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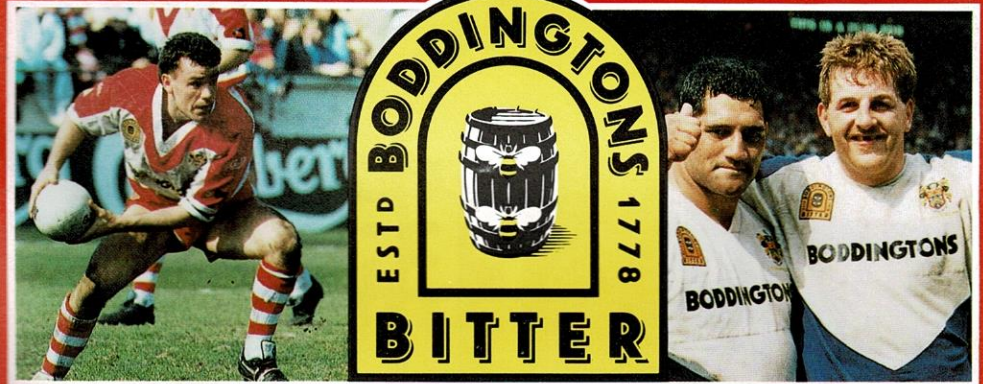


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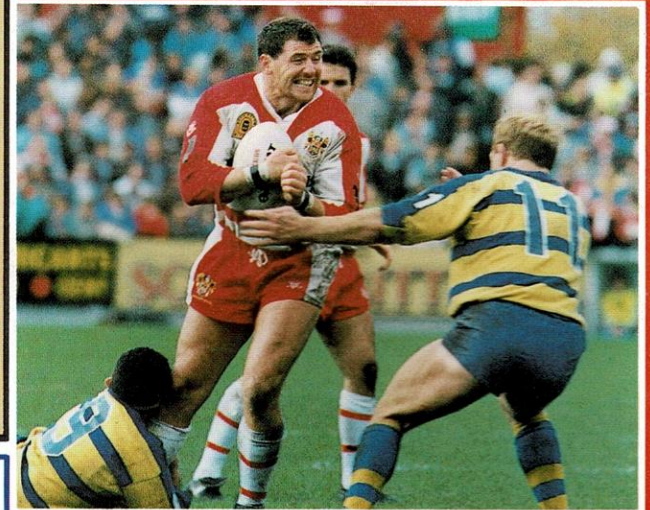
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ON THE BARROW BEAT

by Oldham coach
TONY BARROW



IT has been an eventful summer at Watersheddings and you can rest assured that we are all looking forward immensely to life in the First Division. Make no mistake, it's the place to be.

We did our best last season to augment our promotion run with success in the various cup competitions and, to that end, I think we produced an interesting nine months for our supporters.

A total of 15 knock-out games took us to the final of the Lancashire Cup, the quarter-final of the Regal Trophy, the semi-final of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and the final of the Stones Bitter Second Division premiership where we brought down the curtain on the season with that remarkable Old Trafford fightback against Hull KR.

Even as that game was taking place, however, our plans for summer team strengthening were starting to take shape.

First came Austin Donnegan from St. Helens — a big, young forward who has all the attributes to go a long way in this game.

Then came a man who has already gone a long way and still has a long way to go yet — prop Derek Pyke from Widnes. Derek is an accomplished ball-handling forward, a tireless workhorse, an experienced front-row man and the ideal man to take some of the weight off Mike Ford, my new captain.

Ronnie Duane was signing number three. I first signed Ronnie as a 16-year-old at Warrington and I know what he is capable of. He is a great player who will provide me with options because he is equally at home in the back-row of the pack or in the centre.

We still had not finished and a long search for wing cover ended when we signed Leeds winger Norman Francis. Whenever I had seen Norman in action — going back to my Warrington days — he had always impressed me and my regard was confirmed last season when he scored four tries against the Oldham 'A' team in the Slalom Lager Alliance match at Headingley.

We have lost Leo Casey to Featherstone, of course, but I am convinced that we now have a squad that can give us a fighting chance of doing well in the First Division.

The youth policy is also being extended and we welcome the return to the club of Iain McCorquodale as youth co-ordinator in a new role.

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

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £70,000 to
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Record Try Scorers: Reg Farrar, 49 tries,
1921-22 season

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

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

First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge

Highest number of points scored: Bernard
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Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233
Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

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1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up:
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1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87, 1989-90

Lancashire Championship Winners:
1907-08,
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Runners-up:
1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24,
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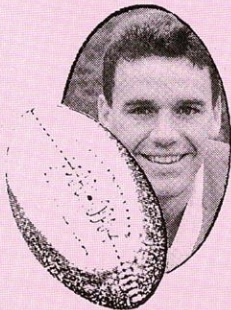
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SKIPPER'S SPOT

by
Oldham Captain
Mike Ford

TODAY we embark on what I know is going to be a hard but ultimately successful season back in the First Division. Tough, because the First Division is faster than ever before as the top teams like Wigan and Leeds get stronger and stronger.

