

18 **OLDHAM Team Check** SPRINGFIELD 10

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | MICK BURKE | 30 | MIKE SMITH |
| 2 | RICHARD IRVING | | MARK VILLER |
| 3 | DES FOY | | DENIS LITHERLAND <i>Canley</i> |
| 4 | CHARLIE McALISTER | | STEVE DONLAN |
| 5 | KEVIN MEADOWS | | COURTNEY THOMPSON <i>Litherland</i> |
| 6 | PETER WALSH | | DAVID WOOD <i>Parkes</i> |
| 7 | MIKE FORD | | BRIAN PARKES <i>Green</i> |
| 8 | IAN SHERRATT | | PAUL HANKINSON |
| 9 | IAN SANDERSON | | STEVE GARNER |
| 10 | HUGH WADDELL | | CARL BRISCOE <i>Bob Eccles</i> |
| 11 | COLIN HAWKYARD | | BOB ECCLES <i>Cliff Eccles</i> |
| 12 | MAL GRAHAM | | CLIFF ECCLES <i>Bamber</i> |
| 13 | GARY WARNECKE | | SIMON BAMBER <i>Karnarius</i> |
| 14 | PAUL LORD | | STEVE GRIFFITHS |
| 15 | TERRY FLANAGAN | | GRAHAM KARALIUS <i>Briscoe T</i> |

Referee: R. Tennant (Castleford) Touch Judges: P.M. Oliver (Bolton) (Red), R. Carter (Salford) (Orange)

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Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan, 4th February, 1987
Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to St. Helen's for Paul Round August 1987 and £65,000 for Mike Ford Jan, 1988
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: 21st October, 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

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PLAYERS PROFILE

COLIN HAWKYARD



PLAYER PROFILE NO.14

Full Name: Colin Hawkyard
Nick name: Tiger
Birthdate: 5.5.58
Birthplace: Huddersfield
Marital Status: Helen/Ross & Joel
Occupation: Electrician
Car: Fiesta
Fav. TV Show: Black Adder
Fav. Film: First Blood
Fav. music: Queen
Fav. Food/drink: Steak/Tetley's Bitter
Fav. reading: Cosmos
Hobbies: My car
Fav. other sports: Five-a-side
Likes about game: Money & friends
Dislikes: None, really
Superstitions: None
Fav. ground: Wembley (when we get there)
Fav. position: Second-row
Best moment: Beating Hull 2-1
Worst moment: Shoulder injury
Hardest player to tackle: All small players
Hardest tackler: Andy Gregory
Fav. all-time player: Barry John

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on: Autumn, 1978
Debut: v Huyton (Div 2) on 16.12.78 (scored 2 tries)
Appearances: 182
Tries: 28
Goals: 0
Drop Goals: 0
Total points: 102

NOTE: The above figures do not tally on present try values because ten of Colin's tries were scored prior to the 1983-4 season when the value was increased from three to four.

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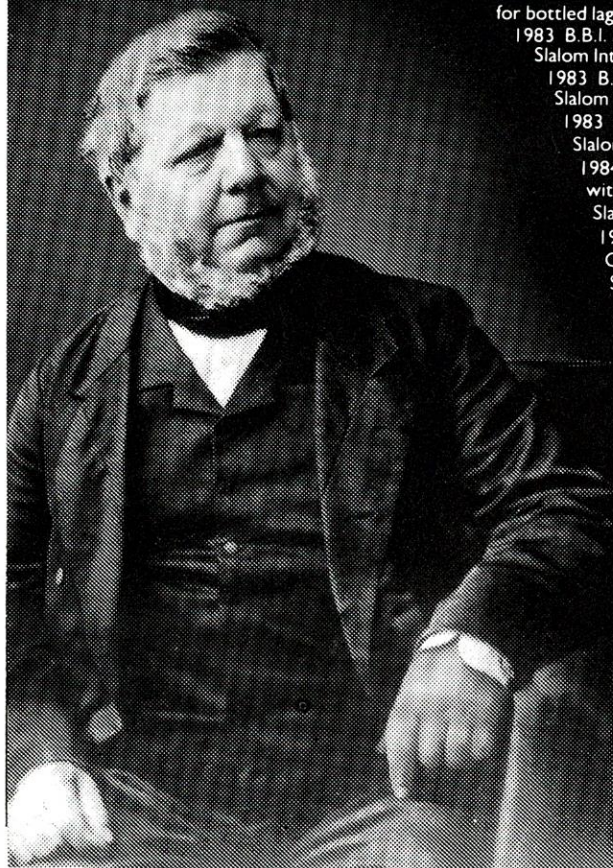
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1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom International Strong Lager – for bottled lager.
1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom D – for bottled lager.
1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom Lager – for packaging and bottle dress.
1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal with Palm Leaves and Certificate.
Slalom International – for bottled lager.
1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal and Certificate.
Slalom D – for bottled lager.
1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal and Certificate.
Slalom Lager – for bottled lager.

