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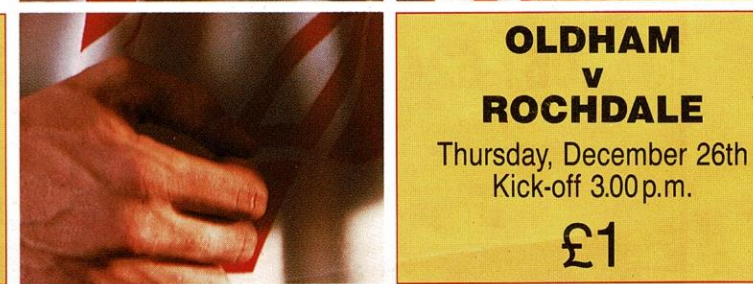
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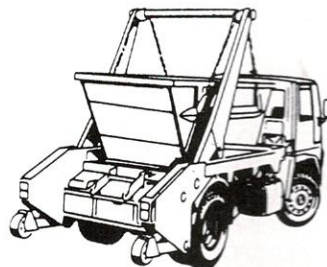
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CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League
Championship Play-off Winners:
1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners-up:
1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

First Division Champions:
1904-05

Second Division Champions:
1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners:
1898-99,
1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up:
1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

Lancashire Cup Winners:
1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25,
1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up:
1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55,
1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87, 1989-90

Lancashire Championship Winners:
1907-08,
1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up:
1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24,
1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners:
1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88, 1989-90

Wigan Sevens Winners:
1991-92

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

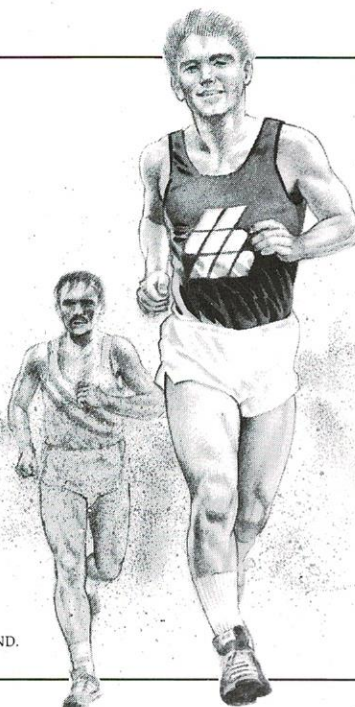
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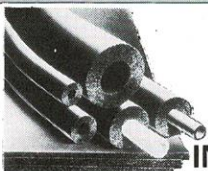
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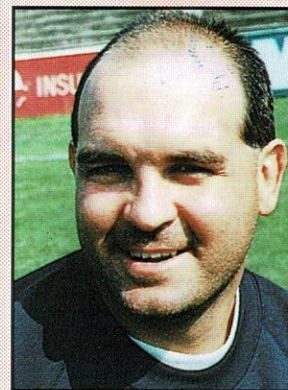


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Tunks' Talkback

Oldham's Coach
gives you his views

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year to you all. Welcome to Watersheddings for our last match of 1991. It has been an interesting season so far, one which has seen Oldham witness some dramatic changes as many well known faces have left the club to be replaced by players who, I am sure, will very shortly become equally as popular.

At the time of writing this, the situation regarding Charlie McAlister's future remains in the balance. Whatever happens, you can rest assured that Oldham RLFC will benefit from any move — either with a cash deal or player exchanges.

As you can appreciate, with so much transition taking place within the club, we have been unpredictable and inconsistent on the pitch. Now, as 1992 approaches, we are ready to turn the corner and hopefully embark on a run that will take us to the top flight where a club like Oldham really belongs.

It won't be easy, but we can do it if we all play our parts to the full — including all of you who support Oldham.

I believe we have the best supporters in this division, but it is up to you to prove it by getting behind the team at all times — especially when the going gets tough! You can start today by getting behind the side as we look to avenge an earlier home defeat against Rochdale!