Successful, because I predict we will finish in the top eight come next spring.

Despite the setback against Salford in the Lancashire Cup we have trained hard for the coming season. Tony Barrow has bought wisely and given the squad a strength in depth that is essential once the injuries start piling up.

We couldn't have a better baptism in the top flight than a tough game against Leeds but it is a match we must expect to win if we are to make an impact in the top flight.

And we will win if we concentrate on the four Cs — control, confidence, commitment and concentration.

Confidence is especially important at the start of the season. Win a few games and the team's morale will get better with each subsequent victory.

We are looking to win the vast majority of our games at the Watersheddings — remember we are unbeaten here since Easter Monday 1989 — and pick up points away from home, too.

If we do that a top eight will be ours! Today's game will give us an insight as to whether our ambition is a dream or a reality.



ROGER'S FOCUS

Oldham Evening Chronicle Rugby League writer, Roger Halstead, looks at today's visitors

A BURNING ambition to emulate Wigan lies behind that sensational summer signing by Leeds of the world's top Rugby Union full-back John Gallagher.

The ambitious Headingley club is reputed to have engaged the former All-Blacks star on a contract worth £400,000.

Only the best is good enough for Leeds, whose officials are determined this season to rid the club and the team of the 'Nearly Men' tag and restore former glories.

The prospect of seeing Gallagher make his First Division debut today is exciting in itself, yet the whole Leeds team is full of stars and none twinkled any brighter on Great Britain's close-season tour of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand than the man who proved he could be just as devastating at stand-off as he is in the centre — Gary Schofield.

Schofield had a magnificent tour, as most of us witnessed on TV, and he may well retain the No. 6 spot for Leeds, thus forming a new pairing with the former Bradford Northern half-back Paul Harkin.

Ambitious as ever, Leeds first went for Test men Peter Sterling (Australia) and Gary Freeman (New Zealand) before they discovered that Harkin was available.

The third major signing of the off-season was perhaps more by accident than design in that it followed a chain of events sparked off by the arrival at Headingley of a letter urging the club to give trials to one Eddie Rombo, a Union winger from Kenya.

It is history now that Eddie did well as A. N. Other in the Wigan sevens, signed a contract, and has been given the opportunity to substantiate the claim that he is among the world's best wingers of either code.

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Leeds . . .

John Gallagher (full-back) Sensational summer signing from New Zealand Rugby Union. The London-born 26-year-old was voted the best Union player in the world last season and Leeds believe the former All Black will make a similar impact in League.

Eddie Rombo (winger) This Kenyan Rugby Union star was snapped up by Leeds after an outstanding showing for the club in the Wigan Sevens. Leeds believe the 23-year-old flyer could be their answer to Martin Offiah and their confidence is reflected in the fact that they offered him their last import slot.

Paul Harkin (scrum half) The 33-year-old half-back was signed this summer from Bradford Northern and will be a vital cog in the Leeds challenge for honours. Paul has been a constant thorn in the Leeds side during his time at Odsal and Leeds supporters hope he can do to other teams what he has been doing to Leeds for years!

John Bentley (wing) Former Sale and England Rugby Union international winger who has settled quickly into Rugby League after signing for Leeds in November 1988. A more than useful goal-kicker as he showed in a match against Oldham at Leeds within weeks of signing, he landed eight goals in a 48-4 win.

Carl Gibson (centre or wing) Moved from Batley to Leeds in January 1986 and later toured Australia and New Zealand with GB. Speedy, a slim-built back who plays above his weight. Tough and durable.

Garry Schofield (centre) Joined his home town club Leeds from Hull in October 1987 and scored 22 tries in twenty-seven appearances in his first season at Headingley. GB and Yorkshire County centre.

Phil Ford (wing) The only Welshman on the Leeds register at present, Phil is also a current GB wingman. Former Warrington, Wigan and Bradford Northern player who moved to Headingley from Odsal at Christmas 1988.

Vince Fawcett (wing) Powerfully-built young player who was signed by Leeds from local amateur Rugby League club Guiseley Rangers in November 1987. Under-21 international.

David Creasser (stand-off) David is a product of South Leeds Schools Rugby League, which has given so many fine players to the professional game. He was on the Barla Youth Tour to New Zealand in 1983 and signed for Leeds soon after his return. Four full GB caps, five at under-21 level and two for Yorkshire County. Fast and incisive type of player, he is also an accomplished goal-kicker.

Rob Ackerman (centre) Former British Lions Rugby Union centre who played also in 22 international matches for his native Wales. Turned to professional Rugby League originally for Whitehaven where he spent three seasons before being signed by Leeds from the Cumbrian club in January 1990.

