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**C. Beardsmore (Red Flag)**

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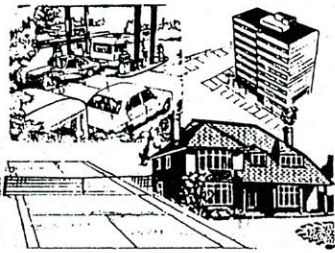
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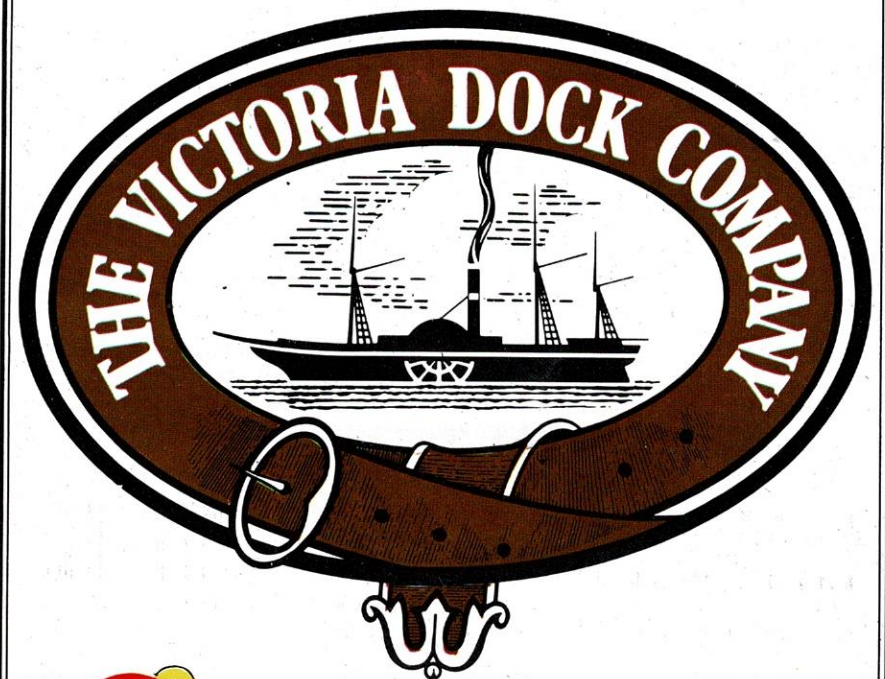
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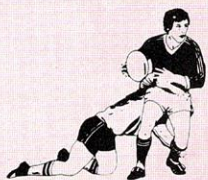
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## Our Visitors

### OUR VISITORS

Today we welcome Oldham for a real relegation zone battle, Oldham are in 11th position, and have already defeated us comprehensively at The Watersheddings, so today's encounter is vital to both clubs as each tries to claw its way from the bottom of the table.

In the summer of '87 Oldham had been relegated, before an almost completely new regime was set up. Only one previous Director remained, and a completely new coaching team was former Hunslet and Oldham goalkicking winger **Eric Fitzsimmons**, assisted by **Iain MacCorquodale** and Aussie forward **Mal Graham**, formerly with Hunslet and Bradford, though the latter elected to stay in his native Newcastle this season despite his 16 tries for Oldham last term.

The revitalised Oldham side won the Second Division Championship, losing only four of 28 matches to finish three points clear of second placed Featherstone. They then made it the double by winning the Premiership Final last May in a thrilling 28 - 26 defeat of Featherstone, after leading 22 - 0 at one stage, then trailing 26 - 22 as the "Colliers" staged an incredible recovery, before Kevin Meadows clinched it with a late converted try.

Oldham strengthened the side, signing former Widnes and Rochdale Hornets hooker **Andy Ruane** and Leigh centre **John Henderson**. They also imported a trio of Australians, Canberra's highly rated duo of **Ashley Gilbert** and **Chris O'Sullivan**, along with Parramatta's utility man **Paul Taylor** for his second spell at Watersheddings. Regrettably Taylor suffered a serious injury and has had to return to Sydney early. The club also agreed to an early season exchange deal with £90,000 rated Great Britain tourist prop **Hugh Waddell** joining Leeds and prop **John Fairbank** valued at £50,000 and a cash adjustment moving in the opposite direction.

Then in mid November Oldham sacked **Eric Fitzsimmons** and **Iain MacCorquodale** and within a few days appointed **Tony Barrow**, who had sensationally quit as Warrington coach the previous evening. He immediately went searching for new players, coming up with full back **Duncan Platt** a member of Widnes 1988 Championship winning squad, and Castleford Under 24 international centre **Gary Hyde**.

**Mick Burke:** Full Back: Former Great Britain and Widnes full-back, touring Down Under with the 1984 Lions and totalling 15 caps at full test level. Has five Lancashire caps and five at Under 24 international level. Broke the Widnes goals (140) and points (316) records in his debut 1978-79 season and, after struggling following his January 1987 move to Oldham, returned to his best attacking form last term, recording 7 tries in 30 appearances. One of only four players to have won both the Lance Todd Trophy and the Harry Sunderland Award.

**Duncan Platt:** Full Back: Signed recently from Widnes for £35,000. Kicked two goals and on his debut to insure a 12 - 0 win at Halifax to end a six-match spell without a victory. Played 16 games and scored 80 points as Widnes won their First Division title last season, and also played in the Premiership Final. Brother of international forward Andy of Wigan.

**Richard Irving:** Wing: Signed for Oldham in August 1987 from Moldgteen ARLFC and impressed coach Eric Fitzsimons with his strong-running displays, scoring tries against Keighley and Rochdale. This term he scored on the opening day visit to Wigan.

**Paul Lord:** Wing or off half: A Wakefield boy and younger brother of Gary Lord, the Leeds and former Castleford utility back, he is a strong finisher with lots of pace.

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**John Henderson:** Centre: Recently signed from the Leigh Club, this prolific try-scorer should add firepower to the Oldham back division. A try scorer against Castleford, St. Helens, Warrington and Halifax. Was sorely missed by Leigh for much of last season. Scored 31 tries in 1985-86 and another 27 in 1986-87 for Leigh and gained selection for Lancashire, scoring a try in a 22-22 draw with Papua New Guinea in 1987. Guested for Sydney Wests in 1985.

