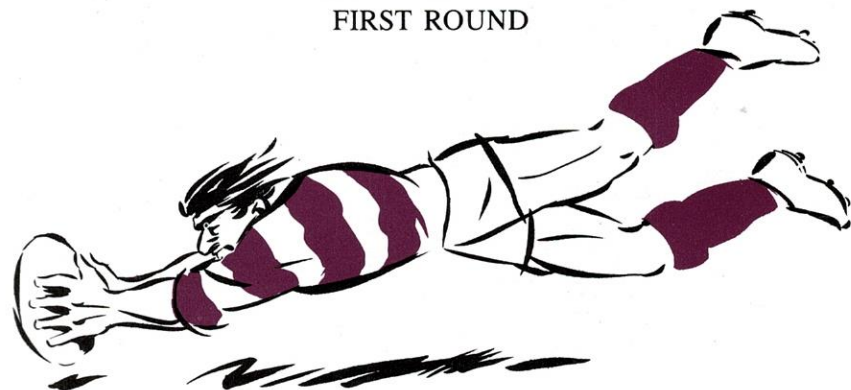


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The Rugby Football League

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

FIRST ROUND



SUNDAY JANUARY 28th 1990
Kick-Off 3.00p.m.

OLDHAM
V
WORKINGTON

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME: 80p

Team Check on Page 17

LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government
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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: £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

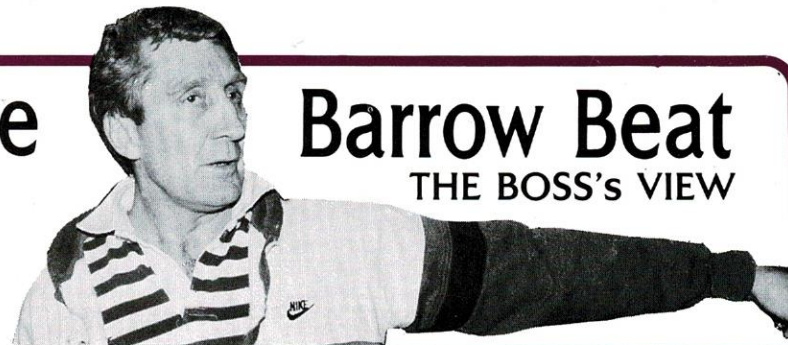
Colts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88

WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW



SINCE our last home game, we enjoyed that marvellous result on Humberside at Hull KR and my congratulations go out to all the players who took part in a memorable day.

We met early, did our planning in a lunchtime session at Watersheddings, and then had a light meal at the Highpoint Hotel before setting off in late afternoon for our first visit to the new Craven Park ground on the far side of the city.

We knew what we had to do and we knew what would be required to inflict the first home defeat of the season on the Rovers and, in fact, the first-ever defeat at the new ground which has cost them a cool £4m.

That we won 9-6 to throw the Second Division title race wide open is history now. But what the record books will never show is the amount of commitment and discipline which the players put into that performance.

The pre-match plan was performed to the letter. It was a team victory, but perhaps special praise is due for the forwards, who took the brunt of everything that Rovers threw at us and tackled absolutely magnificently.

Our win must have made a lot of people sit up and take note and, in reality, it greatly enhanced our chances of either winning the title or finishing in second place, which

means we will have a 'home' run in the Premiership play-off.

After our disappointing defeat at Rochdale on Boxing Day, we can look upon the win at Craven Park as a bonus that puts us back on our pre-season target, and it certainly adds a lot of spice to the rest of the league campaign, with three clubs — Rovers, Oldham and Rochdale — all in with a realistic chance of finishing top.

If we win all our games, we will finish ahead of Rochdale, whose game here on Easter Monday should be a real cracker. We need someone to take a point off Hull KR, but they have to go to York and play Halifax at home, so there is a chance that they could slip up and let us in for the big prize.

In the meantime, of course, we have to make sure that there are no more slips like that at Rochdale, and also that we do ourselves justice in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Workington are here in round one today and they will be coming in a determined mood. Nobody can be underestimated in cup competition — the road to Wembley is strewn with surprise results — and we certainly will not be falling into the trap of taking the Cumbrian lads lightly.

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TODAY'S

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Welcome to Workington

WORKINGTON may be struggling at present in the lower reaches of the Second Division, but there is a great mood of optimism at Derwent Park, based on a belief that the club will get the impetus it needs to climb back into the big-time from a massive financial windfall of £450,000.

The cheque is due to drop on to the Derwent Park desk any day now and it comes from the sale of part of the club's training ground. The directors have already given considerable thought to what they are going to do with the money and, in the main, it will be used for the installation of floodlights, the laying down of a running track around the ground, the signing of players to strengthen the squad, and to generally put the club back on its feet.

While recognising that ready-made, experienced players are needed for the immediate climb up the table — hence the capture of Keiron O'Loughlin from Leigh — the Town board also know that they are living on a rich seam of youth talent in West Cumbria.

