddings having left to take the full-time Great Britain coaching appointment.

Myler is no stranger to Wembley having

played for Widnes in that 1964 final and twice been coach of Widnes as runners-up in 1976 to St. Helens and 1977 to Leeds.

Oldham have invested heavily in overseas talent this season. Australian full back David Liddiard has impressed on attack, while his teenage brother Glen has been given the problem stand off role in recent weeks. Centre Gary Warnecke has proved to be a popular acquisition, while former Hunslet packman Mal Graham has reproduced the form which put him in the running for the coaching post at Elland Road last season.

Moroccan wingman Hussein M'Barki joined Oldham this season after a year at Warrington, making only eight appearances last campaign. He had previously been a firm favourite at Fulham.

Veteran stand off David Topliss was signed on a free transfer from Hull this season and was providing experience in the vital stand off role before a car crash put him on the sidelines. His great friend and former Wakefield Trinity teammate Mick Morgan is still a first class team squad member at the age of 37, having enjoyed a well earned 20-year Testimonial earlier this season which brought in £22,500.

Oldham's paid out nearly £40,000 at the end of last season for Great Britain forward David Hobbs, injury restricting him to just two appearances. Recently the former Featherstone Rovers prop has refound the form which brought him eight Test caps and a place on the 1984 tour Down Under. Hobbs has a place in Wembley history with his role in Featherstone's 1983 Wembley shock upset of odds-on favourites Hull, his two-try display earning him the coveted Lance Todd Trophy.

Fellow 1984 tourists were loose forward Terry Flanagan, scrum half Ray Ashton and second row man Mick Worrall, recently transfer listed. Local products include Paddy Kirwan and Paul Lowndes, while the consistent form of prop Wally Jones has put him on the verge of Great Britain recognition in the past three years.

Apart from the Division Two titles in 1982 and 1964, Oldham's trophy cupboard has been bare since the Lancashire Cup success of 1958. Now those Wembley towers are only 80 minutes away... unless the spectre of 1964 rises again!

Oldham's Terry Flanagan





PROFILE

IAN PROCTOR meets JOHN JOYNER

JOHN JOYNER

Wembley cup-finalists are getting younger each year. As players fresh out of school such as Lee Crooks, Alan Banks and Shaun Edwards have all sampled the unique atmosphere.

Some of Rugby League's most illustrious, and most experienced, names go through an entire career without a hint of an appearance at the Mecca of the game.

Outstanding players who never trod the hallowed turf include the mighty pre-war Swinton goalkicker Martin Hodgson, Oldham's prodigious goalkicker Bernard Ganley, two of Cumbria's favourite sons Paul Charlton and Bill Holliday, Bradford Northern's former Leigh captain John Woods, Des Drummond and Keith Mumby.

Today's Central Park meeting between Oldham, without a Wembley appearance in their history, and Castleford 16 years since their twin visits of 1969 and 1970, while offering an opportunity for more Babes to make it to the twin towers also presents what could be the last opportunity for two of the finest professionals Rugby League has known.

Mick Morgan, 20 years in the game, will never have a better chance to be with the right club at the right time having left Wakefield Trinity and Featherstone Rovers somewhat prematurely with regard to a Wembley visit.

In the Castleford ranks is the supremely gifted, and remarkably loyal, John Joyner, a player whose glorious semi-final try against Hull at Headingley a year ago seemed to have given his side victory against hoodoo opponents Hull. It was not to be, however, but, for the fourth time in five years, the club he has served immaculately since making his debut against Bramley in

September, 1972, stand on the threshold of their fourth Wembley visit.

Joyner's influence at stand off will be critical to his side, as it was on this ground last Sunday when he comprehensively outplayed Wigan's expensive Joe Lydon, and like most of his colleagues he is relieved that Bogey side Hull have been removed from the tournament. But Joyner shrewdly observes that no opposition are easy at this stage of the competition.

"At the semi-final stage it's all down to which team hits form on the day. In each of our clashes against Hull in 1982, 1983 and 1985 we had opportunities to win the game but failed to do so. A kind run of the ball can also be vital.

"The most disappointing setback of them all was not the defeats, but drawing 10-10 in our first encounter with Hull at Headingley last year because we all knew it was game we should have won. Peter Sterling conjured a try out of nothing to save Hull, yet we almost scored again in those frantic last minutes. We went into the replay feeling that we could still win, but psychologically we were despondent and knew that we'd missed our chance in the first meeting.

"Once again Castleford have shown their mettle in cup football by upsetting favourites Wigan with that memorable 10-2 quarter-final victory last Sunday. The determination in our ranks was so apparent from the kick off. We've proved time after time that we can, on our day, beat the best in the league.

