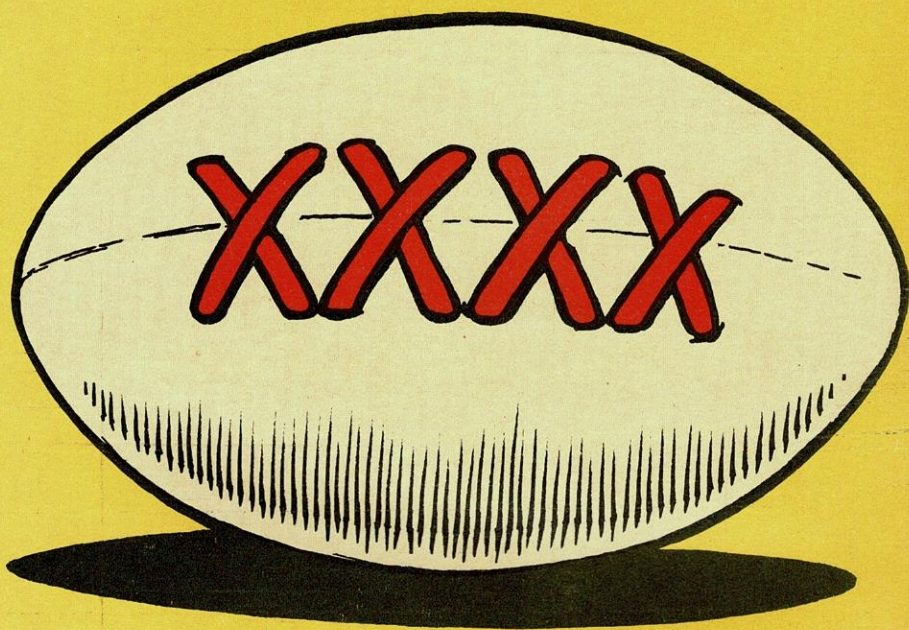


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Sunday, 14th March, 1993

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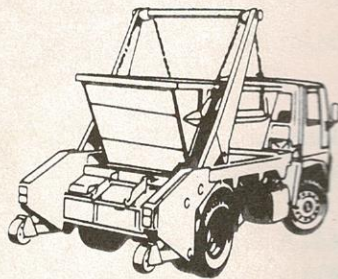
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# SIMPLY THE BEST

## No. 12 - GEORGE (G.W.) SMITH

This week's featured player from previous years is the New Zealand born centre or Winger George Smith.

George or G.W. as he was commonly known was the vice-captain of the first ever Rugby League touring team to visit Great Britain. These being the 1907-08 New Zealand team who became known as the All Golds. This wasn't a reference to their kit which was the same all black as their Rugby Union counterparts, but more a reflection of their professionalism.

George was a great success on the tour and at its conclusion in February 1908 he signed for Oldham. He made his debut in the 7-5 victory over Wigan at Central Park on February 19th, before a crowd of 25,000, in the same match the famous Lance B. Todd, one of George's fellow tourists made his debut for Wigan.

Though already over 30 years old when he joined the Roughyeds, George rendered many years great service to the club. He was top try scorer in seasons 1909-10 with 37; 1910-11 with 21 and 1911-12 with 20.

Retiring from first team football in 1914, George would often return to assist the club during the time of the First World War, so many of our players were away in the forces.

In the 1930's George was on Oldham's training staff and continued to live in the town until his death in December 1954.

Prior to his career in Rugby League, George had toured with the All Blacks Rugby Union team and was also a champion sprinter and hurdler back in New Zealand, as well as being a noted jockey.

With this remarkable sporting history it was no surprise to learn that George has recently been nominated for New Zealand's sporting Hall of Fame, anyone who might have any information regarding G.W.'s career, could they contact Michael Turner who is liaising with the people in New Zealand in respect of this matter, on behalf of Oldham R.L.F.C. Mr Turner's address is on the Back Pages feature later in the programme).



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### 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, 1911-1912, 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

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1991-92

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**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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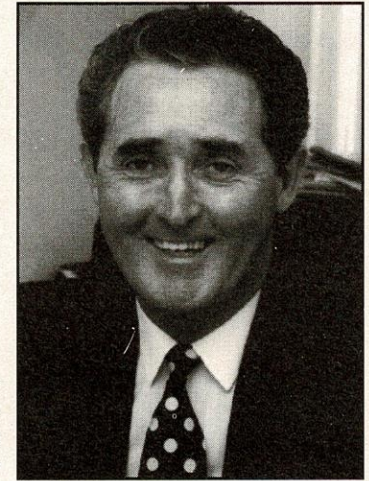
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# FROM the BOARDROOM

by

CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN



I would like to say a few words today about the role of the referee in modern Rugby League. The referee has never been under as much pressure as he is today. Every club films its games on video and more matches than ever before are screened for television, with their action replays and close scrutiny of refereeing decisions.

What we should all remember - and by "We" I refer to supporters, players, club officials and coaches - is that the referee has to make a decision in the heat of the moment. He can only adjudicate on what he sees, helped by his touch-judges, and he does not have the benefit of sitting in his armchair at home and making his decision after he has seen the incident two or three times over on the small screen.

