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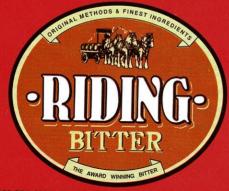
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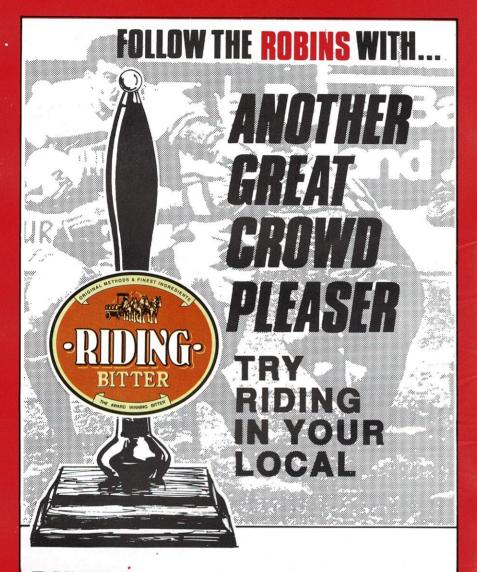
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Silk Cut Awards will again be presented to the Man of the Match in each tie, the 1991 prize being £125 up to an including the third round and £250 for the semi-finals.

Timetable

| Preliminary Round | 27 January 1991 |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| First Round | 9/10 February 1991 |
| Second Round | 23/24 February 1991 |
| Third Round | 9/10 March 1991 |
| Semi-Final 1 | 23 March 1991 |
| Semi-Final 2 | 30 March 1991 |
| Final | 27 April 1991 |

Prize Money

| Round | Per Team | (1989-90) | Total |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| Preliminary | 12 x 2,250 | (2,000) | 27,000 |
| First | 16 x 2,250 | (2,000) | 36,000 |
| Second | 8 x 3,500 | (3,250) | 28,000 |
| Third | 4 x 5,500 | (5,000) | 22,000 |
| Semi-Finals | 2 x 9,000 | (8,500) | 18,000 |
| Runners-Up | 1 x 17,000 | (16,000) | 17,000 |
| Winners | 1 x 32,000 | (30,000) | 32,000 |
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WAYNE PARKER IS AWAY



.....THEN HANDS ON TO PAUL LYMAN (REFEREE JOHN HOLDSWORTH LOOKING VERY APPREHENSIVE).....



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PROFILE ON: **WAYNE PARKER**

Position:

Scrum or Off Half

Birthplace:

Hull

Present residence: Hull

Height and Weight: 5'9, 12st 12lbs

Date of Birth:

2.4.67

Occupation: Bricklayer

School attended: Hopewell Primary/Wivern Junior High/Andrew Marvel High

Previous Clubs:

Hull K.R. Colts

Marital Status:

Cathy

Children and ages:

Wayne Christopher 3 years

Favourite away ground: Headingley

Favourite opposing team: Hull F.C.

Most Admired Opponent: Andy Gregory

Most Memorable Match: Any time we beat Hull + Colts Premiership Final

Victory at Elland Road.

Person who has provided biggest influence on playing career:

My father and my brother Frank.

Biggest thrill in Rugby League: Winning Under 21 caps and Winning

2nd Division Championship.

Biggest disappoinment in Rugby League: Losing Premiership Final to Oldham.

Ambition in Rugby League:

To win full International Honours and

win First Division with Rovers

Hobbies:

Baseball, Golf, sport in general and Holidays abroad

General Likes:

Spending time with the family, Sport, Watching T.V,

Going for a pint.

General Dislikes: Working, Losing Matches.

Personal ambition: To do well in life and make my family's future a good one,

To win the league with Rovers and to play at Wembley.

Person would most like to meet, and why: Ian Botham, I think he has been a

tremendous sportsman, and has been tremendous in his efforts for Charity.

Honours in the game:

Two Great Britain Under 21 caps v France

Favourite Film: Predator

T.V. Show: Cheers

Actor:

Steve Martin

Comedian: Robin Williams

Sigourney Weaver

Singer:

Tina Turner

L.P.: Add'Jutions Volume 1 Robert Palmer



CLUB NEWS

Welcome today to **Frank Stanton**, victorious coach of the 1982 Australian Tourists, who was due to arrive in England yesterday and is to be a spectator at this afternoon's game. Frank has come over to this country at his own expense, and his visit gives him an opportunity to look at the club and the area, and also for us to interview him and have a look at him. We emphasise at this stage that there are a number of applicants for our coaching vacancy and no decision has yet been made. There are still many factors to be considered before any final conclusion is reached.

Ray Sodje sustained a groin strain in the first half of the Warrington game and is likely to be sidelined for two or three weeks. Mike Fietcher also took a knock on the knee in the same game but it is hoped he will be alright. Anthony Sullivan missed the game with a groin strain.