Colin Maskill (hooker) Former GB Under-24 hooker and one of the most talented and reliable forwards in Rugby League. Castleford-born former Wakefield Trinity player who moved to Leeds in the winter of 1985. Colin's ever-cheerful attitude and highly industrious work-rate makes him a very popular man with playing colleagues and supporters.

Cavill Heugh (forward) Australian forward who originally came to England to join Halifax and enjoyed a distinguished spell there before moving on later to Barrow, from which club he was transferred to Leeds in December 1989.

Roy Powell (second row) Joined Leeds in April 1983 from the John Fisher amateur club in Dewsbury and progressed through the Leeds Colts and Alliance teams to Yorkshire County and the GB status at Under-24 level before winning full GB cap in May 1985.

Paul Dixon (second row) Unlike Roy Powell, who came up through the Leeds junior ranks, Paul was a big money capture and already a GB Test player when he moved from Halifax to Headingley in January 1989 in an exchange of international forwards as Paul Medley went to Thrum Hall. Former club captain at Huddersfield and Halifax, Paul is a versatile player who can move around in the pack and gets through a tremendous amount of work in every match, wherever he plays.

David Heron (loose forward or stand-off) One of the most popular players of the 1980s at Leeds, David enjoyed an exceptional Testimonial two seasons ago. Like David Creasser, his early Rugby League was in South Leeds with Hunslet schools. Later he gained Youth International honours and captained the GB Colts team over a decade ago. Won his Yorkshire cap in 1980 and two years later won GB honours.

Mike Kuiti (second row or loose forward) New Zealand Test forward who was with the Tourists who came to England in 1989. Within a few weeks of going back to his home in Wellington at the end of the tour, Mike returned to England to sign for Leeds in January 1990.

Gary Divorty (loose forward) York-born and still resident in the city. Gary signed for Hull FC originally from local amateur Rugby League. He moved to Leeds in a £120,000 transfer deal in October 1989. Constructive player who can vary the tactics at the base of the scrum and is a useful kicker.

SUMMER 1991

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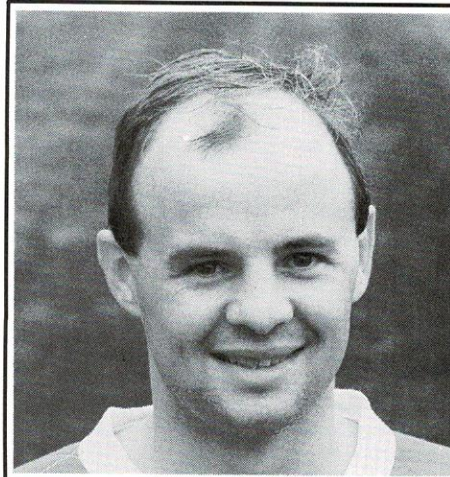
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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

PADDY KIRWAN



THIS season Oldham fans will get the opportunity to say a big thank-you to one of the club's most loyal servants as Paddy Kirwan embarks upon a well-earned testimonial after 11 years with the club.

Following in the footsteps of fellow Oldham beneficiaries Terry Flanagan and Colin Hawkyard, Oldham-born Paddy is looking forward to a great benefit and meeting the fans at the many functions he has planned in his diary.

Scrum-half Paddy first hit the headlines as a member of Oldham's famous class of '79 who went on to become household names. Along with Flanagan, Ashton, Goodway, Worrall and Platt, he formed the backbone of the side that spent five great seasons in the First Division.

Since then he has enjoyed plenty of memorable triumphs, which fans can recall by buying a copy of Paddy's excellent Benefit Review. Who can forget that marvellous night in 1987 when Oldham beat mighty Wigan 10-8 in the first round of the Challenge Cup with Paddy scoring the match-winning try right at the death?

Unfortunately, he's also had more than his fair share of injuries, enough to fill a medical reference book but has always bounced back.

For the past two years he has been bedevilled by a serious foot injury. His left foot refused to heal properly and had to have an operation to pin the bone together. The operation only had a 50% chance of success but fortunately Paddy was able to return to full fitness.

Earlier this year he returned to action with the A Team, helping them win eight out of their last nine games as the side finished strongly after a difficult start to the season.

Of his comeback Paddy says: "After 18 months out of the game my fitness left a lot to be desired. In the first few games it was the joy of being able to play again that pulled me through 80 minutes of good quality Alliance Rugby League. By the end of the season I felt the timing and stamina returning."

Now he is looking forward to the future, a bumper benefit and a possible return to the first team. "Life in the First Division is a big step up from the Second and a big squad will be needed. If the opportunity for first-team action presents itself then I aim to grab it with both hands.

"It won't be easy because the Oldham squad, in terms of depth, is stronger than I've known in my decade at the club. It augers well for a successful return to the top flight."