In recent times, too many of the top Cumbrian boys have been snapped up by Lancashire clubs and the Derwent Park regime pulled off a coup when they beat off considerable competition to land two under-19 BARLA tourists in half-back Wayne Kitchin, son of the club coach, Phil, and stand-off or centre Steven Wear, both from the highly-productive amateur club, Kells.

More top-quality local boys are also bound for Derwent Park, while club officials are also on a constant look-out for experienced men. They believe firmly that the large injection of capital will enable them to do a similar job, next season, as Rochdale Hornets are doing this term following their sale of the Athletic Grounds.

In the meantime, Town are determined to finish off the season on a brighter note and it says much for the club's attention to detail that they sent Ike Southward — a Derwent Park stalwart for many years and remembered here as one of Oldham's best-ever wingmen — to watch our preliminary round tie against Huddersfield to prepare a form report for the coaching staff.

The current Town team is a mixture of local boys, from League and Union, overseas men, and recent signings such as O'Loughlin, Alan McMullen from Carlisle and Russell Henney from Salford. Both O'Loughlin and Henney have returned to their former club, Keiron, deciding once more to make the twice-weekly trip up the M6 from west Lancashire after leaving the club eight years ago to join Widnes.

The Australians in the squad are both forwards — prop Mick Matthe and loose-forward Greg Brake, a player who arrived on the West Cumbrian coast from Australia's Gold Coast (Runaway Bay), as a winger, but has made the successful transition to No. 13.

Matthe is also from Runaway Bay and it appears that both these boys have settled in well up there in Cumbria, although they must have found something of a difference between the Gold Coast and the Cumbrian coast!

The Derwent Park faithful are still there, too, and one thinks of players like Dave Lowden, Keith Tubman, David Beck, Mark Mawson, Neil Rooney, Paul Penrice, John Newell, Colin Falcon and Gary Nixon. Scrum-half Glen Burgess, a former Aspatria RU and Clifton RL player, has made the No. 7 shirt his own this season and a big future is expected from him.

Last time Town played here in the Challenge Cup, in the early 1980s, they pulled off a shock victory at a time when they were bottom of the First Division and Oldham were half-way up and going well. They will be out to pull off a similar surprise today and it will be up to Oldham to ensure that the match goes true to form.

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Flashback . . .

1989/90 Oldham 40, Workington Town 8



The current season opened with a keenly-contested encounter against Workington, today's Challenge Cup opponents, with Oldham winning 40-8. Tries by John Henderson (2), John Cogger (2), Charlie McAlister, Paul Lord, Richard Russell and Andy Ruane put Oldham in command while Duncan Platt kicked four goals.

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Spotlight on . . . **DES FOY**

DES FOY, Oldham's quicksilver centre who emigrated to Australia mid-way through last season, is back with a vengeance.

And to prove it, Des, unquestionably one of the game's most lethal finishers, scored a remarkable five tries in the recent League match against Hunslet when Oldham ran out convincing 48-10 winners.

Des and his family had moved down under so the 26-year-old could put his precious finishing skills to the ultimate test in the defensive world of Australian Rugby League. Unfortunately, the move didn't live up to expectations.

Said Des: "The move seemed like every rugby player's dream come true. But although the location was more exotic than Oldham, the style of rugby I was playing and the attitudes of the players could never compare with Watersheddings in any way. There was absolutely no comparison!"

To make matters worse, Des damaged his knee playing for Newcastle in the Sydney League.

"Things just seemed to go from bad to worse and very little turned out the way I'd expected," he says. So when Oldham — out of the blue — gave him the chance to return and rejoin the club he first signed for in 1982, he jumped at the chance.

Des, who toured Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea with the 1984 GB tourists, was happy to return home, even though he was injured.

"There's nothing more frustrating than being laid up with an injury," says Des. "But now that injury is behind me I can concentrate fully on my goal to establish myself again at Oldham and give the game I love everything I've got!"

Five tries in the Hunslet match was just reward for the effort Des has put into his game since his return, epitomised by the long hours spent in Oldham's gym, and the teamwork that has helped Oldham mount a serious challenge for the Second Division title.



Of the five-try match, he says modestly: "I was in the right place at the right time and got great service from the other players — the credit shouldn't go to me alone!"

This willingness to praise others has earned Des the reputation of a true sportsman.

Des, who started his career with Widnes, is now in his seventh season at Oldham and is more dedicated to his career than ever before. He has the loyal support on and off the field of his wife, Patricia, and children, Michael, 6, Declan, 5, and one-year-old Sinead. His dad Derek, Watersheddings' track attendant, is also always on hand to give him a helping hand when it comes to training and advice about the game.

Says Des: "Now I'm a bit older I think I've got a different approach. I'm now in it purely for the game itself and not only for the socialising. The social side of the game is great fun, but it can also take away the real reason for playing for a team.

