

**OLDHAM TEAM CHECK ROCHDALE**

- |                 |      |                  |
|-----------------|------|------------------|
| DUNCAN PLATT    | - 1  | - MARK VILLER    |
| RICHARD IRVING  | - 2  | - PHIL FOX       |
| DES FOY         | - 3  | - MARK LORD      |
| JOHN HENDERSON  | - 4  | - CHRIS MYLER    |
| PAUL LORD       | - 5  | - BRIAN GARRITY  |
| BRETT CLARK     | - 6  | - JOHN WOODS     |
| MIKE FORD       | - 7  | - ANDY SULLIVAN  |
| LEO CASEY       | - 8  | - TONY HUMPHRIES |
| RICHARD RUSSELL | - 9  | - MARTIN HALL    |
| JOHN FIELDHOUSE | - 10 | - NEIL COWIE     |
| KEITH ATKINSON  | - 11 | - SIMON BARBER   |
| PAUL ROUND      | - 12 | - PAUL McDERMOTT |
| KEITH NEWTON    | - 13 | - JOHN MYLER     |
| TBA             | - 14 | - STEVE TURNER   |
| TBA             | - 15 | - JOHN BLACKBURN |

Referee: Mr. R. Whitfield (Widnes). Touch Judges: Mr. M. Smith (Red Flag), Mr. S. Critchley (Orange Flag)

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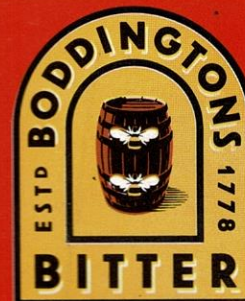
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First Division Champions:  
1904-05

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

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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:** £70,000 to  
Halifax for Tony Anderson March 1990

**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

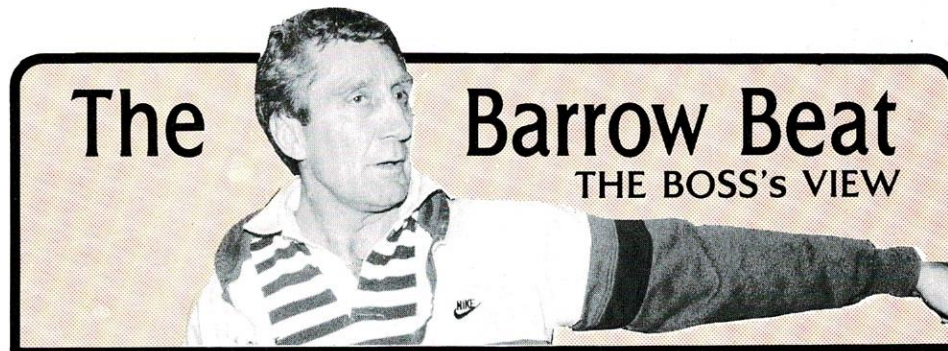
**Most Appearances:** Joe Ferguson, 685

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

# WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



## The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW



WHAT must Mike Ford and Leo Casey do to get international recognition? That was just one of several thoughts that passed through my mind when watching Great Britain's defeat by France in the recent Test match at Headingley.

I think a lot of Britain's problems stemmed from team selection, and it will be interesting to see what the test squad is. It was named on Wednesday after these notes were written.

On the form leading up to the test I did not think Mike Gregory merited selection, and I wonder how a forward like Keith England can get in when he is struggling to command a regular place in his club side.

Roy Powell was in the squad, but he is also only on the fringe of his club pack at the moment, and I wonder what happened to the claims for forwards like our own Leo Casey or Dean Sampson, the big, young prop at Castleford, whose form is overshadowing that of England at club level.

You then look at the backs and the selection of Bradford's Welsh winger Gerald Cordle. He has only been a League player for a few months and everyone in the game knows that he struggles defensively. He took his try well on his debut,

but defensively he was poor and wingers these days must be able to defend as well as attack, especially at international level.

Mike Ford has played consistently well all season and he had an absolutely outstanding game in our Challenge Cup semi-final against Warrington. he won the man-of-the-match hands down and deservedly so.

He also out-thought and out-played David Bishop when he won that crucial Second Division game at Hull KR in January, but judging by the events leading up to that second test defeat he doesn't even figure in the first four at Test level. When Andy Gregory was ruled out, Shaun Edwards was switched to scum-half and there were two scrum-halves on the bench in Deryck Fox and Bishop.

