

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM		SWINTON	
DUNCAN PLATT	- 1	- PAUL TOPPING	
CHARLIE McALISTER	- 2	- SCOTT RANSON	
RICHARD RUSSELL	- 3	- JOE ROPATI	
RICHARD IRVING	- 4	- RALPH LINTON	
PAUL LORD	- 5	- TERRY SCOTT	
BRETT CLARK	- 6	- JOHN MYLER	
MIKE FORD	- 7	- TONY HEWITT	
NEIL CLAWSON	- 8	- MARK SHEALS	
ANDY RUANE	- 9	- ALEC MELLING	
JOHN FAIRBANK	- 10	- ANDY PUCILL	
KEITH NEWTON	- 11	- PHIL CAPEWELL	
TREVOR CROSTON	- 12	- SHANE TUPAEA	
JOHN COGGER	- 13	- TONY MORRISON	
KEVIN MEADOWS	- 14	- TBA	
KEITH ATKINSON	- 15	- TBA	

Referee: Mr. J. E. Kendrew (Castleford). Touch Judges: Mr. G. Hayes (Red Flag), Mr. P. Hind (Orange Flag)

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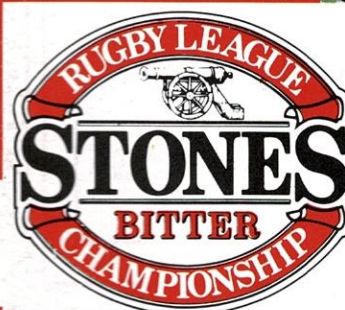
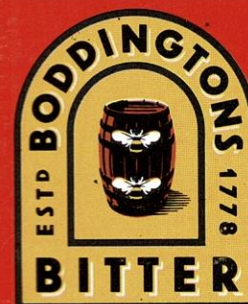
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J. Fieldhouse, N. Flanagan, T. Flanagan,
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I. Sanderson.

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,
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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
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, 1989-90

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

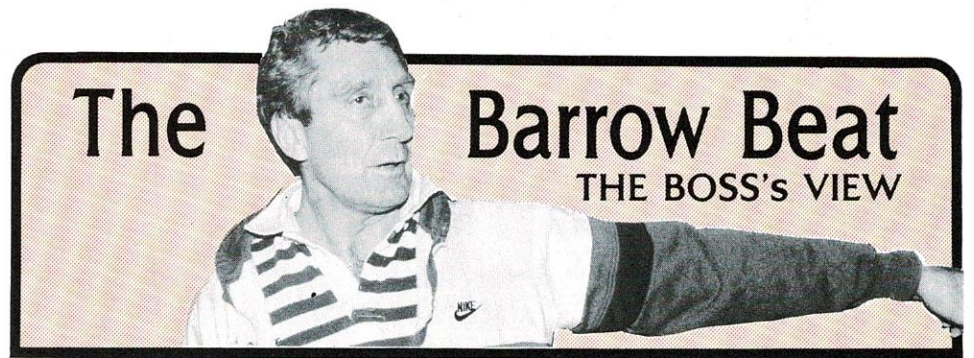
Runners-up:
1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24,
1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners:
1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88

WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW

DUE to Christmas printing deadlines, I was invited to have my 'say' before the disciplinary hearing at which we contested the Duncan Platt dismissal at St. Helens.

At the time of writing, we don't know what will happen, but after carefully studying the video recording of the incident we are sure that there was no trip on Paul Groves.

The directors and I carefully watched the video on numerous occasions and it seemed clear to us that Duncan merely turned in anticipation of the Groves kick. He actually had his back to the St. Helens man when Groves went down, so how could he have tripped him?

We feel Platt was a very unlucky lad indeed, but dismissals like that seem to be the way of things in the clean-up campaign that has resulted in many, many dismissals and long bans.

My early feelings on the matter were that the punishments should fit the crimes — that, rather than hand out what appear to be statutory eight-match bans, each case should be treated on its merits and suspensions fixed accordingly.

I still take that view, but since then events have moved on swiftly so that we now have the case of a referee and two touch judges being suspended for what the League describe as "poor performance".

I must make it clear that I am as keen as the next man to rid the game of the dirty players and that, in principle, I am behind what the authorities are trying to achieve.

Like a lot of other people involved in the

game, however, I am a bit worried at the way things are turning out.

Take the Platt case as an example. Roger Halstead of the Oldham Chronicle spoke to the referee, Robin Whitfield, after the Saints match, and Robin told him that any trip had to be punished by dismissal — accidental or otherwise.

Later, David Howes of the Rugby League told Halstead that the referee was still allowed to exercise his discretion in deciding whether the trip was intentional or accidental.

