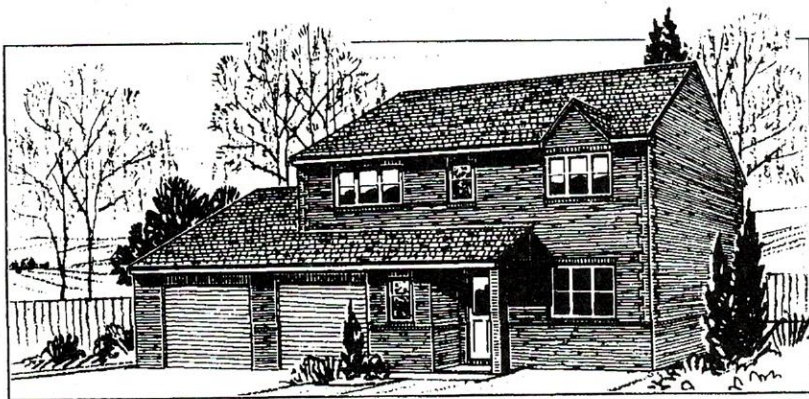


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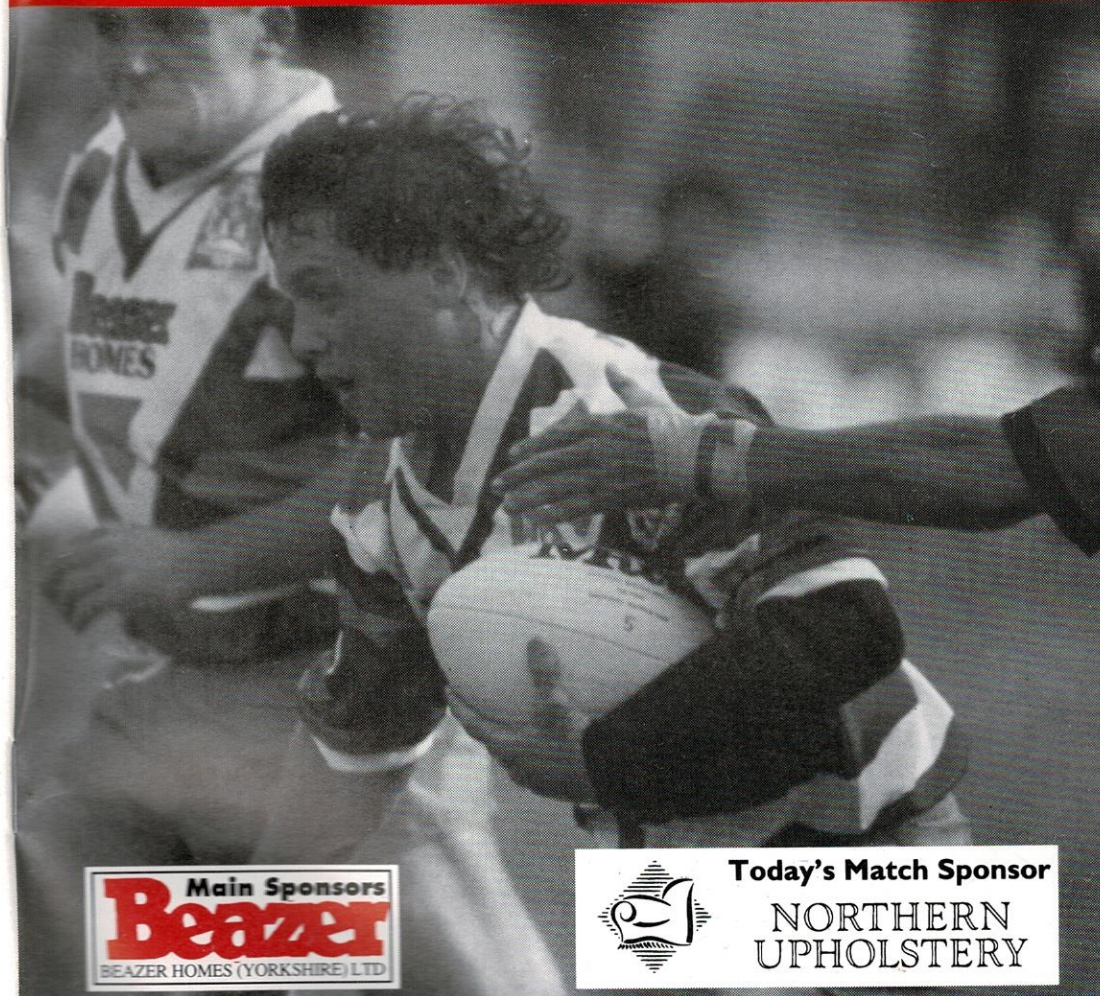
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2nd Division



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SEASON 1992-93

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Elected to NR FL: June 1921

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Telephone: Pontefract 702386

Colours:
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Navy Shorts

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Deputy Speaker – House of Commons

President: R. Ashby

Chairman: E. Gardner

Vice Chairman: D. Hunt

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J. Hill, T. Mullaney

Secretary: T. Jones

Team Manager: Steve Martin

Assistant Coaches:
Terry Hudson, Peter Bell

Academy Coach: G. Beale

Medical Consultants:
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Dr P. G. Gordon, MRCS, LRCP, DCH

Hon. Dental Surgeon:
J. G. Milne, B.Ch.D.

Club Photographers:
R. Nunn, Chris Westwood, E. Lorriman

Videographer: P. Wroe

Timekeeper: R. Hinchcliffe
Programme Editor: T. Mullaney

Groundsman: F. Lavine

Physiotherapists:
J. W. Williams, MCSP, D. Sharp

RL Representative: E. Gardner

RL Alliance Representative: D. Hunt

Life Members:
R. Ashby, R. Bailey, E. Gardner,
D. Hobbs, N. Hodgson, A. Holgate,
A. Jepson, A. Morris, T. M. Mullaney,
J. Reed, F. Williams, J. Williams

Programme Printers:
Wainwright & Lee (Printers) Ltd, Leeds.

Honours and Records

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

Great Britain:

T. Askin, C. Bibb, J. Bridges, T. Clawson, M. Dixon,
C. Dooler, S. Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox, D.
Hobbs, G. Jordan, A. Morgan, S. Nash, P. Newlove,
P. Smith, J. Thompson

Great Britain U21s:

Deryck Fox, P. Lyman, C. Bibb, P. Newlove,
I. Smales, M. Pearson

Great Britain U24s:

K. Bell, S. Evans, D. Fennell, V. Farrar, M. Gibbins, J.
Gilbert, D. Hobbs, T. Ramshaw, P. Smith,
V. Thomas, J. Thompson, L. Tonks

England:

J. Bridges, M. Dixon, S. Evans, V. Farrar, J. Hirst,
A. Morgan, J. Mullaney, P. Smith, R. Stone,
J. Thompson, A. Wood

Wales:

P. Banner, H. Box

Tourists:

Deryck Fox, Chris Bibb, Ian Smales, Gary Cooper

John Jepson Memorial Trophy: 1991-92 Paul Newlove

RL Cup Winners: 1967, 1973, 1983

Runners Up: 1952, 1974

RL Championship Winners: 1977

Runners Up: 1928, 1976

RL Championship 2nd Division Winners: 1979-80

Runners Up: 1987-88

2nd Division Premiership Runners Up: 1987-88

Arrowfast Try Scoring Trophy Winners: 1980

Yorkshire Cup Winners: 1940, 1959

Runners Up:
1928, 1963, 1966, 1970, 1976, 1977, 1989

Yorkshire League Runners Up: 1928, 1962

YSC Cup Winners: 1946, 1974

Runners Up: 1955, 1960

YSC Shield Winners: 1946, 1962, 1972

GROUND RECORDS

RL Cup Attendance: 17,531 v St. Helens 1959

Yorkshire Cup Attendance: 10,700 v Leeds 1959

League Attendance:
14,990 v Wakefield Trinity 1962

'THE ROVER'

Latest News from Post Office Road

A very warm welcome is extended this afternoon to the players, officials and supporters of Oldham RLFC who visit Post Office Road as Rovers' main rivals in the quest for the Stones Bitter 2nd Division Championship.