I cannot comment on the test selection but I hope those who make the decisions have gone for the men in form to carry our hopes in Papua New Guinea and New Zealand this summer.

Finally, welcome to Watersheddings today for a derby clash with Rochdale Hornets which could well decide which club finished second — a vital advantage in the Premiership run-up providing there are no first-round upsets.

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TODAY'S

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## Welcome to Hornets

LIKE Oldham and Hull KR, our neighbours from the other side of Summit Hill, Rochdale Hornets, have also clinched promotion and they are looking forward to their first spell in the First Division for more than a decade.

Although each of today's teams has already clinched its priority target for the season — PROMOTION — thoughts now turn to the Premiership, with its grand finale at Old Trafford, and it is more than likely that the winners of today's encounter will finish second in the league and the losers third.

This is very important for home advantage in the second round of the play-off, so there is a great deal to play for today in addition to the usual passions aroused by a derby meeting.

A massive crowd saw hornets win 24-12 at Spotland on Boxing Day, so Oldham will be out for revenge today and Hornets will be keen to complete a league 'double' over the old enemy.

Coached by Allan Agar, the shrewd Yorkshireman who guided Featherstone Rovers to that shock Wembley win over Hull a few years ago, Hornets now play at Spotland, of course, and have been able to buy some quality players following the sale of their old ground at the Athletic Grounds.

In the quality stakes they don't rank much higher than stand-off John Woods, who had a brilliant game on Boxing Day and will be keen to produce a repeat performance at Watersheddings.

Players with Oldham links include hooker Martin Hall, utility back Chris Myler, back-row man Bob Marsden, centre Mark Lord and winger John Higgins, whose exciting pace makes him a difficult man to tackle once he is given room to move.

Hall, Myler and Marsden joined Hornets from Oldham, Lord, a Shaw lad, went to Spotland via Leeds but only after a spell on loan here, while Higgins also had a short spell here as an A. N. Other in the 'A' team.

Hornets have lost two of their Kiwis, who have returned home for the start of the season in New Zealand, but they possess a good squad with former Widnes player Andy Sullivan at scrum-half, Woods at stand-off, tough front-row men like Neil Cowie and Tony Humphries doing strong work up front, also Phil Fox, signed recently from Wakefield, always dangerous on the wing.

The signing of Swinton pair John Myler and Mark Villier further strengthened the squad.

Hornets, like Oldham, realise they will need a big squad in the First Division and in recent weeks have been linked in the Press with players such as Les Holliday, who eventually moved from Halifax to Widnes, Joe Grima, who stayed put at Widnes, and Brimah Kebbie, who joined St. Helens from Widnes.

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## Flashback . . .

1987/88

Oldham 58, Rochdale 6



A crowd of 3,290 saw Second Division champions Oldham run out easy winners against their neighbours Rochdale, who were top but finished third from bottom. Des Foy scored a hat trick, Mick Ford and Peter Walsh a brace apiece with Richard Irving, Mal Graham and Leo Casey also touching down. Keith Atkinson kicked six goals and Peter Walsh added another.

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## Action Replay... ACTION FROM OUR RECENT FIXTURES



Ain't no stopping him now — Charlie McAlister touches down despite the attentions of two Carlisle defenders in last Sunday's 48-10 Oldham victory.



Catch me if you can — Richard Irving breaks free from the Carlisle defence for yet another Oldham try.

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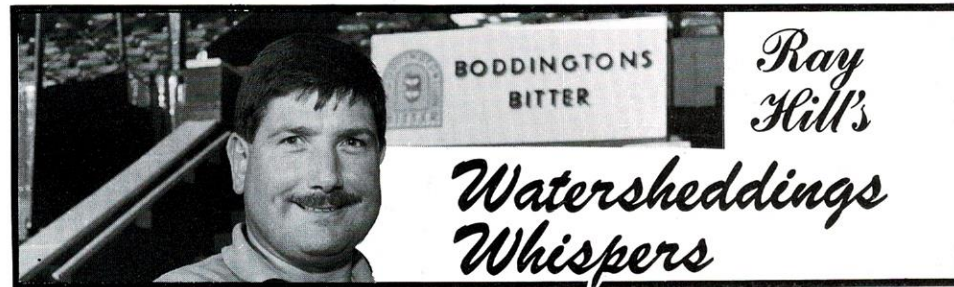
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TODAY marks the end of a long, hard and busy Second Division campaign which sees us back in the First Division after a 12 month absence. Fittingly, today's opponents, Rochdale, have also clinched promotion although what position we finish in the table will depend upon the result of the match so there is everything to play for.

