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**RUGBY LEAGUE  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
DIVISION ONE**

**OLDHAM**



versus

**ST HELENS**

SUNDAY  
~~26th JANUARY, 1986~~  
*April 2* at  
**WATERSHEDDINGS**  
Kick-off 3.00pm

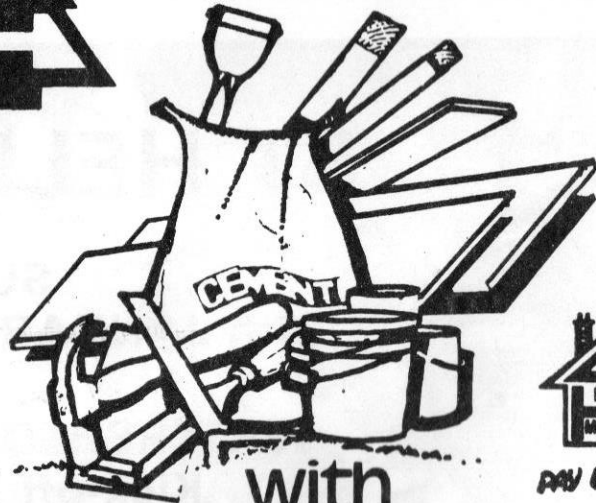
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**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 35p**

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 Chairman: H.V. Ashworth  
 Vice-Chairman: R. Ogden  
 Treasurer: J. Hall

Committee: E. Bayliss, K. Broadbent, M.R. Greenway, R. Ogden, K. Potter, M.A. Richardson, M. Cullen

Hon. Architects: Hall, Needham Associates  
 Hon. Club Solicitor: A.J. Adler  
 General Manager: F. Myler  
 Hon. Secretary: F. Howarth, B.A.  
 Coaching Staff: B. Gartland

#### Professional Playing Staff

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Dental Surgeon: Mr. N. Gibbison

Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonnelle : Asst. Physiotherapist: Mr. J. Watkins

Commercial Managers: J.B. Bostock, M. Morgan

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

THE Challenge Cup signing deadline came and went without a great deal of activity concerning the Oldham club.

We are restricted, of course, in our own team building by the club's financial situation and while Wigan hogged the headlines — yet again — with their £100,000 signing of Joe Lydon, it was a sobering thought to see Widnes talking of their cash crisis and a decision to sell that was forced upon them by the demands of their accountants and bank manager.

It is not only Oldham, you see, who are struggling to make ends meet. With a few honourable exceptions, most clubs are in the same financial boat....even those, like Widnes, who have enjoyed some fabulous success in the past decade.

There are exceptions, of course, and Wigan's swoop for Lydon took their spending in the past few months to a cool £500,000. On the same day, Leeds paid a club record £50,000 for Carl Gibson of Batley.

Many clubs cannot even begin to think in terms of money like that, yet we have to try and compete against the likes of Wigan and Leeds, so that's why we always have to stress the importance of raising cash from off-the-field sources while Wigan, especially, and Leeds, to some degree, cash in through bigger attendances at the turnstiles.

It is to try and stay the financial pace with the giants of the game that we have decided to advertise in the national press for a full-time commercial manager to take control of fund-raising activities.

We are looking for a top man in the field to overlord our commercial operation — a man, ideally, with a proven record, whose experience and expertise can enable us to considerably increase our revenue from off-the-field sources.

You may already have read our advert in the national papers. If not, you will probably have seen the report in the Oldham Chronicle.

Getting back to the cup deadline, we have to report that Tony Ogden was transferred to St Helens on loan last Sunday and was due to make his debut for Saints in the 'A' team on Thursday.

Early in the week there was talk of him possibly playing in the Saints senior side at Watersheddings today, although the fact of the matter is that part of the loan agreement was an understanding that Tony would not turn out against us. There is nothing sinister in this — it is just a growing trend in the game that players who go out on loan or trial are not expected to appear against their own team, for a variety of reasons.