Mike Smith's achilles tendon injury continues to make only slow progress, and **Des Harrison** joins him on the injured list for about six weeks with a broken nose and fractured cheekbone. **Craig O'Brien** is also out of action again with an elbow injury.

David Lightfoot and **Paul Vannet** are both back on Humberside and resumed training this week. Both players went home to Cumberland for the Christmas period without permission from the club and accordingly have been disciplined by the club. **David Lightfoot** was transfer listed by Rovers at £40,000; **Paul Vannet** was already on the list at £30,000.

Shaun Hoe and fiancee Samantha, sister of fellow hooker **Lee Richardson** and daughter of kitman **Dave Richardson**, returned home to Shaun's home on New Year's Day after the win over Hull F.C. to be greeted by his team mates with a surprise party to celebrate Samantha and Shaun's engagement.

Congratualtions to captain **Richard "Tich" Chamberlain** and **Ian McRae** of our Greatfield Under 19 side on their selection for the Greaty Britain Under 19 team who played France yesterday.

Congratulations also to three of our former amateur players Terry Smith and Stuart Farr, now with Dockers, and Terry Swinney, currently with Stelrad, on selection for Yorkshire in the BARLA Championship.

Rovers visit to Wigan has been re-scheduled for Saturday, 2nd February kick off 2.45 p $_{\rm I}$ m $_{\rm I}$

Bradford Northern were seeking to overcome the stranglehold which West of the Pennine Clubs have held in recent years on the Imperial Tobacco's Regal Trophy (formerly John Player Trophy) yesterday. The last White Rose Club to win the trophy was Rovers, back in 1985, when we beat local rivals Hull F.C. at Boothferry Park.

STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP DOUBLEHEADER 1991

The fifth annual Stones Bitter Premiership Doubleheader will be staged at Manchester United's Old Trafford on Sunday 12 May.

Since being launched in 1987, the Stones Bitter Premiership showpiece has rapidly grown in popularity and last season attracted a record attendance of 40,796.

Seat tickets for this end of season showcase event can now be ordered priced £15, £12 and £10. Orders and remittance, made payable to the Rugby Football League, should be forwarded, including a stamped addressed envelope, to the Premiership Ticket Office, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT. The Ticket Hotline will again be in operation for Visa/Access credit card bookings by telephoning 0532 629991, Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 p m.

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OUR VISITORS

Today we entertain Oldham, the club with whom a positive rivalry developed last season; supporters will hardly need reminding that although we won Second Division Championship, Oldham "came from the dead" to defeat us by one point in the closing minutes. This season however we managed a win at The Watersheddings despite playing with a man short for over half of a game dominated by controversy.

Coach Tony Barrow and his club were quite active in the transfer market. Considering they were well off for prop forwards they sold Leo Casev to Featherstone for a record £100,000. His last match for Oldham was that Premiership Final - not that he was involved in their recovery, having left the field injured early in the game.

Summer purchases have included props Derek Pyke from Widnes and Austin Donegan from St. Helens, centre Ronnie Duane from Warrington, and winger Norman Francis from Leeds. Duncan Platt: Full back: A former Widnes player who cost Oldham £35,000 in December, 1988 and was one of Tony Barrow's first signings. Landed 125 goals last season, despite damaging an ankle in the Lancashire Cuo Final and missing the next seven matches. Brother of Wigan and Great Britain forward Andy Platt.

Richard Irving: Wing: Snapped up by Oldham from Moldgreen A.R.L. Club in Huddersfield. Won both BARLA, G.B. and Yorkshire honours. Rapidly making strides in the professional game.

Norman Francis: Wing: 25 year old who joined Oldham from Leeds for an undisclosed fee, at the end of August after being on the transfer list for £35,000. Scored four tries for Leeds 'A' against Oldham at Headingley in 1989 - 90 with Tony Barrow watching in the stands. Big. strong and fast, he is hoping for more senoir chances at Watersheddings than he got at Headingley, where he spent most of his football in the 'A' team.

Tony Anderson: Centre: 29 year old former Brisbane player who joined Halifax when brother Chris was player - coach. Oldham's record buy at £75,000 from Halifax in the Spring of 1990. Had wretched luck since moving from Thrum Hall. In his second game for Oldham he broke his nose and his comeback at Workington he broke his ankle. Spent the summer of 1990 getting back to fitness and returned to action in October.

Des Foy: Centre: 27 year old local who had started his professional career with Widnes. Joined Oldham in 1983 in the deal which took prop Brian Hogan back to Naughton Park. Played for Great Britain Under 24's then toured Australia with Great Britain in 1984 Played in the first Test in Sydney and has a lot of experience in Australian football with Newcastle Knights to Oldham. Younger brother of Martin Foy, he was listed at £100,000 when he asked fo a move at the end of November.