**Mark Lord:** Centre: An Oldham boy and a member of the 1983 B.A.R.L.A. Tour. He later Signed for Leeds after Maurice Bamford, then the Headingley club's coach spotted him playing a star role in an Amateur final in Oldham. He has now joined Oldham on a month's trial loan period.

**Gary Hyde:** Centre: Another of Tony Barrow's recent signings from Castleford. Gained two Under 24 international caps in 1980 and 1982 and also appeared for Yorkshire in 1985, scoring a try against Lancashire. Scored 8 tries in 22 appearances for Castleford last season and is also a recognised goalkicker.

**Des Foy:** Centre: Joined Widnes straight from schools international football, before returning to hometown Oldham. Very pacy centre/stand-off touring Down Under on the 1984 Lions tour and appearing in the No. 6 shirt in the First Test. Scored 16 tries in 38 appearances last season, including two in the Premiership Final defeat of Featherstone, when he was named Man of the Match, and a hat-trick against Rochdale. Agreed to join Newcastle Knights in Sydney for 1989, and may be missing this afternoon.

**Keith Atkinson:** Wing: A product of Oldham Colts football, signing professional forms for the club in August 1984. Scored a total of 148 points in last season's Second Division Championship campaign, from 6 tries and 62 goals. A versatile back with pace and ability, but has suffered his share of ill luck down the years.

**Charlie McAlister:** Wing: A sensational capture from Bradford & Bingley RUFC in February 1988, scoring 9 tries and 15 goals in 18 appearances. Had a summer spell in Australia with the Newcastle Knights, improving his defensive abilities. Kicked four goals in last season's Premiership Final. Can play centre, wing or stand-off. New Zealander with great strength and pace. Recently returned from injury.

**Kevin Meadows:** Wing: One of the First Division's most underrated wingers, having previously played for St. Helens and Warrington. Scored 16 tries in 38 appearances last season. In his second spell at Oldham where he once scored 5 tries in a First Division match against Salford in 1984. Very fast and elusive.

**Steve Robinson:** Wing: Local signing from Saddleworth Rangers amateur club, who has won Yorkshire amateur honours.

**Chris O'Sullivan:** Comes to Watersheddings with a big reputation as stand-off for the Canberra Raiders club in Sydney. Gained representative honours for Country in Place of Origin football and is a great controller of play - a fine organiser, kicker and midfield general. Try scorer in the Lancashire Cup rout of Workington, he scored Canberra's only try in the 1987 Grand Final v Manly. Recently made skipper of Oldham.

**Mike Ford:** Scrum half: Local lad who went on the '83 B.A.R.L.A. Tour, but subsequently signed for Wigan. He played for them at Wembley against Hull alongside the famed Brett Kenny, and eventually moved on to Leigh from where Oldham signed him in a £65,000 deal a year ago.

**Ian Bates:** Scrum half: Nephew of former Dewsbury and Great Britain half-back Alan Bates. Impressed in Alliance football to get his chance in first team football, but Oldham will nurse him along steadily. Signed from Gate Inn ARLFC in September 1987.

**Ian Sherratt:** Prop: Former Bradford Northern prop joining Oldham in April 1987, as part of a deal which took Great Britain forward David Hobbs to Odsal. Has enjoyed two successful spells in Australian country football. Scored two tries in 12 appearances for Oldham last season and has been drafted into the side following the transfer of tour man Hugh Waddell to Leeds.



**Neil Clawson:** Prop: Son of much-travelled former Rovers and Great Britain prop forward Terry, Neil is another front-rower with lots of ability. Joined Oldham from Featherstone in May 1986 and scored 2 tries in 26 appearances last season.

**Andy Ruane:** Hooker: Former Widnes and Rochdale hooker, signed for Oldham by Eric Fitzsimons, his former coach of the Hornets. A great worker in the loose, with goalkicking skills, he scored 12 tries, 15 goals and 2 drop goals for Hornets last season. Has already made his presence felt at Watersheddings, claiming the No. 9 jersey and kicking his first goals against Workington Town in the Lancashire Cup tie.

**Ian Sanderson:** Hooker: Signed from Fireways ARLFC in September 1983, this is another promising hooker, who scored 4 tries in 27 appearances last season. Voted one of the best up and coming players in the country a few seasons ago.

**Leo Casey:** Prop: Recruited from St. Annes ARLFC in April 1985, this hard grafting forward scored 3 tries in 8 appearances for the club last season. Was a try scorer at Featherstone in September.

**John Fairbank:** Prop: Former BARLA international forward signed by Leeds last November from Elland ARLFC. One of five League-playing brothers and son of former Leeds and Huddersfield forward Jack. Played 19 games in his debut season for Leeds, but was surprisingly allowed to leave Headingley in August, in the exchange deal which took test prop Hugh Waddell to Leeds. Strong, forceful 21 year old whose best is yet to come.

**Paul Round:** Second row: Signed for £65,000 from St. Helens in August 1987, instantly repaying Oldham with 16 tries in 26 appearances and gaining inclusion in the Lancashire teams which opposed Yorkshire (scoring a try) and Papua New Guinea in 1987. Originally a back-row forward who has played on the wing and at full-back this season.

**Ashley Gilbert:** Second row: Arrived with Colleague Chris O'Sullivan from the Canberra Club and with a reputation as a hard-working forward. Sought by a host of English clubs, he opted to join the Roughyeds. Scored tries against Workington and Castleford.

**Colin Hawkyard:** Second row: Unsung workhorse of the Roughyeds pack, a frequent scorer and a tireless defensive player. 3tries in 27 appearances last term. Played for Oldham in the 1986 Lancashire Cup Final against Wigan. Had a 3-match loan spell at Huddersfield in 1981-82.

**Keith Newton:** Second row: Most recent of Oldham's captures, being signed only a couple of weeks ago from Widnes. Made 55 senior appearances for the Chemics. It is expected that the Tribunal will fix the fee.

**Terry Flanagan:** Loose forward or hooker: Long serving forward currently enjoying a benefit season at Watersheddings. Has played for Great Britain on four occasions and toured Down Under in 1984. 5 Under 24 caps, plus three Lancashire caps gained in 1980-82. Good ball distributor and a real 100% trier. One of only three survivors from the 1986 Lancashire Cup Final team.

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**FINAL**

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Tournament Referee: Peter Lowthorpe.

Kick off 2.25 p.m. Full game.