It really is something that wants clearing up so that we are all on the same wavelength and all pulling together in one direction to achieve the desired result — an eradication of dirty play while still retaining the bodily contact that makes Rugby League the magnificent spectator sport that it is.

Finally, I was sorry to read of Eric Fitzsimons's comments in the Football Pink the other Saturday night. He suggested that the problems at Oldham that existed in his day were still here today. By that I take it that he means the playing staff is not strong enough for the First Division.

Time will tell, of course, but I did not think Eric would have fallen into the trap of making comments like that about his former club.

I reckon he has enough on his plate at Whitehaven without worrying about the decisions I make in relation to Oldham's playing staff and Oldham's future.

TONY BARROW

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TODAY'S

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Welcome to Swinton

Paul Topping (full back or centre) Signed from St. Patrick's Under-19s. Former Buscarla tourist. Fast on attack, excellent on defence. Goalkicker.

Scott Ranson (wing) Signed from Thatto Heath and in his second season with the Lions. Regular try-scorer and has ten to his credit this season.

Joe Ropati (centre) Signed in November from Warrington. A strong, attacking Kiwi back. Has played Test rugby for New Zealand and had a spell with Manly last season. Scored 34 tries in 65 games for Wire.

Mark Viller (utility player) Signed from Salford Juniors seven seasons ago. Occasional goalkicker.

Ralph Linton (centre) Signed earlier in the season from Widnes. Played a fair amount of first team rugby for the Chemics and was a try-scorer in the 1984 John Player final. An experienced player who should do well for the Lions.

Ian Pickavance (centre) Son of ex-St. Helens chairman Joe Pickavance. Young player with good potential and is hard to tackle once in full flow.

Derek Bate (wing) Signed from Leigh Miners in 1983. Prolific try-scorer. Trying to find his form this season, but has scored more than 100 tries for the Lions.

Vince McCue (centre or stand-off) Signed from Addington RLFC (Christchurch). This 23-year-old goalkicker comes with high recommendations and will stay until the end of March.

Tony Hewitt (scrum-half) Signed in 1985, this elusive scrum-half has scored 24 tries in 78 games for the Lions. Has just returned from a spell out of the game.

John Myler (scrum-half or loose-forward) Vastly experienced player, signed from Widnes last season, where he gained numerous honours alongside brother Tony. Goalkicker.

Mark Sheals (prop or second row) Rejoined the Lions in a swap deal for Andy Rippon and John Horrocks, who went to Trafford Borough.

Alex Melling (hooker) Signed from Oldham St. Anne's. Excellent ball winner and also good in loose.

Andy Pucill (utility forward) 21-year-old ex-Great Britain amateur youth forward, signed from Crosfields in August. One to watch!

Phil Capewell (second rower) Signed from Warrington in September for £10,000. Playing well, having just returned from a jaw injury.

Shane Tupaea (second rower) Ex-Rochdale Hornets and Mansfield player. 25 years old, from Wellington, New Zealand, has scored 7 tries in 12 games for the Lions.

Tony Morrison (back row forward) St. Helens-born Morrison was signed from Oldham in August. A fast, strong-running forward who can also play in some back positions.

Ian Skeech (second row or centre) Signed in 1987. Another strong-running player who has yet to make his full first-team debut.

Paul Mellor (full back or stand-off) Has just returned to Station Road after three years out of the game since he broke his leg in a game against Halifax. Showed his old flare in his comeback game for Swinton Crusaders three weeks ago.

Terry Scott (winger) Signed in 1985, has just returned to the team after dislocating his shoulder at Trafford in September. A very strong, pacey and deceptive runner.

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Flashback . . .

1983/84

Swinton 8, Oldham 6



This closely-fought Lancashire Cup match saw Oldham go out of the competition against their local Second Division rivals in front of 1,881 fans. A Vigo try and a Parrish goal (he kicked 101 goals during the season) was not enough to prevent an upset. Here, Oldham try without success to break through the Swinton defence.

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Spotlight on . . . **CHARLIE McALISTER**

WITHOUT question, one sight that is always guaranteed to set the pulses of the Watersheddings faithful racing is Charlie McAlister in full flow.

Charlie has been thrilling thousands of Rugby League fans with his powerful running and delicate ball skills for two years, ever since he decided to change codes after a successful Union career that saw the amiable Maori travel the world with New Zealand representative sides.

As a Rugby Union player, Charlie — who played 87 times for Taranki Province — had competed at the highest levels, playing for the Maori All Blacks on seven occasions. He represented his country at Under-16, U-18 and U-21, playing against the likes of Australia, South Africa, Argentina, Fiji, Japan, Italy and Ireland.

