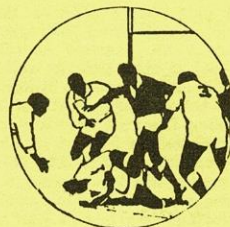




RUNCORN HIGHFIELD R.L.F.C.

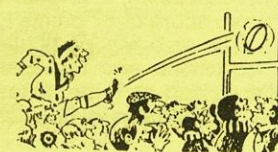
GROUND - CANAL STREET, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE
TELEPHONE - 66971 (Ground) 73977 (Development Office)
CLUB COLOURS - YELLOW AND EMERALD GREEN
CHANGE COLOURS - SCARLET RED, AMBER AND BLACK
MOST TRIES IN A SEASON - 28 J. MALONEY 1930/31
MOST GOALS IN A SEASON - 126 P. WOOD 1984/85
MOST POINTS IN A SEASON - 240 P. WOOD 1984/85
MOST TRIES IN A MATCH - 5 J. MALONEY APRIL 1931
MOST GOALS IN A MATCH - 11 P. WOOD OCTOBER 1984
MOST POINTS IN A MATCH - 24 T. ROSE OCTOBER 1987
CLUB RECORD SCORE - 59-11 1933/34 v BRAMLEY
RECORD ATTENDANCE - 14,000 1936 v WIDNES
FIRST SEASON - 1922/23 AS WIGAN HIGHFIELD
PREVIOUS NAMES -

WIGAN HIGHFIELD	1922/23
LONDON HIGHFIELD	1933/34
LIVERPOOL STANLEY	1934/35
LIVERPOOL CITY	1951/52
HUYTON WITH ROBY	1968/69
RUNCORN HIGHFIELD	1984/85



WHO'S WHO

Directors: D. BALL : A. BISHOP : G. FLETCHER : M. GRADY
Dr T. GREENHOW : T. HUGHES : J. HODGES : B. MORRIS
J. MORRIS : A. POSTLEWAITE : I. SWANN
Rugby League Council Representative: G. FLETCHER
Lancashire County Representative: A. BISHOP
Club Doctors: Dr C.M. WRAGG : Dr T. GREENHOW
Club Physiotherapists: T. DEAKIN : S. KILMURRAY
Programme Compiler: D. BALL
Kit Man: M. OLDFIELD
Photographer: W. LEIGH
Groundsman: A. DONE
Timekeeper: J. MORRIS
Club Coach: D. CHISNALL
Trainer: D. HUNT



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Facts and Records

Club Name	-	Oldham RLFC
Ground	-	Watersheddings
Colours	-	Red and White
Coach	-	Tony Barrow
First Season	-	1895/96
Tries in a Season	-	49 - R. Farrar 1921/22
Goals in a Season	-	200 - B. Ganley 1957/58
Points in a Season	-	412 - B. Ganley 1957/58
Points in a Match	-	30 - A. Johnson 1928
Record Attendance	-	28,000 in 1912
Record Points Scored	-	67 in 1958/59
Record Points Against	-	67 in 1978/79

Top Scorers in 1988/89

Tries	Goals	Points
Lord	Platt	41
Round	McAlister	20
Henderson	Burke	17
Robinson	Ruane	15
	Platt	98
	McAlister	52
	Ruane	42
	Burke	38

SNIPPETS

There have been a number of transfers between Oldham and Runcorn in recent years. Dave Nicholson was the last Oldham player to join Highfield whilst John Cogger made the trip in the opposite direction signing on the 6th of February 1989.

Bernard Ganley's record 14 goals in a match was set-up in April 1959 against our predecessors, Liverpool City. This was also the game in which Oldham achieved its record score of 67 points to 6.

The club was particularly strong in the 50's winning the Lancashire League on two occasions and the Lancashire cup three times. Oldham has also won the challenge cup on three occasions but has never appeared at Wembley as the last of these victories was in 1927, two years prior to the use of the Wembley stadium for cup finals.

Tony Barrow is the clubs 12th coach since 1974 season.

RICHARD IRVING: Signed for Oldham in August, 1987 from Moldgreen ARLFC and impressed coach Eric Fitzsimmons with his strong-running wing displays, scoring tries against Keighley and Rochdale. Scorer of just two tries - against Wigan and Wakefield - last season.

