

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

KEITH ATKINSON — 1
 PAUL LORD — 2
 JOHN HENDERSON — 3
 MARK LORD — 4
 STEVE ROBINSON — 5
 CHRIS O'SULLIVAN — 6
 MIKE FORD — 7
 NEIL CLAWSON — 8
 ANDY RUANE — 9
 IAN SHERRATT — 10
 PAUL ROUND — 11
 KEITH NEWTON — 12
 GARY HYDE — 13
 KEVIN MEADOWS — 14
 BOB MARSDEN — 15

BRADFORD

KEITH MUMBY — 1
 ERROL JOHNSON — 2
 STEVE MCGOWAN — 3
 GARY MERCER — 4
 RICHARD FRANCIS — 5
 RUSSEL STEWART — 6
 PAUL HARKIN — 7
 KELVIN SKERRETT — 8
 BRIAN NOBLE — 9
 JON HAMER — 10
 DAVID HOBBS — 11
 KARL FAIRBANK — 12
 HARRY PINNER — 13
 MARK WILSON — 14
 IAN WILKINSON — 15

Referee: Mr. B. Simpson (Manchester) Touch Judges: Mr. P. Hind (Red Flag), Mr. B. Norbury (Orange Flag)

PENALTIES				
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS				
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PENALTIES				
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11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS				
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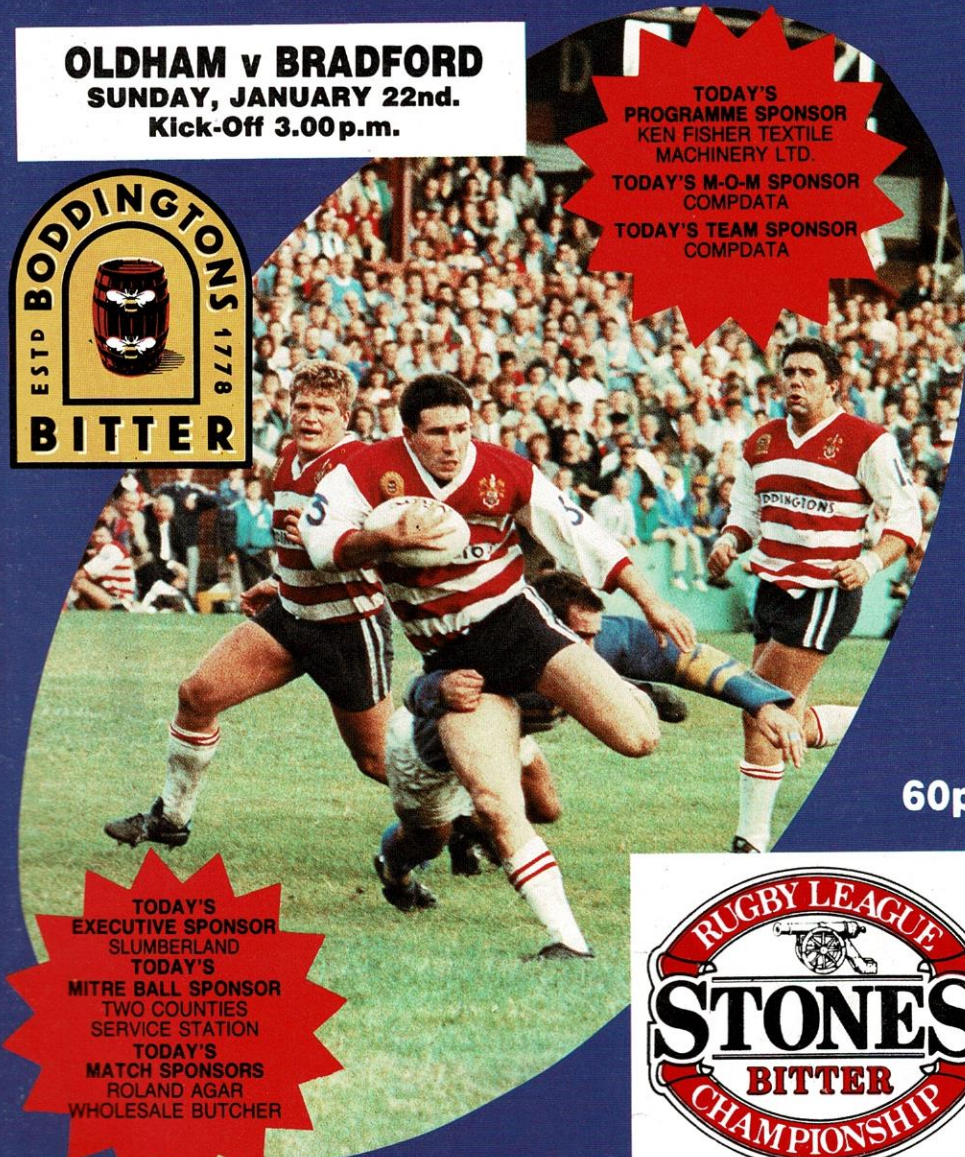
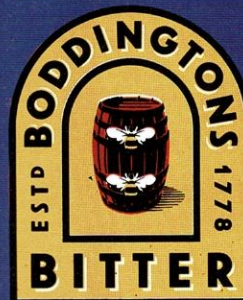