Despite touring Australia four times as well as the USA, Charlie wanted to see more of the world. So, in October, 1987, he said goodbye to his hometown of Waitara and his job in a huge slaughterhouse that employed 2,000 people, and moved 'down under' to England with his family, wife Patricia and young son Luke (who have since been joined by beautiful 17-month-old Kayla).

Once over here, he was quickly snapped up by a Yorkshire Union side on the recommendation of an old friend, Shane Goble, a team mate from his Taranki days.

Unfortunately for Charlie, brought up on the impeccable standards of All Black rugby, his four months with the Bradford and Bingley club proved to be a severe disappointment.

"With New Zealand Rugby Union the level of skill, discipline and application are very high. After playing for Bradford and Bingley for a couple of months it became apparent that these attributes weren't too important.

"Fortunately, Oldham directors Jim Knox and Greg Pache signed me after a couple of trial games and gave me the chance to try my luck at Rugby League."

Charlie grabbed the opportunity with both hands, signing for the club in January, 1988, and



helping the team to the Championship/Premiership double.

The 25-year-old sporting Maori, who also plays tennis, squash, rowing and golf, was impressed by Oldham's determination to compete with the top clubs.

"Oldham RLFC are striving to reach the highest level and I think they will succeed, although everyone knows it will take time."

Charlie has been impressed by the reception Oldham have given him on and off the field. The feelings are mutual. Oldham fans have taken to the friendly New Zealander, who has proved to be a big hit whenever he makes personal appearances at Boddington pubs on behalf of the club's official sponsors.

Although the promotional work is enjoyable, Charlie's main aim is success on the pitch.

"My ambition for the season is to go one better than two years ago and add a trip to Wembley to the League and the Premiership double.

"Who knows, with a little bit of luck we could turn the dream into a reality. After all, we have already beaten several First Division sides, including Wigan and St. Helens, this season!"

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A brace of tries by Aussie skipper John Cogger — the third consecutive match that he's scored twice — helped spark the Oldham revival in the 32-18 defeat against St. Helens in the Regal Trophy semi-final. Here, Cogger beats Forber and Bateman.



Hooker Andy Ruane looks for the gaps in Oldham's thrilling Regal Trophy semi-final against St. Helens.

11

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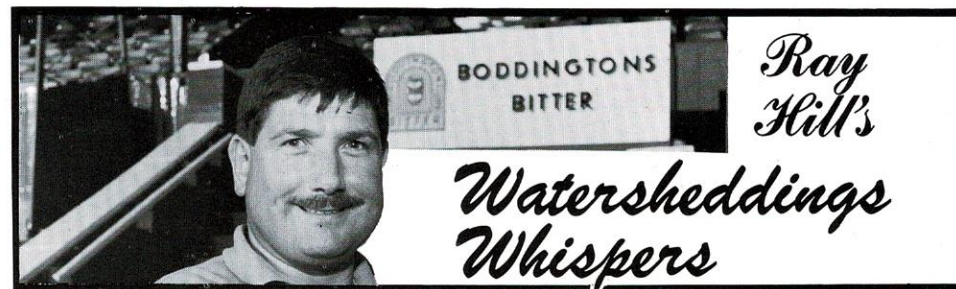
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AT half-time today, somebody in Oldham is going to be better off by an incredible £15,000! That's right, £15,000!

Another three people will be starting the New Year in style by banking large cash wins of £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000.

That's because we are holding our Lifeline draw at the interval of today's match to find four more lucky winners — you could be one of them — to receive brilliant bumper payouts.

Our quartet will be joining the numerous other Lifeline winners who have benefitted from their membership, including Jason Dixon and Anthony Whiteside, who drove away with a brand new £6,000 car earlier this season.

Lifeline is proving to be extremely popular with Oldham fans, especially as no other club can match the superb prizes that we give our members.

Certainly, today's winners will not regret making their weekly £2 investment — nor will you if you sign. You can join Lifeline — which has a £1,000 payout every week of the year — by contacting John Watkin or John Cogger at the club on 061-620 4870.

More cash prizes are on offer to fans in our special "Shareholders" draw. There are prizes galore just waiting to be won, including £500, £250 and £100, plus tracksuits, replica shirts, an autographed ball and, of course, 24 cans of Boddingtons, the North West's most popular bitter.

All our shareholders have been sent £5 of tickets so make sure you buy a couple. Who knows, your number could be pulled out of the hat when the draw takes place on the Players' Party Night at the Sheddings night club on 21st January, after the Chorley away game.

That night promises to be a night to

remember. There's an excellent buffet and three superb cabaret acts to entertain you, plus the chance to meet and talk to the players, who are taking us back to the First Division where we belong.

