

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM		FULHAM	
DUNCAN PLATT	1	KEIRON MURPHY	
RICHARD IRVING	2	MICK TAYLOR	
DES FOY	3	RED McCABE	
JOHN HENDERSON	4	TIM LOOK	
PAUL LORD	5	STEVE GUYATT	
BRETT CLARK	6	BRETT DAUNT	
MIKE FORD	7	WAYNE SANCHEZ	
LEO CASEY	8	ANDY ZILLMAN	
RICHARD RUSSELL	9	RUSS BRIDGE	
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	10	NOEL KEATING	
KEITH NEWTON	11	IAN MELLORS	
SHAUN ALLEN	12	CONRAD SCOTT	
JOHN COGGER	13	DAVE GILLAN	
KEITH ATKINSON	14	TBA	
JOHN FAIRBANK	15	TBA	

Referee: Mr. J. E. Smith (Halifax). Touch Judges: Mr. J. W. Mean (Red Flag), Mr. R. M. Moseley (Orange Flag)

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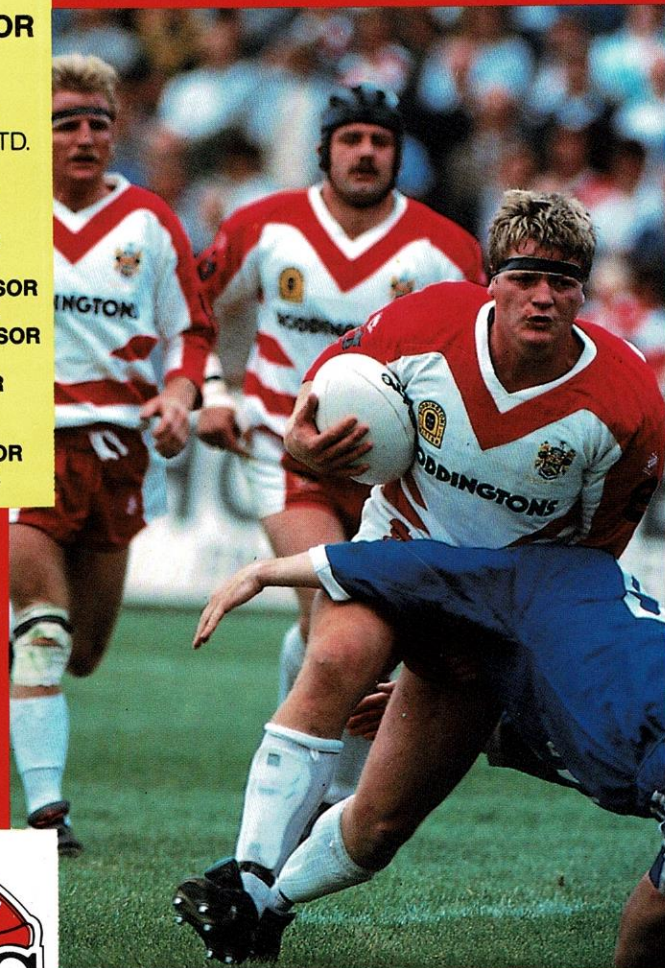
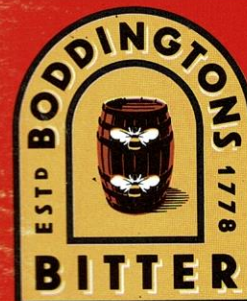
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R. Pachniuk, S. Patterson, D. Platt,
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CLUB RECORDS

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,
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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

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Championship Play-off Winners:**
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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

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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

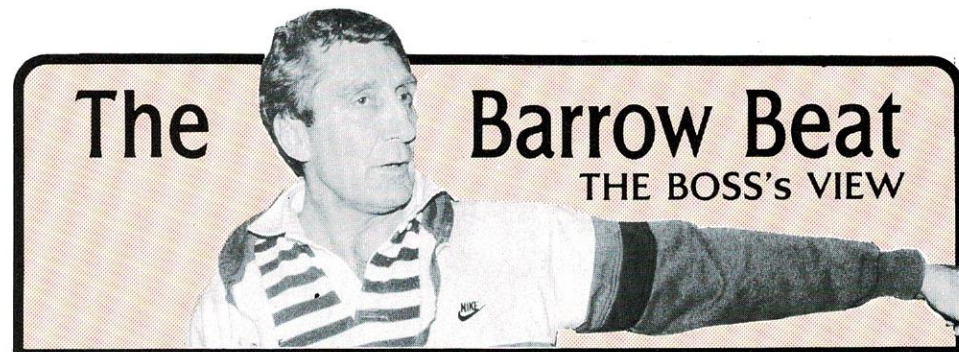
Cotts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88

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The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW



I wonder sometimes where some newspapers get their material from. A case in point was a story that appeared in one national paper a few days ago, suggesting that there might be something in an Oldham move for Ray Ashton.