"That's why discipline is vital to a rugby team. It's easy to let little things slide that will let the team — and their supporters — down. At Oldham I think we've got it right!"

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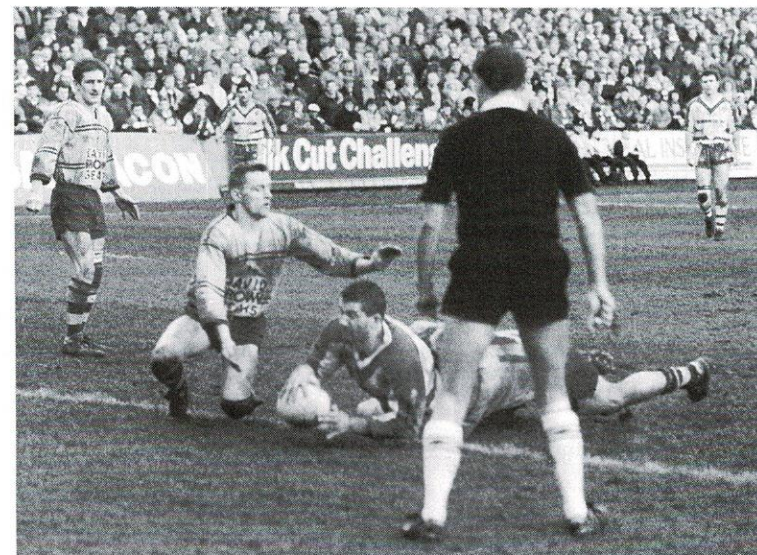
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Action Replay... ACTION FROM OUR RECENT FIXTURES



So close but so far — Brett Clark is judged not to have touched down during the promotion battle against Hull KR. Not that it mattered, Oldham won 9-6, becoming the first side to beat Hull KR at their new ground.



Ain't no stopping me now — Shaun Allen crashes over against Huddersfield in the preliminary round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup to set up a 30-8 victory for Oldham and today's clash with Workington.

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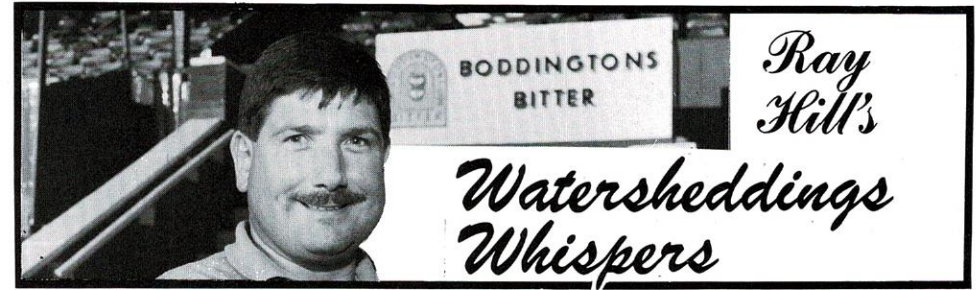
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WHAT a night! Last week's Players' Party, held at the Sheddings nightclub after the 44-6 victory over Chorley, was definitely a night to remember. A superb buffet, top comedy from the incredibly funny Venn Tracey and rock 'n roll at its most raunchiest from powerhouse band Morgan's Every Which Way proved to be an unbeatable combination, especially as Tom Waite compered the evening so well. I'll certainly treasure my memories — now the hangover has gone!

One of the highlights of the evening was the Shareholders Draw. The £500 first prize went to D. Dransfield, with R. Ogden collecting £250 for coming second and I. M. Willans who received £100. There are several other prizes waiting to be won if the owners of the following ticket numbers would like to claim them. The numbers are: 08011, 05620, 59052, 14305, 60066, 38463, 61456.

Not everybody was happy unfortunately. A group of fans found themselves locked out of the social club as they hadn't been warned in advance that it would be closed for the party. I hold my hand up now and apologise to all concerned for not notifying people properly about the arrangements. I'll make it up to them next time they catch me at the bar!

We've another great event planned for Wednesday 14th February, when the Sheddings nightclub is transformed into a thirties Chicago speakeasy for our very own St. Valentine's Day Massacre disco and casino night.

The disco and casino night gives you the chance to make a real killing at blackjack and roulette. But don't worry — although the theme is prohibition, you'll be pleased to hear there will be plenty of Boddingtons bitter flowing!

Fancy-dress is a must, as the best-dressed gangster and his moll will be taking away a case of Boddingtons bitter. Find those dusty old violin cases today.

Tickets for this fun-packed occasion are a mere £10 — you can buy them from the souvenir shop or the social club. A great night is guaranteed, but remember — tickets will be in great demand, so hurry and get your tickets now so you won't be disappointed.

Also available from the Souvenir Shop is a wide selection of items that offer you great value for money. You can take your pick from a remarkable range of popular souvenirs like a colourful replica Oldham shirt, complete with Boddingtons lettering, for an unbeatable £29.99, or a leather rugby ball signed by your favourite Oldham players for only £10.50. For those who want something slightly more unusual, there are innovative gifts like an official toothbrush-holder or desk tidy!

