#### **TEAM CHECK OLDHAM**

DONCASTER

RICHARD RUSSELL - 1 - ANDY SYGROVE KEVIN MEADOWS - 2 - MARK ROACHE CHARLIE McALISTER - 3 - CARL HALL GARY HYDE - 4 - ANDREW VINCENT

PAUL LORD - 5 - NEIL TURNER BRETT CLARK - 6 - KEVIN JONES - NEIL PICKERILL MIKE FORD - 7

LEO CASEY - 8 - TERRY HERMANSSON ANDY RUANE - 9 - MARK GIBBON

JOHN FIELDHOUSE - 10 - GRAHAM IDLE JOHN FAIRBANK - 11 - KEVIN RAYNE SHAUN ALLEN - 12 - JOHN GREEN JOHN COGGER - 13 - KEITH JONES

STEVE ROBINSON - 14 - IAN FLETCHER TREVOR CROSTON - 15 - TONY CHAPPELL

Referee: Mr. B. Galtress (Bradford). Touch Judges: Mr. W. Blunden (Red Flag), Mr. J. Glover (Orange Flag)

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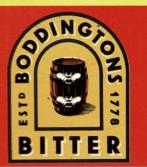
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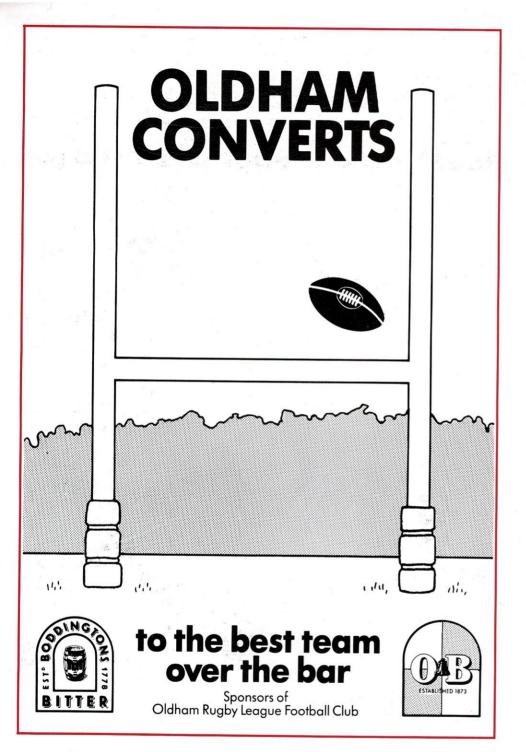
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Record Receipts: £37,505.50 v Wigan, 5th October, 1989

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

Record Try Scorer: Reg Farrar, 49 tries, 1921-22 season

Record Goal Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 224 goals, 1957-58 season

Record Point Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 28 points v Liverpool City, April 1959

First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge

Highest number of points scored: Bernard Ganley, 2,881

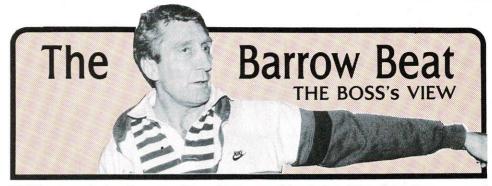
Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685

Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233 Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

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# WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM





YOU can bet all you like that Doncaster, our opponents today, will be all fired up to give us another tough game after our tight, two-point win at Tattersfield early in the month.

It is up to us to be ready for the challenge and make sure that we get our defence right again after conceding too many points in a couple of recent games.

A lot of people are looking at the 'points for' column against the name of Rochdale Hornets and suggesting that Oldham should be chasing points to make up the leeway in case important issues are to be settled on points difference at the end of the season.

I well understand what they mean and what makes them think along these lines. But I don't quite see it that way.

Rochdale now have a big reputation for scoring. Good luck to them. But these things have to be kept in perspective and it is no good running up 50 or 60 points regularly if, when the chips are down, you slip up and drop a couple of vital league points.

I think you are far more likely to go through the season with only a minimum of dropped league points if the emphasis, first and foremost, is on the tackling. I don't want you to get the idea that I am just defensive minded. I am not. But in the harsh world of the First Division — and that's where we are aiming to go — you have to build from the solid base of a tight defence. If not, you won't last two minutes up there.