It appears that Leeds had cut Ray's fee from £25,000 to £20,000 to help him find another club and it was reported that the player would fancy a return move to Watersheddings.

Well, let me put the record straight once and for all. I never have shown interest in Ray and I never will.

I have nothing against the lad, but I happen to believe that I already have the best scrum-half in the country in Mike Ford.

Mike has been producing some terrific stuff recently and he had an excellent game in top company at Hull KR where he played Welshman David Bishop off the park. A lot of people have been pressing Bishop's claims for international recognition, but in heavy, windy conditions far more suited to Bishop's style than Ford's, my man showed him what intelligent, creative scrum-half play is all about.

The way he is playing at present, Mike must surely be making the selectors sit up and take note and that brings me to another point: the decision to take the first Test against Australia next autumn to Wembley Stadium.

Personally, I think the decision is off the mark. I am well aware that the Fulham contingent — here today — will think otherwise and I can well understand their point of view.

But is the time ripe for taking such a prestige match to London? What sort of a

gate will it attract compared with the 50,000-plus crowd that watched the Kangaroos in the first Test on the last tour at Old Trafford, Manchester?

I would love to be proved wrong, but I think a lot of supporters here in the North will think twice about making the long trek to Wembley for a match that will be televised. We have a lot of games and a lot of competitions and there is a lot of expense involved for the regular fans, especially those with families.

The decision to play on a Saturday, rather than a Sunday, will make it even more difficult to get a big crowd into Wembley and I think officials will have to rely heavily on attracting supporters from London, the southern counties and possibly South Wales.

At best there will have to be a massive marketing campaign and it will be interesting to see how the London newspapers cover the event with pre-match features etc.

The powers-that-be obviously think there is sufficient interest outside the traditional League areas of the North to make the venture worthwhile.

Certainly, there is no finer attraction for the committed League fan that the first Test against the Aussies . . . especially now that we have a realistic chance of building on our third Test victory in Sydney in 1988 and our series win against New Zealand earlier this season.

I have no doubt that Old Trafford would be packed to the rafters. Wembley? I hope for the best, but fear the worst. Let's hope for everyone's sake that the game's marketing and promotional men have got it right.

TONY BARROW

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TODAY'S

VISITORS

Welcome to Fulham

TODAY we welcome the officials, coaching staff and players of Fulham, who have made the long journey from London to make their first appearance at Watersheddings since they were here in a John Player Trophy preliminary round tie in November, 1987.

Having taken 19 points from their 17 Second Division games to date, the Londoners are well pleased with their efforts this season and are currently anxious to pick up more points in their quest to qualify for the top-eight Premiership play-off.

Travelling up the M6 and the M1 is nothing fresh for the Fulham boys these days because, unlike the club's early days, all the playing staff are London-based and the club has close connections with the London amateur game and the capital's District Development Officers.

Indeed, during the week of our first visit to the Chiswick Polytechnic stadium in November, where we won 40-10, Rugby League officials had spent several days in London carrying out a feasibility study on the prospects of expansion in the capital.

It was performed with the fullest backing and co-operation of the Fulham club and its Australian coach Ross Strudwick, who believes London is ripe for the sort of promotion and expansion which enabled the Sydney League to spread north to Brisbane and the Gold Coast and south to Canberra a season or two ago.

Now comes news of the decision to play the first Test between Great Britain and Australia next autumn at Wembley, and Strudwick, the former Halifax coach, describes that major decision as "fantastic news" for the furtherance of the game in the South.

"It will give the Londoners a game they can relate to," says Ross, "and the benefits should rub off on the Fulham club. There are a lot of people down here and there is a lot of money knocking about. But it is no good playing one Test and then forgetting it. We want more big games to spread the gospel, even if venues other than Wembley have to be found."

Commenting on his club's performances this season, he added: "We could do with a bit more strength, but we have done well with what we have. Take away teams like Hull KR, Halifax, Rochdale and Oldham, and we have nothing to fear in the Second Division, as we proved when we beat Doncaster in the Challenge Cup to earn a home tie with York."

"We have brought through about five amateur lads from the London area this year. We have to build on that, although there are difficulties because so many of the players in the London amateur clubs are Australian or New Zealanders."