2.50 p.m. Mr. Max Gold will present the Cup and Winners/Runners-up medals.

**COLLECTION**

A collection will be taken this afternoon on behalf of the **Hull Council of Disabled People**, and we hope that you will donate generously to this worthy cause.

Meanwhile our thanks on behalf of the Committee of the Leukaemia Research Fund to those supporters who attended the Local Derby, and contributed £524.40 to their collection.



**OLDHAM R.L.F.C.**

**Back row (left to right):** Ossie Rowe (conditioner); Derek Whitehead (asst. coach); John Watkins (asst. physio); Duncan Platt; Colin Hawkyard; Gary Hyde; Neil Clawson; Mick Bardsley; Paul Round; Charlie McAlister; Leo Casey; Ian Taylor ('A' team coach); Tony Barrow (senior coach)  
**Front row (left to right):** Ashley Gilbert; Mick Ford; Steve Robinson; Fred Howarth (hon. asst. sec.); Harvey Ashworth (chairman); Chris O'Sullivan (capt.); Greg Pache (director); Ray Hill (commercial manager); Anita Lees (secretary); Paul Taylor; Andy Ruane; John Henderson.

(Photograph by kind permission Oldham Evening Chronicle)



### DEEP IN RELEGATION TROUBLE

It would be foolish to pretend other than that recent results have left us deep in trouble. After our first away league win of the season at Wakefield, we were optimistic that we might be poised to achieve more success. Unhappily this so far has not proved to be the case, although the close proximity of half the clubs in the division means that if we could string two or three wins together we might pull ourselves out of the relegation zone.

We started with a visit to Wheldon Road. Although this is a ground we often do well on, we were under no delusions for "classy Cas" were undefeated league leaders. Castleford soon showed they meant to keep that record intact, and after Mike Fletcher had opened the scoring with a second minute penalty, the home side's opening half hour blitz hit us for 26 points, only Garry Clark's converted try stemming the tide.

For the next few minutes it was Rovers who kept the scoreboard man busy, and at halftime the margin was narrowed to six points. Our recovery looked to have put us back in the game, but unfortunately this fizzled out within three minutes of the restart when Cas scored the last try of the afternoon. Thereafter a series of penalty goals gradually increased the deficit against us in an unmemorable second half.

Hull F.C. coach Brian Smith was able to take the opportunity to watch that game, and lay his plans accordingly from what he saw, for the "Airlie Birds" were our first visitors of 1989. Barring Challenge Cupties, this was the last "local derby" to be played on Craven Park. Regrettably we were not able to sign off from Holderness Road with a win over the old enemy, and this defeat came as a real blow.

Again first points to Rovers, when Dave Harrison caught the Hull defence napping, to dodge his way over under the woodwork. Unfortunately the easiest of goal kicks was missed, and the visitors responded quickly with a couple of opportunist tries, both converted, to leave us in real trouble. It was right on halftime when one of our frequent raids brought success with a six pointer, the only try of the afternoon resulting from a combined passing move and scored by our leading try scorer **Chris Close** whose all action display earned him the man-of-the-match award.

It left us only two points in arrears at the break, and early in the second half a penalty goal saw scores level, but any hopes that we could now seize the advantage just trailed away. A drop goal and a controversial penalty edged the visitors in front, and despite an abundance of possession - we won the scrums three to one - and surging inside the visitor's 25 for long periods, we failed to register any further points.

The margin of our defeat, therefore, was narrow, but the two league points lost were very expensive.

The game marked a very satisfactory debut for recent signing **Jim Irvine** at left centre, who might have earned greater rewards than a penalty when he kicked ahead and looked likely to gain the touch before being "taken out".

The visit to Warrington followed, and it is difficult to be constructive about our performance here. Warrington were only just above us in the first division table and had lost their previous five games. "On paper" therefore an even game could have been on the cards with a real chance to improve our position.

Instead the two clubs looked divisions apart. Our defence was paper thin and the home side were able to run through with ease. Eleven tries tells its own sad story. At threequarter time Warrington eased up, but the 18 points we added to our score, were no more than consolation to add a little more respectability.

*continued on page 13*

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Very few reputations were enhanced on our side. **Mark Jones** at scrum half tried hard throughout and set an example few tried to match, although recent signing **Jim Irvine** looked useful in scoring another two tries. The game marked first appearances for **Paul Lyman**, signed the previous evening, and as a substitute **Colin Armstrong**.

Our crushing defeat put the club at a lowebb and left us depressingly at the bottom of the First Division table.

Our splendid fans - who maintained their vocal support throughout at Wilderspool - deserved much better. With this in mind lengthy meetings took place this week, during which the full situation was discussed and the Board reaffirmed its hundred per cent support for our coach **Roger Millward**.

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**SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES**

Today we welcome to Craven Park fellow strugglers Oldham, for what promises to be a titanic struggle in the battle for Division One survival. Perhaps titanic is not the right word to use. With both clubs having everything at stake, no quarter will be given with today's result certain to play a large part in the destiny of both clubs. Your part is no less vital, never before has support been more important. Rally round and give the Robins even more than your usual superb vocal support "Come on you Reds".

To members of the Oldham Supporters' Club we offer the hospitality of the clubhouse on the car park before today's game.

Our congratulations to youngsters Paul Fletcher and Graeme Hallas on their selection for the B.A.R.L.A. Under 19 side playing in France this week, a reward richly deserved by both lads for their very sterling performances throughout the season. Well done you two, but stay away from the frogs' legs butties, and stick to the hops.

After the disastrous result last week, it was nice to see Chairman Colin Hutton occupying his usual spot in the Clubhouse on Sunday night. Always in the same place each week after a good, bad or indifferent result and always willing to talk rugby with the members. After the great disappointment of last week's game his visit was typical of the man who led Hull K.R. from the doldrums to the heights of Rugby League over the last ten years. Colin's philosophy has ever been "No club has a God given right to success, it has to be earned", a philosophy that would stand us all in good stead.

Harsh words from many of our members at the reception they received at the Warrington Social Club last week. Most of them were turned away out of hand, although I did hear of two ladies who were allowed entry only after taking off their red and white jackets and scarves. We as a supporters' club have always welcomed members of visiting supporters clubs to visit our clubhouse on the car park and dress as you like. Still that's our point of view, and we believe the right one. Take your coats off indeed! Could it be the stripper hadn't turned up, no not with our lot!