With both sides currently sharing top spot in the division it is certain that the remaining three games between Rovers and Oldham will determine the destiny of the title. Having beaten Oldham at the Watersheddings back in October, Rovers will be confident of repeating that success in the remaining encounters especially with having home advantage for two of those games.

Peter Tunks and his men were surprise visitors to Post Office Road last Sunday afternoon when Rovers entertained St Helens in the Regal Trophy second round game. Rovers put up a valiant performance against a side rated as second only to the mighty Wigan and so the Oldham boys will be well aware of the task that awaits them this afternoon.

Tunks, being the shrewd man that he is, will have done his 'homework' after last Sunday and will undoubtedly have his players believing that they can do the job. Today's match will take on 'cup final' proportions and as we all know, in such matches, the team that wants to win the most, more often than not does so.

It all points to a thrilling contest between two sides that are capable of playing Rugby League football of the highest quality. A packed Post Office Road ground should be in for a treat.

BUSY WEEK

Rugby League fans are in for a feast of entertainment during the coming week at Post Office Road.

On Tuesday evening a President's XIII will take on the touring Illawarra Academy side in what promises to be a tremendous exhibition between a British side which contains the game's top youngsters and the tremendously talented Australian side. The match kicks off at 7.30pm.

On Wednesday evening the Rovers Academy, who currently lead their division, are in action against Wakefield Trinity and then on Friday night the Alliance team, who are placed second in Youngers Alliance 1st Division, also take on a side from Wakefield Trinity. Those games also kick off at 7.30pm.

NISA TODAY'S DEDICATED FAMILY AWARD

The annual presentation of the above award takes place this afternoon with the proud recipients being the Nicholls family from Featherstone. Dave and Sue along with youngsters Chris and Adam support Rovers both home and away as well as being active in several other aspects of life at Post Office Road.

As well as being Cashline agents, Dave and Sue are also hard working members of the Rovers Junior Blue and White Committee, an organisation that is thriving beyond all expectations. Teenager Chris operates the Rovers scoreboard and is also training to be a referee, while youngster Andrew as well as being a Rovers fanatic is emerging as a Rugby League player with Travellers Saints.

The trophy and a £50 food voucher to be spent at G T Smith's supermarkets will be presented to the Nicholls family by Mr Gordon Smith, the managing director of G T Smith's, before today's game.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP 1993

The winners of the 1993 Silk Cut Challenge Cup will receive £36,000, a record purse for the 95-year competition.

The draw ceremony for the preliminary and first rounds of the £340,000 tournament will be made at Elland Road, Leeds – the home of Hunslet RLFC – on Tuesday 15 December, broadcast live on BBC's Northern local radio network at 10.30am.

The draw will involve the 35 professional clubs, headed by bookmakers' favourite Wigan who have lifted the Silk Cut Challenge Cup for the past five years.

Of Silk Cut's £340,000 sponsorship investment for the 34-tie 1993 tournament, £190,000 will be paid in prize money, with the remaining £150,000 being put towards the League's Capital Development Fund for ground improvements.

The 1993 Silk Cut Challenge Cup opens with the preliminary round on Sunday 17 January, with the first round on the weekend of 30/31 January. The Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final is staged at Wembley on Saturday 1 May.

Seats for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final are available priced £37, £32, £25, £15 in the stadium, and £50 in the Olympic Gallery.

Silk Cut Awards will again be presented to the Man of the Match in each tie, the 1993 prize being £130 and a commemorative medal for all matches up to and including the quarter-finals, and £300 plus an inscribed memento for the semi-finals.

1993 SILK CUT TIMETABLE

Preliminary Round	17 January 1993
First Round	30/31 January 1993
Second Round	13/14 February 1993
Quarter-Finals	27/28 February 1993
Semi-Final 1	13 March 1993
Semi-Final 2	27 March 1993
Final	1 May 1993

CHRISTMAS DRAW COUNTDOWN

The Christmas Draw is getting nearer. This big prize extravaganza in aid of the Rovers junior recruitment section should be a great night, with the draw being made by Steve Martin. There'll be a disco and all sorts of entertainment and admission is free . . . so get down to the Rovers clubhouse on Thursday 17th December – it should be a great night. However, the deadline is 4.30pm on Tuesday 15th, and all outstanding books of tickets should be handed in to the club shop by then.

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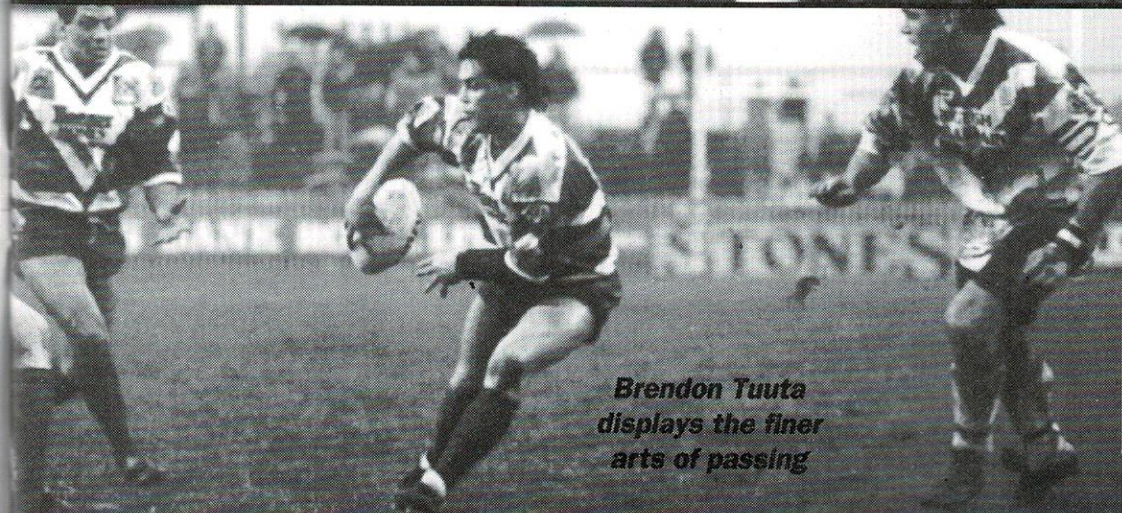
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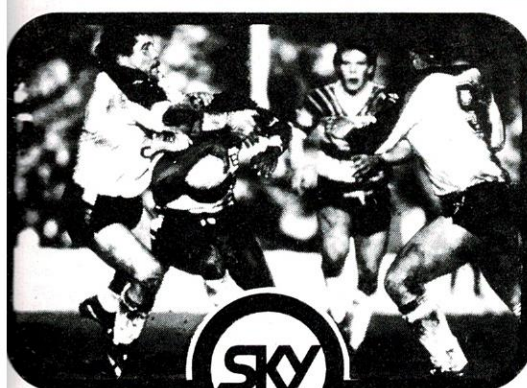
Martin Pearson scores again. He is becoming one of the RFL's most prolific points scorers



Brendon Tuuta displays the finer arts of passing

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GALLERY

Entertaining

OLDHAM

An unentertaining, passionless game between Oldham and Featherstone Rovers is about as likely as an act of spontaneous compassion from Michael Heseltine. There hasn't been a poor game between these two teams in years. The main reason is, I think, is that there is always something at stake. This is usually either promotion, relegation, or, as on one unforgettable occasion, the second division premierships. That game was unforgettable firstly because of the sheer theatre of it . . . a white knuckle ride of emotion from despond to exaltation, with a short detour via bewilderment, and if you were a Fev fan, back to the terminus at disappointment. The skill on show that day matched anything seen in any Rugby League game played anywhere, anytime, in the RFL that season . . . talking of that game makes it OK to mention Graham Steadman without washing your mouth out in this village, what a game he had – only to have the man of the match award snatched from his clutch in the dying seconds by Des Foy.