There are several overseas men in the Fulham side, too, but two of them will be missing today — big prop Eric Kennedy, an Aussie who is currently out of action with a swollen mouth, and former Oldham favourite Hussein M'Barki, who has only just completed an eight-match ban and is not likely to be considered for a return to Watersheddings.

Another Oldham man, winger Mike Taylor, is now at Fulham, having travelled to London via Halifax, and there will be a warm welcome for him today.

The half-backs are both Aussies — stand-off Brett Daunt and scrum-half Wayne Sanchez — and there are two Kiwis in the side in centre Red McCabe and loose-forward Dave Gillan, who has been resident in the UK for nearly ten years.

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Flashback . . .

1987/88

Oldham 36, Fulham 8



Over 3,000 fans watched this JPS trophy preliminary round which saw Oldham come out on top 36-8. Tries by Round (2), Sanderson, Walsh, McCarthy and Hawkyard plus six goals from Walsh were too much for the London-based side. Here, Paul Round is captured in full flight touching down.

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A BROKEN back would be enough to put most people off playing rugby for good — unless that person's name happens to be Keith Atkinson. He broke his and made a remarkable come-back.

Even when he dislocated his spine eight months later and had to have a disc removed, Keith refused to give up. Friends, relatives and doctors encouraged him to hang up his boots but their words only made him more determined to play again.

"The only time I questioned not continuing my career was a couple of weeks after the operation. When I got over the paralysis nothing could stop me from playing the game I love," commented Keith, 25, who began his rugby career at seven, playing for the GB Colts, before signing for Oldham in 1983.

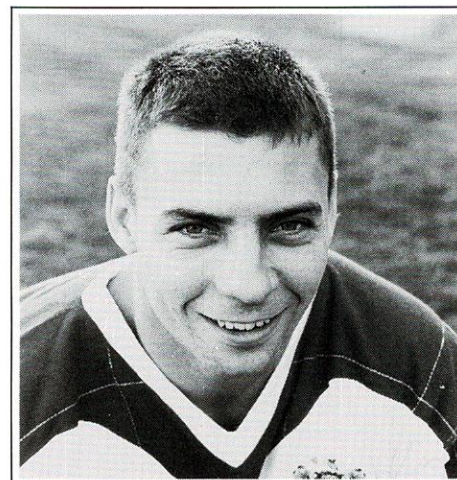
A former full-back now happily at home amongst the forwards, Keith suffered his tragic injury in April 1988, scoring the winning try against Wakefield which clinched Oldham's return to the First Division.

With most people writing off his career, Keith found an ally in coach Tony Barrow, who encouraged him to return, which he duly did a couple of months ago.

Since then he has been in impressive form, making 10 consecutive First Team appearances, including the remarkable away victory against fellow promotion rivals Hull Kingston Rovers.

Says Keith: "There are always high and low spots for any player, but I don't think I've ever played as well as I did against Hull. I've never felt such spirit or unity as a team — it was a fantastic occasion."

Now Keith is planning for next season: "I'm really looking forward to getting down to some intensive training. I want to make the most of all the time I've got so I'll be concentrating on body-building and working on my speed to make sure I will really be on top form for September."



The driving forces motivating Keith are coach Tony Barrow and conditioner Ossie Rowe. "I owe a lot to the pair of them. They are completely truthful. They'll tell you if you're not working hard enough but at the same time they are just as quick to give you the praise you deserve," he says.

Keith's ambition is to maintain his first team position and return to Australia, where he had a successful spell with Canterbury in the close season in 1985.

Travelling the world is second nature to Keith, who was born in Dusseldorf, Germany. His RAF father took him across the globe but now Keith is much nearer home — he lives a mere 200 yards from Watersheddings with his wife, Nova, 24, and seven-month-old baby daughter Sally Anne.

"Life couldn't be more enjoyable. I'm hoping to give up my HGV driving job to buy a newsagents so I can really dedicate myself to the game," says Keith, who is back on the road helping Oldham motor into the First Division where they belong!