Just before the deadline Gary Bishop was transferred back to us from Carlisle, where he had been on extended loan, and we immediately cut his asking price from £7,000 to £4,000.

Alan Taylor's fee was also cut from £5,000 to £4,000, but there were no pre-deadline takers although both Swinton and Fulham expressed an interest.

Ian Birkby is already on trial at Hunslet, who also showed some interest in Tom Nadiola, along with Mansfield and Bramley. Here again, nothing materialised in time to beat the cup deadline.

We gave a disappointing display at Castleford last Sunday in going down 28-4, but we have to remember that the First Division is a highly competitive arena and the last thing anyone should do now is panic because we have been a bit off-colour in our recent matches.

St Helens, our visitors today, have lost six games on the bounce. Castleford had had four successive defeats before they beat Oldham last Sunday.

There is a thin dividing line between success and failure in the First Division and it is up to everyone at the club to work hard so that we can regain the confidence and style that carried us to an unbeaten league spell of 11 matches up to the turn of the year.

At Castleford, of course, we badly missed Dave Topliss. Our skipper was hurt in a road accident on the Friday but, thankfully, he was not as seriously hurt as first believed and he was, in fact, allowed to leave hospital 48 hours later.

We know we speak for all at Watersheddings and all Oldham fans everywhere when we wish Dave a speedy recovery to full health and fitness and a quick return into Oldham's colours.

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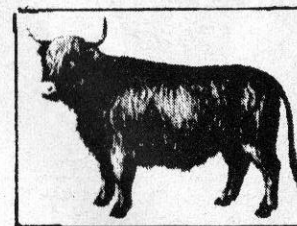
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## WELCOME TO ST HELENS

### SAINTS COME MARCHING IN

ST HELENS come to Watersheddings today after a poor sequence of results which has seen them slip to six consecutive defeats.

Saints have been ravaged by injury since Alex Murphy succeeded Billy Benyon as coach some weeks ago and, in fact, Alex is still seeking his first league win since his much-publicised return to Knowsley Road, where he was one of the game's leading players and personalities some 20 years ago.

At various times in the past two months, Saints have been without players of the calibre of Neil Holding, Chris Arkwright, Steve Peters, Tony Burke, Graham Liptrot, Andy Platt, Roy Heggerty, Paul Round and Harry Pinner.

Indeed, Peters, Burke, Liptrot, Platt and Pinner might still be struggling to make the team for today's game, when Saints will be anxious to return to winning ways after a run of defeats which has seen them slip into the lower echelons of the First Division.

The team is made up mainly of local lads with a sprinkling of overseas stars in Aussies Ross Conlon, Brett French, Phil Veivers and Gary Greinke and New Zealander Mark Elia.

Conlon, a goalkicking centre or wing from Sydney club Balmain, played on the wing in the first test against Great Britain on the 1984 tour and is one of the most accomplished goalkickers in the world.

French is a pacy centre from Brisbane and the brother of Castleford's Ian French, who scored the first try against Oldham at Wheldon Road last Sunday.

Full back Veivers is in his second spell with Saints, having been here last season when he joined forces with Mal Meninga to help Saints lift the Lancashire Cup and the Premiership Trophy.

Veivers hails from the same club in Brisbane as Meninga and the same club as prop-forward Greinke, who has failed to make a regular Saints front-row spot his own on his first visit to this country.

The Saints fourth overseas man is Kiwi Test centre or wing Elia, who was here in the autumn with the Kiwi tourists.

We know something of Elia because he first came into contact with the Oldham club a year or two ago when contacts in Auckland paved the way for Alan Sinclair and Craig Coyle to come here. Elia was also put in touch with us about that time. He was then playing cricket in the south of England and his cricketing contacts down there had something to do with his decision to join Kent Invicta instead of Oldham.

To cut a long story short, Elia made a name for himself with Invicta, continued his progress when he returned home and did enough to earn selection for the tour of England last Autumn.