It usually follows that if a side gets its defence right, the attack takes care of itself, at least to some extent.

Also, the trouble with getting a fixation about scoring freely in every match is that a team is more likely to put a little bit more concentration on that and a little bit less on the work rate off the ball.

The fact remains that if we win every match, we will win the Second Division — irrespective of points for and against — and I believe that much will hinge on the results of our games against Rochdale at Spotland on Boxing Day and here at Watersheddings on Easter Monday.

I like to see a lot of tries scored, but it is a fact of life that the basis of real and lasting success — particularly in the First Division — is a strong defence.

That's why I was so upset to see us concede six tries to Keighley in our last home game. To my mind, that was far more damaging to our long-term success as a club that hopes to b chasing the big-time than a failure to score 60 points every time we play a Second Division game.

TONY BARROW

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#### TODAY'S

### Welcome to Doncaster

THE Dons do not need much introduction to those Oldham supporters who made the trip to Tattersfield on November 5. It was fireworks all right ... and we won by the skin of our teeth with a John Fairbank try in the dying seconds!

It was easily apparent that a great deal of hard work has been done at Tattersfield in recent times, both on the field and off it.

No one could fail to have been impressed at the form of the Yorkshire club's three New Zealanders — centre Carl Hall, stand-off Andrew Vincent and prop Terry Hermansson.

Another Kiwi — tour star Tony Kemp — returns to Tattersfield after the French part of the European tour on December 4, but he has to return early to Sydney League club Newcastle Knights, so he will probably be available only for a couple of months.

Doncaster scored four tries against us on their own ground, the first from Vincent, the second from Kevin Rayne, the third from strong-running winger Neil Turner (after a great break by Vincent) and the fourth by Hall, who crowned a memorable individual display with a long-range burst to score wide out.

Audley Pennant was also a strong-running man in the middle of the back line, but he broke his hand at Whitehaven a fortnight ago and he is unlikely to be in the starting line-up today.

Against Kells last week, in the preliminary round of the Regal Trophy, coach Dave Sampson switched Vincent to the centre and brought in Kevin Jones at stand-off to partner Neil Pickerill.

Another doubtful starter today is former Bradford and Wakefield forward Dick Jasiewicz. He also missed the Kells game last Sunday and his chances of playing today were rated in midweek as 50-50.

Forward like Graham Idle, Rayne, and Jasiewizc provide plenty of experience up front and we discovered in the game at Tattersfield, the Dons have the speed and skill behind the pack to capitalise in style, especially when Hall, Vincent and Turner hit top gear.



Back row: Neil Turner, John Green, Graham Idle, Keith Jones, Andy Timson and Audley Pennant. Middle row: Neil Pickerill, Ian Fletcher, Kevin Rayne, Mark Roache and Alan Shillito. Front: John Evans, Kevin Jones, Matthew Saward (mascot), Mark Gibbon and Dick Jasiewicz.

Photo by Phil Callaghan

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## Flashback . . .

1987/88

Oldham 17, Doncaster 16



A crowd of 3,551 saw Oldham gain revenge for a defeat earlier in the season with a drop goal by Mick Burke, goals by Peter Walsh and tries by Bryan McCarthy and Martin Hall (2) in a Watersheddings thriller. Oldham were to finish as champions while Doncaster finished a respectable sixth. Here, hooker Martin Hall goes over the line to help set up an Oldham victory.

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REGULAR visitors to Watersheddings during last summer's heatwave would have been greeted by the familiar sight of Oldham's Mike Ford making light of the intense heat and getting down to some serious training with fellow back John Henderson before the start of the season.

Now that summer's relentless work is already paying dividends for the scum half who has been in excellent form as Oldham have leapt up to joint top in the League and contested a thrilling Lancashire Cup final.

"My ambitions this season are to win the Second Division Championship and the Premiership, just like we did two years ago when I first joined the club from Leigh. A bonus would be good cup runs although the primary aim has to be the First Division," comments Mike, who signed for Oldham for a club record £65,000 two seasons ago.