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Conditioner: O. Rowe

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Official Sin Bin Man: David Whitehead

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory: 67-6 v Liverpool City, April, 1959

Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September, 1978

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield,
24 February, 1912

Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan,
4th February, 1987

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to St. Helens
for Paul Round August 1987
and £65,000 for Mike Ford January 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

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners:
1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09,
1921-22, 1954-55

First Division Champions: 1904-05

Second Division Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82,
1987-88

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99,
1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14,
1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22,
1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87

Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08,
1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20,
1923-24, 1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80

Second Division Premiership: 1987-88

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PLAYERS PROFILE

ASHLEY GILBERT



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name: *Ashley Ronald Gilbert*
 Nick Name: *BA*
 Birthdate: *28.11.63*
 Birthplace: *Crookwell, New South Wales*
 Marital Status: *Gill*
 Occupation: *Farmer*
 Car: *Ford Falcon*
 Fav. TV Show: *Cosby's, Alf*
 Fav. Film: *Man from Snowy River*
 Fav. Music: *Rock 'n' Roll*
 Fav. Food/Drink: *Roast dinners/beer*
 Fav. Reading: *Sports Magazines*
 Hobbies: *Golf, water-skiing*
 Fav. other sport: *Golf*
 Likes about game: *People and status*
 Dislikes about game: *Back stabbers and over-the-fence champions*

Superstitions: *Put on strip in same order*

Fav. position: *Second-row*
 Fav. ground: *Seiffert Oval, Canberra*
 Best moment: *1987 Grand Final, Sydney*

Worst moment: *Losing Same*

Hardest player to tackle: *Noel Cleal*

Hardest tackler: *All*

Fav. all-time player: *Bob McCarthy, Terry Fahey*

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on: *August, 1988 (one season only)*
 Debut: *v Workington (Lancs. Cup) 18.9.88*
 Appearances: *8*
 Tries: *4*
 Goals: *0*
 Drop goals: *0*
 Total points: *16*

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



THE pressure of the First Division championship is put behind us next Sunday when we travel to Dewsbury in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

You often hear some people remark — when a team is fighting for league survival — that it can do without the added burden of a cup run. Poppycock!

There is nothing like cup success, and especially success in the most famous knock-out competition of the lot, the Challenge Cup, to provide a club with the sort of tonic that gives a lift and sends confidence soaring right through the club.

It can rub off on the bread-and-butter league campaign, too, and there was no finer example of this than in the year Featherstone went to Wembley under Allan Agar and at the same time climbed to First Division safety when they had previously looked doomed.

So you can rest assured that, when our cup campaign kicks off next week at Crown Flatt, I will be looking for a cracking run in the tournament.

We must not underestimate Dewsbury, of course, but the truth of the matter is that we have the players to win — and win comfortably — and if we don't then we will have only ourselves to blame.

We beat the signing deadline by landing Keith Newton from Widnes and Mark Lord, on loan, from Leeds, and I expect both players to do well as, indeed, I think Gary Hyde will surpass expectations in his new role of loose-forward.

I don't expect miracles overnight from Gary, but I think he is tailor-made for the loose-forward berth and I have a hunch he will make a lot of people sit up and take note.

Finally, one big plea from me to all you terrific fans. Shares are now available and how they sell will largely determine the fortunes of the club over the next few years.

The coaching staff want the club to go places, just like the directors and YOU, the supporters, so let's all rally round and dip our hands into pockets.

The potential for a top team here is fantastic. We mustn't let our big chance slip by. Please do your bit and I promise you this; we won't let you down.

TONY BARROW



OLDHAM RLFC
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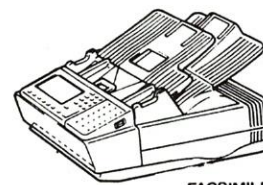
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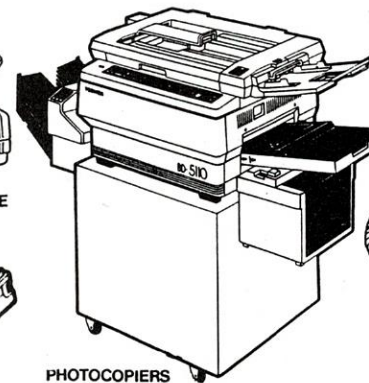
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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

A message to all from director Greg Pache



It is not very often that I speak publicly, or in the programme, but I wish to bring to the attention of supporters the importance of our share issue which was launched on Thursday and remains open until February 27th.

As you are probably aware, we have been a members' club since 1876 and we have never been able to compete at top level consistently. Even the little success we have had was more than 30 years ago or as far back as the 1920s.

Being a members club has always hindered progress and limited financial support. For the first time, we can now convert to a limited company but when this was set in motion by the previous committee only £15,000 was raised by members. As it was for a closed company we could never have gained enough funds to keep Oldham Rugby afloat.

The alternative, therefore, was to look at other ideas to create a strong financial basis for success, hence the creation of the **PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**.