As you know, we're always looking to increase the range and quality of our souvenirs to give our fans and friends an even wider choice than ever. That's why we're planning on stocking up with lots more new and exciting Oldham mementos such as bath towels, furry gloves and calendars, with top class photography courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle, in the very near future.

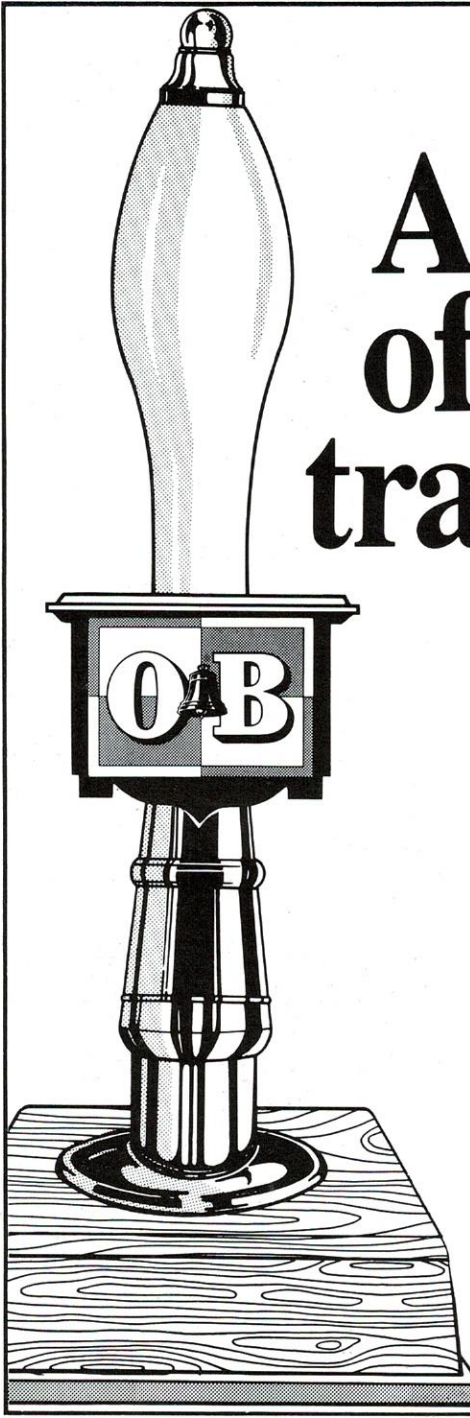
There's plenty of time to buy your souvenirs as the shop is open from 9.00-5.00 on Monday to Friday, Saturday morning 9.00-11.30 and 12.30-5.00 on Second Division match days.

And finally there's still the opportunity to take advantage of yet another great Oldham RLFC offer. You can book two trips abroad to watch top-class international Rugby League via the club. There's the trip to Avignon to watch the France-Great Britain match in March, and down-under for a fortnight for 3 internationals against Papua New Guinea and the first New Zealand Test.

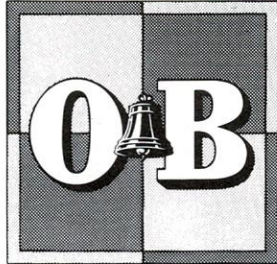
The costs for the excursions are £249 and £2,499 respectively, which you'll agree are both great value for money. And to make things even easier for you, we've arranged for these trips to be booked directly through ourselves. So why not give us a call on 061-620 4870 to find out more and treat yourself to the trip of a lifetime?

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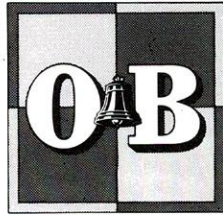
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BODDIES TO REWARD OLDHAM'S STARS OF TOMORROW

BODDINGTONS has launched a new award to find Oldham's young player of the year.

The club's official sponsor, who already donates two major awards, is introducing a third to give fans the chance to thank the youngsters at Watersheddings.

The fans' choice, who must be under 21, will receive a handsome trophy and a £150 cheque before the final match of the season against Rochdale.

Votes for the new award can be cast at the same time as fans choose their senior player of the year. Voting forms will be appearing in the programmes for the home games against Huddersfield (March 4) and Runcorn (March 18). After that date, they can be picked up from the club's Souvenir Shop.

OB CUSTOMERS BEHIND HOSPICE APPEAL

THOUSANDS of customers at OB pubs in the Oldham area are joining forces over the next 12 months to raise cash for the Oldham Hospice Appeal.

Their aim is to run numerous charity events at OB locals to help boost funds for the hospice, which needs to generate £250,000 every year to survive.

The charity push had the perfect start when Boddingtons and the Boddington Pub Company donated £500 to the OB/Dr. Kershaw Hospice Appeal at the Colliers Arms, Chadderton.