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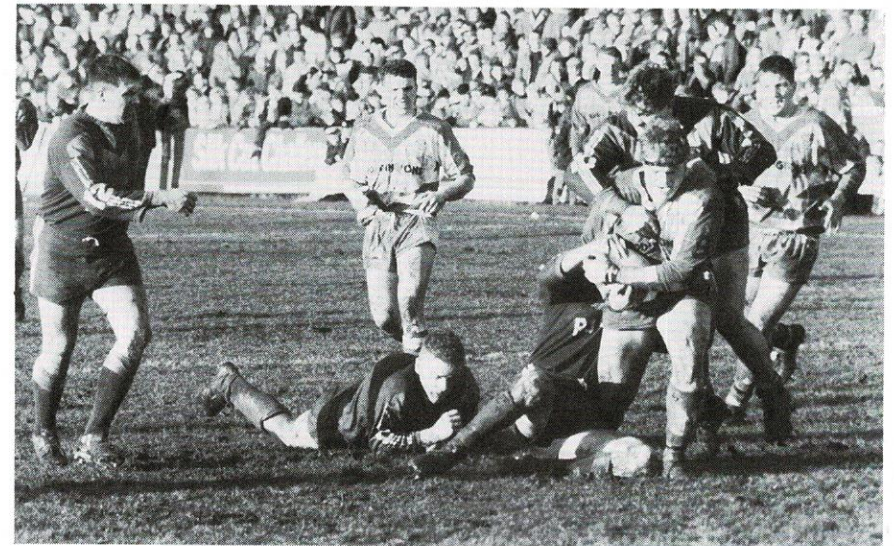
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John Henderson scores the first of three tries against Workington in the 30-8 Silk Cut Challenge Cup victory. Now the speedy centre needs two more for a career century of touchdowns.



Man of the Match Leo Casey embarks on another powerhouse run against Workington.

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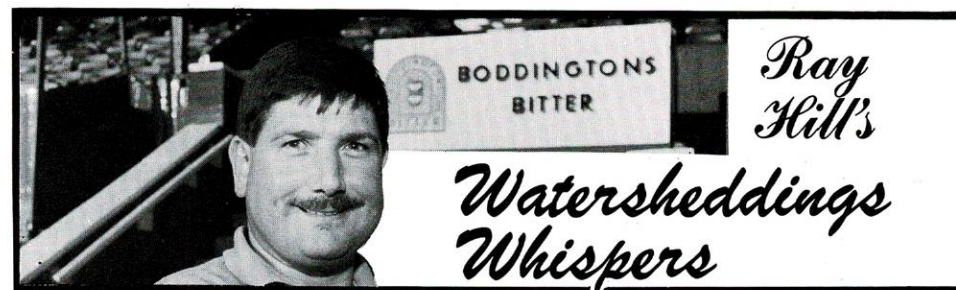


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WHO wants to be a millionaire?

Before you all shout I do, you'll get the chance next Wednesday week — 14 February — when our Sheddings nightclub will be transformed into a thirties Chicago speakeasy for the fabulous St. Valentine's Day Massacre disco and casino night.

The disco and casino night promises to be a really memorable night, especially as we have laid on an excellent mouthwatering buffet.

As soon as you walk through the door, you'll be handed a fistful of gambling chips to play on our roulette and blackjack tables. This will be your chance to make a real killing.

Who knows, by the end of the evening you could be a millionaire — just for one day.

To make the evening even more fun, we want everyone to turn up in fancy dress. The best dressed gangster and moll will walk away with a case of Boddingtons so make sure that you look the part.

All in all, I think it is going to be a great evening so make sure you don't miss out on all the fun. Tickets only cost £10 — the price includes your gambling chips — and can be obtained from the Souvenir Shop or the Social Club.

The Valentine's Day Massacre disco and casino night is just one of the ways that the Oldham RLFC tries to involve you in the club — after all your support is essential to the health of Rugby League at Watersheddings.

There are numerous other means as well, like the weekly £1,000 Lifeline and daily £100 Cashline draws.

In addition there's a whole range of exciting souvenirs on offer which are guaranteed to give you unbeatable value for money.

And to give you even more choice, we are constantly looking at new items to add to existing souvenirs like the replica shirts and signed balls.

New and exciting mementos include bath towels, furry gloves and calendars, featuring some excellent photography from the top class photographers at the Oldham Evening Chronicle who also provide the excellent action pictures featured in your match day programme.

The Oldham Evening Chronicle's photographers have also taken the pictures of the players for our Free Photographic offer. We have now published 12 vouchers (you only need to collect five to collect a free picture of your favourite Oldham RLFC star) and plenty of you have been taking advantage of this great offer.