This gives an opportunity for everyone, not just members, to become a share holder of the club. i.e. companies, individuals, institutions, amateur club etc, both in the Oldham area and throughout Great Britain.

Putting figures into perspective, the market we are now entitled to pursue is enormous. As an example, our average home support totals about 4,000 and if each one of those 4,000 contributes, say, £100, we would be nearly half way to our target. That in itself would guarantee the survival of the club. Make no bones about it. If you want

to continue to see rugby played in Oldham **BUY SHARES**.

It is no use saying: 'It'll be reet. Somebody else can put it in. I'm giving nowt. They'll only waste it. The club'll still be ere.'

WRONG. Think again. Be patient. Success takes time. You may say £100 is a lot of money. I'm saying, 'Yes, it is.' However, spread shares around the family and relatives. Ask your bosses to help. Think of every conceivable way in which you could introduce a shareholder. Mention it at your pub or club. I'm sure that, with effort, each supporter could raise £100 at least.

Don't forget also the Business Expansion Scheme. Contributions over £500 entitle the individual to tax relief, effectively reducing net cost for shares by 25 or 40 per cent.

We know supporters are not satisfied with results. Neither are we. We not only need money to reduce our deficit, but to be in a position to compete for the better class of players.

We have not become directors for the benefit of ourselves. On the contrary, we are here for the benefit of Oldham RLFC, a club which everyone should be proud of and which should be among the elite of the game.

Help us to save Oldham. Help us to make the club great. **BUY SHARES, and now is the time to do it.**

Yours sincerely,

GREG PACHE

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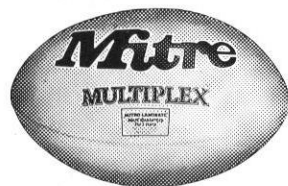
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WITH THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

AS the official body representing the supporters of Oldham Rugby League Football Club PLC we want to put our weight behind the crucially important share issue and the subscription list which opened at 10.00 a.m. last Thursday.

To get to the top the club needs money and a major injection of capital. Some clubs, such as Hull K.R. and Rochdale Hornets, are selling their grounds for similar reasons. Even Wigan — big as they are — are selling a large portion of land to raise money for further improvements to Central Park.

We all know that a lot of money needs to be spent here: not only on the playing staff, and the development of a youth policy, but on the ground. We would merely say that we hope everyone rallies around and buys some shares. Every little counts. Don't say: 'My £25 is just a drop in the ocean.' A lot of drops make a lot of oceans. As supporters let's get behind the club in this very important project, and let's play our part in getting the club to the very highest echelons.

We would like to wish all our members and fellow fans a belated Happy New Year and welcome today's visitors from Odsal.

Next Sunday, of course, we go to Dewsbury in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and we expect to take a lot of fans on our coaches. Will all members of the Supporters' Club who are travelling on our coaches next week and in subsequent weeks please bring along their membership card. It's the blue card that members received with

their Oldham Rugby diary. Members receive a small discount on the cost of away-day travel and we cannot remember everybody's face. Also, please book as soon as possible, and certainly before Friday, on 665 1832 or 627 0235.

Talking of the cup, why not make sure you have your red-and-white favour. We have two new items for sale in the souvenir shop just inside the main gates: the 'famous rugby nut' in club colours at only £1.99 — super value — and yuppie-style autograph books in club colours at only £1.50, again representing great value. They are a good buy for young and old and make excellent presents.

We are still looking for donations for the juniors' half-time draw — acknowledgement in next programme — and, on behalf of the supporters, we would like to welcome to the club our two most recent recruits, Keith Newton and Mark Lord

COUNTY LADS REWARDED

SEVERAL local boys have had the honour of representing Lancashire this season in schools' Rugby League and at half-time today they will be presented with season tickets.

Under-11s: Paul Sculthorpe (*capt*), Christian Wheeler (*Watersheddings*).

Under-13s: John Hough, Richard Badby (*St. Augustine's*), Philip McAndrew (*Royton and Crompton*).

Under-16s: Craig Mort, Paddy Mitchell, Emmerson Jackman, Gerard Guilfoyle (*St. Augustine's*).

— BRING A FRIEND —

Rugby League gates are on the up and the average First Division crowd this season is 1,500 **BETTER** than last year. We must play our part at Oldham so . . . bring a friend!

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A LOOK AT NORTHERN

KEITH MUMBY: Full back 5'9", 13st 8lbs. One of the game's most consistent and loyal players, who has been at Odsal for 15 seasons since joining them as a 16 year old, yet is still widely regarded as one of the best full backs in England. Club records include most matches in a career, most goals and most points scored. Honours include England, Great Britain under 24's and Tours in 1974 and 1979. Club Player of the Year on seven occasions.

STEVE MCGOWAN: Centre. 6'3", 13st. Signed from Leeds Colts. Has had great games in previous seasons, but was out many months with a bad leg injury. Standing at 6'3" he is reminiscent to Eric Ashton in his style.

ERROL JOHNSON: Centre. Signed in mid September from Leeds R.L.F.C. after failing to agree terms with them. An Under 21 international, very strong runner and hard defensive player. Subsequently Leeds valued him at £60,000 and it seems likely that the R.L. Tribunal will have to decide the fee.