Says Boddington Pub Company Operations Manager Ken Lupton: "The vast majority of our OB pubs will be running at least one event over the coming months, so you will all get the opportunity to contribute to this extremely worthy cause — and have a lot of fun at the same time."



Seen here presenting a £500 cheque to Mr. Hira (second left), the inspiration behind the appeal, is Ken Lupton (far left) and Colliers Arms licensees Ron and Sheila Willans.

TOP OF THE POPS AT THE PEELS ARMS

AFTER 20 years in the pop business, John Dooley, singer and guitarist with early 80s pop sensation The Dooleys, is looking forward for another hit — as landlord of the Peels Arms, Springhead.

John has retired from the world of pop to concentrate on pulling pints of bitter for regulars at the OB local and is looking forward to the change of career.

"We couldn't have chosen a better pub — or area — to start our new career. It's what I've always wanted after a life on the road."



John is seen here outside the new pub with partner Sue and a few of the gold discs earned for such smash hits as "The Chosen Few" and the top-three number "Wanted."

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STEVE ROBINSON	- 2	- PAUL GORGE	
DES FOY	- 3	- PAUL PENRICE	
JOHN HENDERSON	- 4	- KEIRON O'LOUGHLIN	
PAUL LORD	- 5	- JOHN BEATTIE	
BRETT CLARK	- 6	- WAYNE KITCHIN	
MIKE FORD	- 7	- GLEN BURGESS	
LEO CASEY	- 8	- MICK MATTCHE	
RICHARD RUSSELL	- 9	- PETER RILEY	
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	- 10	- GRAHAM PHILLIPS	
SHAUN ALLEN	- 11	- ALAN McMULLEN	
KEITH NEWTON	- 12	- RUSSELL HENNEY	
JOHN COGGER	- 13	- GREG BRAKE	
RICHARD IRVING	- 14	- TBA	
KEITH ATKINSON	- 15	- TBA	

Referee: Mr. B. Simpson (Croft, Cheshire). Touch Judges: Mr. W. Brown (Red Flag). Mr. R. Carter (Orange Flag)

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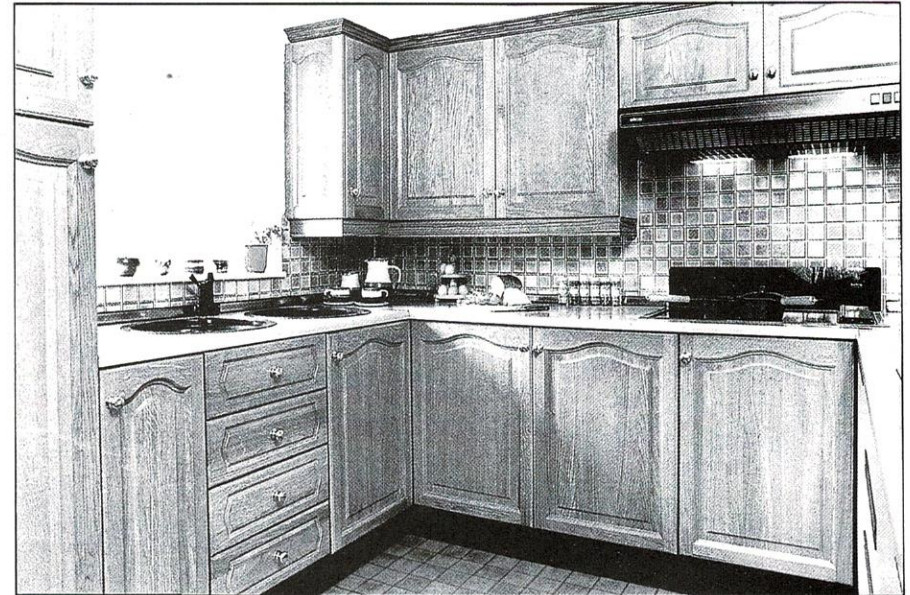
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16	17	18	19	20

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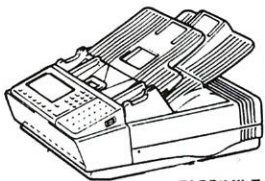
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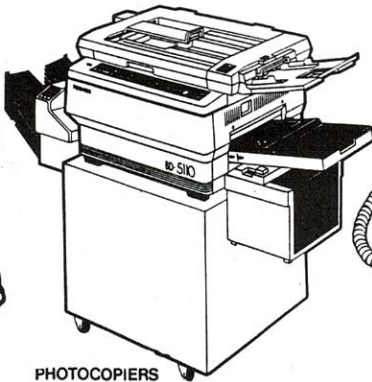
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Fixtures and Statistics