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

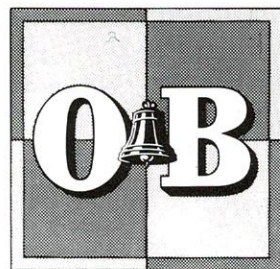
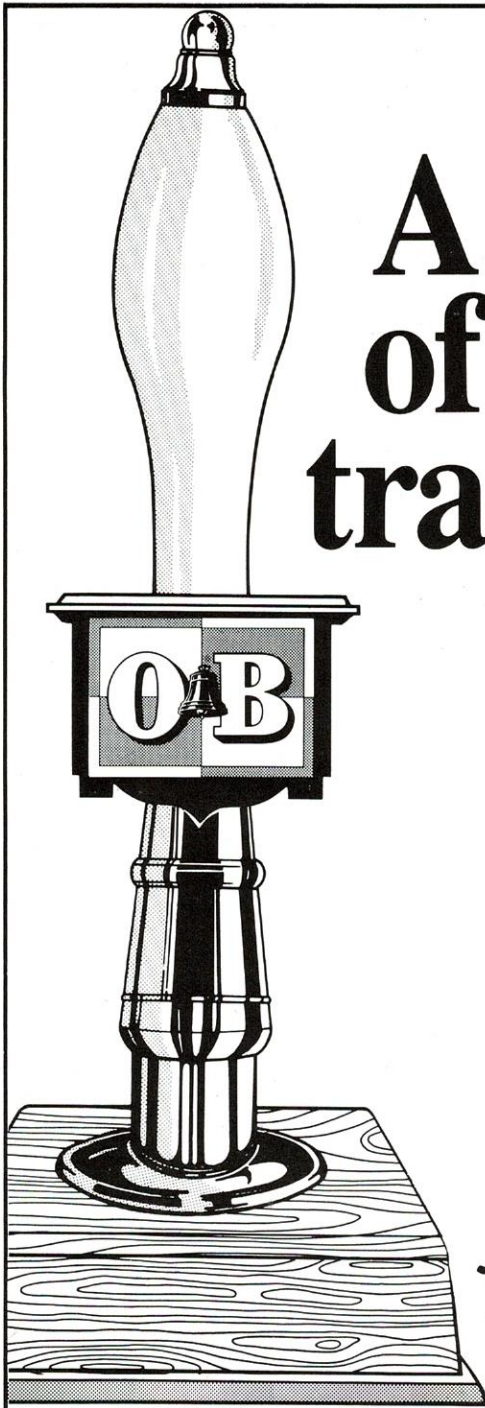
Brett Clark has a bet with club official Mo Chdoui that he will outscore fellow Aussie John Cogger. At the moment the stand off has a lot of catching up to do but he's confident. Can you do I asked him recently? 'You brett!' he joked.

Finally, on a more serious note. A small minority of car park users have been verbally abusive to our car park attendants on match days. This is definitely out of order. The stewards are there for all our benefits to assist with the parking of cars and to provide adequate space for everyone to park comfortably. They do a grand job and can do without impatient drivers being rude. I trust this is the last time I have to mention the subject!

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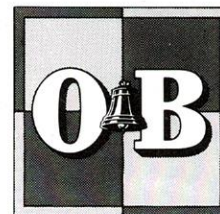
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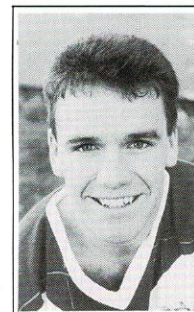
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MIKE FORD RETAINS AWARD



*Mike Ford —
will receive his
second consecutive
Player of the Month
award today.*



Oldham scrum-half Mike Ford has won the Evening Chronicle OB Player of the Month award for the second consecutive month, making it a hat trick of wins since the award was introduced last season.

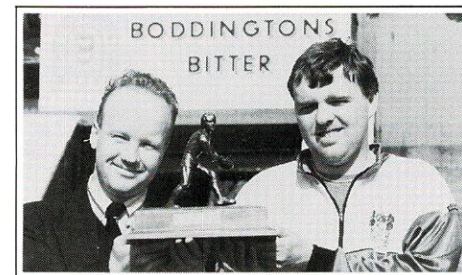
Mike wins the January award with this accolade from judge and Oldham Evening Chronicle's Rugby League writer Roger Halstead: "Mike Ford is running into an exceptional spell of form. He is consistently constructive and was simply outstanding in the crucial Second Division win against promotion contenders Hull KR when he totally outplayed their dangerman David Bishop."

Mike, who has only missed one game this season, will be presented with an inscribed medal, a £100 cheque and a case of Boddingtons before today's match.

BODDINGTONS HAT-TRICK OF AWARDS

Mike Ford is a strong contender for the Boddingtons-sponsored OB Player of the Year but who wins this prestigious award depends upon how you cast your votes.

Voting forms will be available in the Huddersfield (March 4) and Runcorn (March 18) programmes.



*Last year it was Mark Holmes (right).
Who will be the Supporter of the Year this season?
You decide!*

As well as the OB Player of the Year, you can vote for two more major awards on the same voting coupon.