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**WATERSHEDDINGS
WHISPERS**

*General Manager
Ray Hill
reports on the
Watersheddings
scene*

WELCOME back to my regular Watersheddings Whispers column in our new-look programme, which I trust meets with your approval.

We always try to do our best for our fans both on and off the field. Our match day programme is no exception. That's why we have made one or two changes from last season, including a new eye-catching full colour front cover. There's also a regular column by Mike Ford, Oldham's captain, as well as pieces by coaches Tony Barrow and Ian Taylor. In addition, there's a new feature, 'Grassroots', by Iain McCorquodale, who is co-ordinating the club's youth policy.

All in all, we hope it makes for a better, more colourful and enjoyable read. As an extra bonus there is a superb competition which is exclusive to the Oldham match day programme. First prize is a fabulous holiday to Paris! We'll announce the full details in the next programme, so make sure you buy a copy for the Castleford match two weeks today.

Elsewhere on the commercial front, Lifeline and Cashline continue to grow from strength to strength as more and more people join both the weekly and daily draws, where you can win £1,000 and £100 respectively.

They represent great value for money and at the same time help provide the funds to take Oldham to the top of the Rugby League world. If you want to join, sign up today by contacting the club on 061-620 4870.

We'll be giving you regular updates on what is happening with Lifeline, Cashline and all the other off-the-field activities at the club through this column, so make sure you buy your match day programme every time you come to Watersheddings for First Team action. And don't forget, you could win a superb trip to Paris.

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TOUCH DOWN

WELCOME to a new column, Boddingtons Touch Down, in your match day programme for what promises to be an exciting season as Oldham and Boddingtons Bitter enters the third year of their official sponsorship agreement.

After all the excitement of promotion and cup runs on the field and Boddingtons-sponsored beauty contests and Australian beach parties off the field, last season was definitely one to remember.

This season is going to be equally memorable as Boddingtons Bitter once again puts its full boddie behind Oldham RLFC.

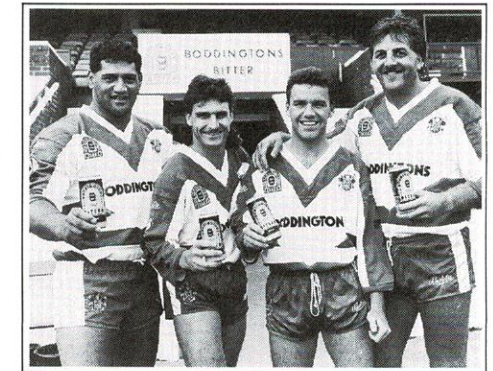
Throughout the season we'll keep you fully in the picture about what's happening with the sponsorship agreement through this regular column. There will be details of personal appearances by the players at Whitbread, OB and Boddington pubs plus Boddingtons Bitter-sponsored activities like the Miss Oldham Beauty Contest.

Once again, in conjunction with the Oldham Evening Chronicle, we'll be running the Boddingtons player of the month award. The judge will be Rugby League writer Roger Halstead who will give his vote to the outstanding Oldham player at the end of each month. The winner will collect an inscribed medal, £100 cheque and a case of Boddingtons Bitter to celebrate in style.

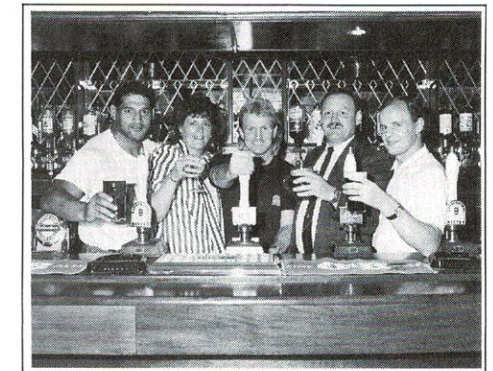
Last year's winners included Mike Ford (three times), John Fieldhouse (twice), Leo Casey (twice), Richard Russell and Shaun Allen.

Will one of them win it again or will one of Tony Barrow's new signings collect the first award which will be announced in October?

This year we'll also be running the Boddingtons Bitter player of the year and Boddingtons Bitter supporter of the year awards, but more about those later on in the season in this column.



Here's to a brand new season. Charlie McAlister, Brett Clark, skipper Mike Ford and Paul Round revitalise their bodies with a couple of cans of Boddies during a pre-season photo session.



Cheers. Aussie John Cogger (centre) back in action behind the bar at the newly reopened Streetbridge pub, Roman Road, Hollinwood, Oldham. Helping John out at the popular OB local, which has just undergone a major £65,000 refurbishment, are (from left) Charlie McAlister, licensees Anita and Derek Jones and Paddy Kirwan. Paddy is planning to hold a race night at the Streetbridge in the next month or so for his testimonial. Watch this space for details.