It's never been more true than today. With both sides at the top of a dog eat dog Second Division, separated by points difference, and both having been beaten by Huddersfield (who seem to be getting their act together), there is a great deal at stake today.

Team manager at Oldham is the highly respected Peter Tunks, who had a distinguished career as a player, notably with Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs, Leeds, Sheffield and a short spell with Salford – as well as gaining State of Origin and International honours. The way he is running Oldham, although not unique, is probably the prototype for the way Rugby League clubs (if they have a spark of sanity) will be run for the rest of the Nineties and beyond; payment of players by results, no telephone number contract payments, no spending money they haven't got, and a sound youth policy. This may sound a bit Stalinist (no, the players are not given cabbage soup on training nights) but it isn't. Tunks is quite willing to push the boat out within reason, and resents articles in the press about Oldham's hand to mouth existence, which he insists, with justification, is a fallacy.

Tunks has pushed the boat out, or perhaps it should be the cheque book on a couple of notable occasions lately, as well as doing some astute dealing in player exchanges. He's signed Wally Gibson from Huddersfield, one of the most promising full backs in Division Two for a reasonable fee . . . especially considering that he was valued at a hundred grand at one time.

Tunks has recently raided the ranks of the punt and grunt brigade. He signed centre Nathan Clarke from the Bristol Club and he's being brought on carefully.

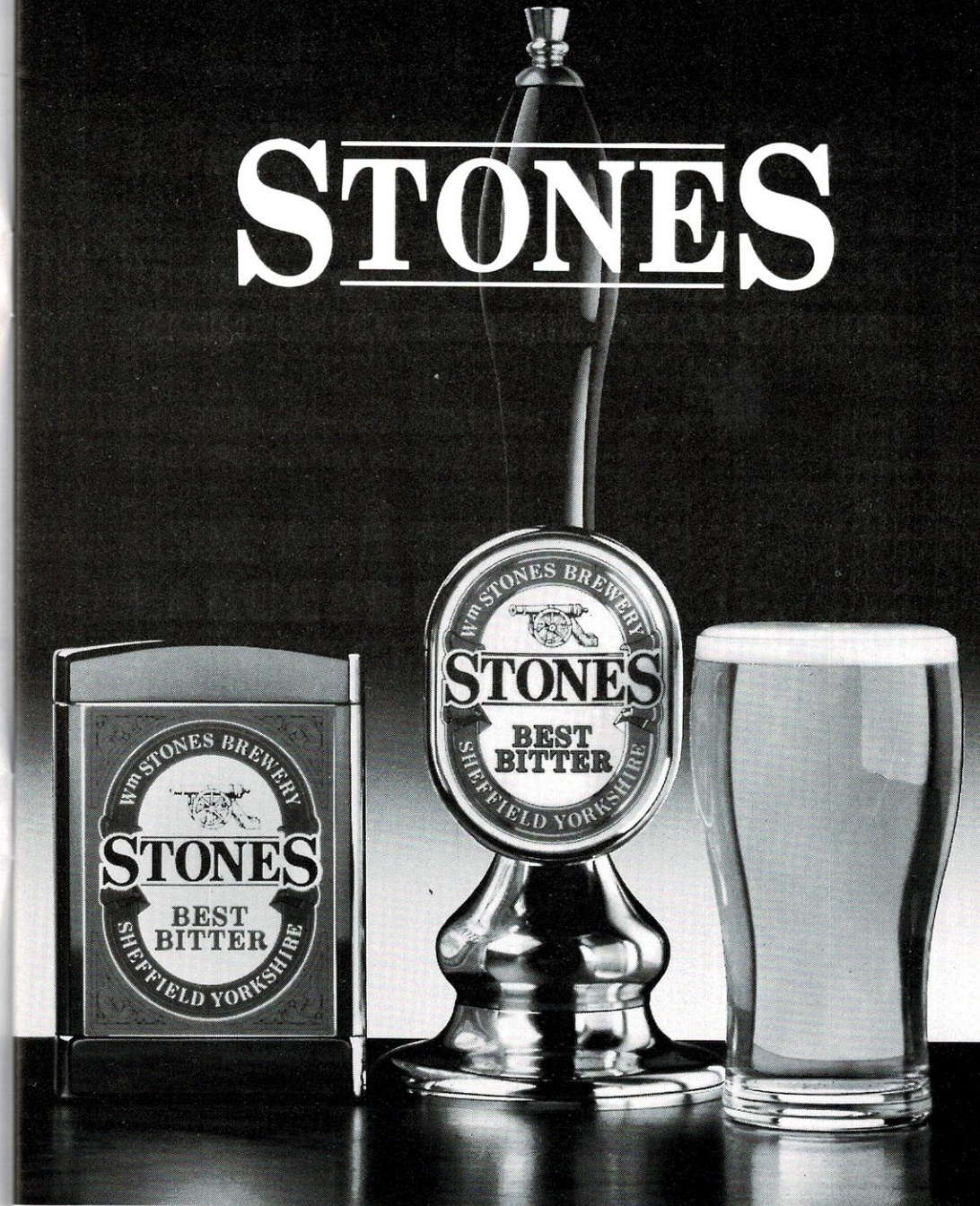
On a less exotic note – he comes from a Rugby League background – he's signed Martin Strett from the Orrel rah rah club. They are famous at Orrel. They featured in the TV series on the Beeb, which was meant to compare League and Union clubs in the same community (you got the distinct feeling that they wanted the Rugby Union club to look good) . . . in this case the borough of Wigan. It showed the smooth professionalism of Wigan and the power and skill of Rugby League at its best . . . Rugby League at its most mediocre would have looked good in comparison with what was going on at Orrel, whose contribution was orchestrated by Des Seabrook, their coach. Seabrook is the man who said that Rugby League was a simple game for simple people. Well if seeing him in action was the behaviour of a sophisticated person, then I'm happy being simple. Where does Seabrook's philosophy leave Martin Strett? Did a few thousand of his braincells melt away before the ink was dry on his contract? Of course not.

I'm very fond of the Watersheddings. It's what you might call idiosyncratic (there's a fancy word for you Des). The two tiered stand behind the sticks, and the trip around the dog track after you have paid to get in are an example of this. However my favourite bit of the ground has to be the scoreboard with its clock. This structure (which surely deserves listed building status) has a real 1930s, 1940s look about it . . . straight out of Noel Coward's 'Brief Encounter'. You can just imagine Trevor Howard arranging forbidden meetings there with Celia Johnson. "Dahling". "Yes dahling?" "I'll see you under the scoreboard clock at the Watersheddings, that young Bernard Ganley looks like making a good 'un?" "I know dahling". "I know you know". "I know you know I know, and Fiona's beginning to suspect." (enough of this British Post War movie nostalgia . . . Ed.)

There has been a fair bit of swapping and changing at Watersheddings over the last year or so. For example, Duncan Platt has gone to Leigh along with Tim Street. The most outstanding player to have come in the opposite direction being prop forward Mark Sheals. There seems to be a rota system in operation for players, coaches and clubs in Lancashire – no doubt Tim is due to move to Rochdale some time next year, probably in exchange for somebody like Colin Whitfield. Now then, whose turn is it next to be coached by Jim Crellin?

Tunks swapped Iva Ropati, sometime Featherstone Rovers player, for Charlie McCallister. Iva is scoring tries standing on his head for Oldham, whilst Charlie has fetched up at Whitehaven. Judge for yourself who got the best deal.

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THE Blue & White CLUB

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS V OLDHAM Sunday 13th December 1992

Welcome again to a match which is vital to both sides. Let's hope our lads put up as fine a performance as they did last Sunday. What a great game. A warm welcome to all young Oldham supporters. Enjoy your afternoon.