He is said to be big, strong and fast, so we will have to look out for him today.

While the overseas men make a big contribution to football at Knowsley Road, Saints still rely to a great degree on the incredible talent that is produced within a few miles radius of the ground.

Saints has always been a hot-bed of the game and when you look at the number of local lads who have graced the side in the last two or three seasons it is easy to see why....Holding, Arkwright, Peters, Liptrot, Heggerty, Round, Pinner to name but a few.

The best known of those lads, of course, is the club's talented loose-forward and skipper Harry Pinner, who captained Great Britain in the recent series against New Zealand.

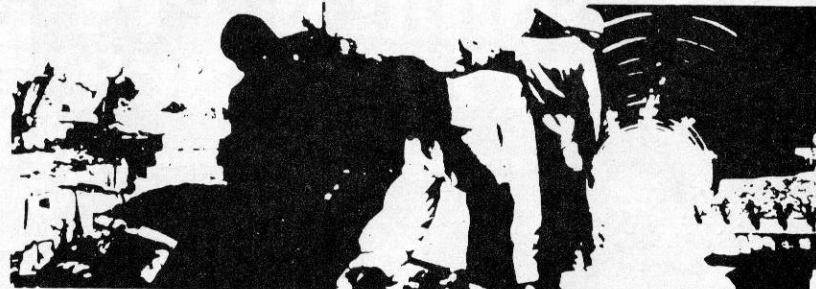
Over the last few years Harry has been a model of consistency and a shining example for any young player just starting out in the game today.

Sooner or later Saints have to come good and it would be no surprise to see them doing well in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup after a lean spell in the First Division over the last few weeks.

Whatever their results recently it will take a big effort from the Oldham side to get back to winning ways after the defeat at Castleford last Sunday.

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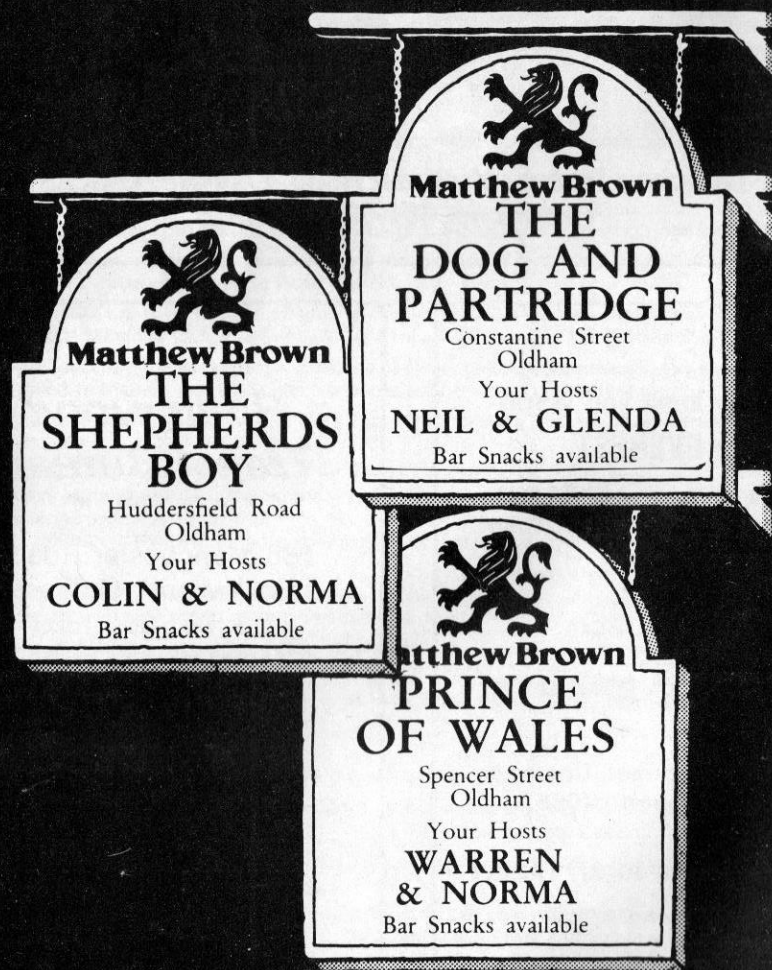
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# BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

Rugby League's decision to go to war with the Rugby Union over the Steve Ford case has the support of many people outside the game.