Surprise for member Kath Richardson when called on to the stage during a Sunday concert to receive a very large silver spoon presented to her by her family on the occasion of her birthday. This was compensation for missing out on such an award by 20 minutes when she was born 20 minutes after a member of the Royal family. I think it was the Queen Mother! By the way we are now selling draught Phyllosan!

Dates for your diary:

Tonight on stage, Sunday, 15th January - the personality entertainer, John Smith.

Sunday, 22nd January - by special request, the superb Technix Silk - and not to be missed.

Sunday, 29th January - Touchwood - top of the pops duo.

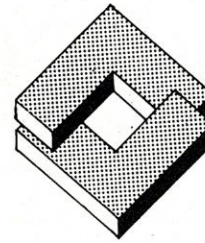
So come on in, it's still your club.

See you,  
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---

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**HULL 'A' 20 v ROVERS 'A' 2**  
(Played 30th December, 1988)

Not content with ruining John Edson's Christmas, Rovers 'A' completed the job by putting the tin hat on his New Year celebrations as well, following this performance at the Boulevard. It was a sign of just how disappointing had been the standard of Rovers performance that the dressing room door remained barred for fully twenty minutes after the game, as a few home truths were hammered home in the wake of the Robins' deposition from the top of the Slalom Lager Alliance First Division table.

Anyone seeing both this match and the one between the First Teams must have been struck by the similarity of the two games. Both Hull and Hull 'A' scored tries from kicks through near the line, the acting half back nearly always caused trouble, Rovers kickers each had kicks charged down for tries and both Rovers sides spent much time retrieving kicks deep inside their quarter to be faced immediately by a line of defenders moving up at pace.

Hull 'A' had tries from Windley, Milnes and Henry with Nolan's four goals making up their total against Mike Fletcher's lone first half penalty, and though they might have been difficult to spot in the disappointing team performance, there were one or two bright spots for the Robins.

Dave McAreavey came on after Rob Smelt received a knock just above the knee after only a quarter of an hour, but took everything which was going and ran the ball at the Hull defence with a determination which should have put to shame one or two of his colleagues. The other "Irishman", Craig O'Brien, ran and tackled with equal fire in his first game in the Number Ten jersey since turning professional and showed that he could have a definite future in this role - if he's not careful!

In addition, Mark Jones overcame a slow start to work hard at stand off and Graeme Hallas showed good handling to send Ray Stead nearest to a Rovers try, but overall the team failed badly to adjust to the kind of fast moving Hull defence which was to serve their First team so well three days later.

**Rovers 'A':** Fletcher, (M.); Sullivan; Hallas; Sims; Stead; Jones; Farr; Smelt; Rudd; O'Brien; Charlton; Fletcher, (P.); Speckman. Subs: Thompson (for Charlton) and McAreavey (for Smelt.)

**ROVERS 'A' 21 v WARRINGTON WIZARDS 14**  
(Played 7th January, 1989)

Rovers 'A' got back to winning ways at the expense of a rugged Warrington, who fielded two forwards very familiar to Craven Park audiences in the persons of Les Boyd and Tony Humphries, and who led a typically strong pack from the front. Rovers meanwhile gave a debut to Colin Armstrong, who earned himself the doubtful privilege of a spot in the First team squad at Wilderspool by virtue of a solid display at Number Eight.

The Robins also included Garry Clark and Phil Hogan on the flanks, both returning after injury, as was Kenny Lawler who came in as substitute after an operation to secure his shoulder. East Park Juniors Mike Dixon was at scrum half, showing one or two nice touches, and it was unfortunate that the referee should penalise Warrington in the opening stages just when he had spotted the gap and gone through it in typical fashion.

Craig O'Brien scored Rovers opening try after half an hour's play, Armstrong converting and adding to his first successful kick and a Paul Speckman dropped goal. Warrington were making a fight of it though, second row man Harmon going in for a try with scrum half Martin landing three first half goals to send the Wire in 9-10 ahead at half time.

Zook Ema was prominent throughout; he was the mainspring behind a try for Chris Rudd ten minutes into the second half, and Garry Charlton was the next to score when he took Speckman's inside pass to go under the bar, Armstrong converting. Though Warrington came back when Capewell touched down, they were not helped when Boyd was sin-binned and Armstrong landed the goal to ensure that Rovers 'A' at least started their New Year with a win.

**Rovers 'A':** Thompson; Clark; Sullivan; Sims; Hogan; Schultz; Dixon; Armstrong; Rudd; Ema; O'Brien; Charlton; Speckman. Subs: McAreavey (for Sims) and Lawler (for Charlton).

**CASTLEFORD WHELDALE 6 v EAST PARK JUNIORS 25**  
(Played 18th December, 1988)

Wheldale were expected to give East Park Juniors a run for their money at Castleford, having built up their strength since mid-October when East Park defeated them 41-21, but after taking a 6-2 halftime lead Wheldale were simply swept aside when East Park turned on the style.

A single Steve Robson penalty accounted for East Park's first half points, but the second half rapidly became one way traffic after Paul Fletcher dropped a goal and Wheldale popped over a penalty goal in return. Rob Smelt crashed over for a try from short range, which Robson converted; Mike Bibby went in for the next try - then came one of the tries of the season.

The scorer was Andy McRae after the ball had flickered through eight pairs of hands to leave him with a walk in direct from the kick off! Steve Robson simply could not miss with the kick, nor did he, but there was still time for another rather special try, this time from Player of the Match Mike Bibby, who rocketed in for a superb individual score.

Again, Robson added the conversion to wrap up the scoring and set the lads on their return journey looking forward to a two week mid-season break - and then the Local Derby at home to Hull White Star.

**EAST PARK JUNIORS 2 v HULL WHITE STAR 22**  
(Played 8th January, 1989)

After their mid-season break, East Park Juniors found it difficult to get back into their rhythm against their arch-rival from across the City, and it was in a surprisingly low key match that White Star toppled the East Park unbeaten record.

Even before White Star opened the scoring with a try on the quarter hour, East Park had to tackle and cover with determination on several occasions to save tries, and though he finished on the losing side East Park had one of the outstanding players of the game in their side in Andy Gotts who never stopped working despite a painful knock on the arm just before halftime.