The referee is human. He will make mistakes ... but don't we all. Players make mistakes, coaches make mistakes, club officials make mistakes, supporters make mistakes in their life outside football. We all make mistakes. Some people, though, seem to think that referees should be different to everyone else and prove themselves to be mistake-free.

Some refereeing decisions are good, some are not-so-good, but they are made in good faith by men who are doing a difficult job to the best of their abilities in the game they love. We cannot do without referees. Without them there would be no game ... but would you fancy taking on the job with all it entails in studying, keeping fit, controlling a high-speed collision sport, decision-making on the spur of the moment and doing the job in the full glare of the public spotlight when rival teams, clubs and sets of supporters often view things completely different?

It is against this background that I say, without qualification, that a lot of the abuse and criticism that is hurled at referees is in very poor taste indeed and I would like to think we do not hear much of it here at Watersheddings. Perhaps there is a case for touch-judges and referees to work more closely: to work more as a three-man team. It may be time, too, to look at the financial rewards to examine whether the leading referees are recompensed in relation to the job they have to do and the pressures they have to withstand.

Certainly the referee has a very difficult task to perform and it is also a vital one. I would like to think that, at Oldham, we show him the respect he deserves. Our game has a reputation for good discipline on the field and for the way in which the referee's word is final and accepted without a lot of hullabaloo which is sometimes seen in certain other sports.

That respect should not end with players. It should stretch to club officials, coaches and spectators. We are all in this game because we love it and the more respect we show each other in our different roles the more we will enhance the standing of the thing that binds US all together - Rugby League football.

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# IN TOUCH



It's child's play . . . at the launch of Rugby League's first-ever Skills Award Scheme, an £80,000 operation backed by British Fuels Limited and a Government grant under the Sportsmatch scheme. Great Britain stars Denis Betts and Joe Lydon took part in the inaugural skills session at Salford RLFC with local school children.

The British Fuels Skill Awards, open to boys and girls between 5 and 17, have been designed to be practised and tested

with the support of a promotional kit of a handbook, certificates, badges, poster and score-sheets.

The first-ever official awards scheme has twin financial backing.

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## SPOT THE KLINGON!

Existing crew members welcome new commercial humanoid Miriam Lewis aboard the starship Oldham. Miriam has decreed that she will boldly go where no commercial department has gone before.



## SEVEN UP!

Today you can win Steve Berry's very own playing kit. His number seven shirt, shorts and socks can be yours if you are the lucky winner of our matchday raffle. Tickets cost just 50p each and we will make the draw during the half time interval.

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## OLDHAM SUPER CASHLINE DRAW WEEK 5

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<b>£100 (Monday)</b>	M0668	R. WILD	091	Old Post Office
<b>£100 (Tuesday)</b>	B1745	D. ASHCROFT	005	George Hills
<b>£100 (Wednesday)</b>	H0250	D. HOLLOWAY	021	Platt & Hill O/M
<b>£100 (Thursday)</b>	D3131	C. ASHTON	068	Brenda O'Connor
<b>£100 (Friday)</b>	B1272	D. THOMAS	032	Bardsley P.O.
<b>£100 (Saturday)</b>	E3267	O. WILD	210	Roses News
<b>£100 (Sunday)</b>	E6050	J. BARLOW	275	High Crompton P.O.

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MAY 1st 1993**

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**A WATERSHEDDINGS WELCOME  
TO FEATHERSTONE**



There was never any doubt that Featherstone's **PAUL NEWLOVE** was going to follow in the footsteps of his father, John, a former skipper of Rovers, in their 1973 Wembley triumph.

Paul joined Rovers as one of the most sought after local juniors of his generation and showed his class by topping their try list with 18 in his debut 1988-89 season. In the process he gained the first of a record eight Under 21 caps, scoring a try and a goal in the 30-0 defeat of France at Headingley. Later in 1989, Newlove became GB's youngest international when appearing as substitute for Phil Ford in the First Test defeat by the Kiwis at Old Trafford. He went on to star in the series, creating a match winning try in the decider at Wigan.

Never truly at ease on the international stage, Paul missed out on the 1990 Lions tour, but remained an automatic choice for the Under 21 sides throughout a four year period, scoring four tries, including two in the rout of the Kumuls last season.

But it was on the Lions tour, last summer, that Newlove came of age. He scored a try in the 33-10 Second Test defeat of Australia in Melbourne and revealed the awesome power which could make him GB's answer to Mal Meninga in the years ahead.



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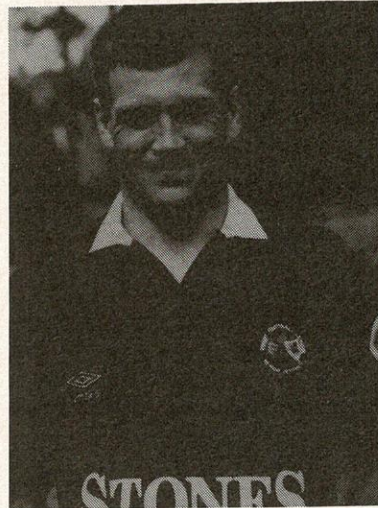
# TODAY'S MAN in the MIDDLE