Already the Oldham-born scrum half has collected several man-of-the-match awards with the type of performances that won him almost every honour in the domestic game.

Mike's introduction to professional rugby league was at the tender age of 17 when he signed for Alex Murphy's Wigan in 1983, being named Young Player of the Year two years later.

During his time with mighty Wigan he picked up two John Player Cup medals, two Lancashire Cup medals, a League Championship medal, a Charity Shield medal and a medal for Wigan's 1985 Silk Cut Challenge Cup win against Hull at Wembley.

An impressive record like that for a young player still in his early twenties inevitably earned Mike a place in the GB international squad that toured Australia in the summer of '88. He captained the tourists on four occasions but failed to win a Test team place.

On the next trip to Australia, Mike wants to go one better. "I've set my sights on winning a place in the 1992 Australian tour



Mike Ford looking forward to a double celebration next May.

party although I want to go as number one scrum half, not number two."

To achieve this ambition, Mike is concentrating full time on his Rugby League career, training at the club on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and by himself the rest of the week — with only his boxer dog, Rossi, for company.

"I am reducing my involvement with the newsagent business I run with my dad in order to devote myself to the game. I train every day of the week, running, sprinting or lifting weights which are all designed to improve my strength and fitness. Rossi provides invaluable support when the going gets tough!

"So far this year, I've been happy with my form, but I am always looking to improve, especially as last season's niggling injuries are now a thing of the past."

Compensation for those annoying injuries that affected his form last season was the marriage to his wife, Sally Anne, in May, and the Florida honeymoon that followed. Now the happy couple are expecting their first child in May and Mike is looking forward to a double celebration — promotion and a healthy baby.



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## Action Replay ...

### ACTION FROM OUR RECENT FIXTURES



Oldham skipper John Cogger looks for support from hooker Andy Ruane during the recent 50–34 victory against Keighly.

## Our next Away Matches

#### BRAMLEY (December 3) HOW TO GET THERE

M62 Junction 27 (A62/A650/ M621). Follow signs Leeds M621. Junction 1 (A6110). Leave motorway and at roundabout take 1st exit A6110 (signposted Ring Road, Pudsey). Then at ensuing roundabout forward. Junction with A58. At roundabout take 2nd exit. In 1.5 miles roundabout take 3rd exit into Butt Lane unclassified. Shortly at crossroads forward into Henconner Lane. In 0.8 mile at roundabout take 2nd exit into Town Street A657 for Bramley RL Ground (on left).

## WORKINGTON TOWN (December 17, kick-off 2.30) HOW TO GET THERE

FROM M6 Junction 40 (A66/592). Follow signs Keswick A66. In 1 mile at roundabout take 2nd exit. Junction with A591. Forward (signposted Cockermouth) into Keswick by-pass. Junction with A591/A5271. At roundabout take 2nd exit. Junction B5289. Junction B5291. Junction with A5086. Foward (signposted Workington). Great Clifton. In 2.4 miles turn right into A569. In 1.1 miles turn right into New Bridge for Workington RL Ground (on right).



FIRST FOR

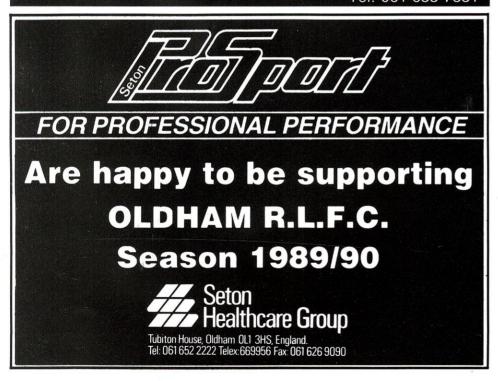
VAUXHALL

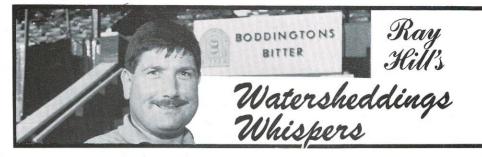
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GIRLS, girls, girls! This coming Monday — 27th November — the Sheddings promises to feature Oldham's finest as the club hosts its first beauty contest to find Miss Oldham Rugby.