JOHN HENDERSON: Signed from Leigh club, this prolific try-scoring centre suffered through injury for much of last season and scored 8 tries. Scored 31 tries in 1985-86 and another 27 in 1986-87 for Leigh, gaining selection for Lancashire and scoring a try, in a 22-22 draw with Papua New Guinea in 1987. Guested for Sydney Wests in 1985.

CHARLIE McALISTER: A sensational capture from Bradford & Bingley RUFC in February, 1988, scoring 9 tries and 15 goals in 18 appearances in his debut season. Had a summer spell in Australia with the Newcastle Knights, in 1988, improving his defensive abilities. Kicked four goals in the 1988 Second Division Premiership Final. New Zealander with great strength and pace and the ability to play in a variety of back roles.

KEVIN MEADOWS: One of the First Division's most under rated wingers, having previously played for St. Helens and Warrington. Scored 16 tries in 38 appearances in 1987-88. In his second spell at Oldham where he once scored 5 tries in a First Division match against Salford in 1984. Seven tries last season included a hat-trick in a 64-2 Lancashire Cup slaughter of Workington.

DUNCAN PLATT: Goalkicking full-back signed in November, 1988, from Widnes. Brother of Wigan and Great Britain forward Andy, he was in Widnes' Premiership winning team in 1988 and contributed 80 points from 16 appearances in their championship win. Excelled for Oldham and scored 41 goals and 98 points in his debut season. Kicked 2 goals on his debut here at Thrum Hall in the 12-0 win last December.

RICHARD RUSSELL: Oldham's major off-season signing, coming from Wigan, where he had gained Great Britain Colts and two Under 21 international selections in 1987 and 1988. Played in every back role at Central Park but received very few opportunities last season. Represented Wigan in the 1987 Lancashire Cup and Premiership Finals.

MIKE FORD: BARLA Young Lions tourist to New Zealand, in 1983, signed for Wigan from the Oldham, St. Annes ARLFC in August of that year. Won Challenge Cup (1985), Lancashire Cup (1985 and 1986) and John Player (1986 and 1987) honours, before joining Leigh. Gained four Under 21 international caps between 1985 and 1987 and also had a spell with Sydney club Eastern Suburbs. Toured Down Under with the Lions last summer, scoring 5 tries in 7 appearances. Signed for hometown Oldham in January, 1988, after an unhappy spell at Hilton Park, and was outstanding as Oldham defeated Featherstone in an epic Second Division Premiership Final. Totalled 9 tries and 3 drop goals in 19 appearances as Oldham swept to the Second Division Championship in 1987-88. Three tries last season.

NEIL CLAWSON: Son of much-travelled former Trinity 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 1988.

JOHN FAIRBANK: Former BARLA international forward signed by Leeds in November, 1987, 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 last August. Strong, forceful 21 year-old whose best is yet to come.

ANDY RUANE: Former Widnes and Rochdale hooker, signed for Oldham by Eric Fitzsimmons, 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 in 1987-88. Made his presence felt at Watersheddings, claiming the No.9 jersey and kicking his first goals against Workington Town in the Lancashire Cup tie. One of the most impressive performers in the relegation year, scoring 4 tries and 15 goals.

PAUL ROUND: 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. Nine tries last season including ones in home and away meetings with Halifax.

LEO CASEY: Recruited from St. Annes ARLFC in April 1985, this hard grafting prop-forward scored 3 tries in 8 appearances for the club in 1987-88. 7 tries last season.

JOHN COGGER: An outstanding signing from Runcorn Highfield last season. This inspirational Aussie had picked up the Second Division Player of the Year award in 1987, and starred in Oldham's end-of-season matches, scoring a try hat-trick against Featherstone and totalling 6 tries for the club, to go alongside seven scored for the league's wooden-spoonists. Can play loose-forward or stand-off.

SHAUN ALLEN: Appeared for St. Helens in 1985 and 1988 Premiership Finals and also in their 1984 Lancashire Cup winning side, gaining an Under 21 international debut for Great Britain against France in 1984. Played centre and in the back-row for the Knowsley Road club, joining Oldham, initially on loan, last season, scoring a try against Widnes.

COLIN HAWKYARD: Current beneficiary and an unsung workhorse of the Roughyeds pack, being a frequent scorer and a tireless defensive player. 3 tries in 27 appearances in 1987-99, and a further 4 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: Strong back-row forward signed from champions Widnes last season, opening his try account for Oldham with two in the 40-9 Cup win at Dewsbury in the first round. Added another two in a big defeat of Featherstone at Watersheddings.