**P. GILMOUR**

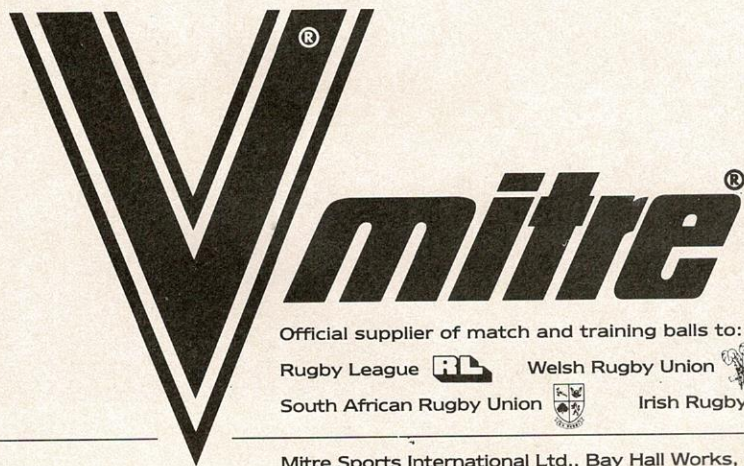
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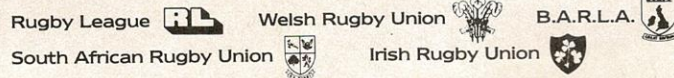
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AND RUGBY UNION DO AGREE  
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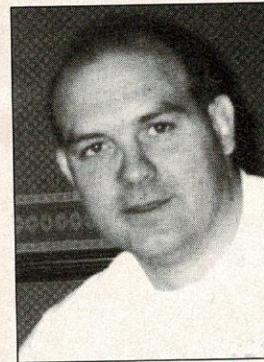


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# TUNKS' TALKBACK



I would be lying if I said that I had never experienced a better week in rugby league terms. We were well prepared for our cup tie against Bradford Northern on the Sunday only for the game to be called off due to a frozen pitch. When we did play on the Wednesday evening we were taught a sharp lesson by a rampant Bradford side. So, out of the Challenge Cup Competition we went and we also managed to pick up a stack of injuries. We travelled to Leeds Road last Sunday to face Huddersfield without several of our first choice players, but that is no excuse for our performance - we were awful. You can't win a rugby match if you don't have the ball and we continually lost possession and turned the ball over to Huddersfield, especially in the second half. We lost a game we should have won and I was angry and frustrated at our display. By contrast today's visitors, Featherstone Rovers, were winning well at Rochdale to guarantee themselves promotion to the first division next season. Featherstone are a fine team packed with talented individuals and we congratulate them on their success. This afternoon though we will be hell bent on pegging them back as they appear to be heading towards the title. We owe them one, actually we owe them three, and today is the perfect time to start repaying the debt.

ENJOY THE GAME

## TUNKS TEASERS

Listed below are 10 Welsh Rugby Union internationals who switched to Rugby League. Can you name the teams for which they originally signed?

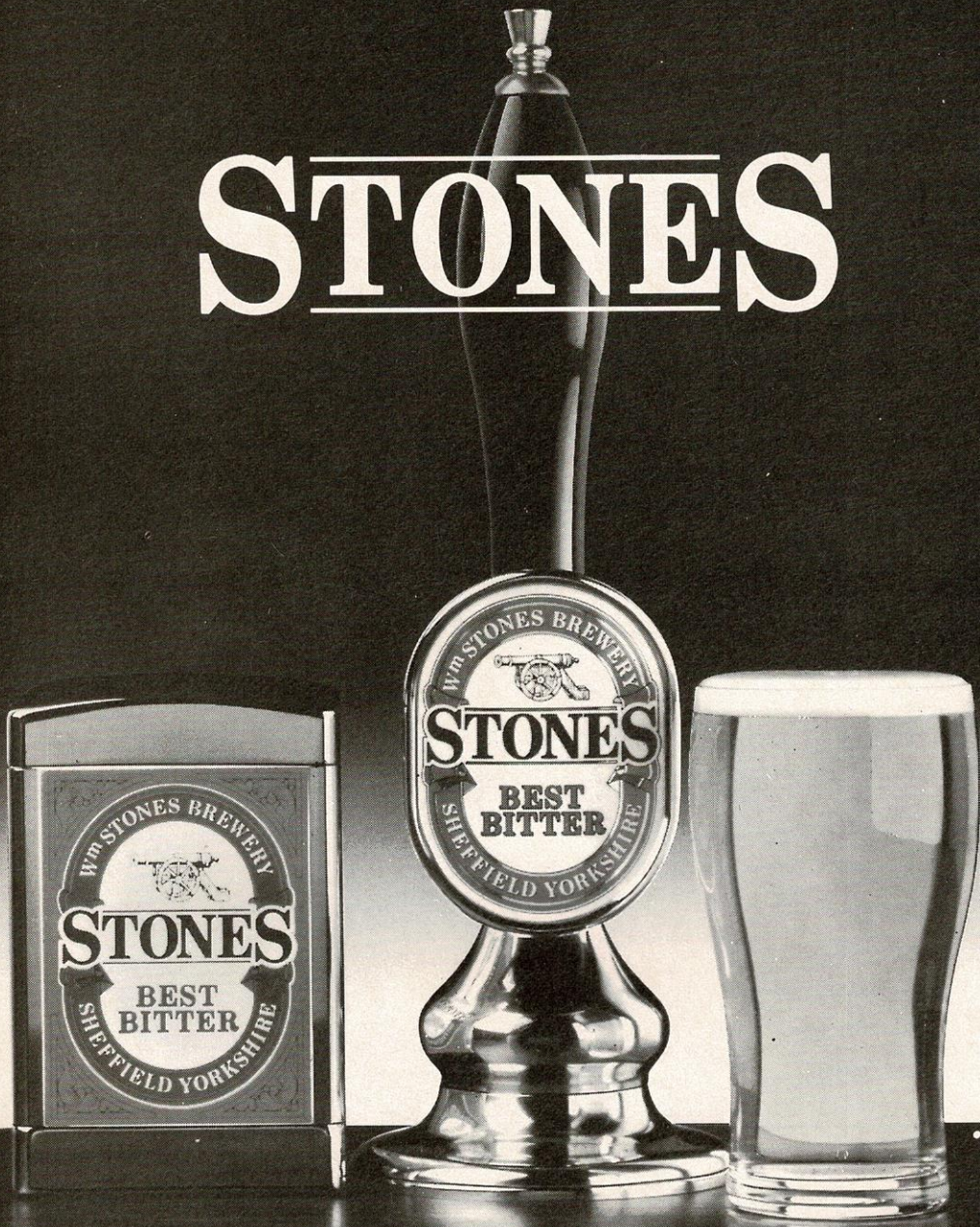
1. Garfield Owen	1956	6. Sidney Williams	1939
2. Ray Hopkins	1970	7. Steve Fenwick	1981
3. Johnathon Davies	1988	8. Ben Gronov	1910
4. Malcolm Price	1963	9. Lewis Jones	1953
5. Keri Jones	1968	10. Lewis Rees	1933