"Inconsistency has always been our problem and it's something that no one can put their finger on. It frustrates the players more than anything."

Joyner has been a lynchpin of the Castleford team for well over a decade, becoming only the tenth player to score a century of first division tries, starring in major finals in John Player, Yorkshire Cup, Floodlit Trophy and Premiership competitions in a variety of roles, while steadily accumulating a host of representative honours.

His stylish, laid-back ability is the epitome of the classy Cas tradition, and the man is proud to have scored tries in the 1977 John Player final defeat of Blackpool Borough, and in the 10-5 Yorkshire Cup final victory over Bradford Northern in 1981, when he skippered the club to only its second County Cup triumph. Whether at centre, his favourite position, stand-off, where he can play a more active role, or in occasional appearances at loose forward, he has remained

one of the finest products of the Castleford nursery. His testimonial season in 1984 was richly deserved, coinciding with his second tour down under.

"I've been happy to remain at Wheldon Road throughout my career," he reflected, "though obviously there have been times when I wondered whether the grass might be greener elsewhere. Fourteen years is a long time to remain in one place. I'd have loved to have played club football in Australia, to test myself and prove my ability in the highest company, and there were two good offers put to me when I was on tour in 1979. Unfortunately the international transfer ban was on. I'll always regret not being allowed to play in Sydney.



"At Castleford we've always had a unique team spirit, it's something that gets us through times of crisis, hopefully that will see us finally make it this afternoon. Every professional knows that the semi-final is the worst round of all to lose in - it really does upset you - and no one at Wheldon Road wants to experience it for a fourth time in five years."

At representative level Joyner has always

looked world-class, from the moment he made his sensational test debut against Australia in the Second Test at Odsal, in 1978, when his unorthodox overhead pass sent Stuart Wright in for the try which clinched Great Britain's 18-14 victory - our last over the old enemy. Two tours to Australasia followed, in 1979, when he appeared in all six Tests and was one of the few British successes, and in 1984 when he, somewhat disappointingly, came to the end of his 14-test career with just two substitute appearances against New Zealand.

Joyner is Castleford's most capped international, and has also appeared for England (four times), Yorkshire (nine) and on five occasions at Under-24 international level. A phlegmatic character, rarely showing his emotions, he describes his test debut as the greatest moment of his career, "especially as it was our last victory over Australia," with the sincere wish that his finest moment is to come at Wembley, on May 3, though he asserts that he will "have the utmost sympathy" for fellow veteran Mick Morgan, should Castleford finally emerge victorious this afternoon.

Who says that nice guys cannot be winners?



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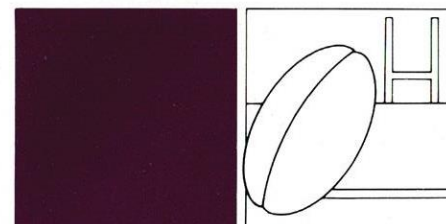
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The Rugby Football League
180 Chapeltown Road
Leeds LS7 4HT

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

First come, first served for the finale to the 1985-86 Rugby League Season



DATA

Compiled by Raymond Fletcher
Yorkshire Post

TOP TEN TRIES:

1. John HENDERSON	(Leigh)	27
2. Steve HALLIWELL	(Leigh)	23
Phil FOX	(Leigh)	23
4. Philip BLAKE	(Warrington)	22
Graham KING	(Hunslet)	22
6. Carl GIBSON	(Leeds)	21
Steve ELLA	(Wigan)	21
8. Peter LISTER	(Bramley)	19
Tony MARCHANT	(Castleford)	19
Ellery HANLEY	(Wigan)	19
Stewart WILLIAMS	(Barrow)	19

TOP TEN GOALS:

1. Chris JOHNSON	(Leigh)	105
2. David STEPHENSON	(Wigan)	104
3. John DORAHY	(Hull K.R.)	91
4. Kevin HARCUMBE	(Rochdale H.)	81
5. Gary ROWSE	(Hunslet)	77
David NOBLE	(Doncaster)	77
7. Shaun KILNER	(Bramley)	66
8. Ross CONLON	(St. Helens)	65
9. Peter WOOD	(Runcorn H.)	64
10. Bob BEARDMORE	(Castleford)	63
John WOODS	(Bradford N.)	63

TOP POINTS SCORERS:

		Trs.	Gls.	Dr. Gls.	Pts.
1. David STEPHENSON	(Wigan)	11	104	—	252
2. Chris JOHNSON	(Leigh)	7	105	—	238
3. John DORAHY	(Hull K.R.)	7	89	2	208
4. Gary ROWSE	(Hunslet)	4	77	—	170
5. Ross CONLON	(St. Helens)	9	65	—	166

DONCASTER

DONCASTER need just one more victory to equal the Club record of 5 successive League wins. The record was set up in DONCASTER's first season in 1951-52.