Off the pitch it has also been a busy and extremely enjoyable season with the club's commercial activities providing much needed funds to help boost Oldham's rise to the top.

Sponsorship is an integral part of our activities and I'd like to thank each and every company who has sponsored the club in some way during the season. Their support is very much appreciated.

Although there are still a couple of matches left this season, I am already planning for the next when we bring the likes of Wigan, Widnes and St. Helens to Watersheddings. There are a number of sponsorship packages available — including executive sponsor, match sponsor and match ball sponsor — at every game. Why not give me a call on 061-620 4870 to discuss how Oldham and your company can work together. I'd like to hear from you.

Lifeline and Cashline have also boomed this season as both schemes go from strength to strength. We've recently sent out a Lifeline newsletter to all our members telling them exactly why Lifeline is the best in the Rugby League, providing a great return on a £2 weekly investment.

This season lucky Lifeline winners, as well as winning the weekly £1,000 prize draw, have also walked away with a brand new £6,000 car and a special £15,000 cash prize which was held on New Year's Day.

The next major prize is a fabulous two week holiday for two to the sun soaked Caribbean. Golden beaches, deep, cool blue seas and a burning sun —

what a way to spend 14 days. That's how one of our Lifeline winners is going to spend his or her summer holiday this year. It could be you so make sure subscriptions are fully paid up.

If you haven't joined Lifeline and want to, simply contact us at the Oldham office on 061-620 4870. As I've said before, our scheme is unbeatable with more winners, more prizes and more chances of winning. In other words, Lifeline is simply the best.

Talking about simply the best, that's the title of the Tina Turner classic that has been released as a single by the players and the Sheddings resident band Morgan's Every Which Way.

It's a great song that is very catchy and only costs £2. You can buy your copy from local record shops, our souvenir shop and the Sheddings social club, which is where you can also catch Morgan's Every Which Way performing their own particularly exciting brand of rock 'n' roll. They are well worth seeing so give them a try sometime. You won't be disappointed.

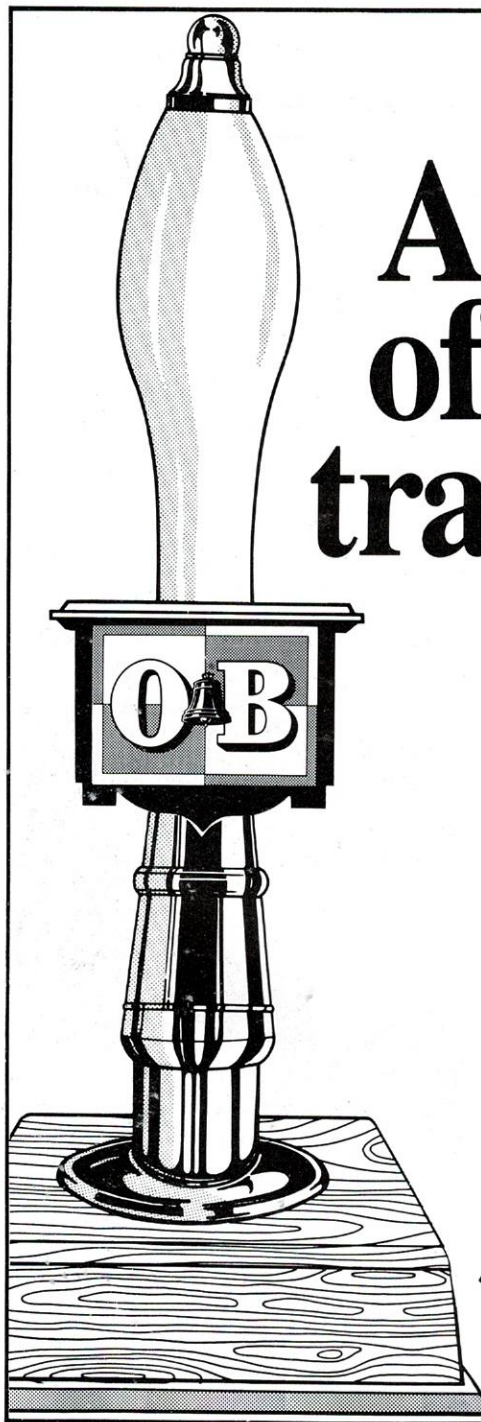
Finally, I'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone involved with the club in whatever capacity. A lot of people work extremely hard behind the scenes at Watersheddings to make things run smoothly throughout the season.