John Henderson: Centre: Another local lad signed from Leigh for £50,000 in September 1988. Represented Lancashire. Rated as one of the fastest centres in the game. Played almost 150 games for Leigh and has passed the career century of tries mark. Also had a spell with Wests in

Gary Hyde: Centre: Signed for Castleford in 1978 and was their third top point scorer in 1980-81 with 231 points. A former Great Britain Under 24 and Yorkshire player, he moved to Oldham two vears ago.

Ron Duane: Centre: Signed as a 16 year old by Tony Barrow when the latter was at Warrington. Burst on the international scene as a teenager and went on the 1984 Tour to Australia, only to suffer serious knee damage in the opening game at Darwin, Northern Territory. Injuries continued severely to restrict his appearances. Still only 27 he joined Oldham during the summer for a reported £15,000.

Tommy Martyn: Centre: Son of former Great Britain second rower Tommy Martyn senior, he was signed from Leigh Miners after outstanding displays as a schoolboy International against France and touring Australia with BARLA in 1989.

Paul Lord: Wing: Been at Watersheddings since April 1985 when he turned professional as a 17 year old from Stanley Rangers A.R.L. Club. Represented BARLA. G.B. and Yorkshire at Under 17 level.

Steve Robinson: Wing: Joined Oldham from Saddleworth Rangers in November 1987. Progressed to become an extremely fine winger.

Brett Clark: Off Half: Former Western Suburbs and Sydney St. George Player who first came to England to play for St Helens. Was the Saints stand - off in their 19 - 18 defeat by Halifax at Wembley in 1987. Joined Oldham of the 1989-90 season.

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Mike Ford: Scrum half: Former Wigan player who spent several good seasons at Central Park. Played in the 1985 Challenge cup Final alongside Brett Kenny. Also played for leigh. Toured Down Under in 1988, also gained four Under 21 caps.

Derek Pyke: Prop: One of the most experienced ball handling props in the game and player whose skills can unlock the toughest defence. Signed from Widnes for a £50,000 fee during the close season. He made appearances for Leigh in a ten year spell before moving to Widness, who paid £60,000 for him plus Harry Pinner. Represented Lancashire. Hampered by injury last October which necessitated a cartilage operation.

Austin Donegan: Prop. 22 year old, 6'3", 16st. giant who was brought from St. Helens for £20,000 last May. Can also play second row. Big and Exceptionally fast for his size. Austin is beleived by Oldham to have a big future in the game.

Andy Ruane: Hooker: Started his career with home town Widnes and moved to Rochdale Hornets from where he joined Oldham for £13,000 in July 1988. Scooped most of Club's Player of the Year awards in 1988 - 89 but had bad luck with injuries in 1989 - 90 when he began to face competition for the hooking job from Richard Russell, Listed at £20,000 on asking for a move last November.

Richard Russel: Hooker: Former Wigan player who played in every back position at Central Park and earned Great Britian Honours at Colts and Under 21 levels. Snapped up by Oldham in the 1989 close season, and regarded as the bargain which beat all bargains, he was signed fro £3,000 down, with a further £12,000 to pay once he ahs made 50 senior apperances. Switching him to hooker has proved a master stroke.

John Fleidhouse: Prop: Former Warrington and Widnes forward, a Great Britain International who was from St. Helens. Man of the series against the Kiwis in 1985. Settled in well at Watersheddings, but has been a recent absentee with ligament damage.

John Fairbank: Prop or Second row: Born in Halifax, a former BARLA Interantional forward signed by leeds in November 1987 from Elland Road A.R.L Club. Joined Oldham in September 1988. One of five League playing brothers.

Kelth Newton: Second row: 29 year old forward signed from Widnes his home town club in January 1989 for £12,000. Listed at £50,000 for disciplinary reasons in mid November.

Paul Round: Second row: Was the first Oldham signing when Board of Directors replaced the former Committee. Tribunal ordered OLdham to pay St. Helens £65,000 - then a club record. Played twice for Great Britain under 21s in 1984 and represented Saints at Wembley in 1987. scoring a try in an appearance as substitute.

Keith Atkinson: Second row: Started as an Amateur when Oldham had a Colts team and played for Great BritainColts as a winger against France in 1984. Has successfully made the switch from backs to pack and, as a bonus, is a proven goalkicker of some repute, but injuries have restricted his senior apperances to fewer than 60. Missed most of last season with a knee ligament trouble and suffered a recurrence in his first attempt at a come back.