### ANSWERS

1. Halifax 2. Swinton 3. Widnes 4. Oldham 5. Wigan 6. Salford 7. Cardiff 8. Huddersfield 9. Leeds 10. Oldham

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# STONES



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## PLAYER PROFILE

### MARK MEADOWS



**Full Name:** Mark Brian Meadows

**Date of Birth:** 9.5.66

**Birthplace:** Wigan

**Height:** 6' 0"

**Weight:** 15.1/2 stone

**Favourite Drink:** Coffee

**Favourite Food:** Italian

**Favourite T.V. Show:** Gamesmaster

**Favourite T.V.:** Jazz

**Hobbies:** None

**Previous Clubs:** Swinton - Trafford Borough

**Biggest Influence on Career so far:** Don Preston and Family

**Favourite Player:** Wayne Pearce

**Favourite Ground:** Station Road, Swinton

**Most Difficult Opponent:** Fast ones

**Most memorable match Seen:** Widnes v. Canberra (Old Trafford 1990)

**Biggest Thrill:** Signing for Oldham

**Biggest Disappointment:** Being Injured

**Personal ambition:** To sail round the world

**Person you would most like to meet:** Lynn - Girlfriend, (Never see due to training commitments)

**Have you ever been mistaken for anyone famous:** Sylvester Stallone

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## OLDHAM HOPING TO SETTLE THE SCORE

As Oldham RLFC prepares to meet top of the League club Featherstone Rovers, supporters will, no doubt, be hoping that it will be an opportunity for Oldham to settle old scores, as the teams' last three meetings have resulted in victories for Featherstone. Needless to say the lads are ripe for revenge!

Paul Newlove, centre for Featherstone and one of the leading scorers in the Second Division, is said to be on top form and is perceived to pose the greatest threat to Oldham.

Oldham's hope is former England Rugby Union player Nigel Heslop, who is the most recent addition to the team. Nigel promises to provide tough opposition against Featherstone, in this his first match against the team.

A big crowd is expected today to support the lads, in what will, hopefully, be a more positive result for Oldham.

## AN XXXXCEPTIONAL MONTH

It's a first for Gary Christie, as the 20-year-old centre has been nominated as Player of the Month for the first time. Gary was a clear winner

CASTLEMAINE

# XXXXX

CASTLEMAINE



# XXXXX



## TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 14th MARCH, 1993

### OLDHAM TEAM CHANGES

1. WALLY GIBSON
2. NIGEL HESLOP
3. DARREN ABRAM
4. IVA ROPATI
5. GARY CHRISTIE
6. MARTIN STRETT
7. SEAN DEVINE
8. TINY SOLOMONA
9. RICHARD RUSSELL
10. MARK SHEALS
11. SHANE TUPAEA
12. BEN OLSEN
13. DAVID BRADBURY
14. IAN SHERRATT
15. BARRIE McDERMOTT

#### 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

### FEATHERSTONE TEAM CHANGES

1. CHRIS BIBB
2. IKRAM BUTT
3. TERRY MANNING
4. PAUL NEWLOVE
5. OWEN SIMPSON
6. MARTIN PEARSON
7. BRETT DAUNT
8. LEO CASEY
9. MARK WILSON
10. WAYEN TAEKETA
11. GARY PRICE
12. IAN SMALES
13. BRENDON TUUTA
14. FRANCIS MALONEY
15. CHRIS BURTON

#### 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: P. GILMOUR

Touch Judges: Mr. J. PRICE (Red Flag)  
Mr. W. LOMAS (Yellow Flag)



according to competition judge Roger Halstead, of the Oldham Evening Chronicle. Comments Roger:

"Gary has had an exceptional month, not only playing well for Oldham but also enhancing his career prospects by playing outstandingly well for the Great Britain Under 21 side, against France at Rochdale.