DONCASTER's next match is at home to Sheffield Eagles.

Last Sunday's 26-22 win at Workington Town was their 10th win of the season and equalled their best Division 2 haul of 10 wins and 20 points in 1962-63. The 10 wins is the most they have recorded in a Division 2 season since the reintroduction of two divisions in 1973.

DONCASTER's most successful season was their first when they finished 11th of 31 clubs under the old One League system when a record of Played 36, Won 21; Drew 1; Lost 14 and Points 43 was achieved.

DEAN CARROLL

DEAN CARROLL broke 2 Carlisle records in the 45-13 defeat of Mansfield Marksman on Sunday, with 9 goals, 21 points. The 9 goals beat the record he set himself with 7 in the 42-8 win at Doncaster on 23 December 1984.

CARROLL's total of 21 points included one drop goal and a try to beat the 16 points (6 goals and 1 try) by Brian Tunstall when losing 33-22 at home in Blackpool Borough on 27 October 1985.

GARY SENIOR

GARY SENIOR scored 1 try for the 5th successive match when he touched down in Huddersfield Barracudas 14-8 defeat of Fulham on Sunday.

GARY PROHM

GARY PROHM scored his 100th try for Hull K.R. in the 25-10 home defeat of Leigh in the 3rd Round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on Sunday.

WINNING AND LOSING

LEIGH's winning run ended at ten matches when they lost 25-10 at Hull K.R. in the 3rd Round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on Sunday. No team has a current winning run of five or more matches.

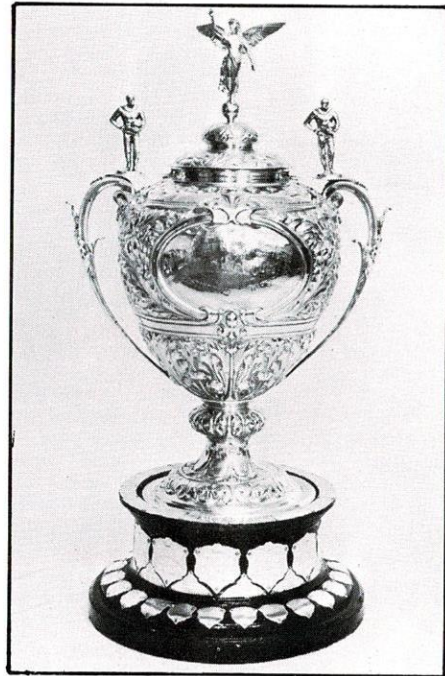
MANSFIELD MARKSMAN have the longest run of defeat, covering ten matches.

Their run of twenty matches without a win includes one draw. MANSFIELD last won on 22 September, when they beat Keighley 20-18 at Mill Field

PETER LISTER

PETER LISTER needs one try to equal the Bramley record of twenty in a season. The record is shared by Willis Rushton in 1958-59 and Alan Smith in 1972-73.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP



1986 FINAL

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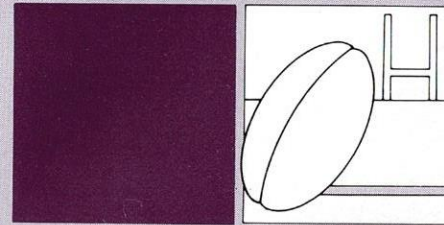
Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final

Seat prices at **£20, £15 and £9**, standing tickets **£5**.

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CONTEST

See the Silk Cut Challenge Cup **FREE** as the winner of our exciting competition.

The winning entrant will receive an exclusive VIP weekend taking in the 1986 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on 3rd May.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply answer all five questions below and complete the tie-breaker in an apt and original way and send your entry on a postcard clearly marked "SILK CUT QUIZ" complete with your name and address to:

The Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League,
180, Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT

All entries received will be checked and the winner will be the entrant who has correctly answered the five questions and provided the most apt and original tie-breaker. Entrants must be 18 years of age or over.

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRIES THURSDAY 3rd APRIL, 1986. Please read the rules below.

QUESTIONS:

Below are five statements regarding the Rugby League Challenge Cup. Simply answer **TRUE** or **FALSE** on the entry postcard.

1. Hull hold the record for fielding most overseas players in a Challenge Cup Final.
2. Swinton have taken part in a Challenge Cup Final at Wembley.
3. Hull-based Cawoods were the last amateur team to knock a professional club out of the Challenge Cup.
4. Mick Adams, of Widnes, has won the Lance Todd Trophy.
5. Shaun Edwards is the youngest player to appear in a Wembley Challenge Cup Final.