Charlie McAllister: Second row in our earlier encounter this season. Back in New Zealand he played as a back row forward for Taranaki R.U. from Under 16 to Under 21 levels. When he withced to centre he earned an All Blacks trail. In 1987 he came to England, Joined Bradford and Bingley R.U.F.C. and was spotted by Oldham. After a couple of trials in the threequarters he was signed in January 1988. Also had a few games with Newcastle Knights in 1988. Reverted back to second row late last season.

Shaun Allen: Second row or Loose Forward. Began his career with St. Helens and earned Great Britain Under 24 honours as a centre against France for St. Helens in their 1984 Lancashire Cup winning side and in the 1985 and 1988 Premiership Finals, Joined Oldham on loan before singing for a bargain £10,000 in March 1989.

John Cogger: Loose forward: Born in Sydney and played for Western Suburbs. Spent two seasons with Runcorn Highfield before being signed by Oldham in February 1989 in a bargain deal. Went home to Austrilia early last April and missed the Premiership Final. As a consequence he was listed at £95,000, but has now returned to the Club and differnces have been resolved.



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FIXTURES / SCORERS / APPEARANCES / RESULTS / ATTENDANCES

FIXTURES / SCORERS / APPEARANCES / RESULTS / ATTENDANCES

| | OPPONENTS AND VENUE | ATT. | RESULT F A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Aug 19th | Nottingham C. (A) (York. Cup Prem.) | | 100 - 6 | D. Lightfoot T | G. Clark T | J. Irvine T | G. Austin 6T | A. Sullivan 5T | M. Smith | D. Bishop | C. Armstrong 14G | S. Hoe T | A. Ema 2T | Des Harrison T | A. Thompson | P. Speckman | M. Fletcher S/7 | B. Niebling S/1 |
| 26th | Ryedale York (A) (York. Cup I) | | 10 - 0 | D. Lightfoot | G. Clark | G. Hallas GT | G. Austin | A. Sullivan T | M. Smith | G. Chatfield | B. Niebling | S. Hoe | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Speckman | J. Irvine S/7 | C. Armstg S/1 |
| Sep 2nd | Featherstone R. (A) (York. Cup II) | | 31 - 12 | D. Lightfoot | G. Clark | G. Hallas 5GID | G. Austin T | A. Sullivan 2T | D. Watson | G. Chatfield | B. Niebling | S. Hoe | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Speckman 1 | J. Irvine S/7 T | C. Armstg S/1 |
| 9th | Featherstone R. (A) | | 14 - 14 | D. Lightfoot | B. Sodje | G. Hallas 5G | J. Irvine | A. Sullivan | D. Watson | W. Parker | B. Niebling | S. Hoe T | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Speckman | M. Fletcher S/10 | C. Armstg S/1 |
| 12th | Castleford (A) (York. Cup S.F.) | | 6 - 29 | M. Fletcher | G. Clark | G. Hallas G | G. Austin | A. Sallivan | D. Watson | W. Parker | B. Niebling | S. Hoe | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Speckman | J. Irvine S/12 | C. Armstg S/13 |
| 16th | Warrington (H) (3.00) | 4,905 | 20 - 14 | G. Cook | G. Clark | G. Hallas | D. Watson T | A. Sullivan 2T | W. Parker | D. Bishop | J. Goulding | S. Hoe | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Speckman | J. Irvine | C. Armstrong |
| 23th | St. Helens (A) (3.00) | | 10 - 42 | G. Cook | G. Clark T | G. Hallas G | D. Watson | A. Sulivan T | W. Parker | D. Bishop | J. Goulding | S. Hoe | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Speckman | J. Irvine S/8 | P. Lyman S/1 |
| 30th | Wakefield T. (H) (3.00) | 5,203 | 12 - 18 | M. Fletcher 2G | G. Clark | G. Hallas T | D. Watson | A. Sullivan | W. Parker | D. Bishop | J. Goulding | S. Hoe | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Speckman | J. Irvine S/13 | P. Lyman S/1 |
| Oct 7th | Oldham (A) (3.00) | • | 28 - 25 | D. Bishop | S. Hadi | G. Hallas 6G | J. Irvine | A. Sullivan T | D. Watson | W. Parker T | J. Goulding | S. Hoe | A. Ema | P. Vannet T | A. Thompson | P. Lyman T | M. Fletcher S/11 | W. Jackson |
| | Widnes (H) (3.00) | 6,203 | 22-20 | D. Lightfoot | S.Hadi | G. Hallas 4G2D | J. Irvine | A. Sullivan T | D. Watson T | W. Parker | J. GouldingT | S. Hoe | B. Niebling | A. Ema | A. Thompson | P. Lyman | M. Fletcher S/11 | P. Vannet S/10 |