GARY MERCER: Centre. 6'1", 13st 12lbs. Virtually unknown in this country until he joined Northern a year ago, when he quickly became noticed, nevertheless he had been prominent on the wing for New Zealand scoring a try when they had defeated Australia in July 1987. Was included in the Kiwis World Cup Final team.

ROGER SIMPSON: Wing. 5'6", 11st. From Mold Green A.R.L., he can also play centre or off half. A former Colts International, he joined Northern on his 17th birthday.

RICHARD FRANCIS: Wing. 5'10", 12st. Signed from Parkside Juniors as a 17 year old. A Great Britain Colts International, and former schoolboy sprint champion, he is the fastest player on Northern's books.

GARY SIDEBOTTOM: Wing. Another youngster from Northern's Junior side. Can play equally at centre or wing. He is a hard strong runner and sound tackler, and was an English Schools representative.

RUSSELL STEWART: Off half. 5'6½", 12st 12lbs. A junior Kiwi who played for Northern District versus Great Britain during our 1984 Tour. Has also played scrum half and loose forward in his native New Zealand, he returned to action last weekend after spending the summer back home.

PAUL HARKIN: Scrum half. 28. 5'5½". 11st 3lbs. Joined Northern as a 17 year old from Wakefield Colts and transferred to Rovers in 1978. Earned international honours, appeared in eleven major finals for Rovers and often proved the man for the big occasion, with Man of the Match Awards in the 1984/5 and 1985/6 John Player Finals. Nevertheless he asked for a transfer and after being on the list for a couple of years he rejoined Northern, for the largest fee Rovers have received for a player. Paul continues to be a shrewd organiser and dictator of play.

ANDY ROBINSON: Scrum half. 22. A former Northern ball boy who has graduated through the Colts and 'A' team to become a very valuable member of the first team squad. Was captain of the side for a time five seasons ago when only 19. Lost his place when Terry Holmes and later Harkin was signed, but is hoping to fight his way back to recognition.

HEATH GODFREY: Scrum half. 22. A player who always gives 100 per cent whenever he receives a first team chance as deputy to Harkin. Has also stood in at off half.

BRIAN NOBLE: Hooker. 27. 5'8". 13st 6lbs. Joined Northern straight from school, and graduated through the sides until he won a first team place. In 1984 he was the youngest ever captain of a Great Britain side to tour Australasia, and although he has 11 international caps, eight as captain, for the past four seasons he has been passed over for international selection. An ever present in the side last season, he is currently in his Benefit Year.

KELVIN SKERRETT: Prop. 22. 6', 16st. Nephew of former Hull F.C. and Great Britain forward Trevor Skerrett, he originally joined Hunslet, later moving to Bradford in August 1987, where he has been a first team regular ever since.

DAVID HOBBS: Second row or Prop. 6'1". 15st 7lbs. Joined home town Featherstone where he gained International honours and a Cup winners' medal, Lance Todd Trophy winner in 1983. Had a couple of years at Oldham prior to joining Northern two seasons ago. This strong running forward is also a very useful goalkicker, and was in the League's top ten last season with 83 successes. This season he is already 9 goals clear at the top of the goal kicking chart.

KARL FAIRBANK: Second row. 6'. 15st. B.A.R.L.A.'s player of the year in 1986. Signed from Elland Amateur Rugby League at the end of 1985/86 season. At 23 years old, he had an outstanding Tour with the Great Britain Amateur side in Australia, and last season went on tour after ending the season as the Club's top try scorer, but did not win a Test place. One of five brothers he is the son of former Leeds star Jack Fairbank.

HARRY PINNER: Loose forward. Former St. Helens and Widnes star, an ex Great Britain captain and a player of vast experience at all levels of the game. Signed during the summer it was considered his distributive skills would bring the best out of Northern's running forwards. Unfortunately he was stretched off during last week's game with a suspected severe knee ligament injury.



DAVID HOBBS . . .
in his Oldham days

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FIXTURES 1988/89

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AUGUST

28 WiganA L 40-18

SEPTEMBER

4 LeedsH L 22-28
11 Featherstone R (3.30)A L 18-14
18 County Cup—WorkingtonH W 64-2
25 Castleford (3.30)A L 22-19
28 County Cup — SalfordH L 2-18

OCTOBER

2 Hull K RH W 30-16
9 Wakefield T (3.30)A D 12-12
16 SalfordA L 38-20
23 St. HelensH L 22-26

NOVEMBER

6 WarringtonA L 32-30
13 John Player — WarringtonA L 21-14
20 HalifaxH L 12-14

DECEMBER

4 HalifaxA W 0-12
11 WarringtonH W 16-2
18 HullA L 11-8
26 SalfordH W 23-22

JANUARY

1 LeedsA L 48-4
15 Hull KRA L 34-6
22 Bradford NH
29 Challenge Cup 1st round
DewsburyA

FEBRUARY

5 WidnesA
12 Challenge Cup 2nd round
19 HullH
26 St. HelensA
(or Challenge Cup 3rd round)

MARCH

5 Featherstone RH
11 Challenge Cup semi
19 Wakefield TH
25 Challenge Cup semi
27 WiganH

APRIL

9 CastlefordH
23 Premiership 1st round
29 Challenge Cup final

MAY

7 Premiership semis
14 Premiership final

Kick-off 3p.m. unless otherwise stated

New dates for the away game at Bradford and the home game v Widnes have still to be fixed.