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We wish the team every success throughout the season



BODDINGTONS TEAM CHECK



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 1990

OLDHAM

Team Changes

- 1 DUNCAN PLATT
- 2 RICHARD IRVING
- 3 TOMMY MARTYN
- 4 RONNIE DUANE
- 5 PAUL LORD
- 6 BRETT CLARK
- 7 MIKE FORD
- 8 DEREK PYKE
- 9 ANDY RUANE
- 10 KEITH NEWTON
- 11 PAUL ROUND
- 12 CHARLIE McALISTER
- 13 JOHN COGGER
- 14 RICHARD RUSSELL
- 15 AUSTIN DONEGAN

LEEDS

Team Changes

- 1 JOHN GALLAGHER
- 2 JOHN BENTLEY
- 3 SIMON IRVING
- 4 CARL GIBSON
- 5 PHIL FORD
- 6 GARRY SCHOFIELD
- 7 PAUL HARKIN
- 8 NEIL JAMES
- 9 COLIN MASKILL
- 10 PAUL DIXON
- 11 ROY POWELL
- 12 CAVIL HEUGH
- 13 DAVID HERON
- 14 DAVID CREASSER
- 15 MIKE KUITI

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

Referee:

Mr. J. Holdsworth (Kippax)

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. Molyneux (Red Flag)
Mr. J. E. Lloyd (Orange Flag)

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

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Paul Round, the Oldham second-row forward, makes a determined dash into Salford territory during the first-round Greenalls Lancashire Cup clash at the Willows a fortnight ago.



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Opponents	KO	Res	F/A	Alt	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	A	3:00	L	24-27	4,2,16	—	Platt-rg	Irving	Foy	Henderson	Lord	Clark	Ford-g	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round t	McAlister t	Duane	Martyn t	Newton
Salford	A	3:00	L	24-27	4,2,16	—	Platt-rg	Irving	Foy	Henderson	Lord	Clark	Ford-g	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round t	McAlister t	Duane	Martyn t	Newton
Leeds	H	3:00																			
Wakefield	A	3:30																			
Castleford	H	6:30																			
Widnes	A	3:00																			
Hull KR	H	3:00																			
Sheffield	A	3:15																			
Warrington	A	2:45																			
Wigan	A	3:00																			
Bradford N	H	3:00																			
Castleford	A	3:30																			
Widnes	H	3:00																			
Regal Trophy		3:00																			
Regal Trophy		3:00																			
Hull	A	6:30																			
Rochdale	H	3:00																			
Leeds	A	3:00																			
Featherstone	H	3:00																			
Hull KR	A	3:00																			
Wakefield	H	3:00																			
Featherstone	A	3:30																			
St Helens	H	3:00																			
SCCR 1st Rd		3:00																			
Bradford	A	3:30																			
SCCR 2nd Rd		3:00																			
St Helens	A	3:00																			
Sheffield	H	3:00																			
Rochdale	H	3:00																			
Wigan	H	3:00																			
Warrington	A	3:00																			
Hull	H	3:00																			

Key: g = goal t = try dg = drop goal * = played as substitute

OLDHAM STATISTICS 1990/91

Appearances and Scorers

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Brett Clark	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ronnie Duane	1	0	0	0	0	0
John Fieldhouse	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Ford	1	0	1	0	0	2
Des Foy	1	0	0	0	0	0
John Henderson	1	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Irving	1	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Lord	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tommy Martyn	0	1	0	0	1	4
Charlie McAlister	1	0	0	0	1	4
Keith Newton	0	1	0	0	0	0
Duncan Platt	1	0	4	0	0	8
Derek Pyke	1	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Round	1	0	0	0	1	4
Richard Russell	1	0	0	0	0	0

NEXT AWAY GAME (v WAKEFIELD) September 16th, KO 3.30

HOW TO GET THERE:

M62 Junction 29 (M1). Follow signs Wakefield M1. Junction 41 (A650). Leave motorway (signposted Wakefield) and at roundabout take first exit A658. In 2 1/2 miles at roundabout take second exit A661. At next roundabout take first exit (signposted city centre). By Leeds Road enter Wakefield. Follow signs Doncaster A668 to leave by Doncaster Road for Wakefield Trinity RL Ground (on right).

NEXT HOME GAME AT WATERSHEDDINGS v CASTLEFORD (September 23rd, KO 6.30p.m.)