By then, both East Park substitutes were on after Tim Sage and Mike Dixon had left the field with injuries, and White Star were ahead 2-10 with Steve Robson having kicked a penalty for the only East Park points of the game.

The second half was very much an anti-climax, both from the point of view of East Park's inability to capitalise on several sharp scoring chances, and White Star's overall control of the game which allowed them to finish on a high note with two further tries.

Mention must be made of the contributions made by two of White Star's players, loose forward Paul Hunter, who sent the ball around Craven Park with great skill; and centre Darren Oglesby, who landed two magnificent touchline conversions and used his size well to score two tries.

In an outweighed East Park side, Gotts was supported well by the steady Rob Smelt, despite a leg injury, and Lee Cusick came on as substitute to take the game to the big White Star pack with fire and enthusiasm.

**FORMER REFEREE HONOURED**

Two fold congratulations to former ace referee **Fred Lindop**, who had to retire from first team games at the end of last season after reaching the 50 age limit, but has still shown a readiness to take charge of Humberside Amateur League games.

First he was appointed the R.L.'s new Controller of Referees, responsible for the organisation of graded referees, overseeing appointments, assessments, examinations and fitness testing.

Then he completed a memorable year by being awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Fred had 21 seasons as a Grade One whistler after losing a kidney in an injury whilst he was an amateur player. He took charge of 48 finals and internationals, including games in Australia, New Zealand and France, and was named Referee of the Year on a record four occasions in the 12 year history of the award.

Congratulations Mr. G. F. Lindop, M.B.E.





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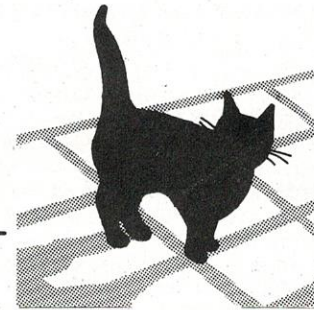


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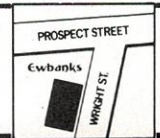
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## PLAYERS NEWS

Despite recent signings and the closing of the register for the Challenge Cup Competition, the search for new players to strengthen our panel of players continues, and again there could be developments in time for today's match.

Unfortunately our injury situation also continues unabated, with **Mike Smith** taking a knock on the leg and **Mike Porter** damaging a hand at Warrington. It is hoped their injuries are not serious, but **John Lydiat** damaged an ankle against the "Airlie Birds" and he could be out of action for a week or two. We have no further news of halfback pairing **Wayne Parker** and **David Bishop** with their perplexing groin injuries.

Congratulations to **Graeme Hallas** and **Paul Fletcher** who are selected at centre and second row respectively for the Great Britain Under 19 side in France this weekend. Both had to miss their club matches last weekend in order to take part in a BARLA training session.

Player of the Month for December was **Chris Close**. His trophy will be presented to him after today's game by his sponsors **Rotatec Ltd.** Printers.

## DO YOU THINK YOU CAN REFEREE?

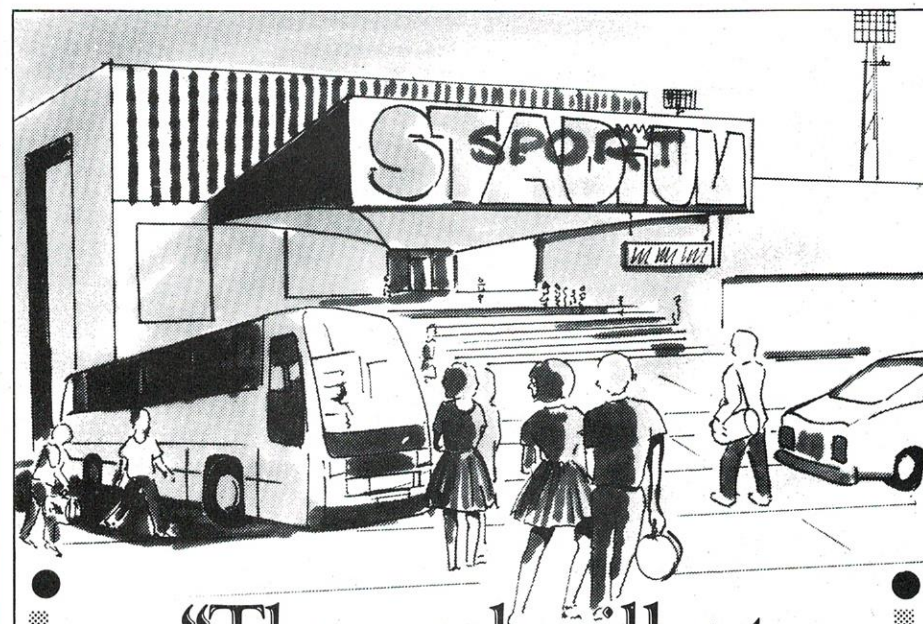
Could you referee a Test Match or a Cup Final? Would you like to get into the middle of the action and see the game from the inside? If you think that you can referee and have both the courage and conviction to fulfill that role, then the R.L. Referees' Association will help you to make a start. They will put you in contact with your local Referee Society who will provide you with expert tuition and guidance in your career as a referee. Write or telephone for information to:- David Lowe, Secretary, The British R.L. Referees' Association, "Craiglands", 2 Chapel Lane, Ecclestone, St. Helens, Merseyside WA10 5DB. (Tel. 0744 22463).



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## SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Although our efforts to sign some leading players from First Division clubs and some top names from Rugby Union were not successful, we are pleased to report the signings of two young players from Second Division sides who we consider have plenty of potential for the future. In each case the fee was £25,000.

First signing on 29th December was that of Carlisle prop forward **Colin Armstrong**. Signed from Broughton Red Rose amateurs in the summer of 1984, he developed into a forward in the traditional Cumbrian mould and has been a member of the County squad. At present he lives in Workington and his transfer formalities were completed in Penrith, but he is moving to Humberside shortly. In the meantime he is the game's longest distance commuter. 24 years of age, he is 6ft. 3ins. and 16 stone.

We signed the second new player, with the transfer late on New Year's Eve of Hunslet centre **Jim Irvine**. A Leeds born player who turned professional from Bisons Sports early in 1986-87, he is a former Great Britain Colts International and has shown his versatility by playing on the wing and in both half back positions for Hunslet. He is 22, 5ft. 11ins. and 13 stone.