GARY HYDE: Another of Tony Barrow's recruits, joining Oldham from Castleford, after winning Great Britain Under 24 international honours as a centre in the early 80's. Has played centre and loose-forward for Oldham, scoring the first of four tries in a 23-22 defeat of Salford. Played in 7 major Finals for Castleford, including their 1986 Wembley defeat of Hull K.R.

Oldham continued to build for the future during the summer, with England Schools skipper **CRAIG MORT** (16) being added to the starlets already at Watersheddings. **NEIL FLANAGAN**, **TOMMY MARTYN** and **STEVE ENTWISTLE** all starred on the BARLA Youth tour of Australia this summer.



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COMMENTS & OPINIONS

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Canal Street for our Second Division fixture against a very in-form Oldham side. In welcoming all our good friends from the Watersheddings, we naturally extend a particularly genuine greeting to John Cogger who is now captain of the side. John, of course, was a very popular character here at Runcorn and had three good seasons for us before, inevitably I suppose, moving up to a higher grade of football.

The Oldham side is packed with good footballers and quite honestly, if our performance is anything like last weeks against Huddersfield, then it will have a field day. Last week, Oldham defeated the powerful Hull KR side 12-4 at home and this followed a superb 36-6 victory at St. Helens on the previous Wednesday - warning enough for us I think.

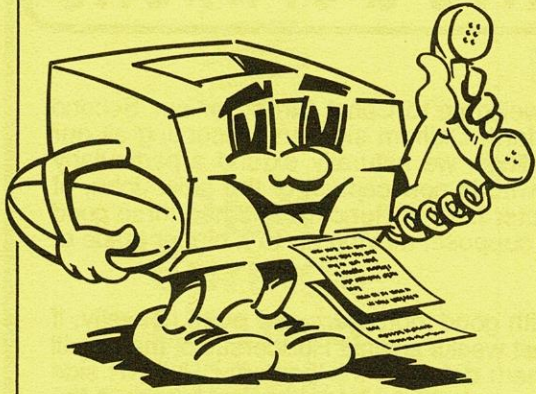
Reverting to the Huddersfield game, we played reasonably well in the first period and turned round only ten points down at the interval. After that, quite truthfully, we were awful. Missed tackles, turning our backs at the play the ball, not spreading either in attack or defence, not holding the ball for six tackles, not backing up the man with the ball - we were guilty of all these things and more, the facts of life in Rugby League are very simple. If you do not do the basics properly, you will be punished. This is exactly what happened against an average Huddersfield side and the result is there for all to see.

The time has now come for one or two of our players to consider whether they are giving all they can for the club. It is not just the newcomers who are making (expected) mistakes. Some of our older more established players need to look at their contribution as well. OK, maybe we cannot match the better sides for skill at this time but we can, or should, be matching them for effort, dedication and pride. Today's game would be a good one to restore some of that pride and the writer takes no pleasure in writing in this vein. How about it Highfield? What about giving our few loyal spectators some hope for the future? It really is up to you.

The early league table makes interesting reading. Ryedale-York sit happily at the top and that club has yet to play a home fixture at its new headquarters!! Halifax, with 130 points in just three games look particularly powerful and Hull KR and today's visitors will surely prove much too strong for the majority of sides. Rochdale Hornets, after losing at Halifax on the opening day, are now moving well and have won the last four games whilst Batley are also in a lofty position having already won both its away games.

As always, we would thank you for your support this afternoon and we wish all players, supporters and officials from Oldham a safe journey home at the completion of the game.

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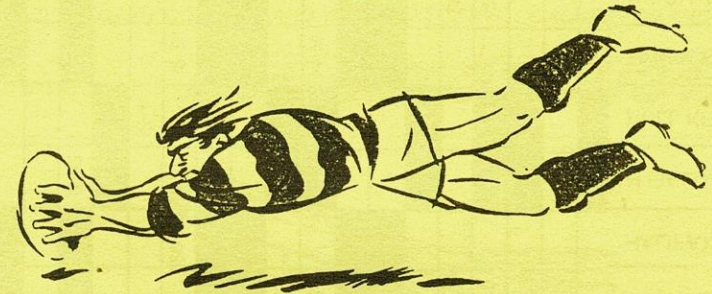
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AWAY		30-12										12-23	22-14				0-9					
BATLEY																						
BRAMLEY																						
CARLISLE																						
CHORLEY B																						
DEWSBURY																						
DONCASTER																						
FULHAM																						
HALIFAX																						
HUDD'SFIELD																						
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INJURY - OR CRYING WOLF!!