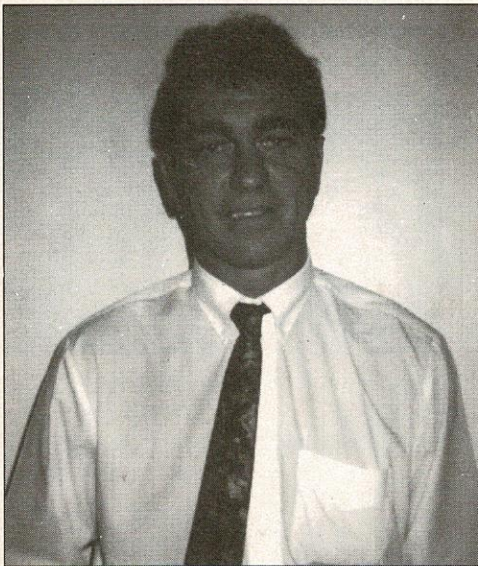
"He scored a try from halfway in that match and also produced a delightful piece of handling to create a try for Wigan forward Barrie Jon-Mather" continues Roger.

He added: "Those skills in scoring and creating were evident in Oldham's three games, during the match against Featherstone, Huddersfield and Carlisle, as Gary secured the monthly award for the first time."

To celebrate his success, Gary will be able to crack open a can or two, courtesy of Castlemaine XXXX.

CASTLEMAINE

# XXXXX



# 'A' TEAM ROUND UP

with COACH JOHN PRINCE

Despite a never ending injury crisis, once again we have had to field a weakened side and have lost two fixtures.

However, the lads responded well to secure two good victories to maintain our top half of the table position.

### Oldham "A" v. Doncaster "A",

Friday 26th February 1993

1st half tries from: Barrie McDermott Paul Hourigan & Mark Hudspith plus four goals from Mark Hudspith to take a 20-14 half-time lead.

2nd half tries from: Barrie McDermott

Sean Tyrer plus a Mark Hudspith goal laid the foundations for a 30-20 success.

Barrie McDermott took the man of the match award.

### Oldham "A" v. London Crusaders "A",

Saturday, 6th March 1993

Once again a weakened side against much bigger opponents worked hard to obtain a 10-8 half-time lead With tries from Paddy Mitchell, Hugh Gumbs plus a Mark Hudspith goal.

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First half injuries meant the team had to play the second half with only twelve men and when after six minutes of the second half gone we fell 14-12 behind it seemed we faced an impossible task However, once again the lads responded well led by man of the match Barrie McDermott for the second week running.

Tries scored by: Joe Graziano, Richard Yeomans, Sean Devine & Paddy Mitchell plus four Mark Hudspith goals to secure a 36-14 victory.

Now having played approaching seventy players this season it has been very difficult to establish a steady pattern of play but once again a lot of our players are gaining experience e.g. Barrie McDermott, Sean Devine and Paddy Mitchell, who in recent weeks have performed well and led by example and should soon be knocking on the first team door.

Our next fixture is against Workington on Saturday, 20th March '93, Kick-off 2.30p.m.

Our next home fixture is Wednesday, 24th March '93, Kick-off 7.30p.m. against Swinton.

## YOUNGERS ALLIANCE FIXTURES SECOND DIVISION 1992/93



Saturday, 29.8.92	Sheffield Eagles	H 20-33 (L)	1.00 p.m.
Saturday, 5.9.92	Carlisle	A 28-18 (W)	12.00 p.m.
Saturday, 12.9.92	Keighley	A 28-24 (W)	2.30 p.m.
Saturday, 19.9.92	Salford	H 10-31 (L)	1.00 p.m.
Friday, 25.9.92	Ryedale York	A 14-22 (L)	7.30 p.m.
Saturday 3.10.92	Carlisle (Lancs C.C. Shield)	H 26-20 (W)	1.00 p.m.
Friday 9.10.92	Leigh	H 16-19 (L)	7.30 p.m.
Friday 16.10.92	Wigan (LS 2)	H 4-34 (L)	7.30 p.m.
Friday, 29.10.92	Salford	A 6-42 (L)	7.30 p.m.
Friday, 6.11.92	Doncaster (Cup)	H 64-8 (W)	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 14.11.92	Carlisle	H 40-12 (W)	1.00 p.m.
Friday, 20.11.92	Huddersfield	A 28-18(W)	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 28.11.92	Workington (Cup2)	A 16-26(L)	
Saturday, 5.12.92	Hemel Hempstead	H 58-10(W)	1.00 p.m.
Saturday, 12.12.92	Swinton	H	1.00 p.m.
Friday, 18.12.92	Bramley	A	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 2.1.92	Swinton	H	1.30 p.m.
Saturday, 15.1.93	Hunslet	H 50-10(W)	1.00 p.m.
Thursday, 21.1.93	Leigh	A 20-30(L)	7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 29.1.93	Wigan (YA Cup 2)	H 22-22(D)	7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 4.2.93	Wigan (YA Cup 2 Rply)	A 14-32(L)	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 6.2.93	Dewsbury	A 10-34(L)	2.00 p.m.
Saturday, 13.2.93	Workington	H 42-16(W)	1.00 p.m.
Wednesday 17.2.93	Bramley	A 13-30(L)	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 20.2.93	Hemel Hempstead	A 14-25(L)	2.30 p.m.
Saturday, 27.2.93	Doncaster	H 30-20(W)	1.00 p.m.
Saturday, 6.3.93	London Crusaders	H 36-14(W)	1.00 p.m.
Saturday, 20.3.93	Workington	A	2.30 p.m.
Saturday, 27.3.93	Huddersfield	H	1.00 p.m.