Stones Bitter Second Division Final Table 1989/90

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR	28	13	0	1	613	91	12	0	2	489	99	50
Rochdale	28	13	0	1	630	201	11	0	3	347	221	48
OLDHAM	28	14	0	0	524	133	10	0	4	355	192	48
Ryedale-York	28	12	0	2	356	139	8	1	5	297	199	41
Halifax	28	13	0	1	442	147	7	0	7	299	213	40
Swinton	28	11	0	3	381	196	9	0	5	290	209	40
Dewsbury	28	11	0	3	277	151	8	1	5	226	260	39
Fulham	28	9	1	4	305	229	7	1	6	191	259	34
Doncaster	28	8	2	4	268	191	7	0	7	265	208	32
Trafford	28	8	0	6	272	243	7	0	7	279	308	30
Huddersfield	28	6	0	8	200	204	8	0	6	269	237	28
Batley	28	8	0	6	280	198	5	0	9	186	278	26
Bramley	28	5	0	9	207	316	6	0	8	206	307	22
Hunslet	28	5	0	9	256	302	5	0	9	175	283	20
Chorley	28	6	0	8	219	275	4	0	10	180	343	20
Whitehaven	28	8	0	6	237	252	2	0	12	159	458	20
Carlisle	28	6	0	8	263	224	3	0	11	248	401	18
Workington	28	3	0	11	167	306	3	0	11	144	402	12
Keighley	28	4	0	10	238	408	2	0	12	198	429	12
Nottingham	28	3	0	11	169	527	1	0	13	154	505	8
Runcorn	28	0	0	14	103	339	0	0	14	115	596	0

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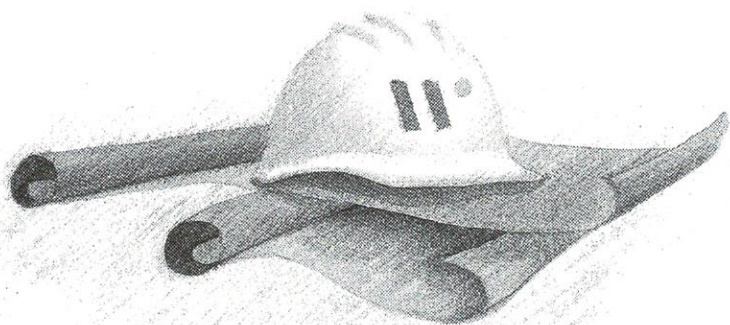
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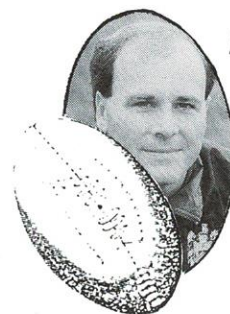
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A-TEAM ROUND-UP



*The
Coach's
View*

HELLO and welcome to this regular slot in your programme, which is to be totally dedicated to the Alliance League. Although we are about to kick-off a brand-new season I would like to reflect a little on last season's efforts — our first in the first division of the Slalom Lager Alliance.

The opening nine games produced one win, seven defeats and one draw. As Christmas approached the young lads who had played in the opening games were wondering what was going wrong and what they had to do to get a win. Although sometimes a little down, they were never disheartened and the one overriding feature of all these games was that, although we were young and very inexperienced, no team was able to beat us easily. In fact, I think the highest defeat was by 12 points.

Christmas was the turning point — the coming of age for so many of the youngsters, who went from strength to strength by winning 13 of the next 14 matches — an astonishing turnaround.

The season ended, therefore, on a high note and we finished seventh in the first division with only three teams having a better defensive record.

Out of the set-up, Tommy Martyn emerged to play in the final of the premiership play-off at Old Trafford. Who will ever forget his outrageous dummy to score the winning try?

That is what 'A' team football is all about . . . bringing young lads through to play and stay in the senior side. It is with this in mind that I hope you will view our Alliance games on Friday nights.

If you want the best Friday night out in town for only £1 come to Watersheddings. I will guarantee you will not be disappointed . . . just ask any of the Friday night regulars.

We made a good start to the new season when we beat Bradford 48-10 in a pre-season friendly the other night. We tackled strongly and in numbers and we played some good football to score eight tries.

You cannot read too much into these games, of course, but it served a purpose and it was a promising start as all those fans who watched the match seemed to appreciate.