Tickets for the evening cost £10 and can be obtained from the Souvenir Shop under the Pavilion or direct from the Social Club. But hurry, there's already a great demand, so make sure you aren't disappointed by buying your tickets today!

We're always keen to help our supporters with evenings like the Players' Party — and by organising great trips abroad. We can offer you two fabulous trips to see top international Rugby League later this year.

The first match is the France-Great Britain match at Avignon in March. The cost is a very reasonable £249 and includes match ticket, three nights' accommodation plus meals and sightseeing trips.

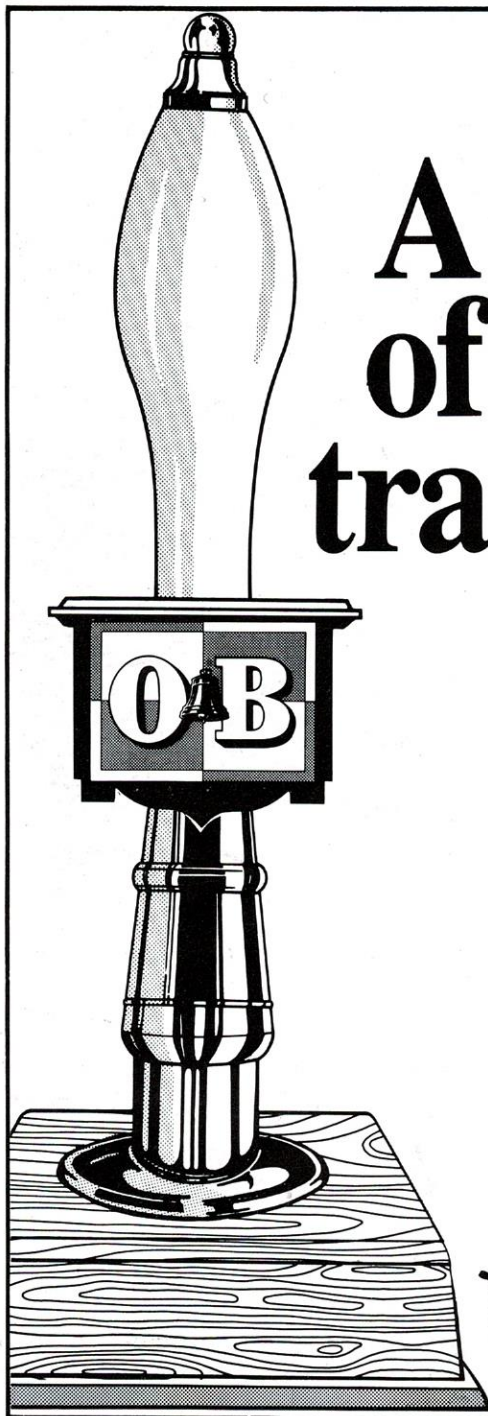
The second trip will take you down under in June for 13 days. You'll see the Test matches against Papua New Guinea and the First Test against New Zealand, as well as a variety of other entertainments. The total cost is great value at £2,499.

Anybody interested in either trip should contact us at the club on 061-620 4870.

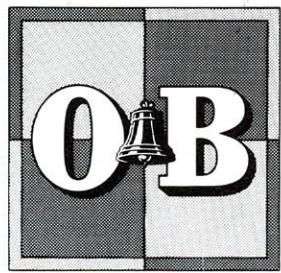
Finally, I'd like to wish all of you, on behalf of the directors, players and staff, a happy and successful New Year. I am sure it will be!

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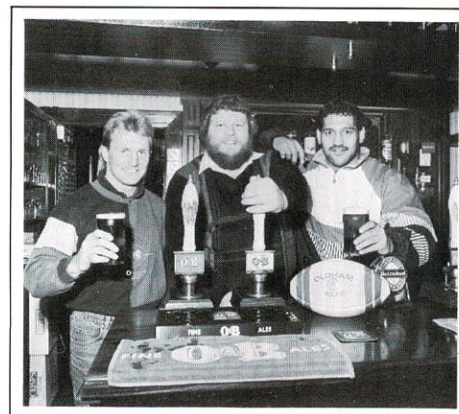


CORNER

ROBIN HOOD REGULARS A QUIVER

REGULARS at the Robin Hood, Lees Road, were all a quiver when Oldham's merry men, John Cogger and Charlie McAlister, joined in the fun at the official re-opening of the OB local after a £20,000 facelift that has transformed the popular pub.

Dave (centre) and Lesley Edwards, who have run the pub since last June, asked the down under stars to lend a hand behind the bar to serve thirsty customers.