'A' TEAM (Slalom Lager Alliance League)

AUGUST

24 York (7.30)H W 38-2

SEPTEMBER

3 Dewsbury (2.30)A L 24-22
10 Featherstone R (2.30)H L 12-18
15 Bramley (7.30)A W 6-18
21 Huddersfield (7.30)H W 44-7

OCTOBER

1 Lancashire Shield — LeighA W 12-13
5 Wakefield T (7.30)H W 44-18
14 Lancashire Shield — WiganH L 9-10
21 Huddersfield (7.30)A W 8-34
26 Runcorn (7.30)H W 30-0

NOVEMBER

5 York (2.30)A W 23-24
9 Bramley (7.30)H W 48-12
25 Leigh (7.30)A W 10-32
30 Bradford (7.30)H W 20-6

DECEMBER

10 Barrow (2.30)A W 14-30
17 Workington (2.30)H W 36-10
31 Doncaster (2.30)H W 38-17

JANUARY

7 Trafford (2.30)A W 14-36
11 Trafford (7.30)H W 30-10
20 Bradford (7.30)A
25 Dewsbury (7.30)H

FEBRUARY

4 Challenge Cup (1st round)A
11 Doncaster (2.30)A
18 Challenge Cup (2nd round)H
22 Leigh (7.30)H

MARCH

4 Featherstone (2.30)A
11 Barrow (2.30)H
18 Wakefield T (7.30)A
25 Workington (2.30)A

Runcorn have withdrawn from the competition.



Two new boys included on our Challenge Cup register are Mark Lord (left) and Keith Newton. Mark, a Shaw lad, has joined Oldham on a trial-cum-loan basis from Leeds and Keith has arrived via Widnes to link up with his former Naughton Park colleagues Duncan Platt and Andy Ruane. The transfer fee for Newton will be fixed by an independent tribunal.

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

A Crucial 5-week period

THE long awaited share issue finally got off the ground on Thursday and it is now all hands to the pump to sell as many shares as possible before the subscription list closes at 3.0p.m. on February 27, 1989.

Today's game against Bradford, therefore is the first since the Oldham club 'converted' to a PLC — an historic occasion, indeed. It is perhaps appropriate, too, that Bradford are the visitors because it was Northern who also helped us to celebrate our centenary with a match in 1976, if you remember.

We have certainly reached one of the most important milestones in the club's history and after 18 months of the most intense negotiations with solicitors, accountants, bankers and public relations people the big day has finally arrived.

The following statement has been issued by the club, through its PR advisers:

GOVERNMENT SCHEME TO HELP DEVELOP RUGBY CLUB: SUPPORTERS INVITED TO INVEST IN OLDHAM RL CLUB

'In a move which is the first of its kind in professional Rugby League football, one of the game's oldest clubs, Oldham, is adopting an innovative commercial stance by issuing a prospectus under the Business Expansion Scheme.

'Aiming to make Oldham the foremost club in Rugby League, improve its squad of players and develop the commercial activities at its ground, Oldham Rugby League Football Club PLC seeks to raise up to three quarters of million pounds by inviting investors to purchase 750,000 ordinary shares at £1 per share.

'The directors regard support from the club's substantial base of dedicated supporters, and the people of Oldham, as crucial to the success of the offer and the minimum subscription has accordingly been set at £25.

'The subscription list will open at 10.00 a.m. on 19th of January, 1989 and will close at 3.00 p.m. on 27th February, 1989.

'Use of the Business Expansion Scheme will enable subscribers purchasing a minimum of 500 shares, or more, to benefit from income tax relief of 25 per cent or 40 per cent, depending upon income.'

Thus read the historic statement that was despatched to the media last week. Since then, we have had a considerable amount of publicity (see page 17) and director Greg Pache has been on the radio to outline what the share issue means to the future of the club.

In short, it means EVERYTHING. All the relevant information is contained in our

prospectus, copies of which will hopefully be available at today's match for all our fans, friends, sponsors, season-ticket holders, vice-presidents, Gold Card members, plus anyone from Bradford who might be interested in 'sharing' — to coin a phrase — in a little bit of Rugby League history which means so much to one of the game's founder members.

We hope to attract the major shareholder, obviously, and that is why we have adopted the Business Expansion Scheme, which allows those who invest more than £500 to benefit from tax relief on their investment.

At the same time, we desire a broad spread of shares and we will be hoping for maximum support from the more modest shareholder who will be planning to buy just £25-worth.

We will, of course, be looking to everyone with the club at heart not only to buy some shares but also to act as a spreader of the gospel and to urge and encourage others to do the same.

Teamwork over the next month is vital in the 'big sell' and by courtesy of Trafford Borough RLFC we would like to reproduce a definition of teamwork as published in the Trafford programme for the match against Oldham 'A' recently.