DON'T FORGET

Christmas Party is now on 22nd December at 7pm in the Clubhouse. Let's see you all dressed in your best beach gear. Remember to bring your Man of the Match forms along.



COMPETITION

Today is the last day for entries. Results at the Christmas party.



KENTUCKY DRAW

Lucky winner at last week's match was No. 46 Dale Chapman. Enjoy your meal Dale.



MASCOT

Today's mascot is 11 year old Gavin Jefferson. Gavin travels all over the globe to support the Rovers along with his mum and dad and brother Ian. He attends Featherstone High School and his favourite players are Gary Rose and Brendon Tuuta. Enjoy your day Gavin.

As a home mascot Gavin receives a £10 account from TSB, Station Lane, Featherstone.



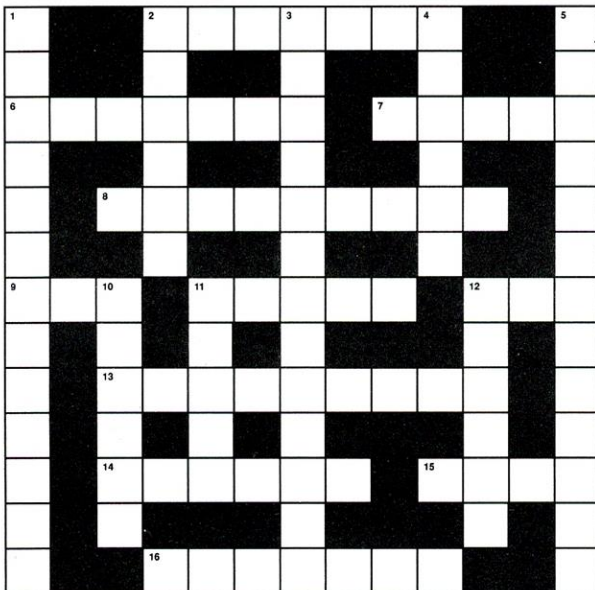
Gavin Jefferson



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FEV FUN



FEV WORD

RUGBY LEAGUE BRAINSTORM

1. Which soccer team did Denis Betts play for?
2. Who won the Yorkshire Amateur Cup?
3. Which truck firm were Oldham's shirt sponsor?
4. Who was Oldham's coach before Peter Tunks?
5. Where did Oldham sign Tony Anderson from? (he's now at Northern)
6. Which team are called the Cockroaches?
7. What were Mark Wilson's previous pro clubs?
8. Which state of Origin side did Peter Tunks play for?
9. Who is Yorkshire's leading goal scorer?
10. Who is Yorkshire's top try scorer?

CLUES

Across

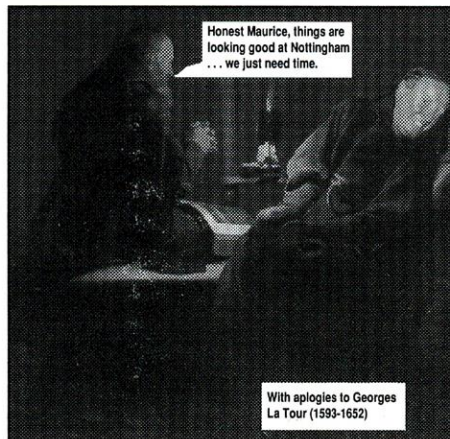
2. Little kick
6. David Bishop should be one
7. Rochdale for Oldham, Cas for Fev
8. Fisher's club
9. and 11. Aussie Rocket
12. Trainor, Cumbrian fullback
13. Aussie Geordies
14. Oldham prop
15. What Edgar and Huxley do
16. Top eight game perhaps

Down

1. Controversial coach
2. Mark - Eagle
3. Oldham great
4. Kevin Pape is one
5. Batley, but not Sir Geoff
10. Sorenson's ancestors were this
11. Martin, sometime Leeds squad man
12. Goes to Chapletown Road on a Thursday

FEV WORD ANSWERS
 ACROSS 2. Grubber, 6. Slimmer, 7. Rival, 8. Doncaster, 9. and 11. Rod Reddy, 12. Pat, 13. Newcastle, 14. Sheals, 15. Edit, 16. Play Off.
 DOWN 1. Ross Strudwick, 2. Gimson, 3. Bernard Ganley, 4. Raider, 5. Gallant Youths, 10. Danish, 11. Rowse, 12. Plead.

RUGBY LEAGUE BRAINSTORM ANSWERS
 1. Manchester United
 2. Westgate Redoubt
 3. Atkinson
 4. John Fieldhouse
 5. Halifax
 6. New South Wales
 7. Bradford Northern
 8. Leeds
 9. John Wasyliv (Keighley)



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**SPITTIN'
FEVVERS**

IAN CLAYTON

Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye

I almost drowned in a wave of nostalgia this week. It all started on Sunday when I walked into the ground for the St Helens match behind Don Fox, it felt good to walk through the gate next to a legend. And when the rain started to lash down into my face at the Railway end during the second half, I closed my eyes and started to dream. Featherstone Rovers weren't really 15-8 down to the Saints. They were beating the Australian Tourists 23-15 and Don Fox was charging through the pack to score his try and then he was kicking magnificent goals with a leather ball in the mud and nobody pranced on with a sand bucket. The rain continued to pour as I trudged home, but I didn't care, I sidestepped the puddles and swerved through the drops until I got into our backyard. And our lass thought I was a right silly bugger when I came panting into the kitchen looking for my dinner, soaked to the skin and claiming I was Don Fox. Nostalgia must have overcome one or two more this week as well. The number of times I've been told about Rovers' two great victories over St Helens in the Challenge Cup in the 1950s. And Don Fox didn't

even play in them games!
On Monday I researched into the history of Purston White Horse, a club that had a wonderful record before the first world war and later that day I looked up a team that had turned out for Rovers in the Dewsbury and Wakefield and District Cup in 1912.
On Tuesday somebody asked me what the venue was for Rovers' Championship Final match with Swinton in 1928. I was able to tell her that it was at Oldham and that according to Jim Rudd, one of the players that day, a lot of Featherstone fans set off the night before and walked it to Oldham!
While I was writing this article I was listening to some of my old jazz 78s on my gramophone. As I rooted through some of the old discs I dropped one on the floor. It broke of course, as old 78s have a tendency to do. But just before I consigned this particular piece of history to the bin, I examined the label. 'Hawaiian Sunset' it read, 'Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye.' Now who the hell was Sammy Kaye?
Nostalgia ain't what it used to be, is it?

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... As I See It ...

Mr Denis Betts may now go to Australia to play Rugby League, he says there are too many games played over here. His mind must now be made up after last week when it was announced that the first division would consist of 16 clubs. Really where are we going?

Last year we had 36 clubs and three divisions. To ordinary mortals the answer was quite clear, 3 divisions of 12 clubs each, 2 teams to be relegated and 2 to go up.

Cries of horror at this, not enough matches, clubs would lose interest. Suggestions that the County Cups should be eliminated. More cries of horror that this old competition should go. After all it is one of the oldest competitions we have, giving the lesser clubs extra income and larger gates.

Clubs at the top of the first division echo Denis Betts thoughts, but after all it is only the successful clubs that 'suffer' this hardship - tough. I am sure many clubs would be happy to be in this 'awful' situation.

As you all know, we have had this system for a couple of seasons with eight clubs in the second. The reason for this being is to create a higher standard and brake the 'yo-yo' system, where one club is too good for the second but not strong enough for the first. Has it worked? I don't think so, so we are back to where we were before - so much for progress. I admit the answer is a difficult one, but one thing I do feel very strongly about is the amount of money going out of our game to try abortive schemes abroad in the international fields before it has taken a national hold in this country.

A new business starting up and becoming successful doesn't immediately go international, it grows by spreading its branches throughout its own country and then thinks about the international market.