First, there is the Young Player of the Year. This new award give fans the chance to thank the youngsters at Watersheddings. Your choice, who must be under 21, will receive a handsome trophy and a cheque for £150 before the final match of the season against fellow promotion rivals Rochdale.

Also receiving a trophy before the match is the Oldham Rugby Supporter of the Year.

Last year this award was won by Mark Holmes, who won a striking trophy, replica kit and a pair of season tickets. You can nominate your Supporter of the Year on the Player of the Year coupons.

THIRTY FIVE NOT OUT!

Renee Pearson celebrated 35 years behind the bar at the Carters Arms, Oldham, in style when she was presented with a gold watch by Boddington Pub Company Operations Director Mike Clayton.



The OB landlady, (above) who runs the pub with her son David, is looking forward to many more years at the Boddington local.

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NEXT HOME GAME

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th
v **CHORLEY**

(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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PENALTIES				
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SCRUMS				
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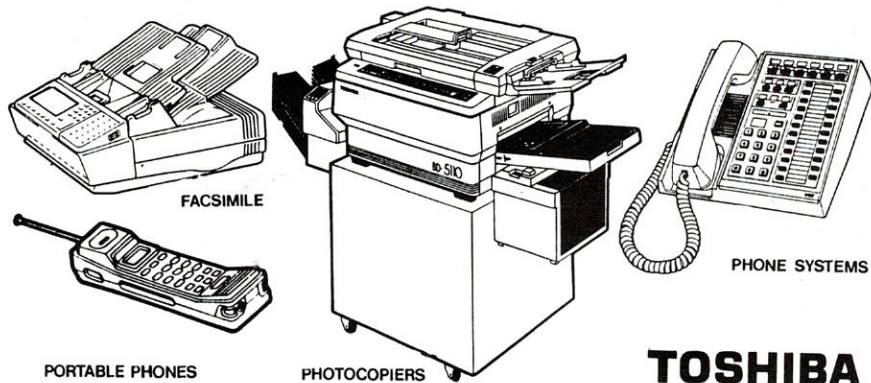
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Fixtures and Statistics

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
Oct	27 St. Helens (Lancs Cup)	A	7.30		W	36-6	Robinson, Ford, Platt, Cogger, Allen, Newton	Platt (6)	7,834
	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
	5 Doncaster	A	3.00	2	W	22-20	Casey, Lord, Hyde, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	3,813
Nov	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
Jan	26 Rochdale H	A	3.00	4	L	24-12	McAlister, Lord	McAlister	8,150
	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
Feb	28 Workington (SCCC)	H	3.00		W	30-8	Platt, Henderson (3), Clark	Platt, Atkinson (4)	3,710
	4 Fulham	H	3.00						
	11 Challenge Cup 2nd Rnd								
	18 Chorley	H	3.00						
	25 Keighley	A	3.15						
	4 Huddersfield	H	3.00						
Mar	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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Appearances and Scorers

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	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen.....	20	1	0	0	4	16
Keith Atkinson.....	3	7	4	0	0	8
Mick Bardsley.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Bates.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey.....	16	0	0	0	2	8
Brett Clark.....	21	1	0	0	8	32
Neil Clawson.....	4	1	0	0	2	8
John Cogger.....	24	0	0	0	20	80
Trevor Croston.....	4	4	0	0	2	8
John Fairbank.....	13	9	0	0	6	24
John Fieldhouse.....	22	0	0	0	3	12
Neil Flanagan.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford.....	24	0	0	2	6	26
Des Foy.....	7	0	0	0	7	28
John Henderson.....	7	2	0	0	5	20
Gary Hyde.....	14	1	21	0	4	58
Richard Irving.....	17	1	0	0	8	32
Paul Lord.....	23	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.....	17	0	0	0	4	16
Duncan Platt.....	15	0	60	1	5	141
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.....	20	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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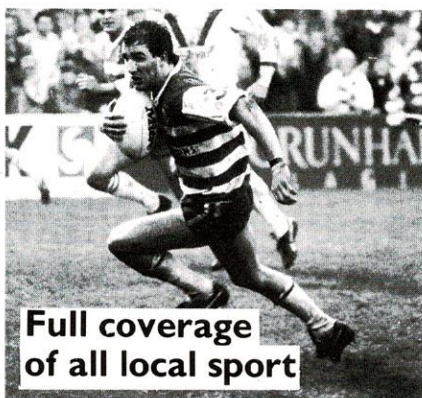