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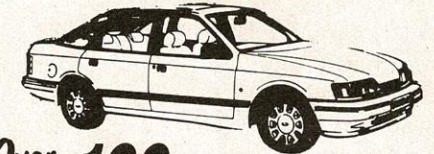
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# SKIPPERS' SPOT

with **OLDHAM CAPTAIN**  
**RICHARD RUSSELL**

How often when you think you can see a light at the end of the tunnel it turns out to be an oncoming express train. This was the case in our game against Bradford. No complaints, on the night we were well beaten by a top side. Bradford Northern played some terrific rugby and totally outplayed us in all departments. They now move on to meet Wigan on the semi's and I hope that they can progress to the final on May 1st.

Last Sunday's defeat at Huddersfield was a different story. We never really seemed to get going and all the lads were disappointed with our performance. Oldham fans turned up in great numbers at Leeds Road and we should have put on a better show.

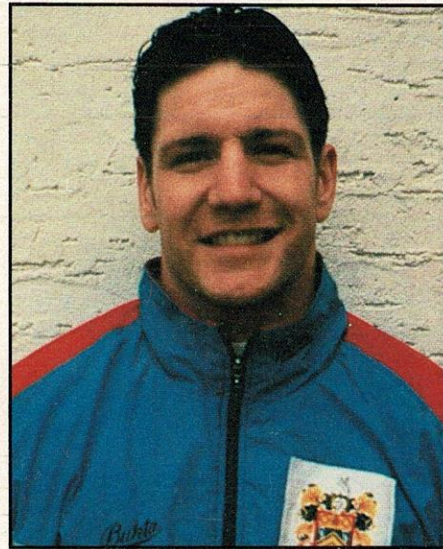
Today we will hopefully welcome back to the team some of our injured players. We have been unlucky this season with injuries but this can easily happen in a fast, hard, contact game like Rugby League.

Our opponents today Featherstone Rovers have been lucky in being able to field a settled side for most of their matches and this has enabled them to take a firm hold on the Second Division top spot.

They have now secured a place in next seasons First Division but I don't expect them to relax today. We will need to be at our best to win this afternoon and I ask that you get behind us and we will show these Yorkshiremen that we are not an easy touch.

ENJOY THE RUGBY

Richard Russell



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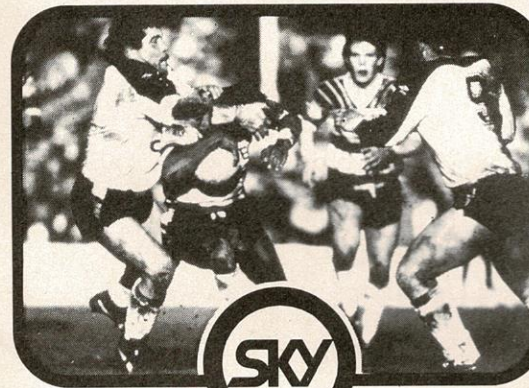
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# BACK PAGES

by MICHAEL TURNER

In today's "Back Pages", we are once again reviewing a match from previous years at the request of one of the club's supporters.

Mr. D. Whitehead, of Littlemoor, has asked for a review of the 1957 Lancashire Cup Final between Oldham and Wigan.

Oldham had progressed to the final by beating Barrow 44-10 and Warrington 18-12, both these matches having been played at Watersheddings, then in the semi-final a famous victory was secured away at St. Helens by the score 29-9.

This set up the final against Wigan which was played at Station Road, Swinton on 19th October, 1957, with an attendance of 42,497.

Oldham carried off the cup by the margin of 13 points to 8, the scorers being a try each for Alan Davies, Frank Pitchford and a rare touchdown by Bernard Ganley, who also kicked two goals. The Wigan points coming from a goal by Cunliffe and two tries, one each for McTigue and former Oldham winger Terry O'Grady.

By all accounts that match was a typical fierce cup-tie, with no quarter asked or given, but one player rose above the rest to stamp his authority on the game and that player was the Oldham stand-off half Frank Daley.

Wigan had been experimenting by playing the international winger Billy Boston at stand-off, a move which, so far had met with great success, but on the day he was completely blotted out of the game by Daley and by the end had reverted back onto the wing. This acted to boost the confidence of the Oldham team by contrast it did no good at all for the morale of the Wiganers.

Of course Boston would go on to have much success at club and international level in the years that followed, as a bustling wingman, but his career at stand off was ended in this game, which to this day is still known by Oldham supporters as "Daley's Final".

The Oldham team that day was:- Ganley, Cracknell, Nestor, Davies, Etty, Daley, Pitchford, Jackson, Keith, Vines, Winslade, Little and Turner.

□ □ □

**PHOTO FEATURE** (Courtesy of the Oldham Chronicle)

Today's photo is of Frank Daley the no-nonsense Oldham stand-off half, who played such an important part in the 1957 Lancashire Cup Final victory.