| 21st | Bradford N. (A) (3.30) | - | 10-26 | D. Lightfoot | S.Hadi | G. Hallas 3G | J. Irvine | A. Sullivan | D. Watson T | W. Parker | J. Goulding | S. Hoe | A. Ema | P. Vannet | A. Thompson | P. Lyman | M. Fletcher S/4 | W. Jackson S/13 |
| Nov 4th | Featherstone R. (H) (3.00) | 4,977 | 24 - 14 | M. Fletcher G | S.Hadi | G. Hallas T 3G | J. Lydiat | A. Sullivan T | D. Watson T | W. Parker | J. Goulding | S. Hoe | B. Niebling | P. Vannet | A. Thompson | P. Lyman T | G. Chatfield S/3 | D. Harrison S/11 |
| 13th | Wigan (H) (3.00) | 5,642 | 6-36 | M. Fletcher | S.Hadi | G. Hallas G | D. Watson | B. Sodgie | M. Smith | W. Parker | J. Goulding | S. Hoe | B. Niebling | A. Ema | A. Thompson | P. Lyman | M. Fletcher S/13 | P. Vannet S/11 |
| 18th | Rochdale H. (A) (3.00) | - | 32-18 | D. Lightfoot | B. Sodjie T | M. Fletcher 6G | D. Watson | A. Sullivan | M. Smith | W. Parker | J. Goulding | C. Rudd | B. Niebling | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Lyman T | G. Cook | W. Jackson S/8 |
| 25th | Bradford N. (H) (3.15) | 4,801 | 12-4 | G. Cook | B. Sodjie | M. Fletcher 2G | M. Smith | A. Sullivan | D. Watson | W. Parker | B. Niebling 1T | C. Rud | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Lyman 1T | J. Lydiat S/8 | J. Goulding S/11 |
| Dec 2nd | Leeds. (A) (Regal Tr I) (6.30) | | 22 - 26 | G. Hallas | G. Clark | M. Fletcher 3G | J. Lydiat 1T | A. Sullivan 1T | D. Watson 2T | G. Chatfield | B. Niebling | C. Rudd | J. Goulding | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | M. Smith | P. Fletcher S/2 | P. Speckman S/13 |
| 19th | Widnes (A) | | 8 - 28 | G. Hallas | B. Sodje | M. Fletcher 3G | J. Lydiat | A. Sullivan 1T | D. Watson | W. Parker | B. Niebling | C. Ruud | J. Goulding | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Lyman P | . Fletcher s/11 | P. Speckman |
| 29th | Sheffield E. (H) (3.15) | 3,255 | 16 - 16 | G. Hallas | B. Sodje | M. Fletcher 4G | J. Lydiat 1T | A. Sullivan | D. Watson 1T | W. Parker | B. Niebling | C. Rudd | J. Goulding | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Lyman | . Speckman s/10 | A. Ema s/12 |
| 1991 | | | | | 1, | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan 1st | Hull (H) (1.00) | • | 20 - 8 | M. Fletcher4G 1T | B. Sodje | G. Hallas | J. Lydiat | A. Sullivan | D. Watson | W. Parker | B. Niebling | C. Rudd | A. Ema | Des Harrison | A. Thompson | P. Lyman 1T | . Fletcher s/4 1T, | . Goulding s/1 |
| | Warrington (A) (3.15) | | 12 - 30 | M. Fletcher2G | B. Sodje | J. Lydiat | G. Hallas | S. Hadi | D. Watson | W. Parker | B. Niebling | C. Rudd | A. Ema | J. Goulding 1T | A. Thompson | P. Lyman 1T | P. Fletcher s/2 | W. Jackson s/8 |
| | Oldham (H) (3.15) | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Castleford (A) (3.15) | | | | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | St. Helens (H) (3.15) | | | | 7.7 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | - | |
| | Wigan (a) (3.00) | | | | | | | 1.5 | - | | | | | | | | | |
| | Silk Cut Challenge Cup - Rnd 1 | | | | | 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Castleford (h) (3.00) | | | 7 | | | | 7 | 1- | | | | | | | | | |
| | Silk Cut Challenge Cup - Rnd 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Leeds (A) (3.00) | | | | | | | I | | | - | | | | | | | |
| | Wakfield T. (A) (3.30) | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 4 5/4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Leeds (H) (3.00) | | | | | | | - 1 Eur | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Rochdale H. (3.00) | | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Hull (A) (3.15) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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1990 AUGUST SEPTEMBER Wigan (8.00 p.m.) H L 7 - 12 **OCTOBER** Blank NOVEMBER Featherstone (7.30 p.m.) Halifax (7.30 p.m.) DECEMBERН Widnes (7.30 p.m.) Hull F.C. (7.30 p.m.) **JANUARY 1991** Warrington (8.00 p.m.) Oldham (7.30 p.m.) A Castleford (7.30 p.m.) **FEBUARY** Cup MARCH Wakefield (7.30 p.m.) H Castleford (7.30 p.m.) A Oldham (7.30 p.m.) H Fri. St. Helens (7.30 p.m.)