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'A' Team Round-Up

Slalom Lager Alliance League

FIRST DIVISION										Pts
P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hull	18	13	1	4	411	327	18	13	1	27
Castleford	16	13	0	3	466	254	16	13	0	26
Hull KR	16	12	0	4	344	194	16	12	0	24
Leeds	16	11	1	4	422	227	16	11	1	23
Wigan	16	11	0	5	435	259	16	11	0	22
Halifax	17	10	0	7	358	329	17	10	0	20
St. Helens	14	9	0	5	344	281	14	9	0	18
Warrington W	16	9	0	7	363	336	16	9	0	18
Swinton C	17	7	0	10	257	364	17	7	0	14
OLDHAM	18	6	1	11	308	329	18	6	1	13
Widnes	17	6	0	11	248	500	17	6	0	12
Featherstone	16	5	0	11	337	380	16	5	0	10
Salford	17	4	1	12	372	375	17	4	1	9
Carlisle	15	3	0	12	260	503	15	3	0	6
Hunslet	17	2	0	15	187	454	17	2	0	4

'A' Team Player Profile...

PADDY MITCHELL

Paddy Mitchell, a 17-year-old England schoolboy international, is the latest teenager to sign for Oldham. The 5ft 11in, 12 stone teenager, who plays either stand off or centre, has been playing for Saddleworth Rangers open age side recently. By signing for Oldham Paddy teams up once again with Graig Mort, with whom he has played since the couple were at junior school.

'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	H	W	20-23	
Jan 5	Hunslet	A	W	32-0	
12	Hull KR	H	L	6-12	
19	Warrington	A	L	12-18	
26	Salford A	H	W	26-18	
Feb 3	SACC 1st Round	A			
9	Castleford	A			
17	SACC 2nd Round	A			
23	Wigan	H			
Mar 2	Featherstone	A			
16	Leeds	H			
23	Salford A	H			
30	Hunslet	A			
Apr 7	Carlisle	A			
13	Swinton	H			
20	Widnes	A			

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Terrace Talk

BACK to the bread and butter of league action for this afternoon's visit of Fulham to Watersheddings. At the time of writing, both clubs are still involved in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, with Oldham satisfactorily disposing of Workington Town, whilst Fulham thanks to a last gasp try by one of Oldham's former players, Mick Taylor, retained their interest.

It's interesting to look at the two contrasting fortunes of the Clubs contesting today's fixture. Oldham as we all know have a tremendous history over a great band of loyal supporters. Whilst Fulham are looking to more progress as one of the leading lights in what is something of a new area of Rugby League, in the capital city.

Plenty has already been said about the decision to have a Rugby League team in the London area and I'm sure it is an area which will always be rife for comment and discussion, but there is a similarity between the two clubs. I'm referring to the loyal band of followers which both clubs enjoy. Oldham support is of course well established, and is also the envy of many other clubs throughout the league, but Fulham too have a dedicated bunch who are prepared to follow their favourite team through thick and thin.

It is on a smaller scale but personally I think they deserve a pat on the back, having to prepare themselves every other week for a journey between 300 to 500 miles.

As well as the supporters there is a band of backroom staff, who are absolutely dedicated to the club, regularly giving up hours of their time in an attempt to keep

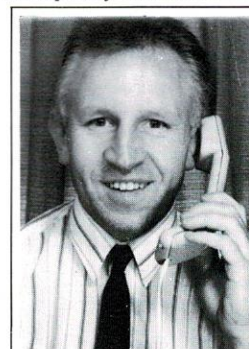
the Fulham flag flying high. As an example of their travel problems, this week has seen Fulham travel to Ryedale York for a Silk Cut replay before returning to tackle Oldham in today's encounter — which brings me nicely round to Second Division rugby.

I recently took the opportunity to ask Rochdale Hornets and former Great Britain star John Woods about how he views Second Division Rugby.

"Without doubt it is a lot harder than I first imagined, and it has certainly enjoyed better standards in the last couple of years, probably because of the growth of the game and its increasing popularity as a spectator sport." Of their own (Hornets) and Oldham's promotion chances he sees both clubs occupying First Division places next season "Even though my old boss Tony Barrow has promised me a hard time when the clubs clash head on at Watersheddings on Easter Monday."

Plenty can happen between now and then but for Oldham at the moment, things seem to be ticking over pretty well, with interest retained in the Challenge Cup. (By now everyone's opponents will be known. Whatever happens I think Oldham's fans will be in for an interesting last leg of the season.

Enjoy
your sport.