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Matthew Brown 



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MATCH REPORT

OLDHAM V KEIGHLEY

(Second Division Premiership - first round).

WE duly earned a place in the semi-final of the Second Division premiership play-off against Springfield today with a 34-24 win against a brave Keighley side at Watersheddings a fortnight ago.

Overall, we did not play as well as we had been doing in our eight-match victory charge to the Second Division title, but we had two purple matches - one in each half - that enabled us to lead 34-12 at one stage before Keighley came back well in the closing minutes.

Mike Ford landed two drop goals Charlie McAlister hit two place kicks and we scored a total of seven tries by Mal Graham (2), Kevin Meadows (2), Mick Burke, Des Foy and McAlister.

Mick Burke had a brilliant game at full back and Gary Warnecke was outstanding at loose-forward in a victory that preceded our Second Division championships 'party'.

The trophy and medals were presented by a leading official of Bass North-West - parent company of Stones Bitter - and the players and fans then celebrated in a lap of honour.

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MAL'S MESSAGE

(a few words from Oldham's captain)

CONGRATULATIONS to Hugh Waddell on his call-up for the Aussie tour. Hugh has worked hard this season and, like Mike Ford, he will be going Down Under with the best wishes of all his colleagues in the Oldham dressing room.


As this is the last home game of the season, it is perhaps time to look ahead into the future. On a personal note, I think I will be settling in Newcastle after four seasons of English rugby although I am always open to good offers like any professional has to be.

So far as Oldham is concerned - the best club I've played for in England - I think it is important that the powers-that-be only go for Australians who can stay right until the end of the season.

Look at our campaign this time. We won the Second Division title with an eight-match winning sequence starting on March 6...but what would have happened if the Aussies had flown back home at the beginning of March, as many have to do?

No one can question the great abilities of players like Noel Cleal and Steve Ella, but for everyone's sake at Watersheddings I hope they can stay for the full season if they decide to come to Oldham.

MAL GRAHAM



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FOLLOW THE 'A' TEAM

COACH Iain MacCorquodale would like to thank his players for a great 'A' team effort over the season. We feel sure that promotion would have been achieved but for the end-of-season fixture glut, a pile-up of injuries, and the demands of the senior squad.

The last four matches were played within nine days - at Whitehaven on April 16, at home to Batley on April 18, at home to Barrow on April 21 and, finally, away at Workington on April 25.

Never was the effect of injuries and first-team calls more evident than in the game at Whitehaven. There were ten trialists in the Oldham 15 and five of them were schoolboys. Moreover, all but two members of the squad were Oldhamers. Whitehaven, who were chasing promotion, led only 8-4 with ten minutes to go, after a marvellous effort by the Oldham lads, but they finally won 16-4 in a scoreline that flattered them. Geoff Munro got the Oldham try, after a break by Tony Morrison, and Trevor Croston was outstanding.

Two nights later Batley came to Watersheddings and we won 30-16 with a side that included seven trialists. Down 8-12 just before the interval, we completely dominated the second half to finish comfortable winners. Ian Bates and Steve Robinson did well at half-back, Mick Bardsley gave a storming second-half display of powerful running, Chris Myler raced in for two tries in the second half, and other tries were scored by Bates, Croston and a trialist wing with Martin Hall kicking five goals. The eight professionals on duty were Myler, Robinson, Bates, Bardsley, Hall, Foley, Croston and Morrison.