Would it not be better if Rugby League thought on similar lines? If Rugby League made certain that new clubs were backed financially, run on proper lines with proven management, setting up coaching schemes, bringing the club to the notice of the general public, before setting up these 'pie in the sky' schemes abroad? Too many clubs of late have wobbled in their first season or two, only to collapse and vanish without trace.

Congratulations to our Chairman, Eric Gardner on being elected to the Board of Directors of Rugby League. He knows he has a hard task ahead, but I am sure his judgement and common sense will prevail and hopefully help our game.

The latest rule change - the 10 yard rule. The defending side must retire 10 yards. Great, good idea, we'll have more open football. Just think for a moment, how is the referee going to control it? If he stands over a tackle when an infringement might take place, how does he have time to run backwards 10 yards so that the opposition is not off side? If he turns his back to the ball and runs back what awful things are going to happen whilst his back is turned?

Let's not tamper with our game too much. Let's think things through. Let you the public say what you think. After all it is YOUR game. Many answers will come up, for and against, does that matter? I think not, let's pick out the best before changing.

Donald Hunt

● ROVERS CALL 0898 888 642 ●

Hold On A Minute!

IAN CLAYTON TALKS TO THE FANS

This week Jack Sykes takes the hot seat, actually a rocking chair in our front room.

I.C. How long have you been involved with the Rovers?

J.S. I've watched them 41 years, my uncle Harold took me to my first match when I was 5, the year after they went to Wembley for the first time. I saw the Final on the telly at Mrs Goode's, they were the only ones with a telly in our backs.

When Alan Agar first came as coach I did the tackle count and when the Junior Blue and White Club started I was elected chairman. Me, Deryck Fox, Chris Bibb and Peter Wroe got it going. Since Steve Martin came I've started doing the tackle count again.

I.C. Who topped the tackle count yesterday (against St Helens)?

J.S. That's between me and the coach. I will say that Martin Pearson outplayed Tea Ropati, their stand off.

I.C. What do you think you've achieved with the Blue and White Club? What do you hope to achieve?

J.S. Once you catch kids young, they'll be there forever. I don't think there's much going for kids under 16 in the community, so I want to interest them in sport. We've got 82 members, from Featherstone and district, and you can go as far as Rotherham and Tingley, and we've even one in Germany. The kids love it mixing with the players.

I.C. Any potential Rovers players?

J.S. We've got some very good schoolboy players and Travellers Saints Junior Section players. I'd like to think it was my ambition that one of the kids turned out for the Rovers, that would be a great advertisement.

I.C. You seem to have a lot of girls in the Blue and White Club. Is that a deliberate policy?

J.S. It's open to anybody from 6-14. I would hope that some of the lasses go on to be more interested in the game. Some clubs have women physio's and committee members.

I.C. What about terms of membership?

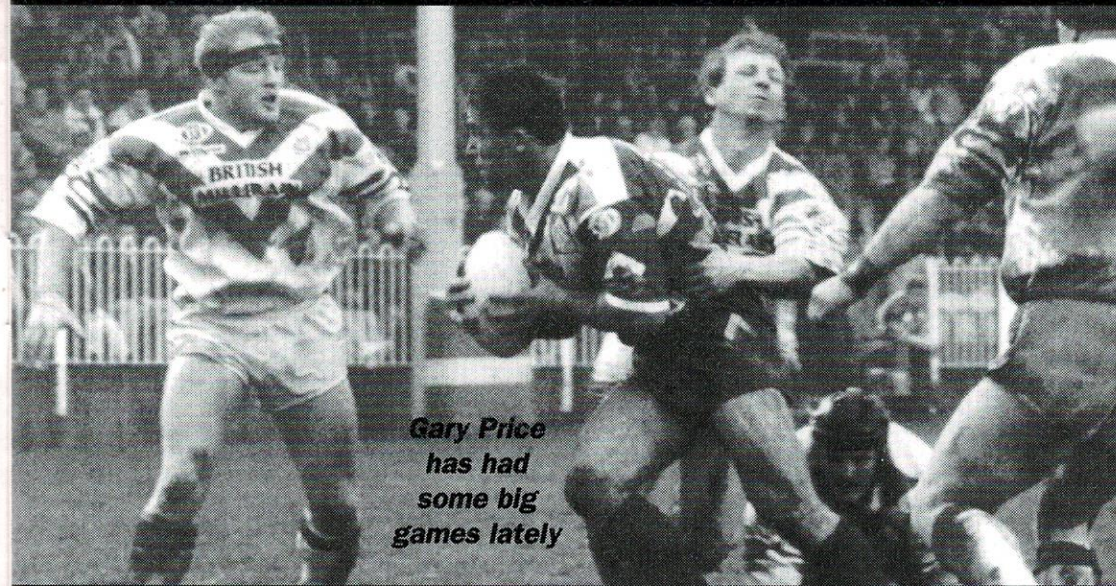
J.S. £10 to join and they get plenty for it. Twelve meetings per year. They have quizzes, days out, discos. We've planted bulbs all over Featherstone, we've cleaned the beck out at the back of the Bullock Stand. We had a highly successful play last year. We like to do things for the community.

I.C. What are your personal hopes for the club in the future?

J.S. I think Featherstone Rovers rightly belong in the First Division. I admire any person who gives 100% for Featherstone and not just in Rugby League. I am a great admirer of anybody who represents this town. I don't have a favourite player, I just want the town to do well. I want Featherstone on the map and Featherstone Rovers play a big part in that . . . don't they?

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ROVERS



Gary Price has had some big games lately



Emphatic defence from Terry Manning, Ian Smales and Chris Burton

GALLERY

Aren't You . . . WALLY GIBSON?

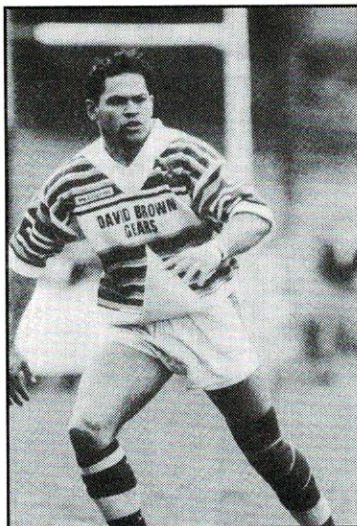
Wally Gibson represents Peter Tunks' main incursion into the transfer market in their bid to gain promotion from division two this year. Apart from exchange signings and recruitment from Rugby Union, he may be the only one.

For a long time during his days as a Huddersfield player, he was touted as the fullback most likely to make it. His attacking style found an expression not common in Australian Rugby League. I said not common rather than non-existent . . . there are some superb attacking fullbacks in Australian Rugby League, although they tend to be converted threequarters. Andrew Ettingshausen and Julian O'Neill spring to mind. Mindst you there's Gary Belcher (who didn't do much when he was at Cas) and that fair haired geezer who plays for Sheffield Eagles, I forget his name.

Wally did the business for Huddersfield through bad times and good and was voted Third Division player of the year in 1992.

Despite Huddersfield's promotion to Division Two, it was obvious that they would struggle to hold on to arguably their best player. Transfer valuations of around the hundred grand mark were being bandied about. Well it's 1992 and you can buy the Russian Baltic fleet for that much, but Rugby League transfer fees and house prices have been badly affected by the fact that people are being careful these days, so Gibson went to Oldham for a lot less.

Gibson, along with plenty of others could be affected by the proposed alterations in the overseas quotas. It is likely that the quota might be cut to two. The theory is that overseas players are keeping British players from becoming all that they might. There



Wally Gibson in his days at Huddersfield Pic: Open Rugby

is even talk of banning overseas coaches for the same reason. Strangely, one of the chief supporters of these arguments is Alex Murphy. You may remember that it was Alex who flew Michael O'Connor and Paul Vautin back specially to play in a Wembley Cup Final, in which Saints were soundly tonked and in which the two Australians were more or less spectators.