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	Halifax	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	Halifax	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	4	L	18-32	Fairbank, Cogger (2), Lord	McAlister	7,752
26	Rochdale H	A	3.00	4	L	24-12	McAlister, Lord	McAlister	8,150
Jan 1	Swinton	H	3.00	3	W	29-14	Ford, Lord (2), Cogger, Russell	Platt (4), Ford (dg)	4,954
7	Hunslet	H	3.00	3	W	48-10	Foy (5), Cogger (3), Fairbank	Platt (6)	3,644
14	Huddersfield (SCCC)	H	3.00		W	30-8	Clark, Allen, Newton, Cogger, Fairbank	Platt (5)	4,593
17	Hull KR	A	7.30	3	W	9-6	Irving	Platt (2), Platt (dg)	6,530
21	Chorley	A	3.00	3	W	44-6	Irving (3), Foy (2), Cogger (2), Newton	Platt (6)	2,851
28	Workington (SCCC)	H	3.00						
Feb 4	Fulham	H	3.00						
11	Challenge Cup 2nd Rnd								
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)

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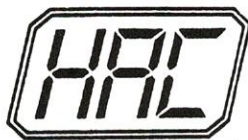
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Appearances and Scorers

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	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen.....	19	1	0	0	4	16
Keith Atkinson.....	3	6	0	0	0	0
Mick Bardsley.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Bates.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey.....	15	0	0	0	2	8
Brett Clark.....	20	1	0	0	7	28
Neil Clawson.....	4	1	0	0	2	8
John Cogger.....	23	0	0	0	20	80
Trevor Croston.....	4	4	0	0	2	8
John Fairbank.....	13	8	0	0	6	24
John Fieldhouse.....	21	0	0	0	3	12
Neil Flanagan.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford.....	23	0	0	2	6	26
Des Foy.....	6	0	0	0	7	28
John Henderson.....	6	2	0	0	2	8
Gary Hyde.....	14	1	21	0	4	58
Richard Irving.....	16	1	0	0	8	32
Paul Lord.....	22	0	0	0	14	56
Charlie McAlister.....	13	4	16	0	5	52
Tommy Martyn.....	1	1	3	0	1	10
Keith Meadows.....	6	5	0	0	6	20
Keith Newton.....	16	0	0	0	4	16
Duncan Platt.....	14	0	59	1	4	135
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.....	19	4	0	0	4	16

Up to and including Chorley match

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale.....	17	8	0	1	375	127	7	0	1	244	133	30
Hull KR.....	16	7	0	1	290	43	7	0	1	298	66	28
OLDHAM	16	8	0	0	245	85	6	0	2	205	104	28
Rydale York.....	18	6	0	1	184	66	7	1	3	207	159	27
Swinton.....	18	6	0	2	222	106	7	0	3	211	161	26
Halifax.....	16	7	0	1	193	95	4	0	4	197	134	22
Doncaster.....	17	5	2	3	194	125	5	0	2	160	76	22
Batley.....	18	6	0	3	165	108	5	0	4	147	126	22
Dewsbury.....	17	7	0	2	186	111	4	0	4	136	184	22
Huddersfield.....	17	5	0	4	145	116	5	0	3	146	122	20
Trafford.....	18	6	0	4	201	167	4	0	4	154	146	20
Fulham.....	17	5	0	4	147	173	4	1	3	87	133	19
Bramley.....	18	4	0	5	137	181	4	0	5	131	187	16
Whitehaven.....	18	4	0	5	152	184	2	0	7	125	196	12
Chorley.....	17	4	0	5	139	170	2	0	6	88	202	12
Hunslet.....	19	3	0	7	169	207	2	0	7	106	157	10
Keighley.....	17	3	0	5	170	231	2	0	7	141	207	10
Carlisle.....	18	3	0	5	161	165	1	0	9	144	303	8
Workington.....	17	1	0	7	89	218	2	0	7	101	275	6
Nottingham.....	17	1	0	7	96	315	1	0	8	98	270	4
Runcorn.....	18	0	0	9	80	215	0	0	9	82	399	0

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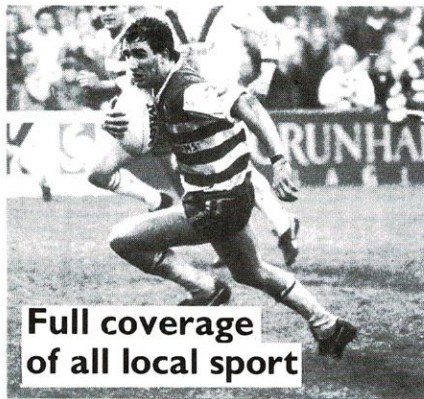


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'A' Team Round-Up

Slalom Lager Alliance League

	FIRST DIVISION							Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A		
Hull KR	16	12	0	4	344	194	24	
Leeds	16	11	1	4	422	227	23	
Hull	16	11	1	4	350	211	23	
Wigan	15	11	0	4	425	239	22	
Castleford	14	11	0	3	406	238	22	
Halifax	17	10	0	7	358	329	20	
St Helens	14	9	0	5	344	281	18	
Warrington W	16	9	0	7	363	336	18	
Swinton C	16	7	0	9	247	436	14	
OLDHAM	17	5	1	11	282	311	11	
Featherstone R	16	5	0	11	337	380	10	
Widnes	15	5	0	10	224	445	10	
Salford	16	4	1	11	354	349	9	
Carlisle	14	3	0	11	246	485	6	
Hunslet	16	2	0	14	181	422	4	

'A' Team Player Profile...