CHEERS

CHEERS. Pensioners from Moorside had a memorable Christmas when Mike Hardman, landlord of the Highfield Inn, Ripponden Lane, hosted a free Xmas dinner. Mike also laid on entertainment from professional musicians for over 30 people to get in the right spirit for the festive season.

Mike has been busy over the Christmas period as he staged the world premiere of his very own pantomime, aptly named Pinterella. Says Mike: "It was a lot of fun — but I think I'll stick to pouring pints. It's a lot easier!"

HAPPY DAYS FOR DENNIS AND SYLVIA

DENNIS and Sylvia Adams have plenty to smile about with Oldham skipper John Cogger. The couple have just refurbished their pub, the Hathershaw Hotel, Ashton Road, so their regulars can enjoy their OB bitter in complete comfort.

Genial Dennis and his wife have completely modernised the popular OB local — with new seating, carpets, furniture and decoration. There's also some great sporting portraits in the pub to add to the atmosphere.



COLLIERS STRIKE GOLD!

COMPLETING the trio of OB locals that have recently been transformed is the Colliers Arms, Old Lane, Chadderton. Regulars calling into the pub will notice licensees Ron and Sheila Willans have struck gold with the new-look OB local. Says Sheila: "The pub is a lot more comfortable, although the atmosphere is still as good as ever!"



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SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th
v HUNSLET

(Kick-off
3.00p.m.)

PENALTIES

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

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
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11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

PENALTIES

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6	7	8	9	10
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SCRUMS

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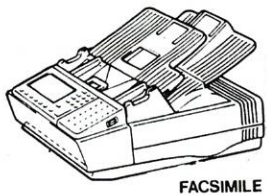
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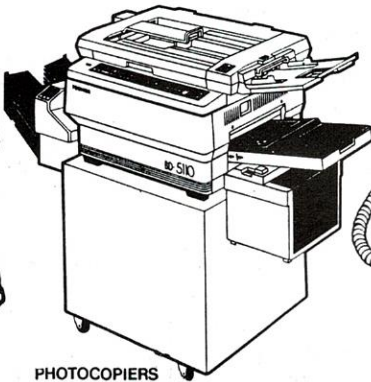
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Fixtures and Statistics

Date	Opponents	V	KO	P	Res	F-A	Tries	Goals	Att
Sep 3	Workington T	H	3.00		W	40-8	Henderson (2), Cogger (2), McAlister, Lord, Ruane, Russell	Platt (4)	3,743
10	Hallifax	A	3.00	11	L	12-22	Platt, Cogger	Platt (2)	8,612
16	Barrow (Lancs Cup)	A	2.30		W	46-2	Lord (2), Ford, Casey, Platt (2), Allen, Hyde, Cogger	Platt (5)	2,300
27	St. Helens (Lancs Cup)	A	7.30		W	36-6	Robinson, Ford, Platt, Cogger, Allen, Newton	Platt (6)	7,834
Oct 1	Hull KR	H	3.00	12	W	12-4	Lord	Platt (4)	5,797
5	Wigan (Lancs Cup)	H	7.30		W	19-18	Fieldhouse, Newton, Ford	Platt, Hyde (2), Ford (dg)	8,603
8	Runcorn H	A	3.00	9	W	34-6	Russell, Clarke (2), Meadows (2), Clawson, Irving	Hyde (2)	2,500
14	Warrington (Lancs Cup final)	-	3.00		L	16-24	Irving, Robinson, Lord	Platt (1), Hyde (1)	9,895
18	Hallifax	H	7.30		W	14-3	Lord, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	6,953
22	Carlisle	A	3.00	5	W	10-32	Fieldhouse (2), Hyde, Fairbank, Cogger, Meadows	Hyde (2), McAlister (2)	1,200
29	Batley	H	3.00	3	W	22-4	Ruane, Martyn, Meadows, Irving	Martyn (3)	4,120
Nov 5	Doncaster	A	3.00	2	W	22-20	Casey, Lord, Hyde, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	3,813
12	Keighley	H	3.00	2	W	50-34	Clark, Hyde, Irving, Ford, McAlister, Meadows, Ruane, Lord, Russell	Hyde (7)	4,113
19	Fulham	A	2.30	2	W	40-10	McAlister, Ruane (2), Clark, Cogger, Allen, Ford	McAlister (6)	1,440
26	Doncaster	H	3.00	2	W	30-8	Lord, Meadows, Ruane, Robinson, Clark	McAlister (5)	4,914
Dec 3	Bramley (Regal Trophy)	A	3.50		W	48-16	Robinson, Cogger (2), Lord, McAlister, Clawson, Clark, Croston	Platt (8)	1,632
10	Huddersfield (Regal Trophy)	H	3.00		W	22-8	Cogger (2), Croston	Platt (5)	5,205
17	St. Helens (Regal Trophy)	A	3.00		L	18-32	Fairbank, Cogger (2), Lord	McAlister	7,752
26	Rochdale H	A	3.00						
Jan 1	Swinton	H	3.00						
7	Hunslet	H	3.00						
14	Huddersfield (SCCC)	H	3.00						
21	Chorley	A	3.00						
28	Silk Cut Challenge Cup								
Feb 4	Fulham	H	3.00						
11	Challenge Cup 2nd Rd								
18	Chorley	H	3.00						
25	Keighley	A	3.15						
Mar 4	Huddersfield	H	3.00						
11	Batley	A	2.30						
18	Runcorn	H	3.00						
25	Huddersfield	A	3.00						
Apr 1	Hunslet	A	3.30						
8	Carlisle	H	3.00						
13	Swinton	A	3.00						
16	Rochdale	H	3.00						