If a player is good enough and is local, then a club will sign him, it's common sense. If there is a paucity of local talent then there must be other reasons . . . the recent victory of the Hull Academy side over the Illawarra tourists, suggests that perhaps these reasons are being addressed.

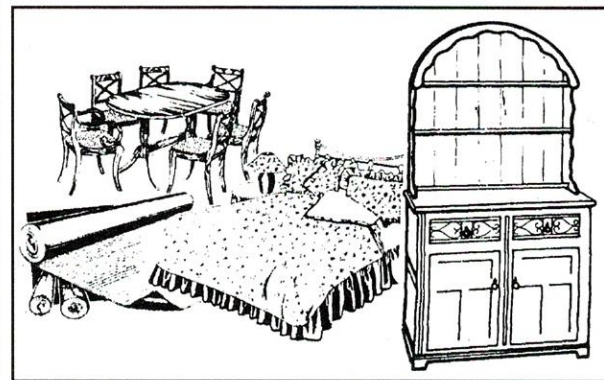
In any case, our old friend 'market forces' (cut the Thatcherisms out . . . Ed.) could change the shape of player migration in the next couple of years with the admission of the Perth Pumas, Queensland Crushers, North Queensland Cowboys and the Auckland Warriors from New Zealand, into the Winfield Cup. Millions of Dollars in sponsorship, franchises and TV are involved, as well as huge crowds and hysterical media interest. It also means that there will be a big demand for good players and coaches. So, come 1994 you can probably make up your own import quota from the first number that comes into your head. It won't make any difference, because you won't be able to fill it and the problem will be keeping British players in Britain, and I don't mean for the off season. I wonder who Wally Gibson will be playing for in 1995? By the way, can you imagine travelling from Auckland to Perth for an away game? It makes trucking up the M6 to Carlisle seem like going to the top of the Street.

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(Capt)
- 10 **GARY PRICE** – Granville Books Ltd (Blind Side Prop)
- 11 **ANDY FISHER** – Peter Wray (Accountancy) (Second Row)
- 12 **IAN SMALES** – Travellers Rest, Purston (Second Row)
- 13 **BRENDON TUUTA** – Ferry Cars, Ferrybridge (Loose Forward)
- 14 **MARK WILSON**
- 15 **CHRIS BURTON**

TEAM MANAGER: STEVE MARTIN

PROGRESSIVE SCORE

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS
OLDHAM

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SCRUMS

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

Referee:
Mr D. Aikin – Hull

Touch Judges:
Mr R. Duckworth – Wakefield (Cerule Flag)
Mr S. V. Jackson – Ossett (Amber Flag)

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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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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

OLDHAM

Red & White Jerseys, Red Shorts

- SHAUN TYRER 1
- SCOTT RANSON 2
- GED BYRNE 3
- IVA ROPATI 4
- GARY CHRISTIE 5
- WALLY GIBSON 6
- STEVE KERRY 7
- TINY SOLOMONA 8
- RICHARD RUSSELL 9
- MARK SHEANS 10
- IAN SHERRATT 11
- DAVID BRADBURY 12
- PAUL JONES 13
- STUART COCKER 14
- SHANE TUPAEA 15

TEAM MANAGER: PETER TUNKS

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RESULTS CHART

AWAY TEAM	Bramley	Carlisle	Featherstone	Huddersfield	London C.	Oldham	Rochdale H.	Swinton
BRAMLEY		18-18	4-22	34-10	30-8	16-23	12-20	
CARLISLE	18-10		14-38		14-46	20-25	24-12	
FEATHERSTONE		30-10		18-25	40-10		18-6	14-8
HUDDERSFIELD	18-12	4-24	15-34		18-14	24-28	14-22	37-10
LONDON C.		18-18		46-10			30-10	20-6
OLDHAM		38-14	4-24	6-17	27-12			16-8 56-6
ROCHDALE H.	29-22 62-22		26-22		25-16	20-21		
SWINTON	6-11		10-44		16-6	12-18	10-14	



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FEATHERSTONE R	11	9	0	2	304	132	18
Oldham	11	9	0	2	262	173	18
Rochdale Hornets	12	8	0	4	270	223	16
Huddersfield	11	5	0	6	192	248	10
London C.	12	4	1	7	238	238	9
Carlisle	10	3	2	5	174	239	8
Bramley	11	3	1	7	191	234	7
Swinton	10	1	0	9	92	236	2

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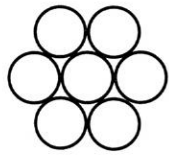
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LOCAL RL YOUNGSTERS IN FOCUS

Ovenden U7s 8, Travellers 8

A good Travellers performance in very cold and wet conditions. Greg Nicholson opened the scoring for Travs with a fine long run to touch down.

Danny Johnson, again in the thick of things, put Travellers ahead again after Ovenden had scored. A late try by the Halifax side levelled the game after the Travellers had seemed to be in command. Good performances from Danny Johnson and Todd Waive.

Ovenden U8s 28, Travellers 40

Another dynamic performance from young Gavin Beard, seven tries and countless cover tackles in a sometimes weak Travellers defence.

Strong running in his best game yet by Christopher Box with Richard Whiting always making his tackles. Lee Jones showing his pace to score at a vital time.

All in all a good attacking performance by Travellers, but they will have to rally round in defence and share the work load. Good performances from Chris Clarkson with a good try and Dayne Walker a willing worker.

Scorers: Gavin Beard 7, Lee Jones, Richard Whiting and Chris Clarkson.

Travellers U9s 10, Stanningley 4

Travellers overcame the frosty conditions and a strong Stanningley side to win the Yorkshire Junior League Game.

James Isherwood was the match winner, scoring two 75 yard tries. Michael Bateman converting one to give Travs a 10-4 half time lead.

Defences were on top in the second half and Travellers with a sound display of tackling deserved the victory.

Woodhead, Spurr and Lingard were to the fore in defence and Darren Jordan having a tremendous game before leaving the field after a very heavy tackle. A good all round display under very cold conditions.

Travellers U7s 16, Eastmoor 8

The Travellers youngsters put in a good all round performance, very keen to tackle and eager to take the ball in. None more so than Daniel Gowland and Craig Emmerson. After taking the lead with a try by Greg Nicholson, Travs went behind conceding two tries. A great effort from Daniel Gowland levelled the scores before Sean Whalley and Jonathan Lancaster sealed a Travellers victory with two good tries.

Travellers U8s 30, Eastmoor 10

A tough first half with both sides tackling well, it looked as though points were going to be scarce. But as the game progressed Travellers wore down the Eastmoor defence.

Gavin Beard, dangerous every time he had the ball, well served by scrum half Richard Whiting, went in for four tries. Dayne Walker, Christopher Clarkson and Richard Whiting were the other try scorers.

Good performances from Ben Dakin, Christopher Box and Christopher Addison.

Shawthorne U9s 0, Travellers 6

Travellers produced a tremendous defensive display to beat a strong Shawthorne side.

Travellers Captain Woodhead was pulled down a yard short. James Isherwood went close in the first half but it was not until the last minute when Darren Jordan broke clear to score the match winning try goaled by Michael Bateman.

A very good display, where every player played his part well.

Shawthorne U11s 12, Travellers 14

A poor first half performance from the Travellers allowed Shawthorne to score three tries and take a 12-0 half time lead.

After the break strong running and tackling, from Sean Lingard and William Jordan in particular, saw Travellers snatch a 14-12 victory through tries by Sean Lingard 2 and William Jordan with a goal from Man of the Match Andrew McNally.

Oulton U13s 18, Travellers 26

A very good first half from Travellers under atrocious conditions saw them virtually win the match by half time. Leading 22-0 it seemed as though Travellers were cantering through. But after a couple of injuries and some slack tackling, Oulton rallied and came back to 18-26.

Good first half games from Lee Jordan, Andy Walker and David Raybould with Gareth Barker running strongly.