Next came the home game against Barrow and we won a real thriller 22-20. Barrow fielded a particularly strong side, led by coach Rod "Rocket" Reddy, the former Australian Test star and including a handful of first teamers, their Second Division side having already completed its fixtures. Barrow led 12-0 at one stage but the fighting spirit of the Oldham side was immense as the local lads hit back to score 20 points without reply. Hall kicking three vital long-range penalties. Paul Round (2), and Paul Lord - off Round's pass - scored the tries and there were eye-catching displays from Robinson, Bates, Bardsley and Foley.

The win must have given the boys confidence to go to Workington for the final game of the season, particularly as Paul Round, Ian Sherratt and Leo Casey all volunteered to play. Sadly, the game was still in its infancy when first Casey and then Round had to leave the field with nasty shoulder injuries.

They were replaced by two teenage trialists and we then had eight trialists on the field, compared with a Workington side - its first team fixtures over - that fielded eight senior men. The outcome from that point on was always inevitable. Town were determined, experienced and physical and we fell away in the second half to lose 48-12. A trialist winger and Ian Sherratt scored Oldham tries, while Bates, Patterson, Hall and Foley did well in their valiant efforts to try and stem the tide following the departure of Casey and Round.

It was a pity that the curtain had to drop on the season in this manner after such a terrific spell, but it was nevertheless a successful season in which we finished only a handful of points outside the top two.

WITH THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

EIGHTY minutes from Old Trafford...so it's all on today's match, lads, and we are proud of you and all behind you. Let's have another good one. Onward, Onward is the cry.

As this is our last home game it's your last chance to order or buy tickets for the player-of-the-year dance in the social club on Friday, May 20 and the Lancashire Federation of Supporters player-of-the-year at Wigan's Riverside Club. Ask at any canteen for details or see Alice Collinge or Janet Bradley at the canteens.

We are still on the look-out for a crane to lift a portacabin off the back of a lorry at the end of the season. Please contact Donald on 665-1832 if you can help.

On July 17, the juniors are holding a tombola stall at a barbeque, so if anyone can help by donating a prize for the stall please contact anyone at the canteens or see Joe or Alice...The juniors held a meeting last week and have arranged a disco for Wednesday, May 11. Admission is 25p for Supporters' Club members (with card) and 50p for non-members. We are also planning a day out for the juniors, so watch the Oldham Chronicle for details.

A number of juniors have formed a small committee to meet at various intervals, with the seniors, to organise events to suit all tastes throughout the close season.

The supporters' annual fun and family run, which has proved so popular in the past, is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3 at 7.30 pm. Again, watch the press for details nearer the time.

Videos are still available for sale or hire at £10 or £1.50 per night. Get them now for those long, rugby-starved summer nights. It beats doing the garden!

Finally, thanks to everyone who, in one way or another, has helped the Supporters' Club over the course of the season. Your help and kindness is much appreciated. If you don't order your player-of-the-year tickets today, please ring 665-1865.

If we win today, then contact Joe on 627-0235 or Donald on 665-1832 as soon as possible for booking coach seats to Old Trafford. The price is £2.50 for adults and £1.90 for juniors with the usual concessions for members. Please book early because we are anticipating terrific demand for seats.

First of all, of course, we must beat Springfield and they will be coming here today determined to cause an upset. We welcome everyone from Springfield Park and invite them to use our canteen and souvenir shop facilities around the ground.

FACE IN THE CROWD

WELL here we are 80 minutes from a major Final. It would put the icing on the cake if we win and go on to have a thoroughly enjoyable day out in a carnival occasion at Old Trafford on May 15. We have already achieved our main objective by becoming 2nd Division Champions, which is a credit to all concerned with the club, not least forgetting the supporters.



JACK DEARDEN

- our man on
the terraces.

Some people may say "It's only what we expected" but let's not forget the hard work which has gone in this season. We've had a lot of pressure put on us by being made favourites and no one has a divine right to win promotion. All the teams we've played, particularly at home have done their level best to upset the apple cart. Mind you looking back we've certainly got a lot going for us and a platform has been established on which to build.