JOHN MAXWELL

Oldham signed 20-year-old John Maxwell from the Leigh Miners open-age team earlier this season. John, who at 6ft. 4in. and 14-stone has a big future in the game, was a member of the BARLA tourists who visited Australia last season, alongside several other Oldham youngsters. A versatile player, he performs equally well as a forward or a back.

'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	
Oct 6	Salford A (LCCS)	A	L	0-6	
12	Halifax	A	L	10-22	
27	Hull	A	L	6-20	
Nov 3	Widnes	H	L	10-14	
10	Wigan	H	L	16-20	
17	Hull	H	D	16-16	
24	Leeds	A	L	16-28	
Dec 1	Warrington	H	W	36-12	
8	St. Helens	H	W	20-18	
22	Featherstone	H	W	28-26	
29	Swinton	A	L	20-23	
Jan 5	Hunslet	A	W	32-0	
12	Hull KR	H	L	6-12	
19	Warrington	A	L	12-18	
Feb 3	SACC 1st Round				
9	Castleford	A			
17	SACC 2nd Round				
23	Wigan	H			
Mar 2	Featherstone	A			
16	Leeds	H			
23	Salford A	A			
30	Hunslet	H			
Apr 7	Carlisle	A			
13	Swinton	H			
20	Widnes	A			

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Terrace Talk

TODAY'S first round proper of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup has thrown up its usual array of fascinating fixtures. Teams have the chance to forget what's happening in the league and concentrate on trying to reach the famous twin towers of Wembley. The Challenge Cup final is unquestionably Rugby League's biggest day of the season, and the desire to get there is as great as ever.

Wembley is where Oldham's Aussie skipper John Cogger wants to play this season. He said at the start of the campaign when the club visited Boddingtons' Strangeways Brewery: "We're out to repeat the championship-premiership double of two years ago and become the first team outside of the First Division to go to Wembley."

With First Division Yorkshire giants Leeds and Castleford already out of the competition, John's dream could, with a bit of luck, soon become a reality.

But first Cogger, who incidentally, is joint third-highest try-scorer with former Oldham favourite Andy Goodway, and the rest of the Water-sheddings lads have to overcome Workington. Oldham start as overwhelming favourites, although it is well worth remembering that the last time the two clubs met in this competition there was a major upset. Oldham lost to Workington 5-8.

Oldham's fellow promotion rivals, Halifax and Hull KR, have harder tasks.

Halifax, who performed so well in the Regal Trophy, are away to First Division Hull. The Yorkshiremen may be facing an uphill battle to get back in the First Division at the first attempt, but they are still a dangerous side in sudden-death competitions, as Hull may find out to their cost.

Hull KR have the onerous task of facing current Cup-holders Wigan. The two have met five times before — three of them were semi-finals — with Wigan winning four compared to Hull KR's single historic victory in 1980 when they won 18-13. Hull

KR, who had not lost at their new ground before Oldham's recent visit, could be looking at another loss today.

Wigan, despite last week's unexpected setback against Hull KR's neighbours, are in top form and are seeking to become the first side to win the RL Challenge Cup in three successive seasons. If they win, they will create a new record of final wins (they currently share that achievement with Leeds with ten each) so they will have every motivation and will take some stopping!

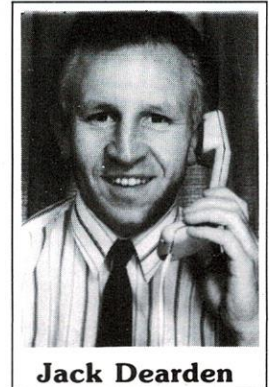
Local rivals Rochdale Hornets face Carlisle at home and must be favourites to win. The clubs have only met once before in the cup. That was in 1987 when Carlisle won a replay 30-22. A similar result would create one of the shocks of the round.

Swinton, currently lying in fifth place in the Second Division, take on Wakefield at home. Wakefield are more than holding their own in the First Division and should prove to be too strong for their opponents. But you never know — that's what makes Rugby League such a fascinating game.

Finally, one for the romantics amongst you. Runcorn Highfield recently completed a year of defeats when they lost in the last few minutes to Ryedale-York.

The 24-27 defeat was their 30th in succession and the 41st game they have gone without a win. Now the Merseyside club face mighty Bradford — a win for the perennial strugglers would definitely be a turn-up for the books!

Enjoy your rugby!