The recent press seems to have been dominated with reports of the massive injury problems at St. Helens. Reading some of these reports, one could be forgiven for thinking that something akin to the plague must have descended over Knowsley Road! Obviously, injuries are something that every side has to contend with (we would certainly have swapped our injury problems with anybody last season), and perhaps Saints need to take a careful look at their own image these days before blaming all and sundry for what amounts to some awful performances this season. It is appreciated that the injury problem has been greater than normal with Murphy's men but surely transfer listing a whole team of players following the Wembley defeat last season could have done little for team spirit or club loyalty. Our own Dave Chisnall was also treated less than well by Saints and it is a bit late to be crying wolf at this stage of the game.

In any case, what are Alliance sides for? Surely the time is right for re-building from what is basically a good Alliance team - thanks again mainly to the efforts of Chisnall. Obviously, the pressure is much more focused with the "bigger" clubs and success is demanded as a right by board and fans alike. There is precious little time for a coach to look, take stock and plan for the future and again, some of the premature announcements of players signings or promises to sign, have done the club no good at all. As someone commented - even the Del Monte man said "No" to Saints.

It is not only Saints of course who have been less than happy. Maurice Lindsay at Wigan is hopping mad at the injury problems with Ellery Hanley since that players return from Australia. Whilst it is true that the injury should have been reported to Wigan prior to the players return, the writer is surprised that Lindsay should be surprised at what has happened. Hanley, inevitably, is always going to take some stick from whoever he opposes and playing back-to-back rugby in Australia and England is, sooner or later, going to take its toll. Allegations of "Horse Trading" by Lindsay simply do not hold water as presumably both the player and his club have been well paid for their efforts and cannot have it both ways.

The "bigger" clubs can have no comprehension of what it is like for the minnows such as Highfield, Batley, Nottingham City and similar to exist on paltry gates, with little hope of attracting substantial sponsorship and with all the associated problems that lack of finances brings. Highfield for instance has no full time employee, all work is carried out voluntarily by dedicated directors and able and willing helpers and the difficulty in keeping top quality players is perhaps shown by the John Cogger transfer situation. With the greatest respect to todays visitors, Cogger was an absolute gift at £12,000 and there is no way that Oldham could have secured the services of such a fine player from the likes of Widnes,

INJURY - OR CRYING WOLF!!

Leeds, Warrington or similar at that price. Coggers "true" value is probably around the £60,000 mark but Oldham were aware of Highfield's financial situation in concluding a very shrewd piece of transfer business on their behalf.

Supporters can perhaps understand therefore why the writer views the St. Helens situation less than sympathetically at this time.

If some of the bigger clubs conducted their affairs with as much diligence and prudence as some of the lesser lights then perhaps they would be more deserving of the sympathy they seem to expect.

D.G. Ball

Please note: The views expressed above are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the club.



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Rugby League's premier Man of Steel Award scheme is to be sponsored by Stones Bitter in a new three-year £50,000 deal.

The Man of Steel title was launched in 1977 and is awarded to the personality judged to have made the most impact on the season, the 1990 award being doubled by Stones Bitter to £4,000. Prize cheques and silver goblets are also presented to the First and Second Division Players, Young Player, Coach and Referee of the Year, the 1990 title winners to receive £1,000. The two runners-up for each of these five category awards will be presented with £200 and an inscribed medal.

The Stones Bitter Man of Steel Awards will be presented at a new style gala dinner at the Holiday Inn, Manchester, on Thursday 10 May 1990. Great Britain and Wigan skipper Ellery Hanley lifted the 1989 Man of Steel Award to extend his record to three titles, the roll of honour being:

1977 David Ward (Leeds)	1984 Joe Lydon (Widnes)
1978 George Nicholls (St Helens)	1985 Ellery Hanley (Bradford N)
1979 Doug Laughton (Widnes)	1986 Gavin Miller (Hull KR)
1980 George Fairbairn (Wigan)	1987 Ellery Hanley (Wigan)
1981 Ken Kelly (Warrington)	1988 Martin Offiah (Widnes)
1982 Mick Morgan (Carlisle)	1989 Ellery Hanley (Wigan)
1983 Allan Agar (Featherstone R)	

Stones Bitter will also be backing the Top Scorers Awards of £25 a try for the leading try scorer and £5 a goal for the top goal scorer.