Scorers: Lee Jordan 2, David Raybould 2, Andy Walker, with 3 goals to Jamie Rooney.

Travellers U15s 14, Hunslet Boys 12

Travellers got back to winning ways with a hard earned win in appalling conditions.

Both sides found handling difficult, but Travs looked more dangerous on attack. Richard Newlove squeezed in at the corner to open the scoring, Carl Zacharow added a penalty. After a good spell of pressure Zacharow put Newlove in for his second try to make it 10-0.

The second half saw Hunslet hit back with 2 converted tries to take the lead. The final minutes saw Travs throwing everything into attack, the winning score came from Steve Dooler showing great determination going 30 yards for a good try. Travellers showed much more commitment in an improved performance.

Hull Boys 14, Travellers U17s 4

Travellers went out of the BARLA Cup after giving one of their worst displays for a long time.

Dropped balls, missed tackles and general lack of commitment was the order of the day.

The only player to come out of the game with any credit was full back Jamie Voyce, taking high balls under pressure and making try saving tackles.

Try scorer: Alex Hudson.

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ACADEMY & ALLIANCE REPORT



Last Friday's game with Hull who recently had won the Yorkshire Cup, turned out to be a real thriller with Rovers scoring a try in the dying seconds to win 22 pts to 20.

By half time, Rovers were well on top leading 16-8 thanks to an excellent try from Paul Benson who broke from 40 yards out beating four players on his way to score. Francis Maloney also scored while centre Craig Booth kicked four goals. Hull scored two converted tries to lead 20-16. Booth kicked another penalty which set up the marvellous finish when Richard Agar broke down the right cut inside where he found Alec Thompson who raced over for the winning try.

Team: Senior, Jepson, Goulbourne, Booth, Longstaffe, Maloney, Thompson, Kelly, Wilkinson, Rose, Benson, Richardson, Agar. Subs: Minter, Hall.

In an excellent team performance it was not easy picking the Man of the Match. I would have awarded it to Sean Richardson, who kept going throughout. But any one of eight players could have won it.

Talking of Sean Richardson, he has been nominated for the Youngers Player of the Month award for November. The winner receives a framed citation and an award of Youngers products.

PLAYER NEWS

Darren Wilkinson's loan period at Doncaster ended and he had a good game at hooker against Hull. David Bugg and Tim Shire are coming to the end of their loan period at Bramley. Craig Booth has been put on the transfer list at his own request at £20,000 while Mick Smith and Mark Gibbons have been granted permits to play amateur. Andy Kelly, who joined us on a month's loan from Wakefield, has finished his loan period and a decision on whether to sign him was expected this week. Mark Milner and Paul Akaidere are both injured. The latter will be out a few weeks.

This weekend we were due to visit Castleford and as the league table below shows, a victory would have been more than welcome.

	p	w	d	l	Pts	Pts	Pts
Castleford	11	9	1	1	308	161	19
Featherstone	11	8	1	2	241	199	17
Wigan	10	8	0	2	309	181	16
Halifax	11	6	0	5	269	186	12
Hull KR	12	5	1	6	251	245	11
Leeds	10	5	1	4	198	247	11
Warrington	10	5	0	5	211	229	10
Bradford N	12	5	0	7	247	270	10
Wakefield T	10	5	0	5	230	254	10
Hull	10	4	0	6	244	217	8
Rochdale H	11	4	0	7	240	240	8
St Helens	12	4	0	8	238	316	8
Batley	11	3	0	8	152	238	6
Widnes	11	3	0	8	206	361	6

This week coming we have three important games.

The first is Tuesday night when the Rugby League President's Academy XIII play Illawara (Australia) and we urge all supporters to give their support to this important fixture for Rovers. The following night our own Academy team entertain Wakefield Trinity, while Friday night the Alliance team entertain Wakefield's Alliance outfit.

Leading try scorers for the Alliance: Thompson (6), Goulbourne (5), C. Booth (3), Milner (3), Minter (3), Longstaffe (3), Pearson (3); while Whiteley, Benson, Richardson and Maloney have scored 2 each. Craig Booth has kicked 39 goals.

Our Academy team were due to visit Leigh last Wednesday, the match being put back from the previous Saturday due to the heavy state of the Hilton Park pitch.

Matches this week at Post Office Road:

Tuesday 15th Dec

President's Academy XIII v. Illawara, Australia
Kick off 7.30

Wednesday 16th Dec

Rovers Academy v. Wakefield Trinity
Kick off 7.30

Friday 18th Dec

'A' Team v. Wakefield Trinity Kick off 7.30

If Tuesday's representative match is well attended it will hold Post Office Road in good stead for any future placing of internationals, etc.

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THREE FARMERS

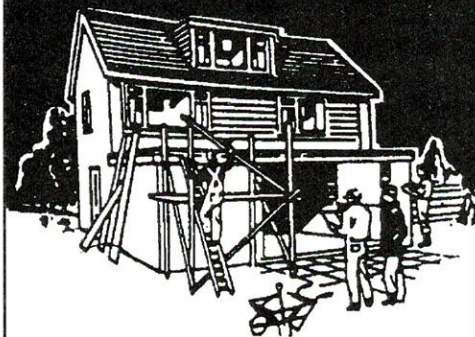
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Media Matters

BY CHRIS WESTWOOD

“Hi, I’m Ikram Butt and I’m a Rugby League Player”

So began a recent edition of ‘Eastern Eye’, the Asian magazine programme on the box, a couple of weeks back.

Besides being something special as a player . . . don’t tell me you don’t hold your breath every time he gets the ball, or shake your head incredulously every time he squirts out of yet another four man tackle as if he were covered in Teflon . . . Ikram is important because he is Asian. In a sport proud of its multi racialism it shouldn’t be remarkable . . . and soon it probably won’t. Ikram Butt by being the type of player and the type of bloke he is will have had an important hand in this.

The programme was tightly, but informally put together. No image or word was wasted, but there was no commentary. The participants were allowed to speak (eloquently) for themselves.

There were some powerful images, all of which made you feel good about being a Rugby League person; Ikram appeared out of the darkness, a solitary figure on a running track and told you who he was, superbly understated, there was Ikram working with Batley School teacher Sally

Cooper at Mount Hirst school, who incidentally comes from Oldham, taking a coaching session and everybody loving it, there was the range of expression on the kids’ faces during their trip to see their hero play for Rovers – interspersed with some gritty ground level action shots, all encapsulated within a tightly timed slot in the programme.

I spoke to Ikram about his involvement in the programme and what he thought it all signified.

“I was approached by a researcher for ‘Eastern Eye’ who had seen me in action and the idea of the programme seemed to have a lot of possibilities. I didn’t hesitate to get involved. It was great fun, but got a bit out of hand when the kids got a bit overexcited when the cameras came. I felt a bit daft doing that opening shot because I’d only run twenty yards and the director told me I had to look shattered, but I thought it looked very effective. The programme was better than I thought it would be, particularly the action shots mixed in with the crowd shots of the kids, who seemed to get the rest of the crowd around them excited with them”.

“Sally Cooper, who teaches in Batley asked me to give her a hand teaching her kids, because a large proportion of them are Asian. Using me seems to have done the trick. The kids seem to have lost their inhibitions because they can relate to me . . . if I can do it, they can. Although my involvement is connected mainly with helping Asian kids to enjoy and I hope become good at Rugby League, I want to encourage everyone no matter what their ethnic origins”.

Playing for Featherstone Rovers is important to Ikram. “I could have been playing with Leeds reserves and no-one would have heard of me. By coming to Rovers who are a small club, but famous, I’ve had a chance to excel, and show Asian kids that Rugby League could be the thing for them as well. That’s one of several reasons why Rovers must go up next season. Rovers will get more media attention, especially on Satellite TV and Grandstand. I was disappointed that Rovers weren’t on Grandstand last week. I thought our game was the tie of the round with the chance of a division two team beating one of the more fashionable division one sides. Seeing me play Rugby League on telly should encourage Asian kids and make them feel good about being involved.”