I'd also like to thank the loyal Oldham fans who have supported us throughout this tremendous season which has seen us win promotion and contest one-cup final and reach the semi-final of another. Your support has been unbelievable. See you next season.

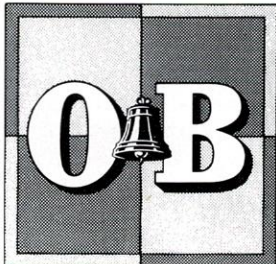
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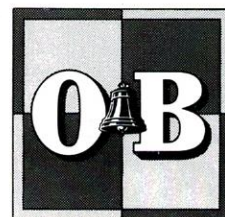


# A taste of local tradition.



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## CORNER

### MIKES FANS' FAVOURITE

MIKE Ford, Oldham's outstanding scrum half who has been in exceptional form this season, is the fans' favourite after winning the Boddingtons-sponsored OB Player of the Year award.

He will be presented with his trophy, won last year by Aussie Chris O'Sullivan, and a cheque for £250 before today's match against Rochdale.

Oldham's Aussie skipper John Cogger, who has unfortunately had to return home as his father is seriously ill, was second with Leo Casey third.

Mike has been in great form this season winning several man-of-the-match awards as well as player of the month for two consecutive months in December and January.

"I'd like to thank all the fans who voted for me. I've enjoyed my rugby this season and I've enjoyed playing in front of the Watersheddings faithful. Winning an award like this — voted for by the fans — makes it all worthwhile."

### TOMMY'S YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

TOMMY Martyn, Oldham's teenage stand-off, is the Boddingtons-sponsored OB Young Player of the Year.

The youngster was an overwhelming winner of the new award and will collect an inscribed silver salver and a £150 cheque before today's game against Rochdale.

Second place in the award went to John Maxwell with Craig Mort coming third.

### SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

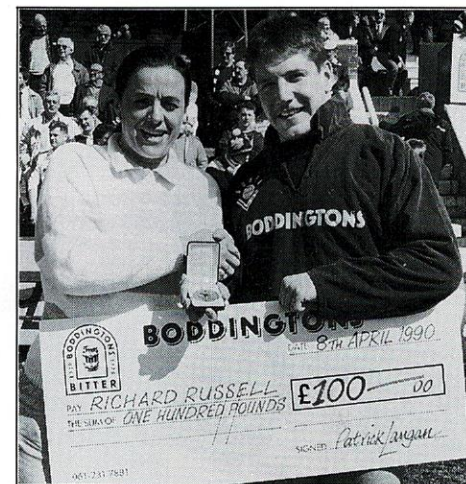
THE winner of this award, sponsored by Boddingtons and won last year by Mark Holmes, will be announced at the Rochdale match.

They will receive a handsome trophy, two season tickets and a replica of next season's kit.

### BODDY PERFECT

EVERYONE who voted in the OB Player of the Year awards automatically enters a free draw with the first five names out of the hat each receiving a case of Boddingtons.

### RICHARD'S THE ONE FOR MARCH



RICHARD Russell, without question one of the steals of the season, is the Evening Chronicle OB Player of the Month for March.

He collected an inscribed medal and a cheque for £100 from Boddington Pub Company representative Val Jackson before last Sunday's home game against Carlisle.

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(Kick-off  
3.00p.m.)

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6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

**SCRUMS**

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**PENALTIES**

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**SCRUMS**

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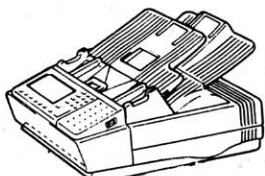
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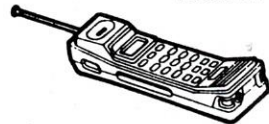
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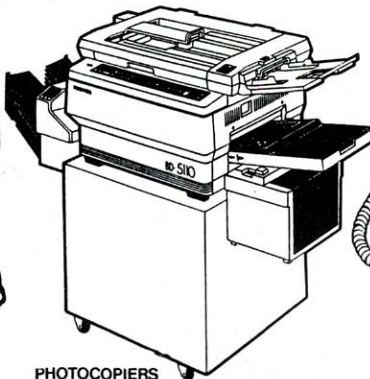
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# Fixtures and Statistics