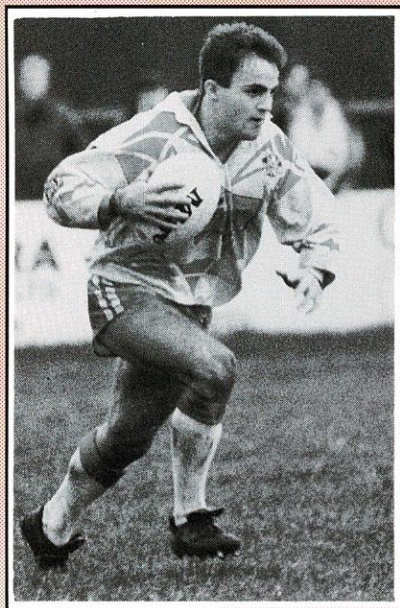
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Skipper's Spot

Oldham Captain
Neil Flanagan
looks at today's game



RUGBY League's a funny game. A couple of seasons ago, we couldn't lose at home. Now we are finding it extremely difficult to collect points at Watersheddings. Our last home game, against London Crusaders — incidentally the third time we'd played them this season — saw us beaten, a disappointing result after our morale-boosting display against St. Helens the previous Sunday. However, it was more a case of Crusaders winning the match through a tremendous defensive display than us playing badly.

A more encouraging result was the victory over York. There are no easy games in this ultra-competitive second division and we were obviously grateful to win, especially as several players, myself included, were missing through injury. This situation was made worse by injuries on the pitch and a sending off, so it is to the credit of the whole team that we came away with a result.

It is also a tribute to all the away supporters who cheered us to victory. This support is just as vital at home, especially as we have so many young, inexperienced players in the team. Now is the time to give them, and everyone else, your full support, because whatever the result you can rest assured that we will be giving you 100% effort and more.

Remember, while you've been enjoying Christmas dinner we've been preparing for today's visit against Rochdale — which marks the welcome home debut of Sean Tyrer, our latest signing. Hopefully, we can all celebrate together after the final hooter!

Finally, on behalf of all the players at the club I'd like to thank you for your support and wish you a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

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A Watersheddings welcome to . . . Rochdale Hornets

Colin Whitfield: Club captain and full-back who Hornets chased for over half a season before landing him prior to the start of last season. A former Salford, Wigan and Halifax player, Colin is good coming forward and shows plenty of courage on defence.

Brett Clark: Oldham's loss is Hornets' gain as this popular Aussie makes the short transfer up the road. Stan Gittins sees Brett as the man to make Hornets tick with his vision and passing skills. He has a wealth of experience, having played with St. George in the Winfield Cup and with St Helens before his spell at Oldham.

Ronnie Duane: Brother of former Hornets player Ian (who joined in 1985). Former international who suffered a serious injury in the first few minutes of the first Tour match in 1984, Ronnie struggled to regain his fitness and form before making a move to Oldham. At Oldham he made the transition from centre to back-row forward, from where his powerful running caused problems to defences.

Mike Kuiti: Mike makes a welcome return to the Hornets colours after an absence of six years. Part of the first venture into overseas players, Mike came over from New Zealand as a raw, young back-row forward and made his mark with some tackling and devastating running. A period at Swinton has been followed by international honours and seasons at Leeds. Hornets have brought Mike back to do the job of tightening the defence and feed off Brett Clark.

Darren Abram: One bright spot last season was the signing of this exciting centre from Trafford Borough. Darren will surely have benefited from the period in the First Division and has the potential to go far. A pacy player with a breathtaking side-step off either foot has seen him beat some of the best full-backs in the game. Top try-scorer with 12.

Steve Gartland: Steve has a baptism of fire in his introduction to the first team, playing against two of the finest scrum-halves in his first two games. Neil Holding placed great faith in Steve as one of the future scrum-halves, and impressive games proved him right to the end of the season. Away from the pressure of the First Division, Steve has the potential to go far.

Phil Fox: Signed to bring much-needed experience to the team in the run into the promotion push two years ago. Phil kept up his remarkable record of scoring on his debut as he has every debut he has made. Last season his appearances were limited by a succession of injuries.

Martin Hall: A very busy hooker in the loose who always backs up the play. Signed from Oldham two seasons ago, Martin worked hard at his game and improved his tackling as the season progressed. Brother of Hornets loose forward Rob.