We all have our own highlights to look back on, and all the players have played their part, but I'd like to offer some of my own personal choices of highs and lows. (On the playing side the form, since he returned to the club, of Gary Warnecke has been remarkable. The level of consistency achieved by him over the season has been very impressive. A fine example for players of any age to follow. One of the most popular players for many a season at Watersheddings has been cheerful Charlie McAlister, who has made a great impression, particularly since his switch from wing to centre. The sight of Charlie powering his way through tackles will be a lasting memory for a lot of supporters, as will Mick Burke's purple patch of form at just the right time of the season. Mal Graham's leadership qualities on the field have been exemplary and he reserved his best for when it mattered most.

Some of our lads have had their first taste of rugby at this level and they have not let anyone down. If they continue their learning process the future should look good for people like Paul and Leo Casey. Credit, too, for the parts played by Hugh Waddell and Neil Clawson, Terry Flanagan, 'Sandy', 'Roundy' and Colin Hawkyard. My heart always goes out to forwards, if only because of the tremendous physical battering their bodies soak up week in week out. Moving onto the backs, Des Foy was always dangerous, Kevin Meadows was another player who, for me, has achieved a level of consistency this season. Peter Walsh's defence and covering have been important, not forgetting the unlucky Keith Atkinson, who since his return to the first team has played with great commitment and courage.

Let's not forget, either the superb effort this season of all the lads in the 'A' team. These lads don't often step into the spotlight, but they have all played their part and deserve a pat on the back, because when they have been called into service none of them has let the club down. Special congrats also to Mike Ford for his selection of this summer's tour to Aussie and to Hugh Waddell for getting the late call-up.

Looking ahead to next season I'm sure the players will respond to the challenges provided by Wigan, Saints, Warrington, Widnes, Halifax, Leeds etc and a season ticket for Watersheddings should provide good value for money at £36 for an adult and £16 O.A.P's and Juniors.

In my final notes of the season, it would be remiss of me if I didn't thank everyone connected with the club and to YOU, the supporters, for buying our match programme. Special thanks to Roger Halstead for his help and encouragement.

It has been a good season and if we show the same loyal encouragement next year, with luck, I don't think we'll go far wrong. Here's looking forward to the FIRST DIVISION.

JACK DEARDEN

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Terry joined Oldham, his home club, in the Summer of 1979 from amateur rugby and since that time has given sterling service to the club and the game in general. At the age of nineteen Terry became the youngest captain in the clubs history and has gone on to play in 300 senior matches whilst representing Oldham. Currently he is at the forefront of Oldham's campaign to return to Division One.

In addition to his club career, Terry has represented Lancashire, GB U-24's and the Great Britain senior side. In 1984 he reached the pinnacle of a professional player's ambition and toured Australia playing in tests against NZ and PNG.

Throughout his career Terry has been an excellent ambassador for his club, his town and the game of rugby in general.

The Benefit Committee would appreciate the opportunity of keeping you abreast of the many events during the coming year.

Should you wish to help in any way, please complete the slip below and return it, at your convenience, or simply make a telephone call.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

David Chaloner

P.P. DAVID CHALONER
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THE BOSS TALKING

(A personal view by Oldham Coach Eric Fitzsimons)

WELCOME to our friends from Springfield Borough. They have emerged this season as one of the most formidable outsiders, for promotion. They failed to achieve it by one place and great credit should be served on all connected with the club this season. They have done superbly well in the second division of the Alliance and, despite just failing to win promotion to the First Division proper, finishing only five points behind third-placed Wakefield, they should be pleased with the season overall.

Today, they will be aiming to beat Oldham to avenge two league losses. We anticipate a tough contest. We are aiming for Old Trafford and Springfield are the 80-minute obstacle we have to overcome. Semi-finals are always hard fought. It's the game that people least want to lose. We have experienced it once this season and we're not in the mood for a repeat dose. It's what Oldham do today that will count in the final analysis.

This is the last programme of the season and I would like to offer my thanks to one or two friends for their contributions. Alec Givvons and Joe Buckley must be the most dedicated backroom men in the whole of the Rugby League. They have done everything at Oldham and they still carry out the most humble tasks with impressive dignity. If they were paid by the hour, no club could afford them.