Date	Opponents	V	KO	P	Res	F-A	Tries	Goals	Att
Sep 3	Workington	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		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 Rnd 1)	H	3.00		W	30-8	Platt, Henderson (3), Clark	Platt, Atkinson (4)	3,710
Feb 4	Fulham	H	3.00	3	W	52-4	Henderson (4), Foy, Casey, Newton (2), Platt, Lord	Platt (5)	3,549
11	Salford (SCCC Rnd 2)	A	3.00		W	18-7	Russell, Clark	Platt (5)	6,542
18	Chorley	H	3.00	2	W	66-16	Clark (3), Russell (2), Martyn, McAlister, Casey, Cogger, Irving, Foy, Round	Platt (9)	3,576
25	Widnes (SCCC Rnd 3)	A	3.00		W	16-4	Henderson, Newton	Platt (4)	11,820
Mar 4	Huddersfield	H	3.00	3	W	23-8	Cogger, Lewis, Lord, Martyn	Platt (2), Atkinson, Martyn (dg)	5,615
7	Keighley	A	7.30	3	W	30-10	Ruane, Lord (3), Martyn, Irving	Platt (3)	1,252
11	Batley	A	3.00	2	W	30-14	Lord (2), Casey, Clark	Hyde (7)	2,800
18	Runcorn	H	3.00	1	W	60-2	Allen (2), Casey (2), Cogger (2), Lord, Irving, Anderson, Hyde, Clark	Platt (8)	5,132
21	Hunslet	A	7.30	1	W	42-14	Lord (2), Russell, Henderson, McAlister, Platt, Fieldhouse	Platt (7)	2,000
24	Huddersfield	A	3.00	1	W	22-14	Ruane, Robinson, Fairbank, Irving	Atkinson (3)	1,900
31	Warrington (SCCC semi-final)	—	2.00		L	6-10	Irving	Platt	15,631
Apr 4	Workington	A	6.15	2	L	14-21	Atkinson, Fairbank	Atkinson (2), Ruane	800
8	Carlisle	H	1.30	2	W	48-16	McAlister, Clark (2), Lord, Henderson, Atkinson, Irving, Flanagan	Atkinson (6)	2,865
13	Swinton	A	3.00						
16	Rochdale	H	3.15						

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# Appearances and Scorers

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen.....	31	3	0	0	6	24
Tony Anderson.....	3	0	0	0	1	4
Keith Atkinson.....	10	11	16	0	2	40
Mick Bardsley.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Bates.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey.....	25	1	0	0	7	28
Brett Clark.....	31	2	0	0	16	64
Neil Clawson.....	4	1	0	0	2	8
John Cogger.....	34	0	0	0	24	96
Trevor Croston.....	4	4	0	0	2	8
John Fairbank.....	16	12	0	0	8	32
John Fieldhouse.....	33	1	0	0	4	16
Neil Flanagan.....	1	2	0	0	1	4
Mick Ford.....	32	0	0	2	6	26
Des Foy.....	14	0	0	0	9	36
John Henderson.....	18	2	0	0	14	56
Gary Hyde.....	20	3	28	0	5	76
Richard Irving.....	28	2	0	0	14	56
Chris Joynt.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
Peter Lewis.....	2	0	0	0	1	4
Paul Lord.....	35	0	0	0	25	100
Charlie McAlister.....	16	6	16	0	8	64
Tommy Martyn.....	4	1	3	1	4	23
John Maxwell.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
Kevin Meadows.....	6	5	0	0	6	20
Keith Newton.....	28	0	0	0	9	36
Duncan Platt.....	23	0	104	1	7	237
Steve Robinson.....	13	4	0	0	5	20
Paul Round.....	4	2	0	0	1	4
Andy Ruane.....	20	2	1	0	8	34
Richard Russell.....	33	4	0	0	7	28