Brian Garrity: Brian featured mainly in the A Team last season but found himself up against some of the best wingers in the business when called into the First Team and most had problems dealing with this tough former soldier. Not one of the biggest players, he regularly plays above his weight (and height) and must be one of the few wingers to stop Martin Offiah from scoring last season.

Simon Bamber: Simon played only one game last season for Hornets, partly due to injury, but did lead the 7s teams to the Salford Sevens Cup, pre-season. Spent some time on loan to Trafford Borough but has returned to the fold for the start of this campaign. Very fast for his size and a strong tackler.

Bob Marsden: Strong, aggressive and pacy describes Bob perfectly. A mobile player who runs hard and fast. Signed from Oldham two seasons ago, he spent most of the last season either in the A Team or on loan; however, the new season sees him face a new challenge back in the colours.

Matt Calland: Signed at the start of last season from Oldham St. Anne's, Matt made three sub appearances in the abortive First Division season after some impressive displays in the Reserves. This season has seen his full First Team debut sealed with a well-taken try.

Ian Gormley: Signed at the end of last season to bring some pace and power to the pack, Ian was in and out of the team through injury. A strong runner and tackler who had experience with Widnes earlier in his career. Scorer of 2 tries last season.

Andy Sullivan: A member of the promotion-winning side, Andy found himself pushed out after Hornets signed Neil Holding (now at Oldham) and so he spent most of last season at Leigh. Signed as a scrum-half from Widnes, Andy has fitted in as a loose forward on more than one occasion.

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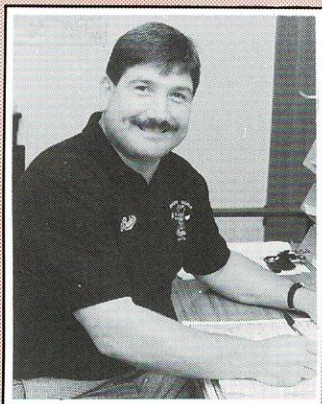
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Hill's Highlights

Commercial Manager

Ray Hill

reports on the
Watersheddings Scene

OLDHAM MATCH DAY
COMPETITION
**BONUS
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Collect six to enter our
"London Weekend"
competition

WELCOME to Watersheddings for our last home game of 1991 for what promises to be a Boxing Day spectacular against neighbours and promotions rivals Rochdale.

On behalf of everyone at the club — directors, officials and players — I'd like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy New Year and to thank you for your loyal and much appreciated support during the last 12 months.

The last year has seen us enjoy the ups — a memorable Challenge Cup semi-final against Wigan — and downs — relegation to the Second Division — that make Rugby League such a fascinating game.

As you can appreciate, we are currently battling to get ourselves back in shape — on and off the field — for a return to the game's top flight. However, the team and the club has been attracting a certain amount of criticism from a minority of supporters. In the interests of fair play, we will be hosting an extraordinary general meeting in the New Year to keep shareholders fully in the picture about the club.

Finally, this is your last chance to enter our special weekend in London competition, which is exclusively open to match day programme readers. Full details about how to enter are revealed below along with a second bonus voucher. Make sure you enter so you have a chance of winning a fabulous weekend in the capital.

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That's right. Thanks to your match-day programme and Bob Soper Travel, you can discover the delights of the capital of England by entering our exclusive "London Weekend" competition. All you have to do is answer the half dozen easy questions that have appeared in the last six programmes and send your replies, together with six vouchers, to "London Weekend Competition," Ray Hill, Oldham RLFC, Watersheddings, Counthill Road, Oldham, Lancs. To help you, we have repeated all six questions below, together with a bonus voucher. Good luck.

Q1: Shane Tupaea and Vince Nicklin were born in which country in the Southern Hemisphere?

Q2: Neil and Terry Flanagan — what relationship?

Q3: He has scored the most points for Oldham — who is he?

Q4: Amanda Norris and Angela Knox — the connection?

Q5: Ian Sherratt and Des Foy — what do they have in common?

Q6: Which two Oldham players are current under-21 internationals?

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1 Closing date for the competition is 21st January, 1992.
- 2 The winner will be notified in writing on that day.
- 3 No prize other than that offered will be given and there is no cash alternative.
- 4 Oldham RLFC employees, their families and agents may not enter.
- 5 Entries that are incomplete or illegible will not be accepted.
- 6 The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding any aspect of the competition.