The sheer hypocrisy of the Rugby Union over the years in its treatment of players who want to play both codes at amateur level has become intolerable.

Steve Ford had trials with Leeds before deciding against turning pro and then wanted to carry on with Cardiff and try and further his Rugby Union career.

That hardly seems a crime to me yet because he played in the company of League professionals the Welsh Rugby Union banned him for life.

We all know that if he had played with Leeds United at Soccer or the Dallas Cowboys at gridiron then he could have gone straight back into Union without a murmur.

That is crazy in 1986 when they still get away with such archaic thinking and rules.

It is time the Government cracked down on Rugby Union who still expect to receive sporting grants despite all these ridiculous restrictions.

In the past we have had Rugby Union players paid for wearing boots — international stars at that — and we know that many clubs have handed out illegal payments and so-called expenses.

Former South African winger Ray Mordt admits he received 25,000 rand (worth £6,500) for playing Union at home and could have collected a further 30,000 rand for moving clubs.

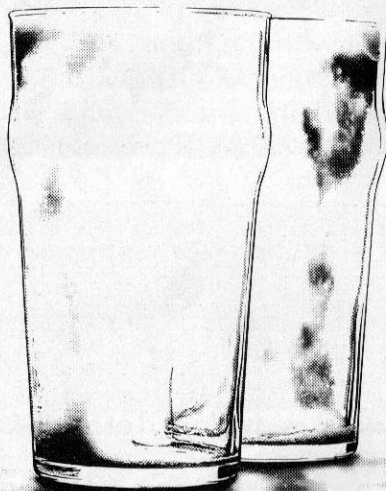
His countryman Rob Louw, who has also joined Wigan, says: 'I did not play in the North like Ray. I played in the Capetown area but I did get a car and a flat for playing.'

'I did not get paid either when I played in Italy but they did give me a job and accommodation. This sort of practice is common throughout France.'

So what is the real difference when it comes down to the definition of an amateur?

The best thing Rugby Union can do is go professional throughout the game and come clean.

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## SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

**President:** Mr D. Blackburn. **Chairman:** Mr D. Pilkington. **Vice-Chairman:** Miss A. Collinge. **Treasurer:** Mr T. Heywood. **Secretary:** Mrs J. Pilkington. **Committee Members:** Gary Bown, Mrs L. Chadderton, Mrs S. Collinge, Mrs E. Crowther, Mr S. Doran, Mr J. Gallagher, Mrs H. Heywood, Mrs M. Morgan, Mr I. Pilkington, Mr M. Pilkington, Mrs D. Pilkington, Julie Sagar, Mrs L. Wolstencroft.

The Supporters Club would like to welcome all the officials and players of St Helens to todays match. Hoping that we can have a good, clean and entertaining match. Also we invite the supporters to our canteens and souvenir shop situated at different parts of the ground.

### Supporters Away Coaches TO WARRINGTON

on Sunday February 2nd 1986  
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We would like to thank David Taylor for his after match raffle prize for todays game.

**Forthcoming Attractions.** We shall be holding our **Player of the Year Dance** on Friday 16th May 1986.

**Our Annual Fun Run** will be held on Sunday 25th May 1986.

And our **Rugby Queen Dance** will be held on Friday 19th September 1986.

The Supporters Club would like to apologise for the rugby shirts that were brought in for our souvenir shop. The red stripe runs up and runs into the white band. This is beyond our control and we have returned them to Bukta, to find out the reason why this has happened. As soon as we know we will let the people know. May we say once again we are sorry for what has happened but it is out of our control.