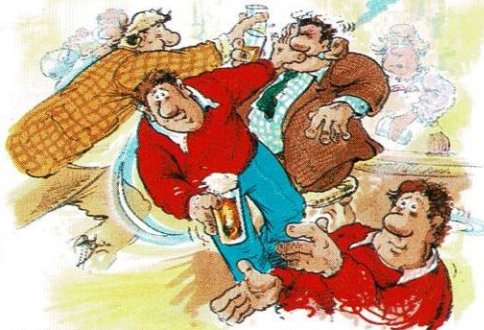
Now please complete the tie-breaker in an apt original way in not more than 12 words: "Wembley is the ideal venue for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final because....."

RULES:

1. The prize will consist of:
 - * Two top class tickets for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on 3rd May, 1986.
 - * An invitation to the after-match tea at Wembley Stadium.
 - * Accommodation and table d'hote dinner for Friday and Saturday nights, 2nd and 3rd May, 1986, at a top London hotel.
 - * First class return rail fair to London from a U.K. departure point.
2. More than one entry can be submitted provided each entry is sent on a postcard. No correspondence must be included with the answers.
3. No cash equivalent prize will be offered. The prize must be taken as stated.
4. On entering the competition, all entrants will be deemed to have accepted and be bound by these rules and competition instructions.
5. The winner will be the entrant who has in the opinion of the judges, correctly answered the five questions and provided the most apt and original tie-breaker. The judges' decision will be final and binding.
6. Responsibility will not be accepted for entries lost, delayed, mislaid or damaged in the post or offered for delivery insufficiently stamped. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with these rules and the competition instructions will be disqualified.
7. All entries will automatically become the property of Gallaher Limited.
8. The Panel of competition judges will include at least one member independent of the promoters and their agents. The name of those comprising the Panel will be made available on request after 3rd April 1986 to those sending a stamped addressed envelope to the competition address given above.
9. The competition is only open to residents of the U.K. Employees and their families of Gallaher Limited, The Rugby Football League, and their agencies, are not eligible.
10. The winner will be advised by post within five days of the competition closing date. The winning answers and tie-breaker can be seen in the Rugby Leaguer of 17th April.
11. Closing date for receipt of entries is Thursday, 3rd April, 1986.
12. The competition is only open to persons aged 18 years of age or over.

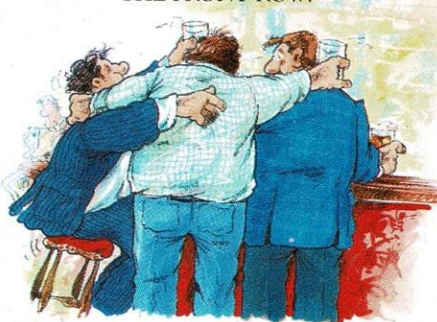
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—HEAD AND BODY ABOVE THE REST.—



Oldham's record signing David Hobbs

○ *Traveleads* **Top fan**

The 1986 Traveleads Top Fan - Rugby League's official Supporter of the Year - will receive a £3,000 round-the-world holiday for two in Hong Kong.

Traveleads, the Rugby Football League's Travel Agents, have packaged the prize holiday of a lifetime featuring a flight on British Airways new direct service from Manchester to Hong Kong, staying at a central four star hotel, with a day excursion into China and a sightseeing trip of Hong Kong.

Nominations are now being invited for this second annual Traveleads Top Fan Award, the inaugural 1985 title holder being Doncaster supporter Mrs. Joan Martin. The judging panel, chaired by B.B.C. Television Rugby League commentator Ray French, will select five finalists for the 1986 Traveleads Top Fans Award ceremony at Wigan R.L.F.C. on Thursday, 24th

April. The four runners-up will each receive a £50 rail voucher.

Nomination forms can be obtained from The Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT. The closing date for entries is 31st March, 1986.

Rugby League P.R.O. David Howes said: "Tragic events of the past twelve months have continued to place the role of the modern-day sports spectator under the microscope. Rugby League's growing number of supporters, however, demonstrated their renowned knowledge and dedication to protect their enviable reputation.

"Following last season's highly successful introduction of the Traveleads Top Fans Award Scheme, the value of the top prize has been trebled to reflect the stature of the official Supporter of the Year title."



First-ever Traveleads Top Fan Mrs. Joan Martin, of Doncaster.

A black and white portrait of John Robinson, the author of the article. He is a man with curly hair, glasses, and a beard, smiling warmly. He is wearing a suit and tie.

Robbie

ON RUGBY LEAGUE

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