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FIRST TEAM FOCUS WIDNES 28 ROVERS 8

(Played 19th December, 1990)

Rovers visit to Naughton Park, delayed three days due to Widnes's involvement in the Regal Trophy Competition, was our first match for two and a half weeks, on an evening when an icy cold wind and rain made handling difficult.

We had first use of the elements at our back, but the home side soon pushed us into our own quarter and in seven minutes split our defence for a try wide out.

If Rovers were rusty after our lay-off there was little sign of it our reply. **Dave Watson** was prominent twice before **Graeme Hallas** steamed up alongside to send **Anthony Sullivan** sprinting over for a suberb try. When **Mike Fletcher** improved the try Rovers were ahead after 27 minutes.

It lasted only five minutes, although there was a hint of hindering as Widnes swept through for a six pointer. Right on the interval **Mike Fletcher** added a penalty, and Rovers were only 10 - 8 in arrears at the break.

Rovers were now facing wind and rain, and up to threequarter time were more than the equal of our famed opponents, but on sixty minutes the deficit was increased to 16 - 8. Shortly afterwards injury forced Bryan Niebling to be substituted, and Widnes pressed home their advantage, although Rovers had the best of the final minutes which featured a long sprint from "Sully" which was only just nailed with a desperate last ditch tackle.

Rovers were far from disgraced and the final scoreline thus presented a reading which showed scant justice for Rovers' battling display and was a bit flattering to the home side.

ROVERS 16 SHEFFIELD EAGLES 16

(Played 30th December, 1990)

Craven Park was waterlogged on the original Boxing Day for this encounter, and anyone who saw it late on Friday evening would probably have bet on it being off again on the Saturday. As it was, the pitch had drained remarkably, allowing the match to go ahead though it was a heavy surface.

The rain fortunately held off, but there was a strong wind and we had first use of it. We launched the first attack and when Sheffield erred, **Mike Fletcher** put us ahead with a penalty.

Our lead was short lived. As the Eagles swooped towards our line there was a clear knockon, but play was allowed to continue and the following side gained advantage with a try awarded to put the visitors ahead.

Back came Rovers, although even at this early stage we were looking decidedly "rusty" after our lay-off. A Sheffield attempt at a clearance kick charged down smartly by **Chris Rudd**, and though he was blatantly impeded in his follow-up, **John Lydiat** was able to boot the ball over the line and in the scramble which followed won the race for the touch down. **Mike Fletcher** improved it with a fine wide angled goal and seemingly we were on our way. A view further confirmed when **Bryan Nieb!!ng** set things in motion and **Wayne Parker** sent **David Watson** streaking through for a superb try. **Mike Fletcher** had little difficulty converting this one, before adding a great penalty from near the touchline.

(Continued on Page 26)

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ROBINS ROUND UP

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ROBINS ROUND UP

Just before the interval we missed a glorious chance to increase our lead, although this was just one of several opportunities we spurned, but we went in at the break with a seemingly comfortable 16 - 4 advantage.

The Eagles, in their first ever encounter with Rovers, had other ideas, and with the wind now to their advantage set about their task with obviously far more relish than we seemingly possessed. The advantage swung decisively to the visitors, so much in fact that we rarely even reached their '25 in the second half, and certainly never looked like scoring again.

Sheffield had an ability to keep the ball on the move in the tackles whilst we all too frequently fumbled and blundered, so that it was no real surprise when the scores were levelled. The smallest attendance of the season thus witnessed a most disappointing display.

Bryan Niebling with over 40 tackles set a tremendous example up front, **Bright Sodje** ran and tackled well with his limited chances, but the man-of-the-match verdict went to **Graeme Hallas** who showed some big kicking at full back. Few others enhanced their reputations.

ROVERS 20 HULL FC 8

(Played 1st January 1991)

Hull coaching duo **Brian Smith** and **Noel Cleal** were spectators at our match with the Eagles, but it is unlikely that they learned anything about Rovers that they did not already know. If they did, then it did not do them much good.

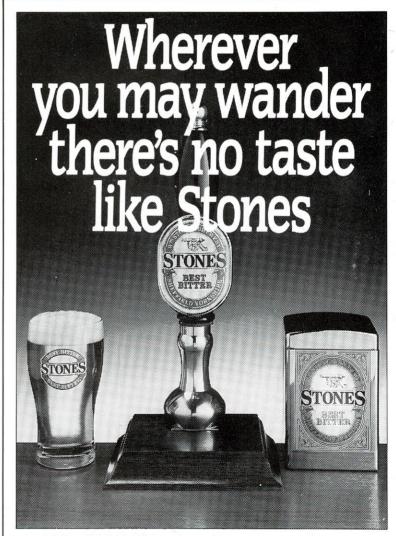
Less than 72 hours after that energy sapping game against Sheffield we were lined up against cur local rivals who had the benefit of matches more regularly spaced. Hull, as league leaders, brought a lot of support to watch as the "Robins" started the New Year in style by knocking the "Airlie Birds" off the top perch.