Alan Bonelle and John Watkins have mended limbs and minds throughout the season with great patience. Alan is the best physio in the game.

Anita Lees keeps Corky and myself in line on the administration side. She is a marvellous worker. Ossie Rowe tortures the players in a good cause, and has played a major part with his body conditioning programme. Corky has performed miracles, with little resources at the back end of this season, with the 'A' team. He deserves great credit for a lot of unseen work this season at all levels, not least of which is the improvement in relationships with the local amateur game.

I do not single out any player for special mention. I thank them ALL for their contributions and efforts. Championships are won by teams, not individuals.

Success next year will depend on the amount of team strengthening that takes place. Six players are needed for the first-team squad. It has to operate on a nucleus of 21 or 22 ready-made first-team players. Any player coming through from the reserve pool must be treated solely as being at a learning stage and not as a regular first-teamer. Occasionally, there are pleasant surprises and a youngster can force his way in on a regular basis, but you cannot expect too much from young players. I have seen too many ruined over the years and it may happen here at Oldham if the right players are not signed.

(continued on page 21)

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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

SEASON 1987-88
(to date - 35 possible)

	APPTS (inc. Subs) T	G	DG	PTS
Atkinson K.	14	6	62	148
Irving R.	13	2	-	8
Hawkyard C.	30	3	-	12
Meadows K.	36	15	-	60
Edwards J.	6	-	1	2
Peters S.	13	-	-	-
Kirwan P.	9	2	-	8
Sherratt I.	12	2	-	8
Sanderson I.	25	4	-	16
Waddell H.	34	7	-	28
Worrall M.	6	2	2	12
Graham M.	36	15	-	60
Flanagan T.	33	5	-	21
Round P.	31	16	-	64
Sherman P.	3	-	-	-
Copeland T.	3	-	-	-
Morrison T.	5	-	-	-
Bardsley M.	9	-	-	-
Marsden R.	1	-	-	-
Burke M.	28	7	4	37
Walsh P.	30	13	62	176
Bates I.	3	1	-	4
Clawson N.	26	2	-	8
McCarthy B.	17	10	-	40
Foy D.	25	18	-	72
Robinson S.	8	1	-	4
Nadiola T.	3	-	-	-
Warnecke G.	24	7	-	28
Myler C.	3	-	-	-
Hall M.	3	2	-	8
Ford M.	17	9	-	39
McAlister C.	16	8	8	48
Lord P.	10	5	-	20
Casey L.	8	3	-	12

STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP DOUBLE-HEADER

THE second Stones Bitter Premiership double-header will be staged at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground on Sunday, May 15. The Second Division premiership final will kick-off at 1.30pm, followed by 30 minutes of top-class entertainment before the kick-off of the Stones Bitter Premiership Final at 3.30 pm.

The 1988 Stones Bitter Premiership winners will receive a prize cheque of £9,000 with £3,500 to the runner-up, while the Second Division Premiership winners will be presented with a cheque for £4,000, the beaten finalists receiving £1,500.

This Premiership prize structure is one of the features of the 1987-88 Stones Bitter investment of £130,000, some £70,000 of which has been contributed to the Rugby League Development Fund for ground improvements.

Seat tickets priced £10 and £8 are now available for the Stones Bitter Premiership double-header. Please forward your order and remittance with s.a.e. to: The Premiership Ticket Office, The Rugby Football League, 180, Chapeltown Road, LEEDS LS7 4HT.