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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T. Flanagan—3  
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R. Ashton—1

### Castleford

D. Hobbs—5  
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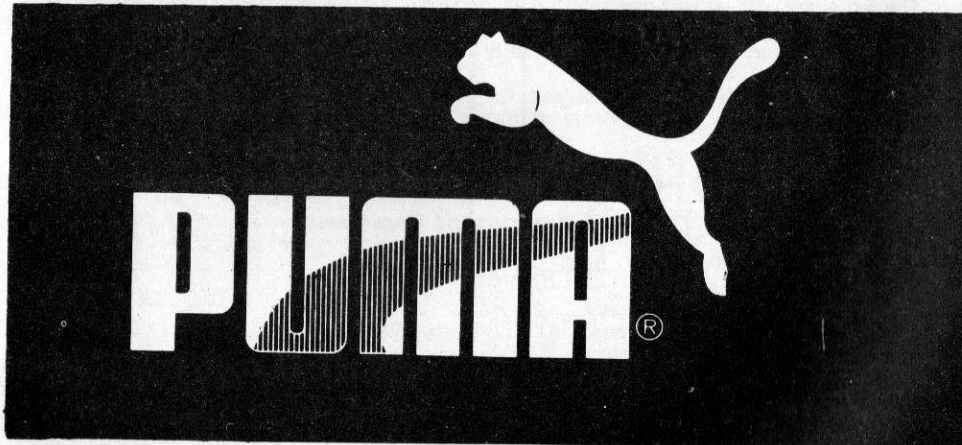
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## **ST. HELENS PEN PICTURES 1984/85**

**SEAN DAY:** 22 year old wingman signed from Leigh Junior Rugby. League's leading goalkicker and points scorer in his first season in professional rugby 1984. 157 goals, 12 tries, 362 points.

**PHIL VEIVERS:** 21 year old full-back from Queensland. In fact a team-mate of Mal Meninga at South Suburbs, Brisbane. Loves to attack, is sound under a high ball. Has had a super season with Saints 1984/85.

**BARRIE LEDGER:** Wing; 23, son of Eric Ledger the Saints winger of the fifties. Fastest man on Saints register. Has represented Great Britain at every level — at Colts, U/24's and at full international.

**SHAUN ALLEN:** Centre; 20; 6ft; 14st 7lbs. A junior signing from local side Hare and Hounds in 1982 who looks destined for a big future in the game. He has played in several back positions and has represented Great Britain Colts and Great Britain U/21's. May develop into a ball handling forward later on.

**CHRIS ARKWRIGHT:** Centre or back row forward; 26; 6ft; 14st. Signed in 1978 and one of the outstanding players in the league. A Lancashire County and Great Britain U/24 player, he was selected for the Australian tour 1984 Summer but sadly was withdrawn through injury. Both his father and grandfather were players of international status.

**ROY HAGGERTY:** Centre or second row; 25; 5ft 11ins; 12st. A tough, hard running player equally at home in either position. Signed in 1978 he is a former Great Britain Colt. One of the most popular players on Saints books because of his tremendous appetite for the game.

**STEVE PETERS:** Utility back; 25; 5ft 9ins; 13st 7lbs. Signed in 1978 from Blackbook Juniors. Equally at home in any back position. A Lancashire County player who has acted as captain in Harry Pinner's absence. Was drafted into the Great Britain squad for summer training in preparation for the Kiwis visit this year.

**NEIL HOLDING:** Half back; 24; 5ft 7ins; 12st. One of the game's outstanding half backs, equally effective in either jersey, with a devastating burst of speed from either scrum or play the ball. Signed in 1977 on his 17th birthday from junior rugby. After gaining Lancashire, England and Great Britain U/24 caps, he played in four of the Tests on the last Great Britain tour of Australasia.

**TONY BURKE:** Prop; 24. Former Bramley forward who joined Leeds in November in Novemebr 1981 for £25,000 and moved to Knowsley Road in October 1983 in a straight exchange which took Gary Moorby to Headingley. Regarded as one of the outstanding young prop forwards in the game, this Yorkshire born lad now lives in Wigan was called into the Great Britain squad, for summer training.