'There are four people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY and NOBODY. There was an important job to be carried out and EVERYBODY was asked to do it.

'EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about that, because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it but NOBODY realised that EVERYBODY would not do it.

'It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.'

A wonderful message is contained therein and we are confident that all our terrific fans at Watersheddings will rise to the occasion, yet again, during this most vital and historic period for the club that has meant, and is meaning, so much to so many generations of Oldham people throughout more than a century.

Take away your prospectus and read it at your leisure. But please don't think your contribution does not count. We are all in this together, the £25 shareholder and the major shareholder.

Let's all 'share' in putting Oldham Rugby League Football Club PLC on the road to glory. The game is heading for big things and we want to be part of the success story as League heads towards its centenary in 1995. Oldhamers will surely respond to the challenge.

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CLUB**
Play in



**WHAT THE PAPERS SAY —
ON OUR VITAL ISSUE**

RUGBY SHARES ON OFFER NEXT WEEK

**Oldham to
move
up market**
Oldham Rugby League Club, which has been run by the committee and members since...

THE TIMES

**Oldham shares
prove popular**
OLDHAM launch their £750,000 share issue on Jan 14 with direct-
or Jim Knox reporting interest
from all over the country as well
as overseas, writes John
Whalley

DAILY TELEGRAPH

**Oldham
go
PLC
and
lead
way in
RL**

OLDHAM
EVENING
CHRONICLE

Oldham, run by members for more than 100 years, moves upmarket next week when it offers 750,000 £1 ordinary shares.
On shares...

DAILY STAR

Oldham seek fortune with pioneering share issue

THE GUARDIAN

**BUSINESS
TONIGHT**
**Club becomes
BES pioneer**
OLDHAM Rugby League Football Club is the first to seek financial help from its supporters through the Business Expansion Scheme.
The directors hope to raise £750,000 by selling £1 shares to investors.
The subscription...

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

Shares
Oldham run by committee and members for more than 100 years, will become the first rugby league club to go public next week. A total of 750,000 £1 shares will be on offer.
Director Greg Pache said: "To take Oldham to the top, we must have clubs like Leeds and Wakefield. If the share issue is a success there is no telling what we could achieve."

DAILY MAIL

OLDHAM launch their revolutionary share issue next week. They hope it will put them in the club to compete with the likes of Wigan and Leeds.

DAILY MIRROR

Oldham going public
OLDHAM, run by committee and members for more than 100 years, becomes the first public limited company in Rugby League next month, offering 750,000 £1 shares under the Business Expansion Scheme.