Up to and including Carlisle match

# Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR.....	25	12	0	1	555	85	11	0	1	470	88	46
Rochdale.....	26	12	0	1	560	173	11	0	2	345	191	46
<b>OLDHAM</b> .....	26	13	0	0	494	131	10	0	3	343	177	46
Ryedale-York.....	26	11	0	1	304	116	8	1	5	297	199	39
Halifax.....	26	12	0	1	423	129	6	0	7	271	198	36
Swinton.....	26	10	0	3	366	184	8	0	5	268	198	36
Dewsbury.....	26	9	0	3	252	133	8	1	5	226	260	35
Fulham.....	26	8	1	4	267	219	7	1	5	175	237	32
Doncaster.....	27	7	2	4	234	183	7	0	7	265	208	30
Trafford.....	26	8	0	6	272	243	7	0	5	233	219	30
Huddersfield.....	26	6	0	7	185	176	7	0	6	238	217	26
Batley.....	27	8	0	6	280	198	5	0	8	180	234	26
Hunslet.....	27	5	0	9	256	302	5	0	8	169	225	20
Bramley.....	26	5	0	8	196	294	5	0	8	189	294	20
Chorley.....	26	6	0	8	219	275	3	0	9	159	303	18
Whitehaven.....	26	7	0	6	220	248	2	0	11	155	434	18
Carlisle.....	27	5	0	8	239	220	3	0	11	248	401	16
Workington.....	27	3	0	11	167	306	3	0	10	140	385	12
Keighley.....	26	4	0	8	205	360	2	0	12	198	429	12
Nottingham.....	27	3	0	11	169	527	1	0	12	146	471	8
Runcorn.....	27	0	0	13	101	328	0	0	14	115	596	0

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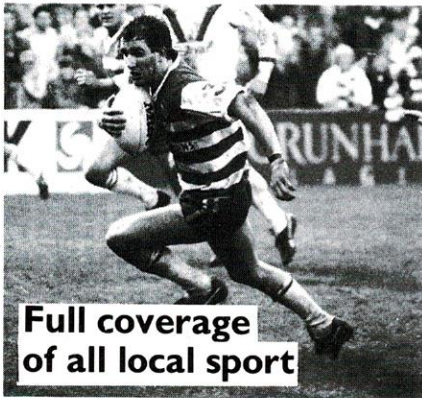


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# 'A' Team Round-Up

## Slalom Lager Alliance League

FIRST DIVISION	P W D L				F	A	Pts
	P	W	D	L			
Hull	25	20	1	4	689	307	41
Leeds	25	19	1	5	689	370	39
Castleford	23	16	0	7	650	449	32
Hull K.R.	24	16	0	8	521	332	32
Warrington W.	24	14	1	9	580	533	29
Wigan	24	14	0	10	579	434	28
St. Helens	24	13	0	11	557	508	26
Halifax	25	13	0	12	476	511	26
<b>OLDHAM</b>	24	11	1	12	450	454	23
Widnes	24	9	0	15	390	645	18
Swinton C	24	9	0	15	377	691	18
Featherstone R.	24	8	0	16	500	567	16
Salford	24	5	2	17	501	559	12
Hunslet	22	5	0	17	310	603	10
Carlisle	22	4	0	18	380	686	8

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## '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	W	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	
26	Salford A	H	W	26-18	
Feb 3	Salford (SACC Rnd 1)	A	L	12-30	
9	Castleford	A	W	32-18	
Mar 23	Wigan	A	W	17-12	
2	Featherstone	A	W	20-16	
16	Leeds	H	W	32-22	
23	Salford A	A	W	22-23	
30	Hunslet	H	L	18-35	
Apr 7	Carlisle	A	W	50-23	
13	Swinton	H	A		
20	Widnes	A			

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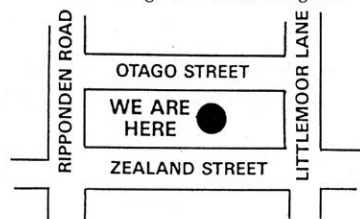
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THERE is a well known saying that a week can be a long time in sport. Ninety-eight and a half hours was all that separated Oldham's cup semi-final defeat and the next disaster which followed at Workington. In that short space of time when the players tramped wearily from the field at Wigan at around 3.45 p.m. on the Saturday, before stepping out at Workington at 6.15 p.m. on the Wednesday, I wonder what went through the players minds during those hours.

It is that kind of illogical calculation which makes sport the fascinating subject it is, and presumably for that same reasoning, we will never see a bookmaker driving a Skoda!