I am currently researching for a book covering the complete playing records and history of OLDHAM RLFC. If anyone has any old material connected with the club (photos, programmes etc) I would be very interested in viewing such items. Please contact: Michael Turner, 158 Balfour Street, Oldham OL4 1NS. Tel: 061-620 6005

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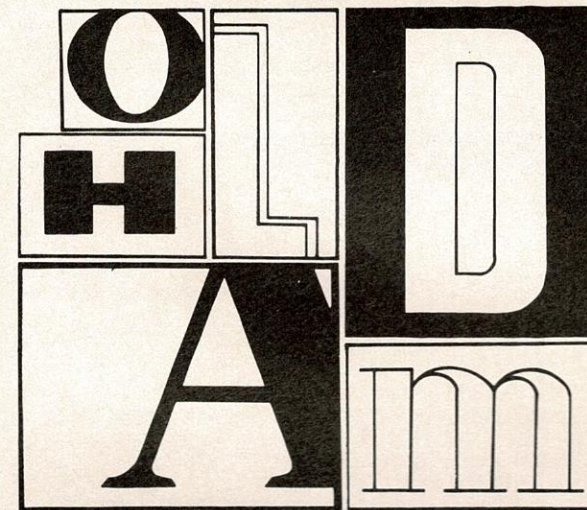
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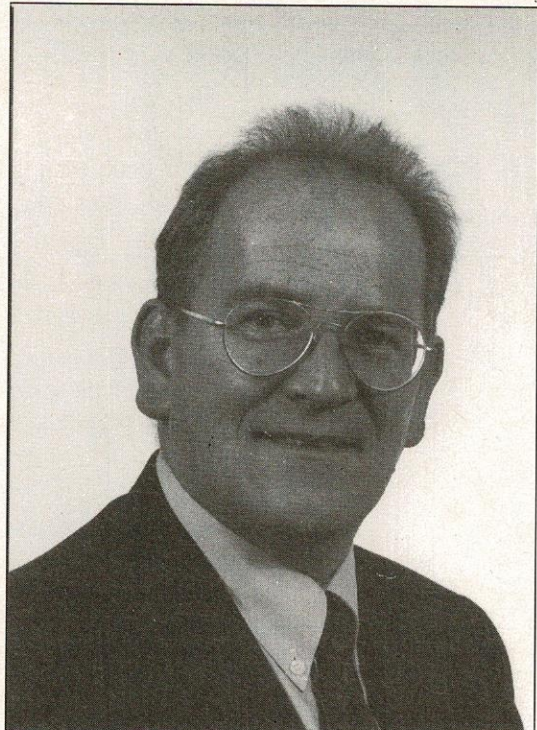
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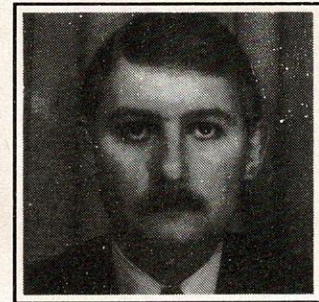
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# QUOTE - UNQUOTE



with CLUBCALLS GED MASON

This afternoon gives Peter Tunks' side the chance to stop a sequence of two defeats and stop Steve Martin's Featherstone side from completing a clean sweep of League wins over Oldham.

Last weekend Featherstone were promoted and surely Oldham will join Rovers by ensuring First Division rugby here at Watersheddings next season in the next two or three weeks.

The heavy defeat by Bradford a week last Wednesday shows the gulf between the two divisions, a gulf which I'm sure Tunksy was well aware of and he will be looking to build a squad that can bridge the gap.

Last weekend's defeat by Huddersfield was a major blow although perhaps not that surprising with the ever growing injury list. Steve Kerry missed last weekend's game and is not a good spectator, and I'm not a good spectator although it was interesting to hear some of the comments Alex Murphy came out with on the touch line, but a spectator I'm not, I'd rather be a pigeon on the terraces than having to watch from the stands.

Darren Abram is already looking forward to First Division rugby next season, he had played First Division rugby with Rochdale, although we were getting beaten every week, it was still enjoyable. It's not a lot quicker and a lot cleaner and we will have to adapt to that next season.

A word on last weekend's defeat comes from Eric Fitzsimmons, we never gave ourselves a chance, we coughed up the ball too often which gave Huddersfield far too much of the ball, we than had to defend much more than we should have.

Nigel Heslop has now played two games for Oldham and is certainly coming to terms with his new code, my first game was a nice easy start against Carlisle, but the game against Huddersfield was a lot harder, so I found it a bit harder to adapt but I think it's coming slowly but surely, you never got a rest in League whereas in Union you could have a breather every couple of minutes or so.

There will be more from the players and backroom staff in the next programme, until then enjoy your rugby.

GED MASON

# OLDHAM

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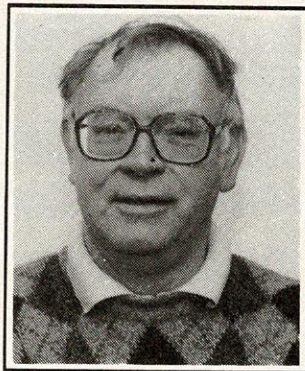
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# ROGER HALSTEAD looks at PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS



Oldham and Featherstone - the strongest teams in the second division and seemingly heading for promotion - clash at Watersheddings today for the fourth time this season. Rovers have won all three, so Oldham will have plenty of reason today for going into the game with all guns firing.