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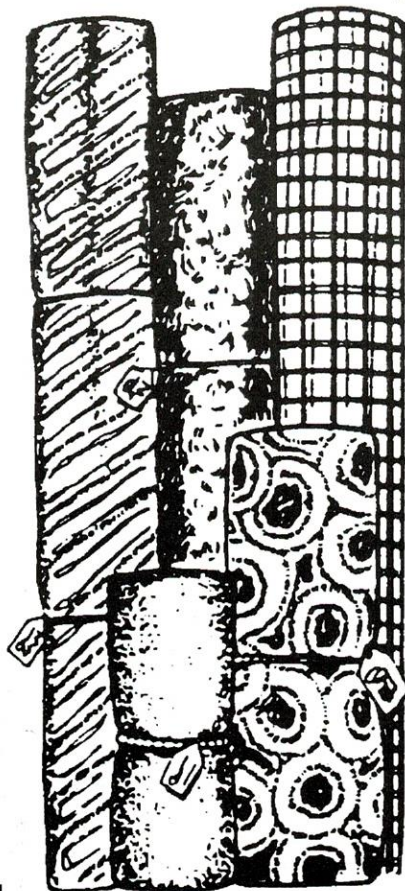
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Appearances and Points Scorers

	SEASON 1992-93						TOTAL SENIOR RECORD					
	App	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts	App	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts
Darren Appleby	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chris Bibb	13	-	1	-	-	4	192	4	71	6	-	296
Paul Bonson	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Craig Booth	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Chris Burton	4	12	-	-	-	-	92	22	3	-	-	12
Ikram Butt	16	-	5	-	-	20	84	-	36	-	-	144
Leo Casey	11	-	-	-	-	-	52	4	4	-	-	16
Brett Daunt	9	-	2	-	-	8	9	-	2	-	-	8
Andy Fisher	16	-	3	-	-	12	60	38	25	-	-	100
Mark Gibbon	2	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	-	-
Richard Gunn	11	-	3	-	-	12	11	-	3	-	-	12
Terry Manning	16	-	6	-	-	24	108	1	36	-	-	144
Paul Newlove	15	-	12	-	-	48	133	-	86	9	-	362
Martin Pearson	13	2	6	45	-	114	50	17	25	93	-	286
Gary Price	6	4	4	-	-	16	43	15	8	-	-	32
Gary Rose	11	2	-	-	-	-	83	7	5	-	-	20
Tim Sharp	5	2	1	6	-	16	59	29	14	6	1	69
Owen Simpson	16	-	13	-	-	52	75	-	48	-	-	192
Ian Smales	16	-	10	9	-	58	134	9	58	18	-	264
Wayne Taekata	10	1	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-
Brendon Tuuta	12	1	3	-	-	12	71	3	11	-	1	45
Lee Whiteley	3	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	1	-	-	4
Mark Wilson	2	5	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-

ROVERS ROUTEWAY

Miles	From M1	
Total	Stage	
		Motorway Terminal Roundabout
		Follow signs The West A406 North Circular Road. At next roundabout take 2nd exit
1.5	1.5	Neasden
3.0	1.5	Stonebridge Park
4.4	1.4	HANGER LANE STATION (Underpass/Gyrotary Roundabout). Follow signs Kew Bridge (A205) North Circular Road A406 to ascend Hanger Hill
5.7	1.3	Ealing Common. At traffic signals forward
7.2	1.5	CHISWICK ROUNDABOUT Take 3rd exit A205 (signposted South Circular Road). In 0.3 mile bear left and cross
7.6	0.4	Kew Bridge
7.9	0.3	Kew. At traffic signals bear left
9.0	1.1	Junction with A316. At traffic signals forward
9.4	0.4	Junction with A305. At traffic signals turn left
9.8	0.4	East Sheen
12.0	2.2	Putney. At crossroads forward. In 0.7 mile forward A3 into
13.1	1.1	WANDSWORTH Follow signs South Circular Road
		(East) and ascend East Hill A3. In 0.8 mile turn right into Marilly Road (signposted Balham, Tooting) then turn right and left to join A214 for Wandsworth Common West Side
15.9	2.8	Tooting Bec (Underground Station) At traffic signals forward (signposted Streatham) Cross Tooting Bec Common
17.2	1.3	STREATHAM Follow signs Redhill, Brighton A23 and descend Streatham High Road
17.6	0.4	Streatham Common. At traffic signals turn left A214 (signposted Crystal Palace). Ascend Streatham Common North (1 in 10)
18.6	1.0	Junction with A215. At traffic signals forward, descend and ascend Central Hill (1 in 10) to
19.9	1.3	CRYSTAL PALACE Follow signs West Wickham A214 and descend Amerley Hill 10%. In 0.3 mile turn left into Crystal Palace Station Road unclassified, then turn left again into Ledington Road for
20.4	0.5	LONDON CRUSADERS R.L. GROUND

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OLDHAM

Summer Rugby. Gary Hethrington says the lower divisions would be better playing in the summer, while the top flight play in the winter. Ludicrous, his ideas get worse. Summer Rugby for everyone, now that's another matter.

A season running from March to September would be far more beneficial to all concerned. There would be problems, but the advantages would far outweigh the disadvantages. To combat the heat, matches could kick-off early evening at say 5.30pm or 6pm. Away fans wouldn't mind travelling back home on a nice summer evening, compared to a cold dark winter's evening. Floodlights would hardly be needed, saving clubs money on electricity. As for grounds being too hard, they would be no harder than in Australia and I'm sure players would prefer playing on them to a pitch rock hard with a layer of frost.

More spectators would come through the turnstiles on a nice evening rather than standing in the cold and wet of winter like last Sunday. TV coverage would look better seeing fans standing on the terracing with the club's colours

proudly on show instead of wrapped up in overcoats and scarves.

Rugby League wouldn't have Football to compete with as more and more matches are switched for the television. With only Cricket as competition, while many supporters are interested in Cricket, they're not likely to go to Headingley to watch Yorkshire v Kent if Rovers were at home. Whereas if Leeds Utd were at home or on TV they may choose to watch them. More Rugby supporters follow Football than Rugby and Cricket.

Allied to this Grandstand in the summer has nothing but Cricket and Horse Racing. With no Horse Racing on Sundays, Sunday Grandstand has even less, so maybe highlights of a match from the previous week could be shown. This could possibly whet the appetite of a neutral or non-believer tempting them along to a live match later in the evening. Of course things would need ironing out, but once in place there'd be no looking back. Remember there would've been knockers when Sunday Rugby was suggested. There's talk of yet another

change in the League structure, why not go all the way to Summer Rugby?

Last week's Regal Trophy tie gave Rovers the chance to show what we could do against first division opposition. The score flattered St Helens in the end, although they always seemed to have the edge. Rovers players were far from disgraced and can hold their heads high for their performance. Anthony Sullivan's try was a killer blow though, but if he was on side I'll start to watch Cas. If Rovers had won we'd have entertained Cas in the next round, as it is we'll be travelling to London. If we had won, we'd have to travel to London in midweek, so maybe it's not too bad.

Before London though there's the small problem of today's visitors, Oldham. A real chance to open a gap at the top of the league, a real four-pointer and much more important a

match than last week's. Welcome to all Oldham fans who have made the trip this afternoon. Along with ourselves the first division beckons, but nothing can be taken for granted with Rochdale and now Huddersfield just waiting for a slip. Besides promotion, there's the matter of the second division championship. Needless to say, today's winners will go a long way to claiming the prize.

Buses for London next week leave the ground at 9am. Fares are hoped to be around £7, but only full buses will be taken, so a first come first served system will take place. PLEASE BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE to avoid disappointment.

With improving Huddersfield twice over the Christmas period, Rovers face some tough matches but victories would place us in a very healthy position. Enjoy the match, it promises to be a good 'un.

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