Prizes for the lucky winner, who will be crowned Miss Oldham Rugby, include an eight-week modelling course with top Manchester model agency Pamela Holt, which has been donated by Boddingtons, plus a super trophy.

The winner will also be making a wide number of personal appearances on behalf of the club.

Anybody interested in entering who has missed last Friday's deadline can call the club during office hours on Monday to check if there are places available. Call Karen or Sue on 061-620 4870. Who knows, the winner could well be taking the first step to a career in modelling.

The evening — which also features the best in live music — is going to be a lot of fun, so why not make a date in your diary to call in at Oldham's newest and brightest nightclub tomorrow!

The proceedings will no doubt have a slight Australian flavour as the club's players from Down Under have organised an Australian beach party at the club and have invited all the UK's Aussie and Kiwi Rugby League stars to come to the Watersheddings for one or two pints of Boddingtons.

Talking of entertainment ... another great night is lined up after Christmas on 7th January — not the 21st as stated in my last column — when we host a Player's Party Night after the Hunslet match to

celebrate the new year in true traditional Oldham style, drinking more pints of Boddies. Tickets for this fabulous night are a mere £10 and are available from either the Ticket Office or the Social Club.

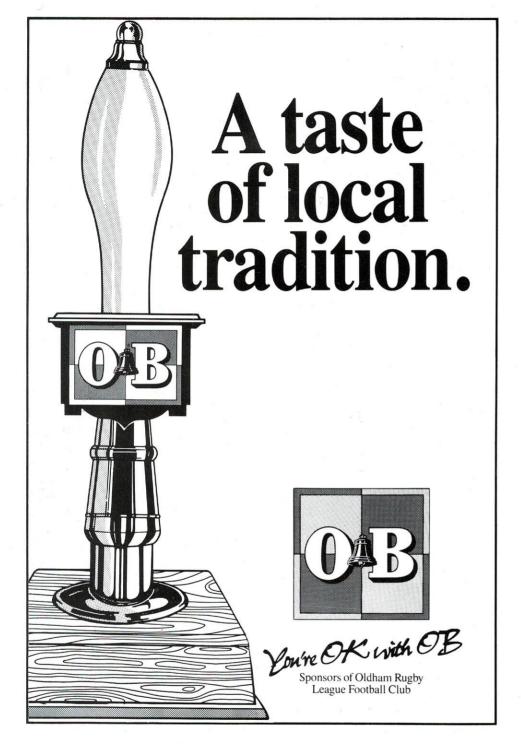
By the time January comes round we may well have picked up another Team of the Month award like we did for October. Obviously, everyone at the club is proud of our achievements in the league and, of course, the Lancashire Cup.

We'll be doing our best to maintain the standards throughout the remainder of the season.

Finally, we've now printed five vouchers, so programme collectors can claim their free signed photograph of their favourite player. Voucher number six can be found on page 25.



Top model Helen Jeffery helps to promote Boddingtons T-shirts, along with Oldham's skipper, John Cogger, who will be judging tomorrow's beauty competition alongside coach Tony Barrow, director Jim Knox, Boddingtons Patrick Langan and my good self, naturally.





CORNER



#### HIGHFIELD INN TURNS CLOCK BACK

BAR staff at Oldham's Highfield Inn turned the clock back a century to help celebrate the OB local's 125th birthday. They dressed up as Victorian serving wenches to serve customers from traditional large jugs. Landlord Mike Hardman is seen here with (from left): Linda Wood, Michelle Curry, Mary Hardman and Thelma Smith.

## MODEL OPPORTUNITY

ASPIRING models will get the chance to take up a modelling career on Monday thanks to the first prize being offered by Boddingtons in the Oldham Rugby Beauty Queen Competition.

That's because the club's official sponsors are offering the lucky winner a modelling course with top Manchester model agency Pamela Holt.

The eight-week course, which offers

an ideal introduction to the modelling business, will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and sessions include model movement, catwalk, deportment, facial, make-up, bodycare and styling.

After completing the course, there is a grading show before a panel of judges with the most successful girls being taken on by Pamela Holt.