Rovers won here 24-4 in October. Oldham fielded a much-weakened team that night, after their successful exploits against Warrington and Leigh in the Lancashire Cup, and slipped to their first defeat of the season after six straight wins.

The teams met again, at Post Office Road, in mid-December and Oldham were desperately unlucky to lose 24-20. In the opening stages of the match, John Maxwell twice raced over the Rovers line and on each occasion the "try" was disallowed, first for a forward pass and then for obstruction.

Oldham were the better team for much of the match and Rovers were particularly lucky to survive a last-gasp Oldham rally in which Mark Sheals came within a whisker of scoring an equalising try in the dying seconds. Had that score been allowed, Oldham might have won with the kick still to come.

It was with memories of this tight game still in mind that Oldham returned to Post Office Road on February 7th for a match generally billed as a title decider. Oldham badly needed to avenge their previous defeats to retain a realistic chance of taking the championship but, unbelievably, they crashed to a dreadful 52-14 defeat - the clubs biggest loss for five years.

Oldham again found themselves below strength, but that in itself did not explain how the team completely "froze" on the big occasion and conceded ten tries by Smales, Newlove (2), Butt, Simpson (2), Maloney, Tuuta, Manning and Bibb. The two by Newlove followed his three in the previous clash, so Oldham will be glad to see the back of the Great Britain Test star if, as expected, he is unable to play today due to a groin injury which kept him out of last Sunday's Test against France in Carcassonne.

The teams lined up as follows at Post Office Road on February 7th:

**FEATHERSTONE:** Bibb; Butt, Manning, Newlove, Simpson; Maloney, Daunt; Casey, Wilson, Taekata, Price, Smales, Tuuta. Subs: Rose, Burton.

**OLDHAM:** Gibson; Bloem, Christie, Tyrer, Warburton; Martyn, Kerry; Solomona, Russell, Sheals, Olsen, Tupaea, Pachniuk. Subs: Bradbury, McDermott. The referee was Stuart Cummings of Widnes and the attendance was 4,332.



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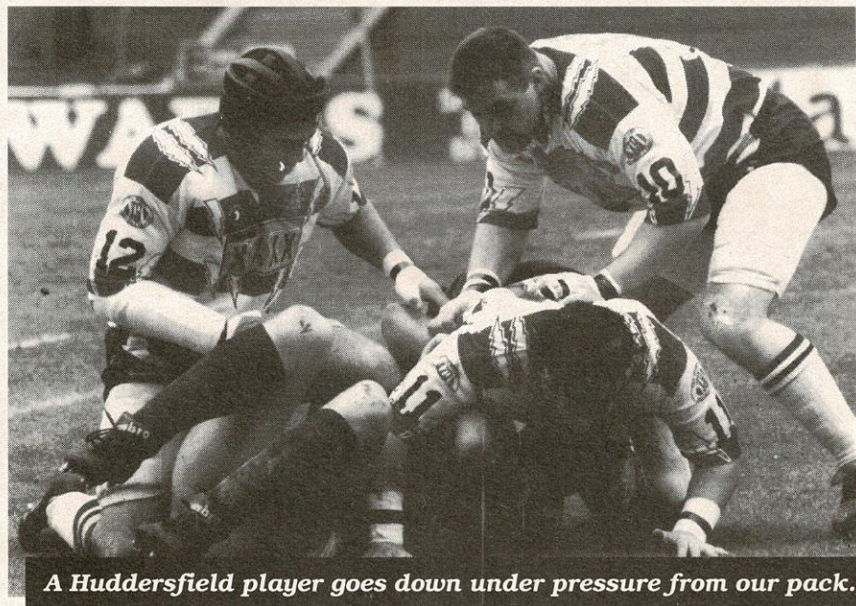
# PHOTOS

# ACTION



Photos: Courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

Shane Tupaea spots the gap.



A Huddersfield player goes down under pressure from our pack.

# SUPPORTERS CLUB

Today we extend a warm welcome to all our friends from Featherstone.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Supporters Club can still be taken out so why not join and take advantage of your discounts on away travel and a 5% discount in the Club Shop. For any information please call in the Club Shop or ring 665 1832.

## JUNIOR REDS

The Junior Reds have now finalised the trip to Wembley for a look behind the scenes on Tuesday, 13th April. The price is £15 inclusive - a £5 deposit is required (non-returnable). Anyone who would like to go on the trip should contact Sue on 681-3397 or call in the Club Shop for details.

## CLUB SHOP

Anyone who has ordered Torino Run-out tops can now collect them from the Shop, also we have had further supplies of Leisure Suits in sizes 36", 38", 40".

## AWAY MATCHES

Our next away match is to London Crusaders on Wednesday, 31st March, kick-off 7.30 p.m. Coaches will leave the club at 1.00 p.m. Anyone wishing to book can do so on 665 1832 or in the Club Shop.

## CLUB SHOP

The new opening times of the Club Shop are Monday 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Wednesday 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Friday 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

If anyone has any fund-raising ideas or would like to help the Supporters Club in any way please contact Donald on 665 1832 or call in the Club Shop for details.

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