IAN TAYLOR

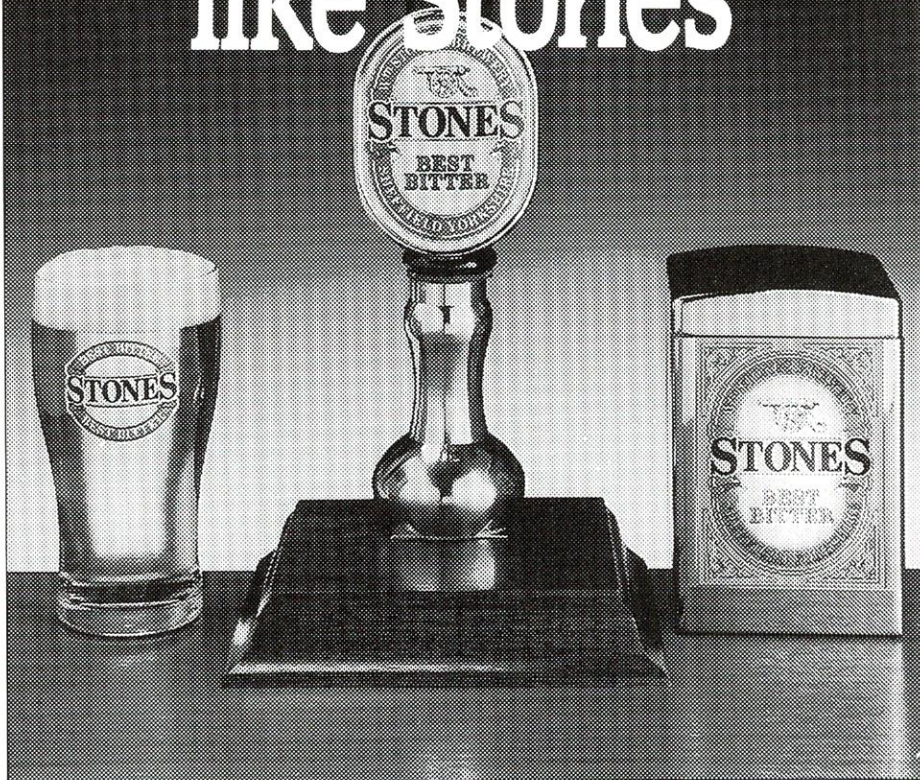
Slalom Lager Alliance Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F	A
Aug 31	St Helens	H			
Sept 7	Leeds	A			
14	Wakefield	H			
21	Salford	A			
28	Widnes	H			
Oct 5	Lancashire Shield				
11	Leigh (Thurs)	A			
20	Lancashire Shield (Sat)				
Nov 2	Wigan	H			
9	Widnes	A			
16	Salford	H			
23	Castleford	A			
30	Warrington	H			
Dec 7	Wigan	A			
14	Hull	H			
21	Halifax	A			
28	Leeds	H			
Jan 4	Featherstone	A			
11	Hull KR	H			
18	Wakefield	A			
25	Featherstone	H			
Feb 1	St Helens	A			
8	Castleford	H			
16	Alliance Cup (Sat)				
22	Hull	A			
Mar 2	Alliance Cup (Sat)				
8	Halifax	H			
15	Warrington	A			
22	Hull KR	A			
29	Leigh	H			

Slalom Lager Alliance 1st Division Final Table 1989-90

	P	W	D	L	A	Pts
Hull.....	28	23	1	4	847	325 47
Leeds.....	28	22	1	5	826	422 45
Castleford.....	28	18	0	10	763	561 36
Hull KR.....	28	17	0	11	600	420 34
St Helens.....	28	16	0	12	671	582 32
Wigan.....	28	16	0	12	644	562 32
OLDHAM.....	28	15	1	12	586	495 31
Warrington.....	28	15	1	12	652	669 31
Halifax.....	28	13	0	15	517	630 26
Featherstone.....	28	11	0	17	635	636 22
Widnes.....	28	11	0	17	450	685 22
Salford.....	28	9	2	17	623	600 20
Swinton C.....	28	10	0	18	441	802 20
Hunslet.....	28	7	0	21	425	780 14
Carlisle.....	28	4	0	24	449	960 8

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*Our regular
review of
what's
happening in
the world of
Rugby
League*

Davies equals Widnes record

Former Welsh Rugby Union international Jonathan Davies equalled the Widnes match record with 34 points in the side's recent 70-6 Greenhalls Lancashire Cup win against Whitehaven. He shares the record with centre Andy Currier who scored 34 points in a League match in 1988. Davies' record means he has scored over 500 points since changing codes.

N-N-N-N-Nineteen

Leigh's newly-signed half-back John Woods needs nineteen more points to beat the club's career record of 2194 points set by Jim Ledger between 1948-58.

Runcorn's Misery continues

Runcorn Highfield's misery continues. Fifty-three matches without a win. The run includes 43 successive cup and league defeats. The side's last win was at home to Fulham when they won 20-12. The last draw was 8-8 at home to Workington in January 1989.

**Paddy's
Answers**

Here are the answers from Paddy Kirwan's Benefit Brochure's crossword:

T	E	R	R	Y	F	L	A	N	A	G	A	N
A	O	N	E	I	L	A	S	H	T	O	N	A
Y	L	O	G	D	E	N	A	T	O	D	D	
L	D	R	A	L	E	C	P	A	D	D	Y	I
O	H	A	L	S	T	E	A	D	V	I	G	O
R	A	Y	G	R	A	H	A	M	R	B	L	
G	M	O	R	G	A	N	F	B	U	R	K	E
L	F	O	R	D	C	C	A	S	E	Y	S	
E	L	S	M	E	T	H	U	R	S	T	F	Y
N	E	W	Y	Y	H	A	W	K	Y	A	R	D
T	O	P	L	I	S	S	K	I	R	W	A	N
A	N	D	E	R	S	O	N	R	U	A	N	E
P	A	R	R	I	S	H	T	O	N	Y	K	Y

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**GRASS
ROOTS**

*Ian
McCorquodale
looks at
Rugby League
around Oldham*

IT seems like 'close season' has been left out of a modern rugby player's dictionary. No sooner are the presentation evenings out of the way — thanks to so many of the Oldham senior players for turning up to present awards and trophies — but there are the summer competitions and courses.