The Stones Bitter Team of the Month and Year Awards have been increased to £500 for the Stones Bitter Championship Team of the Month and £350 for the Second Division Team of the Month, plus £1,500 for the adjudged Team of the Year, a total prize structure of £8,300.



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3					4	17		19		
		5			16					
				6						
7	15							8		21
9							10	20		
							18			
11										

ACROSS

CLUES

1. This ground sounds a long way away (7)
2. Posh player at Oldham (4)
3. Boyd or maybe Dyl (3)
4. The loiners (5)
5. Ex-Runcorn Aussie Half-Back (4)
6. Is this Jack's car? (6)
7. French internation Jose - played '77 to '81 (4)
8. One of the two extra players (3)
9. Ex-Saints Winger - driving a Vauxhall? (7)
10. Leigh's Ivor or Bramley's Phil (4)
11. Looks like there's jewellery in between a battle and a hundred to find this side (10)

DOWN

1. Capital side (6)
2. Huddersfield's Brian or perhaps Swinton's Martin (3)
12. Sweet smelling Whitehaven player (4)
13. Salford's Australian Terry (5)
14. No side likes to score this (3)
15. Irish sounding Winger at Hull (5)
16. Sounds like this side plays on an elevated pitch (7)
17. Additional time sometimes played in cup games (5)
18. Leeds player "out of this world" (initials) (2)
19. Nickname of the Tattersfield outfit (4)
20. Players like to do this (3)
21. Where you might see the physio or coach during a game. (5)

FLASHBACK . . .



FIVE YEARS AGO . . . First division football for Oldham and an away trip to Barrow brings a convincing 34-12 victory with Des Foy scoring a couple of tries and Mick Parrish landing five goals on his way to playing and scoring in every match, bar one, for his club. After three consecutive wins, Runcorn Highfield fought out a tremendous draw with Salford at Canal Street. The sides shared 32 points with Peter Wood landing four goals. This game was watched by 980 people and was refereed by Bernie Walker.

4 YEARS AGO . . . An away trip for Oldham to Post Office Road Featherstone and Aussie Mal Graham has two tries in helping his side to a 14-14 draw in a game watched by 2201 people. This match was the second in an unbeaten sequence of nine for the Watersheddings outfit. Runcorn Highfield also travelled but this time into South Yorkshire to play Sheffield Eagles at Owlerton. Gary Hetheringtons side proved to be more than a match for Highfield and the final score of 21-10 was no more than the Eagles deserved.

3 YEARS AGO . . . A home game this time for Oldham and a highly impressive 22-16 victory over Widnes - the second time the Chemics had lost to Oldham in four days. A somewhat disappointing attendance of 3875 watched the match and Hobbs, Clark, Atkinson and Warnecke touched down for Oldham with three goals from the boot of Mick Worrall. A continuation of their impressive early season form saw Runcorn Highfield overcome Workington Town 30-14 at Canal Street. A hat-trick of tries for Brian Garrity in this match and a couple more, inevitably, from John Cogger. Bearing in mind Highfields impressive start, the attendance of only just over 300 was abysmal.

2 YEARS AGO . . . Second Division rugby for Oldham this time around and a high scoring game against Sheffield Eagles at the Watersheddings, six players score tries with Mick Burke and Paul Round notching a brace each as the side triumphs 44-20 in front of 3774 people. No game for Runcorn Highfield this weekend due to the second division fixture formulation.

LAST YEAR . . . Back in the premier division, Oldham travelled to Wakefield Trinity and shared the spoils in a 12-12 draw. Fairbank and Robinson scored the tries whilst Mick Burke kicked two goals. This was the prelude to a five match losing sequence for Oldham and it was to be December before the side won again. Runcorn Highfield were at home to Whitehaven and never really threatened their Cumbrian visitors, losing by a scoreline of 28-12 before a pitiful crowd of only 241. The match was refereed by Phil Houghton.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