## JOHN AND PAUL AT NEW-LOOK ANGEL

GIVING landlord Derek Lindop a helping hand behind the bar at The Angel, Nicholson Street, Lees, are Oldham stars John Cogger and Paul Round, who called in at the recently-refurbished Boddington local to pull the traditional 'first' pint at the pub's official reopening ceremony.



## CROSSWORD WINNERS

GEOFF Ellis, of Heaton Chapel, Stockport, won the Boddingtons Crossword No. 3. John Evans, of Holts Village, Oldham, won Crossword No. 4. Both winners selected Paul Round/Charlie McAlister You're OK with OB T-shirts.

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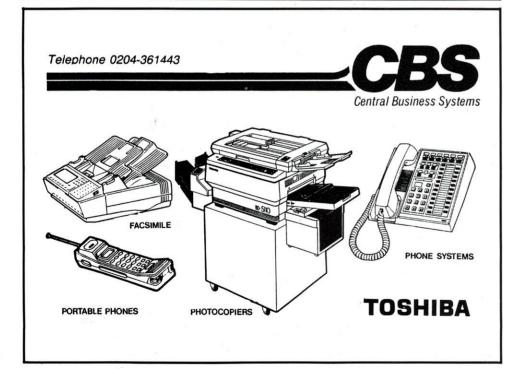
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Date	Opponents	>	<b>K</b> 0	Ь	Res	F-A	Tries	Goals	Att
Sep	3 Workington T	Н	3.00		M	40-8	Henderson (2), Cogger (2), McAlister, Lord, Ruane, Russell	Platt (4)	3,743
	10 Halifax	A	3.00	11		12-22	Platt, Cogger	Platt (2)	8,612
	16 Barrow (Lancs Cup)	A	2.30		3	46-2	Lord (2), Ford, Casey, Platt (2), Allen, Hyde, Cogger	Platt (5)	2,300
	27 St. Helens (Lancs Cup)	V	7.30		3	36-6	Robinson, Ford, Platt, Cogger, Allen, Newton	Platt (6)	7,834
0ct	1 Hull KR	Ξ	3.00	12	8	12-4	Lord	Platt (4)	5,797
	5 Wigan (Lancs Cup)	Ξ	7.30		8	19-18	Fieldhouse, Newton, Ford	Platt, Hyde (2), Ford (dg)	8,603
	8 Runcorn H	A	3.00	6	M	34-6	Russell, Clarke (2), Meadows (2), Clawson, Irving	Hyde (2)	2,500
	14 Warrington (Lancs Cup final)	1	3.00		7	16-24	16-24 Irving, Robinson, Lord	Platt (1), Hyde (1)	6,895
	18 Halifax	Ξ	7.30		3	14-3	Lord, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	6,953
	22 Carlisle	A	3.00	2	3	10-32	10-32 Fieldhouse (2), Hyde, Fairbank, Cogger, Meadows	Hyde (2), McAlister (2)	1,200
	29 Batley	Ŧ	3.00	3	W	22-4	22-4 Ruane, Martyn, Meadows, Irving	Martyn (3)	4,120
Nov	'5 Doncaster	А	3.00	2	M	22 - 20	22-20   Casey, Lord, Hyde, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	3,813
	12 Keighley	Ŧ	3.00	2	М	50-34	50-34 Clark, Hyde, Irving, Ford, McAlister, Meadows, Ruane, Lord, Russell	Hyde (7)	4,113
	19 Fulham	A	2.30	2	M	40 - 10	40-10 McAlister, Ruane (2), Clark, Cogger, Allen, Ford	McAlister (6)	1,440
	26 Doncaster	Ξ	3.00						
Dec	3 Regal Trophy (1)								
	10 Regal Trophy (2)								
	17 Workington T	А	2.30						
	26 Rochdale H	Α	3.00						9
Jan	1 Swinton	Н	3.00						
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	28 Silk Cut Challenge Cup								
Feb	4 Fulham	H	3.00						
	11 Challenge Cup 2nd Rnd								
	18 Chorley	Ξ	3.00						
	25 Keighley	A	3.15						
Mar	4 Huddersfield	Н	3.00				A STATE OF THE STA	2	
	11 Batley	Α	2.30						
	18 Runcorn	Н	3.00						
	25 Huddersfield	Α	3.00						
Apr	1 Hunslet	A	3.30						
	8 Carlisle	н	3.00						
	13 Swinton	Α	3.00						
	16 Rochdale	Ξ	3 00						