Winning the toss, skipper **Bryan Niebling** elected to give the visitors first use of the strong wind blowing down the pitch. Surprisingly, Hull made very little use of it. They did take the lead when an optimistic kick ahead saw us fumble the ball right on the line for Eastwood to snatch a gift four points after twelve minutes.

For the remainder of the half resolute tackling thwarted every other Hull raid, whilst in attack we gave as good as we got and on the half hour we halved the arrears when **Mike Fletcher** thumped over a good goal. When we went in at the interval only two points in arrears we were sure we had them!

Rovers dominated most of the second half and made good use of that near gale at our backs to keep pegging Hull back whenever they threatened. Halves Wayne Parker and David Watson completely outplayed their opposite numbers and James Goulding gave Parker a fine pass for the scrum half to twist and turn his way through the mud in a brilliant run to send Paul Lyman charging over near the posts. Then the halves combined slickly and Wayne Parker's pass out of a double tackle created a gap for Mike Fletcher to hand off the last attempted tackle and plunge over. The ever alert Chris Rudd slipped through smartly and his well timed pass to Paul Fletcher saw the substitute centre with his first touch of the ball completely wrong foot the defence and surge through a huge gap to run around the posts. Mike Fletcher hoisted all three conversions out of the mud to complete an 18 point burst in 11 minutes.

(Continued on Page 30)



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ROBINS ROUND UP

Hull managed a consolation try just after threequarter time but for the most part Rovers remained in complete control.

Bryan Neilbling was an inspiring skipper, being involved in most of the play and earning a richly deserved standing ovation when he was substituted near the end. He carried off the manof-the-match award but was punished hard by many of his colleagues, especially David Watson and Wayne Parker who posed problems for Hull whenever they had the ball, and Andy Thompson and Paul Lyman whose brilliant tackling took most of the sting out of Hull's bigger forwards.

Some of the match statistics are most revealing. Andy Thompson topped the Tackle count with 22 in the first half and 13 in the second for a 35 total, followed by **Bryan Niebling** 33 (18 & 15); **Paul Lyman** 27 (12 & 15); **Chris Rudd** 23 (13 & 10) and "**Zook" Ema** (10 & 10).

"Zook" Ema made the most drives (13 &13); supported by Paul Lyman (9 & 9); Bryan Niebling (5 & 8) and substitute James Goulding (4 & 9). Handling errors by Rovers 6 first half, 8 second half; compared with 9 and 17 by the visitors.

Times in possession:- Rovers 17 minutes 40 seconds first half; 17 minutes 31 seconds in second half; compared with Hull's 16 minutes 37 seconds and 13 minutes 53 seconds. This is reflected in Rovers playing the ball 84 times in the first half and 78 in the second, Hull returning figures of 76 and 65.

WARRINGTON 30 ROVERS 12

(played 6th January 1991)

Rovers visited Warrington, the current "form team", hoping to repeat our "local derby" form and possibly catch Warrington with the Regal Trophy Final upmost in their minds. If it was, Then perhaps the home players were still anxious about ensuring selection for the Final line-up.

Perhaps we knew it was not going to be our day after the opening minutes! Deputy winger **Steve Hadi** was only just held short of the line in the first minute, and then **John Lydiat** touched down for what looked a good opening try following a grubber kick. Even "Wire" fans were surprised when dead ball was ruled. From this set-back Warrington made an immediate reply with a spetacular try under the posts to go six points up after eighteen minutes.

As we counter attacked only desperate defence kept us out on several occasions before a superbly timed pass from **Bryan Niebling** sent **James Goulding** galloping between the uprights for **Mike Fletcher** to level things after 23 minutes.

In twelve minutes before the interval we lost our way as the home side ran in further tries in spectacular fashion. Some of our tenacity was missing especially in defence, with Warrington able to run the ball out and turn defence into attack after our kicks for position. The home side also seemed to put three men into the tackles when we had possession.

22-6 down at the interval, we had to use both our subs when **Bright Sodje** did not resume and **Bryan Neibling** who had been outstanding in setting a real captain's example, had to come off soon afterwards.

Our defence had tightened but just when it looked as though as we were stemming the tide, Warrington again moved the ball with pace and skill to put us further in arrears.

A great touchfinder by **Wayne Parker** gained all of 60 yards but as had happened so often, good spade work was spoiled by poor finishing. But **Paul Lyman** kept going through a couple of tackles to score under the posts and **Mike Fletcher's** conversion brought a little respectability to the score before the "Wire" finished with their sixth try when we surrended possession in our own quarter.