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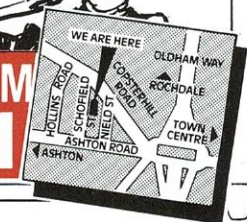
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GLORY DAYS

REMEMBER the days of Ganley and Davies, of Winslade and Turner? If you do you won't need me to remind you of the stirring deeds of one of Oldham's finest ever teams. If you don't, read on and cheer yourself up. After all, it's Christmas!

1956-7, 1957-8 and 1958-9 are the years in the spotlight — three years in which Oldham completed a hat-trick of Lancashire Cup Final victories. Two years when Oldham topped the league table. Two years when Oldham won the Lancashire League. One year when Oldham won the top four Championship play-offs. A year when Bernard Ganley kicked 224 goals in all matches in 1957-8 and a match when he kicked 14 against Liverpool City on April 4th, 1959. A year when John Eddy ran in 43 tries in 1956-7. A year when Alan Davies, Frank Pitchford, Ken Jackson and Derek Turner were selected to tour Australia (although Turner was to miss the 1958 tour with a back injury).

These were years when attendances of 12,000 or 13,000 were usual and 18,000 might pack in for a big game. They were years when Oldham were renowned for "fast, ball-moving play" when "closing up the game for safety's sake was never the policy — even when it should have been," to quote W. Darran, of the Oldham Chronicle. They were years, also, when the Supporters Club had branches all over the town: Clarksfield, Werneth, Hollinwood, Nimble Nook, Watersheddings, High Crompton, Middleton Junction and Ashton.

For Oldham supporters of this era the names still trip off the tongue. A typical 1957-8 team might have read: Ganley, Cracknell, Ayres, Davies, Eddy, Nestor, Pitchford, Jackson, Keith, Vines, Winslade, Little, Turner, not to mention Daley, Noon and Stirrup. By 1958-9 these players were being joined by Kellett, Sims, McKeown and Rowbottom. And on March 11th, 1959, Oldham paid a world record transfer fee of £10,650 for Ike Southward from Workington.

Meanwhile in the 1958 closed season the Watersheddings end stand was completed with money raised by the Pools Organisation.

Yes, these were years of unmitigated success. The Glory Years!



For the record, Oldham's league returns were as follows:

1956-7: Played 38 Won 33 Drawn 0 Lost 5 For 893 Against 365 Points 66

1957-8: Played 38 Won 33 Drawn 1 Lost 4 For 803 Against 415 Points 67 (then a record return of points in a season)

1958-9: Played 38 Won 28 Drawn 1 Lost 9 For 791 Against 477 Points 57 (4th)

In the Championship Play-off of 1956-7 Oldham defeated Leeds 22-12 at Watersheddings and won the title at Odsal by 15-14 against Hull. In 1957-8 Hull had their revenge with a surprise 20-8 victory at Watersheddings before devastating Workington Town 20-3 at Odsal.

In the Lancashire Cup Oldham's 1956-7 victory was against St. Helens by 10-3 at Wigan before a crowd of 39,544. The following year Wigan were defeated at Swinton by 13-8 before 42,497 spectators and the hat-trick was completed in 1958-9 with a 12-2 victory over St. Helens at Swinton when the crowd was 38,780.

Then there was the Challenge Cup! Oldham' Wembley jinx was as strong as ever. In 1956-7 the Roughyeds lost in the second round at Leigh by 5-0. 1958-9 was worse still, a 7-6 home defeat in the first round by St. Helens. It was the middle year that nearly fulfilled the dream. A 23-6 home victory against Hull KR was followed by a 12-5 away win at Blackpool. Then came the crunch: Wigan at home. As ever, it was not Oldham's day. Alan Davies was injured and was little more than a passenger for three-quarters of the game. Oldham could not overcome the handicap and went down 8-0, the only time all season that they failed to score. Even the press were disappointed, for Oldham were favourites to lift the cup.

By 1959 the ride was breaking up and the glory days were passing. The crucial factor was the transfer of Derek Turner to Wakefield Trinity, a move which, with hindsight, transformed the fortunes of both clubs, the one for the worse and the other very much for the better. John Eddy followed Turner to Belle Vue following the signing of Southward, and Don Vines was soon with the Dreadnoughts too for a period of Wakefield dominance. Thirty years on and the deeds of Oldham's heroes have never been matched. But the fans on the terraces still cherish the memory and still follow the dream. One day it will be OUR turn ... Merry Christmas to you all!!