**PAUL ROUND:** Second row; 22; 6ft; 13st 7lbs. A former Saints Colt who came into the St. Helens first team regularly last season. A tearaway forward with a good turn of speed and excellent work rate. Honours Great Britain U/21's, G.B. Colts, International (occupation — Miner).

*Continued on page 19*



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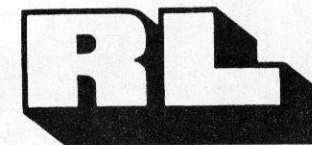
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*Continued from page 15*

**PETER GORLEY:** Front row forward; 33; 6ft 2ins; 15st 7lbs. Joined St. Helens from Workington in 1979 for £22,000. A Cumbrian, England and Great Britain player. Very powerful runner and hard tackler he is a brother of Widnes' Les, and has moved up very successfully from Second to Front row.

**ANDY PLATT:** Second row; 22; who joined Saints from Wigan St. Patricks in June 1982; skipped the British Youth U/19 team, and also played centre in the early part of his professional career. Has earned international recognition this winter with some superb performances. Spent last summer in Brisbane with Brisbane Wests.

**HARRY PINNER:** Loose forward; 29; 5ft 11ins. Signed in 1974 as an 18 year old. One of the game's top loose forwards with all the attributes of a great player, brilliant handler and runner, fine tackler and expert goalkicker both drop or place. A Lancashire and Great Britain player he was valued at £80,000 when briefly listed three years ago. Club captain, member of the last Australian tour, and holds the record for the number of drop goals in a career since the drop goal was devalued to 1 point in 1974/75.

**PAUL FORBER:** 22 year old second row forward. Signed professionally in 1981 and has really come into prominence this season. A forceful player with good work rate who should develop into a first class forward. Another former Great Britain Colts player and one of the club's best prospects for the future.

**PAUL LOUGHLIN:** 20 year old full back/centre. Signed in 1983; 6ft 2ins; 14st and another outstanding future prospect. Has represented Great Britain at Colts level. A fine goalkicker and excellent handler. Has the same physical attributes as Eric Ashton and if he develops into as good a centre he'll do.

**ROSS COULON:** Balmain centre and top goalkicker in Australia. Has already kicked 39 goals for Saints this season (up to Dec. 11th). Strong running constructive centre who has the strength to to release the ball in very tight situations.

**BRETT FRENCH:** Australian centre from Wynnum Manley Brisbane. Has good pace and an eye for an opening. Brother Ian is currently playing for Castleford at second row. Brett was a member of the Wynnum Manley grand final team in 1984.

**KEITH MEADOWS:** Local lad who has fought his way back into the side with some really consistent form. Has played for Great Britain Colts. Fearless runner and tackler who never gives anything away.

**GARY GREINKE:** Brisbane prop forward and club mate of Phil Vievers at Brisbane Souths. Strong tackling forward with excellent work rate. Ideally built at 6ft; 16st (occupation policeman).

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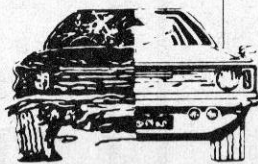
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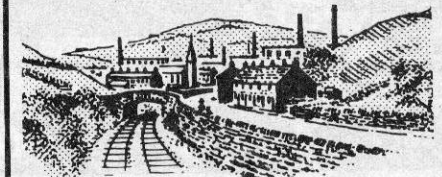
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(Home Team score first)

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	W	32-10	H
15—Dewsbury	W	48-14	H
26—Widnes	D	10-10	H

1986

### JANUARY

1—Leeds	L	22-6	A
5—Featherstone	P		H
12—York	W	24-16	H
19—Castleford (3.30)	L	28-4	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—Hull			H
23—Wigan			H
28—Swinton			A
31—Wigan			A

### APRIL

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

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