Then on 7th January, when we learned that Featherstone were prepared to let him go, we moved quickly to sign **Paul Lyman**. He was valued at £90,000, before a player exchange deal meant we were to pay £55,000. As schoolboy international, he joined Featherstone in May 1982 from Travellers Saint Juniors. As a 17 year old he was a substitute in Featherstone's Wembley Cup winning side. In season 1985-86 he went on to earn Great Britain Under 21 honours, and played for the Yorkshire side which defeated New Zealand at Odsal. He was also in the Great Britain squad for the first two Tests against the 1986 Australians without getting a game. He is 23, 6ft. and 15st. 7lbs.

The deal with Featherstone saw **Chris Burton** move to Post Office Road. We thank Chris for his wholehearted displays for Rovers, and wish him success with the "Colliers". Signed in February 1981, in addition to gaining Test match honours, including the '87 Tour, he has made 208 appearances for Rovers, plus a further 25 substitute appearances, scoring 24 tries (85 points).

### WHITEHAVEN 'A' 16 v ROVERS 'A' 10

(Played 17th December, 1988)

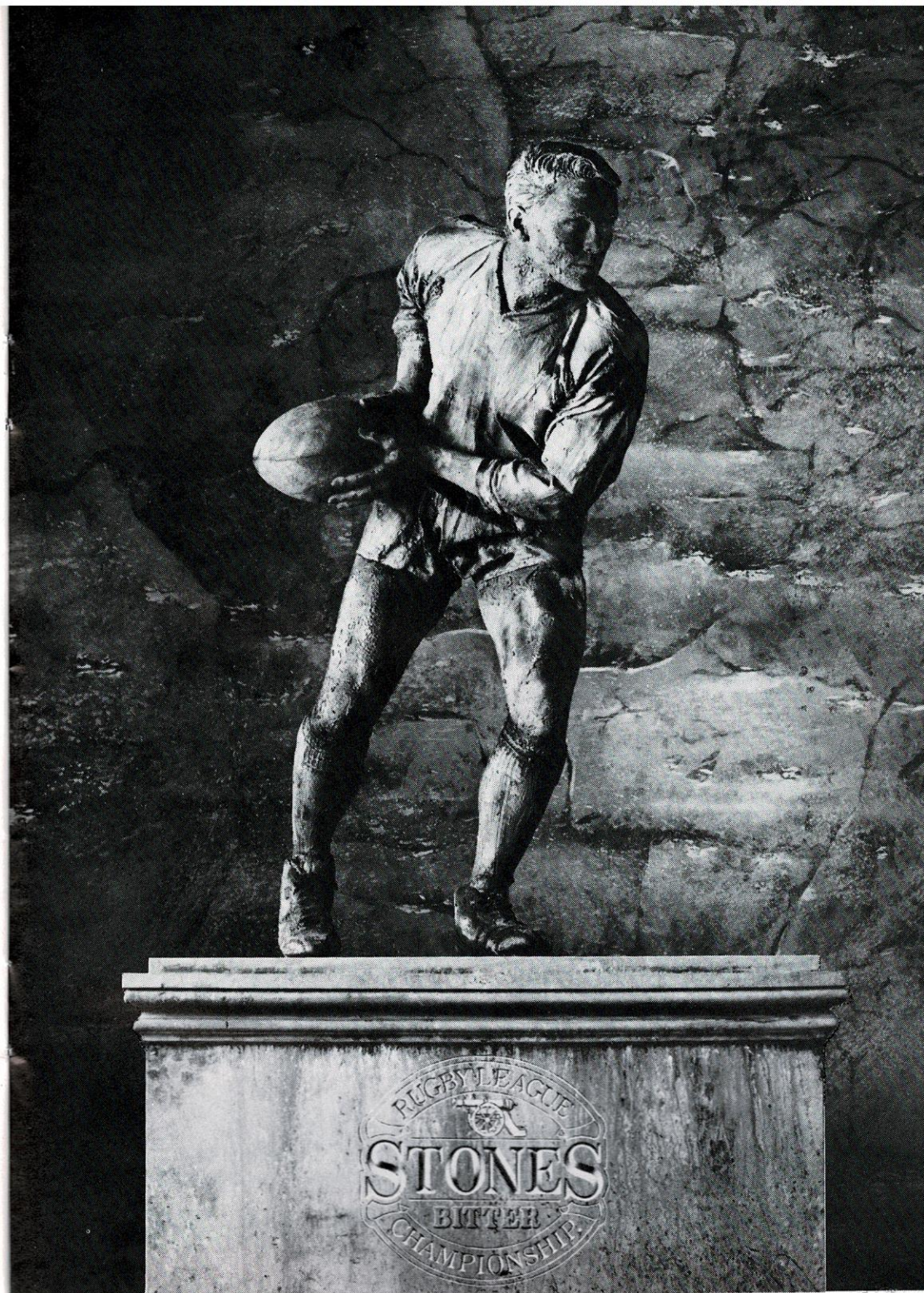
John Edson was not a happy man and consequently did not mince words after he had seen his charges surrender a 10-0 halftime lead against bottom of the table Whitehaven, who have now beaten some of the top sides in the Slalom Lager Alliance in the mud of the Recreation Ground.

Gary Sims zipped in for two carbon copy interception tries during the opening half as Rovers defence pushed up well on both sides to leave Whitehaven with no place to go, and the Robins seemed to be coping well with the 'Haven attack despite being under pressure for much of the first forty minutes.

Early on in the second half however, Whitehaven struck with a try from fullback Howland, converted by Ryan, and from then on, the game warmed up considerably. Paul Speckman was led off after taking a finger direct in the eye, David Watkinson was sent off following what seemed to be on more than a hard tackle, and with ten minutes to go, Terry Swinney came in from the wing to take the opposing centre - a feat he has timed well all season, but who was adjudged this time to have gone in illegally, resulting in the conceding of a penalty and Terry's departure to the sin bin for the remainder of the game.

Watson scored a try with seven minutes to go, Ryan's conversion edging Whitehaven in front for the first time, then with time looming on the clock, a Rovers penalty kick for touch failed to find its mark and the opposition ran the ball back at the depleted Robins to seal the game and take the edge off John Edson's Christmas!