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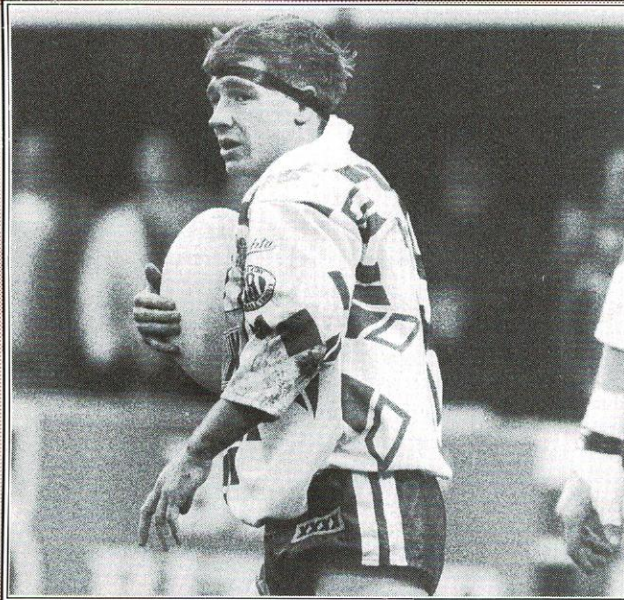
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SPOTLIGHT ON IAN BATES



Ian Bates in action during the recent Regal Trophy cup-tie against St. Helens.

WHEN it comes to determination and sheer desire to play rugby league, few players can hope to match Oldham's Ian Bates, who cut short his honeymoon with wife Lesley to help solve an eleventh hour injury crisis when the Roughyeds were due to play St. Helens in the Lancashire Cup. That decision to respond to the call to action typifies his spirit and it is why Ian has been such a popular favourite with the Watersheddings faithful since he signed for the club six years ago.

Now that determination is being rewarded as the happily married Yorkshireman enjoys a run in the first team in the No. 9 shirt with both Richard Pachniuk and Richard Russell sidelined by illness and injury.

His mammoth tackling stints in recent weeks have attracted universal praise — in the recent London Crusaders match he made an astonishing 63 tackles. Ian's efforts are all the more notable as his size and weight — he's 5' 4" and 10 stone — give him a natural disadvantage when tackling 6' 16 stone forwards. "Obviously it is hard work tackling players the size of Ian Sherratt, but I make sure I go in as low as I can. Tackle them properly and they aren't going to go anywhere," says Ian, who works as a fitter at an engineering firm in Yorkshire. "I may have a few aches and pains after a game but fortunately I work very hard on my fitness, not just at training but in my own time, too."

Naturally, Oldham fans have taken to the brave Yorkshireman who always gives 100% and a lot more. The feelings are mutual. "I've loved every second I've spent at the club. I was hesitant at first about joining a Lancashire club but it's proved to be the right decision. The club's great, the fans are brilliant — I've got no complaints even if I have to come home early from my honeymoon!"

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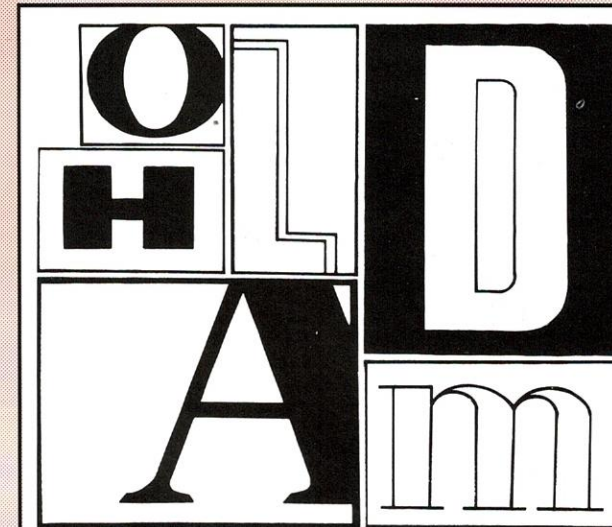
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CASTLEMANE
XXXXXX