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## Appearances and Scorers

#### 1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen	14	0	0	0	3	12
Ian Bates	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey	12	0	0	0	2	8
Brett Clark	8	1	0	0	4	16
Neil Clawson	1	1	0	0	1	4
John Cogger	13	0	0	0	7	28
Trevor Croston	1	2	0	0	0	0
John Fairbank	6	6	0	0	3	12
John Fieldhouse	14	0	0	0	3	12
Neil Flanagan	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford	13	0	0	1	5	21
John Henderson	2	0	0	0	2	8
Gary Hyde	12	0	21	0	4	58
Richard Irving	11	0	0	0	4	16
Paul Lord	13	0	0	0	8	32
Charlie McAlister	4	4	8	0	3	28
Tommy Martyn	1	1	3	0	1	10
Keith Meadows	4	3	0	0	4	16
Keith Newton	9	0	0	0	2	8
Duncan Platt	7	0	22	0	4	60
Steve Robinson	10	4	0	0	2	8
Paul Round	1	0	0	0	0	0
Andy Ruane	13	0	0	0	5	20
Richard Russell	11	3	0	0	3	12

Up to and including Fulham match

## Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale	10	5	0	0	263	64	4	0	1	162	97	18
OLDHAM	10	5	0	0	138	53	4	0	1	140	68	18
Hull KR	9	5	0	0	218	28	3	0	1	104	44	16
Halifax	10	5	0	1	135	81	3	0	1	130	50	16
Huddersfield	10	4	0	2	105	79	4	0	0	100	38	16
Swinton	12	3	0	2	122	76	5	0	2	147	112	16
Batley	11	4	0	2	125	79	4	0	1	87	52	16
Dewsbury	11	5	0	1	140	71	3	0	2	96	106	16
Rydale York	11	2	0	1	42	16	5	1	2	164	115	15
Fulham	11	4	0	2	114	79	3	0	2	59	73	14
Doncaster	10	3	1	2	144	74	3	0	1	86	40	13
Trafford	9	2	0	3	95	103	2	0	2	86	94	8
Hunslet	13	2	0	4	105	123	2	Ü	5	94	97	8
Keighley	12	3	0	4	158	193	1	Ö	4	90	132	8
Bramley	11	1	0	4	75	131	2	Ü	4	75	121	6
Chorley	10	3	0	3	77	92	0	0	4	46	152	6
Workington	10	1	0	3	52	119	2	0	4	61	180	0
Whitehaven	12	2	0	4	94	137	0	0	6	60	150 182	4
Carlisle	10 11	0	0		88 77	82 201	1	0	6 5	88 66	177	2
Nottingham	11	0	0	5	31	114	0	0	6	54	318	0
Runcorn	11	U	U	5	31	114	U	U	0	34	310	U

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## 'A' Team Round-Up

Slalom	1,a	ger	A.	Hliance	% %	eague	
	FIRST	10.10	JVIC	DIVISION	_		
	Д	3	Q	1	Щ	A	Pts
Wigan	6	7	0	2	273	129	14
Hull	6	9	1	2	182	125	13
St Helens	∞	9	0	2	193	111	12
Halifax	6	9	0	3	191	154	12
Castleford	7	2	0	2	193	134	10
Leeds	7	2	0	2	142	91	10
Warrington W	8	4	0	4	192	182	∞
Hull KR	7	4	0	3	123	136	8
Salford	∞	3	0	2	173	178	9
Carlisle	7	က	0	4	175	214	9
Widnes	7	က	0	4	112	178	9
Featherstone R.	∞	7	0	9	162	214	4
Hunslet	∞	2	0	9	66	151	4
Swinton C	6	7	0	7	119	27	
						5	4
OLDHAM	6	-	-	7	114	174	c