**Rovers 'A':** Stead; Sullivan, Sims, Jones, Swinney; Schultz, Farr; Ema, Rudd, Watkinson, O'Brien, Charlton, Speckman, Subs. McAreavey (for Speckman) and F. Parker (for O'Brien).



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**Phil Hogan** has now started his Benefit Year, and particularly is deserving of a bumper response, not the least for the way he has supported his playing colleagues in their testimonials. Over the last ten years a benefit event not attended by "Hogie" has been rare indeed, no matter what or where the function.

**A Nearly New and Jumble Sale** has been arranged for St. Stephen's Church Hall on Thursday, 26th January at 6 p.m. Anyone with any Nearly New or Jumble Sale to donate is kindly requested to contact Phil (Tel. 23963).

The opening **Dinner** in support of the Fund, for a mixed audience, is on Friday, 3rd February (7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.) at Hesslewood Hall, with **David Watkins**, the former Great Britain R.L., British Lions and Salford star, currently commentating for Yorkshire Television's "Scrumdown", as celebrity speaker. Tickets £15 each are available from John Fisher at the Promotions Office during normal office hours, or from Phil.

A complete collection of Hull K.R. programmes from August 1954 to date, for every home game, with a handful of exceptions when publication was impossible due to either industrial action within the printing industry or the hasty re-arrangement of a cup replay which left no time for publication, is on offer to the highest bidder in aid of Hogie's Benefit. The collection also includes a few special programmes plus various handbooks and benefit brochures.

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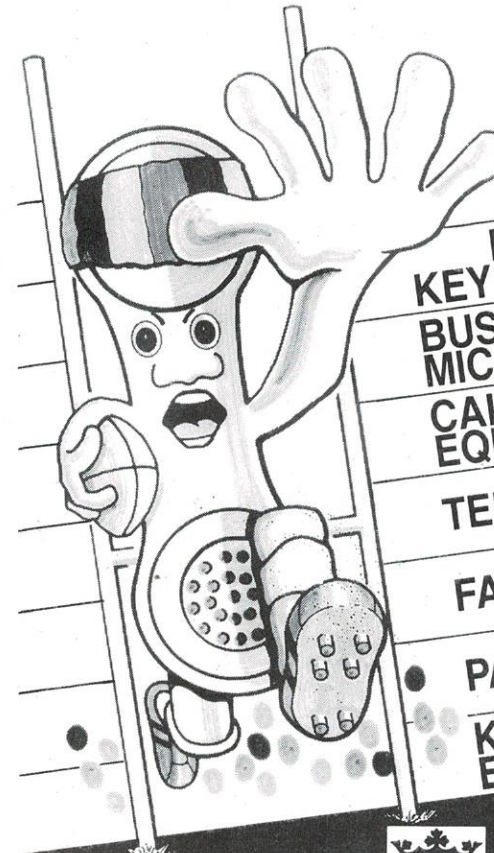
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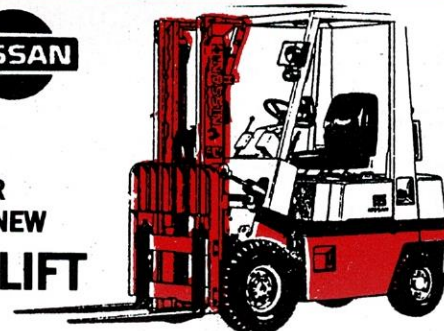
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### FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

This is an at-a-glance fixture chart to enable you to keep up-to-date with the 1988/89 First Division League Fixtures, and help you keep an eye on how our opponents are progressing. Home teams are in the vertical column, away teams across the top. So, if you want to know when say, Wigan are at home to Widnes, find Wigan in the left hand column and read across until you come to the column with Widnes at the top. Dates are replaced by results (Home score first) as matches are played.

	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	HOME
BRADFORD	Bradford	Casford	Fstone	Halifax	Hull	HKR	Leeds	Oldham	Salford	St. Helens	Wakefield	Warrington	Widnes	Wigan
	18Dec	9Apr	5Feb	32-20	16Apr	10-18	4Dec	42-18	19Feb	28Mar	15Jan	19Mar	19Mar	17-20
CASTLEFORD	38-20	24Mar	30-0	5Mar	38-20	16Apr	22-19	38-12	46-12	22Jan	23-16	11Dec	19Mar	2Apr
FEATHERSTONE	20-48	20-26	21-17	27Mar	12Mar	18-32	18-14	23-18	15Jan	14-15	16Apr	4-16	19Feb	8Jan
HALIFAX	26-14	21-12	22Jan	6-14	19Feb	27Mar	0-12	5Mar	16Apr	9Apr	4-16	26-20	16-20	16-20
HULL FC	28-10	8-18	4-14	26Feb	24Mar	14-12	11-8	16Apr	21-12	10-16	12Mar	22Jan	23Oct	23Oct
HULL KR	24-22	27Mar	15-30	12-4	12-15	4Dec	15Jan	19Mar	22-30	38-18	5Feb	9Apr	9Apr	5Mar
LEEDS	24Mar	19Mar	36-18	34-12	6-13	21-8	48-4	22Jan	32-0	5Mar	8-22	14-30	22-14	22-14
OLDHAM	22Jan	9Apr	5Mar	12-14	19Feb	30-16	22-28	23-22	22-26	19Mar	16-2	8Jan	27Mar	27Mar
SALFORD	33-18	17Feb	8-12	2Apr	5Feb	24-14	6-24	38-20	12Mar	18-8	25-18	15-12	24-16	24-16
ST. HELENS	23-16	14-14	19Mar	50-16	9-20	22Jan	15-6	26Feb	30-14	30-14	9Apr	27Mar	11-18	11-18
WAKEFIELD	14-23	26Feb	19-12	24Mar	6-12	5Feb	12-12	18-36	2Apr	30-14	14-10	27Mar	25-20	25-20
WARRINGTON	5Mar	20-26	30-22	19Mar	60-24	2Apr	32-30	27Mar	14-25	19Feb	8-18	22Jan	22Jan	22Jan
WIDNES	2Apr	16Oct	58-2	5-4	38-6	43-6	8-20	5Feb	15Jan	40-12	24Mar	16Apr	16Apr	16Apr
WIGAN	12Mar	12-20	26Feb	15Jan	4Dec	32-16	40-18	9Apr	24Mar	34-12	26-10	10-24		