1. Fartown 2. Lord 3. Les 4. Leeds 5. Ewer 6. Austin
7. Moya 8. Sub 9. Carlton 10. Owen 11. Warrington

Down

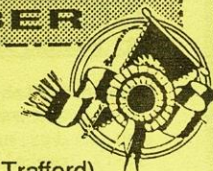
1. Fulham 2. Lee 12. Rose 13. O'Shea 14. Nil 15. O'Hara 16. Runcorn
17. Extra 18. E.T.(Ettingshausen) 19. Dons 20. Win 21. Bench

AVERAGE GATES AND SCORES - DIVISION 2 1989/90

CLUB	Average Home League Gate	Average Home Score		Average Away Score	
		F	A	F	A
BATLEY	994	19	14	16	6
BRAMLEY	1350	10	29	13	26
CARLISLE	700	54	14	14	40
CHORLEY BOROUGH	512	11	18	4	48
DEWSBURY	889	21	12	20	28
DONCASTER	2231	29	12	12	2
FULHAM	894	30	8	14	7
HALIFAX	7686	29	12	72	20
HUDDERSFIELD	1582	10	9	37	11
HULL K.R.	8500	48	8	27	14
HUNSLET	1109	17	24	15	16
KEIGHLEY	1187	34	33	16	21
NOTTINGHAM CITY	1599	16	48	13	36
OLDHAM	4770	26	6	12	22
ROCHDALE HORNETS	1435	36	21	31	23
RUNCORN HIGHFIELD	360	0	26	10	49
RYEDALE-YORK				24	9
SWINTON	1419	28	11	24	19
TRAFFORD BOROUGH	927	32	22	8	48
WHITEHAVEN	980	20	27	14	25
WORKINGTON TOWN	954	16	32	15	28

ATTRACTIONS IN OCTOBER

4th	Fosters World Cup Challenge (Old Trafford)
5th	Grunhalle Lager Lancs Cup Semi-Finals
11th	John Smiths Yorkshire Cup Semi-Finals
15th	Grunhalle Lager Lancs Cup Final
21st	First British Coal Test Match Gt. Britain v N. Zealand (Old Trafford)
28th	Second British Coal Test Match Gt. Britain v N. Zealand (Elland Road)



RUGBY LEAGUE HAPPENINGS



DIVISION ONE RECORD

Wigan's 66-0 win at Barrow on Sunday equalled the record winning margin for a Division One match since the re-introduction of two divisions in 1973.

Wigan set the record with a 72-6 win at Wakefield Trinity on 29 March 1987. The 72 points remains the highest Division One away score and included 14 tries compared with 12 against Barrow. The defeat was also Barrow's biggest ever at home and their widest losing margin anywhere.

FULHAM HAT TRICK

David Gillan equalled the Fulham match record of three tries in the 50-6 Division Two home win over Carlisle on Sunday. It was the 11th hat trick by a Fulham player and Gillan joins Dave Allen as the only player to have achieved the feat twice. Gillan also scored three tries against Huddersfield last season, while Allen's two hat tricks were in 1982-83.

RECORD CROWD

Nottingham City had a club record crowd of 2,581 for the visit of Halifax to Harvey Hadden Stadium on Sunday when they lost 72-20 in a Division Two game.

The previous record was 2,291 who saw their first ever home game - a Division Two fixture against Wakefield Trinity on 9 September 1984. That was in their Mansfield Marksman days and was played at Field Mill, where they won 15-0.

LEADING SCORERS

Martin Offiah of Widnes is back as the leading try scorer this season with 12, followed by wing colleague Brimah Kebbie with 11.

The only other players into double figures are the Wigan pair Mark Preston and Kevin Iro. Iro's total of 10 includes one for the New Zealand tourists.

Another Widnes player, Jonathan Davies, heads the goals list with 34. The Welshman is followed by Paul Loughlin (St Helens) 30, Mike Fletcher (Hull KR) 29, John Myler (Swinton) 26, Robert Turner (Warrington) 26, Steve Turner (Rochdale Hornets) 26, Colin Whitfield (Halifax) 26, Keith Dixon (Keighley) 25.

Davies has also scored six tries to lead the race for the first century of points with 92.

TRY SCORING RUN

Martin Offiah has the current longest try scoring run after touching down in all six matches for Widnes this season. Wing colleague Brimah Kebbie's run of try scoring matches ended at six when he failed to score in the 34-12 Grunhalls Lager Lancashire Cup second round win at Leigh.

Offiah's sequence is as follows: 1-2-2-1-4-2

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