OLDHAM RLFC FIXTURES & RESULTS 1987-88

Opponents	Att.	F	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Aug 20	Whitham	3,122	20	-6	Atkison 3G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan 1T	Sherratt 1T	Sanderson	Waddell 1T	Worrall 1T	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Sep 2	Keighley	3,274	32	-3	Atkison 3G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Sep 6	Bramley	2,851	46	-11	Atkison 3G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Sep 13	Warrington	5,354	8	42	Atkison 3G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Sep 20	Doncaster	2,860	18	-20	Atkison 4G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Sep 27	Doncaster	2,860	18	-20	Atkison 4G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Oct 4	Huddersfield	1,729	26	-4	Atkison 4G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Oct 11	Sheffield	3,774	44	-20	Burke 2T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Oct 18	Sheffield	3,774	44	-20	Burke 2T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Oct 25	Barrow	3,925	36	-8	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Nov 1	Keighley	3,187	36	-8	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Nov 8	Fulham	3,187	36	-8	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Nov 15	Barrow	4,888	22	-6	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Nov 22	Barrow	4,888	22	-6	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Nov 29	Warrington	5,084	14	-10	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Dec 6	Doncaster	3,551	17	-16	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Dec 13	Barrow	1,800	14	-18	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Dec 19	Sheffem	8,316	8	-18	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Dec 26	Sheffem	4,886	24	-12	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Jan 10	Springfield	2,507	20	-20	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Jan 17	Whitham	3,007	34	-0	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Jan 24	Warrington	5,707	10	-20	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Jan 31	Warrington	7,540	7	-17	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Feb 7	Warrington	1,257	17	0	Meadows	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Feb 14	Carlisle	3,357	27	-4	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Feb 21	Featherstone	3,500	8	-4	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Feb 28	Featherstone	5,884	15	-18	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Mar 6	Warrington	2,886	35	-10	Burke 1G	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Mar 13	Bramley	1,639	36	-16	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Mar 20	Huddersfield	2,930	48	-0	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Mar 27	Sheffield	1,956	28	-15	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Apr 1	Hochdale	3,280	58	-6	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Apr 4	Runnym	3,406	38	-4	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Apr 10	Wakfield	6,522	23	-22	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
Apr 17	Carlisle	2,000	34	-16	Meadows	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt
April 24	Keighley	3,701	34	-24	Burke 1T	Ining	Hawkyard	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kiwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt

WELL DONE HUGH!

Hugh Waddell, the Oldham prop-forward, was one of four players called up with the Great Britain tour squad last week. Hugh will now be flying out to tackle the Aussies, with Mike Ford, on May 16 and the best wishes of everyone at Watersheddings go with both players. Hugh is also in the running for the Second Division's player-of-the-season award, along with Featherstone pair Peter Smith and Deryck Fox, which will be announced at Salford on Thursday at the Greenall; Man of Steel event.

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THE BOSS TALKING (continued from page 15)

Strength in depth is needed to give the coach time to use the youngsters correctly and introduce them slowly. The signing of young players is also important. The club should aim for the best. The major clubs are all signing them up at a very young age - at great risk and at great price. Talent sometimes stands out at an early age and whether you like it or not, if you don't get them, someone else will. If you wait until the player is 19 or 20 you are way behind the field.

Staying in the First Division must be Oldham's primary objective next season. Anything else would be a bonus. The pace and strength of the top-flight will hit the players hard next season - even the experienced campaigners - because they have had a year out of it and it has got even faster and tougher.

Statistics show that since 1976-7 out of 46 clubs promoted to the First Division only nine have stayed up the following season. Wigan came down at the end of the 1979-80 season. They were promoted in 1980-81 (runners-up to York!) and were the only team to stay up the following year. They then commenced a steady building process that came to bear its first real fruit with a Wembley appearance in 1983-4.

Wigan are now the World club champions, but the success has not happened overnight. It has taken eight seasons to reach this stage.

Oldham should be looking realistically at a three-year plan to consolidate as a top-eight team and at a five-year plan to be among the most feared and respected, regularly winning trophies. A great deal of work has to be done.

I look forward to seeing all you loyal supporters next week at Old Trafford. Thank-you for your support this season.

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Well this year's finals will be even more spectacular.

On Sunday May 15th at Old Trafford there'll be four finalists, 50,000 excited spectators, Geoff and Dave from the Stones commercials, inflated Sumo Wrestlers, jugglers, free goodies and high jinks all around.

The fun starts at 12.15 p.m. when the gates open. On the pitch you'll find a marching band playing their instruments and a bunch of clowns playing the fool.

At 1.30 the first of our two exciting finals kicks off. Eighty fast and furious minutes later the new

Second Division Premiership winners are crowned.

The next 30 minutes sees organised chaos reign supreme in the shape of Geoff and Dave and an hilarious team of Sumo Wrestlers.