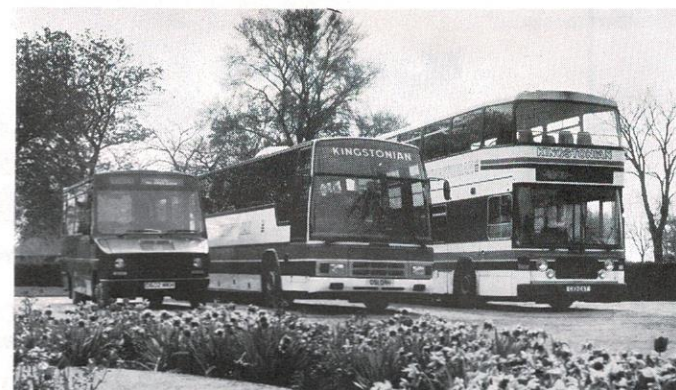
**HULL KINGSTON ROVERS R.L.F.C.  
ALLIANCE FIXTURES  
SEASON 1988-1989**

1988		Venue	Result	Score
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Sat. 27- <b>Salford</b>	2.30 p.m.	H	Won	26-07
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Sat. 3- <b>Carlisle</b>	2.30 p.m.	A	Won	25-10
Fri. 9- <b>Wigan</b>	7.30 p.m.	H	Lost	23-26
Sat. 17- <b>Whitehaven</b>	2.30 p.m.	H	Won	44-06
Fri. 23- <b>Halifax</b>	7.30 p.m.	A	Lost	4-30
Fri. 30- <b>Bradford</b>	7.30 p.m.	A	Lost	12-16
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
Fri. 7- <b>St. Helens</b>	7.30 p.m.	A	Postponed	
Fri. 21- <b>Leeds</b>	7.30 p.m.	H	Won	24-10
Sun. 30- <b>Warrington</b>	2.30 p.m.	A	Won	32-24
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Fri. 4- <b>Hunslet</b>	7.30 p.m.	H	Won	44-14
Fri. 11- <b>Swinton</b>	7.30 p.m.	A	Won	20-16
Fri. 18- <b>Widnes</b>	7.30 p.m.	H	Won	24-15
Fri. 25- <b>Widnes</b>	7.30 p.m.	A	Lost	12-42
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Fri. 2- <b>Leeds</b>	7.30 p.m.	A	Postponed	
Sat. 10- <b>Swinton</b>	2.30 p.m.	H	Won	40-10
Sat. 17- <b>Whitehaven</b>	2.30 p.m.	A	Lost	10-16
Fri. 30- <b>Hull F.C.</b>	7.30 p.m.	A	Lost	2-20
<b>1989</b>				
<b>JANUARY</b>				
Sat. 7- <b>Warrington</b>	7.30 p.m.	H	Won	21-14
Fri. 13- <b>Castleford</b>	7.30 p.m.	A		
Fri. 20- <b>St. Helens</b>	7.30 p.m.	H		
Sat. 28- <b>Carlisle</b>	2.30 p.m.	H		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
Sat. 11- <b>Salford</b>		A		
Fri. 24- <b>Castleford</b>	7.30 p.m.	H		
<b>MARCH</b>				
Fri. 3- <b>Wigan</b>	7.30 p.m.	A		
Fri. 10- <b>Halifax</b>	7.30 p.m.	H		
Sat. 25- <b>Hull F.C.</b>	2.30 p.m.	H		
Fri. 31- <b>Hunslet</b>	7.30 p.m.	A		

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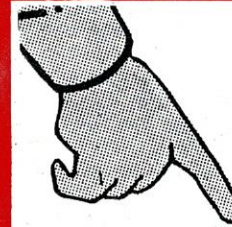


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### TEAMS

**EAST PARK JUNIORS** (Hull)  
**HULL WHITESTAR** (Hull)  
**DEWSBURY MOOR** (Dewsbury)  
**KIPPAX** (Leeds/Castleford)  
**TRAVELLERS** (Featherstone)

**GARFORTH** (Leeds)  
**LOCKLANE** (Castleford)  
**MIDDLETON** (Leeds/Hunslet)  
**WHELDALE** (Castleford)  
**HANGING HEATON** (Dewsbury)

	Venue	Result	Score
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Sun. 18-East Park Juniors v Travellers	H	Won	32-12
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Sun. 9-East Park Juniors v Middleton	H	Won	41- 8
Sun. 16-Wheldale v East Park Juniors	A	Won	41-21
Sun. 22-Dewsbury Moor v East Park Juniors	A	Won	37-16
Sun. 30-Kippax v East Park Juniors	A	Won	52- 6
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Sun. 6-East Park Juniors v Travellers	H	Won	28-23
Sun. 13-Hull Whitestar v East Park Juniors (Yorks Cup Semi Final)	A	Won	16- 2
Sun. 20-East Park Juniors v Locklane	H	Won	42- 2
Sun. 27-East Park Juniors v Dewsbury Moor (Yorks Cup Final)	H	Won	18- 6
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Sun. 4-East Park Juniors v Middleton	H	Won	54-12
Sun. 11-Dudley Hill v East Park Juniors	A	Won	12- 4
Sun. 18-Wheldale v East Park Juniors	A	Won	25- 6
<b>1989</b>			
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Sun. 8-East Park Juniors v Hull Whitestar	H	Lost	2-22
Sun. 15-U19 Youth Cup/Yorkshire Cup			
Sun. 22-Hanging Heaton v East Park Juniors	A		
Sun. 29-U19 National Cup			
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Sun. 5-East Park Juniors v Dewsbury Moor	H		
Sun. 12-U19-National Cup			
Sun. 19-East Park Juniors v Kippax	H		
Sun. 26-Travellers v East Park Juniors	A		
<b>MARCH</b>			
Sun. 5-East Park Juniors v Garforth	H		
Sun. 12-Fixture Backlog/Cup Matches			
Sun. 19-Fixture Backlog/Cup Matches			
Sun. 26-Fixture Backlog/Cup Matches			
<b>APRIL</b>			
Sun. 2-Fixture Backlog/Cup Matches			
Sun. 9-Fixture Backlog/Cup Matches			
Sun. 16-Fixture Backlog/Cup Matches			
Sun. 23-Fixture Backlog/Cup Matches			

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