TEAM CHECK

CASTLEMANE
XXXXXX

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26th 1991

OLDHAM

Team Changes

- 1 D. PLATT
- 2 G. CHRISTIE
- 3 V. NICKLIN
- 4 S. TYRER
- 5 J. HENDERSON
- 6 G. BYRNE
- 7 N. FLANAGAN
- 8 I. SHERRATT
- 9 I. BATES
- 10 T. STREET
- 11 C. JOYNT
- 12 C. McALISTER
- 13 L. EDWARDS
- 14 S. TUPAEA
- 15 P. MITCHELL

ROCHDALE

Team Changes

- 1 D. WEBSTER
- 2 D. FOX
- 3 D. ABRAM
- 4 M. CALLAND
- 5 A. BELLE
- 6 B. CLARKE
- 7 S. GARTLAND
- 8 A. HUMPHRIES
- 9 M. HALL
- 10 R. MARSDEN
- 11 P. OKESENE
- 12 C. ECCLES
- 13 M. KUITH
- 14 S. BAMBER
- 15 R. ECCLES

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. S. Cummings

Touch Judges:
Mr. J. Chamberlain (Red Flag)
Mr. K. Spencer (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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Photographs courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

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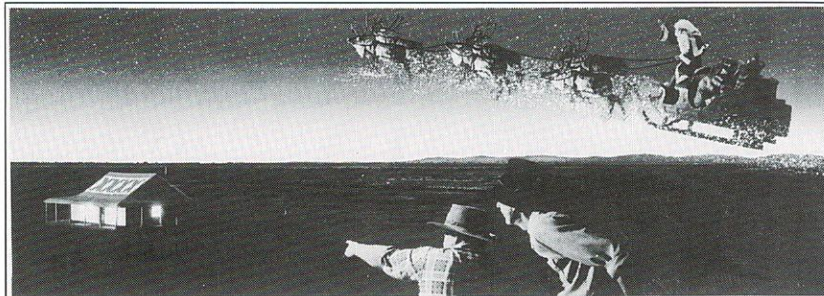
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- (1) God Rest Ye Merry _____
- (2) While _____ Watched Their Flocks
- (3) We _____ Kings

Send your entries to Sue Fletcher at Cole Communications plc, 1 Central Street, Manchester M2 5WR, by 6th January, 1992.



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Gary's View

by
A-Team
Coach
Gary Hyde

FOLLOWING the departure of Paddy Kirwan, I have been asked to take charge of the 'A' team again. I returned to Watersheddings last week expecting to see many familiar faces, only to be met with a wall of new players and only the bare skeleton of last season's playing staff.

The 'A' team in particular has been hit hard, with many of last season's side either moving on to new clubs or being promoted to the 1st team. With a crop of injuries, this has made team selection a nightmare, with the emphasis being on finding 15 players available rather than "selecting" a team.

During this period of rebuilding, I can only ask the fans who supported us so well last term to remain patient and encourage the youngsters in the 'A' team so that we can look forward to some success in 1992 and a steady climb away from the relegation zone.

Finally, Merry Xmas and a Happy and Successful New Year to everyone associated with Oldham R.L.F.C.

Youngers Rugby League Alliance Fixtures 1991/92

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F	A
Aug 30	Bradford Northern	H	W	24-14	
Sept 6	Castleford	A	L	20-34	
13	Warrington	H	L	12-16	
21	Workington Town (2.30)	H	W	84-12	
27	Halifax	A	L	6-26	
Oct 5	Hemel Hempstead (Shield)	A	W	46-8	
11	Widnes	H	L	18-24	
19	St Helens (Shield Round 2)	A	L	10-49	
24	Bradford Northern	A	L	10-30	
Nov 1	Featherstone Rovers	H	W	14-4	
9	Workington Town (2.30)	A	W	16-12	
15	Leeds	A	L	16-36	
22	St. Helens	H	L	22-38	
29	Hull KR	A	L	0-36	
Dec 6	Wakefield Trinity	A	L	0-60	
13	Castleford	H		Postponed	
20	Wigan	A			
27	St. Helens	A			
Jan 3	Hull KR	H			
10	Warrington	A			
17	Halifax	H			
24	Widnes	A			
31	Challenge Cup				
Feb 7	Hull	H			
14	Challenge Cup — Round 2				
21	Featherstone Rovers	A			
28	Wigan	H			
Mar 6	Hull	A			
13	Leeds	H			
20	Wakefield Trinity	H			