In the Greater Manchester Youth Games an excellent show by the Under-15s, coached by Mick Slicker, saw them defeat Salford in the final. Oldham's schoolboy signing Chris Eckersley scored a brilliant try and one by Martin Halkyard, after a clever pass by Martin Birch sealed victory.

The Under-13s, coached by Geoff Munro, should have defeated Wigan in their final but two horrendous errors saw Wigan scrape home. A steady supply of ball out under to Craig Dockray and Keith Eyres, who had pace and power to spare, could have clinched it but it was not to be. Thanks to development officer Neil Wood for his first-class organisation and to Kevin Tamati and Brian Smith.

Mayfield UI3s, with a sizeable contingent from Oldham, triumphed in the St. Helens Show competition and with Ian Evans due to join their ranks, next season's prospects look promising for Howard Leach's boys.

Then on to the week's Bobby Charlton Summer School with special mention to Russell Barber and Steven Crowther (one of our ball boys) who won shirts given by coaches Phil McKenzie of Widnes and Brian Smith of Hull.

The Carnegie Summer School followed and reminded me of the Guinness School at the same college in the Terry Flanagan/Paddy Kirwan/Ray Ashton era.

Finally, on behalf of lots of boys, a word of thanks to Fred Laughton who, after six uninterrupted years as a town team coach, is taking a well-deserved breather to concentrate on rugby at school.

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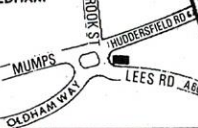
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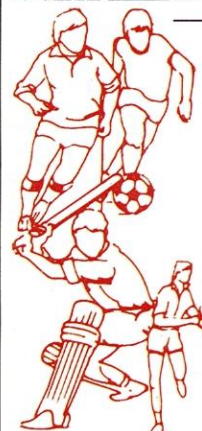
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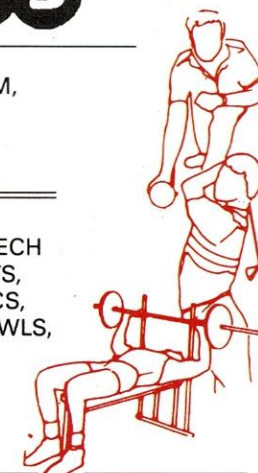
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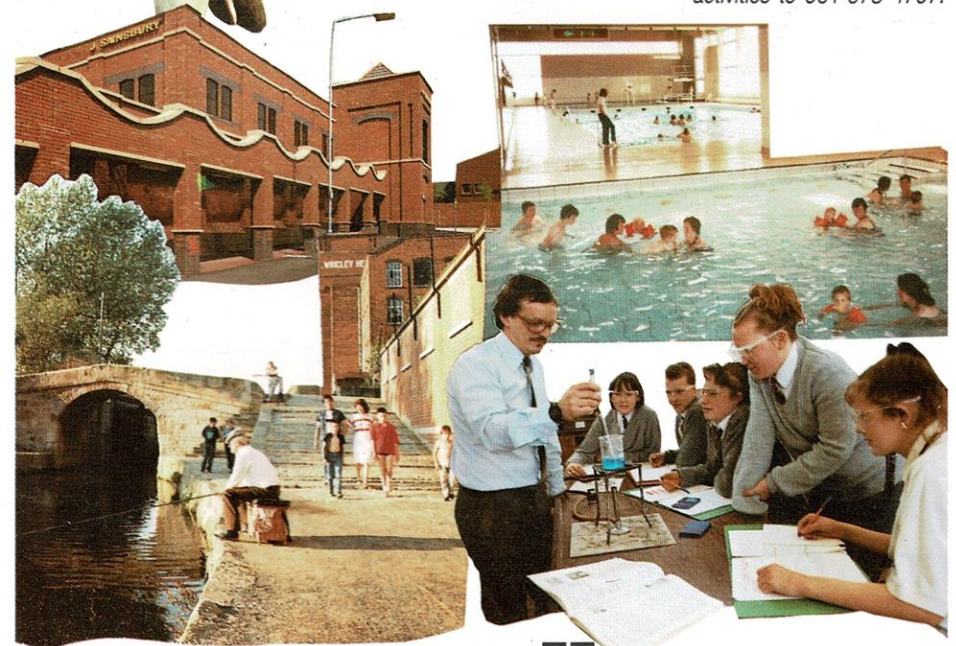
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