Jack Dearden

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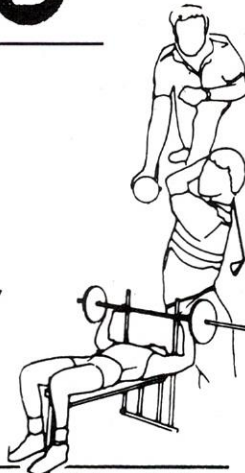
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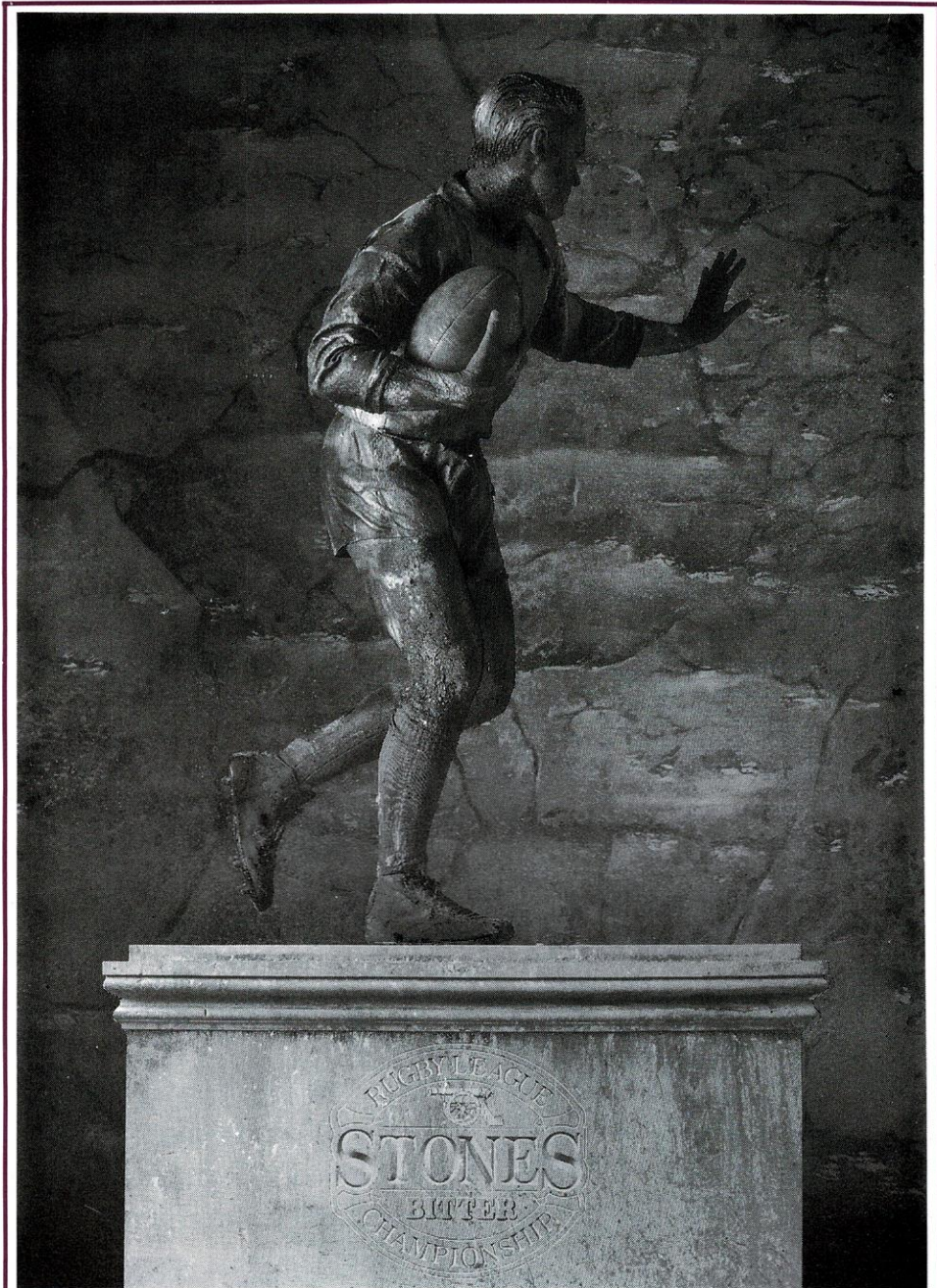


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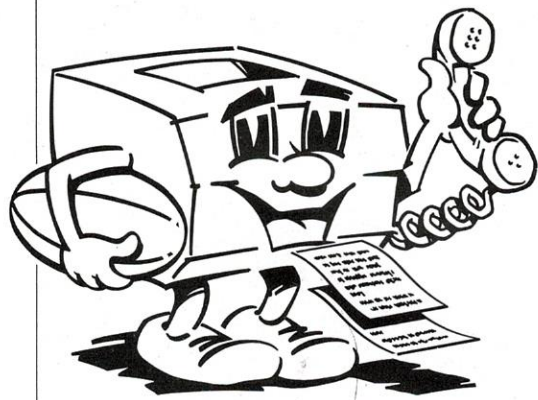
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