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Youngers Rugby League Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	15	11	0	4	567	208	22
Leeds	15	10	0	5	456	261	20
Hull KR	14	8	1	5	295	270	17
Halifax	14	8	0	6	340	276	16
Widnes	12	7	0	5	416	286	14
Hull	11	7	0	4	270	163	14
St Helens	13	6	1	6	346	299	13
Bradford N	11	6	0	5	272	274	12
Warrington W	11	6	0	5	215	229	12
Featherstone R	14	5	1	8	214	325	11
Castleford	11	4	1	6	182	278	9
Wakefield T	13	4	0	9	281	368	8
Oldham	13	4	0	9	242	342	8
Workington T	15	3	0	12	147	664	6

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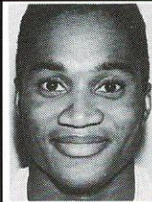







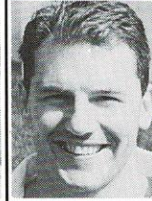



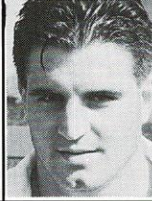
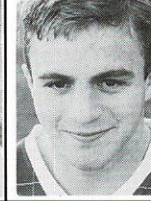







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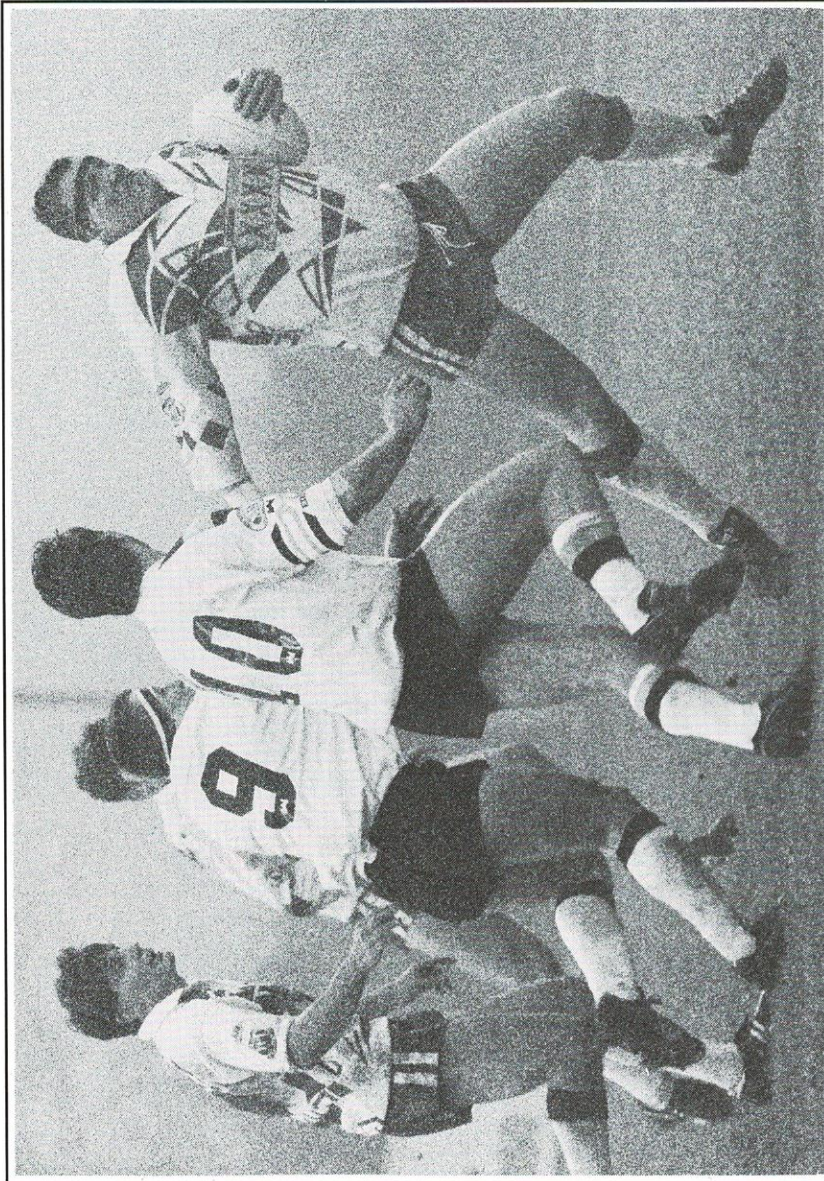
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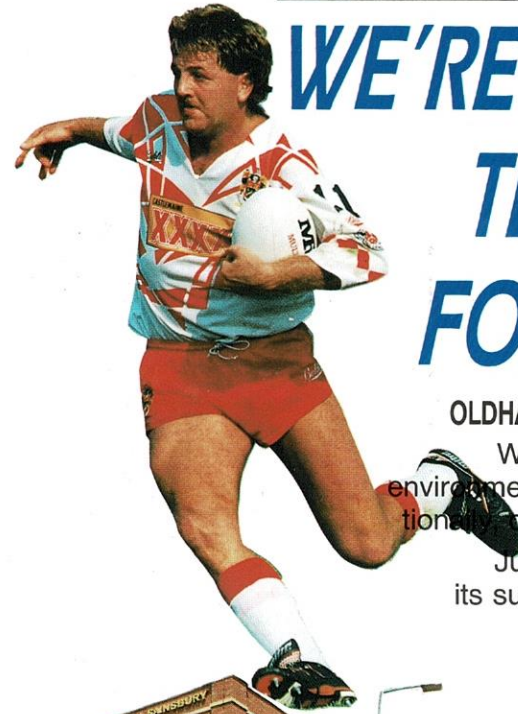