YORKSHIRE POST

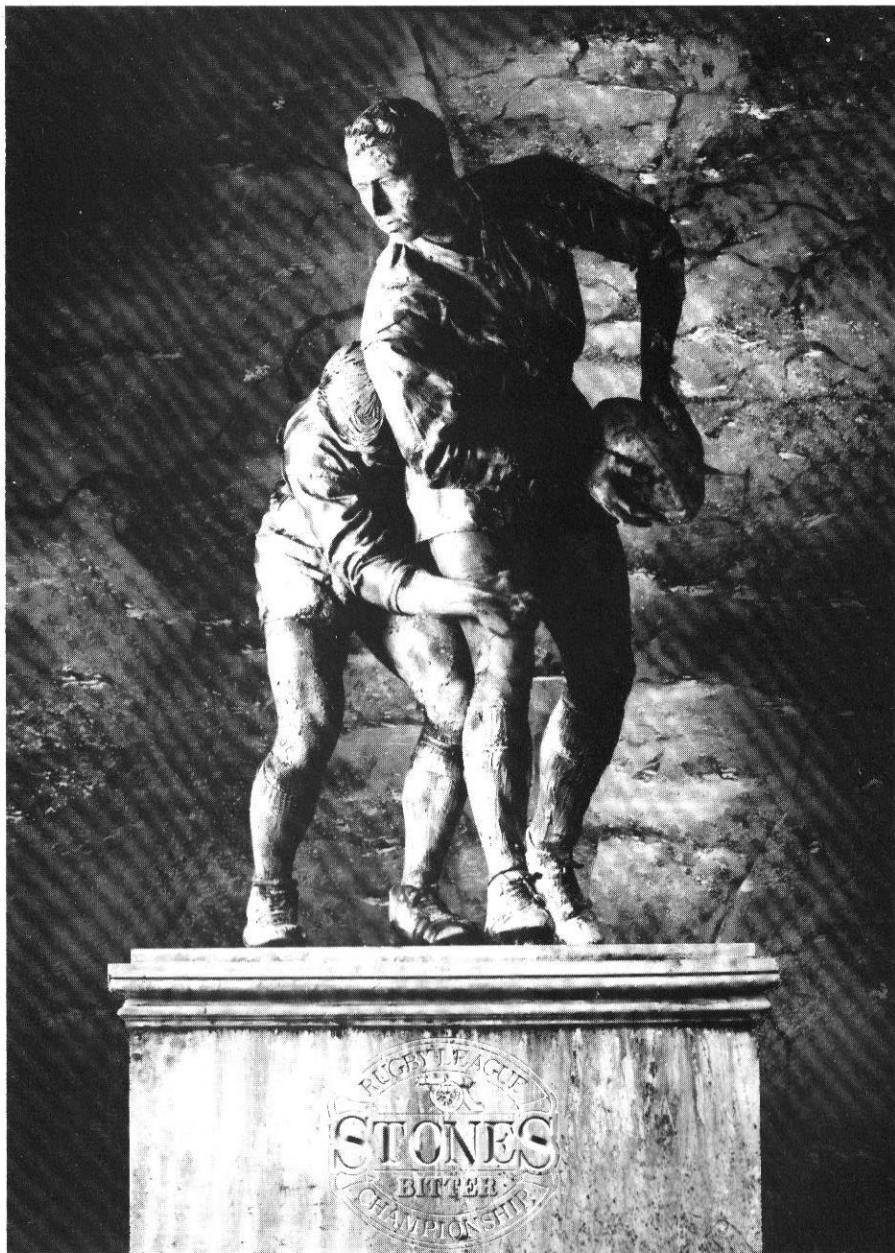
Share in the future

By ALAN THOMAS
OLDHAM, languishing at the wrong end of the Stones First Division, are to launch their share scheme which club official Greg Pache...

DAILY EXPRESS

Public appeal
OLDHAM are to make rugby league history by becoming a public limited company when a £750,000 £1 share issue goes on offer next Thursday.
Local people will be encouraged to buy shares, raising revenue Oldham says, will help them compete with top clubs.

TODAY



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

THE winner of our grand holiday for two to Barbados, drawn at the Salford game on Boxing Day and with all Lifeline members eligible, was Ann Buckley of Royton. Unfortunately, Ann cannot travel abroad because she is handicapped, so she will receive £1,500 instead.

Paul Leemark Travel tried hard to find an alternative holiday to suit Anne, but in the end the many hours of work put in by Chris, a director at Paul Leemark, to come up with something suitable drew a blank. It was all to no avail. However, we have now done the next best thing and Anne will receive the money instead.

Don't forget, of course, that we have a massive cash pay-out next Christmas for Lifeline members — first prize £15,000 — who can show the equivalent of 52 £2 payments during the year. Join now if you are not already in the scheme.

SHARES, TOO

I WOULD like to take this opportunity, as commercial manager, to appeal to all our Development Association members — those in Lifeline and Cashline etc — to think seriously about taking up the invitation to buy shares in the new PLC.

The Development Association is geared to one thing only — making money for the parent body so that the club can have a bright future. Just at present — for the next five weeks, in fact — the most direct and quickest way that the club can accumulate funds is through the share issue.

Success in Rugby League these days is all about money. That is FACT whether you like it or not.

After 113 years of being run by members and elected committee, the club we love has now moved up market and become a PLC. It is the most significant happening in the club's marvellous history. I'm sure we all want to be part of it and become shareholders in OUR club.

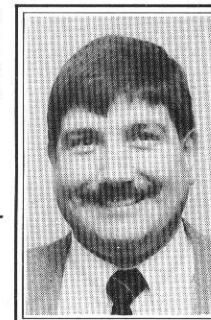
TOWN SQUARE

DURING the week commencing January 23 we are hiring the town square position outside W. H. Smith. We will be in the town centre to promote Lifeline and Cashline but you will also be able to get your PLC prospectus there.

You will also be able to hear, for the first time, an Oldham Rugby jingle which will be played over the loudspeakers every few

minutes. We will be giving away some good prizes so watch the Oldham Chronicle for details.

COACHING VIDEO



For the first time a top-class Rugby League coaching video is now available. Produced by Phil Larder, National Director of Coaching, and Mediafusion, the 40-minute full colour production has been designed to be entertaining, educational and an essential aid in Rugby League's development programme.

The video contains a host of international Rugby League action from around the world, plus the basic skills of the game portrayed by a panel of Great Britain Test Players headed by captain Ellery Hanley.

The video is now available, priced £9.99 plus £1.00 packing and postage from The Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT

1988-89 GRANTS

DEVELOPMENT grants of more than £200,000 have been pledged by the Rugby League Foundation for this season.

Nearly half of the massive investment has been allocated to the National Coaching and Development Schemes. Other beneficiaries are regional development officers, the new British Coal Youth League, English Schools and the student sector.

'SPORTSROUND'

THE popular sports magazine programme 'Sportsround' returned to BBC-2 North West on Friday for a 12-week series. Eddie Hemmings, until now Radio 2's principal Rugby League commentator, will present the series which looks at the weekend's sport, including Rugby League.

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Wembley Stadium has undergone a facelift with the introduction of new banks of seats at either end of the ground, the ground capacity being reduced to around 76,000. These newly installed seats are priced £15 each for Rugby League's showcase event, the other seating prices being pegged at last season's levels.