Jack Dearden

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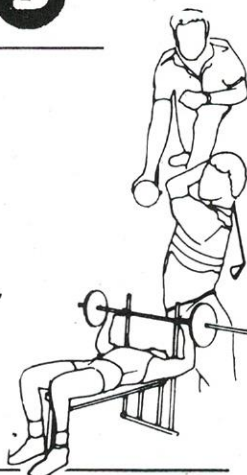
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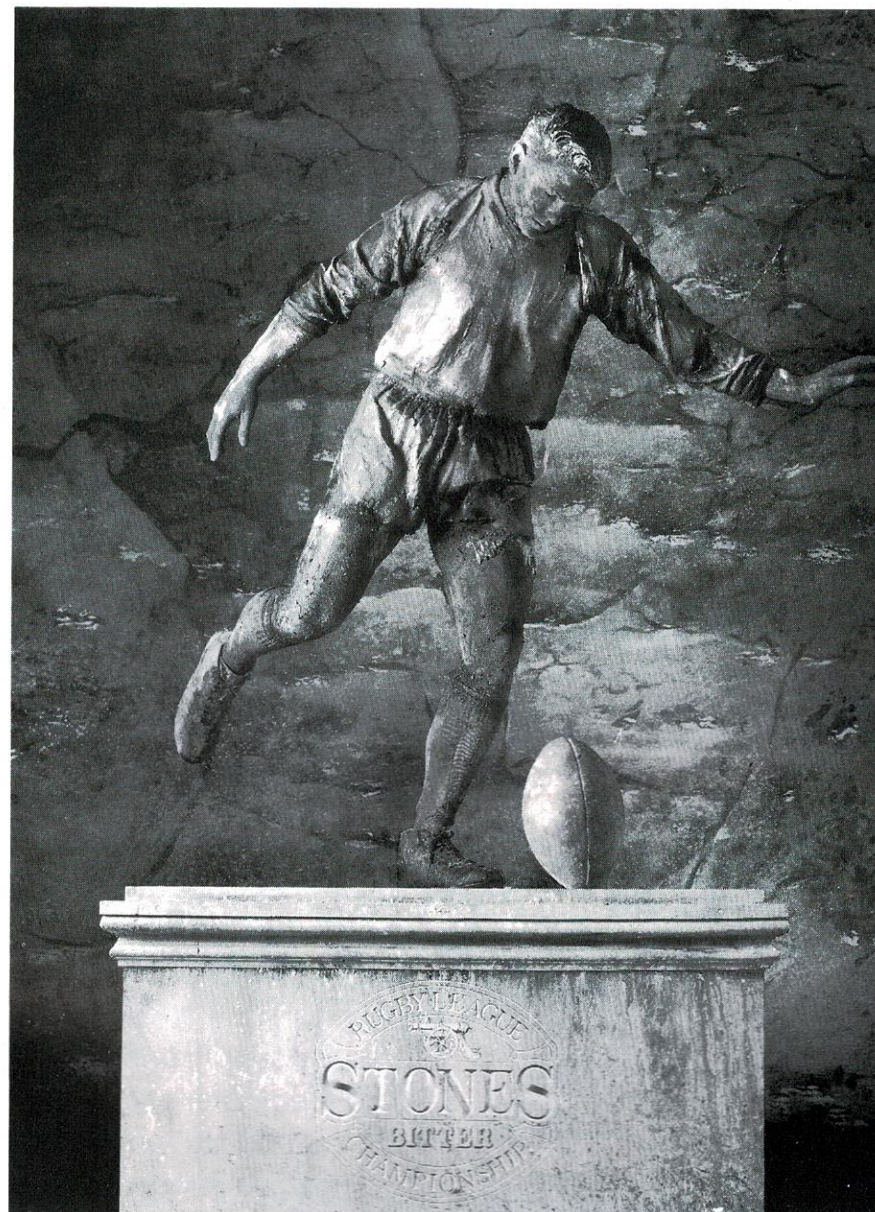


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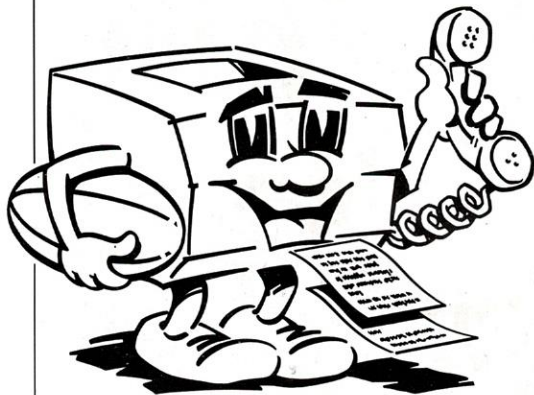
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