Bob Soper
TRAVEL

ACTION REPLAY



Leading from the front — inspirational Ian Sherratt led from the front during the recent 16-22 away victory at Ryedale York which gave Oldham two vital points in the race for promotion.



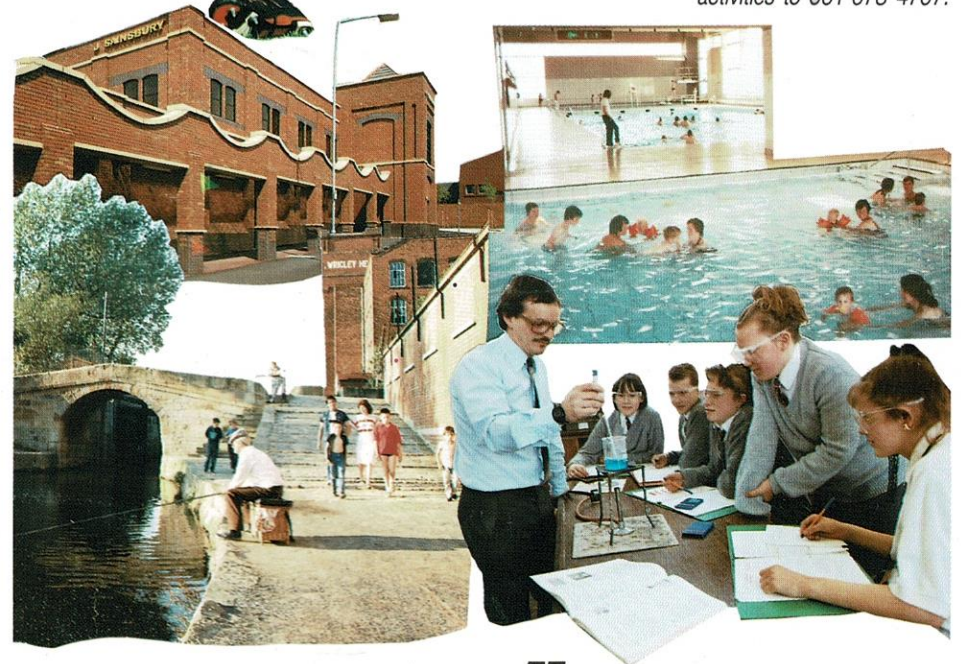
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