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CHRIS PARK'S RESERVES REPORT

ROVERS 'A' 34 LEEDS 'A' 32

(Played 21st December 1990)

After playing so well with a settled side in the last half dozen games, it was something of a blow when Rovers 'A' lost injured players like Paul Vannet, Paul Fletcher, Stuart Schultz and Steve Robinson for this match, especially with the likes of Eddie Rombo, David Creasser, Rob Ackerman, Paul Delaney, David Young and Neil James Lining up for Leeds.

However, Gary Chatfield's Christmas came early, when he found two tries and seven goals in his stocking - with the final successful kick snatching the points! Other Rovers scorers were Sean Hoe, a local trialist centre - and Paul Speckman whose 78th. minute touchdown proved so vital and allowed Chatfield to show his nerveless goalkicking touch.

Leeds were very disappointed in the final result - perhaps understandably, after outscoring Rovers by six tries to five. Their tries came from wingers Jones (2) and Rombo, with centres Creasser and Ackerman completing an all scoring threequarter line, and stand off Maloney kicked four goals.

Leeds often looked dangerous, but were prone to give away penalties which eventually proved to be their undoing. The game had a real fairy tale ending for Paul Speckman, who had another good game in the pack, supported well by Sean Hoe and Wayne Jackson. After Chatfield's successful conversion of his own try, he dropped the restart kick and Leeds scored in the corner to go 32-28 ahead with eight minutes to go: but with just two minutes left, he went in for the eleventh try of the game - and Chatfield stepped up to land the angled goal which won the game.

Leeds wre upset afterwards at the high penalty count against them - which they reckoned up at something like 17-3 against them; but just across the corridor, John Edson was full of praise for his side, for maintaining disclipine, concentrating on the football - and never giving up!

ROVERS 'A': Robson; Hadi, A.N. Other, Richardson (S.), Wildridge; Bibby, Chatfield; Jackson, Hoe, Richarson (L.), O'Brien, McRae (A.), Speckman. Subs. Crane (for Bibby) and Gotts (for O' Brien).

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Todays welcome goas to visitors Oldham, our division two rivals from last season. Who, with 3 victories over the robins last term seemed to have the evil eye on us , but a win at the Watersheddings earlier in the season dispelled that myth and todays game is definately up for grabs. Adjusting to division one has hit and miss situation for Oldham, something we all know about. On their day Oldham are a very good side indeed and can cope with the best with ease. We will need to produce a top showing to make todays game the ding-dong battle it promises to be. We welcome everyone from Oldham to east Hull and invite members of the Supporters Club to visit our clubhouse on the carpark before todays game.

What a great start to 1991 for the Robins with a victory over the old enemy on Day 1, magic! Just as lots of people were writing them off, back came Rovers with a vengeance and, oh Happy Day! After the trials and tribulations of the early season, it was good to see players getting the deserved credit for a superb display. Funny really, after the recent A.G.M. there was a feeling that we should cancel the New Year, and there we go with the best start possible. As always the support was fantastic. Oh what lovely singists!

On winning £25.00 in the Zook Ema 200 club draw, one of our vice presidents promptly handed over a fiver to the wife saving.

"Put this to any charity you like"

Well, ignoring me she has passed it on to Hospice. Typical, Rugby League attitude, lovely people. June promised Ernie Wigg to keep it quiet. I'm a rotter and I didn't! Well done mate. vou're one of the old school.

Had a thought recently, (true - don't have many) after reading where a soccer club had added yet another name to their booting list. Methought, why don't they get rid of the bloke who hires these people? It would appear they're not very good at it.

Not very often do we mention sponsors in our notes, but as Pete Oliett, our worthy chairman will be among the representatives of todays sponsors - Coal Products Ltd, a fully blown celebrity no less, today we make an exception. Sponsorship is definately a necessary and essential part of the Rugby League today. To be successful a club must have sponsors. Rovers are fortunate indeed to have the support of so many excellent bodies and individuals who make a great contribution to the club's sucess. As a supporters club, we welcome anything that improves the standard of the game we follow. The Supporters Club sponsor one match each season but there are many other ways top help the robins. It could be that there is something you could do. In this programme are the names of many sponsors helping the Robins. Come and join us! Enquire at the office on the carpark. Just one more thing - don't forget the pint Petel

Dates for your Diary:

Tonight on stage - direct from their American trip the super two-some

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Sunday 20th January - great boy/girl duo "FOOTSTEPS"

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Sunday, 27th January - the welcome return of 3 glamorous girls "HI-LITES"

PLUS EACH SUNDAY OUR OWN CORDAN AND MIKE

It's your club, so come on in. See you...

Fred Ward.





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