To be rearranged: Workington Town (A), Hull KR (A)

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Appearances and Scorers

1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen.....	16	0	0	0	3	12
Keith Atkinson.....	0	3	0	0	0	0
Mick Bardsley.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Bates.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey.....	13	0	0	0	2	8
Brett Clark.....	14	1	0	0	6	24
Neil Clawson.....	4	1	0	0	2	8
John Cogger.....	17	0	0	0	13	52
Trevor Croston.....	3	4	0	0	2	8
John Fairbank.....	9	6	0	0	4	16
John Fieldhouse.....	15	0	0	0	3	12
Neil Flanagan.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford.....	17	0	0	1	5	21
John Henderson.....	3	1	0	0	2	8
Gary Hyde.....	12	0	21	0	4	58
Richard Irving.....	12	0	0	0	4	16
Paul Lord.....	17	0	0	0	11	44
Charlie McAlister.....	8	4	14	0	4	44
Tommy Martyn.....	1	1	3	0	1	10
Keith Meadows.....	6	4	0	0	6	20
Keith Newton.....	10	0	0	0	2	8
Duncan Platt.....	9	0	36	0	4	86
Steve Robinson.....	12	4	0	0	4	16
Paul Round.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Andy Ruane.....	16	0	0	0	6	24
Richard Russell.....	14	4	0	0	3	12

Up to and including St Helens match

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR.....	11	6	0	0	272	34	4	0	1	164	50	20
Rochdale.....	12	5	0	1	283	88	5	0	1	188	117	20
OLDHAM	11	6	0	0	168	61	4	0	1	140	68	20
Batley.....	14	5	0	3	147	102	5	0	1	116	69	20
Rydale York.....	13	3	0	1	70	26	6	1	2	180	123	19
Swinton.....	13	3	0	2	122	76	6	0	2	169	122	18
Huddersfield.....	12	4	0	3	113	95	5	0	0	114	40	18
Halifax.....	11	5	0	1	135	81	3	0	2	150	80	16
Dewsbury.....	12	5	0	1	140	71	3	0	3	102	160	16
Fulham.....	13	4	0	3	120	139	4	0	2	71	83	16
Doncaster.....	13	4	1	3	158	103	3	0	2	94	70	15
Trafford.....	12	3	0	3	119	113	3	0	3	124	108	12
Hunslet.....	15	2	0	5	125	149	2	0	6	96	109	8
Keighley.....	13	3	0	4	158	193	1	0	5	108	154	8
Bramley.....	13	1	0	5	77	145	3	0	4	99	139	8
Whitehaven.....	14	3	0	4	116	155	1	0	6	88	160	8
Carlisle.....	12	3	0	3	133	116	0	0	6	88	182	6
Chorley.....	12	3	0	4	87	114	0	0	5	56	180	6
Workington.....	12	1	0	4	69	147	2	0	5	71	204	6
Nottingham.....	13	1	0	5	90	207	1	0	6	80	192	4
Runcorn.....	13	0	0	6	41	142	0	0	7	60	331	0

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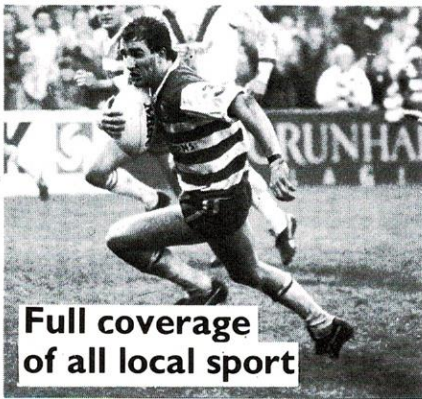