We toppled from the tip of the mountain peak to the valley of death below. Will a further examination of the facts reveal what could have possibly gone wrong in that short space of time which separated the two games. After an in depth survey amongst the staff and players failed to supply the answers, I then decided to seek out the opinion of the only person who might be able to throw some light on the matter.

Upon questioning the team bus driver he vividly recalled the journey between Watersheddings and Workington. He categorically denied having sped through the Bermuda Triangle on the way to Cumbria and he pleaded further innocence by stating that, "it was a perfectly normal trip." The plot thickened when the roughyeds showed a return to form in defeating Carlisle, who it must be remembered played a leading roll in another strange 2nd Division turnaround when they defeated Halifax earlier this season. So one way and another the Cumbrian connection has been responsible for two of the biggest 2nd Division upsets so far this season. Both appear to be inexplicable.

But enough of this lighthearted banter, and on to more serious matters with the visit of the buzzing Hornets, to Watersheddings, and an opportunity for Oldham to gain a revenge win. If previously disclosed form is anything to go by, then the roughyeds can once again be expected to rise to the challenge. On paper at least it's an interesting fixture and appropriately will end the league season.

It will also offer an opportunity to look at the progress the teams have made, bearing in mind that the easy part has now been achieved with both sides competing next season in the first division. I do not detract in any way from the achievements of the two rivals by gaining promotion, but it is what lies ahead which will provide a yardstick to their progress

For Oldham it is not an entirely new step to take and as history has shown, a thorough preparation for the top flight is essential. After our brief encounter on our last visit, survival and stability must be the name of the game, anything else *has* to be classed as a bonus.

Finally I hope the semi-final disappointment has now disappeared and we look to new horizons. Hearty congratulations go to all who have contributed to Oldham's instant return and with luck it will be a long time before we have to make the trip to Workington for a league fixture. However it remains to be seen what the future holds because as we all know by now it's a funny old game aint it!

Enjoy your sport.



**Jack Dearden**

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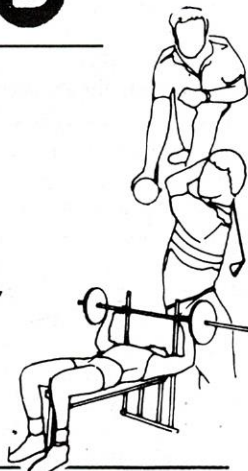
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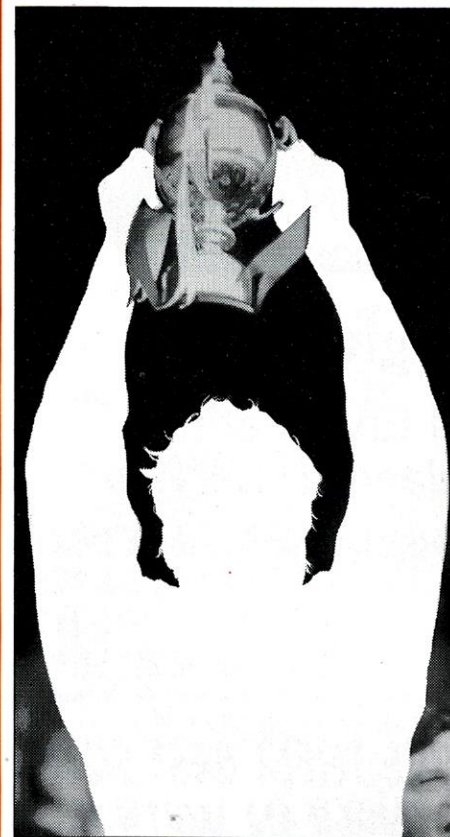


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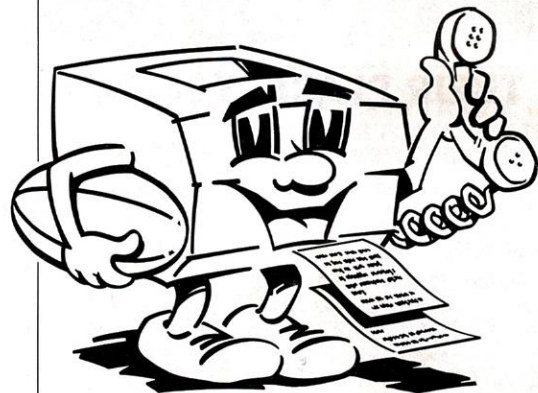
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