At 3.25 the Stones Bitter Parachute Team drops in with the First Division match ball and you can cut the atmosphere with a knife.

3.30 and the First Division Premiership Final gets underway. Two halves of Rugby League at its very best played by Britain's finest.

At 5.00 the Premierships have been decided. The trophies have been presented. And you've had a day out you'll never forget.

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DIRECT FROM THE BOARD

(A regular feature in which a member of the board takes you behind the scenes)



THIS WEEK - HARVEY ASHWORTH.

IT is no good trying to kid people or bluff anybody: the financial situation at Watersheddings is just as serious as it was 12 months ago. I might as well put it straight on the line and the fact is that the future prospects of Oldham as a force in the Rugby League depend entirely on generating the sort of money that can give us a fighting chance to compete with the big boys.

The gates have been good as far as the Second Division goes and, of course, we appreciate greatly all the great backing we have had. But the economic facts of life are that we have been paying out winning pay nearly every week, we have spent a lot of money in the transfer market and the signing of players, and on top of all that the new contract system has placed an even greater financial burden on the club.

We have had a good season - but it has cost a vast amount of money along the way. And there is no doubt that MONEY is what matters in the Rugby League these days.

We desperately need your continuing support in all directions: through the turnstiles, through backing for the share issue when it comes along, through our various money-raising schemes, through sponsorship, and through season tickets for next season.

If you haven't already done so, get your season tickets now - and please try and introduce Rugby League and the Oldham club to as many 'converts' as you can.

We want to put a strong First Division side on the field next season, but it's all down to MONEY and we cannot run away from that inescapable fact.

HARVEY ASHWORTH

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CORKY'S COMMENTS

(Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene)

CONGRATULATIONS to Leo Casey, our promising young forward who married yesterday. Best wishes to Leo and his wife, Helen, a keen Oldham supporter.

Hopefully, there will be lots of activity at today's match, including a curtain-raiser between Oldham Juniors and Royton Tigers under-9s. There is plenty of good talent in these two sides to entertain you and quite a few of the boys with famous fathers.

Well done to Oldham Juniors under-10s, who reached the North-West Counties final with an excellent 10-6 win at Leigh. Good luck in the final, lads.

At half-time today the Oldham town team under-11s will receive their medals for finishing runners-up in division one. They beat St. Helens, Warrington, Leigh, Widnes, Castleford and Dewsbury, but lost to Wigan, the eventual winners.

Captained by Ian Knott, the squad consisted of Paul Jackson, Steven Crowther, Ian Mullin, Damian Munro, Ian Sinfield, Craig Barker, Paul Sculthorpe, Chris Arden, David Milne, Nigel Donbavand, Paul Highton, Craig Dockray, Steven Charlesworth, Christian Wheeler, Martin Whitehead, Danny Kearns and Michael Slicker.

Also, several cheques to help the town team under-13s to tour Australia in June and July will be presented and many thanks are extended to a lot of people.

They include Muriel Kirwan for her dinner at Uppermill which raised nearly £1,000, Sharon and Irene Roscoe of the social club, Kirsty Blomley of the Bath Hotel, Stuart Taylor for his race night, Kevin Duncan, Vinnie, Alan and Colin from the Phoenix and Dave Graham. To you all - and many others such as John at the Phoenix and Steve Wild for a 'do' at the Clarence - sincere thanks from all the boys.

Special thanks also to the players who turned up to help with the coaching of youngsters at Hathershaw and the signing of many photographs and books. Mal, Charlie, Paul, Mick Burke and Shazzer all passed on tips to the youngsters while Peter Walsh searched Chadderton in vain for Hathershaw Sports Centre.!

These players also came up trumps by donating £150 to the schoolboy cause. Thanks for this typically generous gesture. The boys are really looking forward to watching Oldham stars Mike Ford, Hugh Waddell, Charlie McAlister, Mal Graham and Peter Walsh in action in Australia.

Also playing over there will be Swinton's Gary Ainsworth, who has also done sterling work for local youth in recent years.