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'A' Team Round-Up

Slalom Lager Alliance League

P	FIRST DIVISION					Pts
	W	D	L	F	A	
Hull	12	9	1	2	254	151
Wigan	13	9	0	4	379	206
Leeds	11	8	1	2	236	139
Castleford	10	8	0	2	312	171
Halifax	12	8	0	4	260	217
St Helens	10	7	0	3	225	144
Hull KR	11	7	0	4	198	166
Warrington W	10	5	0	5	246	230
Swinton C	13	5	0	8	192	342
Salford	11	3	1	7	221	236
OLDHAM	12	3	1	8	186	232
Featherstone R	12	3	0	9	243	278
Carlisle	10	3	0	7	205	328
Widnes	11	3	0	8	144	320
Hunslet	12	2	0	10	159	300

'A' Team Player Profile...

STEVE ENTWISTLE

Speedy teenage winger Steve Entwistle has impeccable Rugby League credentials as both his father, Ian, and grandfather were prominent figures in the sport. Steve, signed from local amateur side Waterhead, was one of four Oldham tourists who toured Australia with the BARLA Young Lions last summer.

'A' Team Fixtures and Statistics

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F	A
Sep 1	St. Helens	A	L	2-15	
8	Halifax	H	W	24-16	
15	Castleford	H	L	16-27	
29	Hull KR	A	L	14-20	
6	Salford A (LCCS)	A	L	0-6	
12	Halifax	A	L	10-22	
27	Hull	A	L	6-20	
3	Widnes	H	L	10-14	
10	Wigan	H	L	16-20	
17	Hull	H	D	16-16	
24	Leeds	A	L	16-28	
1	Warrington	H	W	36-12	
8	St. Helens	H	W	20-18	
16	Carlisle	H	H		
22	Featherstone	H	H		
29	Swinton	A	A		
5	Hunslet	A	A		
12	Hull KR	H	A		
19	Warrington	A	A		
3	SACC 1st Round				
9	Castleford	A	A		
17	SACC 2nd Round				
23	Wigan	H	H		
2	Featherstone	A	A		
16	Leeds	H	H		
23	Salford A	A	A		
30	Hunslet	H	H		
7	Carlisle	A	A		
13	Swinton	H	H		
20	Widnes	A	A		

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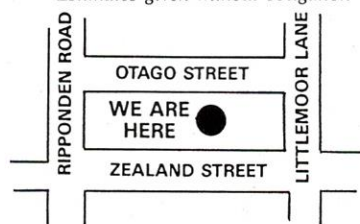
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UPS AND DOWNS OF THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

WELL, here we are at the start of a brand new year, and by a strange coincidence our "gaffer," Tony Barrow, has recently completed just over 12 months in the "hot seat." So let's take a look at the way things have gone overall.



Jack Dearden

Oldham, after a disastrous start to the year, were always going to find life difficult in the top flight, and eventually ran out of time as well as matches. Inevitably, relegation followed as once again we disappeared into second division oblivion, with Tony Barrow openly declaring that he didn't know the way to such places like Doncaster, Runcorn and Batley. However, he obviously decided that changes needed to be made both in methods and personnel.

He then proceeded to attack the job with an enthusiastic and energetic approach, and it's impossible not to feel confident about the future, having spent any time in Tony's company. His appetite for the game is infectious and, of course, all he wants for the club is to put them up with the elite of rugby clubs, and an opportunity for our players to compete at the highest level, where he himself spent his own playing career. Now all our hopes for the new year

rest with Tony Barrow and, of course, the hard-working board of directors.

So what have been the highs and the lows of the past twelve months? Well, I don't think many people would argue about the lowest ebb, obviously the day of relegation, and the realisation of the sufferance of second division rugby once again. But, as the year has progressed, I don't think it's been quite as bad as we feared (apart, that is, from the formation of the fixtures, which I found to be almost as disappointing as relegation itself). Rugby League HQ please take note!

Well, into the highs, and I'm glad to report these have been far more than perhaps we dared to imagine or even expect. On a personal note, the brightest shining has been the signing of the young players, which is where the club's future lies.

On the field, highlights must obviously also include the Lancashire Cup Final achievement, but perhaps even the final appearance itself was overshadowed with the win over Wigan on another never-to-be-forgotten night of atmosphere and passion at Watersheddings.

So I leave you with the words of Tony Barrow as we enter what will hopefully be a successful new decade, "I'll tell you this, Jack, I won't be satisfied until I have put Oldham up there right on top." All our hopes go with you, Tony.

Enjoy your sport, and may the next decade bring all the happiness you wish for.