Apart from those reserved for the finalists, standing tickets are **SOLD OUT.**

SEATS . . . £25, £18, £15 and £12

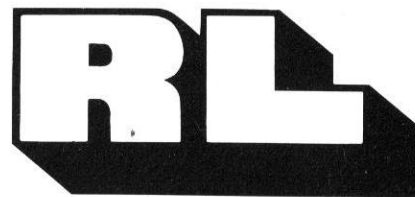
THE 1989 STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP DOUBLEHEADER

Sunday 14 May, 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm

Manchester United's showpiece Old Trafford ground will host the third value-for-money doubleheader. The end-of-season highlight, featuring the top-eight finals of the Stones Bitter Premiership and the Second Division Premiership, provides three hours of top flight rugby plus mid-final entertainment.

SEATS . . . £12, £9 and £7

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (19 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
M. Lord	1					1
K. Newton	1					1
K. Meadows	19			6	24	61
R. Irving	4			1	4	19
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	9	18		2	44	27
P. Lord	5			3	12	16
M. Ford	17			2	8	36
I. Bates	2					4
I. Sherratt	6			1	4	25
M. Hall	1					9
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	16			4	16	191
P. Round	19			6	24	52
T. Flanagan	13					286
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	17			4	16	28
M. Burke	7	17		1	38	50
A. Ruane	18	10	1		21	18
N. Clawson	17					69
P. Taylor	9			1	4	32
K. Atkinson	7	8			16	36
J. Fairbank	10			2	8	10
C. O'Sullivan	16		1	3	13	16
A. Gilbert	8			4	16	8
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	14			5	20	14
S. Robinson	13			3	12	21
R. Marsden	2					7
M. Bardsley	8			3	12	18
T. Nadiola	2					66
T. Morrison	3					18
D. Platt	3	7		1	18	3
G. Hyde	5	1		1	6	5

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	13	7	0	0	235	99	4	1	1	116	95	23
Widnes	14	7	0	1	271	80	4	0	2	132	87	22
Leeds	16	6	0	3	221	121	5	0	2	140	93	22
St. Helens	16	5	1	2	182	118	3	0	5	139	199	17
Wigan	13	5	0	2	180	112	3	0	3	108	115	16
Salford	16	7	0	2	191	140	1	0	6	128	223	16
Hull	14	4	0	3	96	90	4	0	3	102	123	16
Featherstone	15	4	0	4	146	182	3	0	4	110	170	14
Warrington	15	4	0	3	184	159	2	0	6	98	131	12
Wakefield	15	3	1	4	122	153	2	0	5	95	184	11
Bradford N	13	3	0	2	116	80	2	0	6	171	206	10
Hull KR	15	4	0	3	159	125	1	0	7	116	254	10
OLDHAM	16	3	0	3	125	108	1	1	8	143	255	9
Halifax	15	3	0	4	99	108	1	0	7	79	190	8

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MATCH REPORTS

OLDHAM 23, SALFORD 22

THIS was a real Boxing Day thriller, culminating in our last-minute victory when Paul Lord came on as substitute, chased Andy Ruane's chip ahead near the line, and won the touch down race. Keith Atkinson goaled — his fifth of the afternoon — and we had snatched victory from the jaws of defeat after leading 15-4 and then slipping to a 17-22 deficit with ten minutes to go.

Gary Hyde and Chris O'Sullivan, who had a terrific game, also scored tries for Oldham and O'Sullivan dropped a goal as well as setting up the Hyde try with a kick ahead in the first half.

HULL KR 34, OLDHAM 6

Coach Tony Barrow shook up his side after the poor display at Leeds, but it was to no avail as Welsh scrum-half David Bishop completely controlled this match for Rovers. It was a poor performance by Oldham and the only try followed a speculative kick which the Rovers defence misfielded for Paul Lord to grab the touchdown. Oldham lost Chris O'Sullivan at half-time with a nasty blow to the side of the head, but that was no excuse for conceding 34 points to the bottom-of-the-table Rovers.

LEEDS 48, OLDHAM 4

This was a disastrous day for Oldham. After half an hour we trailed only 0-8, but Leeds got a try against the run of play by Phil Ford, snatched another in first-half injury time by Ford, and scored again in the first minute of the second half. After that, Oldham heads tended to drop somewhat alarmingly and it was one-way traffic to the visitors' line until Paul Lord came on in the last few minutes and created a try for John Henderson — small consolation, though.

TRAFFORD BOROUGH 14, OLDHAM 'A' 36

Paul Lord scored four tries from stand-off to provide the highlight of Oldham's first visit to Urmston in the Slalom Lager Alliance. Terry Flanagan's astute passing ripped open the home defence constantly and Bob Marsden and Martin Hall also scored tries, Hall kicking six goals.

OLDHAM 'A' 38, DONCASTER 17

Doncaster played some good rugby but could not cope with a strong-running home pack. Trevor Croston (2), Martin Hall, Ian Sherratt, Bob Marsden and Tommy Foley all scored Oldham tries, as well as centre Colin Hawkyard and scrum-half Steve Patterson, Hall kicking three goals.

OLDHAM 'A' 30, TRAFFORD BOROUGH 10

This was Ashley Gilbert's turn to steal the headlines. The big Aussie forward scored a hat-trick from close range and he and Bob Marsden were the best of the Oldham forwards. Trafford trailed only 18-10 with ten minutes left, but late tries by Ian Bates and Martin Hall, both goaled, flattered the home side which did not play up to normal form.

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