Wigan Hull St Helen Halifax Castlefor Leeds Warringt Hull KR Salford Carlisle Widnes Featherst
2-15 24-16 16-27 14-20 0-6 10-22 6-20 10-14 16-16

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St. Helens	=	Castleford	Hull KR	Salford A (LCC	Halifax	Hull	Widnes	Wigan	Hull	Leeds	Warrington	St. Helens	Carlisle	Featherstone	Swinton	Hunslet	Hull KR	Warrington	SACC 1st Rou	Castleford	SACC 2nd Rot	Wigan	Featherstone	Leeds	Salford A	Hunslet	Carlisle	Swinton	Widnes
_	00	15	6	9	7	1	3	0	7	4.	Н	00	9	2	6	2	2	6	3	6	7	3	2	9	3	0	7	co.	0

Feb

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WELL, the team continues to roll on in the right direction, but not without a few hiccups. Oldham's players had to withstand a fierce blast from coach Tony Barrow, who was upset with the team's form when conceding 34 points against a weakened Keighley side.



It's now a year ago

since Tony arrived on the Watersheddings scene, and we have seen many changes in that short time. Tony is his own man and he is now beginning to assemble a squad of players who he believes will bring about a return to First Division rugby. So the game against Keighley must have come as something of a shock to him, but in fairness the injury situation has been particularly unkind. However, if you take a close look at the Second Division, I think that it might be a little more difficult than we first envisaged.

An examination of some of our rivals' results may also be well worth a look, who would appear to be experiencing some similar problems.

Halifax were beaten at home by Hull K.R. Halifax then travelled to face Trafford Borough, and let's be honest, how many people would have expected them to struggle before eventually winning by just 9 points to 6. So Oldham are not the only team to occasionally

Consistency will for sure be the key to promotion, as well as a fully fit squad of players.

The second division fixture planning has given Oldham what could be further problems. Local derby matches featuring Swinton and Rochdale, whilst being good fare for the fans and an even better source of income, have an uncanny knack of producing 'surprises'. Now what about pressure?

Overall, though, I think we can all be fairly confident, but the support could also play a part, as recently stated by chairman John Chadwick. Fortunately, we have a good following, so with the fans' backing we have as good a chance as any of the other 'big clubs'. but don't be too surprised if we have to suffer a couple of minor 'hiccups' along the way.

> Enjoy your sport JACK DEARDEN

#### **CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES**

CHRISTMAS is fast approaching so don't forget to book your tickets for the Oldham Supporters' Club Xmas family night on 23rd December at the Sheddings. Remember, numbers are strictly limited to 150, so guarantee your place by contacting Mrs. Pilkington on 061-665 1832 today!

#### **HELLO DONCASTER**

A WARM welcome to the supporters from Doncaster who were extremely hospitable when Oldham visited Tattersfield earlier this month. Let us all return the hospitality.

#### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

FINALLY, as this could be the last game before Xmas, the Supporters Club would like to extend Christmas greetings to everyone connected with the club and wish them all the best for the New Year.

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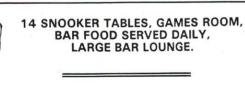
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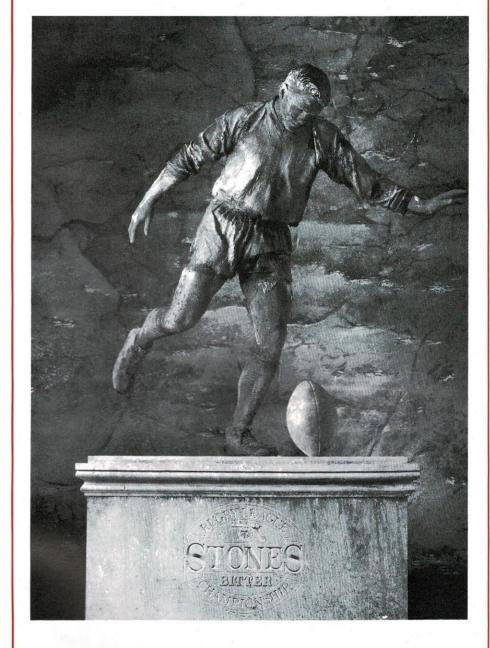




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