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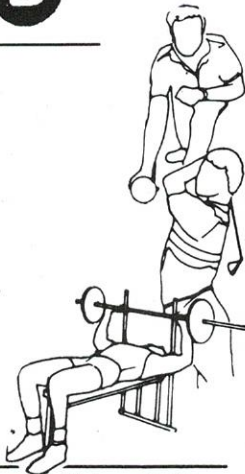
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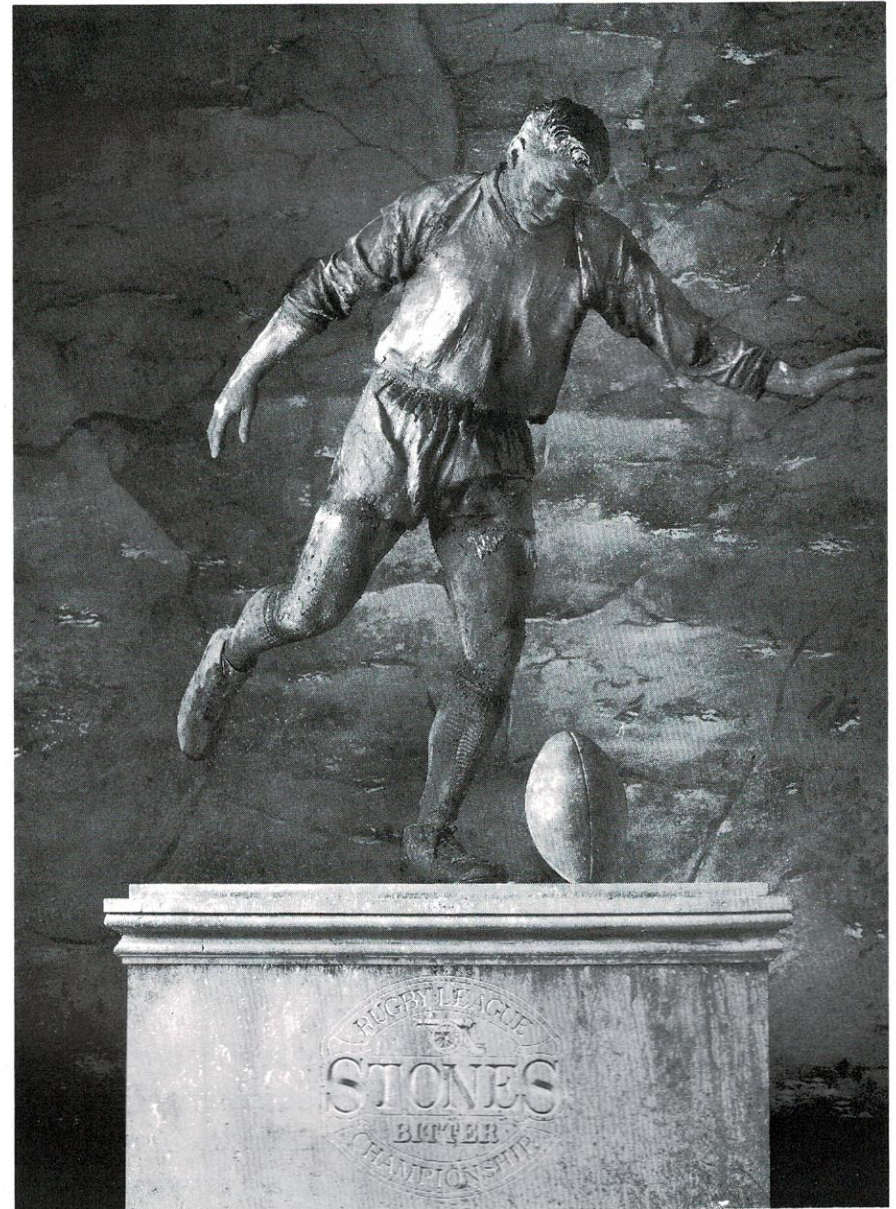


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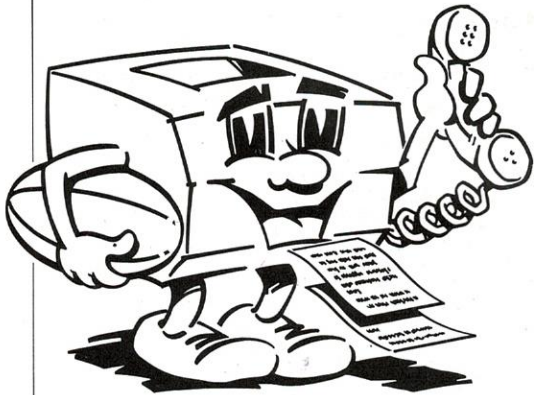
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