IAIN MCCORQUODALE

COMMERCIAL CORNER

(Development Office topics with Ray Hill)

AS this is our last programme of the season I would like to wish the team good luck in the remaining games and personally thank the players for all the work they have put in on behalf of the Commercial Department over the full season.

IN a variety of ways, the lads have done us proud on development and public relations matters and I would like to give them a big THANK-YOU which also extends, of course, to so many people such as sponsors, agents, collectors and YOU, the fans, who back us by supporting the various money-raising events and using our souvenir shop.

Talking of sponsors I can tell you that we are very close to striking a new deal for sponsored cars with a local garage, and I am sure you will be reading the details in the press in the not-too-distant future.

Talking of the souvenir shop, I can tell you we had quite a pleasing early response to the sale of tee-shirts, 'clapper' hats and baseball hats at the Keighley match, but I am hoping we will sell a lot more today so that if we qualify for Old Trafford on May 15 everyone will be left in no doubt that Oldham fans are among the best and largest in the game. Also, the sale of such items produces badly-needed revenue and in simple terms the more money we can generate for the club the better club we will be.

Also, we hope to have a good stock of replica shirts in - both large and small - before the start of next season.

During the summer, of course, it is vital that we keep the money coming in and I would like to make a personal plea to everyone connected with the fund-raising venture to roll up their sleeves during the off-season and keep up the good work which is appreciated so much.

As far as the 'Lifeline' is concerned we are now chasing the magical figure of 2,000 members and I would like to think that, with YOUR help and enthusiasm, we can reach our target before the start of the new campaign.

Don't forget, we are giving away a new car at the end of September...a great sales point if ever there was one!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th April, 1988

Dear Secretary,

ALL PARTY RUGBY LEAGUE GROUP

We are writing on behalf of the above Group to offer our congratulations to your Club on winning the Second Division Championship this season.

We feel that your performances have been a credit to the game and we would be grateful if you will pass on our congratulations to your players, officials and supporters.

Yours sincerely,

Ian McCartney, M.P.
Chairman

David Hinchliffe, M.P.
Secretary

Sir Neil McFarlane, M.P.
Vice Chairman

Geoffrey Lofthouse, M.P.
Vice Chairman

Lawrence Cunliffe, M.P.
Treasurer



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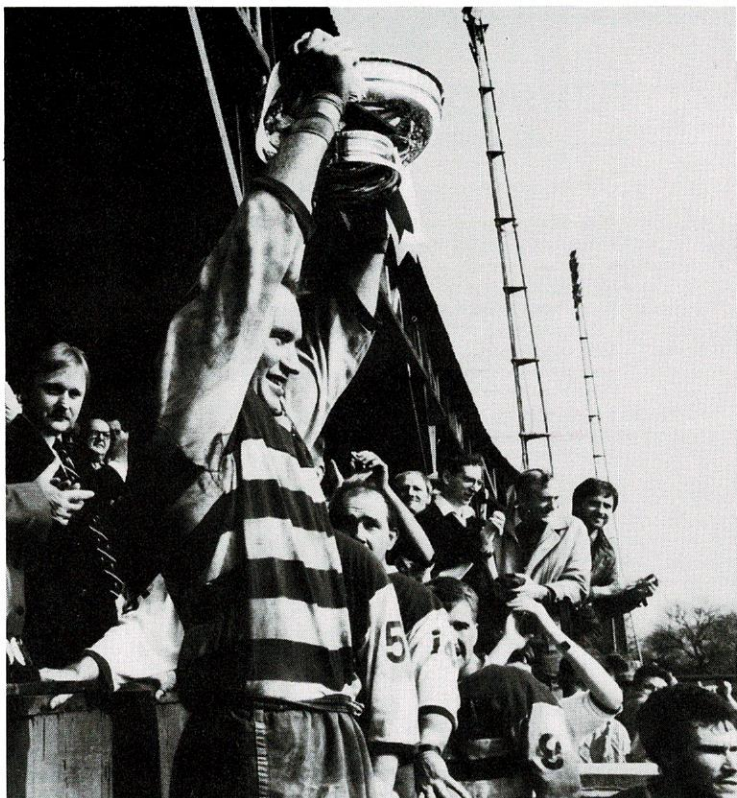
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